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Contacts:

Lisa Pugh, pugh@thearc.org; (608) 422-4250

Beth Swedeon, beth.swedeon@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1166

Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, kitk@drwi.org; (608) 267-0214

Weekly Update November 19: COVID Cases and Deaths Among People with Disabilities and Older Adults in Wisconsin

(Madison) – The Survival Coalition of more than 30 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 have proven to be particularly vulnerable to the virus.

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

The following data was published on November 17, 2020 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 16.0% of the state’s total deaths.

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 October 1 for IRIS).

Program Type	Cases with Positive Test	Program Enrollment	Cases as Percent Enrollment
IRIS	734	21,794	3.4%
Managed Long Term Care (LTC): Family Care, Family Care - Partnership, PACE	4,246	55,186	7.7%
Total	4,980	76,980	6.5%

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	1.5%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 hospitalizations as percent of statewide total COVID-19 hospitalizations	9.3%
Medicaid HCBS waiver program COVID-19 deaths as percent of statewide total COVID-19 deaths	16.0%

According to DHS data, 31.9% of cases in the waiver system result in hospitalization and 4.0% result in death, compared to 4.6% and .8% in the general state population, respectively.

Survival Coalition is comprised of more than 30 statewide disability organizations that advocate and support policies and practices that lead to the full inclusion, participation, and contribution of people living with disability.