

**Portugal: One Month in Times of COVID-19**  
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**Abstract**

*We have reviewed the COVID-19 related data published daily by the Portuguese National Health Directorate for March 2020. There were 8251 COVID-19 reported cases, 187 deaths (cumulative incidence of 89 cases/100,000 inhabitants and 2,3 deaths per 100 cases). 728 patients, 8,8% of the reported cases, were admitted to a hospital, of which 230 (2.3%) required intensive care. People 80 years and more were affected disproportionately, both in terms of incidence and lethality. Men aged 60 to 80 had higher incidence of the infection, and those above the age of 60 suffered higher lethality. 5 Regions (Beira Baixa, Alto e Baixo Alentejo, Beiras e Serra da Estrela e Médio Tejo) and 5 municipalities (Resende, Ovar, Vila Real, Valongo and Oporto) had the highest cumulative incidences in the Country. As of the first day in which a case was reported, until March 30, the number of cases grew on average by 23% per day. This growth rate has been decreasing in recent days. The epidemic seems to have been more benign in Portugal than in Spain or Italy, but more virulent than in other countries such as South Korea or Japan. Until March 25, the proportion of patients admitted to ICU decrease, due to increased criteria for being admitted to such units. As of March 25, the proportion of patients admitted to ICUs increased, in parallel with an apparent increase in the severity of cases, as measured by the lethality rate.*