

The NYSDOH conducted an internal analysis of self-reported Covid 19 data. The NYSDOH analysis finds that Covid-19 fatalities in NHs were related to infected nursing home staff. The following summary is taken from today's press release. A link to the complete report is below. Some of the reports findings state that:

- Despite State's efforts virus entered Nursing Homes early in pandemic
- NYS ranked 46 in nation in percentage of NH deaths
- Summary of Findings
  - Employee/Staff infections were part of the larger societal spread
    - Shedding of virus peaks before onset and Staff worked up until symptoms hit
    - Spread is typical of congregate settings
    - Asked NH's to report first Staff infection
      - Earliest report was end of February
      - Most NH's reported first infection March 17
      - Peak in NH deaths was 21 days later
    - Most staff was asymptomatic and we had limited testing at the time
    - By mid-May NH's reported 37,000 affected staff (24% of NH workforce)
    - 29% of NH workers had Covid antibodies
  - Visitors
    - We don't have data, but logically you can assume that visitors brought in infections before we knew how pervasive and dangerous COVID was.
  - State's Readmission Policies
    - March 25 - May 8 approximately 6,326 transferred
    - Peak in NH Deaths occurred before the peak in transferred admissions
    - Data does not support the argument that these patients brought COVID into facilities
    - 81% of NH's had COVID in their homes before the admissions began
    - DOH Policy did not say homes must take patients
  - Infectivity
    - Those who have COVID are most contagious 2 days before
    - Median time of COVID related hospitalizations for NH patients was 9 days
    - After 9 days the virus has left the body
    - NH patients who were readmitted after hospitalizations did not play a role in deaths
    - NH deaths and General population peaked at the same time. NH's are part of the larger community and face the same threats.
  - NH Quality
    - Did NH ratings correlate with deaths - no.
    - There are no issues with Nursing Home quality as it relates to COVID deaths.
- Conclusion
  - We did not know how pervasive the disease was, how dangerous it is, early in the pandemic. Disease entered the homes as part of the larger community spread.
- Micheal Dowling:
  - Thanked front line staff
    - Narrative that DOH policy is associated/caused NH deaths. That does not prove to be factual.
      - The correlation is with community-wide/staff infection
    - Congregate setting/NH deaths is a nationwide problem. NY has done well in that regard in terms of percentage of deaths - 21%. Other states are around 60-70%.

- David Rich:
  - Thanked DOH for their work
  - Mount Sinai reported first signs of antibodies the week of February 23rd -- shows that within NY metro region, the virus was circulating the first week of February
  - The amount of time between infection - hospitalization - release from hospital was 23 days, after 10 days there is no risk of spread. Readmission after hospitalization was not an issue.
- Questions:
  - Are you saying the readmission policy had no role or minimal role in deaths?
    - No role
  - What about states like Florida with no policy who have lower deaths?
    - We have approximately the lowest percentage of NH deaths in the country.
    - Link to actual report: <https://dingo.telicon.com/NY/library/2020/20200706ZY.PDF>