



High Population Density Testing Week 6: June 19 and 20, 2020

Marion, Ohio, Putnam and Summers Counties

Date of Report: June 25, 2020



Background

Under the direction of Gov. Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) established an advisory group to assist in community outreach and education related to COVID-19 in African Americans, Latinos and other minorities in the state of West Virginia. As part of that effort, the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, DHHR and West Virginia National Guard developed a plan to increase COVID-19 testing opportunities for minorities and other vulnerable populations. This testing was undertaken in partnership with Local Health Departments and other community partners.

While open to anyone in the community, this testing initiative focused on counties and communities with high African American populations given the disparities by race being seen with COVID-19 both nationally and in West Virginia. Overall, African Americans comprise the largest of West Virginia's minority populations, making up 3.6% of West Virginian residents.¹

The initiative worked to reach residents who have struggled to be seen by a physician or who do not have insurance to pay for testing. It provided free, optional testing to residents, including asymptomatic individuals, in counties with high minority populations and evidence of COVID-19 transmission.

Week Six of testing was held on June 19 and 20, 2020 in Marion, Ohio, Putnam and Summers counties. The percent of the population who are African American among these counties is as follows: Marion County (3.3%), Ohio County (3.6%), Putnam County (1.1%), Summers County (4.5%)¹.

The following data highlights the demographics and test results of individuals tested during the sixth round. Data from additional rounds of community-based testing will be added subsequently.

Of note is the fact that this effort is meant to be a starting point to addressing the issue at hand. It is our hope that the lessons learned, tools and partnerships developed through this testing initiative can further build upon relationships and systems at the community level to assure education, outreach, testing and follow up care is available to all.

Our thanks go to all who have made this effort possible, especially the Advisory Task Force and most importantly, the communities themselves.

¹ Data Item: Population, 2019 Estimate.

[Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program \(PEP\), updated annually. Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#)

Results by County

Marion County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Asian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Black/African American	5	6.41%	0	0.00%	5	100%
White/Caucasian	72	92.31%	0	0.00%	72	100%
Other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Unknown/Not Indicated	1	1.28%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Total	78	100%	0	0.00%	78	100%

Ohio County²

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	3	0.69%	0	0.00%	3	100%
Asian	6	1.37%	0	0.00%	6	100%
Black/African American	43	9.84%	0	0.00%	43	100%
White/Caucasian	376	86.04%	0	0.00%	376	100%
Other	4	0.92%	0	0.00%	4	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	5	1.14%	1	20.00%	4	80.00%
Total	437	100%	1	0.23%	436	99.77%

Putnam County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	2	0.33%	0	0.00%	2	100%
Asian	5	0.84%	0	0.00%	5	100%
Black/African American	15	2.51%	0	0.00%	15	100%
White/Caucasian	569	95.15%	4	0.70%	565	99.30%
Other	2	0.33%	0	0.00%	2	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	5	0.84%	0	0.00%	5	100%
Total	598	100%	4	0.67%	594	99.33%

² One specimen was unable to be processed due to the presence of PCR inhibitor (s). This specimen was African American.

Summers County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Asian	1	0.38%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Black/African American	9	3.46%	0	0.00%	9	100%
White/Caucasian	250	96.15%	0	0.00%	250	100%
Other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Unknown/Not Indicated	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	260	100%	0	0.00%	260	100%

Attendance by County by Race

