

Data Note

May 5, 2020

Key Updates from the Health Center COVID-19 Survey (Week 4): *Two in Three Patients Who Tested Positive for COVID-19 Were Racial/Ethnic Minorities*

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The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released its 4th weekly [summary](#) of COVID-19 survey data on May 1st, 2020. This weekly summary is drawn from information provided by responding federally-funded community health centers on April 24, 2020. This data note summarizes key findings based on 1,038 health center responses (75 percent response rate).

Current Testing Capabilities

Nationally, 85 percent of health centers report the capacity to test for COVID-19 (**Table 1**). In nine states (AK, AR, DE, IA, MS, ND, RI, SD, WA) and the District of Columbia (DC), 100 percent of health centers have the ability to test. Across the 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico, at least 50 percent of reporting health centers currently have the ability to test for COVID-19.

Nationally, 60 percent of health centers are able to provide walk-up or drive-up testing. The ability to provide walk-up or drive-up testing capacity varied from 100 percent (NV) to zero (DE, WY).

This week, HRSA began asking health centers to report on the average turn-around time to obtain test results. Three percent of responding health centers reported obtaining COVID-19 test results within 12 hours, 14 percent within 24 hours, 60 percent within two to three days, and 15 percent within four to five days. Eight percent reported waiting more than five days for test results. No state reported that all responding health centers were able to obtain test results within either 12 hours or 24 hours, but half of responding health centers in Nevada had an average turn-around time of less than 12 hours and half of responding health centers in Maine and Wyoming had an average turn-around time of less than a day.

COVID-19 Infections Among Health Center Patients and Staff

In the week prior to the survey,¹ health centers reported COVID-19 testing for a total of 80,696 patients nationally; state totals ranged from 11,559 in Texas to 21 in Wyoming. In 16 states and Puerto Rico, health center respondents reported testing more than 1,000 patients in the aggregate.

Health centers reported that 16,578 patients nationally tested positive for COVID-19 that same week. Health centers in New York reported the largest number of patients who tested positive for COVID-19 (3,913), followed by Massachusetts (2,309) and California (1,943). Health centers in 22 states and DC reported at least 100 patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.

While it is difficult to compare testing results across facilities and time periods, the data for this week indicate that of those health center patients tested for COVID-19, 20.5 percent had positive test results; this figure is slightly higher than range of 10.9 to 19.5 percent positive testing results across public health, clinical and commercial labs (as reported to the [CDC](#) through April 25, 2020). Pennsylvania health centers reported the highest percentage of tested

¹ The HRSA COVID-19 survey questions about patient testing, telehealth visits, site closures, and staff work status ask about the week prior to the survey.

patients with confirmed infection, at 61 percent. In twenty-three states and DC, health centers reported that more than 19.5 percent of tested patients had confirmed COVID-19 infections.

The HRSA data also show 494 health center staff members with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. New York health centers reported the highest number of infected staff (96) followed by Massachusetts health centers (72).

COVID-19 Infections by Race/Ethnicity

Nationally, health centers reported that 54 percent of patients tested for COVID-19 were racial and/or ethnic minority patients (**Figure 1**). In seven states (CT, DE, MN, NE, NJ, VA, WI), DC, and Puerto Rico, minority patients accounted for at least 75 percent of all health center patients tested for COVID-19.

Among all health center patients who tested positive for COVID-19, 63 percent were identified as racial/ ethnic minorities (**Figure 2**). While White, Hispanic/Latino patients accounted for 20% percent of patients tested for COVID -19, they represented 29 percent of all positive cases, followed by White, Non-Hispanic/Latino patients (19.5 percent), Black/African American patients (16 percent), patients of other races, (11 percent) including Asian, American Indian/ Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander patients, and those with more than one race, and patients of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity for whom no race was reported (7 percent). Health centers in 15 states (CA, CT, DE, GA, IN, LA, MN, MS, NE, NJ, OR, TX, UT, VA, WI), DC, and Puerto Rico reported that minority patients accounted for at least 75 percent of those who tested positive for COVID-19.

Health centers continue to play a key role in addressing racial/ethnic disparities in COVID-19 cases and, as noted in our earlier [report](#), require greater federal investments to expand and sustain access to care for minority patient populations.

Loss of Sites, Staffing, and Visits

Health centers reported the temporary closure of 1,779 sites, or approximately one in seven sites nationally (**Figure 3**). California health centers reported the highest number of site closures with 194, followed by New York (142). In nine states (CA, CT, IL, KY, MA, MI, NY, TX, WV) more than 50 sites were reported closed.

Nationally, 12 percent of health center workers were unable to work due to COVID-19. Delaware health centers reported the largest proportion of staff unable to work, with 25 percent. Health centers across 6 states (DE, MI, MN, RI, WA, WI) and Puerto Rico reported that at least one in five staff were unable to work.

Compared to their pre-COVID-19 visit volume, health centers reported a 47 percent decrease in the volume of visits nationally. The largest decline was reported in Wyoming (64%). Health centers in 23 states reported a decline in visits of at least 50 percent (AL, DE, GA, IA, IN, KS, KY, ME, MN, MO, MT, NC, NE, NH, NJ, OK, SD, TX, UT, VT, WI, WV, WY). As visit volume drops, so does patient revenue, raising additional challenges for health centers that are attempting to maintain service and staffing capacity in view of the overwhelming need for care in their communities, for both COVID-19 and other health needs.

Telehealth Visits

Some of the lost patient visit volume may be offset by a rise in telehealth visits. Health centers reported on average that 54 percent of visits for any health center service in the week prior to the survey were conducted virtually. Health centers in five states (CT, DE, MA, RI, VT) and DC reported that at least 75 percent of visits were telehealth or telephonic visits. Connecticut health centers reported the highest percentage of virtual visits (84 percent) and Arizona health centers reported the lowest percentage (11 percent).

Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for next week

Health centers reported on the supply of surgical masks, N95/PPR masks, gloves, gowns, and face masks/goggles for the coming week:

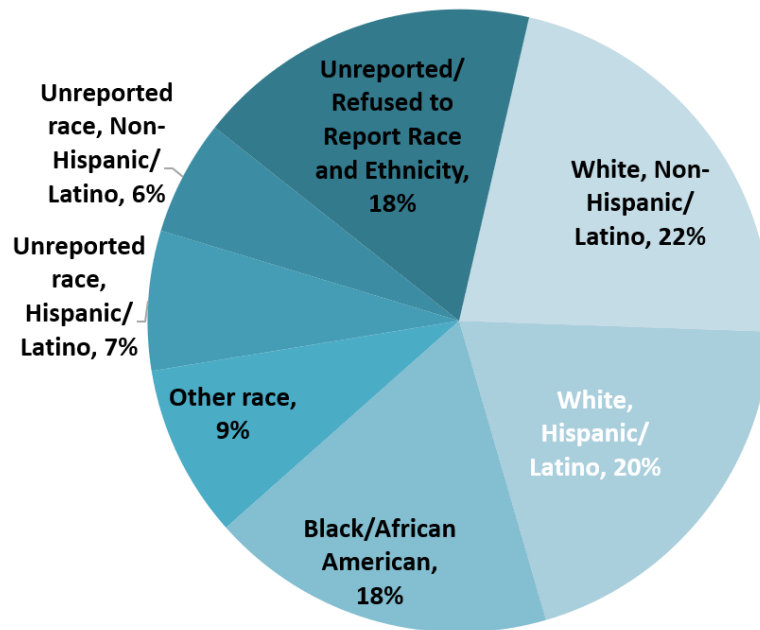
- 96 percent of responding health centers nationally reported an adequate supply of gloves. The responses ranged from 100 percent in 23 states and DC to 78 percent in Arkansas.
- 92 percent of all health centers reported an adequate supply of surgical masks. In 17 states (AK, CT, HI, IA, IN, ME, MN, MT, ND, NE, OK, RI, SD, VT, WA, WI, WY) and DC, 100 percent of responding health centers reported enough surgical masks for the week following the survey period. On the low end, one of two reporting Delaware health centers (50 percent) reported an adequate supply of surgical masks, followed by Arizona health centers (59 percent).
- 90 percent of health centers nationally reported an adequate supply of face masks or goggles. In 15 states (CO, CT, HI, IN, MD, ND, NE, NH, NV, OR, RI, SD, UT, VT, WY) and DC, 100 percent of responding health centers reported having an adequate supply. Delaware had the lowest percentage of health centers reporting an adequate supply of face masks or goggles (50 percent), followed by South Carolina (70 percent) and West Virginia (71 percent).
- 88 percent of health centers nationally reported an adequate supply of N95/PPR masks. In 13 states, (CT, HI, IA, ND, NE, NH, OK, RI, SD, UT, VT, WA, WY) and DC, 100 percent of health centers reported having an adequate supply of N95/PPR masks. Delaware health centers reported the lowest percentage (50 percent), followed by Alabama health centers (73 percent).
- 87 percent of health centers nationally reported an adequate supply of gowns. All responding health centers in eight states (CT, HI, ND, NE, NV, RI, SD, WY) and DC reported having an adequate supply of gowns. Delaware health centers reported the lowest percentage (50 percent), followed by Alabama health centers (60 percent).

Although most health centers reported a moderate to sufficient supply of PPE, Delaware health centers in particular appeared to lack critical PPE supplies at the time of the survey, but this also could reflect the small number of health centers in the state (3 in total), with survey responses reported by two centers.

The Week 2 summary can be found [here](#).

The Week 3 summary can be found [here](#).

Figure 1. Race/Ethnicity of Health Center Patients Tested for COVID-19



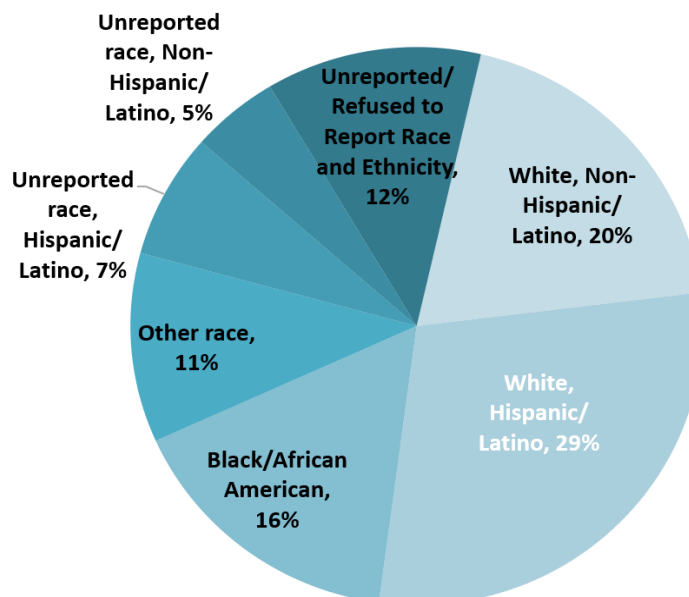
54% of 80,696 Total Patients Tested Were Racial/Ethnic Minorities

Note: The 54% percentage is based on Hispanic/Latino White, Black/African American, Other race, and Unreported race, Hispanic/Latino patients. Other race includes Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander patients, and patients with more than one race. Other race and Black/African American patients include both Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Latino patients.

Source: Bureau of Primary Health Care. (May 1, 2020). Health Center COVID-19 Survey. Data as of April 24, 2020.

<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-health-center-data>

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Health Center Patients Who Tested Positive for COVID-19



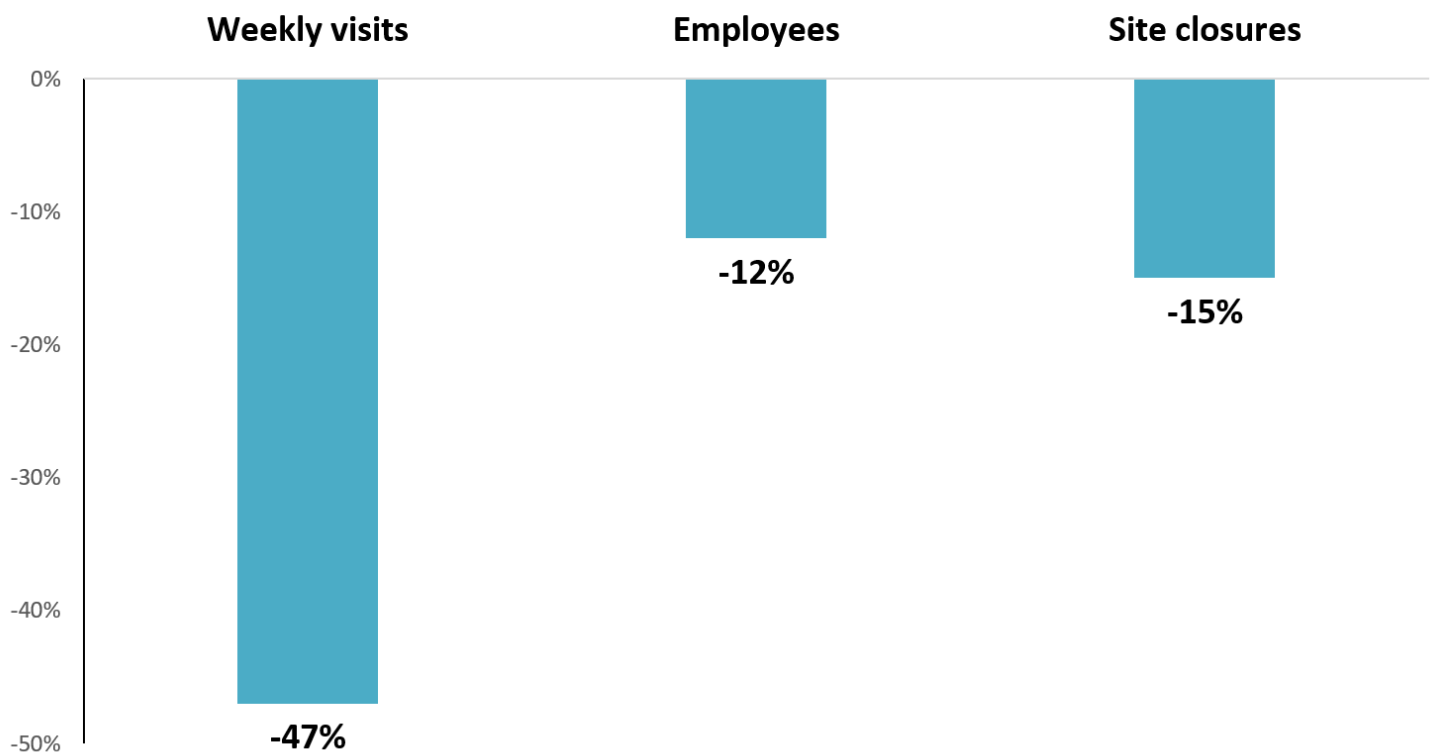
63% of 16,578 Total Patients that Tested Positive for COVID-19 were Racial/Ethnic Minorities

Note: The 63% percentage is based on Hispanic/Latino White, Black/African American, Other race, and Unreported race, Hispanic/Latino patients. Other race includes Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander patients, and patients with more than one race. Other race and Black/African American patients include both Hispanic/Latino and Non-Hispanic/Latino patients.

Source: Bureau of Primary Health Care. (May 1, 2020). Health Center COVID-19 Survey. Data as of April 24, 2020.

<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-health-center-data>

Figure 3. COVID-19 Impact on Community Health Centers



Notes: Weekly visit losses compared to pre-COVID-19 weekly visits; site closure percentage based on an approximated number of 12,000 sites. Source: Bureau of Primary Health Care. (May 1, 2020). Health Center COVID-19 Survey. Data as of April 24, 2020. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-health-center-data>

Table 1. Health center changes and capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as of April 24, 2020

State	Health Centers with Patient Testing Capacity (Current)		Average Turnaround Time for COVID-19 Test Results			COVID-19 Testing in Prior Week						Staffing and Operations				Health Centers Reporting Adequate PPE for Next Week				
	Capacity to Test (%)	Drive-in/ Walk-up Testing (%)	12 Hours or Less (%)	24 Hours (%)	2 or more days (%)	Patients tested for COVID-19 (#)	Patients tested positive for COVID-19 (#)	Percent of patients testing positive for COVID-19 (%)	Staff Tested Positive for COVID-19 (#)	Racial and/or Ethnic Minority Patients Tested for COVID-19	Racial and/or Ethnic Minority Patients Tested Positive for COVID-19 (%)	Decrease in Weekly Visits from pre-COVID-19 Weekly Visits (%)	Sites Closed (#)	Staff Unable to Work (%)	Average percent of Visits Conducted Virtually (%)	Surgical Masks (%)	N95/PPR Masks (%)	Gowns (%)	Gloves (%)	Face Masks/ Goggles (%)
National	85%	60%	3%	14%	83%	80,696	16,578	20.5%	494	54%	63%	47%	1,779	12%	54%	92%	88%	87%	96%	90%
AK	100%	71%	38%	10%	52%	425	11	2.6%	0	65%	0%	47%	4	10%	48%	100%	95%	90%	95%	95%
AL	93%	79%	0%	21%	79%	651	76	11.7%	1	50%	54%	53%	29	13%	47%	80%	73%	60%	87%	73%
AR	100%	89%	0%	0%	100%	356	16	4.5%	1	45%	69%	47%	6	4%	31%	89%	89%	78%	78%	89%
AZ	84%	63%	0%	31%	69%	373	50	13.4%	0	44%	72%	32%	21	5%	11%	59%	84%	89%	95%	89%
CA	87%	65%	4%	13%	83%	6,349	1,943	30.6%	44	71%	87%	43%	194	15%	65%	90%	90%	91%	95%	91%
CO	79%	72%	18%	0%	82%	3,104	805	25.9%	22	63%	74%	40%	49	14%	56%	93%	93%	86%	93%	100%
CT	79%	45%	0%	0%	100%	995	401	40.3%	19	81%	87%	30%	105	16%	84%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
DC	100%	33%	0%	33%	67%	340	181	53.2%	5	78%	79%	37%	11	18%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
DE	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%	187	53	28.3%	3	80%	91%	50%	4	25%	75%	50%	50%	50%	100%	50%
FL	87%	68%	3%	6%	91%	7,890	388	4.9%	11	49%	36%	46%	45	10%	30%	90%	87%	85%	92%	80%
GA	96%	63%	0%	4%	96%	2,271	136	6.0%	31	60%	77%	57%	39	7%	26%	96%	86%	93%	96%	89%
HI	88%	57%	14%	0%	86%	282	5	1.8%	0	62%	40%	35%	5	13%	44%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
IA	100%	64%	0%	9%	91%	2,296	550	24.0%	6	69%	36%	54%	11	17%	41%	100%	100%	91%	100%	91%
ID	63%	40%	0%	0%	100%	67	17	25.4%	0	34%	53%	42%	2	13%	30%	75%	88%	88%	88%	88%
IL	94%	85%	0%	26%	74%	3,408	997	29.3%	39	56%	73%	42%	60	12%	58%	89%	81%	89%	94%	97%

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IN	74%	29%	0%	29%	71%	386	159	41.2%	11	48%	82%	61%	15	12%	45%	100%	95%	89%	100%	100%
KS	93%	79%	7%	36%	57%	566	215	38.0%	0	45%	61%	55%	42	4%	21%	93%	87%	93%	93%	93%
KY	90%	44%	0%	17%	83%	549	39	7.1%	1	44%	72%	54%	106	7%	51%	90%	85%	85%	100%	90%
LA	92%	71%	0%	4%	96%	1,426	439	30.8%	11	50%	78%	48%	44	14%	64%	92%	92%	85%	96%	92%
MA	80%	55%	0%	15%	85%	5,396	2,309	42.8%	72	68%	64%	40%	80	19%	80%	92%	88%	92%	100%	96%
MD	82%	54%	0%	0%	100%	215	82	38.1%	7	52%	70%	49%	17	10%	58%	94%	88%	88%	100%	100%
ME	88%	50%	0%	50%	50%	112	21	18.8%	1	9%	10%	51%	17	14%	52%	100%	81%	88%	100%	94%
MI	85%	68%	0%	14%	86%	3,994	580	14.5%	8	32%	42%	46%	83	20%	72%	81%	81%	81%	92%	88%
MN	91%	60%	0%	20%	80%	67	35	52.2%	2	75%	91%	53%	19	20%	63%	100%	91%	73%	100%	91%
MO	95%	56%	0%	22%	78%	649	31	4.8%	4	36%	42%	58%	24	9%	51%	89%	84%	84%	89%	89%
MS	100%	64%	0%	14%	86%	997	172	17.3%	1	73%	84%	48%	26	13%	38%	79%	86%	64%	79%	79%
MT	92%	42%	0%	33%	67%	182	47	25.8%	0	17%	11%	54%	24	9%	45%	100%	92%	92%	100%	92%
NC	86%	58%	0%	21%	79%	1,042	144	13.8%	1	47%	63%	52%	27	11%	51%	86%	86%	91%	91%	86%
ND	100%	75%	0%	0%	100%	72	14	19.4%	0	28%	57%	47%	2	11%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NE	83%	60%	0%	20%	80%	359	55	15.3%	2	90%	87%	59%	30	14%	41%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
NH	75%	50%	0%	0%	100%	134	9	6.7%	0	47%	44%	50%	5	11%	64%	88%	100%	88%	100%	100%
NJ	55%	67%	0%	17%	83%	1,782	440	24.7%	10	85%	85%	50%	13	14%	64%	91%	82%	82%	91%	82%

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NM	79%	27%	0%	18%	82%	89	9	10.1%	2	27%	0%	36%	17	6%	60%	93%	86%	93%	93%	93%
NV	67%	100%	50%	0%	50%	130	52	40.0%	2	55%	73%	43%	7	8%	43%	83%	83%	100%	100%	100%
NY	82%	42%	6%	13%	81%	7,004	3,913	55.9%	96	36%	49%	46%	142	17%	63%	97%	87%	89%	97%	87%
OH	50%	16%	0%	16%	84%	155	35	22.6%	8	33%	43%	49%	44	11%	59%	89%	87%	89%	97%	89%
OK	89%	47%	0%	18%	82%	313	12	3.8%	0	48%	42%	52%	9	3%	46%	100%	100%	95%	95%	89%
OR	89%	54%	0%	0%	100%	623	28	4.5%	2	39%	82%	47%	43	9%	66%	93%	89%	93%	100%	100%
PA	66%	39%	0%	9%	91%	800	486	60.8%	16	45%	55%	49%	37	15%	67%	94%	94%	91%	100%	94%
PR	94%	76%	29%	6%	65%	2,699	79	2.9%	5	97%	91%	33%	5	22%	70%	94%	89%	72%	94%	89%
RI	100%	83%	0%	33%	67%	1,118	264	23.6%	2	53%	46%	22%	12	24%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
SC	90%	56%	0%	17%	83%	490	62	12.7%	5	45%	66%	40%	25	9%	29%	90%	85%	85%	90%	70%
SD	100%	33%	0%	0%	100%	90	15	16.7%	0	0%	0%	58%	4	2%	17%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
TN	83%	58%	5%	11%	84%	4,858	227	4.7%	7	26%	54%	49%	4	7%	22%	91%	87%	91%	96%	83%
TX	95%	62%	0%	4%	96%	11,559	265	2.3%	16	53%	78%	51%	72	7%	40%	90%	84%	84%	97%	90%
UT	89%	63%	0%	13%	88%	242	54	22.3%	1	61%	94%	51%	4	7%	44%	89%	100%	78%	89%	100%
VA	85%	59%	0%	18%	82%	517	203	39.3%	7	76%	87%	40%	27	11%	47%	95%	85%	80%	95%	85%
VT	55%	67%	0%	33%	67%	222	14	6.3%	0	9%	14%	53%	11	9%	76%	100%	100%	91%	100%	100%
WA	100%	80%	0%	5%	95%	2,416	313	13.0%	6	28%	40%	49%	39	22%	54%	100%	100%	95%	100%	95%

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WI	69%	78%	11%	22%	67%	432	91	21.1%	0	83%	96%	60%	16	23%	55%	100%	92%	92%	100%	92%
WV	96%	65%	0%	9%	91%	715	32	4.5%	1	14%	22%	56%	99	9%	68%	79%	79%	63%	96%	71%
WY	50%	0%	0%	50%	50%	21	2	9.5%	0	57%	50%	64%	1	3%	45%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: GW analysis of HRSA COVID-19 health center data (as of April 24, published May 1, 2020).