

Increased Visits to Respiratory Protection Webpages during COVID-19

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BACKGROUND

- SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), infects mainly through exposure to respiratory droplets when a person is in close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- Respiratory protection devices, when properly fitted and used, can prevent illness transmission through respiratory droplets
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)'s National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) created various webpages to inform people about respiratory protection during COVID-19
- NPPTL monitored webpages containing information on filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs), which were in short supply during the study period

METHODS

- From January 1, 2020 to May 8, 2020 NPPTL monitored the number of visits to four webpages:
 - Approved Respirator List Page- Landing webpage to a list of approved FFRs, alphabetized by manufacturer
 - FFR Information Page- Provides general information regarding FFRs, such as N95 respirators
 - Counterfeit Respirator Page- Provides a list of FFRs misrepresenting NIOSH approval
 - International Respirator Assessment Page- Provides results of NIOSH assessments of respirators that were manufactured and approved in other countries. This page was created on May 1, 2020
- A visit is a period of continuous activity on a webpage
- Visits were tracked daily along with their location, determined by IP address
- Visits were compared to the number of visits during the same months in 2019

FINDINGS

- The Approved Respirator List page for NIOSH-approved N95 respirators received a total of 1,637,250 visits
 - Daily visits peaked with 63,715 on February 26, 2020 compared to average daily page visits of 162 in the same period of 2019
- FFR Information page received 834,186 visits
 - Daily visits peaked with 20,520 visits on April 3, 2020 compared to 158 average daily page visits in the same period of 2019
- The Counterfeit Respirator page saw an increase from 4,261 visits on March 27, 2020 to a peak of 68,145 daily visits on March 29, 2020
 - The International Respirator Assessment page reached a peak of 36,828 daily visits on May 8, 2020
- The United States, Canada, and China made up 76.1% of visits
- Other countries (United Kingdom, India, Mexico, etc.) totaled 23.8% of total visits

CONCLUSION

- Accurate, accessible respiratory protection information is an important resource during public health emergencies
- NPPTL experienced a historic increase in the number of webpage views during this time period
- There is a global need for information with about 30% of visits originating from outside the United States
- It is critical that information can be easily navigated and interpreted by those who are accessing it

Trusted respiratory protection information is an important resource during public health emergencies

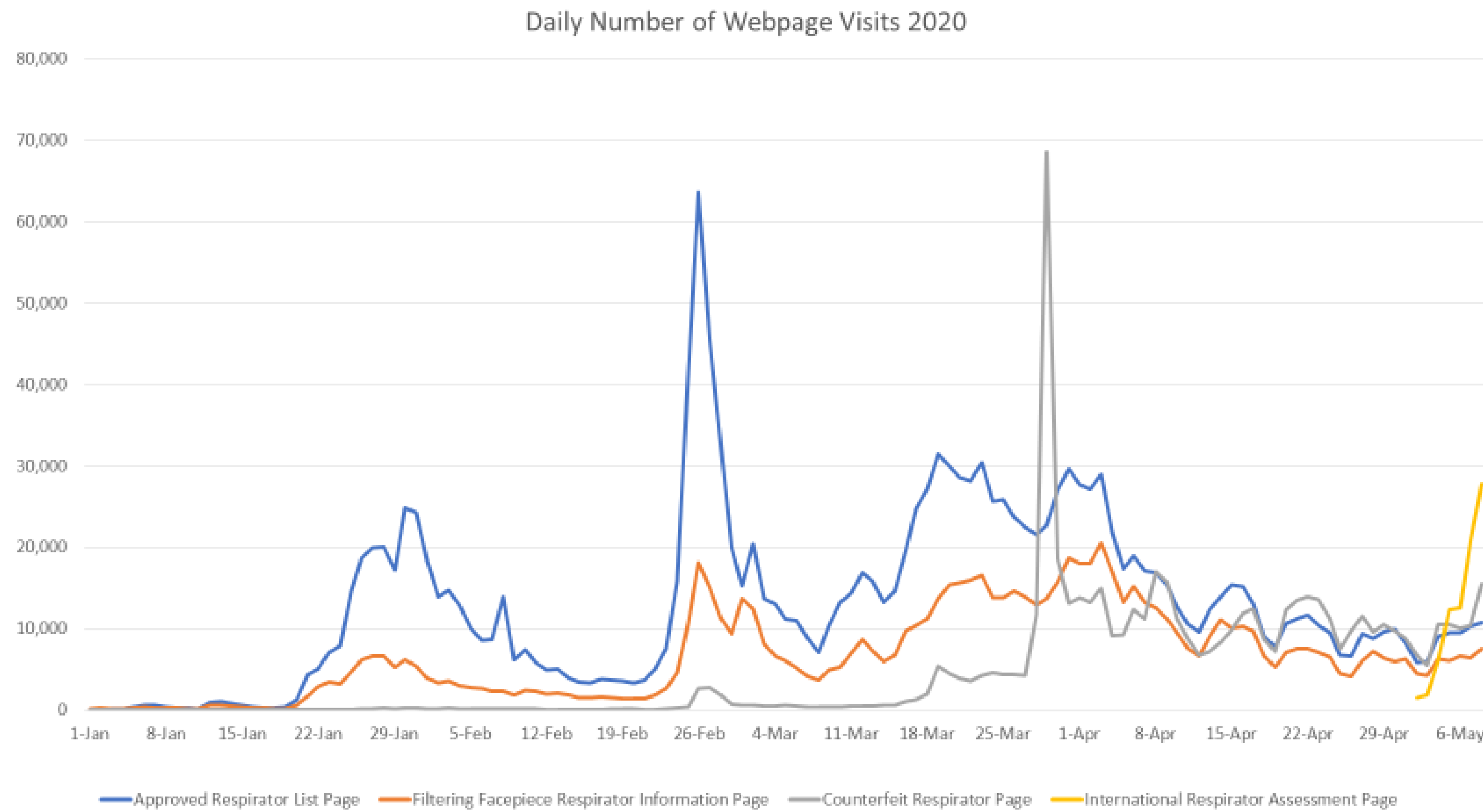
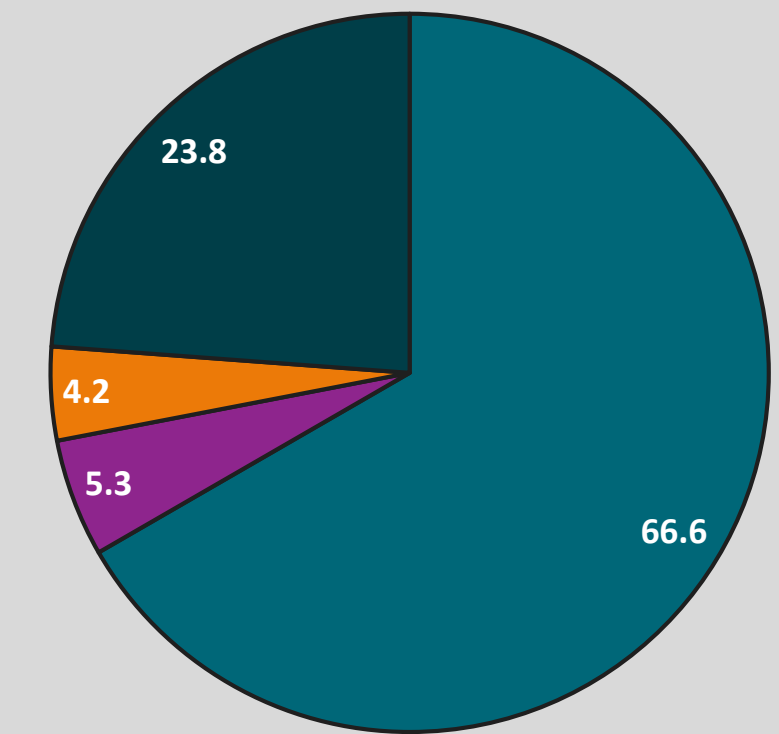


Photo Courtesy of NPPTL

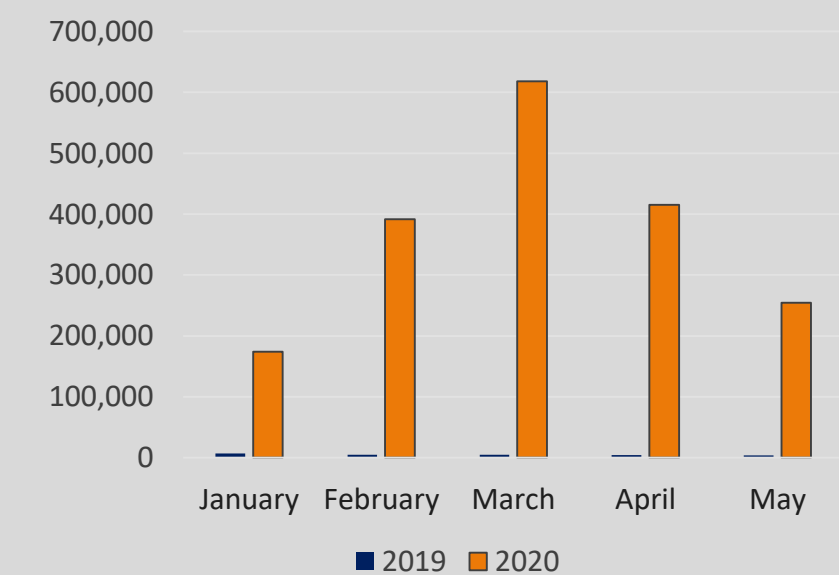
Filtering facepiece respirators, or FFRs, are often referred to as disposable respirators because the entire respirator is discarded when it becomes unsuitable for further use. These include N95 FFRs.

Webpage Visits by Country

United States Canada China Other



Monthly webpage visits to the Approved Respirator List page



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