

Winter Storm in Austin, TX: An Initial Analysis

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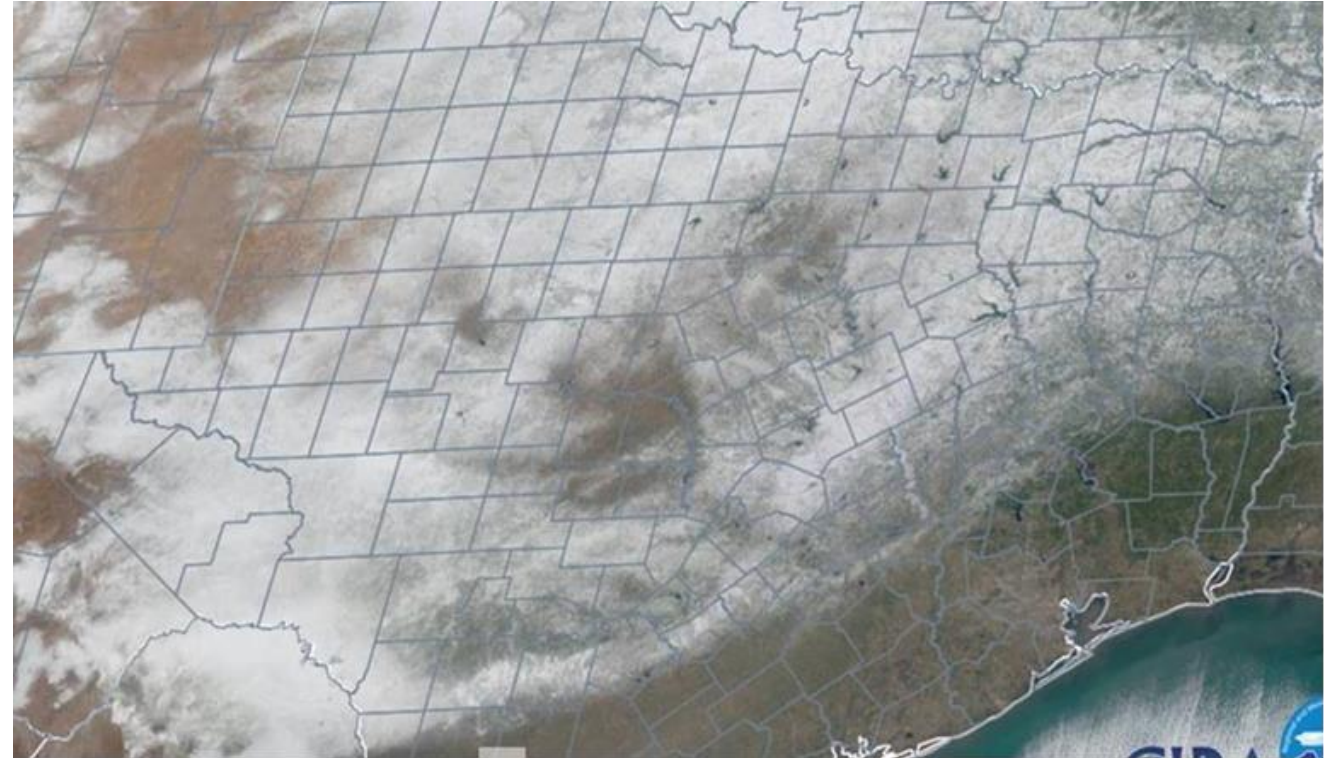


Winter Storm



Winter Storm Timeline

- ❖ February 10th – Winter Storm Advisory & COA activated Cold Weather shelter plan
- ❖ February 12th – Winter storm warning & watch issued (through the 15th)
- ❖ February 13th – Winter storm warning extended *Power outages started*
- ❖ February 17th – Winter weather advisory & Water boil advisory
- ❖ February 18th – Hard Freeze Warning
- ❖ February 19th – Freeze Warning
- ❖ February 20th – Power returned to last portions of city
- ❖ February 26 – Water Boil Advisory lifted



Satellite Image of snow over the counties of Texas. Yes, snow.



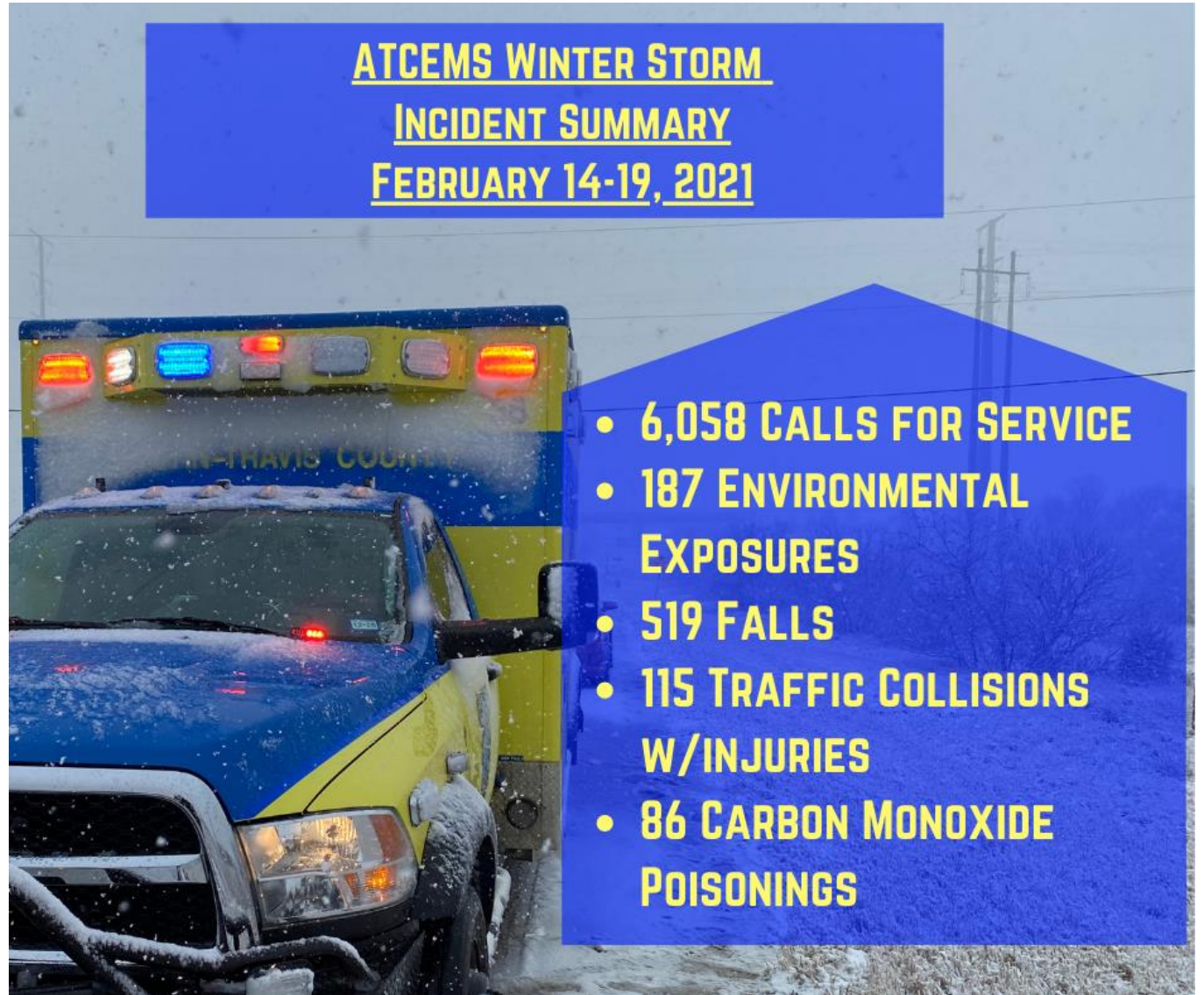
Data Types

- ❖ EMS Encounters
- ❖ Syndromic Surveillance
- ❖ Death Certificates



EMS Encounters

- ❖ In Progress – initial numbers
- ❖ On February 15th – almost 1500 calls for service
- ❖ Normal calls ~400/day



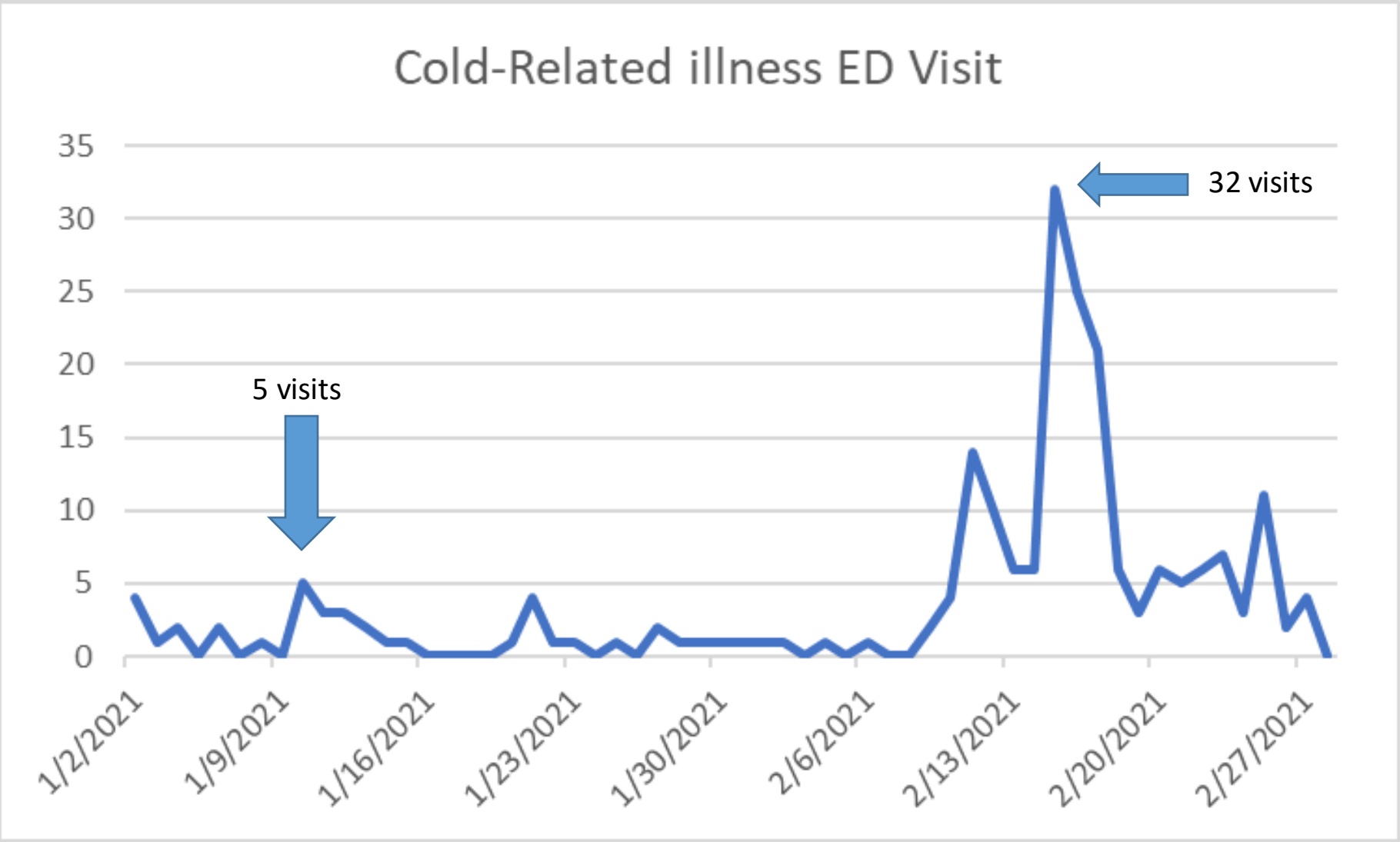
ATCEMS WINTER STORM
INCIDENT SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 14-19, 2021

- **6,058 CALLS FOR SERVICE**
- **187 ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES**
- **519 FALLS**
- **115 TRAFFIC COLLISIONS W/INJURIES**
- **86 CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS**



Syndromic Surveillance

Cold-Related illness ED Visit

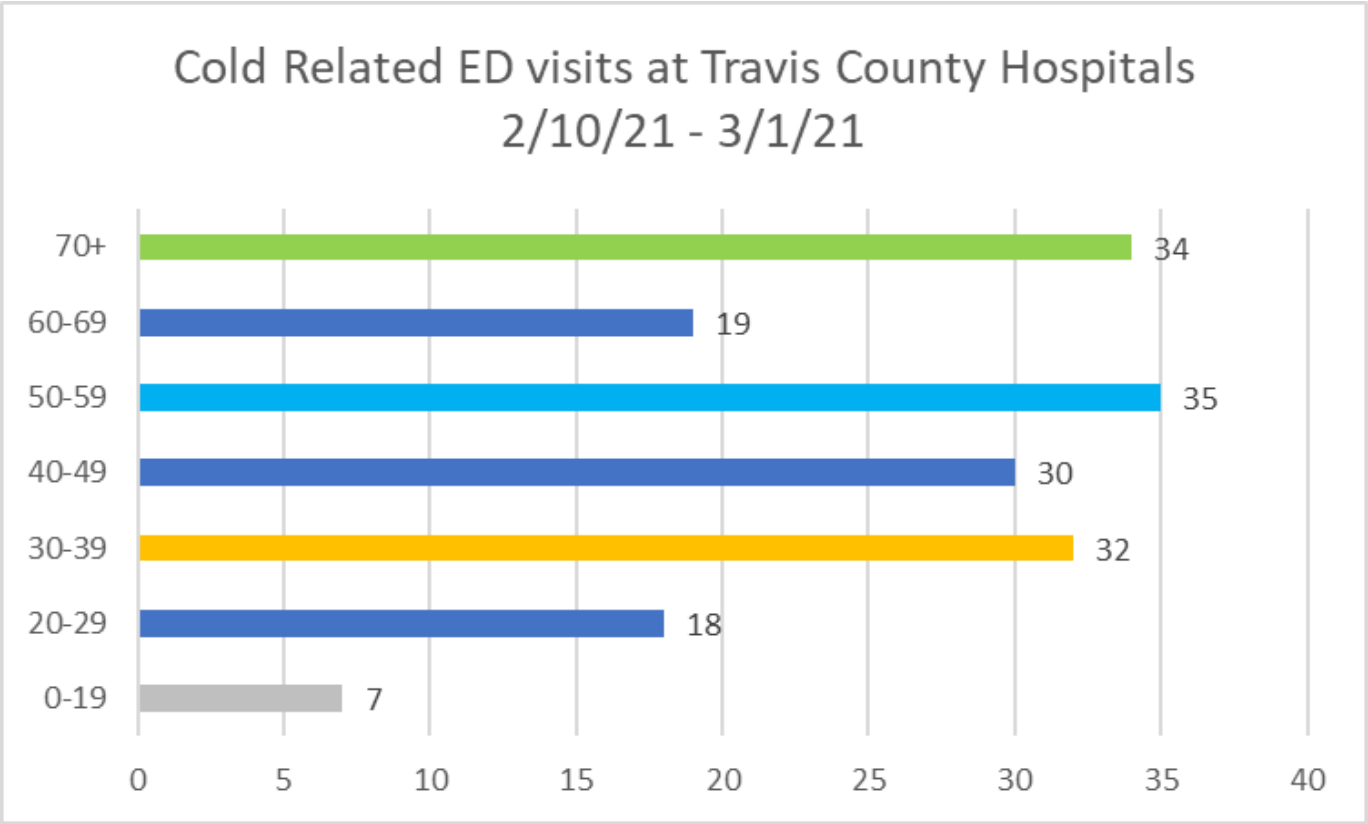


Highest Visit Zip Codes:
78701 and 78745

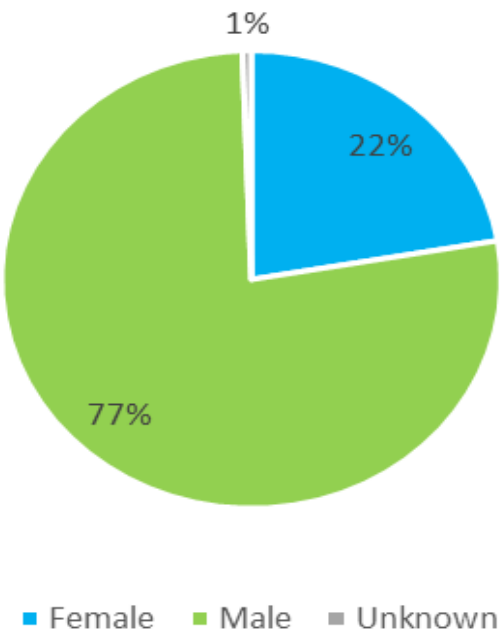


Syndromic Surveillance Feb 10 – March 1st

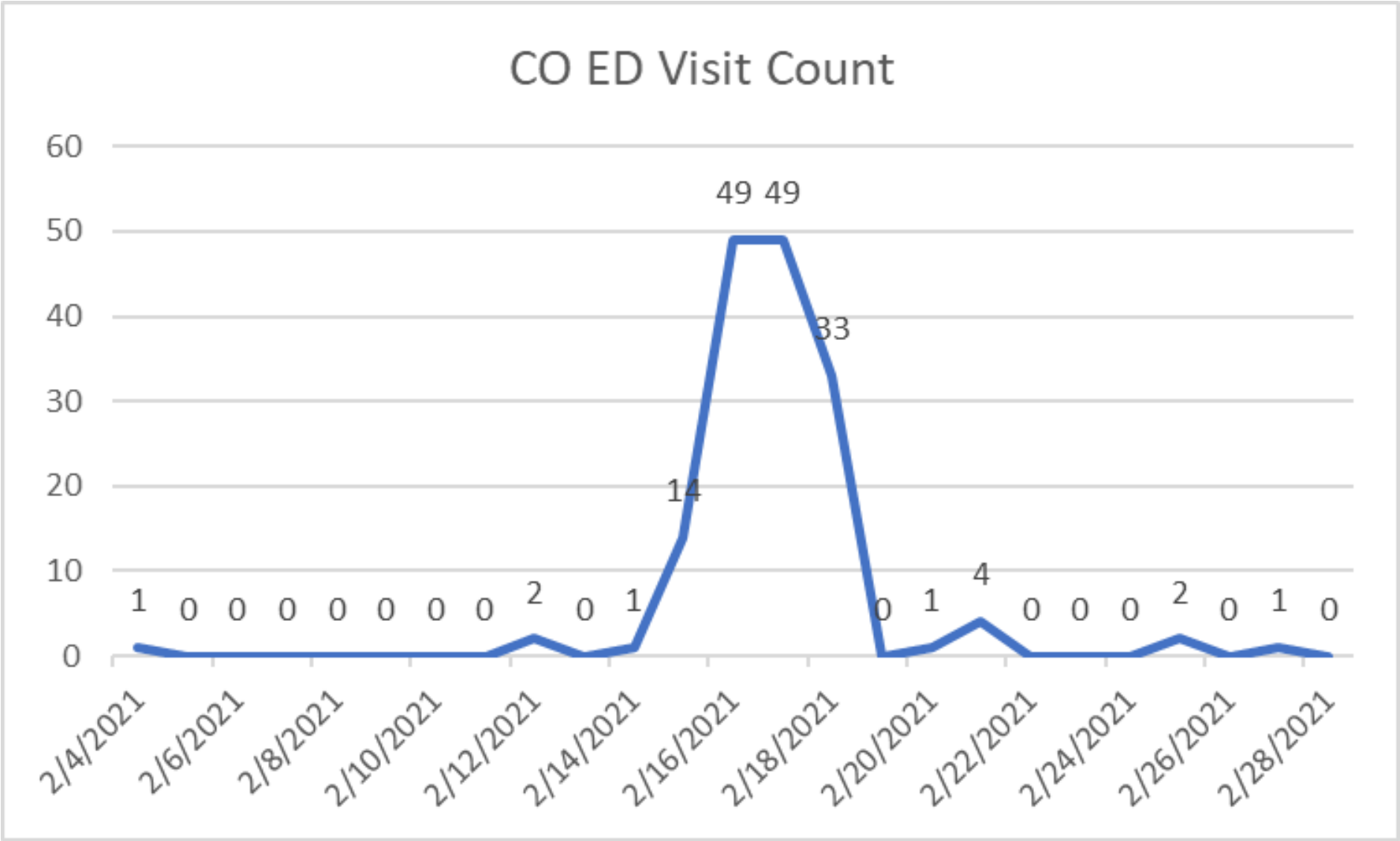
Highest Visit Zip Codes: 78701 and 78745



Cold Related ED Visits by Sex



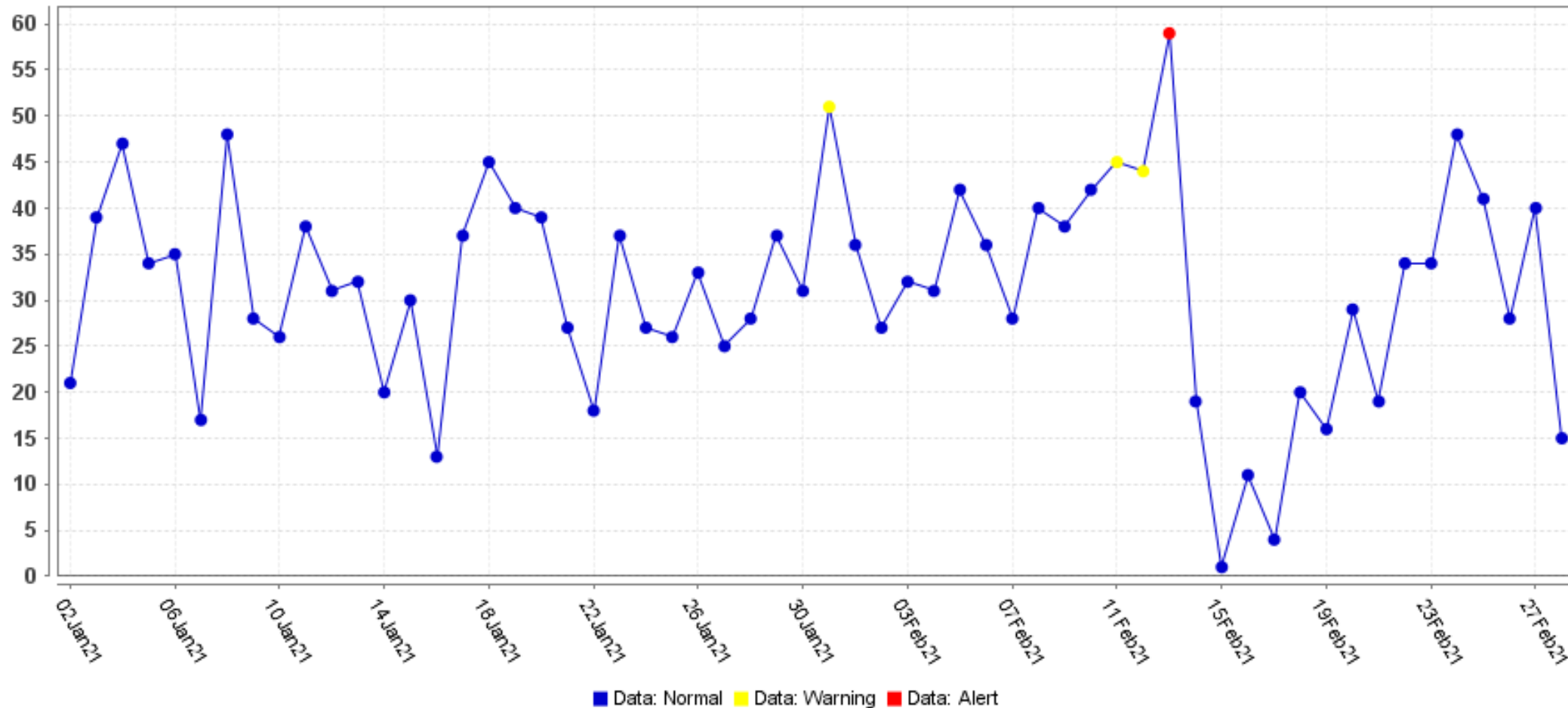
Unintentional Carbon Monoxide Poisoning



Motor Vehicle Crashes

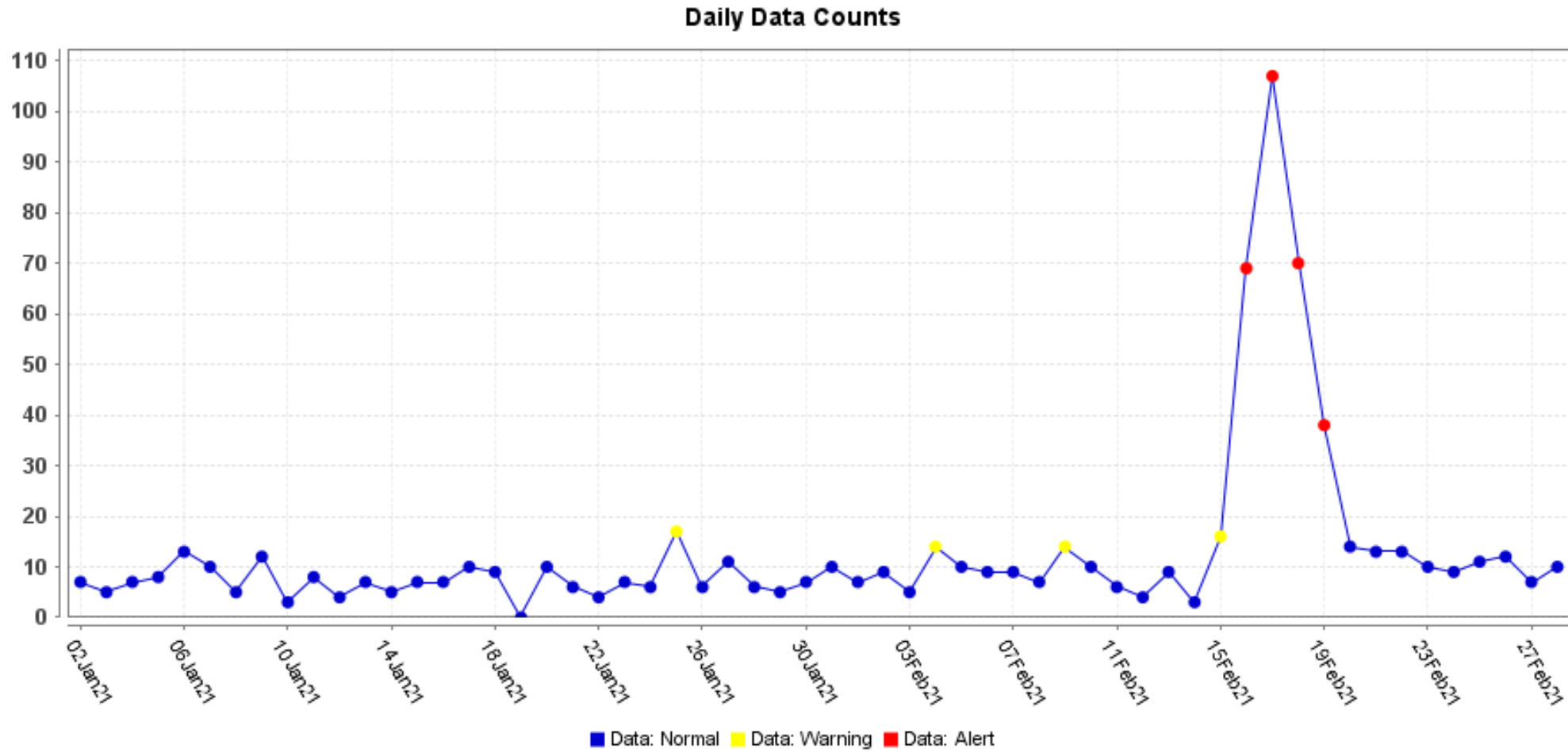
❖ NSSP: All Traffic Related v2

Daily Data Counts



Dialysis

❖ NSSP: CDC Dialysis v1



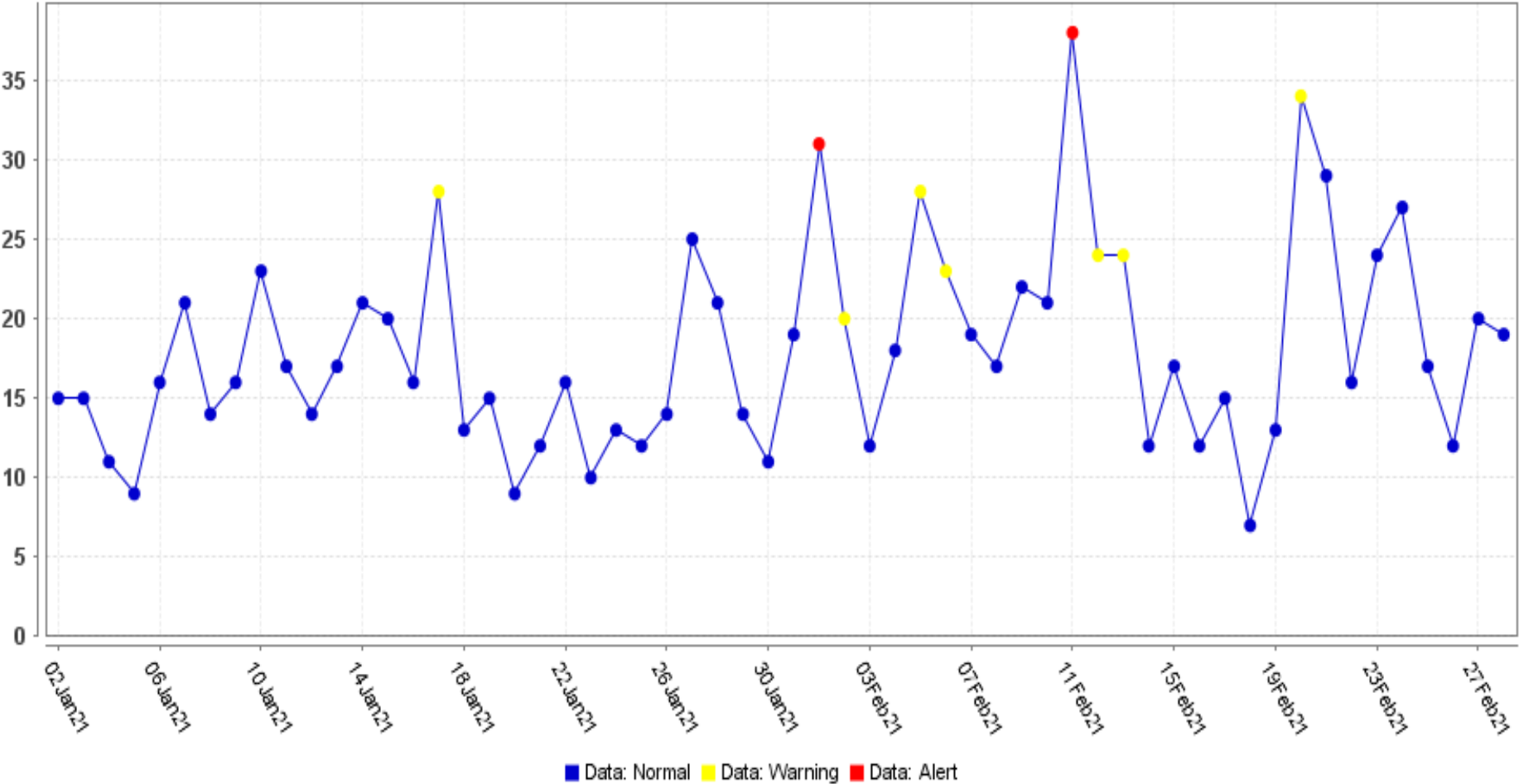
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Homelessness Query

❖ Thanks to Washington for this

Daily Data Counts



Death Data

“DSHS disaster epidemiologists continue to reconcile information about causes of death. The majority of verified deaths were associated with **hypothermia**. There have also been multiple deaths caused by motor vehicle accidents, carbon monoxide poisoning, medical equipment failure, exacerbation of chronic illness, lack of home oxygen, falls, and fire. Confirmed deaths occurred between Feb. 11 and March 5.” - DSHS
(<https://dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm#wm>)

❖ Deaths in Texas: 151 (as of 4.28.21)

❖ Deaths that occurred in City of Austin: 21

❖ 12 Hypothermia

- ❖ Age 18-59: 2
- ❖ Age 60+: 10
- ❖ Male: 7
- ❖ Female: 5

❖ 5 Fall/other

- ❖ Age 18-59: 3
- ❖ Age 60+: 2
- ❖ Male: 2
- ❖ Female: 3

❖ We are still receiving medical records for the storm



We can't forget COVID!

- ❖ At least 1 known positive COVID-19 patient in a warming center



Still to come

- ❖ Ideas to work with state to compare instances of CO poisoning and other issues
 - ❖ Example: Less CO in areas where Hurricanes are more present and people used to using generators?
- ❖ Looking at zip codes – are there ties to heat vulnerability and cold vulnerability
- ❖ Shelter Surveillance Improvements
- ❖ Summer Heat – will a power outage happen again?



Questions?

Thank you!

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