Unpaid Care During the COVID-19 pandemic
- Some Results from the 1st wave in Germany -

LTCCovid Webinar

Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang
Universität Bremen
SOCIUM
Forschungszentrum Ungleichheit und Sozialpolitik
New Cases and deaths
- 7 days average -

New Cases

- 7 days average -

number of deaths with Covid-19 per day

new case per day
number of deaths

1st wave
2nd wave
Data source

• Online Survey of LTC providers of home care
  – from 28th April until 12th March
  – Response: 701 service providers of home care and 96 providers of day care.
  – Unbiased sample with respect to ownership of providers and region

• Online Survey of informal caregivers aged 67 or less
  – from 8th June until 12th of August
  – distributed through a LTCI funds and a the self-help group „wir pflegen“
  – Response: N=1296
  – Unbiased sample with respect to age structure of informal caregivers, region and urban-rural devide
• Cut down in services due to decreased demand and decreased availability of staff

• Almost half of all respondents report some customers for whom care-giving was not guaranteed during the pandemic.
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

• 2/3 of the interviewees were satisfied with government policies on Covid-19 – which is in line with the general population
Satisfaction with government policy on Covid-19

- sehr zufrieden (n=274): 21%
- eher zufrieden (n=529): 41%
- teilweise zufrieden/teilweise nicht zufrieden (n=345): 27%
- eher nicht zufrieden (n=89): 7%
- gar nicht zufrieden (n=45): 4%
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

- 2/3 of the interviewees were satisfied with government policies on Covid-19 – which is in line with the general population

- About 60% realised a change in the caring situation
Change in the caring situation

Veränderung in der Versorgungssituation (n=722) - 59%
keine Veränderung in der Versorgungssituation (n=494) - 41%
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

- 2/3 of the interviewees were satisfied with government policies on Covid-19 – which is in line with the general population
- About 60% realised a change in the caring situation
- Utilisation of all kinds of formal care has been reduced due to both, a reduction of the supply and demand
Reduction in the utilisation of formal care

Upper figure: reduction due to supply

Lower figure: reduction due to demand
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

• 2/3 of the interviewees were satisfied with government policies on Covid-19 – which is in line with the general population

• About 60% realised a change in the caring situation

• Utilisation of all kinds of formal care has been reduced due to both, a reduction of the supply and demand

• Informal care-givers suffered from a lack of protective material – particularly at the beginning of the pandemic
Lack of protective masks, gowns, and sanitizers

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<th>Flächendesinfektionsmittel fehlte? (N=1162)</th>
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Prof. Dr. Heinz Rothgang
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

- 2/3 of the interviewees were satisfied with government policies on Covid-19 – which is in line with the general population
- About 60% realised a change in the caring situation
- Utilisation of all kinds of formal care has been reduced due to both, a reduction of the supply and demand
- Informal care-givers suffered from a lack of protective material – particularly at the beginning of the pandemic
- Compatibility of gainful employment and care-giving decreased massively – though employers were favourable
Compatibility of gainful employment and care-giving

- Weniger Probleme als zuvor (n=16): 3%
- Die gleichen Probleme wie zuvor (n=151): 26%
- Mehr Probleme als zuvor (n=413): 71%
Compatibility of gainful employment and care-giving

- Sehr zufrieden (n=198): 36%
- Eher zufrieden (n=160): 29%
- Teilweise zufrieden/teilweise nicht zufrieden (n=108): 20%
- Eher nicht zufrieden (n=49): 9%
- Gar nicht zufrieden (n=31): 6%
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

• Self-rated health status deteriorated for half of all caregivers.
Self-rated health status of informal care-givers

- Erheblich verschlechtert (n=133): 11%
- etwas verschlechtert (n=490): 41%
- Nicht verändert (n=567): 47%
- etwas verbessert (n=11): 1%
- erheblich verbessert (n=0): 0%
Results from the survey of informal care-givers

- Subjectively rated health status deteriorated for half of all caregivers.

- Share of care-givers who felt lonely increased from about 1 in 3 to about 1 in 2.
Loneliness in care-givers

- Während der Pandemie:
  - Einsam: 51,4%
  - Nicht einsam: 48,6%

- Vor der Pandemie:
  - Einsam: 33,0%
  - Nicht einsam: 67,0%
Conclusion

• Only a very small share of the respondents say that they have been diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2.

• Nevertheless more than half of the respondents report that their care arrangement has changed due to the pandemic.

• More than 2 out of 3 care-givers report a deterioration of the reconciliation of gainful employment and caregiving.

• In consequence, the 1st wave of the pandemic has had negative effects on self-rated health and quality of life of informal care-givers and increased the feeling of loneliness.

• Although informal care-givers support the government’s measures in general they do not feed recognized sufficiently in their role as care-givers.
Thank you for your attention!