

Behavioral Health and COVID-19 Risk

CBH

Issue Summary | January 5, 2021

Behavioral Health: A High-Risk Population



**65% More Likely
To Be Diagnosed
with COVID**

A peer-reviewed study of 69 million health records in the U.S., including over 62,000 individuals with COVID, concluded that those with pre-existing mental conditions are **65% more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19**, even accounting for other risk factors.

Source: [Bidirectional associations between COVID-19 and psychiatric disorder: retrospective cohort studies of 62,354 COVID-19 cases in the USA](#) (Lancet Psychiatry)

Congregate Care: A Higher-Risk Setting



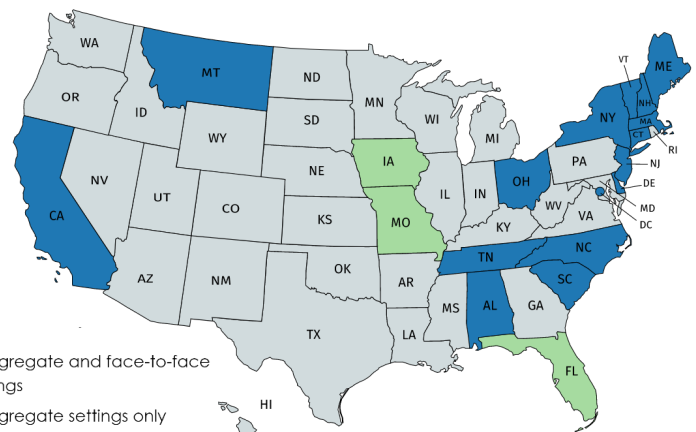
**Congregate Care
Residents Have
Co-Morbidities**

Maryland's public behavioral health system includes congregate care settings that bring the high-risk behavioral health population into close living quarters and proximity to staff. Such settings include residential rehabilitation programs, residential crisis services, respite care, and residential treatment centers. For adult residential programs, many residents are aging with multiple co-morbid health conditions.

Prioritization: Recommended by ACIP, Implemented by Other States for Congregate and Face-to-Face



The Center for Disease Control's ACIP Guidelines recommend that states prioritize COVID vaccines for long-term care facilities and "other residential care." At least 19 states have included behavioral health patients and staff in either congregate and face-to-face settings within the first phase of their vaccine distribution plans. Another two states have included only congregate



Source: CDC, "[ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group](#)"

Advocate • Educate • Affiliate

