

Age dependence in infection and fatality risk

Data from China on the age-distribution of cases and deaths up to 29th January allow the relative risk of being reported as a case of dying from infection to be estimated, adjusting the raw incidence figures for cases and deaths for the age distribution of the population in China (Figure below). It is notable that the relative risk of being a case varies relatively little in across ages from 20 to over 70, while the relative risk of being reported as a 2019-nCoV death is markedly skewed towards the over 70s. We would note that the age distribution of both deaths and cases has changed over time in China, however – likely reflecting changes in case detection sensitivity.

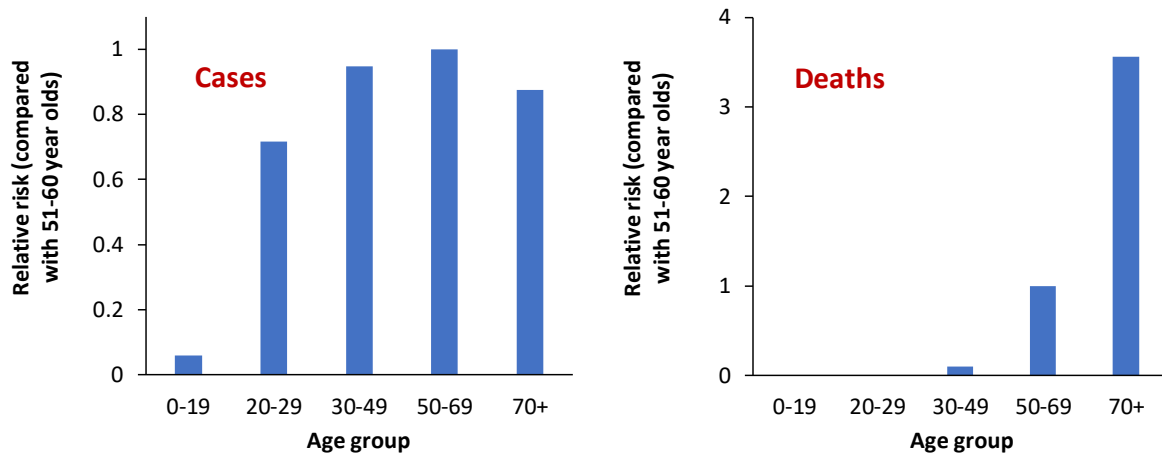


Figure. Relative risk by age of being reported as a case of 2019-nCoV (left) and of being reported as a death (right) caused by 2019-nCoV infection in China up to 29th January, compared with the risk in 50-69 year olds.

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