



# INPEA: Mistreatment of Older Persons, Residential Care Homes, and COVID-19



Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance  
envers les personnes âgées  
Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults

Shared Knowledge

**Marie Beaulieu, Ph.D.**  
Chairholder, Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older  
Adults  
**Julien Cadieux Genesse, Kevin St-Martin**

July 16th, 2020

# Acknowledgement



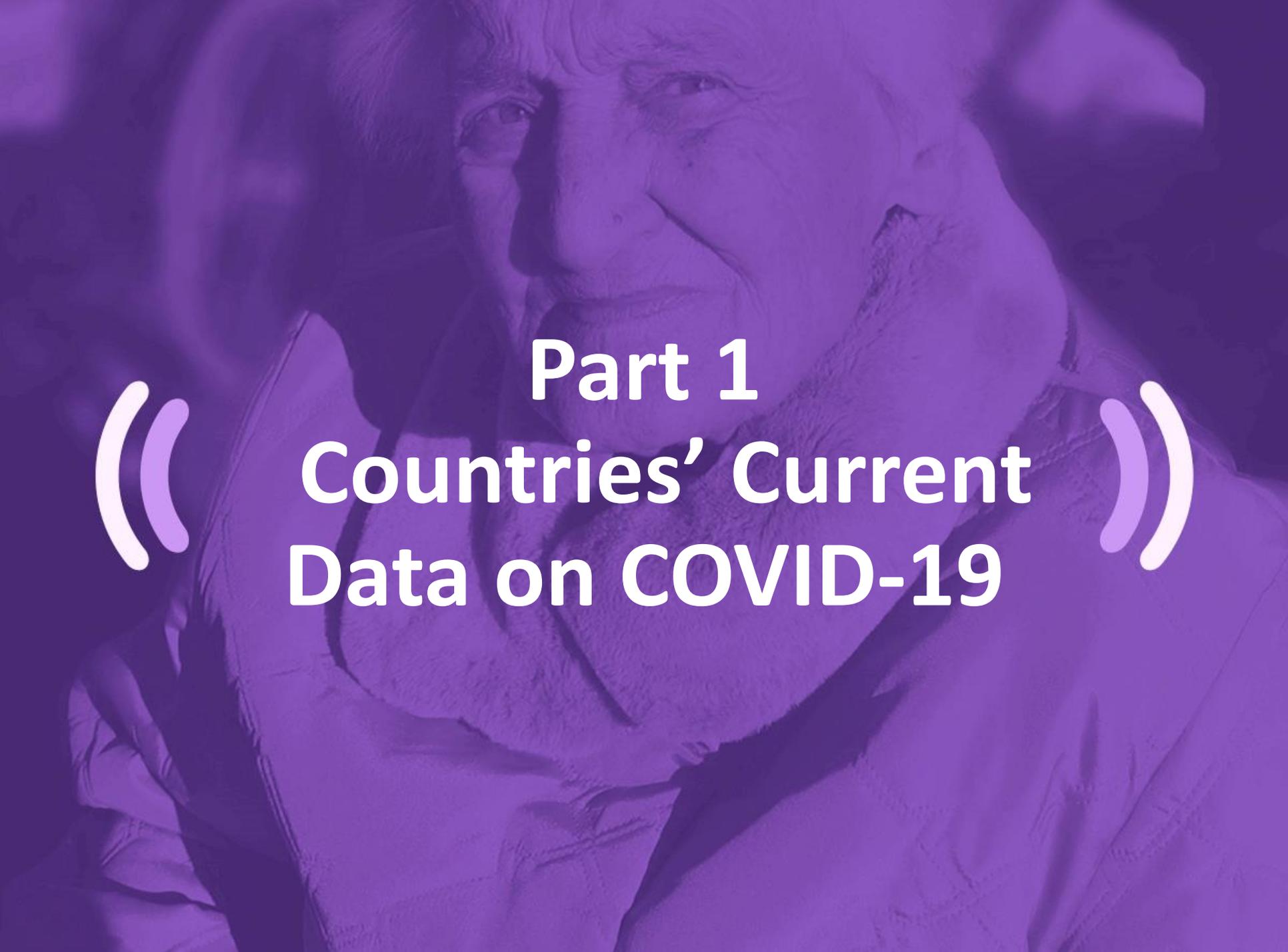
Québec 



UNIVERSITÉ DE  
SHERBROOKE



Centre de recherche  
sur le vieillissement  
Research Centre  
on Aging



**Part 1**  
**Countries' Current  
Data on COVID-19**

# Respondents



## Answers from 16 countries

- Argentina (x2)
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Dominican Republic
- France
- India (x2)
- Ireland
- Italy
- Liberia
- Malta
- Nigeria
- Serbia
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

# Number of Deaths due to Covid-19 in the 65 years + by Country



## Deaths per 100 000 Citizens 65+

- Argentina: **2.42**
- Australia: **0.40**
- Brazil: **20.00**
- Canada: **4.01**
- Dominican Republic: **5.52**
- France: **40.75**
- India: **0.73**
- Ireland: **31.92**
- Italy: **51.33**
- Liberia: **0.27**
- Malta: **1.81**
- Nigeria: **0.10**
- Serbia: **N.a.**
- Turkey: **5.77**
- United Kingdom: **N.a./ 67,8 (GP)**
- United States: **16.67**

# Containment and Mitigation Directives



- Social distancing: 18/18 (**100%**)
- Use of alcohol-based sanitizers: 18/18 (**100%**)
  
- Use of face masks: 17/18 (**94.4%**)
- Use of hand soap: 16/18 (**88.9%**)
  
- Partial lockdown: 12/18 (**66.7%**)
- Nationwide lockdown: 10/18 (**55.6%**)

# Specific Measures - Older Persons

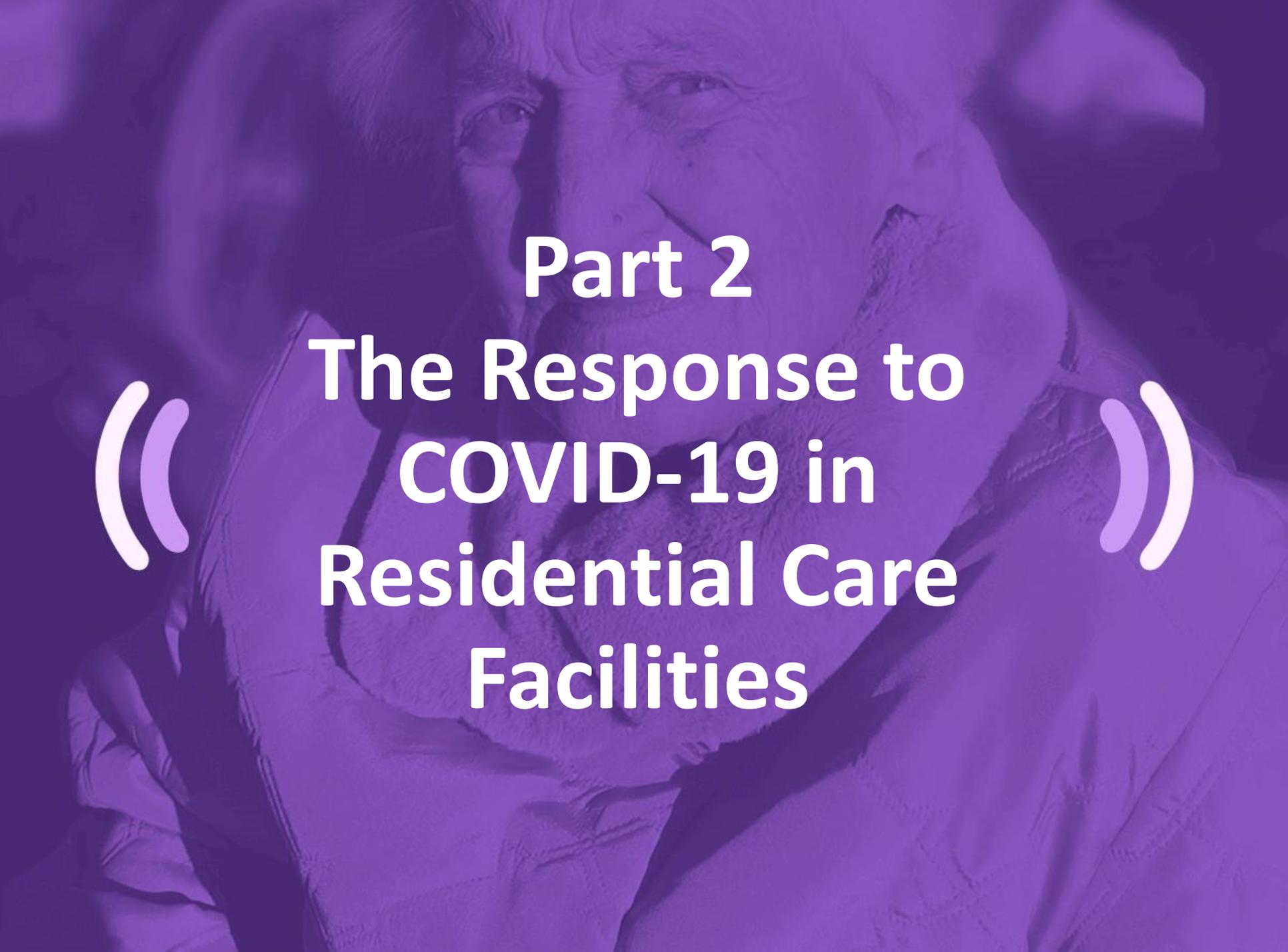


Yes: 12/18 (**66.7%**)

No: 6/18 (**33.3%**)

## Examples:

- Elderly banned from going out to the streets (x2)
- Declaration of the state of emergency (lockdown) (x2)
- High recommended being at home in isolation
- Social distancing and isolation for 3 months
  
- Military help to compensate the lack of workers
  
- Swabbing of health care professionals was mandatory prior to assuming duties
  
- Additional financial support for older persons



## Part 2

# The Response to COVID-19 in Residential Care Facilities

# Degree of Confidence in Countries' Leadership



- Extremely confident: 0/18 (**0.0%**)
- Very confident: 5/18 (**27.8%**)
- Somewhat confident: 5/18 (**27.8%**)
- Not so confident: 4/18 (**22.2%**)
- Not confident at all: 4/18 (**22.2%**)

# Staff and Equipment in Residential Care Facilities

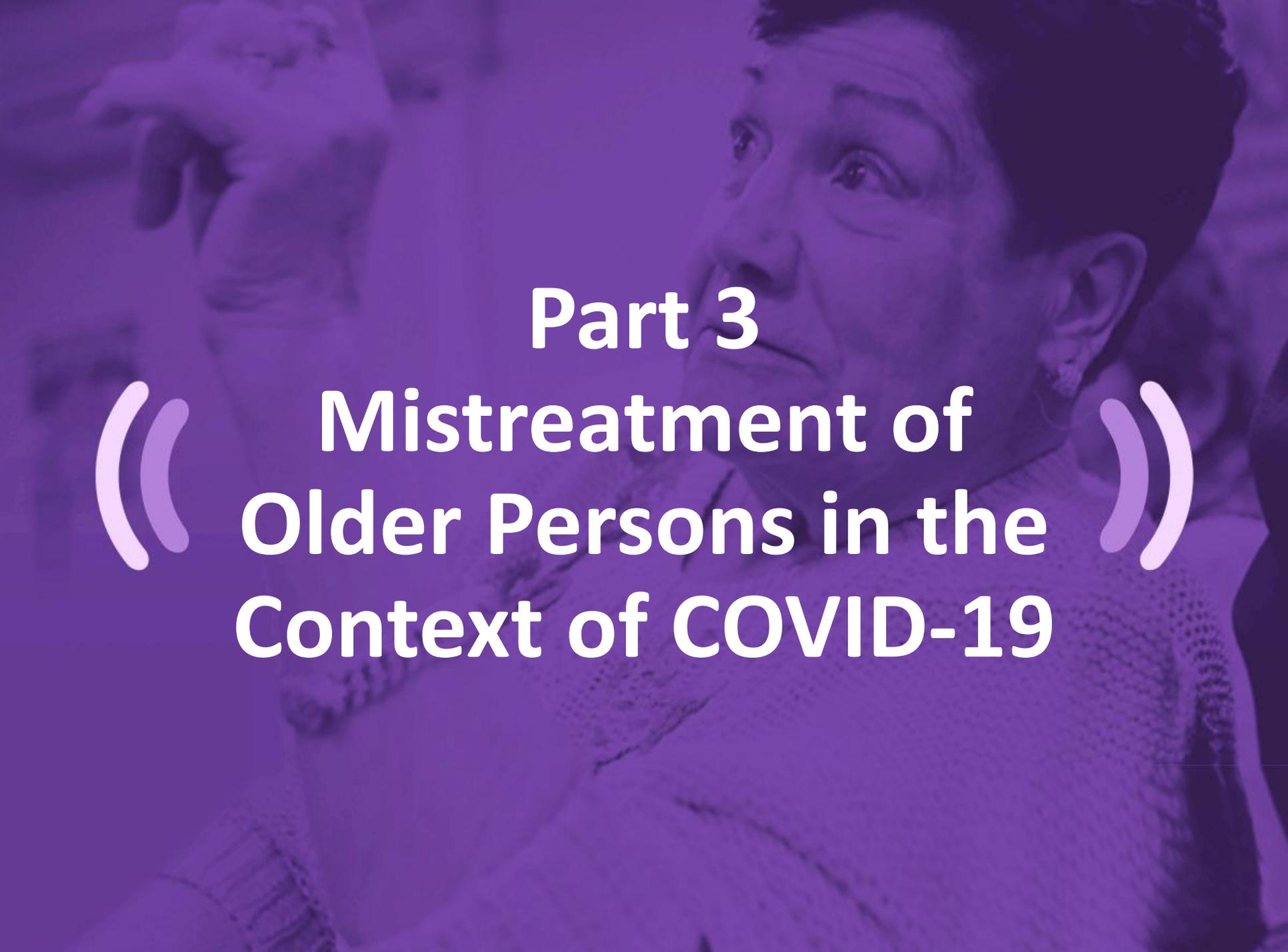


- Very well staffed and equipped: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Well staffed and equipped: 0/18 (**0.0%**)
- Somewhat staffed and equipped: 6/18 (**33.3%**)
- Poorly staffed and equipped: 4/18 (**22.2%**)
- Very poorly staffed and equipped: 6/18 (**33.3%**)

# Speed in Putting in Place Specific Measures to Protect Older Persons Living in Residential Care Facilities



- Very fast: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Fast: 3/18 (**16.6%**)
- Adequate: 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Slow: 8/18 (**44.4%**)
- Very slow: 1/18 (**5.6%**)
- No measures were put in place: 2/18 (**11.1%**)



## Part 3

# Mistreatment of Older Persons in the Context of COVID-19

# Types - Mistreatment in Residential Care Facilities



- Psychological: 18/18 (**100.0%**)
- Neglect: 14/18 (**77.8%**)
- Financial: 8/18 (**44.4%**)
- Physical: 7/18 (**38.9%**)
- Social (Refusing visits from family): 2/18 (**11.1%**)
- Sexual: 0/18 (**0.0%**)

# Media Coverage - Mistreatment in Residential Care Facilities



Yes: 8/18 (44.4%)

No: 10/18 (55.6%)

## Examples:

- Media talked more about the neglect of older adults in residential care facilities than mistreatment (x2)
- They reported cases of abandonment and neglect
- The government makes fear to older people about mortality
- Covering related to the lack of leadership responses
- Some examples of financial and physical abuse

# Violation of rights of older persons [1]



- Ageism (x3)
- Refusing visits from family (x2)
- No distinction between “hot zone” and “cold zone” (x2)
- Not enough staff into long-term care facilities to take care of them (x2)
- No specific guidelines for the mental and physical health of older persons
- Civil rights denial (safety, dignity, etc.)
- Limitation of social contacts (which might have been more important to them than to younger age groups)

# Violation of rights of older persons [2]



- Not allowing visitors in residential aged care or facilitating other means of contact
- Not keeping family/caregivers up to date with information about residents during this time
- Ban on going outside
- No provision of emergency or otherwise medical aid to older persons
- Not facilitating the collection of pensions digitally for example and they fell into Banks halls

# Violation of rights of older persons [3]



- Government didn't compile correctly the death numbers of older adults before a long time after the beginning of the pandemic
- Lack of gender and age disaggregated public data which is not direct violation of rights but on the other hand undermine evidence-driven response to the Covid19.
- Access to non COVID health services (kidney dialysis, treatment for cancer, etc.)
- No provision of home-based services to them: groceries, bills, household chores, etc.



# Thank you!



Chaire de recherche sur la maltraitance  
envers les personnes âgées  
Research Chair on Mistreatment of Older Adults

Please consult our webpage:

[www.maltraitancedesaines.com](http://www.maltraitancedesaines.com)

# Discussion



- During the Covid-19, please point out 2 issues that you have observed that allows us to make links between quality of care and services in residential care homes and elder abuse?
- From a human rights perspective, what can INPEA push forward at the UN or elsewhere to ensure a better quality of life and care for all older persons in care settings?