



INSTITUTO DEL
DESARROLLO DE
LA JUVENTUD

ABOUT US

The Institute for Youth Development is the only entity in Puerto Rico exclusively dedicated to promoting public policies based on research and the voices of those affected, in order to strengthen the economic security of children, youth and their families. Our main goal is to significantly reduce child poverty in Puerto Rico.

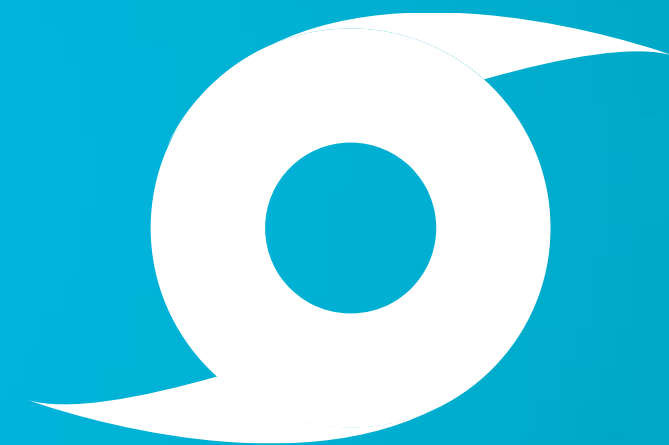
PUBLIC POLICIES AREAS



Strengthening the economic security of families with children and youth in Puerto Rico.



Ensuring that public investments in children are adequate and effective.



Working so that the children and youth of Puerto Rico can have an integral development during the recovery process from Hurricane María.

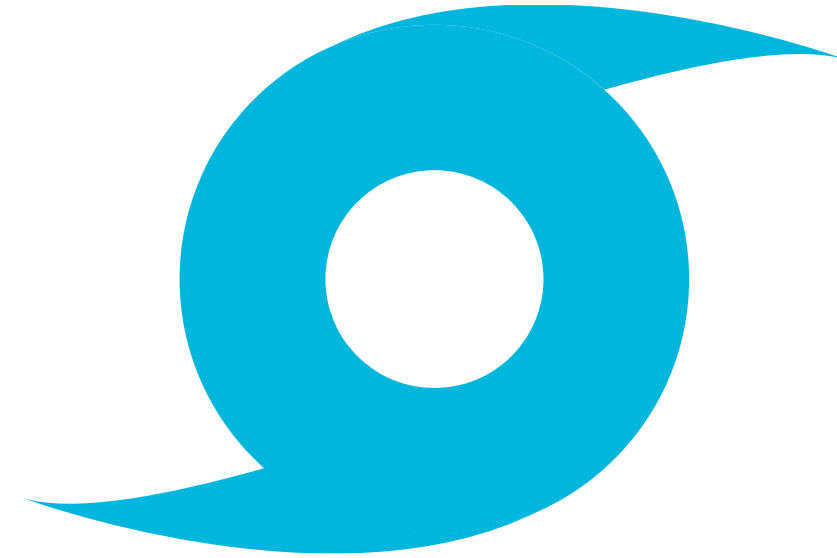


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RECOVERY & ECONOMIC SECURITY

All youth ages 15-25 in Puerto Rico, with a focus in those with young children aged 0-5



PREPAREDNESS

Community Preparedness Index (CPI) in collaboration with Columbia University

COVID-19 in PR- April 14, 2020

PUERTO RICO COVID-19 DASHBOARD (1 of 4)

Last Update: April 14, 2020 6:20 AM



Positive Cases

923

Negative Cases

6,284

Pending Results

1,322

Total

8,535

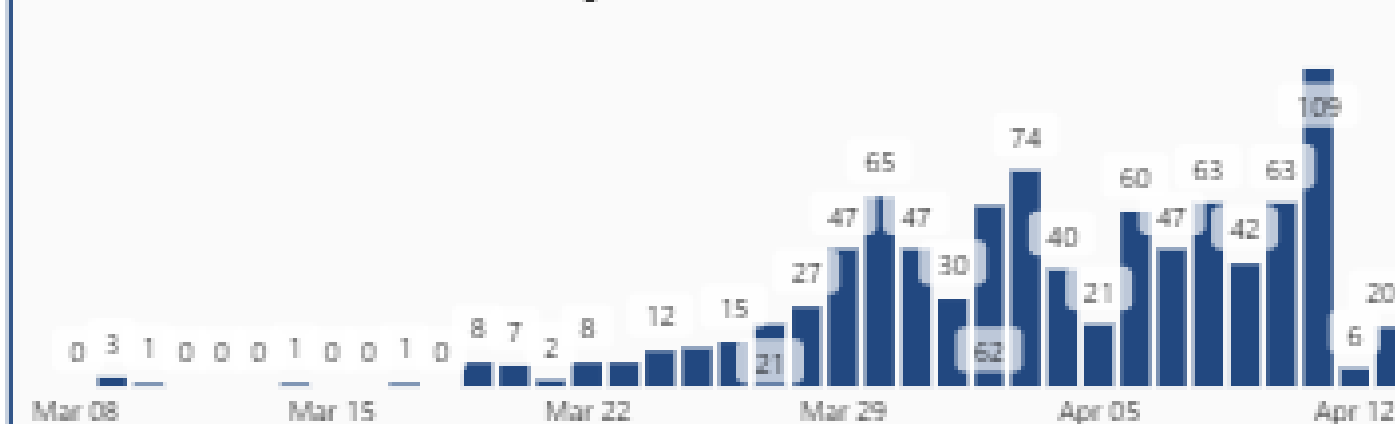
of Deaths

45

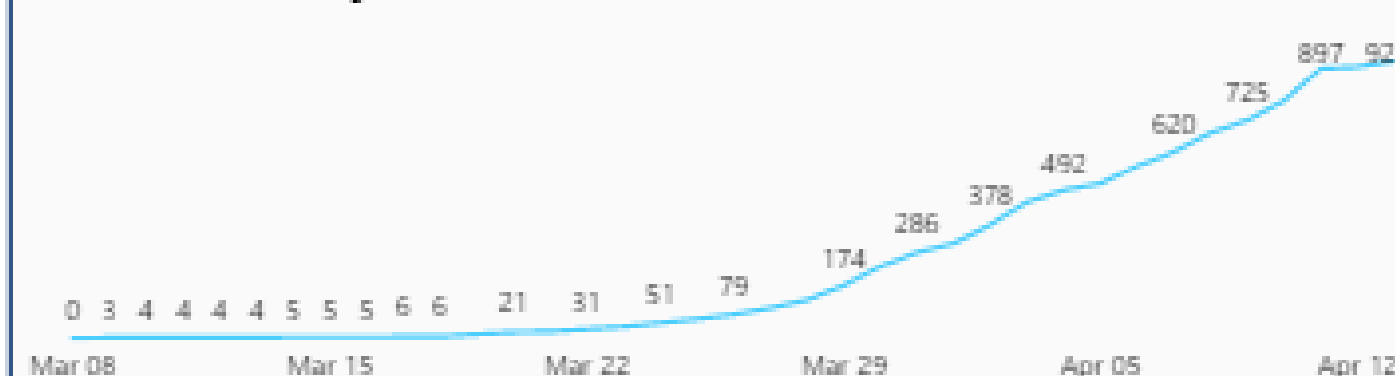
Mortality Rate

4.88%

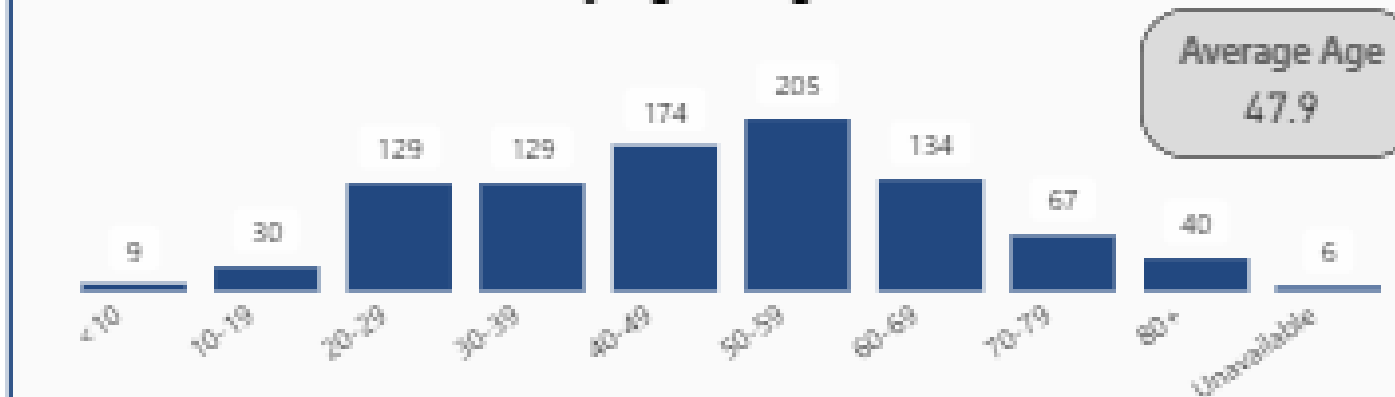
Number of Positive Cases by Date



Positive Cases by Date Accumulated



Number of Positive Cases by Age Range



Gender of Deaths and Positive Cases

Select:

Deaths

Positive Cases

Female

48.9%

Male

51.1%

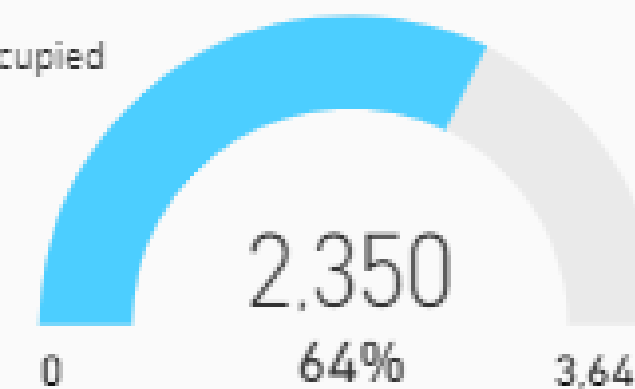
Adult Beds

ICU Adult Beds

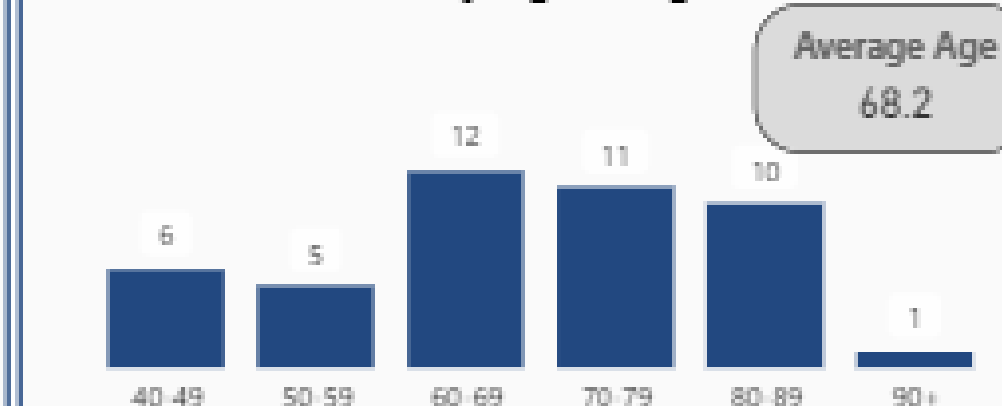
Negative Pressure Rooms

Ventilators for Adults

Occupied



Number of Deaths by Age Range



Source: Puerto Rico Department of Health

Public Policy Implications to Support Children in Puerto Rico

Methodology to Develop Recommendations



Listen to mothers and youth



Data analysis and trends



Federal and local policy analysis



Media monitoring

Challenges Identified in Puerto Rico for Children, Youth and their Families



Most children in Puerto Rico live on households in or near poverty, and they are particularly vulnerable to the economic consequences of the quarantine in the short and long term.



Households with school-age children may be experiencing food insecurity.



Families are concerned about their access to hygiene products to protect themselves from the virus.



The digital divide limits and hinders access to distance education at all levels

..



Quarantine increases the chances of child abuse, while it decreases the means of reporting it to the authorities.

Short-term Public Policy Recommendations



1. Increase tax credits and incentives available to working families with children under 18
2. Provide support and tools to ensure the viability of day care centers



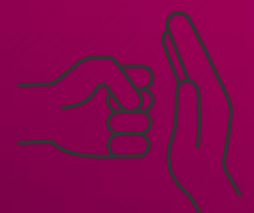
3. Ensure immediate access to food for homes with school-age children through various measures
4. Provide hygiene products and resources to community-based and non-profit organizations to distribute to households



5. Provide viable options for distance learning, reinforce the summer programs and provide other distance support services



6. Universities should focus student aid on those students who need it most
7. Creation of a Social Task Force



Economic Security



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Impact of Federal and Local Public Policies on Economic Security

- **For households with minors who have lost their jobs there will be a temporary, but significant increase in their income.**
 - **Example: Single mother, 2 children part -time- \$2,200 (once) + \$2,772 monthly for 4 months of unemployment**
 - **Example: Single mother, 2 children, full time-\$2,200 (once) +3,020 monthly for 4 months of unemployment**
- **As of today, no tax plan has been published to confirm if those families that did not file a return and have little or low income could receive the federal incentive**
- **\$500 incentive for the self-employed (Puerto Rico)**
- **Temporary moratorium on payments for electricity, water, rent for public housing and loans.**

Increase the tax credits and incentives available to low-income working families with children under 18



- Congress must approve the Child Tax Credit Extension to families of 1 and 2 children in Puerto Rico
- The PR government must implement a strategy to increase visibility of Earned Income Credit in Puerto Rico
 - Between these two, a mother working full time at a supermarket could have an additional income of \$2500
- Consider measures to increase income for low income workers doing high risk jobs.
 - Additional Stipend
 - Temporary increase in minimum wage

Day Care Centers

OPPORTUNITIES

Puerto Rico could benefit from the infusion of \$3.5 billions to the Child Care Development Block Grant program, to support the continuity of day care centers.

In addition, day care centers can obtain support for small businesses.



RECOMMENDATION: Provide support and tools to ensure the viability of day care centers

- Provide resources and technical assistance for day care centers so they can optimize federal aid.
- Streamline late payment to ensure they are solvent at the end of quarantine

Food Security



Ensure immediate access to food for homes with school-age children through various measures



1. PRDE & D. of Family Affairs must develop a plan to participate in the EBT program for the pandemic.
2. The Puerto Rico Department of Education must implement a short-term strategy to deliver food to families with school-age children through partnerships with non-profits and the private sector.

Impact of Federal and Local Public Policies on Food in Puerto Rico



- An additional \$200 millions in NAP represents both an increase in profit and an increase in the number of cases
- Increase in funds for WIC (500 millions total) as well as flexibility in requirements so that payments can be made remotely
- Increase in “Child Nutrition Programs” of \$8.8 billions total (we do not know the specific amount for PR)
- PRDE is distributing meals through non profit organizations that will feed around 75,000 people

Virus Prevention



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Provide hygiene products and resources to community-based and non-profit organizations to distribute to families



- The cash benefit has been reduced to 5%
- CDBG funds allow for this use, just as they could use the money granted to the government to begin expenses related to COVID-19 (\$2.2 billion)
- ODSEC could distribute these resources to the same entities in charge of providing food

Education



Impact of Federal and Local Public Policies on Education in Puerto Rico



- **\$349,113,000 for public k-12 education**
 - Part of the money must be used to guarantee special education services under IDEA
- **\$323,705,000 for public and private universities**
 - Of the funds received by the universities, it is required that at least 50% be provided in emergency "grants" to the university students, which will help cover food, lodging and transportation, purchase of materials, or other expenses related to coronavirus.
- **Local government released \$250 million of federal Restart funds for tablets and technology, but it will not be received until the end of the semester**

Provide Viable Options for Distance Education, Reinforce Summer Offer and Provide other Distance Support Services



- **PRDE must...**
 - **Establish alliance with local entities for the rapid development of modules and activities that are “mobile friendly”**
 - **Work with teacher leaders to provide a series of tools and activities to continue during the summer programs**
 - **Establish agreements to provide remote socio-emotional support during quarantine and summer programs**

Universities Must Focus Student Aid on Students who Need it Most



- Funds should be granted to:
 - Students near or in poverty levels
 - With children
 - First college generation

Protection and welfare



Impact of Federal Public Policies on Protection and Welfare in Puerto Rico

- Modest increase in funds for programs that protect vulnerable populations of children and youth:
 - Jóvenes sin Hogar (Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs- \$25 million)
 - Family Violence Prevention and Services (\$45 million)
 - Programs for Children Welfare - (Titulo IV-B- \$45 million)



Creation of a Social Task Force



- The Social Task Force should make recommendations on how to best serve populations, including an inventory of available services and gap analysis
- 4 days ago it was announced that the initiative was under way
- It is recommended to increase its visibility
- We will report more on this initiative in a webinar at the end of the month

Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda in the Medium and Long Term

During the period of economic recovery, it must be ensured that no more children fall into poverty and prioritize the reduction of child poverty as a strategy that promotes economic development

- Strengthen early childhood and day care systems to simultaneously support children's development and provide caregivers with options to re-enter the workforce
- Develop sectoral job development programs with a focus on growing industries and prioritize young people and their parents
- Develop a business tax credit program that provides first job opportunities to youth and parents of children under 18
- Programs and modifications to public policies that make work pay

Next Steps

- Other resources:
 - www.juventudpr.org
 - www.cuantonoscuesta.com
 - <https://www.prcytaskforce.org/>
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook!



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