

# Global years of life lost to COVID-19

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CRES-UPF

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**Universitat  
Pompeu Fabra**  
*Barcelona*

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<sup>1</sup>We acknowledge financial support from Obra Social de la Caixa.

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  - **Compared to other leading causes of death**: a natural comorbidity “adjustment”.
  - **Subgroups**: we break it down by age and gender.

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  - **“It is just like the flu”**: **In heavily impacted countries, it is much worse than the worst flu in the last 27 years.**
  - **“You are not accounting for comorbidity bias”**: **We focus on ratios, not on the absolute values YLL.**

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  - **Gender:** Men have lost 49% more life years than women.

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  - **Age structures:** not interested in disentangling the effect of country-specific age structures.

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- **COVID-19 related excess mortality:** we compute the cumulative positive excess mortality since the last week of February 2020.

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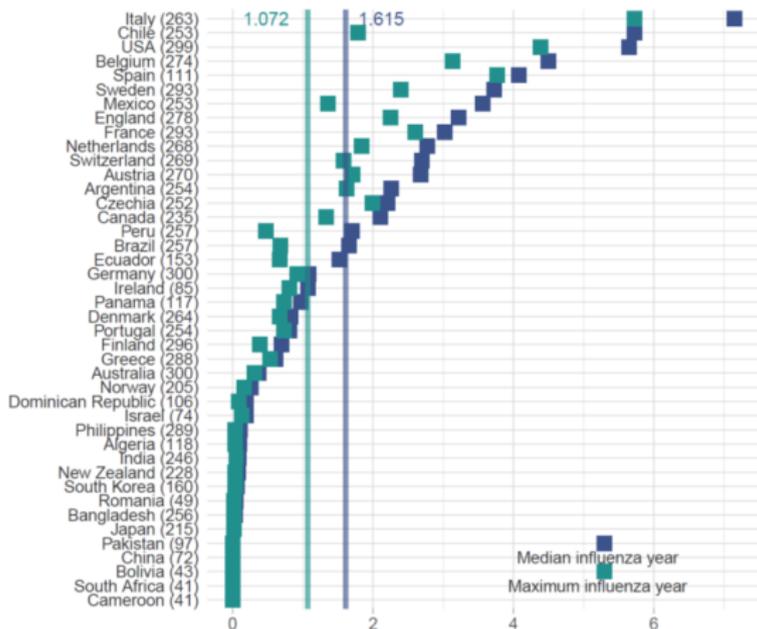
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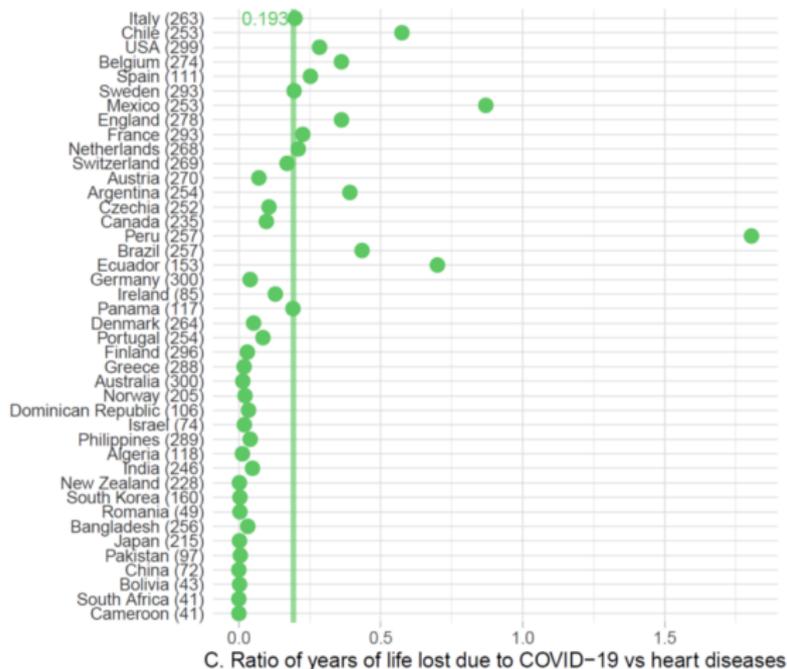
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  - **Death counts for other causes:** Global Burden of Disease 2017.

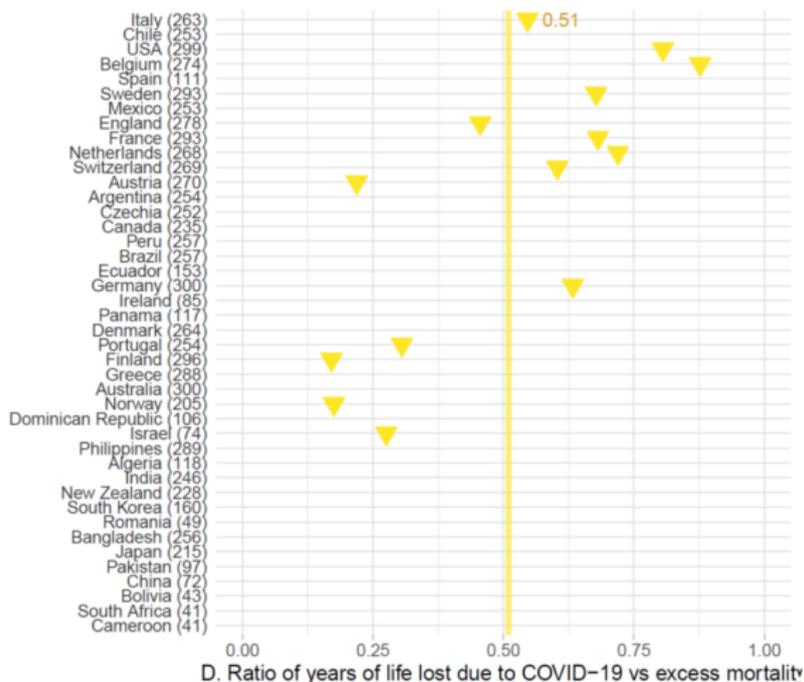
# Results: influenza

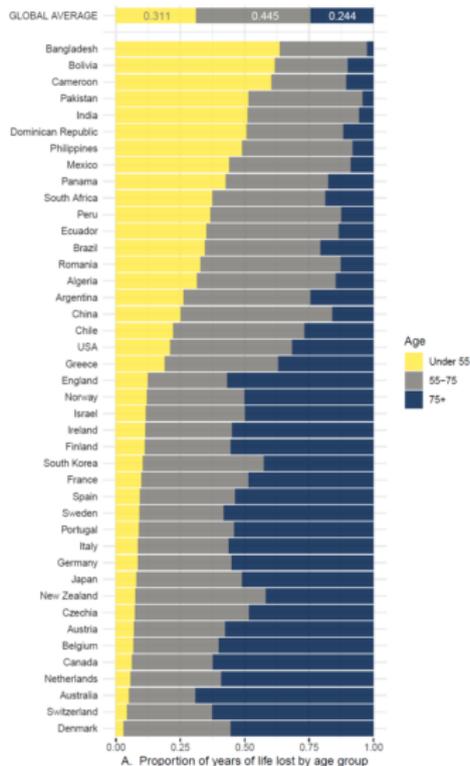


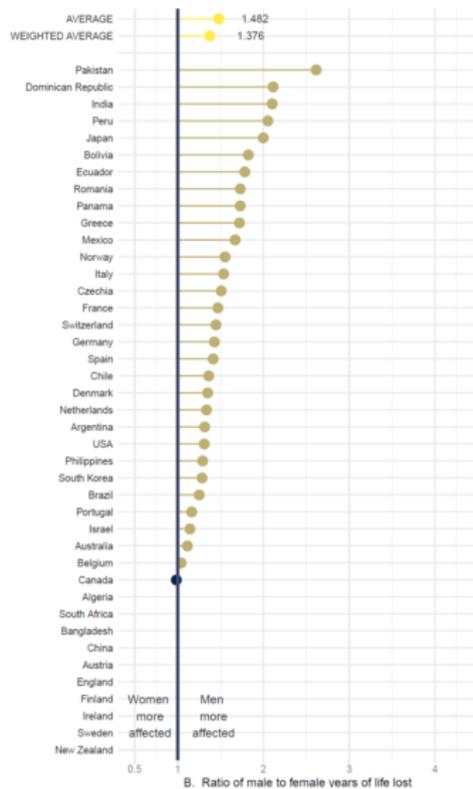
A. Ratio of years of life lost due to COVID-19 vs seasonal influenza



# Results: excess mortality







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- **YLL not only for the oldest:** a relatively large fraction of YLL at younger ages, especially in mid and low income countries.
- **Men are more affected:** although there is substantial variation in the gender differences across countries.

- **Excess mortality**: we need to distinguish direct COVID-19 deaths from indirect (pandemic related).

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- **Disability**: we focused on mortality, but increasing evidence on severe COVID-19 related sequels.
- **YLL and policy evaluation**: YLLs can be used to improve policy evaluation (instead of simply deaths).