



# Clinical Diagnostic Algorithms for Blastomycosis, Coccidioidomycosis, and Histoplasmosis

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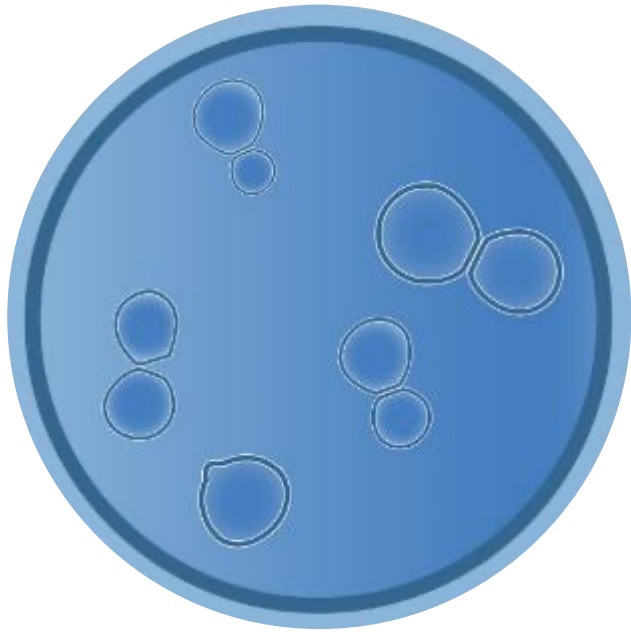
**Epidemiologist**

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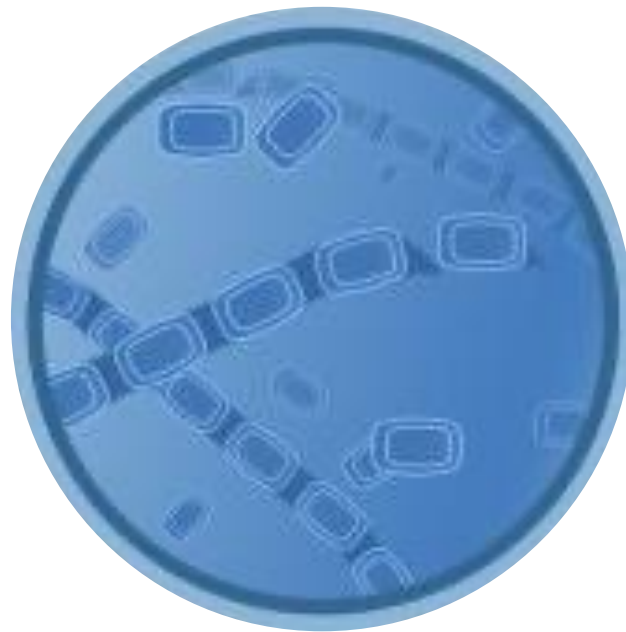
# Agenda

- Blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, and histoplasmosis overview
- Diagnostic challenges
- Impact of underdiagnosis
- Diagnostic algorithms

***Blastomyces, Coccidioides, and Histoplasma* are fungal pathogens that are endemic in certain areas**



*Blastomyces*

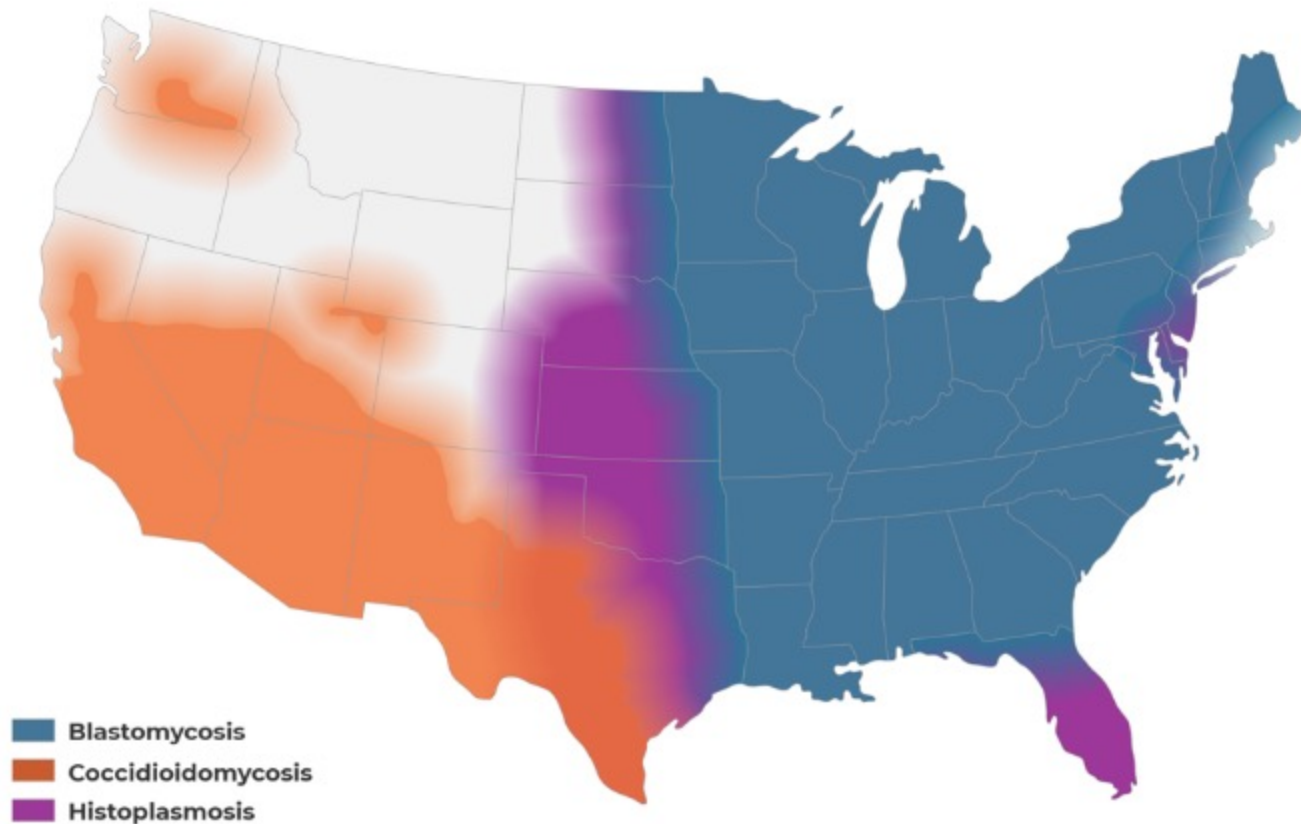


*Coccidioides*



*Histoplasma*

# Their combined distribution spans most of the country



## Hospitalizations

- Coccidioidomycosis (~6,700)
- Histoplasmosis (~4,600)
- Blastomycosis (~1,000)

## Direct medical costs

- Coccidioidomycosis (~\$200m)
- Histoplasmosis (~\$200m)
- Blastomycosis (~\$23m)

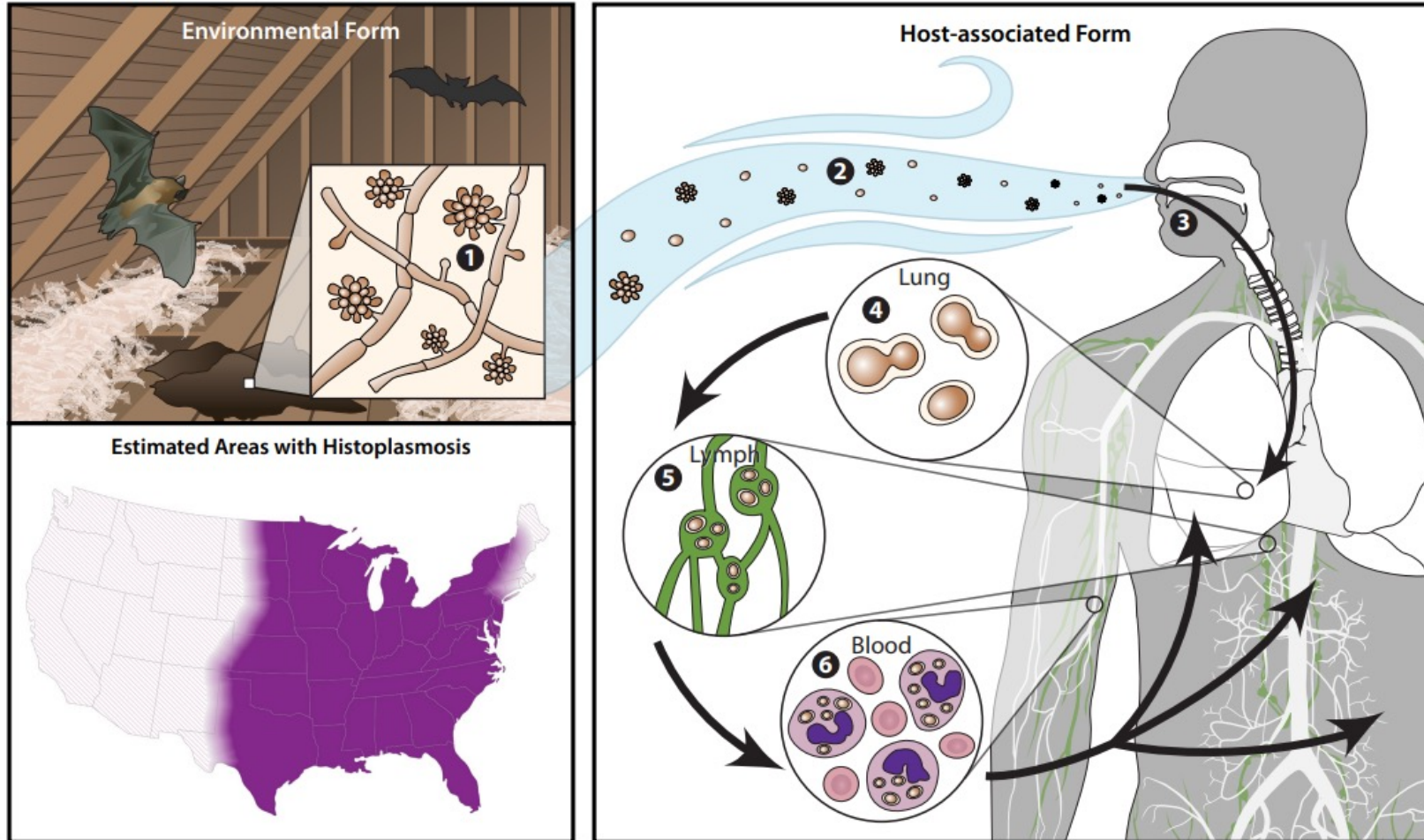


**Fungi that cause these diseases live in the environment,  
particularly in soil**

Exposure typically occurs through inhalation of  
microscopic spores

# These fungi are dimorphic, with mycelial and yeast phases

## Biology of Histoplasmosis



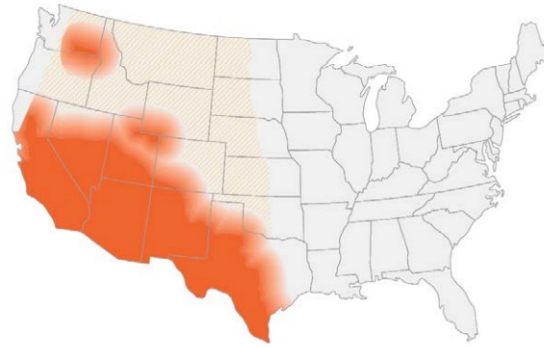


# Each fungus is associated with a geographic range

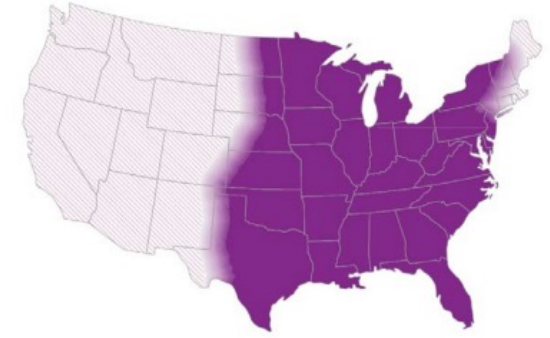
Estimated areas of endemicity:



Blastomycosis



Coccidioidomycosis



Histoplasmosis

# Trends are monitored through national surveillance in select states where any of these disease are reportable

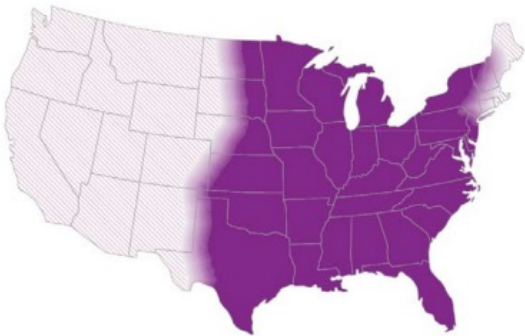
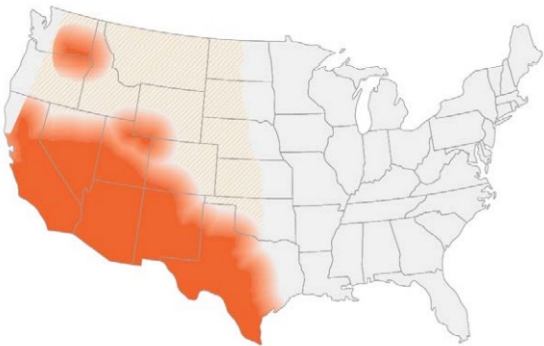
- In states where a disease is **reportable**, healthcare professionals, laboratories, hospitals, and other providers must tell public health departments when a person is diagnosed.
- Case data is **voluntarily submitted** to CDC when a patient meets standardized criteria to be classified as a case according to the Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists case definition.



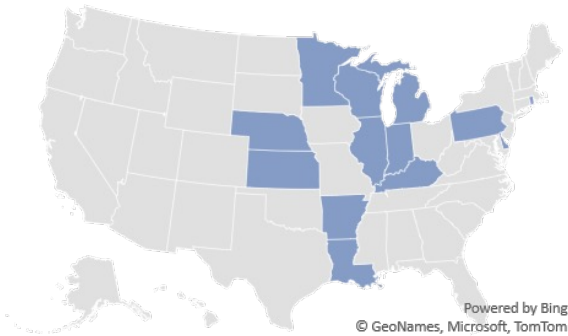
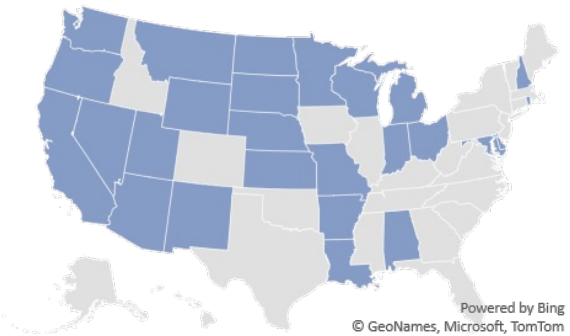
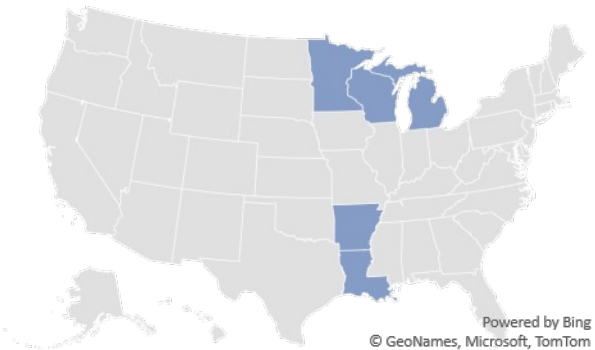


# Blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, and histoplasmosis are not reportable in all states

Estimated areas of endemicity:



States where disease is reportable:

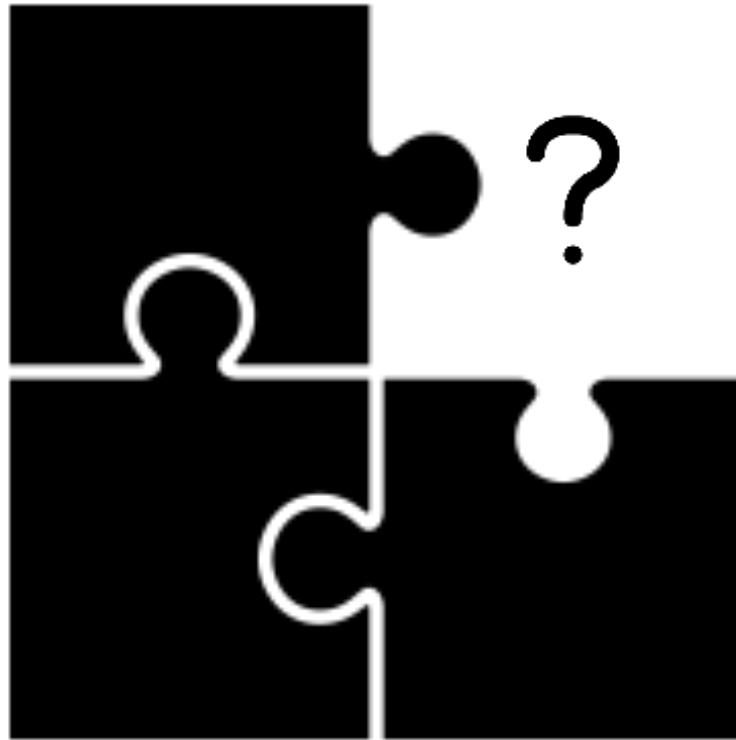


Blastomycosis

Coccidioidomycosis

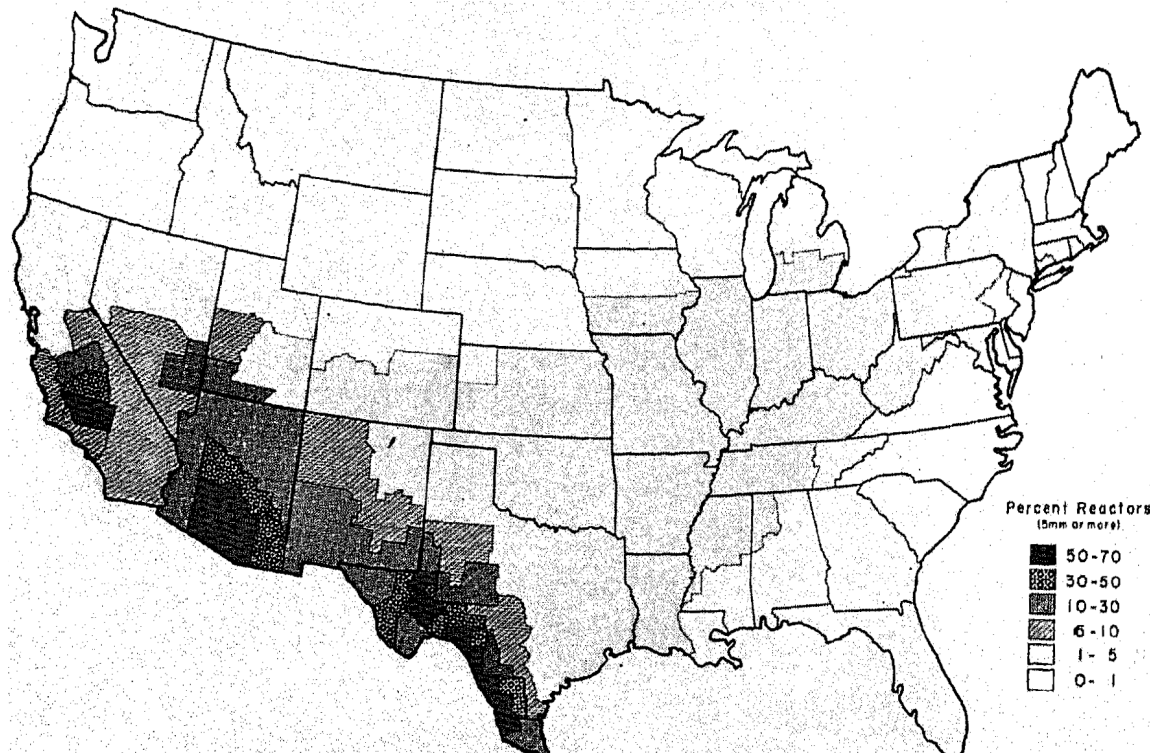
Histoplasmosis

# Surveillance limitations result in incomplete understanding of disease



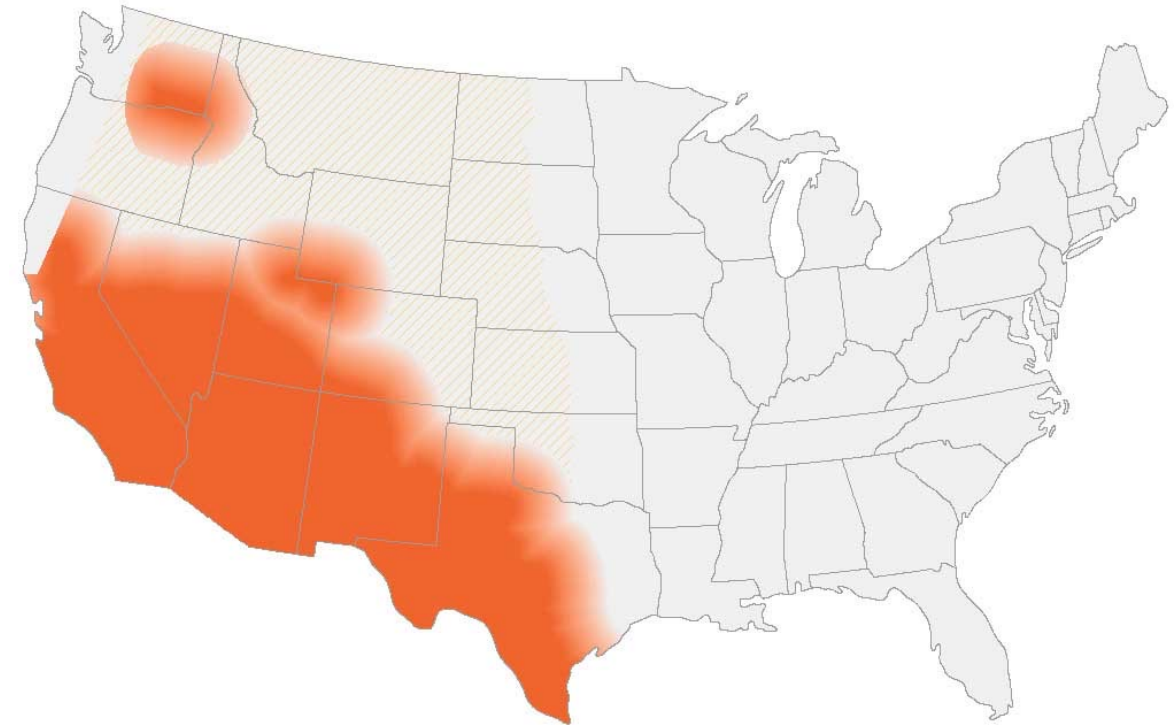
# Geographic range likely wider than currently recognized

Coccidioidomycosis skin testing in 1940s-1950s



Distribution of counties and groups of counties by frequency of coccidioidin reactors in 48,676 young adults. *Edwards et al 1957.*

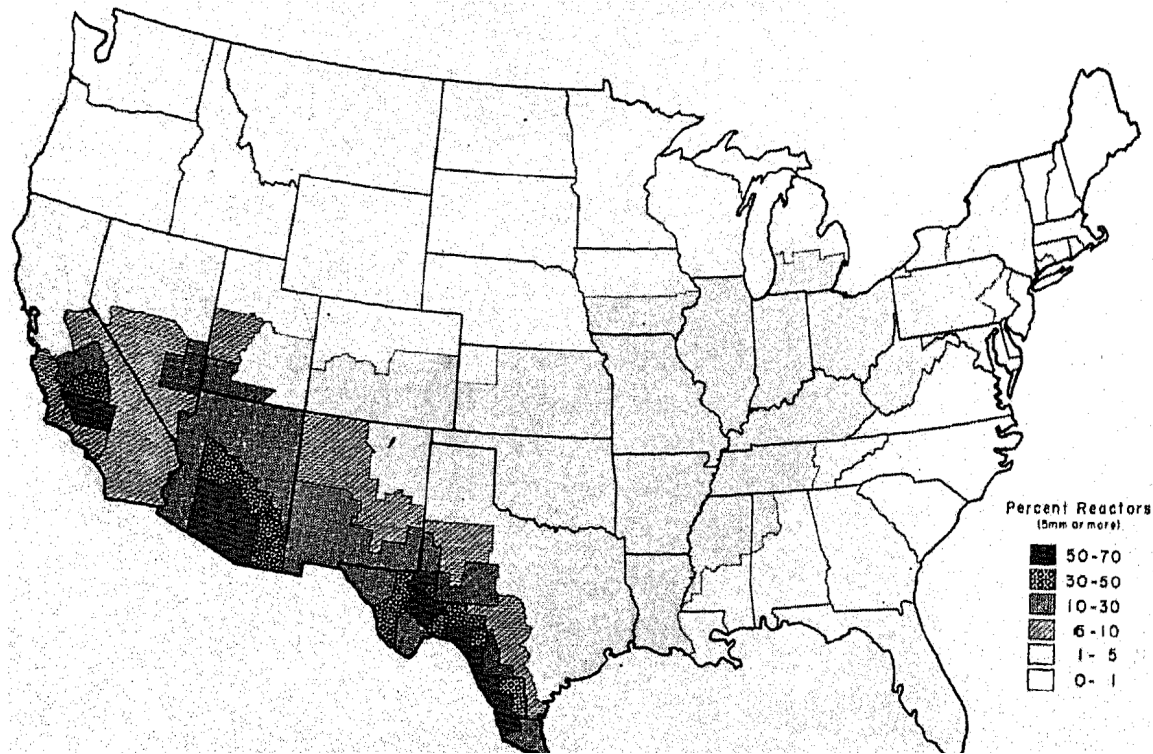
New map of coccidioidomycosis endemicity



<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/maps.html>

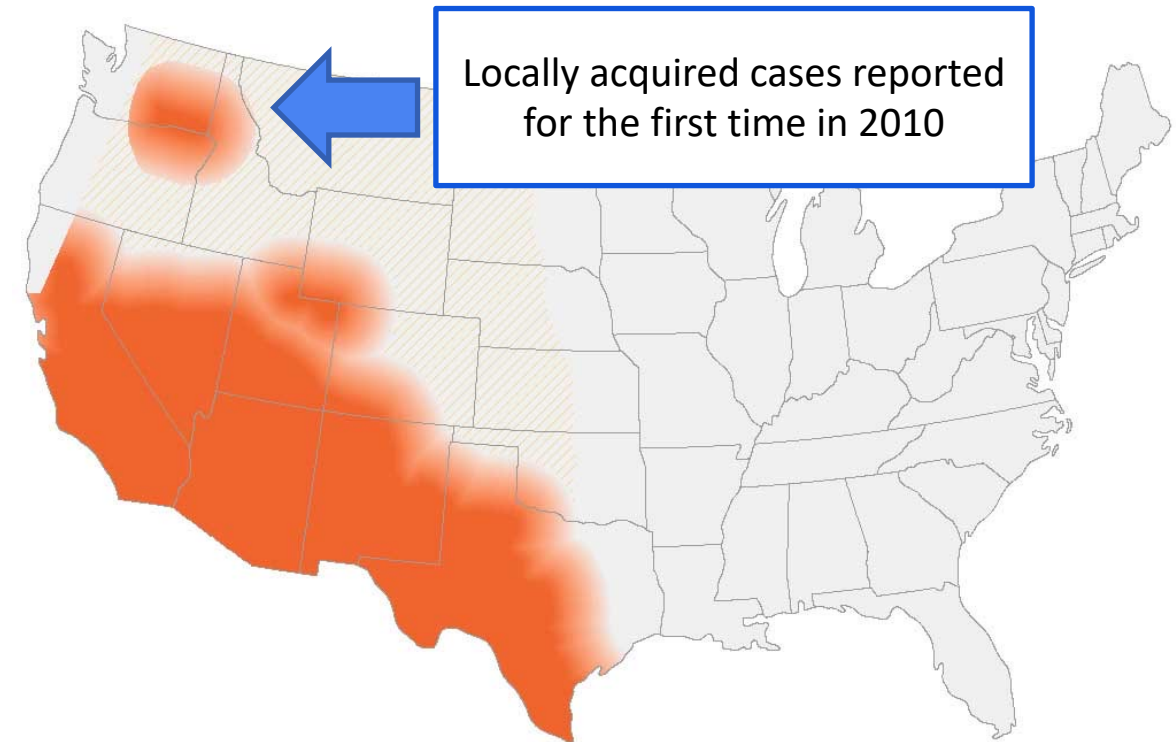
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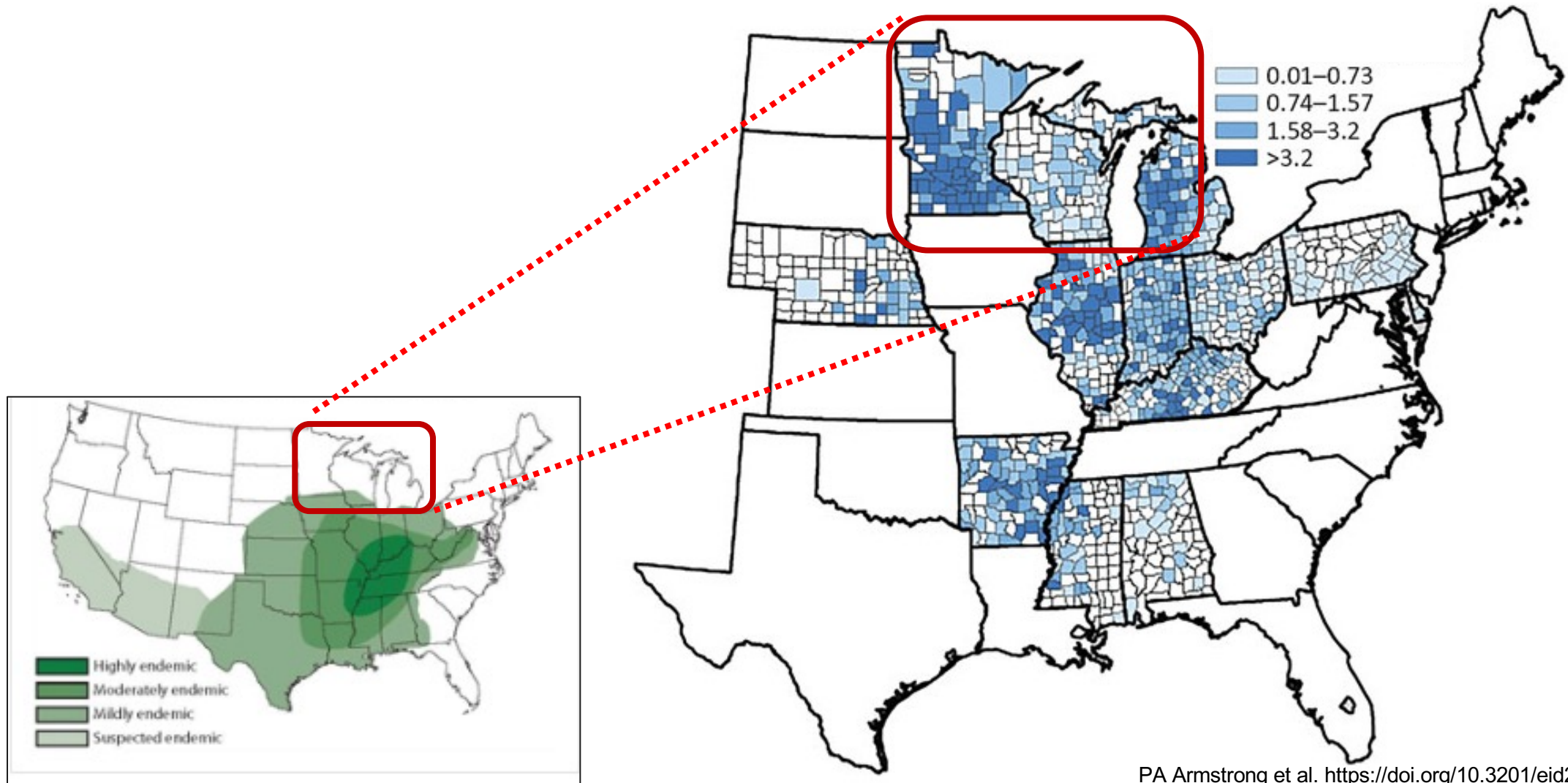


<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/maps.html>

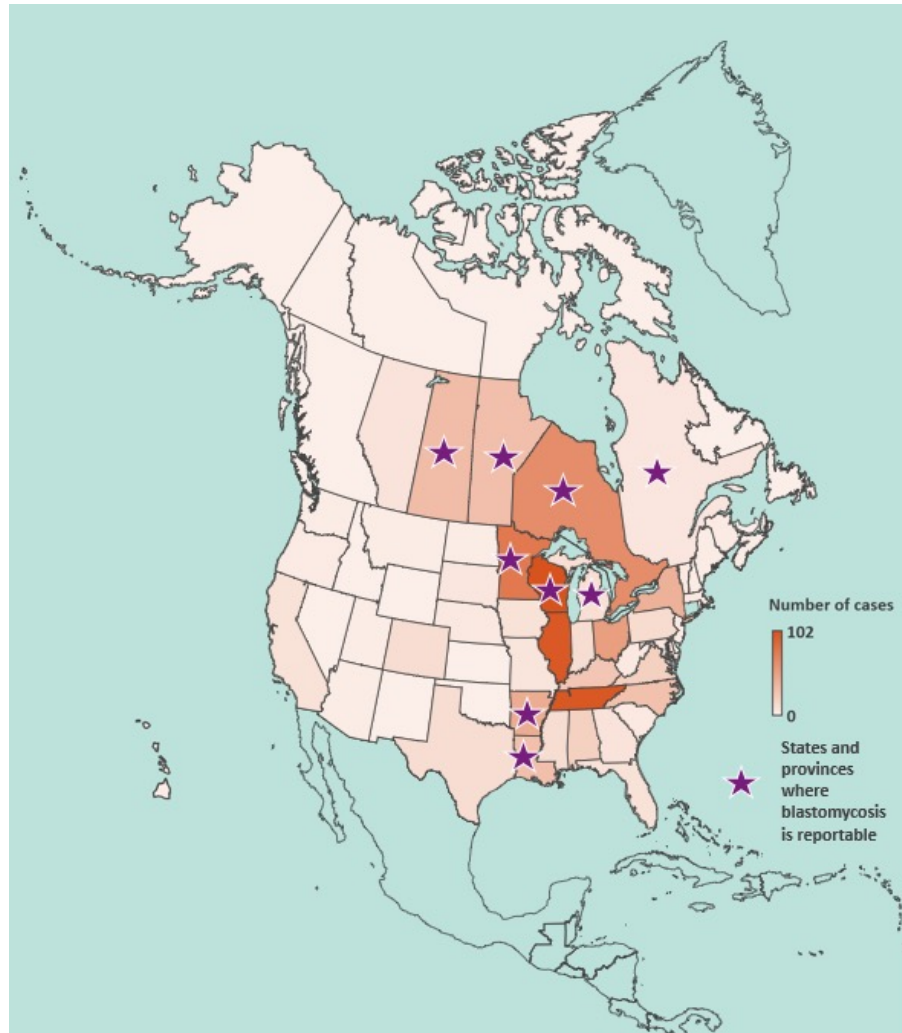


# Geographic range likely wider than currently recognized

Histoplasmosis incidence, 2011-2014

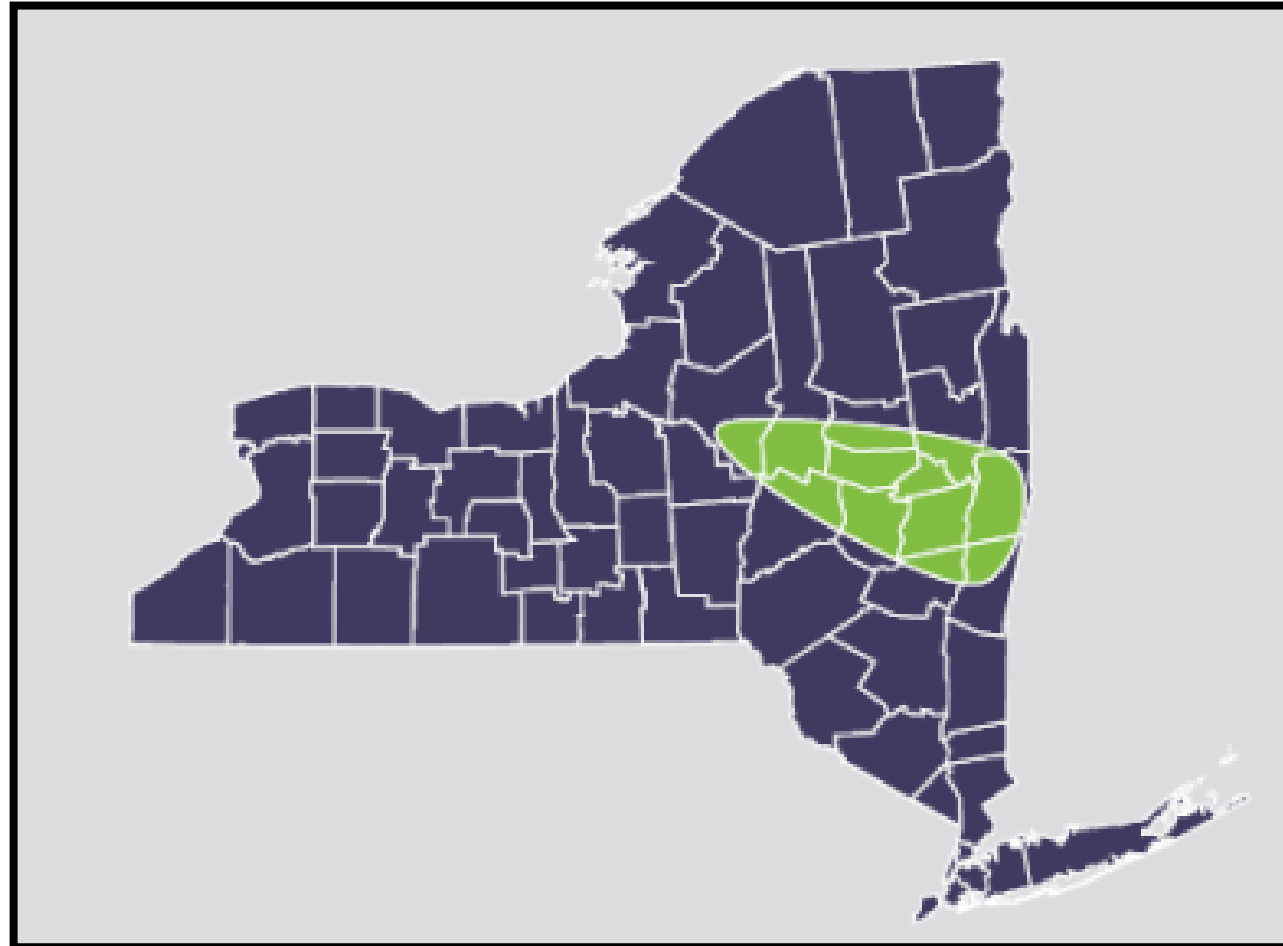


# Limited blastomycosis surveillance hinders ability to assess geographic trends

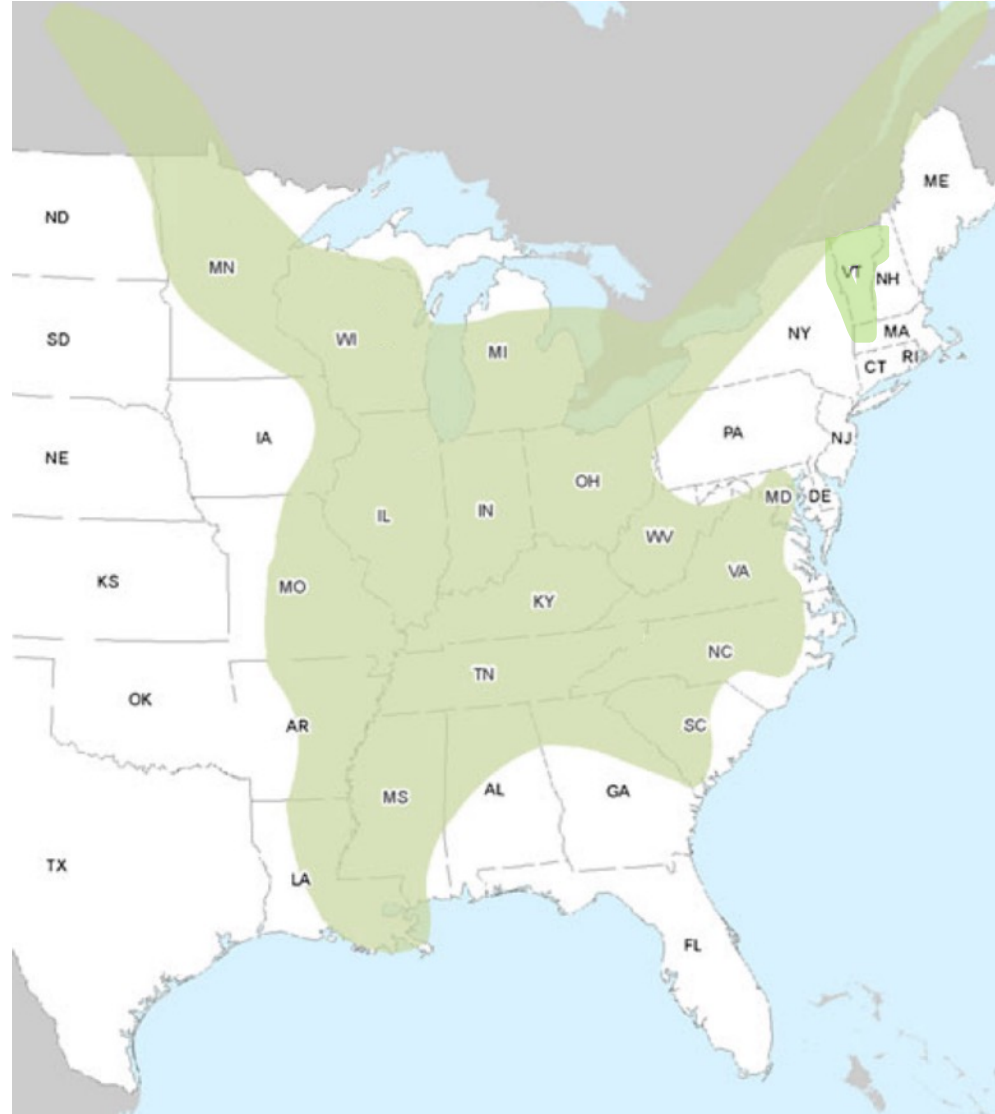


- Reviewed blastomycosis case reports from 1970-2020, mapped where cases were diagnosed.
- Most published blastomycosis cases were diagnosed within the estimated endemic range.
- Over half of published cases occurred in jurisdictions without public health surveillance.

# New York investigation indicated potential local acquisition of blastomycosis



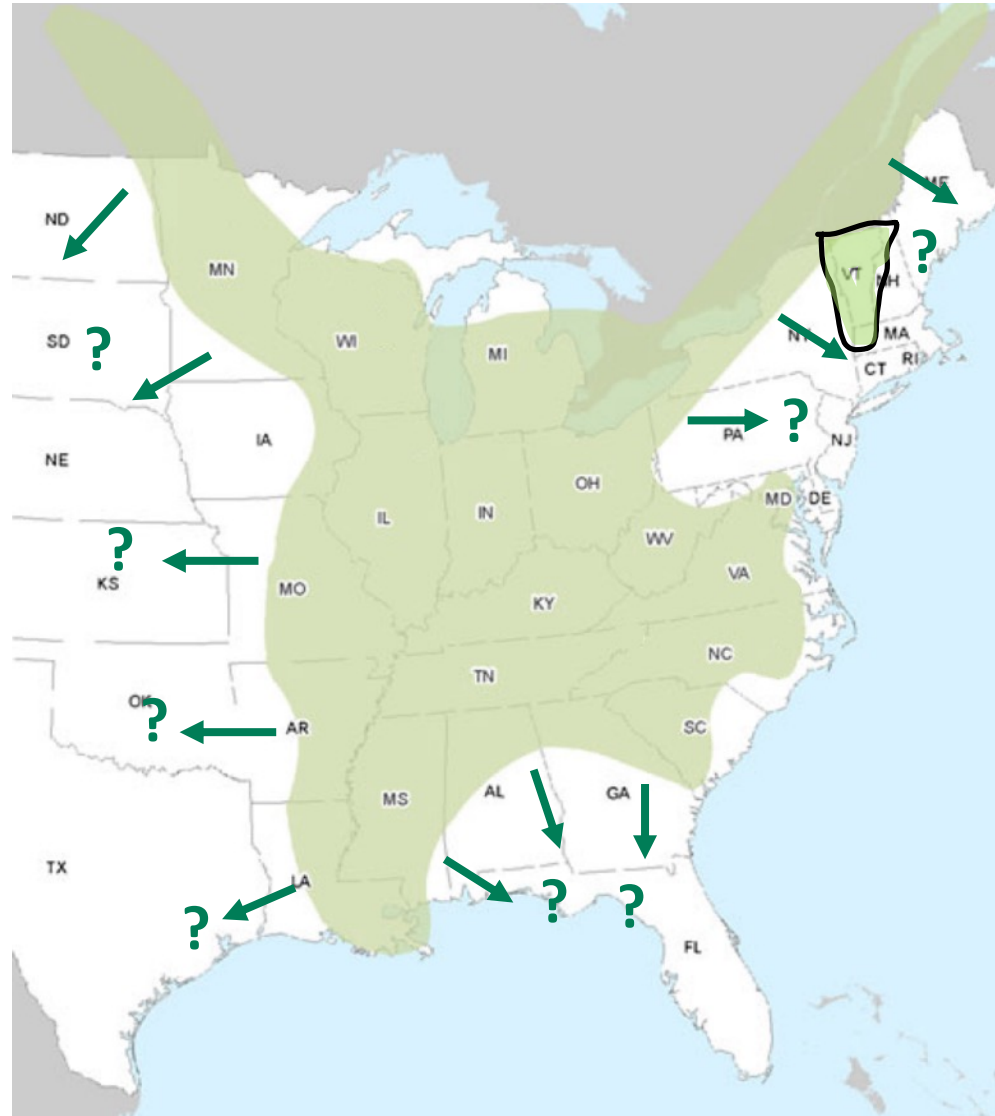
# Recent analyses suggest *Blastomyces* may be endemic in Vermont



Borah B, EIS Conference, 2023  
Benedict et al., 2012, *Current Fungal Infection Reports*

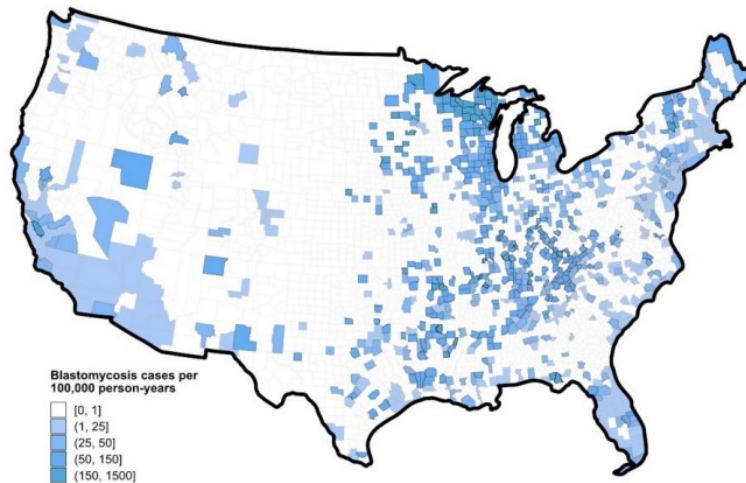


# Endemicity may extend beyond historical regions

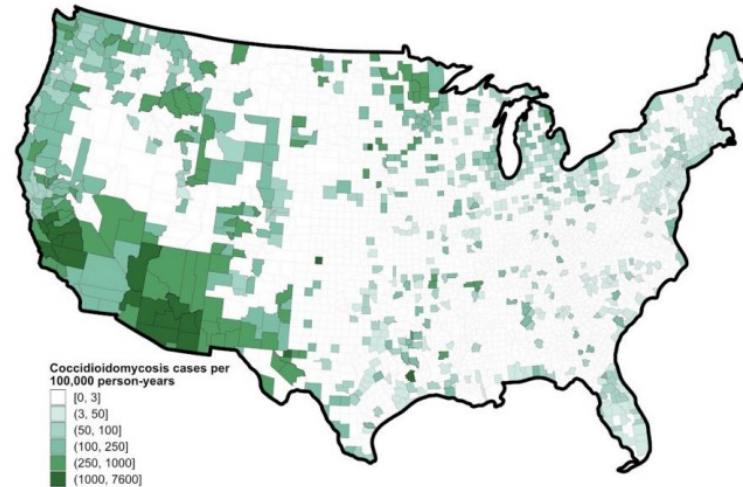


# Cases are identified outside of traditionally established endemic regions

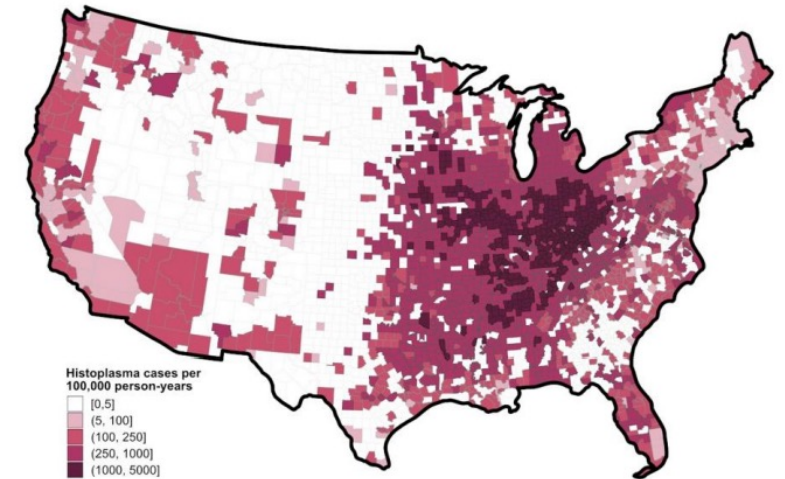
Incidence from 2007–2016 in Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries by U.S. county  
Reported as cases per 100,000 person-years



**Blastomycosis**



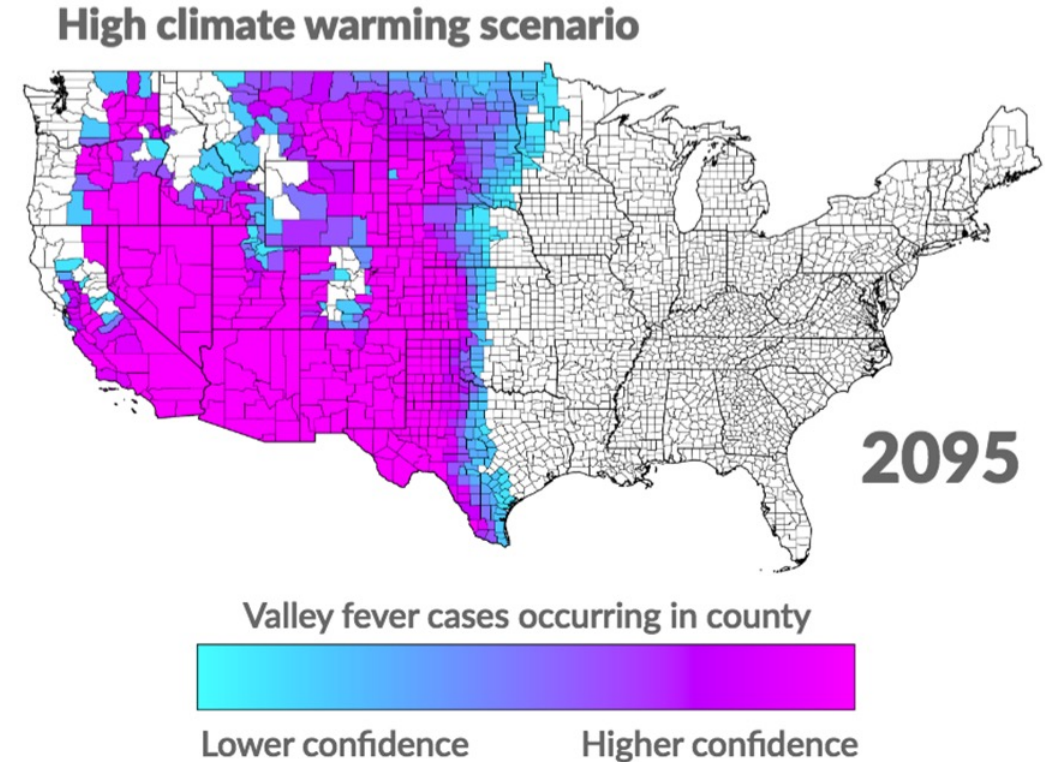
**Coccidioidomycosis**



**Histoplasmosis**

# Climate change may further impact the geographical distribution of coccidioidomycosis

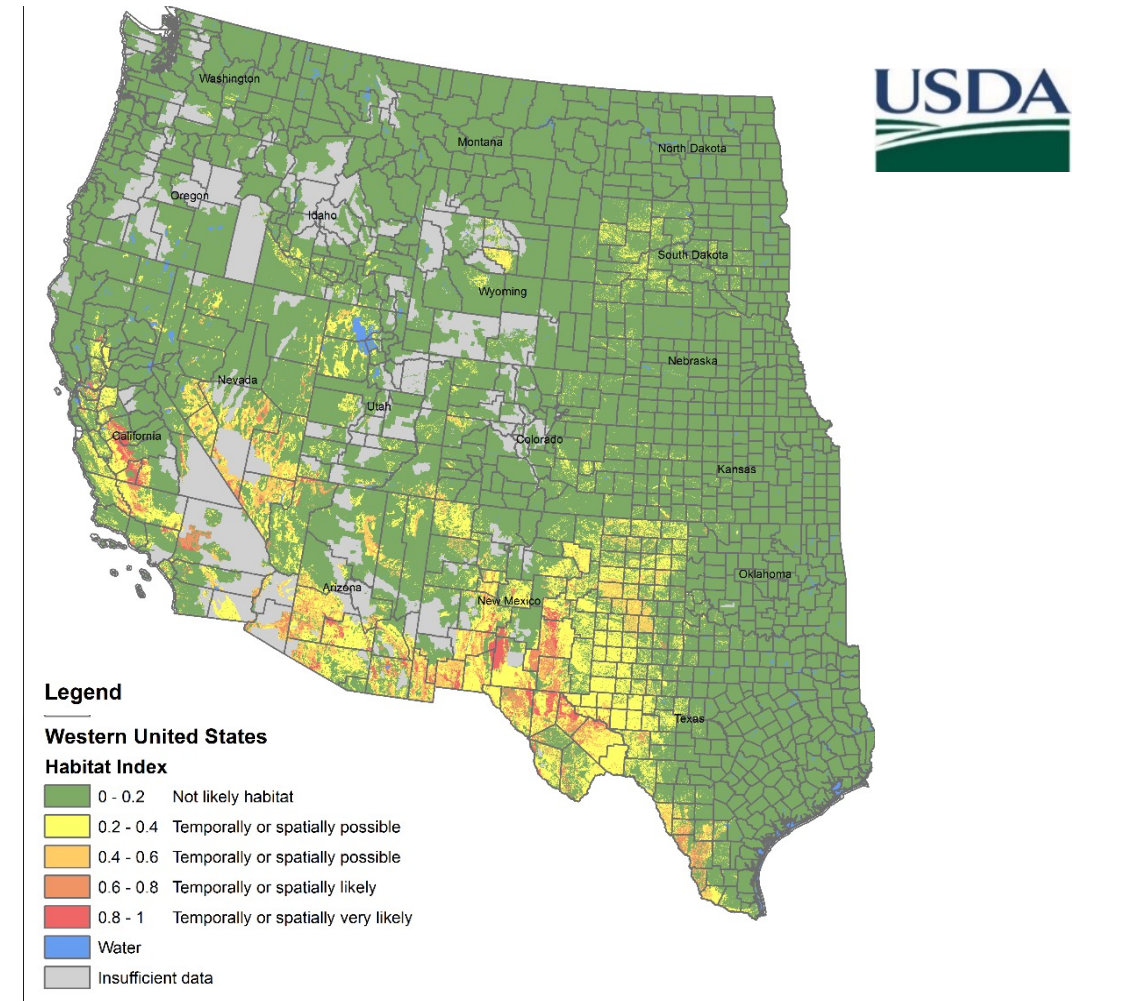
- Climate niche model for coccidioidomycosis based on temperature and precipitation
- Predicted areas affected by coccidioidomycosis under different climate warming scenarios



**Estimated ranges of coccidioidomycosis**  
(Gorris et al, GeoHealth 2019)

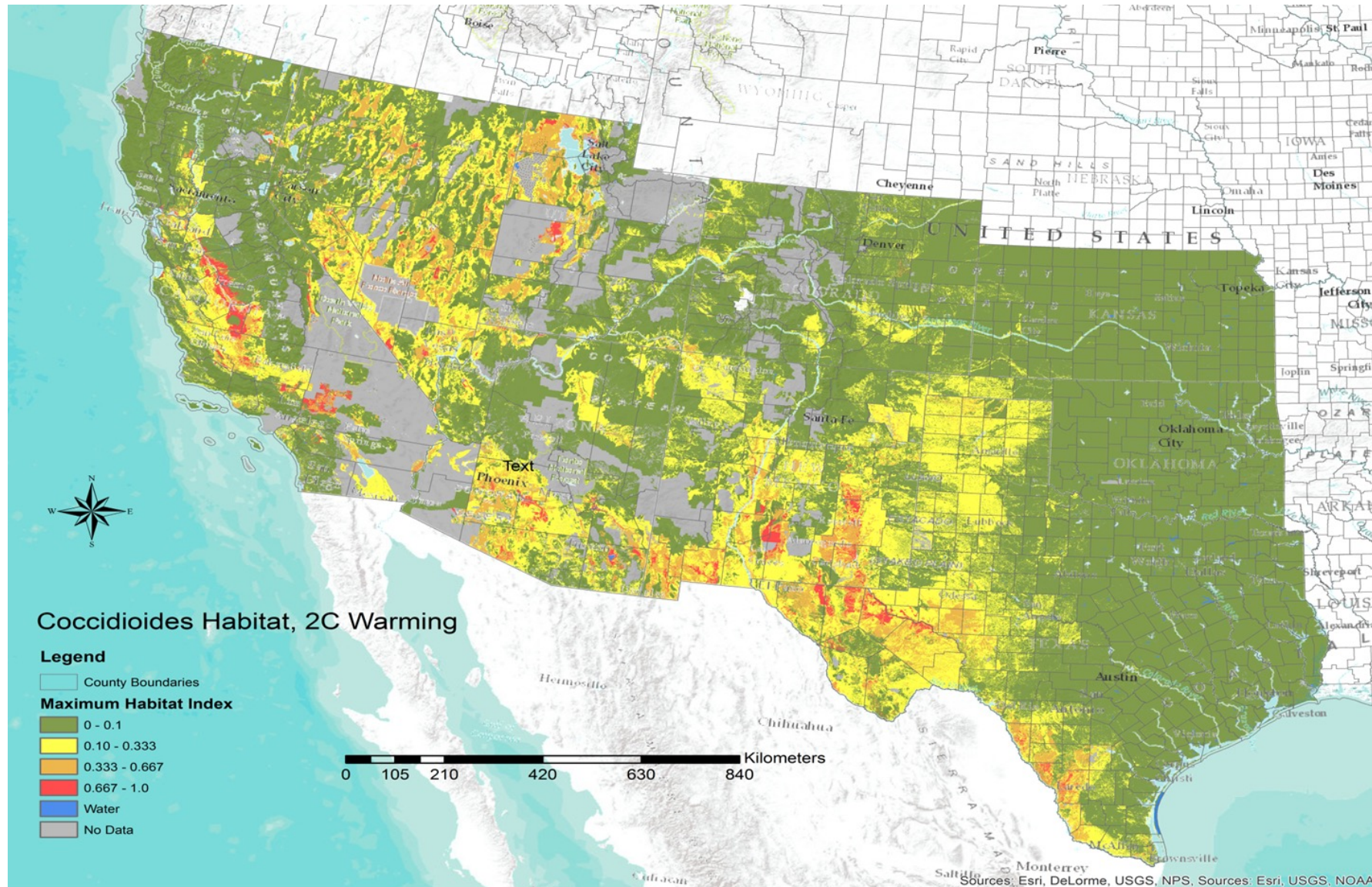
# Climate change may further impact the geographical distribution of coccidioidomycosis

- Model predicted suitable soil habitat for coccidioidomycosis based on USDA data
  - Electrical conductivity, pH, temperature, precipitation, organic matter, water holding capacity, surface morphology.



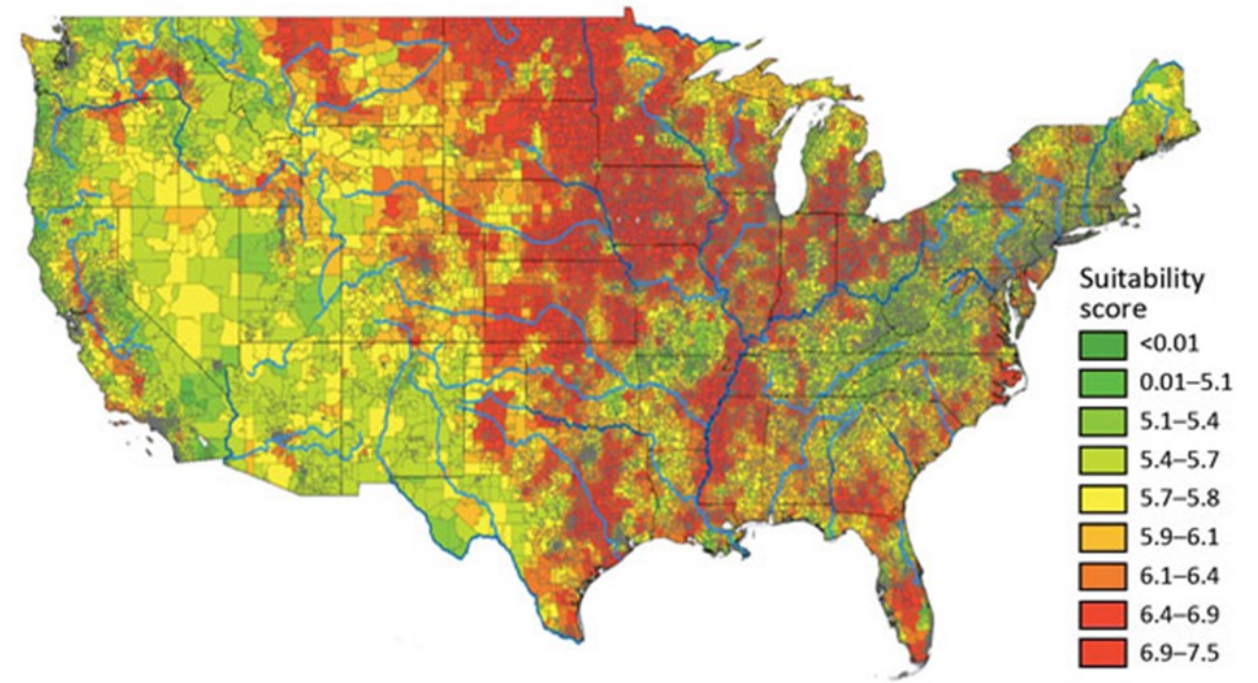


# What if we impose a 2° Celsius warming?



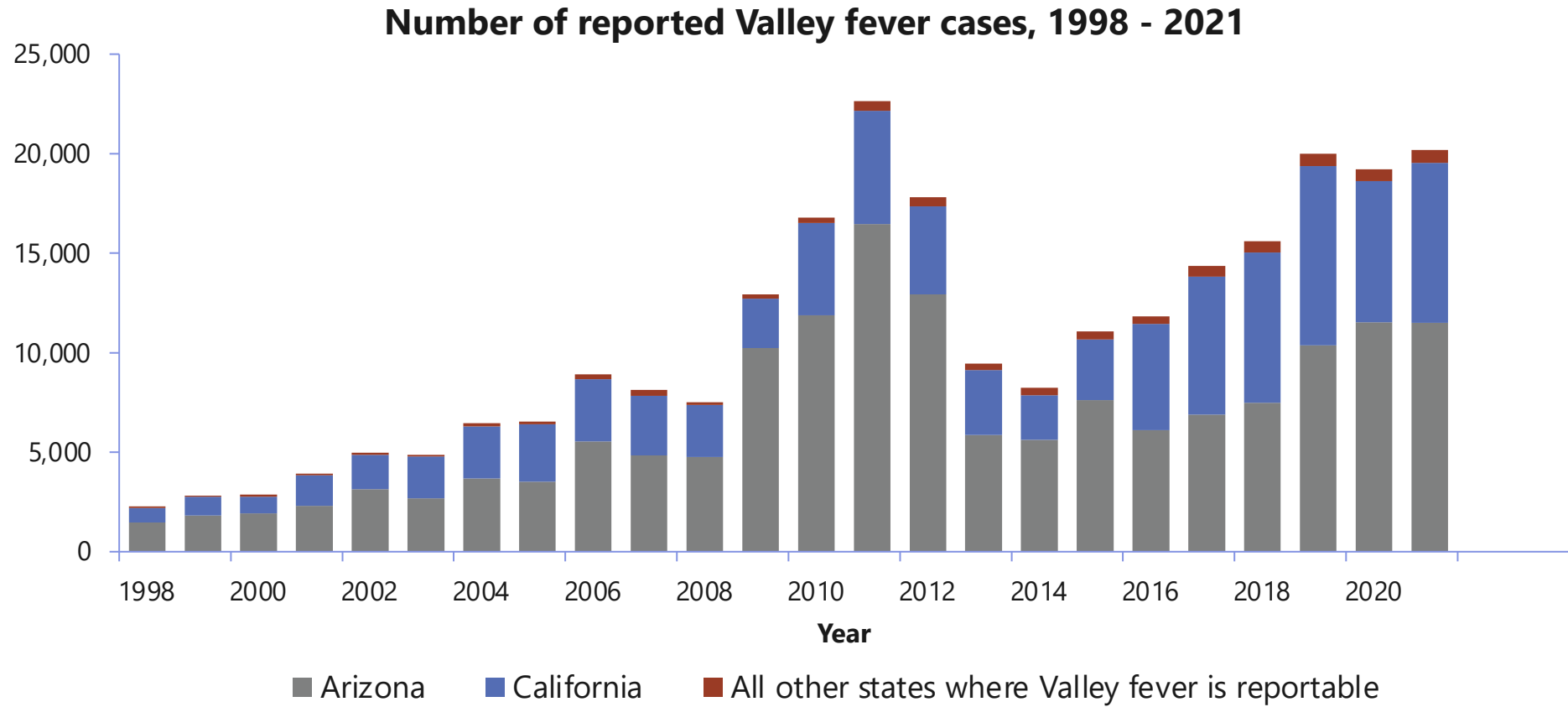
# Climate change may further impact the geographic suitability for *Histoplasma*

- Geographic suitability model to predict areas favorable to *Histoplasma* presence
  - Land cover use
  - Distance to water
  - Soil pH



Estimated ranges of histoplasmosis  
(Maiga et al, EID 2018)

# Reported coccidioidomycosis cases have increased considerably since 2014





# Steady rise in histoplasmosis hospitalization rates

*Open Forum Infectious Diseases*

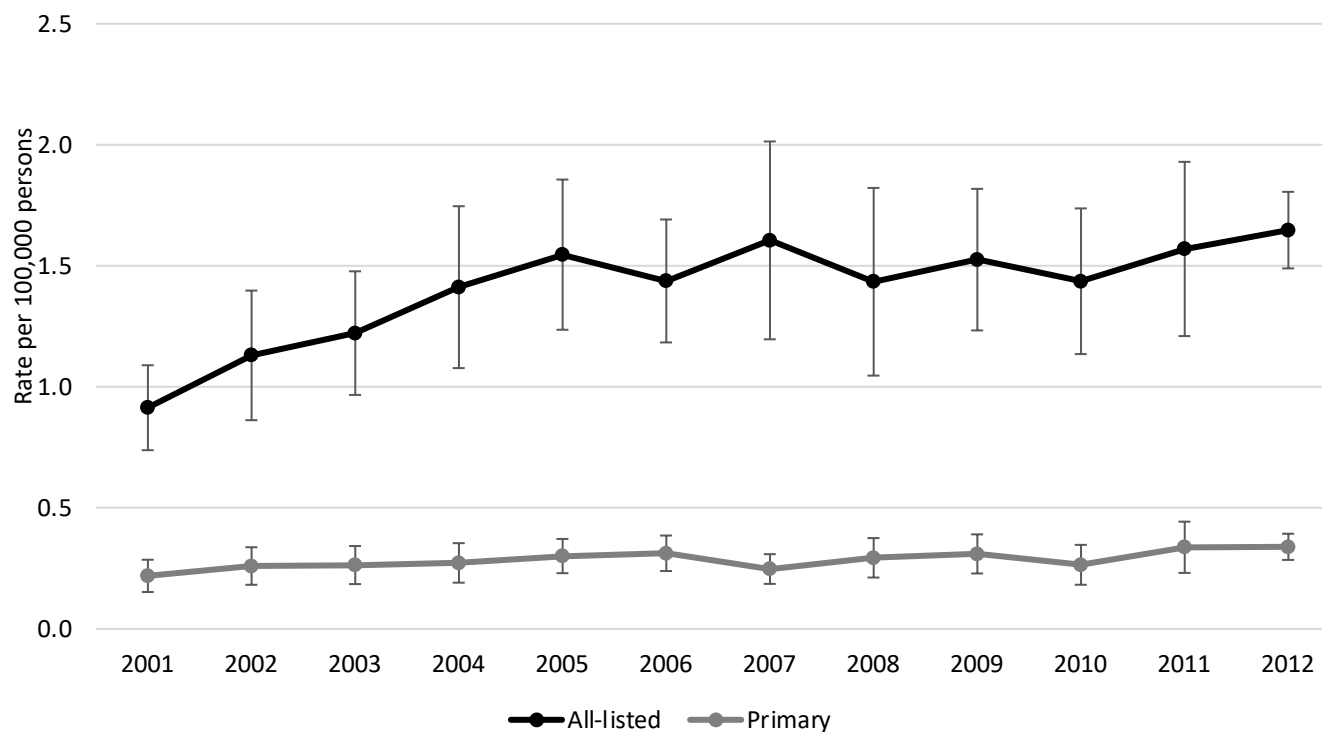
## BRIEF REPORT

### Histoplasmosis-Associated Hospitalizations in the United States, 2001–2012

Kaitlin Benedict,<sup>1</sup> Gordana Derado,<sup>2</sup> and Rajal K. Mody<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mycotic Diseases Branch and <sup>2</sup>Biostatistics and Information Management Office, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

Annual rates of all-listed and primary histoplasmosis-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 persons





# Surveillance reports characterized epidemiology from 2019–2021



Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (*MMWR*)

## Surveillance for Coccidioidomycosis, Histoplasmosis, and Blastomycosis — United States, 2019

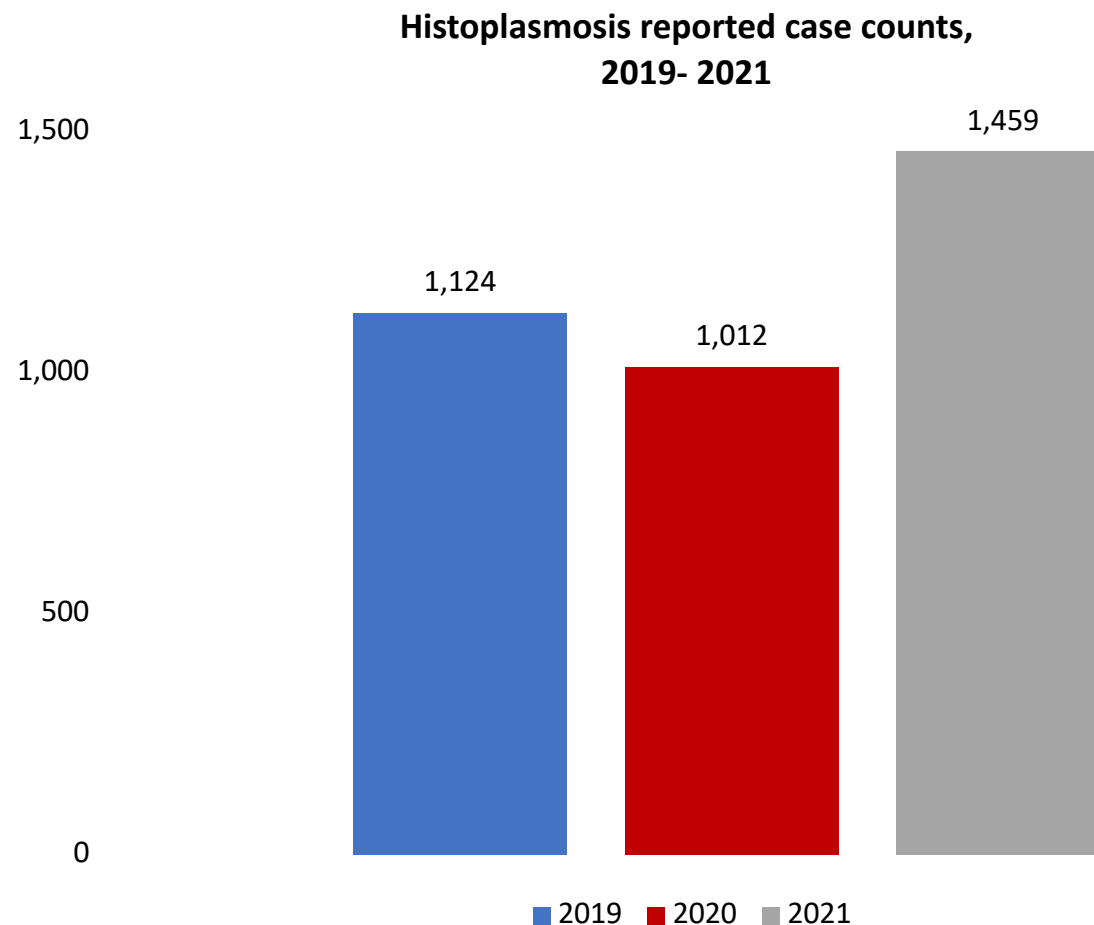
*Surveillance Summaries* / August 19, 2022 / 71(7);1–14

## Surveillance for Coccidioidomycosis, Histoplasmosis, and Blastomycosis During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2019–2021

*Weekly* / March 21, 2024 / 73(11);239–244

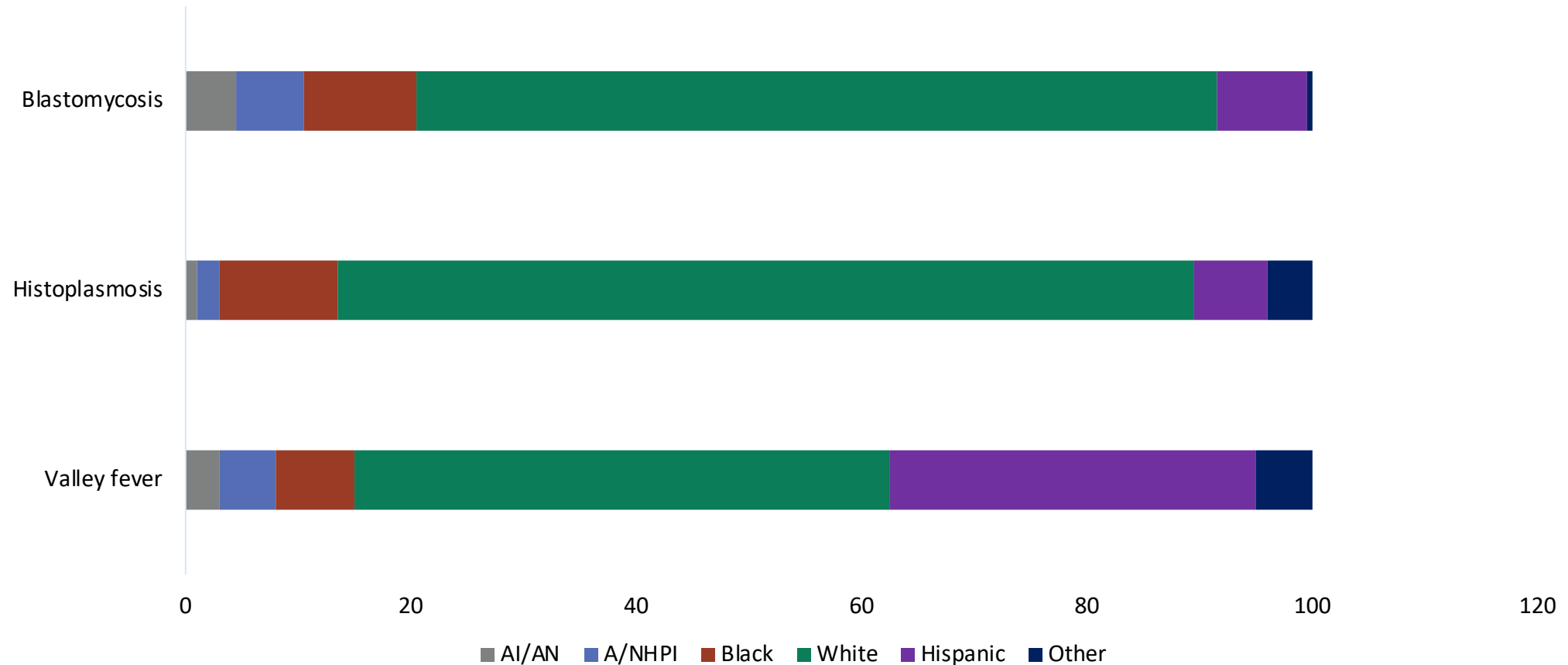
# Histoplasmosis cases increased substantially from 2020 to 2021

- Reported cases of histoplasmosis declined by 10% from 2019 to 2020, then increased 44% from 2020 to 2021
- Several factors may have contributed to the substantial increase in 2021
  - Possible increased risk of exposure due to time spent outdoors
  - Increased clinical suspicion of fungal diseases
  - Weather patterns favorable to fungal growth and dispersal



# Greatest proportion of cases occurred among non-Hispanic White populations for all three diseases

Percent of Valley fever, histoplasmosis, blastomycosis by race/ethnicity, 2020–2021



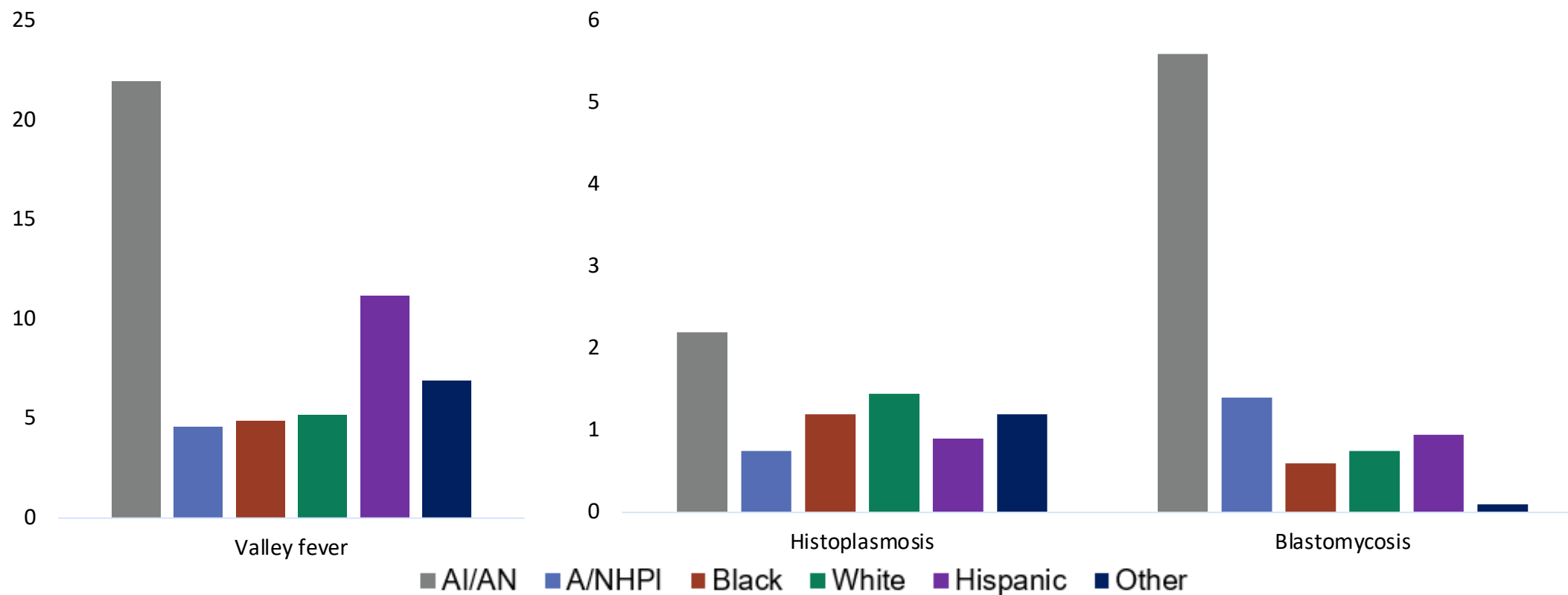
\*Cases per 100,000 population

AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native; A/NHPI=Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

Williams SL, Smith DJ, Benedict K, et al. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7311a2>

# Annual incidence highest among American Indian/Alaska Native populations

Incidence\* of Valley fever, histoplasmosis, blastomycosis by race/ethnicity, 2020–2021




\*Cases per 100,000 population

AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native; A/NHPI=Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

Williams SL, Smith DJ, Benedict K, et al. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7311a2>

# American Indian/Alaska Native populations had highest hospitalization rate of any racial/ethnic group

## Coccidioidomycosis Among American Indians and Alaska Natives, 2001–2014

Orion McCotter , Jordan Kennedy, Jeffrey McCollum, Michael Bartholomew, Jonathan Iralu, Brendan R Jackson, Dana Haberling, Kaitlin Benedict

*Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, Volume 6, Issue 3, March 2019, ofz052,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofz052>

**Published:** 11 March 2019      **Article history** ▼

**Hospitalization rate for American Indian/Alaska Native population was >4 times the rate for non-Hispanic White populations**



# Reported case counts are likely a substantial underestimation of true disease burden

Several factors limit the ability to detect cases of coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis and blastomycosis

**Underreporting**



**Underdiagnosis**



**Care-seeking  
Behavior**



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Several factors limit the ability to detect cases of coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis and blastomycosis

**Underreporting**



**Underdiagnosis**



**Care-seeking Behavior**



**Missed or delayed diagnosis can have wide-reaching implications.**

# Diagnostic challenges



# Fungal pneumonias are like a chameleons

Bacterial pneumonia

Endemic mycoses

Sarcoidosis

Other fungal infections

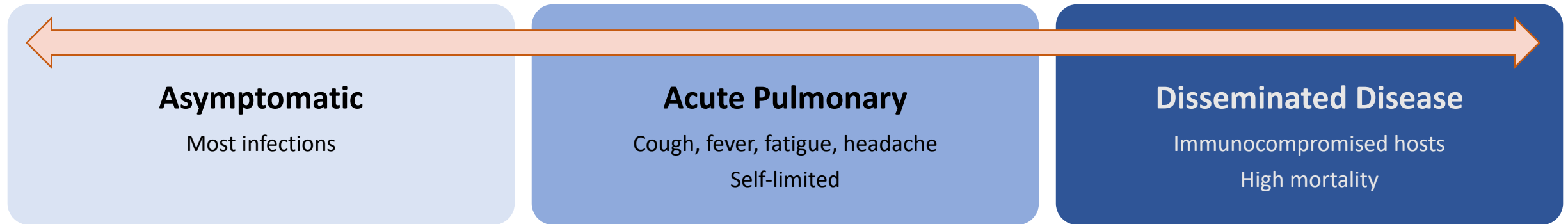
Lung cancer

Tuberculosis

Syphilis



# Clinical manifestations vary substantially



Severity of illness depends principally on:

1. Fungal inoculum
2. Host immunity

# Hospitalization and mortality rates are of concern

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (*MMWR*)

## Surveillance for Coccidioidomycosis, Histoplasmosis, and Blastomycosis — United States, 2019

*Surveillance Summaries* / August 19, 2022 / 71(7);1–14

Dallas J. Smith, PharmD<sup>1,2</sup>; Samantha L. Williams, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Endemic Mycoses State Partners Group; Kaitlin M. Benedict, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Brendan R. Jackson, MD<sup>2</sup>; Mitsuru Toda, PhD<sup>2</sup> ([VIEW AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS](#))

**54%** of **histoplasmosis** patients were hospitalized and **5%** died

**65%** of **blastomycosis** patients were hospitalized and **9%** died



# Symptoms may be mild and are generally nonspecific



Fever



Cough



Fatigue



Headache



Night sweats



Muscle aches



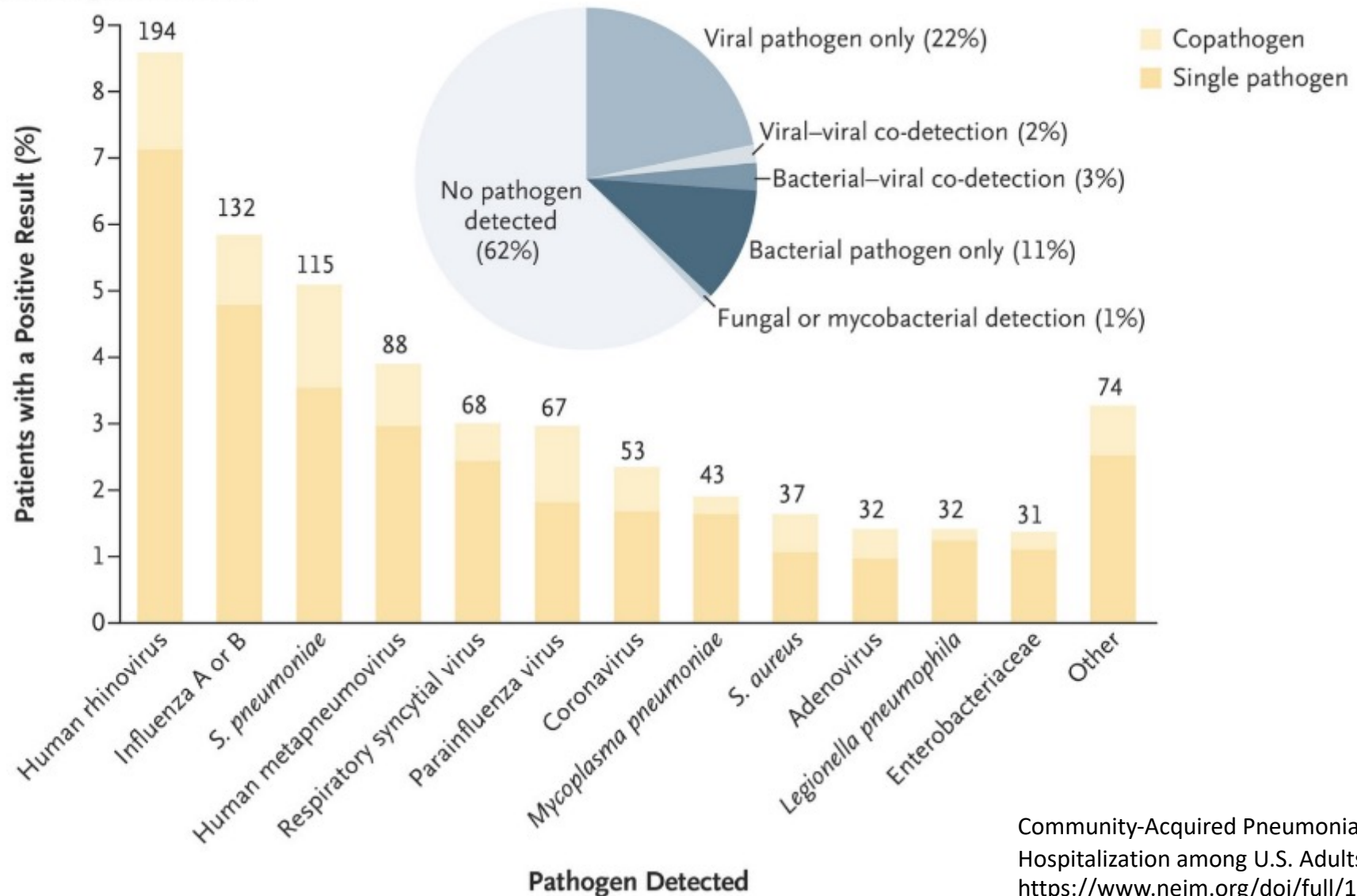


**These diseases are often misdiagnosed as community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) of bacteria or viral etiology**



# Etiology of pneumonia in the community (EPIC)

A Specific Pathogens Detected



# Current clinical practice guidelines for CAP do not recommend testing for coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, and blastomycosis

## AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY DOCUMENTS

### Diagnosis and Treatment of Adults with Community-acquired Pneumonia

An Official Clinical Practice Guideline of the American Thoracic Society and Infectious Diseases Society of America

## IDSA GUIDELINES

The Management of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Infants and Children Older Than 3 Months of Age: Clinical Practice Guidelines by the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and the Infectious Diseases Society of America

- Guidelines state that endemic mycoses are uncommon pathogens
- True burden likely higher

# Survey of healthcare providers asked frequency of testing for these fungal diseases with CAP

	<b>Primary care providers sometimes or frequently</b>	<b>Infectious disease physicians sometimes or frequently</b>
<b>Blastomycosis</b>	Not surveyed	35%
<b>Coccidioidomycosis</b>	19%	36%
<b>Histoplasmosis</b>	22%	58%

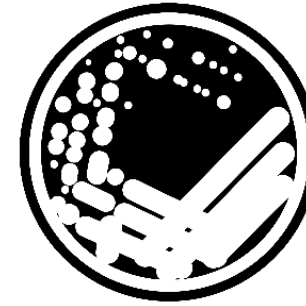


# Selecting the optimal laboratory test(s) is complex and nuanced

Antibody/Antigen detection



Culture




Molecular methods





Histopathology






# Pros and cons of laboratory methods

Methods	Pros	Cons
<p data-bbox="147 368 412 502">Antibody/ Antigen</p> 	<ul data-bbox="896 359 1538 516" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quick turnaround times</li><li>• Antigen testing useful early in disease progression</li></ul>	<ul data-bbox="1735 359 2466 511" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cross-reactivity</li><li>• Sensitivity dependent on host immune status and disease course</li></ul>





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Histopathology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highly specific</li><li>• Relatively quick turnaround times</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires invasive procedures</li><li>• Personnel training</li></ul>



# Test performance varies based on specimen, disease course, and immune status

## Sensitivities and specificities of histoplasmosis diagnostic tests

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity	Population Studied
<b>Antigen tests</b>			
EIA Urine antigen <sup>7</sup>	79%	99%	Adult population, people living with HIV
EIA Serum antigen <sup>7</sup>	82%	97%	Adult population, people living with HIV
<b>Antibody tests</b>			
EIA antibody <sup>8</sup>	98%	97% (high cross-reactivity with <i>Blastomyces</i> )	Immunocompromised & healthy populations
Complement fixation (CF) antibody <sup>9,10</sup>	66%–95%	70%–80%	Adult populations
Immunodiffusion (ID) antibody <sup>9,10</sup>	63%–95%	100%	Adult populations
<b>Other tests</b>			
Culture <sup>11</sup>	15%–85%	100%	Acute or subacute, disseminated disease
Microscopy/histopathology <sup>11</sup>	9%–43%	100%	Acute or subacute, disseminated disease

# Impact of underdiagnosis

# Unresolved illness, repeat healthcare visits

**23–38 days** (median time between seeking healthcare and diagnosis)

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**56%–70%** receive **another diagnosis** before being tested for an endemic fungal infection

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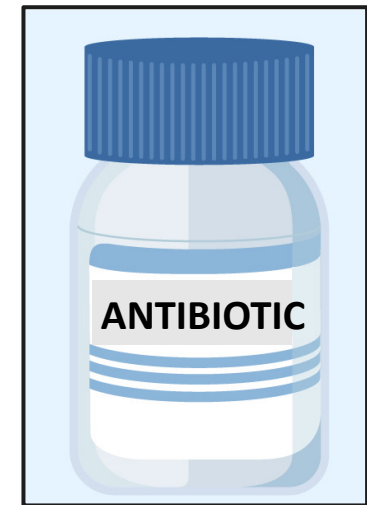
**54%–60%** see provider **≥3 times** before tested for an endemic fungal infection



# Overuse of unnecessary antibiotics

**>50%** receive **antibiotics** before diagnosis of histoplasmosis or coccidioidomycosis

Most patients receive **≥2** rounds of **antibiotics** before being tested for an endemic fungal infection



Chi GC, Benedict K, Beer KD, Jackson B, et al. Antibiotic and antifungal treatment among persons with confirmed coccidioidomycosis – Southern California, 2011. *Medical Mycology*. 2020, 58, 411–413. doi: 10.1093/mmy/myz073

Alpern JD, Bahr NC, Vazquez-Benitez G, Boulware DR, Sellman JS, Sarosi GA. Diagnostic Delay and Antibiotic Overuse in Acute Pulmonary Blastomycosis. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2016 Apr 19;3(2):ofw078.

Benedict K, McCracken S, Signs K, Ireland M, Amburgey V, et al. Enhanced Surveillance for Histoplasmosis—9 States, 2018–2019. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2020 Sept; 7(9):ofaa343.

# Limits accurate surveillance

- Hinders the true understanding of disease epidemiology, with downstream effects on messaging and risk mitigation



**Resources are needed to improve provider awareness  
and testing practices to promote early diagnosis**

# Diagnostic algorithms

# Diagnostic algorithms were developed

In partnership with the Mycoses Study Group, CDC created diagnostic algorithms for blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, and histoplasmosis in patients with CAP to:

- **Increase levels of testing**, particularly among primary care and outpatient providers
- Aid in the **accurate interpretation** of diagnostic test results
- Offer a **standard** diagnostic approach for the endemic mycoses



# Focus on improving awareness and testing among primary care and outpatient providers

Considerable testing gap for patients presenting with CAP between primary care providers and infectious disease physicians

	Primary care providers Test sometimes or frequently	Infectious disease physicians Test sometimes or frequently
<b>Coccidioidomycosis</b>	19%	36%
<b>Histoplasmosis</b>	22%	58%

# Focus on improving awareness and testing among primary care and outpatient providers

## Clinician Practice Patterns That Result in the Diagnosis of Coccidioidomycosis Before or During Hospitalization

Jie Pu, Fariba M Donovan, Kate Ellingson, Gondy Leroy, Jeff Stone, Edward Bedrick, John N Galgiani ✉

*Clinical Infectious Diseases*, ciaa739, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa739>

- **Less than one-third** of new diagnoses occurred outside the hospital
  - 73% of during hospitalization
  - Only 22% at ambulatory clinics, 3% in emergency departments, and 0.5% in urgent care

# Focus on improving awareness and testing among primary care and outpatient providers

## Enhanced Surveillance for Histoplasmosis—9 States, 2018–2019

Kaitlin Benedict , Stephanie McCracken, Kimberly Signs, Malia Ireland, Victoria Amburgey, Jose Antonio Serrano, Natalie Christophe, Suzanne Gibbons-Burgener, Sara Hallyburton, Kimberly A Warren, Alison Keyser Metobo, Racheal Odom, Matthew R Groenewold, Brendan R Jackson

[Author Notes](#)

*Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, Volume 7, Issue 9, September 2020, ofaa343,

- **43%** of patients first sought care in a primary care facility
- Primary care providers made up just **11%** of providers who first tested for histoplasmosis

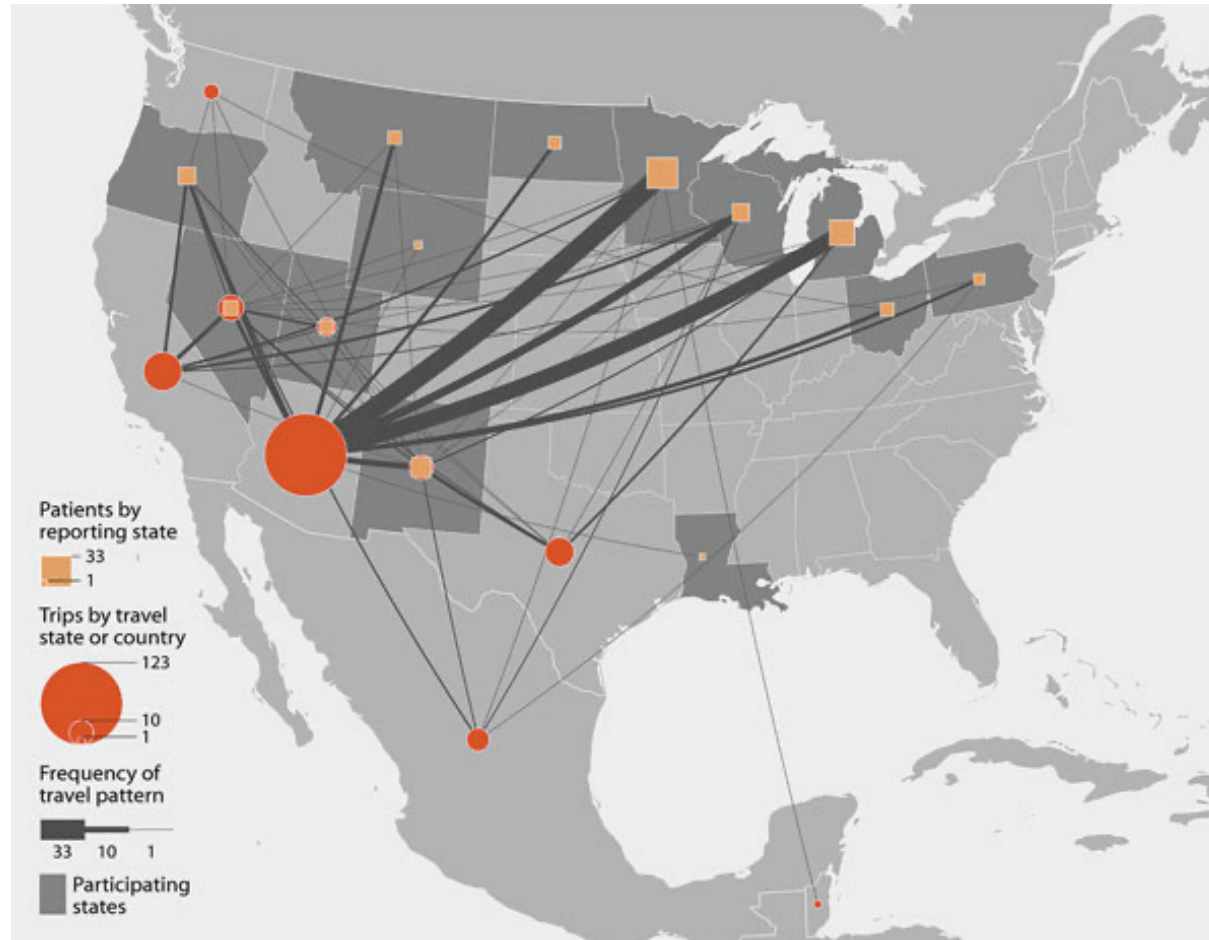
# Reach providers across the United States, not just endemic areas

- Providers who live or train in low or non-endemic areas may have less awareness of disease
- Providers may move to practice in endemic areas



# Travel-associated infections occur regularly

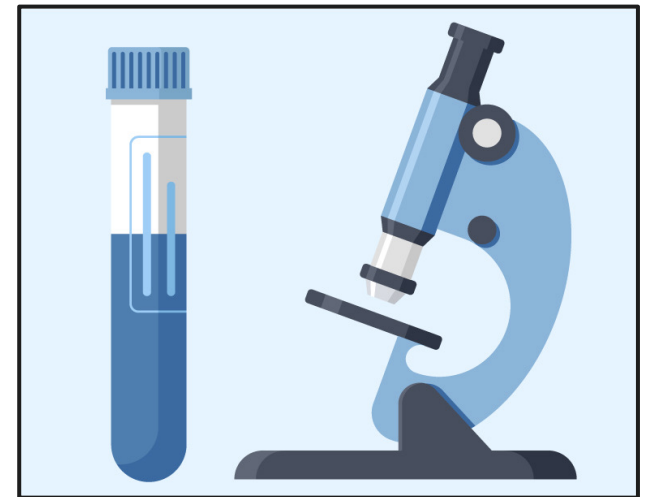
Reported cases of coccidioidomycosis related to travel, 2016





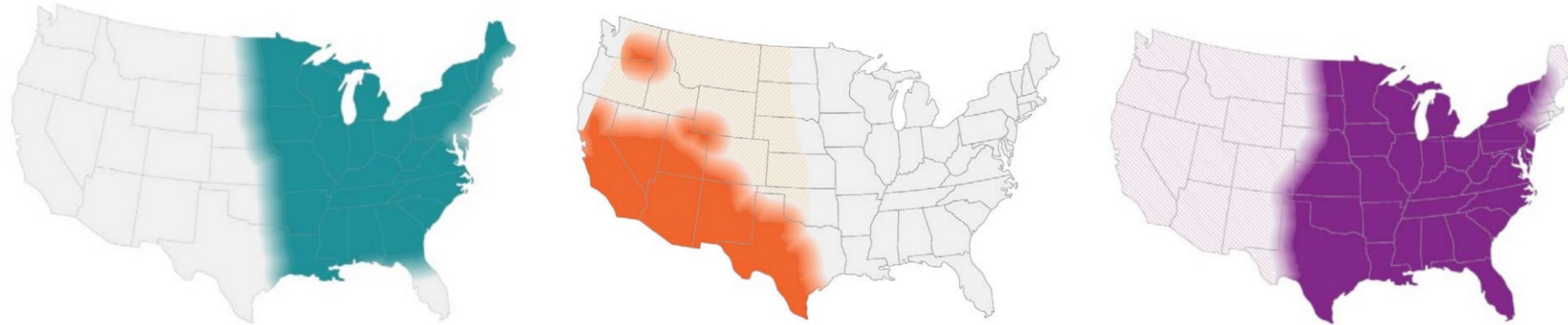
# Algorithm development process

1. In consultation with experts, reviewed performance characteristics of available diagnostic tests
2. Synthesized learnings into a draft diagnostic algorithms
3. Presented to specialty groups and experts both within and external to CDC to solicit feedback
4. Revised algorithms accordingly and finalized



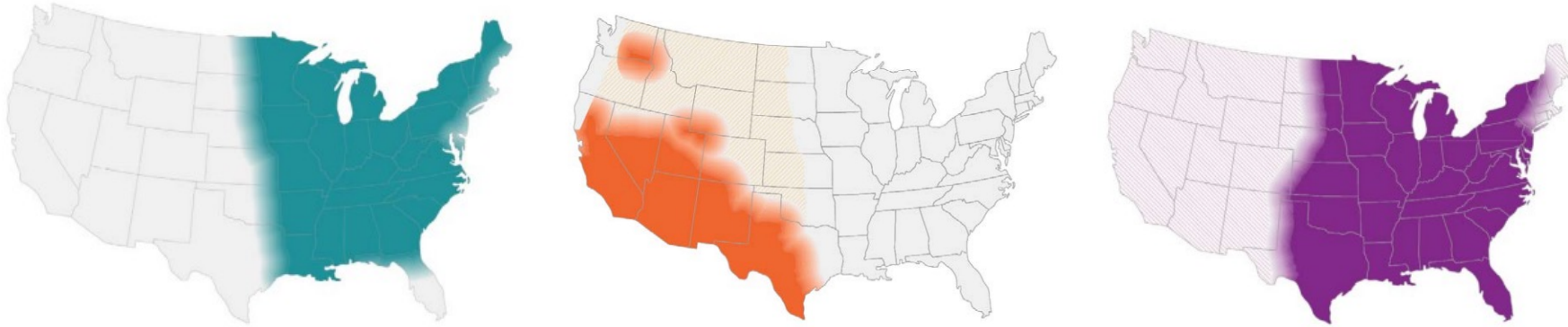
# Consideration for testing

**Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)**



# Consideration for testing

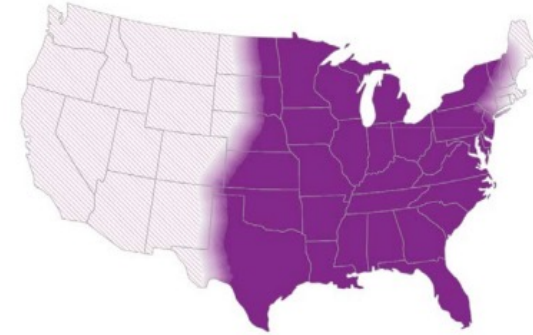
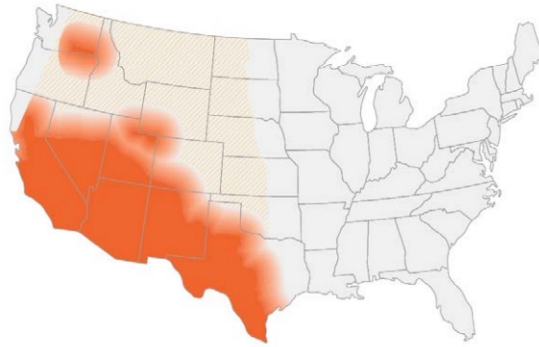
Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)



CAP of unknown etiology not  
responding to a course of empiric  
antibiotics

# Consideration for testing

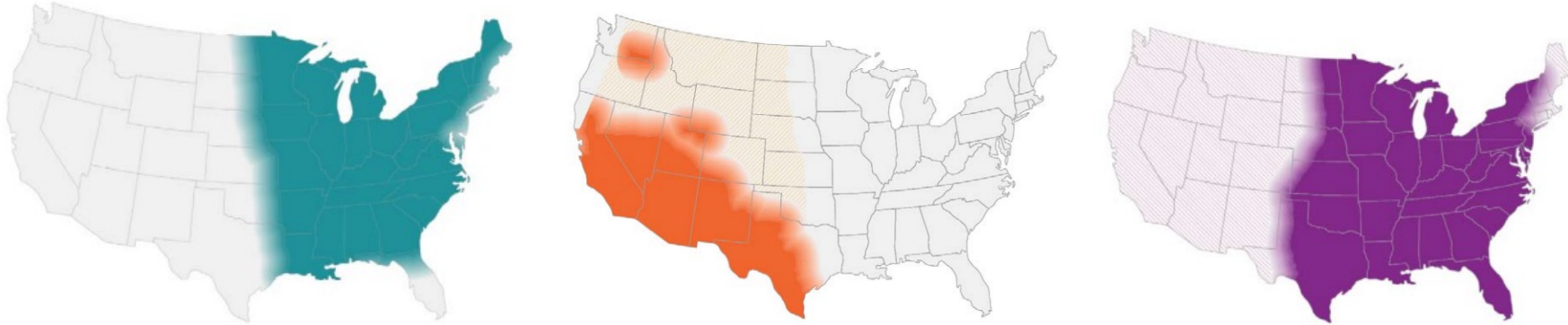
Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)



AND

# Consideration for testing

Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)



## Blastomycosis

Initial CAP visit if:

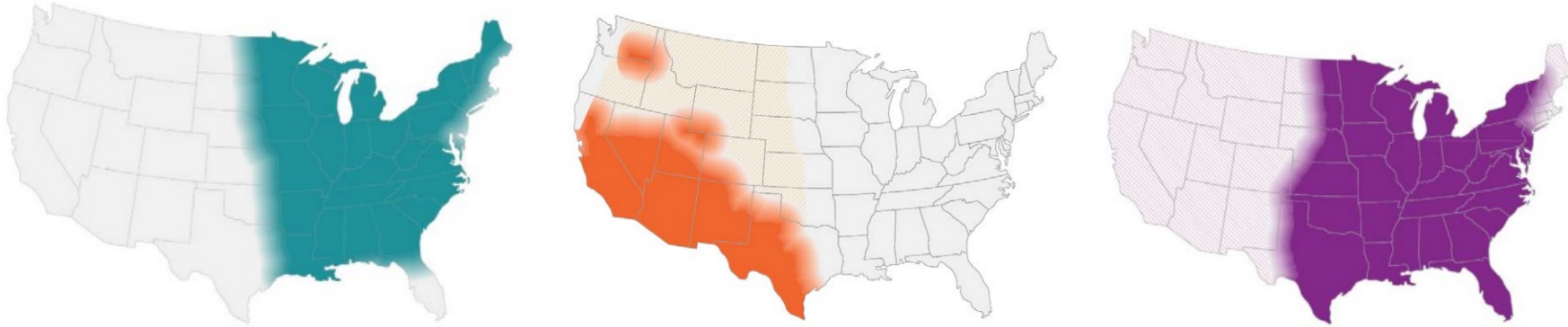
- Skin lesions present\* OR
- Link to known blastomycosis outbreak

\*Skin lesions could be indicative of late disease or traumatic inoculation rather than acute pulmonary blastomycosis



# Consideration for testing

Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)



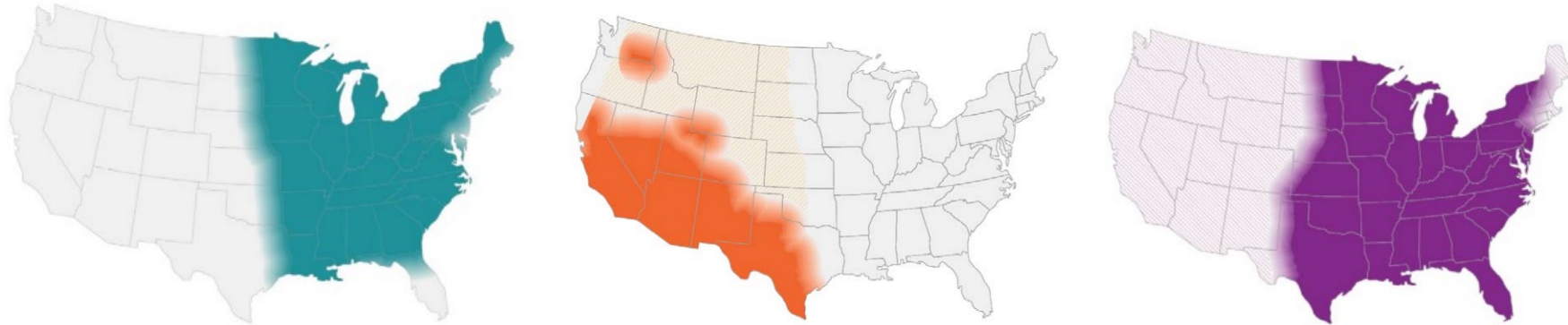
## Coccidioidomycosis

Initial presentation of CAP (or erythema nodosum in the setting of recent respiratory symptoms if people have:

- Lived in or traveled to the highly endemic desert regions of Arizona (i.e., South-Central Arizona) or the San Joaquin Valley of California OR
- Link to known coccidioidomycosis outbreak

# Consideration for testing

Patient living in or having traveled to a disease endemic area  
(although note that the disease can also occur at lower levels worldwide)



## Histoplasmosis

Initial CAP visit if:

- Notable exposure to bird or bat droppings (cave or demolition/ remodeling exposure; note that many patients do not recall a specific exposure) OR
- Chest x-ray showing new nodules or lymphadenopathy OR
- Link to known histoplasmosis outbreak

# Blastomycosis Algorithm

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**

EIA = enzyme immunoassay

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**



**Probable acute  
pulmonary  
blastomycosis**



**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**



**Antigen Negative**



**Probable acute  
pulmonary  
blastomycosis**

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**



**Probable acute  
pulmonary  
blastomycosis**



**Antigen Negative**



**Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis**

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**



**Probable acute pulmonary blastomycosis**



**Antigen Negative**



**High degree of suspicion**



**Consider alternative diagnosis**

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**



**Antigen Positive**



**Probable acute pulmonary blastomycosis**



**Antigen Negative**



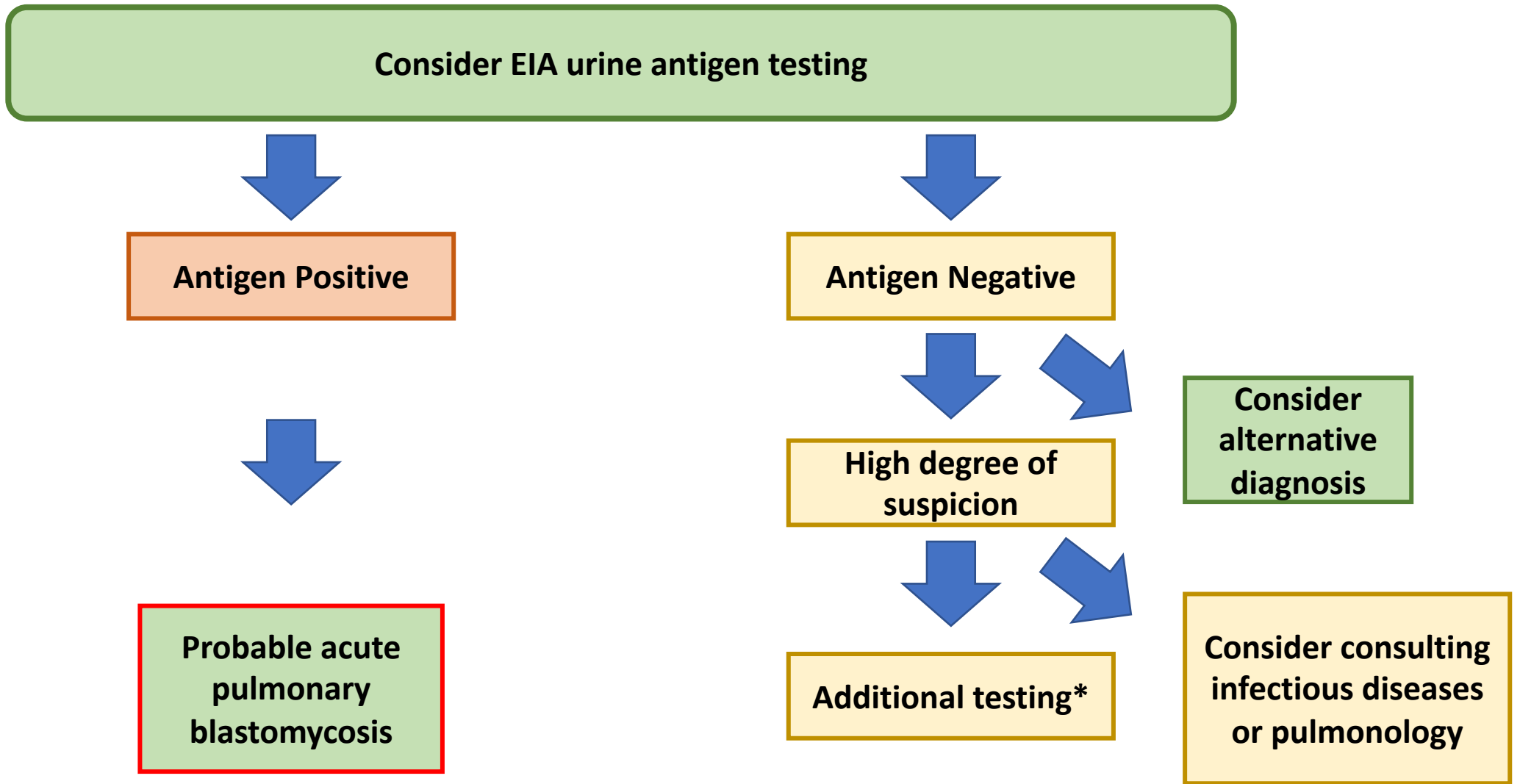
**High degree of suspicion**



**Consider alternative diagnosis**



**Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology**



\*Sputum or bronchoalveolar lavage culture and microscopy, skin biopsy (if lesion exists), serologic antibody testing

**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**

**Antigen Positive**

**Probable acute pulmonary blastomycosis**

**Antigen Negative**

**High degree of suspicion**

**Additional testing\***

**Consider alternative diagnosis**

**Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology**

**Positive**



**Consider EIA urine antigen testing**

**Antigen Positive**

**Probable acute pulmonary blastomycosis**

**Antigen Negative**

**High degree of suspicion**

**Additional testing**

**Consider alternative diagnosis**

**Consider alternative diagnosis**

**Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology**

**Positive**

**Negative**

# Coccidioidomycosis Algorithm

**Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF**

EIA = enzyme immunoassay

ID = immunodiffusion

CF = complement fixation

**Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF**



**IgG (+) or IgM (+)**

**Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF**



**IgG (+) or IgM (+)**



**Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis**

Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF



IgG (+) or IgM (+)



IgG (-) and IgM (-)



Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis



Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF



IgG (+) or IgM (+)



Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis



IgG (-) and IgM (-)



Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis

Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF



IgG (+) or IgM (+)



Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis



IgG (-) and IgM (-)



High degree of  
suspicion



Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis

**Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF**



**IgG (+) or IgM (+)**



**Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis**



**IgG (-) and IgM (-)**



**High degree of  
suspicion**



**Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis**



**Consider consulting  
infectious diseases  
or pulmonology**

Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF



IgG (+) or IgM (+)



Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis



IgG (-) and IgM (-)



High degree of  
suspicion



Repeat serology  
2–6 weeks later



Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis



Consider consulting  
infectious diseases  
or pulmonology

Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF

IgG (+) or IgM (+)

Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis

IgG (-) and IgM (-)

High degree of  
suspicion

Repeat serology  
2–6 weeks later

Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis

Consider consulting  
infectious diseases  
or pulmonology

Positive

Consider serologic testing by EIA or ID and/or CF

IgG (+) or IgM (+)

Pulmonary  
coccidioidomycosis

IgG (-) and IgM (-)

High degree of  
suspicion

Repeat serology  
2–6 weeks later

Consider alternative  
diagnosis

Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis

Consider consulting  
infectious diseases  
or pulmonology

Positive

Negative

# Histoplasmosis Algorithm



**Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing**

EIA = enzyme immunoassay

ID = immunodiffusion

CF = complement fixation

**Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing**



**Antigen or Antibody  
Positive**

**Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing**



**Antigen or Antibody  
Positive**



**Probable acute  
pulmonary  
histoplasmosis**

**Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing**



**Antigen or Antibody  
Positive**



**Antigen and  
Antibody Negative**



**Probable acute  
pulmonary  
histoplasmosis**

Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



Antigen or Antibody  
Positive



Probable acute  
pulmonary  
histoplasmosis



Antigen and  
Antibody Negative



Consider  
alternative  
diagnosis

Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



Antigen or Antibody Positive



Probable acute pulmonary histoplasmosis



Antigen and Antibody Negative



High degree of suspicion

Consider alternative diagnosis

Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



Antigen or Antibody Positive



Probable acute pulmonary histoplasmosis



Antigen and Antibody Negative



High degree of suspicion



Consider alternative diagnosis



Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology



Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



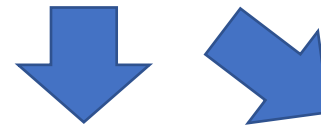
Antigen or Antibody Positive



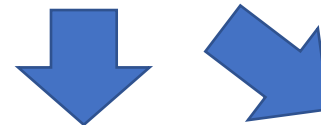
Probable acute pulmonary histoplasmosis



Antigen and Antibody Negative



High degree of suspicion



Retest

Consider alternative diagnosis

Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology

Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



Antigen or Antibody Positive



Probable acute pulmonary histoplasmosis



Antigen and Antibody Negative



High degree of suspicion

Consider alternative diagnosis



Retest

Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology



Positive

Consider EIA urine antigen and ID or CF serum antibody testing



Antigen or Antibody Positive



Probable acute pulmonary histoplasmosis



Antigen and Antibody Negative



High degree of suspicion



Retest



Consider alternative diagnosis



Consider alternative diagnosis



Consider consulting infectious diseases or pulmonology



Positive

Negative

# Diagnostic algorithms aim to:

1. Improve early diagnosis and reduce misdiagnoses
2. Reduce unnecessary antibacterial use
3. Improve patient outcomes

# Algorithms are available on CDC's website

- [Community-Acquired Pneumonia \(CAP\): Clinical Testing Algorithm for Blastomycosis | Fungal Diseases | CDC](#)
- [Community-Acquired Pneumonia \(CAP\): Clinical Testing Algorithm for Coccidioidomycosis | Fungal Diseases | CDC](#)
- [Community-Acquired Pneumonia \(CAP\): Clinical Testing Algorithm for Histoplasmosis | Fungal Diseases | CDC](#)
- Continuing Medical Education activity jointly provided by Postgraduate Institute for Medicine; Terranova Medica, LLC; and the Mycoses Study Group Education & Research Consortium

<http://www.funguscme.org/CAP2022/index.html>

# Future directions

- Assess uptake and impact of diagnostic algorithms
- Incorporate new diagnostic methods as available
- Quantify proportion of CAP and other lower respiratory infections attributable to these endemic mycoses
- Further assess test performance (i.e. inter-laboratory and inter-manufacturer)
- Consider development of guidelines for diagnosis of CAP of various etiologies that do not respond to initial antibiotics

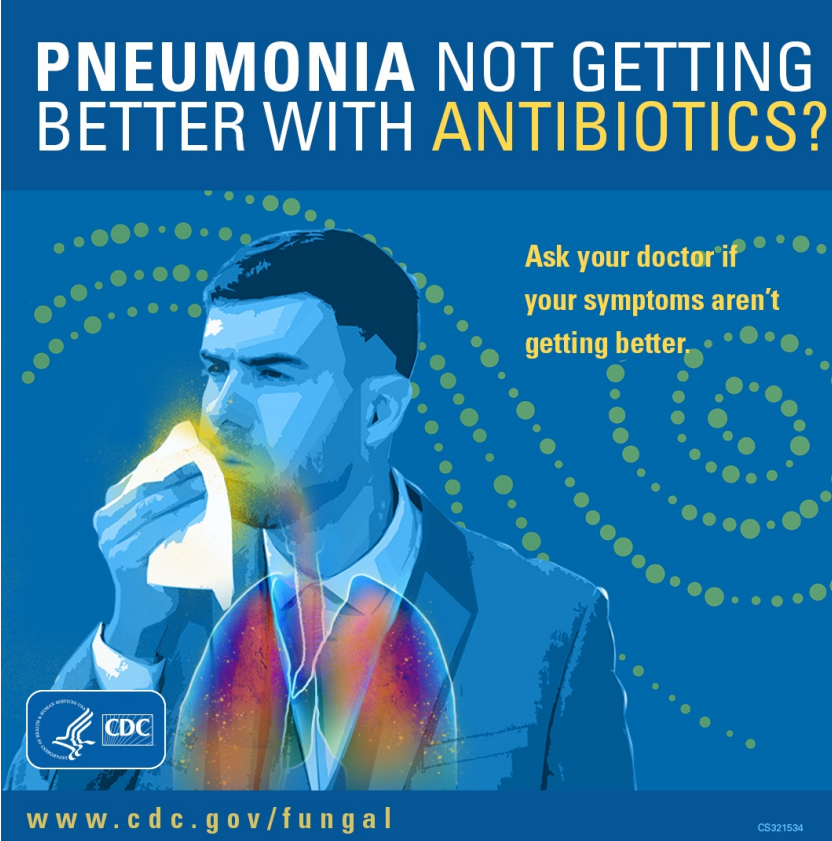
**Coccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, and blastomycosis are fungal diseases that can be diagnosed any where in the U.S.**



**Increased awareness and testing practices can improve health outcomes**


# Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent severe disease

If a patient is experiencing symptoms consistent with these fungal diseases and does not improve on antibiotics, consider fungal testing



**PNEUMONIA NOT GETTING BETTER WITH ANTIBIOTICS?**

Ask your doctor if your symptoms aren't getting better.

 CDC

[www.cdc.gov/fungal](http://www.cdc.gov/fungal)

CS21534

The poster features a man in a suit coughing into a white tissue. The background is dark blue with a pattern of yellow dots. The text is in white and yellow. The CDC logo is in the bottom left corner, and the website URL is at the bottom. A small code 'CS21534' is in the bottom right corner.



# Thank you

CDC's fungal disease webpage:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/index.html>

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

