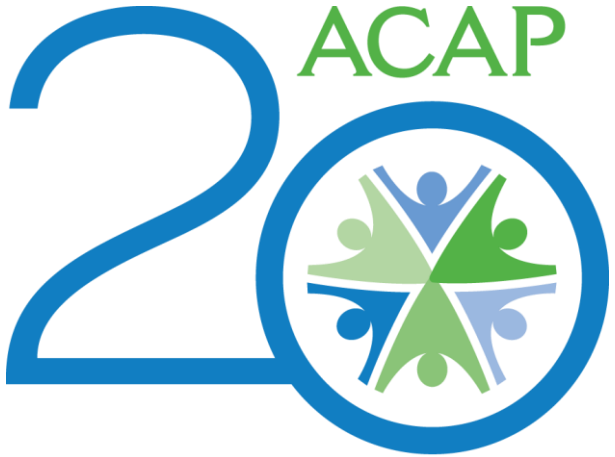


Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Age of COVID-19: A Borderplex Perspective

Francisco J. Dominguez

President and CEO, El Paso Health

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Strengthening the Safety Net Since 2000

Mission and Vision

Our **Mission**

To **build relationships** with our Members, Providers, and Partners that strengthen the delivery of healthcare in our community and **promotes access to quality healthcare** for children, families, and individuals.

Our **Vision**

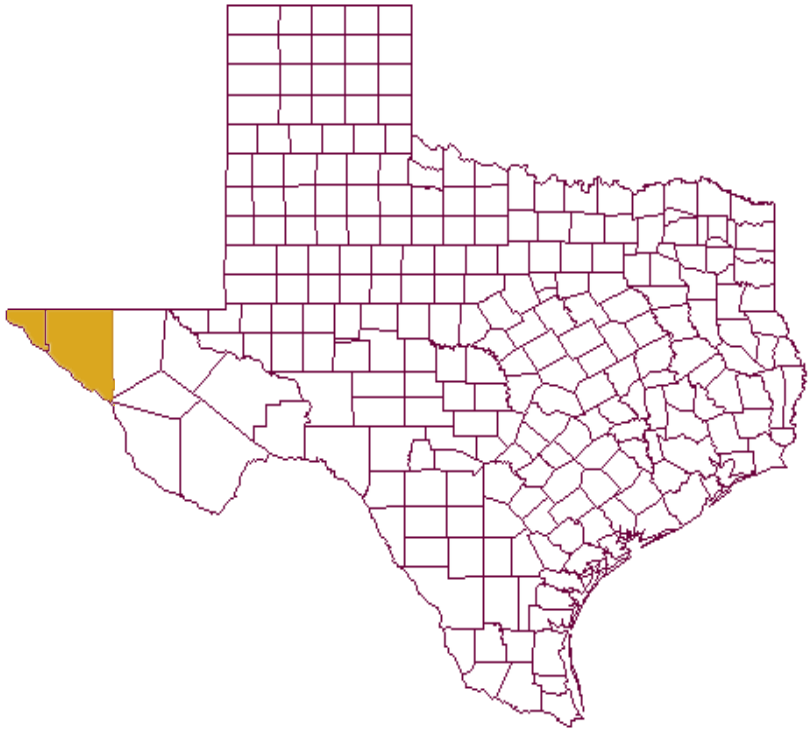
We will be the region's **trusted** community health plan.

El Paso Health Market Description

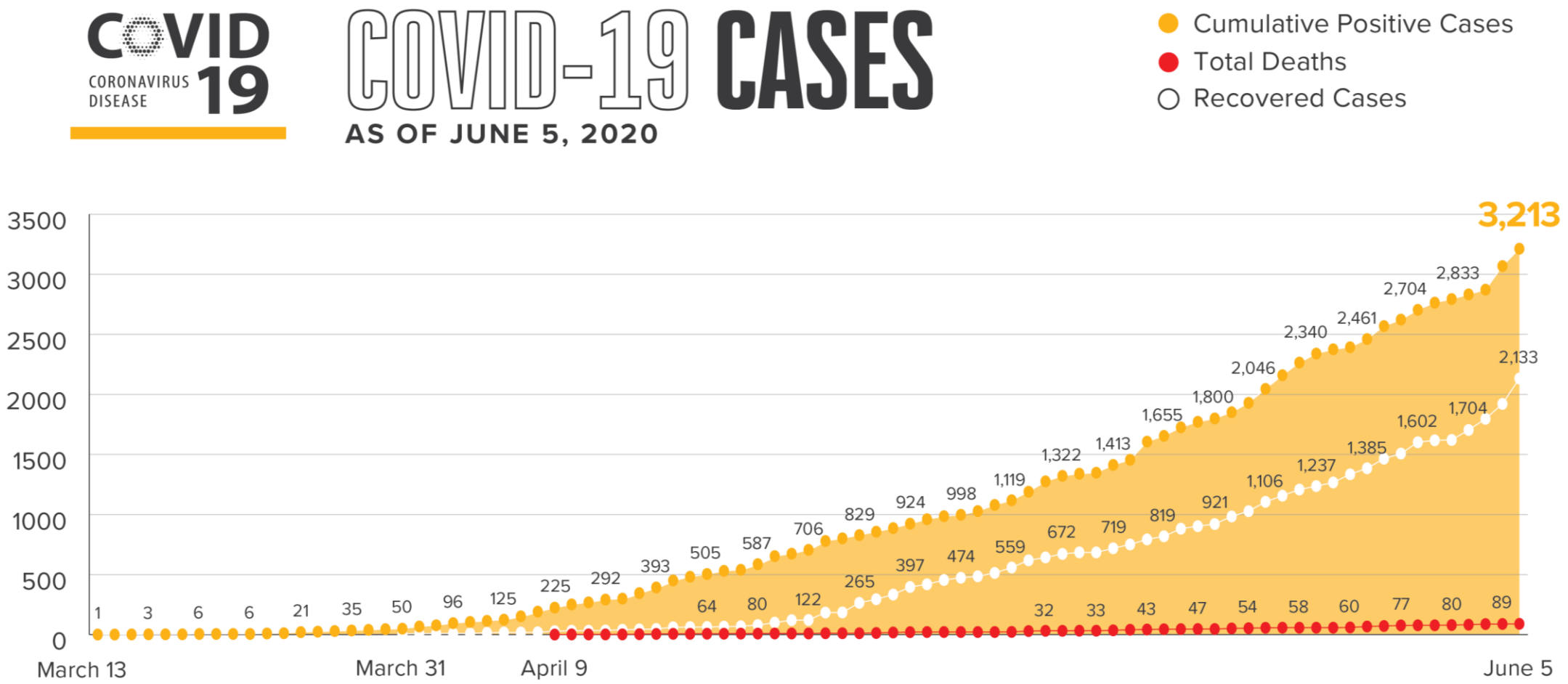
- **HHSC Contract: MCO services in El Paso/Hudspeth Counties for STAR/Medicaid and CHIP.**
  - Current STAR membership **69,587**
  - Current CHIP membership **7,272**

- **Third Party Administration (TPA) services for University Medical Center and El Paso Children's Hospital (EPCH)**
  - Current TPA membership **7,371**

- **Third Party Administration (TPA) services for the UMC Health Care Options benefit program (HCO).**
  - Current HCO membership **11,692**



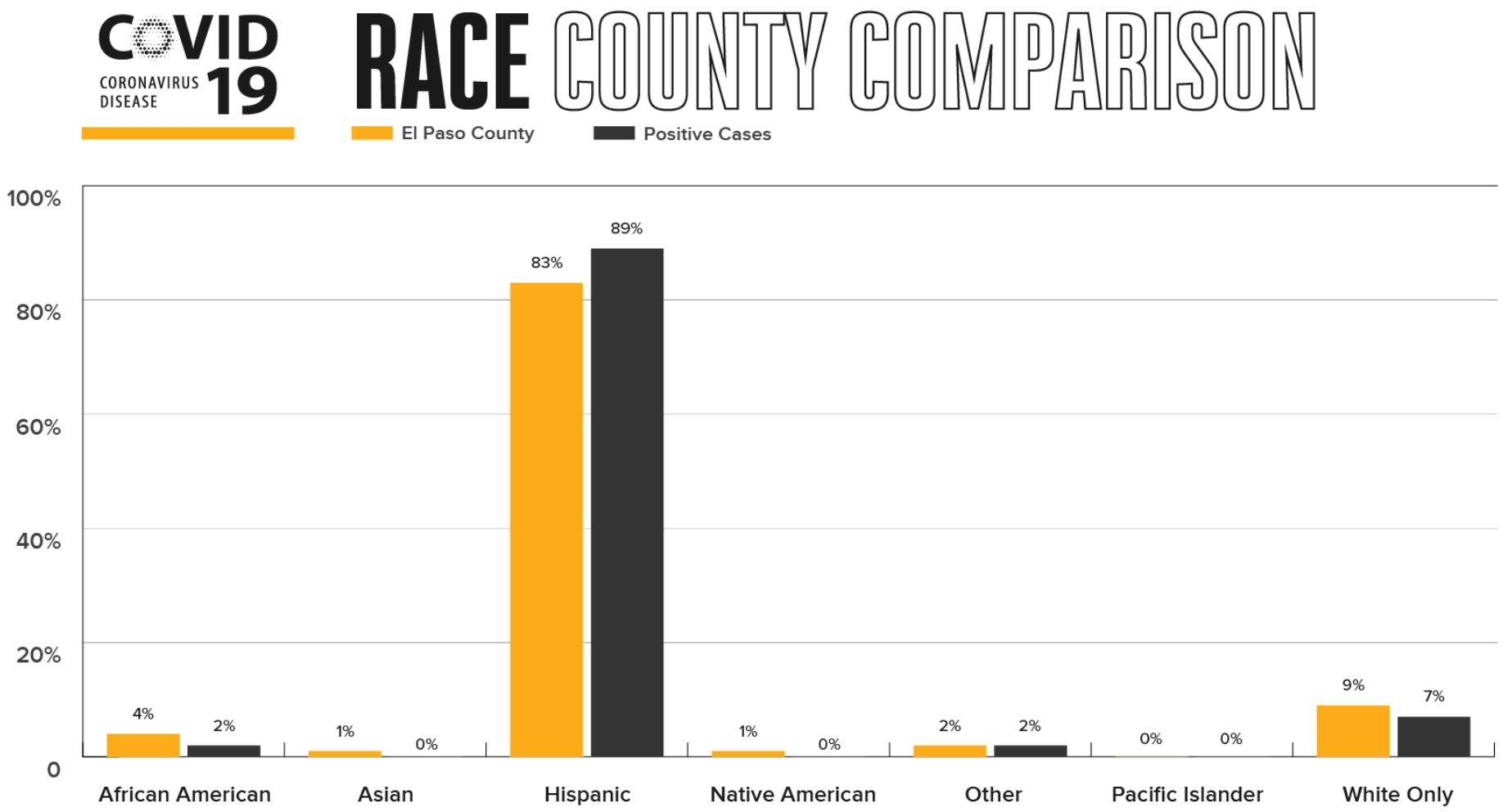
COVID-19 Cases : El Paso, TX



El Paso County

- Population: 840,758
- 22nd largest city in the United States
- Hispanic Population: 89%
- COVID positive cases in women: 1,706 or 48.6% of cases
- COVID positive cases in men: 1,806 or 51.4% of cases
- Estimated COVID-19 mortality rate: 2.9% (U.S. approximately 1.8%)
- 77% of positive cases are within the age groups of 20-60 year olds.

COVID-19 Positive Cases



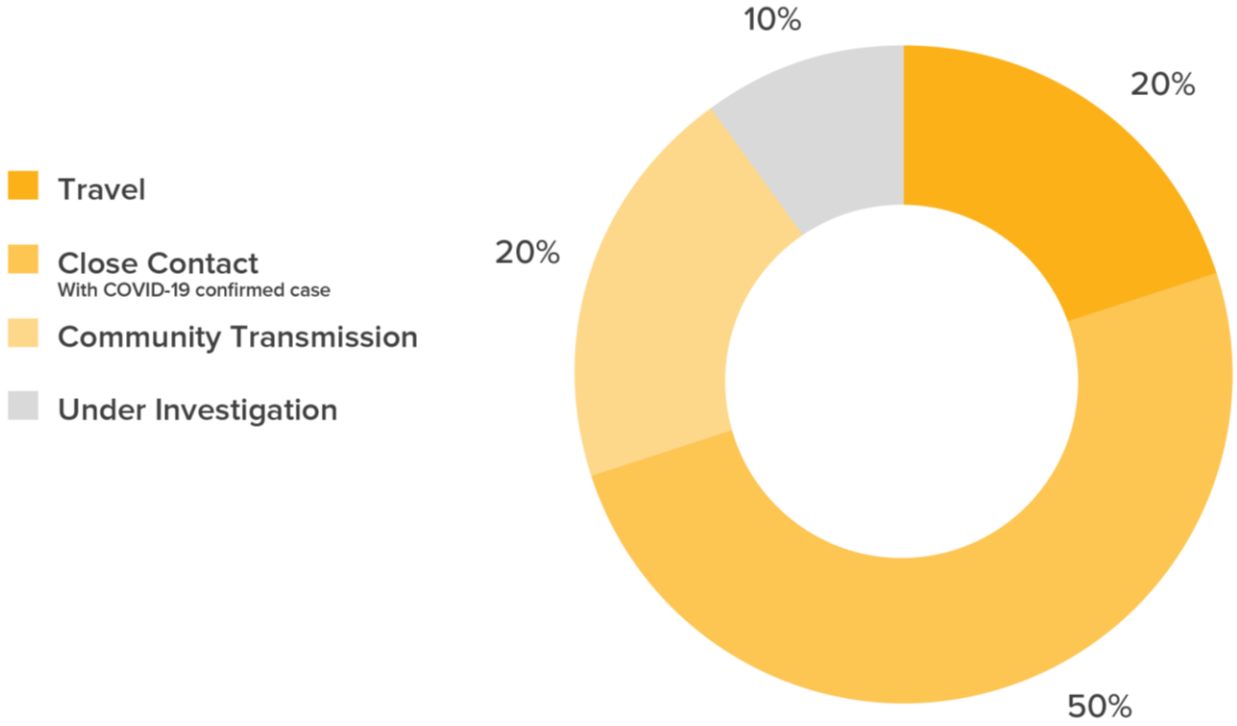
COVID-19 Positive Cases: Race (County Comparison)

- Disproportionally affecting Hispanic population
  - 89% Hispanic population within a 30-mile radius
- Cultural Factors
  - Tristate community (Texas, New Mexico and Chihuahua, Mexico)
  - Increased social and economic needs
  - Language barriers

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

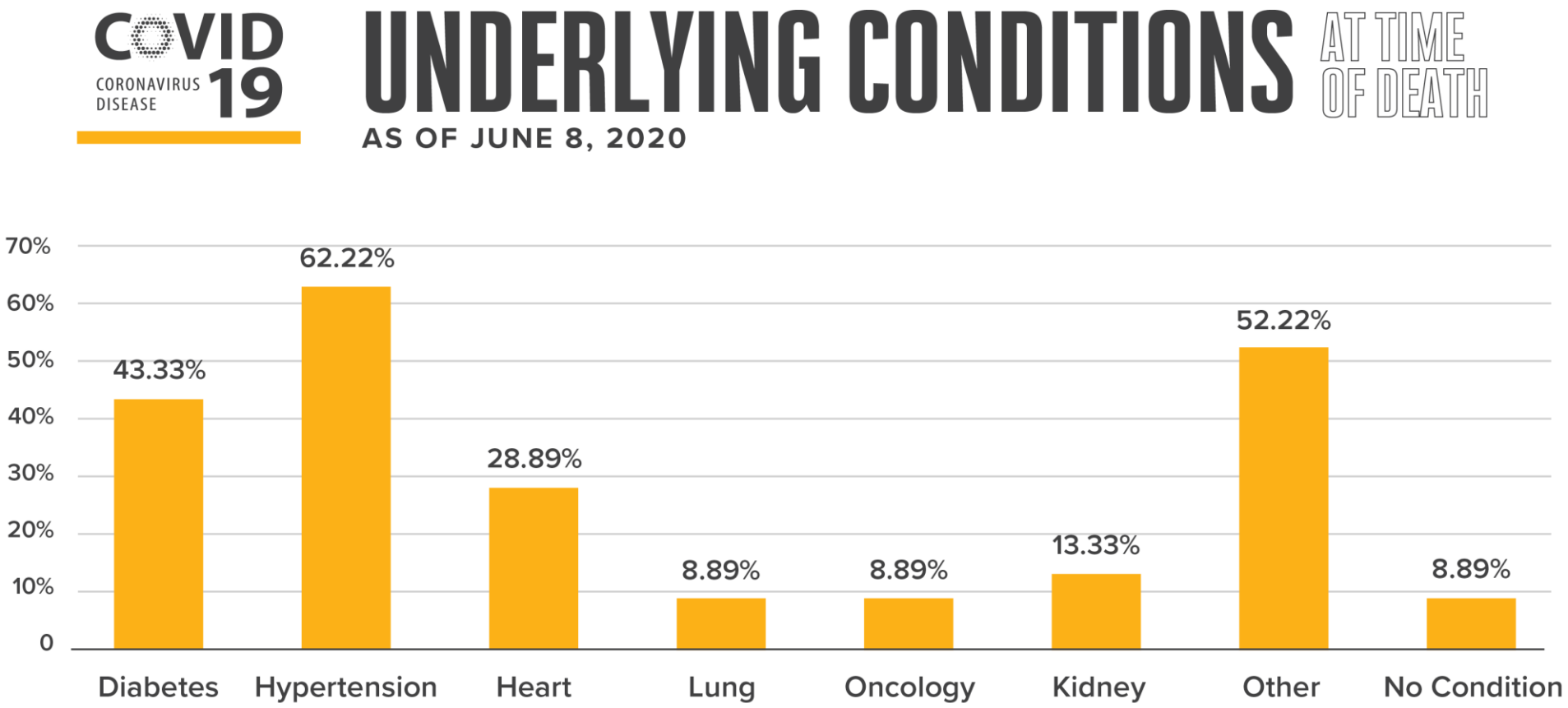
SOURCE OF EXPOSURE



COVID-19 Source of Exposure

- Social factors of underserved population
  - Extended family members living in one household
  - Binational families
  - 20% of population living under the Federal Poverty Level
- Economic structure of our border city
  - Hub for distribution and storage warehouses, call centers and industrial production companies (maquiladoras)
- Cultural expectations related to healthcare

COVID-19 Deaths



COVID-19 Deaths and Underlying Conditions

- High Blood Pressure Prevalence (2017): 25%
- Adults with Diabetes (2017): 13.9%
- Uninsured population: 20.6%
- Continuity of Care
  - Underdeveloped technology infrastructure
  - Individuals seeking care in Mexico due to cost

Experience Gained

- Faster response by government to ease healthcare related restrictions.
- Private sector adherence to mandates for employers.
- Establish telemedicine capabilities among the provider community.
- Provider focused health literacy training and guidelines for telephonic medical consultations.
- Adequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Early engagement and communication with underserved communities.

Resources

- City of El Paso Public Health Department
  - http://epstrong.org/results.php
- https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/elpasocitytexas
- https://datausa.io/profile/geo/el-paso-county-tx/
- http://www.healthypasodelnorte.org
- https://data.transportation.gov/Research-and-Statistics/