

**“DEPLOYED IN DISASTER: DESCRIPTIVE
EXPLORATORY STUDY OF PERSONNEL DEPLOYED
INTO ONTARIO LONG-TERM CARE HOMES DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”**

**DAVID OLDENBURGER, RN, MSC, PHD(C)
GLOBAL HEALTH OFFICE, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY**

**WADEM CONFERENCE
MAY 2023
KILLARNEY, IRELAND**

Thesis Committee: Dr. Baumann (Supervisor), Dr.
Baba, Dr. Deber, Mary Crea-Arsenio

Background

- Long-Term Care in Ontario experienced over 8500 COVID-19 cases in LTC in Ontario and 1800 deaths during the first wave – representing 20% of all COVID-19 cases and 64% of deaths in Ontario*
- Facilities faced 80% absenteeism**, up to 40 residents per staff; residents left unfed and unchanged for hours and days
- 35 LTC homes went under temporary management of acute care hospitals
- 275 personnel from the Canadian Armed Forces and over 200 from the Canadian Red Cross Society deployed into LTC in Ontario

* CIHI, 2020; ** Marrocco, Coke, & Kitts, 2021

Study of Deployed Personnel

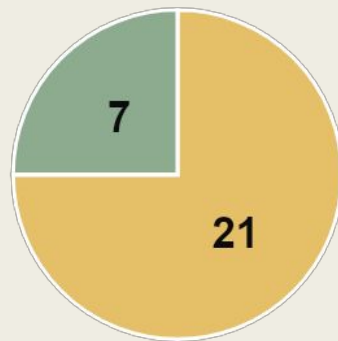
- Research Questions:
 - What is the experience of personnel who deployed into long-term care during the pandemic?
- Purpose:
 - Explore and compare the perspectives of personnel deployed into long-term care in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Design: Descriptive Exploratory
- Methods: Demographic Survey & Semi-structured interviews* of deployed personnel
- Sample: 28 health professionals

*35-90 minutes in length

Findings

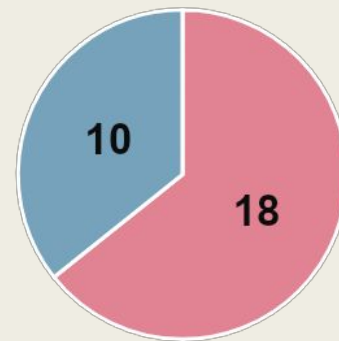
- First Cycle Coding identified four common themes
 - Navigating the Unknown
 - Ambiguity of Role/Purpose
 - Trauma and Moral Injury
 - Presence/Reality of Leadership

Employer



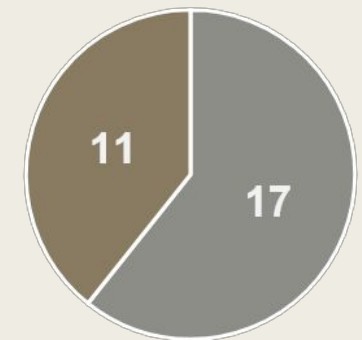
■ Hospitals ■ Canadian Armed Forces

Health Profession Backgrounds



■ Nurses ■ Allied Health

Deployed Role



■ Front-Line ■ Management

So What Can We Learn?

- **Presence** of leadership mitigated fear and anxiety
- **Trust** amongst personnel facilitated teamwork and managing stress
- Understanding **one's purpose/role** helped focus tasks and collaboration
- Be able to **adapt** and be **flexible** to manage the unknown
- Preparedness includes strategies to **manage the shock and trauma**

Thank You

David Oldenburger
oldenbd@mcmaster.ca
McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

References

- Canadian Institute for Health Information [CIHI]. (2021). "The Impact of COVID-19 on Long-Term Care in Canada Focus on the First 6 Months". Retrieved 14 April, 2021.
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- Marrocco, F. N., Coke, A., & Kitts, J. (2021). *Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission final report*. http://ltccommission-commissionsld.ca/report/pdf/20210623_LTCC_AODA_EN.pdf