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Update November 22: COVID Cases and Deaths Among People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Wisconsin

(Madison) – The Survival Coalition of more than 20 disability organizations supports the work of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Governor Evers’ administration to share regularly updated data regarding the impacts of COVID-19 in Wisconsin’s Medicaid Adult Home and Community-Based Services system. People with disabilities and older adults, particularly those who live in congregate or group settings are particularly vulnerable to the virus. Wisconsin’s long-term care program enrollment is 79,074 or approximately 1.3% of the WI population but accounts for more than 14% of all state COVID-19 deaths.

Survival Coalition is sharing the Department’s updated data Monthly.

The following data was published on November 22, 2021 and can be accessed in detail here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hcbs/data.htm#cases>

Participants in Wisconsin’s waiver programs, typically referred to as Family Care and IRIS, comprise 14.3 % of the state’s total deaths.

Medicaid Adult Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Program COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

Updated 11/22/2021

Total cases by adult Medicaid HCBS waiver program type

Program enrollment data is point-in-time from most recent published month for each program type (currently September 1 for managed LTC and November 1 for IRIS).

Program Type	Cases with Positive Test	Program Enrollment	Cases as Percent Enrollment
IRIS	2,155	23,462	9.2%
Managed Long Term Care (LTC): Family Care, Family Care - Partnership, PACE	10,020	55,612	18.0%
Total	12,175	79,074	15.4%

Comparison to statewide totals

All adult Medicaid HCBS waiver program types

Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 positive cases as percent of statewide total COVID-19 positive cases	1.4%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 hospitalizations as percent of statewide total COVID-19 hospitalizations	7.2%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 deaths as percent of statewide total COVID-19 deaths	14.3%

According to DHS data, 26.8% of cases in the waiver system result in hospitalization and 10.4% result in death, compared to 5.3% and 1.0% in the general state population, respectively.