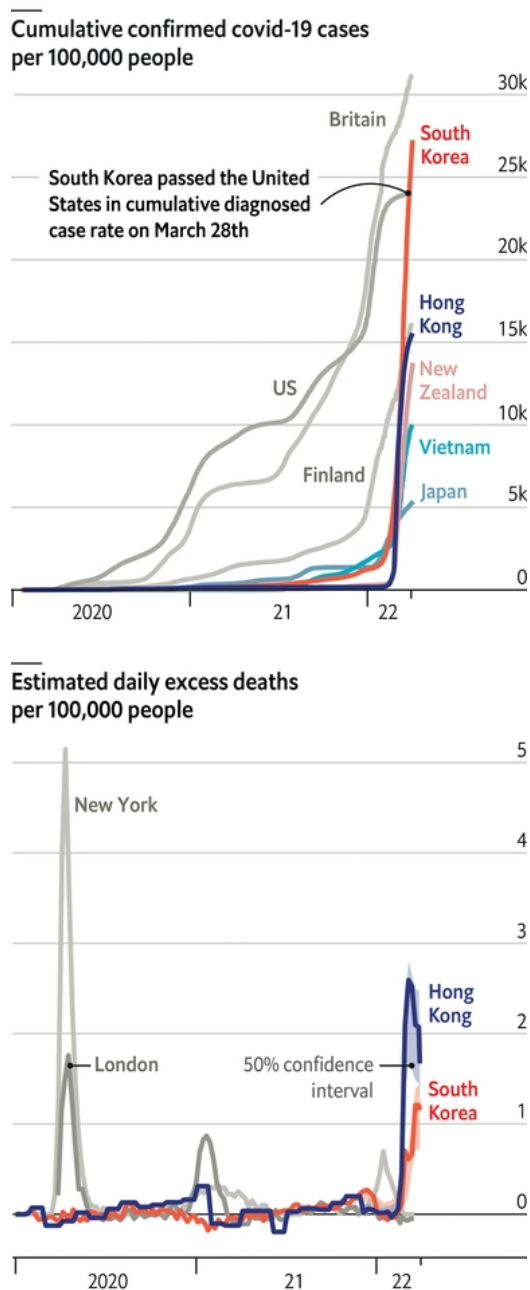


0421 | Asia's outbreaks show that Omicron is deadly in unvaccinated people

亚洲近期的疫情表明，奥密克戎对未接种者很致命

Covid has never spread faster than in recent **surges** in Hong Kong and South Korea

在香港和韩国的新一波疫情中，新冠病毒以空前高速传播



DURING THE first two years of the covid-19 pandemic, rich Asian countries had lower case rates than almost anywhere else. But like a dam holding back a flood, the longer a region's defences hold up, the worse the resulting disaster once they fail.

在新冠病毒肆虐全球的头两年，富裕亚洲国家和地区的感染率几乎比任何地方都低。但是，就像用堤坝阻挡洪水一样，一个地方的防御撑得越久，一旦失守所造成的灾难就越严重。

The Omicron **variant** has swept remarkably fast through places with little past exposure to covid. As a **share** of population, South Korea has **logged** more cases in 2022 than America has during the entire pandemic. Hong Kong's surge has been even more abrupt. Until this February, it barely had any positive tests. Its cumulative **caseload** per person now matches Finland's.

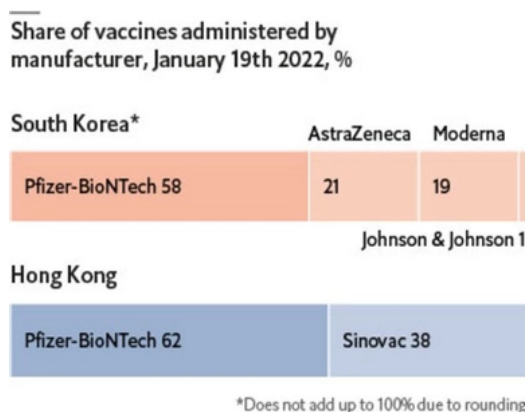
奥密克戎毒株以惊人的速度席卷之前新冠病毒少有传播的地方。按病例占人口的比例计算，韩国在2022年的数字比美国在整个疫情期间的数字还要高。香港此轮爆发更是迅猛。在今年2月以前香港几乎没多少检测阳性的病例，但现在人均累计病例数已与芬兰相当。

In Europe Omicron has caused greater increases in cases than in **hospitalisations** or deaths. Two factors have combined to **yield** such mild disease: strong **immunity** levels and Omicron's low **severity** when compared with Delta. Until recently, it was unclear which mattered more. But the Asian data show that immunity is crucial, and that Omicron is still deadly for **unvaccinated** people who have not yet had covid.

在欧洲，奥密克戎毒株造成的病例数字增幅大于住院或死亡人数的增幅。新冠病情变得如此温和是因为两个因素的综合作用：人群免疫水平高，奥密克戎的毒性低于德尔塔。直到最近，人们还不清楚哪个因素更为关键。但如今亚洲的数据显示，免疫力至关重要，对没有新冠感染史又尚未接种疫苗的人而言，奥密克戎依然致命。

Hong Kong and South Korea provide a natural experiment. Both were mostly covid-free before 2022, and had little infection-induced immunity. But South Korea has had a strong vaccine **roll-out**, whereas Hong Kong has had one of the rich world's worst. Its messaging was decidedly mixed, *giving equal weight* to arguments for and against vaccination, and telling people with **chronic** diseases to consult doctors before getting **jabs**. Its nurses worried about personal **liability** for mishaps.

香港和韩国提供了一场自然实验。两地在2022年之前都没有太多病例，也就没有多少因感染而获得的免疫力。但韩国的疫苗接种率高，而香港则是富裕世界里接种率最低的地区之一。香港的宣传信息明显混乱，支持和反对接种疫苗的论调并行，又提醒慢性病患者在接种疫苗前要先咨询医生的意见。香港的护士担心遇意外或不幸需要个人担责。

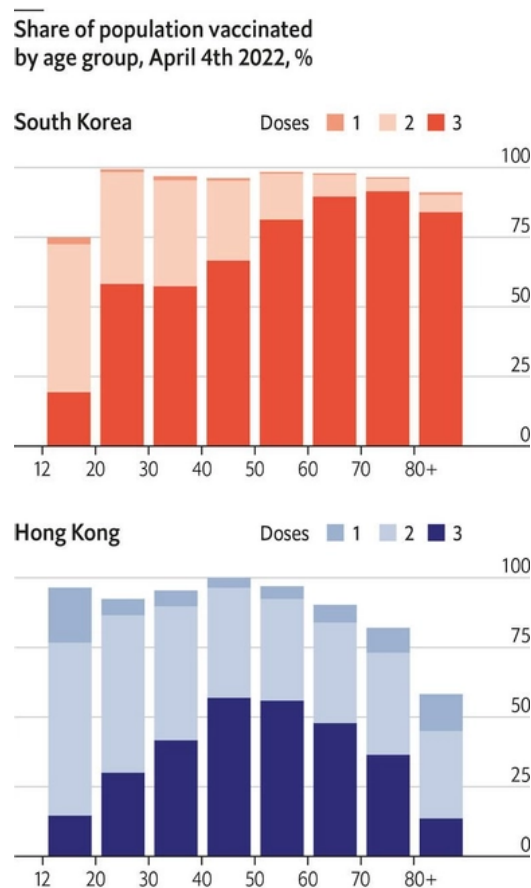


Hong Kong also made heavy use of Sinovac, a Chinese vaccine that is less effective than Western shots. According to Ming Pao, a newspaper, of Hong Kongers who died in the recent wave, 71% were unvaccinated and another 25% had received Sinovac. Just 4% got Western vaccines.

而且，香港有不少人接种了科兴疫苗，这是中国研发的一款疫苗，防护效果不如西方疫苗。据《明报》报道，香港最近这波疫情的死亡病例中，71%未接种疫苗，25%接种了科兴疫苗，只有4%接种了西方疫苗。

Unfortunately, Hong Kong's elderly were unusually hesitant. In South Korea take-up of **booster** shots, which are needed to protect against Omicron, is greatest among the old. In Hong Kong, in contrast, those most likely to get boosted are middle-aged. Just 37% of its **septuagenarians** and 14% of those 80 or older, the most vulnerable groups, are boosted—similar to the shares among people aged 20-39 and teenagers, respectively. When Omicron first struck, these rates were even lower.

遗憾的是，香港老年人对于接种疫苗异常迟疑。抵御奥密克戎需要接种加强针，在韩国，老年人接种加强针的比例最高。相比之下，在香港是中年人最高。只有37%的七旬老人和14%的八旬或以上老人（两个最高危群体）接种了加强针，分别与20岁至39岁人群及青少年人群的接种比例相当。奥密克戎最初来袭时，这些比例还要更低。



This **discrepancy** has had a big impact. During the Omicron wave, Hong Kong's official covid **mortality** rate has been five times higher than South Korea's. These figures can be **biased** by differences in testing rates and judgments on causes of death. But fair comparisons can be made with **excess** mortality—the gap between the number of deaths from all causes and the number expected under normal conditions.

这种差异影响很大。在这波奥密克戎疫情期间，香港官方公布的新冠死亡率是韩国的五倍。这些数字可能因为检测率和对死亡原因判定的不同而有所偏差。但可以通过“超额死亡率”做公平的比较，即因各种原因实际死亡的人数与正常情况下的预计死亡人数之间的差距。

Although recent total-mortality numbers have not been published, our best estimate suggests that since February 1st 2.4 times as many people have died because of the pandemic in Hong Kong as in South Korea. At the peak of Hong Kong's surge in early March, its daily excess-death rate was between those registered in London (1.8 per 100,000 people) and New York (5.1) when covid first struck—a period with no vaccines, little testing and an incorrect understanding of how the virus spreads. ■

虽然近期的总死亡人数尚未公布，但我们的最佳估计值表明，自2月1日以来，香港死于新冠病毒的人数是韩国的2.4倍。在3月初香港疫情的最高峰期，每日的超额死亡率介于新冠疫情最初爆发时的伦敦（每十万人中有1.8人）和纽约（每十万人中有5.1人）之间，当时还没有疫苗，检测也少，对病毒的传播机制还存在误解。

Sources: Our World in Data; Public Health England; CDC; Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency; Hong Kong Department of Health; The Economist

资料来源：Our World in Data；英格兰公共卫生署；美国疾病控制与预防中心；韩国疾病管理厅；香港卫生署；《经济学人》

(注：翻译来源：官网)

Notes

- **outbreak** /'aʊtbreɪk/

n. 爆发, 突然发生

近义词:

[n.] happening, occurrence, occurrent, natural event

习惯用语:

disease outbreak 疾病爆发

cycle outbreak 周期性大发生

epidemic outbreak 暴发流行; 流行病爆发; 暴发疫情

mass outbreak 大规模流行

A new outbreak of smallpox occurred in 1928.

1928年爆发了新一轮的天花。

After the outbreak of fighting, all foreign journalists were expelled.

战斗开始后, 所有的外国记者都被驱逐出境。

- **variant** /'veəriənt/

n. 变体; 变种; 变型; (词等的)变体; 异读; (书等的)不同版本; 改编

adj. 不同的; 差别的; 变异的; 易变的, 不定的; 各种各样的

习惯用语:

gene variant 基因变种

variant name 别名

An allomorph is one of the variants of the same morpheme.

语素/形位变体是同一个语素的不同形式。

- **share** /ʃeə/

vt. 分享, 分担; 分配

vi. 分担; 共享

n. 股份; **份额**

习惯用语:

market share 市场占有率

share of ...的份额; ...的部份

share price [经]股价

earnings per share 每股收益

share capital 股份资本, 股本

fair share 公平分配; 公平共享

lion's share 最大的份额; 最佳份额

on shares 共同担负盈亏

- **log** /lɒg/

v. **把...载入正式记录**; 行驶; 采伐(森林的)树木; 伐木

n. 原木; (某时期事件的)正式记录; 飞行日志

adj. 在水中泡重了的(圆木); 浸透的(土地)

近义辨析:

lumber: 指伐下后未经削磨的木材, 现多用于美国英语中。

timber: 指经过匠人初步加要的备用木材, 多用于英国英语。

wood: 最普通用词, 含义广, 除表示“木材, 木”外, 还可复数形式表示森林。

log: 指原木或圆木。

习惯用语:

log in 注册; 请求联机

log on [计]登录; 注册

State when you logged on, and remember to write down the time you log off.

写明注册时间, 并记住写下你注销的时间。

They logged the timber into 7-foot length.

他们把那根木材锯成七英尺长。

- **surge** /sɜːdʒ/

n. (感情等)洋溢, 奔放; 浪涛般汹涌奔腾

vi. (人群等)蜂拥而出; (感情等)洋溢, 奔放; (波涛等)汹涌, 奔腾

近义辨析:

wave: 普通用词, 指水面上移动的任何具有峰谷皱形的波动, 尤指距离相等的波浪, 也比喻任何类似的物体。

ripple: 多指微风吹过水面或石头投入水中所激起的涟漪或细浪。

surge: 词义较模糊, 泛指巨浪、波涛或作比喻使用。

习惯用语:

storm surge 风暴潮; 风暴汹涌
surge wave 水击波; 碎浪波; 涌波
pressure surge 压力波动, 冲击压力

The sea was rolling in immense surges.

大海上浪涛汹涌。

The surge travelled southwards along the coast.

浪涛沿着海岸向南涌去。

- **caseload** /'keɪsləʊd/

n. 待处理案件之数量

习惯用语:

investigation caseload 未完成调查的个案总数

flu caseload 感染病例数; 风行症例数

The global caseload reached 100 million back in January.

今年1月, 全球病例数量达到1亿例。

India reported the second largest caseload worldwide, followed by Brazil.

印度报告的病例数居全球第二, 其次是巴西。

- **hospitalization** /,hɒspɪtəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/

n. 医院收容; 住院治疗

习惯用语:

hospitalization insurance n. 医疗保险

Cases of major burns require medical treatment and hospitalization.

严重烧伤病人需要住院治疗。

The hospitalization infection was relative to the drugs of chemotherapy, the time of hospitalization and the white blood cell count.

医院感染与使用化疗药物、住院时间、白细胞计数有关。

- **yield** /ji:ld/

vt. 出产; 屈服; 放弃

vi. 屈服, 投降

n. 收益; 产量

近义辨析:

crop: 普通用词, 侧重指农作物一次收割或一季的收成。

harvest: 主要指农作物或水果的收获量, 有时也指收割的行为。

yield: 指生产物, 农作物的总产量。

习惯用语:

high yield 高产; 高收益

yield curve 收率曲线

yield up 被迫放弃; 交出; 展现; 放纵

The tree yields an abundance of fruit.

这树结果甚多。

He will die, ere he will yield.

他宁死不屈。

- **immunity** /ɪ'mju:nɪti/

n. 免除;豁免; 免疫力

习惯用语:

cellular immunity [医]细胞免疫

immunity system 免疫系统

humoral immunity 体液免疫

A strong immunity to reinfection develops after one year.

一年后能对再度感染产生强大免疫力。

Unions were granted immunity from prosecution for non-violent acts.

工会获得赋予非暴力行动的豁免起诉权。

- **severity** /sɪ'verɪti/

n. 严格, 严厉, 苛刻; 严重; 剧烈; 朴素; 简洁; 严厉的对待, 艰苦的环境

习惯用语:

disease severity 疾病严重度; 发病度

She wagged her finger with mock severity.

她故作严厉地摆了摆手指。

The drug can reduce the frequency and severity of attacks.

这种药能降低发病次数和严重程度。

- **vaccinate** /'væksɪneɪt/

vt. 给...接种疫苗

vi. 注射疫苗; 接种疫苗

近义词:

[v.] inject, shoot

习惯用语:

vaccinated 接种疫苗的

vaccinating instrument 接种器

Were you vaccinated against smallpox as a child?

你小时候打过天花疫苗吗?

- **roll out** 铺开; 滚出; 推出 (新产品, 服务等); 实行 (新制度); 开展

- **chronic** /'krɒnɪk/

adj. 慢性的; 长期的; 习惯性的

习惯用语:

chronic disease [医]慢性病

- **jab** /dʒæb/

n. 猛戳; 注射

v. 刺; 戳; 猛击

习惯用语:

jab at 猛击; 猛戳

jab into 戳入

He jabbed at the lid with a knife.

他用刀子捅盖子。

He gave me a jab with his finger.

他用手指捅我。

- **liability** /laɪə'bɪlɪtɪ/

n. 责任, 义务; 倾向; 债务; 〈口〉妨碍, 不利

习惯用语:

liability company 有限公司

legal liability 法律责任

product liability 产品责任

Bad pronunciation is a liability in being a narrator.

不良的发音是做解说员的不利条件。

- **booster** /'bu:stə/

n. 升压机; 支持者; 扩爆器

近义词:

[n.] advocator, proponent, exponent, advertiser, advertizer, adman

习惯用语:

Hormone implants are used as growth boosters.

激素植入物被用作生长辅助剂。

She is a booster of the local girls' club.

她是当地少女俱乐部的积极支持者。

- **septuagenarian** /,septɪʒədʒɪ'neəriən/

n. 七十岁老者

adj. 七十岁(的人), 七十至八十岁的

- **discrepancy** /dɪs'krep(ə)nsɪ/

n. 差异, 不符合(之处); 不一致(之处)

近义辨析:

difference: 普通用词, 可指事物本质上的差异或数量上的差额, 也可指事物在某一方面的差别, 还可指人们之间的不同意见。

distinction: 较正式用词, 除指事物在本质上的差别外, 还指在某一方面或某一细节上的区分, 要在认真观察、研究后才易觉察。

discrepancy: 多用于言论和记述方面, 指两物之间缺乏使之相似或平衡的协调。

discrimination: 侧重指在判断、见识方面的差别, 也可指待遇上的区别。

习惯用语:

dimensional discrepancy 尺寸偏差

statistical discrepancy 统计差异

main discrepancies 主要分歧

The discrepancy in their ages seemed not to matter.

他们之间年龄的差异似乎没有多大关系。

A greater cause for resentment is the discrepancy in pay.

导致愤怒的更主要原因是报酬上的差异。

• mortality /mɔ:'tælɪtɪ/

n. 必死性; 大量死亡; 死亡率

习惯用语:

mortality rate 死亡率

infant mortality 婴儿死亡率, 早期失效; 早期故障期

Poor hygiene led to high mortality among children.

卫生条件很差, 道致了儿童的死亡率很高。

Mortality among immigrant groups was higher than average.

移民群体的死亡率高于平均水平。

• biased /'baɪəst/

adj. 有偏见的; 倾向性的; 片面的; 偏重; 偏向

习惯用语:

reverse biased 反向偏压; 反向偏置的

biased estimate 偏差估计

Many parents are biased against popular music.

许多父母对流行音乐有偏见。

The judge was biased in favor of the local team.

裁判对本地的球队有偏袒。

• excess /ɪk'ses/

n. 无节制; 过度, 过量; 超过, 超额

adj. 额外的, 过量的; 附加的

近义辨析:

excess: 指超过了限度、标准或界线。

surplus: 通常指数量或量的过剩。

习惯用语:

in excess 过度; 过量地

in excess of 超过; 较...为多

excess capacity 超额生产能力; 过剩设备

There is a surcharge for excess baggage.

行李超重要交一定的附加费。

Another complication was the excess of imports over exports.

另一个新增的困难就是输入超过输出。

- 长难句分析:

Although recent total-mortality numbers have not been published, our best estimate suggests that since February 1st 2.4 times as many people have died because of the pandemic in Hong Kong as in South Korea.

本句中although引导让步状语从句, our best estimate suggests that为主谓宾结构, that引导宾语从句。宾语从句中, as many people have died because of the pandemic in Hong Kong as in South Korea 为“as much/many + 名词 + as + 从句”结构, have died是people的后置定语。

翻译: 虽然近期的总死亡人数尚未公布, 但我们的最佳估计值表明, 自2月1日以来, 香港死于新冠病毒的人数是韩国的2.4倍。