



Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response

December 17, 2021



Housekeeping

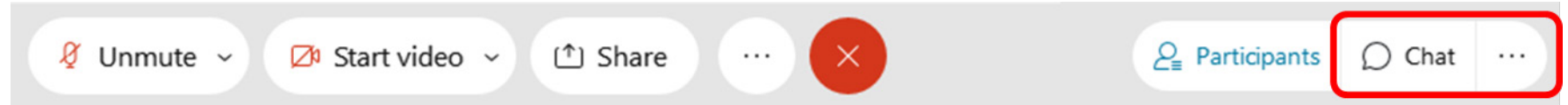
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-webinars-and-office-hours>

- Password for all COVID Office Hours: **HUD456**
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:
+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 185 207 6880

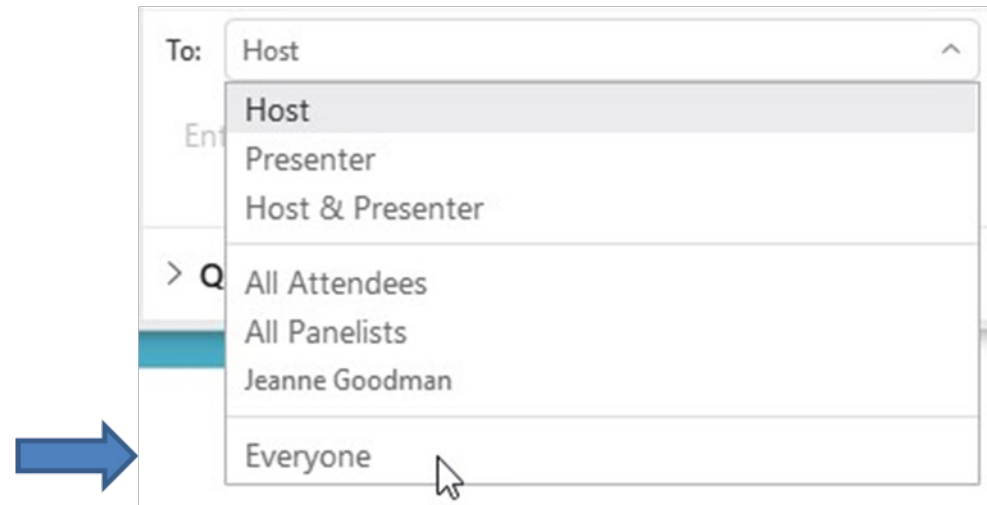
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

Chat Feature



Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to **Everyone**



Speakers & Resource Advisors

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
 - Norm Suchar
 - Lisa Coffman
 - Caroline Crouse
 - William Snow
 - April Mitchell-Gasque
 - Marlisa Grogan
- Vincent Mussetter, Assistant Audit Director, Office of Inspector General
- Nick Mitchell, HUD TA, Homebase
- Ashley Kerr, HUD TA, Trellis Consulting

National Coalition for the Homeless

- Donald Whitehead Jr, Executive Director

Speakers & Resource Advisors

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Ashley Meehan, MPH, Homelessness Unit, Disproportionately Affected Populations Team

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

- Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy

Department of Veterans Affairs

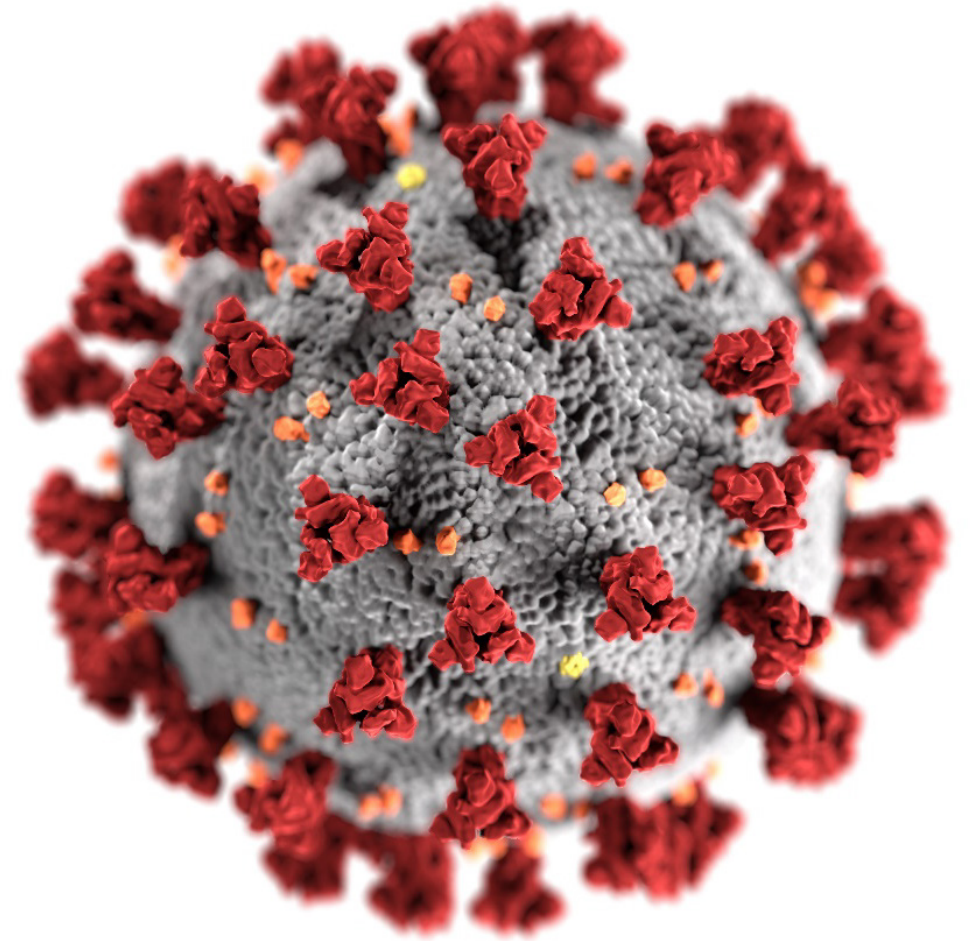
- Dina Hooshyar, MD MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (The Center), VHA Homeless Program Office
- Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Programs Office



COVID-19 and Homelessness

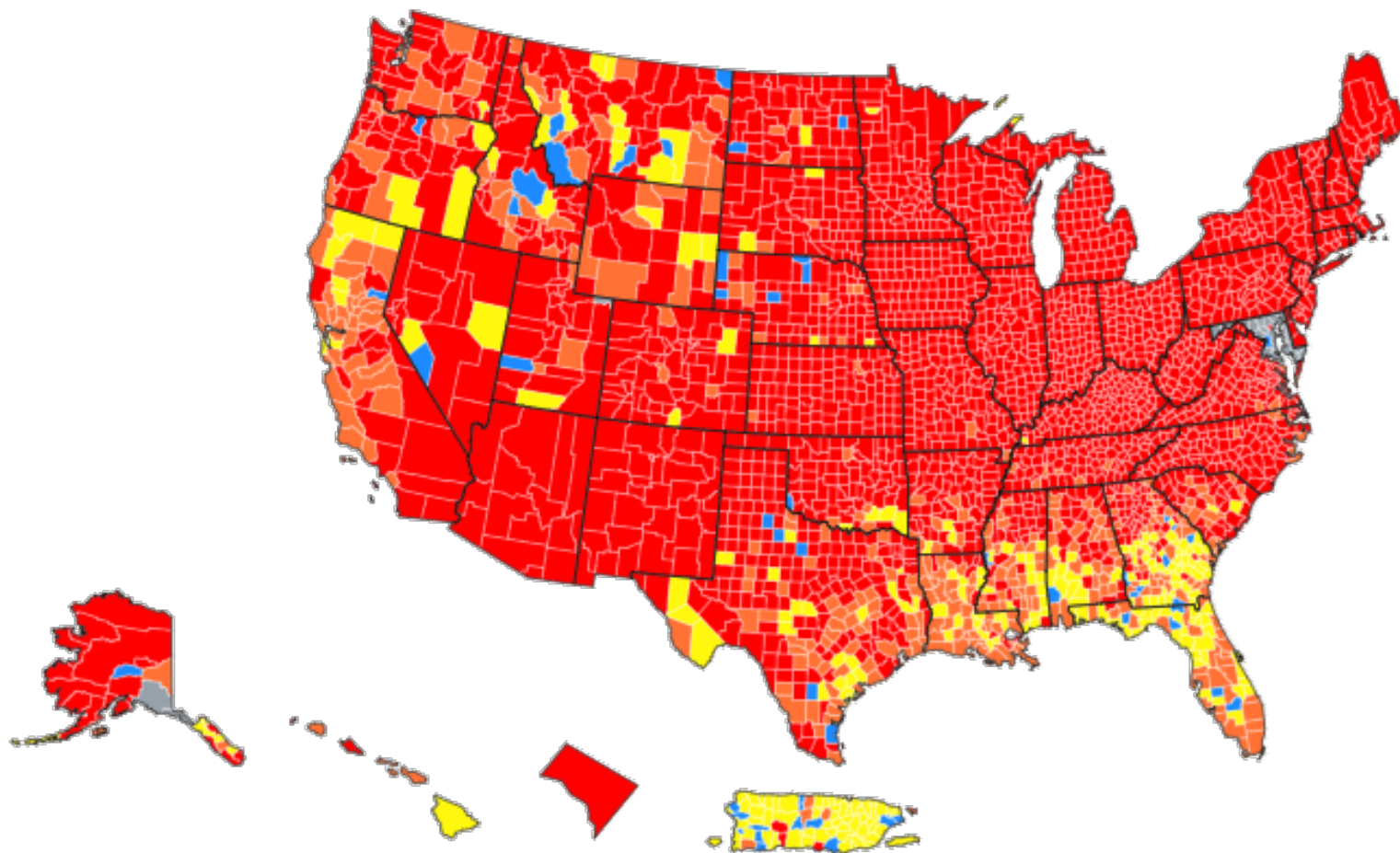
Updates

Homelessness Unit
Corrections & Homelessness Section
CDC COVID-19 Response



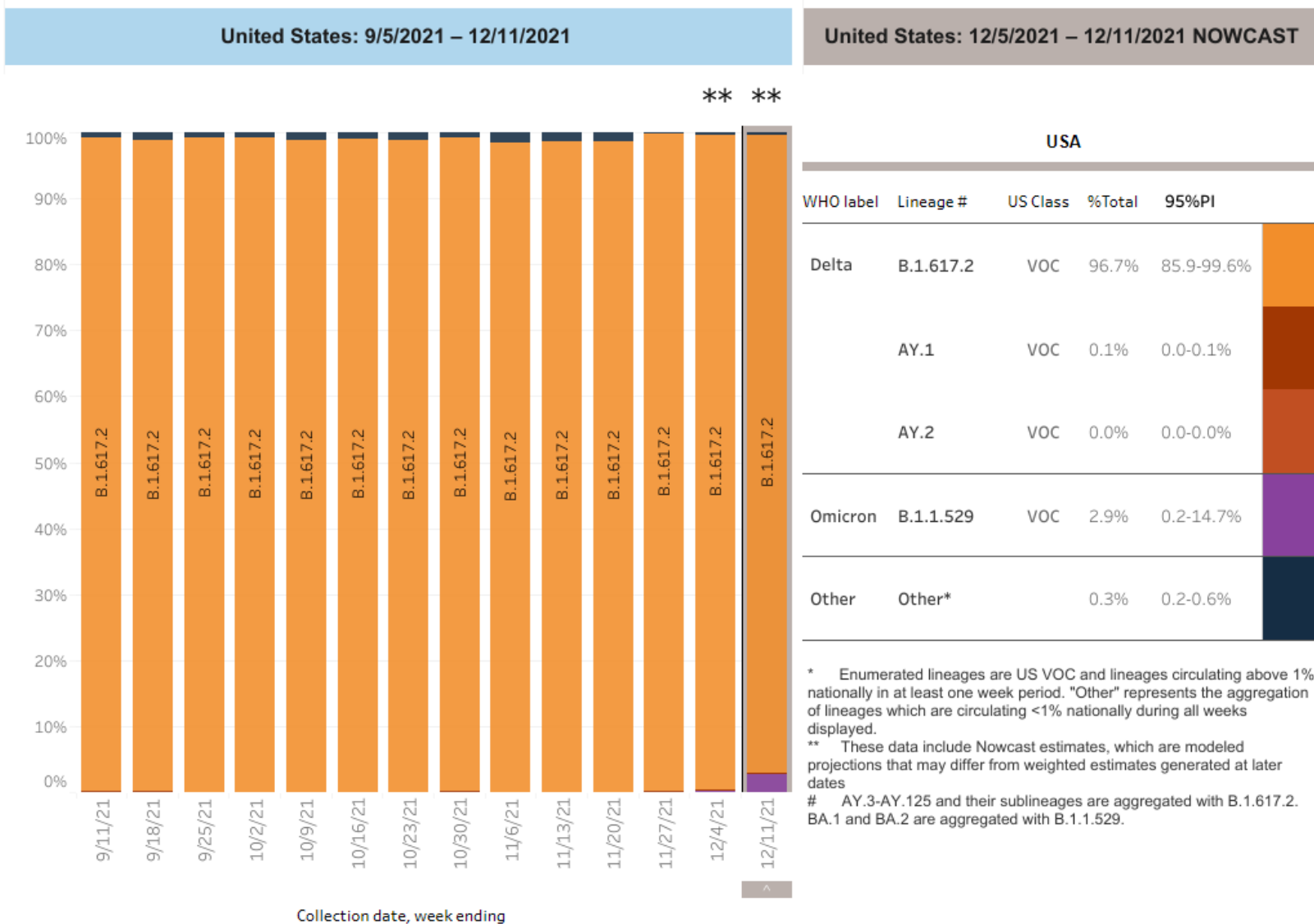
cdc.gov/coronavirus

Community Transmission of COVID-19 by County



● High ● Substantial ● Moderate ● Low ● No Data

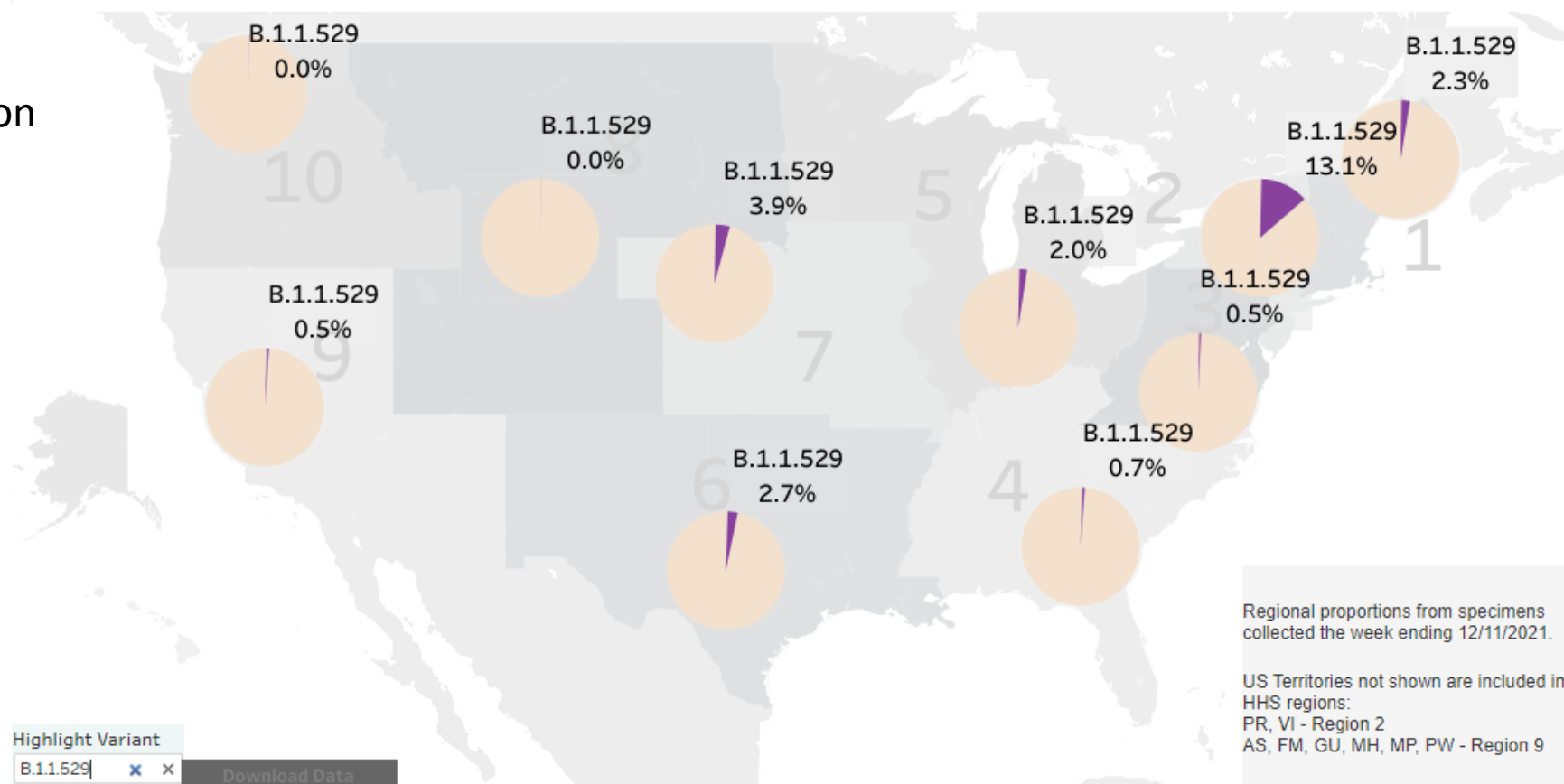
COVID-19 Variants in the U.S.



COVID-19 Variants in the U.S. by HHS Region

United States: 12/5/2021 – 12/11/2021 NOWCAST

B.1.1.529 = Omicron



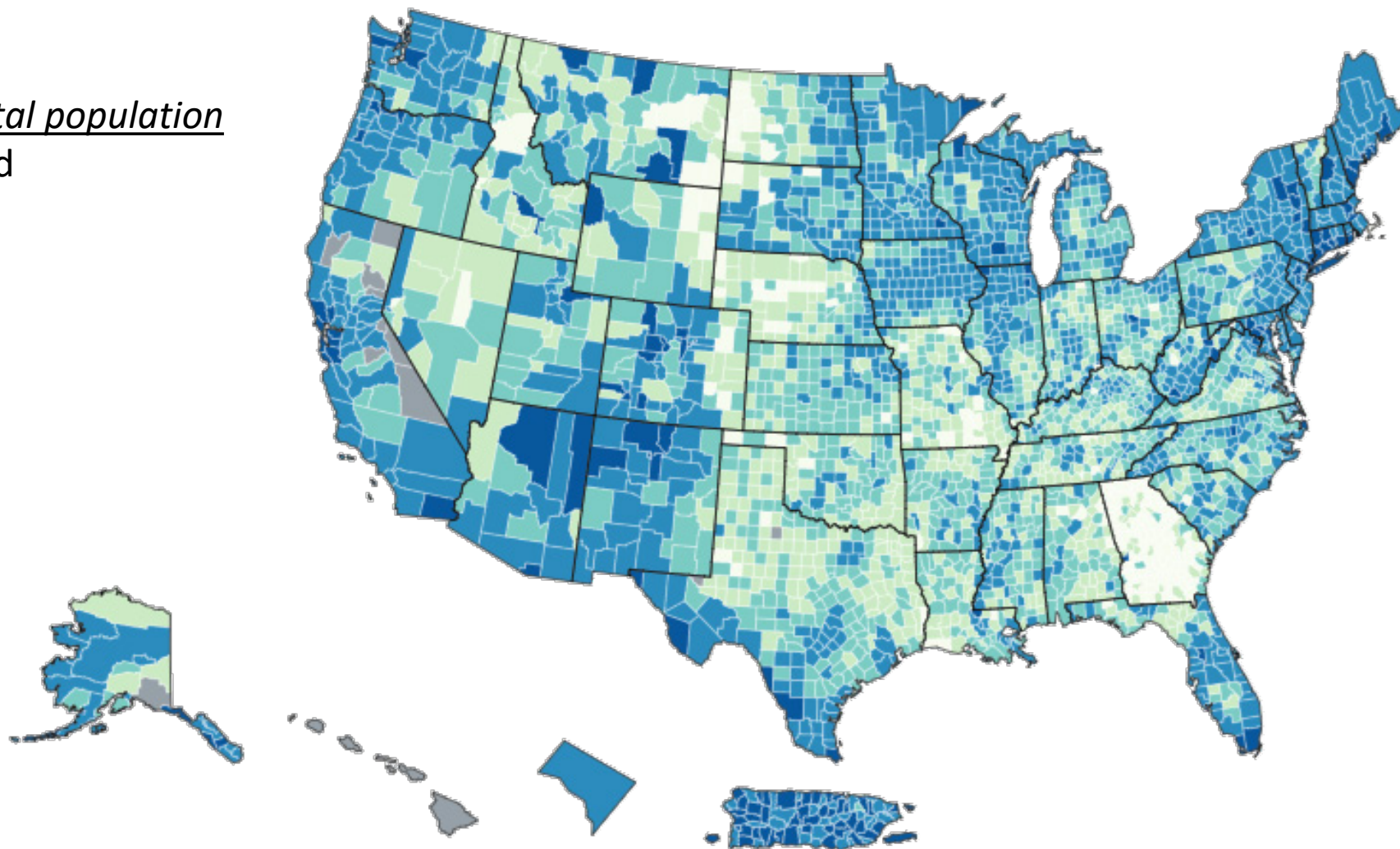
Lineages called using pangoln-designation (PANGO)-v1.2.101, pangolin v3.1.17, pangoleARN version 11/25/21 and Scorpio v0.3.15.

Updated December 14, 2021



COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States by County

*Percent of total population
fully vaccinated



○ 0-29.9% ○ 30-39.9% ○ 40-49.9% ○ 50-69.9% ○ 70%+ ○ No Data



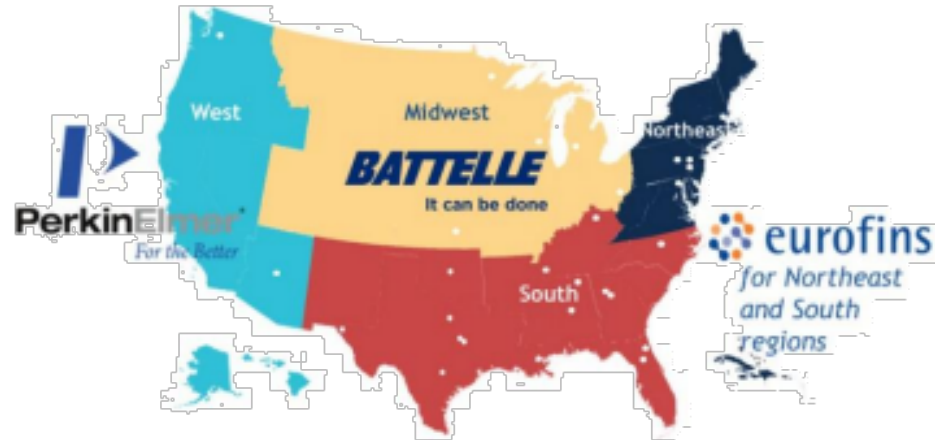
[CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

Testing Resource: Operation Expanded Testing

- Funded by U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Dept of Defense (DoD)
- Regional contractors provide testing materials and supplies, staff, and results reporting at no cost to recipients
- Congregate settings – homeless shelters – are eligible and can submit a request!
- Current documents geared towards schools, but it is not limited to schools
- PCR Tests once per week with results returned within 24-48 hours
- Facilities need to have a way to swab for specimen collection



Operation Expanded Testing Continued



West Hub: [PerkinElmer](#)

John Hicks, Arvind Kothandaraman –
together@perkinelmer.com

Midwest Hub: [Battelle](#)

Beverly Roberts - robertsbd@battelle.org

Northeast and South Hubs: [Eurofins](#)

Sean Plotner – seanplotner@eurofinsus.com

Frequently Asked Questions for No Cost COVID-19 Testing for Schools and Congregate Settings

Q: What type of test will be administered?

A: A sensitive RT-PCR test will be used for testing.

Q: How is the test administered at no-cost?

A: PerkinElmer has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Defense to manage the Project Expanded Testing (Project ET) in the West region of the United States, hence through this funding PerkinElmer is able to bring testing to K-8 institutions and underserved communities at no cost.

Q: Where is this program available?

A: PerkinElmer's no cost testing is available in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the Marshall Islands.

Q: Are 9-12 schools qualified for testing using this program?

A: Yes 9 – 12 schools are also qualified for use with this program.

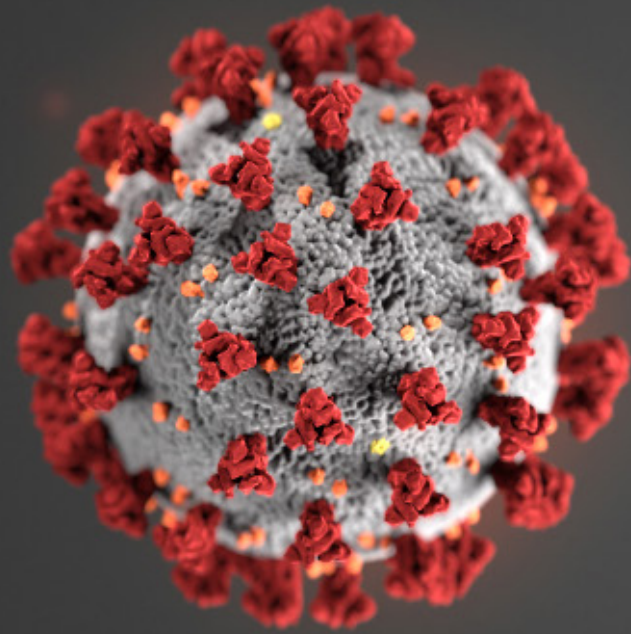
Q: What sample types are used for the COVID-19 testing?

A: Samples are collected using anterior nasal swabs by inserting the swab less than one inch into both nostrils while rotating several times against the nasal wall. This type of sample collection is less invasive and results in less patient discomfort than sampling from other upper respiratory sites.

[Let's End This Together](#): Western Regional Webpage only. Contact the regional hub POC for information for your region.

[1-pager assembled by the Western Regional team](#)





For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





Speaker: Vincent Mussetter, Assistant Audit Director, Los Angeles

Office of the Inspector General

- Established by the Inspector General Act of 1978.
- Conduct independent and objective audits, investigations, inspections, and evaluations.
- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Office of Audit
 - Internal reviews of HUD programs & external reviews of program participants
- Office of Investigations
 - Primarily deal with criminal matters
 - Referrals for administrative and civil actions
- Authorized to access all records and information of HUD and program participants.



Typical Grant Finding Areas

- Unsupported or ineligible costs
- Procurement & bidding
- Program income
- Match
- Causes
 - Inadequate procedures & controls
 - Lack of monitoring
 - Unaware, misunderstand, or ignore program requirements
 - Inadequate, untrained, or unqualified staff



Fraud Risks

- Audit report 2022-FO-0801, Fraud Risk Inventory for the CDBG and ESG CARES Act Funds, issued 10/12/21.
 - Identified 31 fraud scheme risks applicable to ESG CARES Act funds, e.g.
 - Duplication of benefits
 - Fictitious or overstated expenses
 - Pay-and-return
 - Ineligible beneficiaries
 - Procurement and contracting



Fraud Prevention

- Establish effective internal controls
- Monitoring/oversight of subgrantees
- Fraud risk assessment
- Watch for red flags
- Set and maintain ethical standards
- Establish a fraud policy/increase awareness



Hotline

Report Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement in HUD Programs

www.hudoig.gov/hotline



Questions?



TA PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

- ESG-CV Expense Tools
 - Set of companion tools for ESG recipients and subrecipients to support ESG-CV expense tracking and vouchering



ESG-CV Expense Tools

- The ESG-CV Expense Tools are set up to incorporate the entire vouchering and expense tracking process from individual subrecipient expenses all the way up to aggregate expense tracking and reporting at the recipient level.
- The set of tools includes the following items (all available on the [HUD Exchange landing page](#)):
 - ESG-CV Subrecipient Expense and Voucher Tracker (quarterly and monthly versions)
 - ESG-CV Recipient Disbursement Ledger
 - ESG-CV Expense Tools Summary and Instructions
 - ESG-CV Expense Tools Demonstration Video

TA RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

- Child Vaccination Considerations



Child Vaccination General Info

The CDC recommends everyone ages 5 and older get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect against COVID-19.

- Children ages 5 and up can now receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine
 - Vaccine has Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), just like other COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S.
- This is a 2-part dosage series, 21 days apart
- Children can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines

Safety First

- COVID-19 Can Affect Children
 - COVID-19 can cause severe illness in children and adolescents. Children can also spread COVID-19 to others.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine is Safe
 - COVID-19 vaccines are held to the same safety standards as other vaccines that many people receive like the chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine and the flu (Influenza) vaccine.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine Does Not Affect Fertility
 - There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination has any impact on fertility

Vaccinating Children: Guiding Principles for Homeless Service Providers

- Address Parent/Guardian and Child's Concerns
- Understand the Various Ways a Child Can Access Vaccines in Your Community
- Use Healthcare Partners
- Offer Other Recommended Vaccines
- Host a Health Fair

Child Vaccinations: Planning Considerations

- Talk with parents and guardians about where they want their child(ren) to get vaccinated and accommodate these requests as much as possible.
- If hosting onsite (or transporting a group offsite), consider how many children are eligible for the vaccine and use this to help estimate the correct number of doses needed for the event.
- Events should be held in the evenings or on weekends to accommodate school-aged children
- Think about where households with children frequent (libraries, sporting events) and determine if these could be vaccination locations.

Child Vaccinations: Communication

- Provide easy-to-understand information about the vaccine in multiple languages and create opportunities for parents and guardians to connect with medical professionals to have their questions answered.
- Be open and honest about side effects and talk through any concerns related to this aspect of the vaccine.
- Remind everyone that even if folx are fully vaccinated, they still need to wear masks and engage in good hygiene practices. Mask up!

Child Vaccinations: Logistics Considerations

- If your shelter or housing program is hosting an event, make it fun. Set up a vaccination room, have prizes for completed vaccines, give out “I got the vaccine stickers”, have vaccine administrators wear capes to demonstrate they are heroes – do what will help put the children and their parents and guardians at ease.
- Side effects are common so ensure your program has OTC medications and foods/drinks that kids like when they don’t feel good (popsicles, sports drinks, mac and cheese).
- Change shelter protocol so that children and their parents/guardians can stay home all day after the vaccine dose if they choose to do so.

Child Vaccinations: Staff Support

- Ensure that all team members who will be involved in a vaccination event are trauma-informed.
- Model anxiety management behavior throughout the event and brainstorm with each child about what helps them when they are feeling anxious or scared.
- If a parent or guardian can't stay home, consider team members who are willing to take care of children the day after the vaccine.

Please post this flyer!



Information about Vaccinating Your Child

As a parent, you want to protect your children from harm. Now you have a choice that can strengthen their protection from COVID-19.



- 1** Protection for your child from other serious illnesses, like mumps and whooping cough, comes from vaccines. The CDC has determined that COVID-19 infection is also very serious.
- 2** Because of this risk, the CDC now recommends COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5 and up. The benefit of vaccination outweighs any known side-effects. Children who are fully vaccinated protect their siblings, grandparents, guardians, and classmates by reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- 3** If you need help scheduling a vaccine for your child, ask the program you are enrolled in for help.

For additional information on why your child should be vaccinated, please refer to the [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens resources](#).

C-19

This resource is prepared by technical assistance providers and intended only to provide guidance. The contents of this document do not constitute a statement of HUD policy or position. HUD does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information in this document. HUD is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this document. HUD is not responsible for any damages, including consequential damages, arising from the use of this document.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6229/covid-19-homeless-system-response-vaccine-planning-and-distribution/>



Vaccine Resources

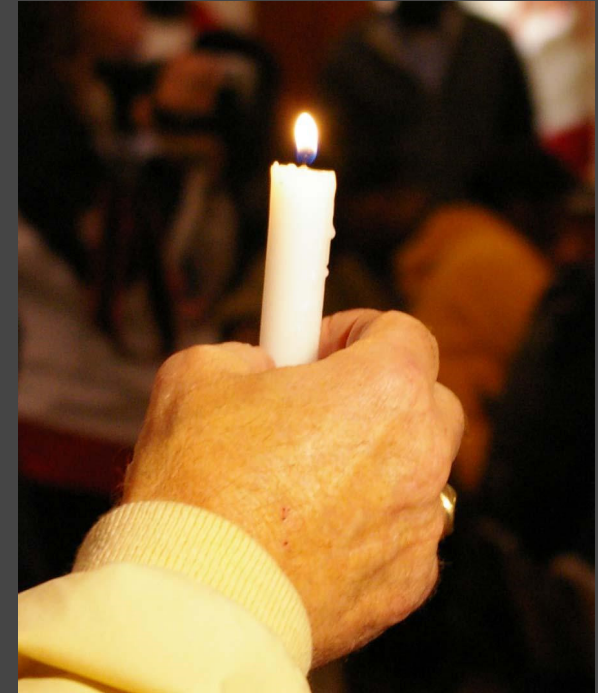
[COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Vaccine Planning and Distribution page](#)

Lots and lots of resources!



National Homeless Memorial Day
December 21

Why December 21?



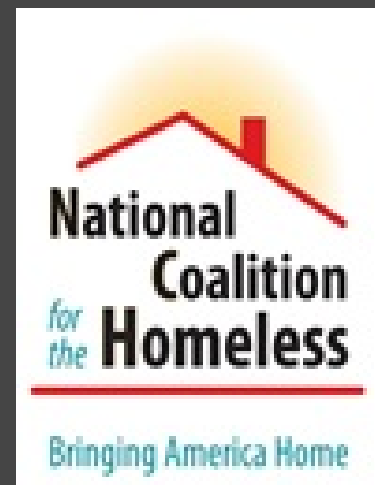
National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

December 21st, 2021

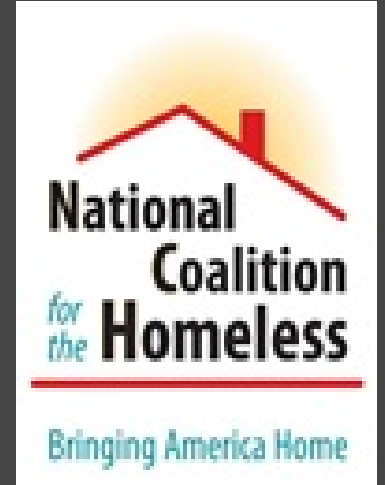


Scan to learn more

<https://qrco.de/NHMD>



National Partners



National Coalition for the Homeless

<https://nationalhomeless.org/about-us/projects/memorial-day/>

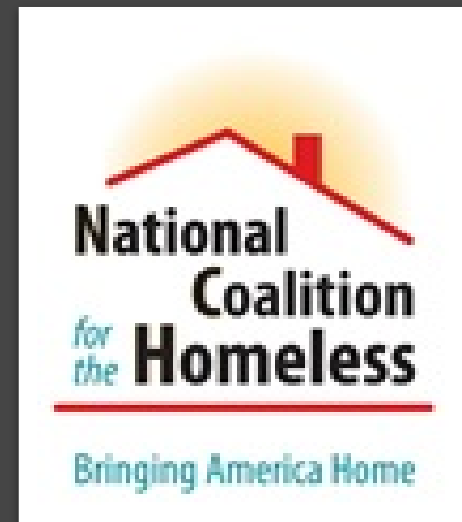
National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

<https://nhchc.org/consumers/events/homeless-persons-memorial-day/>

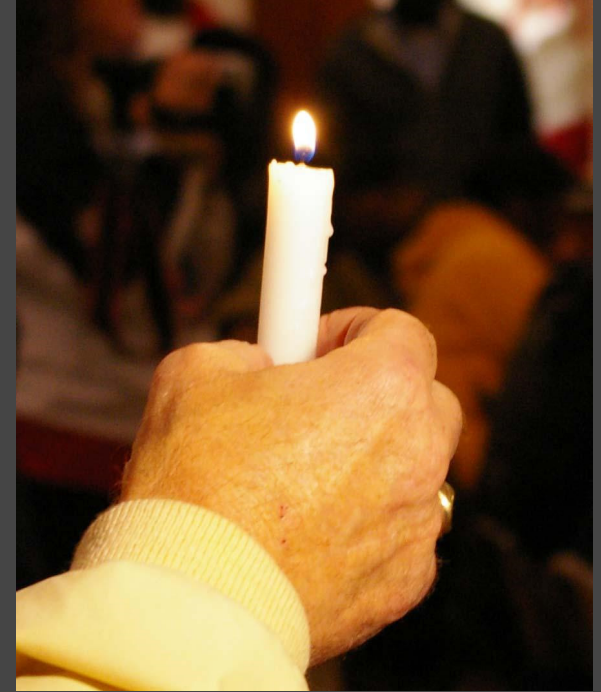
National Consumer Advisory Board

Why December 21?

- The first day of winter, the longest night of the year
- People in your community will die without a home this year. While we must try to prevent the loss of every life, we also need to recognize the reality of conditions that individuals experiencing homelessness face and plan to memorialize them on National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.
- In the past several years, hundreds of cities, representing more than 30 states and the District of Columbia, have participated in the National
- Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. As we emerge from the global pandemic, it is important to remember all those we lost and pledge to rebuild a strong social safety net for everyone residing in the United States. Let's make this a year of increased awareness by organizing even more memorial events across the nation.

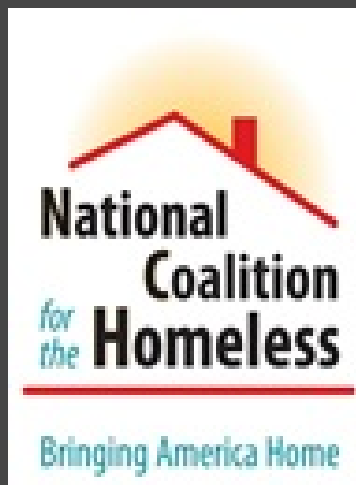


Why December 21?



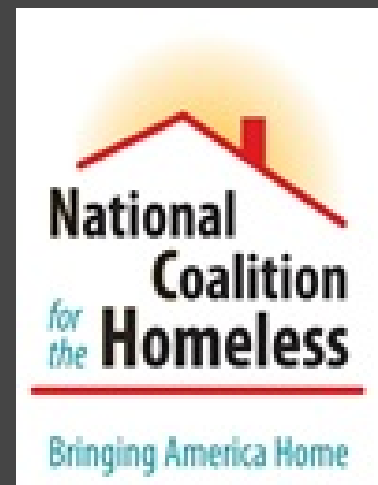
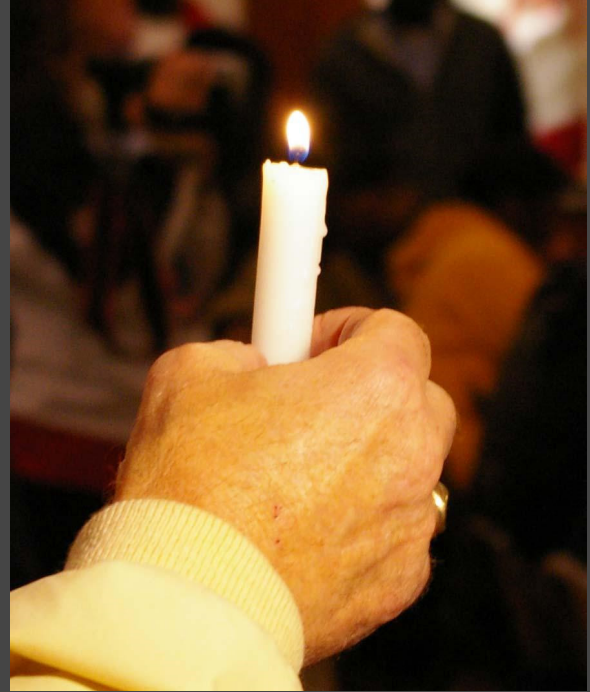
Atlanta Journal Constitution Article from 2021

<https://www.ajc.com/life/3-things-to-know-about-national-homeless-persons-memorial-day/VXE6XMMAF5AYNABW6IMCCQB2WM/>



History of the Memorial

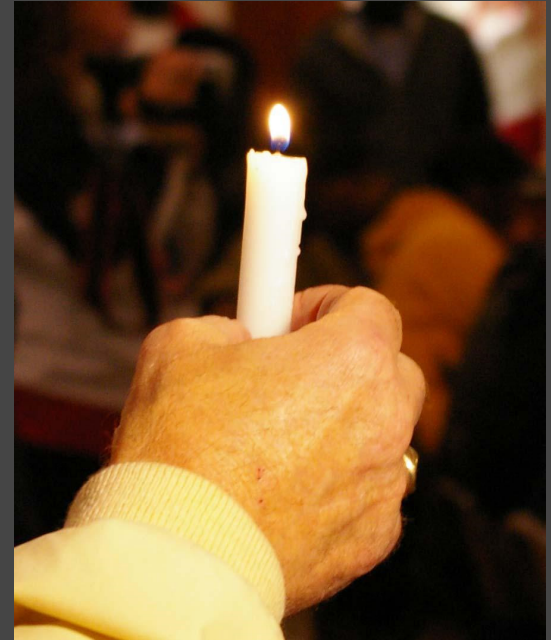
- Since 1990, the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day every year on December 21 – the first day of winter and the longest night of the year – to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember those who have died while living without a permanent home. In 2005, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the National Consumer Advisory Board joined NCH as co-sponsors of this meaningful event.



Planning an Event

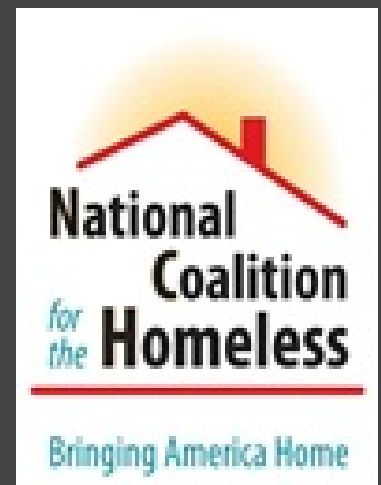
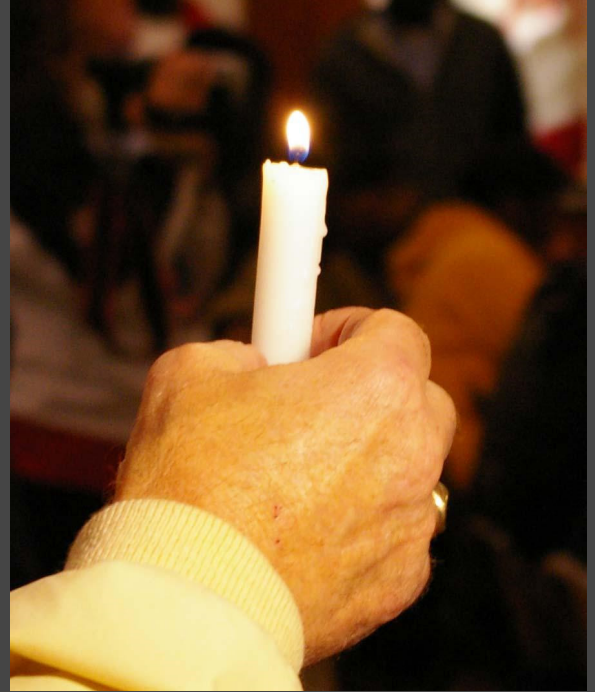
**Tool Kit available to help
With Planning tips, Sample
Press Releases, Sample Flyers,
Collecting the names and more information.**

- https://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/nhpmd-manual_2021b.pdf



Planning an Event

- Candlelight vigils
- Silent marches
- Graveside services
- Plays and performances
- Special religious services
- Public policy advocacy events
- Media Event around the dangers outside
- Virtual memorials
- Local/State Government Proclamations



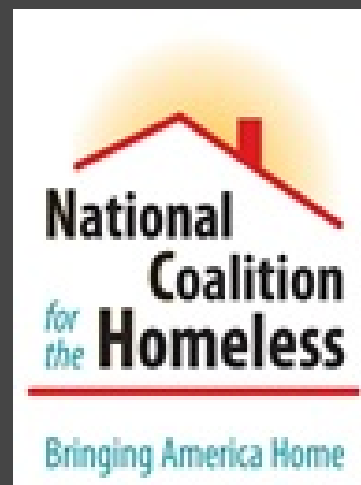
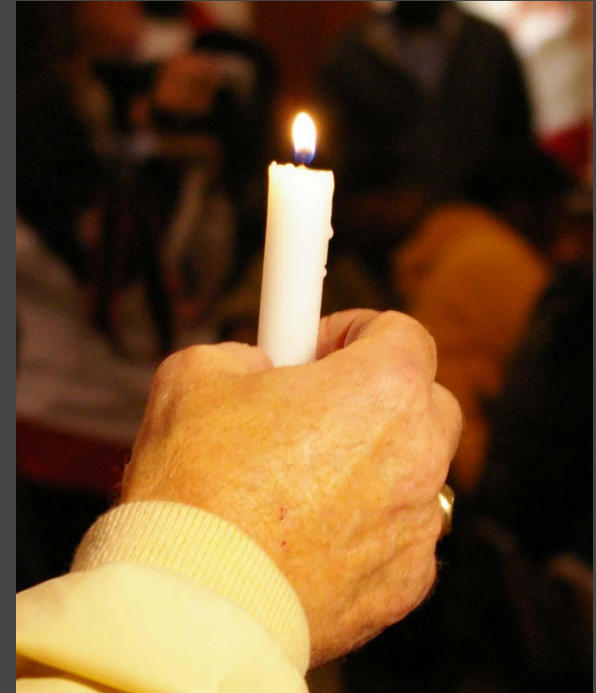
Planning an Event

- Build or join a coalition with local partners and people experiencing homelessness.
- Decide upon the date, time, and location. Be sure to pay attention to any requirements like getting a permit and other logistics (events on or around December 21st are recommended.)
- Create an agenda and choose speakers accordingly. Having persons who have experienced homelessness speak on behalf of their experience is important.
- Market the event through fliers, press release, and social and traditional media.



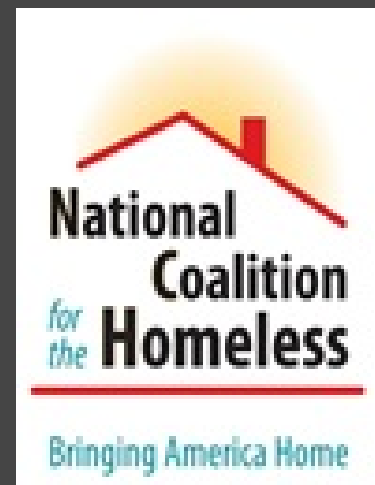
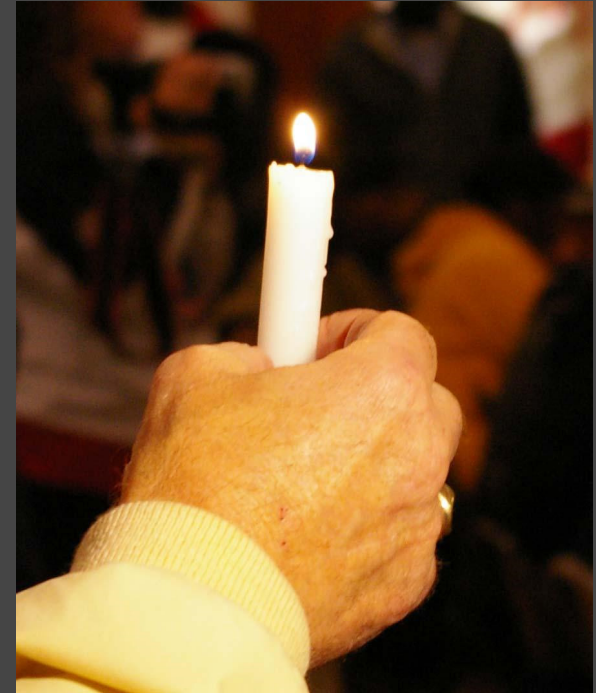
Collecting the Names

- Death is a Public Event—Not subject to HIPAA
- Talk to the Medical Examiner
- Talk to every social service provider
- Talk to the outreach teams
- Talk to the local religious organizations.
- Talk to the Local Meal Programs
- Talk to the Central Intakes staff.
- Talk to the Police and Discharge nurses at the Emergency Room



Planning a Solemn Service

- Get local political leaders to pledge support for this Being the last candlelight vigil for homeless people.
- Local Religious Leaders will participate
- Get local musicians, poets or the arts community to participate
- Have local leaders with previous homeless experience speak.
- Read the list of names of those lost over the last year. (These Individuals could have been homeless a few years back and they do not have to be continually homeless.



Sample Flyer

National Homeless Memorial Day

December 21, 2021

To remember those we lost
over the last year with a
candlelight vigil



Sponsored in the District of Columbia



By People for the Fairness
Coalition and
The National Coalition for the
Homeless



Church of the Epiphany
1317 G St. NW, Washington, DC



11:30 am December 21, 2021

With Local and National Speakers
Prayers offered from the many faith traditions
Lighting of the candles
And the Reading of the names
*MASKS REQUIRED
*VACCINATED HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

<https://pffcdc.org/>
<https://nationalhomeless.org>
<https://bringamericahomenow.org>



Homeless Memorial Day

Thursday, December 18
5:00 – 6:00 pm
Dilworth Park, City Hall West
Center City Philadelphia

As we approach the first official day of winter, hundreds of Philadelphians will gather to remember those homeless and formerly homeless Philadelphians who died in 2014 and to call for an end to homelessness. **Join us.**



Like Homeless Memorial Day on Facebook
facebook.com/HomelessMemorialPhilly
Talk about us with: @HMDPhilly



Follow Us on Twitter: @HMDPhilly
twitter.com/HMDPhilly
Talk about us with: @HMDPhilly

For information, contact Will O'Brien, 215-232-7272 x 3047 or WillOBrien@bringhome.org

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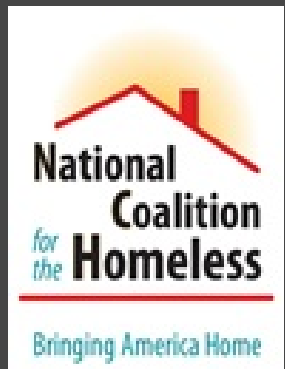
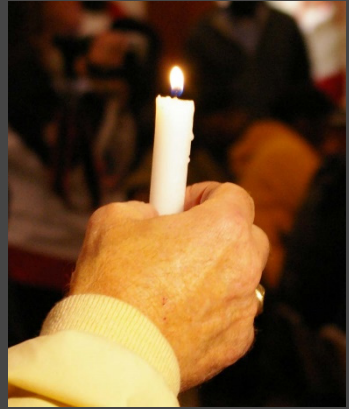

**National
Coalition
for the Homeless**

Bringing America Home

After December 21

After the event contact the National Coalition for the Homeless with the names you read.

We intend to post all the names and read them on for a Facebook Live event in January.



Questions?



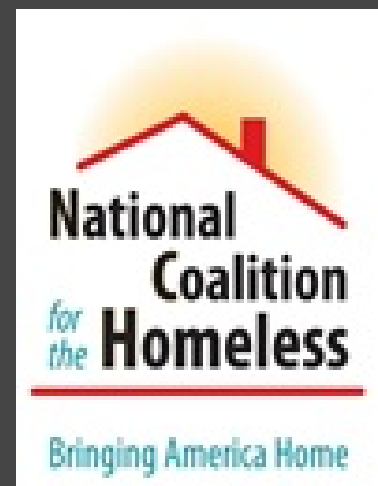
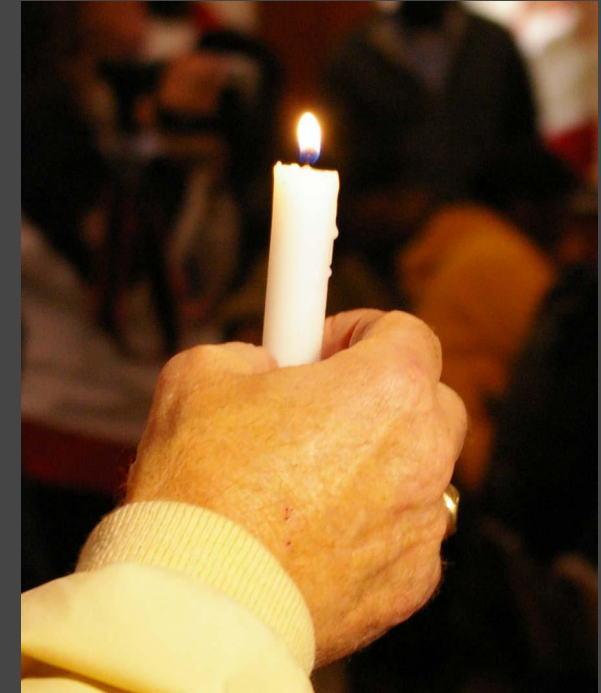
National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

December 21st, 2021



Scan to learn more

<https://qrco.de/NHMD>



Homeless Persons' Memorial Day: Homeless Mortality Data Toolkit

Barbara DiPietro
Senior Policy Director

Friday, December 17, 2021

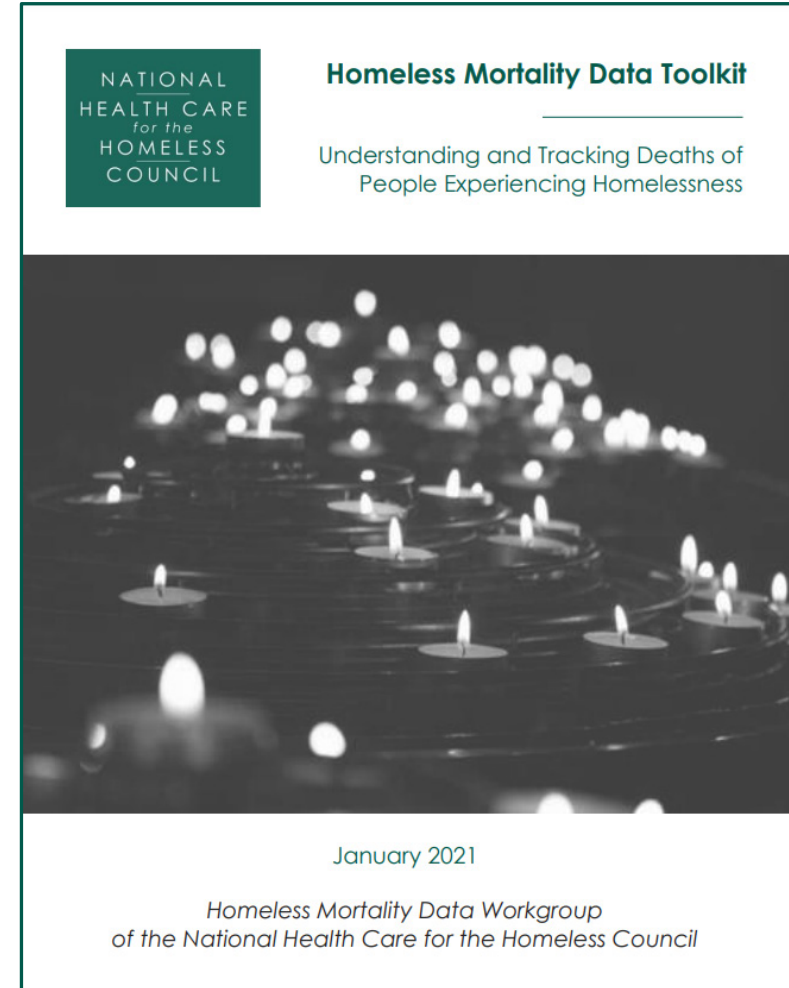
Problem with Death Data

- We *estimate* 15,600 PEH died last year
- Few jurisdictions track housing status of those who died
- Death certificates are widely variant & not reported at national level
 - indigent
 - shopping cart
 - homeless
 - transient
 - overpass
 - freeway
 - camp
 - encampment
 - tent
 - body not claimed
 - no next of kin
 - camp
 - dumpster
 - unknown address
 - exposure
 - vagrant
 - shelter
 - car, van, trailer
 - hypothermia
 - hyperthermia
 - dehydration
 - bus bench/stop
 - train tracks
 - unsheltered
- Hence, hard to know true impact of those literally dying in the streets



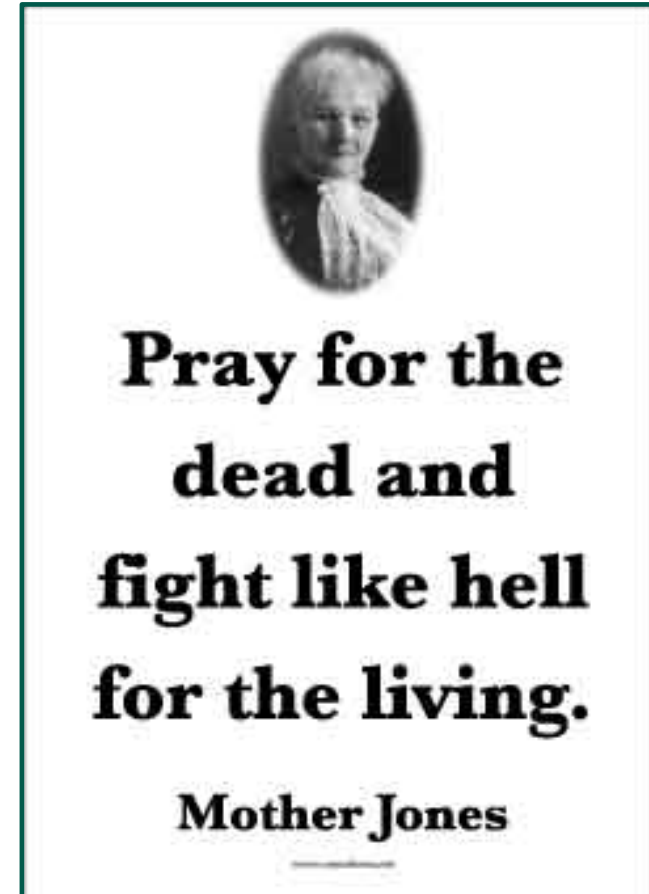
Mortality Data Toolkit

- **Toolkit purpose:** Improve policies and interventions; track, analyze & publish death reports
- **Homeless Mortality Overview:** Scale, demographics, national count, COVID-19 impact,
- **How to Start a Local Homeless Mortality Data Report:** Purpose, sources of data, methods for measuring, create reports, calculate death rates
- **Clinical Mortality Review: A Guide**
- **Examples and Resources**



Actions to Take

- Educate coroners and medical examiners—and policymakers
- Add homeless status to death certificates
- Track and report publicly on deaths of PEH
- Talk about the human right to housing and health care
- Highlight the impact of housing—as **literally a life-saving intervention**



New Resources Posted

- [Vaccine Planning and Distribution](#)
 - [Vaccination for Children and Adolescents: Considerations for Family Shelters and Housing Programs](#)
 - [Information about Vaccinating Your Child](#)
- [Helping HMIS Leads Solve Complex Fund Source Problem EHV's](#)

Key Websites

HUD: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>

NHCHC: <https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/>

USICH: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>

VA: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

HRSA: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html>

Federal Partner Contacts

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/COVID19; 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636); TTY: 1-888-232-6348
- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
[HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question \(AAQ\) Portal](#)

Q & A

