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The post-Covid world – Are we there yet?

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IAALS 2025



Some facts on the pandemic

Covid-19 hit the world in early 2020

First reported pandemic

Countries installed different prevention measures, e.g.

- Lockdowns
- Face masks
- Social isolation
- Vaccinations

Goals of prevention measures

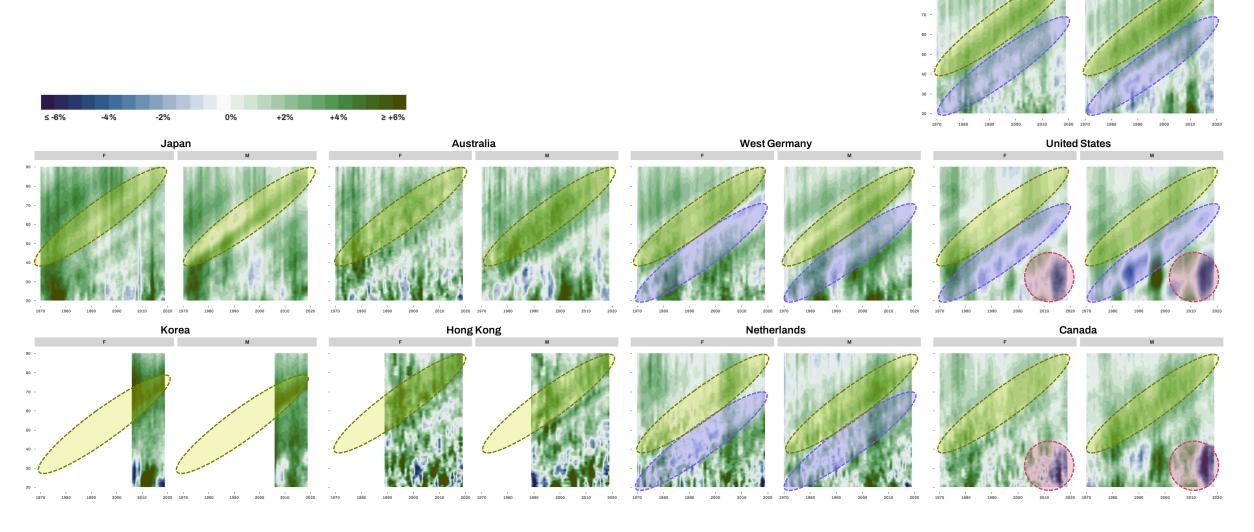
- Reduce total number of fatalities
- Mitigate strains on the public health system

Covid prevention measures have been lifted over time, often in 2022

How did Covid 19 affect mortality around the globe?
Can we see the effect of prevention measures?
How does Covid look like in the long-term time series?



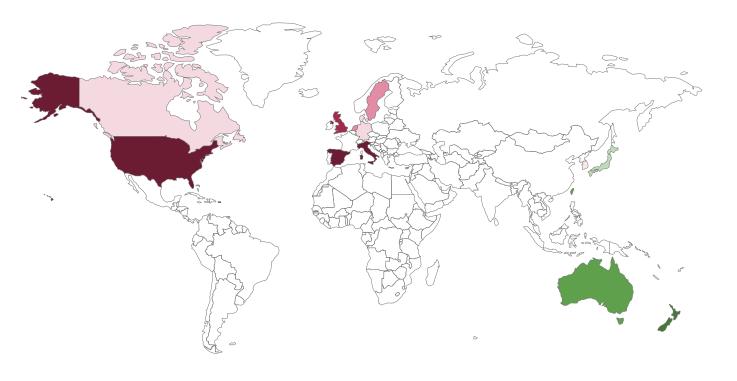
Pre-covid mortality improvements around the world





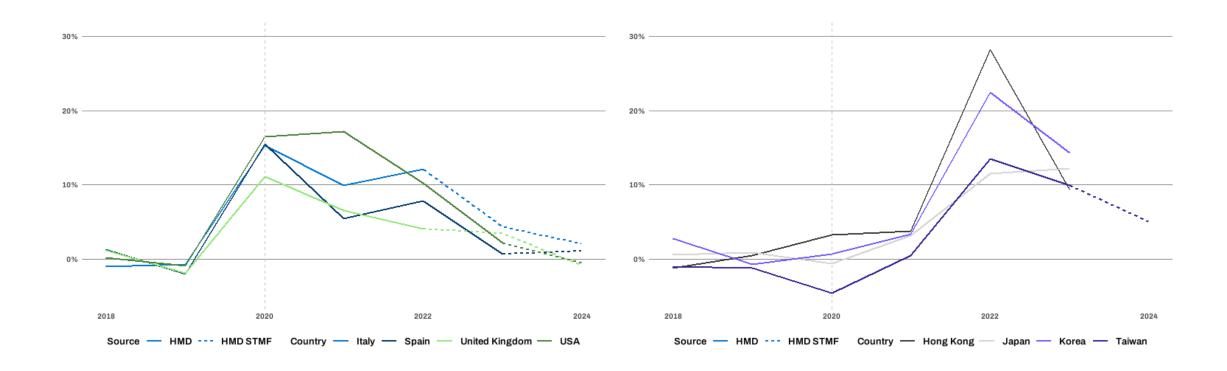
United Kingdom

How did Covid-19 affect mortality? Age standardized mortality in 2020



| | Country | Extra Mortality |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| | United States | +16.6% |
| in the second se | Spain | +15.6% |
| | Italy | +15.4% |
| | United Kingdom | +11.2% |
| | Netherlands | +8.3% |
| + | Sweden | +7.8% |
| * | Canada | +5.4% |
| * | Hong Kong | +3.3% |
| | Germany | +3.0% |
| + | Denmark | +1.4% |
| # • # | Republic of Korea | +0.6% |
| | Japan | -0.6% |
| * * | Australia | -4.1% |
| * | Taiwan | -4.6% |
| * * * * * | New Zealand | -6.8% |

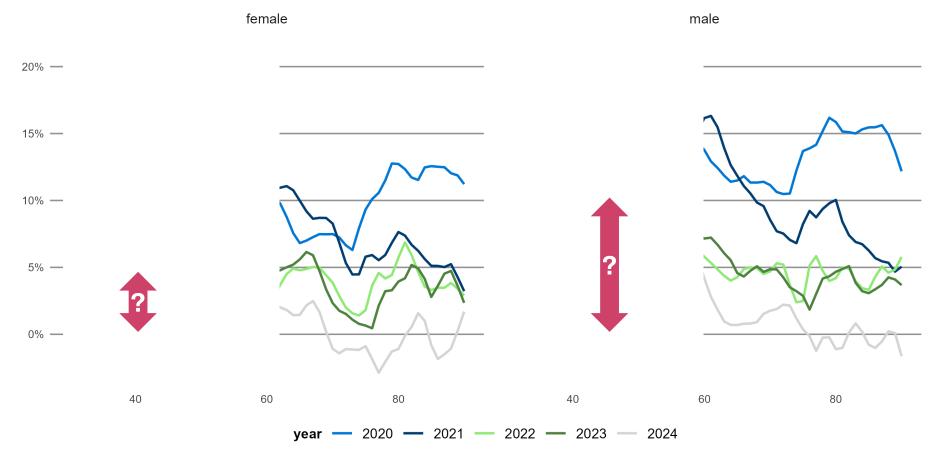
How did Covid-19 affect mortality? Age standardized mortality for different years



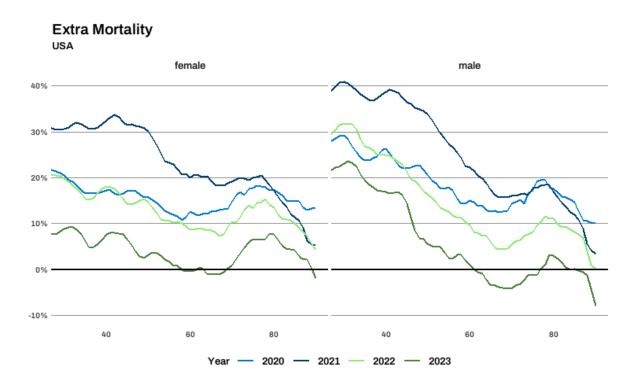
Post-Covid-19 – are we there yet? Extra mortality in the **UK (E&W)**

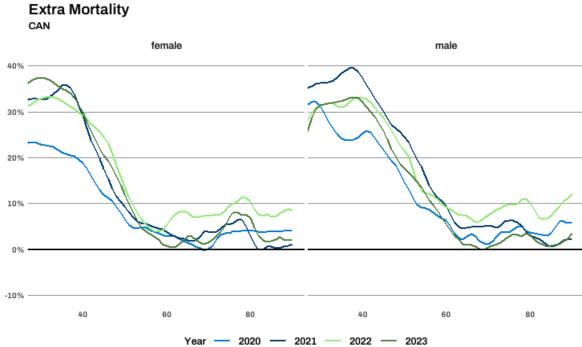
Extra Mortality

UK (E&W)



Post-Covid-19 – are we there yet? Extra mortality in the **USA** and **Canada**





What drives extra mortality in young(er) ages?

Consider "cause of death data"

Some caveats

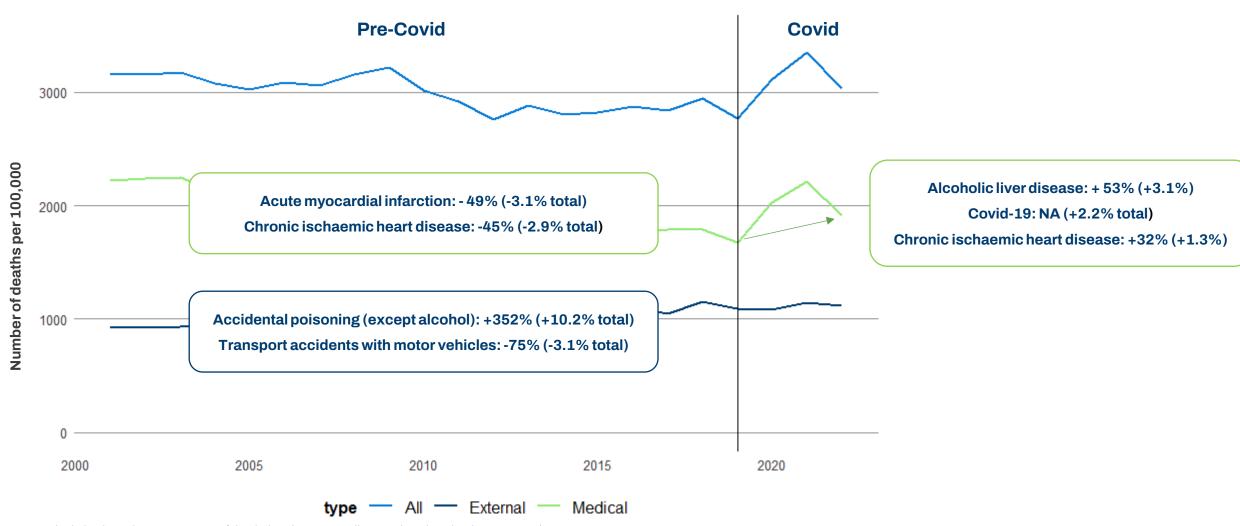
- Unique reason often hard to determine
- Some arbitrariness in registration
- Differences by country
- Differences by ICD version
- For most countries data is only available up to 2022 or even earlier

We are using the 'HMD – Cause of death' dataset which is designed to mitigate some of these problems

HMD dataset contains different granularities; the finest resolution covering >1600 ICD 10 codes



Mortality by cause trends UK (E&W) – Males ages 35-44 only (Data until 2022)



Own calculation based on HMD cause of death data (www.mortality.org, data download 2025-08-05)

Summary

The post-Covid world - ARE WE THERE YET? - Yes

For ages 60+ mortality has returned to pre-Covid trend levels for most countries and is declining for all.

For younger ages, we see elevated mortality levels for some countries (GBR, USA, CAN) still in 2023/2024.

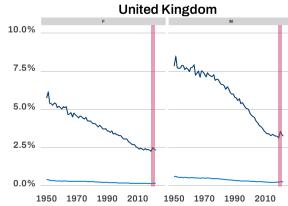
Reasons for this extra mortality include:

- Increase in drug related fatalities this trend started way before the pandemic
- Alcohol related fatalities

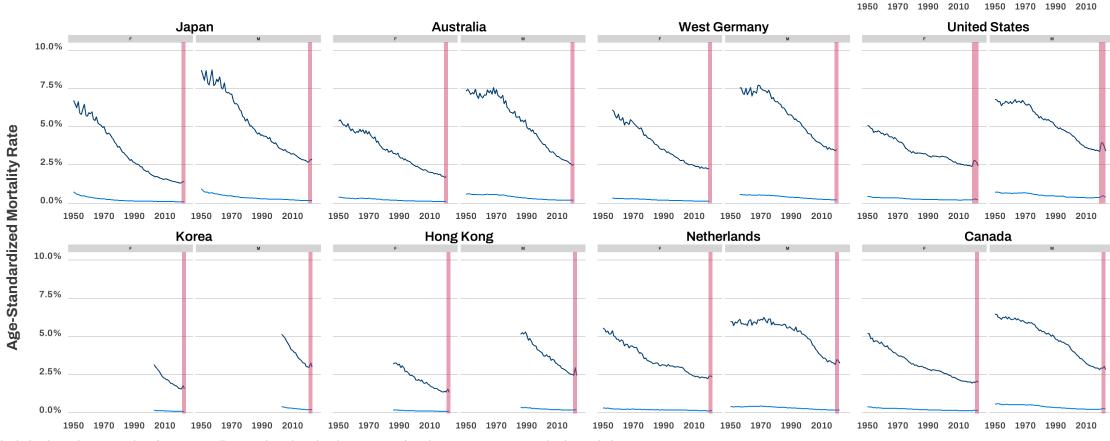
Question to the audience:

How would you take Covid into account in your mortality improvement assumptions?

Long-term trend of mortality vs. Covid



Age Band - 20-59 - 60-90



Own calculation based on HMD data (www.mortality.org, data download 2025-08-05) and 2013 European Standard Population



Contact information



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Let's stay in touch.

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