

severe cases of COVID-19. The map uses data on the community's health, such as rates of pre-existing conditions like chronic lung disease or severe asthma, demographic information and social factors like population density and use of public transit to determine a community's risk.

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**Estimated Volume Losses for 30 Service Lines**

Across all service lines, COVID-19 pushed the number of unique patients who sought hospital care down by an average of 54.5 percent, according to a year-over-year **analysis** from Strata Decision Technology.

For the analysis, data scientists examined more than 2 million patient visits and procedures from 51 healthcare delivery systems in 40 states. The 228 hospitals represented in the study had varying rates of COVID-19 cases.

Here are the estimated volume losses for 30 service lines for a two-week period in late March-April 2020 compared to the same period a year prior:

- Ophthalmology: 81 percent
- Spine: 76 percent
- Gynecology: 75 percent
- Orthopedics: 74 percent
- Ear, nose and throat: 72 percent
- Endocrine: 68 percent
- Dermatology: 67 percent
- Gastroenterology: 67 percent
- Rheumatology: 66 percent

Neurosciences: 66 percent  
General medicine: 64 percent  
Urology: 62 percent  
Genetics: 60 percent  
Vascular: 59 percent  
Hepatology: 58 percent  
Cardiology: 57 percent  
Pulmonology: 56 percent  
Breast health: 55 percent  
General surgery: 54 percent  
Nephrology: 52 percent  
Hematology: 49 percent  
Allergy and immunology: 48 percent  
Behavioral health: 45 percent  
Burns and wounds: 44 percent  
Cancer: 37 percent  
Obstetrics: 30 percent  
Infectious disease: 23 percent  
Neonatology: 20 percent  
Not assigned: 4 percent  
Normal newborn: 2 percent  
View the full report [here](#). (May 11)

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### **Physicians Rethinking Use of Ventilators for Some COVID-19 Patients**

Some COVID-19 patients come to the hospital with low blood oxygen levels — levels that should have them gasping for air — but instead, these patients are awake and talking, resulting in some physicians rethinking the use of ventilators for them, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

It is unclear why certain COVID-19 patients are unaffected by low blood oxygen levels and able to tolerate them, but some physicians are now holding off invasive mechanical ventilation for these patients.