



# Latinos Have Been Put At A Disproportionate Risk In The Coronavirus Pandemic

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# Latinos Have Been Put At a Disproportionate Risk In The Coronavirus Pandemic

Hispanic and Latino people are far more likely to face barriers to accessing health care and to protecting themselves from the virus. Additionally, due to a variety of social and economic factors, they are more likely to suffer the brunt of the financial consequences of the pandemic.

## KEY POINTS

- Years of structural racism have left Latinos especially vulnerable to the coronavirus crisis.
- Research confirms that Latinos nationwide are contracting coronavirus at higher rates than white Americans. A recent [survey](#) found that more than a quarter Latino adults across the country said they know someone who has died from coronavirus—three times more likely than white adults.
- Latinos are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses like COPD, diabetes, and obesity, which puts them at higher risk of developing severe complications if they contract coronavirus. A number of environmental factors, including crowded multi-generational homes and exposure to air pollution, have also increased risks in Latino communities.
- Latinos face severe barriers to accessing health care. They are the [least likely demographic](#) to have health insurance and are [more likely](#) to live in states that have refused Medicaid expansion.
- Latino workers are disproportionately represented in jobs that have been deemed essential and are therefore more likely to be exposed to the virus. Less than [20 percent](#) of Latino workers are able to work remotely.
- Latinos are more likely to experience the economic consequences of the pandemic. The Center For Responsible Lending estimated that [91 percent](#) of Latino-owned businesses stand close to no chance of receiving a Paycheck Protection Program loan.
- Between failing to adequately report race data and continuing its war on Americans health care, the Trump administration has made the crisis even worse for Latino communities. Trump is currently supporting a lawsuit to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that could rip away health care from 20 million more Americans as the country is still reeling from the pandemic.

## Research Confirms Latinos Are Disproportionately Suffering From The Impacts Of Coronavirus:

**Latino And Hispanic People Test Positive At Disproportionate Rates In 43 Out Of 44 States (Including Washington D.C.) Reporting Data.** "Latinos and Hispanics test positive for the coronavirus at rates higher than would be expected for their share of the population in all but one of the 44 jurisdictions that report Hispanic ethnicity data (42 states plus Washington D.C.). The rates are two times higher in 30 states, and over four times higher in eight states. For example, in Virginia more than 12,000 cases — 49% of all cases with known ethnicity — come from the Hispanic and Latino community, which makes up only 10% of the population." [NPR, [5/30/20](#)]

**More Than A Quarter Of Latino Adults Across The Country Said They Know Someone Who Has Died From The Coronavirus.** "Latinos young and old are contracting the virus at alarmingly high rates in places such as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, although the fatality rate for their community is significantly lower than that of African Americans. In an ABC News-Ipsos poll released Friday, 26 percent of Latino adults in the country said they know someone who has died of the virus or from complications related to it." [Washington Post, [5/26/20](#)]

- **Latinos Are Nearly Three Times As Likely To Know Someone Who Died Of COVID-19 Than White Residents.** "The devastating toll of coronavirus is far-reaching, but the impact of the pandemic is particularly acute among black Americans and Latinos, who are nearly three times as likely to personally know someone who has died from the virus than white Americans, according to a new ABC News/Ipsos poll released Friday. Thirty percent of black adults and 26% of Latino adults in the country said they know a victim of the coronavirus, who died either from the disease or from complications related to the virus. For white adults, the corresponding figure is 10%." [ABC News, [5/22/20](#)]



**Kaiser Family Foundation Survey: Nearly Half Of Latinos Have Reported Problems Paying For Necessities During The Pandemic.** "Almost a third (31%) of the American people say they've experienced problems paying the rent or mortgage, or for food, utilities, credit card bills or medical costs as a result of the coronavirus. Among African-Americans, that number climbs to 48%. Among Latinos, it's 46%. And 47% of households with an annual income below \$40,000 say they've had trouble paying their bills because of the pandemic." [Axios, [5/29/20](#)]

- **39 Percent Of Latino Adults Said They've Either Skipped Meals or Relied On Charity Or Government Food Programs During The Pandemic.** "45% of black adults and 39% of Latinos say they've either skipped meals or relied on charity or government food programs such as SNAP since February — compared with just 18% of white adults. Most of those people said their experiences were a direct result of the coronavirus' financial impact." [Axios, [5/29/20](#)]

**New York Times Analysis: Nursing Homes Where African Americans And Latinos Made Up A Significant Portion Of Residents Have Been Twice As Likely To Get Hit By Coronavirus Than Overwhelmingly White Facilities.** "But Covid-19 has been particularly virulent toward African-Americans and Latinos: Nursing homes where those groups make up a significant portion of the residents — no matter their location, no matter their size, no matter their government rating — have been twice as likely to get hit by the coronavirus as those where the population is overwhelmingly white." [New York Times, [5/21/20](#)]

- **More Than 60 Percent Of Nursing Homes Where At Least A Quarter Of The Residents Are Black Or Latino Have Reported At Least One Coronavirus Case, More Than Double The Rate Of Nursing Homes Where These Groups Make Up Less Than 5 Percent Of The Population.** "More than 60 percent of nursing homes where at least a quarter of the residents are black or Latino have reported at least one coronavirus case, a New York Times analysis shows. That is double the rate of homes where black and Latino people make up less than 5 percent of the population. And in nursing homes, a single case often leads to a handful of cases, and then a full-fledged outbreak." [New York Times, [5/21/20](#)]
- **Analysis Found That Racial Disparities In Coronavirus Outbreaks Remained Even When Accounting For The Size Of The Nursing Home, Population Density In The Surrounding Neighborhood, And Other Factors.** "But the Times analysis found that a racial disparity remained even after accounting for a variety of factors, including the size of a nursing home, the infection rate in the surrounding county, the population density of the neighborhood and how many residents had Medicaid or Medicare." [New York Times, [5/21/20](#)]

**New York Times: Coronavirus Disparities Among Latinos Are Greater In States That Have "Newer And Less-Established Latino Communities."** "The disparities are bigger in states like Oregon, Washington and Utah that have newer and less-established Latino communities, compared with states like California, Arizona and New Mexico. In some states, including Arizona and Texas, state data shows that Latinos are getting sick at rates close to their share of population. In New Mexico, Latinos, who make up half the population and have a long history in the state, have about the same number of cases relative to their population as whites." [New York Times, [5/7/20](#)]

- **Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, Professor Of Latino And Health Equity Studies At Oregon State University, Said Less-Established Latino Communities Tend To Have Lower Incomes, Higher Uninsured Rates, And More People Employed In Essential Services, Like Farming.** "Not all Latinos are created equal," said Daniel López-Cevallos, professor of Latino and health equity studies at Oregon State University. More Latinos in states with established communities, he said, are likely to have middle-class jobs or the sort of wealth that could help tide them over through the pandemic without having to work outside the home. By contrast, those in places like Oregon and Washington 'tend to be lower income, with lower educational levels, lower levels of health insurance and more employment in essential services,' Mr. López-Cevallos said. 'They have fewer support systems in place.'" [New York Times, [5/7/20](#)]

**Because The U.S. Latino Population Skews Younger, The Relatively Low Death Rate From Coronavirus Does Not Tell The Full Story Of The Virus' Impact.** "The data from a number of states takes an unexpected turn: It indicates that

even though Latinos may have higher rates of infection, they have been dying from the virus at lower reported rates over all than other groups. But experts say those raw numbers understate the risks for those who become sick, because they do not take into account that the Latino population — the country's second-largest ethnic group — is significantly younger than other groups. And there have been much fewer deaths among the young from a virus whose lethality grows sharply with its victims' age." [New York Times, [5/7/20](#)]

- **California Officials Found That Latinos Were Dying At Significantly Higher Rates Than White Residents When Looking Exclusively At Cases Among Residents Over 17.** "There, Latinos, who are 39 percent of the population, account for almost half of all reported virus cases but only 35 percent of deaths — placing their overall death rate slightly below that of whites who are not Hispanic. But when California public health officials drilled down further, they found that in every age group over 17, Latinos were dying at significantly higher rates than whites — as were African-Americans." [New York Times, [5/7/20](#)]
- **Dr. Alicia Fernandez, Professor Of Medicine At The University of California San Francisco, Said "When You Look At It By Age Groups, [Older] Latinos Are Just As Likely To Die As African Americans."** "That The disproportionate share of deaths isn't as stark for Latinos as it is for African-Americans. Fernandez says that's likely because the U.S. Latino population overall is younger — nearly three-quarters are millennials or younger, according to data from the Pew Research Center. But in California, 'when you look at it by age groups, [older] Latinos are just as likely to die as African-Americans,' she says." [NPR, [5/30/20](#)]

**Kaiser Family Foundation: Latinos Accounted For A Higher Share Of Confirmed Cases And Deaths Compared To Their Share Of The Population In At Least Six States, With Especially High Disparities In Iowa And Wisconsin.** "In 6 of 26 states reporting data, Hispanic individuals made up a greater share of confirmed cases compared to their share of the total population, with the largest relative differences in Iowa (17% vs. 6%) and Wisconsin (12% vs. 7%)." [Kaiser Family Foundation, [4/21/20](#)]

**April Survey Found That More Than 65 Percent Of Latino Households Reported Having Difficulty Buying Or Finding Necessities Such As Food, Household Supplies, Or Medicine During The Pandemic.** "As the Latino community grapples with the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a higher rate of fatalities compared to other populations, the nation's first in-depth poll of the Latino population in America for 2020 has found that 35% of Latino households have already experienced a job loss, while more than 65% of respondents reported having difficulty buying or finding necessities such as food, household supplies or medicine." [Latino Decisions, [4/20/20](#)]

**Latinos Are About Twice As Likely As White People To View The Coronavirus As A Major Threat To Their Health.** "Black people, at 46 percent, and Latinos, at 39 percent, are about twice as likely as white people, at 21 percent, to view the coronavirus as a major threat to their health." [The Atlantic, [4/6/20](#)]

**March 2020 Reuters/Ipsos Poll Found That Latinos Were More Likely Than White Americans To Know Someone Infected With Coronavirus Or Be Infected Themselves.** "A recent Reuters/Ipsos nationwide poll found that 16 percent of Latinx Americans surveyed said they were infected, had been in contact with someone who was infected, or knew someone who was infected, compared with just 9 percent of white Americans." [The Atlantic, [4/6/20](#)]

**Pew Research Center: About Half Of Hispanic Adults Say They Or Someone In Their Household Has Taken A Pay Cut Or Lost A Job Compared To 33 Percent Of All Adults.** "Around half (49%) of Hispanics say they or someone in their household has taken a pay cut or lost a job — or both — because of the [COVID-19 outbreak](#), compared with 33% of all U.S. adults. Among both Hispanics and the wider public, more people say someone has experienced a pay cut or a reduction in work hours than say someone was laid off or lost a job (40% vs. 29% among Hispanics, 27% vs. 20% among all Americans)." [Pew Research Center, [4/3/20](#)]



## **HEALTH CARE BARRIERS**

**Hispanics Are More Likely To Lack Insurance Coverage Than Other Groups, With An Uninsured Rate Of More Than 16 Percent Before The Pandemic.** “While the Affordable Care Act helped many people of color get health coverage, many still don’t have insurance, or access to providers and quality care, experts said. According to the Census, 8.5% of whites were uninsured in 2017, compared with 10.6% of blacks, 7.3% for Asians and 16.1% for Hispanics.” [USA Today, [3/31/20](#)]

**Communities Of Color, Including Latinos, Have Higher Rates Of Chronic Illnesses That Put Them At Higher Risk For Coronavirus.** “From automobile and refinery pollution to lead-contaminated water and food deserts, structural and environmental racism has contributed to higher rates of serious chronic health conditions in communities of color. Today, approximately 24 percent of AI/AN people, 23 percent of multiracial Americans, and 18 percent of Black Americans have been diagnosed with asthma. As many as 18 percent of AI/AN people, 15 percent of Black Americans, and 12 percent of Hispanic and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Americans have been diagnosed with diabetes. People of color also experience higher rates of obesity, HIV/AIDS, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and other chronic conditions. On a good day, these conditions make life more complicated and difficult—but during a global pandemic, they are life-threatening.” [Center For American Progress, [3/27/20](#)]

**Hispanics Are More Likely To Suffer From Diabetes Than White People, A Major Risk Factor For Fighting Coronavirus.** “African Americans were 60% more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes and twice as likely as non-white Hispanics to die from it, according to the federal Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. American Indians/Alaska Natives were three times more likely to have diabetes and 2.5 times more likely to die from it. Hispanics, meanwhile, were 1.7 times more likely to have diabetes and 1.4 times more likely to die.” [USA Today, [3/31/20](#)]

**20 Percent Of Hispanic People Were Unable To See A Doctor In 2018 Due To Cost.** “According to a new CAP analysis of CDC data, 16 percent of Black people, 20 percent of Hispanic people, 19 percent of AI/AN people, and 18 percent of Asian Americans were unable to see a doctor in 2018 due to cost. By contrast, just 10 percent of white Americans were unable to see a doctor due to cost. Racial disparities in self-reported inability to afford care persist even after controlling for insurance coverage.” [Center For American Progress, [3/27/20](#)]

**States’ Decisions To Reject Medicaid Expansion Disproportionately Impacts Hispanic Residents.** “The South, in particular, has been a bulwark against Medicaid expansion. No southern states save Arkansas and Louisiana have taken the generous deal offered by Obamacare. Almost all of the 2.3 million people who’ve been left uninsured because their state won’t expand Medicaid live in the South, half of them in Texas and Florida alone. And given the demographics of those states, it is disproportionately poor black and Hispanic Americans who are paying the price for decisions made by frequently white and wealthy politicians. Those choices have consequences, especially today, when black people are dying from Covid-19 at higher rates than their white neighbors.” [Vox, 5/5/20]

**Communities Of Color Face Barriers To Accessing Fresh Food And Are Targeted For Alcohol, Tobacco, And Junk Food Advertising.** “Pervasive residential segregation puts people of color at a disadvantage, differences in employment and education opportunities exacerbate poverty, communities of color have fewer health resources and less access to fresh food, and for decades, alcohol, tobacco and junk food companies have targeted advertising to black and Hispanic communities.” [FiveThirtyEight, [4/9/20](#)]

## **SOCIAL & ECONOMIC BARRIERS**

**8 Million Hispanic Workers Were Employed In Restaurants, Hotels And Other “Higher Risk” Occupations Prior To The Outbreak.** “A recent Center analysis found about 8 million Hispanic workers were employed in restaurants, hotels and other service-sector positions that are at higher risk of job loss.” [Pew Research Center, [4/3/20](#)]

**Less Than 20 Percent Of Latino Workers Are Able To Work From Home.** “According to a study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), only 30 percent of the U.S. workforce is able to work remotely, with less than 20 percent of black

and Latinx workers able to. The study, which compiled data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, found that a little more than 16 percent of Latinos are able to work from home and less than 20 percent of black Americans are able to. Asian Americans and whites were the most likely to be able to work from home, with about 37 and 30 percent, respectively, able to do so." [The Hill, [3/24/20](#)]

**At The Beginning Of The Crisis, Two-Thirds Of Hispanic Adults Said They Would Not Get Paid Leave If Coronavirus Caused Them To Miss Work For Two Weeks Or More.** "Around two-thirds of employed Hispanic adults (66%) say they would not get paid if the coronavirus caused them to miss work for two weeks or more, including about half (47%) who say it would be difficult to meet expenses during this time. By comparison, 54% of employed U.S. adults overall say they wouldn't get paid if they missed two weeks of work or more, including 33% who say it would be difficult to meet expenses. [Pew Research Center, [3/24/20](#)]

**A Report From JPMorgan Chase Institute Found That For Every \$1 Of Liquid Assets Of A White Family, The Median Hispanic Family Has Only 47 Cents.** "The average black and Hispanic families are already bringing in less income than the average white family, but they also have a smaller buffer of liquid assets like savings and investments, according to a new report from the JPMorgan Chase Institute...Black and Hispanic families earn between 71 cents and 74 cents for each dollar earned by the median white family, according to the JPMorgan report. But the racial gap in liquid assets between is far larger, and that means these minority families have a much thinner cushion to fall back on to weather the storm of economic shocks. For every \$1 of liquid assets of a white family, the median black family has only 32 cents, while the median Hispanic family has 47 cents. [CNN, [4/21/20](#)]

**Center For Responsible Lending Estimated That 90 Percent Of Businesses Owned By People Of Color Will Be Shut Out Of The Paycheck Protection Program.** "'Based on how the program is structured, we estimate that upwards of 90% of businesses owned by people of color have been, or will likely be, shut out of the Paycheck Protection Program,' said Ashley Harrington, director of federal advocacy and senior council for the Center for Responsible Lending, a non-profit group that combats abusive lending practices and recently examined the loan program's parameters." [CBS News, [4/22/20](#)]

- **91 Percent Of Latino-Owned Businesses Stand Close To No Chance Of Receiving A PPP Loan.** "'Roughly 95% of Black-owned businesses, 91% of Latino-owned businesses, 91% of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander-owned businesses, and 75% of Asian-owned businesses stand close to no chance of receiving a PPP loan through a mainstream bank or credit union,' the center warned on April 6 as the Paycheck Protection Program, or the PPP, was starting to take applications." [CBS News, [4/22/20](#)]

**Latino Families Are More Likely To Live In Crowded Multigenerational Homes Where Young Asymptomatic People Could Put Older Relatives At Risk.** "Black and Latino families live in crowded multigenerational homes at much higher rates (26% and 27%, respectively) than white families (16%), according to the Pew Research Center. More than 60 million Americans live in multigenerational homes, where young asymptomatic people might put their older relatives at risk. Worries about this scenario drove a lot of school closings, despite the lower risk to the young from the coronavirus." [Buzzfeed News, [4/10/20](#)]

**People Of Color Disproportionately Reside In Dense Metropolitan Areas In Conditions That Make It Harder To Practice Social Distancing.** "American housing policies have long restricted people of color to segregated neighborhoods in urban areas. People of color now constitute a majority of residents in the five most densely populated cities in the country. They have less access to green space and are more likely to reside in substandard housing than their white counterparts. Many people of color also rely on crowded public transportation systems to travel to work, purchase groceries, and obtain medical care." [Center For American Progress, [3/27/20](#)]

- **Dr. Camara Jones, Family Physician, Epidemiologist And Visiting Fellow At Harvard University, Said Coronavirus "Is Just Unmasking The Deep Disinvestment In Our Communities, The Historical Injustices, And The Impact Of Residential Segregation."** "'COVID is just unmasking the deep disinvestment in our communities, the historical injustices and the impact of residential segregation,' said Jones, who spent 13 years at

the CDC, focused on identifying, measuring and addressing racial bias within the medical system. 'This is the time to name racism as the cause of all of those things. The overrepresentation of people of color in poverty and white people in wealth is not just a happenstance. ... It's because we're not valued.'" [ProPublica, [4/3/20](#)]

**American Lung Association: Research Suggests People Of Color Are More Likely To Live In Counties With Higher Levels Of Pollution--A Known Risk Factor For Coronavirus.** "People of color also may be more likely to live in counties with higher levels of pollution. Non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to live in counties that had worse problems with particle pollution, researchers found in a 2011 analysis. Non-Hispanic Blacks were also more likely to live in counties with worse ozone pollution. Income groups, by contrast, differed little in these exposures. However, since few rural counties have monitors, the primarily older, non-Hispanic white residents of those counties lack information about the air quality in their communities." [American Lung Association, [2/12/20](#)]

- **Union Of Concerned Scientists: Latino Residents' Exposure To Air Pollution From Vehicles Is 75 Percent Higher Than White Residents In The Northeast And Mid-Atlantic Regions.** "On average, communities of color in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic breathe 66 percent more air pollution from vehicles than white residents...The average concentrations of exposures for Latino residents are 75 percent higher, and for Asian American residents they are 73 percent higher, than they are for white residents." [Union of Concerned Scientists, [6/21/2019](#)]

**Undocumented Latino Families Are Completely Shut Out Of Government's Stimulus Aid.** "Latinos make up almost three-quarters of the estimated 10.5m undocumented people living in the US. Although they commonly have taxes deducted from paychecks, undocumented people typically cannot benefit from unemployment assistance. Nor will they see the stimulus checks of up \$1,200 that many Americans will receive." [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]

- **Orson Aguilar, Executive Director Of The UnidosUS Action Fund, Said "Immigrants And Latinos Are Keeping Americans Alive And Fed As The Nation Suffers, And Yet So Many Can't Benefit From Any Of The Relief Efforts That Have Been Presented So Far."** "For many Latinos who already live day to day, the threat of getting the virus is second only to the fear of falling into abject poverty, says Orson Aguilar, executive director of the UnidosUS Action Fund, a political and civil rights organization. 'There are two ways in which we are being adversely impacted, one, by virtue of many Latinos working jobs that keep us in harm's way right now, and two, by not being able in many cases to access unemployment insurance or any aspect of CARES,' he says, referring to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, a \$2 trillion federal stimulus package aimed at helping large businesses and gig workers alike...'Immigrants and Latinos are keeping Americans alive and fed as a nation suffers, and yet so many can't benefit from any of the relief efforts that have been presented so far,' he says." [USA Today, [4/19/20](#)]

**Immigrant Farm Workers, Many Of Whom Are Undocumented Latino Immigrants, Have Been Deemed "Essential" Employees, Meaning They Must Continue Showing Up To Work Throughout The Crisis.** "Like legions of immigrant farmworkers, Nancy Silva for years has done the grueling work of picking fresh fruit that Americans savor, all the while afraid that one day she could lose her livelihood because she is in the country illegally. But the widening coronavirus pandemic has brought an unusual kind of recognition: Her job as a field worker has been deemed by the federal government as 'essential' to the country... It is an open secret that the vast majority of people who harvest America's food are undocumented immigrants, mainly from Mexico, many of them decades-long residents of the United States. Often the parents of American-born children, they have lived for years with the cloud of deportation hanging over their households." [New York Times, [4/2/20](#)]

- **New York Times: "The Pandemic Carries Particular Risks For Agricultural Workers. Most Do Not Receive Sick Pay If They Fall Ill, And They Lack Health Insurance."** "The pandemic carries particular risks for agricultural workers. Most do not receive sick pay if they fall ill, and they lack health insurance. The \$2 trillion pandemic aid package that passed Congress last week does not offer any assistance to undocumented immigrants." [New York Times, [4/2/20](#)]



- **For Farm Workers Who Are Undocumented, “Essential Work” Letters Are Not Guaranteed To Protect Against Deportation.** “The ‘essential work’ letters that many now carry are not a free pass from immigration authorities, who could still deport Ms. Silva and other undocumented field workers at any time. But local law enforcement authorities said the letters might give immigrant workers a sense of security that they will not be arrested for violating stay-at-home orders.” [New York Times, [4/2/20](#)]

**NBC News: Latinos' Coronavirus Deaths At Meat Processing Plant Raise Alarms About Worker Safety.** “The deaths of at least three Latino employees from coronavirus at a Greeley, Colorado, meat plant are raising alarms about the safety of workers and the vulnerability of the nation's food supply....Latino advocates have become especially alarmed because of the number of Latinos who work in the food industry — from farm workers and truck drivers to processing plant workers and grocery stores employees. Many are struggling to get adequate protective supplies and to distance themselves from other workers.” [NBC News, [4/14/20](#)]

- **Three Out Of Every Four Workers At Meat Processing Plants Are Latino.** “Joe Henry, a representative for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) says that around three out of every four workers at meat processing plants are Latino, and they're disproportionately affected during the pandemic due to unsafe conditions at plants like Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods, and JBS.” [LULAC, [4/18/20](#)]

**Undocumented Immigrants, Including Undocumented Latinos, Face A Particularly Hard Choice In The Coronavirus Crisis: Getting Tested Could Result In Deportation Or ICE Detention.** “Quitting low-wage jobs could mean getting deported. Getting tested could mean getting deported. Getting treated could mean getting deported. And if they are arrested, they could be thrown into ICE’s network of jails and detention centers, where the coronavirus is already spreading. Undocumented immigrants suffering from these impossible choices are not just Latinos. They are Middle Eastern. They are white. They are black. They are Asian.” [The Atlantic, [4/6/20](#)]

- **For Latinos In ICE Custody, Living Conditions Make It Impossible To Practice Social Distancing And Expose People In Detention To Significant Risk.** “For women with health issues, remaining in detention is particularly concerning. Agustina Pineda Ortuno, a 56-year-old from Mexico with asthma, hypertension and a damaged liver, among other conditions, said she has not been able to sleep since the pandemic began... Pineda said she sleeps in a dormitory with more than 20 women, some of whom have shown symptoms of coronavirus. She herself has a cough, and when the dormitory bathroom ran out of toilet paper last week, a guard told her to cough into a sanitary pad, she said. ‘It is impossible for me to practice social distancing where I am,’ she said. ‘There are a lot of people here, and I am afraid that I will get the virus.’” [Los Angeles Times, [4/7/20](#)]
- **Family Medicine Doctor Laura Chambers-Kersh: “United States Immigration Detention Facilities Are The Perfect Arrangement To Cause An Explosion Of COVID-19 Cases — Cramped, Overcrowded Quarters With Limited Access To Basic Preventative Measures Like Soap And Water.”** “‘United States immigration detention facilities are the perfect arrangement to cause an explosion of COVID-19 cases — cramped, overcrowded quarters with limited access to basic preventative measures like soap and water, hand sanitizer and the ability to social distance,’ Laura Chambers-Kersh, a family medicine doctor in Beavercreek, near Dayton, said during a conference call last month, calling for detainees’ release.” [Columbus Dispatch, [4/6/20](#)]
- **April 7, 2020: ICE Notified Congress Of A Surge Of New COVID-19 Cases Among People In Custody.** BuzzFeed’s Hamed Aleaziz reported: “ICE notified congress this morning a surge of new COVID-19 cases in custody: 7 additional detainees in Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Florida, have tested positive. By my count, the agency has 20 confirmed cases in custody. The cases are at the following facilities: La Palma in Arizona, La Salle Louisiana, St. Clair County Jail, Essex County Jail, Pike County Correctional Center, Krome Detention Center (though the man from this facility had been in the hospital when tested).” [Twitter, Hamed Aleaziz, [4/7/20](#)]

## **ADMINISTRATION FAILURES**

**CDC Is Not Reporting Comprehensive Data On Race And Coronavirus Infections.** "Gross underreporting of tests, hospitalizations and deaths related to Covid-19 has plagued racial and ethnic data at the state and federal levels. Nearly half of all states have not included any data on the race or ethnicity of those affected by the coronavirus. Figures released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday list the race and ethnicity of 75 percent of all cases as unspecified. None of the race and ethnicity statistics for deaths have been reported nationally." [Politico, [4/20/20](#)]

- **Race Was Known For Only About Half Of All Cases In Late May.** "Until a few weeks ago, racial data for COVID-19 was sparse. It's still incomplete, but now 48 states plus Washington D.C., report at least some data; in total, race or ethnicity is known for around half of all cases and 90% of deaths. And though gaps remain, the pattern is clear: Communities of color are being hit disproportionately hard by COVID-19." [NPR, [5/30/20](#)]
- **Kaiser Family Foundation: "Comprehensive Nationwide Data By Race And Ethnicity Will Be Key To Understanding How Covid-19 Is Affecting Communities As Well As Shaping And Targeting Response Efforts."** [Kaiser Family Foundation, [4/21/20](#)]
- **Stephen Thomas, Director Of The University Of Maryland's Center For Health Equity, Said If U.S. Continues A "Colorblind Policy" Where Race Data Is Not Collected, "We'll Be Left With An Explosion Of Covid-19 Concentrated In Racial And Ethnic Minority Communities."** "'We cannot have a colorblind policy,' said Stephen Thomas, director of the University of Maryland's Center for Health Equity. 'With a colorblind policy — 'Hey, we're all in this together' — we'll be left with an explosion of Covid-19 concentrated in racial and ethnic minority communities.'" [Politico, [4/6/20](#)]

**Trump's "Public Charge" Rule May Deter Latinos From Accepting Stimulus Checks And Other Essential Assistance.** "Latinos in the U.S. who are noncitizens but hold legal status do qualify for stimulus checks, but some lawmakers have also noted concerns that they might be hesitant to accept federally-funded health care that could mark them in violation of the 'public charge' rule the administration enacted this year." [The Hill, [3/24/20](#)]

- **Luz Gallegos, Director Of The Todec Legal Center In California's Coachella Valley, Said That "The Coronavirus Is Just Adding To Our Trauma" After Living Under The Trump Administration For Four Years.** "'The last four years have been very, very heavy,' said Luz Gallegos, director of the Todec legal center in California's Coachella valley. Gallegos, whose uncle died on 31 March of complications from Covid-19, said for a community that has 'been overwhelmed with attacks from the government, every day, with every tweet, the coronavirus is just adding to our trauma.'" [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]

**Trump Has Spent His Presidency Sabotaging The ACA & Medicaid, Leaving More Latinos Without Coverage.** "Insurance gains made by blacks and Hispanics have stalled, and even eroded, since 2016 — much as they have for the overall population. Black adults have seen their uninsured rate tick up by 0.7 percentage points since 2016, while white adults have seen a half-percentage-point increase. This has largely halted the improvement in coverage disparities. Hispanic adults continue to report significantly higher uninsured rates than either white or black adults." [Commonwealth Fund, [1/16/20](#)]

**Trump Is Refusing To Open A Special Enrollment Period, Which Could Help Latinos Get The Health Care They Need.** "If Trump had chosen instead to reopen the HealthCare.gov website — as 11 largely blue states that control their own markets have already done — people without insurance could buy more comprehensive policies that not only would cover coronavirus treatments but any follow-up treatment, mental-health care, and future check-ups." [Politico, [4/3/20](#)]

- **Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Professor Of Epidemiology At Emory University, Called For A Special Enrollment Period And Medicaid Expansion To Address Racial Disparities.** "The disproportionate toll on African Americans 'calls for interventions like considering emergency enrollment for the Affordable Care Act,' said Dr.

Patrick Sullivan, professor of epidemiology at Emory University. 'And in the longer term Medicaid expansion in the South.'" [Politico, [5/5/20](#)]

**Trump Is Backing A Lawsuit That Would Overturn The ACA, Which Would Cause A "Dramatic Spike" In Uninsurance Among Hispanics.** "Everything would go: protections for preexisting conditions, subsidies that help people purchase insurance, the Medicaid expansion...States that expanded Medicaid would get the worst of it: Urban projected their uninsured rates would nearly double if the law were overturned. The uninsured rate for black Americans would increase from 11 percent today to 20 percent without Obamacare; there would also be a dramatic spike in uninsurance among Hispanics." [Vox, [3/2/20](#)]

## **IN THE STATES**

**(CO) Hispanic Residents Made Up 38 Percent Of Cases While Accounting For Less Than 22 Percent Of The State's Population As Of June.** [Colorado Department Of Health & Environment, [last accessed 6/8/20](#)]

**(DC) Latinos Made Up About A Third Of The Coronavirus Cases In The D.C. Region As Of Late-May.** "Latinos, who make up about 10 percent of the population in the District, Maryland and Virginia, make up about a third of the coronavirus cases in the region, according to a Washington Post analysis of jurisdictions that track the race and ethnicity of patients with covid-19, the disease the virus causes." [Washington Post, [5/26/20](#)]

**(FL) Palm Beach Post Analysis Of Nearly 200,000 Test Results: About 25 Percent Of Hispanic Patients Tested Positive For The Virus, Compared To 11 Percent Of White Patients.** "Coronavirus is twice as rampant among blacks and Latinos in Florida than it is among white people, a Palm Beach Post analysis of internal Health Department testing data shows. About 25 percent of Hispanics and 20 percent of blacks tested positive for the virus, compared to about 11 percent of whites, The Post found in analyzing nearly 200,000 test results in which patients self-reported their race or ethnicity." [Palm Beach Post, [6/5/20](#)]

**(IA) By Mid-May, Hispanic Iowans Made Up More Than 23 Percent Of Confirmed Cases While Accounting For Roughly 6 Percent Of The Population.** "Hispanic Iowans: 6.2% of general population; 23.5% of positive tests; 6.58% of, or 16 deaths." [Des Moines Register, [5/8/20](#)]

**(IL) By May, Latinos Made Up The Largest Reported Portion Of Confirmed Cases Across Illinois.** "Latinos are testing positive to coronavirus at higher rates than any other demographic group in Illinois, alarming officials and experts who say that if the number of COVID-19 cases 'continues to rise in Latino communities, so too will the rates of deaths.' Of the more than 28,200 Latinos who have been tested for coronavirus, at least 17,240 have been diagnosed with COVID-19. That's about 61 percent of all Latinos who have been tested, according to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who said the rate is 'more than three times our state average.'" [NBC News, [5/7/20](#)]

**(MA) In April, Latinos Made Up 35 To 40 Percent Of Coronavirus Patients At Massachusetts General In Boston.** "At Massachusetts General in Boston, medical staff are trying to 'hammer the message in our Latino communities that it's safe to get tested, it's safe to get care,' said Dr Joseph Betancourt, the vice-president and chief equity and inclusion officer at the hospital. 'But of course there's still mistrust. Of course people are hesitant.' And despite the hesitance to get care, it's clear that Latinos are being disproportionately infected, Betancourt noted; they make up 35% to 40% of coronavirus patients each week, even though normally, only about 9% of the patients at Mass General are Latino." [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]

**(NJ) In April, Nearly 30 Percent Of New Jersey Coronavirus Patients Identified As Hispanic While Only Accounting For 19 Percent Of The State's Population.** "In New Jersey, Latinos make up 19% of the population, but nearly 30% of Covid-19 patients in that state identified as Hispanic." [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]



**(NH) Hispanic/Latino People Make Up 4 Percent Of New Hampshire's Population But Accounted For Roughly 9 Percent Of Cases, 11 Percent Of Hospitalizations, And 4 Percent Of Deaths As Of June.** [State Of New Hampshire Department Of Health And Human Services, [last accessed 6/3/20](#)]

**(NY) By April, Hispanics Made Up 34 Percent Of Coronavirus Deaths In New York City While Accounting For 29 Percent Of The City's Population.** "Latino families in New York are grappling with an eye-opening reality. The coronavirus outbreak is hitting Hispanics in the city harder than any other ethnic or racial group, according to officials: Latinos make up 34 percent of all coronavirus deaths in New York City, while making up 29 percent of the city's population. Put another way, the preliminary death rate for Hispanics in the city is about 22 people per 100,000; the rate is 10 per 100,000 for white residents." [NBC News, [4/10/20](#)]

- **75 Percent Of Front-Line Workers In New York City Are Minorities; More Than 60 Percent Of Cleaners Are Latino.** "A study from Scott M. Stringer, the city comptroller, found that 75 percent of front-line workers in the city — grocery clerks, bus and train operators, janitors and child care staff — are minorities. More than 60 percent of people who work as cleaners are Latino, and more than 40 percent of transit employees are black." [New York Times, [4/8/20](#)]
- **Study: More Than 60 Percent Of Critically Ill Patients In New York City Were Hispanic Or Latino.** "A prospective [study](#) of 1,150 Covid-19 patients admitted to two New York City hospitals offers a glimpse into who experiences severe infection. More than 1 in 5 of these patients — who were followed for at least 28 days beginning in early March this year — became critically ill and nearly 80% of this group needed mechanical ventilation. Consistent with previous reporting, two-thirds of the critically ill patients were men, and the vast majority were older than 50 and had at least one chronic illness. Also consistent with data from other reports, those from non-white backgrounds were disproportionately affected: More than 60% of critically ill patients were Hispanic or Latino, while 19% were Black. As of April 28, 39% of the critically ill patients had died, while almost an equal amount still remained in hospital. Fewer than a quarter of these severely ill patients had been discharged." [Stat, [5/20/20](#)]
- **By March 24, About 4 In 10 Latinos In New York City Had Lost Their Jobs Because Of Coronavirus.** "Experts who surveyed 1,000 city residents found that 41 percent of Latinos said that either they or someone else in their household had lost their jobs in the last two weeks, according to the report from the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy at City University of New York. In comparison, less than a quarter (24 percent) of non-Latinx white and Asian American respondents, as well as 15 percent of African American respondents, reported household job loss." [NBC News, [3/24/20](#)]

**(NV) Hispanic/Latino People Make Up 29 Percent Of Nevada's Population But Account For 41 Percent Of Cases And 19 Percent Of Deaths With Race Data.** [The COVID Tracking Project, [last accessed 6/1/20](#)]

**(OR) In April, Latinos In Oregon Accounted For 22 Percent Of Coronavirus Cases While Only Accounting For 13 Percent Of The State's Population.** "In Oregon, Latinos accounted for 22% of coronavirus cases where demographic information was available. Latinos make up 13% of Oregon's population." [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]

- **Northwestern Oregon Clinics Found That Latino Patients Were 20 Times As Likely As Other Patients To Test Positive For Coronavirus.** "Dr. Eva Galvez works as a family physician for a network of clinics in northwestern Oregon, where low-income patients have been streaming in for nasal swabs over the past several weeks to test for the coronavirus. Dr. Galvez was dumbfounded by the results. Latinos, about half of those screened, were 20 times as likely as other patients to have the virus. [New York Times, [5/7/20](#)]

**(UT) By Mid-April, Latinos Are Being Infected And Hospitalized At Three Times The Rate Of White People In Utah.** "In Utah, Latinos are being infected and hospitalized at three times the rate of white people. Whereas Latinos make up 14% of the state's population, 29% of the patients who tested positive for Covid-19 in the state identified as Latino." [The Guardian, [4/18/20](#)]

**(VA) Latino Residents Make Up 64 Percent Of Fairfax County Cases While Only Accounting For 17 Percent Of The Population.** "In Northern Virginia, Latinos make up 16.8 percent of Fairfax County's population but nearly 64 percent of its coronavirus cases where ethnicity is known, records show. In Prince William County, Latinos represent 24 percent of the population and nearly 77 percent of infections where ethnicity is known." [Washington Post, [5/26/20](#)]

**(WA) Hispanic Residents Made Up 41 Percent Of Cases While Only Accounting For 13 Percent Of The State's Population As Of June.** [Washington State Department Of Health, last accessed [6/8/20](#)]

**(WI) By May, Latinos Made Up Nearly 30 Percent Of Coronavirus Cases In Wisconsin.** "African Americans and Latinos account for about half of all coronavirus cases in Wisconsin. Latinos make up less than 7% of the state's population, but account for 29% of the COVID-19 cases. African Americans make up only about 6% of Wisconsin's total population but account for 21% of the confirmed cases statewide." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [5/7/20](#)]

### **ADDITIONAL EXPERTS**

**Taison Bell, Professor Of Medicine At The University Of Virginia Medical School, Said That There Has Been A Spike In Deaths In Minority Communities Seemingly Related To Coronavirus That Haven't Been Confirmed Due To Testing Shortages.** "Taison Bell, a professor of medicine at the University of Virginia Medical School, said that in places where coronavirus testing is scarce for minority communities there's been a spike in related ailments. 'We see in states that aren't reporting on racial demographics that there's been a surge in patients dying from respiratory distress and respiratory failure. These are diseases that [COVID-19] causes but they're not diagnosed as [COVID-19] because they're unknown and aren't tested,' Bell said." [The Hill, [4/7/20](#)]

**The American Public Health Association's Dr. Georges Benjamin Called For More Widespread Monitoring Of Race And Income Data In Coronavirus Response.** "Dr. Georges Benjamin of the American Public Health Association has been pushing health officials to start monitoring race and income in the response to COVID-19. 'We want people to collect the data in an organized, professional, scientific manner and show who's getting it and who's not getting it,' Benjamin says. 'Recognize that we very well may see these health inequities.'" [NPR, [4/2/20](#)]

**Dr. Chris Beyrer, Professor Of Epidemiology At Johns Hopkins, Said That "Occupational Exposure" Put Latino Workers At Higher Risk As States Move To Reopen.** "Dr. Chris Beyrer, professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins, added that 'occupational exposure' is expected to present higher risks for African Americans and Latinos as states move ahead with reopening. Only 16 percent of Latinos and 20 percent of African Americans are able to work from home, compared with 30 percent of white Americans, according to an analysis of Labor Department statistics by the Economic Policy Institute." [Politico, [5/5/20](#)]

**Maura Calsyn, Managing Director For Health Policy At The Center For American Progress, Said That African Americans And Hispanics Are Most Likely To Be Hurt By States Prematurely Reopening: "The People Who Are Going To Be Asked To Go Back To Work Are The People At Highest Risk Because Of Systemic Racism And Resulting Public Health Disparities."** "In these states, like many others, African Americans and Hispanics are much more likely to lack insurance than white people, and make up large portions of the uninsured. 'The people who are going to be asked to go back to work are the people at highest risk because of systemic racism and resulting public health disparities. And if they go back to work, because these states have blocked expanded Medicaid it's very likely that a high number of them don't have health insurance,' Calsyn said." [Vice, [4/24/20](#)]

**Jair Carrasco, Organizer With Vendadores Unidos, Said That Immigrant Families Face Additional Barriers To Seeking Health Care When They Are Sick: "On Top Of The Virus And People Not Wanting To Go Outside Due To Safety Concerns, You're Also Dealing With Immigrants Communities With A Long History Of Police Abuse And Discrimination."** "Jair Carrasco, an organizer with D.C. street-vendor advocacy group Vendadores Unidos, has heard from immigrant families afraid to take sick relatives to a hospital that they are concerned immigration agents could be lurking there. 'On top of the virus and people not wanting to go outside due to safety concerns, you're also dealing with

immigrant communities with a long history of police abuse and discrimination,' said Carrasco, 29, who began to feel ill in early May after his girlfriend came home from her supermarket job feeling feverish and dizzy. She later tested positive for the coronavirus." [Washington Post, [5/26/20](#)]

**Ellora Derenoncourt, Economist At The University Of California, Said "Inequality Is A Comorbidity In The Covid-19 Pandemic."** "They headed into this crisis extremely vulnerable,' said Ellora Derenoncourt, an economist who is about to join the University of California, Berkeley. Their jobs also left them more exposed to the coronavirus, she said. 'Black and Latino workers have the lowest working-from-home rates and are more likely to work in industries considered essential. Inequality is a comorbidity in the Covid-19 pandemic,' she said." [Wall Street Journal, [6/3/20](#)]

**Dr. Ebony Hilton-Buchholz, Associate Professor Of Anesthesiology And Critical Care At University Of Virginia, Said "We're Seeing That Race Literally Is An Independent Risk Factor."** "Health professionals have warned that black and Latino populations are at potentially greater risk of severe illness from the coronavirus, due to prevalent comorbidities such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and asthma... 'If you look at pretty much any disease process, African Americans have higher rates or poorer outcomes for those diseases,' said Dr. Ebony Hilton-Buchholz, an associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care at the University of Virginia. 'We're seeing that race literally is an independent risk factor for many of these disease processes. And it's heightened [under Covid-19].'" [Politico, [4/6/20](#)]

**Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan's Chief Medical Executive, "There Is No Question That The COVID-19 Outbreak Is Having A More Significant Effect On Marginalized And Poor Communities."** "There is no question that the COVID-19 outbreak is having a more significant effect on marginalized and poorer communities, particularly communities of color,' Michigan's chief medical executive, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, told Bridge." [Bridge Michigan, [4/1/20](#)]

**Linda Sprague Martinez, Community Health Researcher At Boston University's School Of Social Work, Said That Coronavirus' Impact "Is Going To Be Tied To Our History And Legacy Of Racial Inequities."** "Linda Sprague Martinez, a community health researcher at Boston University's School of Social Work, worries that the government is not paying close enough attention to race, and as the disease spreads, will do too little to blunt its toll. 'When COVID-19 passes and we see the losses ... it will be deeply tied to the story of post-World War II policies that left communities marginalized,' Sprague said. 'Its impact is going to be tied to our history and legacy of racial inequities. It's going to be tied to the fact that we live in two very different worlds.'" [ProPublica, [4/3/20](#)]

**Dr. Lauren Powell, Executive Director Of Time's Up Healthcare, Said Messaging To Minority Communities Is "Paramount" During Coronavirus Outbreak.** "Messaging is paramount in moments like this,' said Dr. Lauren Powell, former head of health equity for Virginia's health department. Powell added that the dearth of female and minority messengers could have negative consequences. 'This is a systemic problem across health care and many other industries where we don't see enough people of color, women of color in particular in positions of power and authority,' said Powell, the executive director of Time's Up Healthcare, a nonprofit foundation. 'And that could certainly impact the way these vital public health messages fall on the ears of those of us in minority communities.'" [Politico, [4/21/20](#)]

**Scott Ratzan, Senior Scholar At CUNY, Said That Higher Rates Of Job Loss In The Hispanic Community Is Likely Because Many Work In High-Risk Occupations Like The Service Industry.** "It's likely because the Hispanic community, many are in service jobs like restaurants or hotels,' Scott Ratzan, a senior scholar at CUNY who led the survey, said in a statement, adding that job loss is 'higher among the Spanish-speaking community.'" [NBC News, [3/24/20](#)]

**Dr. Ashwin Vasan, Public Health Expert And Assistant Professor At Columbia University, Said Coronavirus Is "Going To Be Felt Disproportionately By The Poor, The Vulnerable, The Marginalized, And Obviously That Falls Down In This Country On Communities Of Color."** "The virus is an equal-opportunity crisis ... but the impact and the burden of it is not going to be shared equally,' said Dr. Ashwin Vasan, a public health expert and assistant professor at Columbia University in New York City. 'Like most things in society, it's going to be regressive. It's going to be felt disproportionately by the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized, and obviously that falls down in this country on communities of color.'" [USA Today, [3/31/20](#)]