COVID-19 Disparities and Vaccine Hesitancy: Moving Toward Health Equity – Part II

SW DEI Collaborative
To receive credit for this session as Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Hours:

- Go to: https://signup.com/go/rDDMwiv
- Sign up for the session that corresponds with today’s date
  - (phone number is not required)

Applies only to members of The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson
Introduction

Valerie Romero-Leggott
University of New Mexico
Health Sciences Center
Panelists

- Joshua Lee, MD – University of Arizona
- Gayle Dine’Chacon, MD – University of New Mexico
- Amira del Pino-Jones, MD – University of Colorado
- Ricardo Correa, MD – University of Arizona
- Nicole Jacobs, PhD – University of Nevada Reno
- Francisco Moreno, MD – University of Arizona

Moderator: Valerie Romero-Leggott, MD - University of New Mexico
Rural Disparities in Pandemic Impact

Joshua Lee, MD
Banner University Medicine-Tucson
College of Medicine – Tucson, U Arizona
Both the infectivity rates and the death rates are markedly different between urban and rural counties.

Rural counties (NW in particular) also have the overlay of high percentages of indigenous peoples.
Pima County

Show case counts or population rates in the map below?

Cases:

Select a county to filter the other numbers. Deaths will not be shown for counties with fewer than three deaths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
<th>Number of COVID-19 Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105,612</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>609,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of New Cases reported today*</td>
<td>Number of New Deaths reported today*</td>
<td>Number of New Tests reported today*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>269</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rate of cases, per 100,000 population

Rate of fatalities, per 100,000 population

Total Percent Positive**

Total COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests***

New Diagnostic Tests reported today*

Diagnostic Tests Percent Positive**

Total COVID-19 Serology Tests

New Serology Tests reported today*

Serology Percent Positive***

*Counts of new cases, deaths, and numbers tested reflect increases in the total numbers compared to the previous day.
Apache County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
<th>Number of COVID-19 Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10,147</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>27,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of New Cases reported today*</th>
<th>Number of New Deaths reported today*</th>
<th>Number of New Tests reported today*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate of cases, per 100,000 population</th>
<th>Rate of fatalities, per 100,000 population</th>
<th>Total Percent Positive**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14,150.7</td>
<td>487.41</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests***</th>
<th>New Diagnostic Tests reported today*</th>
<th>Diagnostic Tests Percent Positive**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26,877</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total COVID-19 Serology Tests</th>
<th>New Serology Tests reported today*</th>
<th>Serology Percent Positive**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>953</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counts of new cases, deaths, and numbers tested reflect increases in the total numbers compared to the previous day.

**Percent positive is defined as number of people with a positive test result, reported electronically out of all people with COVID-19 testing reported electronically completed in AZ.
What drives the differential?

- Different housing density
- Markedly different access to care – no tertiary care facilities
- Differential utilities and water/sewage
- Differential trust in healthcare structures
Covid-19 and Vaccine Hesitancy: American Indians

Gayle Dine’Chaon, MD
Native American Budget and Policy Institute
University of New Mexico
• Pueblos, Tribes and Nations have inherent sovereign rights and a political relationship through treaties with the U.S. Government that does not derive from race or ethnicity. Tribal members are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States and their state in which they reside. (ncai.org)

• Thus, tribal governments have the right to govern themselves and all matters that involve their tribal members. This includes protecting the health, safety and welfare of all their tribal members within their tribal lands.

• The Public Health authority for pueblos, tribes and nations is the responsibility of the tribal government. Federal and state tribal consultation and collaboration is key to addressing the Covid-19 pandemic in native communities.
Vaccine trials on Navajo Nation

- Navajo Nation, early in the pandemic, had the highest infection rate per capita. Higher than New York at the same time.

- In August 2020, the Navajo Nation IRB expeditiously approved Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trials on the Navajo Nation. Trials were also undertaken with the White Mountain Apache Nation in Arizona.

- History of distrust:
  - Havasupai vs. ASU
  - NN IRB moratorium on genetics research
  - H/O forced sterilization in native women from IHS.
Scientific Exploration Should NOT Be Tribal Exploitation

Paid for by the Havasupai Tribe

GeneticPiracy.com
● Tribal sovereignty: choice of State or Indian Health Service (IHS) vaccines and prioritization of vaccine roll out.

● Native people get their healthcare from a variety of sources, IHS, tribal-controlled clinics, urban health clinics or none of the above.

● The NN vaccine roll out began on December 15, 2020.

● NN total doses administered (3/4/21): 142,607

● NN total fully immunized (3/4/21): 51,994

● NN currently in Phase 2: any remaining phase 1 and general pop.

● The highest number of positive covid cases in (Spring) May was 238 and (Fall) November was 401. 7 day avg (1/12/21): 233 cases

● 7 day avg (3/6/21): 14.8 cases
Medical assistant Vangie Yazzie (left) administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to Galena Dineyazhe (right) as director of nursing Monica Jones (back right) watches at the Dr. Guy Gorman Senior Care Home on the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Ariz. on Dec. 18, 2020.
THOMAS HAWTHORNE/THE REPUBLIC
Vaccine hesitancy vs acceptance

- Survey of 1,435 AI/AN across US: 75% willing to receive a Covid-19 vaccine. (Urban Indian Health Institute)
- Overwhelming motivation: responsibility to protect Native community and cultural preservation.
- Constant consistent public health messaging that is culturally relevant
- Priority on who gets vaccinated decided by tribe/community.
- Early trials and leading by example
- Exerting sovereign public health authority
- Taking responsibility leads to resilience
African-American and Refugee Communities

Amira del Pino-Jones, MD
University of Colorado
MAYOR HANCOCK HOSTED PANEL DISCUSSING VACCINE INEQUITY

CORCORAN O'LEARY • FEBRUARY 9, 2021 • FEATURED • NEWS
Outreach – Churches and Community Centers
Hospital Resources

- Patient Navigator Project – Case Management/Language Services
- Interpreter-Video chat devices in every room
- Handouts on COVID (including post-discharge instructions) reviewed using Language Services
- Remote Patient Monitoring Program – Expanded to include non-English speaking patients
Elevating Black Voices: Colorado Doctors Stress Importance Of Diversity In Medical Field

By Conor McCue  February 3, 2021 at 11:55 pm  Filed Under: Coronavirus, Denver News

(credit: Vaughn Browne)
"I grew up with the sense that you have to think about things beyond just yourself and your home, but think about how your actions can impact your community," Lisa said. "For us, I thought it was important to participate in the trial because this was something we could do to make our community better."

Wynn and Browne are among the many Black men and women going above and beyond amidst the health crisis of our time, but, looking across their facilities they see few colleagues who look like them.
LATINX

Ricardo Correa, MD, EdD, FACP, FACE.
University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix
Phoenix VAMC
PACH Clinic
@drricardocorrea, ricardocorrea@arizona.edu
Getting an Appointment
Vaccination Drive thru
Don't wait for the underserved to sign up for a COVID-19 vaccine. Go to them.
STRATEGIES

- **Build trust and prove our trustworthiness**
  - Black, Latinx and Native populations have been on the receiving end of some of the worst medical atrocities ever committed on people because of who they are.

- **Go where they are**
  - Deploying community-based teams that can go door to door, block by block, registering people and setting up vaccine clinics in locations and during times that work for the community
STRATEGIES

- Don't let these problems fester
  - Latinx population is more likely to be obese and suffer diabetes, and 10 percentage points more likely to live in poverty and be uninsured compared with Arizona’s general population
  - Important undocumented population

- Make it equitable, swift and transparent
  - Calls to build a database that can better identify communities that have been disproportionately harmed during the pandemic
  - Deliver vaccines to those hard-hit communities in a more thoughtful, intentional way
STRATEGIES

- Education and outreach campaign

#VacunateYA
Education and Outreach Campaign
La vacuna Covid-19 no es segura porque se desarrolló y aprobó demasiado rápido.

Las vacunas disponibles para combatir COVID-19 han pasado por rigurosos estudios y procesos de aprobación para garantizar que sean lo más seguros posible. Permanecen bajo estricta vigilancia para garantizar su seguridad.
Catholic leaders advise getting available vaccine, despite concerns with Johnson & Johnson shot
Family oriented Messages

Best way to protect yourself and your whole family is to get vaccinated.

Dispel myths & Misconceptions

Prevent misunderstandings about the covid vaccine. Explain benefits, side effects and safety.

Vaccine protects both healthy and high-risk individuals

Discuss exposures and risks for healthy and vulnerable patients and family members in the household.

Recommend vaccine! Let them know you were vaccinated

Provider recommendations increase likelihood of patients getting vaccinated.

Trust is vital!
Recommendations

- **Government**
  - New economic relief for small businesses and families; job training
  - CDC Guidance in Spanish
  - Support providers- Medicare, emergency Medicaid, PPE, licensing
  - Public charge not enforced, detention ctrs, prisons, schools
  - Cultural and language services & Leaders needed

- **Health Industry - affordability**
  - Insurance copays for testing, healthcare/meds
  - Pharmaceutical Companies – pt assistance

- **Health Care Systems**
  - Health education, referrals, follow-up of all patients, training and research

- **Communities**
  - Media, Churches, Senior Centers, Schools, Nonprofit minority organizations
Parties
@drricardocorrea #VacunateYA
How Medical Educators are Addressing Disparities

Nicole Jacobs, Ph.D.
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Education</strong></th>
<th><strong>Representation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Opportunity</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Skills and Training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Supporting growth</td>
<td>• More than a single number</td>
<td>• How many leaders in an organization?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What positions do minorities hold?</td>
<td>• How many senior leaders…?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workforce Diversity Efforts**
Increasing the Diversity of the Healthcare Workforce: Representation Matters!

- Outreach to K-12 students
- Pipeline programs
- Black Men in White Coats
- Partnerships with HBCUs, HSIs, MSIs
- Holistic Review for selection (MMI)
- Second Look events
- Scholarships/fundraising for URM students
- Mentoring
- Implicit Bias Training (admissions and search committees)
- Tracking of data (recruitment, retention, advancement/graduation, climate surveys)
- Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians (BNGAP)
Efforts to Increase the Cultural Humility of the Workforce

• Implicit bias assessments and training to mitigate biases in the curriculum
• Diversity and anti-racism curricula
• Community engagement programs
• Trainings: Safe Zone, Microaggressions and Bystander Intervention
• Diversity Dialogues
• Health Care Disparity Forums
• Health Equity Grand Rounds
• Affinity groups: SNMA, LMSA, APAMSA, MedPride, FGLI, AMWA, GWIMS
Patient Care

- Increase access to care
  - Student Outreach, rural, and satellite clinics
  - Telemedicine visits to mitigate obstacles to healthcare during COVID-19
  - Partnering with community groups
- Reduce implicit bias in care
  - Use of evidence-based practice guidelines to guide COVID-19 care
- Tailor care to known needs
  - Essential health care services for medically underserved communities during COVID-19
    - Primary care and mental health
Patient Care

- Culturally sensitive patient education materials
- Patient Care Quality Improvement Initiatives
- Build workforce that reflects diversity of patients in our communities
  - Bilingual and bicultural staff/providers
- Relationship centered communication for physicians
- Scholarly Concentration in Medical Social Justice
Research

- Health Care Disparities
- Community of Bilingual English Spanish Speakers
- Implicit Bias Research Group at UNR Med
- Latino Research Center / Hispanic Center of Excellence
- Research pilot funding
- All of Us research project (NIH UA/Banner grant)
- INBRE, CTRIN
Recommendations to Address Health Care Disparities and Vaccine Hesitancy

Francisco Moreno, M.D.
University of Arizona
Dismantling Systemic Racism

- Economics
- Health
- Criminal justice
- Education
- Housing
Recommendations: Community

- Get involved, ask, listen, reflect
- Vote (Government & organizations)
- Take on leadership roles
- Make diversity and inclusion an agenda
- Volunteer or donate
- Urge schools to integrate diversity into the curriculum
- Speak openly about race

silence is the voice of complacency
Recommendations: Institutional

- Increase diversity of workforce at all levels
- Mentorship and professional development of workforce
- Increase cultural competence and humility training of all clinicians
- Address SDOH early/often
- Patient advocacy
- Dismantle systemic racism in institution (policies and procedures)
Recommendations: Individual

- Implicit bias training for providers
- Ensure screening for mental health during visits
- Use language-sensitive patient information and use medical interpreters when necessary
- Utilize patient-centered communication
- Practice advocacy at all levels
- Refer for social services when SDOH identified
- Offer telehealth services
- Train providers/staff cultural sensitivity
- Get involved with community organizations
- Focus on building trust and acknowledging historical transgressions
What is Trauma Informed Care?

What is Racial Trauma?
The overarching aim is to gain better understanding of the underlying factors for the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 in people of color within Arizona (11-state alliances).

https://covid19community.nih.gov
NIH All of Us Research Program

The world’s largest research and most diverse platform supporting precision medicine.

Incorporates biological samples for biomarkers and genomic analysis, EHR, participant provided information, environmental assessments.

All of Us Research Program launches COVID-19 research initiatives

NIH effort expands data collection to shed light on pandemic’s spread and impact.

"The All of Us Research Program, part of the National Institutes of Health, today announced that it is leveraging its significant and diverse participant base to seek new insights into COVID-19—through antibody testing, a survey on the pandemic’s impact and collection of electronic health record information.

"All of Us will make data gathered through those activities broadly accessible to approved researchers, over time. In future releases of its data platform, the Researcher Workbench, now in beta testing, analyses may help reveal the origins of entry, spread and impact of COVID-19 in the United States.

"With our nearly 350,000 participant partners across the country, All of Us will
Research Career Development Program for Underrepresented Early Career Faculty
Thank you

Part I & Part II Recordings:
https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/webinars/previous

Chris Martin, Assistant Director of T-Health,
Arizona Telemedicine Program

Allie Joseph, Executive Administrator,
UNM Health Sciences Center Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Meg Elcock, Administrative Assistant
UNM Health Sciences Center Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Dr. Ricardo Correa
University of Arizona, Phoenix
Don’t forget to receive credit for this session as Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Hours

(Applies only to members of The University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson)
Q & A

Anayansi Lombardero, PhD
Francisco Lucio, JD
Valerie Madera-Garcia, MPH
Victoria Murrain, DO
Jose Rodriguez, MD
Q & A

Please type questions in the chat