



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives



CERCL  
COVID Equity Response  
Collaborative Loyola

# COVID Equity Response Collaborative Loyola (CERCL): Understanding COVID-19 Transmission in Communities of Color

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## Background

COVID Equity Response Collaborative Loyola (CERCL): test-trace-isolate  
African American and Hispanic/Latinx residents in suburban Cook county

- Higher COVID (+) rates: 2.5 - 3.5 times
- Limited access to healthcare and testing



## Purpose

To address racial/ethnic health inequities in the current pandemic

Provide free COVID-19 testing

Screen for social/legal needs and make referrals

Identify possible transmission routes

- Social network and epidemiologic analysis

Conduct serologic antibody surveillance

Biobank nasopharyngeal and serum samples

- Emerging pathogen surveillance

## Method

Separate informed consent: testing and each component of research

Free COVID test via nasopharyngeal samples

Screen for legal/social needs and make referrals

Administer a modified version of the General Social Survey (GSS) network questionnaire

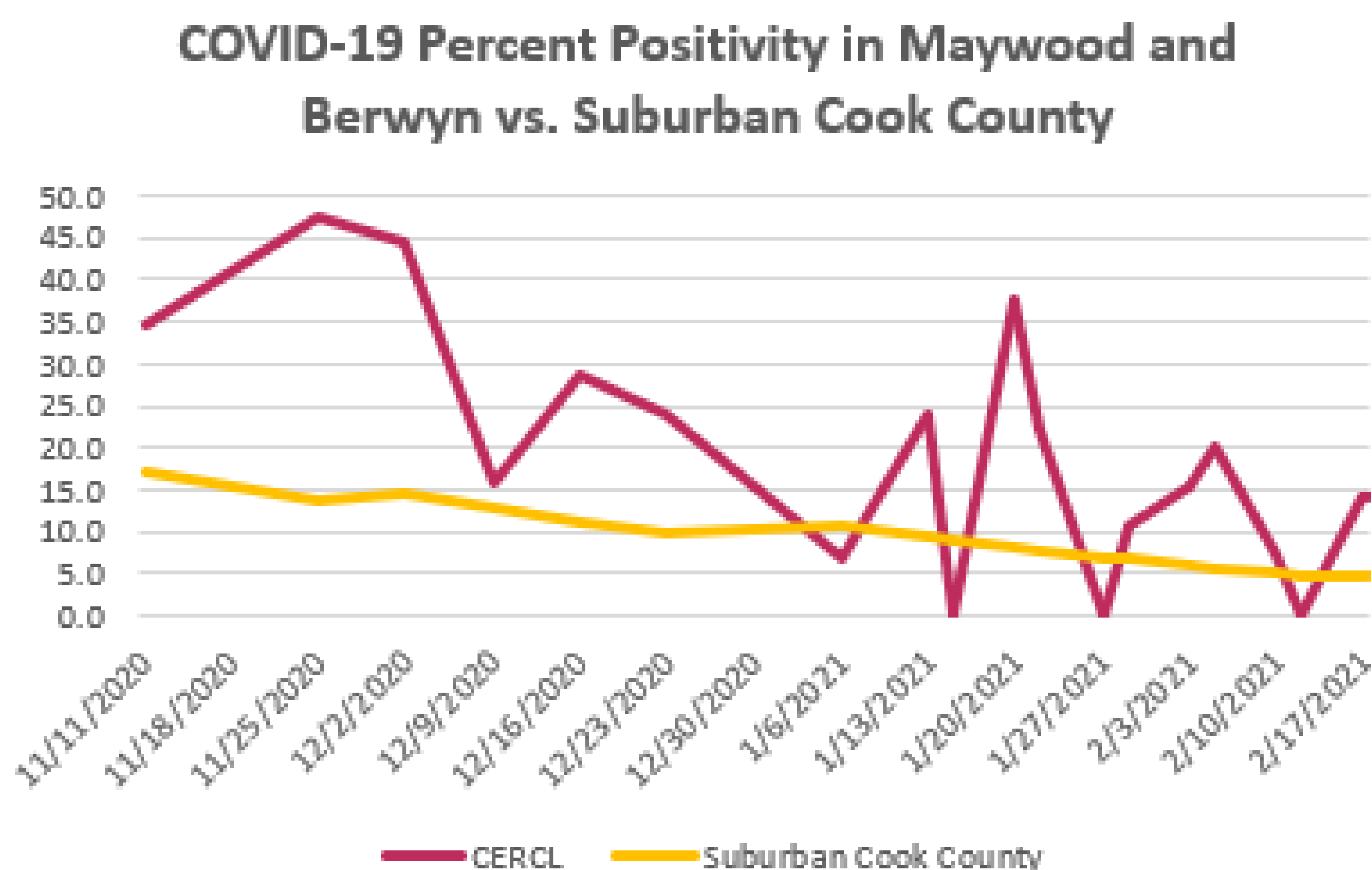
Biobank nasopharyngeal and serum samples

Monitor individual's antibodies SARS-CoV2 virus via ELISA

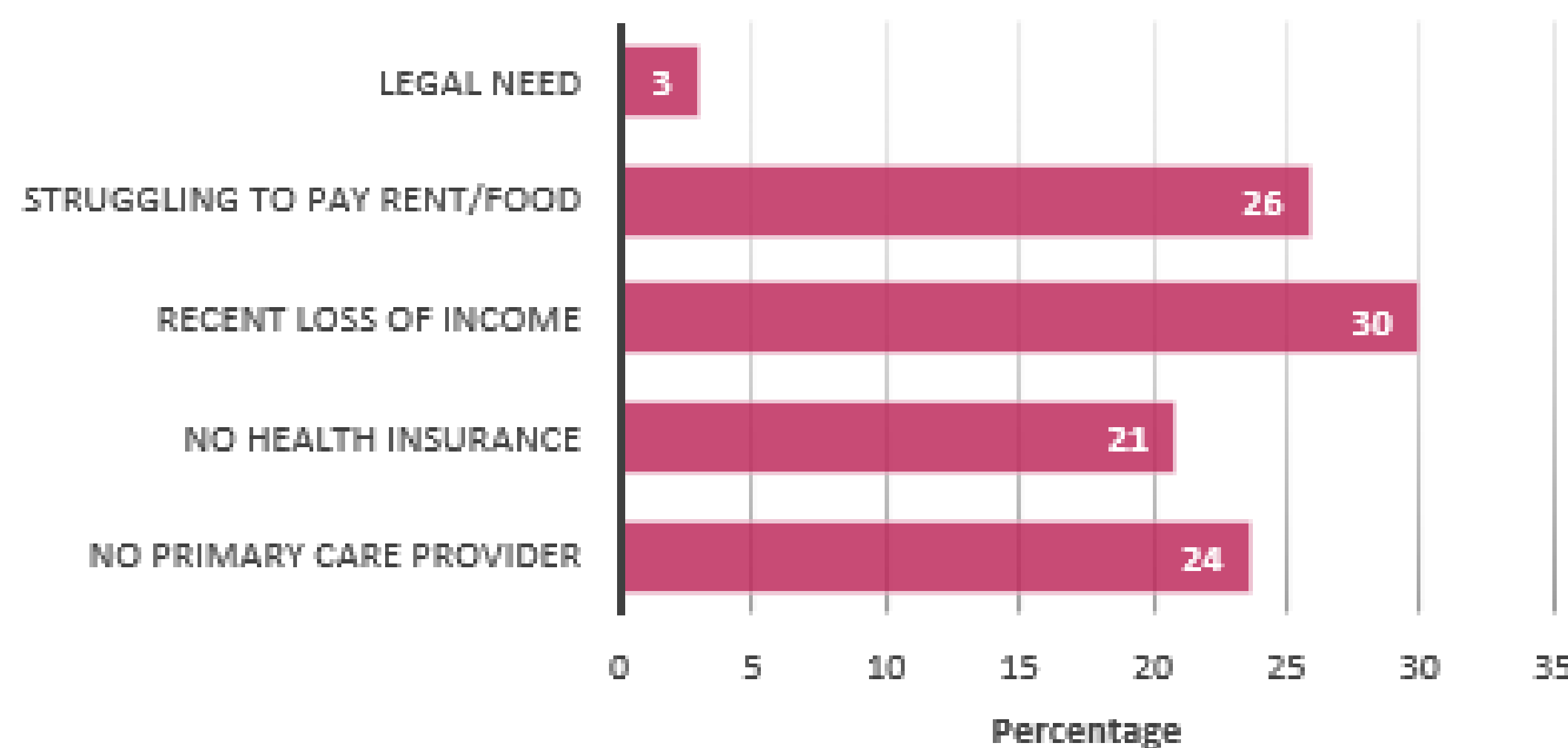
## Results

Ongoing - As of February 22, 2021

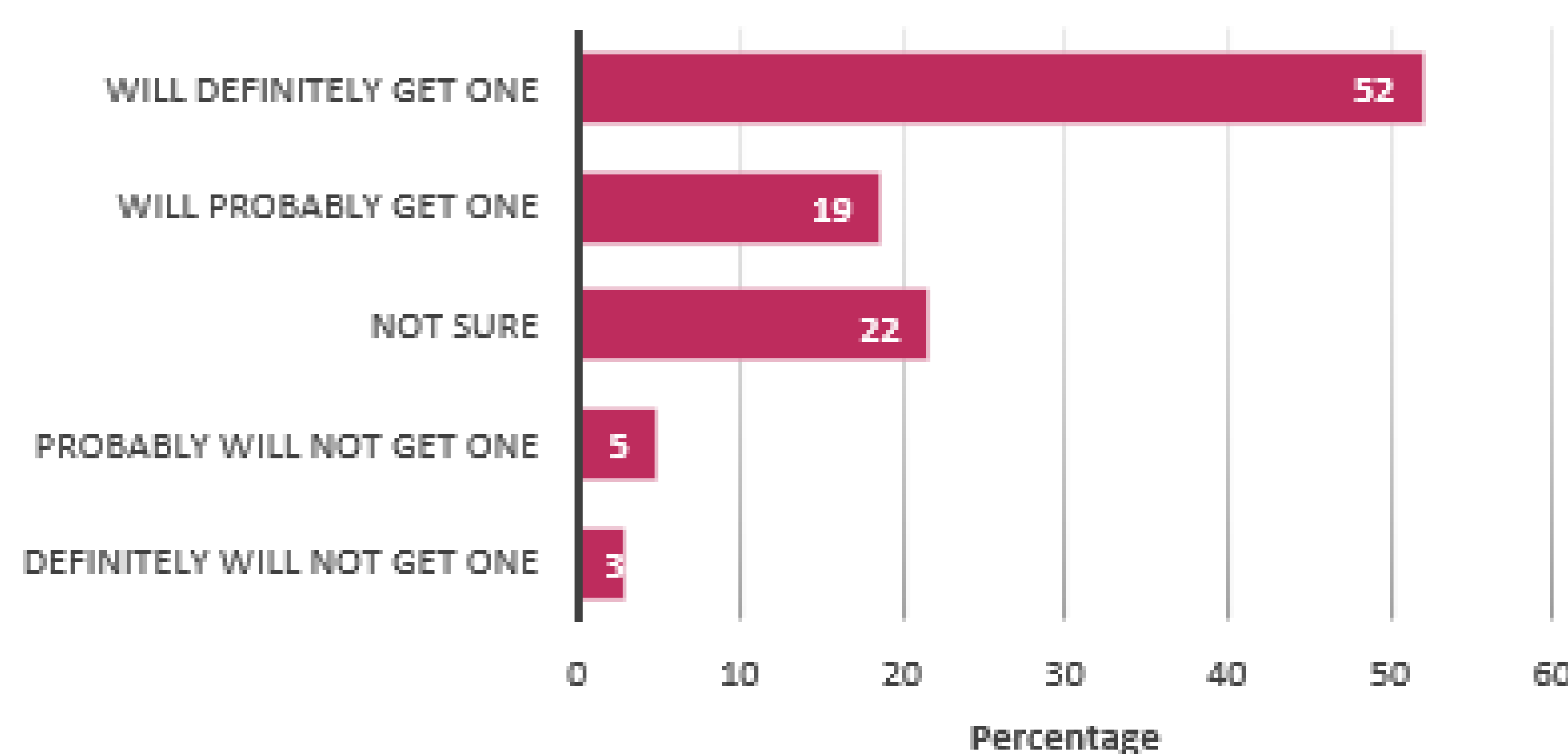
- Testing and social/legal need screening: 526



## Social and Legal Needs



## Will You Get COVID-19 Vaccine?



## Conclusion

Suburban Cook county communities:  
Higher COVID (+) rates  
More struggles to meet basic needs  
COVID vaccine hesitancy  
Support and resources remain severely lacking  
Public priority in the pandemic recovery

- Prioritize education, gaining trust, and distribution related to COVID vaccines
- Increase affordable healthcare and testing
- Increase social support and resources



## Acknowledgement

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