

**Keywords:** COVID-19; Opioid Use Disorder; Treatment; Public Health; Mental Health; Behavioral Health; Substance Use

## Introduction

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that has caused a global pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global health emergency on January 30, 2020. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that as of August 12, 2020, there have been 92,000 confirmed cases and 13,000 deaths in the United States (US). The CDC also reported that 45.9% of COVID-19 cases are hospitalized, and 14.1% of cases result in death [1]. A study by the CDC found that COVID-19 cases are more likely to be hospitalized and die if the patient has a pre-existing condition, such as heart disease, diabetes, or chronic kidney disease [2]. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The virus is spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. The incubation period is typically 2-14 days. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include fatigue, muscle aches, and loss of taste or smell [3].

Many people with COVID-19 recover, but some develop a more severe illness. One of the most serious complications of COVID-19 is Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). ARDS is a life-threatening condition that causes the lungs to become inflamed and filled with fluid. This makes it difficult for the lungs to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. ARDS is often caused by a severe infection, such as COVID-19. Other causes of ARDS include trauma, surgery, and pancreatitis. The mortality rate for ARDS is high, ranging from 18% to 40% [4]. A study by the CDC found that 18% of COVID-19 patients develop ARDS, and 45% of those patients die [5]. Yeh et al. found that the mortality rate for COVID-19 patients with ARDS is 45.9% [5].

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