SYNOPSIS

03/23/2020


One-Minute Summary

- This report analyzes the severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases (N=4,226) by age group in the United States from February 12 to March 16, 2020.

- **Patient age distribution, where age was known (n=2,449):**
  - ≥85 years: 6%
  - 65-84 years: 25%
  - 55-64 years: 18%
  - 45-54 years: 18%
  - 20-44 years: 29%
  - 0-19 years: 5%

- **Proportion of patients hospitalized, where hospitalization status was known (n=508), by age group:**
  - ≥85 years: 9%
  - 65-84 years: 36%*
  - 55-64 years: 17%
  - 45-54 years: 18%
  - 20-44 years: 20%
  - 0-19 years: <1%

- **Proportion of patients admitted to ICU, where ICU status was known (n=121), by age group:**
  - ≥85 years: 7%
  - 65-84 years: 46%
  - 45-64 years: 36%
  - 20-44 years: 12%
  - 0-19 years: 0%

- **Proportion of deaths, where illness outcome or death was known (n=44), by age group:**
  - ≥85 years: 34%
  - 65-84 years: 46%
  - 20-64 years: 20%
- 0-19 years: 0%
- The proportion hospitalized and admitted to ICU increased with age, as did case-fatality.
  - The estimated case-fatality ranged from 1.8-3.4% overall and was highest in persons ≥85 (10-27%).
- Overall, the data suggest the highest percentages of severe illness and death are among those aged ≥65 years, but severe illness can occur among adults 20-64 years with COVID-19.
  - Persons aged 0-19 years with COVID-19 had milder illness, with very few hospitalizations and no ICU admissions or deaths.

Additional Information
- Data included voluntarily reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases sent to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 49 states, Washington DC and three US territories.
- The authors excluded cases among people repatriated to the US from Wuhan, China and Japan (including patients repatriated from cruise ships).
- Limitations include:
  - Missing data for key variables (including hospitalization, ICU admission and death), which likely resulted in an underestimation of outcomes and impacted estimates of case-fatality.
  - Short follow-up time to ascertain outcomes among cases.
  - Data on other risk factors (i.e., underlying health conditions) were unavailable.
  - Likely over-representation of those with travel histories or more severe disease.
  - Limited testing for COVID-19 to date in the US.

PHO Reviewer’s Comments
- *The authors state 26% were hospitalized in the body of their article, but their figure indicates a higher proportion.

Citation

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