

Household factors and the risk of severe COVID-like illness early in the US pandemic

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Abstract

Objective: To investigate the role of children in the home and household crowding as risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease.

Methods: We used interview data from 6,831 U.S. adults screened for the Communities, Households and SARS/CoV-2 Epidemiology (CHASING) COVID Cohort Study in April 2020.

Results: In logistic regression models, the adjusted odds ratio [aOR] of hospitalization due to COVID-19 for having (versus not having) children in the home was 10.5 (95% CI:5.7-19.1) among study participants living in multi-unit dwellings and 2.2 (95% CI:1.2-6.5) among those living in single unit dwellings. Among participants living in multi-unit dwellings, the aOR for COVID-19 hospitalization among participants with more than 4 persons in their household (versus 1 person) was 2.5 (95% CI:1.0- 6.1), and 0.8 (95% CI:0.15-4.1) among those living in single unit dwellings.

Conclusion: Early in the US SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, certain household exposures likely increased the risk of both SARS-CoV-2 acquisition and the risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

48 **Introduction:**

49 Crowded indoor settings and sustained close contact are associated with an increased
50 likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 spread.¹² Stay-at-home orders and other non-pharmaceutical
51 measures, such as bans on mass gatherings and physical distancing, were effective in
52 curtailing community transmission.^{3,4} However, these measures may have resulted in
53 shifting the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to within household settings where high attack
54 rates can occur, with high rates of hospitalization and death.⁴⁻⁷ Crowded households
55 can be environments conducive to transmission due to difficulties in maintaining
56 physical distance and effective isolation,^{8,9} and when infected household members have
57 pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic infection.

58

59 There is growing evidence suggesting that asymptomatic infections contribute
60 substantially to transmission of SARS-CoV-2¹⁰⁻¹². Younger age may be an important
61 factor driving asymptomatic spread. Studies have shown differences in the presentation
62 of COVID-19 between adults and children, with children less likely than adults to be
63 symptomatic and less likely to present with severe COVID-19 disease.¹³⁻¹⁶
64 Counterintuitively, other studies have suggested that children may have viral load levels
65 that are comparable to those of adults, and that they could play a role in driving
66 SARS-CoV-2 transmission.^{17,18} One recent study in India found that children and young
67 adults accounted for 30% of cases.¹⁹ Moreover, the lack of mask use early in the US
68 pandemic indoors among members of the same household who may have been
69 asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic during the first several days of quarantine under

70 stay-at-home orders could have resulted in a higher inoculum and increased disease
71 severity.^{20,21,22}

72

73 Household studies are important for understanding the role of factors such as
74 household crowding and household age composition on household SARS-CoV-2
75 transmission. A recent systematic review of 40 SARS-CoV-2 household transmission
76 studies suggests that, while the secondary attack rate within households is high (18.8%,
77 95% CI 15.4%-22.2%), transmission rates are highest: a) when the primary household
78 cases are symptomatic (19.9%, 95% CI: 14.0% - 25.7%) vs asymptomatic; b) among
79 adult contacts (31%, 95% CI: 19.4% - 42.7%) vs children; and c) in households with
80 only 1 other contact (45.2%, 95% CI 34.1%-51.8) vs those with 3 or more contacts.²
81 Early studies in New York state showed high attack rates, hospitalizations, and deaths
82 within the households of index cases.⁶ And a recent household transmission study
83 conducted in Tennessee and Wisconsin by the CDC found a very high and rapidly
84 occurring secondary infection rate of 53% among household members of an index case,
85 with >70% of secondary cases occurring within 5 days of symptom onset of the index
86 case.⁵ The effect of household transmission versus other community transmission on
87 SARS-CoV-2 severity has not been systematically investigated.

88

89 Few household studies have examined the role of children on household transmission
90 of SARS-CoV-2, and those that have relied on small sample sizes.^{5,23,24} Understanding
91 the risk of COVID-19 in crowded households and households with children (regardless
92 of whether they are the primary case in the household) will be important in elucidating

93 the impact of stay-at-home orders and prolonged indoor contact on the risk severe
94 infections. The objective of this study was to examine the effects of household
95 characteristics, primarily the presence of children in the household and household
96 crowding, on the risk of COVID hospitalization during the early phase of the
97 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the US.

98

99 **Methods:**

100 *Study population:*

101 Study participants were individuals screened for enrollment into the Communities,
102 Households, and SARS/CoV-2 Epidemiology (CHASING) COVID Cohort study who
103 completed an initial baseline assessment. The CHASING COVID Cohort study is a
104 national prospective cohort study of adults from the US and US territories that was
105 launched on March 28, 2020 to understand the spread and impact of the SARS-CoV-2
106 pandemic within households and communities. The survey methodology is described in
107 detail in a previous publication.²⁵ Briefly, study participants were recruited online through
108 social media platforms or through referrals using advertisements that were in both
109 English and Spanish. The platform Qualtrics (Qualtrics, Provo, UT), an online survey
110 platform widely used in social and behavioral research, was used for data collection.

111

112 The initial baseline assessment captured information on household characteristics,
113 underlying risk factors, SARS-CoV-2 symptoms, and health-seeking behaviors such as
114 testing and hospitalizations. A second version of the initial baseline questionnaire was
115 launched on April 9, 2020 to capture healthcare and essential worker status. A total of

116 6,831 participants had completed an initial cohort screening interview by April 20, 2020.

117 The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the City
118 University of New York (CUNY).

119

120 ***Variable definitions:***

121 *Primary Outcome:*

122 The main outcome was self-report of hospitalization for COVID symptoms reported in
123 the two weeks prior to the interview. Symptoms assessed included any of the following:
124 fever, chills, rigors, runny nose, myalgia, headache, sore throat, stomach ache,
125 diarrhea, nasal congestion, nausea, vomiting, cough or coughing up blood or phlegm,
126 shortness of breath. Those reporting any of these symptoms who reported also being
127 hospitalized as a result of their reported symptoms were classified as having the
128 outcome; all other participants were classified as not having the outcome.

129

130 *Primary and secondary exposures:*

131 The primary exposure was the presence of any children under 18 years of age living in
132 participants' household. Secondary exposures were the number of persons living in a
133 household (1, 2-3, more than 4) and the type of property in which the participant lived.
134 Property type was classified as either a multi-unit property (e.g. apartment,
135 condominium, co-op, or building with two or more units), single-unit property (e.g.
136 detached home, or townhouse), or other.

137

138 *Covariates:*

139 *Socio-demographic and behavioral risk factors for COVID*

140 We identified socio-demographic, behavioral and employment factors as confounders of
141 hypothesized exposure-outcome relationships, including age, gender, race/ethnicity,
142 and annual combined income. Additionally, we included potential confounders such as
143 having had close contact with someone who had coronavirus-like symptoms and/or
144 having been involved in the diagnosis or care of someone with confirmed or suspected
145 coronavirus infection. Finally, we considered potential employment-related confounders,
146 including essential worker status, which was defined as having been involved in
147 following roles in the two weeks prior to survey date: healthcare, law enforcement, fire
148 department/first responder, delivery or pick-up services related to food or medications,
149 or in public/private transportation.

150

151 *Community transmission:*

152 As community transmission could confound the exposure-outcome relationship, we
153 used lagged population-based, county-level death rates as a proxy for community
154 transmission. We tabulated the number of COVID deaths per 100,000 population for
155 each county using data from the New York Times Github website (from 01/21/2020 to
156 07/05/2020).²⁶ Our proxy for community SARS-CoV-2 transmission was a 5-day moving
157 average of COVID deaths per 100,000 population, lagged by 23 days. Specifically, to
158 use county death rates as a proxy for community transmission in the county, we
159 introduced a lag since COVID deaths follow several other milestones after infection
160 (infection→ incubation→ symptoms→ progression/hospitalization→ death). We
161 assumed that data on the number of deaths for a given day represented community

162 transmission that was occurring 23 days *earlier*, specifically 5 days from infection to
163 symptom onset (reflecting the average incubation period); 5 days from symptom onset
164 to pneumonia; and 13 days from pneumonia diagnosis to death.²⁷ For those participants
165 reporting symptoms, we then matched reported timing of symptom onset with
166 community transmission levels 5 days earlier, corresponding to the average incubation
167 period for SARS-CoV-2.^{28–30}

168

169 *COVID-related illness*

170 Frequencies of seven measures of COVID-related outcomes were generated to
171 examine the health-seeking behaviors of all participants who 1) reported COVID
172 symptoms ; 2) met the CSTE case definition for COVID-like illness which was defined
173 as reporting at least two of following symptoms: fever, chills, myalgia, headache, sore
174 throat, or at least one of the following: cough, shortness of breath³¹; 3) reported seeing
175 or calling a physician or healthcare professional for any of the COVID symptoms they
176 reported, 4) sought but were unable to get a diagnostic test, 5) received diagnostic test,
177 6) received a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis, or 7) were hospitalized for any of the
178 reported COVID symptoms. All measures were dichotomized as “yes” and “no” with
179 those who reported “do not know” or “not sure” were classified as a “no”.

180

181 *Comorbid conditions*

182 Participants were asked whether they have been told by a health professional that they
183 had heart attack, angina or coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood

184 pressure, cancer, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, emphysema, or
185 chronic bronchitis, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, immunosuppression, and depression.

186

187 **Statistical Analysis:**

188 Descriptive statistics were generated to examine the socio-demographic, health and
189 behavioral characteristics between households with and without children, and for
190 hospitalized and non-hospitalized participants. Frequencies were generated for all
191 categorical variables and Pearson's chi-squared test of independence was performed to
192 assess group differences.

193

194 A multivariable logistic regression model was used to estimate the association between
195 presence of children in households, number of people living in a household, and
196 property types on the risk of hospitalization with COVID symptoms. We ran three
197 models, all adjusted for age, gender, race/ethnicity, income, close contact, essential
198 worker status, and community transmission rate. Models examining the exposures of
199 the number of people living in household and property types models were also adjusted
200 for presence of children in the household. These variables chosen were based on
201 hypothesized causal associations and confounders, and direct acyclic graphs³² were
202 developed for each model.

203

204 Given the associations between household crowding with COVID transmission^{8,9}, the
205 crude and multivariate associations between 1) presence of children in household or 2)
206 household size on hospitalizations due to COVID were stratified by property type. For

207 each main effect model, we ran a model with an interaction term (i.e., presence of
208 children* property type and household size* property type) and adjusted for the same
209 covariates as the main effects models.

210

211 Finally, we described the socio-demographic and behavioral characteristics, as well as
212 comorbidities of participants who were hospitalized with COVID symptoms to those who
213 were not. These included socio-demographic characteristics, and health and behavioral
214 risk factors such as essential worker status, report of having comorbid conditions, and
215 whether participants were in close contact with symptomatic, suspected or confirmed
216 COVID cases. In addition, reported COVID symptoms were examined and ranked for
217 both groups.

218

219 *Sensitivity analyses:*

220 Three separate sensitivity analyses were performed to assess the potential impact of
221 missing data and misclassification. First, to assess the potential impact of missing
222 values of essential worker status in the initial baseline assessment, a complete case
223 analysis was performed on the participants who had completed the second version of
224 the baseline assessment and for whom essential worker status was known. Given the
225 negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on care seeking (including emergency room
226 care)³³, a second sensitivity analysis assessed the potential impact of excluding persons
227 with COVID symptoms who were not hospitalized in the non-hospitalized group (i.e.,
228 differential outcome misclassification). For this analysis we excluded persons who
229 reported symptoms from the denominator of non-hospitalized. The third sensitivity

230 analysis examined the main effects of the exposures on those hospitalized that also had
231 a laboratory confirmed diagnosis for COVID. For this analysis we restricted the outcome
232 to include only those who reported being hospitalized and have received a
233 laboratory-confirmed diagnosis for COVID.

234

235 SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) was used for all statistical analyses.

236

237 **Results:**

238 A total of 6,831 participants completed cohort screening, including 5,348 (78%) who
239 completed the second version of the assessment with the question on essential
240 workers.

241

242 *COVID-like illness outcomes:*

243 Between March 28, 2020 and April 20, 2020, 58.5% of the study population reported
244 symptoms in the two weeks prior to their study interview, with 25.7% (n=1754) of those
245 meeting the case definition for COVID-like illness³¹ (Figure 1). Twelve percent (n=820)
246 of the study population reported seeing a healthcare provider for these symptoms, 7.6%
247 (n=518) sought SARS-CoV-2 testing but did not receive it, 5.2% (n=357) received a
248 diagnostic test, 2.8% (n=188) received a laboratory confirmed diagnosis of coronavirus,
249 and 2.8% (n=191) reported being hospitalized for COVID-like symptoms (69.6%
250 (n=133) of whom reported laboratory confirmation of their diagnosis, and were
251 considered 'confirmed').

252

253 Compared to those without children <18 in the household (Table 1), participants with
254 children were more likely to be under 49 years old (81.2% vs 60.5%), Hispanic (25.9%
255 vs 13.9%), essential workers (26.5% vs 18.8%), and more likely to report having had
256 close contact with someone with coronavirus-like symptoms or a confirmed case (23.3%
257 vs 16.0%). Participants who completed the second version of the assessment were
258 similar to those who completed the first (data not shown).

259

260 *Multivariate analysis:*

261 Compared to participants without children in the home, those with children had 4.99
262 times the adjusted odds (95%CI: 3.16–7.89) in being hospitalized for COVID symptoms
263 (Table 2). No associations were observed between households with more than four
264 persons and hospitalization for COVID symptoms (aOR:1.11; 95%CI: 0.49–2.47)
265 compared to one-person households. Participants who lived in a multi-unit property
266 compared to those living in a single-unit had 4.62 (95%CI: 2.79–7.66) times higher
267 adjusted odds of being hospitalized.

268

269 When stratified by property type, compared to participants without children living in a
270 multi-unit property, participants with children living in multi-unit property had 10.47 times
271 the adjusted odds for being hospitalized for those symptoms (95%CI: 5.73–19.13).
272 Participants living in households with more than 4 people in multi-unit property had 2.46
273 times the adjusted odds (95%CI: 0.99–6.08) of being hospitalized with COVID
274 symptoms than participants living alone in a multi-unit property. No other statistically

275 significant associations were observed between household sizes on hospitalization
276 when stratified by property type.

277

278 *Characteristics of hospitalized participants compared to those not hospitalized:*

279 A total of 191 participants were hospitalized for their reported symptoms (Table 3).
280 Compared with all other participants (n=6,638), those hospitalized were more likely to
281 be between the age of 18 and 49 years of age (84.4% vs 59.8%), male (82.2% vs
282 50.2%), and Hispanic (70.7% vs 12.2%). Hospitalized participants were more likely to
283 report a comorbid condition (85.4% vs 31.7%) and to have had contact with a
284 symptomatic case or suspected or confirmed case (76.4% vs 14.2%). They were also
285 more likely to be essential workers (80.1% vs 17.1%). Fever and sore throat were the
286 two most commonly reported symptoms which were reported by 71.7% and 70.2% of
287 participants, respectively. About 76.4% of hospitalized participants received a test, and
288 69.6% of them received a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis.

289

290 **Discussion**

291 Our study suggests that certain household exposures at the beginning of the
292 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the US not only increased the risk of SARS-CoV-2
293 acquisition, but also increased the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, requiring
294 hospitalization. Household crowding and having children in the home were both strong
295 and independent risk factors for being hospitalized with SARS-CoV-2 early in the US
296 pandemic. Our findings have implications for public health recommendations in areas
297 and during times where the risk of household transmission of SARS-CoV-2 may be

298 higher, such as immediately prior to and after issuing stay at home orders, when the
299 point prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in the affected communities may be at its highest
300 level. Essential workers, families with children, and those living in crowded indoor
301 settings may be at particularly high risk for being hospitalized with SARS-CoV-2, and
302 tailored recommendations to reduce the risk of household transmission are needed
303 when community transmission is high.

304

305 Household transmission occurs rapidly after an index case introduces the infection and
306 with high household attack rates, can originate from both children and adults¹⁹, and are
307 associated with high rates of hospitalization and death.^{2,5,6}

308

309 Early in the US pandemic, even when mask use was recommended and became the
310 norm outside the home, and even in areas where stay at home orders had been put in
311 place, mask use inside the home or other at-home risk mitigation measures were not
312 recommended except in situations where there were ill/infected persons (when 10-14
313 days of isolation using a separate bedroom and bathroom was recommended to reduce
314 household transmission). However, because of household crowding, a lack of space in
315 the households, or a need to go to work, provide childcare, or care for other
316 household/family members, isolation of ill/infected persons and quarantine of those who
317 have had a high risk exposure (e.g., to a confirmed case) is not always feasible, and
318 other risk mitigation measures (e.g., mask wearing, opening windows) are therefore
319 needed.

320

321 A higher infectious dose can result in a more severe course of SARS-CoV-2 infection.
322 Mask use is an effective strategy to both reduce the risk of onward spread from an
323 infected person to susceptibles, and also reduces the risk of infection to the mask
324 wearer.³⁴ However, infections still can occur when masks are being used by infected
325 and susceptible persons, but these infections may be more likely to result in
326 asymptomatic or milder SARS-CoV-2 infection, because of a lower infectious dose.²⁰ It
327 is therefore possible that a lack of mask use at home during quarantine and isolation
328 results in a higher infectious dose of SARS-CoV-2 than would occur with masks,
329 especially in smaller homes, with more household members, including children.

330

331 Stay at home orders usually go into effect when community transmission (and point
332 prevalence) is highest, and by definition, they increase the amount of time that
333 household members spend together indoors. Given this, the high attack rates of
334 SARS-CoV-2 within households, and the higher severity of SARS-CoV-2 infections that
335 can result from prolonged unmasked, indoor exposures when entire households are
336 quarantined, public health officials should consider recommending mask use and other
337 risk mitigation strategies (e.g., open windows, reduced close contact, frequent at-home
338 testing) in all households with more than one person for a period of time immediately
339 before and after stay at home orders go into effect.

340

341 Essential workers have several potential risks for SARS-CoV-2 infection, including
342 commuting and exposure while at work, but they also may be at higher risk for acquiring
343 or transmitting infection at home as well. In NYC and Chicago, a COVID-19 hotspot

344 analysis found that hot spots had more household crowding, in NYC, and tended to be
345 middle income, working class neighborhoods that may have higher concentrations of
346 essential workers.⁹

347

348 Our study, which included substantial numbers of essential workers who were
349 hospitalized, looked within households and described some of the risk factors for severe
350 COVID-19 early in the US pandemic. Essential workers with young children need
351 childcare, which could put their children at risk of infection. Children with SARS-CoV-2
352 infection have high enough viral load to transmit to others, and may be more likely to
353 have unrecognized infections. When children become ill, isolation may be even more
354 challenging than for adults, and adults providing care for them are at higher risk,
355 possibly of a more severe SARS-CoV-2 infection, especially when it is difficult to follow
356 infection control practices, such as mask wearing at home by all household members.

357

358 Our study has limitations worth noting. First, this was not a household transmission
359 study, and therefore we could not pinpoint household transmission as the likely source
360 of the infection that resulted in infection and hospitalization among our study
361 participants. We therefore cannot say whether and the extent to which household
362 transmission occurred, and if it did, when a child in the household was the source of
363 infection to our study participants. We also did not assess participants' mask use at
364 home. Finally, while we controlled for several possible confounders of the association of
365 household crowding and children in the home with SARS-CoV-2 risk, unmeasured
366 confounding could partially explain our observed associations.

367

368 Our study also had some strengths. As a large epidemiologic cohort study, it was
369 possible to examine the association of several potentially important household-level risk
370 factors with a relatively rare outcome of SARS-CoV-2 hospitalization, while controlling
371 for potential confounding factors. We also had a geographically diverse sample that
372 included several essential workers. Finally, our findings were robust to the three
373 sensitivity analyses, which generated similar findings to the main analysis.

374

375 *Conclusions*

376 Early in the US SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, certain household exposures likely increased
377 the risk of both SARS-CoV-2 acquisition and the risk of severe COVID-19 disease
378 requiring hospitalization. These findings may have implications for mask wearing and
379 other mitigation strategies at home immediately prior to and immediately after ‘stay at
380 home’ orders go into effect.

381

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391

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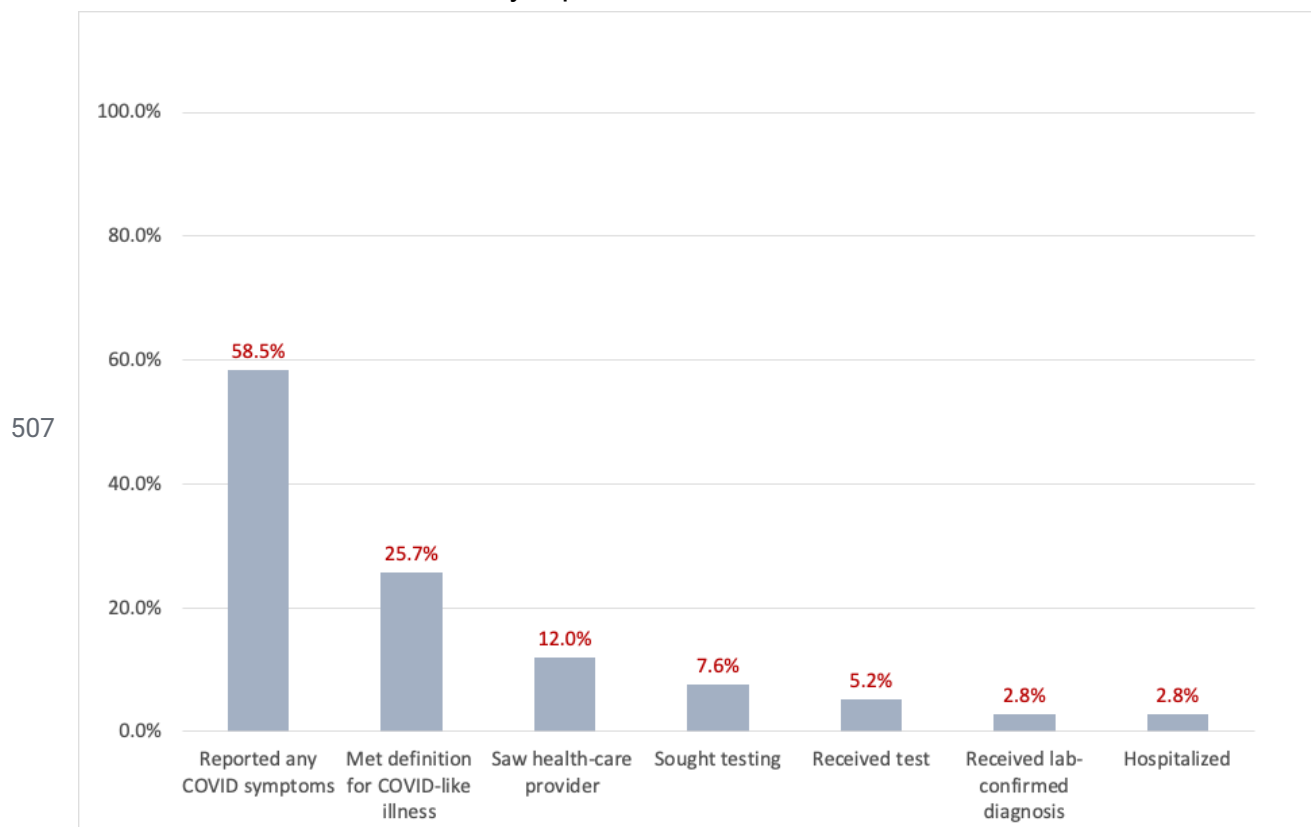
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505 Figure 1: SARS-CoV-2 symptoms among persons screened for enrollment in the
506 CHASING COVID Cohort Study, April 2020



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527 **Table 1: Select socio-demographic, health and behavior characteristics among**
 528 **persons screened for enrollment in the CHASING COVID Cohort (N=6831), April**
 529 **2020**

	Presence of Children in Household			p-value
	Total	Yes	No	
	N (%)	n (%)	n (%)	
Total	6831	1547 (22.7%)	5284 (77.4%)	
Socio-demographic				
Age group (years)				
18-49	4133 (60.5%)	1256 (81.2%)	2877 (54.5%)	< 0.0001
50-59	1083 (15.9%)	192 (12.4%)	891 (16.9%)	
60+	1615 (23.6%)	99 (6.4%)	1516 (28.7%)	
Gender				
Male	3487 (51.1%)	575 (37.2%)	2912 (55.1%)	< 0.0001
Female	3134 (45.9%)	939 (60.7%)	2195 (41.5%)	
Gender non-binary	210 (3.1%)	33 (2.1%)	177 (3.4%)	
Race/ethnicity				
Hispanic	946 (13.9%)	401 (25.9%)	545 (10.3%)	< 0.0001
White	4561 (66.8%)	828 (53.5%)	3733 (70.7%)	
Black non-Hispanic	721 (10.6%)	176 (11.4%)	545 (10.3%)	
Asian/Pacific Islander	326 (4.8%)	81 (5.2%)	245 (4.6%)	
Other	277 (4.1%)	61 (3.9%)	216 (4.1%)	
Income level				
< 50,000	3253 (47.6%)	665 (43.0%)	2588 (49.0%)	< 0.0001
50,000- 99,000	1626 (23.8%)	298 (19.3%)	1328 (25.1%)	
100,000	1530 (22.4%)	446 (28.8%)	1084 (20.5%)	
Not reported	422 (6.2%)	138 (8.9%)	284 (5.4%)	
Health and behaviors				
Essential worker				
Yes	1286 (18.8%)	410 (26.5%)	876 (16.6%)	< 0.0001
No	4062 (59.5%)	865 (55.9%)	3197 (60.5%)	
Not asked	1483 (21.7%)	272 (17.6)	1211 (22.9%)	
Reported having comorbidities				
Yes	2271 (33.2%)	488 (31.5%)	3501 (66.3%)	0.1065
No	4560 (66.8%)	1059 (68.5%)	1783 (33.7%)	
Had close contact with suspected/confirmed case				
Yes	1090 (16.0%)	361 (23.3%)	729 (13.8%)	< 0.0001
No	5741 (84.0%)	1186 (76.7%)	4555 (86.2%)	
Household Factors				
Property type				
Multi-unit property	2602 (38.1%)	451 (29.2%)	2151 (40.7%)	< 0.0001
Single-unit property	3856 (56.5%)	985 (63.7%)	2871 (54.3%)	
Other	373 (5.5%)	111 (7.2%)	262 (5.0%)	
Number of persons living in HH				
1	1990 (29.1%)	0	1190 (37.7%)	< 0.0001
2-3	3157 (46.2%)	394 (25.5%)	277863 (52.3%)	
4+	1684 (24.7%)	1153 (74.5%)	531 (10.1%)	

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Table 2: Main effects of presence of children, number of persons in households and property type on hospitalization for COVID-like symptoms (N=6831), April 2020

Main exposures	Hospitalized with COVID symptoms		
	n (%)	cOR (95% CI)	aOR (95% CI)
Children in household*			
Yes	147 (9.5%)	12.51 (8.89 – 17.61)	4.99 (3.16 – 7.89)
No	44 (0.8%)	ref	ref
Number of persons in household **			
1	18 (0.9%)	ref	ref
2-3	34 (1.1%)	1.19 (0.67 – 2.12)	0.90 (0.45 – 1.79)
More than 4	139 (8.3%)	9.85 (6.00 – 16.17)	1.11 (0.49 – 2.47)
Property Type ***			
Multi-Unit	153 (5.9%)	8.86 (5.87 – 13.38)	4.62 (2.79 – 7.66)
Single-Unit	27 (0.7%)	ref	ref
Other	11 (3.0%)	4.31 (2.12 – 8.76)	4.55 (2.00 – 10.36)
Interactions			
Presence of children stratified by property			
Children living multi-unit	131 (29.1%)	39.60 (24.83 – 63.14)	10.47 (5.73 – 19.13)
No children living in multi-unit	22 (1.0%)	ref	ref
Children living in single unit	12 (1.2%)	2.35 (1.10 – 5.04)	2.82 (1.23 – 6.47)
No children living in single unit	15 (0.5%)	ref	ref
Children living in ‘other’ type unit	4 (3.6%)	1.36 (0.39 – 4.75)	1.05 (0.27 – 4.14)
No children living in ‘other’ type unit	7 (2.7%)	ref	ref
Household size stratified by property type			
1 living in multi-unit	13 (1.1%)	ref	ref
2-3 living in multi-unit	16 (1.6%)	1.41 (0.68 – 2.95)	1.13 (0.48 – 2.64)
More than 4 living in multi-unit	124 (26.4%)	31.05 (17.32 – 55.68)	2.46 (0.99 – 6.08)
1 living in single unit	2 (0.3%)	ref	ref
2-3 living in single unit	15 (0.7%)	2.73 (0.62 – 11.98)	1.62 (0.36 – 7.38)
More than 4 living in single unit	10 (0.9%)	3.37 (0.74 – 15.41)	0.78 (0.15 – 4.06)
1 living in other type unit	3 (2.5%)	ref	ref
2-3 living in other type unit	3 (2.2%)	0.87 (0.17 – 4.41)	0.70 (0.10 – 5.707)
More than 4 living in other type unit	5 (4.2%)	1.71 (0.40 – 7.33)	0.85 (0.14 – 5.30)

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542 * Presence of children effects are adjusted for age, gender, race/ethnicity, close contact, income, county
543 mortality rate and essential worker status
544 **Household size effects are adjusted for presence of children, age, gender, race/ethnicity, close contact,

545 income, county mortality rate and essential worker status
 546 ***Property type effects are adjusted for presence of children, age, gender, race/ethnicity, close contact,
 547 income, county mortality rate and essential worker status
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551 **Table 3: Characteristics of participants by status of hospitalization with**
 552 **COVID-like symptoms, April 2020**

Socio-demographic Factors	Hospitalized with COVID-symptoms		p-value
	Yes n (%)	No n (%)	
Age group (years)			
18-49	162 (84.8%)	3969 (59.8%)	<0.0001
50-59	8 (4.2%)	1075 (16.2%)	
60+	21 (11.0%)	1594 (24.0%)	
Gender			
Male	157 (82.2%)	3329 (50.2%)	<0.0001
Female	31 (16.2%)	3102 (46.7%)	
Non-binary	3 (1.6%)	207 (3.1%)	
Race/ethnicity			
Hispanic	135 (70.7%)	811 (12.2%)	<0.0001
White	29 (15.2%)	4531 (68.3%)	
Black non-Hispanic	19 (10.3%)	702 (10.6%)	
Asian/Pacific Islander	2 (1.1%)	324 (4.9%)	
Other	6 (3.1%)	270 (4.1%)	
Income level			
< 50,000	50 (26.2%)	3202 (48.2%)	<0.0001
50,000- 99,000	14 (7.3%)	1612 (24.3%)	
100,000	123 (64.4%)	1407 (21.2%)	
Missing	4 (2.1%)	417 (6.3%)	
Health and behavioral Factors			
Reported having comorbidities			
Yes	165 (85.4%)	2105 (31.7%)	<0.0001
No	26 (13.6%)	4533 (68.3%)	
Had contact with symptomatic or suspected/confirmed case			
Yes	146 (76.4%)	944 (14.2%)	<0.0001
No	45 (23.6%)	5694 (85.8%)	
Essential Worker			
Yes	153 (80.1%)	1133 (17.1%)	<0.0001
No	29 (15.2%)	4032 (60.7%)	
Not asked	9 (4.7%)	1473 (22.2%)	

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Reported symptoms (ranked)			
Fever	137 (71.7%)	314 (4.7%)	<0.0001
Sore throat	134 (70.2%)	924 (13.9%)	<0.0001
Headache	32 (16.8%)	1867 (28.1%)	0.0005
Myalgia	31 (16.2%)	758 (11.4%)	0.040
Cough with phlegm	30 (15.7%)	831 (12.5%)	0.191
Shortness of breath	28 (14.7%)	571 (8.6%)	0.004
New cough	27 (14.4%)	769 (11.6%)	0.279
Runny nose	26 (13.6%)	1641 (24.7%)	0.0004
Diarrhea	22 (11.5%)	853 (12.9%)	0.587
Nasal congestion	21 (11.0%)	1415 (21.3%)	0.0006
Chills	18 (9.4%)	360 (5.4%)	0.017
Nausea	15 (7.9%)	402 (6.1%)	0.306
Vomit	9 (4.7%)	82 (1.2%)	<0.0001
Cough with blood	3 (1.6%)	19 (0.3%)	0.002
Saw healthcare provider for symptoms			
Yes	173 (90.6%)	646 (9.7%)	<0.0001
No	18 (9.4%)	5992 (90.3%)	
Testing status			
Sought test	18 (9.4%)	500 (7.5%)	<0.0001
Received test	146 (76.4%)	211 (3.2%)	
Did not need or try	27 (14.1%)	5927 (89.3%)	
Received lab-confirmed diagnosis			
Yes	133 (69.6%)	55 (0.8%)	<0.0001
No	58 (30.4%)	6583 (99.2%)	