Child & Adolescent Health during COVID-19: Protecting Vulnerable Children

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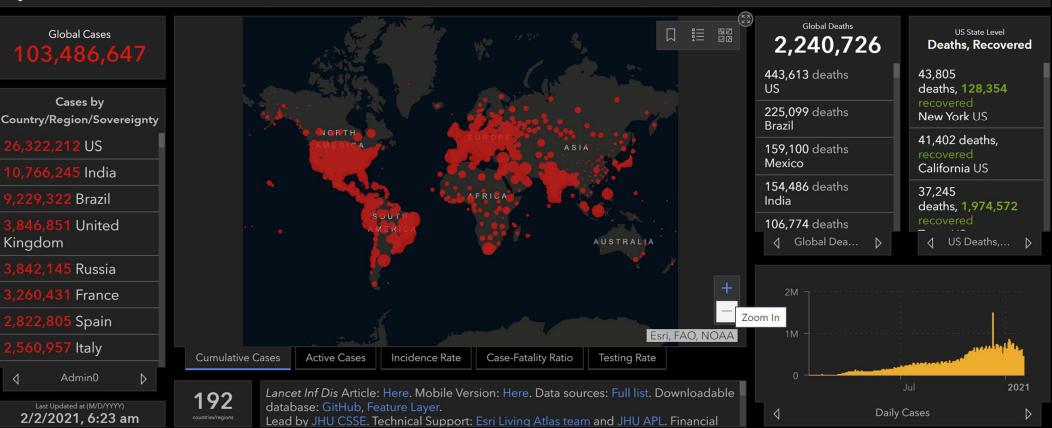






Kingdom

COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins ...



1 COVID-19 infection in children is generally mild with negligible mortality (<0.2%)

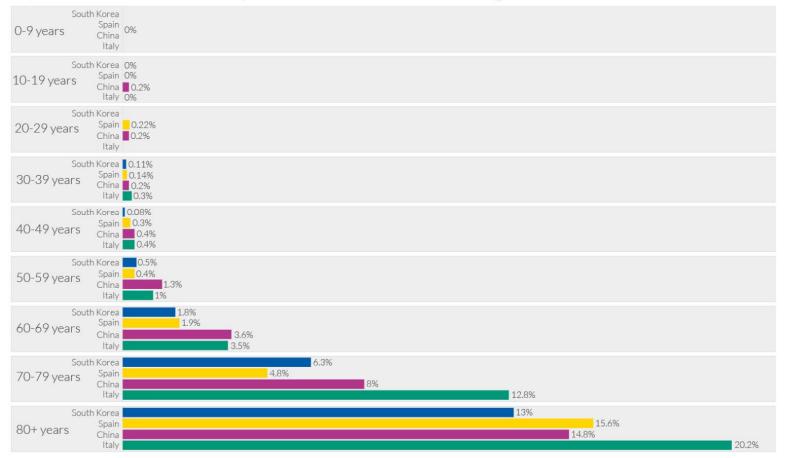
Coronavirus: case fatality rates by age



Case fatality rate (CFR) is calculated by dividing the total number of confirmed deaths due to COVID-19 by the number of confirmed cases.

Two of the main limitations to keep in mind when interpreting the CFR:

- (1) many cases within the population are unconfirmed due to a lack of testing.
- (2) some individuals who are infected will eventually die from the disease, but are still alive at time of recording.



Note: Case fatality rates are based on confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 as of: 17th February (China); 24th March (Spain); 24th March (South Korea); 17th March (Italy).

Data sources: Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Spanish Ministry of Health; Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC). Onder G, Rezza G, Brusaferro S. Case-Fatality Rate and Characteristics of Patients Dying in Relation to COVID-19 in Italy. JAMA.

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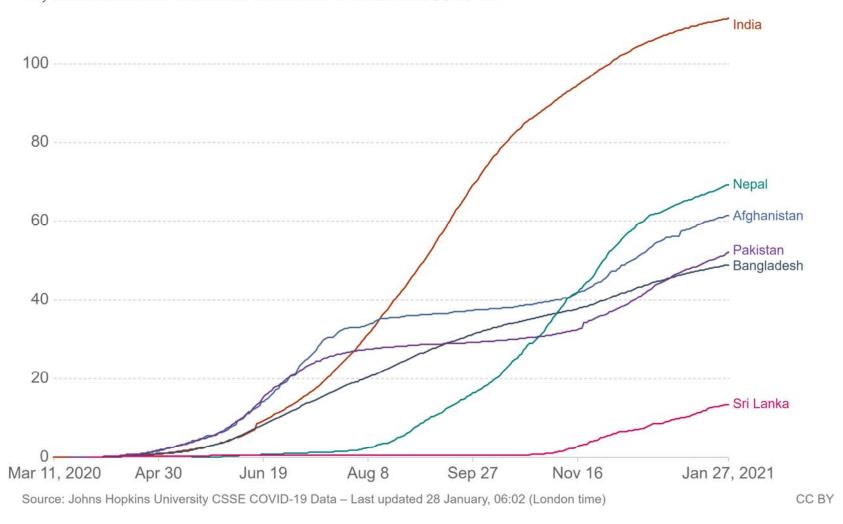
Indirect effects of COVID-19 control strategies outweigh direct effects in children, especially among the poor

An example from South Asia

Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people



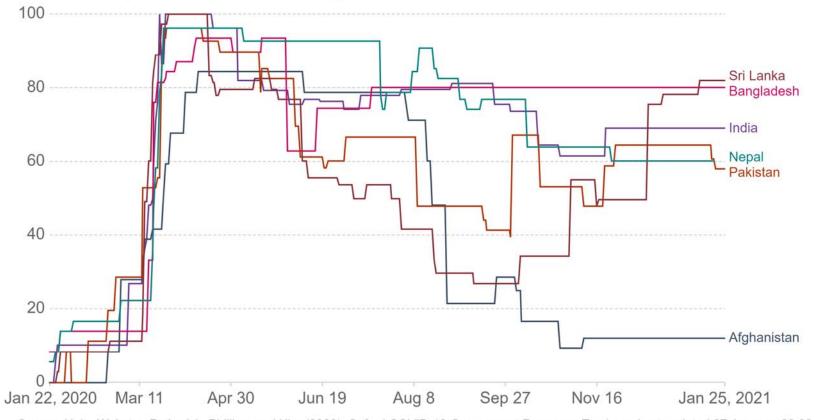
Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.



COVID-19: Government Stringency Index



This is a composite measure based on nine response indicators including school closures, workplace closures, and travel bans, rescaled to a value from 0 to 100 (100 = strictest). If policies vary at the subnational level, the index is shown as the response level of the strictest sub-region.

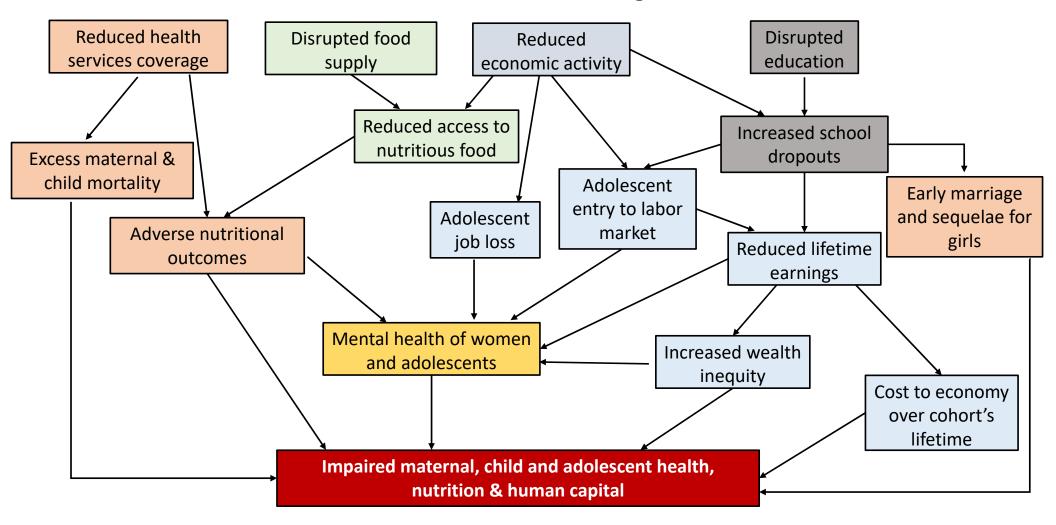


Source: Hale, Webster, Petherick, Phillips, and Kira (2020). Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker – Last updated 27 January, 23:00 (London time)

Note: This index simply records the number and strictness of government policies, and should not be interpreted as 'scoring' the appropriateness or effectiveness of a country's response.

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Pathways for impact of COVID-19 mitigation strategies on maternal, child and adolescent health and well-being



Impact on maternal and child health in South Asia

In 2020 alone:

- Child mortality (<59 months) → ~230,000 additional deaths = ↑14%
 - ~135,000 will occur in the neonatal period
- Stillbirths → ~90,000 = **↑10%**
- Maternal mortality → ~11,000 additional deaths = ↑16%
- > 3.5 million unintended pregnancies = ↑11%
- > 2.9 million unsafe abortions = ↑29%

Additionally, huge impact on morbidity in children & adolescents

- Nutrition impacts (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and risk of overweight / obesity)
- Mental health consequences
- Risk of domestic abuse & gender based violence

Impact on education

- ~420 million school-aged children in South Asia out of school since March 2020
 - 1 in 3 cannot be reached by remote learning¹
 - Best case scenario actual number is likely much higher
 - Rural areas and/or poorer households less likely to access remote learning
- Loss in educational attainment due to
 - Loss of learning time
 - Loss of already acquired learning due to school closures
 - Increase in children dropping out of school
- Some 9 million children in South Asia will likely dropout of school costing the region US\$63.5 billion over 45 years

Impact on girls

- > 4.5 million girls estimated to drop out of school
 - •Many will be married off
- •> 400,000 adolescent pregnancies
 - Adverse birth and child health outcomes

| Country | Adolescent pregnancies | Maternal deaths | Neonatal deaths | LBW | Stunted |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Pakistan | 28,998 | 41 | 1,328 | 11,118 | 1,958 |
| Bangladesh | 110,916 | 192 | 2,055 | 44,100 | 8,409 |
| India | 235,069 | 341 | 5,893 | 90,125 | 16,846 |
| Nepal | 18,406 | 34 | 401 | 5,750 | 1,070 |
| Afghanistan | 7,095 | 45 | 286 | 2,720 | 487 |
| Sri Lanka | 5,155 | 2 | 22 | 1,171 | 230 |
| Total | 405,640 | 655 | 9,986 | 154,985 | 29,000 |

The life time impacts of these impacts can be huge!

"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity"

