

Current Impact of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care Facilities in the United States: Systematic Literature Review

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Background¹⁻⁴

- COVID-19 disproportionately affects older adults with greater risk for severe illness and death in closed-community settings, such as long-term care facilities (LTCF).
- Prior research focused on early time periods in the pandemic with an unvaccinated population and with less transmissible variants than the family of various circulating Omicron variants which has demonstrated higher secondary attack rates in household contacts.
- This systematic review aims to improve our understanding of the current burden of COVID post-vaccine introduction and during Omicron variant predominance.

Objective

- To describe the epidemiology and healthcare resource use of acute COVID-19 in LTCF and Veterans Affairs Community Living Centers in the US with data during Omicron variant predominance.

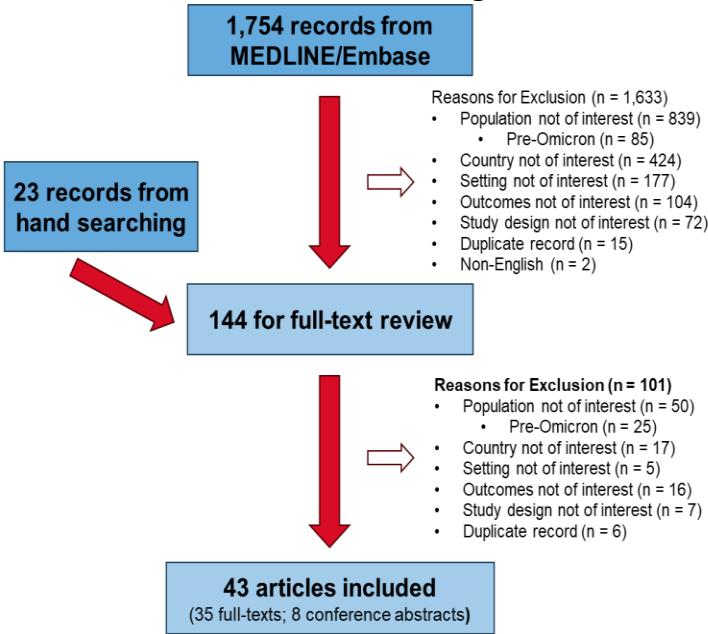
Methods

- Databases: MEDLINE and Embase searched for articles published Jan 2022 to Jan 2025
- Hand searching: Conference abstracts in 2023-2024
- Studies must report data that includes Omicron predominance (since November 1, 2021).

References: (1) CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/hcp/clinical-care/underlying-conditions.html>; (2) Kaiser Family Foundation: <https://www.kff.org/report-section/key-questions-about-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-long-term-care-facilities-over-time-issue-brief/>; (3) AARP: <https://ltsschoices.aarp.org/blog/nursing-home-covid-vaccinations>; (4) Lee J, et al. Osong Public Health Res Perspect. 2023 Aug;14(4):263-271.

Results

PRISMA Flow Diagram



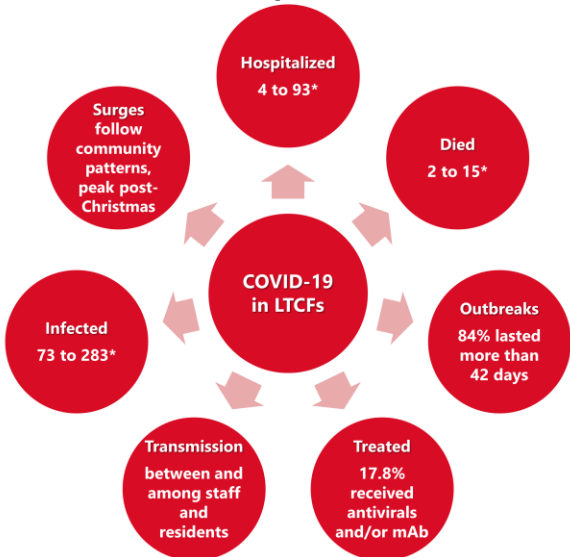
- While all studies included COVID-19 data during Omicron, many also included earlier periods with other predominant COVID-19 variants.

Article Counts*

Cases	20
Mortality	17
Healthcare resource use	11

*Articles may be categorized into multiple topics.

COVID-19 Impacts in LTCFs



*Cumulative incidence per 1,000 LTCF residents

Conclusions

- COVID-19 followed surge patterns of the general US population and was associated with a high number of hospitalizations and deaths in LTCF residents, including those vaccinated, during the time period studied. Some of the studies included data that extended prior to the Omicron cutoff of November 2021.
- These data reinforce the high risk COVID-19 posed to this frail cohort of patients in LTCFs despite vaccination, which remains relevant today, emphasizing the need to consider the active prevention and management of COVID-19 in 2025 and beyond.