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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institutions (MPI) that did not serve as temporary hospitals: HR 2.33 [95% CI 0.95; 5.70], which may be due to both insufficient anti-epidemic measures and the peculiarities of the immune response and approaches for its evaluation. The risk of COVID-19 in seronegative individuals was higher, but without statistical significance.

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Mortality among Brazilian doctors in Covid-19 pandemic

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The Covid-19 pandemic can be considered the biggest global health problem and also the biggest health challenge of the present times; its repercussions and impacts directly affect the health professionals involved in dealing with it. Doctors are among the health professional categories involved in coping with it and with a high risk of infection and a higher probability of more severe clinical presentations and mortality. The objective of this study was to compare the mortality due to Covid-19 among physicians in Brazil and the general population during the pandemic. A descriptive study was carried out using secondary data related to the number of deaths from Covid-19 in the general population and among doctors in Brazil, from March 2020 to July 2021. The profile of deaths of physicians showed a higher mortality among men, between 60 and 79 years of age. The temporal analysis of the number of physicians who died from Covid-19 in Brazil in the period analyzed shows a higher number of deaths at the beginning of the pandemic, with a peak in May 2020 (N=107) and a fall after vaccination beginning. Regarding the Covid-19 crude deaths rate, it was found that physicians had a lower risk of dying than the general population, even with greater exposure to the virus. Only in the North and Northeast regions these rates were higher than the general population. The findings of the study indicate the need for interventions in the levels of protection offered to professionals, as well as confirming the negative impacts of the unequal distribution of these professionals, pointed out by medical demography studies carried out in Brazil.

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Acceptability of anti-covid -19 vaccination by health care workers (HCWs)

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Introduction: Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to control the pandemic of covid-19. HCWs have been given priority for vaccination. The aims of this survey were to assess the barriers and motivations of HCWs to accept this vaccination.

Material and methods: this cross-sectional study, carried out in 2021, involved 669 hospital staffs in Khemesset, Morocco. A self-administered questionnaire comprised socio-demographic and occupational data and items relating to knowledge about Covid-19, the barriers and motivations for vaccination.

Results: 83.4% were participated. 67% were in favor of vaccination, 21.9% against and 11.1% undecided. Nurses had the highest acceptance rate (68%), followed by physicians (67%) and non-nursing staff (60%). The main reason for accepting the vaccination was personal and family protection. The refusal was the lack of information and the fear of side effects. The main predictors of vaccination acceptance were age > 50 years, male sex, job tenure > 20 years, urban exercise, presence of comorbidities, level of knowledge about covid > 3/6, the perception of the severity of covid > 6/10, the confrontation with severe cases and continuing education. The most cited vaccination incentives were better information on the efficacy and safety of vaccines.

Conclusions: The results will help to target barriers of immunization among HCWs, allowing for tailoring and personalization of promotional interventions to achieve better immunization coverage. Acceptability of vaccination in HCWs is crucial because their attitudes are an important determinant for recommending the vaccine to their patients.

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Homecare personal support worker experiences working during the COVID-19 pandemic: A qualitative study

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Introduction: Personal support workers (PSWs) are considered the backbone of homecare however their working conditions remain precarious and unregulated suggesting increased vulnerability in the face of a pandemic. The purpose of this study is to better understand the experiences of PSWs working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: This qualitative descriptive study used a social constructivist approach to understand the experiences of Toronto-based PSWs working at a local homecare agency during the COVID-19 pandemic. Semi-structured virtual interviews were conducted. All transcribed interviews were coded and analyzed using the DE-PACT framework.

Results: 19 interviews were completed. PSWs shared a strong belief in duty to work during a health crisis and responsibility to support their vulnerable clients despite feeling vulnerable themselves to transmission and infection; the weight of pandemic anxiety was felt daily and intensely for most. PSWs described existing system challenges exacerbated by the pandemic that tested the limits of their motivations to work, emotional wellbeing and perception of organizational support.
Conclusions: The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to increased occupational stress among PSWs. Longstanding system-level issues coupled with increased emotional labour has positioned this workforce at-risk for burnout indicating that health human resource issues may persist if unaddressed. Homecare organizations can implement strategies that promote and protect the mental wellbeing of PSWs while aggressively lobbying for system changes such as higher wages and better labour protections.

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Working From Home: Personality Traits As Predictors Of Psychological Symptoms – A Rapid Review

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INTRODUCTION: Working from home offers several advantages over working from offices. It is known that some employees prefer and perform better in WFH settings than others, and those who cannot adapt well to WFH may suffer psychological issues. The differential response to WFH could be because of personality traits. Understanding how WFH affects employees’ health and developing evidence-based policies can be crucial for businesses. Therefore, it would be worth exploring the current body of evidence about the potential association between the mental health impact of WFH and personality traits.

METHOD: PubMed, ProQuest, and Google Scholar were searched using the concept terms of working from home, psychological impact, and personality traits.

RESULTS: Out of 25 relevant articles, only three peer-reviewed articles addressed the subject matter, and there was no case-control study.

CONCLUSION: Despite frequent reporting on WFH in the popular media, there is no robust and longitudinal research to explore the association between personality traits and WFH-related mental health symptoms. A limited number of studies and non-peer-reviewed reports corroborate that personalities like extraversion, agreeableness, and conscientiousness are more likely to adapt well to WFH. However, the association is not always a linear one due to compensatory attributes in various personality traits. The author recommends further research on the topic for better insight and realistic expectations about WFH for both employers and employees. It will also help employers make evidence-based decisions in relevant policies to protect employees’ health.

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Qualitative and Quantitative Fitting Characteristics of Respirators among the Iranian Users during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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In order to provide the optimal respiratory protection for the users; particularly, the frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) while performing the aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs), it is required to conduct fit testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 90 HCWs (35 males and 55 females) of were participated in the study voluntarily. All participants were randomly allocated into six available filtering face-piece respirators (FFRs) with two kinds of styles (cup-shaped and flat-fold). Then, they underwent quantitative fit testing (QNFT) using the TSI PortaCount® respirator fit tester and qualitative fit testing (QLFT) procedures using the Moldex® Bitrex® fit test kit. The outcomes were the qualitative fit factors (QLFFs=100) and quantitative fit factors (QNFFs>100). The overall passing rates of the QLFT and QNFT procedures were %35.17 and %29.33. One imported and domestic respirators had highest proportions of the QLFF (%48 and %45) and QNFF (%43 and 38%) and QNFF values of all. Furthermore, the mean FFs for the mentioned respirators were 120 and 103, respectively. Moreover, no significant difference was found between the whether females and males or between imported and domestic respirators by the passing rates (p>0.05). Overall, the passing rates obtained from both QNFT and QLFT procedures were low. One reason could be due to all studied respirators only came in one size or style. An optimal fit test panel should also be developed for the Iranian people to determine the appropriate face sizes and shapes in order to select the well-fitting respirator. Besides, the manufacturers are required make the respirators w

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Determinants of nurse’s and personal support worker’s adherence to facial protective equipment in a community setting during the COVID-19 pandemic: A pilot study

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Introduction: Facial protective equipment (FPE) is a critical barrier to COVID-19 transmission, but compliance with FPE recommendations has historically been low, even amongst health care workers. This study analyzes factors influencing home care worker FPE compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Materials and Methods: Nurses and PSWs employed by VHA Home HealthCare (N=199) completed an online survey adapted from a Facial Protection Questionnaire used in previous studies from January 27 – February 10, 2021. Descriptive statistics, tests of significance, and logistic regression were conducted for each variable separated by FPE compliance. Results: This study found higher rates of FPE compliance (71%) than previously reported. Regression results suggest that participants who were not always FPE compliant (29%) were significantly more likely to have lower perceived FPE efficacy, lower knowledge of recommended FPE use, lower perception of risk at work, and higher personal barriers for face shields. Foggning of glasses or face shields from wearing a mask (74%) or face shield (71%) increased job difficulty for many participants. Conclusions: Policies and initiatives addressing perceived FPE efficacy, knowledge of recommended FPE use, perception of at-work risk, and personal barriers to FPE would be expected to significantly