



1918 influenza and COVID-19: Who is **S**usceptible, who gets Infected and who **R**ecovers?

Research prof. Svenn-Erik Mamelund (masv@oslomet.no)

Centre for Research on Pandemics & Society

Global pandemic outcomes (Norway in red)

Outcomes	Seasonal influenza	1918 influenza	Covid-19
% infected	5-10%	30-60% 45%	2-20+% 2%
Deaths	290,000-650,000	50-100 mill	2,419,631
	900	15,000	593
Deaths of infected (%)	0.10%	2.0%	0.1-2.0%
	0.10%	>2.0%	0.12%
Deaths of pop (%)	0.004-0.008%	2.5-5.0%	0.03%
	0.02%	0.67%	0.01%

Sources: Luliano et al. 2018; Gran et al. 2010; Hauge et al 2019; Johnson & Mueller 2001; Mamelund 1998; Mamelund 2016: Levin 2020; Meyerowitz-Katz 2020

https://www.euromomo.eu/; https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/;
Koronavirus - temaside - FHI.

Who is <u>Susceptible?</u>

- For a pandemic virus, in (SIR) theory everyone
- However, some had pre-existing immunity against the H1N1-virus in 1918-1920 and it varied by region, ethnicity and age (Mamelund 2011)
 - 1918 flu therefore worse than it's reputation
- Some may have cross-protection against SARS-cov 2 having gone through other other corona viruses (Grifoni 2020; Braun et al. 2020)

Infectious: Who gets infected?

• I here consider only age and sex (and wave)

MAJOR ARTICLE



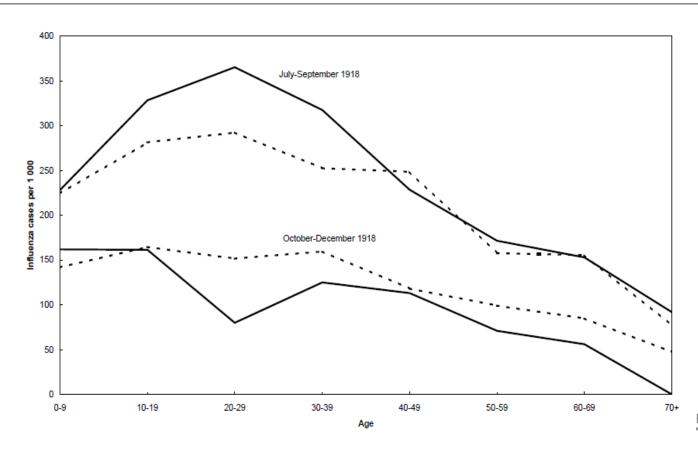




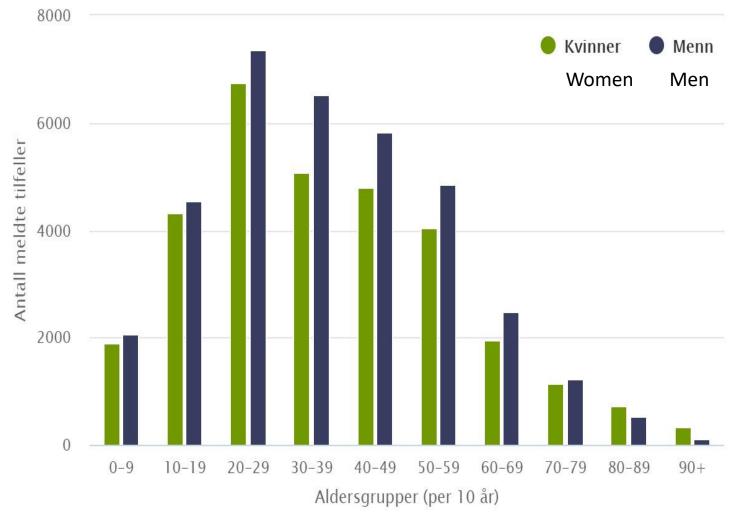
A Missed Summer Wave of the 1918–1919 Influenza Pandemic: Evidence From Household Surveys in the United States and Norway

Svenn-Erik Mamelund, 1,2 Bjørn Haneberg,3 and Siri Mjaaland 3,4

¹Work Research Institute, ²Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, ³Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, Division of Environmental Medicine and Infectious Disease Control, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, and ⁴KG Jebsen Centre for Influenza Vaccine Research, University of Oslo, Norway



Antall meldte covid-19 tilfeller etter kjønn og aldersgruppe



Kilde: MSIS, Folkehelseinstituttet

66,501 lab-confirmed cases by age and gender as of 15 February 2021

Recovery I: Risk factors for mortality

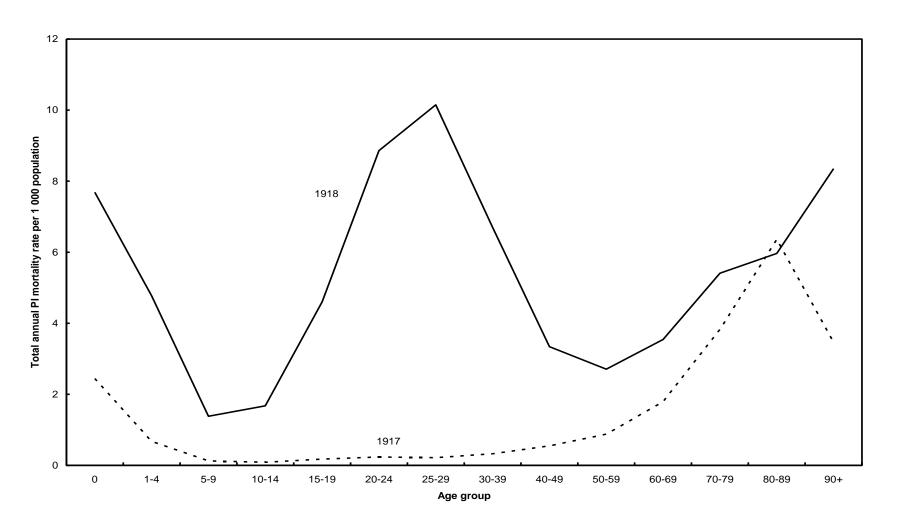
Risk factors	Seasonal influenza	1918-20 pandemic	Covid-19
Age	65+	20-40 years	65+
Chronic diseases	YES	YES	YES
Pregnancy	YES	YES	?
Low SES	YES	YES	YES
Indigenous	YES	YES	YES
Black Race	YES	NO	YES
Immigrants	?	YES	YES

Mamelund 2003, 2006, 2011; Batty mfl. 2020; Drefahl 2020; Mogi 2020; Williamson et al. 2020; Steyn N, Binny R, Hannah K, et al. 2020; Økland & Mamelund 2019

Covid-19 etter fødeland: Personer testet, bekreftet smittet og relaterte innleggelser og dødsfall (fhi.no)

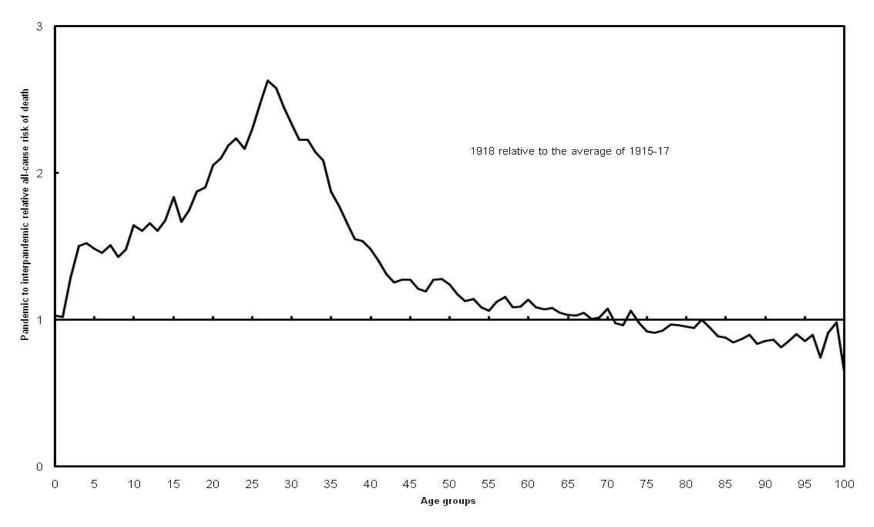
6 of 18

Mortality in Norway 1917 and 1918



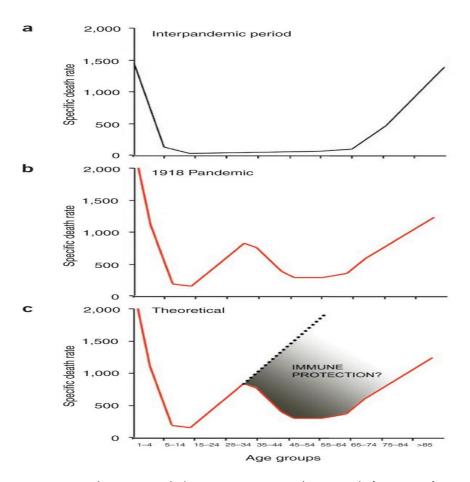
Source: Mamelund 2011

Relative total mortality in Norway 1918



Source: Mamelund 2011 9 of 18

Elderly in urban societies had rest-immunity?



Less rest-immunity in isolated parts of the world?

Source: Palese, Oldstone og Ahmed (2007), Nature Immunology 8, 1188 - 1193

ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Epidemics





Geography May Explain Adult Mortality from the 1918–20 Influenza Pandemic

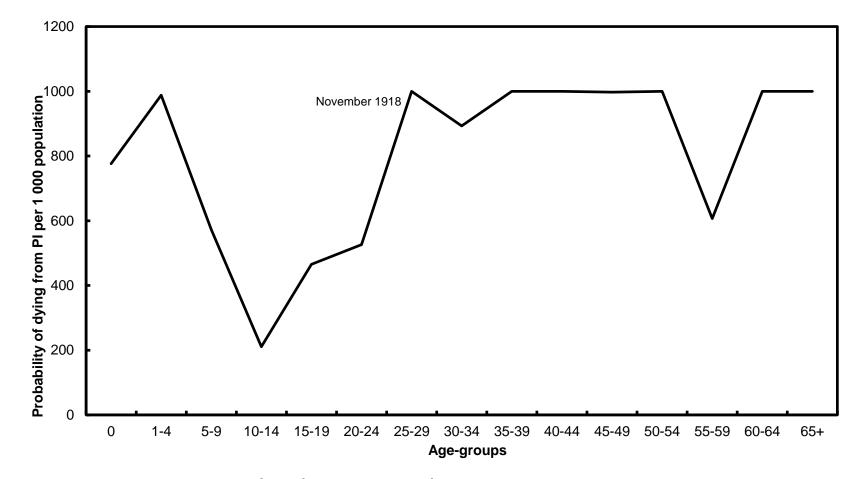
Svenn-Erik Mamelund

- Labrador 27.0%
- W-Samoa 24.0%
- Alaska 8.0%
- Enare 10.0%
- Arjeplog 3.0%
- Karasjok 2.3%



Nushagak, Alaska, summer of 1919. Source: Alaska Historical Library

90% died in Brevig, Alaska



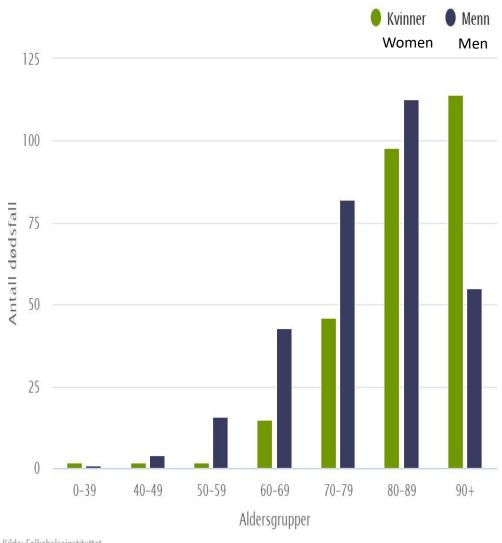
Source: Mamelund, 2011, Epidemics 3, 46-60

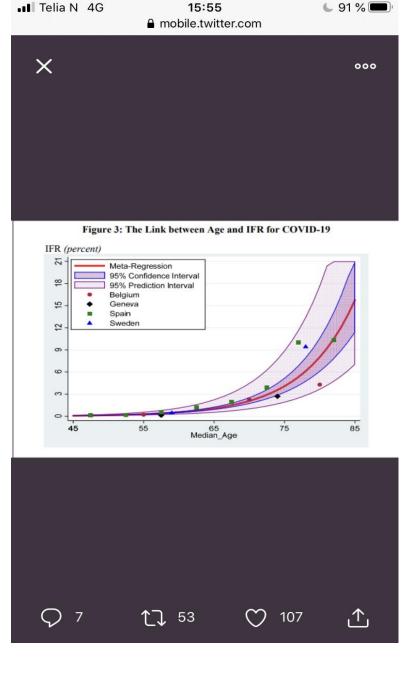
Why young adults?

- Less immunity towards H1N1 and other flu viruses
- «cytokine storm»
- Tuberculosis
- Exposed to 1889 pandemic (N3H8?) early in life negative when exposed to the 1918 pandemic (H1N1)?*

^{*}Stacey Hallman and Alain Gagnon (2014) "Does exposure to influenza very early in life affect mortality risk during a subsequent outbreak? The 1890 and 1918 pandemics in Canada" In: Zuckerman M, editor. Modern Environments and Human Health: Revisiting the Second Epidemiological Transition. New York: Wiley and Sons, s. 123-136.

Covid-19 assosierte dødsfall varslet til Folkehelseinstituttet, etter kjønn og aldersgruppe





Kilde: Folkehelseinstituttet

593 deaths in Norway as of 15 February 2021

Source: Levin et. al 2020 14 of 18

Recovery II: Most survived 1918 flu, but did all completely recover?

-Increase in somatic diseases, depressions, suicides, asylum hospitalizations and poverty

-In utero exposure gives long-term social and health consequences



Sources: Karlsson *et al.* 2014; Wasserman 1992; Van der Heide *et al.* 2006; Mamelund 2004; Almond 2006; Almond & Mazumder 2005

Recovery II: "Long-Covid"?

- Previously ill struggles
- Anecdotal evidence, but
 - ICU-patients not recovering
 - Increase in suicides?



Surviving Covid-19 May Not Feel Like Recovery for Some

Debilitating symptoms can last long after a person's body has gotten rid of the coronavirus, a reality Italians are now confronting.





Taquet, Luciano, Geddes, Harrison: Bidirectional associations between COVID-19 and psychiatric disorder: retrospective cohort studies of 62 354 COVID-19 cases in the USA, Lancet Psychiatry, 2020

Recover and is immune?

- Going through the summer wave in 1918 left immunity to fight later waves:
 - Mamelund et al. 2016; Mamelund 2018
- Vast majority of infected with mild to-moderate COVID-19 experience robust antibodies and T-cell immunity for at least 5-6 months:
 - Zuo, Dowell, Pearce et al. 2020; Wajnberg et al. 2020; Grifoni 2020; Braun et al. 2020

Conclusion

- All are not equally susceptible, some are (partly) immune at baseline
- Large variation in mortality by medical and social risk factors
- Most survive and gain immunity, some may not recover completely in the short or long run
- COVID-19 is not over, we can have new waves, even with vaccination programs