



COVID-19 Digest Issue 74

March 18, 2022

CLINICAL PEARL

- Patients with congenital heart defects and COVID-19: [According to a recent study](#), in the first 11 months of the pandemic, **hospitalized COVID-19 patients with congenital heart defects (CHDs) were more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU), require invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), and die than those without CHDs.** US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers mined claims data on hospitalized COVID-19 patients aged 1 to 64 years from March 2020 through January 2021. Patients with and without CHD received care in the same hospitals, and the study accounted for differences in age, sex, race, health insurance type, and other high-risk conditions such as heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, Down syndrome, diabetes, and obesity. Of note, vaccination status data weren't included in the study. Among 235,638 eligible patients, 421 (0.2%) had CHD, and 68.4% had one or more chronic illnesses, compared with 58.8% of the 235,217 patients without CHD. Among CHD patients, 73% were older than 30 years, 61% were male, 55% were White, 19% were Hispanic, and 16% were Black. **More than half (53.9%) of CHD patients were admitted to an ICU (vs 42.6% of those without CHD), 24.0% needed IMV (vs 14.5%), and 11.2% died in the hospital (vs 6.9%). Those at greatest risk for severe illness were those who had CHD and an underlying illness, were 50 years and older, and were men.**

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- WHO
 - [Interim Statement on COVID-19 vaccines in the context of the circulation of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 Variant from the WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition \(TAG-CO-VAC\)](#)
 - [Joint statement on the prioritization of monitoring SARS-CoV-2 infection in wildlife and preventing the formation of animal reservoirs](#) by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO)
- CDPH [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) Data](#)

GUIDANCE/GUIDELINES

- CDC [Science Brief: Indicators for Monitoring COVID-19 Community Levels and Making Public Health Recommendations](#)
- EPA [Guidance to Help Building Owners and Operators Improve Indoor Air Quality and Protect Public Health](#)
- WHO [Use of SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detection rapid diagnostic tests for COVID-19 self-testing interim guidance](#)

RESOURCES

- CDC/IDSA COVID-19 Clinician Call: [The Latest on COVID-19 Treatment; Plus Variants Update](#)
- IDSA
 - Media Briefing: [Fixing an Inequitable System – Lessons from COVID-19](#)
 - Podcasts: [The Latest on COVID-19 Treatments](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation [COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: The Pandemic's Toll on Workers and Family Finances During the Omicron Surge](#)
- Stanford Department of Medicine Grand Rounds [Immune Signatures of COVID-19](#)
- The Johns Hopkins 30-Minute COVID-19 Briefing: [Expert Insights on What You Need to Know Now](#)





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- Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) Osterholm Update:
 - [Episode 95: Expect the Unexpected](#)
 - [Episode 94: The Next Normal](#)
 - [Episode 93: What the World Needs](#)
- The Lancet [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#)

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH PAPERS

- *New England Journal of Medicine*
 - [Efficacy of a Fourth Dose of Covid-19 mRNA Vaccine against Omicron](#)
 - [Covid-19 Vaccine Effectiveness against the Omicron \(B.1.1.529\) Variant](#)
 - [Effect of mRNA Vaccine Boosters against SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Infection in Qatar](#)
- *BMJ*
 - [Clinical severity of, and effectiveness of mRNA vaccines against, covid-19 from omicron, delta, and alpha SARS-CoV-2 variants in the United States: prospective observational study](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 positivity in offspring and timing of mother-to-child transmission: living systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
 - [Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from mother to baby is rare](#)
- *Emerging Infectious Diseases*
 - [Duration of Infectious Virus Shedding by SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant–Infected Vaccinees](#)
 - [Time from Exposure to Diagnosis among Quarantined Close Contacts of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant Index Case-Patients, South Korea](#)
 - [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children after SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination](#)
- *Nature*
 - [The indirect effect of mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccination on healthcare workers' unvaccinated household members](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 is associated with changes in brain structure in UK Biobank](#)
- *The Lancet*
 - [Safety of mRNA vaccines administered during the initial 6 months of the US COVID-19 vaccination programme: an observational study of reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System and v-safe](#)
 - [COVID-19 mRNA vaccine safety during the first 6 months of roll-out in the USA](#)
 - [Estimating excess mortality due to the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic analysis of COVID-19-related mortality, 2020–21](#)
 - [Quantifying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality on health, social, and economic indicators: a comprehensive review of data from March, 2020, to September, 2021](#)
 - [Gender equality and COVID-19: act now before it is too late](#)
 - [Acute COVID-19 severity and mental health morbidity trajectories in patient populations of six nations: an observational study](#)
- *medRxiv*
 - [Baricitinib in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 \(RECOVERY\): a randomised, controlled, open-label, platform trial and updated meta-analysis](#)
 - [The Omicron SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in England during February 2022](#)





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- *JAMA*
 - [Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccination Among Frontline Workers in California State Prisons](#)
 - [Meeting the Moment by Vaccinating Prison Staff Against COVID-19](#)
 - [One-Year Trajectory of Cognitive Changes in Older Survivors of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China - A Longitudinal Cohort Study](#)
 - [The COVID-19 Pandemic Strikes Again and Again and Again](#)
 - [Association Between Dexamethasone Treatment After Hospital Discharge for Patients With COVID-19 Infection and Rates of Hospital Readmission and Mortality](#)
 - [Comparison of Outcomes and Process of Care for Patients Treated at Hospitals Dedicated for COVID-19 Care vs Other Hospitals](#)
 - [Assessment of Clinical Effectiveness of BNT162b2 COVID-19 Vaccine in US Adolescents](#)
 - [Assessment of Structural Barriers and Racial Group Disparities of COVID-19 Mortality With Spatial Analysis](#)
 - [Assessment of a Crisis Standards of Care Scoring System for Resource Prioritization and Estimated Excess Mortality by Race, Ethnicity, and Socially Vulnerable Area During a Regional Surge in COVID-19](#)
 - [Inequitable Resource Allocation Amidst a Pandemic—A Crisis Within a Crisis](#)
 - [Changes and Inequities in Adult Mental Health–Related Emergency Department Visits During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the US](#)
- *Clinical Infectious Diseases*
 - [Long-term health-related quality of life in non-hospitalised COVID-19 cases with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection in England: Longitudinal analysis and cross-sectional comparison with controls](#)
- *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*
 - [New Onset Dementia Among Survivors of Pneumonia Associated with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection](#)
- *Pediatrics*
 - [Asthma and the Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Children and Adolescents](#)
- *BMC Research Notes*
 - [Postpartum depression and associated risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- *Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control*
 - [Antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) in COVID-19 patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis \(November 2019–June 2021\)](#)
- *Circulation*
 - [Critical Illness Among Patients Hospitalized With Acute COVID-19 With and Without Congenital Heart Defects](#)
- *Radiology*
 - [Quantitative Chest CT Assessment of Small Airways Disease in Post-Acute SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#)
- *Frontiers*
 - [COVCOG 1: Factors Predicting Physical, Neurological and Cognitive Symptoms in Long COVID in a Community Sample. A First Publication From the COVID and Cognition Study](#)
 - [COVCOG 2: Cognitive and Memory Deficits in Long COVID: A Second Publication From the COVID and Cognition Study](#)
 - [Evidence of SARS-CoV-2 Related Coronaviruses Circulating in Sunda pangolins \(Manis javanica\) Confiscated From the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Viet Nam](#)
- *The Rockefeller Foundation Report*
 - [Getting to and Sustaining the Next Normal: A Roadmap for Living With Covid](#)





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- *Annenburg Public Policy Center (University of Pennsylvania)*
 - [Belief in Vaccination Misinformation Predicts Attitudes Toward Vaccinating Children](#)
- *PLOS*
 - [Perceptions of green space usage, abundance, and quality of green space were associated with better mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic among residents of Denver](#)

MMWR

- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Recommendation for Use of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in Persons Aged ≥18 Years and Considerations for Extended Intervals for Administration of Primary Series Doses of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines — United States, February 2022](#)
- [Hospitalization of Infants and Children Aged 0–4 Years with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, March 2020–February 2022](#)
- [Effectiveness of 2-Dose BNT162b2 \(Pfizer BioNTech\) mRNA Vaccine in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Children Aged 5–11 Years and Adolescents Aged 12–15 Years — PROTECT Cohort, July 2021–February 2022](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Access and Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 5–11 Years — United States, November 2021–January 2022](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Incidence in K–12 School Districts with Mask-Required Versus Mask-Optional Policies — Arkansas, August–October 2021](#)
- [Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Between Urban and Rural Counties — United States, December 14, 2020–January 31, 2022](#)

HOT OFF THE (LAY) PRESS

- *New York Times*
 - [Moderna asked the F.D.A. to authorize a second booster of its Covid vaccine for all adults, a significantly broader request than Pfizer's.](#)
 - [Pfizer is expected to ask U.S. regulators to authorize a second booster shot of its Covid vaccine for adults 65 and older.](#)
 - [China's Worst Surge Since 2020](#)
 - [The Latest Covid Surge](#)
 - [From 'Zero' to Surge](#)
 - [How Californians Feel About the End of School Mask Mandates](#)
 - [The T.S.A. will extend its mask mandate on airplanes and public transit through at least April 18 as the C.D.C. reviews the policy.](#)
 - [Hawaii will end its mask mandate this month as cases subside.](#)
 - [Puerto Rico Drops Its Mask Mandate](#)
 - [Child Vaccine Confusion](#)
 - [California's Move to Endemicity](#)
 - [Do Covid Precautions Work?](#)
 - [The surgeon general calls on Big Tech to turn over Covid-19 misinformation data.](#)
 - [The White House said it was offering a second round of free coronavirus tests to all Americans.](#)
 - [The global Covid-19 death toll surpassed six million people. Public health experts say the true count will never be known.](#)





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- *The Wall Street Journal*
 - [United Airlines to Let Unvaccinated Workers Return](#)
- *ABC News*
 - [Many nursing homes struggling to give residents and staff members COVID vaccine booster shots, experts say](#)
- *The Hill*
 - [Pelosi says separate coronavirus relief bill will be put on the floor 'hopefully today'](#)
- *Politico*
 - [Covid aid faces uncertain path on Capitol Hill as White House warns of severe consequences](#)
- *Reuters*
 - [U.S. seeks to expand Trump-era COVID data collection under CDC](#)
- *The Washington Post*
 - [Pfizer and BioNTech seek authorization of second coronavirus booster shot for people 65 and older](#)
 - [CDC lowers coronavirus warnings for cruise ships and popular Caribbean islands](#)
 - [The CDC's new mask guidance guarantees we'll be too slow for the next surge](#)
 - [Kaine introduces bill to research and combat long covid, after suffering it himself](#)
 - [U.S. to share some coronavirus technologies with World Health Organization](#)
- *Roll Call*
 - [Senate votes to overturn mask mandate on airplanes, transit](#)
- *AP News*
 - [US extends mask rule for travel while weighing new approach](#)
 - [Florida to recommend against COVID vaccines for healthy kids](#)
 - [White House: Congress must act soon to replenish COVID funds](#)
- *NPR*
 - [The White House says it's running out of money to cover COVID tests and vaccines](#)
- *Pfizer Press Releases*
 - [Pfizer Initiates Phase 2/3 Study of Novel COVID-19 Oral Treatment in Pediatric Participants](#)
- *Fujifilm Press Releases*
 - [Fujifilm to terminate the enrollment of subjects in the phase III clinical trial of anti-influenza drug Avigan® Tablet in Japan, targeting COVID-19 patients](#)
- *Imperial College London*
 - [Fall in coronavirus infections in England may have stalled at high level - REACT](#)
- *The New Yorker*
 - [A Pandemic Tragedy in Guayaquil](#)
- *The Atlantic*
 - [The Coronavirus's Next Move](#)
- *Popular Science*
 - [How do we track COVID as people get tested less?](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*
 - [Pfizer asks U.S. to allow fourth COVID vaccine dose for seniors](#)
 - [COVID-19 is fading, but ending the health emergency could leave us vulnerable](#)
 - [U.S. mask mandates on planes, buses will likely ease soon. Just not yet.](#)
- *San Francisco Chronicle*
 - [How low will Bay Area COVID numbers go as omicron beats a retreat?](#)





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EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
 - [Variant Proportions](#)
 - [Wastewater Surveillance](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 in the USA](#) – daily summary of key data on COVID-19 in the U.S.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Children and COVID-19: State Level Data Report](#) – *new data!*
- [California COVID-19 by the numbers](#) are available on the [CDPH Website](#) and the [NYT Map and Table](#) (includes data by county)
 - [California COVID-19 Statewide Update](#) as of March 18, 2022
- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Guidance and Resources for Clinicians and Facilities – COVID-19 Digests](#)
- [Covid-WEB \(Wastewater Epidemiology for the Bay Area\)](#)
- [Palo Alto Online tracking the coronavirus in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties](#)
- [California COVID-19 Data and Tools](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Assessment and Modeling Tool](#)
- [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations Population COVID-19 Tracking Dashboards](#)
- [CDC Interactive Serology Dashboard for Commercial Laboratory Surveys](#)
- [HHS Coronavirus Data Hub](#)
- [COVID-19 Nursing Home Data](#)

