



Press release

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NEW DATA: Care home testing for Covid-19 - daily updates from T-DAB and Person Centred Software

New data suggests that only 6% of care home residents were tested in the last week following the government pledge to make Covid-19 testing available for all care home residents by early June

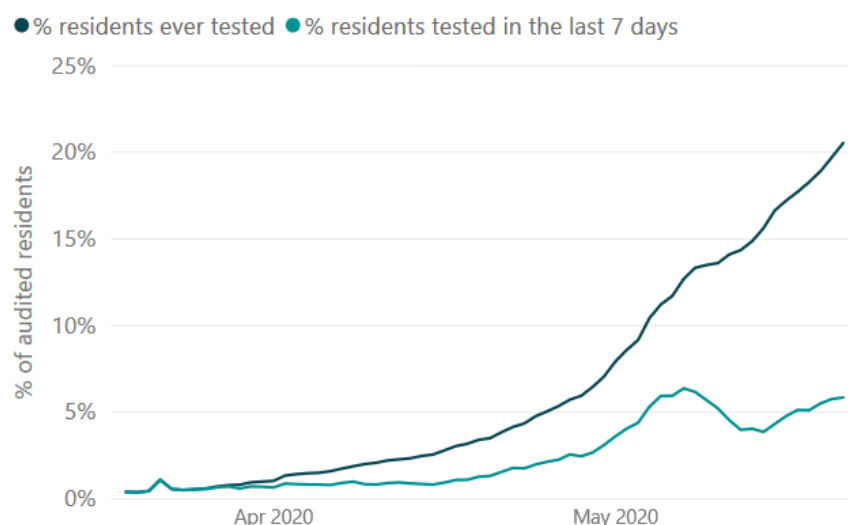
The analysis shows 40% of care homes have had no residents tested since the epidemic started

In total, 21% of care home residents have received a test, but only 1% have received more than one test, since 18th March

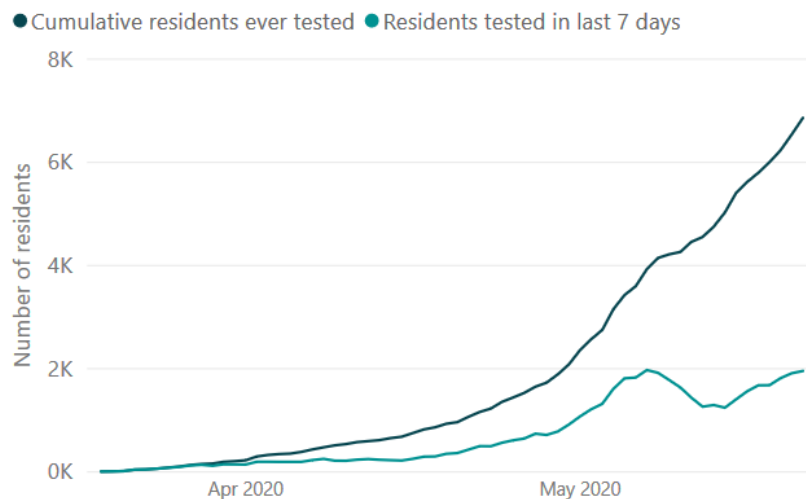
More promisingly, the daily average percentage of care home residents testing positive or having symptoms peaked at 5% on the 8th May and appears to be declining

If quoting this data please note: This new research comes from The Data Analysis Bureau and is based on anonymised data from Person Centred Software, one of the leading suppliers of near real time management information systems to the care home sector.

Percentage of residents tested for Covid-19



Number of residents tested for Covid-19



Proportion of care homes with resident tests



This analysis is conducted by The Data Analysis Bureau (T-DAB) based on anonymised data from Person Centred Software. It will be updated daily and expanded to include data on testing for carers in the residential setting. Updates, interactive dashboards, and additional data can be found at t-dab.com/care-home-covid-data/

Simon Papworth, co-founder and director of Person Centred Software, said: “Our anonymised data covers thousands of care providers, including private and not-for-profit, from single home providers to large groups. This up to date insight of Covid-19 testing provides a close representation of the current situation in care homes across the country, providing a more representative picture than any individual adult social care provider could provide.”

Simon Briscoe, Director of T-DAB said: “It is worrying that we have no evidence of a real increase in testing of care home residents in the last week even though we are only nine days from the end of month target set by the government for every care receiver to be tested.”

Eric Topham, CEO of T-DAB said: “This analysis uniquely provides higher velocity reporting of Covid-19 status of individuals, at scale. The data provides a granular view of the state of suspected cases, testing, infection, and deaths in care homes. We will be releasing more in-depth, specific analyses to understand patterns in care practices, policy, and Covid-19 outcomes. The insights from the Person Centred Software data will allow government, home owners, carers, residents and their families to see the progress being made with Covid-19 testing in care homes.”

T-DAB is a data science, data analytics, and data engineering innovation agency, based in London's Shoreditch, specialising in advanced analytics and helping clients to understand their data and discover new insights. <https://t-dab.com/>

Person Centred Software is one of the leading suppliers of near real time management information systems to the care home sector. Its digital point of care recording system is used for 50,000 service users across more than 1,800 care providers in the UK. There are an average of 50 care actions recorded per service user per day (2.7 million records a day), which evidence the detail of the care people receive. Person Centred Software's digital care system, Mobile Care Monitoring, reduces paperwork and gives carers more time to care. Person Centred Software's philosophy is person-centred; providing benefits to everyone involved in care by delivering exceptional tools.

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Notes for Editors:

Data

The data above relates to the period from 18th March up to May 21st 2020. There is no equivalent up to date information on the sector as a whole because more than half of the homes have no detailed, timely or automated data collection.

The graph in this release shows the Covid-19 testing of care receivers as a percentage of the care receivers population for which a Person Centred Software Mobile Care Monitoring (MCM) Covid-19 audit was undertaken. The dataset represents a total sample size of 32,000 care receivers from 1,200 care homes across England, Wales and Scotland. This is a sub-sample of the total care homes in the MCM system. In order for a care receiver to be included within the observational group, they must have had a Covid-19 audit form filled out in the MCM software. This data covers a minority of care homes but as many as any other provider. Given the geographic spread and size of the Person Centred Software client base, there is no reason to believe that the sample is not broadly representative of the sector.

- *'% residents ever tested' corresponds to the count of residents having been recorded as being tested¹ at least once since 18th March, as a proportion of all residents audited since 18th March.*
- *'% residents tested in the last 7 days' corresponds to the number of residents recorded as being tested¹ in the 7 preceding days as a proportion of all residents audited since 18th March.*

¹ *Residents identified as 'being tested' are those for which the status 'in test' or 'tested – confirmed' was recorded in their audit. The date at which either of these appears first, is taken as the date of testing. In the case where there is no record of 'in test', and 'tested – confirmed' appears first this date is used.*

ONS has published data relating to deaths in care homes on 15 May:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deaths-involving-covid-19-in-the-care-sector-england-and-wales>

and on 19 May:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/number-of-deaths-in-care-homes-notified-to-the-care-quality-commission-england>

Policy

The government announced on 15 April that testing will be available for all care home residents with symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-offer-testing-for-everyone-who-needs-one-in-social-care-settings>

The government announced on 11 May that “All symptomatic and asymptomatic care home staff and residents in England are now eligible for testing. Testing will be prioritised for care homes that look after the over 65s.”
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-portal-for-care-homes-to-arrange-coronavirus-testing>

Minister of State for Care Helen Whately said: “Care homes are on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 and we are determined that staff have everything they need to keep themselves and their residents safe. Testing is a crucial part of this. It helps prevent and control outbreaks and means steps can be taken to reduce the spread the virus and protect the most vulnerable.” “Testing asymptomatic workers helps prevent and control outbreaks. It means those who test positive can be isolated, reducing the number of people who can spread the virus and protecting the most vulnerable. It also helps to build up a strategic understanding of the prevalence of the virus in local areas and the sector as a whole.”

On 15 May at the daily briefing Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock said: “We will test every resident and every member of staff in our elderly care homes in England between now and early June”.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM-2DsysyQI> (7.36 minutes)

Date: 23 May 2020

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