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[Author] John Walsh

[E-mail] john.walsh@vanderbilt.edu

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### **[Abstract Title]**

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Most Vulnerable: The Lack of Reasonable Policy and Preparedness Efforts Toward Long-term Care Residents

### **[Abstract]**

In disaster parlance the elderly have always been identified as an at-risk population. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, as of June 2020, more than 43,000 long-term care residents and staff have died from the SAR-CoV2 virus in the US. To-date, this represents over a third of the nation's known coronavirus deaths. The occurrence of COVID-19's rapid on-set caught the world unaware and unprepared. The lack of foresight was the result of slow acknowledgement and recognition of a developing catastrophic disaster. In the US, until recent years, little formal emphasis has been placed on requiring long-term care and skilled nursing facilities to maintain preparedness levels equivalent to that of hospitals. The high rate of infections and accumulative deaths are the result of multiple operational and policy factors attributed to a lack of or low levels of testing, infection control mishaps, inadequate employee training, understaffing, cross contamination sources, deficiencies in infection control and other currently unidentified causal connections. High infection rates and mortality for nursing home residents are preventable through better national and industry policies designed to mitigate virus transmissions and through the implementation of operational protocols directed toward more effective resident and staff safety.



**[Keywords]**

At-risk populations, Long-term Care, COVID-19, Public health policy