



INPEA: Mistreatment of Older Persons, Residential Care Homes, and COVID-19



Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance
envers les personnes âgées
Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults

Shared Knowledge

Marie Beaulieu, Ph.D.
Chairholder, Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older
Adults

Julien Cadieux Genesse, Kevin St-Martin

July 16th, 2020

Acknowledgement



Québec 





Part 1
Countries' Current
Data on COVID-19

Respondents



Answers from 16 countries

- Argentina (x2)
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Dominican Republic
- France
- India (x2)
- Ireland
- Italy
- Liberia
- Malta
- Nigeria
- Serbia
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

Number of Deaths due to Covid-19 in the 65 years + by Country



Deaths per 100 000 Citizens 65+

- Argentina: **2.42**
- Australia: **0.40**
- Brazil: **20.00**
- Canada: **4.01**
- Dominican Republic: **5.52**
- France: **40.75**
- India: **0.73**
- Ireland: **31.92**
- Italy: **51.33**
- Liberia: **0.27**
- Malta: **1.81**
- Nigeria: **0.10**
- Serbia: **N.a.**
- Turkey: **5.77**
- United Kingdom: **N.a./ 67.8 (GP)**
- United States: **16.67**

Containment and Mitigation Directives



- Social distancing: 18/18 (**100%**)
- Use of alcohol-based sanitizers: 18/18 (**100%**)
- Use of face masks: 17/18 (**94.4%**)
- Use of hand soap: 16/18 (**88.9%**)
- Partial lockdown: 12/18 (**66.7%**)
- Nationwide lockdown: 10/18 (**55.6%**)

Specific Measures - Older Persons



Yes: 12/18 (**66.7%**)

No: 6/18 (**33.3%**)

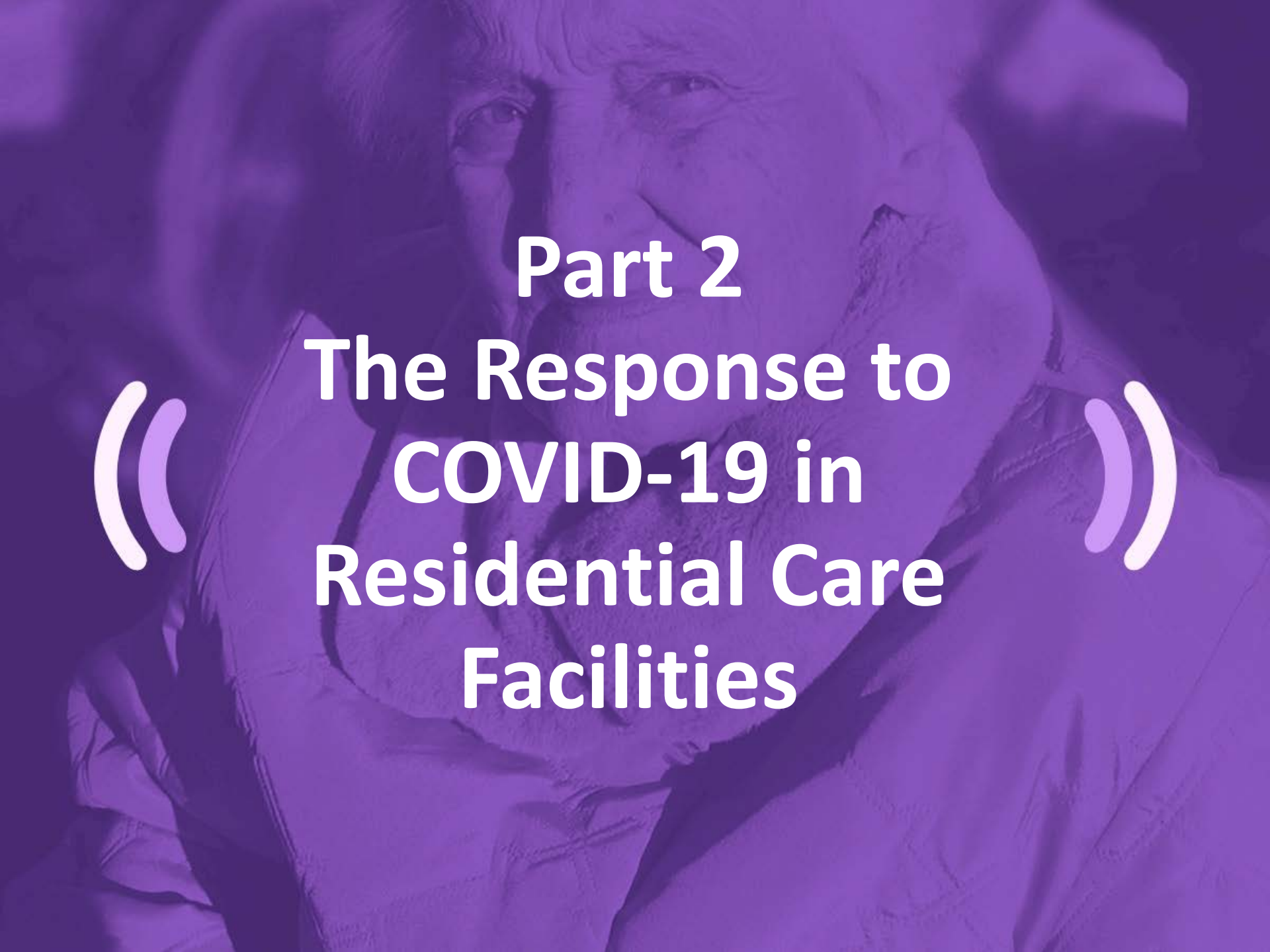
Examples:

- Elderly banned from going out to the streets (x2)
- Declaration of the state of emergency (lockdown) (x2)
- High recommended being at home in isolation
- Social distancing and isolation for 3 months

- Military help to compensate the lack of workers

- Swabbing of health care professionals was mandatory prior to assuming duties

- Additional financial support for older persons



Part 2
The Response to
COVID-19 in
Residential Care
Facilities



Degree of Confidence in Countries' Leadership



- Extremely confident: 0/18 (**0.0%**)
- Very confident: 5/18 (**27.8%**)
- Somewhat confident: 5/18 (**27.8%**)
- Not so confident: 4/18 (**22.2%**)
- Not confident at all: 4/18 (**22.2%**)

Staff and Equipment in Residential Care Facilities



- Very well staffed and equipped: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Well staffed and equipped: 0/18 (**0.0%**)
- Somewhat staffed and equipped: 6/18 (**33.3%**)
- Poorly staffed and equipped: 4/18 (**22.2%**)
- Very poorly staffed and equipped: 6/18 (**33.3%**)

Speed in Putting in Place Specific Measures to Protect Older Persons Living in Residential Care Facilities



- Very fast: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Fast: 3/18 (**16.6%**)
- Adequate: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Slow: 8/18 (**44.4%**)
- Very slow: 1/18 (**5.6%**)
- No measures were put in place: 2/18 (**11.1%**)



Part 3

「 Mistreatment of Older Persons in the Context of COVID-19 」

Types - Mistreatment in Residential Care Facilities



- Psychological: 18/18 (**100.0%**)
- Neglect: 14/18 (**77.8%**)
- Financial: 8/18 (**44.4%**)
- Physical: 7/18 (**38.9%**)
- Social (Refusing visits from family): 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Sexual: 0/18 (**0.0%**)

Media Coverage - Mistreatment in Residential Care Facilities



Yes: 8/18 (44.4%)

No: 10/18 (55.6%)

Examples:

- Media talked more about the neglect of older adults in residential care facilities than mistreatment (x2)
- They reported cases of abandonment and neglect
- The government makes fear to older people about mortality
- Covering related to the lack of leadership responses
- Some examples of financial and physical abuse

Violation of rights of older persons [1]



- Ageism (x3)
- Refusing visits from family (x2)
- No distinction between “hot zone” and “cold zone” (x2)
- Not enough staff into long-term care facilities to take care of them (x2)
- No specific guidelines for the mental and physical health of older persons
- Civil rights denial (safety, dignity, etc.)
- Limitation of social contacts (which might have been more important to them than to younger age groups)

Violation of rights of older persons [2]



- Not allowing visitors in residential aged care or facilitating other means of contact
- Not keeping family/caregivers up to date with information about residents during this time
- Ban on going outside
- No provision of emergency or otherwise medical aid to older persons
- Not facilitating the collection of pensions digitally for example and they fell into Banks halls

Violation of rights of older persons [3]



- Government didn't compile correctly the death numbers of older adults before a long time after the beginning of the pandemic
- Lack of gender and age disaggregated public data which is not direct violation of rights but on the other hand undermine evidence-driven response to the Covid19.
- Access to non COVID health services (kidney dialysis, treatment for cancer, etc.)
- No provision of home-based services to them: groceries, bills, household chores, etc.

Discussion



- During the Covid-19, please point out 2 issues that you have observed that allows us to make links between quality of care and services in residential care homes and elder abuse?
- From a human rights perspective, what can INPEA push forward at the UN or elsewhere to ensure a better quality of life and care for all older persons in care settings?



Thank you!



Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance
envers les personnes âgées
Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults

Please consult our webpage:

www.maltraitancedesaines.com