



High Population Density Testing Week 4: June 5 and 6, 2020

Harrison, McDowell, and Ohio Counties

Date of Report: June 10, 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 COVID19 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 Four of testing was held on June 5 and 6, 2020 in Harrison, McDowell and Ohio counties. The percent of the population who are African American among these counties is as follows: Harrison County (1.8%), McDowell County (8.3%) and Ohio County (3.6%).¹

The following data highlights the demographics and test results of individuals tested during the fourth 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

Harrison County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	2	0.20%	0	0.00%	2	100%
Asian	2	0.20%	0	0.00%	2	100%
Black/African American	123	12.27%	0	0.00%	123	100%
White/Caucasian	850	84.83%	0	0.00%	850	100%
Other	8	0.80%	0	0.00%	8	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	17	1.70%	0	0.00%	17	100%
Total	1,002	100%	0	0.00%	1,002	100%

McDowell County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100%
Asian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	100%
Black/African American	53	55.21%	0	0.00%	53	100%
White/Caucasian	41	42.71%	0	0.00%	41	100%
Other	1	1.04%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	1	1.04%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Total	96	100%	0	0.00%	96	100%

Ohio County

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Asian	4	0.72%	0	0.00%	4	100%
Black/African American	63	11.35%	2	3.17%	61	96.83%
White/Caucasian	474	85.41%	4	0.84%	470	99.16%
Other	5	0.90%	0	0.00%	5	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	9	1.62%	0	0.00%	9	100%
Total	555	100%	6	1.08%	549	98.92%

Attendance by County by Race

