# KING COUNTY COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING STUDY

## WHAT DID WE DO?

In August 2020, 1,364 King County residents took part in a survey to find out how many people had antibodies to the virus that causes COVID-19 in their blood. Antibodies show if someone has had a past infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

## WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT?

Testing for the COVID-19 virus was limited in the first part of 2020. By mid-August 2020, about 18,000 King County residents – or 0.8% -- had a positive test for infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. However, we believed the true number of infections was higher. Testing for antibodies could show how many people had really been infected.

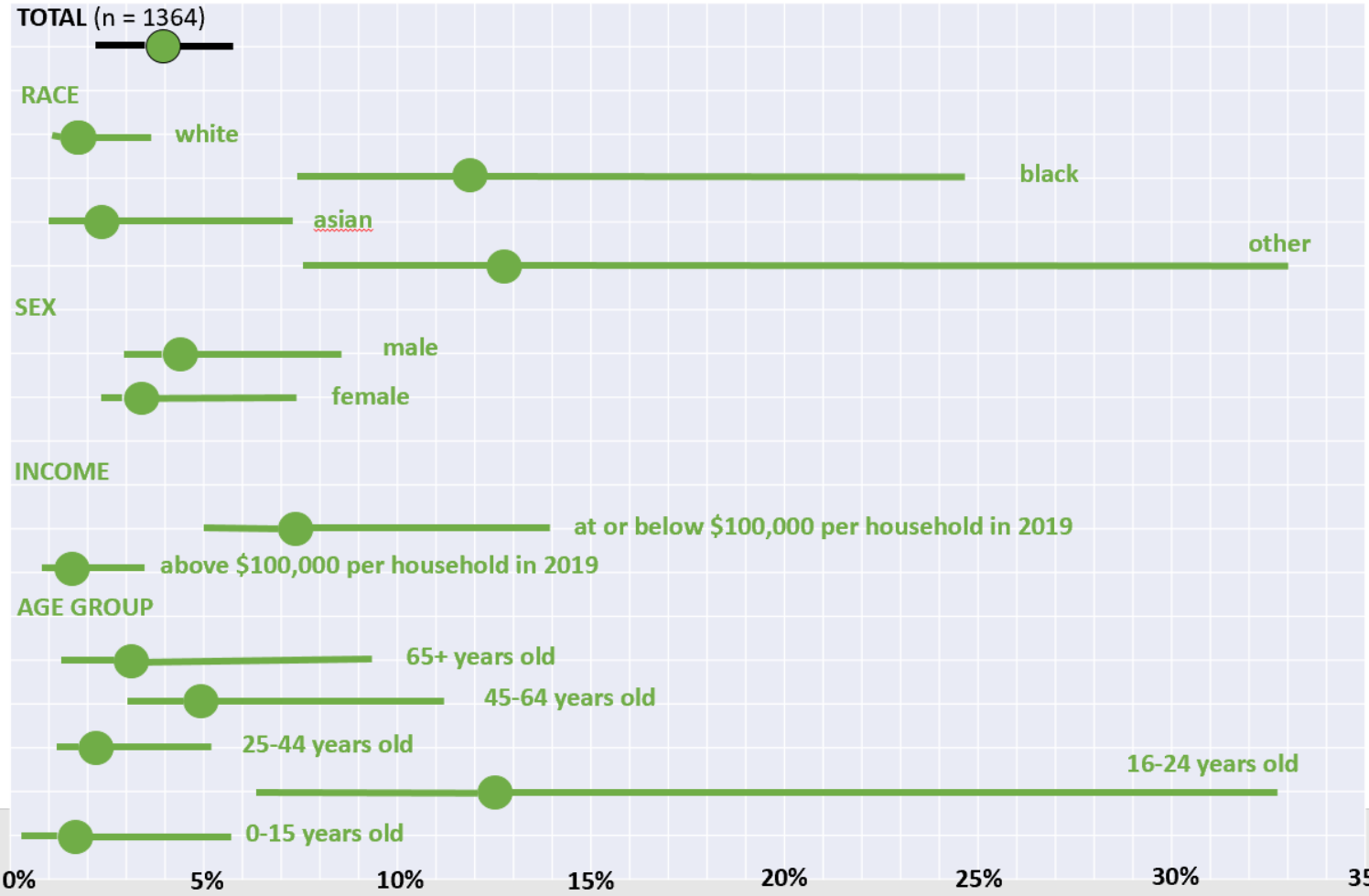
## WHAT DID WE FIND?

Our best estimate is that about 4% of King County residents, or about 90,000 people, had been infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 as of August 2020. This means that the true number of cases was about 5 times higher than testing for the virus showed.

The survey data point to big differences in who had antibodies, with people from households where the income was less than $100,000 a year more likely to have antibodies, as well as people who identified as being of Black or Other non-White, non-Asian race.

*(Missing data prevented calculation of an estimate of antibody prevalence for King County residents of Hispanic ethnicity)*

**Estimated percent of King County, WA population with antibodies against the virus that causes COVID-19, August 2020**
*circles show best estimates; lines show the range of possible values (lines are longer for groups with fewer participants)*




## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This survey gives us a more accurate picture of how the COVID-19 epidemic was affecting King County. When compared to antibody studies from other regions, which found 8-10 times more people had infections compared to people who were diagnosed, our local survey found only five times as many infections as diagnoses. It gives us an idea of how many cases of COVID-19 with mild or no symptoms were occurring, and combined with other data, can give us a better understanding of what proportion of cases were severe (leading to hospitalization or death).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To see the full report: Click here

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