Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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The difference in event count was used to test national changes and a P-value of ≤0.05 was used to test significance. Results: There were 140,035 heart failure admissions between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2020, for the same period in Colombia (96,770). The median EQ-5D-5L utility values were 0.44 points lower, and EQ-5D-VAS scores were 0.31 points lower. Although median EQ-5D-5L utility values were similar for those with and without COVID-19, we observed change in EQ-5D-5L utility measures by maternal age (8-10 years: 95% CI -0.05, 0.09). On average, comparing Black pregnant persons to White, EQ-5D-5L utility values were 0.44 points lower, and EQ-5D-VAS scores were 0.31 points lower. Among median EQ-5D-5L utility values were similar for those who had and without COVID-19 (0.87 and 0.88), utility values declined by 0.022 (95% CI -0.040, -0.010) for each unit increase in perceived COVID-19 severity. Similar results were observed for the EQ-5D-5L scores. When we evaluated EQ-5D-5L items individually, there was no difference overall (HRQoL) vs. female pregnancy (OR 2.43; 95% CI 1.35, 4.40). No other items were significantly associated with COVID-19.

Conclusions: We observed lower HRQoL measures associated with severe COVID-19 infection during pregnancy. In particular, problems with anxiety and depression contributed most strongly to lowered HRQoL during pregnancy.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Investigations in Populations of Interest

P25 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY-OF-LIFE OF PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM PERSONS
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Objectives: To assess the impact of COVID-19 on health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL) of those who were pregnant or recently pregnant during the pandemic.

Methods: Individuals who were pregnant any time since January 2020, the beginning of the pandemic, were invited to participate in an online, national US survey (EuroQol grant: 260-2020RA). Respondents were asked to self-report their experiences with COVID-19, to complete the EQ-5D-5L, and other measures of HRQoL. To estimate the association between COVID-19 infection with the EQ-5D-5L outcomes, we used median regression for the complex survey design and balanced repeated replication using Fay’s adjustment of 0.3 for variance estimation.

Results: Nearly 45 percent of the Medicare population reported use of a telehealth service in 2020 in response to the pandemic for the U.S. Medicare population. Medical practices were more likely to encourage telemedicine in 2020 compared with 2019, and higher incomes and education. Medical practices were more likely to encourage telemedicine visits for Medicare patients between March and June with 57 percent of the Medicare population reporting that their usual provider offered a telemedicine appointment to replace a regular office visit during the spring and 48% reporting the telemedicine replacement from July through October 2020. Overall access to telehealth increased from 60% to 64% but varied by race/ethnicity, gender, Census regions, and rural status. Conclusions: Access to telemedicine services expanded for the U.S. Medicare population during the pandemic but usage varied by chronic health needs as patients ‘put off’ seeking care. Further research is required to analyse the continued trend in telemedicine healthcare utilization, deaths in other settings and to explore potential for excess and latent morbidity and mortality that may result from reduced access to hospital services during the pandemic.

P26 THE PRACTICE OF FACE MASKING AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN SOUTH INDIA: AN ONLINE CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEY DURING SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19
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Objectives: COVID-19 pandemic urges the need for respiratory protective equipment like face masks as a public health measure to control the spread of infection. This study aimed to investigate the trends followed in the practice of mask-wearing by the South Indian population amid the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in 2021.

Methods: A web-based, online cross-sectional survey was conducted among the young adult population in India in late April 2021. An eight-item questionnaire was designed to assess the social perceptions and attitudes regarding wearing a face mask as a part of universal safety precautions. The social perceptions towards wearing masks were categorized as excellent, good average and poor on a scale (Social Perception Scale –SPS) scored out of 8. The details collected using a pre-designed google form are statistically analyzed using the Chi-square test with a p-value of ≤ 0.05 is considered statistically significant.

Results: Among the 1283 participants who completed the questionnaire, 57% wore cloth masks followed by 26% wearing N95 masks and 12% wearing surgical masks. Even though the age of the study population varied from 19 – 76 years and with a male preponderance of 56.3% (n = 723), students and recent graduates participated largely in the study (71.8%, n = 922). A mean SPS score of 5.67 ± 1.07 (out of 8) indicates that the social perception of the study population is good. A statistically significant association is observed between the SPS score and the age (p = 0.003), type of mask used (p < 0.001), and economic background of the study population (p < 0.001). Breathing difficulty, communication problems, hand hygiene, and dermatologic issues were commonly reported barriers against mask-wearing. Conclusions: Adjunctive public health measures such as mask-wearing are crucial in curbing the COVID-19 transmission. By shaping an appropriate public attitude, policymakers can ensure compliance towards mask-wearing.

P27 VACCINATION COVERAGE TRENDS FOR HEPATITIS B IN INFANTS FROM THE BRAZILIAN AND COLOMBIAN EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM: A REAL-WORLD ANALYSIS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT
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Objectives: COVID-19 pandemic has posed major challenges for healthcare systems and societies worldwide. Mitigation measures and the fear of exposure to COVID-19 might have negatively impacted local health policies, such as pediatric immunization programs strategies. This observational study aims to analyze the vaccination coverage (VC) for hepatitis B in infants in Brazil and Colombia between 2015 to 2020.

Methods: This is a descriptive analysis using real-world data from the Expanded Immunization Program System from Brazil (SI-PNI) and the Epidemiological Surveillance System from Colombia (SIVIGILA). We calculated the annual variation of VC for hepatitis B in infants from 2015 to 2020 for both countries. Results: Overall, Brazilian VC had an average annual decline of 3.6% in the pre-COVID-19 period (2015-2019), reaching the lowest coverage in 2019 (78.57%), while the Colombian VC had an increasing pattern for the same period (0.4% annually), reaching the highest coverage in 2019 (93.3%). In 2020, VC decreased by 19.8% in Brazil, compared with 2019. In Colombia, VC decrease was notably lower (1.0%). Conclusions: In Colombia, VC increase might be explained by the implementation of the national plan for hepatitis B elimination in infants during this period. In Brazil, VC coverages for several other infectious diseases have also faced a decrease during the last years, but no formal mitigation activity or plan was yet established. Although both countries showed a reduction of the VC coverage in 2020, the impact was considerably higher in Brazil. These trends could be explained by the distinct health strategies linked to the Expanded Immunization Programs for each country in preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic.

P28 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES
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Objectives: To assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in young adults in the United States.

Methods: Two waves of online surveys were designed to capture mental health status in the US (EuroQol grant: 84-2020RA): Wave1 (Apr 1st – May 6th, 2020 (n=2,734), Wave2 (July 4th – Sept 4th, 2020 (n=2,454), and Wave3 (Jan 10th - Mar 15th, 2021 (n=2,252)) using the EQ-5D-5L to evaluate respondent’s health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL) and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-4) to assess anxiety and depression. The EQ-5D-5L utility, VAS scores and 5 domains were compared among those with COVID-19 and those without COVID-19 using cross-sectional and longitudinal models. Results: Among the 2,252 participants, we observed 0.0031 lower HRQoL measures associated with COVID-19 infection during pregnancy. In particular, problems with anxiety and depression contributed most strongly to lowered HRQoL during pregnancy.