

FAQs for Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

June 10, 2020

Today's Overview



NH Updates & CMS Nursing Home Data



Last Week's FAQ Follow-up



Audience Q&A

CMS Nursing Home Data

Residents Cases and Deaths

TOTAL COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES

95,515

TOTAL COVID-19 SUSPECTED CASES

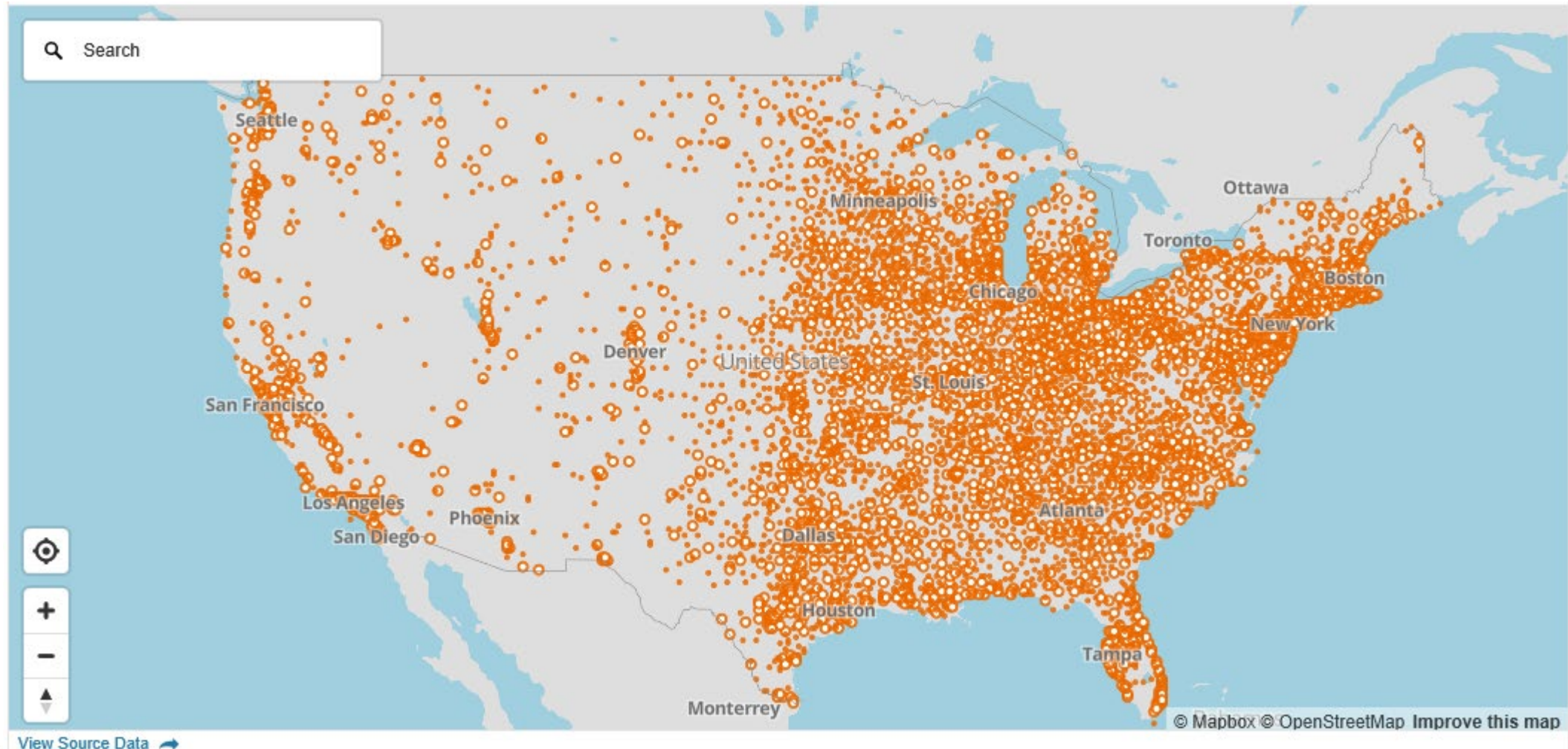
58,288

TOTAL COVID-19 DEATHS

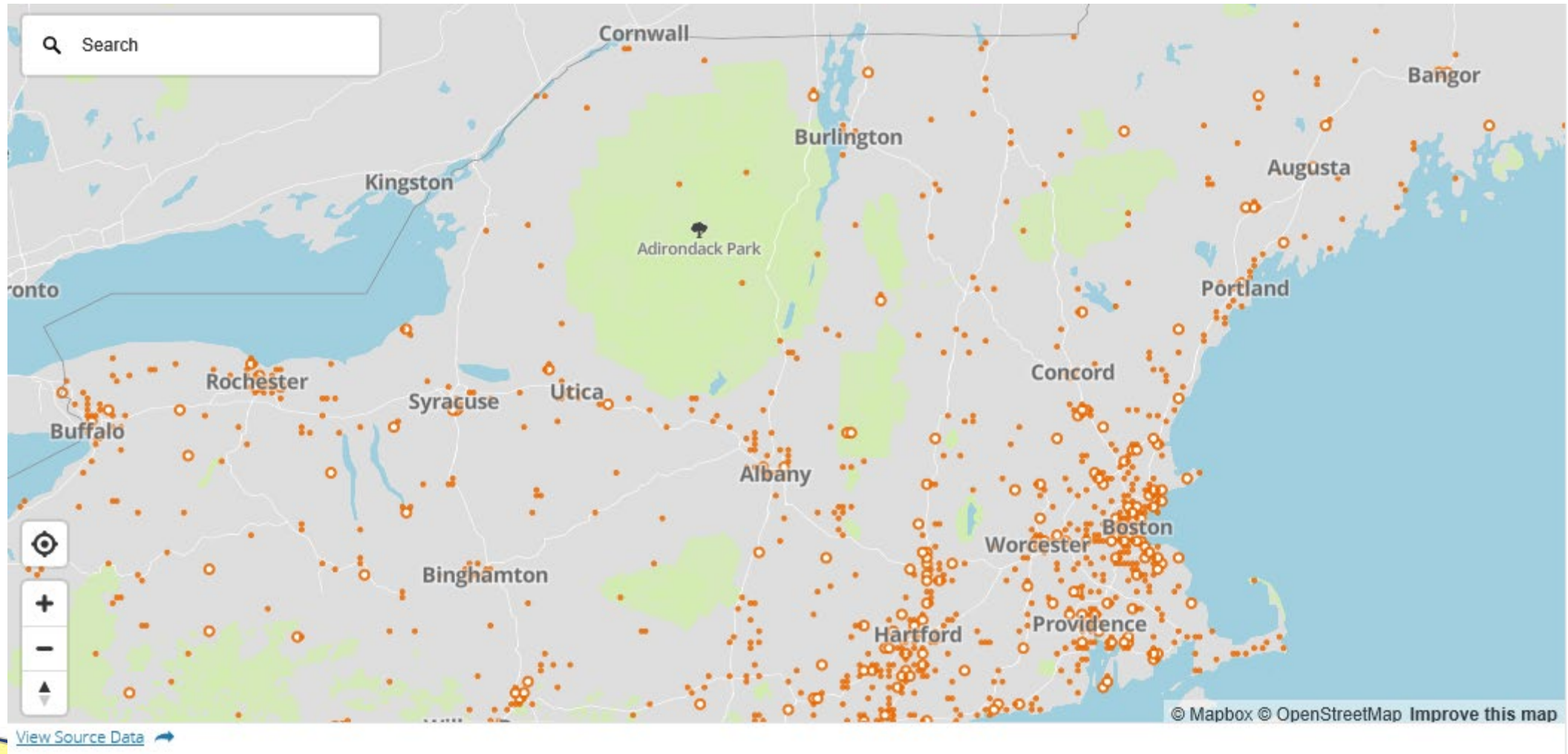
31,782

- Source: <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg>

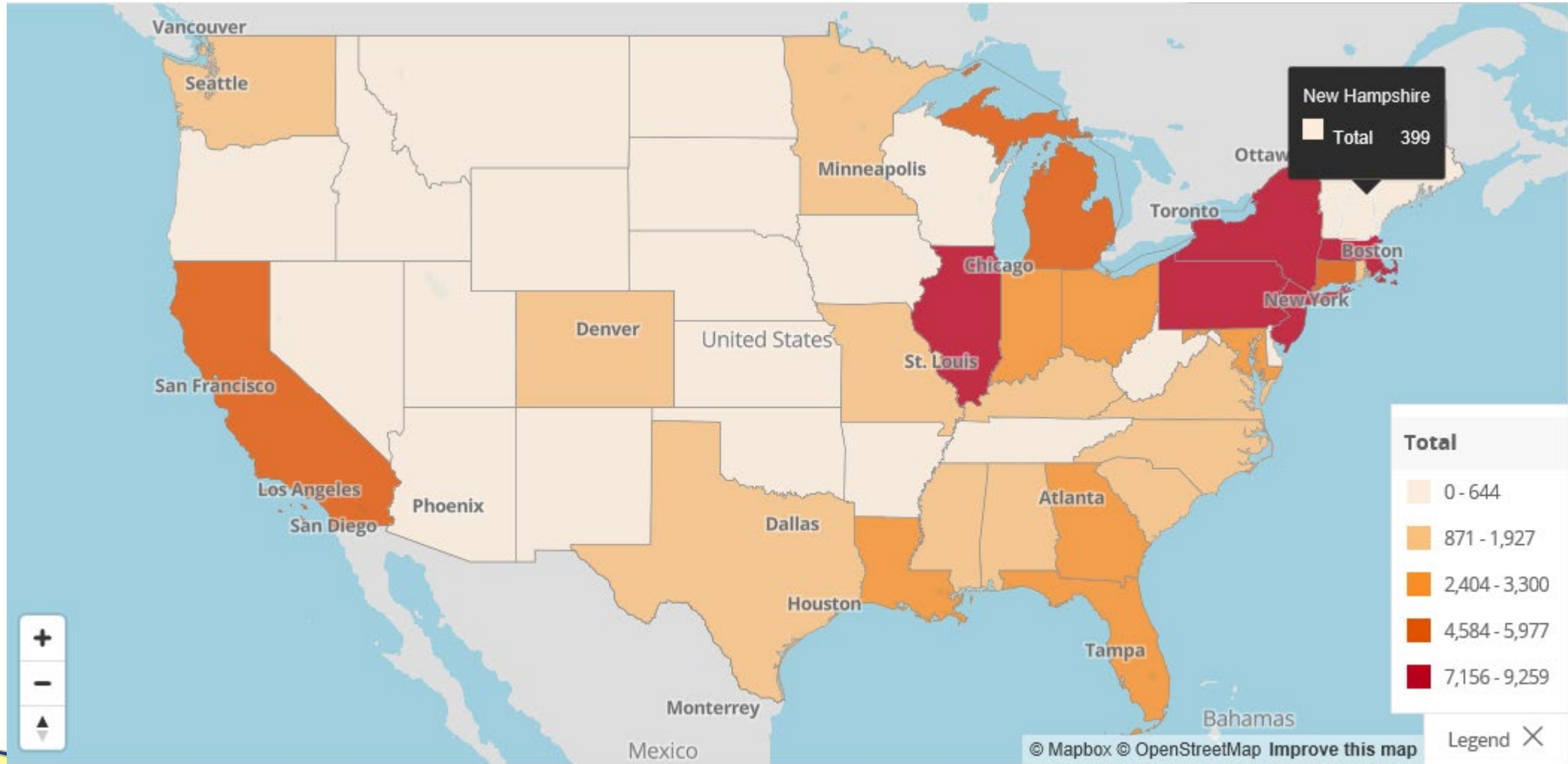
CMS “Search for a Nursing Home” Tool



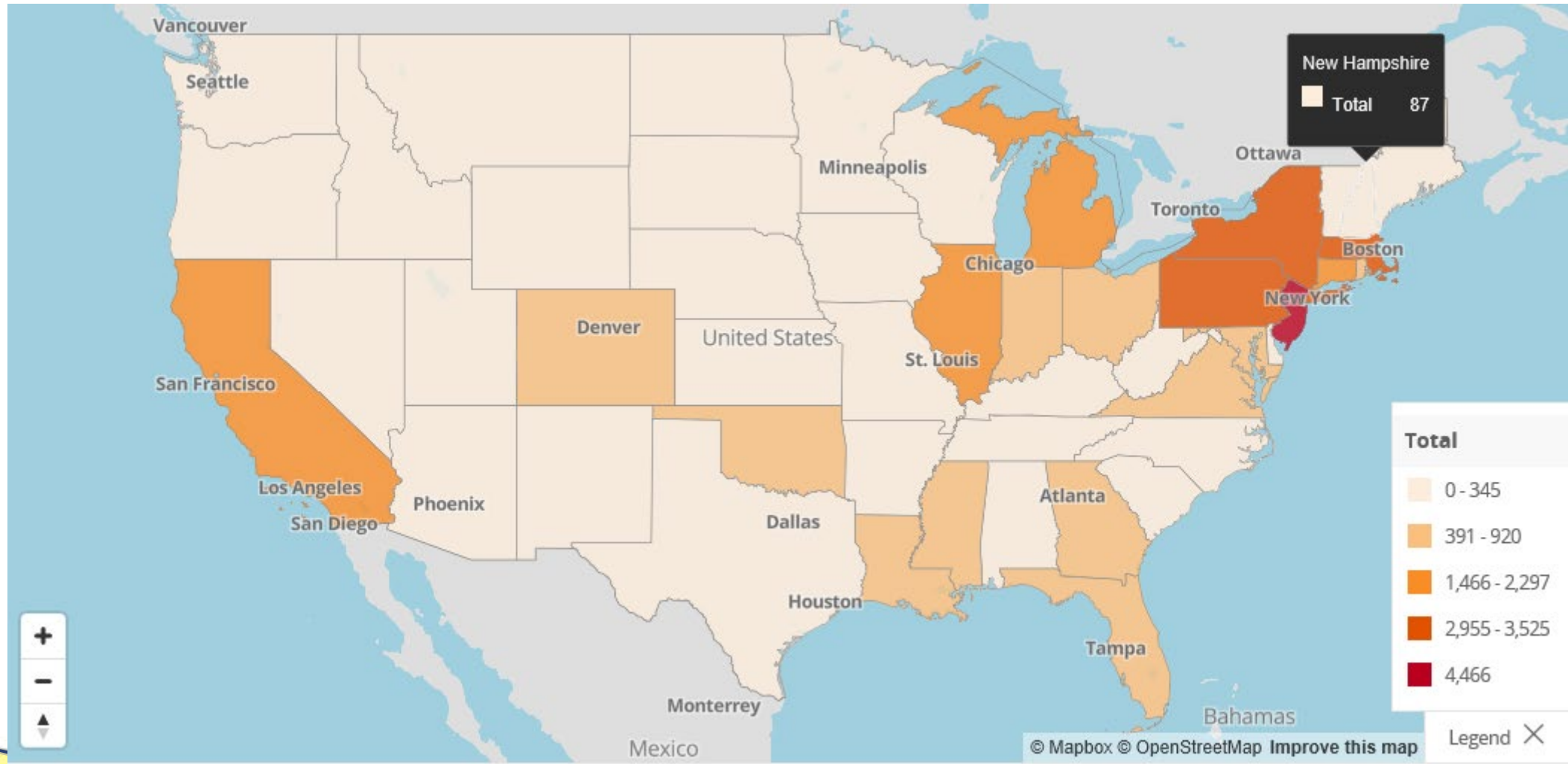
CMS “Search for a Nursing Home” Tool



CMS Total Residents Confirmed Cases

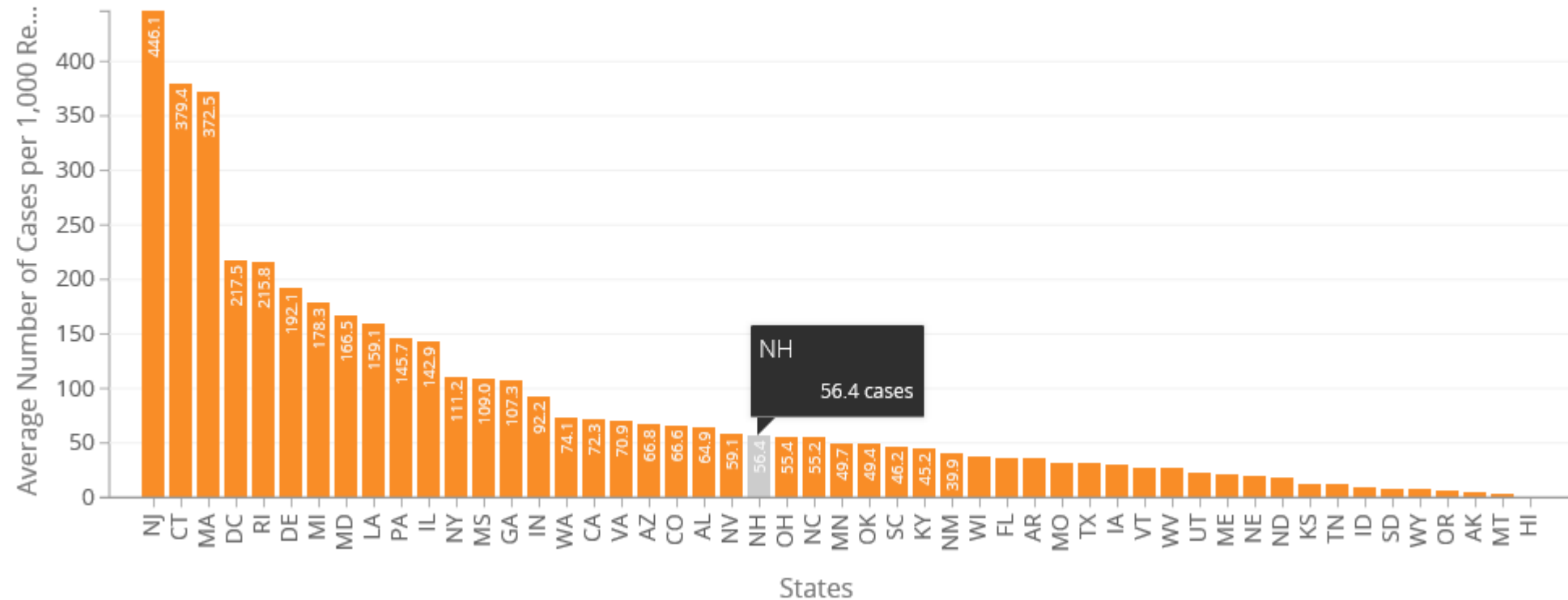


CMS Total Residents Confirmed Deaths



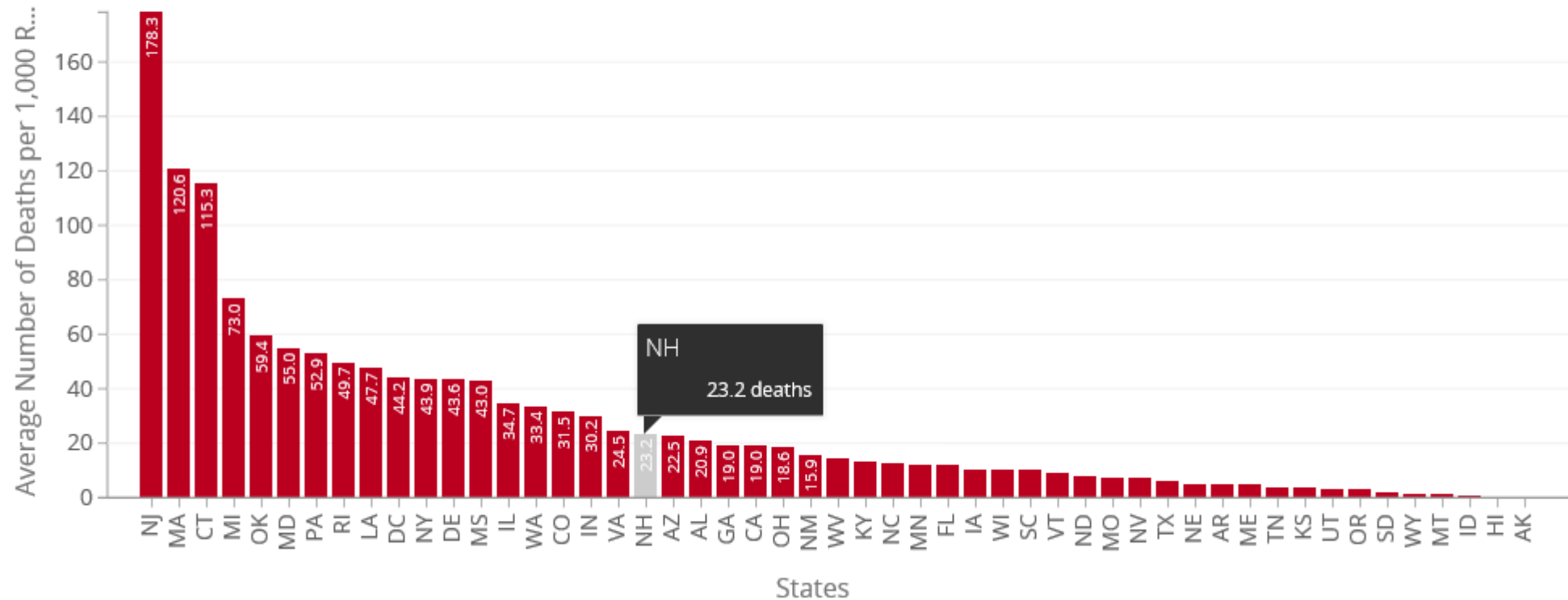
Resident Cases per 1,000 Residents

Resident Average Cases per 1,000 Residents



Resident Deaths per 1,000 Residents

Resident Average Deaths per 1,000 Residents



Companion Animals and COVID-19

- ▶ “First Reported Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Companion Animals – New York, March-April 2020” – [MMWR Release](#) (June 8th)
- ▶ “Although there is currently no evidence that animals play a substantial role in spreading COVID-19, CDC advises persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to restrict contact with animals during their illness and to monitor any animals with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and separate them from other persons and animals at home.”
- ▶ Consider potential impacts on LTCF—suspend therapy animals

Last Week's FAQ Follow-up

ALF Specific Questions

- ▶ “We are now a COVID-free ALF. Are there any restrictions on accepting new residents?”
 - No, there are no restrictions. Once the DPHS Cluster Investigation team has closed your facility outbreak, you are able to accept new residents
- ▶ “We are now a COVID-free ALF, can we begin having **communal gatherings** outside for small groups as long as we're adhering to protocols for safe distance, universal masking, hand hygiene etc?”
 - No, group activities are still be canceled (no congregating indoors or outdoors)
 - However, in facilities with no cases of COVID-19:
 - Residents may go outside but must wear cloth face coverings and maintain 6 feet between
 - A staff member should monitor resident activity to ensure social distancing and to make sure outside visitors are not present
 - Refer to [NH Guidance for Long Term Care Facilities](#) from May 13th, which applies to nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities

Travel & Quarantine

- ▶ “Maine came out with testing in place of quarantine guidance to allow tourist/visitors to avoid having to quarantine. Do you recommend COVID-19 testing in place of a 14 day quarantine for staff who are returning to NH from out of state (other than ME or VT) vacations?”
 - No, New Hampshire does not have this policy! Quarantine cannot be shortened or avoided by PCR or antibody testing
 - Staff returning from out of state traveling in personal vehicles (not on public conveyances) do not need to quarantine before returning to work
 - Staff should quarantine for 14 days after return from
 - International travel
 - Cruise ship
 - Travel on public conveyances outside of NH, VT, or ME



More Travel & Quarantine Questions

- ▶ “With NH opening to tourists from out of state, staff are confused and getting mixed messages about out of state visitors being welcome, but they would be required to 14 day quarantine.”
- ▶ “We have staff members who want to go to congregate events in August (not yet cancelled).” If they have to quarantine on return, this will have staffing implications.
- ▶ “Can staff attend funerals?”

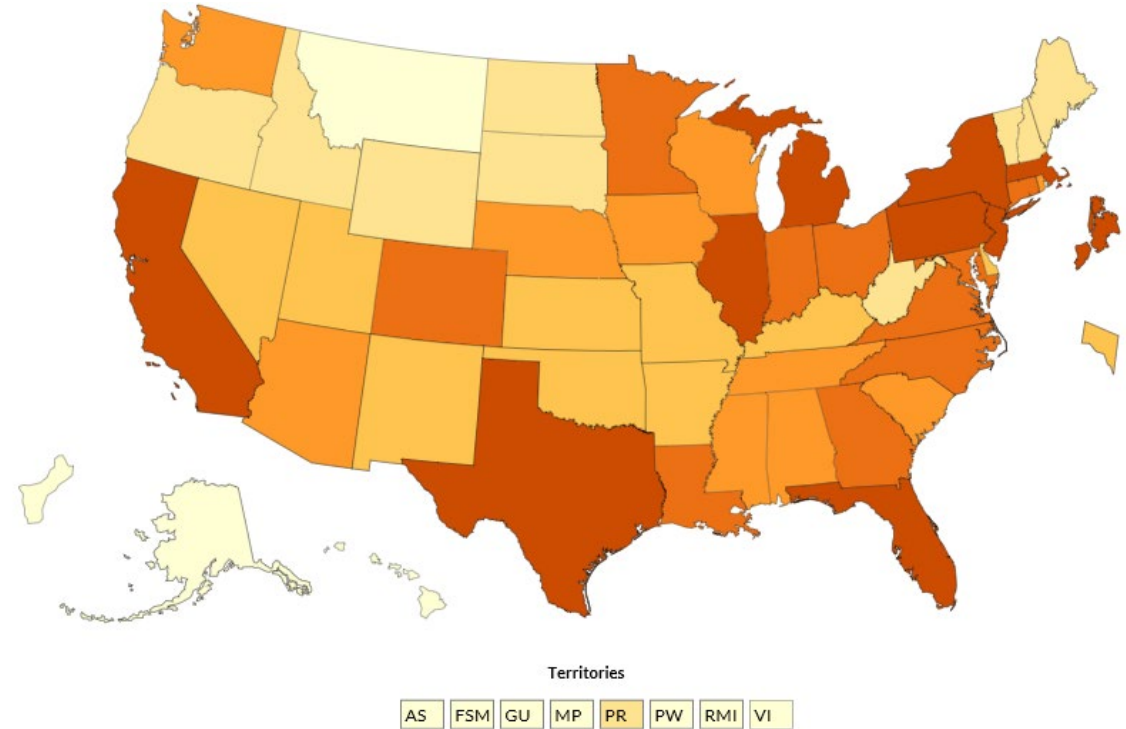
Special Considerations for LTCF Staff

- ▶ *Why do certain travel precautions exist for staff?*
 - LTCF staff work among the most vulnerable populations
 - Less risk from tourists and other members of the public
 - Travel guidance and quarantine recommendations are in place to protect LTCF residents, staff, and facilities from potential outbreaks of COVID-19
- ▶ *Can facilities make exceptions for staff who traveled?*
 - LTCF staff are essential personnel, and if they can continue to work while asymptomatic and on quarantine during staffing shortages

CDC's Considerations for Travel

If you are thinking about traveling ask:

- ▶ Is COVID-19 spreading where you're going?
You can get infected while traveling



<https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html>

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- ▶ **Will you or those you are traveling with be within 6 feet of others during or after your trip?**

Being within 6 feet of others increases your chances of getting infected and infecting others

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- ▶ **Are you or those you are traveling with more likely to get very ill from COVID-19?**
Older adults and people of any age who have a serious underlying medical condition are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19

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- ▶ **Do you live with someone who is more likely to get very ill from COVID-19?**
If you get infected while traveling you can spread COVID-19 to loved ones when you return, even if you don't have symptoms

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- ▶ **Does the state or local government where you live or at your destination require you to stay home for 14 days after traveling?**

Some state and local governments require visitors to stay home for 14 days

Outdoor Visitation

- ▶ “Can we start hosting outdoor visits for families?”
 - More information will be forthcoming in the next weeks regarding outdoor visitation

Additional Q&A



NH DIVISION OF
Public Health Services
Department of Health and Human Services

