

The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce
and its Health Committee presents the



INVESTING IN HEALTH FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Secretary of Health

DEPARTAMENTO DE
SALUD

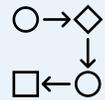


 #CamaraEnAccion

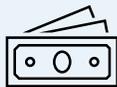


Lessons Learned in the Past Year...

Achieving **sustainable economic and social development** in Puerto Rico is intrinsically related to a **strengthened health system and health service delivery network** with the necessary financing. This requires:



Integrated and coordinated **planning** of strategies for economic development and public health,



Necessary and stable **financing** to implement strategies to boost the economy, as well as the health and well-being of the population (e.g., Medicaid and Medicare programs).

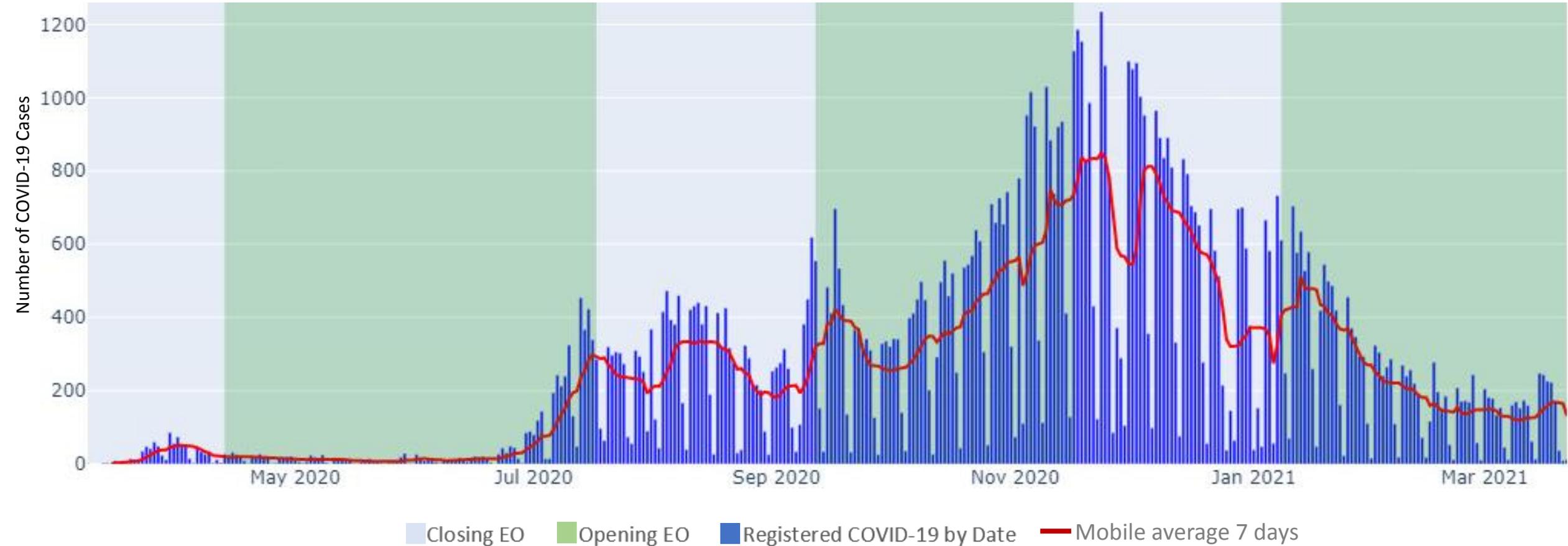


Effective integration of the health services providers **network**, considering the needs of diverse groups and regions in Puerto Rico.

Right decisions: Public Health Measures and Possible Economic Impact

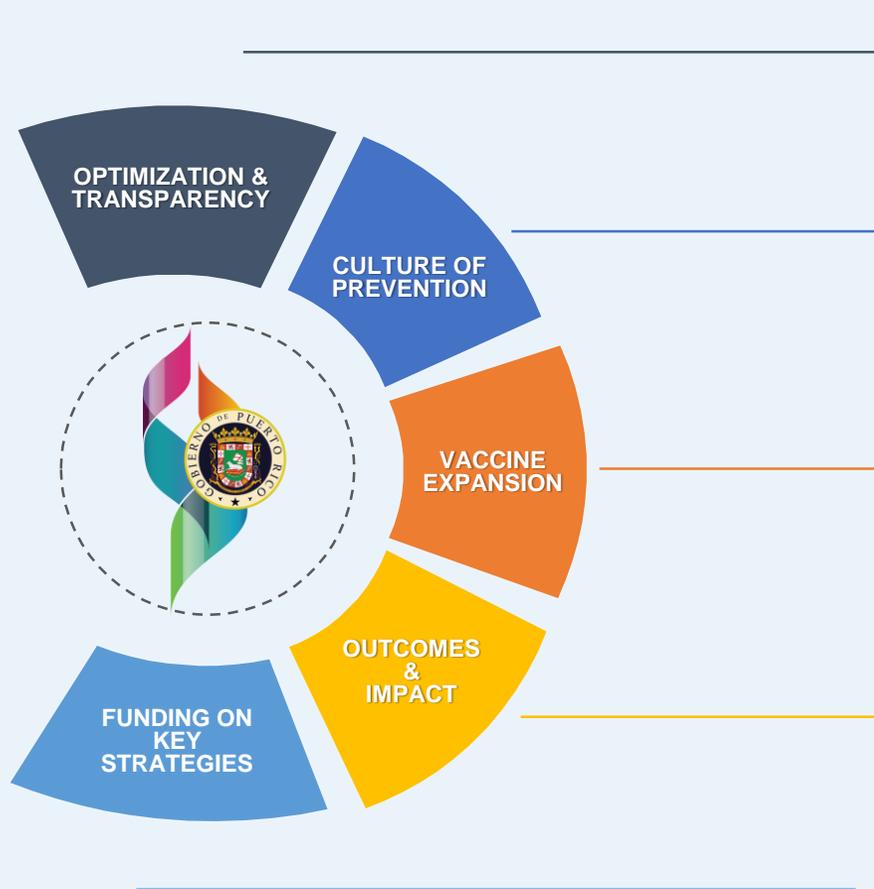


Number of COVID-19 Cases and Executive Order Periods
(Confirmed cases as of March 22, 2021)



About the data: Epidemiologic Curve (cases by date) in Contrast of Executive Orders.
Source: PRDOH Office of Epidemiology and Research, and Auxiliary Secretariat of Planning and Development, 2021.

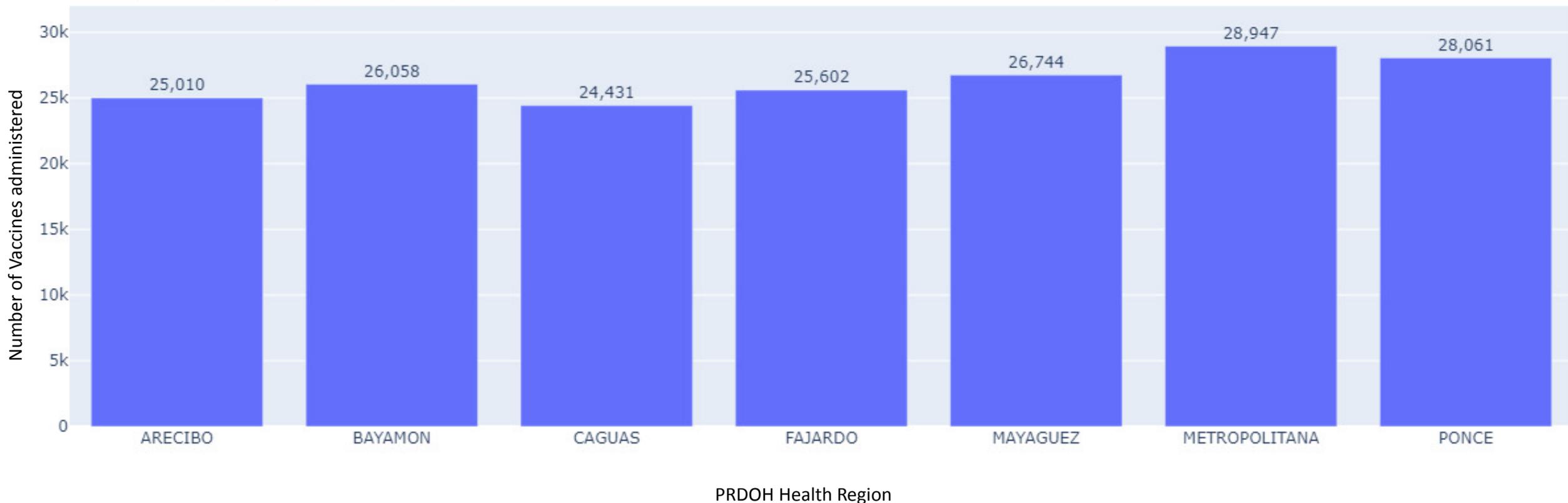
What urgent steps are needed from public health to further expand the economy in the Short-term?



- 1** **Optimization** and **transparency** in the use of funds and current opportunities due to COVID-19 and other available funds.
- 2** Ensure the **integration** of and compliance with prevention protocols and guidelines.
- 3** Continue COVID-19 **Vaccination** efforts and re-immunization strategies for other vaccines:
On 03.29.21, the vaccine against Covid-19 will be extended to a larger population to include workers in the food, telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries, among others.
- 4** Define and measure the **Outcomes** of services and their impact on the population's health.
- 5** Eliminating **uncertainty** in **financing** key health and well-being strategies.



Estimation of Doses of Vaccines Administered by Health Region per 100K people (Data as of March 23, 2021)



About the data: The following sources were used for this calculation: a) Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Puerto Rico Municipalities: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 -U.S. Census Bureau Population Division- and b) Puerto Rico Electronic Immunization System –PREIS-.

Source: PRDOH Office of Epidemiology and Research, and Auxiliary Secretary of Planning and Development, 2021.

Eliminating uncertainty in financing key health strategies for the economy and well-being - Funding parity: Medicaid and Medicare

01

Working together to permanently allocate Medicaid funds before October 1st, 2021.

Failure to achieve this could result in:

- **Vulnerability** in **access** to health services and **coverage** for several population groups that are part of the Government Health Insurance Plan,
- An environment of **instability** and **dislocation of economic multiplier effect** in all components of the health service delivery system,
- **Limited ability** to reinforce a long-term vision and continuity in these programs.
- Negatively impacting the critical sustainability measures implemented in FY 2020-2021.

Eliminating uncertainty in financing key health strategies for the economy and well-being - Funding parity: Medicaid and Medicare

02

For Medicaid specifically, ensure compliance with the program integrity measures, eliminate the funding cap and Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to be on par with other states. In addition, expanding benefits of:

- Long-term Care, Payment of the Part B premium for the Dual population, Home Care, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, Immunizations for the elderly (CDC), and emergency services for legal / undocumented aliens.

03

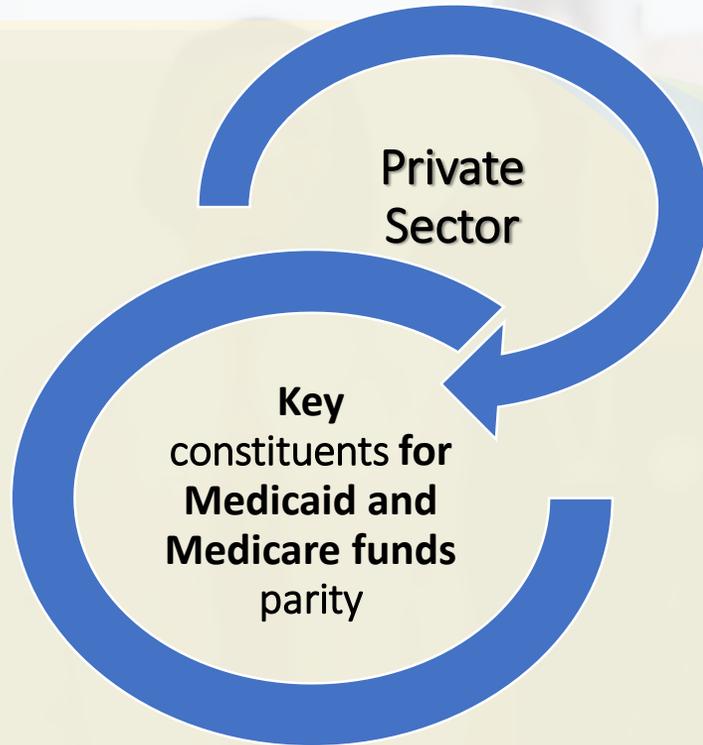
Achieve increase in the Platino 'wrap-around payment' for the Dual population.

04

Make Medicare Advantage rates equal to, at least, that of the US Virgin Islands.

05

End exclusion of Puerto Ricans from the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) program to provide access to medicines to low-income patients.



- The problems and consequences of unequal treatment affects us all.
- We need to identify and advocate for tangible/viable solutions for the health and well-being of 3.2 million American Citizens living in Puerto Rico.
- Reaffirming our commitment, on behalf of the Governor, I announce the signing an Executive Order to create a multi-sector team that will:
 - Include representatives from both public and private sectors,
 - Advocate before Congress and the White House for state-like treatment in Medicaid and Medicare funding,
 - Support the outlining and execution of a work plan to put an end to the unequal and discriminatory treatment of the U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico.

**True innovation rests in joint practice, effort, and compliance.
We are counting on you!**



THANK YOU!

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