

1 **SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence and Drug Use in Trauma Patients from Six Sites in the United States**

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45 **ABSTRACT**

46 In comparison to the general patient population, trauma patients show higher level detections of bloodborne
47 infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus. In comparison to bloodborne
48 pathogens, the prevalence of respiratory infections such as SARS-CoV-2 and how that relates with other
49 variables, such as drug usage and trauma type, is currently unknown in trauma populations. Here, we
50 evaluated SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity and antibody isotype profile in 2,542 trauma patients from six Level-
51 1 trauma centers between April and October of 2020 during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We
52 found that the seroprevalence in trauma victims 18-44 years old (9.79%, 95% confidence interval/CI: 8.33
53 – 11.47) was much higher in comparison to older patients (45-69 years old: 6.03%, 4.59-5.88; 70+ years
54 old: 4.33%, 2.54 – 7.20). Black/African American (9.54%, 7.77 – 11.65) and Hispanic/Latino patients
55 (14.95%, 11.80 – 18.75) also had higher seroprevalence in comparison, respectively, to White (5.72%, 4.62
56 – 7.05) and Non-Latino patients (6.55%, 5.57 – 7.69). More than half (55.54%) of those tested for drug
57 toxicology had at least one drug present in their system. Those that tested positive for narcotics or sedatives
58 had a significant negative correlation with seropositivity, while those on anti-depressants trended positive.
59 These findings represent an important consideration for both the patients and first responders that treat
60 trauma patients facing potential risk of respiratory infectious diseases like SARS-CoV-2.

61

62 INTRODUCTION

63

64 The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has been a daunting medical challenge for scientists,
65 clinicians, and healthcare professionals due to the ability of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to spread quickly and,
66 frequently, undetected. Currently, there are over 200 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, with
67 the United States accounting for almost 18 % of these cases¹. The U.S. prevalence and disparities of SARS-
68 CoV-2 infection have been documented in different demographics and regional areas²⁻⁷. However, this
69 statistic undercounts pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic patients, both of whom can transmit SARS-CoV-
70 2⁸; hence, the number of people spreading SARS-CoV-2 at any given time is difficult to determine.

71

72 Furthermore, there is limited information regarding the prevalence of COVID-19 in patients admitted to
73 hospitals due to trauma. Previous studies indicate that trauma victims have a higher prevalence of certain
74 viral infections, such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In 2018, researchers showed that 1.1% of
75 1217 individuals in a trauma cohort tested positive for HIV, which was more than three times the national
76 prevalence estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. general
77 population (0.37% or 1.2 million HIV positive cases)^{9, 10}. Other viral infection prevalence is also higher in
78 trauma patients than the national average. In a study analyzing positivity of bloodborne viruses Hepatitis
79 B/C and HIV, 75% of patients who tested positive were undiagnosed for these diseases prior to enrollment¹¹.
80 Injury severity, another pre-hospital factor, has been shown to be an independent predictor of ventilator-
81 associated pneumonia causing complications in trauma population¹². Overall, trauma patients require direct
82 and intensive care from many health care providers including the first responders (e.g., emergency medical
83 services/EMS, law enforcement), primary trauma team (e.g., treating medical staff in trauma centers), and
84 specialists (e.g. respiratory, physical, and occupational therapy)¹³.

85

86 With a high community transmission rate of SARS-CoV-2 virus along with many variant lineages of
87 concern, first responders and health care workers could be facing a much higher risk of exposure to viral

88 infection than previously expected when treating trauma patients. As reported, COVID-19 related fatality
89 risks were the single highest cause of officer line-of-duty deaths^{14, 15}. EMS providers, who have been
90 operating on the far-forward front lines of the pandemic in 2020, had more cases of severe COVID-19 than
91 firefighters (1.2% versus 0.19% respectively)¹⁶. This risk could be exacerbated by the elevated ability of
92 SARS-CoV-2 to be transmitted by asymptomatic patients. Byambasuren et al. reported a 17%
93 asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection rate of total confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infected patients in a meta-
94 analysis of data from seven countries¹⁷. Additionally, previous research found that in the summer of 2020,
95 there were approximately 4.8 undiagnosed SARS-CoV-2 infections for every reported case, totaling almost
96 17 million undiagnosed infections¹⁸. Since there are a high prevalence of viral infections in trauma
97 population and numerous asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 cases in the general population, more information is
98 needed to determine if first responders and trauma center staff could be at increased risk. Therefore,
99 knowing the prevalence of COVID-19 among trauma patients would allow first responders and healthcare
100 staff to better assess their risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection to create effective measures to mitigate the risk,
101 along with considerations for their patients.

102
103 This study assesses the SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity of 2,542 de-identified serum samples from trauma
104 patients using a standardized enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) protocol that was previously
105 developed for the national serosurvey, conducted May 10th and July 31st, 2020^{18, 19}. The serosurvey ELISA
106 protocol identified IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and its receptor binding
107 domain (RBD). This assay can assess SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity objectively using either IgG or IgM
108 detected levels – for both spike and RBD expression – based on a threshold determined by pre-pandemic
109 control samples. The goal of this study was to evaluate SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence in trauma patients to
110 offer insightful information on the association between SARS-CoV-2 infection and trauma, which has not
111 been previously reported. This serological study provides an in-depth assessment of SARS-CoV-2
112 seropositivity in trauma patients as well as detects different anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies with high
113 sensitivity and specificity for each patient sample.

114

115 **MATERIALS & METHODS**

116

117 **Recombinant proteins.** The procedure for protein expression and production of the selected spike and
118 RBD in this study has been detailed previously in an established and available protocol^{20, 21}. Briefly,
119 recombinant proteins from optimized DNA constructs (Addgene #166010 for Spike, Addgene #166019 for
120 RBD) were produced in an Expi293F mammalian expression system (Thermo Fisher Scientific). After 96
121 hours (Spike protein) or 72 hours (RBD protein) post-transfection, supernatants from transfected cells were
122 harvested by centrifugation, clarified, and subjected to tangential flow filtration (TFF) prior to purification
123 using immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC). Spike proteins were desalted, and RBD proteins
124 were further purified by size exclusion chromatography. Specific details of protein production are described
125 by Esposito et al.^{20, 21}. Final proteins were analyzed and quality-checked by SDS-PAGE with Coomassie-
126 staining, analytical size-exclusion chromatography, and mass spectrometry. Final purified proteins were
127 aliquoted, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C.

128

129 **Study Design & Sample Collection.** Between April to October 2020, a total of 2,542 human serum samples
130 were obtained as part of an ongoing National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study of
131 drug prevalence among adult (age 18+) trauma victims who were transported by EMS due to the severity
132 of their injuries and had a trauma team activated/alerted at selected Level-1 trauma centers²²⁻²⁴. The
133 specimens from this convenience sample were available for research purposes from patients who were
134 already having blood drawn as part of medical treatment at the trauma centers. The toxicological analysis
135 study followed the NHTSA's standard panel for drugs known to impair psychomotor skills that could affect
136 driving safety. When possible, excess serum samples from the study were made available for the serological
137 analyses. Samples were collected at six study sites in the United States: Baltimore, Maryland (28.13%),
138 Jacksonville, Florida (18.37%), Worcester, Massachusetts (10.70%), Charlotte, North Carolina (19.43%),

139 Miami, Florida (16.48%), and Iowa City, Iowa (6.88%). The study was conducted in accordance with Good
140 Clinical Practice, the principles of the Belmont Report and HHS regulations enumerated under 45 CFR 46.
141 The Chesapeake/Advarra Institutional Review Board served as the central IRB for five sites, and the
142 University of Florida Institutional Review Board served as the IRB of record for the Jacksonville, FL site.
143 De-identified samples and other data were included in the study under IRB-approved waivers of consent
144 and authorization. All demographic information was obtained from medical records or other secondary
145 sources such as emergency medical services run reports and crash reports. De-identified samples were then
146 sent to NIH for SARS-CoV-2 ELISA testing on dry ice overnight and stored at -80°C until processing.

147
148 **Sample and control preparation.** Serum samples were heated at 56 °C for 1h before use to reduce the risk
149 from any potential residual virus in the serum. The day before running ELISA, serum samples were diluted
150 1:400 in blocking buffer consisting of 1xPBS + 0.05% Tween20 (PBS-T) with 5.0% Nonfat Dry Milk and
151 can be stored in 4 °C for up to 12 hours. There were four controls in technical duplicate on each plate: blank
152 controls used for the secondary antibody signal only, SARS-CoV-2 convalescent patient sera diluted at 1:
153 1000 and 1: 2500 as positive controls, and archival serum as a negative control (1:400 dilution in blocking
154 buffer). Archival serum used as negative control were collected prior to the emergence of SARS-CoV-2.

155
156 **Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.** The ELISA protocol was adapted from previously established
157 protocols^{18, 19, 25, 26}. This procedure utilized a semi-automated setup (BioTek Instruments EL406
158 washer/dispenser/stacker). High-absorption 96-well plates (NuncMaxiSorp ELISA plates; ThermoFisher)
159 were coated with 100 µl per well of spike (1 µg/ml) or RBD (2 µg/ml) protein suspended in 1xPBS (Gibco)
160 and incubated overnight for at least 16 hours at 4 °C. The protein solution was removed and plates were
161 washed with 300 µL of PBS-T (0.05% Tween 20 in 1xPBS) per well three times and blocked at room
162 temperature for 2 hours with 100 µL per well of blocking buffer (5.0% Nonfat dry milk in PBS-T). After
163 blocking, plates were again washed three times with 300 µL of PBS-T per well. Next, 100 µl of each sample

164 dilution or control was added in technical duplicate into the plates and incubated for 1 hour at room
165 temperature. After sample incubation, plates were washed three times with 300 μ L of PBS-T per well. Then,
166 goat anti-human IgA, IgM, and IgG horseradish peroxidase (HRP) secondary antibodies (ThermoFisher)
167 were diluted at 1:4000 in blocking buffer and 100 μ L of each secondary antibody solution was added to
168 each well for 1 hour. Plates were again washed three times with PBS-T, then incubated with 100 μ L of 1-
169 Step™ Ultra TMB-ELISA Substrate Solution (ThermoFisher) for 10 minutes followed by 100 μ L of 1 N
170 sulfuric acid STOP Solution (ThermoFisher). Within 30 minutes after adding STOP solution, optical
171 density (OD) was measured at 450 and 650 nm using BioTek Epoch2 plate reader. To remove background,
172 the actual absorbance was calculated as the difference between OD at 450 nm and at 650 nm before further
173 statistical analysis.

174

175 **Statistical analysis.** Seropositivity was defined as either IgG or IgM OD levels above their respective
176 thresholds for both the spike and RBD expression. Using both spike and RBD expression together increased
177 sensitivity and specificity to 100% for both IgG and IgM based on evaluation with convalescent positive
178 and archival negative controls^{18, 19}. The method to determine thresholds was detailed previously using
179 simulations of different samples and control size to model the statistical confidence over a range of disease
180 prevalence and assay specificity. The threshold was determined as previously reported to ensure that the
181 lower 95% confidence limit of specificity is greater than 99%. Exact binomial methods were used to
182 compare seroprevalence between population subgroups. Multiple comparisons were corrected for using the
183 Bonferroni method. To evaluate the association between drug exposure (each drug separately, drug classes,
184 and any drug positivity overall) and SARS-CoV-2 serostatus, multivariable penalized likelihood logistic
185 regression was used, adjusting for age of the trauma patient, sex, race, ethnicity, emergency room admission
186 month, and the admission city among individuals whose samples were tested for the presence of drugs and
187 alcohol. Analysis was done using the “logistf” package version 1.24 in R version 4.0.4^{27, 28}.

188

189 **RESULTS**

190

191 *Cohort Characteristics*

192

193 The study consists of 1434 participants identified as White (56.41%), 891 as Black or African American
194 (35.05%), 24 as Asian or Asian American (0.94%), 17 as Native American or Alaska Native (0.67%), 1 as
195 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.04%), and 175 as another race or undisclosed (6.88%). Of the study
196 participants, four hundred and eight were identified as Hispanic or Latino (16.05%), while 2106 were
197 identified as Not Hispanic or Latino (82.85%), and 28 unknown (1.10%). The median age was 41, with
198 54.64 % of participants between the ages of 18 and 44, 32.61% between the ages of 45 and 69, and 12.71%
199 ages 70 or older. Most patients were male (72.80%) as opposed to female (26.04%). When compared to the
200 trauma statistics generated from total admissions recorded in the trauma registry at each of the six sites
201 during the same collection time period, the sample demographics were representative of the overall trauma
202 population within these study sites (**Fig. 1b**). When compared to the general US population this trauma
203 population is in general younger and contains more males and more non-white study participants, though
204 this population is specific to the service areas within the bounds of the six trauma centers. Within the sample
205 populations we were able to identify antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 full spike ectodomain (spike) and
206 spike receptor binding domain (RBD) with IgG, IgM and IgA classes (**Fig. 1c-e**). Daily measurements of
207 seropositivity and samples collected are displayed in **Fig. 1f**, with monthly estimates in **Fig. 1g**.

208

209 *Anti-SARS-CoV-2 isotype profile among seropositive participants*

210

211 A range of different antibody isotype profiles were detected against both full spike ectodomain (spike, **Fig.**
212 **2a**) and spike receptor binding domain (RBD, **Fig. 2b**) antigens. A positive correlation ($p \geq 0.000001$) was
213 found with all isotypes tested, with the strongest correlations between IgG and IgA isotypes and lower

214 correlation of IgG with IgM (**Fig. 2c**). The majority of those who tested positive were IgG positive (IgG+,
215 **Fig 2. d-f**, $n = 188/226$ or 83.19%). Of those that were IgG+, more than half (51.60%) had high
216 concentrations of antibody in their serum as measured by an OD reading greater than three, which correlates
217 with a monoclonal recombinant anti-RBD human IgG antibody concentration of $> 150 \text{ ug/ml}^{17}$. IgM and
218 IgA overall had lower concentrations of antibody in comparison to IgG, in agreement with previous findings
219 in the literature.

220

221 *SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence in Trauma Patients from Six Sites by Demographic Groupings*

222

223 Overall, 7.87% (95% CI: 6.88 – 8.98) of participants were seropositive (**Fig. 3**). The highest seroprevalence
224 point estimate was in Miami (12.17%, 9.36 – 15.67). Male and female participants had similar
225 seroprevalence (male: 7.73%, 6.60 – 9.03; female: 8.31%, 6.42 – 10.67). Black/African American
226 participants had the highest seropositivity of any race (9.54%, 7.77 – 11.65) which is significantly higher
227 than the overall estimate (Bonferroni adjusted $p < 0.05$), and significantly higher ($p = 0.0001$) than White
228 participants (5.72%, 4.62 – 7.05). In addition, Hispanic/Latino participants (14.95%, 11.8 – 18.75) had the
229 highest seroprevalence point estimate of any demographic group, which was significantly higher ($p =$
230 0.0001) than non-Hispanic/Latino participants (6.55%, 5.57 – 7.69). The youngest age group, 18 – 44 years,
231 had significantly higher seroprevalence (9.79%, 8.33 – 11.47) than both older groups: 45 – 69 years (6.03%,
232 4.59 – 7.88, $p = 0.0004$) and 70+ years (4.33%, 2.54 – 7.20, $p = 0.0051$), respectively.

233

234 Of these participants, 1,679 were tested by PCR for active SARS-CoV-2 infection on site at the trauma
235 centers. Testing approaches and rates varied by site due to differences in the availability of testing materials
236 at the trauma centers. Of those tested for active infections, 71 patients (4.23%, 3.36 – 5.31) were positive
237 for SARS-CoV-2. Within this group of 71 identified active infections, 41 cases were seropositive
238 (seropositivity of participants with positive COVID test: 57.75%, 46.14 – 68.55), and the other 30 cases
239 were seronegative (42.25%). This suggests that the majority of participants that tested positive for COVID

240 were convalescent and most likely outside of the window of when they were most infectious; however, over
241 40% of these participants were pre-convalescent (seronegative) suggesting early stages of disease which is
242 associated with higher viral loads.

243

244 *Trauma characteristics and correlations with seropositivity*

245

246 The highest number of admitted trauma patients were motor vehicle crash victims (MVC's; $n = 1162$, 46.18
247 %) followed by falls ($n = 601$, 23.89 %), firearm injury (GSW; $n = 273$, 10.85 %), stab ($n = 91$, 3.62 %),
248 assault ($n = 91$, 3.62 %), drowning ($n = 1$, 0.04 %), fire/burn ($n = 30$, 1.19 %) and other traumas ($n = 190$,
249 7.55 %) (**Fig. 4**). When calculating seroprevalence point estimates, “other motorized transport injuries”
250 were grouped with MVC's as road traffic injuries (RTI), while drowning and fire/burn injuries were
251 categorized as “other” (**Fig. 4a**). Assaults had the highest seroprevalence at 14.28% (8.4 – 23.06), though
252 this was not significantly higher than for other trauma categories. RTIs, falls, and other traumas had similar
253 seroprevalence (MC: 7.7%, 6.33 – 9.36; fall: 6.49%, 4.76 – 8.77; other: 6.78%, 4.08 – 10.97), while
254 seroprevalence among firearm injuries and stab wounds was slightly higher (GSW: 9.89%, 6.84 – 14.05;
255 stab: 9.68%, 5.49 – 16.29). Overall, type of trauma was not significantly associated with seroprevalence.

256

257 *Correlation of drug use with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection*

258

259 Drug toxicology results, based on the NHTSA's standard screening for drugs known to affect driving safety,
260 were available for 1,162 of the motor vehicle crash victims included in the current seroprevalence study.
261 Of these, 55.54 % tested positive for one or more drugs (52.69 – 58.37), including legal and decriminalized
262 compounds such as alcohol and marijuana. The full list of drugs that were tested are available in **Table 1**.
263 For further analysis, these drugs were classified in larger groupings as stimulants, narcotics or sedatives,
264 anti-depressants, and others classification of drugs (**Fig. 5**).

265

266 Only two of the individual drugs tested were significantly associated with SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity after
267 controlling for potential confounders. Samples tested positive for Lorazepam – belongs to a class of drugs
268 known as benzodiazepines – were associated with an increased likelihood of being SARS-CoV-2
269 seropositive (Odds Ratio (OR): 8.14, 95% CI: 1.21 – 45.0, $p = 0.03$). Meanwhile, samples tested positive
270 for fentanyl, a synthetic opioid class, were associated with a decreased likelihood of being SARS-CoV-2
271 seropositive (OR: 0.25, 95% CI: 0.03 – 0.95, $p = 0.04$). Narcotics or sedatives as a category were also
272 negatively associated with SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity (OR: 0.56, 95% CI: 0.34 – 0.90) (**Fig. 6**). When
273 comparing drug positive versus drug negative patients (those that overall had drugs detected in their
274 toxicology), there was a slight positive trend between anti-depressant positivity and SARS-CoV-2
275 seropositivity, though there was no significant difference. However, samples that tested positive for
276 narcotics or sedatives had a significantly negative correlation with SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity ($p = 0.018$).

277

278 **DISCUSSION**

279

280 Exposure of healthcare workers and first responders to infectious diseases can be concerning for both their
281 own health and safety, how they ensure proper care for an infected patient, as well as the health and safety
282 of other patients. During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, we have witnessed the personal protective equipment
283 shortages that can put both providers and patients at risk. One instance where control and isolation in the
284 context of potential infectious diseases is difficult to maintain is in trauma where the main goal is to stabilize
285 a patient's potentially life-threatening injuries²⁹. Trauma itself could also have a negative effect on the
286 patient's immune response against an infectious pathogen due to long-term immune dysfunction associated
287 with traumatic injury³⁰. The emergence of a novel virus such as SARS-CoV-2 gives the research community
288 an opportunity to thoroughly characterize the potential differential burden of respiratory viruses in trauma
289 patients at the time of admission. As such, we evaluated the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in trauma patients
290 both for knowledge regarding the COVID-19 pandemic as well as data to inform the medical field of

291 potential considerations for other respiratory viruses. In our study population of patients from urban U.S.
292 trauma centers, we found similar and in some cases exaggerated seroprevalence compared to other
293 seroprevalence studies in the United States^{18, 31-40}. In this cohort, trauma patients who were SARS-CoV-2
294 seropositive were more frequently Hispanic or Black/African American, and young (< 45 years). Over 45%
295 of seropositive trauma patients under the age of 45 identified as Black/African American, and 33% were
296 Hispanic/Latino.

297
298 While it is difficult to compare the relative risk of SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity between the general
299 population and the trauma population due to differences in donor recruitment and study design, we did note
300 that in comparison to a national study conducted by our group using the same seroassays over the same
301 time period, cities in the south/central region of the United States had higher SARS-CoV-2 prevalence in
302 trauma patients comparison to the general population. As the samples represented this trauma population
303 were obtained from only six trauma centers and not all Level-1 trauma facilities throughout the United
304 States, the study cannot be used to infer seroprevalence in the overall trauma population of the United
305 States. In addition, one of six sites, Iowa City, had a slightly delayed collection timeframe in comparison
306 to the other five. Therefore, further investigation is necessary to understand the seroprevalence at each
307 trauma center in comparison to its region.

308
309 Published seroprevalence estimates of the general population of Massachusetts during the same time period
310 as this study showed a lower prevalence (4.0%) in comparison to the trauma population sampled from
311 Worcester, MA (7.72%)³⁹. Another study in Miami found that during the spring/summer of 2020 the general
312 population had a lower seroprevalence of 6.0% compared to the trauma population at 12.17%⁴¹. A study in
313 central North Carolina found increasing seroprevalence in the general community from 2.9% to 9.1% from
314 April through October. Our estimate from Charlotte, NC which was gathered in July at 7.28%, could
315 suggest a higher than state-average rate of SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence in the trauma population, given

316 the steady rate of new case diagnosis in North Carolina during this timeframe, though further analyses are
317 needed to evaluate the probability of this phenomenon⁵.

318

319 Among motor vehicle crash victims specifically, a large proportion of trauma victims were positive for
320 drugs or alcohol. There was a lower likelihood that these individuals had a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection if
321 they were positive for narcotics or sedatives (including marijuana). Interestingly, there was a positive
322 correlation with the depressant Lorazepam and SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity; this medication induces
323 anxiolysis and sedation. In addition lorazepam can worsen obstructive pulmonary disease and lead to
324 respiratory compromise⁴². Whether seropositivity among specific drug exposed individuals is due to
325 chemical activity of the drug or alterations in behavior of those using these drugs remains to be determined,
326 as do the implications of these relationships for first responders and other medical professionals needing to
327 treat trauma patients under the influence of certain drugs. As the stimulant drug class trends higher
328 seropositivity than THC, alcohol, benzodiazepines, or narcotics, and methamphetamine use is correlated
329 with increased risk-taking behavior, this may explain a higher trending SARS-CoV-2 exposure.
330 Additionally, patients using stimulants such as methamphetamine often present in the emergency room with
331 excited delirium, spitting, and physical aggression can lead to breakdown in PPE protocols for healthcare
332 providers.

333

334 The increased incidence of previously reported viral infections (HIV and hepatitis) in trauma victims could
335 be co-dependent upon the increased prevalence of injectable drug use in the trauma population, creating
336 difficulty in determining correlation versus causation^{43, 44}. Given that SARS-CoV-2 is a respiratory
337 pathogen and as of the writing of this manuscript not known to be transmitted by blood or needle sharing,
338 this could create an important consideration for other respiratory viruses, such as influenza, necessitating
339 an evaluation of personal protective equipment afforded to first responders, and considerations in patient
340 care for trauma patients.

341

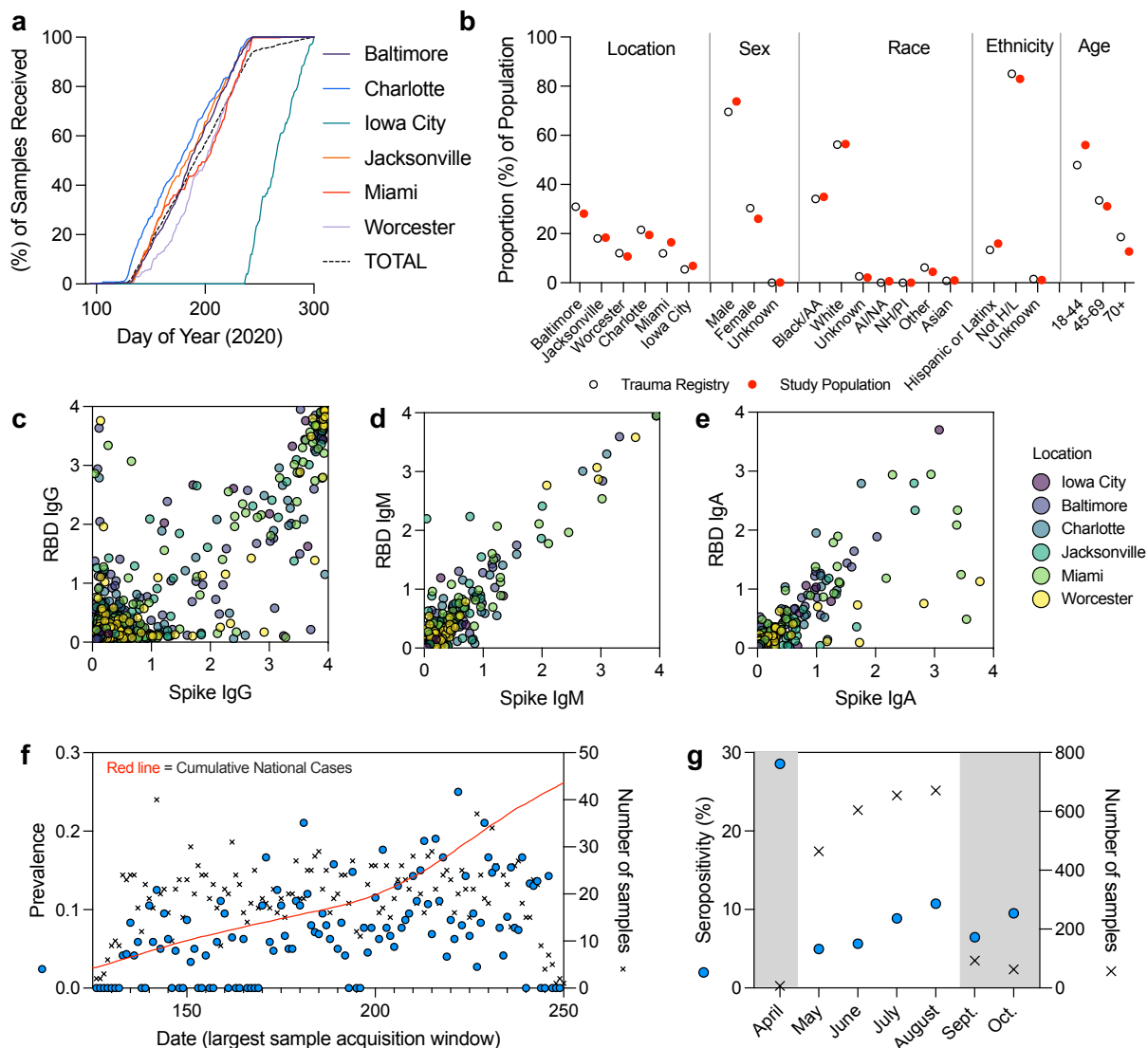
342 In this study, we have shown that differences in SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence among trauma patients are,
343 as with the general population, correlated with region, race, ethnicity, and age. There are also correlations
344 associated with use of legal and illegal drugs, including a negative correlation of SARS-CoV-2
345 seropositivity with the use of narcotics or sedatives. A number of factors can affect respiratory disease
346 spread and severity from the population level to the individual level. More densely populated areas can be
347 subject to more rapid spread of disease due to increased likelihood of coming into contact with an infected
348 individual^{45, 46}. Unequal access to healthcare and education on disease prevention can also lead to
349 differences in disease spread⁴⁷. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, trauma patients have been shown to have
350 higher incidence of a variety of infectious diseases, though prior research has focused on bloodborne
351 pathogens. Respiratory diseases such as SARS-CoV-2 have the potential to complicate care plans for
352 trauma patients who are susceptible to increased risk for post-trauma lung conditions such as pneumonia.
353 Our results suggest a potential higher incidence of SARS-CoV-2 in trauma patients. These data are
354 important in evaluating both the varying risks that are posed to first responders, as well as understanding
355 potential patterns of infectious disease spread to prepare seasonal and future emerging infectious disease
356 threats in at-risk patients.

357

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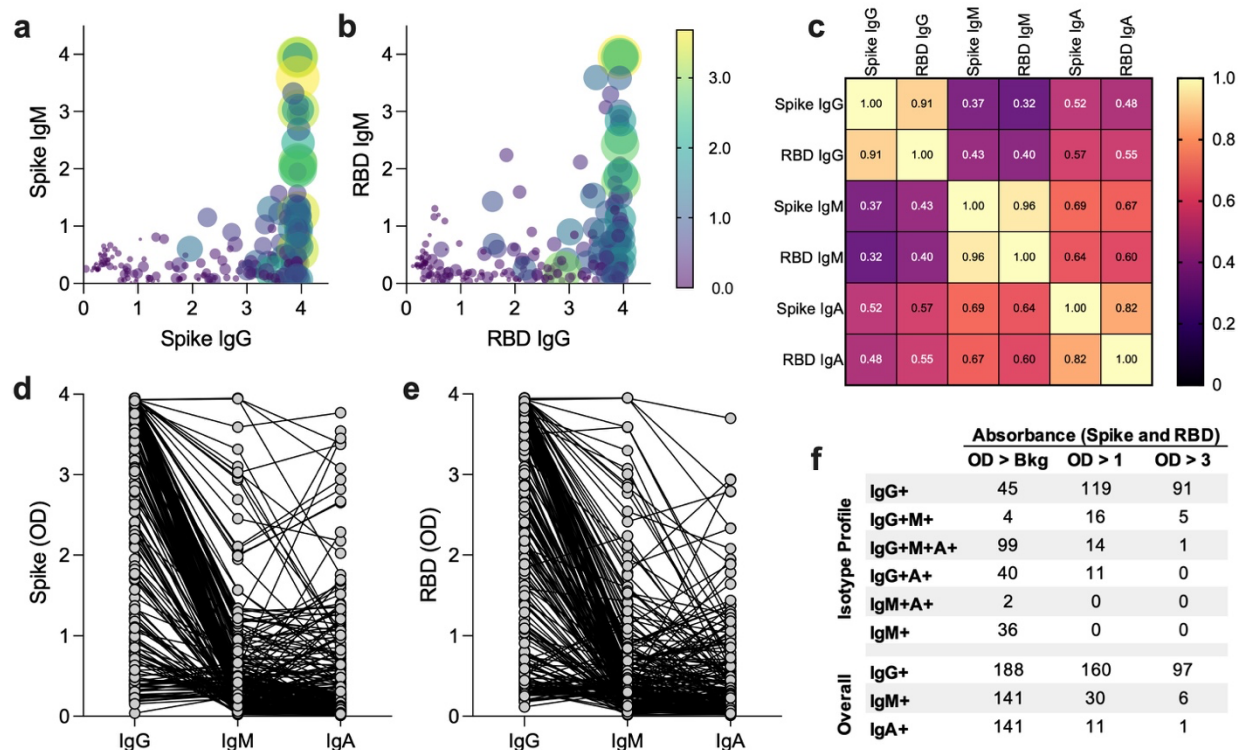
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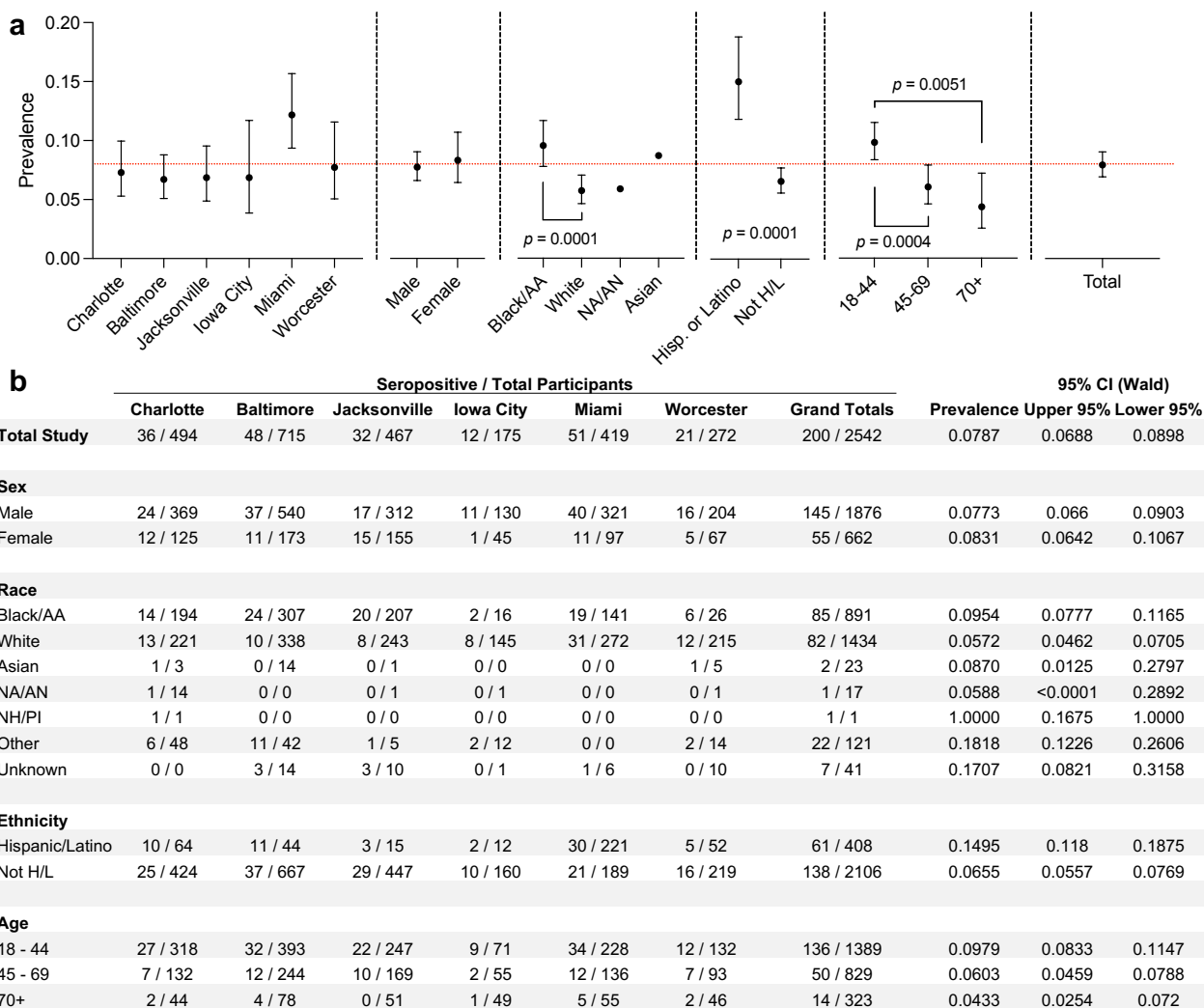
370
 371 **Figure 1: Trauma patient plasma sample collection timeline and SARS-CoV-2 serologic analysis.** (a)
 372 sample collection timeline from six participating trauma centers, Baltimore (purple), Charlotte (blue), Iowa
 373 City (green), Jacksonville (red), Miami (orange), Worcester (light purple), total (dashed black). (b)
 374 Comparison of study population (red dot) to trauma registry data (open circle) within the same timeframe
 375 of collection. (c) Raw IgG serology ELISA absorbance values for SARS-CoV-2 Spike ectodomain, and
 376 receptor binding domain (RBD), (d) IgM, (e) IgA. (f) Number of samples collected (black x) versus daily
 377 seroprevalence (blue circle, see statistical methods) in the context of overall US national case trends (red
 378 line) during the main collection window. (g) Monthly seropositivity of samples, main collection window in
 379 white.

380



381

382 **Figure 2: SARS-CoV-2 antibody isotype profile in seropositive patients.** (a) Absorbance values for
 383 spike IgG (x-axis), IgM (y-axis), and IgA (point size/color). (b) Absorbance values for RBD IgG (x-axis),
 384 IgM (y-axis), and IgA (point size/color). (c) Correlation of expression between different serologic analytes.
 385 (d-e) Individual antibody comparing OD levels of IgG, IgM, and IgA isotypes for (d) spike and (e) RBD
 386 analytes. (f) Intensity of ELISA reading with “Bkg” = Threshold/Background, OD >1 being mid to high
 387 antibody concentration, and OD > 3 representing high and off-scale high antibody concentrations.



388

389

390 **Figure 3: Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Trauma Patients During the Summer 2020 COVID-19**

391 **wave.** (a) Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies by demographics, data are means \pm 95% confidence

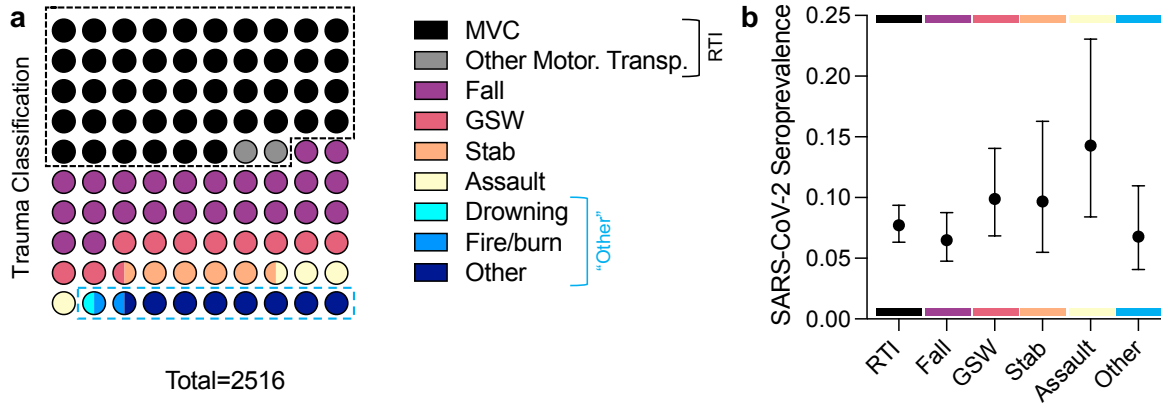
392 interval (Wald), CI's not shown for large-error (small n) samples (NA/AN, Asian). Significance = students

393 T-test, determined by Bonferroni post-hoc adjustment for multiple comparisons. Red line = total

394 seroprevalence of overall study population. (b) Chart of raw seropositivity data from different demographic

395 groupings within different sites. AA = African American; NA/AN = Native American/Alaska Native; H/L

396 = Hispanic or Latino; NH/PI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

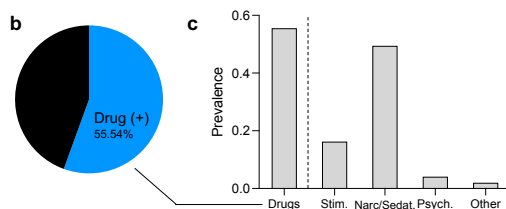


397

398 **Figure 4: Trauma classifications and correlations with SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity.** (a) Trauma
 399 classification of 2516 trauma cases. (b) SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence in different trauma groups. Road
 400 Traffic Injuries (RTI) = Motor Vehicle crash (MVC) and Other Motorized Transportation. GSW = Gunshot
 401 Wound. Other = classified as "other" plus Drowning and Fire/Burn cases (due to low n). Data are point
 402 estimates \pm 95% confidence interval (Wald).

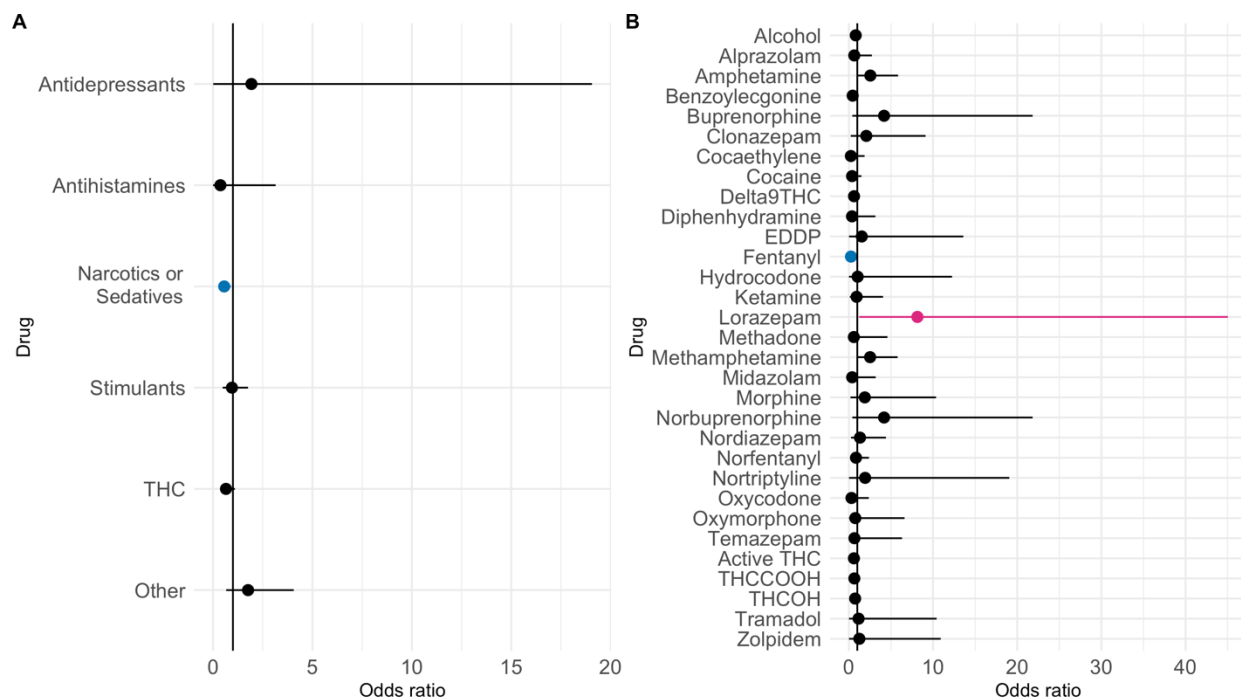
a

	Demographic	Total (n)	Drug Positive (n)	Drug Prevalence
Location	Jacksonville	259	160	0.618
	Baltimore	322	178	0.553
	Miami	173	94	0.543
	Iowa City	61	26	0.426
	Worcester	109	65	0.596
	Charlotte	248	128	0.516
Age	18-44	707	450	0.636
	45-69	377	180	0.477
	70+	87	21	0.241
Sex	Male	825	470	0.570
	Female	345	181	0.525
Race	White	666	352	0.528
	Black/AA	402	257	0.639
	Asian	14	4	0.285
	NA/AN	5	4	0.800
	NH/PI	0	0	
	Other	10	2	0.200
	Unknown	23	13	0.565
	More than One	7	4	0.571
Ethnicity	Hispanic	191	91	0.476
	NH	971	557	0.574
	Unknown	10	3	0.300



403

404 **Figure 5: Drug prevalence in trauma patients during the summer 2020 COVID-19 wave.** (a) Chart of
 405 number of trauma cases tested for drugs (motor vehicle crashes only). (b) Proportion of trauma victims that
 406 tested positive for one or more drugs in blood plasma. (c) Prevalence of different drug classifications within
 407 the trauma population¹⁴. Stim. = stimulants; Narc/Sedat. = Narcotic or Sedatives; Psych = Psychoactive.



408

409 **Figure 6: Correlation of SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence and Drug Presence in Trauma Patients.** Odds
 410 ratios with 95% confidence intervals of a positive drug test and a positive SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity
 411 result. (a) Drug Classes. (b) Individual drugs. Red = positive correlation. Blue = Negative correlation. Black
 412 = not statistically significant.

	Category 1	Category 2	Available as Prescription	Other Drug Name	Other Notes 1	Other Notes 2	Number Detected	Number Cov2 Sero+	Number Cov2 Sero-
6-AcetylMorphine	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				1	0	1
7-Aminoclonazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Klonopin	Breakdown product		3	0	3
Acetylfentanyl	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				1	0	1
ActiveTHC	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Marijuana			324	19	305
Alcohol	Narcotic or Sedative	Depressant					295	20	275
Alprazolam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Xanax	Depression	Anxiety	29	1	28
Bromazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Pre-surgery anxiety	Anxiety	0		
Buprenorphine	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				8	1	7
Butalbital	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Barbituate		4	0	4
Carfentanil	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				0		
Carisoprodol	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Muscle relaxant		2	0	2
Chlordiazepoxide	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Alcohol withdrawl	Anxiety	4	0	4
Clonazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Klonopin	Depression	Anxiety	18	1	17
Codeine	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				4	0	4
Cyclobenzaprine	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Muscle relaxant		2	0	2
Diazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Valium	Alcohol withdrawl		16	0	16
EDDP	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES	Methadone	Breakdown product		7	0	7
Fentanyl	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				73	1	72
Fluorofentanyl	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				0		
Furanylfentanyl	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				2	0	2
Hydrocodone	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				6	0	6
Hydromorphone	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				0		
Lorazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Seizures	Anxiety	6	2	4
Meprobamate	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Anxiety		2	0	2
Methadone	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES		Narcotic drug withdrawl		22	0	22
Midazolam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Pre-surgery anxiety	Anxiety	13	0	13
Morphine	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				11	1	10
Norbuprenorphine	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				8	1	7
Nordiazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Alcohol withdrawl	Anxiety	28	2	26
Norfentanyl	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				66	3	63
Oxazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Alcohol withdrawl	Anxiety	0		
Oxycodone	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				29	0	29
Oxymorphone	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES				12	0	12
Phenobarbital	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Barbituate	Seizures/Epilepsy	0		
Secobarbital	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Barbituate		0		
Temazepam	Narcotic or Sedative		YES		Insomnia		7	0	7
THCCOOH	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Marijuana			441	28	413
THCOH	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Marijuana			189	12	177
Tramadol	Narcotic or Sedative	Analgesic	YES		Narcotic opioid		8	0	8
Zolpidem	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Ambien	Insomnia		7	0	7
Δ9THC	Narcotic or Sedative		YES	Marijuana			320	19	301
Amitriptyline	Anti-depressant		YES		TCA		3	0	3
Citalopram	Anti-depressant		YES		SSRI		1	0	1
Desipramine	Anti-depressant		YES		TCA		0		
Doxepin	Anti-depressant		YES		TCA		0		
Fluoxetine	Anti-depressant		YES	Prozac	SSRI		0		
Imipramine	Anti-depressant		YES	Tofranil	TCA		0		
Ketamine	Anti-depressant	Psychoactive; Analgesic	YES				20	1	19
Nortriptyline	Anti-depressant		YES	Pamelor	TCA		6	0	6
Sertraline	Anti-depressant		YES		SSRI		1	0	1
Trazodone	Anti-depressant		YES		SSRI		0		
Venlafaxine	Anti-depressant		YES		SNRI		1	0	1
α PVP	Stimulant	Psychoactive		Bath Salts			0		
Amphetamine	Stimulant			Meth			58	7	51
Benzoyllecgonine	Stimulant			Cocaine			118	4	114
Cocaehtylene	Stimulant			Cocaine			19	0	19
Cocaine	Stimulant			Cocaine			45	1	44
Ephedrine	Stimulant		YES				0		
MDA	Stimulant	Psychoactive			Ecstasy-related		0		
MDMA	Stimulant	Psychoactive		Ecstasy			0		
Methamphetamine	Stimulant			Meth			58	7	51
Methylphenidate	Stimulant		YES	Ritalin			0		
Phencyclidine	Stimulant	Psychoactive		PCP			3	0	3
Phentermine	Stimulant		YES			Weight loss	1	0	1
Phenylpropanolamine	Stimulant		OTC			Weight loss	0		
Pseudoephedrine	Stimulant		OTC		Decongestant		0		
Chlorpheniramine	Antihistamine		OTC			Antihistamine	0		
Diphenhydramine	Antihistamine		OTC	Benadryl		Antihistamine	14	0	14
Doxylamine	Antihistamine		OTC	Unisom		Antihistamine	1	0	1
Dextromethorphan	Anti-tussive		OTC	Robutussin		Cough Medicine	4	2	2

413

414 **Table 1: Drugs evaluated in trauma patients and seropositivity results.** Details regarding the individual

415 drugs are displayed along with other drug name and notes regarding its application. The number detected

416 is the number of samples that tested positive for the given drug. Number Cov2 Sero+ is the number that

417 tested positive for IgG or IgM antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. OTC = over the counter.

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