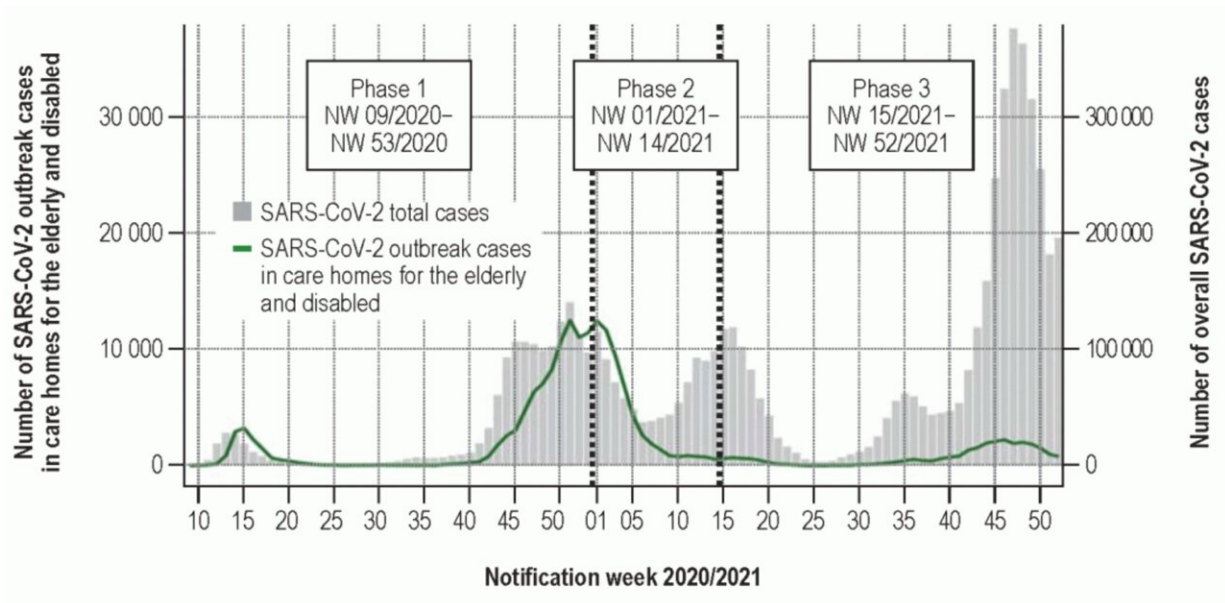


# Examining SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in care homes for the elderly and disabled in Germany

November 4 2022



Total SARS-CoV-2 cases in the general population and SARS-CoV-2 outbreak cases in care homes for the elderly and disabled. Credit: *Deutsches Ärzteblatt international* (2022). DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.m2022.0170

The introduction of COVID-19 vaccination and additional pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures helped to notably reduce the extent and severity of SARS-CoV-19 outbreaks in care homes for elderly and disabled people in Germany. This is according to

a recent study reported by Dunja Said, Beneditta Suwono, and co-authors in *Deutsches Ärzteblatt International*.

The authors investigated in their comparative epidemiological analysis of the time periods before and after the start of the vaccination campaign 7794 outbreaks with 177 696 outbreak cases in [care homes](#). 74.6% of the age group was 60 or older. The case-fatality rate among outbreak cases was 14.5%. The size and severity were compared for the following phases of the pandemic: [phase 1](#), the period before [vaccinations](#) had been introduced; phase 2: start of the vaccination campaigns; phase 3: the period from which a majority of the residents had been fully initially immunized. From phases 1 to 3, the median number of cases/outbreaks fell from 21 to 8. The case-fatality rate fell from 15.7% to 10.0%.

The researchers recommend that the pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical measures implemented in care homes should continue to be used in future, so as to prevent severe disease courses in residents. This comprises in particular a higher rate of complete vaccination, a more stringent implementation of recommendations for [vaccine](#) boosters, and the simultaneous adherence to high hygiene standards.

**More information:** Dunja Said et al, SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in care homes for the elderly and disabled in Germany—a comparative epidemiological analysis of the periods before and after the beginning of the vaccination campaign, *Deutsches Ärzteblatt international* (2022). [DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.m2022.0170](https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.m2022.0170)

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