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## Racial Disparities in Incidence and Outcomes Among Patients With COVID-19

L. Silvia Muñoz-Price, MD, PhD; Ann B. Nattinger, MD, MPH; Frida Rivera, MD, PhD; Ryan Hanson, MS; Cameron G. Gmehlin, BA; Adriana Perez, MS; Siddhartha Singh, MD, MS, MBA; Blake W. Buchan, PhD; Nathan A. Ledebouer, PhD; Liliana E. Pezzin, PhD, JD

# Who Is Most Likely to Die From the Coronavirus?

By [Yaryna Serkez](#) June 4, 2020

# AN UNEQUAL BLOW

COVID-19 and Racial/Ethnic Disparities

In Pursuit of a Deeper Understanding of Racial Justice and Health Equity

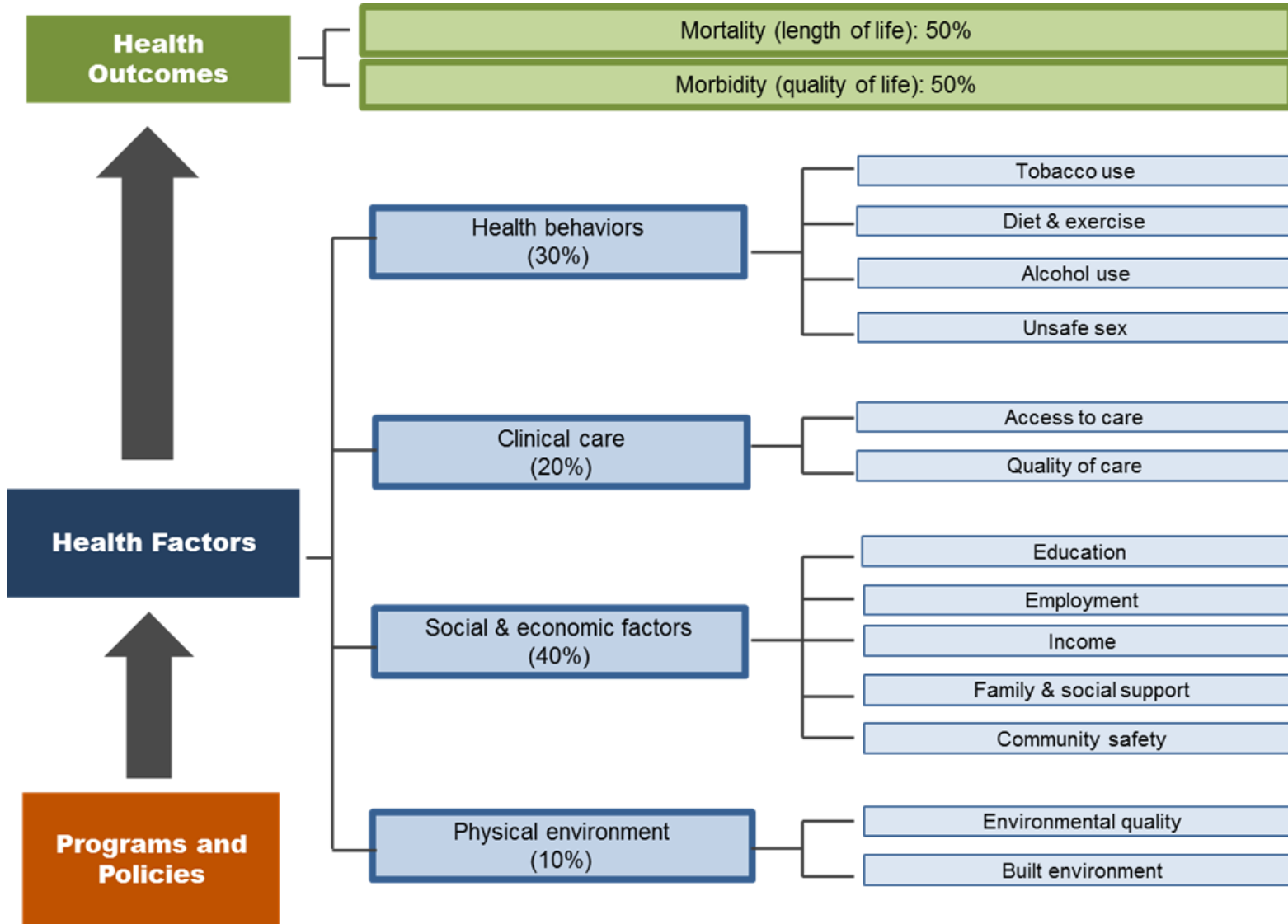
[John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP<sup>1,2</sup>](#); [Melinda B. Buntin, PhD<sup>3,4</sup>](#)

## Social Drivers of Health

The circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness.

**These circumstances are, in turn, shaped by a wide set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics.**

# Socioeconomic, environment and behavioral factors drive 80% of Health



# Your zip code matters more than your genetic code

HANOVER, NH



86.7 yrs.

life expectancy

\$137,344

median household  
income

LEBANON, NH



80.7 yrs.

life expectancy

\$67,698

median household  
income

GRAFTON, NH



78.9 yrs.

life expectancy

\$61,429

median household  
income

NEWPORT, NH



77.5 yrs.

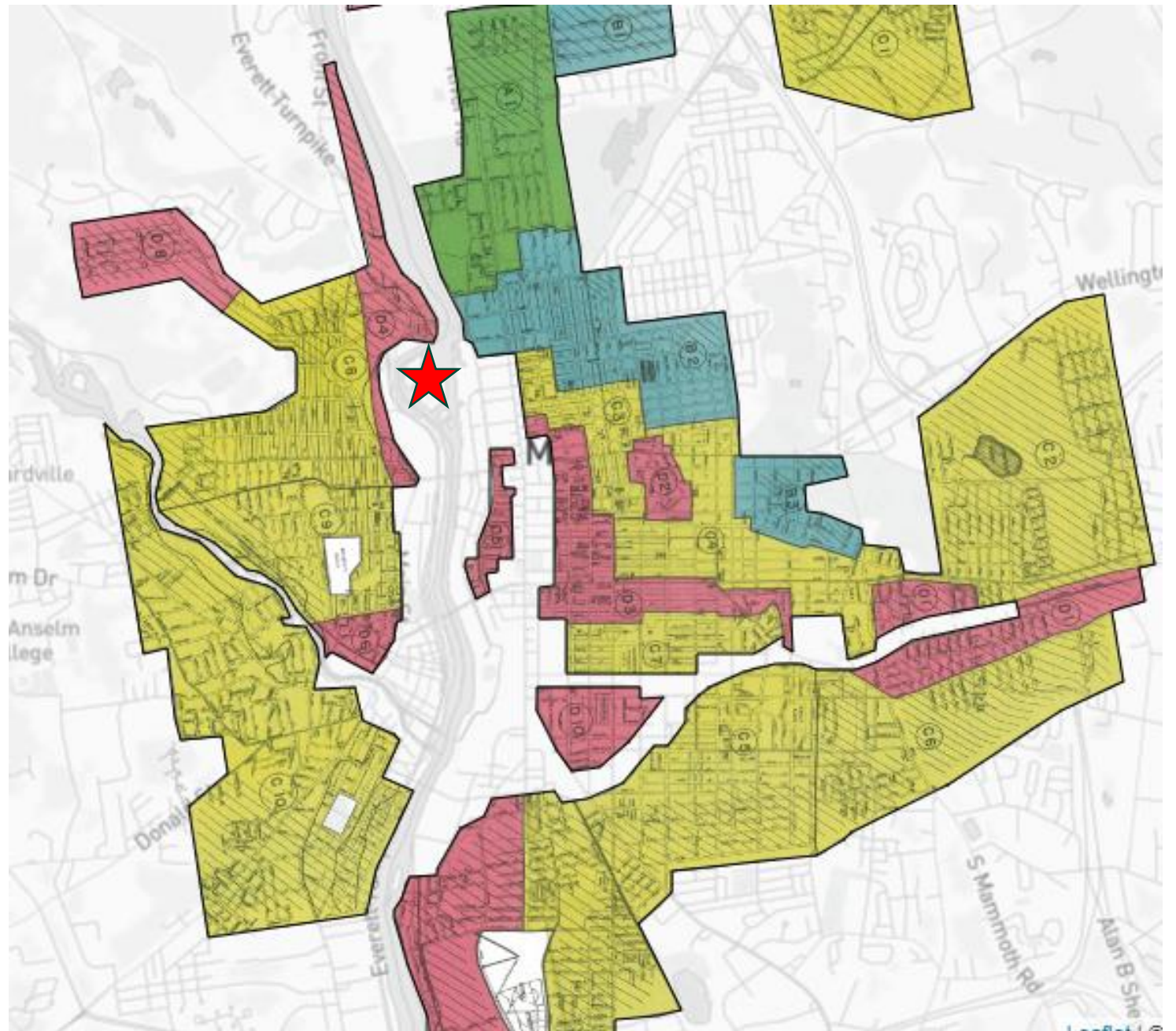
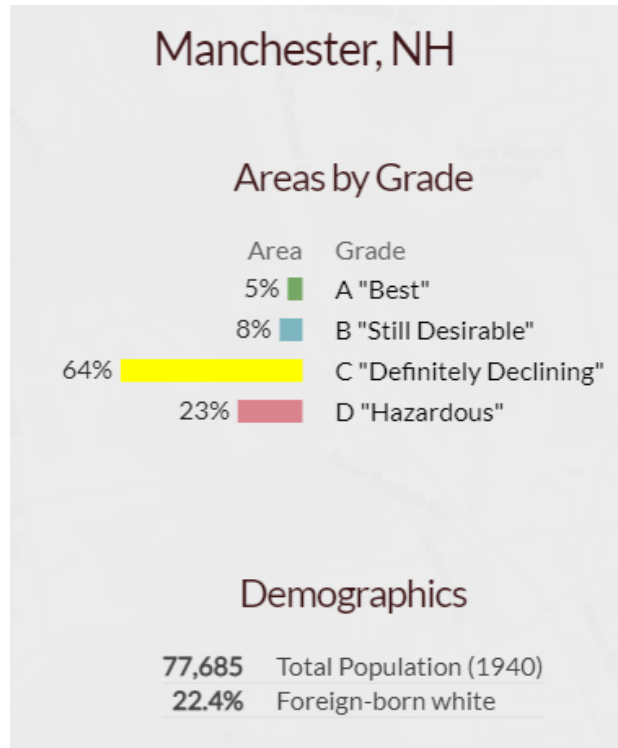
life expectancy

\$54,816

median household  
income



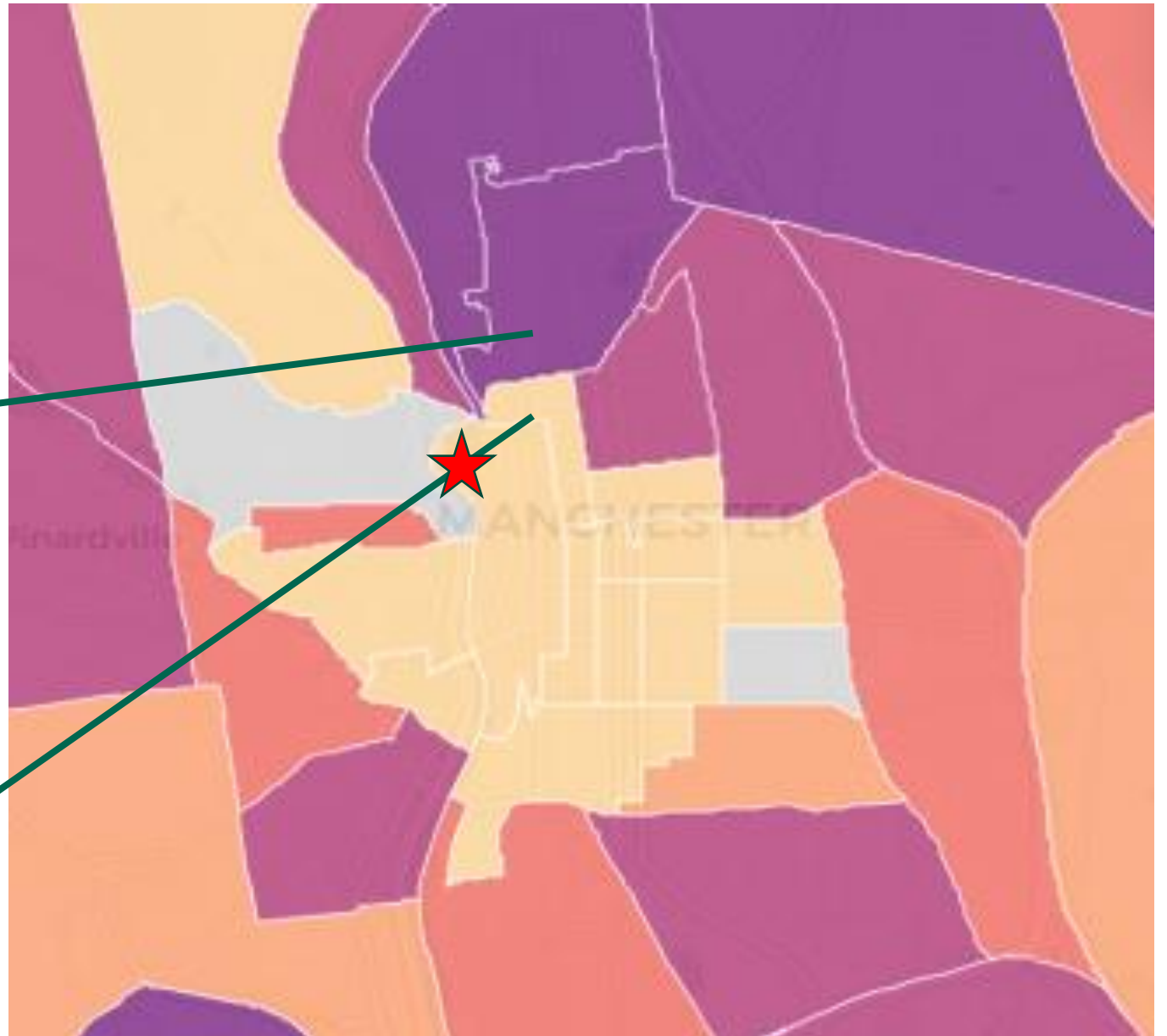
# Manchester NH *Redlining 1935-1940*



## Manchester NH

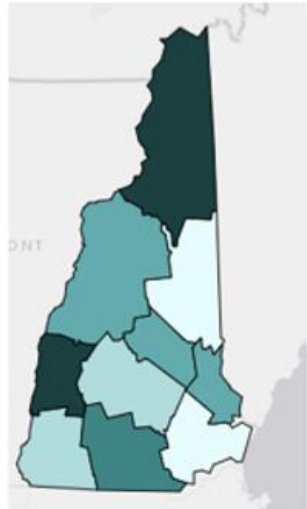
Average life expectancy  
83.6 years

Average life expectancy  
71.2 years

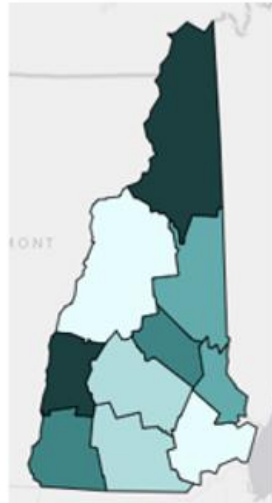


## Socio-Economic Markers

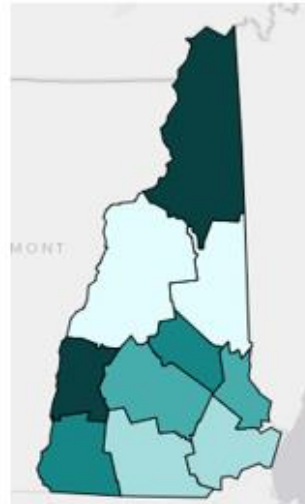
% households with < high school education



% population receiving food stamps/SNAP

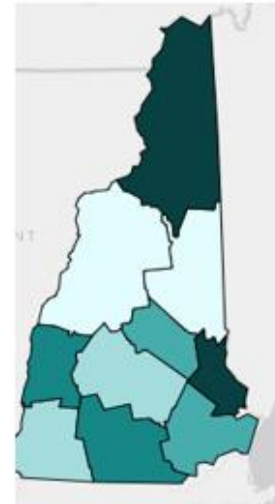


% of adult population with obesity

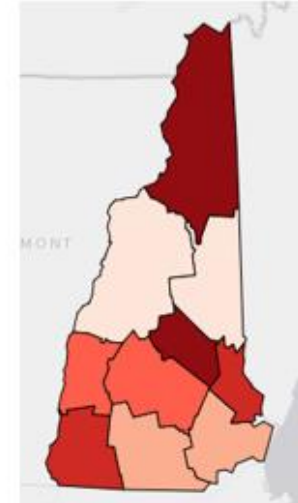


## Chronic Medical Conditions

% of adult population with diagnosed diabetes



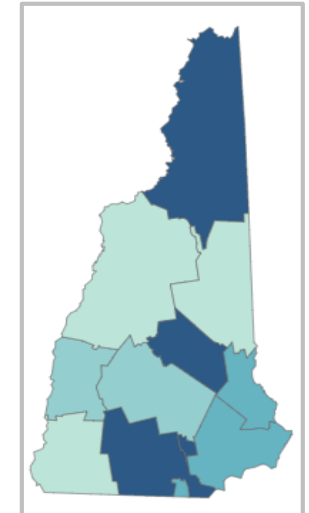
Rate of cardiovascular deaths, age > 35 years



## COVID Outcomes

Age adjusted rates of COVID-19 deaths

COVID19.nh.gov Accessed 3/8/2022



## **Upstream**

Improving the socioeconomic and environmental conditions, policies, payment systems that impact the health of our populations

## **Downstream**

Caring for patients in our hospitals, clinics



## **Midstream**

Assisting people in the communities where they live



# Brandon Wilson, DrPH, MHA

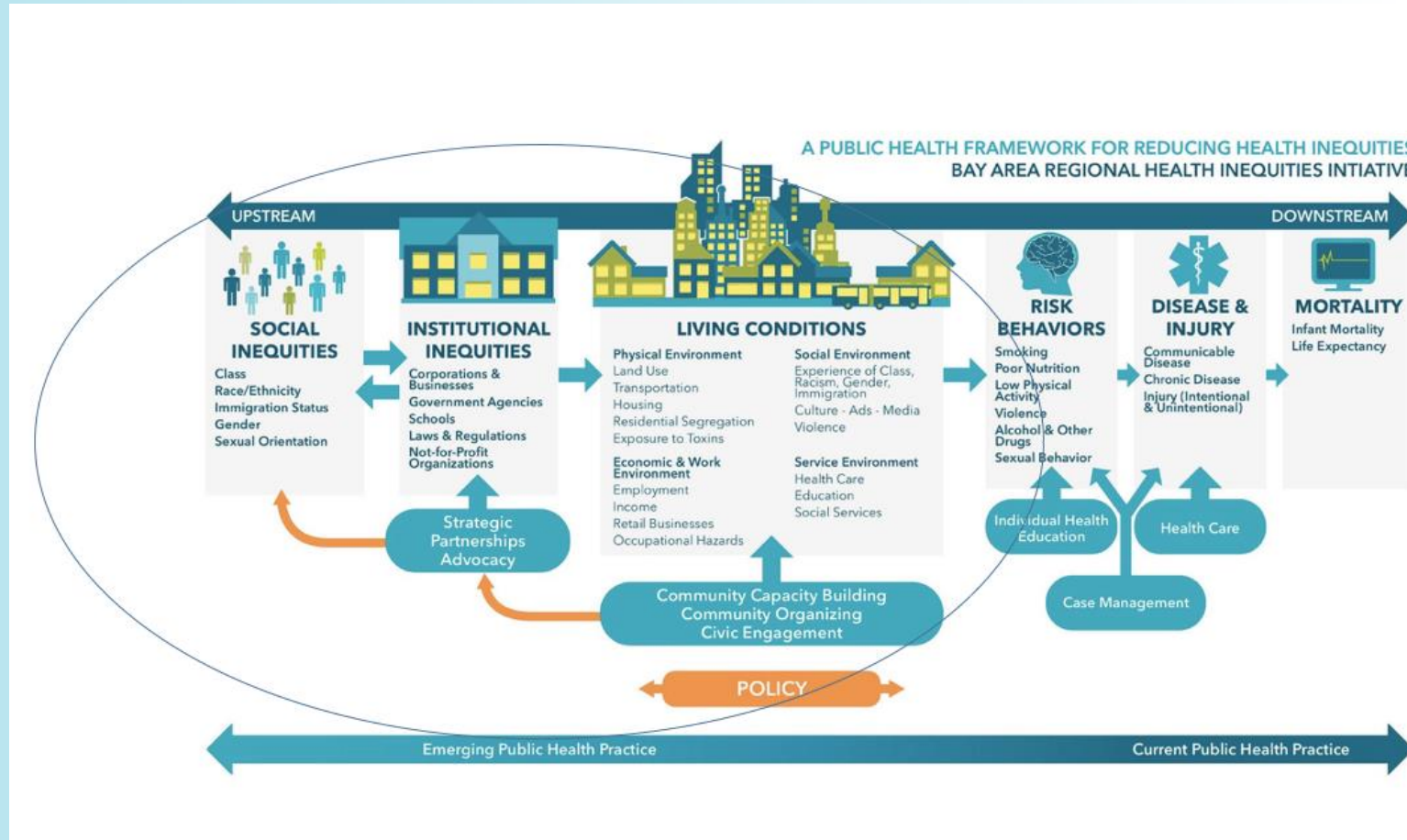
**Director of Center for Consumer  
Engagement in Health Innovation**

**Community Catalyst**

# The American Experiment



# Social Ecological Framework and Determinants of Health





# Health in All Policies

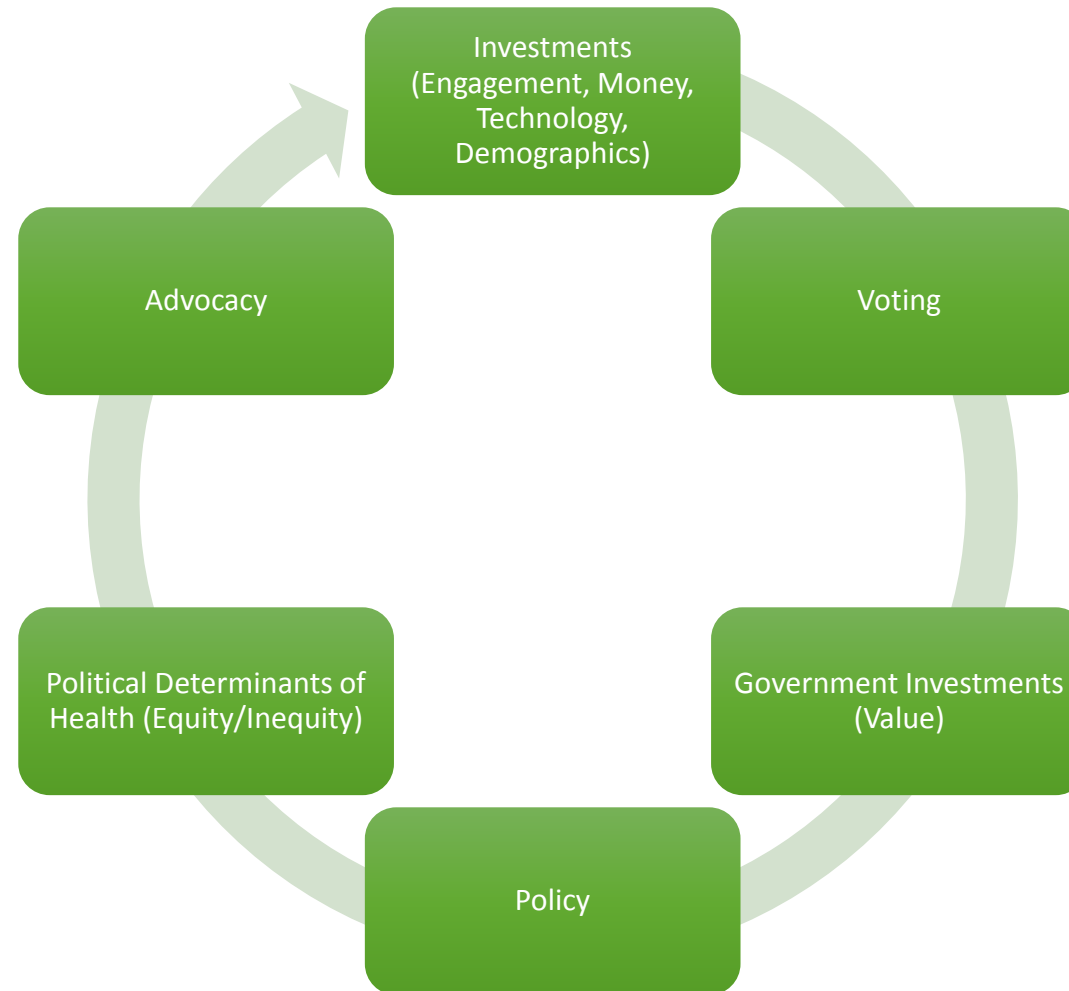


ACHIEVING HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH EQUITY AT EVERY LEVEL

Transforming the conditions in which people are **BORN, GROW, LIVE, WORK and AGE** for optimal health, mental health & well-being.



# Political Determinants of Health



# Visualizing Health Equity: One Size Does Not Fit All



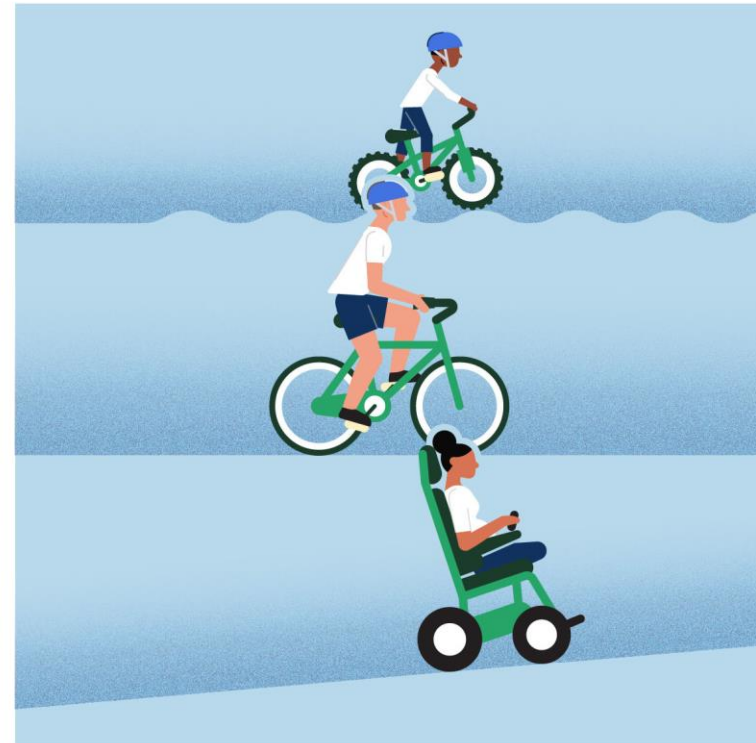
## EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.



## EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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# Accountable Health Communities Model Background

The AHC Model has three goals:



- Help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with unmet HRSNs connect with community resources through screening, referral, and navigation services.



- Optimize community capacity to address HRSNs through quality improvement, data-driven decision making, and coordination and alignment of community-based resources.



- Reduce inpatient and outpatient health care use and total costs by addressing unmet HRSNs through referral and connection to community services.

**1+ HRSN**

**2+**

## AHC Model Eligibility Criteria for Navigation

- Noninstitutionalized, community-dwelling child or adult
- Medicare or Medicaid beneficiary, including dually eligible
- One or more core HRSNs
- Two or more self-reported ED visits in the 12 months before screening

The AHC Model screens for five core HRSNs:



1. Housing instability: homelessness, poor housing quality, inability to pay mortgage/rent
2. Food insecurity: difficulty paying for a sufficient quantity of food
3. Transportation problems: transportation needs beyond medical transportation
4. Utility difficulties: difficulty paying utility bills
5. Interpersonal violence/safety: intimate partner violence, elder abuse, child maltreatment

# A Collaborative Multi-Sector Structure

## Exhibit 1-5. Organizational Structure of the AHC Model

Bridge organizations lead a consortium of CDSs, CSPs, and the state Medicaid agency to implement the AHC Model.



# AHC Model Details

Over a five-year period, the model provided support to community bridge organizations to test promising service delivery approaches aimed at linking beneficiaries with community services that may address HRSN's (i.e., housing instability, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal safety). To implement each approach, bridge organizations served as **'hubs' in their communities**, forming and coordinating consortia that will:

- Identify and partner with clinical delivery sites (e.g., physician practices, behavioral health providers, clinics, hospitals) to conduct systematic HRSN screenings of all beneficiaries and make referrals to community services that may be able to address the identified HRSN;
- Coordinate and connect beneficiaries to community service providers through community service navigation; and
- Align model partners to optimize community capacity to address HRSN's

## One Model, Two Interventions

The AHC Model uses two tracks to test two interventions to help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with HRSNs resolve those needs:



The Assistance Track tests universal screening to identify Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with HRSNs and provision of navigation assistance to connect navigation-eligible beneficiaries with the community services they need.



The Alignment Track tests universal screening, referral, and navigation COMBINED WITH engaging key stakeholders in community-level continuous quality improvement to align community service capacity with the community's service needs.

# How Community Advisory Boards Advance SDOH and Health Equity



Forming	<p>Forming an Advisory Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw on existing relationships</li><li>• Eliminate barriers for participation</li><li>• Compensate them for their time</li><li>• Consider how to include community members (unmet HRSN)</li><li>• Collaborate with clinical and community providers and commit to DEI</li></ul>
Engaging and Retaining	<p>Engaging and Retaining Ad Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop relationships among ad board members</li><li>• Take advantage of background of ad board members to address HRSN</li><li>• Share data for opportunities to address community-level QI</li><li>• Connect with community members and groups facing similar challenges</li></ul>
Sustaining	<p>Sustaining Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on directed and flexible funding</li><li>• Consider other ways to sustain model activities</li><li>• Work with others who are screening and navigating</li><li>• Support long-term collaborations</li></ul>

# Overall Strategies to Increase Equity

To increase cultural humility and responsiveness, some awardees hired directly from minority and underserved populations of focus.

Awardees provided increased training around access to translation and interpretation services. Befittingly, one awardee trained existing staff in a simulation center.

New primary care sites were added to increase reach among older adults, Latinx and Black or African American populations, and rural communities.

One awardee added a clinical delivery site co-located with an emergency homeless shelter. Another added an inpatient heart failure unit to expand reach among elderly, particularly those with chronic disease.

Awardees convened advisory boards that prioritized CMS beneficiaries' and community's needs. One awardee increased diversity within their advisory board, whereas another created a vulnerable population workgroup to inform their local area's COVID-19 response.

Creating and leveraging partnerships more widely in the community led other awardees to partner with entities ranging from rural health departments to the Public Defender's Office to the African American Affairs Commission of the General Assembly.



# Scale and Spread of AHC Innovations

1. Many health care system bridge organizations, such as AMITA Health in Illinois, are working to expand HRSN screening and referral infrastructure to new clinics and patient populations based on best practices ascertained through the model.
2. Allina Health's AHC work facilitated [a new payment model trial](#) with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. This partnership supported the development of Allina Health's systemwide HRSNs program, through which more than 45,000 screenings have been completed and more than 2,000 patients have opted-in to navigation services since January 2022
3. The Camden Coalition partnered with NJ Medicaid as a Regional Health Hub and will continue to act as a clinical-community integrator in that role.
4. The partnerships fostered by the model have also supported multisector data integration efforts, such as Dignity Health's ability to survey partnering community service providers to [support implementation of a statewide health information exchange that includes a closed-loop referral system](#).

# Making the Business Case for Addressing Non-Medical Determinants of Health



01

Defining and Assessing ROI for HRSN/SDOH screening, referral, and navigation

02

Communicating the value of addressing SDOH

03

Securing Ongoing funding for HRSN screening, Referral, and Navigation

# Value in Partnerships to Address Political Determinants



## CAREMORE HEALTH

**Factor:** Neighborhood & Physical Environment

Anthem's CareMore Health partnered with Lyft to provide transportation benefits to Medicare Advantage members in multiple states



## AMERIHEALTH

**Factor:** Access to Food

Amerihealth started "food as medicine" initiative and partnered with Community Based Organizations to improve access to nutritious meals

Amerihealth also provides vouchers to farmers markets, meal delivery services, and in-home food counseling



## WELLCARE HEALTH PLANS

**Factor:** Economic Stability

Launched WellCare Works to connect Kentucky Medicaid members to employment opportunities, including job preparedness & placement

WellCare's Community Connections links members with community based public assistance programs



## CARESOURCE

**Factor:** Education

Utilize Life Services program and JobConnect platform to provide direct member coaching and access to job and education opportunities

Provided funds to launch a digital preschool for low-income children



# Rhode Island Health Equity Measures: Community Resiliency



Domain	Determinant	Measure	Data Source
Community Resiliency	Civic Engagement	Percentage of registered voters participating in the most recent presidential election	Rhode Island Board of Elections
Community Resiliency	Social Vulnerability	Index score that reflects the social vulnerability of communities	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Community Resiliency	Equity in Policy	Ratio: Number of low to moderate-income housing units to number of low to moderate-income households	HousingWorks RI, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

# Deborah Birx, MD

**Senior Fellow**

**George W. Bush Presidential Center**

# What I learned from battling pandemics over the past 4 decades

- Pandemics are always **political** – TB, HIV, Zika, COVID, Ebola
- New infectious pathogens that cause and pandemics generate population level **fear** due to what's unknown – its our job to make that known
- Pandemics are always filled with **misinformation** about transmission, about treatments, and cures
- A pandemic response always requires getting on the ground to understand and work with **communities** in order to fully implement
- **Communication** is key but needs to be tailored and adapted to age, race, ethnicity and geography
  - Working through a trusted community outreach worker with peer to peer interaction with trusted community leaders is essential

Political Will Matters

Policies Matter

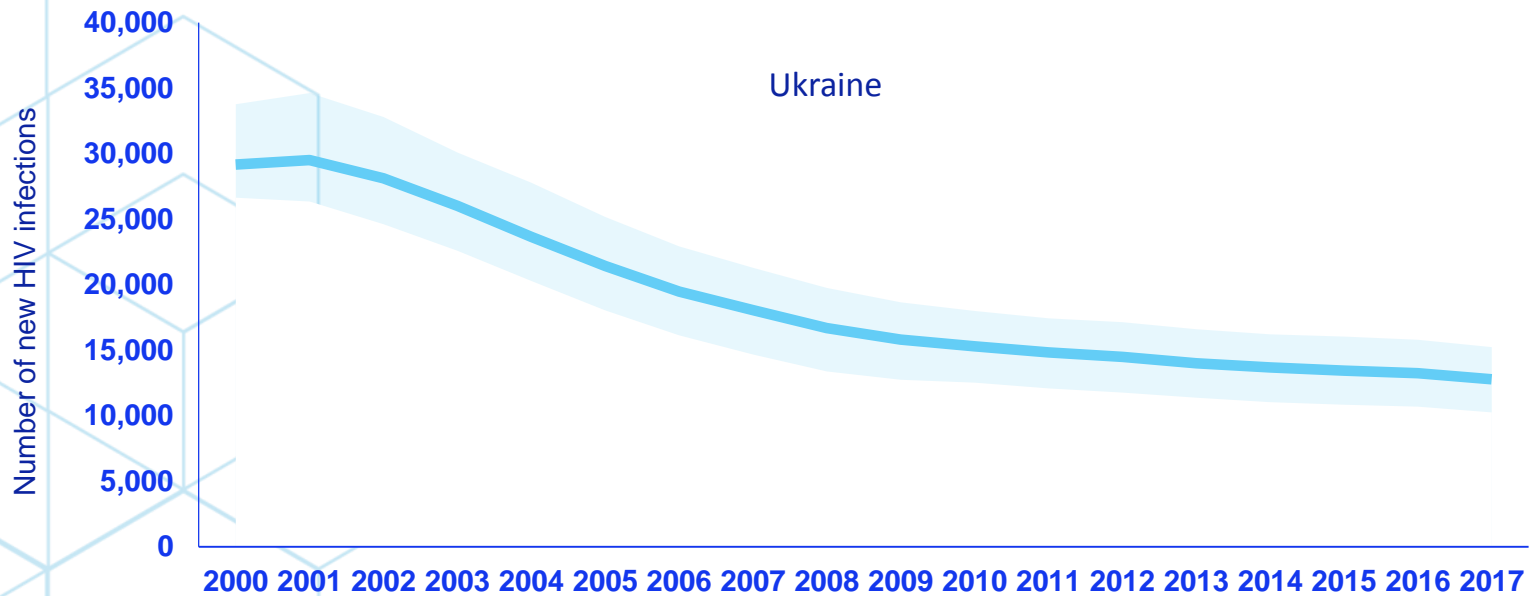
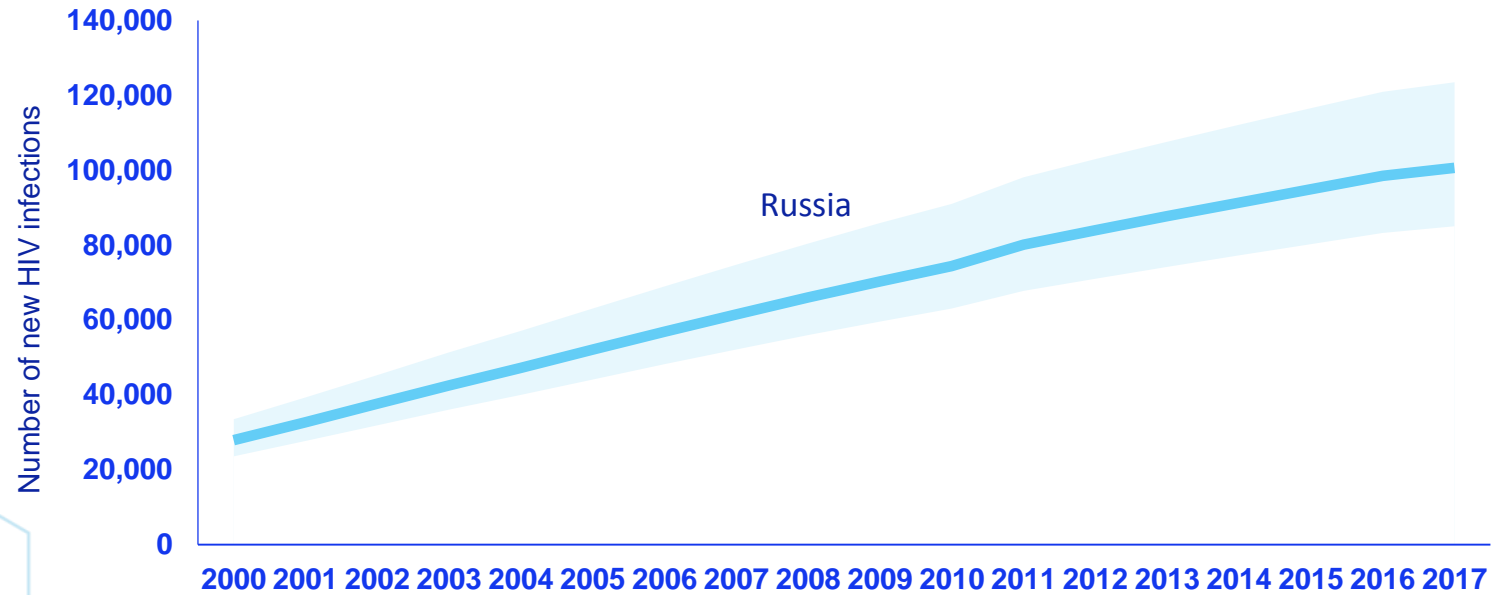
Data matters - allows us to see past our perceptions and assumptions **to see who we need to reach (who is missing)** and creates the space for an **equity based response** rather than an “equal response”


The Political Will allows countries and states to comprehensively address the epidemic they have not the epidemic they want to have – rapidly adopting KEY policies and ensuring implementation of the new policies at the site level. AND immediately addressing structural barriers to implementation





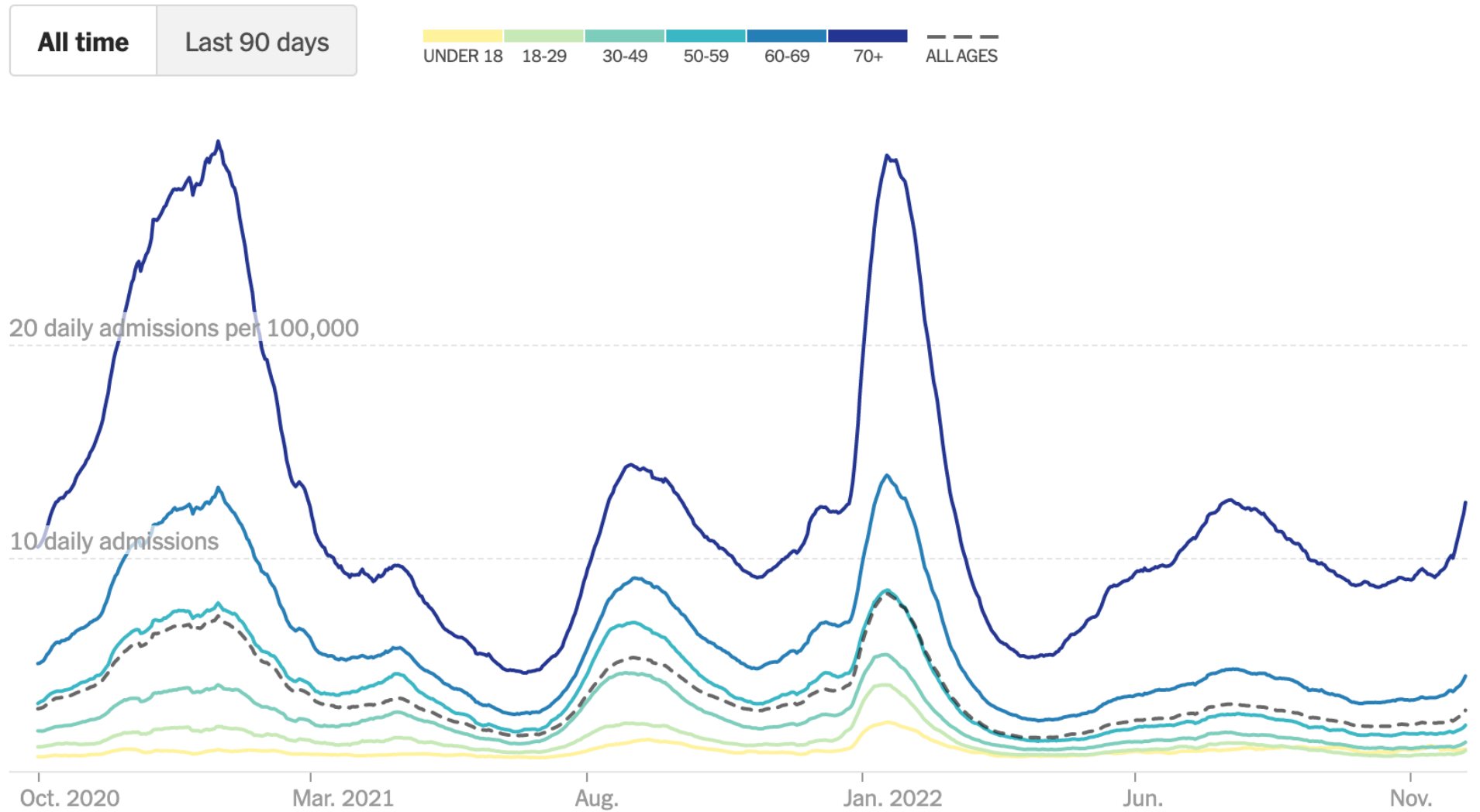
# New Infections in Russia vs Ukraine 2000-2017





# What about severe disease, hospitalization and death

# Moving from magical thinking to reality : using current tools to save lives : first we need to survive then we can thrive .

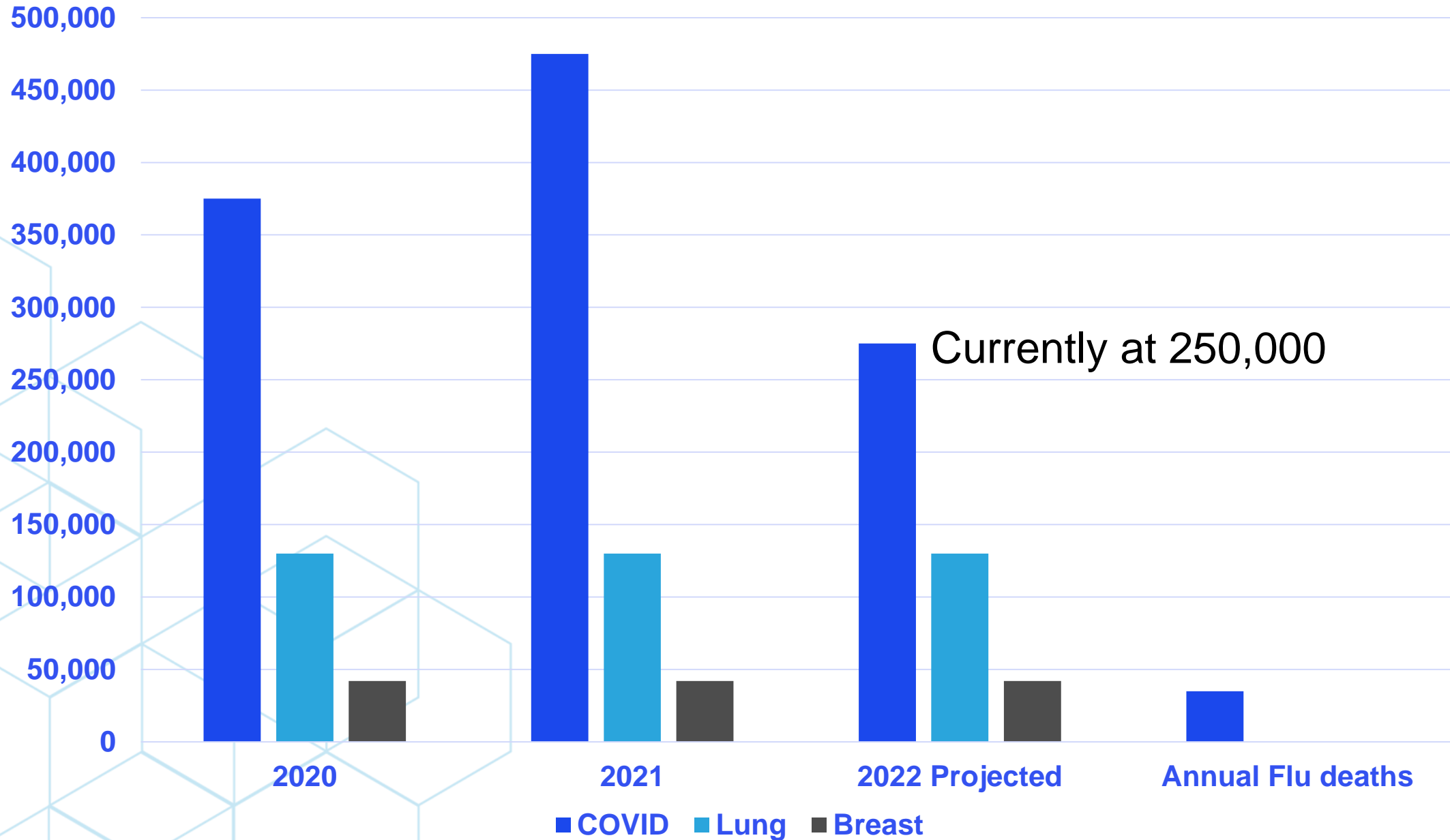


[About this data](#)

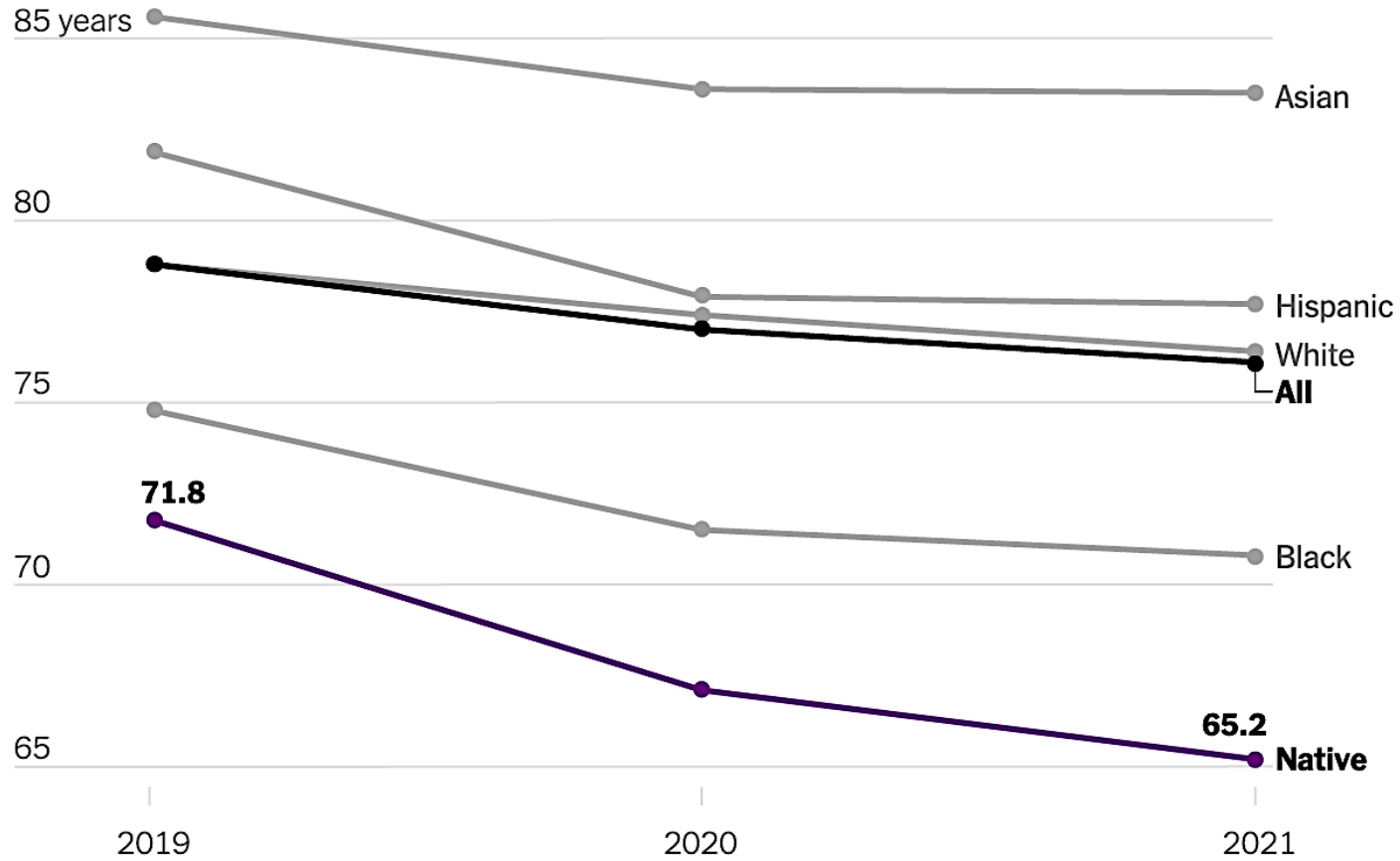


Deborah Birx, MD

# Annual Deaths in Americans



## U.S. life expectancy



Note: Figures for white, Black, Asian and Native people exclude Hispanic people. • Source: The National Center for Health Statistics

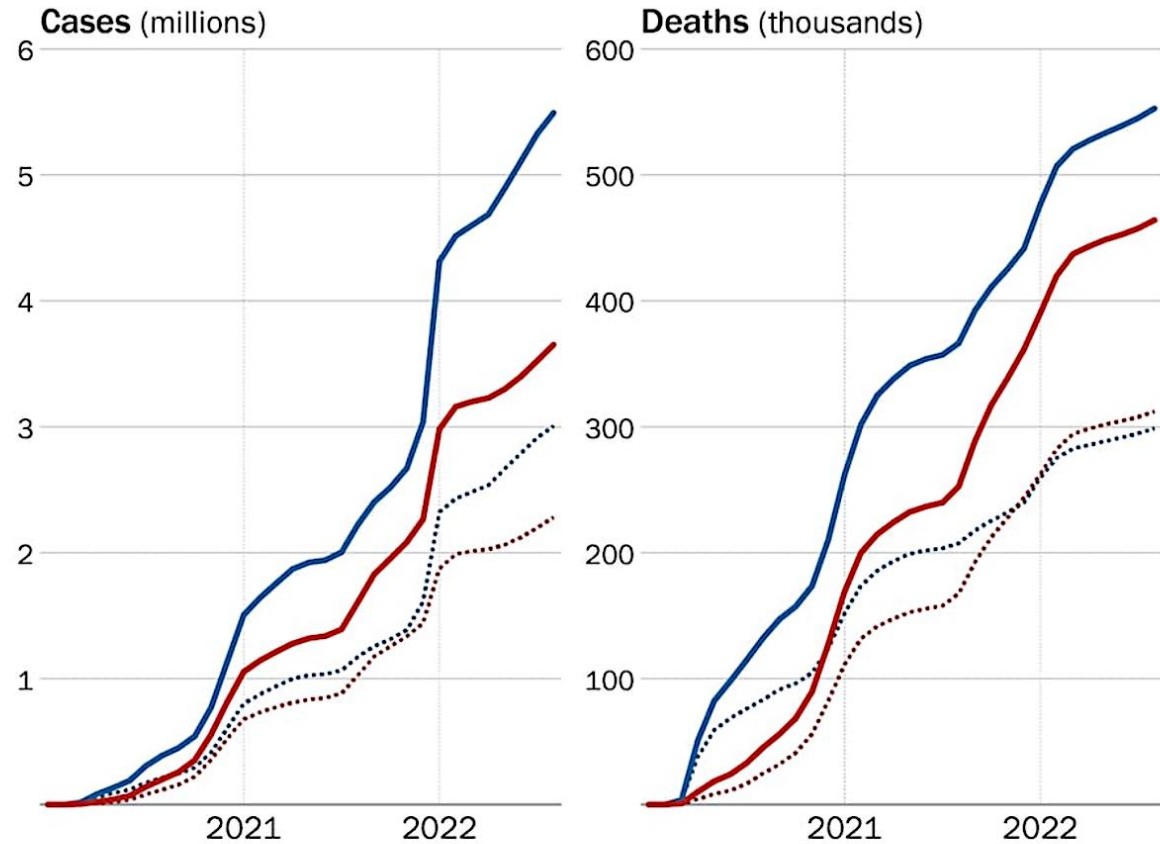
Pandemics are always political but for public health leaders to maintain credibility and trust must transcend not descend

Public health must constantly combat reporting that is oversimplified or perception based. Public health must look at both the big picture and the local picture – it must allow itself to be wrong and do the hard work to get the science and data for decision making. Slogans are not programs.

# Polarization of COVID and public health - let's be clear its not how you voted but where you live and whether you have access to PAXLOVID, vaccines and other lifesaving tools

The toll of the pandemic

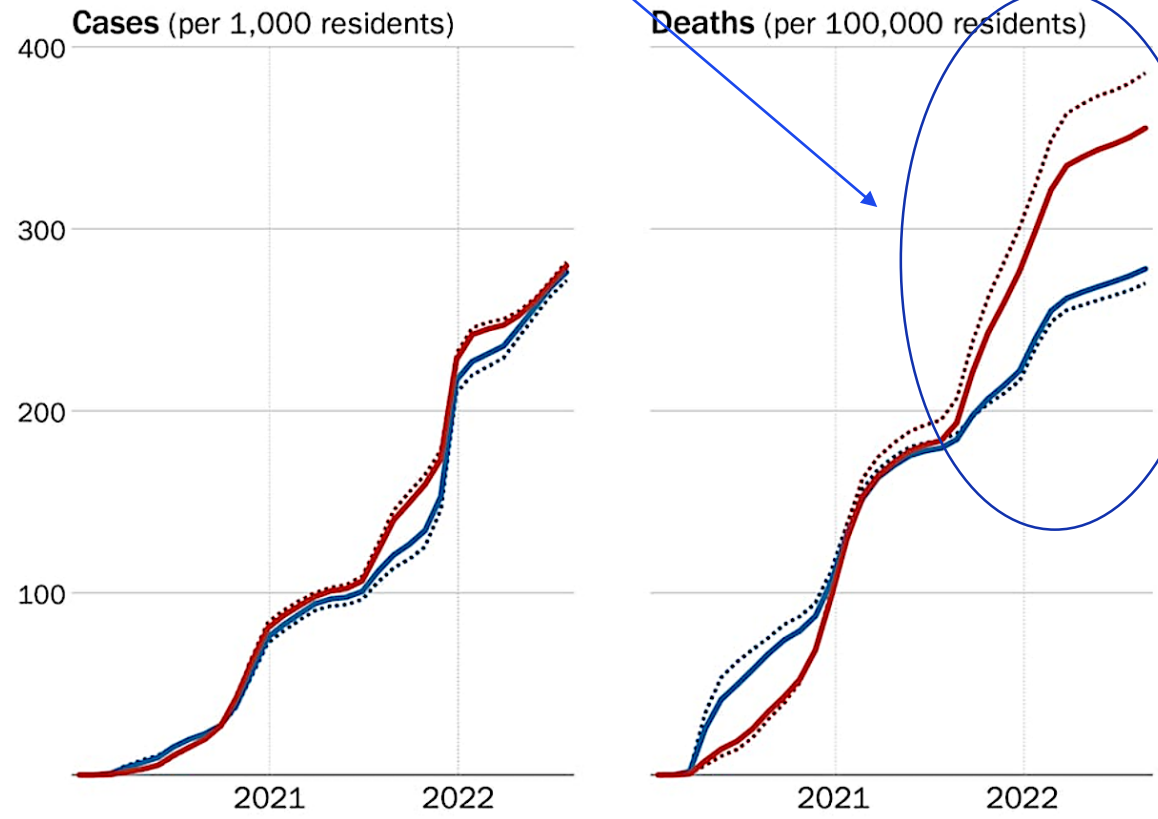
— Biden-voting counties — Trump-voting counties ... Biden +20 ... Trump +20



THE WASHINGTON POST

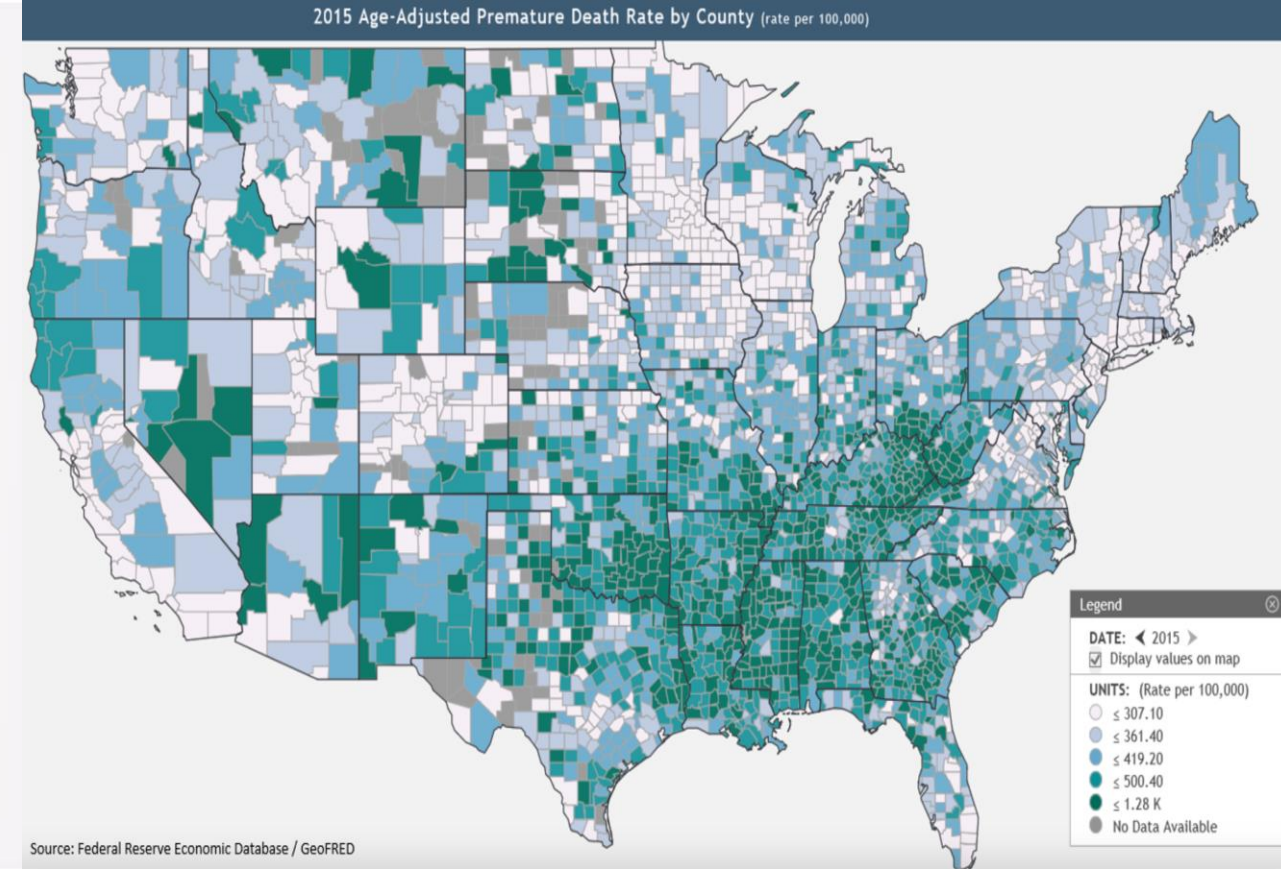
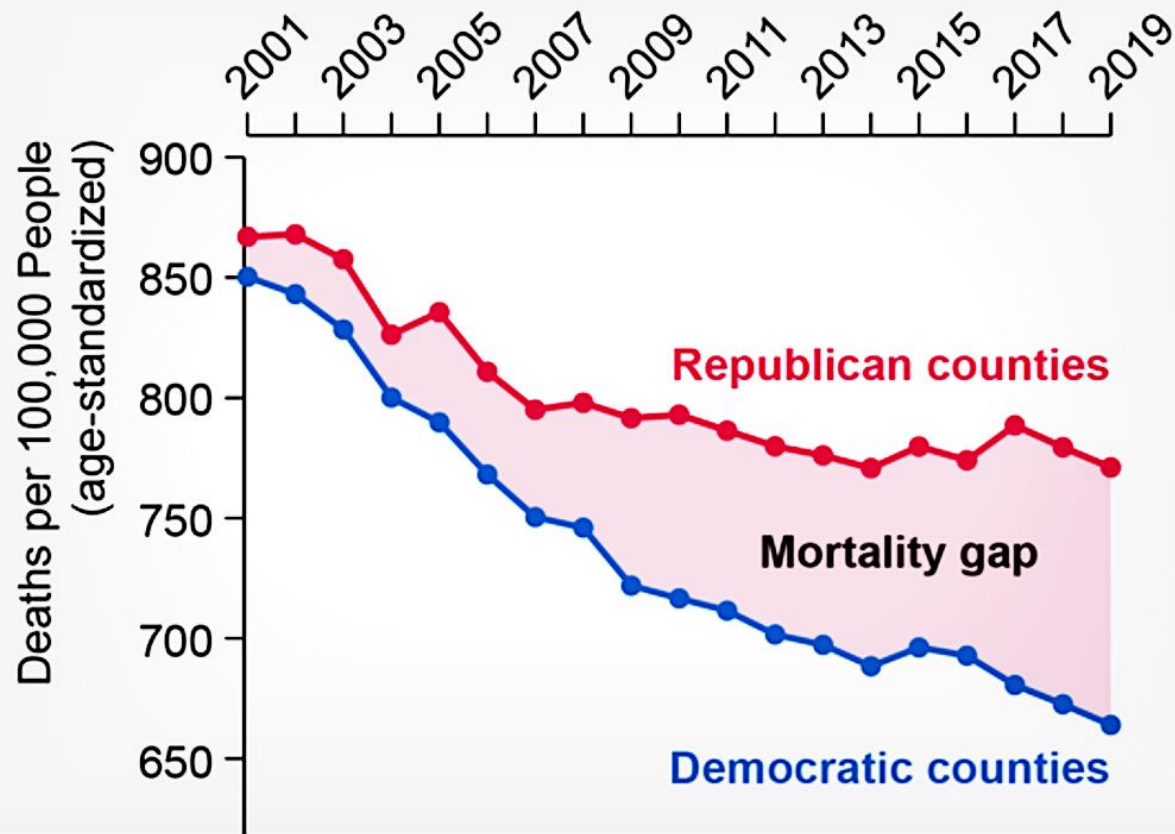
The toll of the pandemic, by population

— Biden-voting counties — Trump-voting counties ... Biden +20 ... Trump +20



THE WASHINGTON POST

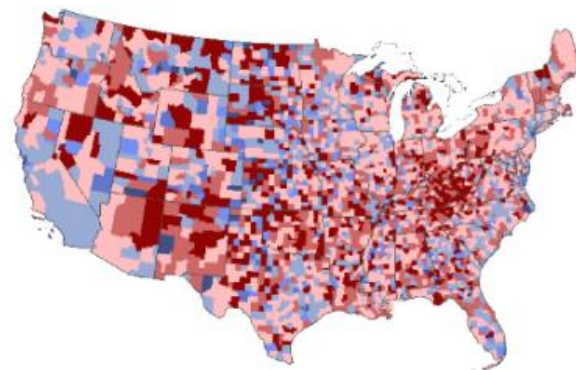
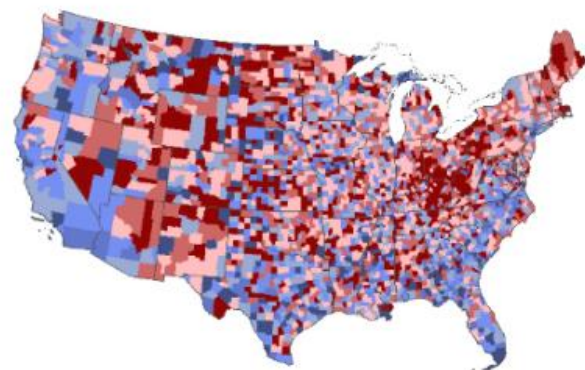
# Why is COVID19 mortality greater in rural Republican Counties : because has been a higher mortality for years





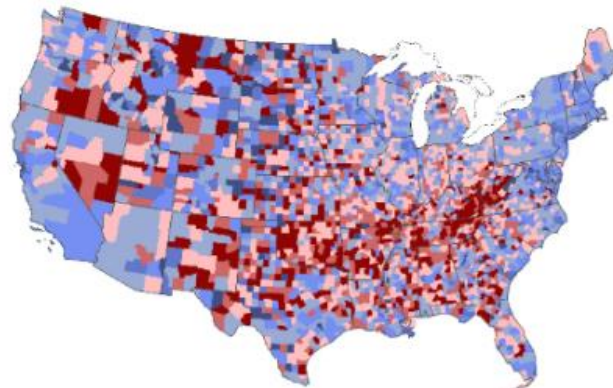
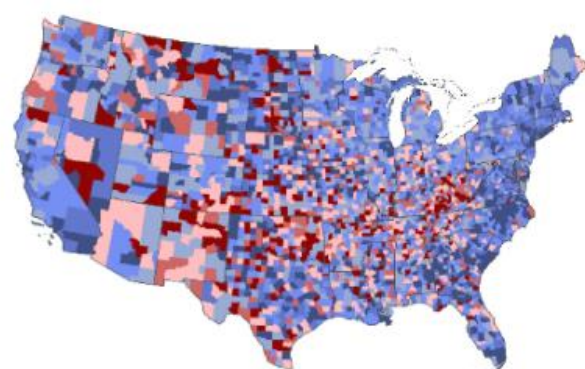
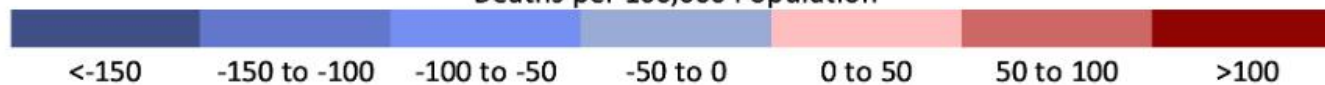
## Males

## Females



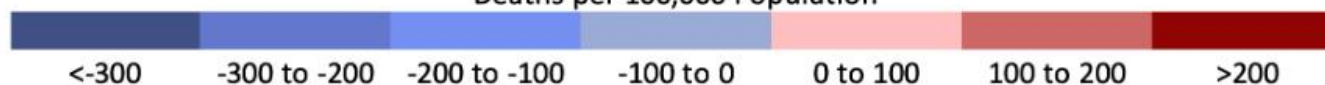
**Absolute Change in Mortality Rate (ages 25-44) 1990-92 to 2015-17**

Deaths per 100,000 Population

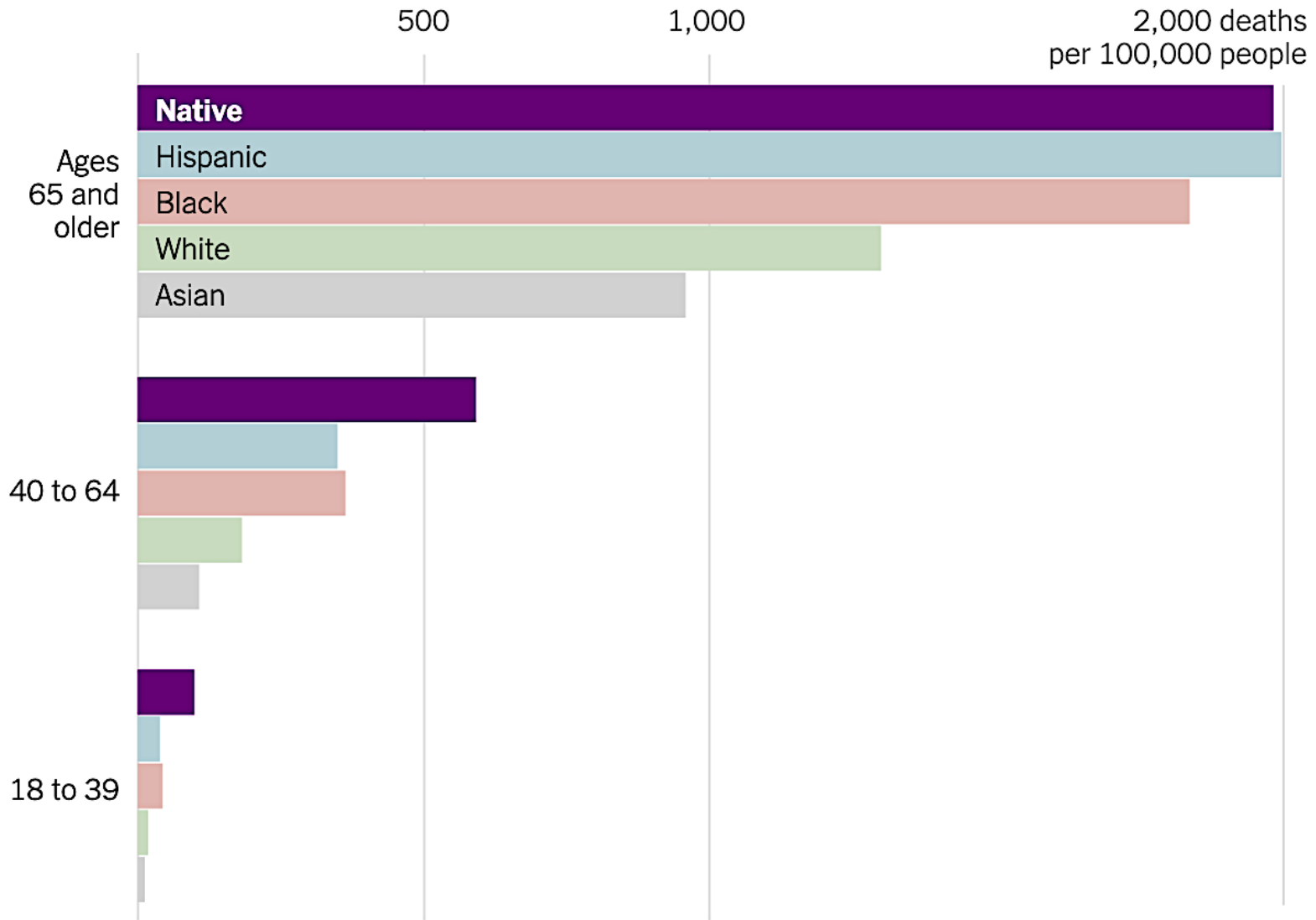


**Absolute Change in Mortality Rate (ages 45-64) 1990-92 to 2015-17**

Deaths per 100,000 Population



# Cumulative U.S. Covid death rates



Note: Data through Aug. 13, 2022. Figures for white, Black, Asian and Native people exclude Hispanic people. • Source: C.D.C.

# Bottom line – if you collect the data you morally obligated to use to the data to change policy and program implementation

- Public health should be focused on the health of the public and data collection must be comprehensive across all ages, races, ethnicity and geography.
- Funding must be equitable and need based
- Health cadre roles and responsibilities need to be revisited to ensure increased access to quality primary care in rural and remote areas
- We need to admit that we have failed in the care of indigenous people and change it
- Both WHO and CDC need reform to be data driven but action oriented with data and implementation support in real time with clear accountability and transparency of improvements that actually change outcomes for all
- High income and upper middle income countries need to be able to share pandemic data in real time
- **MOVE FROM TRACKING TO ACTING**

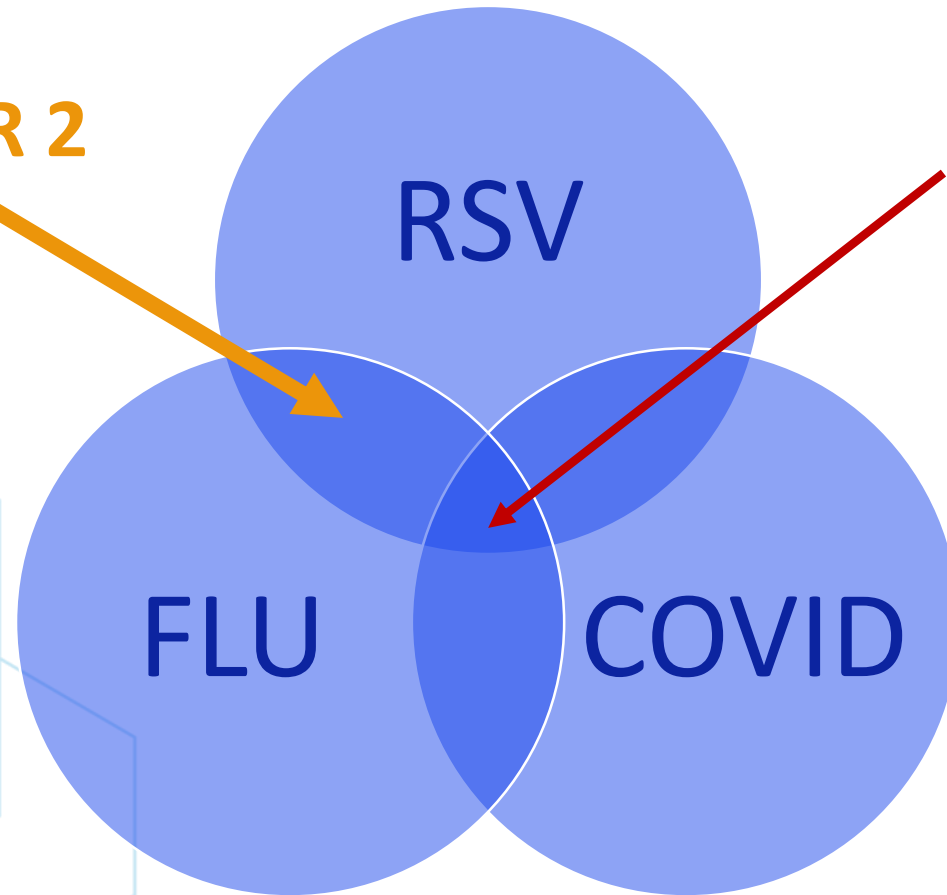
# PSA MOMENT : The problem of serial infectious surges

- **RSV** October and November 2022 – impacts children under 2 and elderly severely
- **FLU** November and December 2022 – impacts children under 5, pregnant women and elderly with severe disease
- **COVID19** December and January 2023 – impacts all age groups due to long and medium COVID and severe disease
- The above will lead to continuous absenteeism of workers due to sick children, sick elderly and sick workers for the next 10-12 weeks
- **Definitive laboratory diagnosis is critical** – you cannot continue to guess by symptoms – testing is the most critical component to a pandemic response
- There has been a clear roadmap to be fully open safely since June 2020

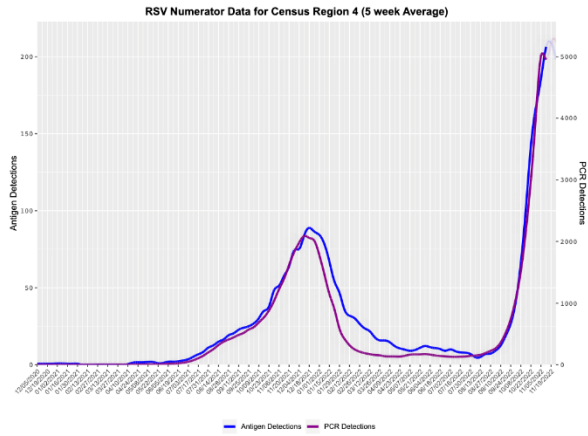
# Overlapping respiratory diseases with overlapping symptoms and severe risk

**CHILDREN UNDER 2**

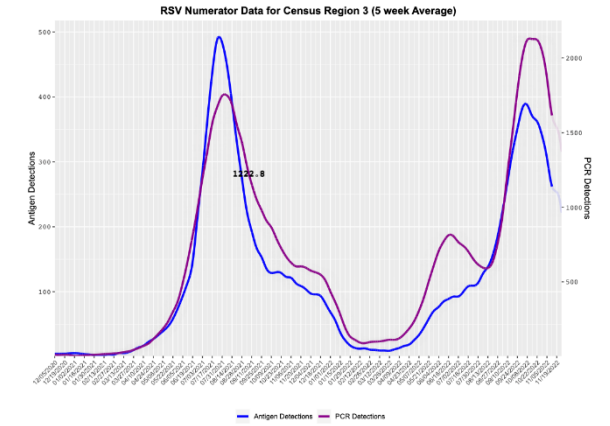
**ADULTS OVER 65**



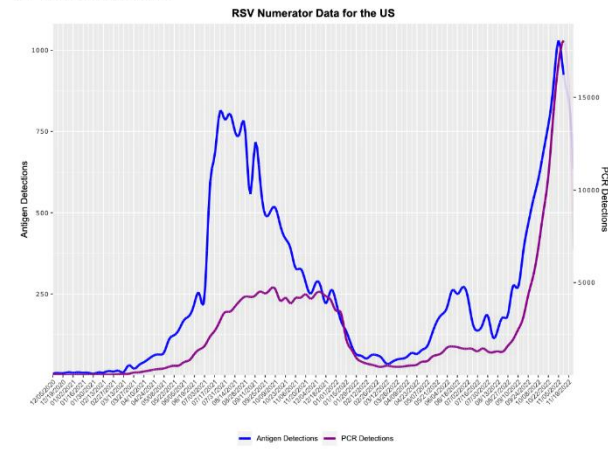
## Detections



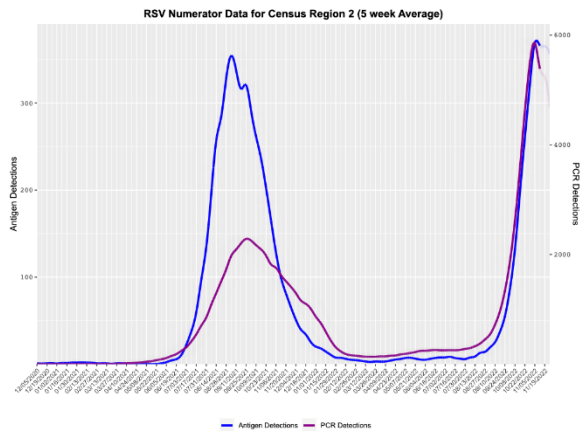
## Detections



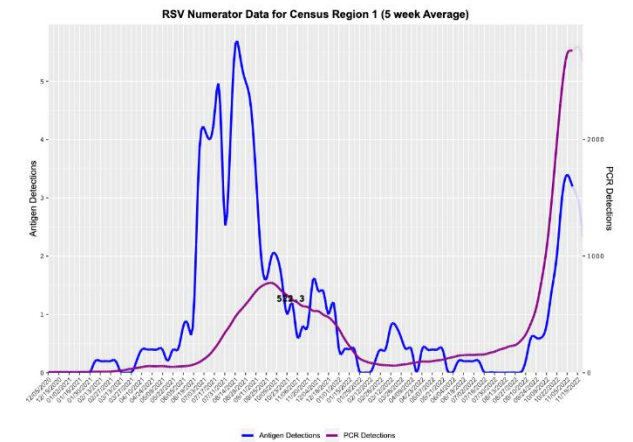
## Detections



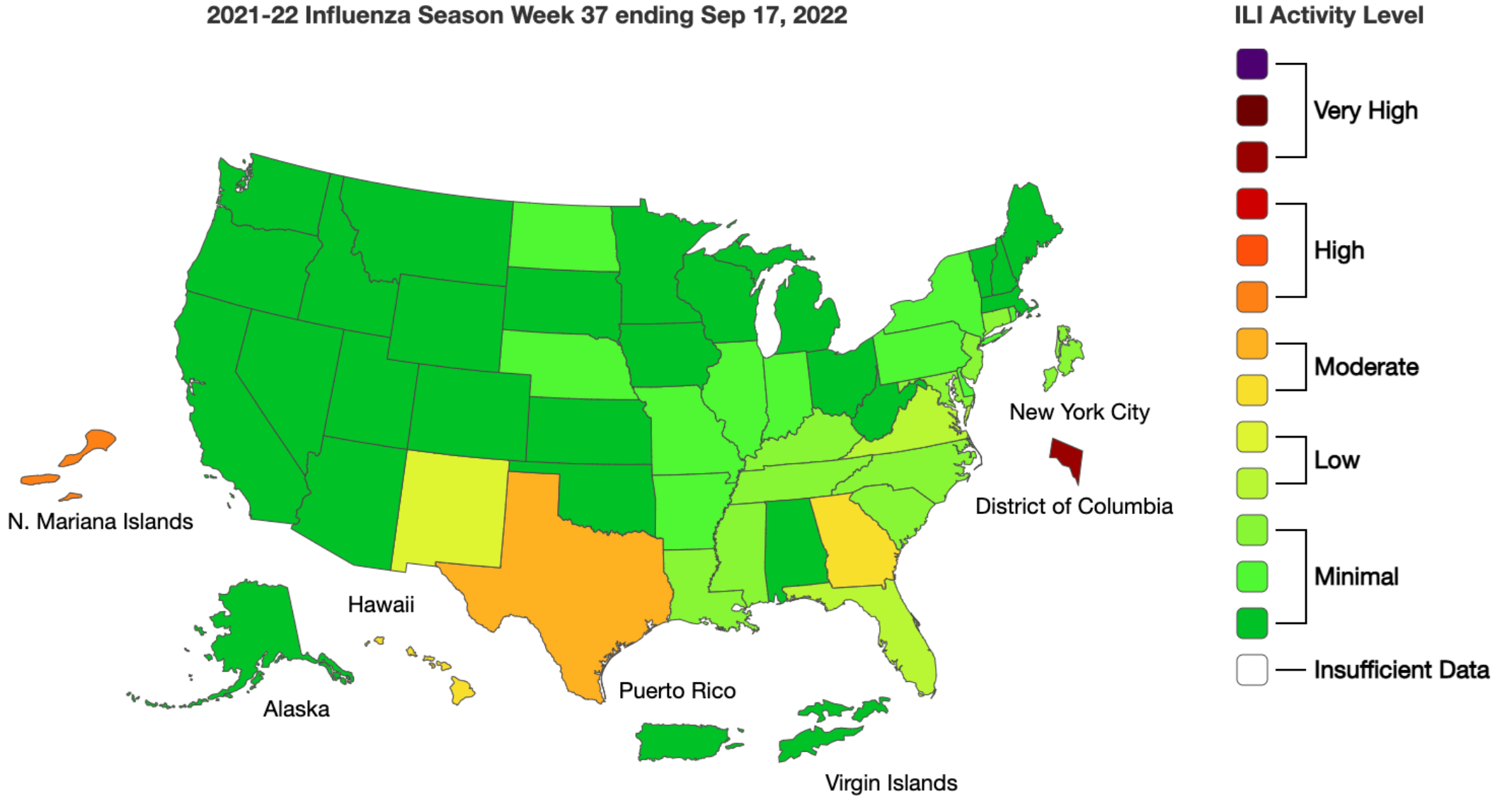
## Detections



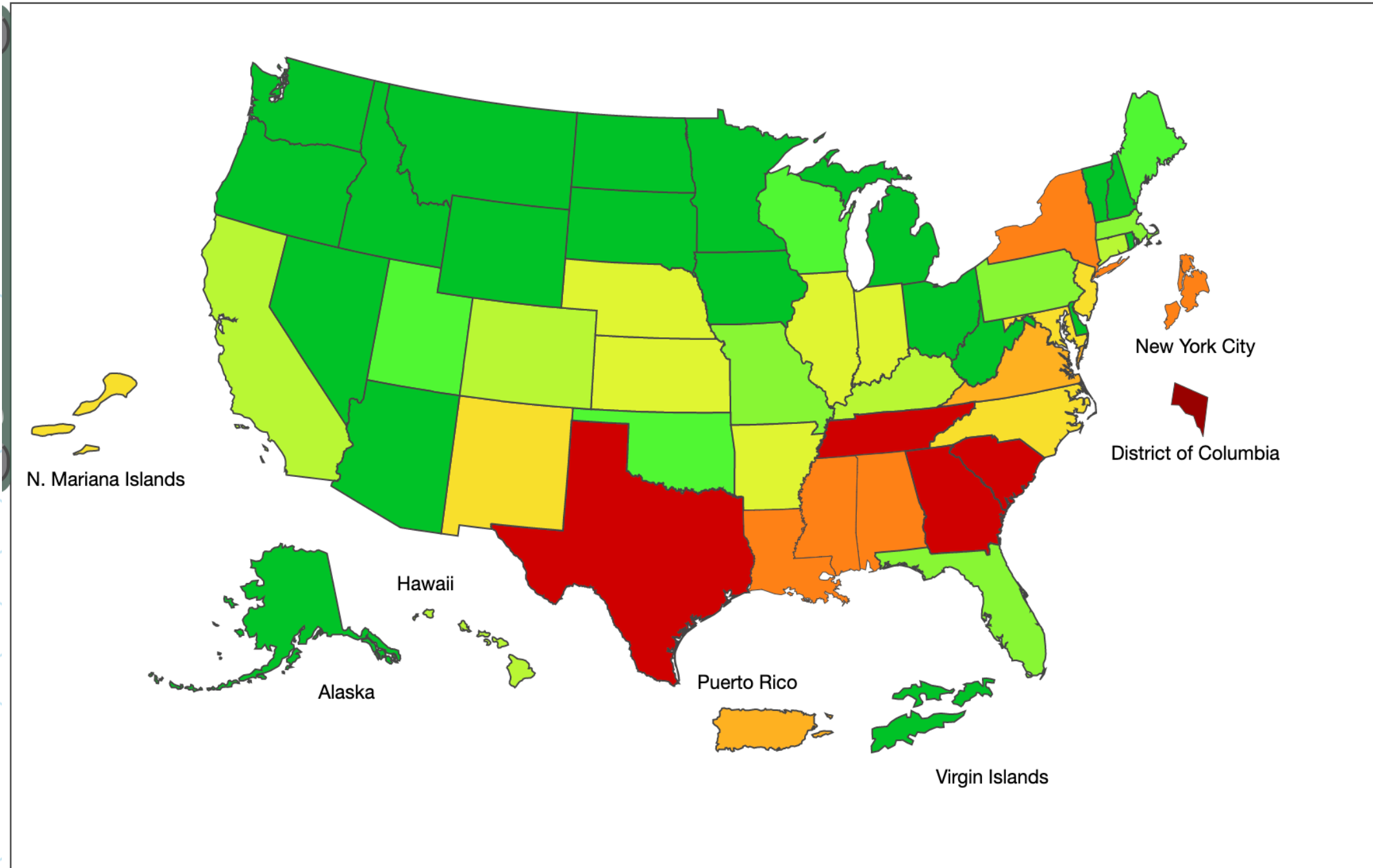
## Detections



2021-22 Influenza Season Week 37 ending Sep 17, 2022

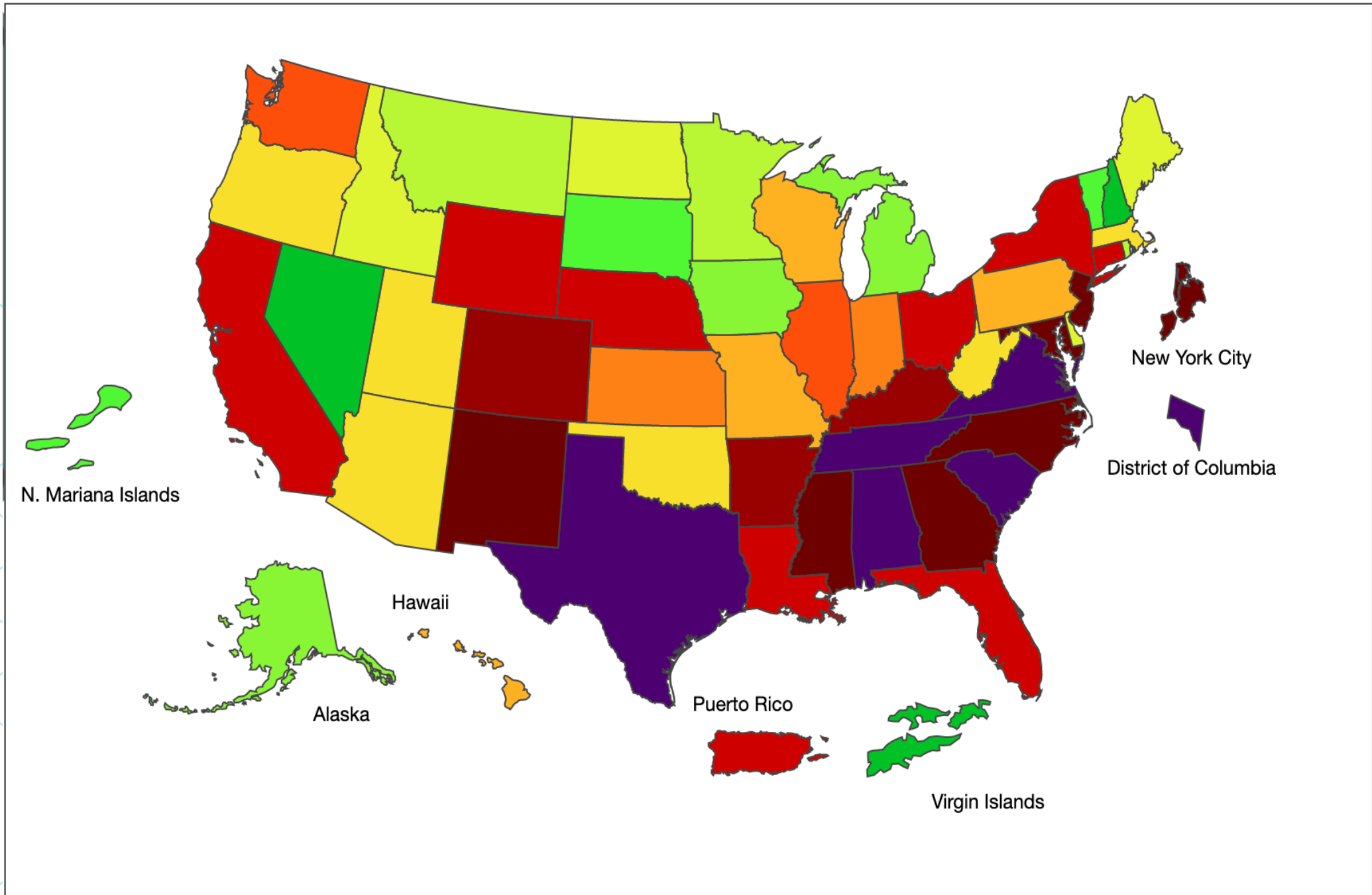


# 2022-23 Influenza Season Week 41 ending Oct 15, 2022

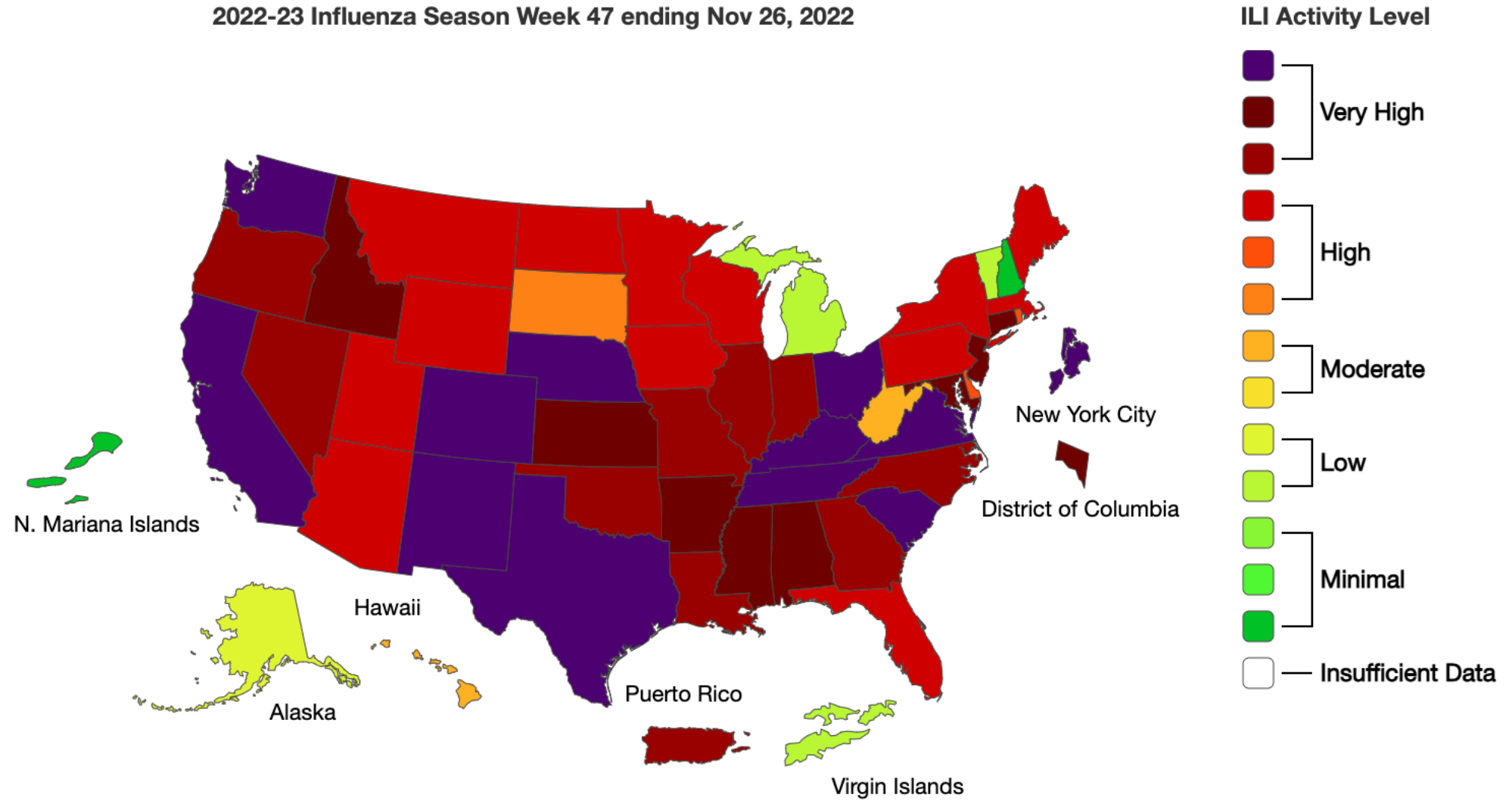




# 2022-23 Influenza Season Week 45 ending Nov 12, 2022



2022-23 Influenza Season Week 47 ending Nov 26, 2022



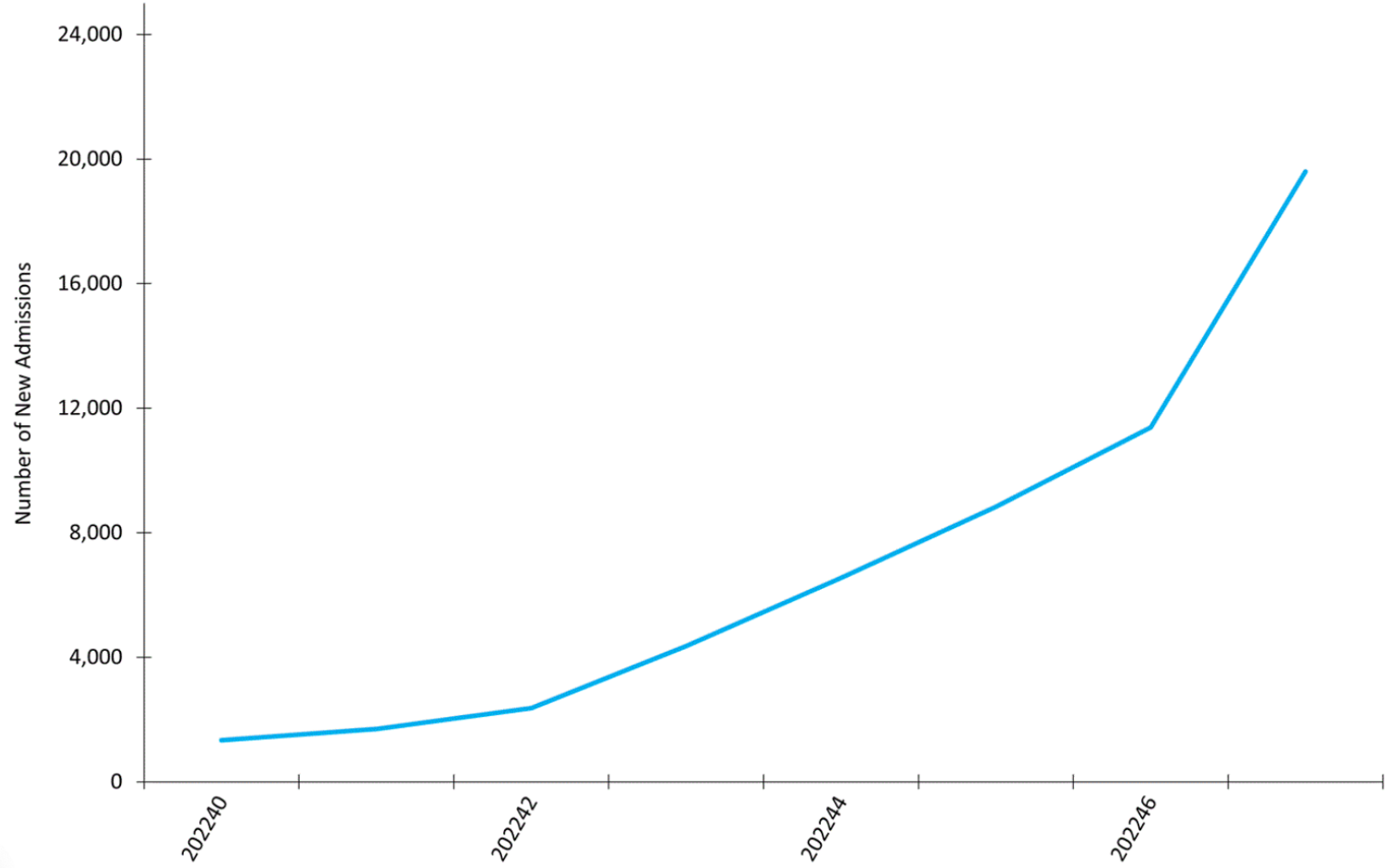
Season: 2022-23 ▲

Download Image

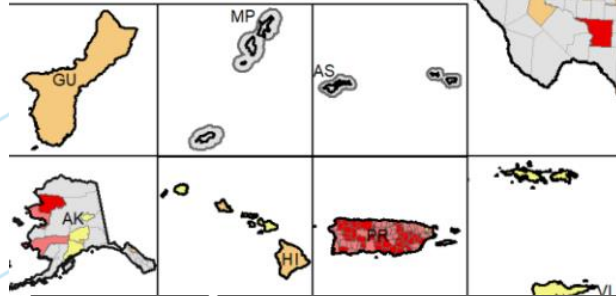
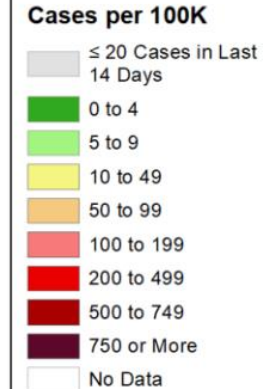
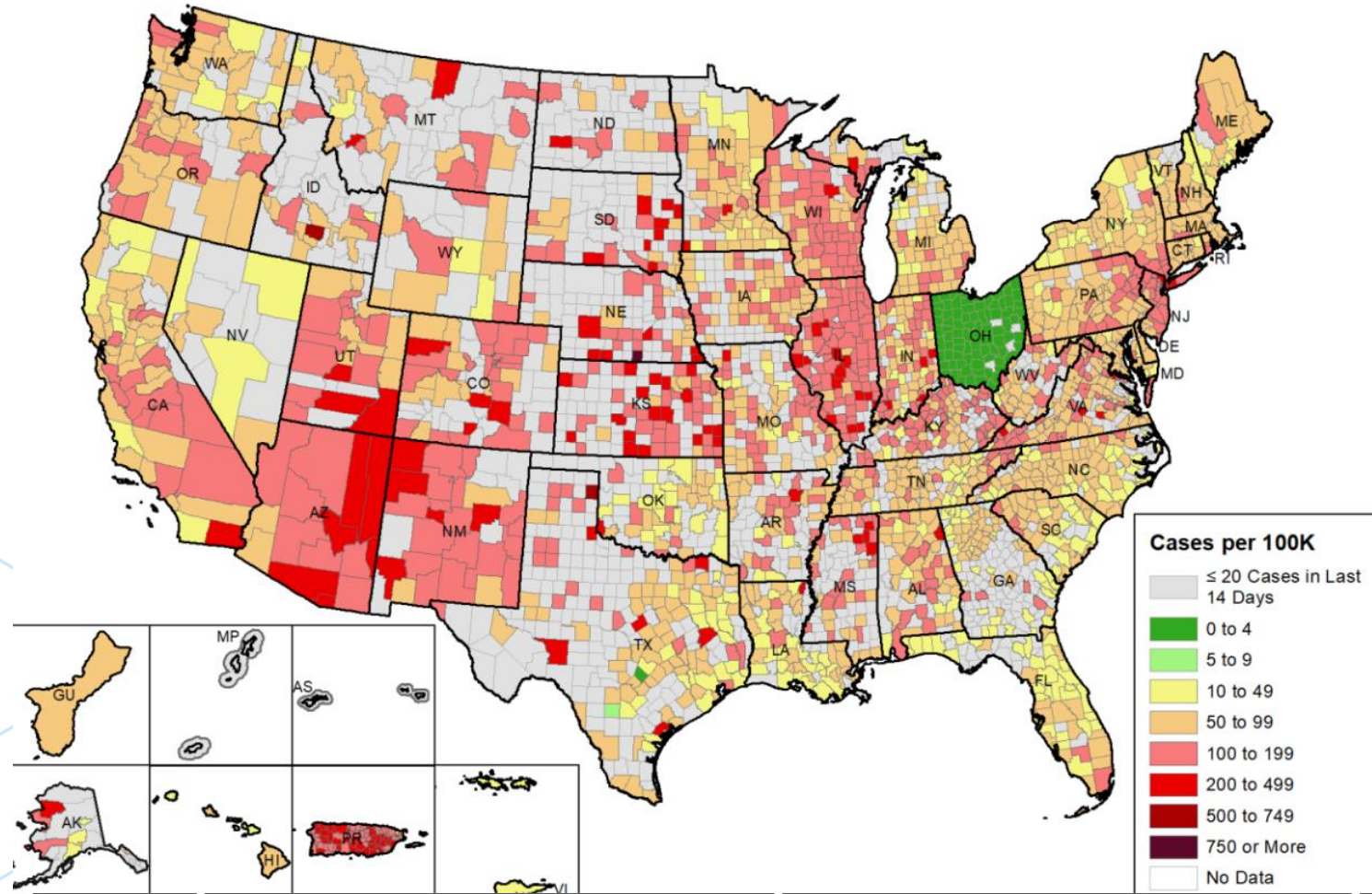
Download Data

[View Full Screen](#)

# New Influenza Hospital Admissions Reported to HHS Protect, National Summary, October 2, 2022 – November 26, 2022

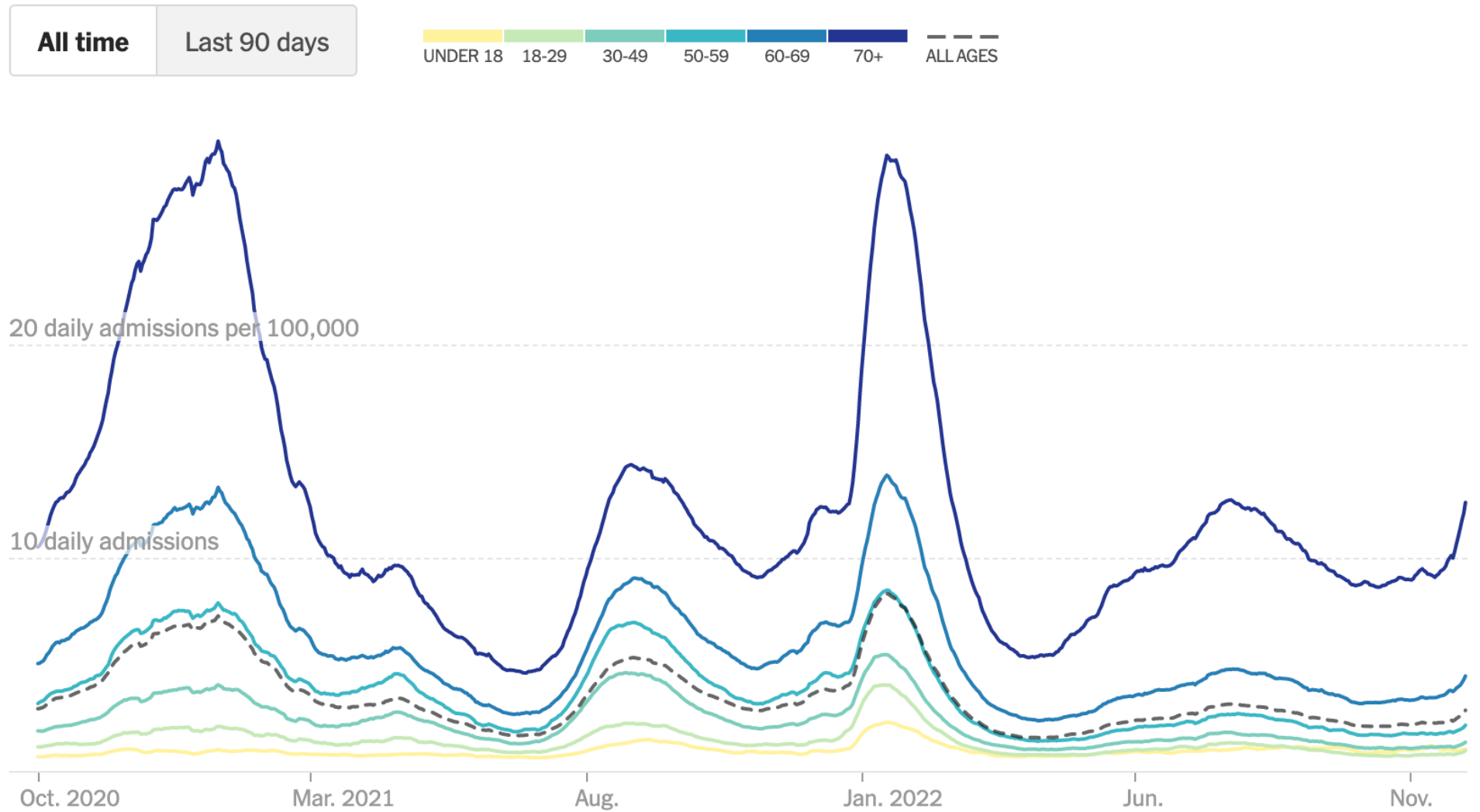


## Cases per 100K by County in the Week 24NOV2022-30NOV2022



FEMA Region (Population)	Last 7 days					Change from previous week					Daily case trend - last 8 weeks
	Cases (per 100k)	NAAT positivity	Confirmed admissions (per 100k)	ICU COVID-19 utilization	Deaths (per 100k)	Pct change in cases	Absolute change in NAAT pos.	Pct change in confirmed admissions	Absolute change in ICU COVID-19 util.	Pct change in deaths	
Region 9 (51,554,700)	56,719 (110)	22.0%	5,565 (10.8)	5%	148 (0.3)	-3%	+12.8%	+28%	1%	-52%	
Region 2 (31,635,735)	51,448 (163)	11.2%	3,977 (12.6)	5%	279 (0.9)	+10%	+1.9%	+11%	0%	-6%	
Region 4 (66,908,139)	44,765 (67)	9.8%	4,075 (6.1)	3%	381 (0.6)	+13%	+2.5%	+23%	0%	-23%	
Region 5 (52,542,063)	43,831 (83)	9.8%	5,278 (10.0)	4%	268 (0.5)	-29%	+1.6%	+11%	0%	-62%	
Region 6 (42,716,279)	29,339 (69)	11.5%	2,863 (6.7)	4%	106 (0.2)	+4%	+2.3%	+31%	1%	-20%	
Region 3 (30,854,848)	25,148 (82)	9.2%	2,361 (7.7)	4%	263 (0.9)	+9%	+1.1%	+2%	0%	-15%	
Region 8 (12,258,952)	14,561 (119)	14.7%	1,526 (12.4)	4%	71 (0.6)	-5%	+0.4%	+18%	0%	+29%	
Region 7 (14,140,220)	13,989 (99)	20.0%	1,424 (10.1)	4%	87 (0.6)	+12%	+1.9%	+24%	1%	-14%	
Region 1 (14,845,063)	11,717 (79)	7.7%	1,446 (9.7)	5%	117 (0.8)	+8%	+1.5%	+13%	0%	-22%	
Region 10 (14,351,240)	11,442 (80)	8.5%	892 (6.2)	5%	57 (0.4)	+5%	+1.4%	+17%	1%	-31%	

# Moving from magical thinking to reality : using current tools to save lives : first we need to survive then we can thrive .



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