RACE AND THE PANDEMIC: ON THE FRONT LINES

Dr. Mallika Marshall, AB ‘92

Dr. Perry Pong, AB ‘83

Ethel Billie Branch, AB ’01, JD ’08, MPP ’08

Dr. Denise D. Payán, AB ’08, MPP ’10

Sunday, April 19, 2020 4-5 PM EDT

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The significance of Race even with incomplete data....

“The novel coronavirus has claimed more than 41,000 American lives through April 20. However, full or partial data about the race and ethnicity of the deceased is known for only 62% of deaths. As a result, we have an incomplete picture of the toll of COVID-19 on various communities, but deep inequities by race—especially for Black Americans—are evident in existing data.

The latest available COVID-19 mortality rate for Black Americans is 2.9 times higher than the rate for Asians, 2.7 times higher than the rate for Whites, and 2.5 times higher than the rate for Latinos. For each 100,000 Americans, about 23 Blacks have died, along with 9 Whites, 9 Latinos, and 8 Asians.

Just four days ago, Black Americans’ mortality rate was 14 deaths per 100,000, but rising numbers of deaths and increased reporting have dramatically increased the rate, to 23.”

https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race  April 21, 2020
Mallika Marshall, MD, is an Emmy-award winning journalist and physician who serves as the regular Health Reporter at WBZ-TV in Boston. A practicing physician who is Board Certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics, Marshall serves on staff at Harvard Medical School and practices at the Massachusetts General Hospital’s (MGH) Chelsea Urgent Care Clinic and MGH Revere Health Center.

Marshall is currently a Contributing Editor for Harvard Health Publications (HHP), the publishing division of Harvard Medical School. She has nearly 20 years of media experience, including serving as "HealthWatch" Anchor at WBZ-TV News beginning in 2000. Since working at WBZ-TV, Marshall was the Medical Contributor on Katie Couric’s daytime talk show "Katie." She served as the medical contributor for New England Cable News (NECN) and as the Medical Director for Everyday Health, digital media's popular source of medical news. Marshall also has served as the host of “Dr. Mallika Marshall," a series of health news reports that was nationally syndicated and aired in more than 70 markets, including major cities such as San Francisco, Atlanta, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Houston.

A cum laude graduate of Harvard College, Marshall received her medical degree with honors at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine. She completed her medical residency at Harvard in internal medicine and pediatrics. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of Black Journalists. She also has served on the Board of Trustees for the Urgent Care Foundation and the Board of Directors for Dress for Success Boston.
Chelsea’s spike in coronavirus cases challenges hospitals and state

By Liz Kowalczyk and Zoe Greenberg, Globe Staff, Updated April 15, 2020, 7:34 p.m.

Dr. Nattaly Greene spotted it as soon as she entered the intensive care units: Dozens of Latino patients, their surnames posted outside their glassed-in rooms. She saw it too when she scrolled through the expanding list of coronavirus patients in the Massachusetts General Hospital computers.

The crush of Spanish-speaking patients on ventilators and on regular floors at Mass. General has become so
COVID-19 and ‘structural racism’
Blacks being infected at much higher rates, getting far sicker

becca Rivas Of The St. Louis American  Apr 8, 2020 Updated Apr 9, 2020

The first COVID-19 testing site in North St. Louis was opened on Biddle Street on Friday, April 3, at the end of the second week of Mayor Krewson’s Stay at Home order.

Photo by Wiley Price
THE COLOR OF CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity in the U.S.
Total COVID-19 deaths reported by race/ethnicity through April 16, 2020

*For all U.S. states with available data. Percentage represents share of all deaths.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous (&lt;1%)</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian (5%)</td>
<td>745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black (27%)</td>
<td>4,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino (12%)</td>
<td>2,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (54%)</td>
<td>8,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (4%)</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Includes data from the 27 states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington and Wisconsin. States employ varying collection methods regarding ethnicity data, which results in percentages summing to more than 100%. Indigenous people are tallied separately in some states, but exist in "other" in other states; therefore, 59 is a presumed undercount of all Indigenous lives lost. "Other" includes Indigenous, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and any deaths classified as "other race" in the data.

Chart: APM Research Lab • Source: State & local health departments • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper
BLACK AMERICANS

Black Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through April 16, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.
Across all 27 states combined, Black Americans are considerably more likely to die of COVID-19 than expected based on their population. Collectively, they represent 13% of the population in these states, but have suffered 27% of deaths. In other words, they are dying at a rate of more than twice their population share.

Black Americans are dying at elevated rates, relative to their population, in 21 of the 27 states we examined. (Note: Two percentage points difference or more is considered above or below population share.)

Most dramatically, Black residents in Michigan have suffered 47% of all the state's COVID deaths, although they represent just 14% of the overall population. In Michigan and eight other states, the difference between Black residents' share of the deaths and share of the population is greater than 20 percentage points, revealing deep mortality disparities.

Of the 27 states we examined, Minnesota (3 deaths) and Pennsylvania (11 deaths) are the only two that do not see a disproportionate mortality burden for their Black residents. Source: APM Research Lab
LATINO AMERICANS

Latino Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through April 16, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.
- DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG LATINO AMERICANS’ COVID-19 DEATHS
  - Latino Americans are dying at rates above their population share in just one state: New York. *(Note: Two percentage points difference or more is considered above or below population share.)*

  - In New York, Latinos comprise 19% of the population, but have suffered 21% of the deaths. At the time of this writing, 868 Latinos had died in New York, which has experienced the highest overall mortality rate of any state.

  - In 24 of the 27 states we examined, Latinos have a mortality advantage, dying less often than their population would suggest.

  - When we combine data across all 27 states reporting data, Latinos are less likely to die from COVID-19 than expected, given their share of the population (18%). They have suffered 12% of deaths.

  Source: APM Research Lab
COVID-19 targets communities of color

Harvard experts say pandemic exacerbates longstanding inequities in American society
For Black Men, Fear That Masks Will Invite Racial Profiling

African-American men worry that following the C.D.C. recommendation to cover their faces in public could expose them to harassment from the police.

As the coronavirus spreads, black men face two concerns: the virus and those who see their covered faces as threatening. Brittainy Newman/The New York Times
OUR COLUMNISTS

THE BLACK PLAGUE

Public officials lament the way that the coronavirus is engulfing black communities. The question is, what are they prepared to do about it?
IDEAS

Stop Blaming Black People for Dying of the Coronavirus

New data from 29 states confirm the extent of the racial disparities.

APRIL 14, 2020

Ibram X. Kendi
Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University

MORE BY IBRAM X. KENDI

What the Racial Data Show
African Americans 'disproportionately affected' by coronavirus, CDC report finds

Obesity, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes, all more prevalent in African American communities, are risk factors for coronavirus outcomes.
Who's Hit Hardest By COVID-19? Why Obesity, Stress And Race All Matter

April 18, 2020 · 10:31 AM ET

An EMT wearing protective equipment moves a patient into Elmhurst Hospital Center in the Queens borough of New York. Preliminary data suggest COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on communities of color.

Bloomberg via Getty Images
Cries like the COVID-19 pandemic highlight inequities that are enacted on the bodies of Black Americans. In states across the country from Michigan to Maryland, Blacks have higher rates of COVID-19 diagnoses and deaths. Blacks represent over 70% of COVID-19 deaths in cities like Chicago, counties like Milwaukee County, and states like Louisiana. In St. Louis, 100% of the COVID-19 deaths were Black Missourians.
Dr. Perry Pong

Dr. Perry Pong is Chief Medical Officer of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center located in New York, NY. Using his 29 years of experience in internal medicine, he strives to deliver excellent care to patients.

Having received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from the University of California, San Diego, he then completed a residency in internal medicine at Veterans Affairs New York Harbor Healthcare System and is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr Pong is as an active member of the American College of Physicians and the Chinese American Medical Society.

Dr. Pong’s philosophy of care is to involve the patient in their own care and to consider other factors impacting one’s health. He is honest in his assessment and advice, and is passionate about the practice of medicine.

He is also adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center.
Age-adjusted rates of lab confirmed COVID-19 non-hospitalized cases, estimated non-fatal hospitalized cases, and patients known to have died 100,000 by race/ethnicity group as of April 16, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Non-hospitalized</th>
<th>Non-fatal hospitalized</th>
<th>Known to have died</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>335.5</td>
<td>271.7</td>
<td>92.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>271.6</td>
<td>190.6</td>
<td>74.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>190.4</td>
<td>114.5</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Racial Demographic Data Complete*

- 24% of cases
- 72% of hospitalizations
- 88% of deaths

All data are preliminary and subject to change. Data are derived from the Bureau of Communicable Disease Surveillance System as of April 16, 2020.

* The vast majority of cases are reported by lab, and race/ethnicity information is often missing because it is not received on the test requisition from providers.

- Data on persons who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Nei Islander, or other race are not shown. Hispanic/Latino includes people of any race.
- The rate of non-hospitalized and hospitalized cases shows patients known to have died. The three categories shown are mutually exclusive.
Asian Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through April 16, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.

Pennsylvania (90 total deaths) 3.6% of population 5.7% of deaths
Idaho (2) 1.7%
Alabama (3) 1.3%
Washington (56) 3.7%
California (124) 6.7%
Colorado (10) 2.7%
Louisiana (7) 1.6%
Arizona (3) 2.7%
Mississippi (6) 0.9%
Wisconsin (5) 2.6%
Oklahoma (1) 2.1%
ALL KNOWN DEATHS (745) 4.5%
South Carolina (6) 1.6%
Indiana (2) 2.3%
Illinois (36) 2.6%
Ohio (1) 2.3%
Michigan (21) 3.3%
North Carolina (1) 2.3%
Georgia (6) 3.5%
Maryland (11) 6.2%
Florida (0) 2.7%
Kansas (0) 2.8%
Massachusetts (19) 3.8%
Connecticut (13) 4.6%
New York State (215) 5.3%
Minnesota (1) 4.5%
New Jersey (115) 6.8%
Delaware (2) 4%

Data for Arizona and Idaho include Pacific Islanders in the numerator and denominator.
Chart: APM Research Lab · Source: State & local health departments · Get the data · Created with Datawrapper
"DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS’ COVID-19 DEATHS

Asian Americans are dying at rates above their population share in four states: Pennsylvania, Idaho, Alabama, and Washington. *(Note: Two percentage points difference or more is considered above or below population share.)*

Most dramatically, Asian residents in Pennsylvania have suffered 25.1% of all the state’s COVID deaths. However, they represent 3.6% of the overall population—a seven-fold difference. Ninety Asian residents have died in Pennsylvania through April 16.

In 14 unique states, Asians are under-represented in mortality statistics relative to their population.

Across all 27 states combined, Asians are less likely to die of COVID-19 than expected based on their population. Collectively, they represent 6.1% of the population in these states, but have experienced 4.5% of deaths."

Source: APM Research Lab
How San Francisco’s Chinatown Got Ahead of the Coronavirus

Friday: Despite being a densely populated neighborhood full of vulnerable people, Chinatown was well prepared.

By Alyson Stamos and Meiying Wu

April 17, 2020
Documenting the toll of coronavirus on New York City's Chinatown

Grace Young, a Chinese American award-winning author of cookbooks devoted to Chinese cuisine, is documenting the impact of the pandemic on businesses and restaurants in New York City's Chinatown.

The World
April 16, 2020 • 3:00 PM EDT
By The World staff
Producer April Peavey

A person crosses a street in the neighborhood of Chinatown on March, 20, 2020, following the outbreak of COVID-19 in New York City.

Credit: Andrew Kelly/Reuters
In Manhattan one group of business owners and workers are demanding government acts to provide assistance, as they grapple with the impacts of coronavirus.

Members of the Chinese Staff & Workers Association called on the city and state to establish a fund for employees who can't work, because they have been diagnosed with the virus. They also want lawmakers to help workers who were laid off because of coronavirus-induced business closures. They're also calling for more testing.
As Coronavirus Spreads, So Does Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism

People participate in a rally in support of Chinese people and people around the world in fighting the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in Chinatown, San Francisco on Feb. 29. The protest calls for understanding among communities and support Chinatown businesses in the U.S. Yichuan Cao—Sipa USA
Asian American Discrimination And The Coronavirus Crisis

April 14, 2020  By Meghna Chakrabarti and Dorey Scheimer

Jessica Wong, of Fall River, Mass., front left, Jenny Chiang, of Medford, Mass., center, and Sheila Vo, of Boston, from the state's Asian American Commission, stand together during a protest, Thursday, March 12, 2020, on the steps of the Statehouse in Boston. (Steven Senne/AP)

Asian Americans face a wave of intense racism during the coronavirus pandemic. George Takei reflects on our past and this present moment.
‘Are You Sick?’ For Asian-Americans, a Sneeze Brings Suspicion

Though there are only a few known cases in the U.S., the coronavirus outbreak has left some Asian-Americans feeling an unsettling level of public scrutiny.
Tweet from Jeff Yang ‘89, writer and journalist

Jeff Yang @originalspin

So I had my first “breathing while Asian” moment.

Went out for groceries and an older masked white woman passing by the line shouted “FUCK YOU!” at me for no apparent reason. As I stared at her, she pulled off her mask, coughed directly at me, turned on her heel and walked off.

favorite 24  7:44 PM - Mar 23, 2020
Attacks on Asian Americans skyrocket to 100 per day during coronavirus pandemic

Representative Judy Chu said that reports of bigotry and hate crimes against Asian Americans have surged during the coronavirus crisis.

By Alexandra Kelley
“We as Asian-Americans know that in times like these, mass blame and mass guilt gets assigned to a group of people,” said Representative Mark Takano, Democrat of California.  Zach Gibson/Getty Images
Smashed windows and racist graffiti: Vandals target Asian Americans amid coronavirus

Some vandalized Asian-owned businesses can't afford repairs amid huge customer declines.

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Eric Chan found broken windows at his family's Seattle restaurant in late March. At the moment, the restaurant doesn't have the money to make the necessary repairs.  

(Courtesy of Eric Chan)
A Yakima, Washington restaurant owner found his restaurant defaced with “Take the corona back you ch**k” and broken windows last month. Courtesy Lisa Li
Muyang Deng, a University of Wisconsin sophomore, shared a photo in March of words scrawled in chalk on campus grounds: "It's from China #chinesevirus." Courtesy Muyang Deng
Ethel Billie Branch
AB ’01 cum laude, JD ’08, MPP ’08
Flagstaff, Arizona

Ethel Branch is the recent former attorney general of the Navajo Nation. As head of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, she oversaw all the legal affairs of the Nation, which spans parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Branch previously worked at Kanji & Katzen, a law firm dedicated to advocating on behalf of Native Nations, and helped implement the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She also served as a tribal finance associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, co-chair of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, and a board member of the Native American Youth and Family Center and the Grand Canyon Trust.

At Harvard, Branch pursued interests in social justice, Native American rights, and environmental issues. She was co-chair of Native Americans at Harvard College and the Minority Students Alliance as an undergraduate, and later served as president of the Harvard Native American Law Students Association and as a senior editor for the Harvard Environmental Law Review. She has returned to campus as a speaker and was recently featured in the International Women’s Day Portrait Exhibit hosted by the Harvard Women’s Law Association.

“As a director, I want to work with Harvard alumni of rural, poor, Native American, and minority communities to encourage others like ourselves to make the leap to apply and enroll in Harvard. I believe the most meaningful and sustainable change occurs when alumni from our own communities are able to return home to enrich our communities with what we have gained from Harvard.”

Election Year
2019

Candidate for Board
HAA Board of Directors
Checkpoints, Curfews, Airlifts: Virus Rips Through Navajo Nation

The coronavirus is tearing across the largest Native American reservation in the United States. Facing a spike in deaths, Navajo officials are scrambling to respond.
Navajo Nation has lost more to coronavirus than 13 states

Anderson Cooper 360

CNN's Gary Tuchman reports on how coronavirus is impacting the Navajo Nation and what they're doing to deal with the pandemic.

Source: CNN
Native Americans were already decimated by a virus. They're scared it could happen again

By John Blake, CNN

Updated 7:56 AM ET, Tue April 14, 2020

Pontiac, an Ottawa Indian, confronts Colonel Henry Bouquet, a leader of the British forces, who had authorized his officers in the 1700s to spread smallpox amongst Native Americans by infecting blankets.
Indian Country, where residents suffer disproportionately from disease, is bracing for coronavirus

Conditions in Indian Country are ripe for a rapid spread of the coronavirus. Rates of infection among Navajos is a major concern.

Follow the outbreak with Coronavirus Updates

We have journalists across the globe reporting important updates. All stories linked in the newsletter are free to access.
Navajo coronavirus cases now over 1,000; curfews imposed for next 2 weekends

By Arlyssa Becenti | Apr 16, 2020 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATES, News
Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

$666,429 raised of $1,000,000 goal

10.1K donors 16.9K shares 10.2K followers

Donate now

Share

667 people just donated

Anonymous $50 10 mins
Anonymous $100 15 mins
Anonymous $100 25 mins
Mike Garcia $25 30 mins

TEAM FUNDRAISER

Ethel Branch and 5 others are organizing this fundraiser on behalf of TJ Ellerbeck.

Created March 15, 2020  Accidents & Emergencies
Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief
Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief
Welcome

Dr. Denise Diaz Payán, Ph.D., M.P.P., is an Assistant Professor of Public Health in the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at the University of California, Merced.

Dr. Payán is a health policy researcher whose research interests include examining the health policymaking process; evaluating interventions to address obesity and nutrition-related health disparities; and understanding how policy impacts health behavior. She has previously conducted process and impact evaluations and contributed to community-based participatory research projects implemented in a variety of settings, including schools, faith-based organizations, safety net clinics, and academic medical centers. She is currently affiliated with the Health Sciences Research Institute and the Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center at UC Merced. Dr. Payán is also associated with the state-wide research translation center known as the California Initiative for Health Equity & Action.

Dr. Payán obtained a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC) and an M.P.P. from Harvard Kennedy School. She received a B.A. in History and Science, a Certificate in Health Policy, and a Citation in Spanish from Harvard College. Prior to coming to UC Merced, she was a Health Services Research post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Health Policy and Management at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the RAND Corporation.

Research Interests: health policy; obesity; nutrition; food security; HIV/AIDS; state policymaking; advocacy coalitions; evaluation; global health
Virus Is Twice as Deadly for Black and Latino People Than Whites in N.Y.C.

Officials revealed that disparity on Wednesday as they announced that 779 more people in the state had died of the virus, the second straight day that deaths spiked to new highs.

Another 779 people in New York State died of the virus, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo reported on Wednesday, the second straight day that deaths have spiked to new highs. Kirsten Luce for The New York Times
Asthma Is Absent Among Top Covid-19 Risk Factors, Early Data Shows

Despite warnings that asthma may be a higher risk for severe illness from the coronavirus, asthma is showing up in about five percents of New York State’s total Covid cases.

Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
  - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease
Age-sex-adjusted prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among adults aged 18 and over, by race and ethnicity: United States, 2018

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>12.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic black</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. Prevalence of diagnosed diabetes is based on self-report of ever having been diagnosed with diabetes by a doctor or other health professional. Persons reporting "borderline" diabetes status and women reporting diabetes only during pregnancy were not coded as having diabetes in the analyses. The analyses exclude persons with unknown diabetes status. Estimates are age-sex-adjusted, using the projected 2000 U.S. population as the standard population and using four age groups: 18–44, 45–54, 55–64, and 65 and over.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, Sample Adult Core component.
Figure 6. Percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were uninsured at the time of interview, by race and ethnicity: United States, 2010–March 2018

Percent

Hispanic

Non-Hispanic black

Non-Hispanic Asian

Non-Hispanic white


24.2

14.1

8.9

6.4

NOTE: Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.
COVID-19 in the Central Valley: Let’s not forget immigrant farm workers

BY MYRNA MARTINEZ NATERAS AND ROBIN MARIA DELUGAN

APRIL 03, 2020 06:30 AM, UPDATED APRIL 01, 2020 05:46 PM

Suddenly the COVID-19 crisis disrupted our lives, and we find ourselves struggling to reinvent the way we perform our work. Even before some city mayors mandated us to shelter in place or Gov.
How to Save Black and Hispanic Lives in a Pandemic

Minorities are dying of Covid-19 at alarming rates. Here’s what to do about it right now.

By The Editorial Board

The editorial board is a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

April 11, 2020
Coronavirus may be hitting harder in Black and Latino communities

Massachusetts does not release racial and ethnic data, making impact unclear

By Andrew Ryan and Kay Lazar Globe Staff,
Updated April 7, 2020, 6:22 p.m.

The state’s two largest community health centers, in East Boston and Lawrence, have encountered a disproportionately large surge of coronavirus cases among Spanish-speakers.
State public health agencies are working around the clock to inform the public about the pandemic by regularly monitoring and reporting data, which is one of their core functions. An analysis by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) of state public health websites found that 25 states (AL, AR, AZ, CA, CT, GA, ID, IL, IN, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NY, NC, OH, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, and WI) and Washington, DC are reporting COVID-19 data by race and/or ethnicity.

Among the findings:

- Six states report case data (laboratory-confirmed positive cases), three report mortality data, and 17 report both cases and mortality by race and/or ethnicity.
- States use a variety of categories to report race and ethnicity data. For example, Louisiana reports race data for the following categories: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, black, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, other, unknown, and white. Louisiana reports ethnicity data as either Hispanic/Latino or non-Hispanic/Latino. Connecticut reports Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic other, and non-Hispanic unknown.
- Eighteen states report a large proportion of unknown (or missing) race/ethnicity.
- Fourteen states illustrate racial or ethnic disparities where the percentage of deaths or cases for one population is disproportionately high, compared to the demographic breakdown of the state. For example, Mississippi reported that 72 percent of its deaths from COVID-19 have been in the African American population, despite the fact that African Americans make up only 38 percent of the state’s overall population.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Data Reported</th>
<th>Categories Used to Define Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Cases**</td>
<td>Race: Asian, Black, White, Other/Unknown</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino, Not Hispanic/Latino, Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>AR</td>
<td>Cases and Mortality</td>
<td>Black, White, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, Multiracial, Other, Missing</td>
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<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>Cases and Mortality</td>
<td>White Non-Hispanic, Hispanic or Latino, Native American, Black Non-Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Other Non-Hispanic, Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Cases and Mortality</td>
<td>Latinos, Whites, African Americans/Blacks, Asians, Multiracial, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Cases and Mortality</td>
<td>Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Other, Non-Hispanic Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Cases and Mortality</td>
<td>Race: Unknown, White, Black/African American, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Profit of COVID-19 Cases Summarized by Race and Ethnicity

- Unknown: 507 cases
- Not Hispanic or Latino: 378 cases
- Hispanic or Latino: 239 cases
Racial and income differences in concerns over contracting COVID-19, spreading it to others

% who say they are very concerned that they ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization</th>
<th>Might unknowingly spread COVID-19 to others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper income</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle income</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower income</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Family incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 7-12, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SNAP Online Purchasing


How will I know when the pilot is available in additional states or with additional retailers?

Recently, States have begun to expedite planning to allow Online Purchasing. States that are currently approved to move forward are Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Idaho and North Carolina. These States expect to implement online purchasing in April/May 2020.

Which retailers are currently accepting SNAP payments online?

- Alabama: Amazon, Walmart and Wright’s Markets, Inc.
- Florida: Amazon and Walmart
- Iowa: Amazon and Walmart
- Nebraska: Amazon and Walmart
- New York: Amazon, ShopRite, and Walmart
- Oregon: Amazon and Walmart
- Washington: Amazon and Walmart

Source: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot
State Guidance on Coronavirus Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve state agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Children who would receive free or reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible under this provision. State agencies may submit plans in any case in which a school is closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session.

The following states have been approved to operate a Pandemic EBT program.

Massachusetts  Michigan  North Carolina  Rhode Island

Michigan program offers money to help feed low-income students

Meredith Spelbring, Detroit Free Press  Published 3:47 p.m. ET April 9, 2020 | Updated 6:13 p.m. ET April 9, 2020
Coronavirus could 'decimate' Latino wealth, which was hammered by the Great Recession

The crisis has either erased or is threatening to erase Latinos' decade-long climb back to financial stability.
Race rises to the forefront for activists in the coronavirus pandemic

“Those higher mortality rates are rooted in structural inequalities that have existed for decades.”
Detroit a new coronavirus hot spot

The rising death toll, disproportionately among black residents, has led Michigan to create a racial disparities task force.

By Krushbu Shah  |  Apr 10, 2020, 11:15am EDT
Photographs courtesy of the Detroit Free Press
Covid-19 is disproportionately taking black lives

Hundreds of years of racism has delivered poor health and economic outcomes for black people, making them more vulnerable in the pandemic.

By Fabiola Cinceas | Updated Apr 8, 2020, 10:57am EDT
New York City nurses and health workers held a demonstration demanding safer working conditions on April 6. | Giles Clarke/Getty Images
A bus driver for the Detroit, Michigan, city bus line DDOT on March 24. In Michigan, black people made up 33 percent of cases and 40 percent of deaths, despite being just 14 percent of the population. | Seth Herald/AFP via Getty Images
'A Perfect Storm:' Extremists Look For Ways To Exploit Coronavirus Pandemic

April 16, 2020 - 11:51 AM ET

HANNAH ALLAM

White nationalists and other far-right extremists see opportunity in the chaos of the U.S. response to the crisis.

Richard Ellis / Getty Images/EyeOn
Mayors Move to Address Racial Disparity in Covid-19 Deaths

Divide is caused by more pre-existing medical conditions, less access to health care, jobs requiring physical contact

Why New Orleans Has Become a Coronavirus Hot Spot

New Orleans and the surrounding region are facing some of the highest Covid-19 infection and fatality rates in the country. Doctors and health experts weigh in on what may be contributing to the severe outbreak. Photo: Kathleen Flynn/Reuters
Anthony Fauci compares race disparities of coronavirus to AIDS epidemic

By Steven Nelson

April 7, 2020 | 8:22pm | Updated

White House coronavirus task force member Dr. Anthony Fauci said Tuesday that the coronavirus outbreak’s disproportionate death toll among black Americans reminds him of HIV/AIDS largely impacting gay people.

“I couldn’t help sitting there reflecting about sometimes when you’re in the middle of a crisis, like we are now with the coronavirus, it really does ... ultimately shine a very bright light on some of the real weaknesses and failings in our society,” Fauci said Tuesday at a White House press conference.
COVID-19’s Racial Death Gap Was Predictable

By Zak Cheney-Rice

Voters lining up to cast their ballots in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 7, 2020. Photo: Scott Olson/Getty Images
The color of coronavirus: Disturbing data on racial disparities in infections and fatalities begins coming into focus
'It's a racial justice issue': Black Americans are dying in greater numbers from Covid-19
Coalition for a Diverse Harvard
2020 Endorsements for Harvard Overseer and Elected Director

In these difficult times, the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard urges you to VOTE in this year’s critical Overseer and Elected Director elections starting in July. The crises relating to Ethnic Studies and the emergency campus evacuation underscore the need for strong leaders who will promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.


The Overseer candidates we endorse – including a national poet laureate; one of the “smartest people in tech”; the first African American and first openly gay person to head one of the Fed’s regional banks, and a Harvard Forward candidate – have the strongest histories of advocacy and accomplishments on diversity initiatives and are best positioned to help Harvard be a more diverse, inclusive, and just institution.

For Overseer (in ballot order):
Diego A. Rodriguez MBA ’01
David H. Eun* AB ’89, JD ’93
Raphael William Bostic AB ’87
Tracy K. Smith AB ’94
Thea Sebastian AB ’08, JD ’16

For Director (in ballot order):
Kelsey Trey Leonard AB ’10
Joyce Y. Zhang AB ’09
Mallika J. Marshall AB ’92
Vanessa Zoltan MDiv ’15
Santiago Creuheras* ALM ’00, ALM ’01
Michael D. Lewis* AB ’93
As the CEO of Alariss Global (cofounded with a Harvard classmate), Joyce Zhang enables international skills and knowledge exchange by matching global citizens in developed countries with emerging market opportunities where they can achieve the highest positive impact.


Zhang found inspiration for her career through classes and student organizations like the Institute of Politics, the Undergraduate Council, the Chinese Students Association, and the Harvard College in Asia Program. For her leadership on campus, she received the Harvard Foundation award for improving intercultural and race relations, as well as the Reflections award for Asian American leaders, and was elected as a class marshal.

Since graduating, she has served as an officer for the Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance (H4A) Shared Interest Group, an alumni interviewer, an HAA Board member, co-chair of her 10th Reunion, and non-resident tutor for Leverett House.

“I am so grateful for the opportunities, friendships, and learnings that I gained as an undergraduate and will continue to receive throughout my life as an alumna of Harvard University. I hope to give back and would be incredibly honored to serve as an elected director. I would endeavor to continue building bridges, to create even more meaningful support for alumni of all backgrounds, and to leverage modern technology to extend engagement to the farthest reaches of the globe.”
An expert on sustainable development, infrastructure, and energy, Santiago Creuheras is a senior consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. He also serves as a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and as an advisor to the Mexican Chamber of Deputies on sustainability and the environment.


An active participant in alumni activities around the world, Creuheras is a former president and current board member of the Harvard Club of Mexico, an alumni interviewer for Harvard College, and a member of Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs and Harvard Alumni for Global Development. As a former leader within “Fundación México en Harvard”, he helped increase opportunities for students pursuing studies at Harvard. He has also served in various roles for Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard Business School’s Energy and Environment Club, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Extension School.

“I have spent a huge chunk of my life on sustainability and climate change initiatives, and I would like to share this knowledge and increase its importance at Harvard. I would also like to support public and community service, and to increase international collaboration and build bridges among alumni across all of Harvard’s Schools.”
SUPPORT DIVERSE HARVARD!

Join Diverse Harvard by signing up at our homepage, diverseharvard.org. You will get 1 to 2 emails per month and invitations to special events and briefings (like this one!).

If you are already a Diverse Harvard member - thanks! Please share the sign-up information with your Harvard/Radcliffe friends and encourage them to join.

You can donate to the Coalition at diverseharvard.org/donate. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, and will be much appreciated!