age at baseline = 56; 55% female). Risk factors will be determined at baseline (from 2006 to 2010), and COVID-19 outcomes will be ascertained from linked Public Health England COVID-19 test data and mortality statistics. Univariate cox proportional hazard models will be used to explore how associations between time-varying and time-stable variables change over time with; i) having a test for COVID-19, ii) testing positive for COVID-19 and iii) dying with COVID-19. Time-varying risk factors will be based on measures of socioeconomic position (SEP) including education, Townsend deprivation index and income. ABO blood group will be considered as a time-stable risk factor. Distinct time periods will be defined based on changes in testing definitions and changes in lockdown restrictions. Inverse probability weights will then be calculated for each time period. These weights will then be applied to models estimating risk across all time periods.

Expected Results Preliminary analyses show that the size of the association between SEP and i) COVID-19 testing and ii) testing positive for COVID-19, changes across the course of the pandemic. These differences may be due to differential testing and not time-varying causal effects of the risk factor. We expect inverse probability weights will provide estimates closer to the true value for the association between each risk factor and outcome, independent of selection pressures on receiving a COVID-19 test. Population Health Relevance. Where studies do not account for time-varying selection pressures, the causal interpretations and the validity of results may be distorted. Where these findings are to be translated into developing population level or pharmaceutical interventions to mitigate against COVID-19 outcomes, efforts may be diverted away from more important risk factors.

P51 A SURVEY OF THE IMPACT OF WAVE ONE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON PARTICIPANTS OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE COHORT STUDY

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Background Covid-19, a coronavirus that originated in China in late 2019, spread globally to be declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation in March 2020. The aim of this study was to use an existing cohort of community-dwelling older adults, the Hertfordshire Cohort Study (HCS), to understand how wave one of the Covid-19 pandemic impacted UK older adults, a group particularly vulnerable to severe disease. **Methods** 71 eligible participants, 39 males and 32 females (drawn from the HCS study, mean age 83.6 (2.5) years, all Caucasian, and community dwelling) were contacted by telephone and asked to complete a questionnaire administered by a trained researcher. Data collection occurred over the period of July to October 2020.

Results Over a third (37.1%) of respondents lived alone. Of the remainder, 86.4% lived with a spouse while the remaining 13.6% lived with family. Of concern, 19.7% of participants had felt they needed to go out despite not wanting to; 47.1% had heard of the NHS Volunteer Responders programme, although only 3 (4.2%) had made use of this or other

support services. Almost a third (31%) of participants reported they had access to a smartphone, while 62% reported having unlimited internet access, usually using a tablet or computer. Over two thirds (69.0%) of participants rated their understanding of Covid-19 itself as good. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a large majority (88.7%) of participants said their life was different compared to before Covid-19; 80.3% had less social contact and more than half (52%) of respondents reported being less physically active than before the pandemic (and only 4% more so). However, levels of sleep, alcohol consumption and diet were reportedly generally unchanged over the timeframe surveyed.

Conclusion We have reported the experience of the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic among participants of an older Caucasian community-dwelling UK cohort, highlighting the need to consider this group when developing public health interventions to support health and wellbeing, including those employing smartphone technology. Further larger studies in groups of wider socioeconomic status and more diverse racial background are indicated.

P52 THE EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITY-DWELLING OLDER ADULTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM A QUALITATIVE STUDY WITH HERTFORDSHIRE COHORT STUDY PARTICIPANTS

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Background The COVID-19 pandemic has led to dramatic changes in people's lives globally. Older adults have been especially vulnerable to adverse effects from the pandemic including higher mortality and more severe disease complications. At the same time, social isolation, malnutrition and physical inactivity are serious concerns among older adults. The pandemic and associated restrictions may serve to exacerbate these issues, presenting increased risks to physical and mental health. The aim of this qualitative study was to explore how community-living older people in the UK experienced the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it impacted their health and well-being, and associated behaviours.

Methods Qualitative data were collected by conducting serial telephone interviews, with an interval of approximately three months. Participants were from the Hertfordshire Cohort Study, all aged over 80 years. Discussions were audio-recorded, information related to the COVID-19 pandemic was transcribed verbatim and transcripts analysed thematically. Interviews were conducted from March to October 2020.

Results Twelve participants were included in the study (7 men and 5 women). Data from a total of 35 qualitative interviews were used, comprising two or three timepoints per participant. Preliminary analysis identified five overarching themes: 1) shopping strategies and food accessibility, 2) limitations on activities and going out, 3) disruption to healthcare, 4) social and psychological repercussions, and 5) coping strategies. Initial findings highlight challenges associated with accessing