

SYNOPSIS

04/08/2020

Review of “Preliminary estimates of the prevalence of selected underlying health conditions among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 — United States, February 12–March 28, 2020”

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One-minute summary

- This report presents preliminary estimates of the **prevalence of underlying health conditions among 7,162 patients** with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States, February 12 – March 28, 2020.
- Of the 7,162 patients with reported data on underlying factors, **2,692 (37.6%) had at least one underlying condition or risk factor:**
 - The most prevalent conditions were: diabetes mellitus: 784 (10.9%), chronic lung disease: 656 (9.2%), cardiovascular disease: 647 (9.0%).
- **The percentage of patients with at least one underlying condition or risk factor was higher among those hospitalized** compared to non-hospitalized patients: ICU admissions (358/457; 78.3%) and non-ICU hospital admissions (732/1,037; 70.6%) vs. not hospitalized (1,388/5,143; 27.0%).
- Among patients aged ≥19 years, **the percentage of cases that resulted in hospitalization was higher among those with underlying health conditions compared to those without:**
 - ICU admissions: 13.3-14.5% in those with underlying conditions, 2.2-2.4% in those without underlying conditions.
 - Non-ICU admissions: 27.3-29.8% in those with underlying conditions, 7.2-7.8% in those without underlying conditions.
- Of the 7,162 patients with data on underlying conditions, 184 (2.6%) died. The vast majority of those who died (173/184; 94.0%) were reported to have at least one underlying condition.

Additional information

- Unknown whether severity or level of control of underlying health conditions affects the risk for severe disease with COVID-19.

- **Limitations include:**
 - Data are preliminary and findings might change as additional data and information become available.
 - Short follow-up period may lead to underestimated outcomes and long-term outcomes cannot be assessed.
 - Due to limited testing in the US, this analysis is likely biased towards more severe cases.
 - No conclusions could be made about conditions not included in the case report form or about different conditions that were reported in a single, umbrella category (e.g., asthma and COPD in chronic lung disease).
 - No conclusions could be made about risk for severe COVID-19 among persons with some underlying health conditions and risk factors (e.g., pregnancy, current smoker) because few severe outcomes were reported in these data.

PHO reviewer's comments

- None.

Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Synopsis: "Preliminary estimates of the prevalence of selected underlying health conditions among patients with coronavirus disease 2019 — United States, February 12–March 28, 2020". Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

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