

Public Health & Equity: Insights into the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Academy of Medicine, Engineering & Sciences of Texas

July 29, 2020

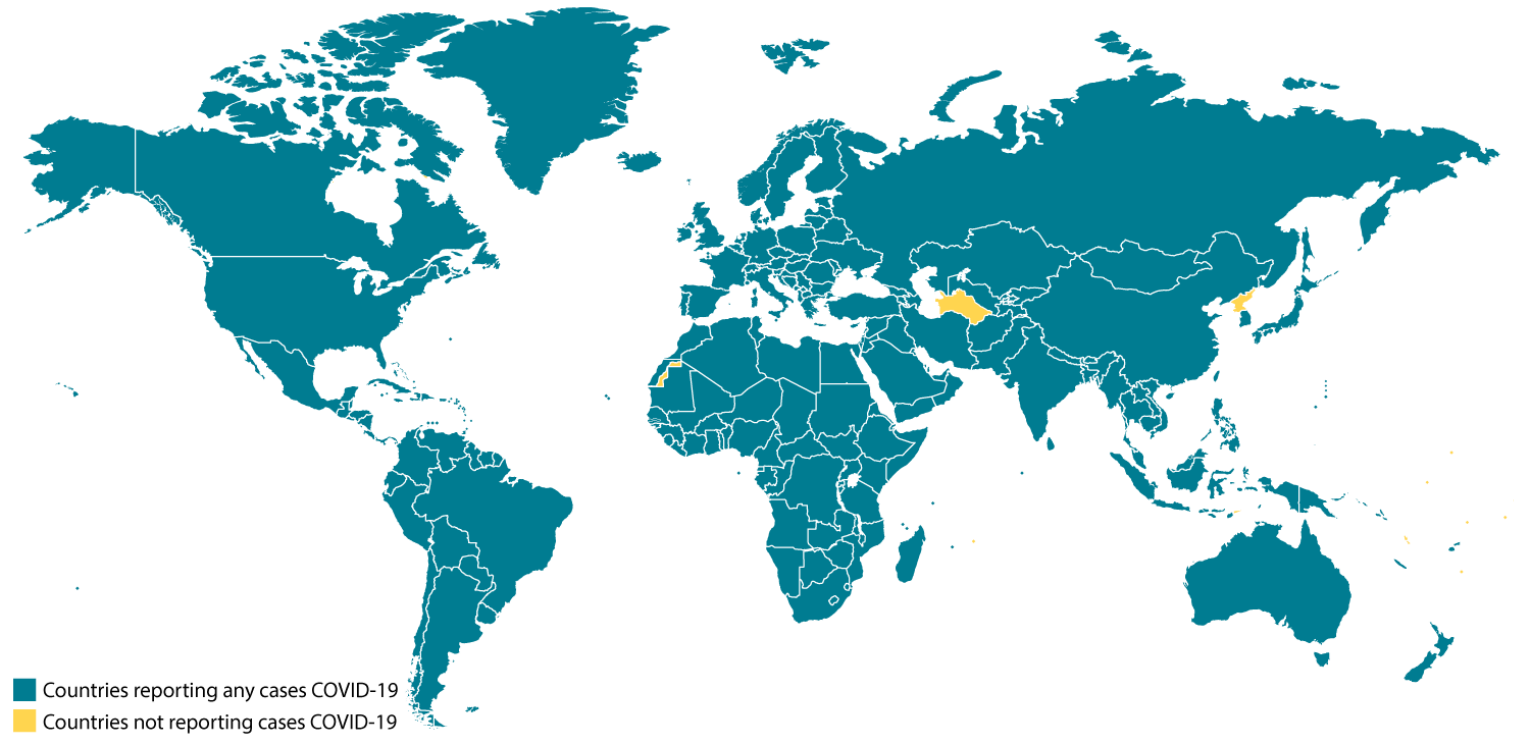
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Executive Director
Secretary, Executive Board



COVID-19/NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

USA: 4,307,542 million cases & 148,295 deaths

7/28/2020 Johns Hopkins COVID-19 tracking

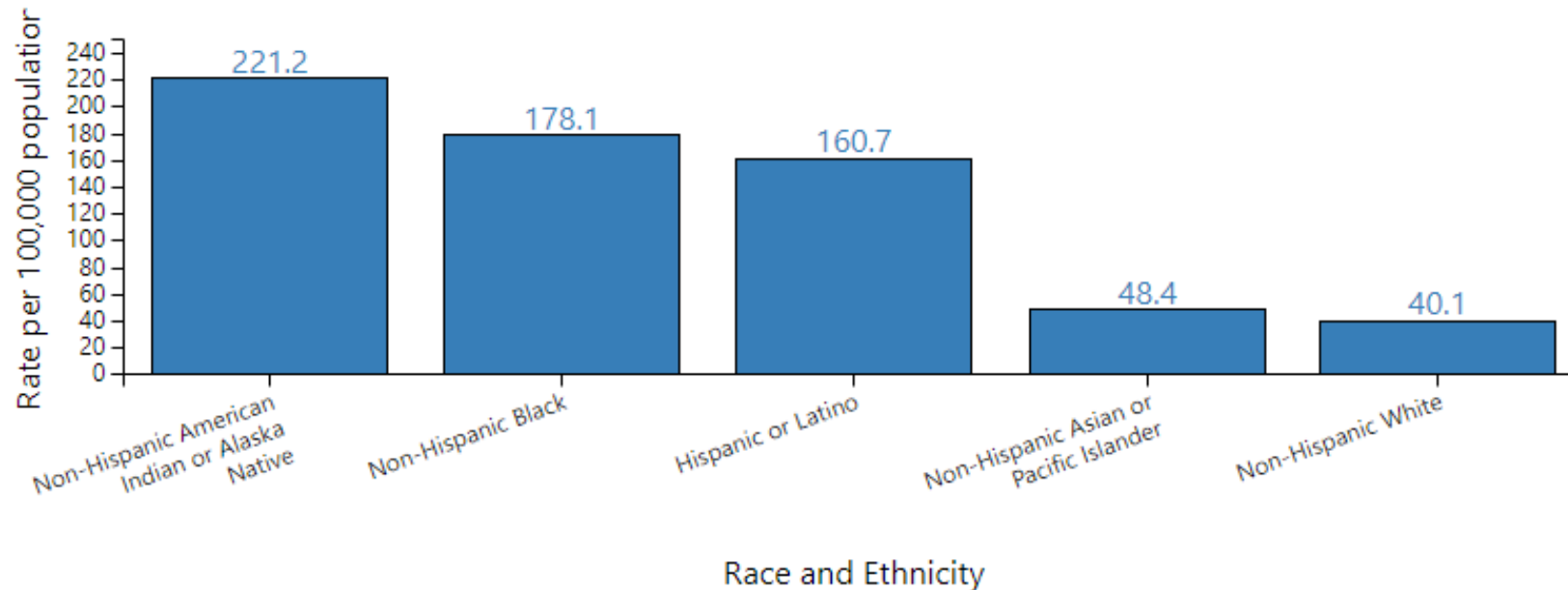


Great Pandemic of 2019 - 2020

As of 12:00 p.m. ET July 20, 2020

COVID-19/NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Age-adjusted COVID-19-associated hospitalization rates by race and ethnicity, COVID-NET, March – June 13, 2020



Reasons For COVID-19 Disparities

- Exposure
 - Public facing occupations
 - Delayed sheltering in place
 - Protests
- Susceptibility
 - Prevalence of chronic disease
- Social determinates
 - Lack of paid sick leave
 - Poverty
 - Housing situation



COVID-19/NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Profiling Concerns “Masking While Black”



COVID-19/NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Infodemic Of Bad Information

- Misinformation
 - Social media
 - Word of mouth
- Disinformation
 - Foreign influencers
 - Influencers
 - Elected leaders
 - Media influencers
 - Artist, etc.



Response Issues: Testing

- Unequal testing access
 - Location & mode of test facility
 - Not located in minority communities
 - Drive through vs walk up
 - Long lines
 - Visit times
 - Gateway provider requirement
 - Cost of testing & screening care



Response Issues: Contract Tracing

- Ability to find individuals
 - Mistrust in contact tracing / Mis-disinformation
 - Cultural competent interaction
 - Confidentiality concerns
 - Don't know community
 - Phone access & other contact issues
- Tracers not linked to existing health department program
- Inability to isolate or quarantine effectively
- Poor access to health care
- Social determinants that limit finding individuals in 2-3 days

COVID-19/NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Ensure Therapeutic Equity

- Access to vaccines
- Antiviral agents access
- Access to new therapies
 - Antibody-rich plasma
 - Steroids



Recommendations

- Depoliticize the COVID-19 response
- Demilitarize response to protest
- Promote NPI as risk reduction for all
 - Mask
 - Physical distancing
 - Hand hygiene
- Phased reopening
 - Data must drive decisions
 - Plan for pauses & reversals
- Equitable testing & contact tracing
- Culturally competent health education
- Equal access to vaccines & therapeutics



About APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We are the only organization that combines a nearly 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at www.apha.org.

- Founded – April 18, 1872
- 501C(3) & Nonpartisan
- Over 50,000 individual & affiliate members

