

InfoByte: COVID-19 Impact on Respiratory Infections

Courtesy of the Wisconsin Health Information Organization

October 2020



WHIO

In April, the WHIO published an InfoByte on viral respiratory disease as a baseline by which we can compare the impact of Coronavirus. Now, six months into the pandemic, the WHIO is bringing you an update to those earlier benchmarks. In this InfoByte, viral respiratory disease has been updated to reflect all acute respiratory infections, including bacterial infections known to have caused a large portion of the deaths during the 2009 influenza pandemic ([PMC7237932](#)).

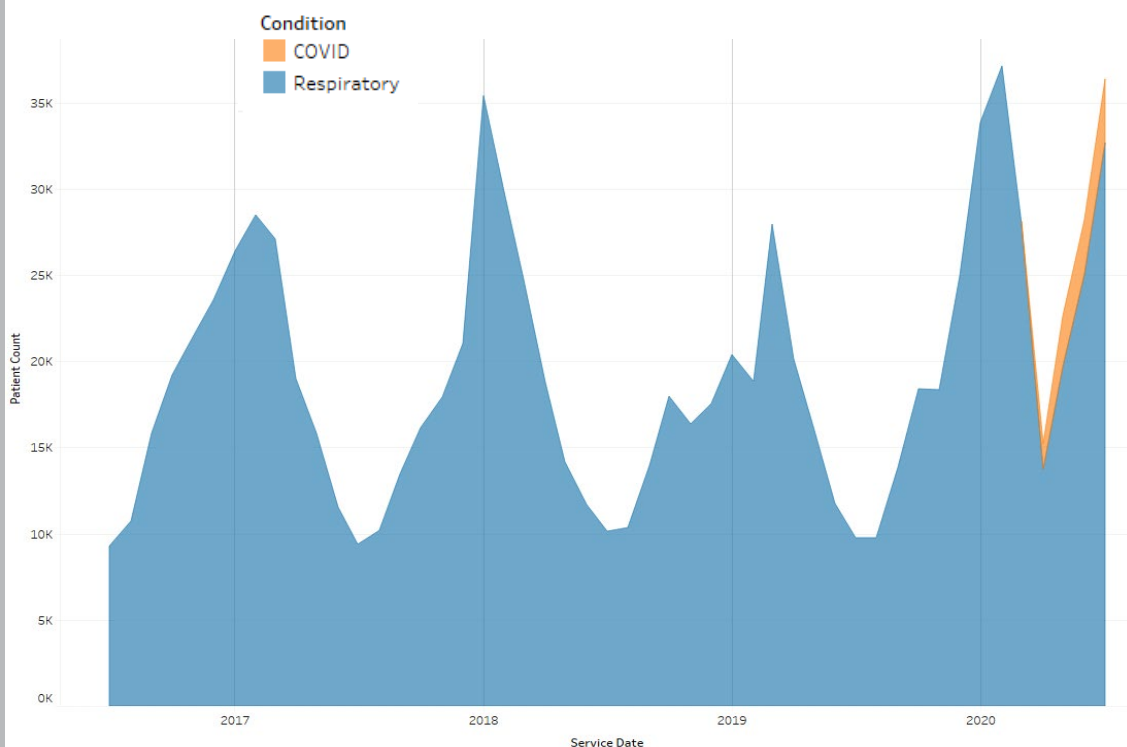
ICD-10 codes U07.1 & U07.2 became effective 4/1/20 to accurately identify patients with a COVID-19 diagnoses. The CDC has published guidelines for the use of these codes.

The WHIO is Wisconsin's All-Payer Claims Database, containing information on the health and health care delivered to over 4.9 million insured people.

If you have an idea of how the WHIO information can be used to help Wisconsin reduce the impact of coronavirus, please let us know.

info@whio.org

**Unique Patients with Respiratory Infections & COVID-19
June 2016 – July 2020**



For many years, Wisconsin has experienced an increase in patients with respiratory infections during the winter months and a reduction during the summer months. In 2020, Wisconsin also experienced an increase in patients with respiratory infections during the summer months. Some portion of these patients may have sought care for COVID-19 but were diagnosed with other respiratory infections as the new diagnosis codes for COVID-19 were not available until April of 2020 (See side bar).

As of July 2020, Wisconsin has already consumed about 82% of the resources used for Hospital Inpatient care in 2019.

**Respiratory Care & COVID-19 Resource Use* by Type of Facility
January 2017 – July 2020**

ServiceLocation	2017	2018	2019	2020YTD	Total
Hospital Inpatient	871.8M	1,017.8M	1,108.0M	913.9M	\$3,911.6M
Ambulatory Surgery Center	128.4M	170.3M	170.3M	217.8M	\$686.8M
Skilled Nursing Facility	56.2M	67.0M	67.0M	35.9M	\$226.1M
Clinic	40.5M	45.2M	44.5M	32.0M	\$162.1M
Emergency Department	28.6M	35.0M	34.8M	34.5M	\$132.9M
Home Health	6.2M	6.5M	6.2M	3.6M	\$22.5M
Urgent Care	4.5M	4.7M	4.8M	3.7M	\$17.8M
Independent Laboratory	0.7M	1.0M	0.6M	3.2M	\$5.6M
Total	\$1,137.0M	\$1,347.5M	\$1,436.2M	\$1,244.7M	\$5,165.4M

Data includes individuals who received health care services and are insured by entities that participate in WHIO.

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BSG Analytics, LLC recently released a six-month look at how the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved both nationwide and in the state. In Wisconsin:

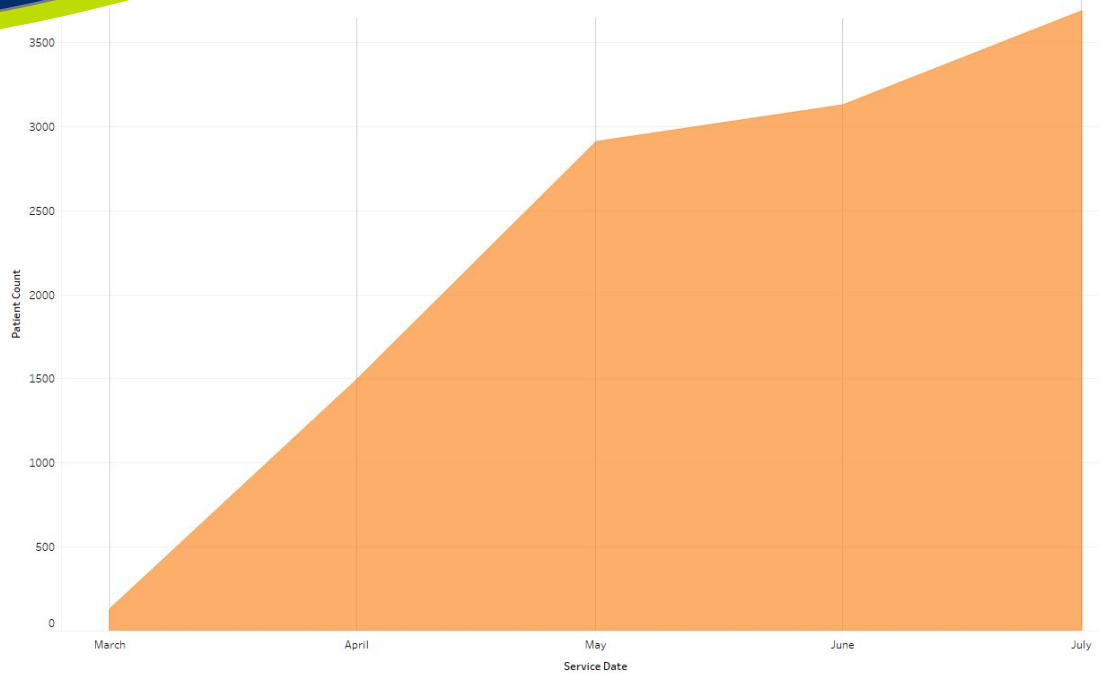
- The mortality rate of known infections has declined from 2.9% in May to 0.5% in September
- Hospitalization rates and lengths of stay have declined as well (although there has been an uptick in the last week)
- COVID-19 has led to less severe cases for WI residents under the age of 60; those between ages 80 and 89 now see an 80% chance of surviving. Even the most vulnerable population - those 90 years of age or older - are twice as likely not to be hospitalized or die.

While the clinical outcomes for COVID-19 patients has improved, we need to remain diligent in using recommended precautions to reduce the spread of this disease.

Source: BSG Analytics, LLC
[COVID-19 Impact Bulletin #8](#)

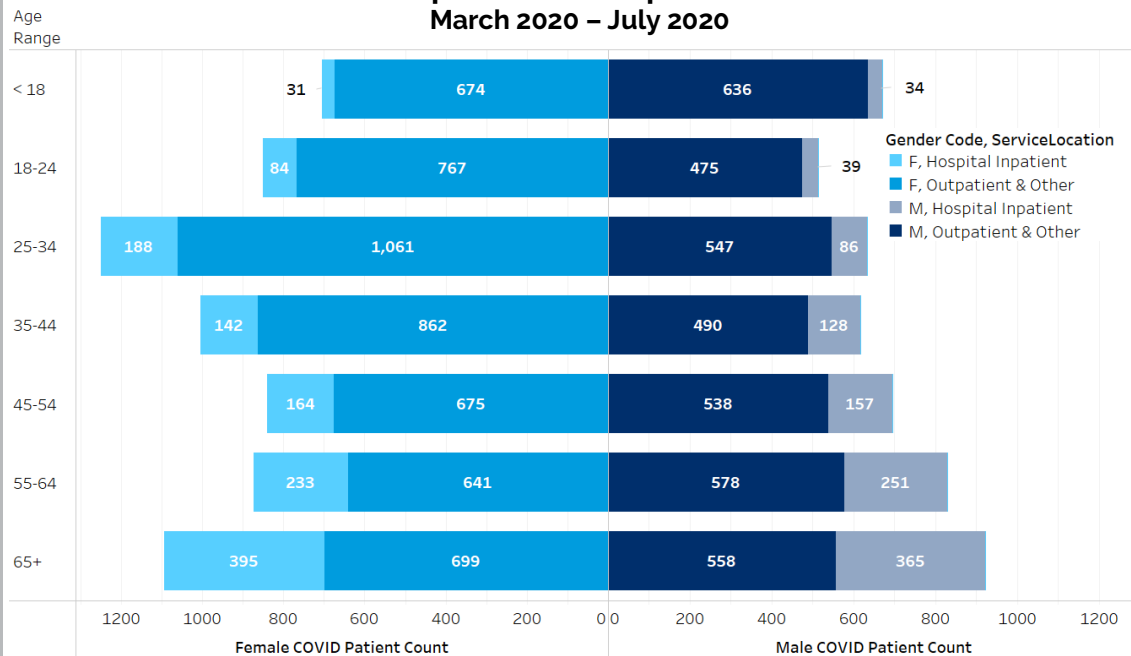
For additional information please contact the WHIO at
 608.442.3876

Unique Patients with COVID-19 March 2020 – July 2020



The information on this page is based on patients that had a diagnosis code of SARS-CoV2-2 which likely underestimates the impact of COVID-19 in the early months (see side bar on opposite page). As more organizations use the new COVID-19 diagnosis codes, we will get a better picture of the impact of COVID-19 on the health of Wisconsinites and the financial impact of this disease.

Unique Patients with COVID-19 by Age and Gender Inpatient vs Outpatient March 2020 – July 2020



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