

Ben Straka

From: Modie Jonathan N <JONATHAN.N.MODIE@dhsosha.state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:05 PM
To: Ben Straka
Subject: RE: COVID-19 statistics

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Ben. That's right—presumptive cases that result in deaths are included in the total number of deaths. I apologize for the confusion.

We are grouping our presumptive and confirmed positive cases together. In other words, our total case count includes cases confirmed by diagnostic testing and presumptive cases.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Jonathan

From: Ben Straka <BStraka@freedomfoundation.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:12 AM
To: Modie Jonathan N <JONATHAN.N.MODIE@dhsosha.state.or.us>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 statistics

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Hi Jonathan,

No problem, thanks for the response. Just to clarify though – presumptive cases that result in deaths are included in the total number of deaths, correct? That's my understanding, but I wanted to clarify because the bullet-point definition you provided sounds like it only includes positive tests, whereas your 1st paragraph mentions it's based on all COVID-19 cases which includes the definition of a presumptive case (and I understand some of these later come back positive).

Does OHA at least have the current number of positive vs. presumptive cases among the total deaths? I would assume so, since it's tracking that data overall.

Understandably this is a difficult thing to track. I appreciate any answers you can provide.

Thanks,

Ben Straka

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From: Modie Jonathan N <JONATHAN.N.MODIE@dhsoha.state.or.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:29 PM
To: Ben Straka <BStraka@freedomfoundation.com>
Subject: RE: COVID-19 statistics

Ben,

Thanks for your patience. Apologies for the delay.

OHA follows national infectious disease reporting standards when reporting COVID-19-related deaths, and as such we do not have our data aggregated by whether COVID-19 was listed as a primary or contributing cause of death. Our data are not based on the specific cause of death, but instead focused on whether the individual had COVID-19. That could be by diagnosis by laboratory test or based on the definition for a presumptive case, or that the death certificate listed a COVID-19 code.

We consider COVID-19 deaths to be:

- Deaths in which a patient hospitalized for any reason within 14 days of a positive COVID-19 test result dies in the hospital or within the 60 days following discharge.
- Deaths in which COVID-19 is listed as a primary or contributing cause of death on a death certificate.

We count COVID-19 deaths this way because the virus can often have effects on an individual's health that may complicate their recovery from other diseases and conditions, and indirectly contribute to their death. Another reason for this reporting method is because OHA is using this data to track the spread of the disease and to create actionable steps to help stop it.

Let me know if you have other questions.

Jonathan

Jonathan Modie

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From: Ben Straka <BStraka@freedomfoundation.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 16:31
To: New Craig C <CRAIG.C.NEW@dhsoha.state.or.us>
Subject: COVID-19 statistics

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Mr. New,

Freedom Foundation intends to write about COVID-19 reporting in Oregon and, in order to provide the most accurate information possible, would like OHA to provide a sense of the number of people who have died from COVID-19 vs. the total number of COVID-19-related deaths, as well as the number of presumptive cases for whom tests have come back negative. Could you, or someone with the OHA's Center for Health Statistics, please assist me in answering the following questions?

1. Of the total COVID-19-related deaths listed [here](#):
 - a. How many had COVID-19 listed as a primary cause of death on their death certificate?
 - b. How many had COVID-19 listed as a contributing cause of death on their death certificate?
 - c. How many *did not* have COVID-19 listed anywhere on their death certificate?
2. Of those that had COVID-19 listed on their death certificate (answers to "1a" and "1b" above), how many have tested positive?
3. Of the *total* COVID-19-related deaths, how many have tested positive?
4. Overall, how many of the presumptive cases (again listed [here](#)) have come back with negative test results?

In order to meet our deadlines and provide the most accurate information possible, I would appreciate any answers OHA can provide as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your time.

Best,

Ben Straka

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