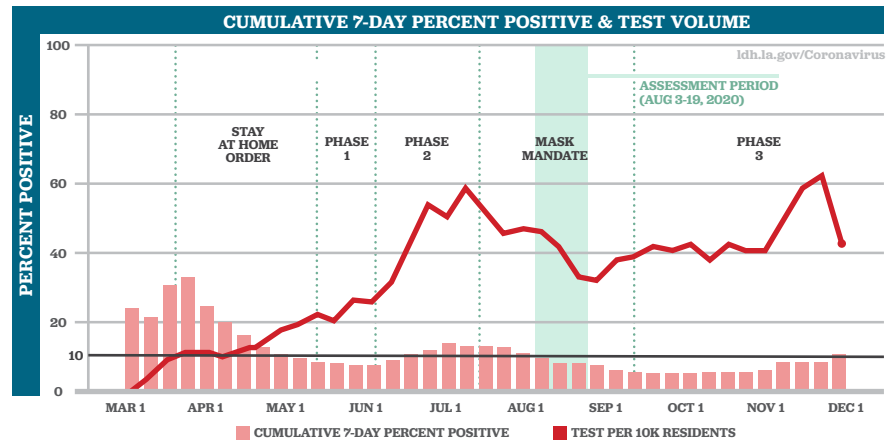


# COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

## Information and Opportunities for Youth and School-Based Behavioral Health

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.



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOLS

#### SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS WE TALKED TO ESTIMATED THAT...



80% of students rely on school-based health centers for care.



30%-40% of students did not have access to technology for telehealth.



School-based providers faced increased stress, heightened demand, and decreased funding.

### OVERALL IMPACT ON YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



59% of providers said youth clients' behavioral health needs were higher or much higher.



#### OPPORTUNITY

Develop an inter-sectoral mapping and action plan to address youth behavioral health needs.



Behavioral health needs of communities of color and unstably housed individuals were most impacted.



#### OPPORTUNITY

Require racial equity training for all healthcare providers and staff.



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



#### OPPORTUNITY

Redesign staff benefits to enhance access to supportive services.