



Emerging Infectious Diseases and Homelessness: Using Informal Data Sources for Situational Awareness

Megan Schoonveld, MPH; Emily Mosites, PhD; Ashley Meehan, MPH

May 17, 2023

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council Conference

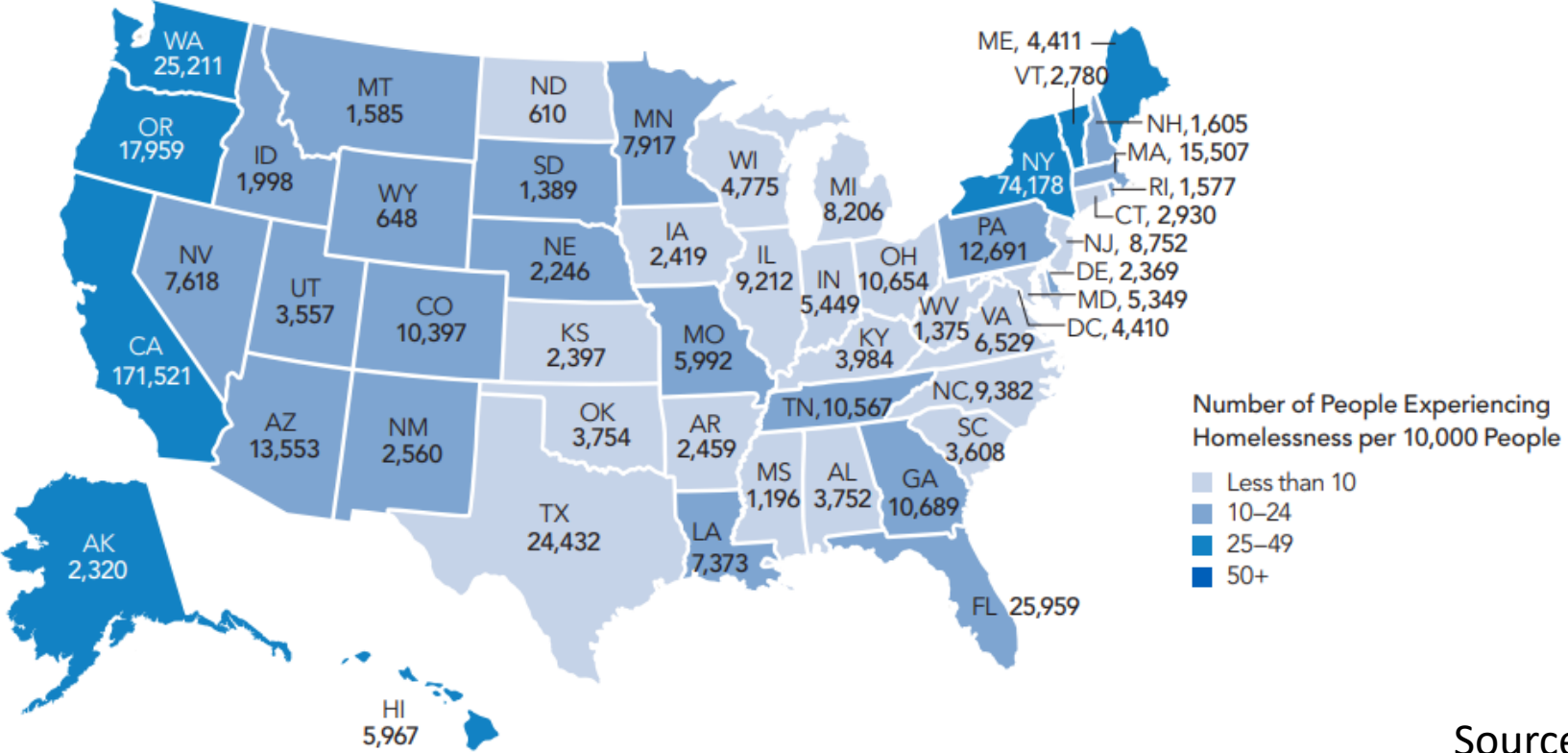
Disclaimer:

"The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry."



From a public health perspective, homelessness data remain a challenge.

At Any Given Time, Over Half a Million People Experience Homelessness on a Single Night



Source: [AHAR](#)

Why Do We Need Data Specifically for People Experiencing Homelessness?

Was the risk higher for contracting COVID-19?

Was the risk higher for severe outcomes for COVID-19?

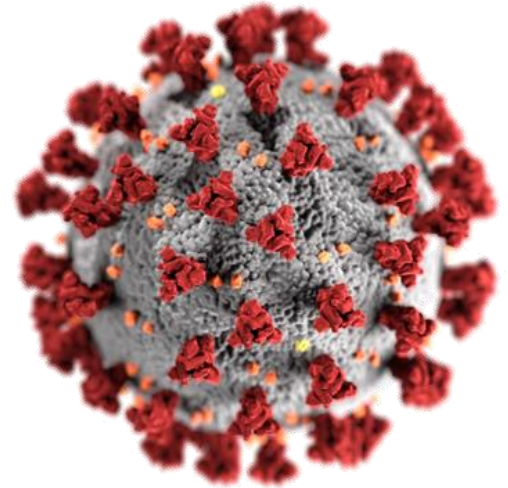
Gaps in the Data

Formal public health case reporting of emerging infectious diseases among people experiencing homelessness is often not available.

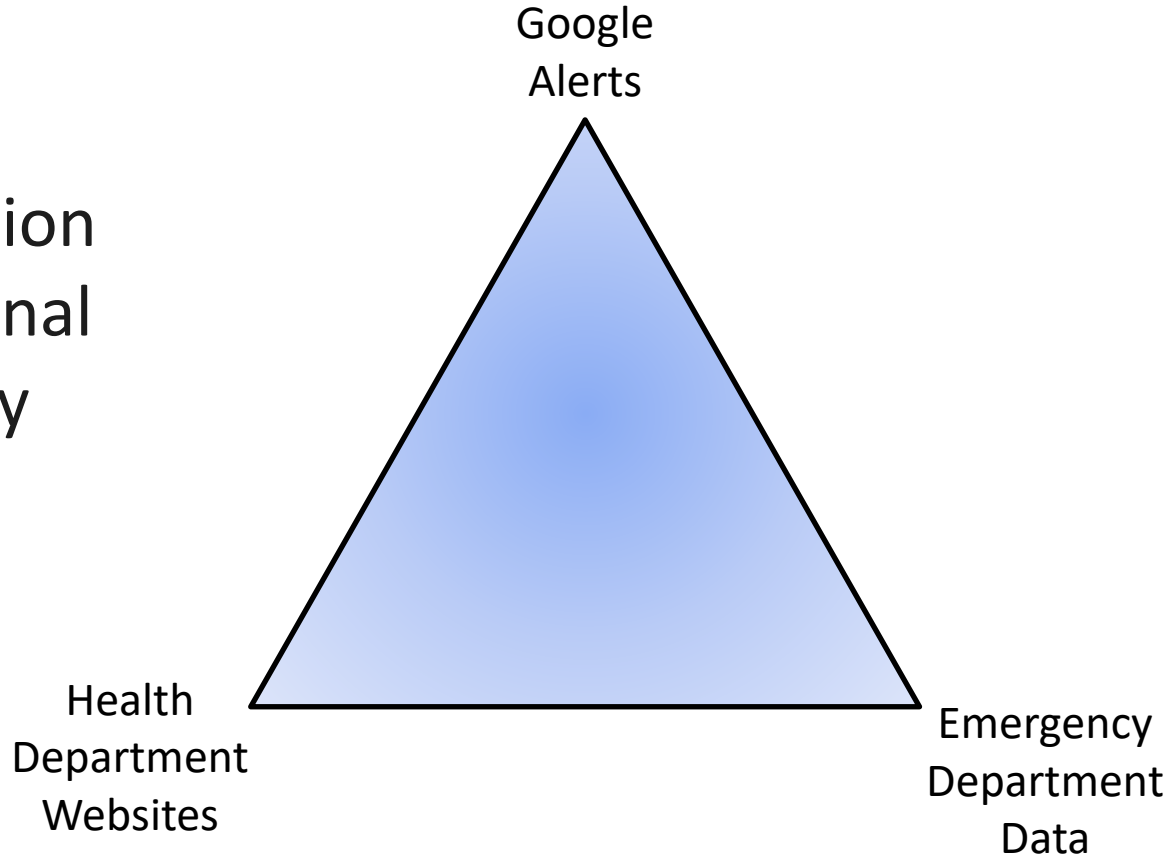


How Did We Address the Gaps in the Data?

- We used Google Alerts to notify us about news articles and reports using the keywords *homeless, homelessness, shelter, COVID, COVID-19, coronavirus, case, positive, and outbreak.*
- Additionally, we gathered information from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) about COVID-19 emergency department visits for people experiencing homelessness



Informal data collection is helpful for situational awareness, especially during public health emergencies.



Alerts

Monitor the web for interesting new content

🔍 Create an alert about...

My alerts (7)



corrections, covid



corrections, jail, prison, outbreak



encampment relocation



homeless encampment sweep



homeless, coronavirus, case, positive, covid



homeless, covid

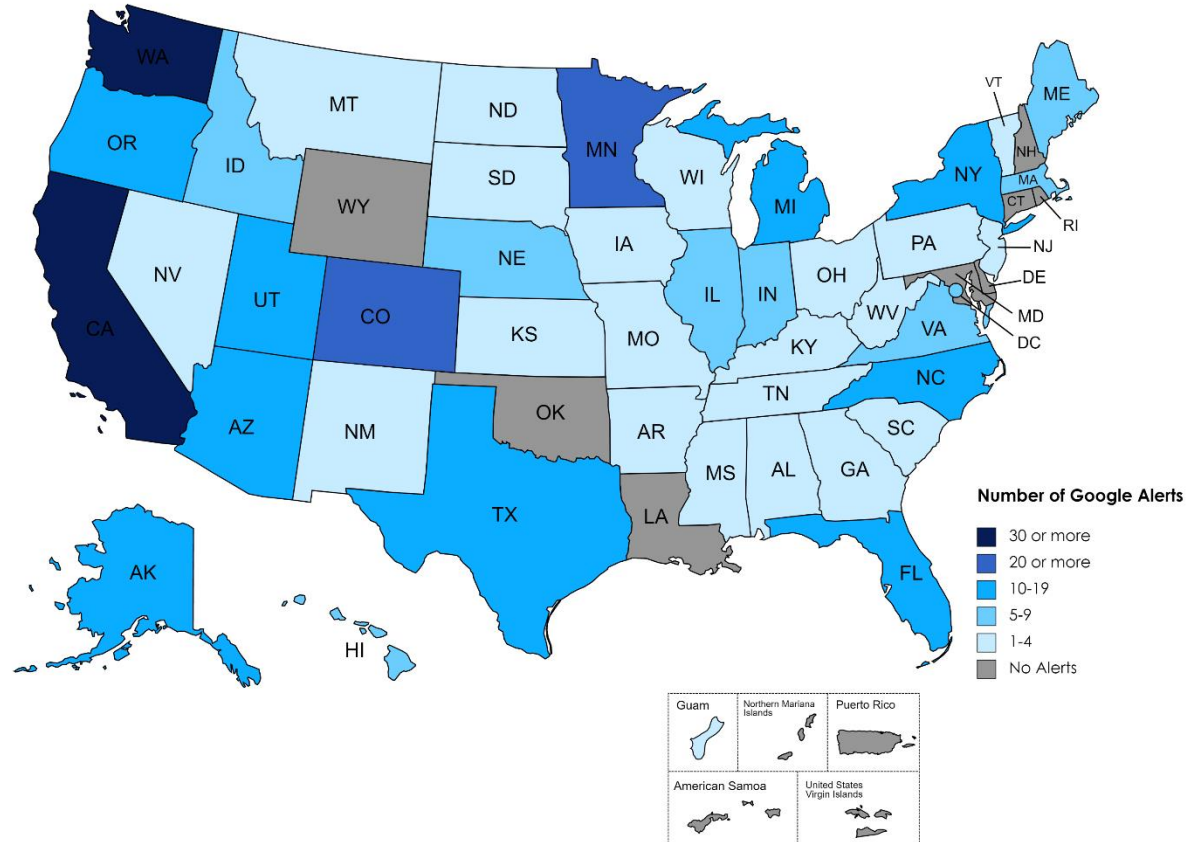


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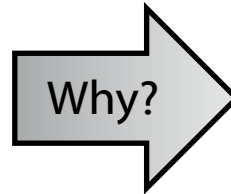
Geographic Scope of Google Alerts

April 2020-April 2023



Creating a Situation Report

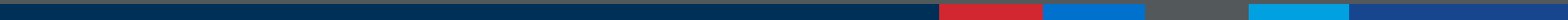
- **What information is available?**
- **What information is being updated?**
- **What information is important to the current health environment?**
- **What information is important to partners?**



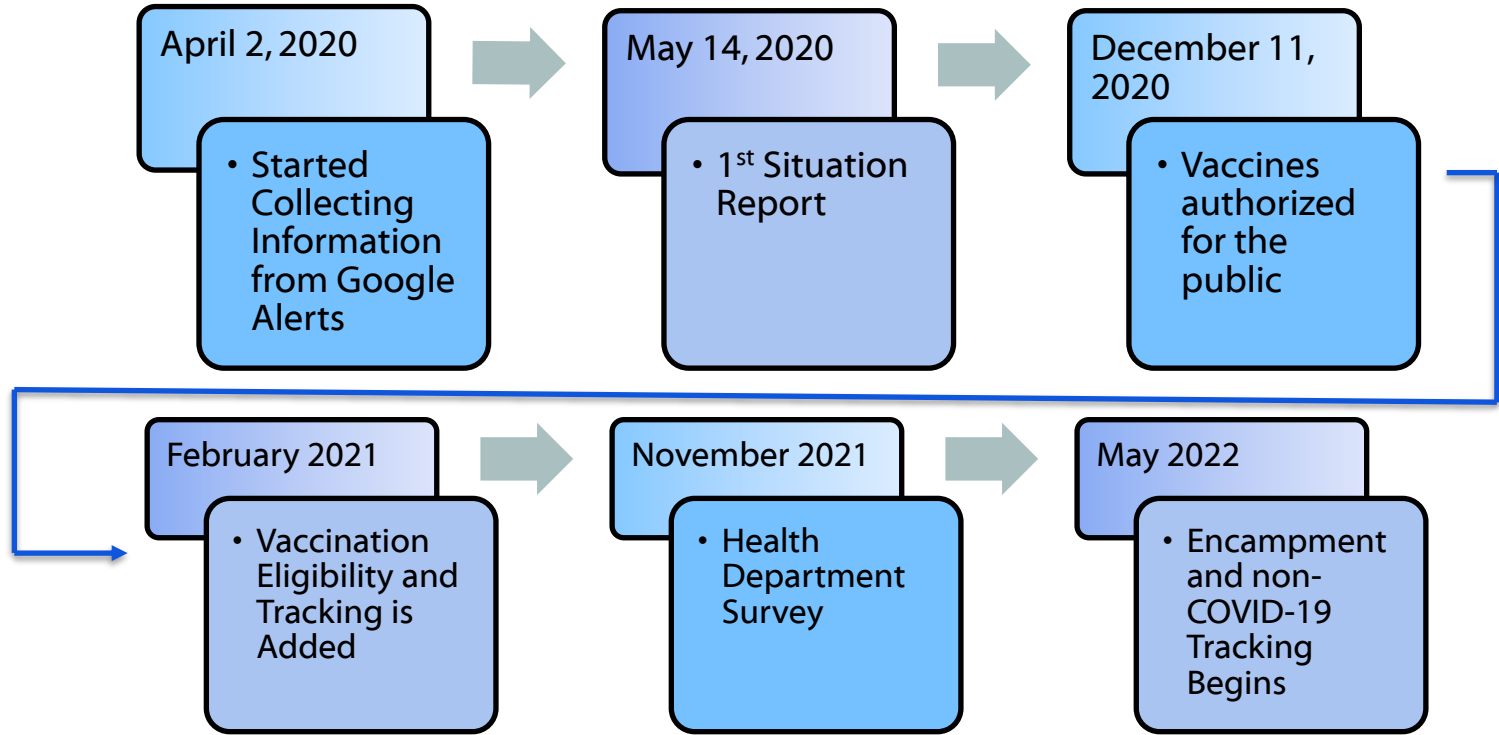
Provide decision-makers and readers a quick understanding of the current situation.

Evolution of the Situation Report

May 2020-May 2023



Timeline of Our COVID-19 Situation Report

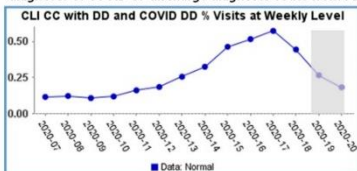


1st Version of
Situation Report:
May 2020

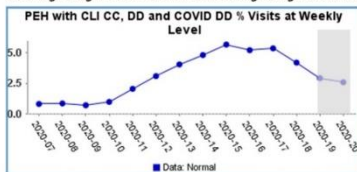
Emergency Department Trends - Weekly

Limitations: National level, new diagnosis codes

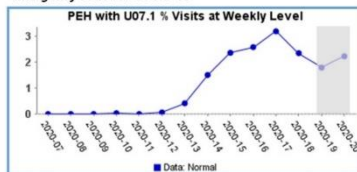
% of all visits with COVID like illness chief complaint or discharge diagnoses or COVID 19 discharge diagnoses codes from PEH



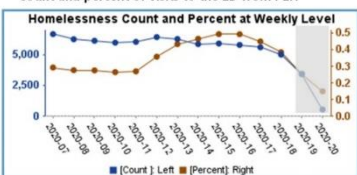
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% of visits among PEH with emergency ICD code U07.1, emergency code for COVID 19



Count and percent of visits to the ED from PEH



Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities

Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare

Cumulative Test Orders



Confirmed Positive Results

State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative
AZ	0	2
CA	0	8
GA	6	31
IL	30	30
MD	22	78
MA	7	25
MI	0	1
MN	0	1
NV	0	32
NJ	3	12
NY	2	35
OK	1	1
PA	5	27
TX	1	1
WA	10	13
Other	0	28

Deployments

- Atlanta (team of 7; 4/8-5/12)
 - 46 confirmed cases
- Los Angeles (started 5/11)

COVID-Net: Hospitalized cases at EIP sites with data on residence prior to admission

- 5/13: 82 documented homeless of 4173 (2.0%)
- 5/6: 58 documented homeless of 3128 (1.9%)
- 4/29: 43 documented homeless of 2232 (1.9%)
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Informal: Outbreak* Hotspots

Limitation: Google alerts, word of mouth.

**Outbreak defined as ≥ 2 confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and accessed or worked at the same shelter, services, or encampment*

Outbreaks alerted to within past month

Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Grand Rapids, MI (5/14)	6	
Milwaukee (5/14)	35	
Los Angeles (5/12)	122	
Salt Lake, UT (5/11)	13	
Denver, CO (5/11)	14	
St. George, UT (5/10)	7	
Flagstaff, AZ (5/7)	18	
Dubuque, IA (5/7)	5	
Minnesota (5/5)	41	
Omaha, NE (5/4)	6	
Philadelphia, PA (5/4)	37	1
Washington Co., OR (5/1)	4	
Sioux Falls, SD (4/29)	24	
Bangor, MN (4/29)	21	
Tucson, AZ (4/29)	12	
Grand Rapids, MI (4/23)	> 50	
Miami (4/23)	7	1
Worcester, MA (4/17)	46-49	
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Dallas (4/17)	38	
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Sites with ≥100 cases reported

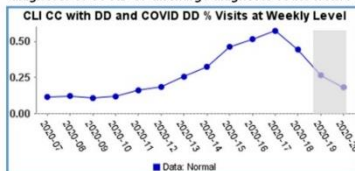
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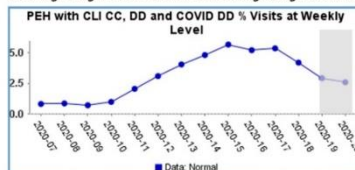
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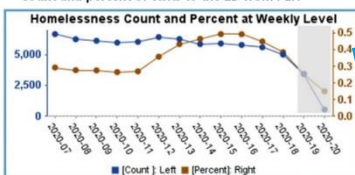
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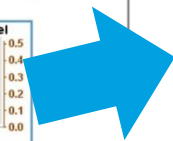
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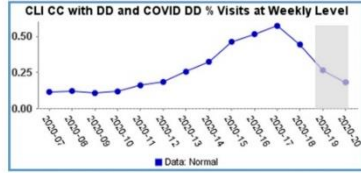


COVID-19 Among People Experiencing Homelessness Situation Report

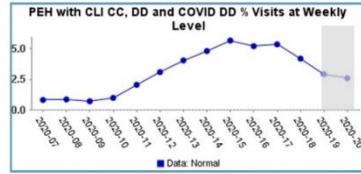
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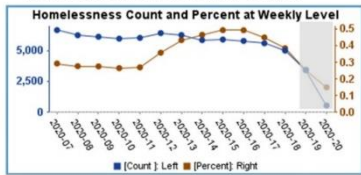
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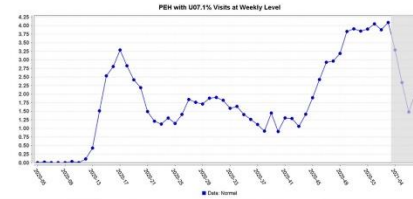
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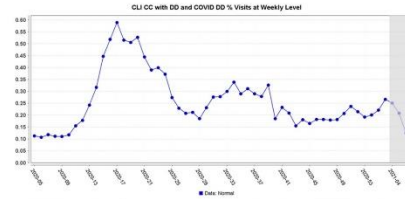
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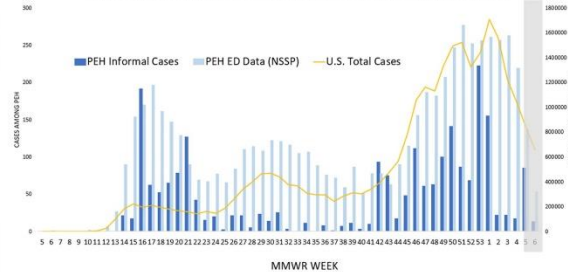
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COVID-19 cases among PEH compared to U.S. population

COVID-19 CASES AMONG PEH AND US POPULATION, AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2021



Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside

Limitation: Only 7.90%* of reported cases after May 15 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Answer options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	83	14
DC	340	—
KS	27	28
MI	64	—
MN	544	139
NY	49	—
PR	1	2
UT	593	109
VI	1	1
VT	14	—
Total	1,716	293

*Only 321,800 of 16,991,095 (1.90%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 have known housing.

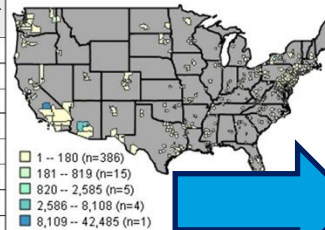
Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities

Confirmed Positive Results

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AR	0	1	IA	0	4	NC	0	1	PR	0	2
AZ	17	497	IL	14	375	NJ	13	611	SC	0	1
CA	1	3,258	IN	0	1	NV	0	1	TX	2	85
CO	0	2	MA	0	1	NY	40	235	VA	2	33
DC	0	53	MD	0	234	OH	4	50	VI	0	4
DE	0	3	MN	0	30	OK	0	2	WA	1	65
FL	0	10	MO	0	1	OR	0	1	Other	0	14
GA	1	1	MS	0	1	PA	1	171	Total	96	5,748

[Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare]

Cumulative Test Orders



Informal: Outbreak* Hotspots

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Most recent outbreaks

Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
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Charlotte, NC (2/12)	101	
Santa Rosa, CA (1/30)	7	
Portland, ME (1/28)	15	
Santa Clarita, CA (1/22)	37	
Colorado Springs, CO (1/18)	2	
Los Angeles County, CA (1/12)	72	
Spokane, WA (1/6)	133	
Durango, CO (1/6)	2	

Communities with total counts

Location (Last Update)	Cases	Deaths
San Diego County, CA (2/4)	940	12
Denver, CO (1/19)	859	
New Jersey (1/19)	50	
Washington, D.C (1/05)	350	23
Los Angeles, CA (12/23)	1,979	63
New York City (12/23)	1,815	95
Boise, ID (11/25)	50	2
Spokane, WA (11/16)	41	
Minnesota (11/16)	470	
Portland, OR (11/5)	71	
Anchorage, AK (10/18)	313	
Salt Lake County, UT (9/25)	316	

	Cases	Deaths
Cases among PEH	11,601	240
Possible additional cases	2,865	-
Total	14,466	240

*The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes both client cases and cases that may capture both clients and staff.

COVID-19 Homeless Deaths Count

<https://homelessdeathscout.org/>

Last updated Feb 9, 2021

Limitation: These data are NOT official and very likely represent a significant underestimate of actual deaths due to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.

Total Deaths	257	Cities/counties reporting	18
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COVID-Net:

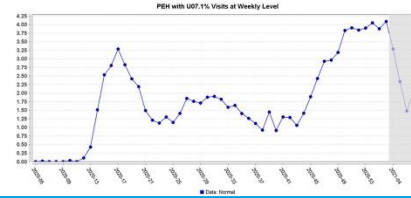
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Version 2:
February 2021

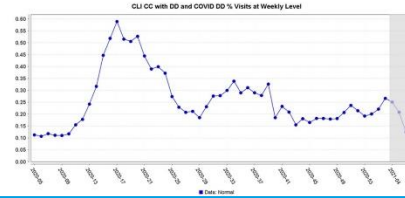
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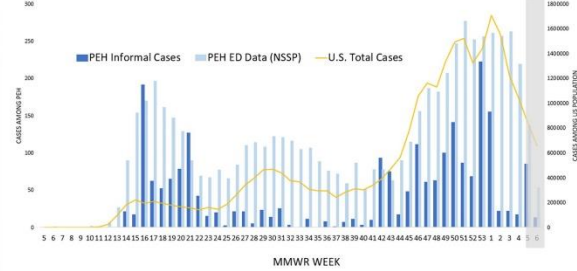
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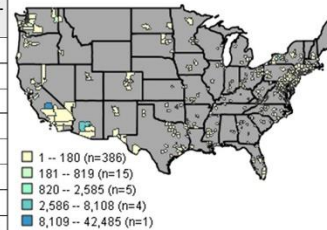
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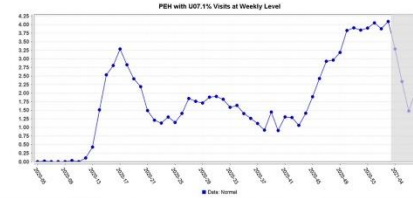
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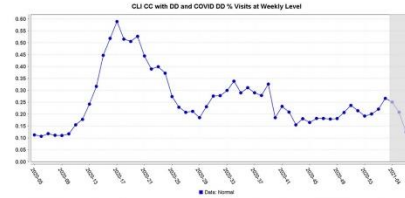
Emergency Department Trends - Weekly

% of visits among PEH with emergency ICD code U07.1, emergency code for COVID 19



[Limitations: National level, new diagnosis codes]

% of all visits with COVID like illness chief complaint or discharge diagnoses or COVID 19 discharge diagnoses codes from PEH



Informal: Outbreak* Hotspots

Limitation: Google alerts, word of mouth.
*Outbreak defined as ≥ 2 confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and accessed or worked at the same shelter, services, or encampment

Most recent outbreaks

Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Little Rock, AR (2/13)	29	
Charlotte, NC (2/12)	101	
Santa Rosa, CA (1/30)	7	
Portland, ME (1/28)	15	
Santa Clarita, CA (1/22)	37	
Colorado Springs, CO (1/18)	2	
Los Angeles County, CA (1/12)	72	
Spokane, WA (1/6)	133	
Durango, CO (1/6)	2	

Communities with total counts

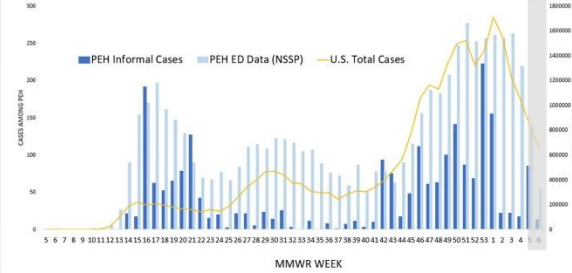
Location (Last Update)	Cases	Deaths
San Diego County, CA (2/4)	940	12
Denver, CO (1/19)	859	
New Jersey (1/19)	50	
Washington, D.C (1/05)	350	23
Los Angeles, CA (12/23)	1,979	63
New York City (12/23)	1,815	95
Boise, ID (11/25)	50	2
Spokane, WA (11/16)	41	
Minnesota (11/16)	470	
Portland, OR (11/5)	71	
Anchorage, AK (10/18)	313	
Salt Lake County, UT (9/25)	316	

	Cases	Deaths
Cases among PEH	11,601	240
Possible additional cases	2,865	
Total	14,466	240

*The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes

COVID-19 cases among PEH compared to U.S. population

COVID-19 CASES AMONG PEH AND US POPULATION, AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2021



Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside

Limitation: Only 1,90%* of reported cases after May 15 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Answer options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	83	14
DC	340	—
KS	27	28
MI	64	—
MN	544	139
NY	49	—
PR	1	2
UT	593	109
VI	1	1
VT	14	—
Total	1,716	293

*Only 321,800 of 16,991,095 (1.90%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 have known housing.

Version 2:
February 2021

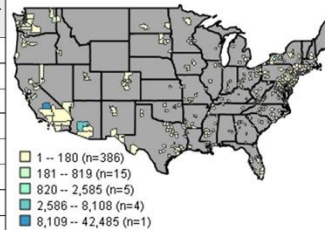
Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities

Confirmed Positive Results

State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative
AR	0	1	IA	0	4	NC	0	1	PR	0	2
AZ	17	497	IL	14	375	NJ	13	611	SC	0	1
CA	1	3,258	IN	0	1	NV	0	1	TX	2	85
CO	0	2	MA	0	1	NY	40	235	VA	2	33
DC	0	53	MD	0	234	OH	4	50	VI	0	4
DE	0	3	MN	0	30	OK	0	2	WA	1	65
FL	0	10	MO	0	1	OR	0	1	Other	0	14
GA	1	1	MS	0	1	PA	1	171	Total	96	5,748

[Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare]

Cumulative Test Orders



COVID-19 Homeless Deaths Count

<https://homelessdeathscount.org/>

Last updated Feb 9, 2021

Limitation: These data are NOT official and very likely represent a significant underestimate of actual deaths due to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.

Total Deaths	257	Cities/counties reporting	18
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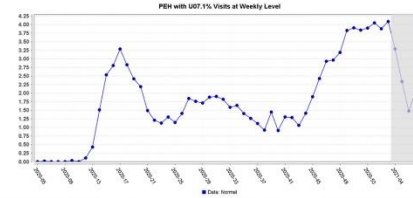
COVID-Net:

Last reported updated of hospitalized cases at EIP sites with data on residence prior to admission in the past week Date: # documented homeless / total (%) = 2.0% of 12,207* on 8/26/2020

*Data shown in weighted % and unweighted # due to a change in sampling methods on 8/12

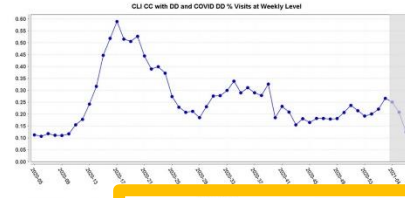
Emergency Department Trends - Weekly

% of visits among PEH with emergency ICD code U07.1, emergency code for COVID 19



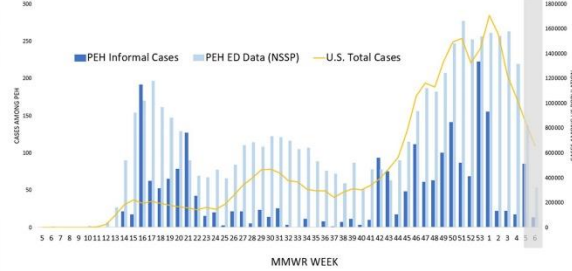
[Limitations: National level, new diagnosis codes]

% of all visits with COVID like illness chief complaint or discharge diagnoses or COVID 19 discharge diagnoses codes from PEH



COVID-19 cases among PEH compared to U.S. population

COVID-19 CASES AMONG PEH AND US POPULATION, AS OF FEBRUARY 13, 2021



Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside

Limitation: Only 7.90%* of reported cases after May 15 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Answer options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	83	14
DC	340	—
KS	27	28
MI	64	—
MN	544	139
NY	49	—
PR	1	2
UT	593	109
VI	1	1
VT	14	—
Total	1,716	293

*Only 321,800 of 16,991,095 (1.90%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 have known housing.

Informal: Outbreak* Hotspots

Limitation: Google alerts, word of mouth. *Outbreak defined as ≥ 2 confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and accessed or worked at the same shelter, services, or encampment

Most recent outbreaks

Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Little Rock, AR (2/13)	29	
Charlotte, NC (2/12)	101	
Santa Rosa, CA (1/30)	7	
Portland, ME (1/28)	15	
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Colorado Springs, CO (1/18)	2	
Los Angeles County, CA (1/12)	72	
Spokane, WA (1/6)	133	
Durango, CO (1/6)	2	

Communities with total counts

Location (Last Update)	Cases	Deaths
San Diego County, CA (2/4)	940	12
Denver, CO (1/19)	859	
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Minnesota (11/16)	470	
Portland, OR (11/5)	71	
Anchorage, AK (10/18)	313	
Salt Lake County, UT (9/25)	316	

	Cases	Deaths
Cases among PEH	11,601	240
Possible additional cases	2,865	-
Total	14,466	240

*The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes both client cases and cases that may capture both clients and staff.

COVID-19 Homeless Deaths Count

<https://homelessdeathscout.org/>
Last updated Feb 9, 2021

Limitation: These data are NOT official and very likely represent a significant underestimate of actual deaths due to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.

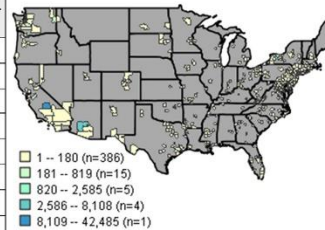
Total Deaths	257	Cities/counties reporting	18
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Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities
Confirmed Positive Results

State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative
AR	0	1	IA	0	4	NC	0	1	PR	0	2
AZ	17	497	IL	14	375	NJ	13	611	SC	0	1
CA	1	3,258	IN	0	1	NV	0	1	TX	2	85
CO	0	2	MA	0	1	NY	40	235	VA	2	33
DC	0	53	MD	0	234	OH	4	50	VI	0	4
DE	0	3	MN	0	30	OK	0	2	WA	1	65
FL	0	10	MO	0	1	OR	0	1	Other	0	14
GA	1	1	MS	0	1	PA	1	171	Total	96	5,748

[Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare]

Cumulative Test Orders



Version 2:
February 2021

COVID-Net:

Last reported updated of hospitalized cases at EIP sites with data on residence prior to admission in the past week Date: # documented homeless / total (%) = 2.0% of 12,207* on 8/26/2020

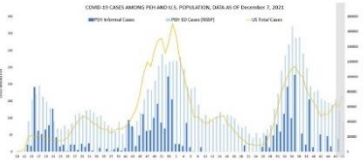
*Data shown in weighted % and unweighted # due to a change in sampling methods on 8/12

Emergency Department Trends - Weekly

% of all ED visits with COVID-19 Discharge Diagnosis (U07.1) that occurred among PEH, by week



Epi Curve of COVID-19 Cases



*A small number of cases were reported prior to week 10; therefore weeks 1 through 9 are not included in this graph.

Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside

Limitation: Only 3.14%* of reported cases after May 15, 2020 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Active options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.

*Only 1,146,420 of 36,491,534 (3.14%) cases reported to CDC after May 15, 2020 have known housing.

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	91	34
DC	348	—
ID	194	29
KS	86	63
KY	888	106
MI	64	—
MN	3,079	221
NY	63	—
OH	232	75
PR	4	4
UT	775	174
VI	21	1
VT	37	—
Total	3,821	687

Informal Outbreak* Hotspots Limitation: Google alerts, word of mouth.

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports		
Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Pittsfield, MA (11/25)	12	—
Oshkosh, WI (11/22)	25	—
Indio, CA (11/8)	16	—
Tallahassee, FL (11/3)	45	—
Lansing, MI (10/22)	39	—
Fredricksburg, VA (10/18)	12	—
Cumulative Overview**		
Cases among PEH	17,030	514
Possible additional cases	1,970	—
Total	19,000	514

*Outbreak defined as ≥ 2 confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and occurred or started at the same shelter, services, or encampment

Locations with total counts		
Location (Last Update)	Cases	Deaths
Sonoma County, CA (10/18)	330	5
Alameda County, CA (8/13)	396	—

**The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes both client cases and cases that may capture both clients and staff

Public health department data for COVID-19 cases among PEH*

Public health department PEH COVID-19 cases				
Location (Date last updated)	Cases	Deaths	Outbreaks ¹	
San Diego, CA (11/17)	15,29	32	—	
San Francisco, CA (11/30)	984 (+4)	7	—	
Los Angeles County, CA (11/28)	9,882 (+91)	263 (+1)	1,075 (+13)	
Orange County, CA (12/3)	1,081 (+3)	18 (+1)	—	
Kang County, WA (12/2)	2,770 (+3)	50 (+1)	147	
Washington D.C. (12/2)	662 (+1)	25	—	
Colorado State (12/1)	1,269 (+17)	1	48 (+1)	
North Carolina State** (11/24)	5,774 (+4)	22	15	
Illinois State** (12/3)	—	—	34 (+5)	
Michigan State** (11/30)	—	—	9	

*Data is taken from public health department websites. Not all counties or states report data on COVID-19 cases among PEH on public-facing websites

¹Cumulative number of outbreaks during COVID-19
²Data on cases, deaths, outbreaks in PEH in DC is reported at other congressional settings, which includes homeless shelters, and migrant worker shelters. It reports on number of outbreaks in transient shelters.

Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities

Confirmed Positive Results

State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative
AR	0	1	IA	0	4	NC	0	3	SC	0	6
AZ	0	778	IL	16	450	NJ	9	790	TX	6	113
CA	9	3,429	IN	0	1	NV	0	2	VA	1	59
CD	0	17	LA	0	3	NY	0	342	WI	0	4
DC	0	53	MA	0	3	OH	0	67	WA	1	137
DE	0	4	MD	0	352	OK	0	2	WV	1	1
FL	0	20	MN	1	44	OR	0	1	Other	0	22
GA	0	1	MO	0	2	PA	2	218	Total	46	6,933
MS	0	2	PR	0	2						

[Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare]

Informal Vaccine Tracking*

Location (Last Update)	Number of PEH Vaccinated	Number of doses administered
San Diego County, CA (11/17)	11,832	—
Denton, TX (11/18)	32	—
Springfield, IL (10/13)	17	—
NYC, NY (09/22)	160	—
Santa Fe Springs, CA (09/12)	5	—
Portland, OR (8/13)	25	—
Other Locations	43,521	85,994
Total	55,037	85,994

*Completed vaccination events may include vaccination events where either the first dose or second dose has been completed.

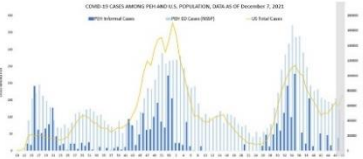
Version 4:
December 2021

Emergency Department Trends - Weekly

% of all ED visits with COVID-19 Discharge Diagnosis (U07.1) that occurred among PEH, by week



Epi Curve of COVID-19 Cases



*A small number of cases were reported prior to week 10; therefore weeks 1 through 9 are not included in this graph.

Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	91	34
DC	348	—
ID	194	29
KS	86	63
KY	888	106
MI	64	—
MN	3,079	221
NY	63	—
OH	232	75
PR	4	4
UT	775	174
VI	21	1
VT	37	—
Total	8,821	687

Limitation: Only 8.14%* of reported cases after May 15 2020 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Active options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.

*Only 1,146,420 of 36,491,534 (3.14%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 2020 have known housing.

Commercial laboratory tests from homeless healthcare facilities

Confirmed Positive Results

State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative	State	Past 2 Weeks	Cumulative
AR	0	1	IA	0	4	NC	0	3	SC	0	6
AZ	0	778	IL	16	450	NJ	9	790	TX	6	113
CA	9	3,429	IN	0	1	NV	0	2	VA	1	59
CD	0	17	LA	0	3	NY	0	342	WI	0	4
DC	0	53	MA	0	3	OH	0	67	WA	1	137
DE	0	4	MD	0	352	OK	0	2	WV	1	1
FL	0	20	MN	1	44	OR	0	1	Other	0	22
GA	0	1	MO	0	2	PA	2	218	Total	46	6,933
MS	0	2	PR	0	2						

[Limitation: Only facilities tagged as homeless healthcare]

Informal Outbreak* Hotspots

Limitation: Google alerts, word of mouth.

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports		
Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Pittsfield, MA (11/25)	12	—
Oshkosh, WI (11/22)	25	—
Indio, CA (11/8)	16	—
Tallahassee, FL (11/3)	45	—
Lansing, MI (10/22)	39	—
Fredricksburg, VA (10/18)	12	—
Cumulative Overview**		
Cases among PEH	17,030	514
Possible additional cases	1,970	—
Total	19,000	514

*Outbreak defined as 2+ confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and assessed or treated at the same shelter, services, or encampment

Locations with total counts		
Location (Last Update)	Cases	Deaths
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Alameda County, CA (8/13)	396	—

**The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes both client cases and cases that may capture both clients and staff

Public health department data for COVID-19 cases among PEH*

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Kang County, WA (12/2)	2,770 (+3)	50 (+1)	147	—
Washington D.C. (12/2)	662 (+1)	25	—	—
Colorado State (12/1)	1,269 (+17)	1	48 (+1)	—
North Carolina State** (11/24)	5,774 (+4)	22	15	—
Illinois State** (12/3)	—	—	34 (+5)	—
Michigan State* (11/30)	—	—	9	—

*Data is taken from public health department websites. Not all counties or states report data on COVID-19 cases among PEH on public-facing websites

¹Cumulative number of outbreaks during COVID-19

**Data on cases, deaths, outbreaks in PEH in DC is reported at other congregate settings, which includes homeless shelters, and migrant worker shelters. It reports on number of outbreaks in homeless shelters

Informal Vaccine Tracking*

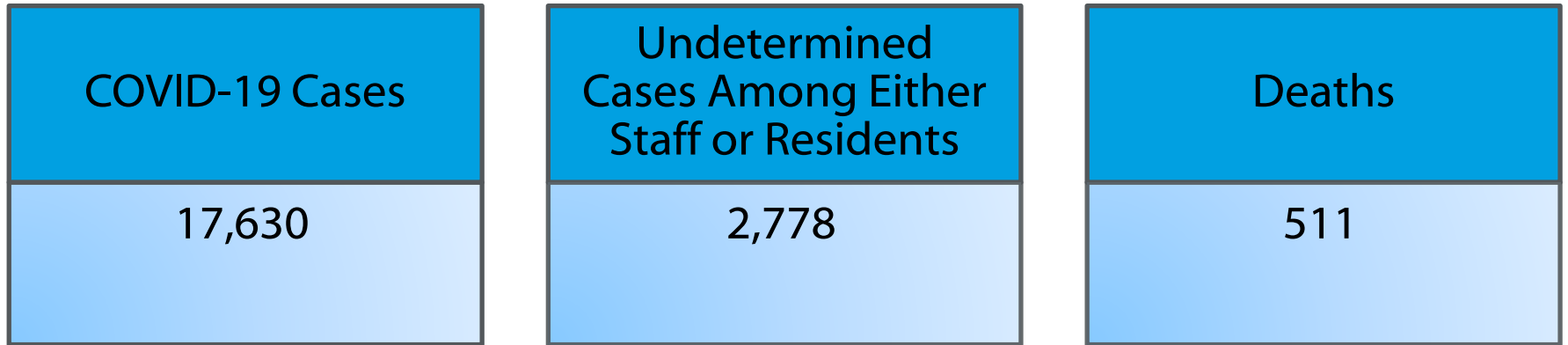
Location (Last Update)	Number of PEH Vaccinated	Number of doses administered
San Diego County, CA (11/17)	11,832	—
Denton, TX (11/18)	32	—
Springfield, IL (10/13)	17	—
NYC, NY (09/22)	160	—
Santa Fe Springs, CA (09/12)	5	—
Portland, OR (8/13)	25	—
Other Locations	43,521	85,994
Total	55,037	85,994

*Completed vaccination events may include vaccination events where either the first dose or second dose has been

Version 4:
December 2021

Situation Report Findings: Google Alerts

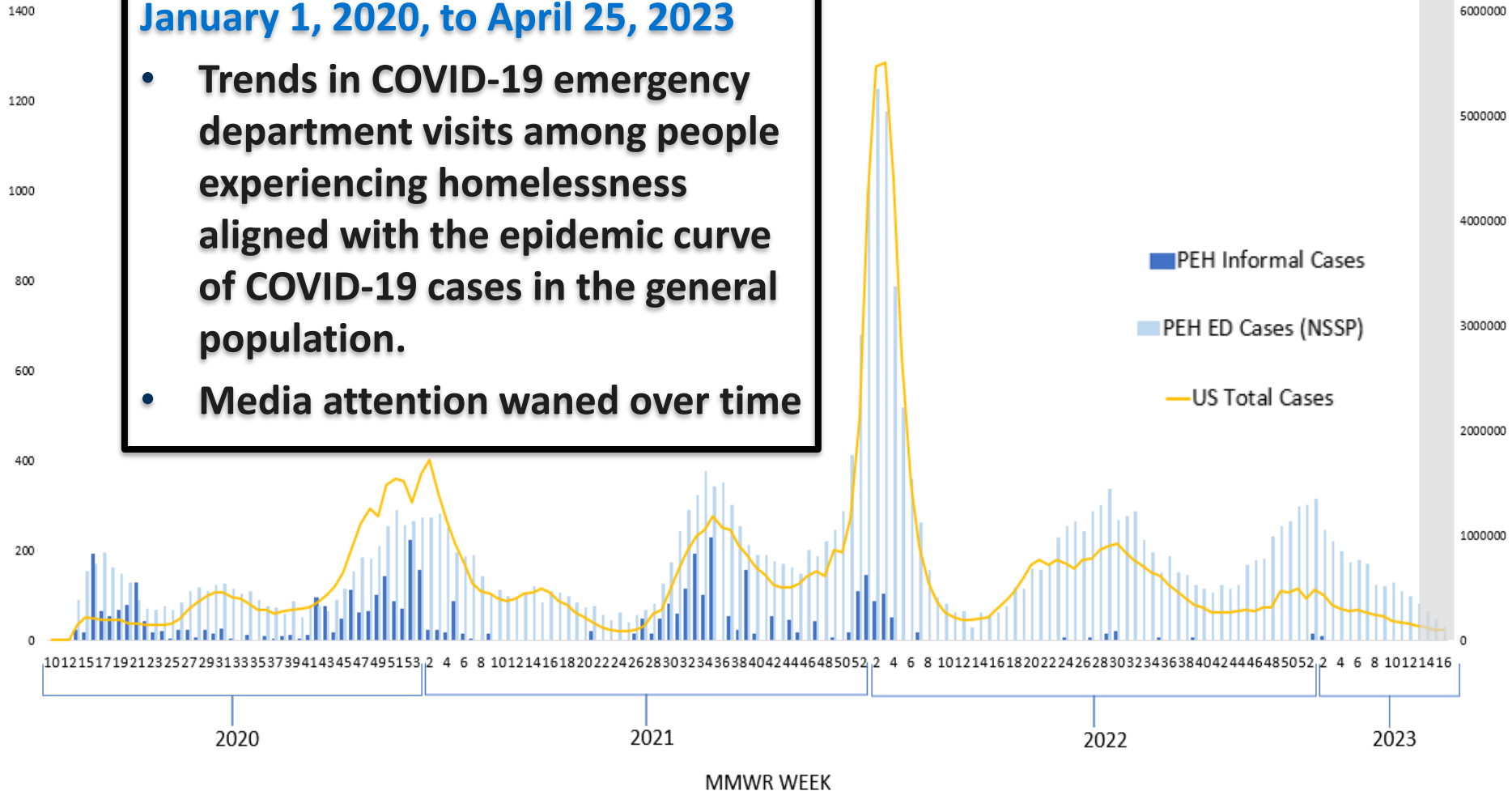
March 26, 2020-April 26, 2023



January 1, 2020, to April 25, 2023

- Trends in COVID-19 emergency department visits among people experiencing homelessness aligned with the epidemic curve of COVID-19 cases in the general population.
- Media attention waned over time

CASES AMONG PEH



Ongoing Challenges in Data for the Situation Report

Hard to tease out if outbreak ongoing or resolved

Amount/frequency of alerts

Media reports more concentrated in urban areas

NSSP with Google Alerts, not exactly the same (triangulation)

Google reported upcoming testing events, but hard to find published results of those testing events

Efforts to Validate Our Informal Data

Community Testing Reporting Platform

May 2020-September 2021

Dashboard Summary

Last data submission: 09/01/21



705

Total Testing Events Submitted



21,028

Total Clients Tested



5.82%

Client COVID-19 Positivity Rate



4,194

Total Staff Tested



2.86%

Staff COVID-19 Positivity Rate



30

Total Vaccination Events



586

Total Clients Receiving Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine



437

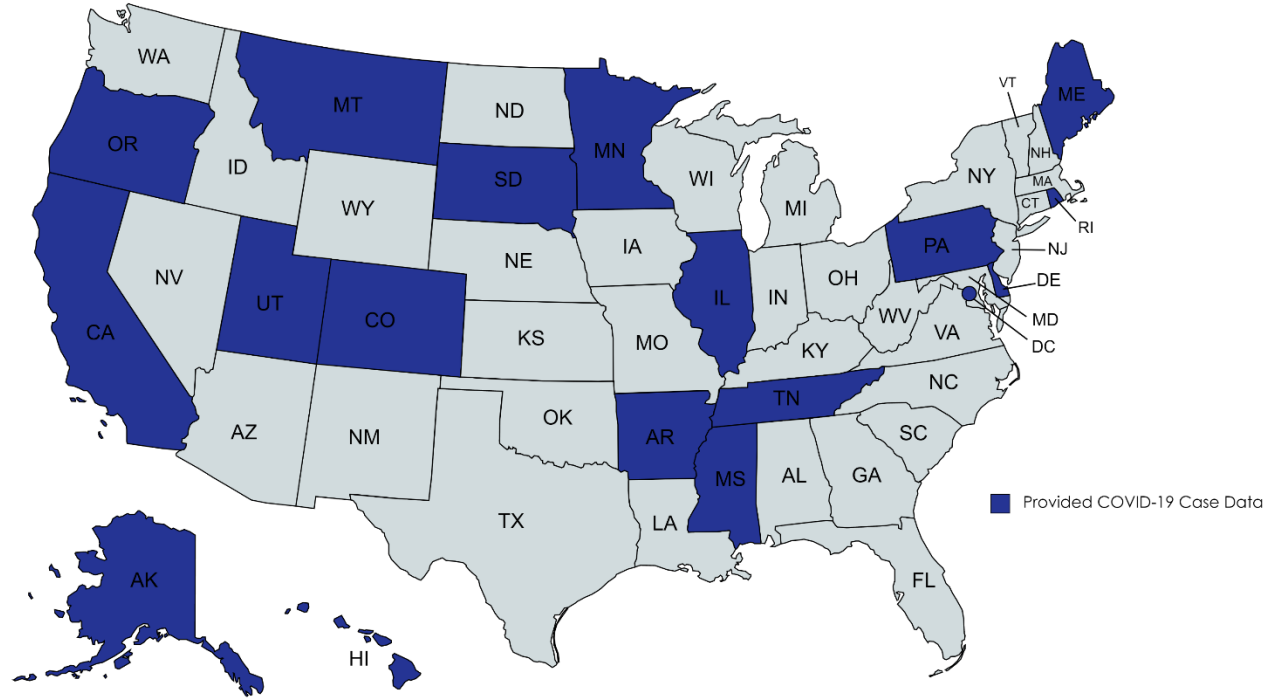
Total Staff Receiving Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and National Health Care for the Homeless Council ([NHCHC](#)), Universal COVID-19 Testing Events: "State-Level COVID-19 Testing and Positivity Trends." <https://nhchc.org/covid-19-cdc-data-dashboard/state-level-covid-19-testing-and-positivity-trends/>

Source: [NHCHC](#)

COVID-19 Burden Among People Experiencing Homelessness

26,349 cases of COVID-19 among PEH at the state level and 20,487 at the local level from



([Meehan et al., 2022](#))

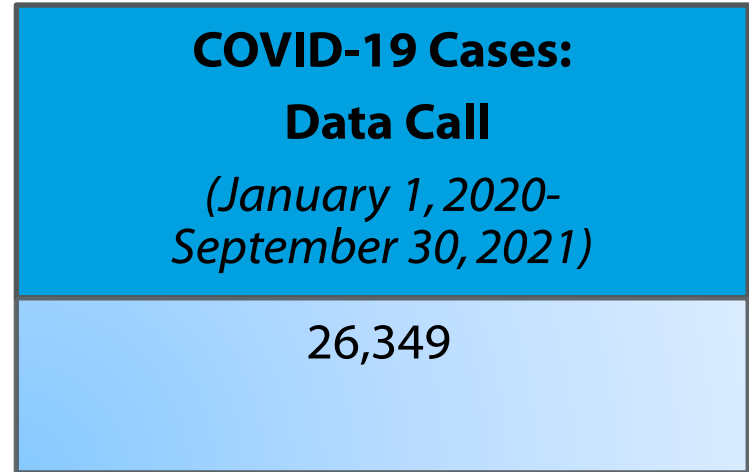
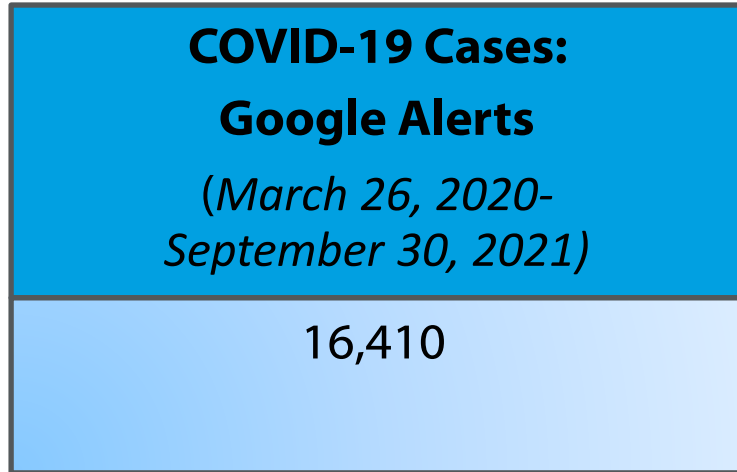
State Jurisdictions

- People Experiencing Homelessness
 - 567.9 cases per 10,000 person-years
- General Population
 - 715.0 cases per 10,000 person-years

Local Jurisdictions

- People Experiencing Homelessness
 - 799.2 cases per 10,000 person-years
- General Population
 - 812.5 cases per 10,000 person-years

Google Alerts Findings vs Data Call Findings



Expanding beyond COVID-19

A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide, consisting of several colored segments: a long dark blue segment on the left, followed by a shorter red segment, a shorter light blue segment, a shorter cyan segment, and a final dark blue segment on the right.

General Information

Infectious Disease Outbreaks*

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports				
Disease	Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths	Resolved?
Shigella	San Diego (1/14)	53	—	Yes
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—

*Date Source: Google alerts, word of mouth.

Recent Encampment Sweeps Identified Among PEH*

Most Recent Encampment Sweep Reports		
Location (Date of Last Sweep)	# of People	# of Camps
New York City, NY (5/4)	—	2
Berkeley, CA (5/4)	12	—
St. Louis, MO (5/2)	—	2
Portland, OR (4/28)	—	1
Sacramento, CA (4/11)	—	1

*Date Source: Google alerts, word of mouth.

COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 Community Levels of All Counties Among Total US Population



Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside*

Limitation: Only 2.98%* of reported cases after May 15 2020 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Answer options did not include 'homeless shelter' or 'outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation' prior to mid-May.

*Only 1,941,629 of 65,240,195 (2.98%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 2020 have known housing.

Data available: 05/15/2020-05/09/2022

*These data are aggregated from case report forms reported to CDC

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	95	18
AR	590	—
DC	370	—
ID	338	44
KS	102	75
KY	1,225	214
LA	1	—
MI	63	—
MN	1,802	270
NYC	57	—
OH	415	158
PR	4	4
UT	787	271
VI	22	5
VT	90	—
Total	5,951	1,059

Informal COVID-19 Outbreak* Hotspots

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports		
Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Eugene, OR (2/16)	16	—
King County, WA (2/4)	—	1
Salinas, CA (1/29)	6	—
Topeka, KS (1/23)	44	—
Oakland, CA (1/21)	34	—
Cumulative Overview**		
Cases among PEH	17,645	511
Possible additional cases	2,778	—
Total	20,423	511

*Outbreak defined as ≥ 2 confirmed or probable cases with illness onset within 14 days and occurred or worked at the same shelter, services, or encampment

**The cases among people experiencing homelessness includes only cases that were designated as clients. The potential additional cases are from reports where cases were not disaggregated and might include homeless shelter staff members. The total count includes both client cases and cases that may capture both clients and staff

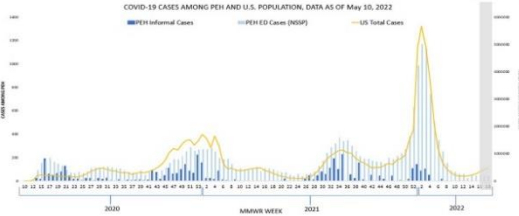
Public health department data for COVID-19 cases among PEH*

Public health department PEH COVID-19 cases			
Location (Date updated)	Cases	Deaths	Outbreaks ¹
San Diego, CA (5/5)	2,236 (+2)	40	—
San Francisco, CA (5/3)	1,955 (+18)	13	—
Los Angeles County, CA (4/30)	18,420	349	1,544 (+7)
Orange County, CA (5/6)	1,748	21	—
Colorado State (5/6)	1,601	4	61
North Carolina State** (5/4)	6,598 (+15)	23	12
Michigan State** (5/2)	—	—	34 (+2)

*Cumulative number of outbreaks during COVID-19
¹Outbreaks are reported as either congregate settings, which includes homeless shelters and migrant worker dorms.

Epi Curve of COVID-19 Cases*

*A small number of cases were reported prior to week 10; therefore weeks 1 through 9 are not included in this graph.



General Information

Infectious Disease Outbreaks*

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports				
Disease	Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths	Resolved?
Shigella	San Diego (1/14)	53	—	Yes
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—

*Data Source: Google alerts, word of mouth.

Recent Encampment Sweeps Identified Among PEH*

Most Recent Encampment Sweep Reports		
Location (Date of Last Sweep)	# of People	# of Camps
New York City, NY (5/4)	—	2
Berkeley, CA (5/4)	12	—
St. Louis, MO (5/2)	—	2
Portland, OR (4/28)	—	1
Sacramento, CA (4/11)	—	1

*Data Source: Google alerts, word of mouth.

COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 Community Levels of All Counties Among Total US Population



Cases with illness onset while staying in homeless shelters or outside*

Limitation: Only 2.98%* of reported cases after May 15 2020 have a known housing status at the time of illness onset. Answer options did not include "homeless shelter" or "outside, in a car, or other location not meant for human habitation" prior to mid-May.
*Only 1,941,629 of 65,240,195 (2.98%) cases reported to CDC after May 15 2020 have known housing.

Data available: 05/15/2020-05/09/2022

*These data are aggregated from case report forms reported to CDC

State	In a shelter	Outside, or other
AK	95	18
AR	590	—
DC	370	—
ID	338	44
KS	102	75
KY	1,225	214
LA	1	—
MI	63	—
MN	1,802	270
NYC	57	—
OH	415	158
PR	4	4
UT	787	271
VI	22	5
VT	90	—
Total	5,951	1,059

Informal COVID-19 Outbreak* Hotspots

Data Source: Google alerts, word of mouth.

Most recent cases/outbreaks or death reports		
Location (Date of Alert)	Cases	Deaths
Eugene, OR (2/16)	16	—
King County, WA (2/4)	—	1
Salinas, CA (1/29)	6	—
Topeka, KS (1/23)	44	—
Oakland, CA (1/21)	34	—
Cumulative Overview**		
Cases among PEH	17,645	511
Possible additional cases	2,778	—
Total	20,423	511

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Public health department data for COVID-19 cases among PEH*

*Limitation: Not all health departments report information for PEH

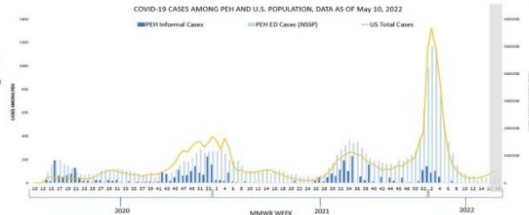
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¹Cumulative number of outbreaks during COVID-19

**Data for NC is reported as other congregate settings, which includes homeless shelters and migrant worker dorms.

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—	—	—	—	—
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Current Version:
May 2022

Challenges with non-COVID data

Not many media reports on non-COVID-19 infectious diseases

- 53 cases of Shigella in San Diego, California
- 2 cases of Mpox in Washington D.C

Encampment Sweep alerts not appearing when known sweeps are happening

Alerts are less common around major holidays

What we learned

Informal data sources can play a role in situational awareness in public health emergencies.

Informal data can be useful in guiding outreach.

Integration of health and housing data is needed to understand infectious disease burden.

Discussion & Questions

Question 1

Where were you getting information about COVID-19 burden among people experiencing homelessness?

Question 2

What engagement or communication do you or did you have with the media, news, and others about COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness?

Contact information:
Special Populations Team
SpecialPopulations@cdc.gov

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



References

- [The 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report \(AHAR to Congress\) Part 1: Point-In-Time Estimates of Homelessness, December 2022 \(huduser.gov\)](#)
- [Incidence of COVID-19 Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness in the US From January 2020 to November 2021 | Health Disparities | JAMA Network Open | JAMA Network](#)
- [CDC COVID Dashboard Landing Page - National Health Care for the Homeless Council \(nhchc.org\)](#)