



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Covid-19 mortality and living arrangements of older persons

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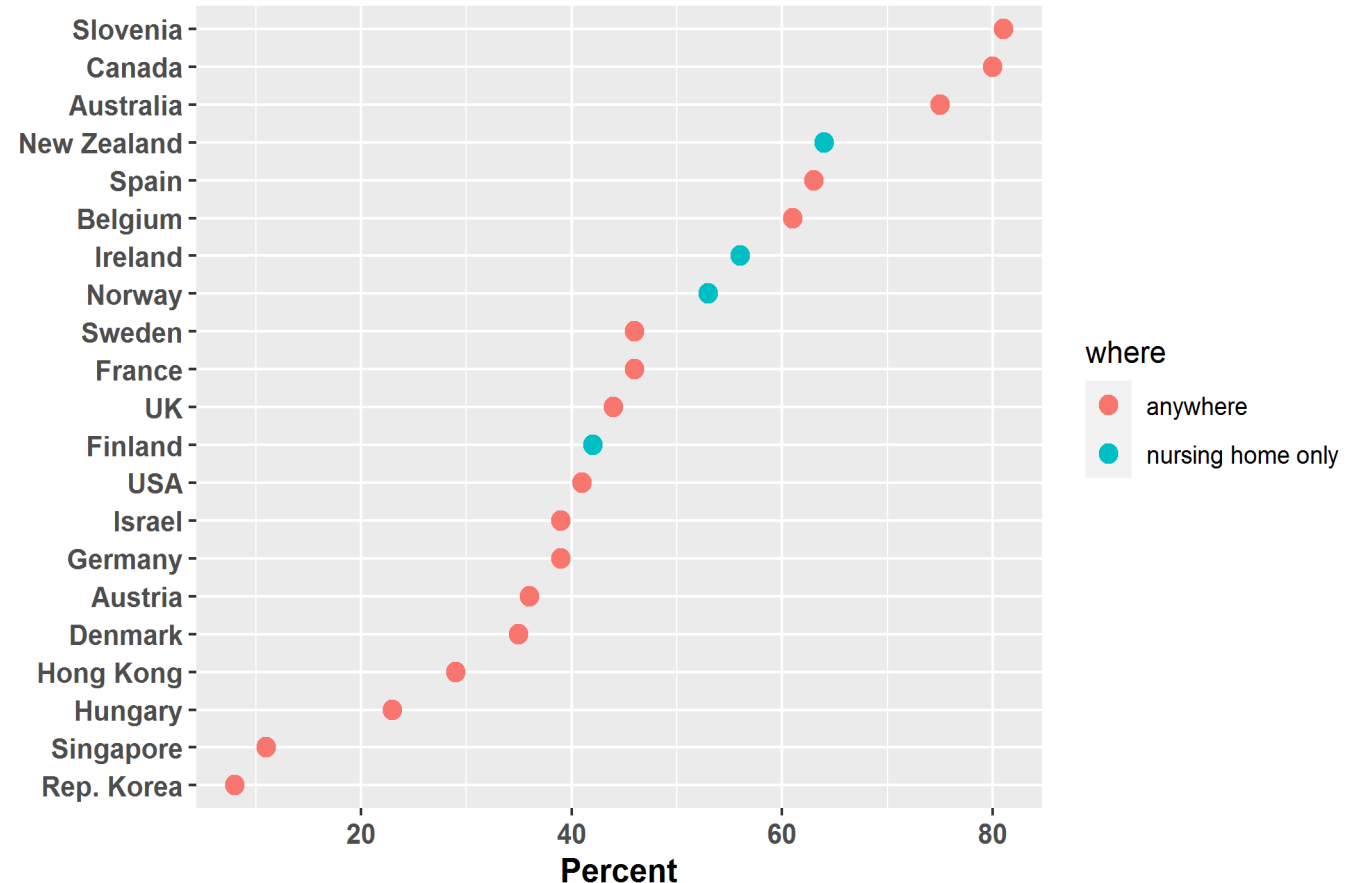
What we want to know

- What populations are at greatest risk and why?
- How do age and living arrangements of older persons contribute to the risk of dying from Covid-19?

What we observe:

Percent of Covid-19 deaths occurring in nursing homes

- In 14 countries, nursing home deaths accounted for more than 40% of all Covid-19 deaths.



Data source: Comas-Herrera A, Zalakaín J, Lemmon E, Henderson D, Litwin C, Hsu AT, Schmidt AE, Arling G and Fernández J-L (2020).

We want to distinguish between two risk factors

- Age is a key risk factor in Covid-19 mortality. So, it is not surprising to see higher death rates in nursing homes and large concentration of deaths in nursing homes.
- On the other hand, it is likely that residents of nursing homes face additional risks – besides their advanced age and frailty -- because the infection is being spread by nursing staff.

Understanding these risk factors enable policy makers to prioritize efforts to save lives

Data we need

- International evidence on confirmed and probable Covid-19 **cases** and **deaths**
- **JOINTLY** by:
 - Date
 - and Age (10-year age groups)
 - and Sex
 - and Place of usual residence (e.g. nursing home).

Data challenges

- Limited data on joint distributions: both *age* **and** *place of usual residence*.
- Lack of standardized measures (different age groups, different definitions of nursing home)
- Not timely.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the **national vital statistics system** in collecting and reporting vital statistics, especially timely and accurate information on **deaths and its causes**.