

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics ◆ January 25, 2022

# Measuring Racial/Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 in Children and Teens: The Problem of Missing Race/Ethnicity Data

**UPDATE**

Elizabeth Pathak, PhD

The COVKID Project

Women's Institute for Independent Social Enquiry (WiiSE)

# The COVKID Project

[www.covkidproject.org](http://www.covkidproject.org)

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## ◆ Project team

- ♥ Dr. Elizabeth Pathak, WiiSE
- ♥ Dr. Janelle Menard, WiiSE
- ♥ Ms. Rebecca Garcia, WiiSE
- ♥ Dr. Jason Salemi, University of South Florida
- ♥ Dr. Megan Barry, University of South Florida
- ♥ Mr. Justin Swanson, University of South Florida

## ◆ Volunteer effort, funded by small donations

# Overview of COVID-19 Data for Kids

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# Understanding COVID-19 in Kids

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- ◆ To understand **incidence of disease**, we need **testing** and **case** data.
- ◆ To understand **disease severity**, we need **hospitalization** and **intensive care admissions** data.
- ◆ To understand **disease fatality**, we need **death certificate** data.
- ◆ To understand **racial and ethnic disparities**, we need **ALL** of these types of data!

# Results: National Case Data

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# CDC vs. COVKID Cumulative COVID-19 Case Counts

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- ◆ COVKID cumulative case counts extracted through December 24, 2021 - age range varies
- ◆ CDC case counts from January 10, 2022 restricted file release, with earliest case date no later than December 23, 2021. Ages 0-19 years for all states.
- ◆ **COVKID Total = 9,305,171**
- ◆ **CDC Total = 8,409,230**

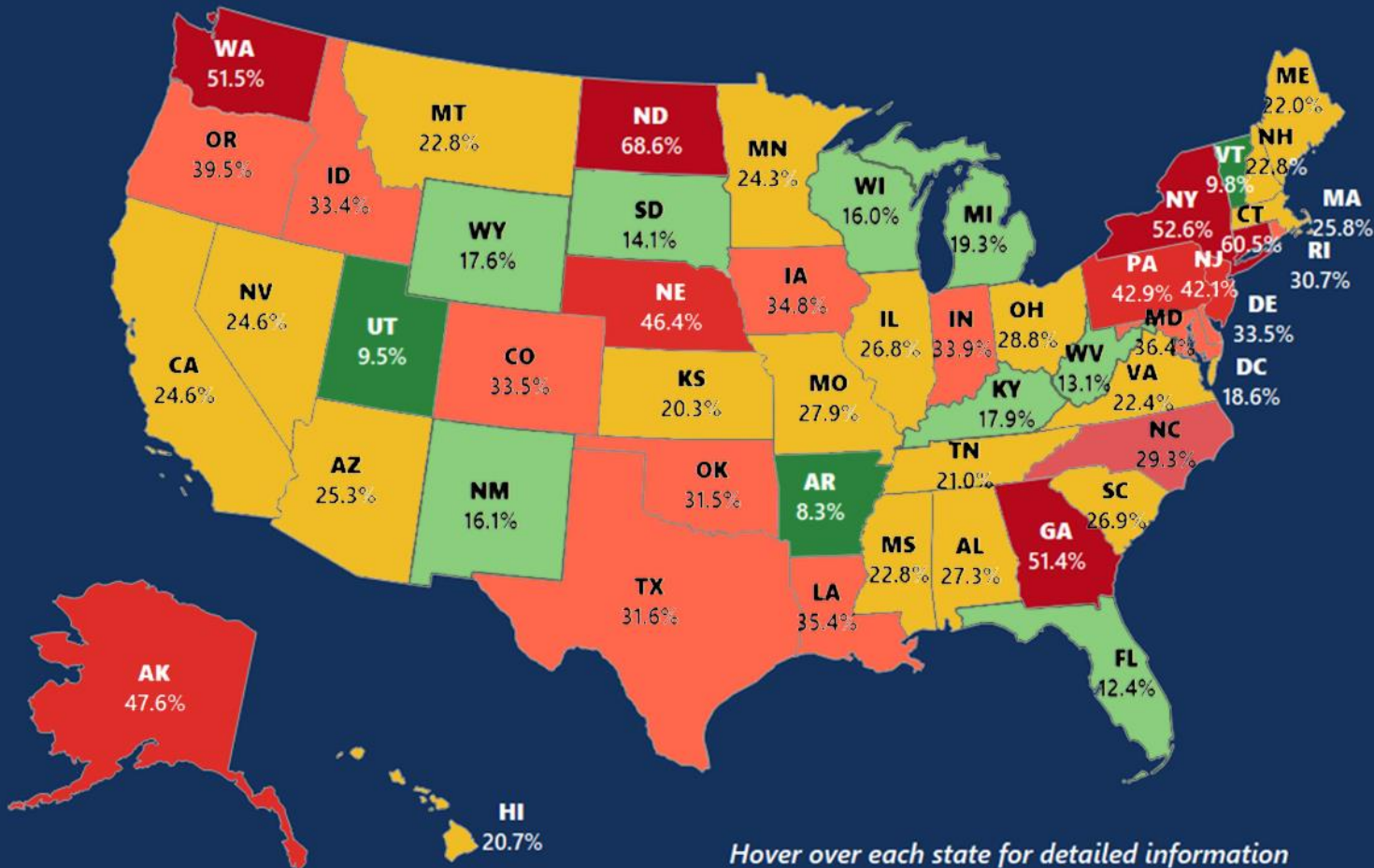
# Percent of 0-19 Year Old COVID-19 Cases with Missing Race/Ethnicity in the CDC Restricted Case File

Data through the 3rd week of December 2021

National average = **29.9%**

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Hover over each state for detailed information

# Results: National Intensive Care Data

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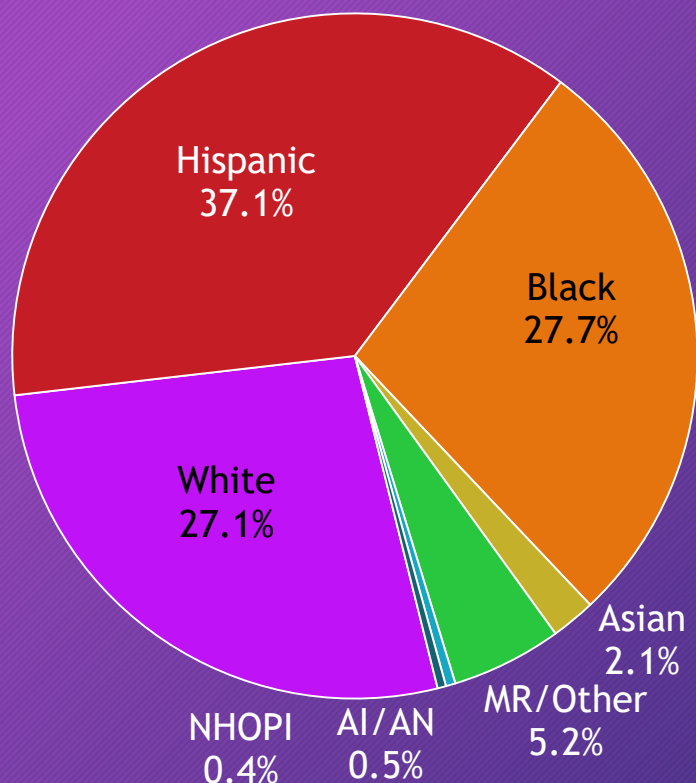
# COVID-19 Intensive Care Admissions for Children 0-17 Years Old

Data extracted from <https://covid19.myvps.org> on March 28, 2021

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## Race/ethnicity of patients

n = 1,818



- ◆ Voluntary hospital registry with 185 hospitals participating.
- ◆ Hospital non-participation rate is **unknown!**
- ◆ **2,772 PICU admissions** of US patients aged 0-17 years.
- ◆ Detailed clinical data submitted for 1,901 US patients.
- ◆ Race/ethnicity available for 96% with clinical data

# COVID-19 Intensive Care Admissions for Children 0-17 Years Old

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**UPDATE:**

**VPS COVID-19 Pediatric Intensive  
Care Registry**

**Ceased Operations on April 1, 2021**

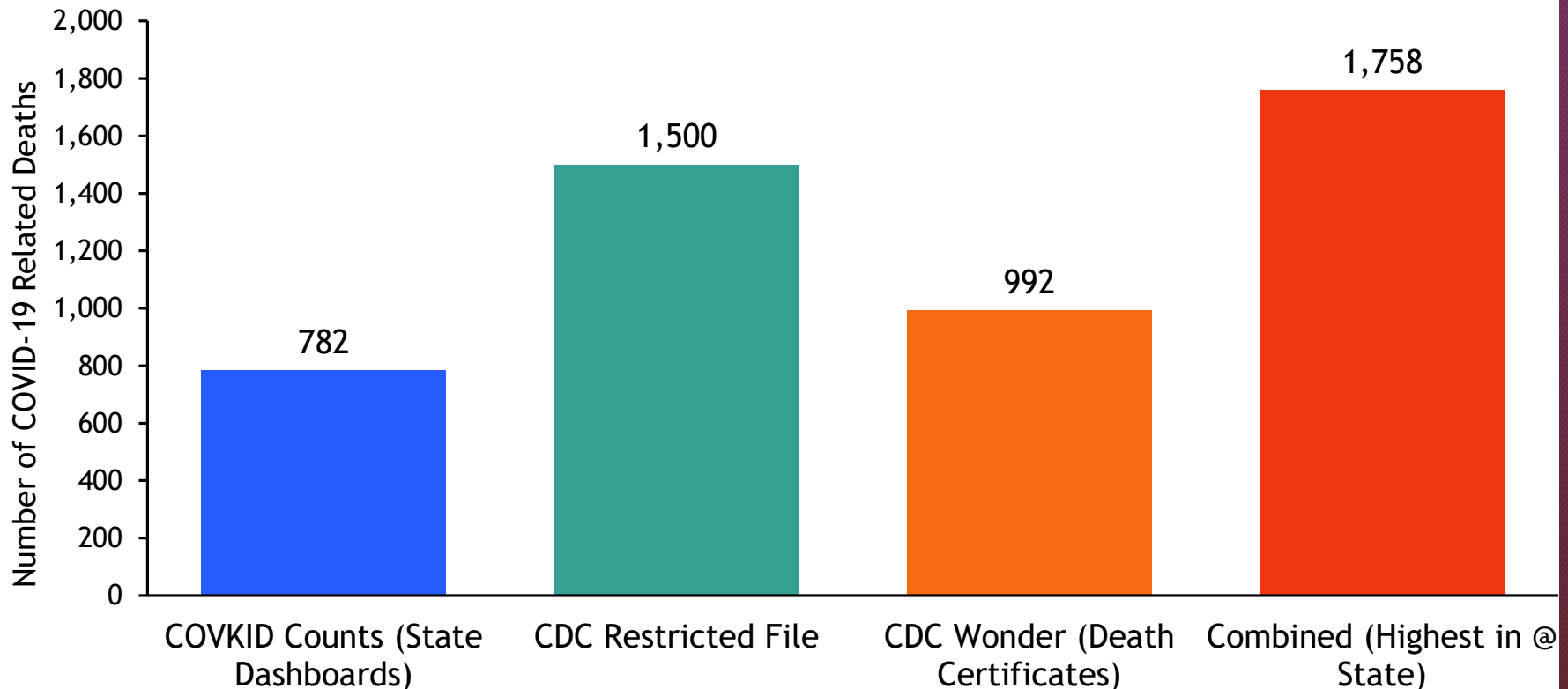
# Results: National Death Data

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# COVID-19 Death Counts by Source, Kids 0-19 Years

Data through end of December 2021

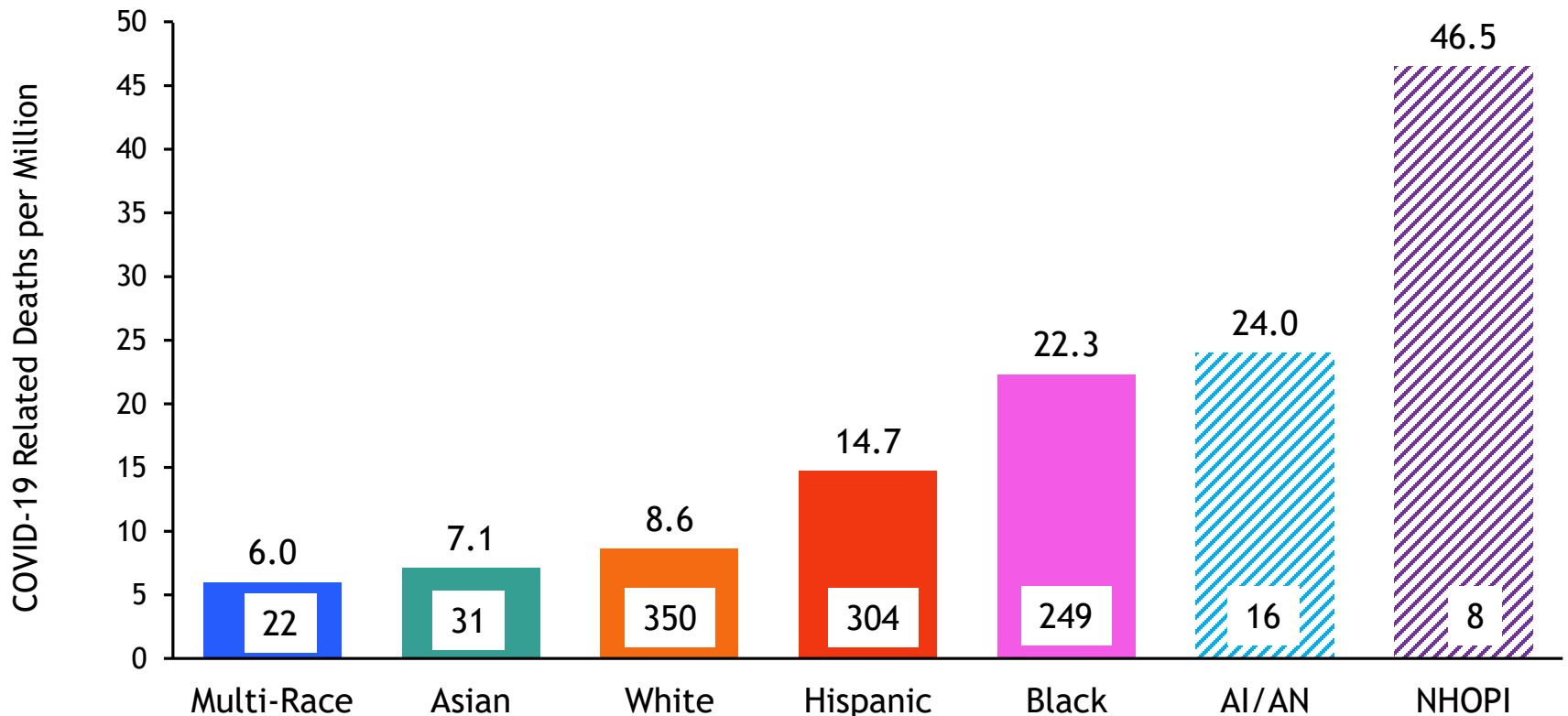
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# COVID-19 Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Kids 0-19 Years

Data through end of December 2021, Source: CDC Wonder

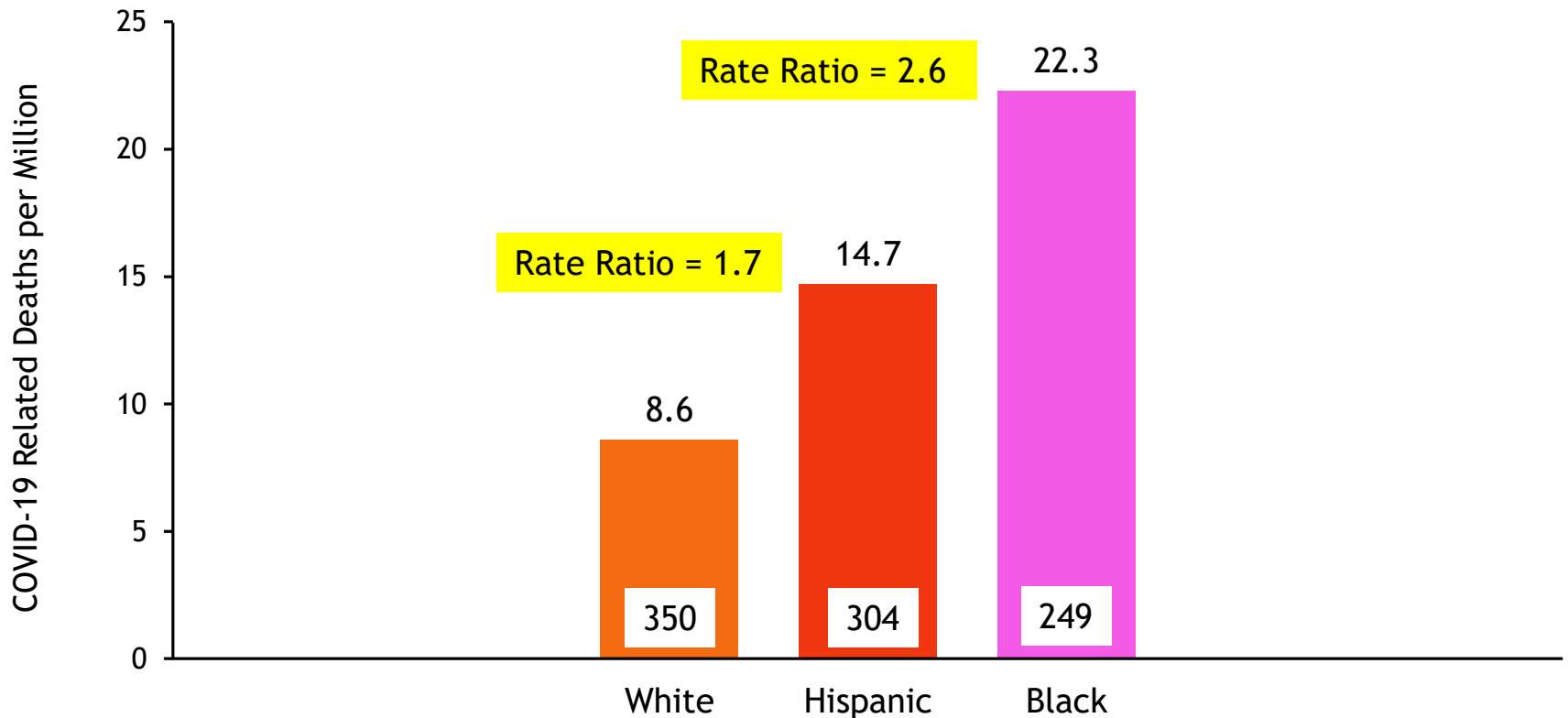
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# COVID-19 Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Kids 0-19 Years

Data through end of December 2021, Source: CDC Wonder

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# Visit The COVKID Project

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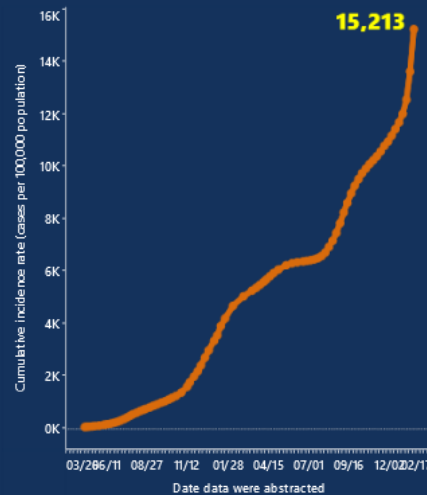
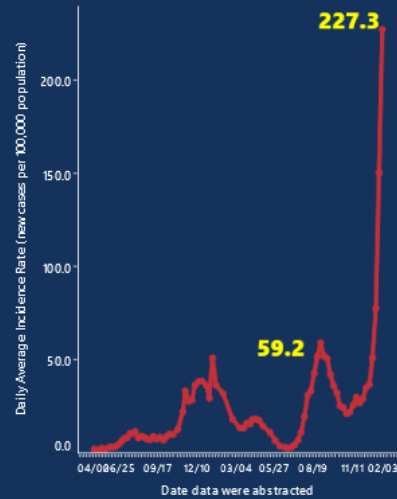
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**DAILY NEW** Cases of COVID-19  
In Children and Teens  
(daily average since last update)  
Updated **1/14/2022**

**177,238**

**CUMULATIVE** Cases of COVID-19  
In Children and Teens  
(since January 2020)  
Updated **1/14/2022**

**11,860,278**



# Priorities

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# Priorities for all data types

- ◆ Race/ethnicity data without age stratification is of very limited utility.
- ◆ Missingness of race/ethnicity data needs to be systematically investigated and then actively intervened upon.
  - ◆ **STILL HAPPENING in 2022!!**
- ◆ End excessive suppression of data, particularly death counts at the state level.

# Priorities for states

- ◆ Expand state dashboard reporting for kids
- ◆ Use standardized cutpoints and definitions to improve comparability among states.
- ◆ Include vaccination, testing, case, hospitalization, and death data.
- ◆ Report all data items by race and ethnicity.

# Priorities for hospitals/DHHS

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- ◆ We need **mandatory hospital reporting** of all COVID-19 hospitalizations of kids, with demographics, length of stay, and discharge disposition.
- ◆ **UPDATE:** DHHS just expanded required age categories for pediatric COVID-19 patients. Still no race/ethnicity reporting.
- ◆ We need **expanded clinical registries** for all intensive care hospitalizations of kids.
- ◆ We need **emergency department visit** registries.

Thank you for your attention!

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