

# Fighting COVID—Using Claims Data for Tracking, Insights and Directing State Responses

Funding Opportunities and Analytic Ideas

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2:00pm – 3:00pm



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# Why Are APCDs Especially Valuable for COVID Tracking, Insight and Response?



- ▶ APCDs cut across a state's geographic regions, healthcare settings, and payers
- ▶ APCDs show detailed healthcare utilization pre- and post-COVID-19 testing, whereas most existing State COVID reports and dashboards only show tests, hospitalizations and deaths
- ▶ All information is centralized and accessible, unlike EHRs
- ▶ If APCDs contain identifiable data, it can easily be linked to other available datasets

# The Funding Question

CMS is supporting States in their COVID tracking, analysis and response in two primary ways:

## 1. Emergency Federal Financial Participation (FFP)

- [Federal Regulation 45 CFR 95.624](#)
- States must submit letter that outlines the cost of COVID analytic services, a description of the work and what portion is in support of Medicaid priorities (i.e. cost allocation)
- CMS has 14 days to respond (often responding in 24-48 hrs.)
- Work can then begin immediately!
- Full IAPD must be submitted within 90 days

## 2. CARES Act Funding

- [Section 601\(a\) of the Social Security Act](#)
- Dollars appropriated to States directly for COVID response
- No cost allocation
- Dollars must be spent by 12/31/2020

# So You Have Funding, Now What?

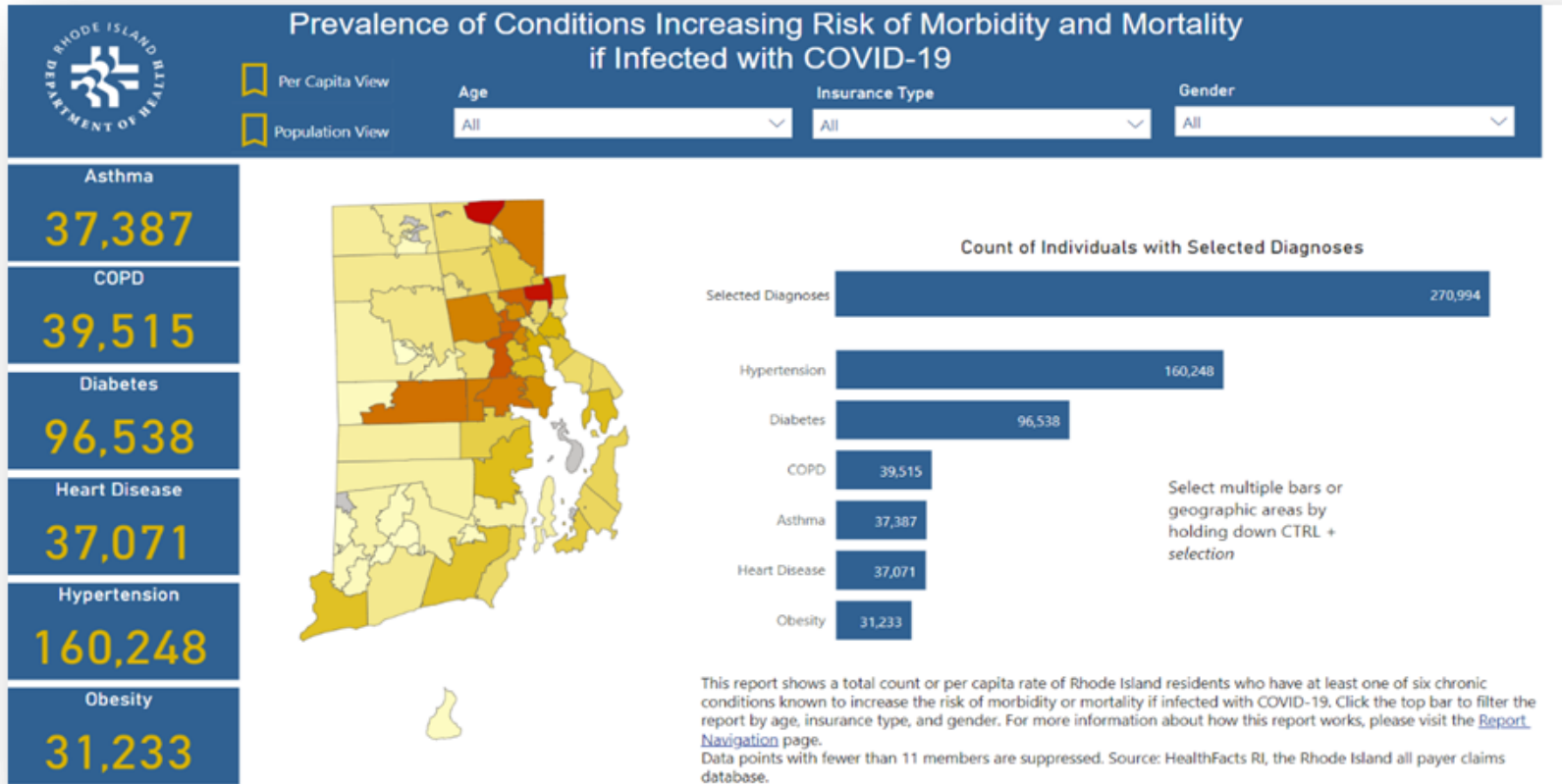
- ▶ What Years of APCD data are already fully-processed and available for analytics?
- ▶ Does your APCD contain direct identifiers that can be linked to other available COVID-19 data sources?
- ▶ What are the topics of interest to your state agencies and policymakers?
  - Tracking vulnerable populations and their access to care
  - Understanding the testing landscape
  - Identifying disparities in COVID treatment
  - Tracking the impact of COVID on healthcare system utilization
  - Tracking the impact of COVID on healthcare spending

# Examples and Ideas for Utilizing APCD Data for COVID tracking, insight and response

# Pre-COVID-19 Data (APCD data from 2019 and earlier)

- ▶ Analysis of chronic condition prevalence and other COVID-19 risk factors
  - Which populations are at greatest risk of complications and should be targeted for outreach and education?
  - Do these populations have adequate resources (e.g. providers, ICU beds, ventilators, etc.)
  - What is the financial risk of this vulnerable population?
  
- ▶ Establish benchmarks for pre-COVID-19 utilization
  - Average insurance enrollment by line of business
  - Utilization of behavioral health services and medications to treat anxiety and depression
  - Utilization of healthcare in telehealth setting
  - Utilization of primary care
  - Rate of immunizations and other preventive services

# Example: Rhode Island



HealthFacts RI reports can be found on the RI Department of Health Website at: <https://health.ri.gov/data/healthfactsri/>

## Ideas for Additional APCD Insights:

- Overlay information on hospital beds, ICU beds, ventilators to gain insight into resource availability

# Early COVID-19 Data (March-May 2020)



- ▶ Prescription drug claims
  - Changes in utilization of medications to treat anxiety and depression
  - As the data supports, flag medications prescribed to treat COVID-19 and identify off-label use
  
- ▶ Medical claims
  - Average length of stay and cost of COVID-related admissions
  - COVID's impact on healthcare utilization (e.g. most common IP and OP procedures pre- and post-COVID)
  
- ▶ Compare data to previously established benchmarks
  - Proliferation and costs of telehealth services
  - Impact on overall healthcare spending
  - Impact on immunizations and other preventive services



# Example: Massachusetts

## National industry reports find dramatic reduction in non-COVID-19 care in March and April 2020.

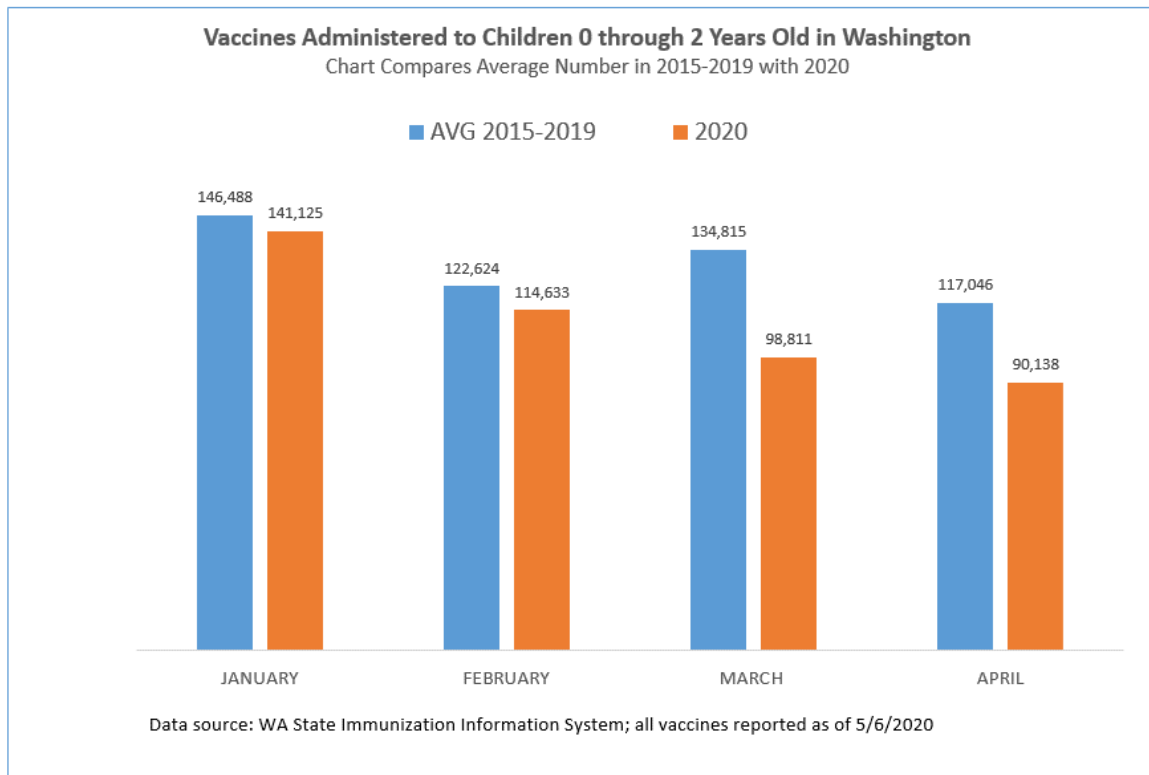
- **Hospitals** (March 2020 versus March 2019)
  - Drop in discharges (-16%), patient days (-15%), OR minutes (-26%) and ED visits (-14%)
  - Reduction in revenue: inpatient (-14%); outpatient (-19%)
  - Median occupancy rate fell from 65% to 53%
- **Physician Office Visits** (through April 12)
  - Overall net reduction: -64%
  - Would be closer to -80% but **telehealth** has backfilled 1 in 5 lost visits; 30% of visits are now remote
  - Drop varies by specialty
- **Prescription Drugs** (through April 3)
  - New prescriptions: -27% overall
  - Office-based drug administration: -65%
- **Laboratory/Diagnostic Tests** (through April 3)
  - Reductions across all settings, with -70% in office-based testing

Physician visits by specialty, decline relative to 3/1/2020



Source: Commonwealth Fund/ Phreesia database of 50,000 providers comprising 1 million visits weekly

# Example: Washington State



## Ideas for Additional APCD Insights:

- Assess changes in child vaccination rates by payer type
- What geographic regions showed the greatest reduction in immunization rates?

# COVID-19 Data (June – Dec 2020)



## ▶ **Clinical impacts:**

- Are people delaying routine medical care, switching to telehealth, or foregoing care altogether?

## ▶ **Efficacy and efficiency of telehealth:**

- What types of services are conducive to telehealth? (e.g. what types of telehealth visits required in-person follow-up?)
- How does telehealth compare to in-person visits in regards to medical trajectory and downstream costs?

## ▶ **Treatment paths and disparities in treating COVID-19**

## ▶ **Healthcare utilization and cost of COVID-19 survivors**

## ▶ **Insurance enrollment and provider impacts:**

- How has COVID-19 impacted insurance enrollment and rate of uninsured
- How has COVID-19 impacted providers' patient makeup
- What type of care is being sought in urban/rural, community/teaching hospital, primary care/specialist settings

# Next Steps

- ▶ Determine which data is fully-processed and ready for analytics
- ▶ Identify topics of interest, engage stakeholders
- ▶ Determine whether data is linkable to other available COVID datasets
- ▶ Develop specifications for COVID-related analyses to show APCD value in providing insights in time of emergencies

Questions?

# Additional Resources

- ▶ [APCD Journal](#) – contains information on COVID-related codes (testing, diagnosis, telehealth) and related analyses