Key Findings

COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Pennsylvania—March to June 2020

- There were 19,177 COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania from March through June 2020 (based on date of hospital discharge). These patients spent a total of 168,511 days in the hospital, with an average length of stay of 8.8 days; 17.4% of the patients stayed 14 days or longer.

- 15.7% of the patients required mechanical ventilation, and 16.3% of the patients died during their hospitalization. Both the number of hospitalizations and the rate of in-hospital mortality were highest in April.

- Over half (52.6%) of COVID-19 hospitalizations were for patients 65 years and older, 14.9% were under age 45, and 32.5% were 45-64 years.

- Medicare was the payer for 52.8% of COVID-19 hospitalizations—the largest percentage among the payer groups.

- Hospitalization rates were higher for older residents, especially ages 55 and older; males; Hispanic residents and Black, non-Hispanic residents; and residents living in high poverty areas (where 25% or more of the population lives in poverty).

- In-hospital mortality rates were higher for older patients, especially ages 65 and older; males; White, non-Hispanic patients; and patients living in low poverty areas (where less than 10% of the population lives in poverty).

- The average length of stay was longer for patients age 55-74; males; and Black, non-Hispanic patients.

- Mechanical ventilation rates were higher for patients age 55-74; males; Asian, non-Hispanic patients and Black, non-Hispanic patients.

- The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations during the four months March-June 2020 (19,177) was 49.4% higher than the average annual number of influenza hospital stays from 2017 to 2020 (12,839).

- The in-hospital mortality rate for COVID-19 hospitalizations (16.3%) was 459.7% higher than the average in-hospital mortality rate for influenza hospital stays from 2017 to 2020 (2.9%).