

Aging, Ageism & the Future of Elderhood

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Age Matters

Age Group	Deaths per million population
Under 1 year	~0
1-4 years	~0
5-14 years	~0
15-24 years	~0
25-34 years	~0
35-44 years	~0
45-54 years	~10
55-64 years	~20
65-74 years	~100
75-84 years	~400
85 years and over	~1000

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But Age Isn't Everything

Racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 deaths compared to Non-Hispanic Whites

Race/Ethnicity	Rate	Rate Diff	95% CI
Black	889.1	861.2, 917.0	
Latinx	535.8	511.3, 560.4	
Native	205.8	133.2, 278.4	
Asian PI	146.9	122.7, 171.0	

all p < 0.001

Original Investigation | Health Policy
June 12, 2021
Patient and Hospital Factors Associated With Differences in Mortality Rates Among Black and White US Medicare Beneficiaries Hospitalized With COVID-19 Infection
David A. Asch, MD, MPH, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
J Gen Intern Med. 2021;46(6):e12842. doi:10.1003/gim.12842

"Our study reveals that Black patients have worse outcomes largely because they tend to go to worse-performing hospitals."

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Frailty Matters

First Covid-19 outbreak in a U.S. nursing home raises concerns
By David S. Hoggan, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute

Using state and federal data, we can estimate that as of March 2021:
About 8% of people who live in US long-term-care facilities have died of COVID-19—nearly 1 in 12. For nursing homes alone, the figure is nearly 1 in 10.

In 18 States, Deaths in Long-Term Care Facilities Account for at Least Half of State COVID-19 Deaths
Of 55 states and D.C., reporting long-term care data as of May 16, 2021

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But So Do Policies & Priorities

Coronavirus testing slow to come to nursing homes, despite 35% of COVID-19 deaths
Seven months into pandemic, 20 percent of facilities lacked enough supplies

Nursing Home Safety During COVID: PPE SHORTAGES
Nursing Home Safety During COVID: PPE SHORTAGES

National Effort to Vaccinate Nursing Homes is off to a Slow Start
Less than a quarter of doses distributed through the federal program have been administered

Nursing Homes Don't Have to Report Pre-May Covid-19 Deaths to U.S. Officials
A May 8 rule requires facilities to submit data on coronavirus cases, but CDC says older information is optional

Federal Effort to Expand Covid-19 Testing in Nursing Homes Hits Snags
Conflicting state and federal guidelines slow efforts to broaden testing as facilities are hit hard by the coronavirus.

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But Age Is Not A Single Category

VULNERABLE MEN
CDC's new data showed that men are at higher risk of dying from COVID-19 than women.

COVID-19 death rate by age

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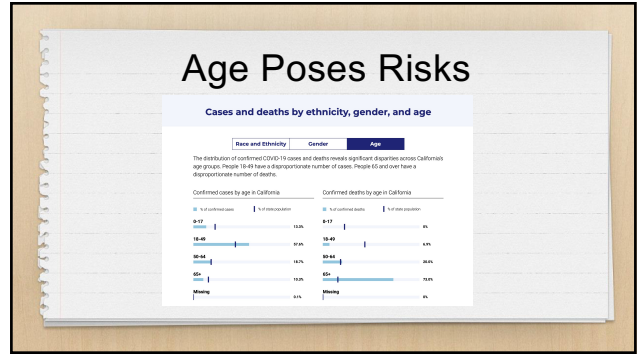
Rate ratios compared to 18- to 29-year-olds

	0-4 years old	5-17 years old	18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-64 years old	65-74 years old	75-84 years old	85+ years old
Cases ¹	<1x	1x	Reference group	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x
Hospitalization ³	<1x	<1x	Reference group	2x	2x	4x	9x	9x	15x
Death ⁴	<1x	<1x	Reference group	4x	10x	35x	95x	230x	600x

CDC July 2021

Age Matters

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Ageism is "[a] process of systematic stereotyping or discrimination against people because they are old, just as racism and sexism accomplish with skin color and gender. Ageism allows the younger generations to see older people as different than themselves; thus they subtly cease to identify with their elders as human beings."

- Robert Butler, MD 1975

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NEWS - COVID-19

The Road to Recovery: How Targeted Lockdowns for Seniors Can Help the U.S. Reopen

Bethany S. Mandel @bethanyshandelk May 6
 You can call me a Grandma killer. I'm not sacrificing my home, food on the table, all of our dogs and therapists, every form of pleasure (theaters, jazz, restaurants), all my kids' teachers in order to make other people comfortable. If you want to stay locked down, do. Fine. me.

Is Age Discrimination Acceptable?

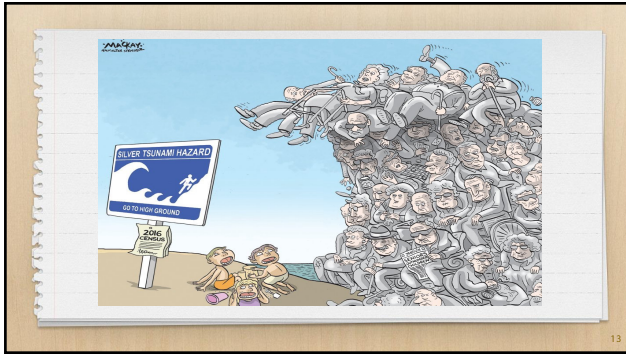
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"Might as well have them walk the plank" - Cuts and force leave seniors with opening wounds.

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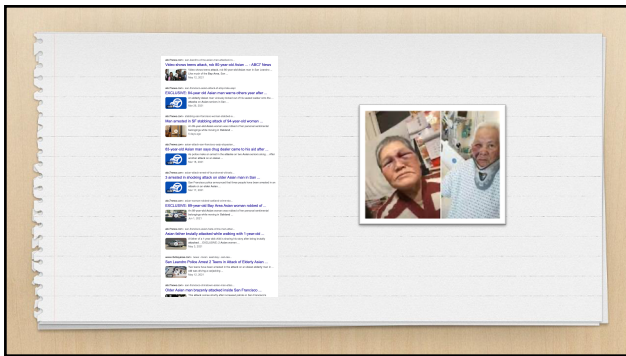
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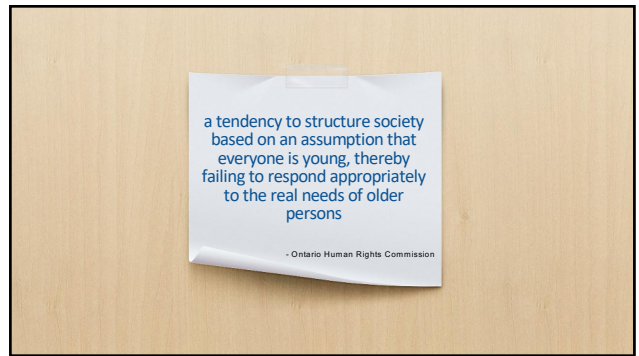
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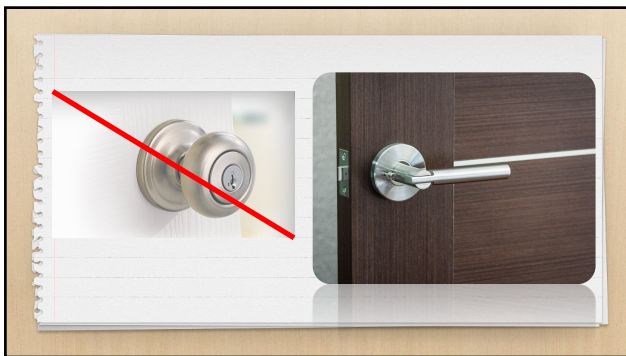
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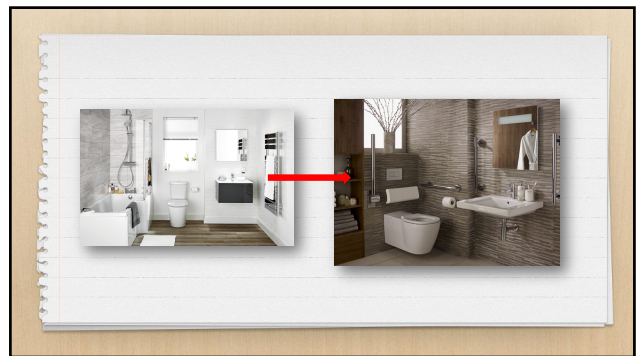
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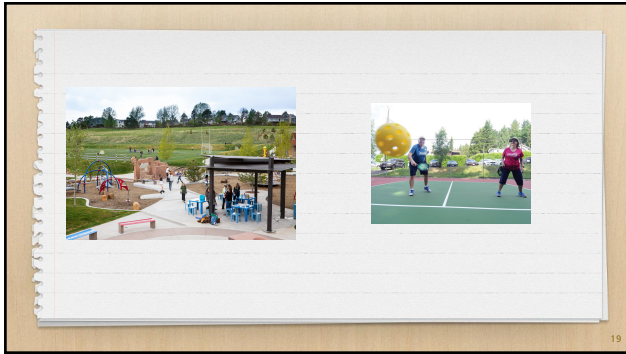
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Health Care - August 3, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic Drives Telehealth Boom, But Older Adults Can't Connect

By Scott Brice

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant increase in video visits between patients and their doctors, but for many older adults, the good has not been of their own, rather than connecting them.

A study by researchers at UC San Francisco has found that more than a third of adults over age 65 face potential difficulties using tele doctor videoconferencing, with the greatest challenges experienced by older, low-income men in remote or rural areas, especially those with disabilities or poor health. The findings appear online Aug. 3, 2020, in JAMA Internal Medicine.

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1) prejudicial attitudes towards older people, old age, and the aging process

- Robert Butler, MD 1975

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VCU Health
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Gerontology

The Language of Implicit Bias

94 years old and still sharp as a tack

She has a young spirit or a young heart

He looks younger everyday

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Health Professors
40th Anniversary
Gerontology

The Language of Internalized Ageism

76 years old and when asked if she considers herself to be old she says "Nopel" and then continues to refer to the other residents as "old people"

I'm not old...I'm just more mature!"

Health is for the young, when you are our age you do the best you can

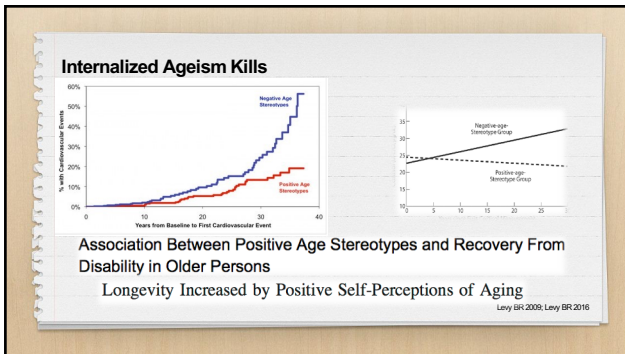
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2) discriminatory practices against older people

- Robert Butler, MD 1975

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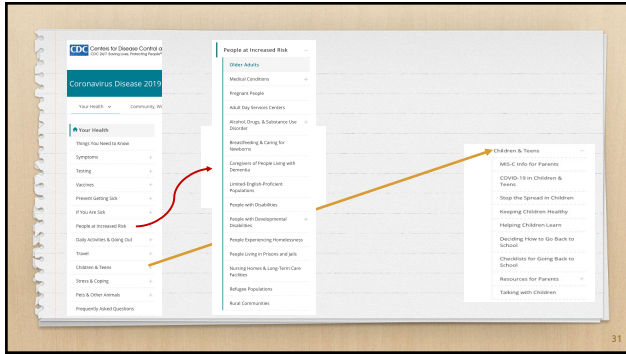
What We Talk About When We Talk About Flu

Hospitalizations due to the flu are also on the rise, with the highest rates among kids under age 4 and older adults. Last week, the CDC reported that four more children have died from the flu this season, bringing the number of pediatric deaths to 11.

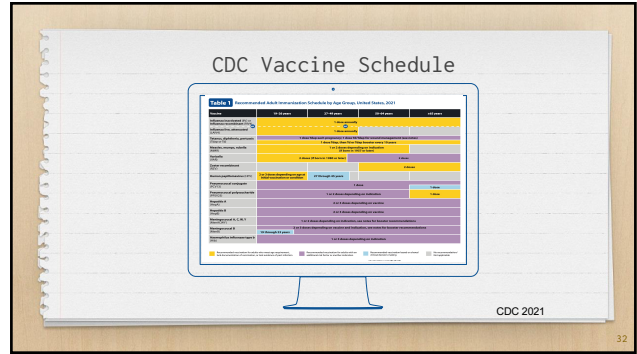
report all flu deaths among anyone under age 65. Though people 65 and older are the most vulnerable to flu, reporting their deaths is problematic for two reasons: It would require too much time and money and their cases are often complicated by multiple health problems that make pinning a death on the flu challenging.

CDC 1/2019; STAT 1/11/19; SFGATE 1/28/19

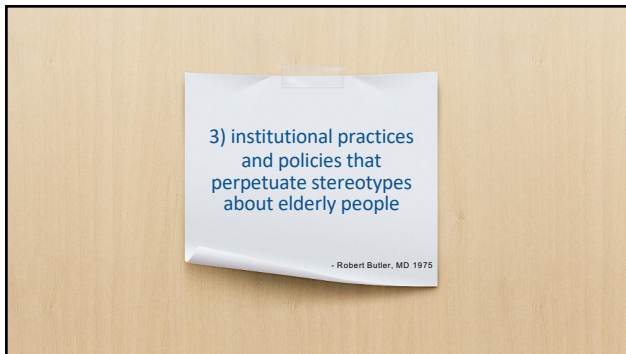
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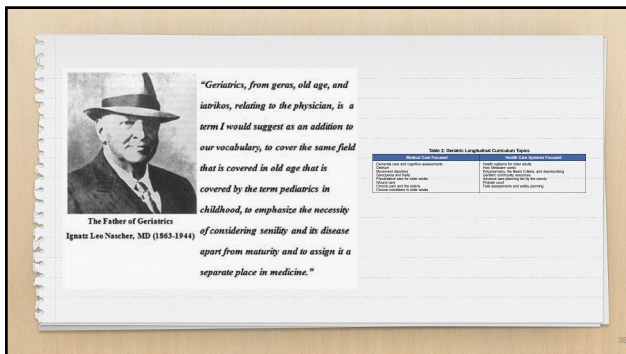
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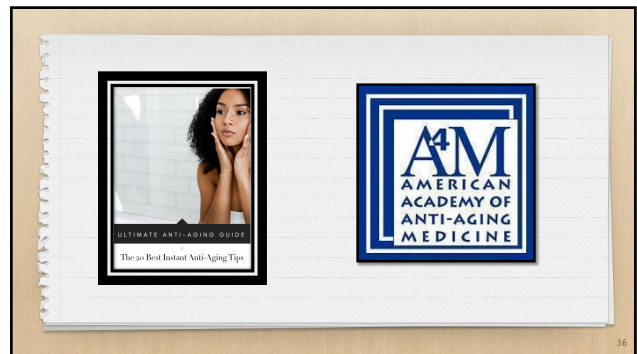
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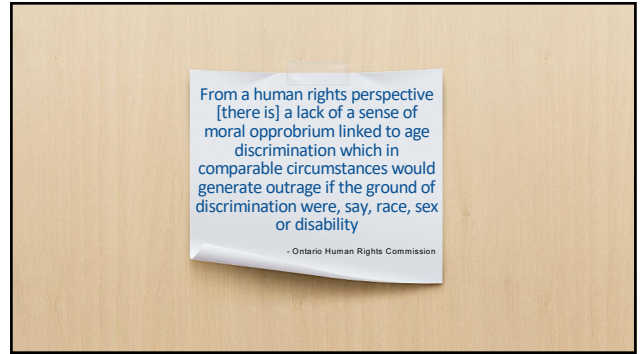
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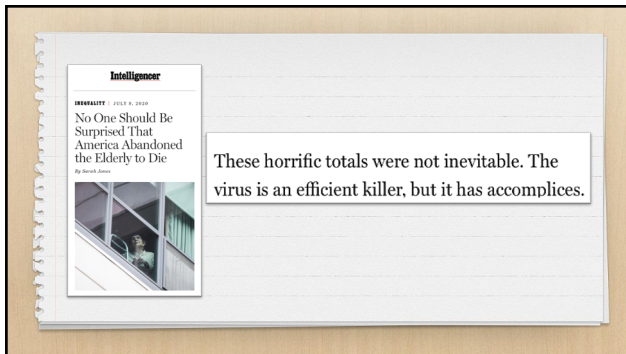
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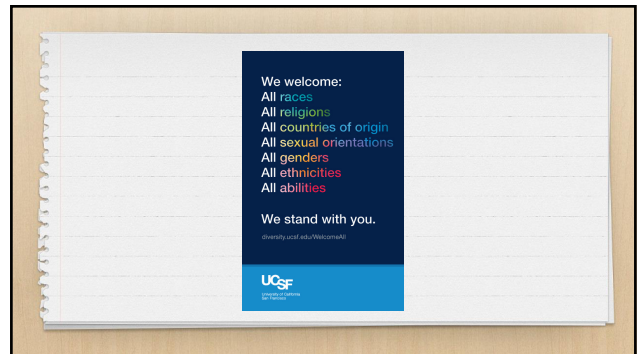
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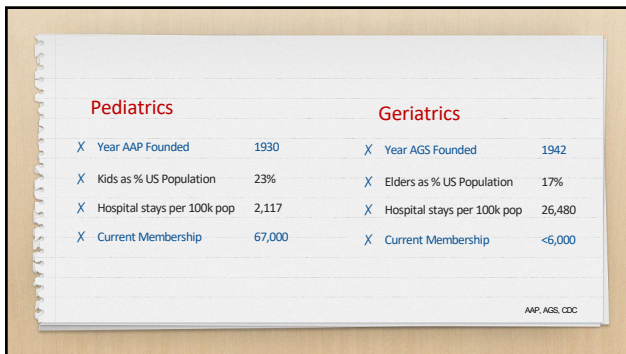
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To tell me my old age doesn't exist is to tell me I don't exist.

If I'm ninety and believe I'm forty-five, I'm headed for a very bad time trying to get out of the bathtub.




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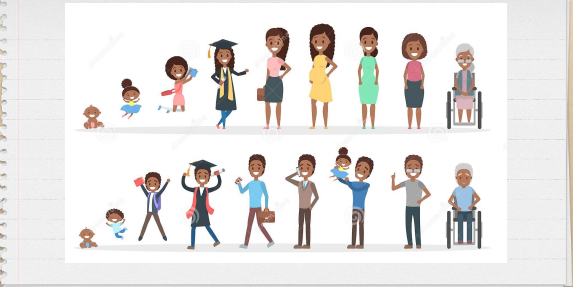


People who treat other people as less than human must not be surprised when the bread they have cast on the waters comes floating back to them, poisoned.

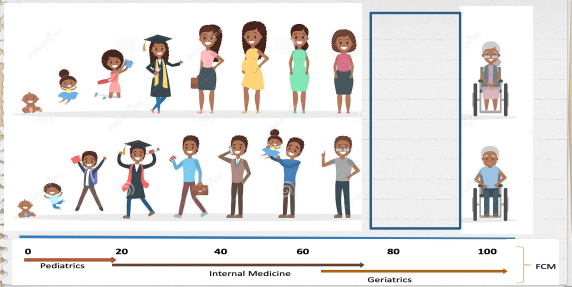
James Baldwin



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In every adult is an elder in training

In every elder is an adult who matters

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