

COVID-19 Effects and Response in WV

Family Medicine & Sports Medicine Conference

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Objectives

- **Overview of WV Demographics/Health Indicators.**
- **COVID-19 Update.**
- **COVID-19 and Well-being**
- **WV Overdoses 2020 Data.**
- **COVID-19 Immunizations.**
- **Resources.**

West Virginia Demographics

- Median age: 42.9 years (about 10% higher than the US figure of 38.5 years).
- As of April 2021, West Virginia enrolled 578,463 individuals in Medicaid and the West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a net increase of 63.16% since the first Marketplace Open Enrollment period and related Medicaid program changes in October 2013.
- There are 590,961 adults in West Virginia who have a disability, about 1 in 3 adults in West Virginia (compared to 12% of the US population).
- Bachelor's degree or higher: 20.6%.
- Median household income: \$46,711.
- Percentage below poverty level: 16%.

Sources:

- <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/04000US54-west-virginia/>
- Medicaid & CHIP data: www.Medicaid.gov
- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/west-virginia.html>
- <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WV>

Life expectancy at birth: 74.4 years as of 2018.

Top 5 causes of death:

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
3. Accidents
4. Chronic lower respiratory diseases
5. Stroke

West Virginia Risk Factor Indicators

Risk Factor	WV Prevalence	Rank	US Prevalence
Current Smoking	24.8%	2	16.3%
Current Smokeless Tobacco Use	8.5%	2	3.6%
Fair/Poor Health Status	26.3%	2	18.0%
Lack of Physical Activity	28.5%	11	24.4%

Data source: DHHR, Health Statistics Center, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2016
(rank includes all 54 states, DC, and territories)

West Virginia Morbidity Indicators

Health Condition	WV Prevalence	Rank	US Prevalence
Arthritis	38.0%	1	24.2%
Poor Health Limitations (at least 14 days in past 30 days)	21.3%	2	16.3%
Cardiovascular Disease	13.8%	1	8.6%
Obesity	39.1%	2	31.9%
COPD	13.6%	1	6.4%
Hypertension*	43.8%	1	32.6%
Diabetes	15.7%	2	11.1%
Kidney Disease	4.6%	1	3.0%
Depression	26.4%	1	18.3%
Cancer	14.6%	2	11.2%

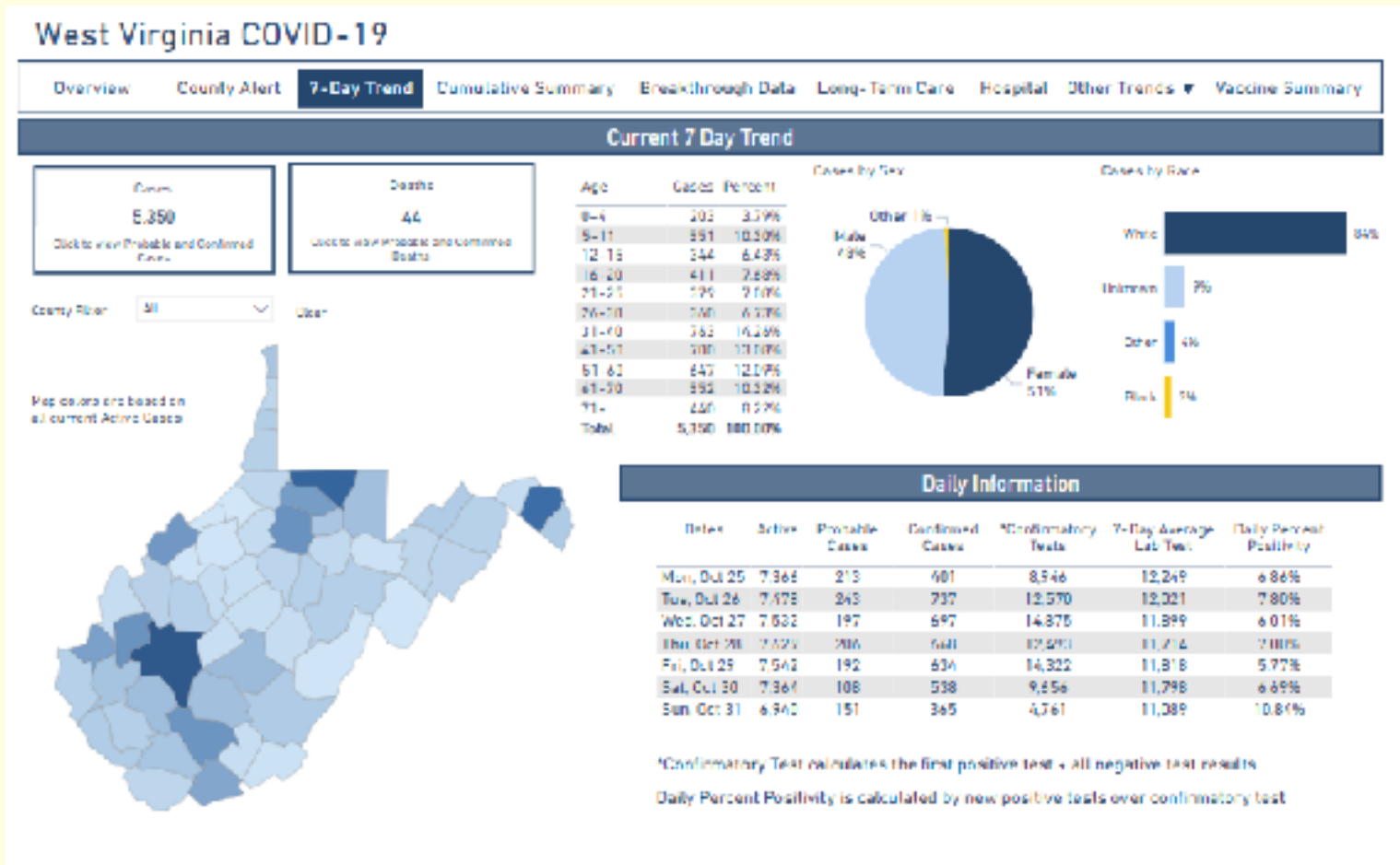
Data Source: DHHR, Health Statistics Center, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2020, *2019
(rank includes all 50 states, DC, and territories, rank 1 is highest prevalence)

Where We Started

- In the initial rollout, West Virginia modified its plan from those used in other states because about 54% of the state's pharmacies were not chain affiliated.
- West Virginia worked with the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy and the West Virginia Healthcare Association to modify its approach to focus on vaccinating long-term care staff and residents.

Where We Are

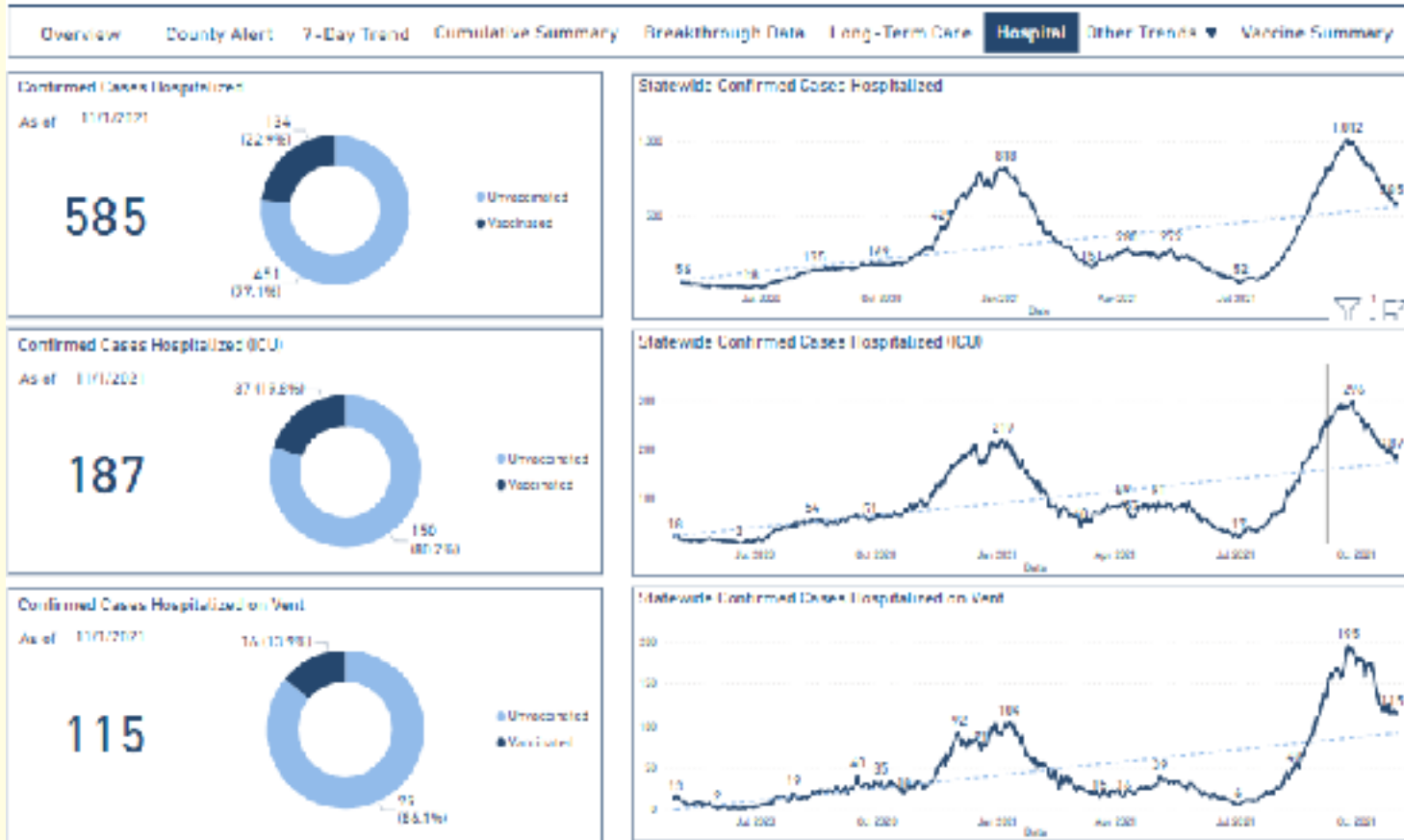
A snapshot of COVID-19 trends in West Virginia as of November 1, 2021.



Where We Are, Cont'd

A snapshot of hospitalization trends in West Virginia as of November 1, 2021.

West Virginia COVID-19



Note: All data are provisional and subject to change based on information obtained during public health investigations.

Where We Are, Cont'd

A snapshot of vaccine doses administered in West Virginia as of November 1, 2021.

West Virginia COVID-19

Overview County Alert Day Trend Cumulative Summary Breakthrough Data Long-Term Care Hospital Other Trends Vaccine Summary

Statewide Numbers

2,877,500

Total Doses Received and Allocated in WV

1,833,115

Total Doses Administered

63.7%

% of Total Doses Administered of Doses Received

1,009,487

People With At Least One Dose

878,655

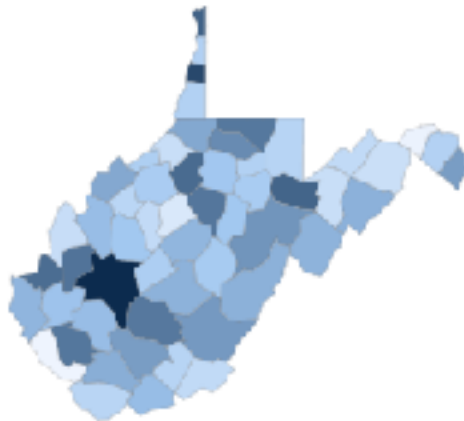
People Fully Vaccinated

Click Here to view details

People With At Least One Dose - Statewide Numbers

County Filter All Clear

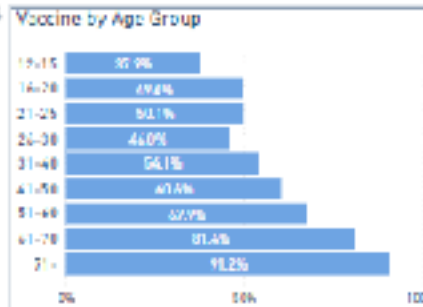
- Map Legend
- Hospitalized/Leads One Dose
 - People Fully Vaccinated



Map colors are based off doses administered per 1,000

Key Metric	Doses	Population	%
Doses Administered	1,833,115	1,797,137	79.8%
1D+ Doses Administered	1,009,487	1,702,997	48.6%
1U+ Doses Administered	958,977	1,217,590	44.9%
95%+ Doses Administered	325,421	367,311	88.7%

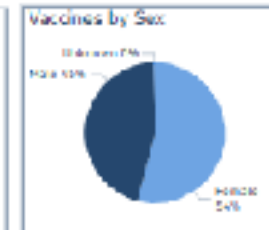
Click here to view county counts and doses per 1,000



Vaccines by Race

Race	Count	Percentage
Black	272,225	27.0%
Other	51,263	9.8%
Unknown	40,451	4.0%
White	685,247	63.2%

Click here to view race by county



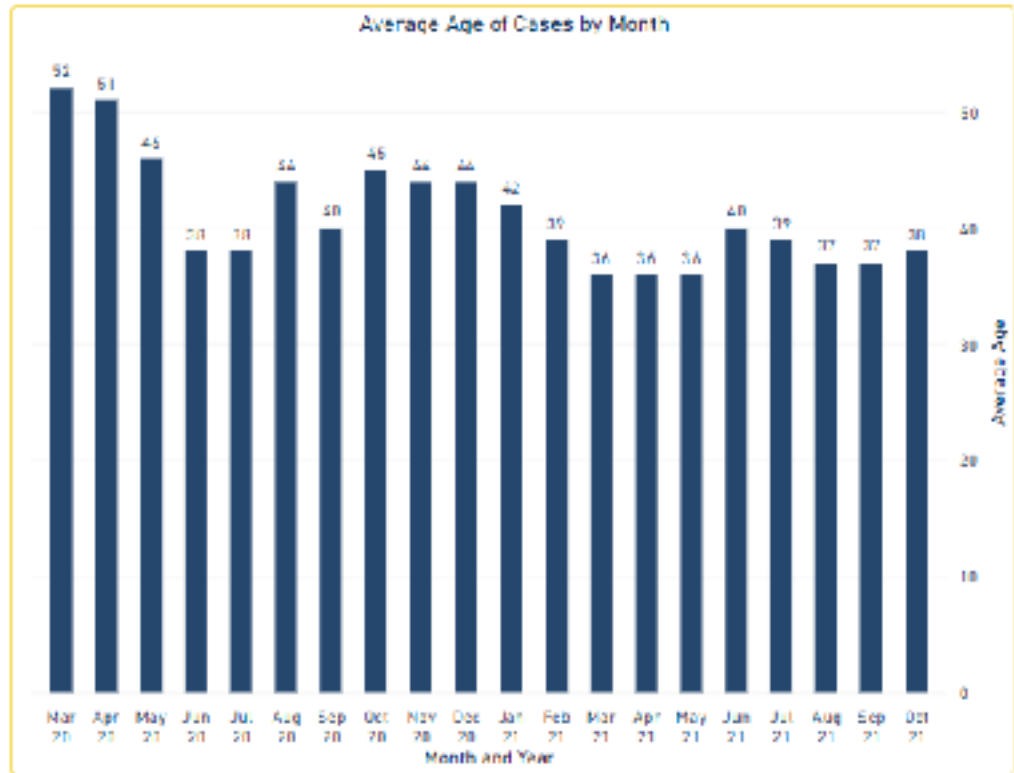
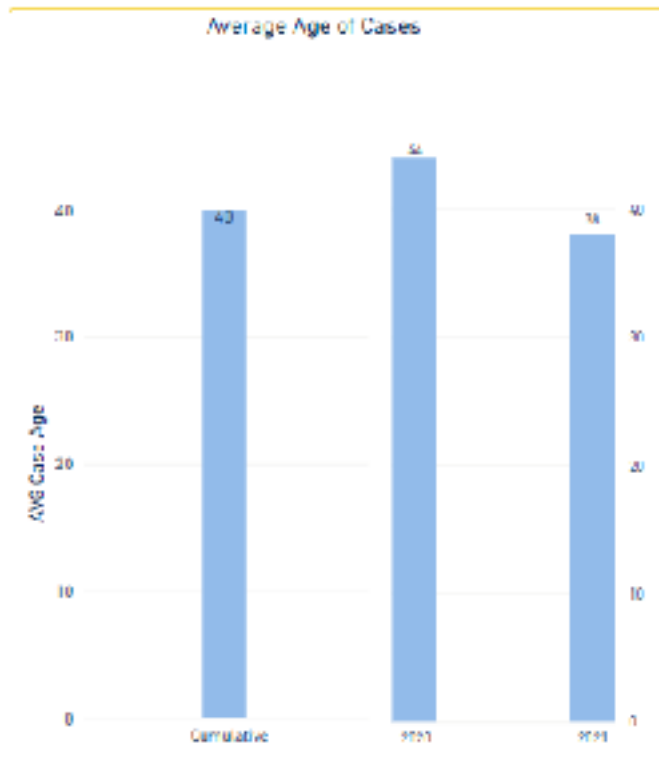
Click here to view total doses administered for the last seven days.

Note: Vaccine data listed on the Vaccine Summary tab includes doses administered by jurisdiction. Differences between reporting jurisdictions and CDC's website may occur due to the timing of reporting and website updates.

Updated 10:02 AM 11/1/2021

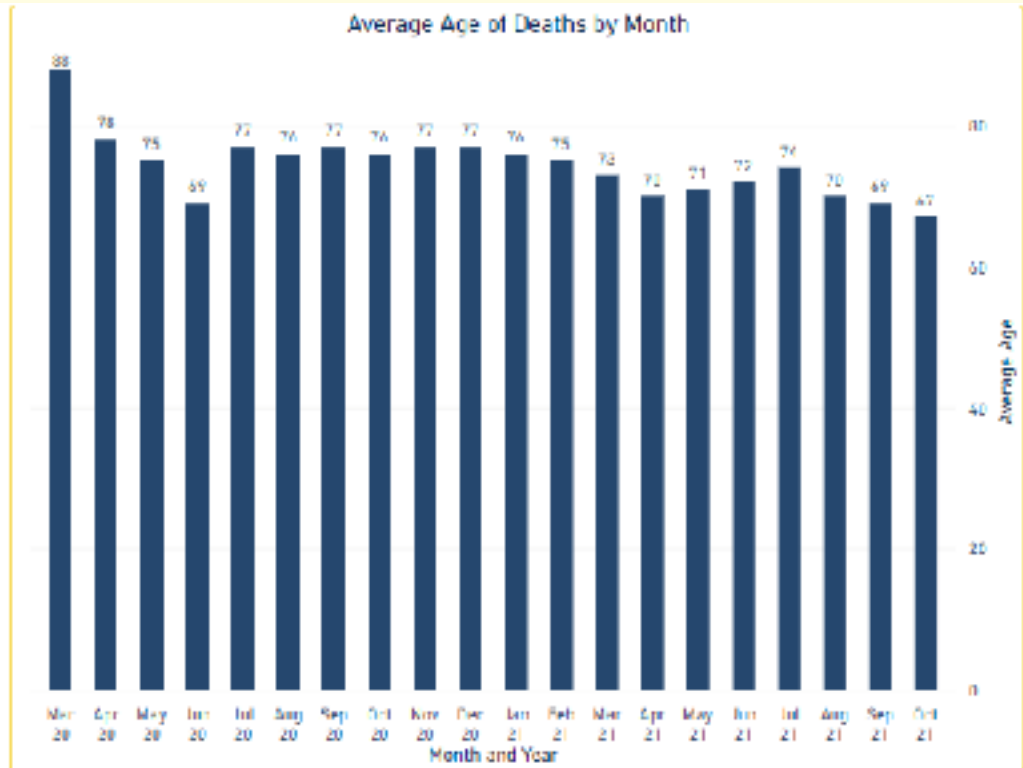
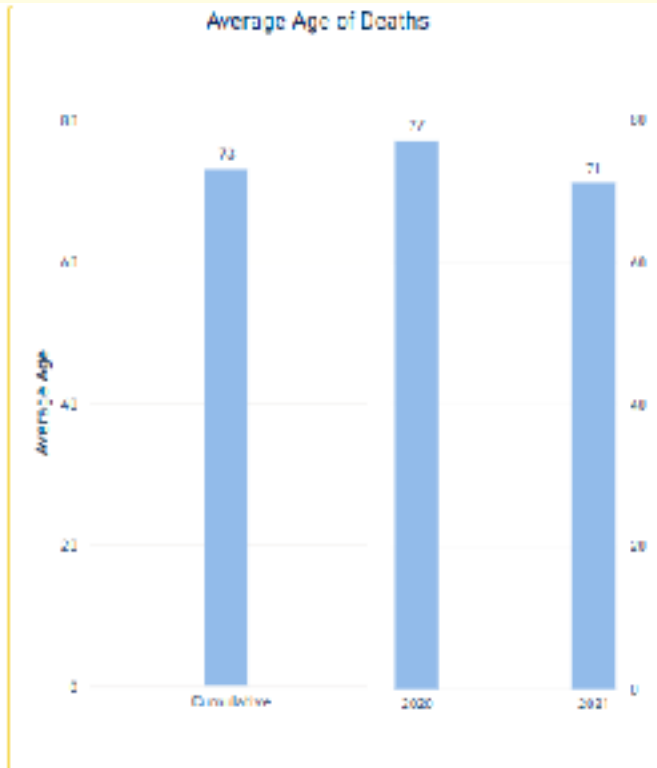
Where We Are, Cont'd

Average age of cases by month as of November 1, 2021.

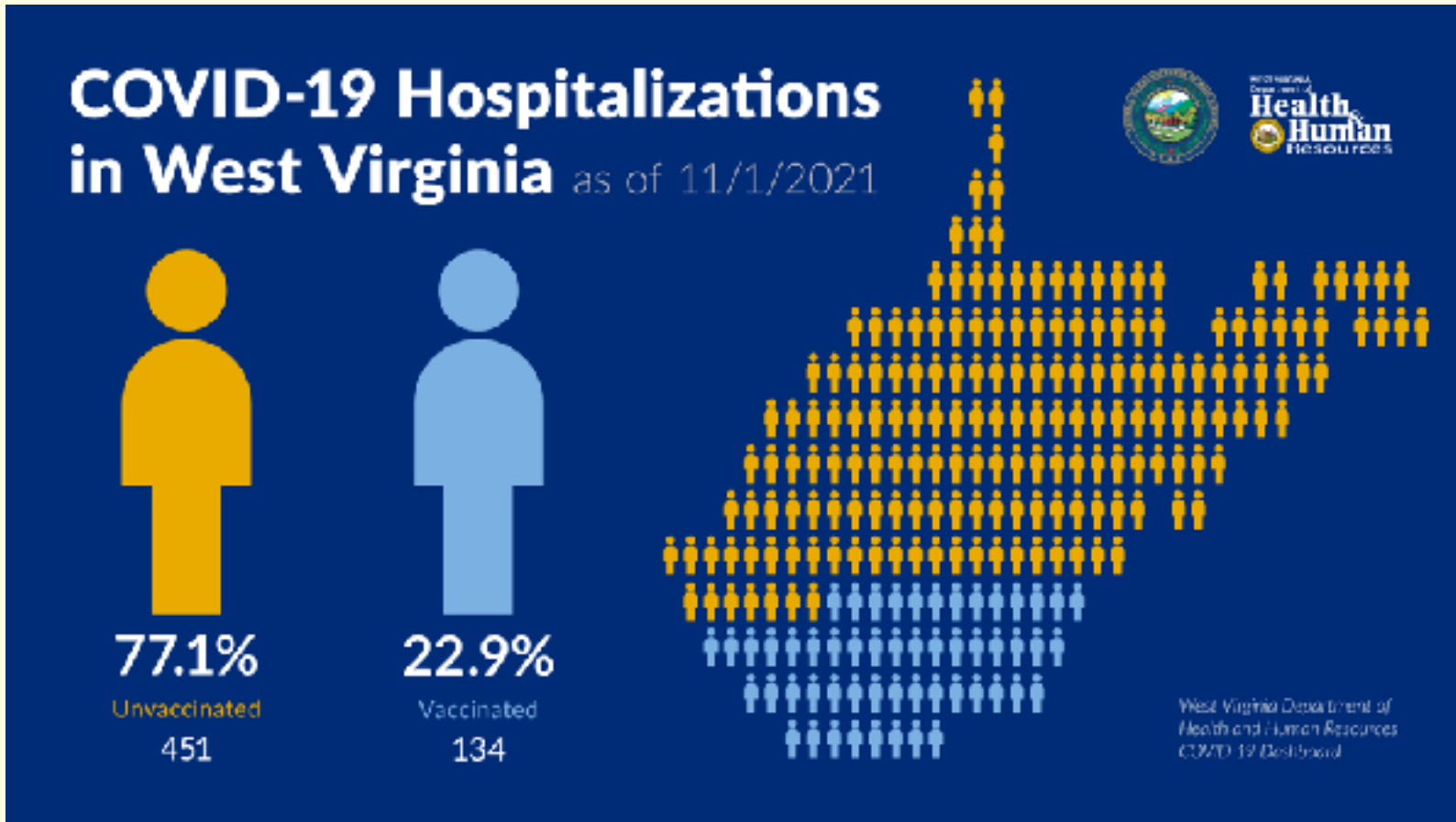


Where We Are, Cont'd

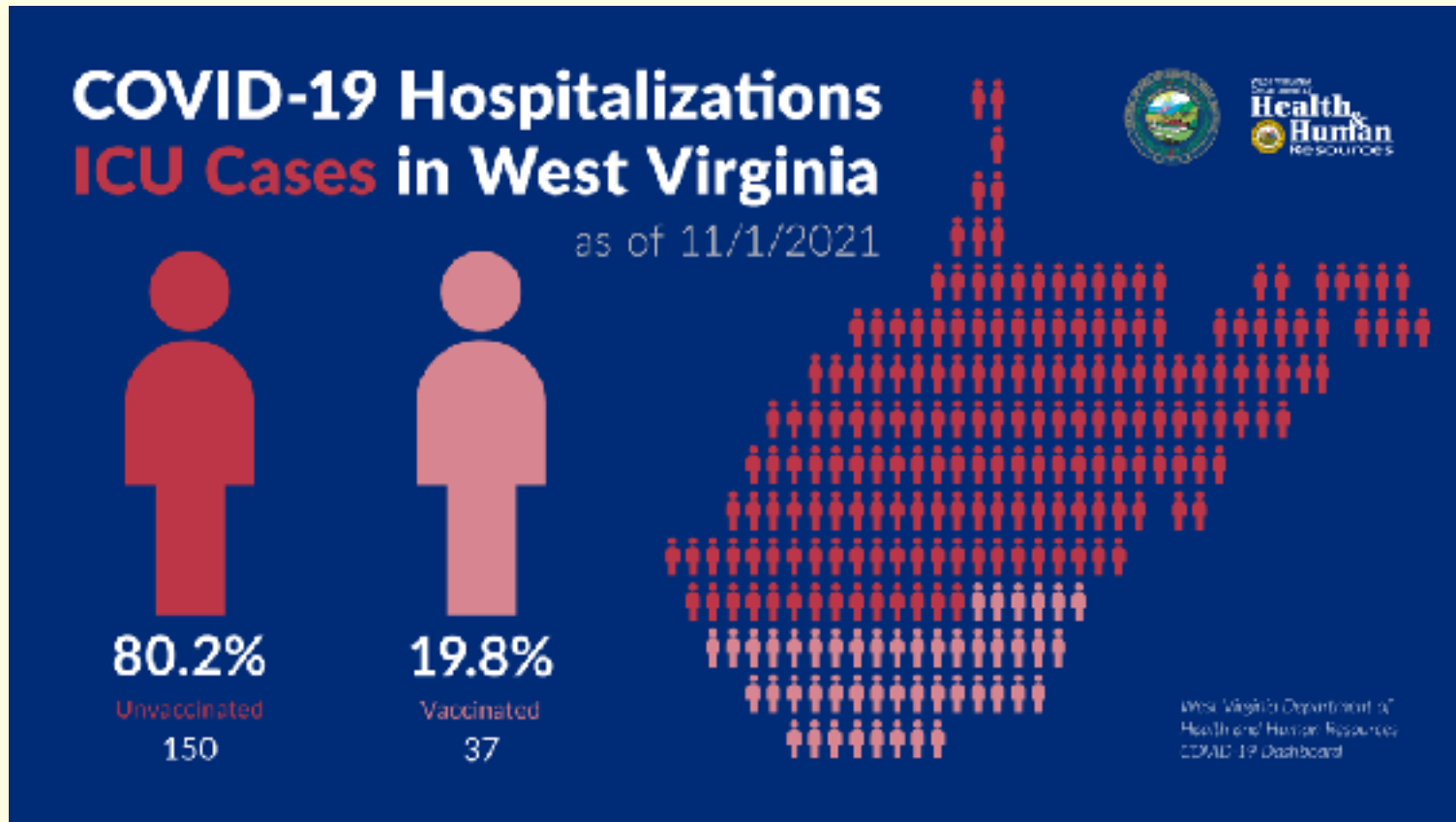
Average age of deaths by month as of November 1, 2021.



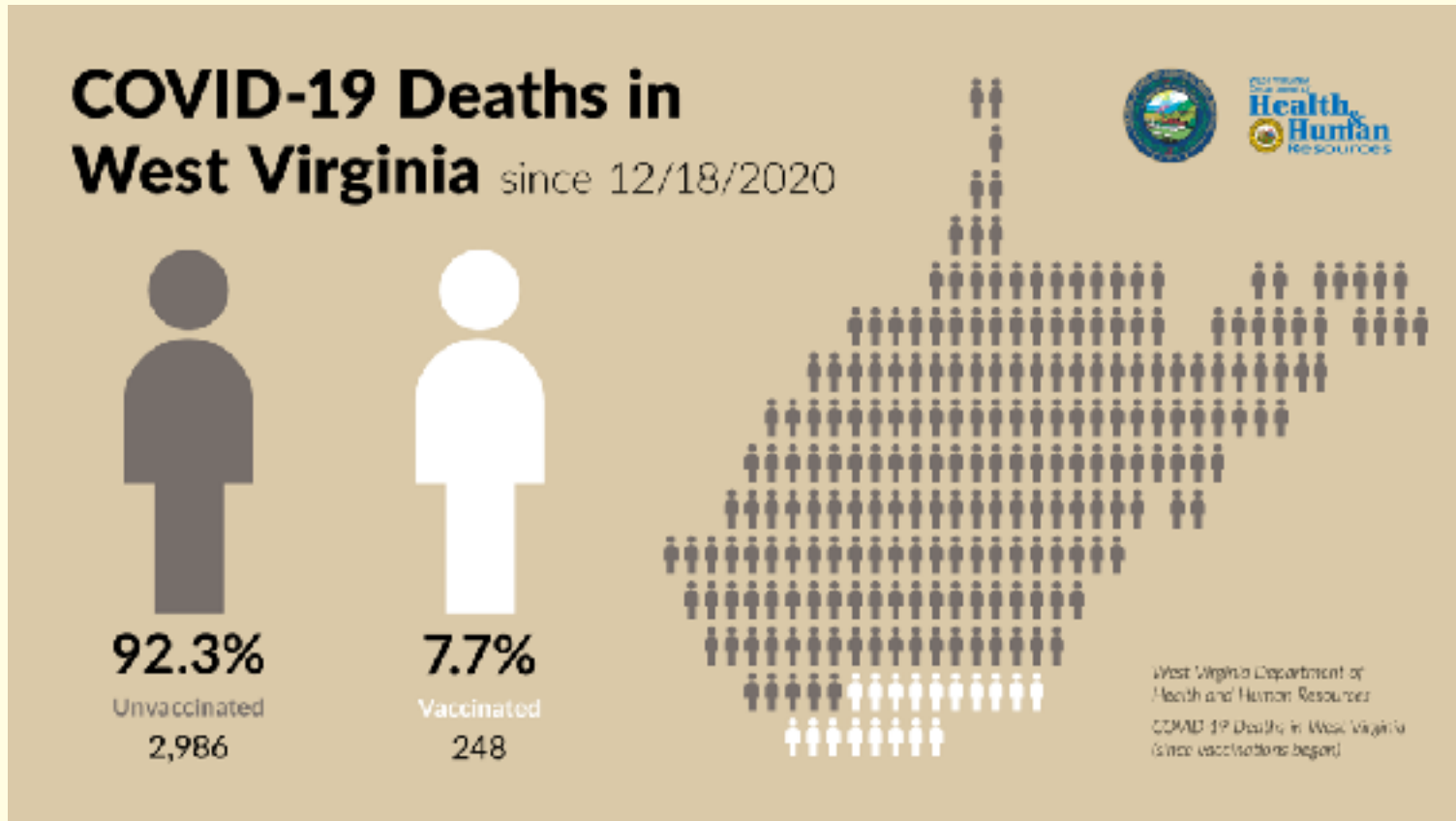
COVID-19 Hospitalizations in WV



COVID-19 ICU Cases in WV



COVID-19 Deaths in WV



COVID-19 and Well-being

- According to a McKinsey survey, more people have reported experiencing worsening physical and emotional wellness since the start of the pandemic.
- One in five reported lower physical wellness.
- One in three reported experiencing lower emotional wellness.
- Economic and employment effects have made this problem worse.

* Source: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/how-covid-19-has-changed-the-way-us-consumers-think-about-healthcare>

Large disease outbreaks have been associated with mental health problems. An MMWR released earlier this year showed:

- From August 2020 to February 2021, the percentage of adults with recent symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder increased from 36.4% to 41.5%.
- The percentage reporting they needed but did not receive mental health counseling/therapy in the preceding four weeks increased from 9.2% to 11.7%.
- Increases were largest among adults 18-29 years old and those with less than a high school education.

Healthcare Workers and Mental Health

The pandemic has negatively affected mental health of healthcare professionals.

According to an American Medical Association survey of 20,947 physicians and other workers:

- 61% were fearful of exposing themselves or their families to COVID-19.
- 38% self reported experiencing anxiety or depression.
- 43% reported experiencing work overload.
- 49% reported experiencing burnout.



Data source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/physician-health/half-health-workers-report-burnout-amid-covid-19>

- Additionally, stress was highest among nursing assistants, social workers and inpatient workers as well as among women, black, and Latinx healthcare workers.*
- Odds of burnout were 40% lower in those who felt valued by their organizations.*

*Source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/physician-health/half-health-workers-report-burnout-amid-covid-19>

A July Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report also showed increases in mental health conditions among the general population and public health workers.

Of 26,174 surveyed, 53% reported symptoms of at least one mental health condition in the previous two weeks, including:

- Depression: 32%.
- Anxiety: 30.3%.
- PTSD: 36.8%.
- Suicidal ideation: 8.4%.

According to the MMWR report, the highest prevalence of symptoms of a mental health condition was among:

- Respondents 29 years old and younger.
- Transgender or nonbinary persons of all ages.
- Symptoms were more prevalent among those unable to take time off or who worked more than 41 hours per week.

Public health workers might be at similar risk for negative mental health consequences because of prolonged demand for responding to the pandemic and for implementing an unprecedented vaccination campaign, according to the MMWR.

*Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7026e1.htm>

Know the Signs

Knowing the warning signs is important for everyone to help support patients, coworkers, and loved ones.

Suicide warning signs listed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include:

- Feeling like a burden
- Being isolated
- Increased anxiety
- Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Increased substance use
- Looking for a way to access lethal means
- Increased anger or rage
- Extreme mood swings
- Expressing hopelessness
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Talking/posting about wanting to die
- Making plans for suicide

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/be-there-prevent-suicide/index.html>

Mental Health-How to Help

Supporting people is crucial, especially now. We can all help prevent suicide.

Some steps the CDC lists for helping those who may be at risk of suicide are:

- Ask.
- Keep them safe.
- Be there.
- Help them connect.
- Follow up.

Help 304

West Virginia's Emotional Strength Line

Call or Text: 1-877-HELP304

Chat: <http://help304.com>

Optum's Emotional Support Help Line

Free Service for PEIA Members

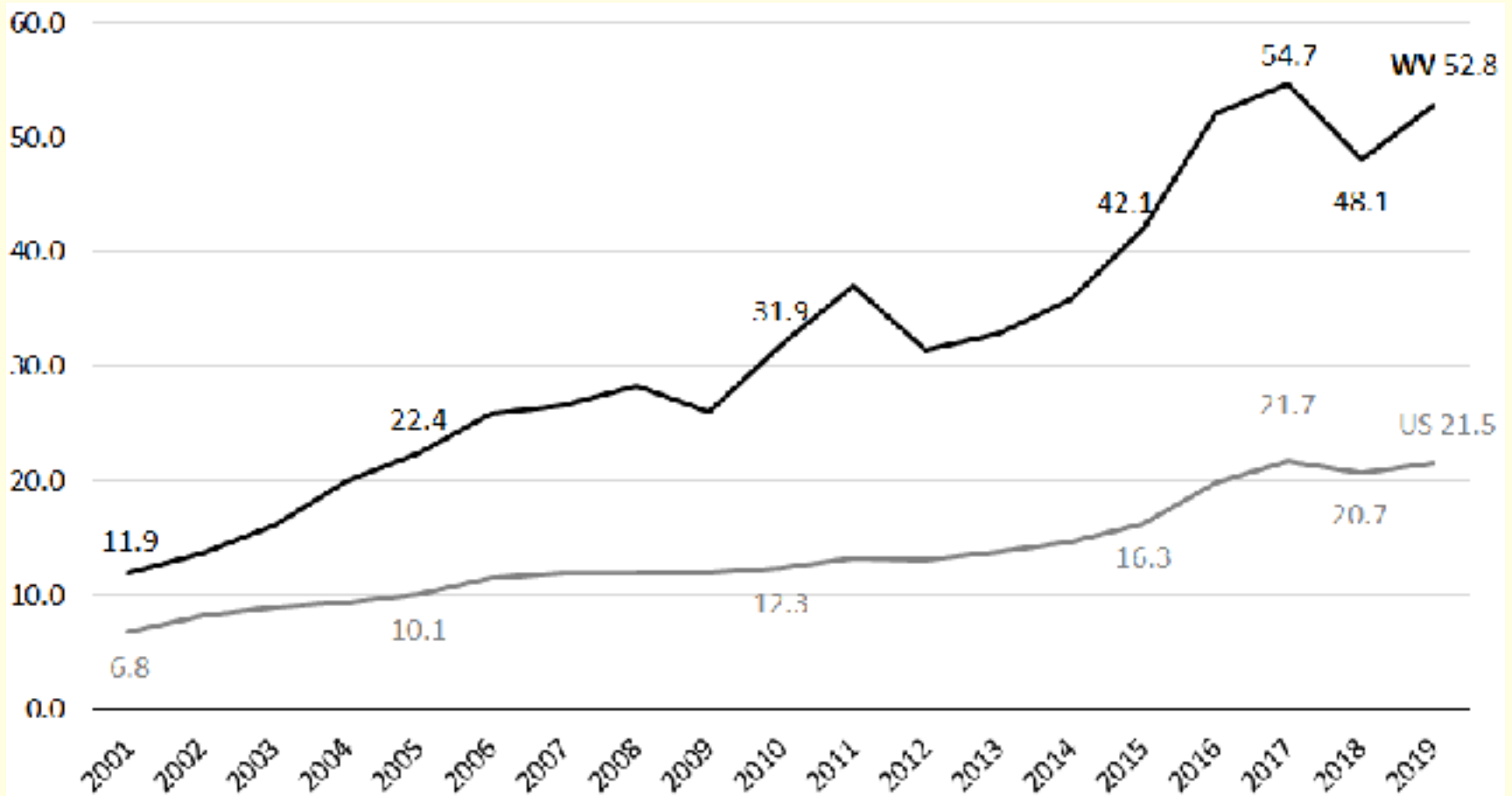
Call: 866-342-6892

WV Resident Overdoses 2020

- Resident deaths: 1,277
- Resident overdoses within WV: 1,252
- Resident overdoses outside of WV: 105
- Resident overdoses in border States: 83 (OH, PA, MD, KY, VA)

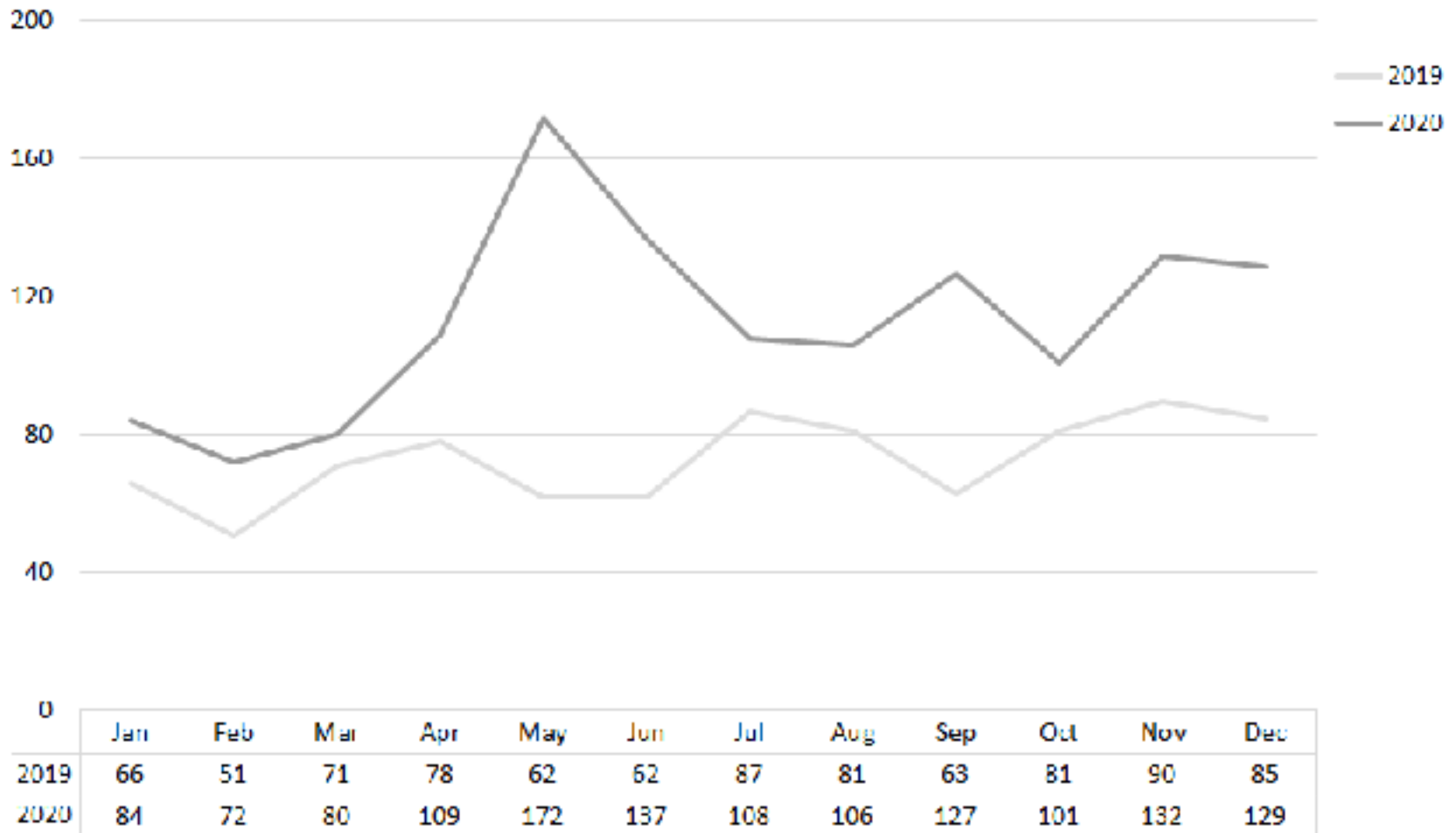
WV and US

US and WV Resident Drug Overdose Mortality, 2001-2019*
Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Population



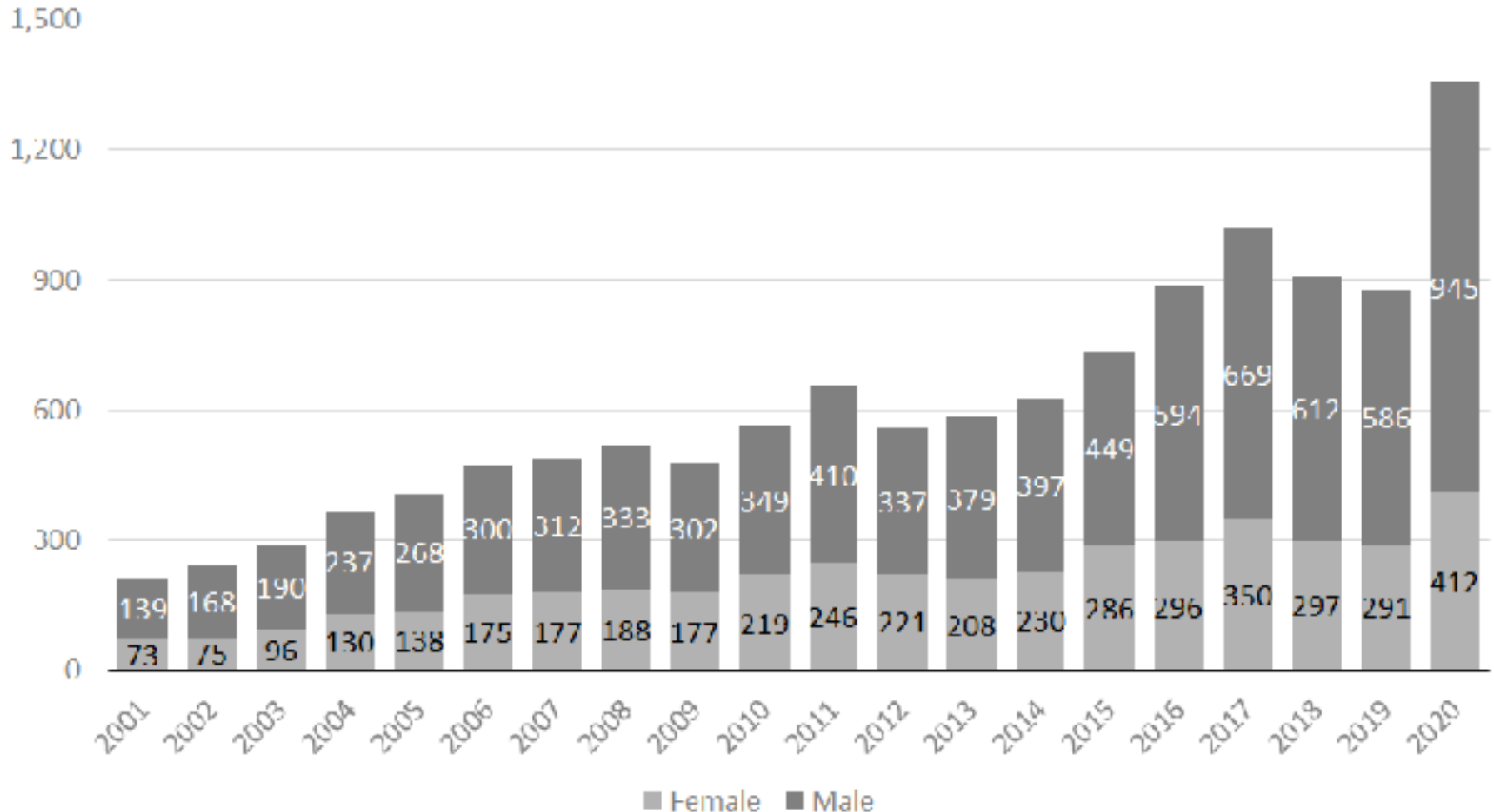
Trends

WV Monthly Fatal Overdoses, 2019-2020
WV Occurrences



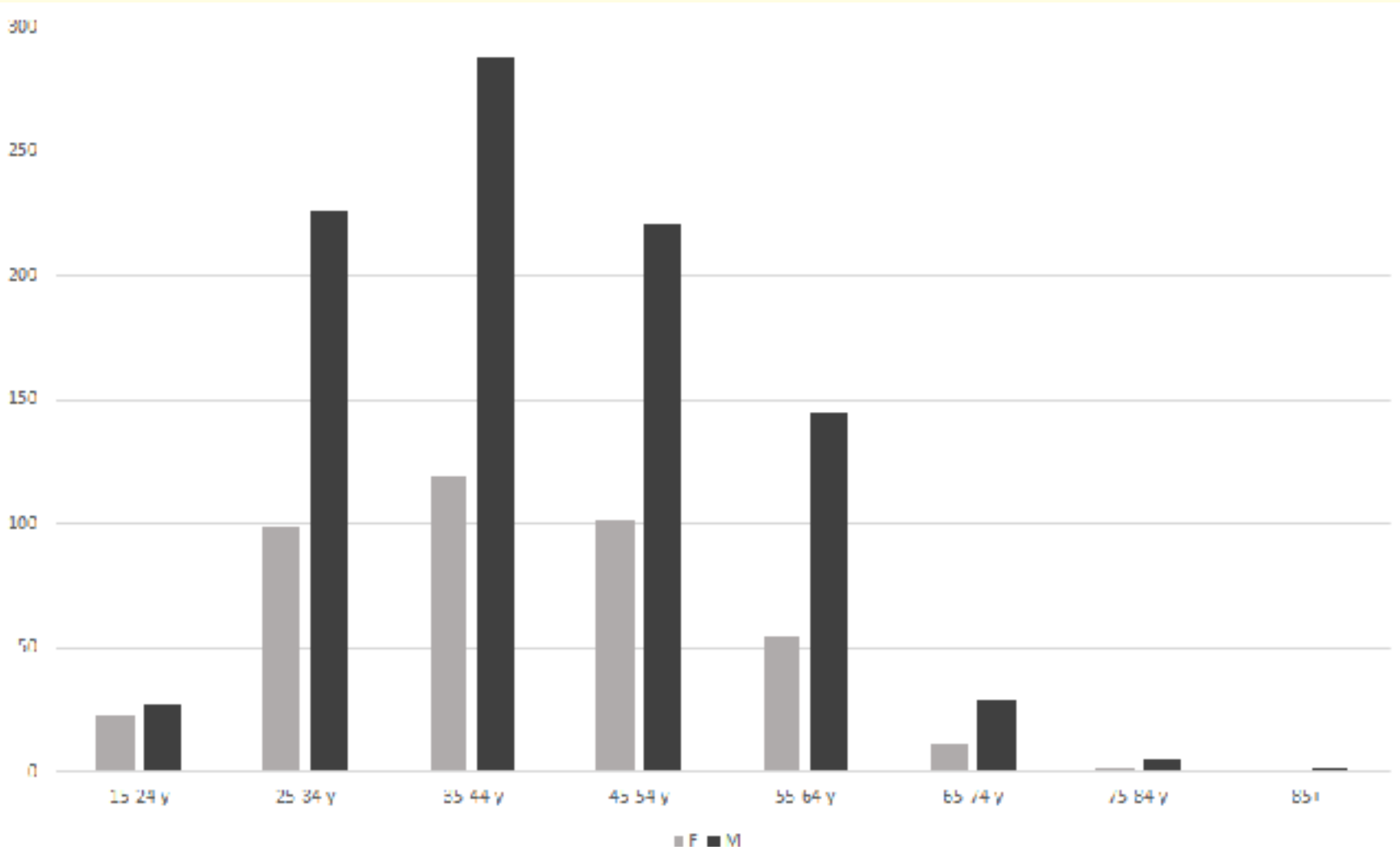
Trend Analysis

Fatal Drug Overdoses Occurring in WV by Sex, 2001-2020



Trend Analysis

Fatal Drug Overdoses Occurring in WV by Sex and Age Group, 2020



Carfentanil overdoses decreased during 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020.

Increased Xylazine Occurrences in 2020:

- 60 occurrences during 2020.
- 6 occurrences during 2019.

HIV -- Kanawha County Outbreak

- The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health continues monitoring the HIV outbreak in Kanawha County.
- As part of the ongoing response, CDC previously conducted an Epi-Aid investigation in Charleston, WV.
- Final recommendations from the CDC regarding the HIV outbreak in Kanawha County were presented in August 2021.

Since January 1, 2019, 85 newly diagnosed cases of HIV associated with injection drug use have been reported in Kanawha County:

- 52% male.
- 79% of cases are between 20 and 40 years of age.
- 47% of cases report being homeless or unstably housed in the past 12 months.
- 86% are co-infected with hepatitis C.
- 39 (46%) diagnosed in hospital setting and 17 (20%) diagnosed by CAMC Ryan White clinic/outreach testing.

Epi-Aid Recommendations

CDC's primary recommendations for addressing the ongoing HIV outbreak focused on addressing gaps in prevention and care services for people who inject drugs (PWID). Recommendations include expanding and improving access to sterile syringes, testing and treatment by:

- Meeting PWID where they are by reducing barriers to participation in harm reduction programs and bringing services to them through mobile and street outreach and one-stop shop models of harm reduction services.
- Making HIV/hepatitis C testing routine with opt-out screening in healthcare and other settings where PWID may engage in care.
- Co-locating services for PWID to facilitate a seamless transition to needed support, care, and treatment for HIV, hepatitis C, substance use, and mental health services.

Epi-Aid Recommendations, Con't

- Conducting additional data analysis to understand the extent of injection drug use in Kanawha County and to prioritize outreach to other West Virginia counties to improve HIV testing, prevention, and care services in communities at highest risk for HIV or hepatitis C outbreaks among PWID.
- CDC also provided additional recommendations, including expanding and improving harm reduction across multiple settings and care coordination, as well as outlining specific actions that could be taken by various entities including stakeholders in health departments, clinical settings, correctional settings, social services, and public safety.
- Involving the community in efforts to address the outbreak through increased engagement and dissemination of information, particularly including facilitating community discussion with key stakeholders and engaging PWID in the design and delivery of programs and services.

Increased testing and outreach activities began at the beginning of April. As of October 5, 2021:

- Kanawha Valley HIV Testing Outreach Group has tested 370 individual over 28 events
- BPH has tested 296 individuals at independent events (MAT, Recovery Point and Day Release Centers)
 - 19 previously positive individuals identified and re-linked to care
 - 5 new positive individuals identified

HIV-Kanawha County Outbreak

- Many resources are being dedicated to outbreak response at state, local and community levels.
- Working to address system/process changes needed to make testing and services more available to, and address missed opportunities with the PWID population.
- There is not a quick fix. It takes partners, cooperation and hard work.

Importance of Provider Voices

- Healthcare providers' voices are critical in the addressing the continued COVID-19 pandemic.
- People trust their doctors and may have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccines.
- * In fact, according to a Gallup poll, nurses and doctors received their highest ethics ratings to date.
- Providers can help build vaccine confidence by helping patients understand the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and by recommending people to get vaccinated as soon as available.



Source: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/328136/ethics-ratings-rise-medical-workers-teachers.aspx>

- It is important to note that some people may put off going to the doctor.
- According to a McKinsey survey, more than one in three surveyed showed they are willing to delay healthcare if they did not feel the physical location was safe.*
- Attitudes toward telehealth have shifted. In February 2021, 24% of survey respondents reported their most recent health care appointment was conducted virtually.*

*Source: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/how-covid-19-has-changed-the-way-us-consumers-think-about-healthcare>

COVID-19 Vaccines: Driving Principles

West Virginia aims to build community immunity, encouraging all those who are eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

COVID-19 VACCINE PRIORITIES

- Protect The Most Vulnerable
- Reduce Deaths
- Reduce Hospitalizations
- Maintain Critical Services & Acute Care

#CommunityImmunityWV

COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy

- In addition to encouraging the general population, encouraging those who are pregnant or breastfeeding to choose to get the COVID-19 vaccine is also important.
- The CDC recently issued a health alert recommending urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccination among those who are pregnant, recently pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future.

COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy

- Those who are pregnant or have been pregnant have an increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications such as preterm birth and possibly stillbirth.
- Those who are pregnant who have symptomatic COVID-19 have a 70% increased risk of death.
- As of August 2021, more than 95% of pregnant people who were hospitalized and had COVID-19 were unvaccinated.

COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy



- Additionally, those who are vaccinated and pregnant or breastfeeding may even pass along immunity to protect babies.
- For anyone considering pregnancy, there is no evidence COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems in anyone.

Resources: COVID-19 Vaccines

- To become a COVID-19 vaccine provider, you must be licensed to administer vaccines in your practicing jurisdiction.
- To enroll in the COVID-19 vaccine program, contact the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System at 304-352-6262 or 304-352-6261.



Resources: COVID-19 Vaccines

- Physicians will then be instructed to complete the CDC Provider Agreement.
- Lastly, physicians will need to complete the Emergency Immunization Management System, through which you can request COVID-19 vaccines.

- Providers may bill third party payers (commercial insurance, Medicare, Medicaid) for an administration fee for COVID-19 doses administered.
- However, participating vaccination providers must administer COVID-19 vaccines regardless of the recipient's ability to pay COVID-19 vaccine administration fees or health plan coverage status and may not seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the recipient as stated in the CDC Provider Agreement.

Resources: COVID-19 Vaccines

- The American Medical Association provides information providers need to successfully bill for COVID-19 vaccine administration: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2021-01/covid-19-immunizations-appendix-q-table.pdf>.
- There is information for each type of vaccine that has received or is anticipated to receive licensure or emergency use authorization.

Resources: COVID-19 Testing

- Providers can make arrangements with any lab to conduct COVID-19 testing.
- To be reimbursed by the state, providers can contact the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) at dhhrbphcommand@wv.gov to assist with making arrangements with labs under state contract.
- Those wanting to become steady state testing providers can contact DHHR to set up a contract for reimbursement for specimen collection, and to connect with labs to provide testing supplies/analysis.
- Steady state testing is free. Providers cannot charge patients any fees, including billing insurance.

Contact

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