Understanding Cross-National Differences in COVID-19 Mortality Among the Elderly

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Introduction
• Different countries appeared to present different mortality rates for their elderly populations
• I worked with Professor Goldman and Fumiya Uchioshi, a grad student, to investigate these international discrepancies.

Internship Objective
I wanted to contribute to the growing knowledge we have on COVID-19 and the way it differently affects populations and grow my own knowledge about demography and epidemiology.

Work Profile
• Research inter-country disparities in nursing home conditions, preconditions for mortality for different age groups, and produce a literature review for the data we found

Reflections
• Although this was a virtual internship, I learned so much about the basics of demography and epidemiology, how to compare populations, and about how different countries handled the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways in which they (did not) protect elderly.

Looking Ahead
• I see myself continuing to investigate issues of demography and epidemiology with a focus on social inequality

Questions
How can we better care for our elderly populations so that, when health emergencies strike, they are protected? And how can we in the U.S. improve outcomes for the middle-aged?

Conclusion
Understanding cross-national differences is instructive for identifying where we go wrong and what we can do better.

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Reflections
• Below is a graph made by Fumiya Uchioshi, the grad student with whom I worked. This figure motivated our research project, as it demonstrates that the over-65 population in different nations were hit by COVID-19 to very different extents. We investigated this further by analyzing excess mortality rates. I specifically focused on explaining the differences in excess mortality that we found.