
Introduction

On March 16, 2020, San Francisco County joined 6 other Bay Area counties instituting a shelter-in-place order due to a rise in COVID-19 cases and deaths in California [1]. The first 90 days of the shelter-in-place order were highly stressful as Americans adapted to being at home and coped with loss of jobs or working from home, school closures, a volatile stock market and the uncertainty of a pandemic that the country was not prepared for. Even in ideal circumstances, families faced many challenges while sheltering in place, some as trivial as the need to increase cooking at home. According to FEMA, cooking has been a leading cause of residential building fires from 2010 to 2019 [2] (*see Appendix A.1*).

Though only 4% of fire department runs are fire-related [3], it is possible that fire departments faced a higher rate of fires during the shelter-in-place order. This project investigates whether the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) faced a higher rate of fire-related service calls during the shelter-in-place order. Specifically, the aim of this project is to learn whether fire incidents during the first 90 days of the shelter-in-place order exceeded those during the same period in 2019. In the absence of prior knowledge,