ADvancing States 2020 HCBS Conference

Ready Seniors Workshop

Assisting Isolated Older Adults in an Emergency

Rhonda Schwartz

Regional Administrator

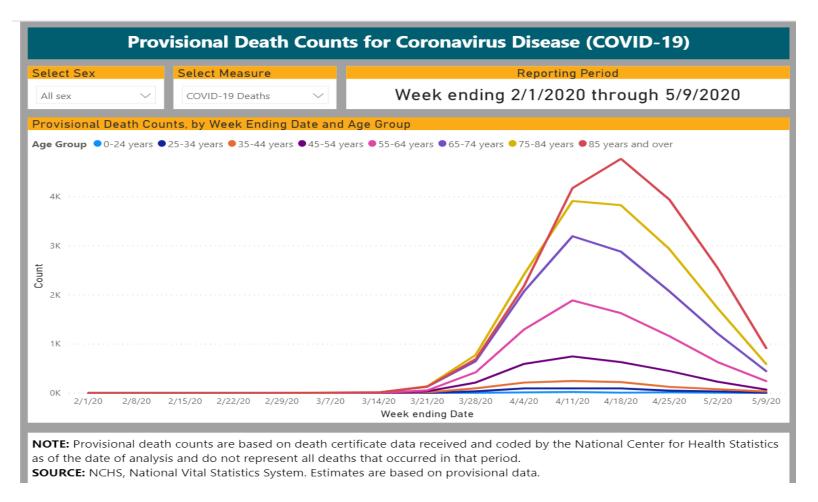
Administration for Community Living

December 9, 2020

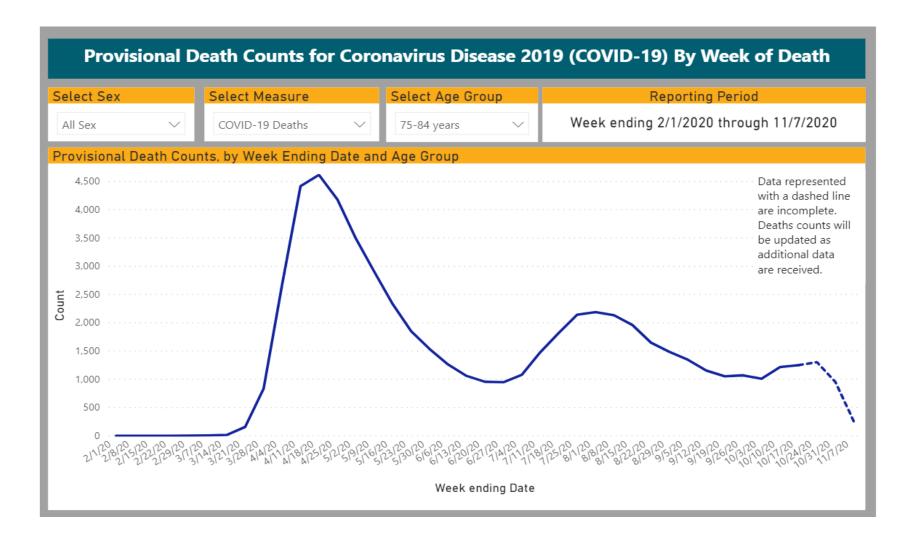
Older Adults Disproportionately Affected by Disasters

- 2017 California wildfires
- Hurricane Katrina
- Hurricane Maria –
 Puerto Rico
- COVID-19





https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm#AgeAndSex; accessed 5/17/2020



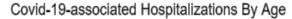
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm#AgeAndSex; accessed 11/16/2020

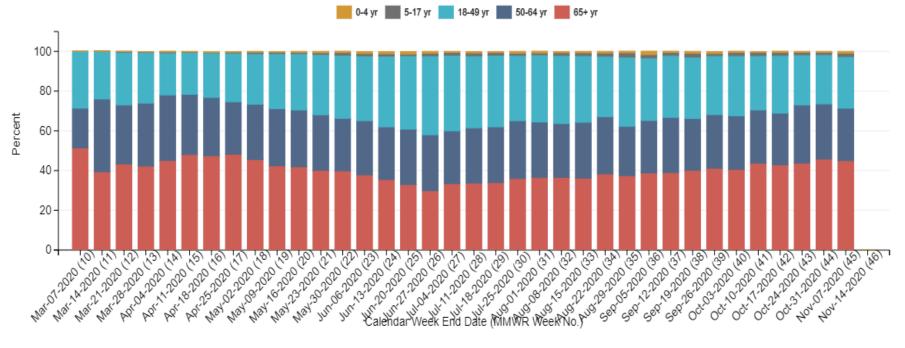
COVID-NET

A Weekly Summary of U.S. COVID-19 Hospitalization Data



COVID-19 Laboratory-Confirmed Hospitalizations Preliminary data as of Nov 07, 2020





The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) hospitalization data are preliminary and subject to change as more data become available. In particular, case counts and rates for recent hospital admissions are subject to lag. As data are received each week, prior case counts and rates are updated accordingly.

Source: https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19 5.html; accessed 11/16/2020

Elder Abuse

Puerto Rico 2017*

- During October 2017 and November 2017, there were 5,545 reports of elder abuse.
- This is almost half the number of reports that were made for the entire 2016 calendar year (12,682).

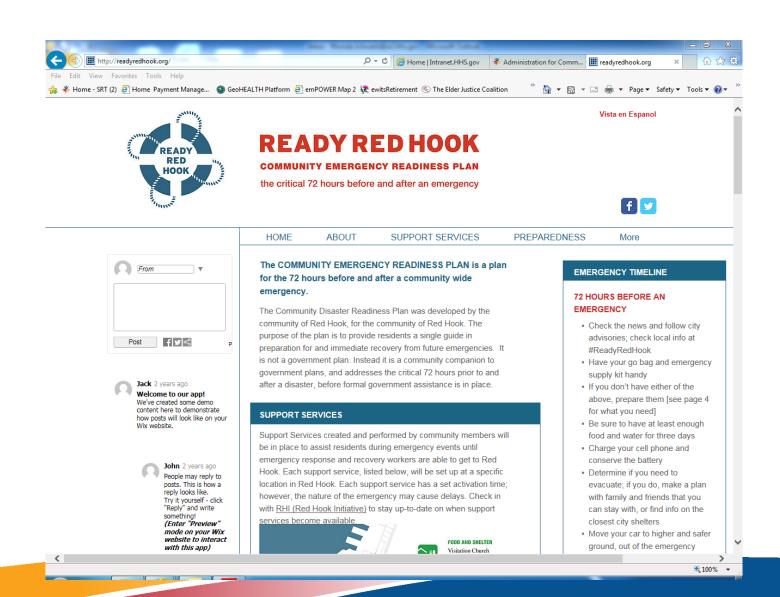
COVID-19???

^{*}preliminary data; subject to change

Community Resilience

- Be resilient
- Whole Community, all hazards approach
- Engage partners and foster development of partnerships to ensure emergency plan and response alignment and integration at all levels (e.g., facility, community, State/local agency)







Networks

- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (<u>www.nvoad.org</u>)
- Medical Reserve Corps (<u>https://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage</u>)
- Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) (https://www.ready.gov/cert)
- Health Care Coalitions

Capacity-Building
Toolkit
for including
Aging & Disability
Networks
in
Emergency Planning

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response



Link to toolkit:
 https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-resource-available-emergency-planning-toolkit-aging-and-0

COVID-19 Innovations

- Older Nutrition Program partnerships with restaurants
- Daily Check-in Calls/car parades
- Partnering with tech/phone companies to provide phones/tablets to seniors
- Coordinating or hosting virtual congregate sites to host group breakfast, lunch, dinner, and the provision of nutrition education, including at coffee hours
- Virtual classes

Locating Isolated Older Adults

- Local community leaders
- Houses of Worship
- Utility registries
- Special needs registries
- 2-1-1
- 9-1-1

Caregiver /Individual Preparedness*

- Events may happen without warning
- Caregiver may be separated from older adult when event occurs and cannot reach him/her
- Utilities may be interrupted
- Official assistance may be delayed

^{*}From *Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs,* FEMA and American Red Cross, August 2004, p.2., www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897

Elements of Preparedness*

- Be Informed
- Have an emergency supplies kit
- Make a Plan

From Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans. Get Ready Now. www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/older_americans.pdf

Before Making a Plan*...

- Assess the older adult's needs
 - -what assistance might the older adult need?
- -what can she do for herself? What resources does she have?
- -can the older adult evacuate in an emergency?

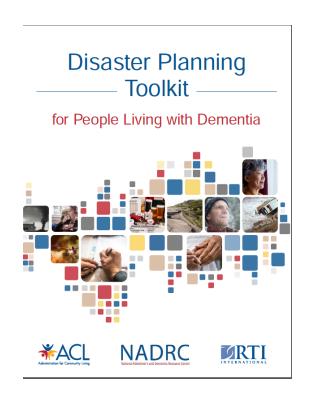
^{*}From FEMA and American Red Cross, *Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs*, August 2004, www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897

Preparedness Tips for Older Adults/Caregivers

- Understand the risks that the community is likely to face
- Enroll in the local special needs emergency registry; may require annual registration
- Notify the utility company of any needs for power for medical equipment
- Get to know your loved one's neighbors
- Keep portable cell phone chargers on hand
- Arrange for back-up in case primary caregiver not available
- Sign up to receive official communications in an emergency
- Keep at least a half a tank of gas in the car and some cash on hand

NADRC Disaster Planning Toolkit for People Living with Dementia (September 2018) https://nadrc.acl.gov/

 Helps people living with dementia, their family members, and their caregivers understand what to expect in the event of a disaster and how to prepare for it.



RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS AND CAREGIVERS

- FEMA and American Red Cross, Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs, August 2004, www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897
- Preparing Makes Sense for Older Americans. Get Ready Now. www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/older_americans.pd
 f
- Personal Preparedness for Older Adults & Their Caregivers.
 https://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/preparedness.htm
- Ready.gov preparedness information for older adults. https://www.ready.gov/seniors
- NADRC Disaster Planning Toolkit for People Living with Dementia (September 2018).
 https://nadrc.acl.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/docs/12125NADRCdisasterplanToolkit_0.pdf

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