

**OBJECTIVES:** COVID-19 pandemic is increasing mortality rates worldwide. Globally, in middle of April 2022, there have been almost 6.3 million deaths caused by COVID reported to the World Health Organization. Researchers are paying close attention to assessing these direct effects. However, in the scope of this study author analyses the possible indirect impact of the pandemic on mortality rates in non-directly COVID-19 related diagnoses.

**METHODS:** Latvia data were used for analysis, and three diagnoses groups with the highest mortality rates, according to the Latvian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, were selected for analysis:

- 1) Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99, ICD-10)
- 2) Neoplasms (C00-D48, ICD-10)
- 3) External causes of death (V00-Y98, ICD-10)

Data from 2015 to 2021 were analysed to determine statistical data trends.

**RESULTS.** The results of analysis demonstrate that there are no significant trend changes in the diagnoses groups: Neoplasms (C00-D48) and External causes of death (V00-Y98). In 2021, mortality caused by COVID-19 ((U07.1, U07.2) Post COVID-19 condition (U09), Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19 (U10)) ranked third, ahead of External causes of death. Simultaneously, in the group of Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99), in which the gradual and steady decrease in mortality was observed from 2015 to 2019, the mortality had increased by 2.8% in 2020, comparing with 2019. Meanwhile, the year of 2021 has demonstrated extremely high growth – by 9% compared to 2020.

The burden of chronic diseases indirectly caused by COVID-19 (incl. ME/CFS) is also exacerbated by the emergence of “vaccine resistance” in 2022 as addition to the existing AMR (Fig).

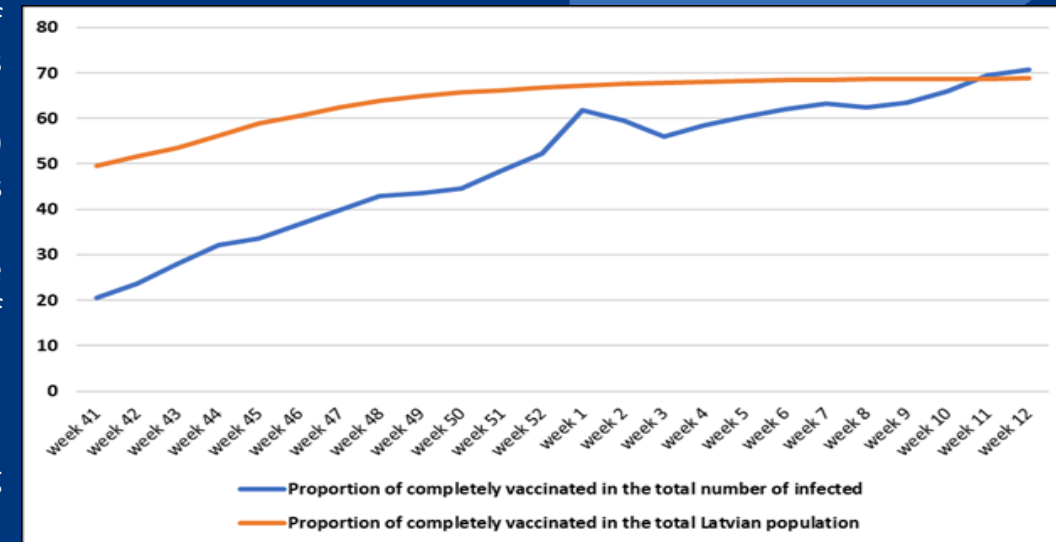


Fig. Proportion of people completely vaccinated against COVID-19 in the total population of Latvia, and proportion of people completely vaccinated against COVID-19 in the total number of COVID-19 infected persons in Latvia, in period of 24 months – from week 41 of 2021 until week 12 of 2022 (constructed by authors, used the statistical data of competent authorities of Latvia (Official Statistic of Latvia., <https://stat.gov.lv/> and <https://covid19.gov.lv/>)

The example of Latvia shows that during the pandemic, mortality increases notably in some diagnoses besides the COVID-19, namely in the group of Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99). Further research will reveal to what extent mortality increases are attributable to healthcare services unavailability due to their redirecting towards pandemic management.