

# COVID-19'S Disproportionate Impact on Black Americans

THE IMPACT ON  
OLDER ADULTS

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# The Impact of COVID - 19

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“THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS REVEALED DEEP SEATED INEQUITIES IN HEALTH CARE FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND AMPLIFIES SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES.”  
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION-SAMHSA)

“Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes”.

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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH) – CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

Blacks comprise 13 percent of US Population,  
Make up 30 % of COVID cases. Latinos make up 18  
percent of the population and account for 17  
percent of COVID 19 cases. (US Census 2018, CDC 2020)

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COVID 19 PANDEMIC – CDC DATA APRIL 15

# Why African Americans May Be More Susceptible to COVID -19

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Higher incidence of underlying health problems

Exposure – Essential workers (front line)

Use of public transportation

Jobs not amenable to teleworking

Housing situation, multigenerational families, lowincome housing social, distancing may be a challenge

Access- less access to care, uninsured, distrust of medical providers

Polluted environments

Systemic racism, “ who should get health care” – Science News, 2019

Lack of preventive care

Lack of self-management

Belief that everything will be OK “ I trust in God”, “What ever God has for me, will be”

# THE FACTS – Texas Data as of 5/19

Texas Department of State Health Services  
(DSHS)

Texas Population

29.9 Million

Projection July 1,  
2020

## The Largest Ethnic Groups in Texas

Mexican 22.6%

German 9.9%

African American 8.7%

Irish 7.2%

# The FACTS – Texas COVID Data as of 5/19

## DSHS

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### 14,308 Confirmed Cases by Age

1-9	105
10-19	432
20-39	4828
40-64	5293
65-79	354
80+	640
Unknown	124

### Nursing Homes

326 reporting COVID  
3205 Confirmed Cases  
528 Fatalities  
631 Recoveries

### Confirmed Cases by Ethnicity

Asian	491	3.4%
Black	2181	15.2%
Hispanic	5686	39.7%
Other	96	0.7%
White	3961	27.7%
Unknown	1893	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,308</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Assisted Living Facilities

118 Facilities  
428 Confirmed Cases  
103 Fatalities  
154 Recoveries



# Local Cases: Consider

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Ms. Jones, age 45, Ms. Jackson, age 60, Mr. Franklin, age 67, Mr. Gossett, age 78, and Ms. Hugely, age 55 are all members of one church attended a funeral and contracted COVID. Mr. Franklin dies after a 60 day hospitalization on a ventilator. The others were hospitalized and in recovery.

Rev. Kirkland, 65 years old, has hypertension, a minister of a local church was diagnosed with COVID, and quarantined after a prolonged misdiagnose illness.

Mr. Williams, 68 was admitted into the rehab facility after surgery, contracted COVID and dies within a three week period of time.

Rose City nursing facility staff, including a traveling therapist contracted COVID. Sixty patients in the facility have been diagnosed with COVID.

Mr. and Mrs. Criss have been married for two months. The Criss's decided to have a family dinner for Mother's day. Mrs. Criss, age 62 is a person of high risk. She has been diagnosed with chronic cardiac disease, diabetes and other illnesses. Ms. Criss is now in critical condition in ICU. Mr. Criss works in the prison system with a high number of individuals diagnosed with COVID. Mr. Criss is off work, waiting test results.

# Health Status in Northeast Texas 2016

## The University of Texas System

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35 County Area, DSHS Health Service, Region 4/5N - Home of 1.5 Million people

Geographical Location - Tyler, Paris, Texarkana, Longview, Palestine, Nacogdoches area

Slightly older population larger portion of white and black residents

Age adjusted mortality rates are higher

Causes of death higher for residents of Northeast Texas

Median household income below that of Texas

College graduate rates are lower than other parts of Texas (17% compared to 27%)

# Northeast Texas Health Status Report

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Higher mortality rate for blacks due to heart disease, stroke, colorectal and breast cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and kidney disease

Colorectal cancer rates were 42% higher for blacks than whites

The breast cancer mortality rate higher among black women 2012

Blacks were at higher risk for strokes mortality than whites

In 2014 the mortality rate for diabetes as an underlying or multiple cause was over 70% in black than whites

Kidney disease mortality rates were 73% high in black than in whites

HIV mortality rates are five times higher among blacks than whites

# TRENDS

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The pandemic has revealed inequities in health care for minority populations

Federal funding for older Americans, low income programs is being made available with flexible spending and reporting requirements

The pandemic has revealed a need to re-evaluate how services are being administered

Programs are being redesigned with client representation to meet underserved populations

Agencies are re-evaluating policies, procedures, how services are being delivered, looking at the most effective ways to serve, disseminate information, for improved outcomes

Systems, communities and families are more engaged on plight of older Americans, improving communication, and support systems

Concerns – the early opening of states including faith based communities and facilities

# Recommendations

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SYSTEMS. THE COMMUNITY. INDIVIDUALS



# Emerging Issues

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Systems – Data is sometimes questionable, information sometime conflicting between new media sources

Data being sanitized

Politicization of information is a challenge for older population

Information changing weekly

Use of technology improving efficiencies in administering programs

African American older population reluctant to accept services, lack of trust and fear of people coming into their homes

States opening struggling to balance economy vs. safety of individuals

Isolation of older adults may result in decline of cognition and mental status

Isolation of older adults may cause increase in abuse, neglect and exploitation (underreporting)

Isolation and lack of family and outsiders visits in nursing facilities of most vulnerable population is traumatic for residents and may result in lack of reporting and or resolution of serious issues.

## Resources

Administration for Community Living (ACL) COVID-19 Response. May 5, 2020.

Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID).COVID -19 Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups Centers for Disease Control.

Double Jeopardy: COVID 19 and Behavioral Health Disparities for Black and Latino Communities in the U.S. (Submitted by OBHE) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Healthy People 2020 Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2010 <http://www.healthypeople.gov/>.

Noonan. Allan S., Hector Eduardo Velasco-Mondragon and Fernando A. Wagner. Improving the health of African Americans in the USA: an overdue opportunity for social justice. Public Health Rev. 2016:37:12 published Oct 3.

Gupta, Sujata. Science News April 10, 2020. "Why African-Americans may be especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

McKinsey & Company. "COVID-19 Investing in black lives and livelihoods". April 2020.

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