

# U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Joins colleagues to request COVID-19 demographic data from CDC to ensure effective response to the pandemic

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, along with 16 of her colleagues led by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to publicly report all available information about who is able to access COVID-19 tests, which continue to be scarce, as well as hospitalizations, intensive care unit admissions, and fatalities.

The members of Congress requested data broken down by sex, race, ethnicity, whether a patient is a health care provider and any other available demographics. The CDC is currently only disclosing a subset of its data, primarily the age groups of those testing positive, hospitalizations and fatalities.

Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Dianne Feinstein, (D-CA), Tom Carper (D-DE), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Chris Coons (D-DE), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Kamala Harris (D-CA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Gary Peters (D-MI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Patty Murray (D-WA), as well as U.S. Representatives Yvette Clarke (D-NY) and Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), joined the request in a letter to CDC Director Robert R. Redfield.

*“As COVID-19 spreads into more American communities, government agencies and academic and industry researchers are working hard to understand the depth and breadth of the pandemic and its impact on the health and well-being of Americans,” **the Members wrote.** “To this end, it is important to document if particular groups in the United States are at greater risk for the virus and why.”*

The members requested the CDC publicly report demographic information collected on the Human Infection with 2019 Novel Coronavirus Person Under Investigation (PUI) and Case Report Form – sex, race, ethnicity, whether a patient is a health care provider and any other available demographics – as a function of:

1. a) Access to testing;
2. b) Positive test results;
3. c) Hospitalizations;
4. d) Intensive care unit admissions; and
5. e) Fatalities.

They also requested that any updated PUI and Case Report Form include updated categories for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language and disability status consistent with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Guidance on Data Collection Standards, as well as an input for “specialty” of the health care worker.

To allow government agencies and researchers access to the data, the members also requested that the data be made available as a National Center for Health Statistics public-use data file.

The full letter is available [here](#). An online version of this release is available [here](#).