The numbers in the infographic created by the Kinder Institute for Urban Research are calculated using the methodology developed by CI: Now San Antonio. We replicated the approach of using the New York Times epidemiologists’ COVID-19 models to put numbers to the hospitalizations and deaths that can be prevented in Harris County between now and June by our stay-at-home order.

Here are the assumptions we made when pulling the data:

- Intervention Date: March 24
- Intervention level: Moderate
- Impact of warm weather: Medium. However, we don’t know yet if warm weather can reduce the spread of the disease.
- Infectiousness: 2.5. The estimates range from 2 to 5 people.
- Share requiring hospitalization: We couldn’t find the estimate from the Harris County dashboard. We assumed it’s about 10%.
- Death rate: Our hospital system is not overwhelmed yet, so we assumed it’s 1%.

The national ratio was adapted to calculate the number of lives saved based on Harris County’s population. You can find the methodological notes of the New York Times’ model here.

Note that this is a model, not the real world. Our goal is to create a positive narrative about the stay-at-home order, and hope it helps residents understand the positive impact of the collective efforts.

Kinder Institute is part of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP), a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood information systems in local policymaking and community building. All local partner organizations from 30+ cities have been meeting weekly about how the network can help communities with data in response to COVID-19.

The Houston Community Data Connections team at the Kinder Institute is available to answer your organization’s data-related questions and serve as a resource for nonprofits, government agencies and community leaders. If you have any feedback or questions, please let us know.