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What do differences in case fatality ratios between children and adults tell us about COVID-19?

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When individuals without prior immunity are considered, case fatality ratios are typically higher in adults than in children for most infectious diseases, with few exceptions <https://bit.ly/2Wsi6iJ>

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To the Editor:

CRISTIANI *et al.* [1] have raised interesting questions in their editorial discussing the differences in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) morbidity and mortality between children and adults. The authors proposed a number of possible reasons to explain why children suffer less severe illness, including age-related variation in angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE)2 receptor expression, trained immunity, and differences in lymphocyte and natural killer cell abundance. Whilst these hypotheses may be correct, we wish to challenge the notion that greater morbidity and mortality in adults is a remarkable feature of COVID-19. This is, in fact, the typical situation for most infections occurring in the absence of prior immunity.