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 \( \leq 0.05 \) was used to test significance. \textbf{Results:} There were 140,035 heart failure admissions during the pandemic period, 64,770 during the pandemic period, 8,265 prior to the pandemic, all data were analysed. There were reductions in admissions (69,555 vs 80,715, \( P=0.00000000000 \)), bed days (586,430 vs 753,985, \( P=0.00000000000 \)) and inpatient deaths (7,650 vs 8,305, \( P=0.00000026154 \)) during the pandemic period, \( P \leq 0.001 \). There were smaller reductions in emergency, bed days and inpatient deaths for patients admitted with heart failure during the coronavirus pandemic. Interpretation of this change is challenging as this may reflect unmet health needs as patients ‘put off’ seeking care. Further research is required to analyse the change in adherence to standard 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.

\textbf{P26}  TELEHEALTH ACCESS AND USE BY THE U.S. MEDICARE POPULATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

Swenson T

Des Moines University, Des Moines, IA, USA

\textbf{Objectives:} Telehealth access and reimbursement varied by payer and regionally prior to COVID–19, and its limited availability expanded in response to the pandemic. The health behavioral response by older adults to COVID–19 has varied over time with the geographic spread of the pandemic and affected access and utilization of medical services. The purpose of this paper is to examine changes in access to telemedicine in 2020 in response to the pandemic for the U.S. Medicare population. Medical practices were more likely to encourage telehealth visits by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to track and monitor the effects of the pandemic within the U.S. Medicare population. With a panel sample size of 6986 Medicare beneficiaries, the calculated statistics use replicated weights to adjust for the complex survey sample design and balanced repeated replication using Fay’s adjustment of 0.3 for variance estimation.

\textbf{Results:} Nearly 45 percent of the Medicare population reported use of a telehealth appointment between June and October of 2020. The likelihood of using telemedicine increased for those with chronic conditions, such as depression, and for those with higher incomes and education. Medical practices were more likely to encourage telehealth 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 suggested 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. \textbf{Conclusions:} Access to telemedicine services expanded for the U.S. Medicare population during the pandemic but usage varied by chronic disease status, socioeconomic and demographic factors, and geography.

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

\textbf{P25}  IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY-OF-LIFE OF PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM PERSONS

Regan A,1 Aytha Swathi P,2 Nosek M,3 Gu NY3

1University of San Francisco, Sacramento, CA, USA, 2University of San Francisco, Signal Hill, CA, USA, 3IQVIA Technologies, Santa Clarita, CA, USA

\textbf{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.

\textbf{Methods:} Individuals who were pregnant any time since January 2020, the begining of the Expanded Immunization Programs for each country in preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic.

\textbf{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 (r = 0.003), type of mask used (r < 0.001), and economic background of the study population (r < 0.001). Breathing difficulty, communication problems and skin dermatology issues were commonly reported barriers against mask-wearing. \textbf{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.

\textbf{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

Lima P,1 Abreu A,2 Hernández F,2 Martíns J,2 Kano B,2 Kashiuara D,2

1IQVIA Real World Insights, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 2IQVIA Brasil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 3IQVIA Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia

\textbf{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.

\textbf{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. \textbf{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 2020 (93.3%). In 2020, VC decreased by 19.8% in Brazil, compared with 2019. In Colombia, VC decrease was notably lower (10.1%). \textbf{Conclusions:} In Colombia, VC increase might be explained by the implementation of the national plan for hepatitis B elimination in children during this period. In Brazil, VC coverages for several other infectious diseases had 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.

\textbf{P28}  IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Interim T,1 Gong CL,2 Gu NY2

1University of San Francisco, Sacramento, CA, USA, 2Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 3IQVIA Technologies, Santa Clarita, CA, USA

\textbf{Objectives:} To assess the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in young adults in the US. \textbf{Methods:} Three 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=2,523) using the EQ-5D-5L to evaluate respondent’s health-related quality-of-life and the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-4) to assess anxiety and depression. The EQ-5D-5L utility, VAS scores and 5 domains were stratified by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. Binary Logistic regressions were used to estimate the associations between anxiety/depression and various covariates. Chi-squared tests were conducted for significant differences in mental health outcomes between age groups. \textbf{Results:} Most participants were white (68.7%) non-Hispanic.