



State of the State: Public Health in Louisiana

Kimberly L. Hood, JD, MPH
Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health



1. Statewide COVID-19 Update
2. COVID-19/Public Health Infrastructure Grants
3. Hepatitis C Elimination
4. HIV Rate Increases
5. State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan





COVID-19 Recent Updates

- The White House launched a new one-stop shop portal for testing, masks, therapeutics, and vaccines: [Covid.gov](https://www.covid.gov)
- The FDA amended the Emergency Use Authorizations for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to include **2nd boosters**, given 4 months after one's first booster, for two groups of people:
 - 50 years of age and older
 - Moderate/severe immunosuppression (organ transplant recipients, chemotherapy patients, and equivalent)



Louisiana - Statewide

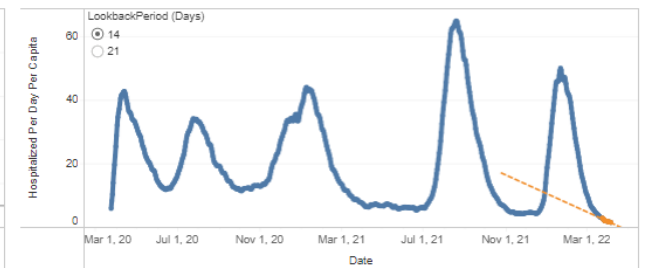
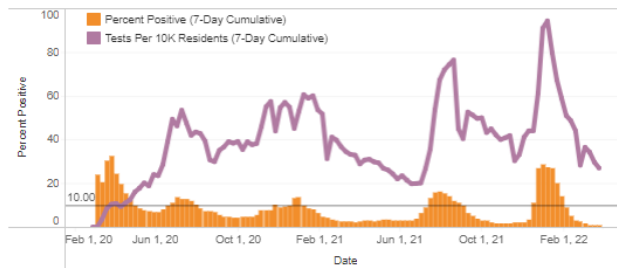
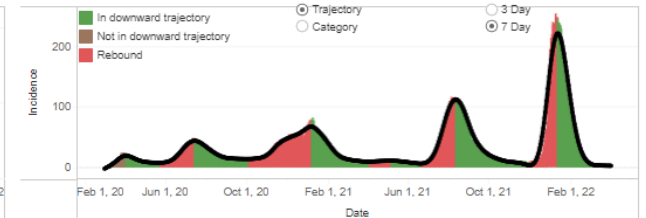
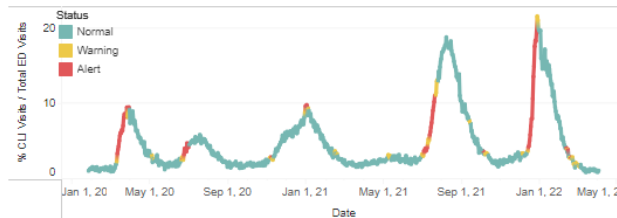
- As of March 30, the 7-day cumulative percent positivity was 0.80%, the previous week's percent positivity was 0.70%.
- The hospitalizations per capita for the state are decreasing over the last 14 days.
- As of April 1, the epidemic curve for the state showed 80 days in a downward trajectory in average daily incidence of COVID cases.



Date
1/27/2020

4/5/2022

Gating Indicators | All



Last updated 4/5/2022
This document is part of the deliberative process and is protected by the deliberative process privilege



Community level indicators as of April 8:

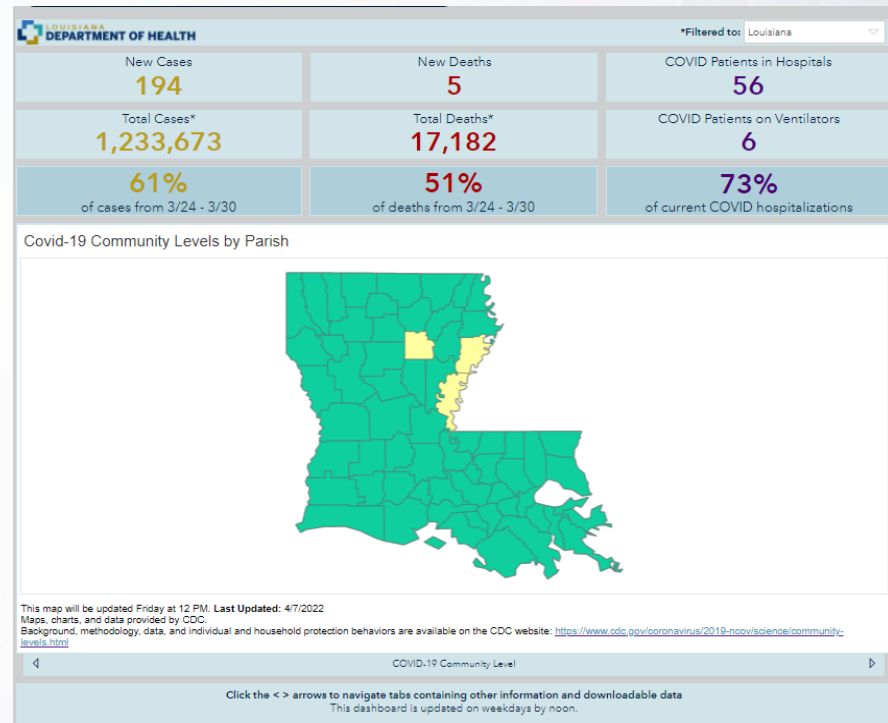
High- 0 parishes
Medium- 3 parishes
Low – 61 parishes

CLI as of March 27:

Increasing 14 day trend in Region 5
No warnings/alerts over the past 7 days
Statewide CLI: 1.0% (previously 1.17%)

MIS-C: 329 total cases

No new cases in last week





Percent Positivity – March 24-30

- Statewide percent positivity: 0.8% (previously 0.7%)
- **Increase in 28 parishes, decrease in 26 parishes, no change in 10 parishes**
 - >10% positivity: 0 parishes (no change)
 - 5-10% positivity: 0 parishes (no change)
 - <5% positivity: 64 parishes (no change)



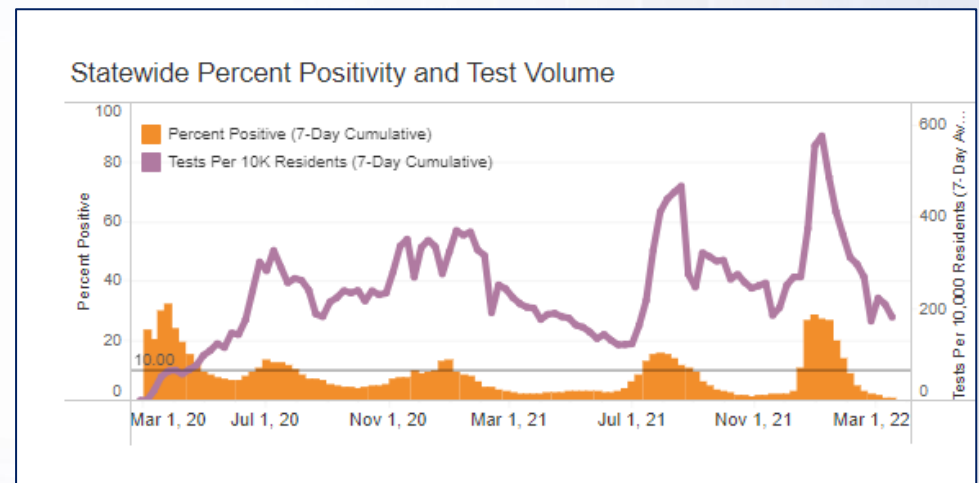
1 Week Incidence – March 24-30

- Statewide 1 week incidence: 14/100,000 (previously 13/100,000)
- >100/100,000: no parishes (no change)
- Current period lowest incidence: 0/100,000- 8 parishes
- Current period highest incidence: Jackson (38/100,000)



Test Volume – March 24-30

- Current statewide test volume:
165/10,000 (previously 181/10,000)
- Test volume increased in 10 parishes,
decreased in 54 parishes, no change in 1
parish
- Current period lowest test volume:
Vernon (20/10,000)
- Current period highest test volume:
Orleans (729/10,000)





Louisiana Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination Information

Initiated
2,762,181
Vaccine Series

Total Doses Administered
5,034,813
as of most recent update

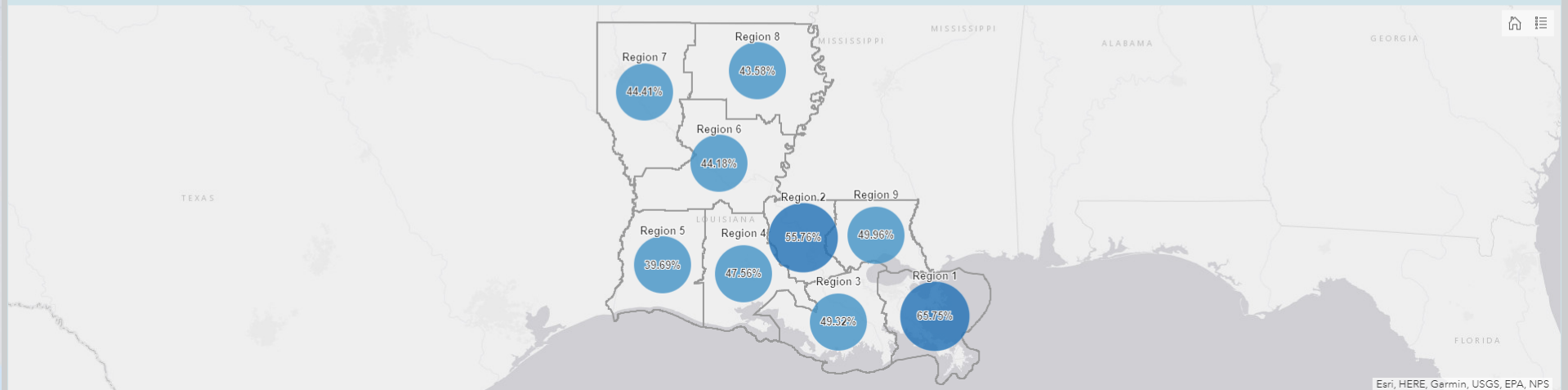
Current Phase of Distribution
Everyone 5+

Completed
2,454,285
Vaccine Series

Vaccine Doses Administered
3,162
since previous update

Extra Doses
988,298

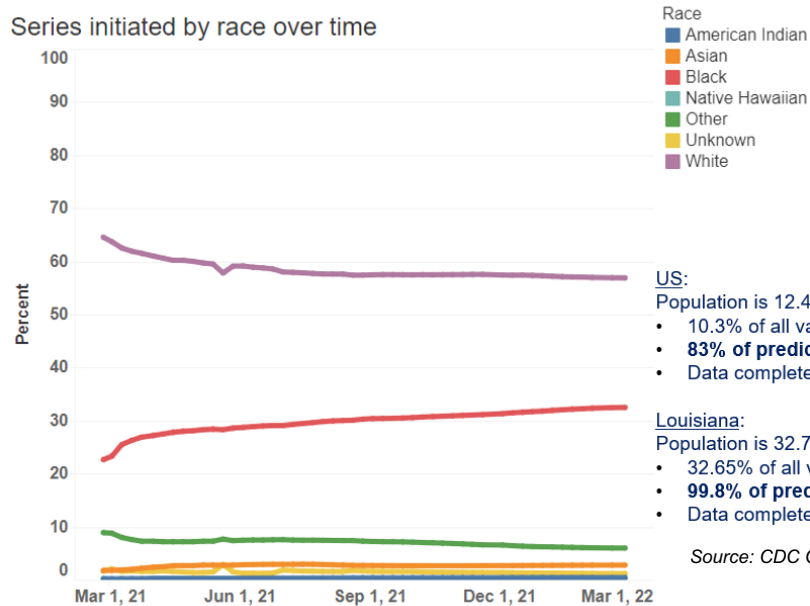
Zoom in to see parish and tract level data.





Louisiana Vaccination Equity

Series initiated by race over time



US:

- Population is 12.4% Black
- 10.3% of all vaccinations
 - **83% of predicted**
 - Data completeness is 74.4%

- Population is 17.2% Hispanic
- 20.7% of all vaccinations
 - **119.8% of predicted**
 - Data completeness is 74.4%

Louisiana:

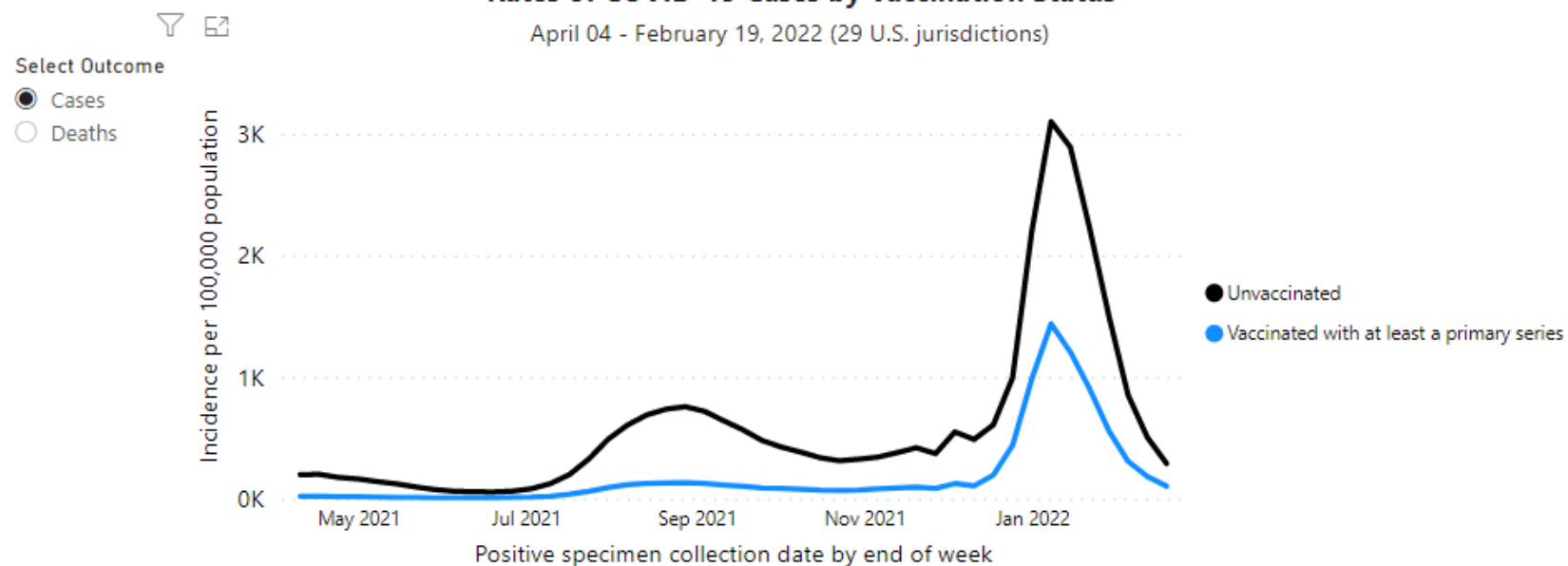
- Population is 32.7% Black
- 32.65% of all vaccinations
 - **99.8% of predicted**
 - Data completeness is 98.8%

- Population is 5.3% Hispanic
- 6.14% of all vaccinations
 - **115.8% of predicted**
 - Data completeness is 83.1%

Source: CDC COVID Data Tracker and LDH COVID-19 Dashboard

Rates of COVID-19 Cases by Vaccination Status

April 04 - February 19, 2022 (29 U.S. jurisdictions)



Unvaccinated people aged 5 years and older had:

2.4X

Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

AND

9X

Risk of Dying from COVID-19

in January, and

2.8X

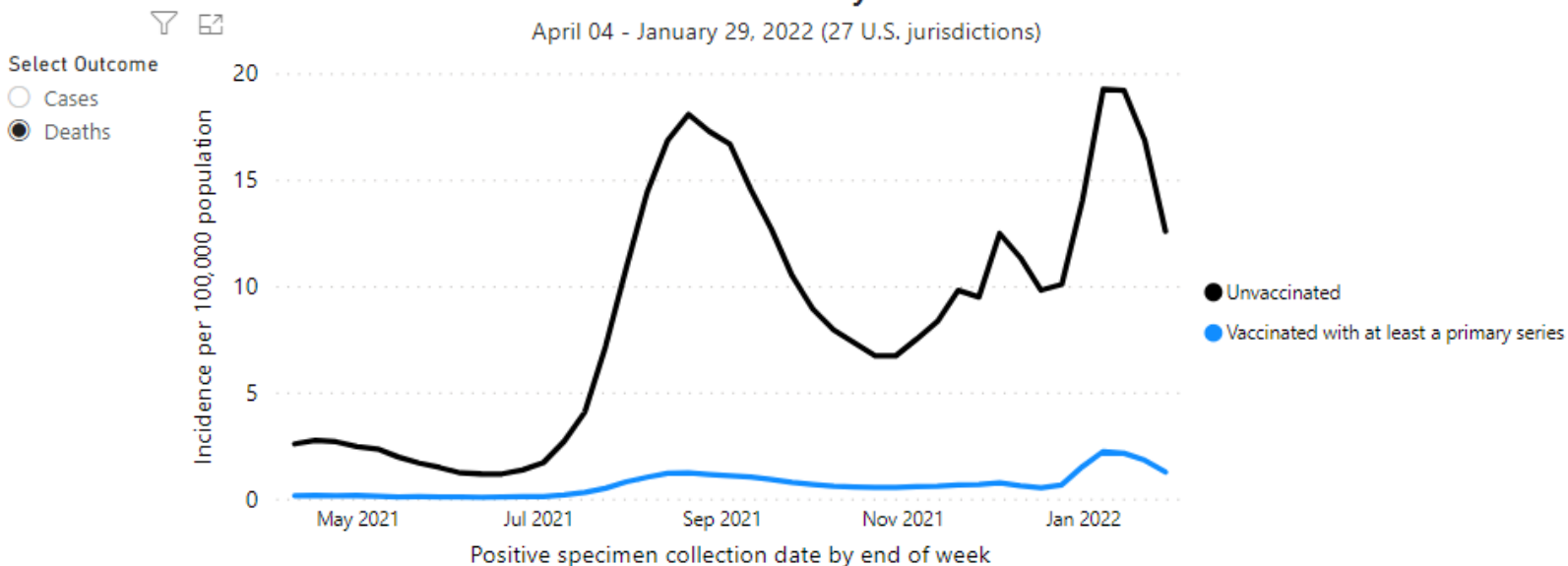
Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

in February,* compared to people vaccinated with at least a primary series.

Source: CDC COVID-19 Response, Epidemiology Task Force, Surveillance & Analytics Team, Vaccine Breakthrough Unit

Rates of COVID-19 Deaths by Vaccination Status

April 04 - January 29, 2022 (27 U.S. jurisdictions)



Unvaccinated people aged 5 years and older had:

2.4X

Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

AND

9X

Risk of Dying from COVID-19

in January, and

2.8X

Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

in February,* compared to people vaccinated with at least a primary series.

Source: CDC COVID-19 Response, Epidemiology Task Force, Surveillance & Analytics Team, Vaccine Breakthrough Unit



Rates of COVID-19 Deaths by vaccination status and Booster Dose**

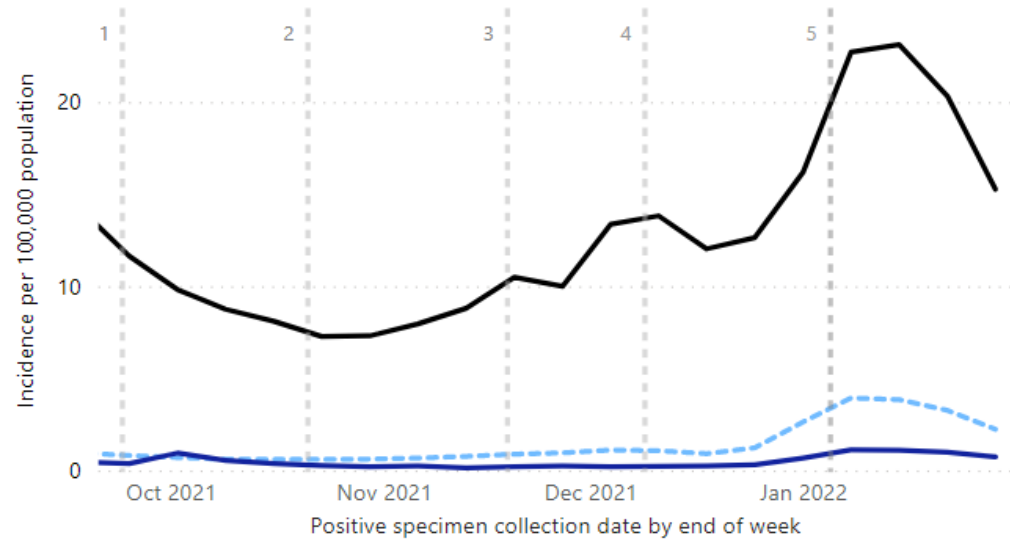
September 19 - January 29, 2022 (26 U.S. jurisdictions)

Select Outcome

☐ Cases

☒ Deaths

— Unvaccinated — Vaccinated with a primary series only — Vaccinated with a primary series and booster dose*



Unvaccinated people aged 12 years and older had:

3.5X

Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

AND

21X

Risk of Dying from COVID-19

in January, and

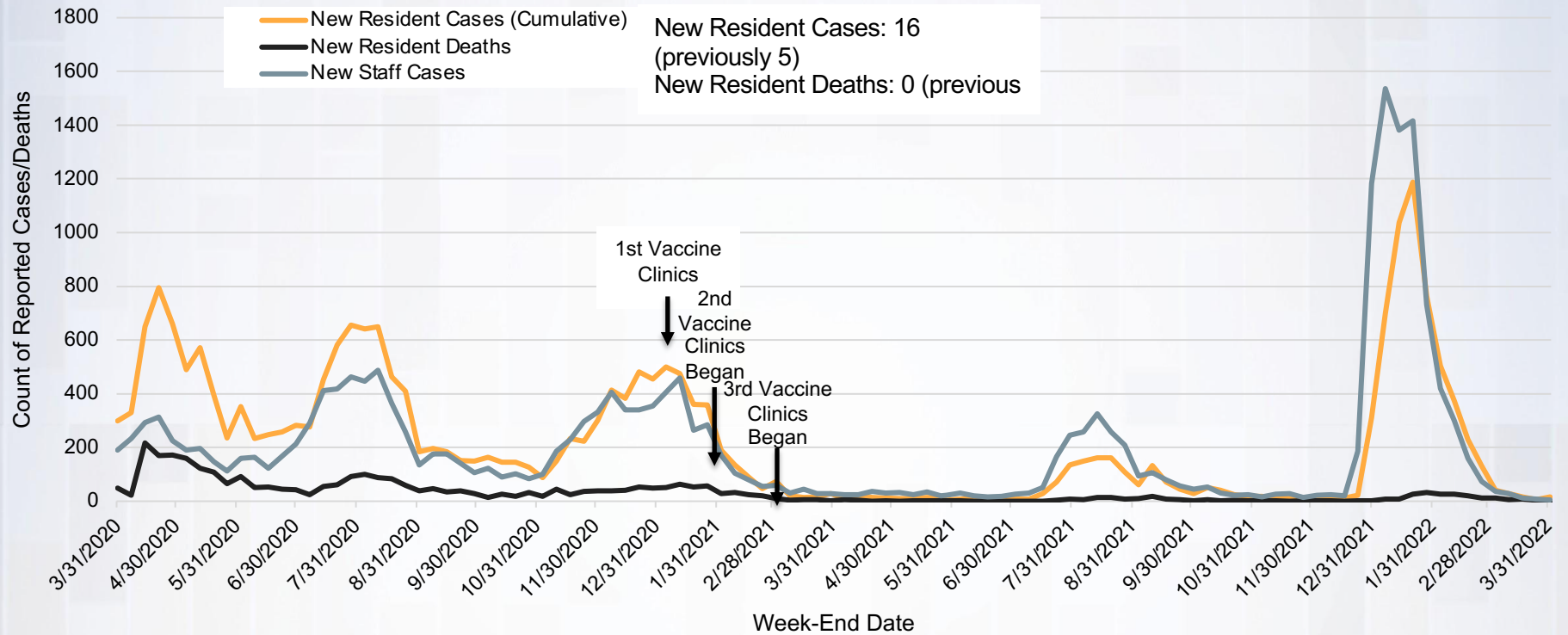
3.2X

Risk of Testing Positive for COVID-19

in February,* compared to people vaccinated with a primary series and a booster dose.**

Source: CDC COVID-19 Response, Epidemiology Task Force, Surveillance & Analytics Team, Vaccine Breakthrough Unit

New Nursing Home COVID-19 Cases and Resident Deaths by Week



- 2.2% of Nursing Homes have reported new local resident cases in the past week (Last Week: 1.1%)
- 1 Nursing Home reported 3 or more new locally acquired resident cases in the past week (Last Week: 1)
- 1.5% of Nursing Homes have reported new staff cases in the past week (Last Week: 2.6%)



Decoupling seen with Omicron



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/interactive/2022/omicron-comparison-cases-deaths-hospitalizations/>



Vaccine breakthrough data, Louisiana

- Those not fully vaccinated account for 61% of new cases March 24-30
 - 231,536 total vaccine breakthrough infections
- Those not fully vaccinated account for 80% of COVID hospitalizations on 04/05
- Those not fully vaccinated account for 51% of deaths reported March 24-30
 - 1,816 total reported deaths among fully vaccinated individuals who are COVID+
- Breakthrough deaths demographics:
 - Age range: 18-102, median 77
 - 45% female, 55% male
 - 70% White, 29% Black, 1% other, 0 unknown
- Underlying conditions among breakthrough deaths:

Diabetes	33%
Chronic Kidney Disease	24%
Chronic Liver Disease	3%
Immunocompromised	8%
Cancer	12%
No underlying conditions	<1%
Unknown underlying conditions	18%



Severe Adverse Event Surveillance

- Severe adverse event case definition:
 - Anaphylaxis requiring hospitalization within 3 hours of vaccination, OR
 - Death within 24 hours of vaccination without an alternative cause, OR
 - Other serious and life-threatening adverse event requiring hospitalization within 3 days of vaccination with no alternative cause, OR
 - Both acute thrombosis **AND** new onset thrombocytopenia (platelet count $<150,000/\mu\text{L}$) requiring hospitalization with onset within 6 weeks following vaccination.
 - Myocarditis/pericarditis requiring hospitalization within 2 weeks of vaccination with no alternative cause
- Total number of reported events investigated: 318
- Current LA severe adverse events meeting case definition: 17
 - 2 anaphylaxis, 9 other, 6 myocarditis (no deaths)



Hepatitis C Elimination

- On July 15, 2019, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) launched an innovative plan to eliminate Hepatitis C (HCV) through the combination of a first-in-nation Modified Subscription Model for HCV treatment and a community-to-clinic care support model.
- The United States Preventative Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that all adults aged 18 to 79 years be screened for HCV. Approximately 1 out of 2 Louisianans with HCV are unaware of their diagnosis.
- Despite this challenge, Louisiana is making progress towards diagnosing 90% and treating 80% of Medicaid-enrolled and Department of Corrections incarcerated populations by 2030, in alignment with the World Health Organization's established goal to eliminate HCV.



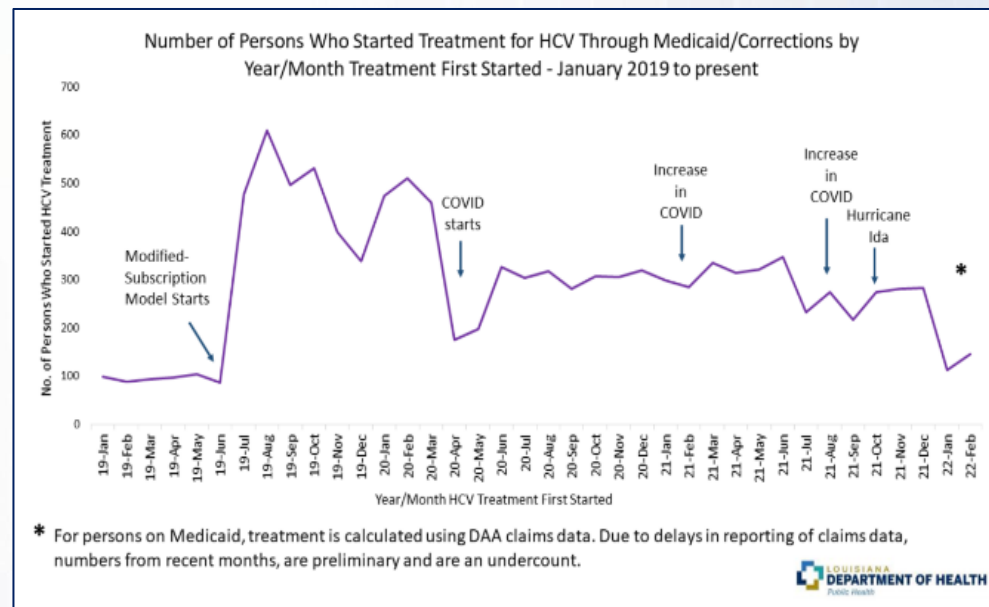
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Hepatitis C Elimination

- Since July 15, 2019, **10,759** persons have accessed treatment for Hepatitis C. That includes **9,302** persons on Medicaid and **1,457** persons who are incarcerated.
- For persons on Medicaid, since July 15, 2019:
 - 9,302 persons have accessed treatment for HCV
 - 9,133 persons have started treatment for HCV through Medicaid for the first time
 - 7,930 persons who have accessed treatment have completed it
 - 6,394 persons have accessed treatment because of Medicaid Expansion
 - 612 providers have written prescriptions for DAAs for the first time






Hepatitis C Elimination

- **Louisiana received an “A+” for its efforts to eliminate hepatitis C in the state.** “Hep ElimINATION is the country’s first comprehensive analysis of the policy landscape and programmatic strategies aimed at viral hepatitis elimination in the 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.
- Hep ElimINATION assigns a letter grade to all 52 jurisdictions based on elements of their current capacity to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030 and in alignment with the HHS Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan, including:
 - State viral hepatitis elimination plan development;
 - Harm reduction laws and policies;
 - Budget allocations;
 - Improving viral hepatitis prevention, treatment and outcomes;
 - Reducing viral hepatitis-related disparities and health inequities;
 - Improving viral hepatitis surveillance and data usage; and
 - Achieving integrated, coordinated efforts that address the viral hepatitis epidemics among all partners and stakeholders.”

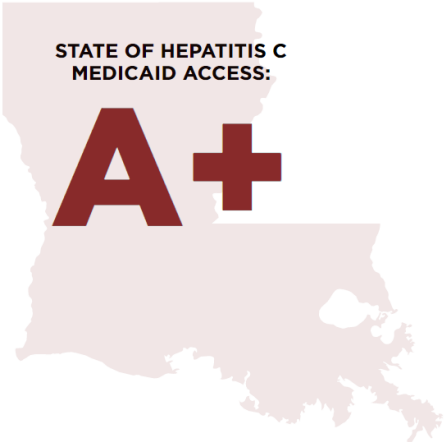


Hepatitis C Elimination

 **HEPATITIS C
STATE OF MEDICAID ACCESS**

[ABOUT](#) [REPORT](#) [RESOURCES](#) [NEWSROOM](#)

**STATE OF HEPATITIS C
MEDICAID ACCESS:**



LOUISIANA*

LIVER DAMAGE RESTRICTIONS
Fee-For-Service (FFS) and all Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) do not impose liver damage restrictions.

SOBRIETY RESTRICTIONS
FFS and all MCOs do not impose sobriety restrictions.

PRESCRIBER RESTRICTIONS
FFS and all MCOs do not impose prescriber restrictions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue to provide access to hepatitis C medications for all Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage requirements.

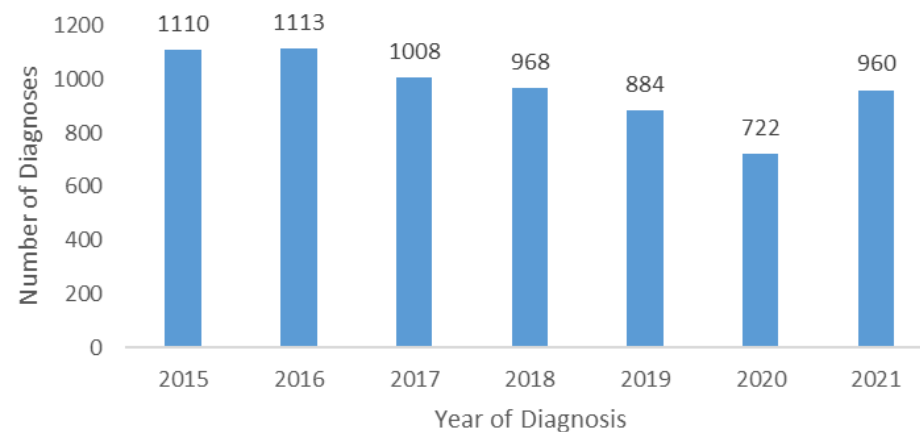
***LOUISIANA DOES NOT REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR SOFOSBUVIR/VELPATASVIR.**



HIV/STI Surveillance

- **OPH is monitoring recent increases in HIV in Louisiana.**
- In the 5 years before COVID-19, HIV diagnoses declined over 20% from 1,110 cases in 2015 to 884 cases in 2019. **2018 marked the first year since the late 1980s that Louisiana reported under 1,000 diagnoses**
- From 2019 to 2020, HIV diagnoses decreased by an additional 18% from 884 diagnoses in 2019 (Pre-COVID) to 722 diagnoses in 2020 (first year of COVID)
- From 2020 to 2021, there has been a sharp increase in HIV diagnoses. **From 2020 to 2021, HIV diagnoses have increased 33% from 722 diagnoses in 2020 to 960 in 2021.**
- 2021 marked the return of many routine medical appointments, reduced closures at testing facilities, increased testing capacity

New HIV Diagnoses, Louisiana
2015-2021

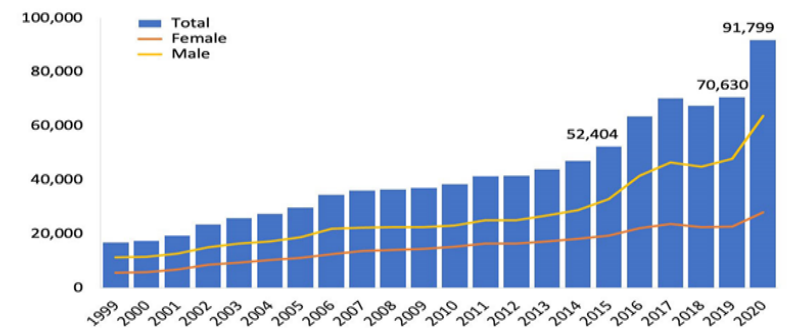




Drug-Related Deaths

- According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), since March 2020, there has been a record increase in substance use and drug overdoses in the United States.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has created increased challenges and barriers to persons with substance use disorders, specifically opioid use disorders, and those in recovery. In addition, according to CDC, provisional data represented accelerated overdose death rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **More than 93,000 drug overdose deaths were estimated to have occurred in the United States in 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period and a nearly 30% increase from 2019.**
- For Louisiana, there were 2,121 drug-related deaths in Louisiana in 2020. This is a 43% increase from 2019. To compare to national estimates, drug overdose deaths in the US increased 29% from 2019 to 2020.

**Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2020**



*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40-X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60-X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10-Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021.

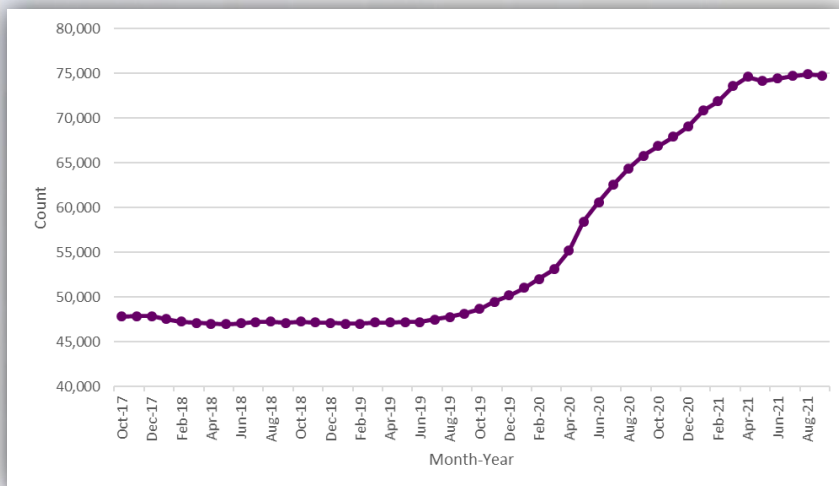


Drug-Related Deaths

- In 2020, Louisiana was ranked among the **top five opioid prescribing states** in the U.S.
- In 2016, Louisiana providers wrote 110 opioid prescriptions per every 100 people. In 2018 down to 79.4, and 2020 down to 74.6 (U.S 51.4)
- Opioid involved deaths increased by **67%** from 588 in 2019 to 982 in 2020, the highest number of opioid-related deaths on record in Louisiana.
- From 2012 to 2020, opioid-involved deaths in Louisiana increased **514%**

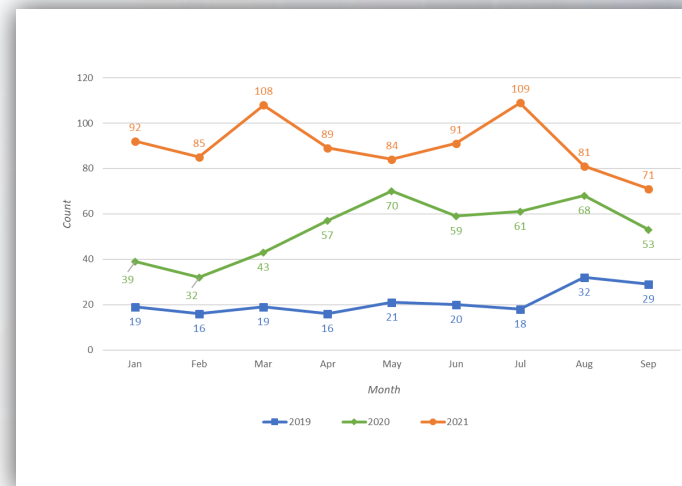


Synthetic Opioid (Fentanyl) Poisoning Deaths United States, 10/2017 to 9/2021 12-month provisional counts



Source: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, extracted by Louisiana Opioid Surveillance Program.
NOTE: Graph has been magnified to better display the trend.
Estimates for 2021 are based on provisional data.
Estimates for 2015-2020 are based on final data (available from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_public_use_data.htm).

Synthetic Opioid Poisoning Deaths by Month Louisiana, 2019-2021*



Source: Louisiana Electronic Event Registration System, extracted by Louisiana Opioid Surveillance Program.
*2021 data is preliminary



Drug-Related Deaths

These increased death rates are driven and could be contributed to multiple concepts. Some items that could have potentially increased overdose death rates in Louisiana:

- Increased use of Fentanyl, without the knowledge of the user
- Increased stress and anxiety due to fear of COVID
- Increased isolation and boredom due to social distancing
- Increased use of drugs “alone” (no one present to call 911)
- Increased mental health complications
- Lack of access to care due to social distancing
- Lack of client’s ability or capacity to access technology for SUD telehealth services
- Decreased access to harm reduction services due to COVID
- Decreased social supports such as; family, friends, sponsors, recovery coaching etc. due to COVID
- Increased use of drugs due to financial issues relative to unemployment, which thereby could increase the potential for depression.
- Increase in Domestic Violence



State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan (SHA/SHIP)

- A statewide community health survey was completed in Fall 2021 and got **4,500** respondents.
- Thanks to our partner mySidewalk, data visualizations on our SHA Dashboard are kept up to date as new data becomes available.
- Based on input from members of the OPH SHA/SHIP team and external advisory board, OPH's Bureau of Planning and Performance has put together a proposed list of SHIP priority areas that will be reviewed with external partners in the coming weeks. They are:
 - Chronic Disease
 - Behavioral Health
 - Maternal & Child health
 - Community Safety

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Louisiana State Health Assessment

Assessing Health & Equity
Find Data by Region
Get Involved!
Demographics
Foundations of Community Health
Behaviors and Exposures
Medical Conditions

Need data for a specific parish or region?

Use the links below to navigate to the pages with data for your region or the entire state. If you're unsure in which region your parish is located, check out the map below or Ctrl/Cmd + F to search for your parish's name.