

Data and Insights from CV19 CheckUp

Welcome to the first issue of *BellAge COVID-19 Bulletin*. This report offers initial results and findings from CV19 CheckUp, a service provided by BellAge, Inc. and currently in use by the governments of New York, Florida, Michigan, Los Angeles, and St. Louis. Future issues will be published as other significant new findings emerge.

Michigan Debut of CV19 CheckUp Reaches 23,000-plus People in One Week

On Dec. 15, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) launched its CV19 CheckUp website. Thanks to the department's well-executed publicity campaign, Michiganders flocked to the site by the thousands. More than 23,000 completed the questionnaire within the first week. Not only did each individual receive personalized recommendations on how to stay safe and healthy and address their unmet needs, MDHHS also captured a wealth of population-level data on the conditions, knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes of its citizens.

The Michigan launch demonstrates CV19 CheckUp's value as a powerful way to protect older adults and other vulnerable populations. At the same time, it provides a new, unprecedented investigative tool for gathering strategic intelligence in the fight against COVID-19. Governments can use it to rapidly capture actionable data in near real-time. *(Continued on page 2.)*

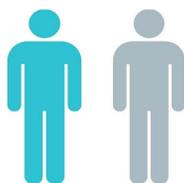
1 in 2 Americans 75+ at High Risk of Getting COVID-19

COVID-19 is spreading rapidly nationwide and it will be several months before most people aged 75 and older are vaccinated.

22,000,000

U.S. population
aged 75 and older

All are at serious risk
of bad outcomes
(hospitalization or death)
if they get COVID-19.



1 in 2

More than **1 in 2** are
at **high risk** of getting
COVID-19 because:

- **53%** underestimate their risk of hospitalization
- **58%** engage in unsafe behaviors

**Act now
to help save
thousands
of lives!**

- Make sure that everyone you know takes steps to avoid getting infected before they are vaccinated.
- Go to [CV19CheckUp.org](https://www.CV19CheckUp.org) for a free, confidential report on your COVID-related risks and how to reduce them.

These statistics are based on responses from 1,282 people aged 75 or older who completed the CV19 CheckUp online survey between Oct. 21 and Dec. 17, 2020.
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More Than Half of Adults 75 and Older Underestimate Their COVID-19 Risks and Behave Unsafely

BellAge data scientists combined responses of people aged 60 and older with CV19 CheckUp users in New York, Florida, and other states to produce a sample size of 9,959 older adults. Their analysis produced three important findings:

- **52.9% of people aged 75 and older (including 66% of men in that age group) underestimate their risk of severe consequences from COVID-19.**
- **34% of all people aged 60 to 74 (including 48% of men aged 60 to 74) underestimate their risk of severe consequences from COVID-19.**
- **These “minimizers” behave in ways that are less safe than people of the same ages who understand their risks of severe consequences.**

Accuracy of Severity Risk Estimates by Older U.S. Adults

Age Group	Correctly Estimate	Underestimate	Overestimate
Ages 75+ (n = 1,282)	30%	53%	17%
Ages 60 to 74 (n = 8,677)	26%	34%	40%

Not only do the majority of Americans aged 75 and older underestimate their risk, they also act **as if they weren’t in the greatest danger. And even if they are trying to be safe, many have “blindspots.”** Their responses to CV19 CheckUp show that:

- 20.4% engage in unsafe behaviors (such as not wearing masks or social distancing when visiting with people outside of their household);
- 32.5% go to risky places (indoors at restaurants, church, the gym, or bars);
- 26.3% score high on risky contacts (close contact with too many people);
- 20.8% had two or more high risk scores.

In this age group, the riskiest activities they engage in the most often are as follows:

- 18.7% eat indoors at restaurants.
- 15.6% attend religious services indoors.

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Hundreds of Thousands of Lives Are at Stake

The 22 million Americans aged 75 and older who live in community settings are at the greatest risk of a severe outcome if they contract COVID-19. And though this group is at the top of the priority list of people to be vaccinated, **it will be months before most of them are vaccinated.** Meanwhile, COVID-19 is spreading rapidly nationwide and both cases and deaths are surging, which is not surprising considering that many families gathered in person over the holidays.

A coordinated national response is needed to insure that:

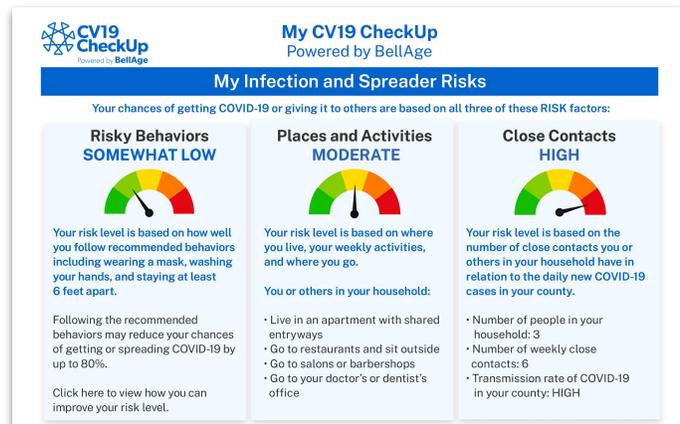
- People 75 and older **know their actual risks** from COVID-19;
- They receive **personal guidance** on how to **do** what they want to do more safely;
- Younger people **understand the threat** they pose to high-risk people and **minimize their close contacts with them.**

The Methodology Behind CV19 CheckUp

The samples used in this data analysis were respondents to the CV19 CheckUp online survey from Oct. 17 to Dec. 17, 2020. Of the 9,959 respondents, 8,677 were between the ages of 60 and 74, and 1,282 were aged 75 or older. To learn more about the methodology used by CV19 CheckUp to calculate risk levels, go to bit.ly/3hBqrCL

About CV19 CheckUp

CV19 CheckUp helps keep high-risk Americans safe from COVID-19 by providing personalized information and guidance on their risks of getting and spreading COVID-19, how they can reduce those risks, and where to turn for help with unmet needs. The service is anonymous, free, easy-to-use and available on all devices. At the same time, CV19 CheckUp provides actionable data and insights to policymakers.



Users of CV19 CheckUp receive a report that includes this visual representation of their COVID-19 risks.

Employing artificial intelligence to analyze the answers each person provides when completing the online questionnaire, the tool's algorithms use data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). CV19 CheckUp is available at CV19CheckUp.org.

About BellAge

BellAge, Inc. is a public benefit company with a mission to harness the power of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, enabling millions of older adults across the world to age better. For more information, go to bellage.org.