





CARES Act and its Impact on Telehealth

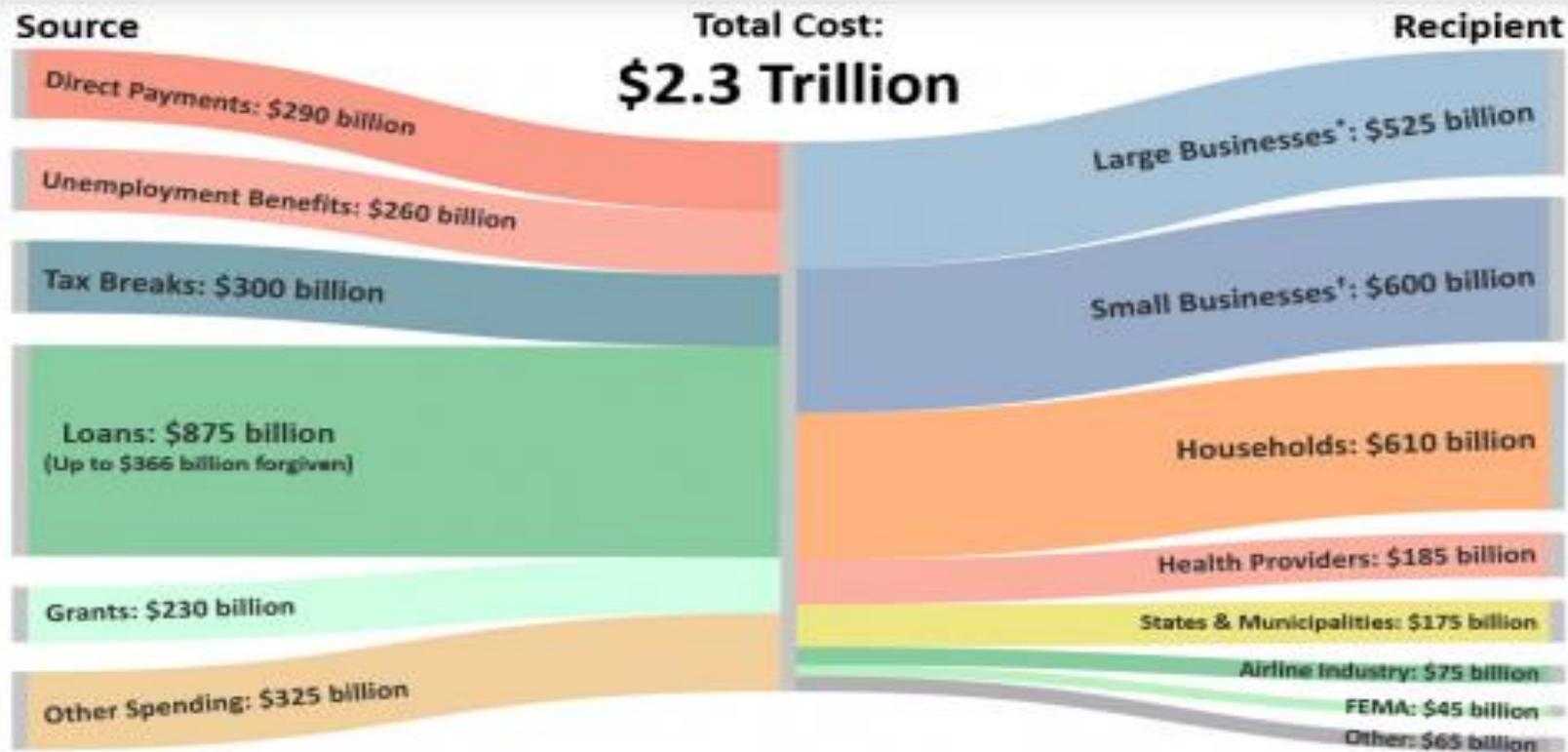
JUDE HANEY PHD, MPH, RHIA
PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Objectives

- ▶ Review Key Points of the CARES Act
- ▶ Explain what telehealth is and how patients are impacted
- ▶ How telehealth policies have changed due to CARES Act
- ▶ How it ties to Racial Equity in Public Health

A Visualization of the CARES Act



Source: Legislative Offices, ACT, bill text, CRFB estimates.

† This includes \$170 billion of tax cuts for businesses other than corporations, some of which are large companies.

* This includes \$454 billion to set up a \$4.5 trillion Fed facility which could support state and local governments as well as companies.

CRFB.org



2020 COVID-19 Legislation

- ▶ CARES Act 3/27/20
- ▶ Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act
- ▶ \$2 Trillion
 - Public Health \$153 Billion
 - Individuals \$560 Billion
 - State & Local Governments \$339.8 Billion
 - Small Business \$377 Billion
 - BIG Corporations \$500 Billion
 - Education/Other \$43.7 Billion
 - Safety Net \$26 Billion
- ▶ Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
- ▶ Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act 2020 (H.R. 7663)
- ▶ Telehealth Modernization Act (S. 4375, H.R. 8727)

Public Health and Social Services

- ▶ Hospitals \$100 billion
Frontline providers, payment through HHS
- ▶ Medicare facilities and providers impacted \$50 billion
FFS Payments in 2019.
LA \$ 474,891,735 for 5,000 providers
- ▶ Rural Providers/Medicaid Population \$50 billion
Treating uninsured populations
Inpatient \$12 billion LA \$399,879,990 for 15 Hospitals
Rural Health \$10 billion LA \$223,857,772 for 218 providers
Remainder to SNFs, Safety net hospitals and CHIP

Additional CARES Act Money

- ▶ Reauthorization of HRSA grant Programs through FY 25
- ▶ Telehealth and Telemedicine Grant Programs
\$29 Million per fiscal Year
- ▶ CMS expands telehealth service benefits under 1135 waiver and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act H.R. 6074 (\$8.3 Billion)

Telehealth

- ▶ **ATA (American Telemedicine Association)**

“the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient’s clinical health status”

- ▶ **HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration)**

“the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.”

Telemedicine vs. Telehealth

- ▶ Telehealth

Broad range of technologies and services to provide patient care and improve healthcare delivery.

- ▶ Telemedicine

Specific use of electronic communications and software to provide clinical services to patients without an in-person visit.

- frequently used for follow up visits, management of chronic conditions, medication management, and other services.

Telemedicine

- ▶ Bi-directional interactive communication
- ▶ Three Major Categories

Asynchronous (store-and-forward)

Synchronous (Real-time interactive)

Remote Patient Monitoring (monitoring by medical professional)

Telemedicine Specialties

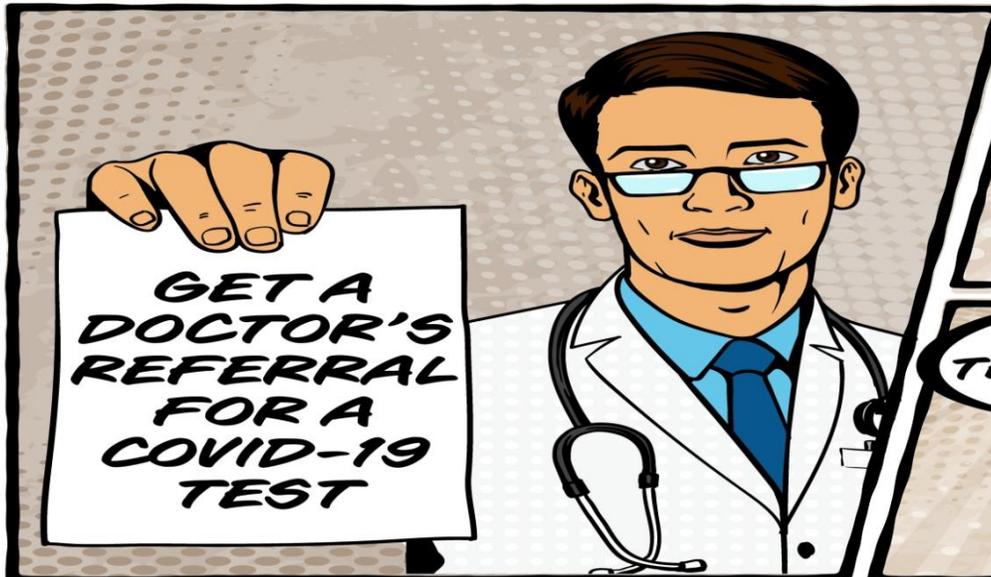
- ▶ Teleaudiology
- ▶ Telcardiology
- ▶ Teledermatology
- ▶ Telenursing
- ▶ Telepathology
- ▶ Teleradiology
- ▶ Telerehabilitation

(ATA glossary full list)

Who Practices Telemedicine?

- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Physician Practices
- ▶ Emergency Departments
- ▶ Skilled Nursing Facilities
- ▶ Correctional Facilities
- ▶ Pharmacies
- ▶ Rehabilitation Facilities

IF YOU HAVE AT LEAST
2 OF THESE 3 SYMPTOMS



Pros/Cons Benefits and Challenges

Benefits

- ▶ Enhanced Access to Care
- ▶ Timeliness
- ▶ Enhanced Patient Engagement and Satisfaction
- ▶ Growing Demand and Cost Savings

Challenges

- ▶ Initial Costs
- ▶ Perception of Virtual Environment
- ▶ Patient Technology
- ▶ Payment and Insurance Coverage

COVID-19 Policy Changes (LDH)

During the duration of the COVID-19 emergency

- ▶ Louisiana Department of Health Telehealth Policy allows additional use of telehealth services to assist in combating the spread of COVID-19
- ▶ Louisiana Medicaid , including all Medicaid MCOs allows for telemedicine/telehealth mode of delivery

Details include:

- ▶ Beneficiary may use his or her personal cellular device, computer, tablet, or other web camera-enabled device to see and receive medical care with qualified provider
- ▶ Beneficiary may access telehealth from his or her home

COVID-19 Policy Changes (continued)

- ▶ Services may be delivered via audio/video where available
- ▶ Secure, HIPAA compliant platforms are preferred
- ▶ If audio/video not available audio only may be employed (standard of care must be met rational for audio only must be documented)
- ▶ Documentation
- ▶ CPT and HCPCS Codes

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- ▶ Expansion of Telehealth 1135 Waiver
- ▶ Medicare will pay doctors and hospitals for broad range of telehealth services on a temporary basis effective March 6, 2020
Office and hospital telehealth visits will be paid for
Range of providers: NPs, clinical psychologists and social workers
- ▶ Elimination of Geographic Restrictions
March 6, 2020 Medicare began temporarily paying clinicians to give beneficiary telehealth services across the country.
- ▶ OIG providing flexibility for providers to reduce or waive cost sharing for telehealth services.

CMS Policy Changes (cont.)

- ▶ CAH Swingbed Flexibility
Section 1135 Waiver allows CAHs and rural (non-CAH) swing bed hospitals to move patients from their acute care beds to swing beds for extended care services without 72-hour prior hospitalization.
- ▶ HCPCS code G2012: Brief Communication technology based service
- ▶ HCPCS code G2010: Remote evaluation of recorded video and/or images.
- ▶ CPT Codes 99421- 99423

Barriers to Telemedicine

- ▶ Low Socioeconomic Status (SES)
- ▶ Limitation of broadband infrastructure
- ▶ Financial Barriers
- ▶ Individuals with disabilities
- ▶ Training

FIGURE 1. Number of telehealth patient encounters reported by four telehealth providers that offer services in all states and percentage change in telehealth encounters and emergency department (ED) visits — United States, January 1–March 30, 2019 (comparison period) and January 1–March 28, 2020 (early pandemic period)*

Abbreviations: CARES Act = Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; CMS = Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services; COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019.

* Unpublished ED visit data obtained from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program.

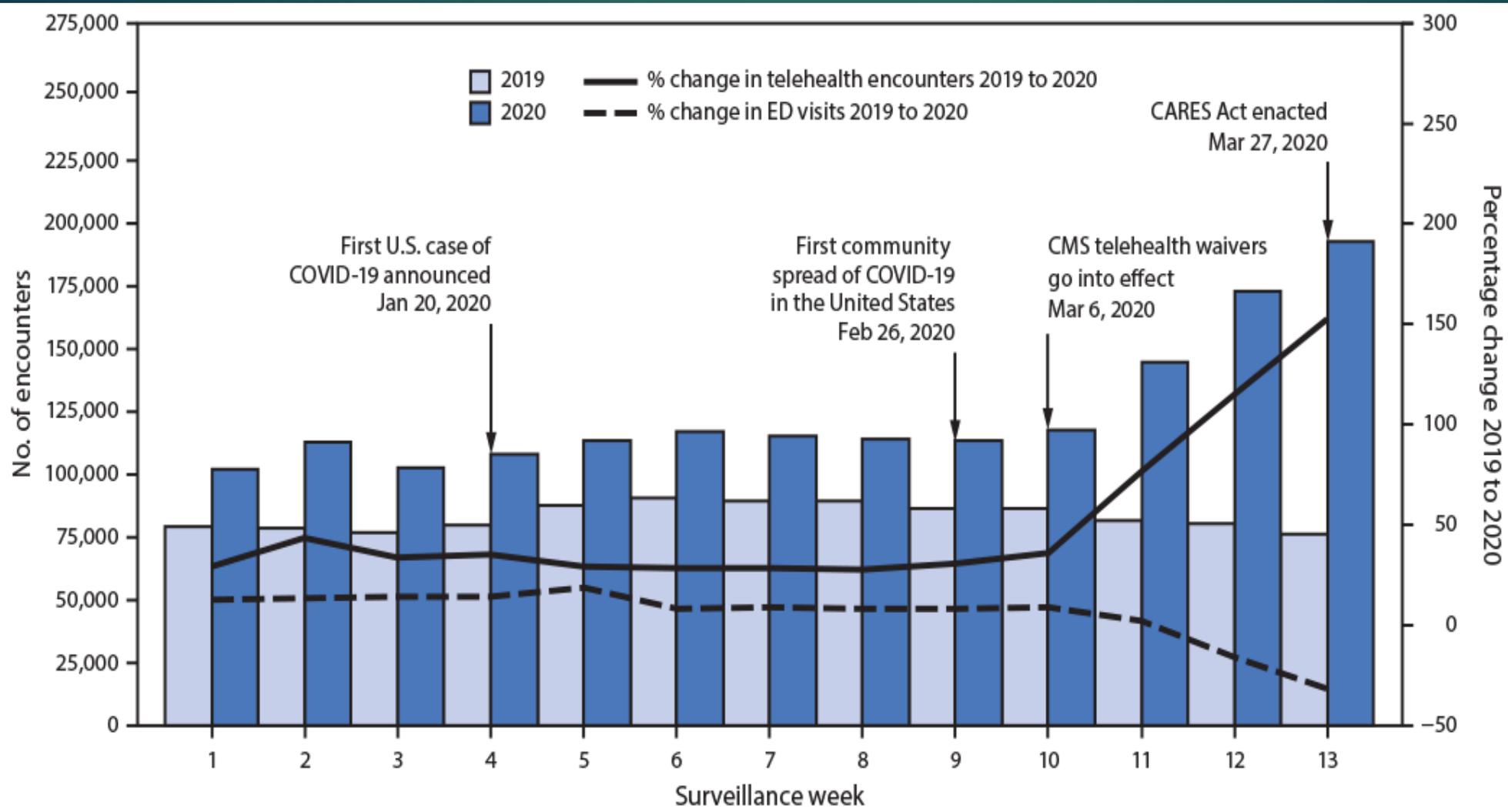
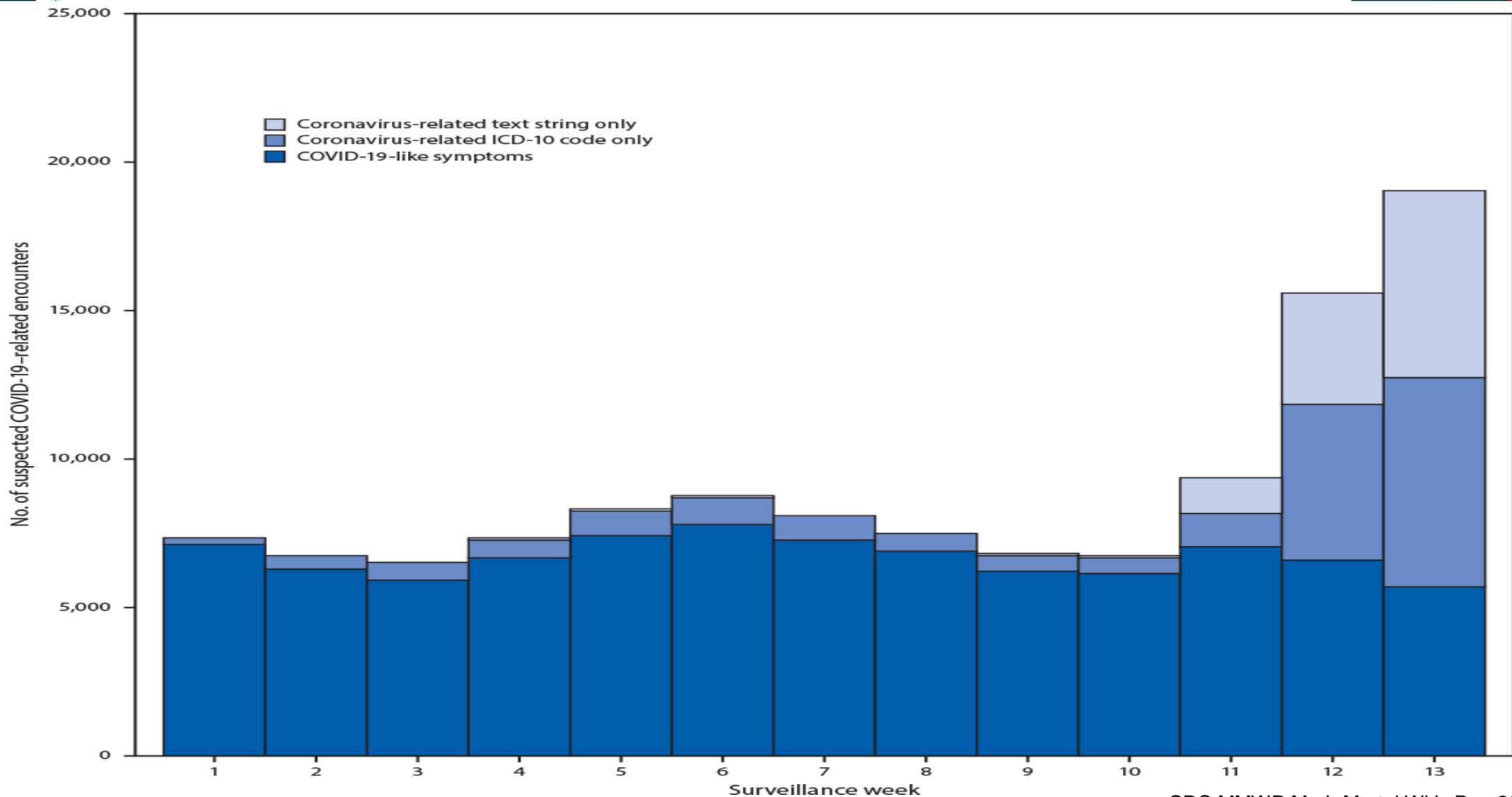


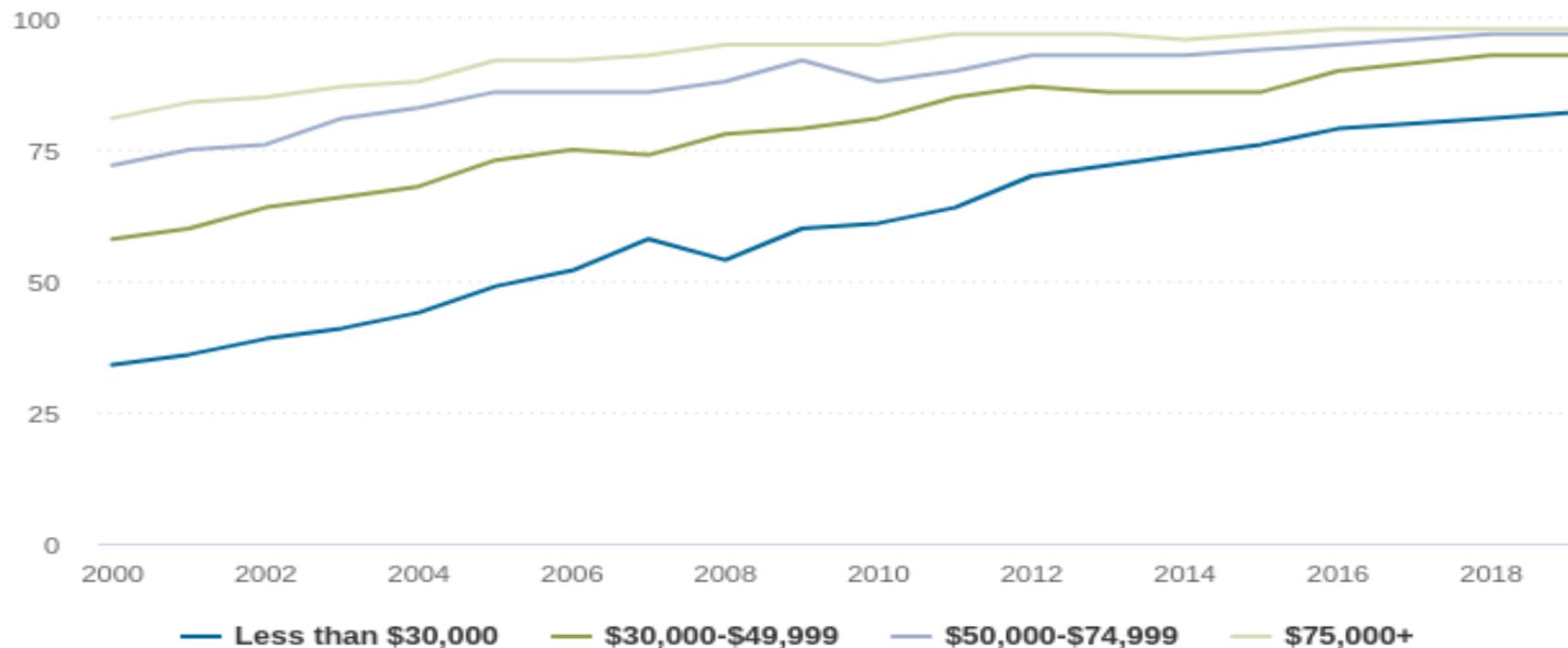
FIGURE 2. Number of telehealth patient encounters for persons with COVID-19-like symptoms, coronavirus-related ICD-10 codes, or coronavirus-related text string entries reported by four telehealth providers that offer services in all states — United States, January 1–March 28, 2020

Abbreviations: COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019; ICD-10 = *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision*.



Internet use by income

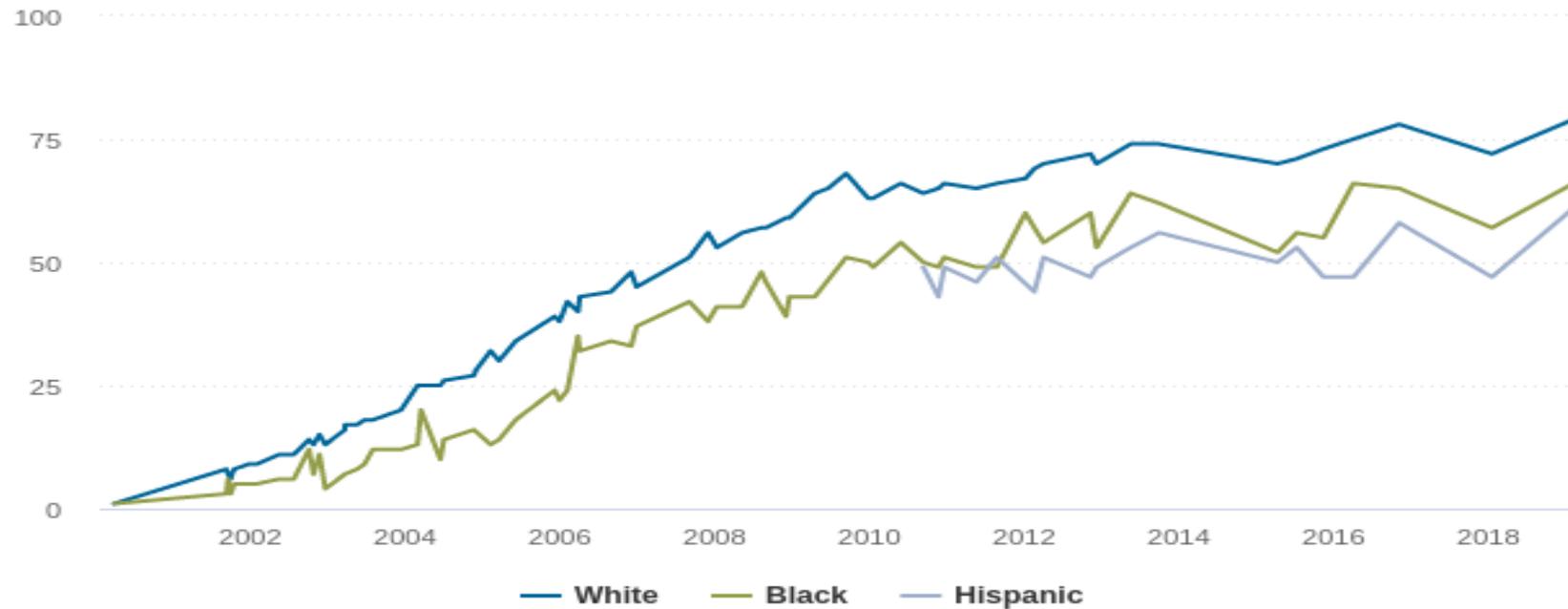
% of U.S. adults who use the internet, by income



Source: Surveys conducted 2000-2019. Data for each year based on a pooled analysis of all surveys conducted during that year.

Home broadband use by race

% of U.S. adults who are home broadband users, by race



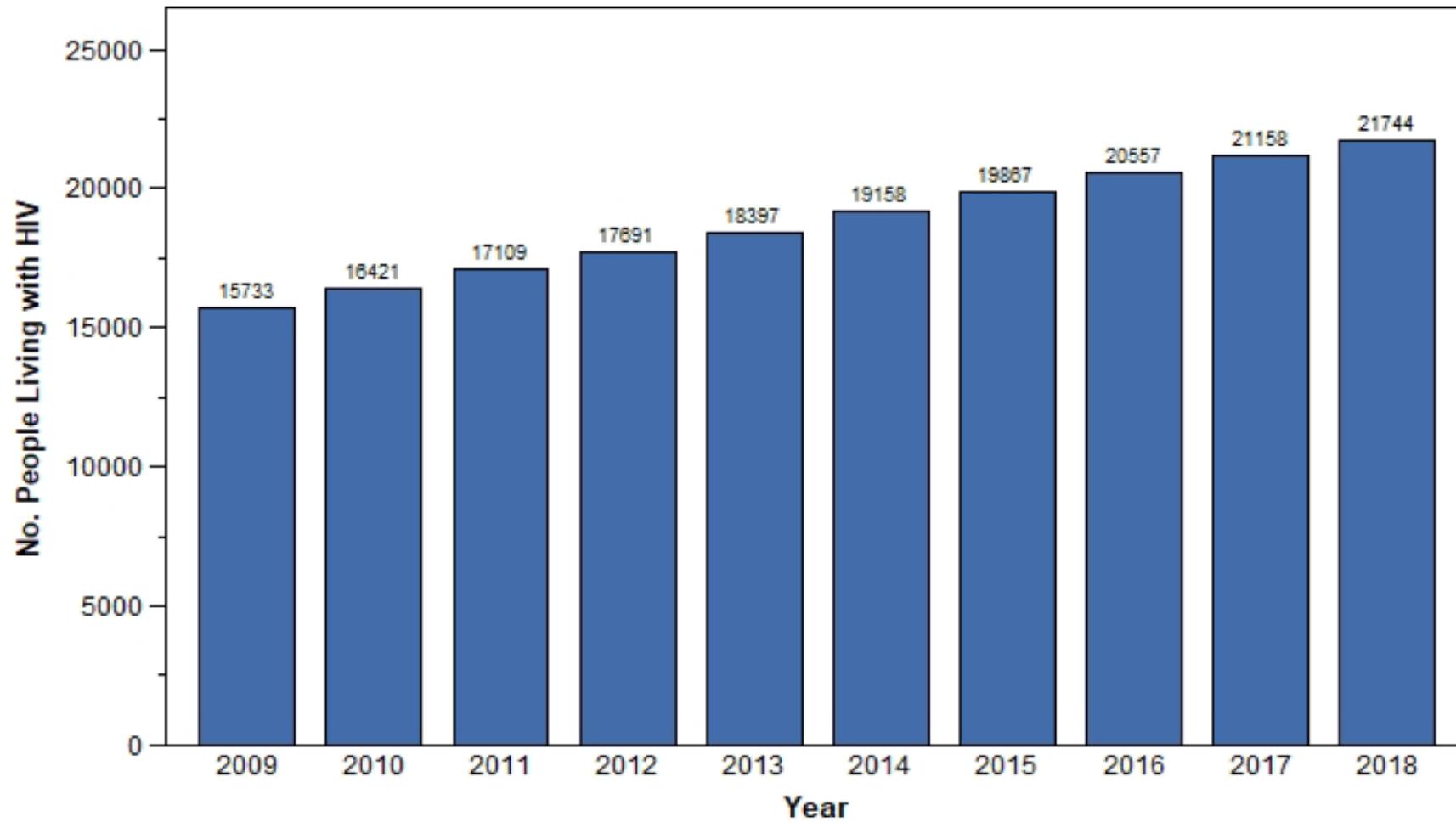
Note: The Center has used several different question wordings to identify broadband users in recent years, which may account for some variance in broadband adoption figures between 2015 and 2018. Our survey conducted in July 2015 used a directly comparable question wording to the one conducted in January 2018.

Source: Surveys conducted 2000-2019. Data for Hispanics includes only surveys that included Spanish-language interviews.

Specific Groups

- ▶ Medicaid Recipients
- ▶ HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Dialysis Community
Section 3705 eliminates statutory requirement for a nephrologist to conduct face-to-face evaluation.

10-Year Trends in Persons Living with HIV Louisiana, 2009-2018



**Persons Living with HIV
Louisiana
as of September 30, 2019**

22,319 persons are currently living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana.

Number of persons living with HIV: **11,128**

Number of persons living with AIDS: **11,191**

	No.	%
Gender		
Men	15,589	69.8
Women	6,392	28.6
Trans women	335	1.5
Trans men	3	0.0
Current Age		
0-12	32	0.1
13-19	121	0.5
20-24	744	3.3
25-29	1,934	8.7
30-34	2,440	10.9
35-39	2,596	11.6
40-44	2,651	11.9
45-49	2,529	11.3
50-54	2,747	12.3
55-59	2,879	12.9
60+	3,646	16.3
Total	22,319	100.0

	Men		Women		Trans women		Trans men		LA State Totals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian	35	0.2	8	0.1	1	0.3	-	-	44	0.2
Asian/PI	70	0.4	17	0.3	2	0.6	-	-	89	0.4
Black, NH	9,839	63.1	5,189	81.2	279	83.3	2	66.7	15,309	68.6
Hispanic/Latinx	871	5.6	203	3.2	22	6.6	1	33.3	1,097	4.9
Multi-race	126	0.8	43	0.7	3	0.9	-	-	172	0.8
White, NH	4,636	29.7	927	14.5	28	8.4	-	-	5,591	25.1
Unknown	12	0.1	5	0.1	-	-	-	-	17	0.1
Total	15,589	100.0	6,392	100.0	335	100.0	3	100.0	22,319	100.0

**Persons Living with HIV by Parish
as of September 30, 2019**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. PLWH</i>
Acadia	133
Allen	207
Ascension	268
Assumption	41
Avoyelles	166
Beauregard	46
Bienville	39
Bossier	285
Caddo	1,305
Calcasieu	723
Caldwell	24
Cameron	4
Catahoula	34
Claiborne	79
Concordia	51
De Soto	61
East Baton Rouge	4,153
East Carroll	23
East Feliciana	187
Evangeline	87
Franklin	48
Grant	50
Iberia	137
Iberville	284
Jackson	26
Jefferson	2,129
Jefferson Davis	68
LaSalle	59
Lafayette	884
Lafourche	171
Lincoln	104
Livingston	237
Madison	43
Morehouse	64
Natchitoches	137
Orleans	5,309
Ouachita	684
Plaquemines	53
Pointe Coupee	60
Rapides	565
Red River	16
Richland	47

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. PLWH</i>
Sabine	20
St. Bernard	205
St. Charles	113
St. Helena	26
St. James	83
St. John the Baptist	183
St. Landry	333
St. Martin	112
St. Mary	108
St. Tammany	544
Tangipahoa	457
Tensas	30
Terrebonne	216
Union	40
Vermillion	109
Vernon	72
Washington	213
Webster	79
West Baton Rouge	120
West Carroll	16
West Feliciana	126
Winn	23

Total PLWH: 22,319

Table 13: Population, Enrollees, Recipients and Payments by Region

Region	2018 Population ¹	Medicaid Enrollees ²	Enrollees/Population Ratio	Rank	Medicaid Recipients ²	Payments ³	Payment per Recipient
1 Greater New Orleans Area	895,188	381,825	42.7	3	381,809	\$2,210,728,385	\$5,790
2 Capital Area	681,481	245,563	36.0	9	245,041	\$1,493,799,615	\$6,096
3 South Central Louisiana	398,310	162,246	40.7	6	162,401	\$937,404,450	\$5,772
4 Acadiana	605,571	252,160	41.6	4	252,948	\$1,525,193,803	\$6,030
5 Southwest Louisiana	304,520	118,670	39.0	7	118,959	\$668,671,668	\$5,621
6 Central Louisiana	300,597	132,313	44.0	2	132,351	\$935,929,331	\$7,072
7 Northwest Louisiana	536,761	221,718	41.3	5	222,192	\$1,367,735,439	\$6,156
8 Northeast Louisiana	349,251	168,237	48.2	1	168,268	\$1,053,383,341	\$6,260
9 Northshore Area	588,299	213,245	36.2	8	212,621	\$1,224,001,783	\$5,757
State Total	4,659,978	1,853,660	39.8	—	1,854,578	\$11,416,847,816	\$6,156

Table 15: Recipients by Age Group, Race and Gender

Age Group ¹	African-American			Male	White		Male	Other ²		Total <i>(all races)</i>
	Male	Female	Total		Female	Total		Female	Total	
Under 1	6,775	6,711	13,486	5,144	4,726	9,870	16,530	15,935	32,465	55,821
1–5	40,670	41,288	81,958	35,139	34,023	69,162	35,692	32,871	68,563	219,683
6–14	73,719	78,346	152,065	63,222	61,773	124,995	54,645	43,858	98,503	375,563
15–18	30,429	31,982	62,411	23,828	23,783	47,611	20,198	18,100	38,298	148,320
19–20	11,638	14,562	26,200	8,053	11,337	19,390	8,100	9,417	17,517	63,107
21–44	65,746	144,750	210,496	57,444	114,247	171,691	59,319	89,474	148,793	530,980
45–64	46,464	64,907	111,371	37,675	49,131	86,806	52,710	63,092	115,802	313,979
65+	18,447	36,142	54,589	13,369	27,642	41,011	17,973	33,552	51,525	147,125
Total	293,888	418,688	712,576	243,874	326,662	570,536	265,167	306,299	571,466	1,854,578

¹ Age as of January 1, 2019.

² Other includes all individuals not in African-American or White.

References

- ▶ Great Plains Telehealth Resource & Assistance Center. "Sample Provider Agreement." <http://www.gptrac.org/toolbox/pdfs/provider-agreement-sample-dr-mn.pdf>.
- ▶ Gruessner, Vera. "Patient Engagement Expands with Telehealth, Mobile Devices." mHealth Intelligence, November 2, 2015. <https://mhealthintelligence.com/news/patient-engagement-expands-with-telehealth-mobile-devices>.
- ▶ Harper, Jessica. "Pros and Cons of Telemedicine for Today's Workers." US News & World Report, July 24, 2012. <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/articles/2012/07/24/pros-and-cons-of-telemedicine-for-todays-workers>.
- ▶ Health Information and the Law. "Medical Record Retention Required of Health Care Providers: 50 State Comparison" Updated January 2016. <http://www.healthinfollow.org/comparative-analysis/medical-record-retention-required-health-care-providers-50-state-comparison>.
- ▶ Meola, Andrew. "What is the Internet of Things?" Business Insider, December 19, 2016. <http://www.businessinsider.com/what-is-the-internet-of-things-definition-2016-8>.
- ▶ National Association Medical Staff Services. "NAMSS Comparison of Accreditation Standards 2017." http://www.namss.org/Portals/0/Education/CertPrepResources/namss_comparison_of_accreditation_standards.pdf.
- ▶ US Department of Health & Human Services. "Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information." <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/privacy-practices-for-protected-health-information/index.html>
- ▶ Koonin LM, Hoots B, Tsang CA, et al. Trends in the Use of Telehealth During the Emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, January–March 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:1595–1599. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6943a3external icon](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6943a3external_icon)
- ▶ [Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6074)
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6074>
- ▶ Louisiana Medicaid 2019 Annual Report <https://ldh.la.gov/assets/medicaid/AnnualReports/MedicaidAnnualReport2019.pdf>
- ▶ Louisiana HIV, AIDS, and Early Syphilis Surveillance Quarterly Report https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/HIVSTD/HIV_Syphilis_Quarterly_Reports/2019Reports/ThirdQuarter2019HIVSyphilisReport.pdf
- ▶ Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Zhai, Yusen. "A Call for Addressing Barriers to Telemedicine: Health Disparities during the COVID-19 Pandemic" June 4, 2020. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7316653/pdf/paps-0001.pdf>
- ▶ Pew Research Center. "Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet" June 12, 2019 <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband/>



Gracias!

JUDE HANEY PHD, MPH, RHIA

JHANEY@WMCAREY.EDU

601-318-6047

