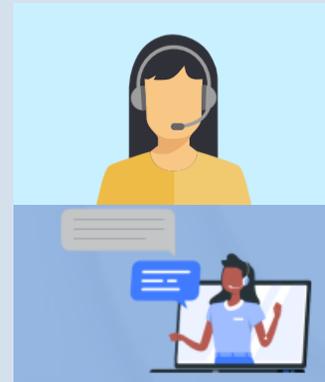


## Providing Up-to-Date Online Mortality Data during the COVID-19 Epidemic

### What was the problem/situation?

Soon after NJ's first COVID-19 death in March 2020, NJDOH's Office of Communications began to receive frequent requests for up-to-date death counts by county and month. By May 2020, death counts were frequently being requested by cause of death, race, ethnicity, age, and municipality. These requests were referred to Tracking partners in the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics, where each was handled on a case-by-case basis requiring repeated computer runs to obtain the requested statistics.

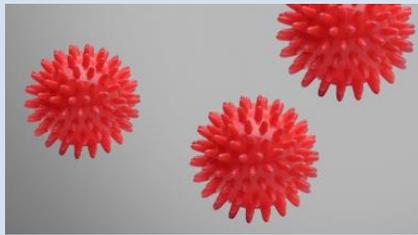


### How was Tracking involved?

Tracking partners in the NJDOH Center for Health Statistics and Informatics created a new query module for provisional death data on the publicly accessible NJSHAD data portal. The new query module allows not just the NJDOH Communications Office, but all users, to directly obtain up-to-date mortality data 24/7 by cause, date of death, and demographic characteristics. Updates are automated to give users access to detailed up-to-date mortality data as soon as it is available.

### What action was taken to resolve the problem?

The Provisional Mortality Query Module, <https://www-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/query/selection/provdth/MortSelection.html>, was initially published in September 2020 and provides users with counts and rates of death by: cause of death (including COVID-19 and influenza-like illnesses); date of death (month, day and year); age; race/ethnicity; sex; place of death; and county and municipality of residence.



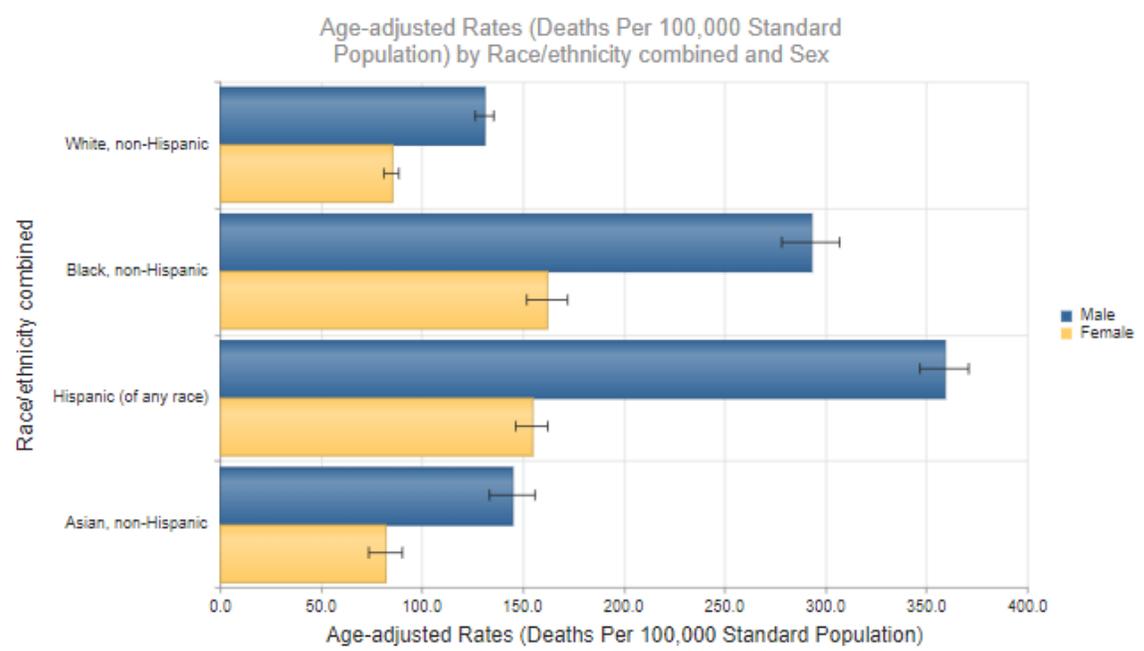
The new [Provisional Mortality Query Module](#) was designed to inform journalists, medical personnel, public health officials, academics, local officials, and concerned community members about the loss of life in NJ from COVID-19. This online resource remains the only publicly available source of NJ COVID-19 death data by date, age, race/ethnicity, sex, and municipality. The module has improved the provision of customized up-to-date mortality data and reduced the burden on the NJDOH Communications Office and Center for Health Statistics staff. Users of the query module have gained increased awareness and understanding of NJ resident deaths during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and other causes by demographics, time, and geography.

**Query Results for NJ Provisional Death Data Query - 2020 Age-adjusted Rates (Deaths Per 100,000 Standard Population) for the State**

**Query Criteria**

Race/ethnicity combined Filter:	White, non-Hispanic, Black, non-Hispanic, Hispanic (of any race), Asian, non-Hispanic
COVID-19 and Related Causes Filter:	COVID-19 (U07.1)
Data Grouped By:	Race/ethnicity combined, Sex

**Chart**



NJSHAD serves as the main data portal for NJDOH, providing public access to data and information from the entire New Jersey Department of Health, and hosts datasets for the New Jersey Environmental Public Health Tracking (NJEPHT) Program. NJSHAD provides static public health indicators which combine data and information, and dynamic custom public health query tools. The functionality, content, and utility of NJSHAD and the NJEPHT portal continue to be enhanced.