

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum

March 25, 2022

A dark blue diagonal graphic element that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, creating a triangular shape in the bottom right of the slide.

Today's Facilitators



Colleen Reinert, MPH
Chief National Programs
Officer
MHP Salud



Alaina Boyer, PhD
Director of Implementation
Research
*National Healthcare for the
Homeless Council*

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- BPHC Update: Suma Nair, PhD, MS, RD
- Q&A with Suma
- National Council for Mental Wellbeing
- National Latino Behavioral Health Association
- Conclusion and Evaluation

National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs)



HRSA COVID-19 FAQs

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If the answer to your question is not located here or in the [Coronavirus-Related Funding FAQs](#), please submit it through [Health Center Program Support online](#) and select "Coronavirus Inquiries (COVID-19)" as the issue type, or call 877-464-4772, option 2, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday (except federal holidays).

Access more [COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners](#).

Access [FY 2020 Health Center Program Look-Alikes: Expanding Capacity for Coronavirus Testing \(LAL ECT\) Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Access resources for [UDS Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Reporting](#).

https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions?field_faq_category_tid=306&combine=

Health Center Resource Clearinghouse

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Health Center Resource Clearinghouse. At the top left is the logo, a red and blue geometric shape next to the text "HEALTH CENTER RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE". To the right is a navigation menu with links: "ABOUT", "PARTNERS", "SEARCH", "PRIORITY TOPICS", "PROMISING PRACTICES", and "CONNECT". Below the navigation is a red banner with white text: "YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED! ALL health centers should complete to the weekly HRSA/BPHC COVID-19 Survey. Your responses are critical to identify community health center needs related to addressing the COVID-19 crisis." Below the banner is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search the Clearinghouse: Enter Search Terms Here" and a dark blue "SEARCH" button. On the left side, there is a "COVID-19 Resources:" section with a list of links: "> COVID-19 Promising Practices", "> Get Prepared: Vaccine Distribution", "> Emergency Management and Operations", "> Telehealth", "> Governance", and "> Special and Vulnerable Populations". The main content area features a large image of a healthcare worker in full PPE (goggles, mask, cap) attending to an elderly patient wearing a face mask. Overlaid on the image is the text "Quick Finds: ↓ Use the links below to find resources on key topics". At the bottom of the page, there are three icons with labels: a medical cross for "Clinical Issues", a document with a magnifying glass for "HIT/Data", and a group of people for "Social Determinants of Health".

HEALTH CENTER RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE

ABOUT ▾ PARTNERS ▾ SEARCH ▾ PRIORITY TOPICS ▾ PROMISING PRACTICES ▾ CONNECT ▾

YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED! ALL health centers should complete to the weekly HRSA/BPHC COVID-19 Survey. Your responses are critical to identify community health center needs related to addressing the COVID-19 crisis.

🔍 Search the Clearinghouse: Enter Search Terms Here SEARCH

COVID-19 Resources:

- > COVID-19 Promising Practices
- > Get Prepared: Vaccine Distribution
- > Emergency Management and Operations
- > Telehealth
- > Governance
- > Special and Vulnerable Populations

↓ Quick Finds: ↓
Use the links below to find resources on key topics

🏥 Clinical Issues 📄 HIT/Data 👤 Social Determinants of Health

www.healthcenterinfo.org

Got Vaccinators?

Some health centers are facing challenges recruiting qualified individuals to support and expand their vaccination capacity.

If you have promising practices, sample recruitment tools or template documents, please consider sharing on the [Health Center Resource Clearinghouse Vaccine Distribution](#) page by completing this short [submit your resource](#) form.

Zoom Etiquette

- All participants muted upon entry
- Cameras on (if possible)
- Add questions to the chat box
- Raise hand if you would like to unmute



BPHC Update

Suma Nair, PhD, MS, RD

Director, Office of Quality Improvement
*Bureau of Primary Health Care
Health Resources and Services
Administration*





Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum

Friday, March 25, 2022

Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Programs Team
Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Health Center COVID-19 Response Programs

AGENDA

- Testing Supply Program
- Therapeutics Program
- N95 Mask Program
- Vaccine Program
- Partnerships
- Public Health Emergency
- Uninsured Program and Coverage Assistance Fund
- National Mental Health Strategy
- Questions and Answers



HRSA COVID-19 Direct Allocation Programs

To ensure our nation's underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 have equitable access to critical COVID-19 response tools, HRSA is making the following resources to health centers and rural health clinics:

- Adult and Pediatric Vaccines
- Diagnostic Testing Supplies
 - ✓ At-home, self-tests that can be distributed to patients and the community keep on hand
 - ✓ Point-of-care tests for provider settings
- Therapeutics, including oral antiviral pills
- N95 Face Masks

For additional information, visit <https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus>.



HRSA COVID-19 Testing Supply Program

At-Home Self-Test Kits:

- ✓ Almost 17M at-home self-tests ordered
- ✓ Quidel QuickVue At-Home OTC Self-Tests
 - Rapid antigen test that can be self-administered
 - Test effective for both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases

Point of Care Tests:

- ✓ Almost 725 point of care analyzers and more than 807,000 test strips ordered
- ✓ BD Veritor™ Plus Analyzers
 - A handheld device that reads the specimen on the test strip and provides a digital result
 - One analyzer may be used for up to approximately 10,000 test strips
- ✓ COVID-19 Only Test Strips and COVID-19 and Flu A/B (called Triplex in HPOp) Test Strips



HRSA COVID-19 Therapeutics Program



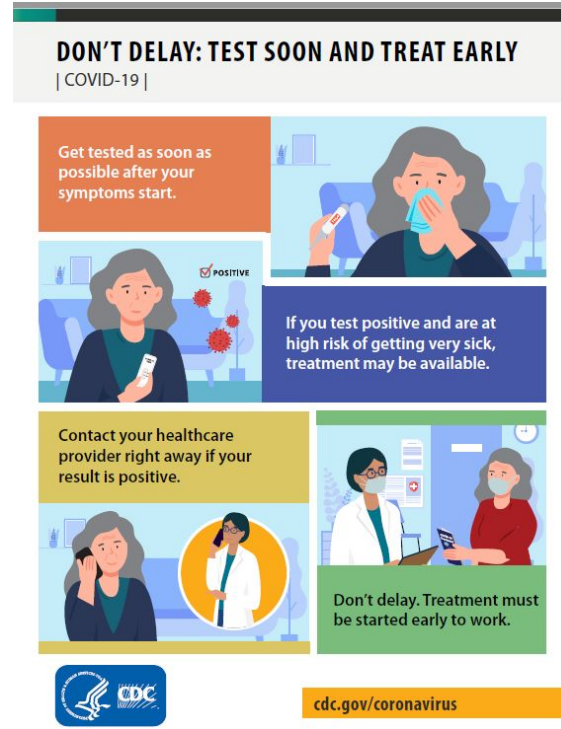
- Supplements state/jurisdictional allocations and aims to ensure equitable access by providing an additional supply directly to health centers.
- Two oral antiviral pills:
Merck's **Molnupiravir** and Pfizer's **Paxlovid**.
- Over **200** health centers have ordered over **50,000** courses of oral antivirals
- Program expansion plans underway

For more information visit [HRSA Health Center COVID-19 Therapeutics Program](#)



COVID-19: Test to Treat Strategy

- A robust Test to Treat program is critical in the fight against COVID-19.
- Outpatient COVID-19 treatment closely linked to testing can be effectively integrated and delivered through primary care.
- [Infographic CDC Test Soon and Treat Early](#)
- [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)
- [Test to Treat Webinar](#)
- [ASPR Test to Treat Initiative](#)



Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program

- Through the new HRSA Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program, all health centers and look-alikes can sign up to receive N95 respirator masks from HHS
- Over 800 participating health centers ordering over 10M N95 masks
- For further information, visit [HRSA Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program](#)



Know Your COVID-19 Community Level

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a new tool to help communities stay safe: [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#).

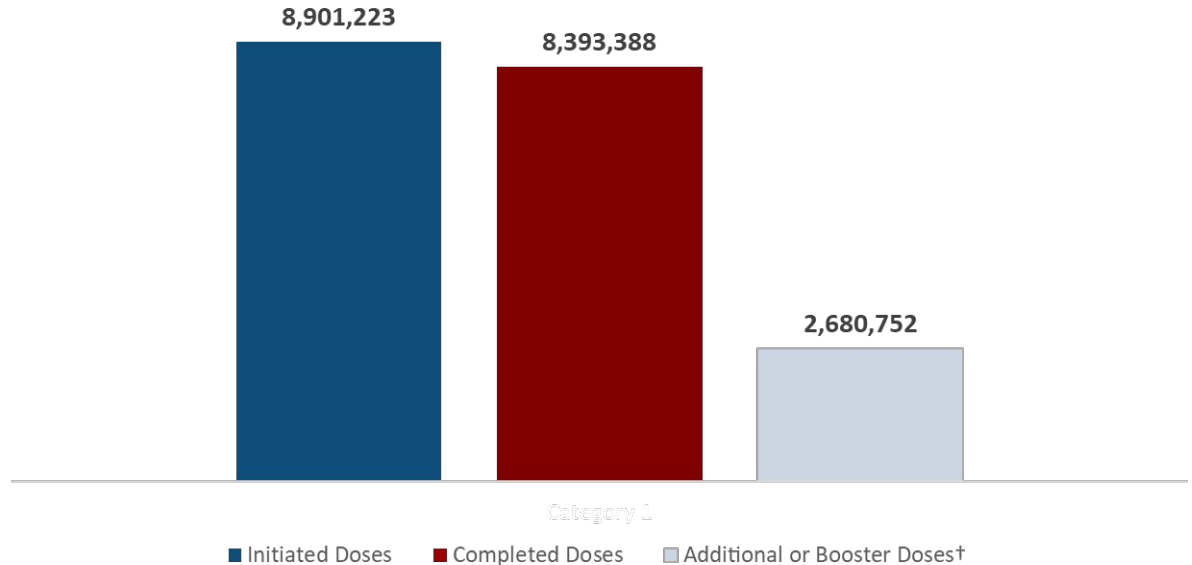
Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are required on public transportation and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.



Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Accomplishments

- A total of **19,975,363 COVID-19** vaccine doses were administered by health centers (1/8/21 – 3/11/2022)
- **69%** of these doses went to patients of racial and/or ethnic minorities



*Survey moved to bi-weekly reporting starting with the 7/16/2021 survey; † additional doses were added to the 9/10/2021 survey

Source: [Health Center COVID-19 Bi-Weekly Survey, 2020-2021](#)

For additional information regarding Health Center COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients, please visit: [Health Center COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients Dashboard](#)



Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program: Doses Received by Population Type

Through the **Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program**, a total of **8,510,526 COVID-19 vaccine doses†** have been administered

by participating health centers and look-alikes to date.

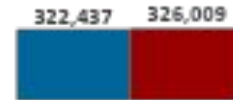
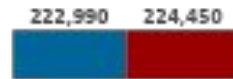
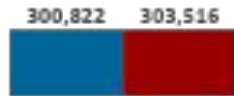
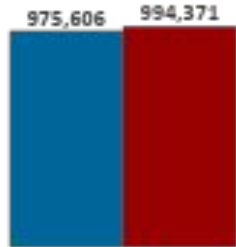
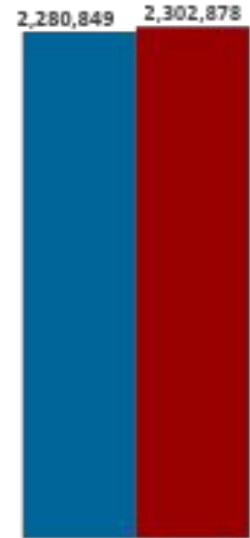
Patients with Limited English Proficiency:†
27% (2,302,878) of doses

Children Less Than 18 Years:†
12% (994,371) of doses

Migratory & Seasonal Agricultural Workers:†
4% (303,516) of doses

Patients Experiencing Homelessness:†
3% (224,450) of doses

Patients Who Are Residents of Public Housing:†
4% (326,009) of doses



■ 2/26/2021-2/25/2022+ ■ 2/26/2021-3/11/2022+

† Collection of additional or booster doses data began with the 9/10/2021 survey
Source: [Health Center COVID-19 Bi-Weekly Survey, 2020-2022](#)



Health Center COVID-19 Program Updates

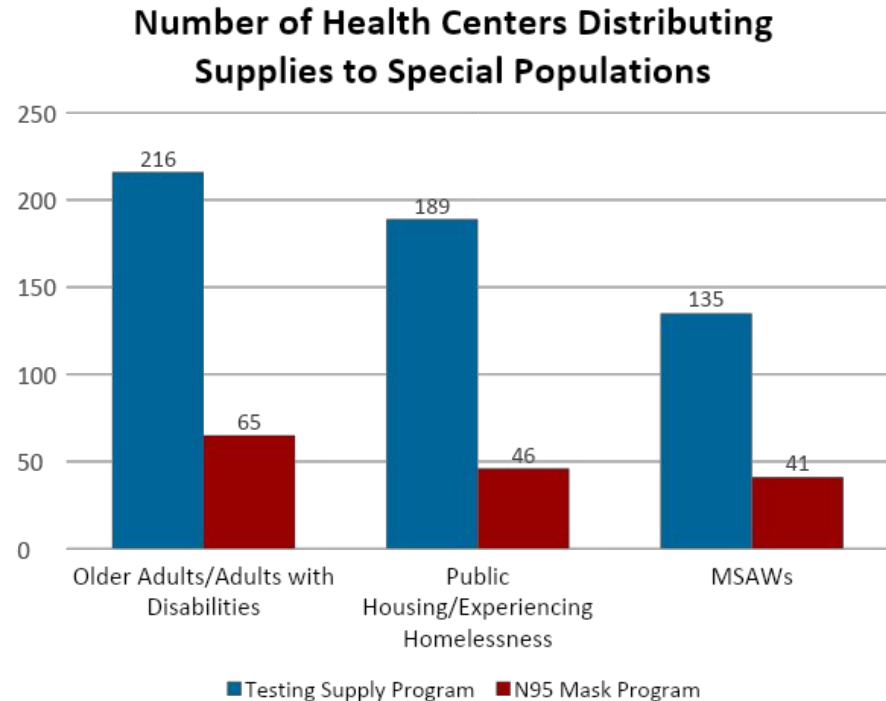
Looking Ahead – Focus On:

- Pediatric vaccines
 - ✓ Children under 5 years - pending FDA authorizing and CDC recommendation
- Vaccine boosters
 - ✓ Adults over 65
 - ✓ 4th shot for all adults
- Expanding the therapeutics program



Partnerships and Distribution

- HRSA encourages partnerships between health centers and stakeholder networks that support:
 - Older adults and people with disabilities
 - Individuals living in HUD-assisted housing and/or experiencing homelessness
 - Migratory/seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs)



Migratory/Seasonal Agricultural Workers

- Over **one million health center patients** nationwide are MSAWs
- HRSA's COVID-19 response programs are taking the following actions to support MSAWs:
 - Providing a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccine, testing supplies, therapeutics, and N95 masks to health centers to provide to the MSAW population.
 - Using a data-driven approach to focus on key target regions.
 - Partnering with federal partners and jurisdictions to maximize the



COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

- The PHE is reviewed every 90 days
- HHS will provide states with at least 60 days' notice
- There will be an update soon



Uninsured Program and Coverage Assistance Fund

- **At 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, March 22**, the Uninsured Program will **stop accepting claims for testing and treatment** due to a lack of sufficient funds.
- **At 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 5**, the Uninsured Program will also **stop accepting vaccination claims** due to a lack of sufficient funds.
- **At 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 5**, the Coverage Assistance Fund will **stop accepting vaccination claims** due to a lack of sufficient funds.

- [COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund](#)
- [Uninsured Claims Re-imbursement](#)

- **Uninsured Program Provider Support Line** (866) 569-3522 for TTY dial 711, 9a.m. - 11p.m. ET, Monday - Friday
- **Coverage Assistance Fund Provider Support Line** (833) 967-0770 for TTY dial 1(888) 970-2920, 8a.m. - 8p.m. ET, Monday - Friday



President Biden's National Mental Health Strategy

Statement of HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson on President Biden's National Mental Health Strategy

Last night, President Biden announced an ambitious strategy to address our national mental health crisis. At the Health Resources and Services Administration, we stand with the President in his call for unity in our national response and know that for the millions of Americans living with a mental health condition or caring for a loved one with a mental health condition, the time for action is now.

Read her full statement at www.hrsa.gov.

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration



Questions?



Thank You!

Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



For general information on the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, please visit:
<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/health-center-program>.

bphc.hrsa.gov

[BPHC Contact Form](#)



[Sign up for the *Primary Health Care Digest*](#)



Guest Speaker

Taslim Van Hattum, LCSW, MPH
Senior Director of Practice
Improvement
National Council for Mental Wellbeing



The Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health and Wellbeing of Special and Vulnerable Populations: Demand for and Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Taslim van Hattum, LCSW, MPH
Senior Director, Practice Improvement

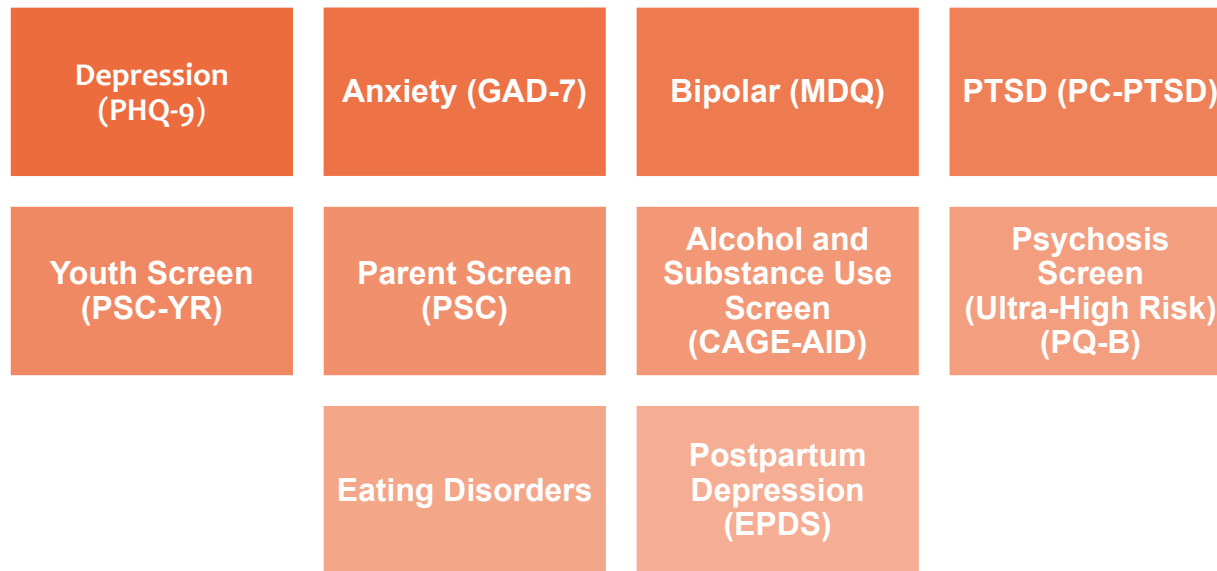
COVID Impact on Mental Health and Substance Use

Percent Reported	Anxiety	Depression	Serious SI
2019	8.1%	6.5%	4.3%
2020	25.5%	24.3%	10.7%
Increase	3X	4X	2X

- Symptoms of a trauma- and stressor-related disorder (TSRD) – 30.9%
 - Started or increased substance - 13.3%
- Serious Suicide Considerations significantly higher among respondents
- Unpaid caregivers for adults (30.7%)
 - Aged 18–24 years (25.5%),
 - Essential workers (21.7%)
 - Hispanic (18.6%)
 - Black (15.1%)

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm?s_cid=mm6932a1_x

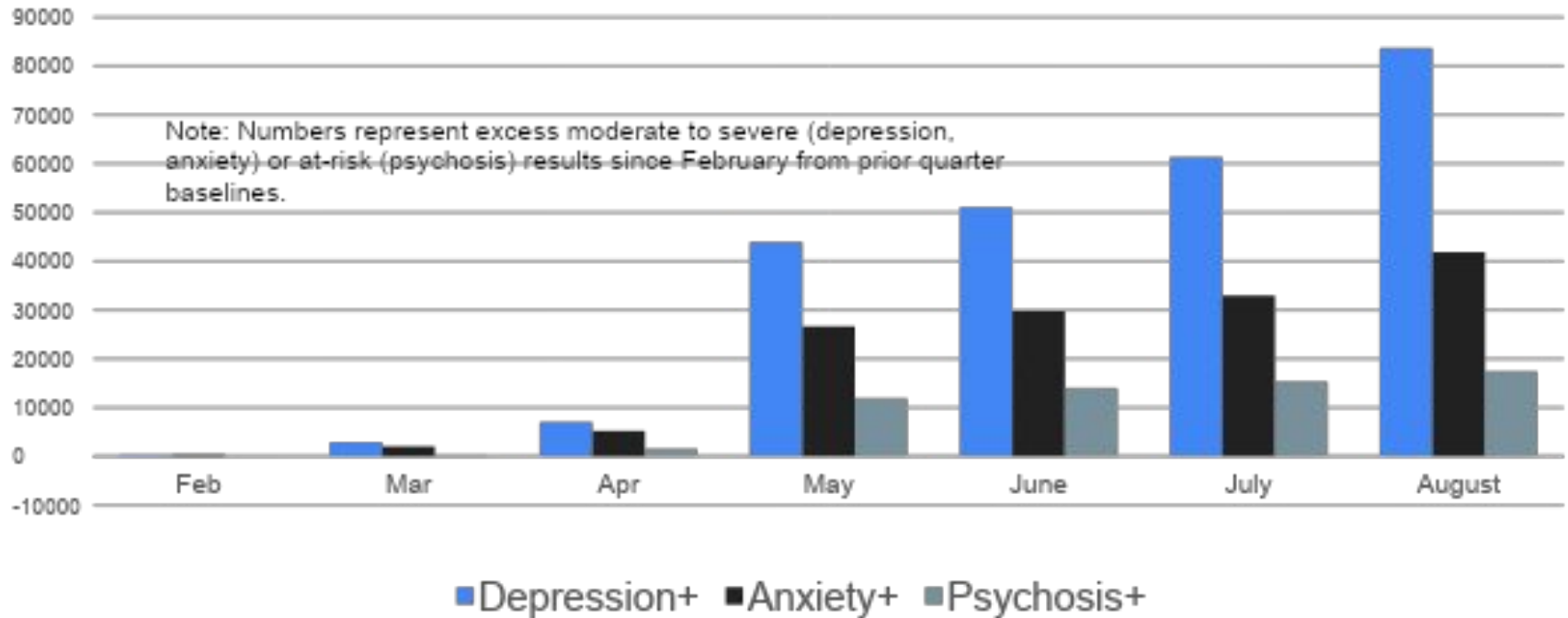
MHA Screening (www.mhascreening.org): Over 6 Million Completed Screens since 2020



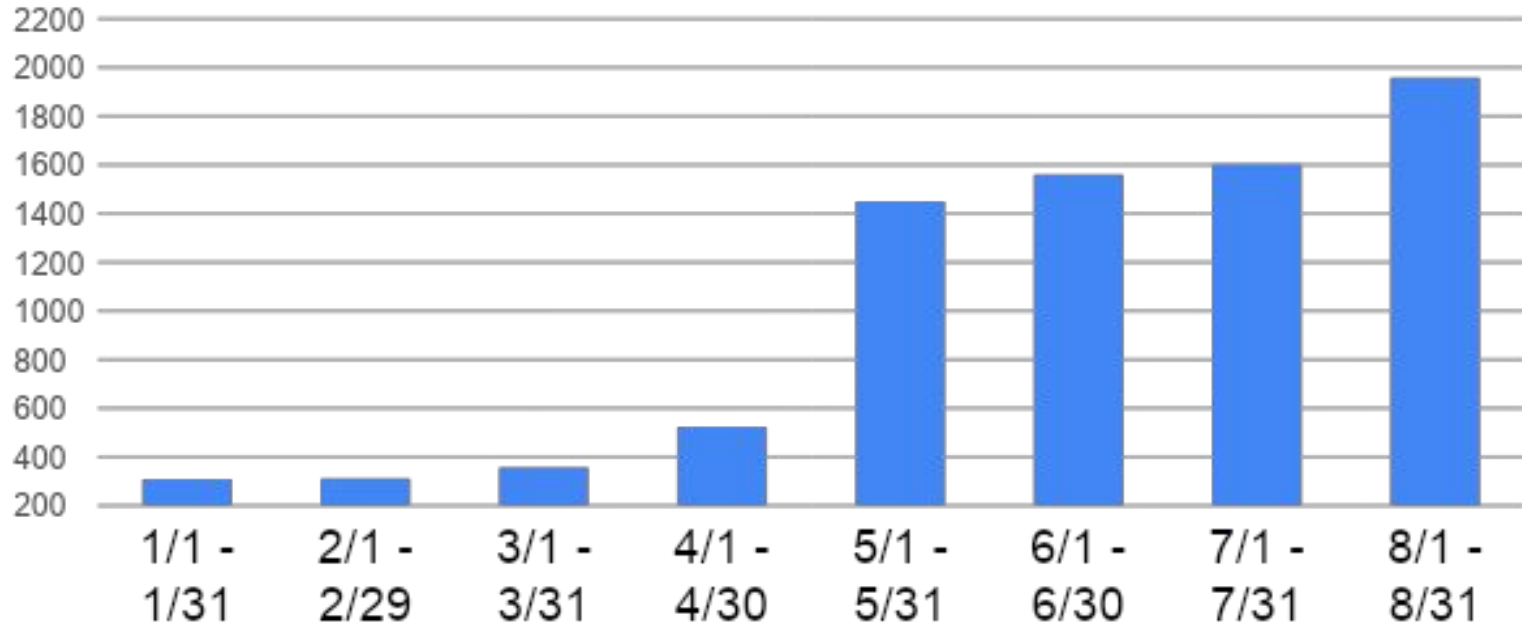
MHA Screening reflects the experiences of a help-seeking population that accesses mental health screening through www.mhascreening.org.

We do not reach the entire population; therefore our numbers are likely to underreport the actual experiences of the population.

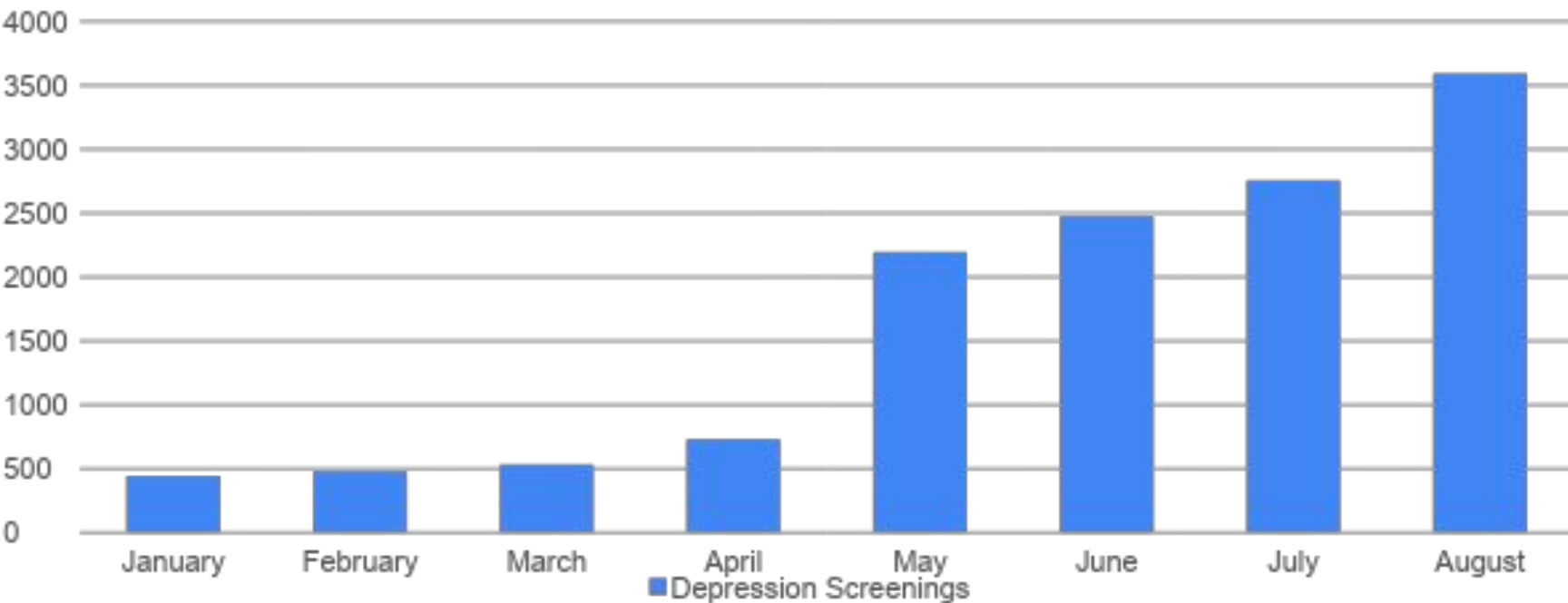
Depression, Anxiety, & Psychosis: “Positive” Numbers Increased Dramatically in May-Aug



In August, Per Day Anxiety Screenings Increased by 535% over January

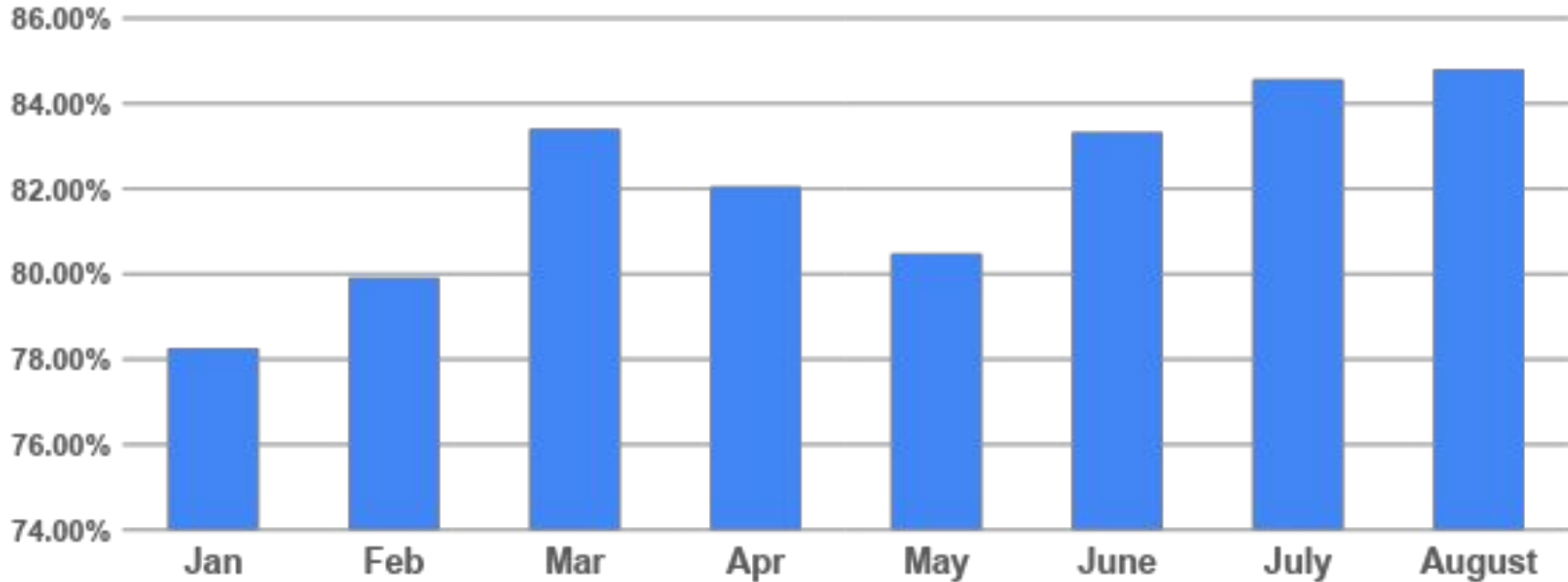


In August, Per Day Depression Screenings Increased by 709% over January



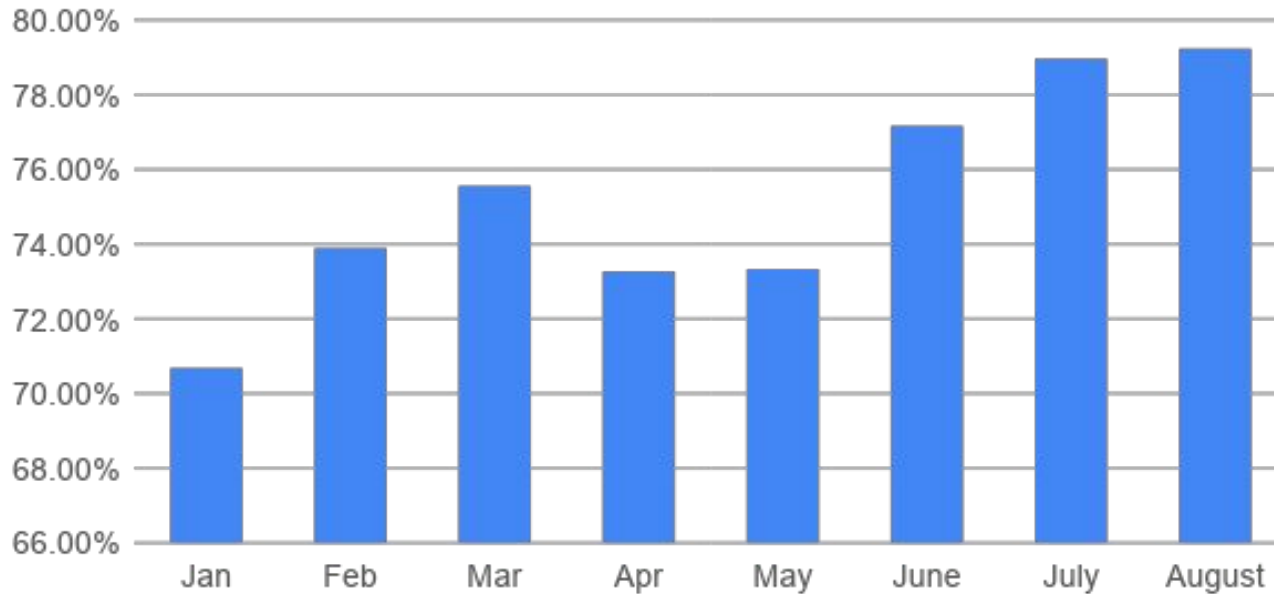
Screeners Are Not “Worried Well”: Depression Severity Highest In August 2020

Depression Screeners, Percent Moderate to Severe



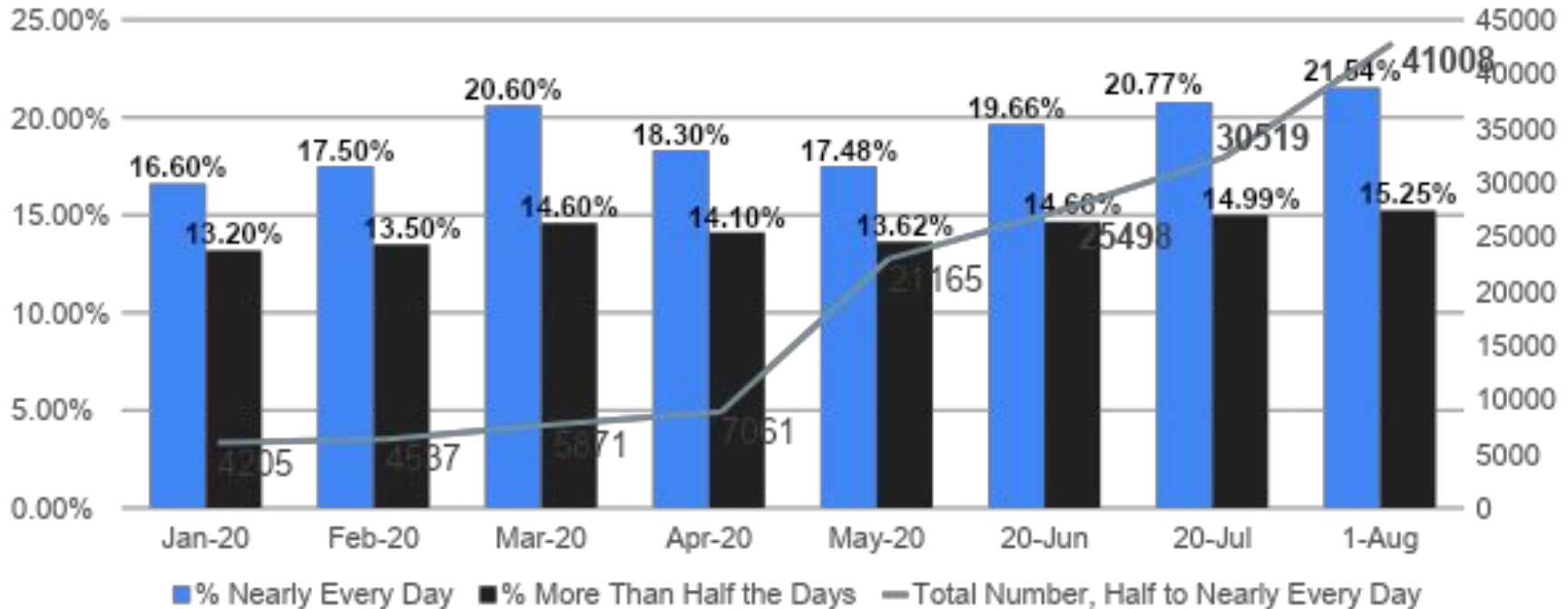
Anxiety Severity Also Highest In August 2020

Anxiety Screeners, Percent Moderate to Severe



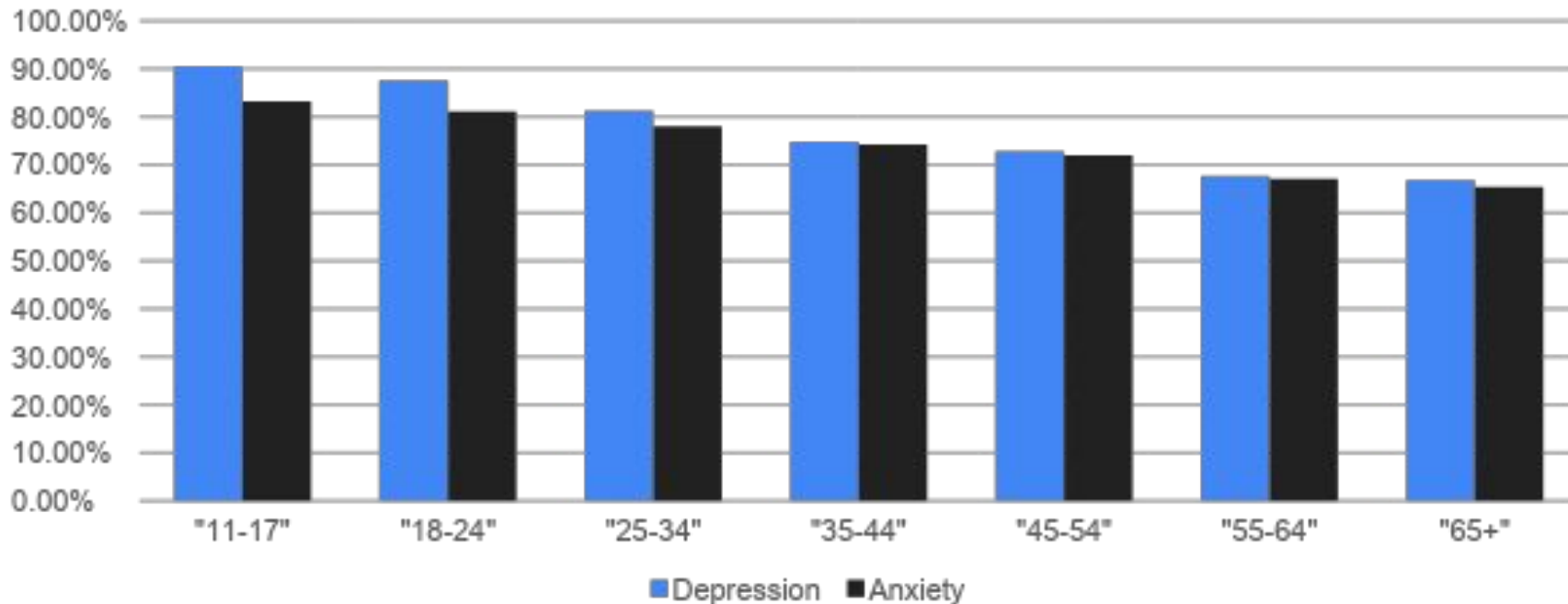
48%
screened
for severe
anxiety

More Than 40,000 People Considered Self-Harm or Suicide in August



Young People in August Still Disproportionately Experiencing Depression and Anxiety

Percent Moderate to Severe



Mental Health 2022

https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/State%20of%20Mental%20Health%20in%20America%20-%202020_0.pdf

In 2019, just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 19.86% of adults experienced a mental illness, approx. 50 million Americans.

Suicidal ideation continues to increase among adults in the U.S. 4.58% of adults report having serious thoughts of suicide, an increase of 664,000 people from last year's dataset.

A growing percentage of youth in the U.S. live with major depression.

15.08% of youth experienced a major depressive episode in the past year, a 1.24% increase from last year's dataset.

In the bottom-ranked states, up to 19% of youth ages 12-17 experienced major depression.

- Over 2.5 million youth in the U.S. have severe depression, and multiracial youth are at greatest risk.
- 10.6% of youth in the U.S. have severe major depression (depression that severely affects functioning). The rate of severe depression was highest among youth who identified as more than one race, at 14.5% (more than one in every seven multiracial youth).

Mental Health 2022: Access to Treatment

https://mhanational.org/sites/default/files/State%20of%20Mental%20Health%20in%20America%20-%202020_0.pdf

50% of adults with a mental illness do not receive treatment, totaling over 27 million adults in the U.S. who are going untreated.

The percentage of adults with a mental illness who report unmet need for treatment has increased every year since 2011. *In 2019, 24.7% of adults with a mental illness report an unmet need for treatment.*

Over 60% of youth with major depression do not receive any mental health treatment. Even in states with the greatest access, nearly one in three are going without treatment.

Disproportionate Impacts of COVID 19

- Unemployment and loss of health insurance
 - Food insecurity
 - Housing instability
 - Preventive healthcare services
- **Mental health:** The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for many people. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Some groups may be more affected than others. Studies about mental health found inconsistent effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on different racial and ethnic groups.
- **Bereavement:** Many people are experiencing grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some groups may be more likely to experience loss of a loved one due to COVID-19. Non-Hispanic Black people were found to be more likely to have a close relative who died from COVID-19.²¹
- Among those with the closest connections to a COVID-19 related death (having a close friend or family member who died), three in ten say stress related to coronavirus has had a “major impact” on their mental health.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/disparities-impact.html>

Then (2020) and Now (2022)

U.S. adults who said worry and stress related to the coronavirus was having a negative impact on their mental health increased from about one-third (32%) in March 2020 to roughly half (53%) in July 2020.

About half of adults (47%) continue to report negative mental health impacts related to worry or stress from the pandemic.

Younger adults and women, including mothers with children under 18 years old in their households, are among the most likely to report that stress and worry related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health

More than half of women overall (55%) report a negative impact on their mental health related to the coronavirus pandemic, compared to about four in ten men (38%) who report the same.

<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/mental-health-and-substance-use-considerations-among-children-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

Member Survey: Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Behavioral Health Organizations

Organizational Viability and Access to Care for Millions is at Stake

Without Congressional action, revenue shortfalls and service cuts will get worse.



On average, organizations have lost **22.6%** of their revenue during COVID-19.



39% believe they can only survive six months or less.

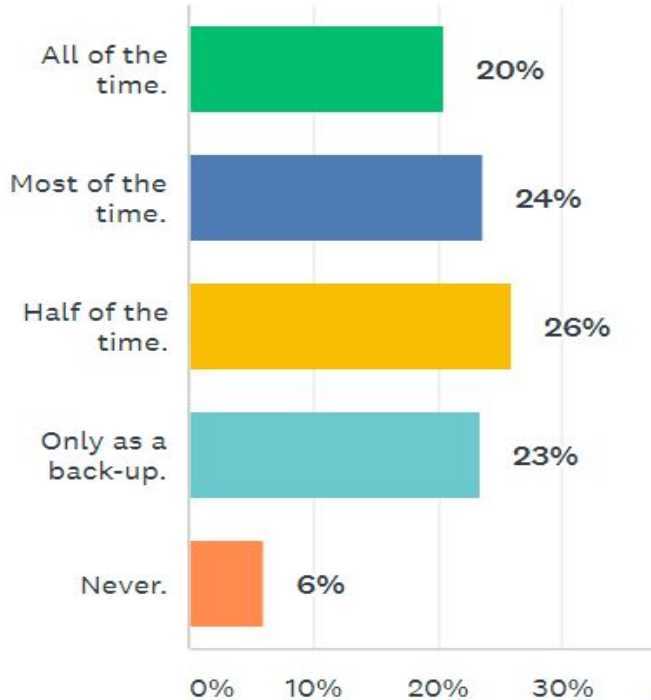


32% received funding from the first round of provider relief funding



Methodology: This poll was conducted between August 17-September 1, 2020 among a national sample of 343 NCBH Members. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 5%.

If telehealth remained available after the pandemic ends, would you prefer to continue using it instead of in-person visits?



70% would use telehealth for half or more of their visits.

“It hard to get to that office weekly. It takes about 2 hours out of my day just getting there and back.”

“I have a traumatic brain injury. I can’t remember appts and planning ahead to get to office is hard.”

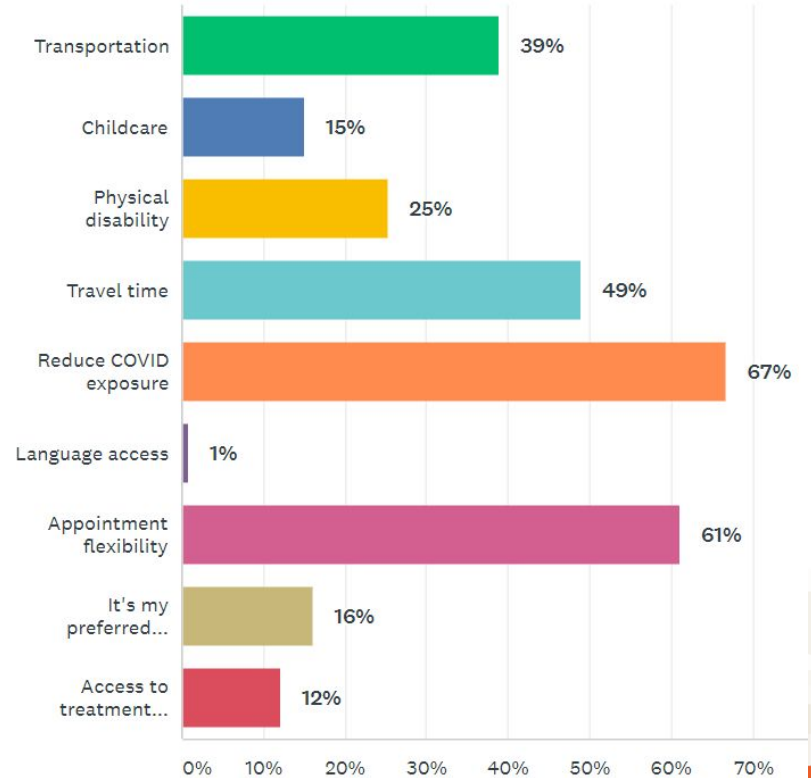
Please identify the reasons you may wish to continue with telehealth services.

“I work the nightshift. Better appointment times with telehealth.”

“It helps in my current job situation to access services without taking my day off.”

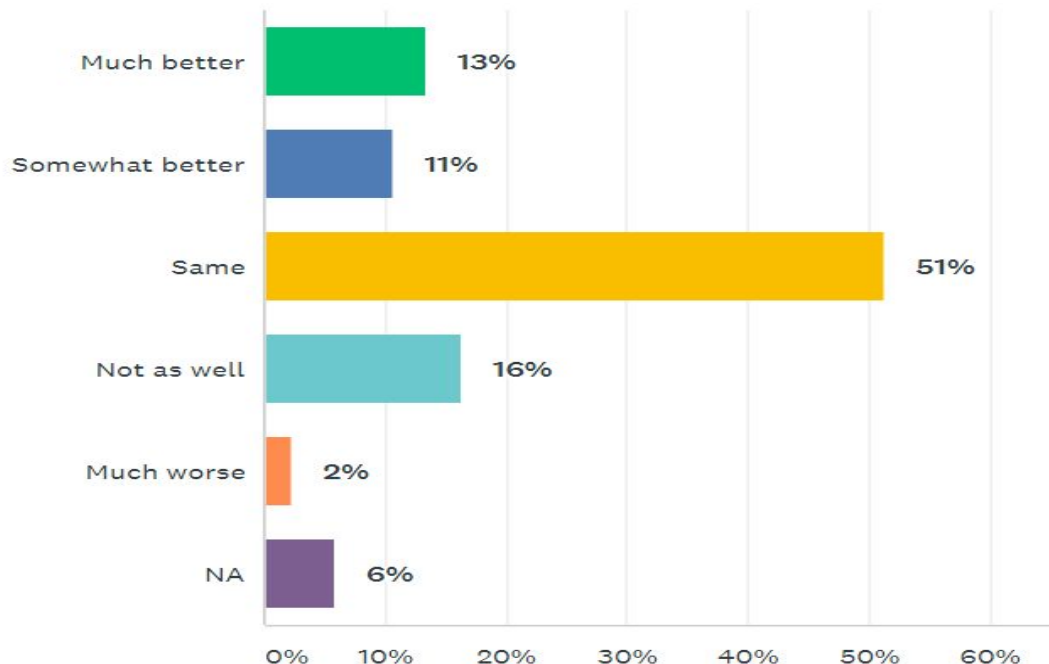
“With everything that happens with my illness (getting overwhelmed, going out. with my paranoia), it's just better to manage my stress and panic attacks. I have more panic attacks when I'm out. Other things that can trigger me .”

“I am more at ease in my home and more likely to share my thoughts in this environment. I suffer from anxiety and wherever I can increase my comfort level is what I am going to choose. This telehealth type of setting works for me.”



How connected do you feel to the therapist, case manager or other individual providing you services through telehealth?

75% report same or better therapeutic connection



Mental Health Systems Shifts & Supports

- **Telehealth Updates and Allowances**

- **988:** “988 is designated as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operated through **the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline...**”.

- **Roadmap to the Ideal Crisis System:**

https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/03/031121_GAP_Crisis-Report_Final.pdf?daf=375ateTbd56

- **CCBHCs**

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/ccbhc-success-center>

Guest Speaker

Ruth Yáñez, LMSW, MSW
Program Specialist
*National Latino Behavioral Health
Association*





**ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON
THE MENTAL WELLBEING OF LATINO
AND HISPANIC COMMUNITIES**

Ruth Yáñez, LMSW, MSW

Pronouns: [she/her/hers/ella](#)

Program Specialist

National Latino Behavioral
Health Association

Cell: (505) 554-8440

ruth@nlbha.org



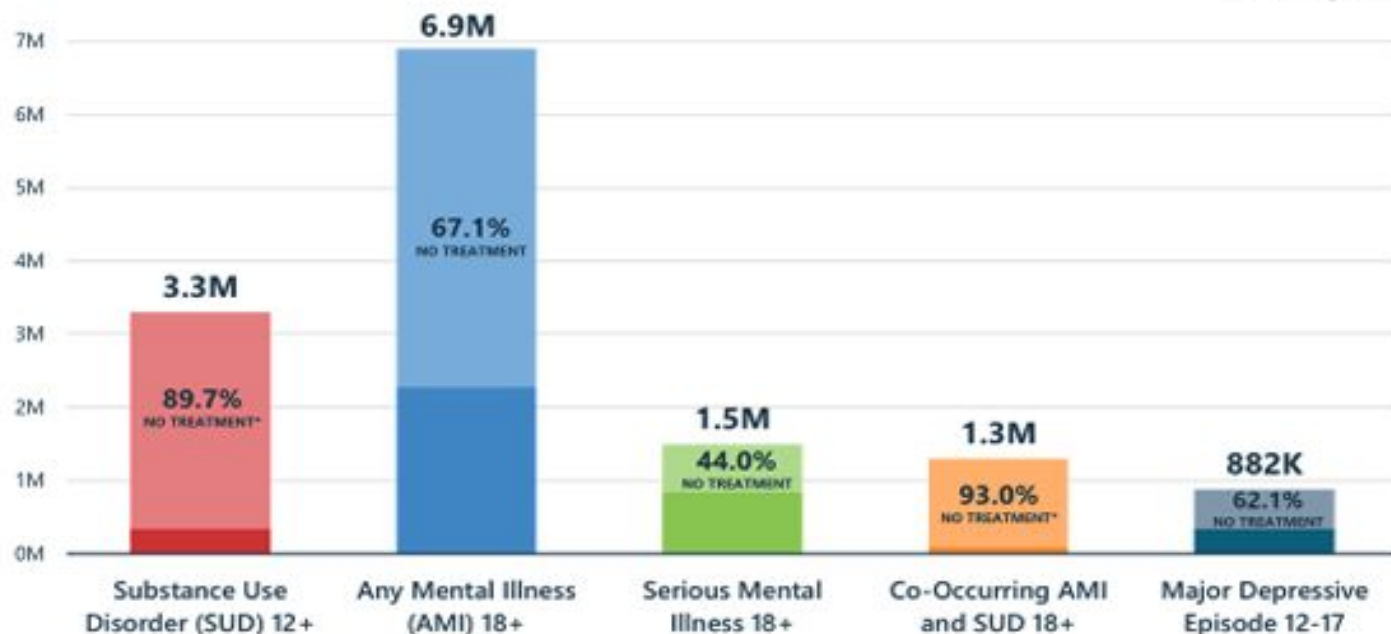
People of Color are:

- At an increased risk for serious illness if they contract COVID-19 due to higher rates of underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, hypertension, and obesity compared to Whites;
- more likely to be uninsured and to lack a usual source of care which is an impediment to accessing COVID-19 testing and treatment services;
- more likely to work in the service industries such as restaurants, retail, and hospitality that are particularly at risk for loss of income during the pandemic;
- more likely to live in housing situations, such as multigenerational families or low-income and public housing that make it difficult to social distance or self-isolate; and o
- often working in jobs that are not amenable to teleworking and use public transportation that puts them at risk for exposure to COVID-19. (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2020; Health Affairs, 2020)

(SAMHSA, 2021)

Despite Consequences and Disease Burden, Treatment Gaps among Hispanics Remain Vast

PAST YEAR, 2018 NSDUH, Hispanic 12+



* No Treatment for SUD is defined as not receiving treatment at any location, such as a hospital (inpatient), rehabilitation facility (inpatient or outpatient), mental health center, emergency room, private doctor's office, self-help group, or prison/jail.

Cultural Values as Risk & Protective Factors

Familismo

Collectivism
Colectivismo

Shared Responsibility
*Responsabilidad
compartida*

Understanding/Sympat
Comprensión/Simpatía

Personalism
Personalismo

Religion/Spirituality
*Religiosidad/
Espiritualidad*

Marianismo
Machismo

Trust
Confianza

Respect/Hierarchy
Respeto /Jerarquismo



THANK YOU

Ruth Yáñez, LMSW, MSW

Pronouns: [she/her/hers/ella](#)

Program Specialist

National Latino Behavioral Health Association

Cell: (505) 554-8440

ruth@nlbha.org

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum

A Year in review....

Date	Session Title
September 24, 2021	<i>Introduction to Forum</i>
November 19, 2021	<i>BPHC Update and Vaccine Confidence Strategy</i>
January 28, 2022	<i>BPHC Update and Workforce Wellness and Resilience</i>
March 25, 2022	<i>BPHC Update and The Impact of COVID-19 on Patient Mental and Behavioral Health</i>

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum

Thank you for your continued participation.

Upcoming Forum Dates:

Session 1: May 20, 2022

Session 2: July 22, 2022

Session 3: September 23, 2022

Session 4: November 19, 2022

More information on registration to come soon.

EVALUATION

Please take the time to complete the Forum evaluation via Zoom, and help us improve this activity for future sessions.

Thank you!

A dark blue diagonal gradient bar that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.