

DESIGNED FOR YOUR WORLD



SDA Bocconi
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

UNPACKING THE FRAGMENTATION THAT MAKES OLDER PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK OF INFECTION

EHMA «Covid-19 from viral to contained» webinar series

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«Focusing and acting on the parts without adequately appreciating their relation to the evolving whole»

(The paradox of the parts and the whole in understanding and improving general practice. Stange KC Int J Qual Health Care. 2002 Aug; 14(4):267-8)

Fragmentation can be observed from different perspectives. Today's focus:

1. Fragmentation of policies
2. Fragmentation of data
3. Fragmentation of services

Older people <> Long Term Care Sector

The Italian Long-Term Care (LTC) sector is an example of how fragmentation existed long before the Covid-19 pandemic:

- National (and regional) policies more focused on healthcare sector rather than on the integration between social care, long term care and healthcare sector and services
- Strategic orientation and mission of healthcare services clear; long term care services uncertain
- Poor quality of data describing the LTC sector (availability, homogeneity, updates)
- Weak linkages at the local level between services targeting older people

In 2019 we pointed out 5 critical areas in the Italian Long Term Care Sector

Access to acute care
(E.R.)

Discharge from
hospital

Rehabilitation
centers / other long
term care facilities
when transferring to
the hospital

Care services
outside the hospital

Home care

KEY FINDINGS: COVID-19 MANAGEMENT IN THE LTC SECTOR IN ITALY



- **THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ACTED LATE** on the Covid-19 outbreak management **IN NURSING HOMES.**



- **REGIONS** (responsible for the LTC sector operational regulation) **ACTED LATE** and issued different policy measures.

- Italy faced a massive shortage in PPE: **NURSING HOMES WERE NOT PRIORITIZED FOR RECEIVING NEW PROCUREMENTS.**

- Results from ISS survey confirm actual number of Covid-19 related deaths in nursing homes are **MUCH HIGHER THAN THE ONE REPORTED IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.**

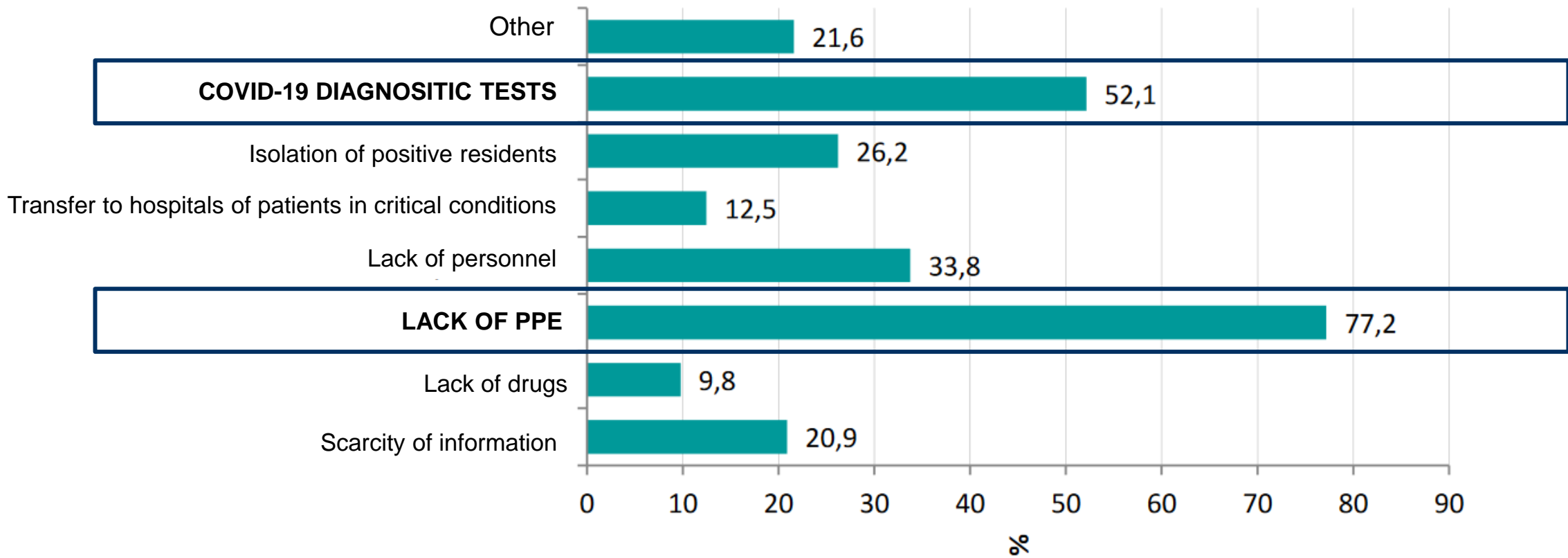


- **COORDINATION WITH HEALTH CARE ACTORS** (mainly acute care but also general practitioners) has been limited and poorly implemented.

- Response to Covid-19 emergency has been left to the **INITIATIVE OF EACH NURSING HOME ALONE.**

OBSTACLES IN MANAGING NURSING HOMES DURING THE PANDEMIC IN ITALY

The only centralized statistics about the Long-Term Care sector and nursing homes in Italy during COVID-19 pandemic were collected through a survey, closed in July 2020 and never updated since then.



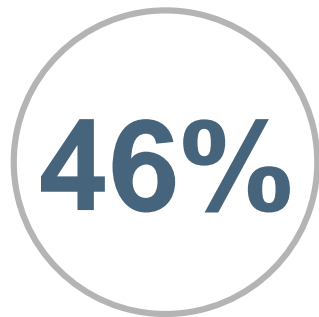
Source: Survey sul contagio da COVID-19 nelle RSA
<https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/pdf/sars-cov-2-survey-rsa-rapporto-finale.pdf>



The National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) launched a survey to investigate the incredibly high numbers of deaths registered in elderly residential centres, after national press raised the attention on the possible sharp underestimation of Covid-19-related deaths in care homes.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON (21 COUNTRIES; SOURCE: ILPN NETWORK; UPDATED OCTOBER 2020)

Deaths by Covid-19



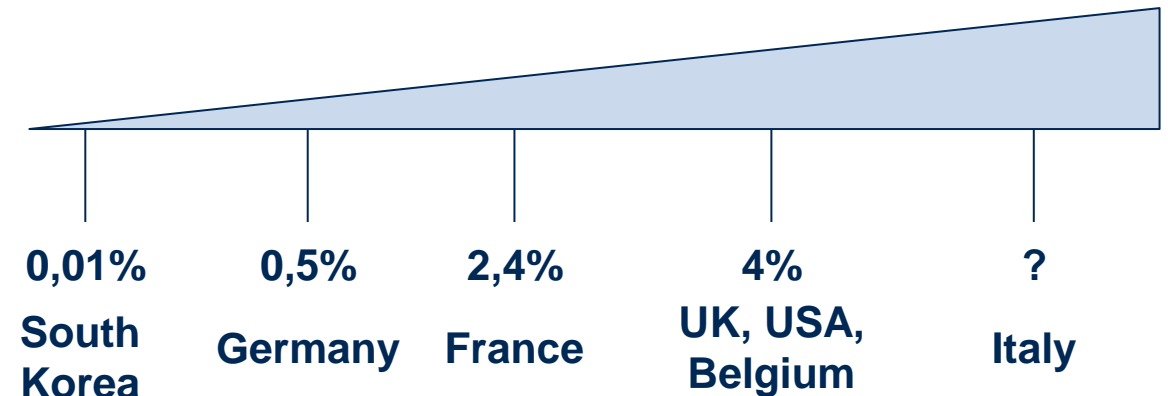
(21 countries)

Of the overall number of Covid-19 deaths related to nursing homes residents



More attention and resources should be directed towards nursing homes during this type of pandemic

% of residents of nursing homes dead by Covid-19



MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ITALY AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Isolation



Italy

- **Impossible to isolate positive patients** in (many) nursing homes;
- **Lack of coordination** with health services

Other countries



- Dedicated facilities for isolating positive cases;
- Priority for hospital admissions;
- No registered death or contagion in HK; Low numbers in Germany
- **Specific policies**

Screening & PPEs



- Data **not available**;
- **PPEs** provided late to nursing homes
- **Limited screening** of LTC workers in the first phase



- **Massive screening for patients and workers** (since the beginning); in Belgium relevant role of asymptomatic among positive cases (73% staff, 69% patients)

Financing



- **Lack** of national policies / guidelines
- Regions acted with heterogeneity
- Long-term sustainability of providers at risk



- **Public funding** for hiring additional personnel and for guaranteeing **economical sustainability of the sector**

COVID-19 STRIKES ITALY AND EUROPE... WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

elderly covid 19

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Chinese health officials have released their first report detailing the impact of the coronavirus, now officially known as COVID-19. The data was compiled by the ...

18 feb 2020

Age Group	Fatality Rate
19	0.2%
20	0.2%
30	0.2%
40	0.4%

m Livemint

Coronavirus fatal for elderly, patients with existing conditions, says study

The novel Chinese coronavirus, or COVID-19, has so far killed over 1,800 individuals and infected more than 72,000 people, Chinese health officials said on ...

18 feb 2020

At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic we were not prepared, and we knew basically nothing... except for ONE THING

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THANK YOU