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CO Homelessness In COVID-19 World

Being Homeless is incompatible with Public Health Guidelines

- Unhoused people can't "stay home"
- Lack of access to sanitation facilities
- Social/physical distancing impossible in congregate settings

Challenges

- Shelters are for emergencies – We have let them become the "solution"
- Congregate settings are bad in a public health crisis
- Emergency response funding tied to public health guidance which doesn't take homelessness into account

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Strategies

- De-densification
- Screening / Testing
- Motel/Hotel
 - Activated Respite – Tested or Recovery
 - Protective Action – High-Risk People
- Long term housing options
 - Resources Needed
 - Housing stock
 - Vouchers and services

Data Points of Concern

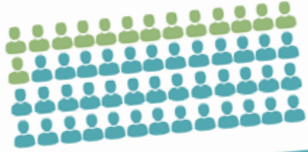
- 2-3x more likely to need hospitalization, critical care, and death
- 1 in 3 in Boston shelter with COVID-19 but asymptomatic
- Testing Pilot in Denver



SURVEILLANCE TESTING PILOT TO ESTABLISH POTENTIAL COVID-19 PREVALENCE AMONG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN DENVER

COLORADO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS STOUT STREET
HEALTH CENTER STAFF CONDUCTED A VOLUNTARY TESTING OF A
SMALL SAMPLE OF GUESTS AT ST FRANCIS CENTER DAY SHELTER
IN DENVER, CO ON MAY 4, 2020

52
GUESTS
TESTED



14
OF THE 52 INDIVIDUALS
TESTED RESULTED IN A
POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS

FEMALE
12 FEMALES TESTED
0 FEMALES POSITIVE



MALE
40 MALES TESTED
14 MALES POSITIVE



7 SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS TESTED, AND REMOVED TO ACTIVATED RESPITE
2 OF THE 7 SYMPTOMATIC GUESTS TESTED POSITIVE
12 OF THE 45 INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT SYMPTOMS TESTED POSITIVE
85.7% OF POSITIVE TESTS WERE FROM ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

COVID-19 PREVALENCE RATE

26.9%

OF TESTS RESULTED
IN A POSITIVE
DIAGNOSIS

1 IN
3.75

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ASSUMING A 26.9% PREVALENCE RATE

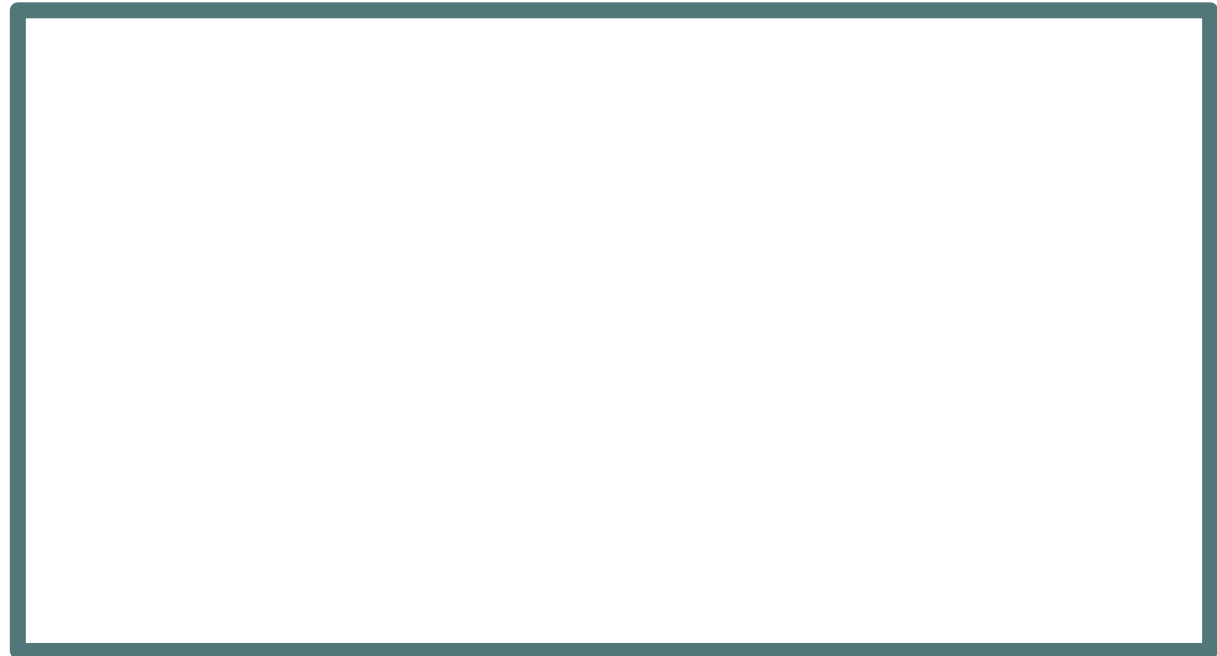
157

POSSIBLE COVID-19 POSITIVE GUESTS AT ST FRANCIS CENTER
CONSIDERING AVERAGE DAILY OCCUPANCY IS 584 INDIVIDUALS

484-538

POSSIBLE COVID-19 POSITIVE GUESTS IN ALL CONGREGATE SHELTERS
CONSIDERING AVERAGE OCCUPANCY TOTALS
1800-2000 INDIVIDUALS IN ALL DENVER SHELTERS

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Advocacy Efforts

- Media outreach – public education/outcry efforts
- Letters to Governor – from colleagues, community, providers
- Federal outreach – funding and HUD process assistance

Asks

- Motel/Hotel Help
- De-densification help
- Testing guests and staff
- PPE for guests and staff
- Funding (both state and federal)





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Exposed Gaps

- Lack of housing
- Obvious link between housing and health
- Need for supportive services
- Shelter not meant to be long-term solution
- Lack of connection between public health and homelessness service providers
- Misunderstanding or ignorance about how the homelessness response system works
- Failure to see shelter providers as front-line/first responders