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The Burden of Disease due to COVID-19 Over the Course of the Pandemic

To understand the impact of COVID-19 on population health, mortality rate is not enough. It is also necessary to analyze the rate of premature death. We calculate Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) due to COVID-19 attributable morbidity and mortality. We used data on confirmed cases and deaths due to COVID-19 between February 22, 2020 and August 18, 2021 provided by the Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences, to calculate DALYs by age and sex. The Years of Life Lost (YLLs) due to premature death were calculated from number of deaths multiplied by a standard life expectancy at age of death. The Years Lived with Disability (YLDs) was calculated by multiplying the number of incident cases, mean duration, and Disability Weights (DWs). DALYs is the sum of the YLLs and the YLDs. The YLDs were equal in men (103) and women (103), but the YLLs were higher in males (4574) than in females (3426). The total disease burden attributable to COVID-19 in northeast of Iran during the study period, was estimated to be 8206 DALYs, and 23.9 DALYs per 1000 population. The YLDs and the YLLs constituted 2.51% and 97.49% of the total DALYs, respectively. The DALYs per 1000 population were highest in people aged ≥ 80 years, followed by those aged 70–79, 60–69, and 45–59 years. The impact of COVID-19 on public health can be demonstrated through disease burden indices. Most of the COVID burden of disease was derived from YLL. This suggests that decision makers should focus on reducing mortality in subsequent COVID-19 waves.

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