COVID-19 Hospitalizations Up Among Older Adults

About 63% of COVID-19-related hospitalizations between January and August 2023 were among people aged 65 years or older, based on data collected by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The proportion had been declining through mid-July but increased again by the end of August.

Moreover, older people accounted for a disproportionate number of intensive care unit admissions and in-hospital deaths associated with COVID-19. The majority of older adults who were hospitalized had at least 2 underlying conditions, such as diabetes, kidney disorders, and coronary artery disease.

Despite guidance from the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices announced in fall 2022 that older adults should receive at least 1 bivalent COVID-19 vaccine dose, more than three-quarters of people aged 65 years or older who were hospitalized for COVID-19 during the study had not, the researchers wrote in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. – Emily Harris

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.