

# The Vaccine Conundrum

How effective, and safe, are covid vaccines really?

By [Swiss Policy Research](#)

Global Research, March 29, 2021

[Swiss Policy Research](#) 8 March 2021

Region: [Europe](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

All Global Research articles **can be read in 51 languages by activating the “Translate Website”** drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

\*\*\*

*Initial data from Israel and Scotland appeared to indicate a [very high](#) real-world effectiveness of covid vaccines, even in senior citizens. However, much of this data was heavily adjusted for various factors and was therefore not easy to interpret. Numerous reports of covid outbreaks in care homes [even after the second vaccination](#) have raised additional questions about vaccine effectiveness.*

To clarify this situation, a German study with 176 participants, published last week [as a preprint](#), measured the age-dependent immune response to the Pfizer vaccine. Somewhat shockingly, the study found that one third of people over the age of 80 developed **no neutralizing antibodies** at all, and thus were potentially without seroprotection even after the second vaccination (see above).

Some of these elderly people developed non-neutralizing antibodies, but their role in Sars-Cov-2 infection remains unknown: they might help reduce symptoms, but they could also *increasesymptoms* (so-called antibody-dependent disease enhancement, [ADE](#)). The official vaccine trials included hardly any people of the 80+ age group and so didn't answer this question.

In vaccine science, a reduced immune response in the elderly is known as immunosenescence.

If the reduced protection in the high-risk group gets confirmed, it may explain the somewhat [disappointing](#) performance of many **covid vaccination pioneers** (such as Israel): in most of these countries, covid hospitalizations and deaths have decreased slower than expected, or have even increased, since the beginning of the mass vaccination campaign (see updated figure below).

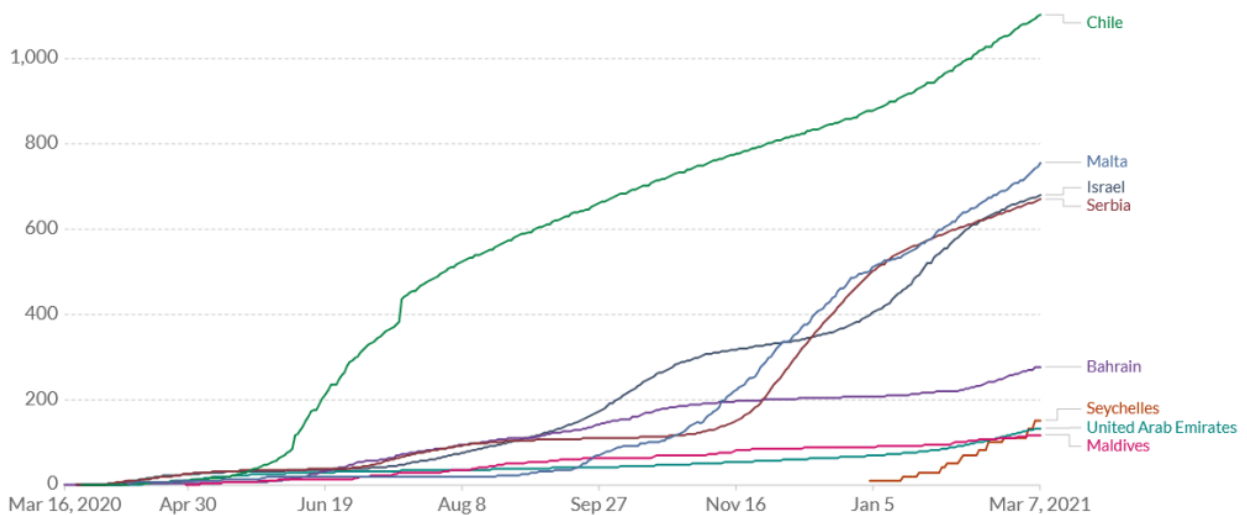
Meanwhile, documented **post-vaccination deaths** continue to rise and are now [close to 3000](#) in the US and the EU. Some of these deaths may be unrelated to vaccinations, but in the US, 47% of post-vaccination deaths occurred in people who became ill [within 48 hours](#) of being vaccinated, and 31% of deaths occurred within 48 hours of vaccination. The average age was 78, the youngest case was 23.

**(Update:** The immunological results of the German study have been confirmed by a [large-scale Danish study](#) with 30,000 care home residents and 330,000 health care workers. In care home residents, vaccine effectiveness was 0% after the first dose and reached 64% one week after the second dose. In health care workers, vaccine effectiveness was 17% two weeks after the first dose, 46% during the first week after the second dose, and reached 90% one week after the second dose.)

As New York attorney Aaron Siri pointed out in a recent [article on StatNews](#), neither governments nor employers are currently permitted to require covid vaccinations, as covid vaccines have not yet been officially licensed: they only received an “emergency use authorization” in the US and a “conditional marketing authorisation” in the EU. Indeed, the US FDA specifically notes that covid vaccines are “investigational vaccines not licensed for any indication.”

### Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 deaths per million people

Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death means that the number of confirmed deaths may not be an accurate count of the true number of deaths from COVID-19.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data - Last updated 7 March, 19:03 (London time)

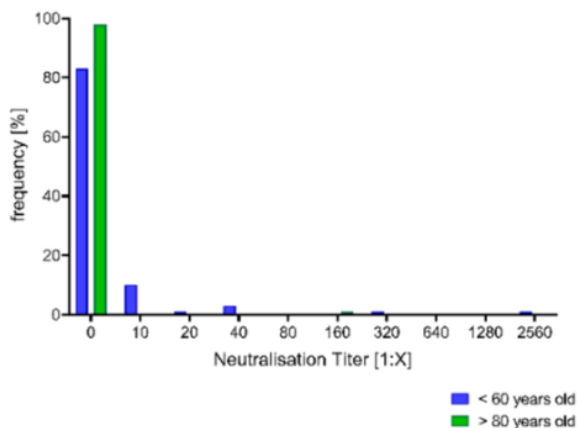
CC BY

Cumulative covid deaths in global covid vaccination pioneers, excl. the US and UK ([OWD](#))

### Neutralizing antibodies after Pfizer vaccination in people 80+

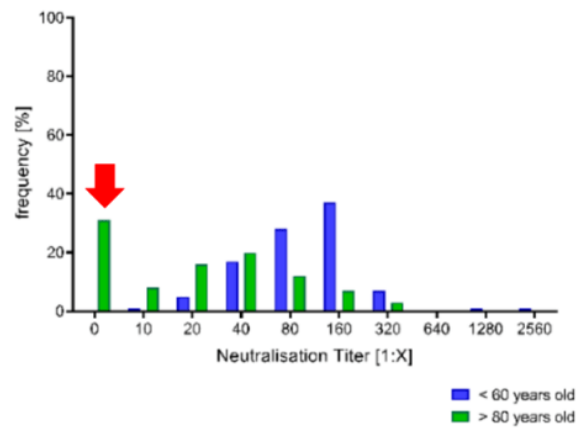
**A**

First vaccination



**B**

Second vaccination



Neutralizing antibody titers after vaccination, by age group (Source: [Mueller et al](#))

\*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

*Featured image is from Viacheslav Lopatin | Credit: scaliger - stock.adobe.com*

The original source of this article is [Swiss Policy Research](#)  
Copyright © [Swiss Policy Research](#), [Swiss Policy Research](#), 2021

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Swiss Policy Research](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)