adults aged 60 years or older in May and June of 2020, at a time when social distancing measures were still in place. We tested whether their living situation and having access to information about social activities was associated with loneliness. OLS regression analyses revealed living alone was associated with higher loneliness (b = .43, p = .050); and having access to information about social activities was associated with lower loneliness (b = -.18, p = .027) amidst the pandemic. The analyses controlled for participants' age, gender, and education. Our findings highlight that during Covid-19, older adults' living situation and access to information about social activities matter and may impact their social behavior. Thus, at this difficult time, it is recommended organizations that offer social activities find creative ways to reach those living alone who will benefit most from having access to such activities.

LONG-TERM CARE REGISTERED DIETITIANS' INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Julie Beitel, and Allison Cammer, *University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada*

At the outset of the global pandemic, long-term care (LTC) homes in Canada were captured in media reports as the centre of Canada's COVID-19 epidemic. An estimated 80% of all COVID-19 deaths in Canada were associated with LTC outbreaks as of May 25, 2020. Infection control measures have swiftly changed the environment in many LTC homes for residents, workers, loved ones, and other supports. Registered Dietitians (RDs) are among the many care professionals working in LTC affected by these changes. The aim of this qualitative study was to examine the roles of RDs in supporting LTC residents during the initial phases of the pandemic. RDs faced remote practice, redeployment to address pandemic priorities, or cohorting to a sole practice site, yet were responsible for resident nutritional health. In-depth, web-based, semi-structured interviews with thirteen RDs working in LTC in a prairie province of Canada were used to explore the changes to work, challenges faced, impact on residents, and innovations in practice. The findings from this study capture nutrition and wellness-related implications of the COVID-19 pandemic within LTC homes. Examining the initial response of LTC RDs to the COVID-19 pandemic can help in planning for opportunities to support or enhance delivery of nutrition care in LTC homes, both in the context of the ongoing pandemic as well as future practice.

MATERIAL HARDSHIP, MENTAL HEALTH, AND PARENTING STRESS AMONG GRANDPARENT KINSHIP PROVIDERS IN COVID-19

Yanfeng Xu,[1] Qi Wu,[2] Sue Levkoff,[1] and Merav Jedwab,[3] *1. University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, United States, 2. Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona, United States, 3. Hadassah Academic College, Jerusalem Israel, Israel*

The COVID 19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of many families, including grandparent kinship families, to deal with a health/economic crisis. The fear of COVID-19 plus stay-at-home orders have increased individuals' psychological distress. Moreover, school closures and homeschooling further increased parenting stress among caregivers. This study examined the relationship between material hardship and parenting stress among grandparent kinship providers and assessed grandparents' mental health as a potential mediator to this relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Grandparent kinship providers (N=362) that took primary care of their grandchildren participated in a cross-sectional survey via Qualtrics Panels in June 2020 in the United States. Descriptive and bivariate analyses, binary logistic regression, and mediation analyses were conducted using STATA 15.0. Experiencing material hardship (OR = 1.67, p < 0.001) was significantly associated with higher odds of parenting stress among grandparent kinship providers, and grandparents' mental health (indirect effect = 0.11, 95% CI [0.01, 0.25]) partially mediated this association. Addressing material and mental health needs among grandparent kinship providers is critical to decreasing their parenting stress.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT OF THE CONFINEMENT MEASURES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Claire Pauly,[1] Valerie Schröder,[2] Laure Pauly,[3] Rejko Krüger,[4] and Anja Leist,[1] *1. University of Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, 2. Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine, Belvaux, Luxembourg, 3. Clinical and Experimental Neuroscience, Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine, University of Luxembourg, Esch-Belval, Luxembourg, Esch-sur-Alzette Belval, Luxembourg, 4. Luxembourg Institute of Health, Strassen, Luxembourg*

Background. Mid-March 2020, with exponentially increasing COVID-19 infections, Luxembourg closed schools and businesses, and declared a crisis (état de crise) to implement confinement measures, including orders to not leave the home unless to fulfill essential needs. The psychological consequences of these policy responses to the pandemic on older people, considered a high-risk group, were unknown at the time. The aim of this study was to use the nationally representative CON-VINCE study that assessed mental health at the height of the confinement measures mid-April 2020, to assess the psychological impact of quarantine on older adults. Method. A total of 451 participants aged 60+ years (55.0% male) filled in the CES-D, the GAD-7 and the 3-item loneliness scale that measured depressive symptoms, level of anxiety, and feelings of social isolation. Results. Mean age was 67.7 years (SD 5.5), average number of school years were 13.1 (SD 3.6). The participants were mainly of Luxembourgish nationality (87.8%), and a majority (69.8%) was married. Clinically relevant depression scores were present in 13.1%, generalized anxiety in 1.8%, and self-perceived isolation in 16.9% of participants. Number of depressive symptoms was associated with perceived isolation (p<0.001) and current exercise levels (p=0.02). Discussion. The rate of older adults with clinically relevant impaired mental health was similar to pre-pandemic levels in Luxembourg, suggesting that negative mental health consequences of the confinement measures were largely absent. Possible explanations are that confinement was considered a universal experience, and that the healthcare system remained functional, unlike in other countries at the time.

MODERN UBASUTE: PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND SENTIMENT ABOUT OLDER ADULTS AND COVID19 USING MACHINE LEARNING

Xiaoling Xiang,[1] Xuan Lu,[1] Alex Halavanau,[2] Jia Xue,[3] Yihang Sun,[1] Patrick Ho Lam Lai,[4] and Zhenke Wu,[1] *1. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan,*

United States, 2. *Stanford University, Menlo Park, California, United States, 3. University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 4. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Michigan, United States*

This study examined public discourse and sentiment on social media regarding older adults in COVID-19. Twitter data (N=82,893) related to both older adults and COVID-19 and dated from January 23rd to May 20th, 2020, were analyzed. Classification of tweets involved supervised machine learning. Latent Dirichlet Allocation was used to identify dominant themes in public discourse using, accompanied by a qualitative thematic analysis. Sentiment analysis was conducted based on the NRC Emotion Lexicon. The most common category in the coded tweets was "personal opinions" (66.2%), followed by "informative" (24.7%), "jokes/ridicule" (4.8%), and "personal experiences" (4.3%). More than one in ten (11.5%) tweets implied that the life of older adults is less valuable or downplayed the pandemic because it mostly harms older adults. A small proportion (4.6%) explicitly supported the idea of just isolating older adults. Almost three-quarters (72.9%) within "jokes/ridicule" targeted older adults, half of which were "death jokes." The daily average of ageist content was 18%, with the highest of 52.8% on March 11th, 2020. We extracted 14 themes, such as perceptions of lockdown and risk. A bivariate Granger causality test suggested that informative tweets regarding at-risk populations increased the prevalence of tweets that downplayed the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and intensified ageism in our society. Information about COVID-19 on Twitter influenced public perceptions of risk and acceptable ways of controlling the pandemic. Public education on the risk of severe illness is needed to correct misperceptions.

NIMBLE GERONTOLOGICAL INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION DURING A PANDEMIC

Megan Thomas Hebdon,[1] Christina Wilson,[2] Katherine Bernier Carney,[2] Jacqueline Telonidis,[2] and Sue Chase-Cantarini,[2] *1. University of Utah, Blacksburg, Virginia, United States, 2. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States*

To improve communication and collaboration among health professionals, interprofessional education (IPE) experiences have been offered to students through the Utah Geriatric Education Consortium (UGEC) with the support of long-term care (LTC) partners since 2017. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a unique challenge in delivering in-person IPE training. Here we describe adaptations and student outcomes with our Spring/Summer 2020 training sessions. Students (n=46) from health profession programs were recruited and enrolled in the sessions. A LTC partner helped plan two-hour remote training sessions to introduce students to current issues and health care team member roles in LTC. Moderated small group discussions regarding the 4 Ms Framework and a patient case were completed using virtual breakout rooms. A shared virtual document was used to guide discussions and record insights. Student participants (n=46) were primarily White (85%), female (70%), and enrolled in physical therapy (28%), nutrition (33%), and medicine (15%) programs. Thirty-one students completed post-course satisfaction surveys with Likert-scale and open-ended questions. Most students who completed the survey agreed or strongly agreed that the course was effective (85%) and engaging (81%), and will improve care (88%).

Positive course aspects included: comprehensive information with speaker experiences and use of 4 Ms; course structure with moderated small groups; and interprofessional collaboration with common goals and multiple perspectives. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, an IPE experience was effectively delivered using video conferencing technology, community collaboration, and moderated small group discussions. The successes of this IPE delivery model will enhance engagement and accessibility of future gerontological workforce training.

NURSING HOME SOCIAL WORKERS PERCEPTIONS OF PREPAREDNESS AND COPING FOR COVID-19

Vivian Miller,[1] Noelle Fields,[2] Nancy Kusmaul,[3] Keith Anderson,[4] and Christy Maxwell,[4] *1. Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, United States, 2. The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States, 3. UMBC, Baltimore, Maryland, United States, 4. University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States*

Social work has a long history of responding to the needs of vulnerable populations during times of crisis and disaster. Social workers are working at the front lines responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic in a variety of health care practice settings, including nursing homes, however it is unclear how social workers perceive their preparedness during this time. This study employed a cross-sectional survey to nursing home social workers via social media on feelings of preparedness for COVID-19, what has been most professionally helpful for social workers during these times in their role in COVID-19, as well as demographic questions. Demographic data were analyzed using SPSS and qualitative data were analyzed using the rigorous and accelerated data reduction (RADaR) technique. Data are based on a sample of 63 (N=63) nursing home social workers. Findings revealed that while some social workers felt prepared for the coronavirus, many respondents stated that they were unprepared to meet the demands and challenges they were facing. Moreover, participants shared that professional support was critically important to get through COVID-19. These findings are important, as social workers are tasked with ensuring each resident attains their highest level of psychosocial well-being, which can be achieved only when nursing home staff are supported. Findings from the present study suggest that additional support for nursing home staff ought to include peer mentoring and mutual support. Additionally, improved leadership across health care settings is worth assessing.

OBESITY INTERVENTION IMPROVES OUTCOMES IN SOCIALLY ISOLATED OLDER ADULTS: PROGRESS DESPITE A PANDEMIC

Kathryn Porter Starr,[1] Michael Borack,[2] Marshall Miller,[3] Angela Fruik,[1] Jamie Rincker,[2] Jessica Wallis,[1] Amir Hakim,[1] and Connie Bales,[1] *1. Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, United States, 2. Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, United States, 3. Duke University, Efland, North Carolina, United States*

The extended social isolation necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic will likely have a prolonged negative impact on the health of community-dwelling older adults. We studied the potential to counteract these negative effects, examining the before and after measurements of participants