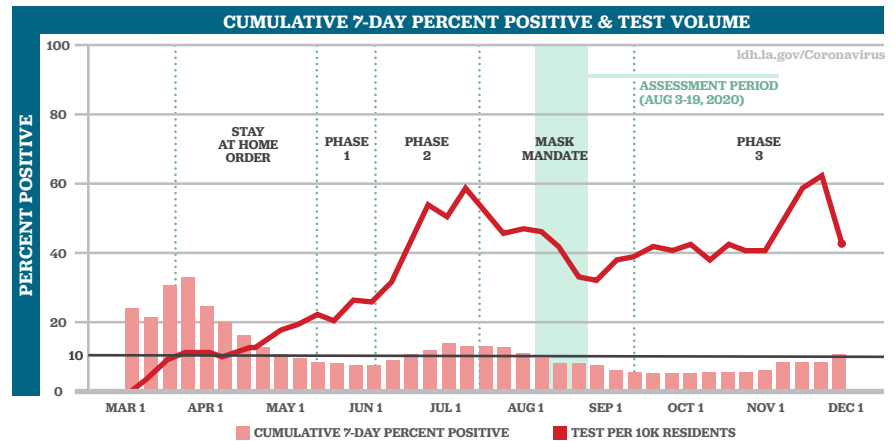


COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Information and Opportunities for Policymakers and Advocates

With funding from Baptist Community Ministries, the Louisiana Public Health Institute conducted an assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Greater New Orleans behavioral health system (mental health and substance use services). We surveyed and talked to more than 150 service providers and clients from Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Plaquemines parishes to understand existing gaps and opportunities.



FINDINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



79% of providers said client behavioral health needs were higher or much higher.



OPPORTUNITY

Reimburse services provided by Peer Support Specialists and Community Health Workers.



Inpatient and residential care facilities reduced capacity, delaying treatment access.



OPPORTUNITY

Expand comprehensive crisis stabilization services.

Add a Level III crisis receiving center.



Existing gaps in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) were exacerbated.



OPPORTUNITY

Allow the establishment of new OTPs and methadone dosing sites.

Encourage new and growing treatment programs through reimbursement mechanisms.



88% of providers said their stress levels were higher or much higher.



OPPORTUNITY

Support provider organizations in enhancing supportive services for staff.