

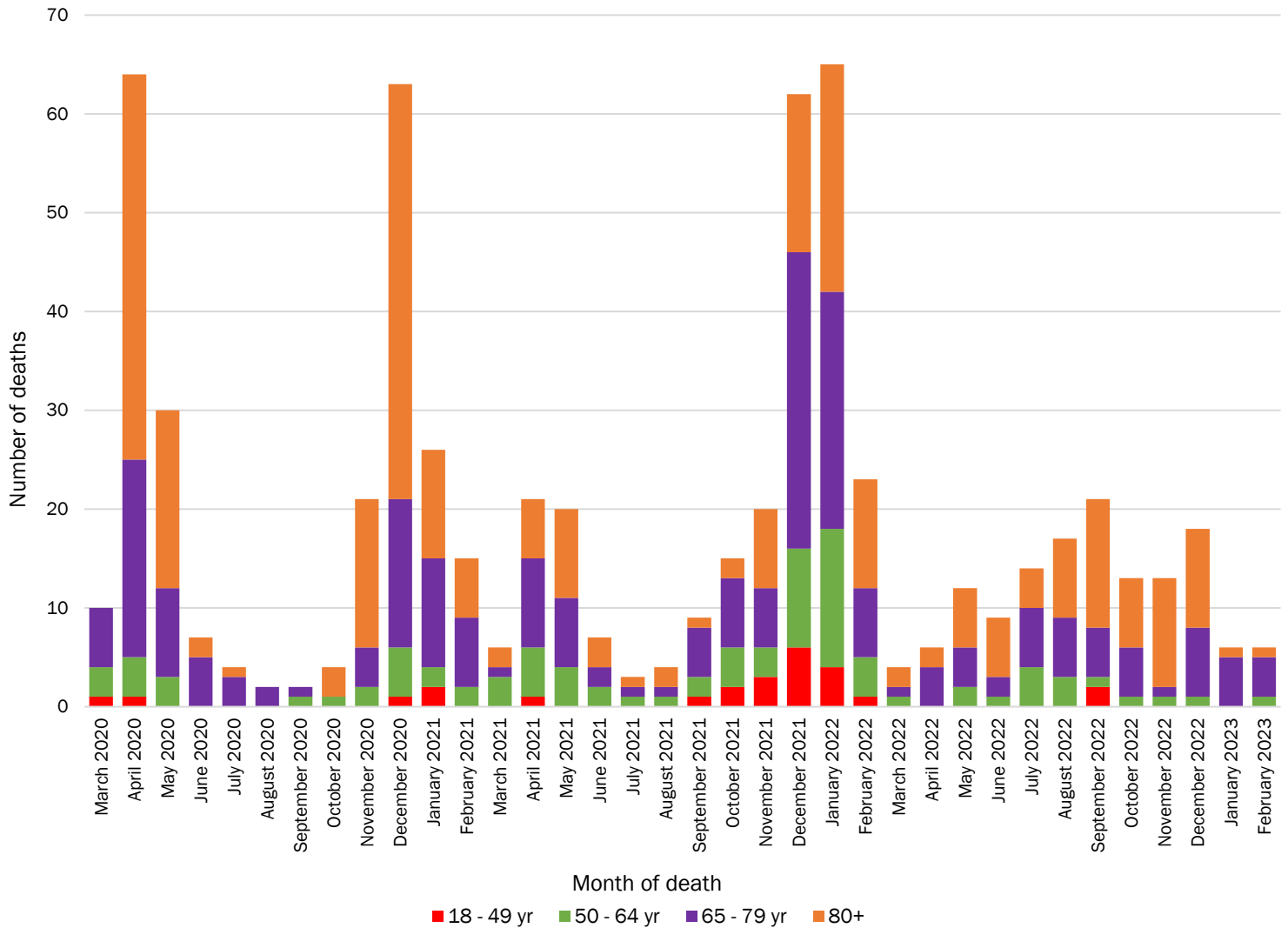
COVID-19 Mortality Report

First three years of COVID-19: March 1, 2020 - February 25, 2023

642 Washtenaw County residents died from COVID-19 from March 1, 2020 through February 25, 2023.

Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Deaths by Age Group in Washtenaw County Residents (by Month of Death)*

March 1, 2020 through February 25, 2023 (n= 642)



Older people were particularly vulnerable during the three main waves of COVID-related deaths.

Most Washtenaw County deaths throughout the pandemic were in older residents. People 65 to 79 years old accounted for 36% of our county’s COVID-related deaths in the first three years of COVID-19. Almost half (46%) of our COVID-related deaths during these three years were people 80 years old or older.

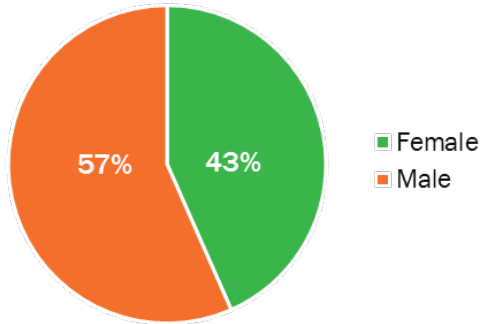
The age range for COVID deaths in our county was 21 to 108 years old. We did not have any COVID deaths in children.

COVID-related deaths occurred in three main waves. The deadliest time period was December 2021 to January 2022, when both the Delta variant and the new Omicron variant were circulating.

*See page 2 for data source and COVID-19 death definition.

Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Deaths by Sex in Washtenaw County Residents

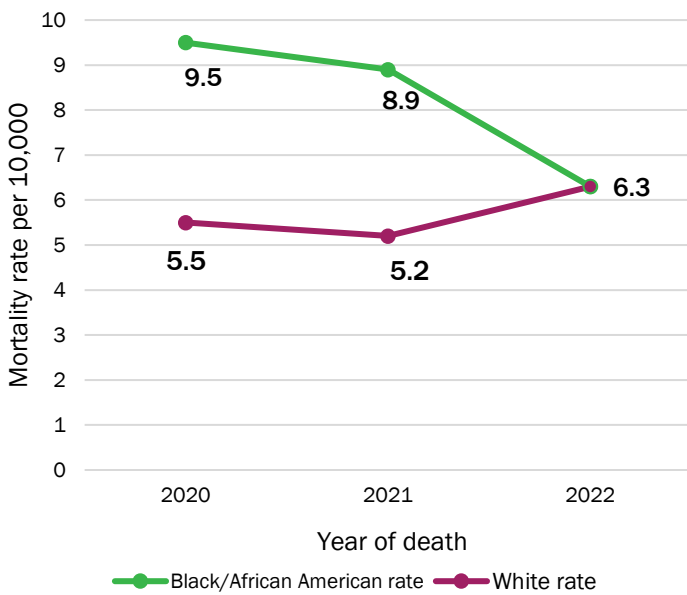
March 1, 2020 through February 25, 2023 (n= 642)



COVID-19 Deaths by Sex

During the first 3 years of the pandemic, men in Washtenaw County were more likely than women to die from COVID-19. Men have accounted for 57% of the COVID-related deaths in Washtenaw residents. A similar gender gap was also seen at the state and national levels. In Washtenaw County, the difference is particularly striking in the 65 to 79 year old age group, where 144 COVID-related deaths occurred in men and only 86 occurred in women. Men accounted for 63% of deaths in this age group.

COVID-19 Mortality Rate by Race in Washtenaw County Residents*



*Includes confirmed and probable deaths

Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Deaths in Washtenaw County Residents by Race

Racial or Ethnic Group	Year 1 % of deaths	Year 2 % of deaths	Year 3 % of deaths	% of county population
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.4%	0.8%	0%	0.4%
Asian	0.8%	2%	2%	9%
Black/ African American	21%	21%	13%	12%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.8%	0%	0.7%	0.1%
White	75%	71%	82%	74%
Unknown/ Other race	2%	5%	2%	4%
Hispanic or Latino (all races)	2%	5%	4%	5%

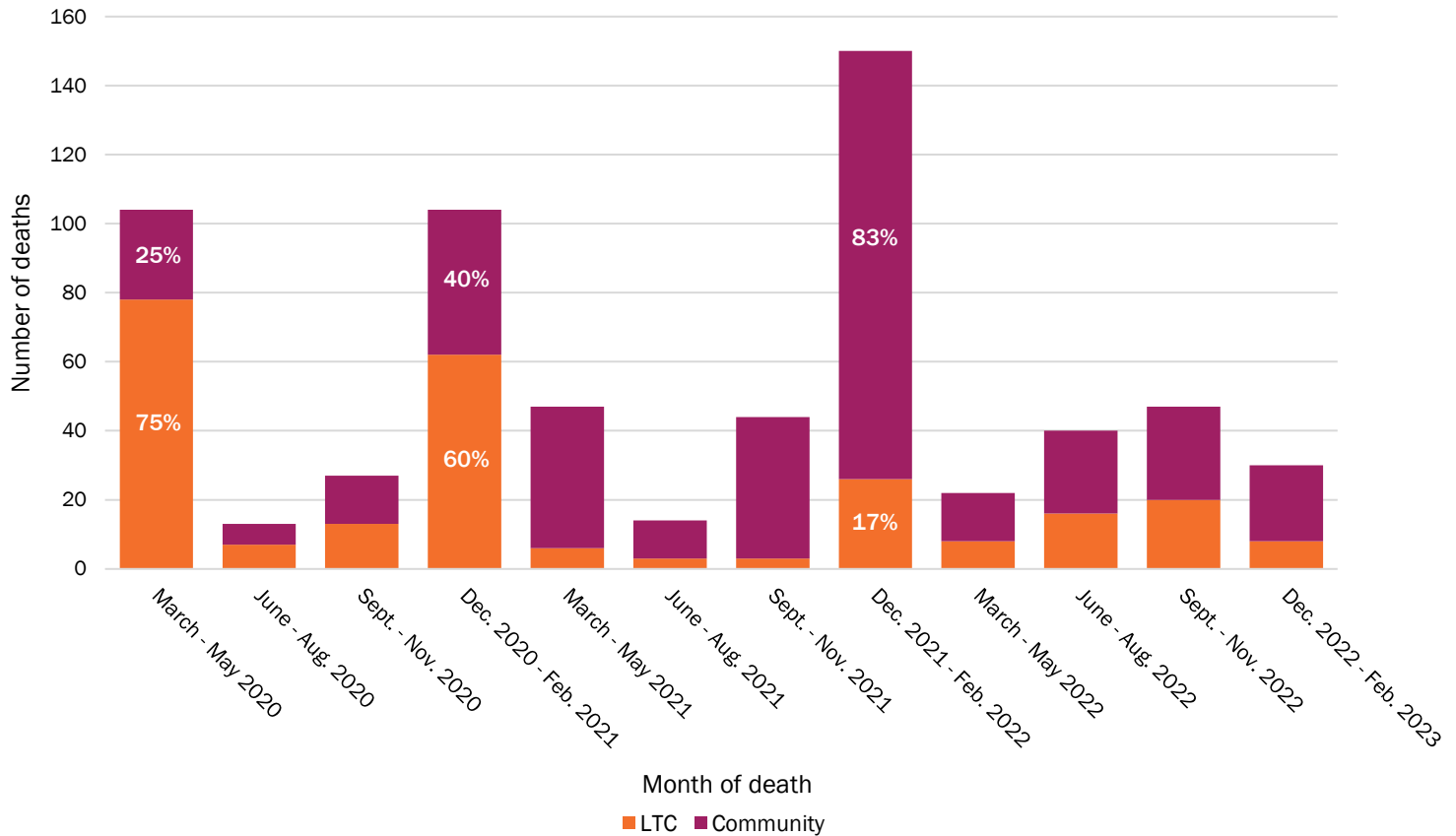
COVID-19 Deaths by Race

In the beginning of the pandemic, there was a large disparity in COVID-19 death rates by race in Washtenaw County residents. African American/Black residents were almost twice as likely to die than white residents. By 2022, the rate of deaths in African American/Black residents had decreased substantially, while the white rate increased, resulting in equal rates by race.

Data source for all mortality data: Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services defines confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths as: "Confirmed deaths include individuals who meet one or more of the following conditions: 1) Have been identified as a confirmed [COVID] case and classified as deceased as a result of a case investigation in the MDSS. MDSS is the database used by state and local health department to monitor reportable diseases like COVID-19; 2) have been identified as a confirmed [COVID] case in MDSS and have a death certificate with COVID-19 listed as a cause of death; 3) have been identified as a confirmed [COVID] case in MDSS and die within 30 days of onset of COVID-19 infection and have a death certificate which classifies their manner death as 'natural'. Probable deaths include individuals who have COVID indicated as a cause of death on their death certificate but have not had a positive diagnostic laboratory test [e.g. only had a positive home antigen test but confirmatory PCR testing was not performed]."

Confirmed and Probable COVID-19 Deaths by Long-term Care (LTC) Residence in Washtenaw County Adults (by Month of Death)*
 March 1, 2020 through February 25, 2023 (n= 642)




*Individuals included in the long-term care (LTC) category resided in a long-term care facility or other congregate care facility when they were initially infected with COVID-19. Individuals included in the community category did not reside in a long-term care facility when they were initially infected with COVID-19.


Long-term Care Facilities

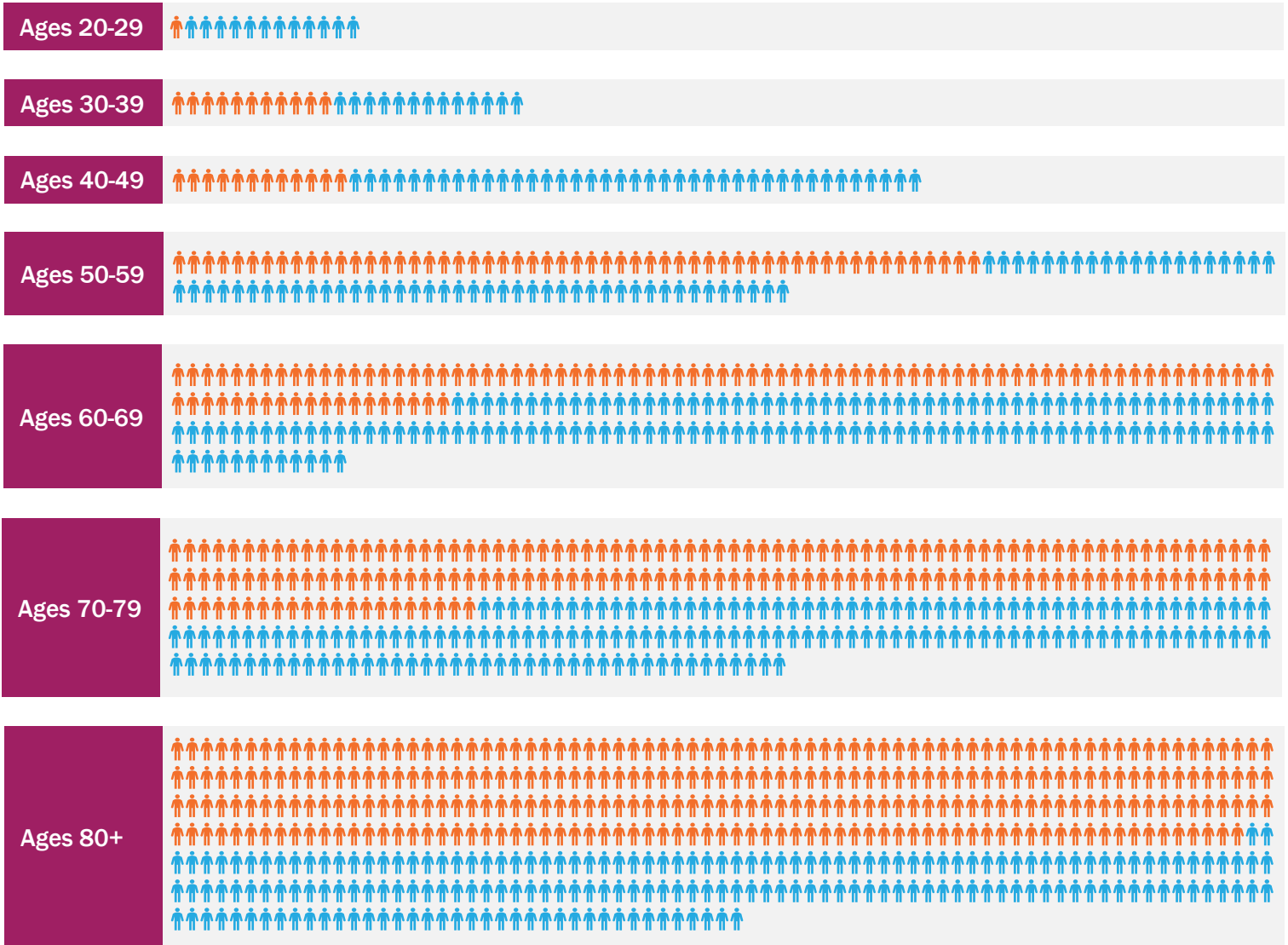
Individuals residing in long-term care facilities and other congregate care facilities (including nursing homes, assisted living, and group homes) were particularly vulnerable during the first year of the pandemic. From March - May 2020, individuals residing in long-term care accounted for 75% of COVID-related deaths in Washtenaw residents. This shifted dramatically in early 2021 when COVID-19 vaccines became available (March 2021) and older residents and those living in congregate settings were prioritized to receive vaccines. From March - May 2021, individuals residing in facilities represented only 13% of deaths in Washtenaw.

We lost **642 people** to COVID-19 in Washtenaw County during the first three years of the pandemic.

If Washtenaw had the same COVID death rate as the Michigan average, **an additional 631 people** in our community would have died during those three years¹.

 Actual COVID-19 death in Washtenaw County resident (includes confirmed and probable cases)

 Projected additional COVID-19 death in Washtenaw County resident if Washtenaw had the same death rate as the state average. These represent potential lives saved.



	Ages 20-29	Ages 30-39	Ages 40-49	Ages 50-59	Ages 60-69	Ages 70-79	Ages 80+
Actual COVID-19 deaths in Washtenaw County residents (3/1/20 - 2/25/23)	1	11	12	55	94	171	298
Projected additional COVID-19 deaths in Washtenaw County residents if Washtenaw had the same death rate as the state average during this time period	12	13	39	62	143	171	191

¹ Data source for projected additional deaths: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Coronavirus dashboard (retrieved 4/4/23)

Together, we saved lives.

We did this as a community. Our collective actions made a difference. Why did we work so hard and sacrifice so much during the COVID pandemic? Ultimately, we wanted to prevent our families, our neighbors, our community members from dying. And we did. Compared to the COVID-related death rate for Michigan residents overall, the rate in Washtenaw County is less than half. **As of March 2023, Washtenaw County has had a lower death rate from COVID than every other county in Michigan since the beginning of the pandemic.**

The protective effect of living in Washtenaw County was seen across multiple racial, ethnic, and age groups². For example, Black/African American residents of Washtenaw County had a COVID death rate 50% lower than the Michigan rate for Black/African Americans. The rate for Asian Americans in Washtenaw County was 70% lower than the statewide average. Although we do not have a statewide comparison, the mortality rate in our Latinx population was lower than the white population in Washtenaw. Even residents 80 years old and older fared better in our community, with a COVID-related death rate 39% lower than across the state.

Why did Washtenaw County experience the lowest COVID-related death rate in Michigan?

We will likely never know which factors contributed the most. While Washtenaw County may be somewhat healthier, wealthier, and more educated than other counties, we saw the same harsh disparities that were evident across the state and country. But we also saw our community come together in remarkable ways to respond to the pandemic and to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in older adults and in our local communities of color.

Together we acted as quickly as possible to bring information and resources where most needed and in coordination with key community partners and leaders. **Our collective actions mattered.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been awful. We mourn the 642 lives lost and the additional illness and hardships many have suffered. Still, we are incredibly grateful that we saved lives and protected hundreds more from death or serious illness – together. Thank you for your commitment to public health and your hard work and sacrifices these last three years. We are grateful.

² Data source for projected additional deaths and related demographic data: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Coronavirus dashboard (retrieved 4/4/23)

