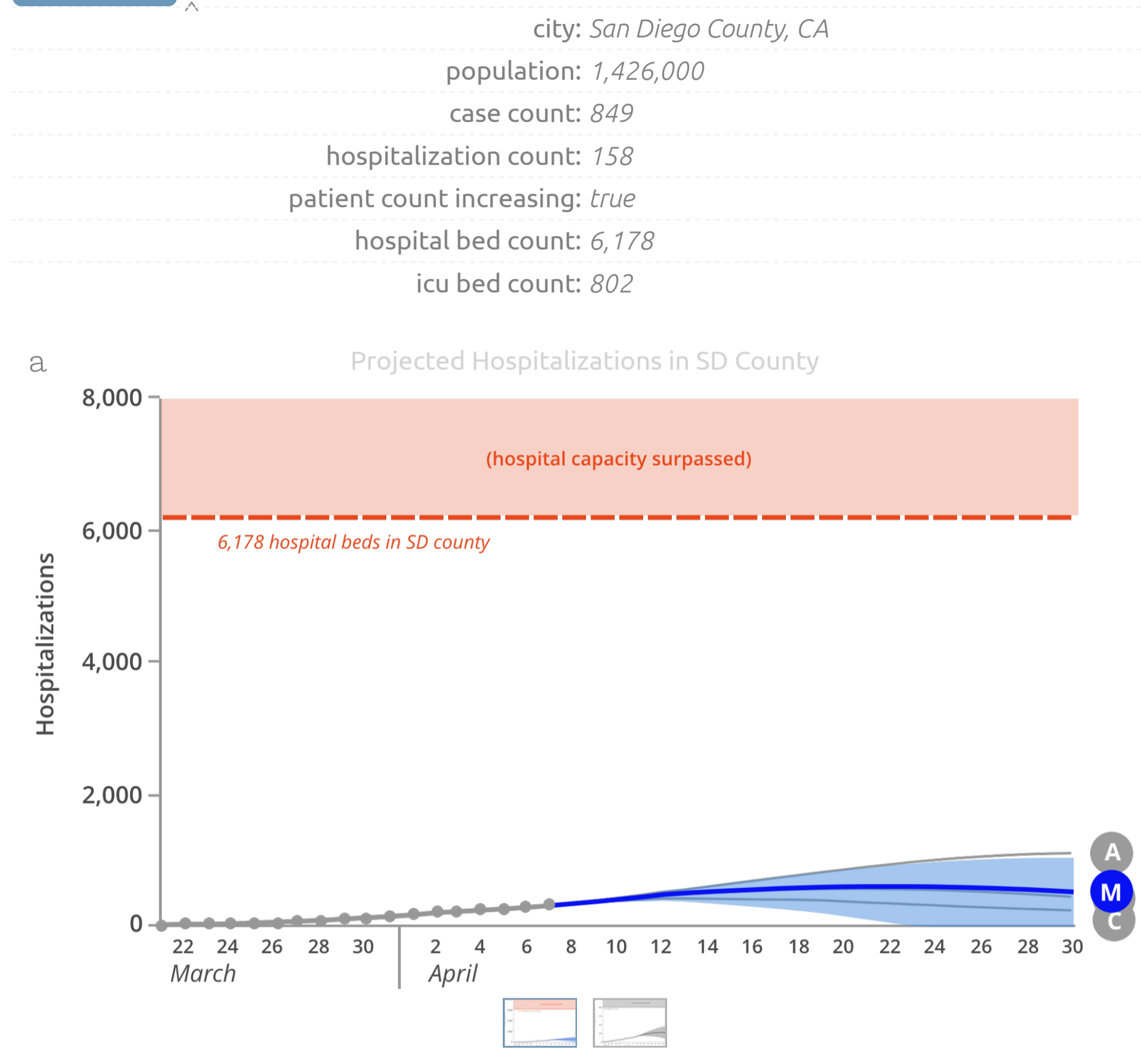


Updated COVID-19 Outbreak Forecast for San Diego County, April 2020

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covid-19-spread



Here we extend and update our earlier projections of COVID-19 hospitalizations in San Diego County (1), and report a more optimistic outlook through the end of April 2020.



San Diego confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on March 7, 2020. Several mitigation efforts were enacted on various dates, including a state-mandated stay-at-home order and enforcement of social distancing in public areas. Though mitigation strategies are helping lower the burden of disease, incident cases continue to increase exponentially. Our updated model includes data up to April 7 and does not forecast beyond April 30.

Our approach uses a “wisdom of crowds” strategy (see link to methods for details) where a range of outbreak models from worst case scenario (Model A) to best case scenario (Model C) were presented to experts and non-experts (n=8) who were asked to vote on a most plausible model for expected COVID-19 spread. Final vote tallies were used to create a weighted average (Model M) as the official model projection.

Our model predicts that San Diego County will *not* hit hospital capacity for standard hospital beds (panel a) nor for intensive care unit (ICU) beds (panel b) within April 2020. If current conditions continue, we predict the expected “surge” in hospitalizations to occur without surpassing hospital capacity, and that hospitalizations will decrease thereafter until the outbreak has been contained. However, it is important to note that factors such as changes in social distancing policies, even if occurring when existing or incident cases are low, may still result in new outbreaks and future spikes in hospitalizations. Furthermore, no models have been extensively validated for COVID-19.

We encourage all residents of San Diego to continue rigorously following social distancing practices to improve the likelihood of best case scenarios and limit the scope of possible worst case scenarios.

References:

1) <https://doi.org/10.34235/02ecb48b-3934-4ea7-ad26-107a10922498>

Protocols:

1) [Model descriptions and voting procedure](#)

Datasets:

1) [Data and model calculations](#)

2) [Hospital Bed Counts \(Harvard Group\)](#)



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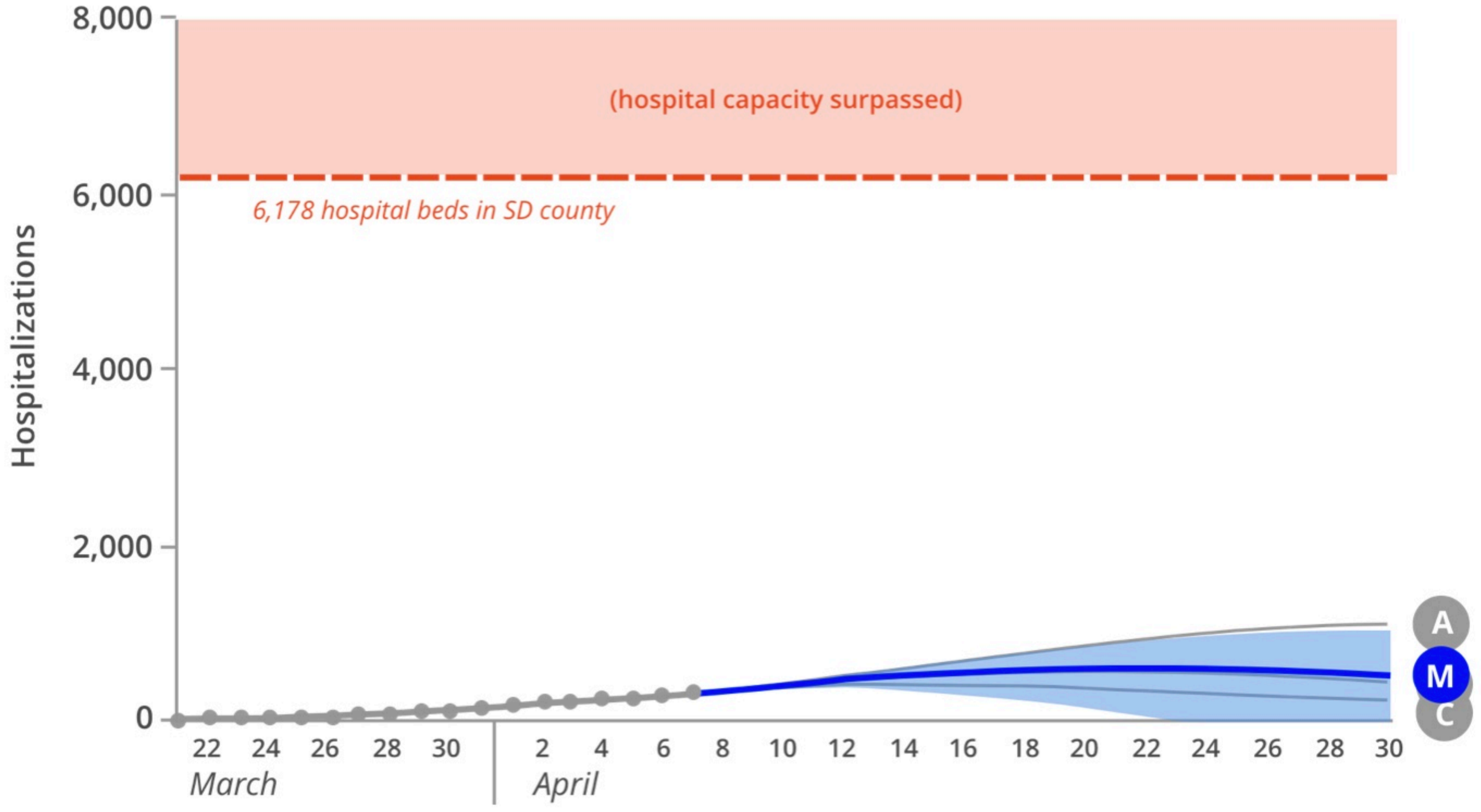
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a

Projected Hospitalizations in SD County



A
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b

Projected ICU Admissions in SD County

