

# Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Infection Rates

Tiana Tran 2020

## COVID-19 Statistics

**As of Oct 30:**  
 8,924,548 total cases <> 228,100 total deaths<sup>3</sup>  
**Cases per 100,000 people<sup>4</sup>**  
 White: 1,204 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 3,849  
 Native American: 2,693 Hispanic/Latino: 2,416  
 Black/African American: 2,327 Asian: 878  
**Deaths per 100,000 people<sup>4</sup>**  
 White: 47 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 55  
 Native American: 70 Hispanic/Latino: 70  
 Black/African American: 106 Asian: 45

Rate Ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic Persons	Native American, Alaska Native persons	Asian persons	Black or African-American persons	Hispanic or Latino persons
CASES <sup>1</sup>	2.8x higher	1.1x higher	2.6x higher	2.8x higher
HOSPITALIZATION	5.3x higher	1.3x higher	4.7x higher	4.6x higher
DEATH <sup>2</sup>	3.1x higher	1.2x higher	3.2x higher	3.2x higher

## Social Health Factors

People of color are not more genetically predisposed to COVID-19. Rather, race is related to other risk factors that impact health:

- Lack of health insurance** - percentage of ethnicities without health insurance coverage<sup>5</sup> (2019):  
 White: 5.2% Black: 9.6% Asian: 6.2% Hispanic: 16.7%
- More medical comorbidities** - from a study in Montefiore Medical Center (Bronx, NY) percentage of COVID patients with more than 2 medical comorbidities<sup>6</sup> (2020):  
 White: 28.9% Hispanic: 34.3% Black: 39.5%
- Living conditions, such as multigenerational (≥3 generations) households** - percentage of multigenerational households by race<sup>7</sup> (2011)  
 White: 4.5% Black: 9.5% Native American: 10.7%  
 Asian: 9.4% Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: 13% Hispanic/Latino: 10.3%
- Opportunities to work at home** - percentage of workers who were able to work at home<sup>8</sup> (2018):  
 White: 29.9% Black: 19.7% Hispanic/Latino: 16.2%

## In a state of emergency:



COVID-19 has highlighted the way a contagious respiratory disease spreads quickly. By understanding the vulnerability communities of color have, pharmacists have a unique position to combat health disparities.

### AS PHARMACISTS:

- Make testing easily accessible, especially in minority communities<sup>9</sup>
- Work with the National Medical Association to engage minority physicians<sup>9</sup>
- Engage faith based institutions to raise awareness and debunk myths<sup>9</sup> and run educational sessions in multiple languages<sup>10</sup>
- Receive cultural competency training<sup>10</sup>
- Train contact tracers and recruit them from the communities they serve to build trust<sup>11</sup>
- Plan for an equitable vaccine treatment so it isn't exclusively for the privileged<sup>11</sup>

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