COVID-19, Communities of Color, & Social Determinants of Health

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Director of Public Policy
Mental Health America webinar 7/22/20
Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan

- Scale up
  - HIV testing
  - Needle exchange programs
- PrEP
- Treatment linkage
- Focus on priority populations
COVID-19 Impact in Counties with Greater than Average Black Residents

- 91% of disproportionately black counties are located in the southern US
- COVID-19 cases and deaths increased with proportion of blacks residents in counties
- Although only 22% of counties are >13% black, these counties accounted for
  - 52% of national COVID-19 cases
  - 58% of national COVID-19 deaths
- Underlying conditions did not explain these disparities
  - Health care access
  - # people in shared housing
  - Unemployment
COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in Disproportionately Black Counties

COVID-19 Case Reports: 1
- Disp. Black Counties: * 0
- All Other Counties: ** 1

COVID-19 Death Reports: 0
- Disp. Black Counties: * 0
- All Other Counties: ** 0

Jan 22, 2020

State and local health agency reported confirmed cases of COVID-19
Data Source: USAFacts, Population Data, US Census

* Disproportionately black counties are those with 13% of population or more black. County level data is missing for some cases and deaths so will not sum to national total.
COVID-19 diagnoses and Latinx populations

Abstract:

Objectives
Ascertain COVID-19 transmission dynamics among Latino communities nationally.

Methods
We compared predictors of COVID-19 cases and deaths between disproportionately Latino counties (≥17.8% Latino population) and all other counties through May 11, 2020. Adjusted Rate Ratios were estimated using COVID-19 cases and deaths via zero-inflated binomial regression models.

Results
COVID-19 diagnoses rates were greater in Latino counties nationally (90.9 vs. 82.0 per 100,000). In multivariable analysis, COVID-19 cases were greater in Northeastern and Midwestern Latino counties (aRR 1.42, 95% CI 1.11–1.84 and aRR 1.70, 95% CI 1.57–1.85, respectively). COVID-19 deaths were greater in Midwestern Latino counties (aRR, 1.17, 95% CI 1.04–1.34). COVID-19 diagnoses were associated with counties with greater monolingual Spanish speakers, employment rates, heart disease deaths, less social distancing, and days since the first reported case. COVID-19 deaths were associated with household occupancy density, air pollution, employment, days since the first reported case, and age (fewer <35yo).
COVID-19 Cases & Urbanicity Black & Latino U.S. Counties

- COVID cases higher in counties with more black residents no matter metro size or level of urbanicity.
- COVID cases higher in counties with more Latino residents in medium metro to rural areas.

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**Black Counties**

- Large central metro
- Large fringe metro
- Medium metro
- Small metro
- Micropolitan
- Noncore

**Latino Counties**

- Large central metro
- Large fringe metro
- Medium metro
- Small metro
- Micropolitan
- Noncore

**Risk Ratio (95% CI)**

0.8 1.2 1.6 2.0
COVID-19 Risk is Rising in the Latinx Community Since Economy Re-Opening

The New York Times

Updates on the surges in Texas, California, Arizona and Florida.

Many Latinos Couldn’t Stay Home. Now Virus Cases Are Soaring in Their Communities.

Rates of coronavirus infection among Latinos have risen rapidly across the United States.
Figure 1: 7-Day Moving Average of New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 by Percentage of Latinx Population in California, Florida, Texas, and Nation (March 1 – June 29, 2020)

Counts > 18.6% Latinx Population

California

May 15: Many states begin to re-open

Counts < 18.6% Latinx Population

Florida

Texas

National

https://ehe.amfAR.org  COVID-19 diagnoses since reopening the US have disproportionately impacted Latinx communities
COVID-19 Concerns Differ By Race/ Ethnicity

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>April</th>
<th>June</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will get COVID-19 and</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>require hospitalization</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>43</td>
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Might unknowingly spread COVID-19 to others

<table>
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<th>June</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black Americans are far more likely to know someone who has died of the coronavirus than others

Q: Do you personally know anyone who has died from the coronavirus, or not? (% saying they know someone who died)

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>0</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. adults overall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Americans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
% in households with 1 persons who cannot work remotely:

- 64.5% Latino adults
- 56.5% Black adults
- 46.6% White adults
COVID-19 and H1N1: Same Outcomes A Decade Apart

Graph A: Age-Adjusted 2009 H1N1 Related Hospitalization Rates by Race/Ethnicity Emerging Infections Program, 2009-2010

After reports of racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S. pandemic, a large, nationally representative survey provided empirical evidence regarding the sources of these disparities (1). The authors found that increased likelihood of exposure to the virus, increased susceptibility to severe consequences of the infection, and lack of health care access were all important contributors, and they concluded with pointed, domain-specific recommendations to mitigate these disparities. The clarity of this path...
Virtual Fast-Track Cities 2020 • September 9-10, 2020

Figure 1. 7-Day Moving Average of New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 by Percentage of White Residents in U.S. Counties by Region (March 1 – June 25, 2020)

Percent of County Population Non-Hispanic White:
- <60.18%
- 60.19% - 77.39%
- 77.40% - 88.11%
- 88.11% - 93.80%
- ≥93.80%

COMMENTS

White Counties Stand Apart: The Primacy of Residential Segregation in COVID-19 and HIV Diagnoses

Gregory J. Milliken, MPH; Brian Hareven, JD; Austin James, MD; Elise Luminati, BA; Jennifer Diamond, MPH; Susan Squirrel, MD, MPH; and Ned Staples, SS

Abstract

Epidemiological data suggest that white Americans have a lower risk of acquiring COVID. Although many studies have posited the role of xenophobia as a COVID-19 vulnerability, few studies have examined the influence of racial segregation. Residential segregation is associated with differing health outcomes by race/ethnicity for various diseases, including HIV. This commentary examines the unique trajectory of COVID-19 in predominantly white counties, and the role of social determinants of health. Geographic and ecological factors are also considered.

Keywords: COVID-19, HIV, disparities, segregation, social determinants

Introduction

The ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 has recently sparked national attention and underscored the importance of understanding the epidemiology of this disease. COVID-19 cases have been high in the United States, with racial disparities in the number of cases and deaths. While COVID-19 cases have been highest in predominantly non-white counties, white counties have also seen heightened case and death rates, particularly in the American South. This Commentary focuses on this phenomenon, highlighting differences in COVID-19 infection rates by county population and county population demographics. The commentary also discusses the role of social and economic factors in shaping COVID-19 outcomes and provides evidence supporting the primacy of residential segregation in amplifying these differences.

Since re-opening, COVID-19 cases have remained lowest in primarily white counties across region and increased sharply in the most racially diverse counties in the South and West. (Additional data available at: https://mba.amfar.org/mequity/)
COVID-19 Testing not Located in Black or Brown Communities

The Coronavirus Doesn’t Discriminate, But U.S. Health Care Showing Familiar Biases


In Large Texas Cities, Access To Coronavirus Testing May Depend On Where You Live
Implications for Ending HIV
The Social Determinants of Health

Underlying health conditions

Social determinants of health

(Poteat et al, 2020)
COVID-19 & Economic Losses Impact on Black Communities

African-American unemployment soars, as do COVID-19 deaths

Black unemployment rate rises in May while white unemployment rate falls

Black community braces for next threat: Mass evictions

A federal moratorium on evictions — which only applies to the 1 in 4 rental units that are backed by the government — expires in a matter of weeks.
A bar graph showing the percent with viral suppression and mean viral load across different settings: Rent/Own (n=739), Treatment Center/Transitional Housing (n=151), SRO/Hotel (n=148), Friend (n=31), Shelter (n=50), and Outdoors (n=50).

The bar graph displays the following data points:

- Rent/Own: 85% (7004) without viral suppression, 15% (7422) with viral suppression.
- Treatment Center/Transitional Housing: 81% (17343) without viral suppression, 19% (19772) with viral suppression.
- SRO/Hotel: 70% (22321) without viral suppression, 30% (42109) with viral suppression.
- Friend: 65% (22321) without viral suppression, 35% (42109) with viral suppression.
- Shelter: 59% (87109) without viral suppression, 41% (32503) with viral suppression.
- Outdoors: 42% (42109) without viral suppression, 58% (32503) with viral suppression.

The table below shows the odds ratios (aOR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) for the different settings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>aOR</th>
<th>Reference (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent/Own</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>(0.52, 1.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Center</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>(0.32, 0.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>(0.25, 0.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRO/Hotel</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>(0.13, 0.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>(0.09, 0.30)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: Clemenzi-Allen et al, 2018
Percent of Uninsured is Highest in The 7 EHE States

Source: ehe.amfar.org
Current Policy & Rhetoric is Affecting Health Care among Latino Immigrants

Abstract

Statements about building walls, deporting and denying services to undocumented immigrants made during President Trump’s presidential campaign and presidency may induce fear in Latino populations and create barriers to their health care access. To assess how these statements may impact health outcomes and the prevalence for emergency care, we conducted surveys of adult patients at three county emergency departments (EDs) in California from June 2017 to December 2018. Of 1,668 patients approached, 1,337 (79.4%) agreed to participate. 34.3% UDLI, 36.3% LLRC, and 25.4% non-Latino legal residents/undocumented/LLRC perceptions of safety and their presentations for emergency care, 

have these statements made you feel worried or unsafe living in the US?
Impact of COVID-19 on HIV PrEP care at a Boston community health center

(Krakower, 2020)
Injection Drug Use, Sexual Risk and HCV during COVID-19

Global HCV among MSM: Meta-analysis

Americas data

- 4x greater than the general population
- HIV neg MSM: No difference with general population
- HIV poz MSM: 9x greater than general population

HCV incidence

- Neg men not on PrEP: 0.12 per 1000 P-Y
- Neg men on PrEP: 14.80 per 1000 P-Y

(Jin, AIDS 2020)
**COVID-19 Mortality Racial Disparities and Access to Medical Care**

"Although current reports suggest that Black patients represent a disproportionate share of COVID-19 infections and death in the United States, in this study, mortality for those able to access hospital care did not differ between Black and White patients after adjusting for sociodemographic factors and comorbidities."
Medicaid expansion is popular during COVID-19

**Race**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1354(63)</td>
<td>1682(68)</td>
<td>1975(75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>1370(61)</td>
<td>1468(61)</td>
<td>1860(74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>2857(74)</td>
<td>2817(77)</td>
<td>3082(84)</td>
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</table>

**Age**

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<th>2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>2271(62)</td>
<td>2621(64)</td>
<td>2997(74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>1635(66)</td>
<td>1532(70)</td>
<td>1947(78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>1421(74)</td>
<td>1424(76)</td>
<td>1386(82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥50</td>
<td>716(83)</td>
<td>895(82)</td>
<td>1234(89)</td>
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</table>

**HIV status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV-</td>
<td>4612(68)</td>
<td>4954(70)</td>
<td>5776(78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV+</td>
<td>802(76)</td>
<td>987(79)</td>
<td>1351(85)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19: Perspective from an HIV Survivor

How to Survive a Plague

By Andrew Sullivan

“And this will change us. It must. All plagues change society and culture, reversing some trends while accelerating others...

The one thing we know about epidemics is that at some point they will end. The one thing we don’t know is who we will be then.”
Greg Millett
Greg.Millett@amfAR.org

DASHBOARD
Race & COVID data
https://ehe.amfar.org/inequity/

(Photo: Mario Tama; Artist: Pony Wave)