Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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Spotlight on Special Topics

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ACCESS TO CARDIOVASCULAR CARE LEADING TO INCREASED CARDIOVASCULAR MORTALITY

Poster Contributions
For exact presentation time, refer to the online ACC.22 Program Planner at https://www.abstractsonline.com/pp8/#!/10461

Session Title: Spotlight on Special Topics Flatboard Poster Selections: COVID
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Background: The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted many aspects of cardiovascular disease (CVD). There has been a decrease in hospitalizations for CVD nationwide and a significant increase in out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. We aim to understand the impact of COVID-19 on CVD mortality in the large metropolitan city of Chicago and surrounding areas within Cook County, Illinois.

Methods: Cook County Medical Examiner cause of death records from January 2018 to December 2020 were reviewed, and deaths secondary to CVD and COVID-19 were collated. Statistical analysis included chi-square test.

Results: Among 15,742 documented deaths in 2020, the proportion of CVD deaths was substantially smaller in 2020 (18.9%) compared to 2018 and 2019 (31.4% and 30.5%, respectively). Furthermore, the racial and ethnic makeup of individuals with mortality from CVD in 2020 compared to 2018 and 2019 was significantly different (P = 0.002). There was an increase in CVD deaths among Hispanic, White, and African-American/Black populations in 2020 versus 2018 and 2019 (66.9%, 54.7%, and 35.5%, respectively) (Figure 1).

Conclusion: The proportion of CVD deaths in 2020 versus 2018 and 2019 decreased, in part due to excess deaths from COVID-19. CVD-related deaths by race and ethnicity during the pandemic differed significantly from prior years. The number of CVD-related deaths increased across all groups, emphasizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to care for CVD management.