



CORONAVIRUS EXPLAINER

CONGRESSIONAL
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COVID-19's Impact on Communities of Color

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Background

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating our nation's longstanding history of structural racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. As coronavirus cases and deaths rapidly increase throughout the country, one thing has become clear: communities of color are bearing the brunt of this pandemic.¹ For decades, racial and ethnic minorities in this country have endured systemic and environmental racism. This is manifest in those communities' unequal access to education, housing discrimination, higher unemployment rates, exposure to toxic contamination, and difficulty accessing healthcare. These chronic injustices have left communities of color more vulnerable to the ravages of the coronavirus pandemic. The data is clear: communities of color are at higher risk of getting sick, dying, and suffering financial upheaval due to COVID-19.²

Everyone is affected by the virus, but not everyone is equally at risk. Communities of color are being hit the hardest. On March 27, 2020 the CARES Act was signed into law to give millions of Americans some relief from cash assistance, to expanded unemployment benefits insurance, to provide funding for small businesses, and more.³ However, communities of color are struggling to access any relief and continuing to face health and financial problems at much higher rates than white Americans during this crisis due to the decades of institutional and environmental racism they have endured. Now is the time for real, significant and sustained investment in communities of color, rather than half-measures.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Cases in the US." Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

² Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, and Kendal Orgera. "Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19." Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.

<https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/communities-of-color-at-higher-risk-for-health-and-economic-challenges-due-to-covid-19>

³ Congress.gov. "H.R. 748 - CARES Act." 116th Congress (2019-2020). <https://www.congress.gov/bills/116th-congress/house-bill/748/text>

Higher Rates of Death Among Communities of Color

Death rates. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. In particular, black⁴ and Latinx⁵ people account for more COVID-19 cases and deaths than any other racial group although they make up a smaller percentage of the overall population. In Illinois,⁶ communities of color only make up 39 percent of the total state population⁷ but account for at least 48 percent of COVID-19 confirmed cases and 56 percent of the deaths as of April 6, 2020. In places like Michigan,⁸ 14 percent of the population is black but they account for 33 percent of the confirmed COVID-19 cases and at least 40 percent of the deaths. In Louisiana,⁹ black people make up 32 percent of the state population but account for over 70 percent of COVID-19 deaths.¹⁰ And in Wisconsin, black people make up only 6 percent of the total population but account for half of the COVID-19 deaths.¹¹ In New York City, Latinx people are dying at much higher rates¹² relative to their share of the population — they represent about 29 percent of the population but represent the largest percentage of deaths by race accounting for 34 percent¹³ of the city's total deaths as of April 6th, 2020.¹⁴

Access to Healthcare

Uninsurance rates. The All Means All campaign has found 59 percent of America's uninsured are people of color.¹⁵ Another study found that although coverage rates increased for all racial/ethnic groups between 2010 and 2016 with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), most non-white racial groups were still more likely to be uninsured than whites.¹⁶ As of 2018, black people remained 1.5 times more likely to be uninsured than white people and Latinxs were 2.5 times more likely to be uninsured than white people.¹⁷ Nonelderly immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are significantly more likely to be uninsured than citizens.¹⁸ With uninsurance rates higher for communities of color, they are more likely to have chronic underlying health conditions, leaving them especially vulnerable to serious illness and death during COVID-19. Compounding the challenges posed by a lack of health insurance coverage, as people get laid off, they lose their employer-based health insurance and people of color are over-represented in the industries that are hardest hit by this crisis.

⁴ Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, and Kendal Orgera. "Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19." Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.

<https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/communities-of-color-at-higher-risk-for-health-and-economic-challenges-due-to-covid-19>

⁵ Cliff Despres. "Coronavirus Case Rates and Death Rates for Latinos in the United States." Salud America! April 2020.

<https://salud-america.org/coronavirus-case-rates-and-death-rates-for-latinos-in-the-united-states/>

⁶ Illinois Department of Public Health. "COVID-19 Statistics." 2020. <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics>

⁷ "Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity." Kaiser Family Foundation. 2018.

<https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22%22location%22%22sort%22%22asc%22%7D>

⁸ Michigan.gov. "Coronavirus." Michigan Data. 2020. https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html

⁹ Louisiana Department of Health. "COVID-19." 2020. <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>

¹⁰ Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, and Kendal Orgera. "Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19." Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.

<https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/communities-of-color-at-higher-risk-for-health-and-economic-challenges-due-to-covid-19/>

¹¹ Robert Samuels. "Covid-19 is ravaging Black communities. A Milwaukee neighborhood is figuring out how to fight back." The Washington Post. April 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/covid-19-is-ravaging-black-communities-a-milwaukee-neighborhood-is-figuring-out-how-to-fight-back/2020/04/06/ae56730-7714-11ea-ab25-4042e0259c6d_story.html

¹² Edwin Rios and Sinduja Rangarajan. "COVID-19 Has Infected and Killed Black People At Alarming Rates. This Data Proves It." Mother Jones. April 2020. <https://www.motherjones.com/coronavirus-updates/2020/04/covid-19-has-infected-and-killed-black-people-at-alarming-rates-this-data-proves-it/>

¹³ NYC Health. "Age adjusted rate of fatal lab confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 by race/ethnicity group." April 2020.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-deaths-race-ethnicity-04082020-1.pdf>

¹⁴ Lois Parshley. "The deadly mix of COVID-19, air pollution, and inequality, explained." Vox. April 2020.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/4/11/21217040/coronavirus-in-us-air-pollution-asthma-black-americans>

¹⁵ Social Security Works. "All Means All Congressional District Reports." 2019. <https://socialsecurityworks.org/allmeansalldcreports/>

¹⁶ Samantha Artiga, Kendal Orgera, and Anthony Damico. "Changes in Health Coverage by Race and Ethnicity since the ACA, 2010-2018." Kaiser Family Foundation. March 2020. <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/changes-in-health-coverage-by-race-and-ethnicity-since-the-aca-2010-2018/>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Health Coverage of Immigrants." Kaiser Family Foundation. March 2020.

<https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/fact-sheet/health-coverage-of-immigrants/>

Before the crisis, nearly half of the American population had health insurance through their jobs.¹⁹

Barriers to healthcare. Many people face barriers to healthcare access across the nation, especially communities of color. Despite the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, there has been a decline in access to healthcare for people of color, especially for nonelderly black and Latinx communities.²⁰ The Kaiser Family Foundation found that for these communities, post-ACA coverage, access and use of care is worse compared to white Americans.²¹ High uninsurance rates and the inability to afford healthcare among Asian, black, and Latinx people are primarily due to low incomes and higher rates of employment in jobs with no health benefits.²² Because of these barriers, minority groups are already more likely to have underlying chronic health conditions that make them especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

Underlying chronic health conditions. Individuals with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and lung disease are at greater risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19. Black²³, Latinx²⁴, and Native American and Alaska Native²⁵ populations experience higher rates of these underlying health conditions and are more likely to report fair or poor health.²⁶ In 2015, black women were 20 percent more likely to have asthma than white women and Latinxs are twice as likely to visit the emergency department for asthma than non-Hispanic whites.²⁷ Similarly, black people are 60 percent more likely to have diabetes and 40 percent more likely to have high blood pressure.²⁸ COVID-19 has exposed these issues like a raw nerve as rates for contracting the virus and death rates for black and Brown communities began to far outpace rates for white people in states like Louisiana, Michigan, and Illinois.

Weak health infrastructure. In areas where black and brown communities live, there is often a weaker health infrastructure, including a lack of hospital beds and a greater likelihood of hospital closures. Healthcare deserts are also more common in black and low-income Latinx neighborhoods, meaning these groups are less likely to find primary care physicians and a regular source of medical care.²⁹

¹⁹ "Health Insurance Coverage of the Total Population." Kaiser Family Foundation. 2018.

²⁰ <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D> Samantha Artiga and Kendal Orgera. "Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity." Kaiser Family Foundation. November 2019.

²¹ <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/report/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity/>

²² Ibid.

²³ Heeju Sohn. "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage: Dynamics of Gaining and Losing Coverage over the Life-Course." HHS Public Access. October 2016. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5370590/>

²⁴ Eugene Scott. "4 reasons coronavirus is hitting Black communities so hard." The Washington Post. April 2020.

²⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/04/10/4-reasons-coronavirus-is-hitting-Black-communities-so-hard/>

²⁶ Jose J. Escarce, Leo S. Morales, and Ruben G. Rumbaut. "The Health Status and Health Behaviors of Hispanics." National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine. 2006. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK19899/>

²⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Native Americans with Diabetes." January 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aian-diabetes/index.html>

²⁸ Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, and Kendal Orgera. "Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19." Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.

²⁹ <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/communities-of-color-at-higher-risk-for-health-and-economic-challenges-due-to-covid-19>

²⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. "Minority Population Profiles." October 2018.

²⁸ <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlID=26>

²⁹ Ibid.

²⁸ Randy Dottinga. "Health Care Deserts' More Common In Black Neighborhoods." Center for Advancing Health. April 2012. <https://www.cfah.org/hbns/2012/health-care-deserts-more-common-in-Black-neighborhoods.html>

Systemic, Environmental, and Other Forms of Racism

Housing disparities. Redlining and decades of systematic exclusion of people of color from some neighborhoods has had a significant impact on places where communities of color live. Institutional racism in the form of residential housing segregation means that members of these communities tend to live in more densely populated areas, exacerbating health disparities and making social distancing more difficult during COVID-19. Additionally, members of these communities often live further away from grocery stores and medical facilities, adding to the challenge of staying home and seeking medical treatment when needed.³⁰

Incarceration and detention. The deadly outbreak in prisons, jails, and detention centers disproportionately harms communities of color because of the over-policing and over-sentencing of communities of color, especially black, Latinx, and Indigenous people. For example, 40 percent of people behind bars are black people, yet black people make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population.³¹ Black people were 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than whites and Latinx people are 3.1 times as likely. Unequal treatment is built into the justice system at every level, even though rates of criminal behavior are similar across all groups. People of color are more likely to be in contact with police, more likely to be arrested, more likely to be charged, more likely to receive harsh sentences, and more likely to be executed.³²

Prisons, jails, and detention centers have become hotspots for the coronavirus worldwide due to overcrowding, neglect, and the difficulty of practicing social distancing within these environments.³³ In the U.S., there are over 9,400 known cases in prisons nationwide and many states are still not conducting widespread testing.³⁴ Prisons and jails are dangerous during any disease outbreak, but inaction, lack of testing, flagrant violations of safety procedures,³⁵ inadequate medical care,³⁶ inadequate PPE, lack of access to hygiene supplies like soap, and government failure to reduce incarcerated populations³⁷ have created deadly conditions in this crisis. There are more than 2.3 million individuals incarcerated in the U.S.³⁸ and 50,000 people are in immigration detention³⁹ on any given day. 10.6 million people enter jail each year, and the vast majority of them have not been convicted of a crime.⁴⁰ Most people only stay in jail for short periods of time and the high churn rates make outbreaks in

³⁰ "Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups." Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. April 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/racial-ethnic-minorities.html>

³¹ Ashley Nellis, Ph.D. "Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons." The Sentencing Project. June 2016. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/color-of-justice-racial-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons/>

³² "UN Report on Racial Disparities." The Sentencing Project. April 2018. <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/un-report-on-racial-disparities/>

³³ Sadie Gurman, Zusha Elinson, and Deanna Paul. "Coronavirus Puts a Prison Under Siege." The Wall Street Journal. April 2020. https://www.wsj.com/articles/inside-oakdale-prison-our-sentences-have-turned-into-death-sentences-11586191030?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=5&mqd=article_inline

³⁴ "Tracking the Spread of Coronavirus in Prisons." The Marshall Project. April 2020. https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/04/24/tracking-the-spread-of-coronavirus-in-prisons?utm_source=The+Marshall+Project+Newsletter&utm_campaign=aa581d2c1c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_25_11_44&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e02cdad9d-aa581d2c1c-174495201

³⁵ Sadie Gurman, Zusha Elinson, and Deanna Paul. "Coronavirus Puts a Prison Under Siege." The Wall Street Journal. April 2020. https://www.wsj.com/articles/inside-oakdale-prison-our-sentences-have-turned-into-death-sentences-11586191030?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=5&mqd=article_inline

³⁶ Kenya Evelyn. "Prison uprising put down as US inmates demand protection from coronavirus." The Guardian. April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/10/us-prisons-coronavirus-uprising-riot>

³⁷ Zusha Elinson and Deanna Paul. "Jails Release Prisoners, Fearing Coronavirus Outbreak." The Wall Street Journal. March 2020. https://www.wsj.com/articles/jails-release-prisoners-fearing-coronavirus-outbreak-11584885600?mod=article_inline

³⁸ Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner. "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020." Prison Policy Initiative. April 2020. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html?c=pie&gclid=Cj0KCOjwka_IBRCPARisAMIUmFqcG8z_7WtD2D0RaDNbMibo90tjI9FT8bwkZcSPfRGW52zXJTTd34aAuMgFALw_wcB

³⁹ "Mapping U.S. Immigration Detention." Freedom for Immigrants. April 2020. <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/map>

⁴⁰ Wendy Sawyer and Peter Wagner. "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2020." Prison Policy Initiative. April 2020. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html?c=pie&gclid=Cj0KCOjwka_IBRCPARisAMIUmFqcG8z_7WtD2D0RaDNbMibo90tjI9FT8bwkZcSPfRGW52zXJTTd34aAuMgFALw_wcB

jails deadly for both incarcerated people and for the surrounding communities. For example, Cook County Jail in Chicago has one of the highest rates of infection in the country with more than 800 cases and at least 7 deaths and has undoubtedly contributed to the outbreak in Cook County as a whole.⁴¹

Immigrants in detention, including many children, are also facing coronavirus outbreaks. There are currently documented COVID-19 cases in at least 35 detention centers and more than 46 have been found to lack hygiene supplies and/or medical staff.⁴² Less than two percent of immigrants in detention have been tested, but a shocking 60 percent of those tested have tested positive.⁴³ The ACLU has filed suit on behalf of detainees who cannot practice social distancing or maintain social distancing.⁴⁴ The pandemic enters detention centers with already appalling conditions including moldy food, severe overcrowding, denial of medical care leading to the deaths of children,⁴⁵ and sexual assaults by staff.⁴⁶

Environmental injustice. Systemic problems like redlining contribute to the long history of environmental racism, including the placement of factories, coal plants, waste incinerators, refineries, and other toxic sites near communities of color. As a result, communities of color are exposed to disproportionately high levels of toxins.⁴⁷ A study released by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that a slight increase in long-term exposure to air pollution leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate.⁴⁸

Sadly, it is no surprise that people of color with higher asthma rates account for a disproportionate share of COVID-19 deaths. Communities of color have the highest number of emergency room visits and hospital stays due to asthma as well as asthma death rates.⁴⁹ More specifically, black and Latinx groups have the highest rates of asthma in the country.⁵⁰ For instance, in the Bronx in New York City where black people represent 44 percent⁵¹ of the population, there are some of the highest rates of asthma hospitalizations in the nation -- 5 times the national average.⁵² Additionally, data shows black children have a 250 percent⁵³ higher hospitalization rate for asthma and are 500 percent⁵⁴ more likely to die from it compared to white children.⁵⁵ Similarly, communities of color are less likely to have access to clean water due to water contamination in their neighborhoods.⁵⁶ The disproportionate

⁴¹ Shannon Heffernan. "800 Sickened, 7 Dead: Inmates And Guards Describe Life Inside Cook County Jail." WBEZ. April 2020. <https://www.wbez.org/stories/cook-county-jail-coronavirus-outbreak-personal-stories/df0d3e51-1232-493c-b24e-a018d6ff2058>

⁴² "Mapping U.S. Immigration Detention." Freedom for Immigrants. April 2020. <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/map>

⁴³ Jeffery Martin. "60 PERCENT OF ICE DETAINEES TESTED HAVE CORONAVIRUS." Newsweek. April 28 2020. <https://www.newsweek.com/60-percent-ice-detainees-tested-have-coronavirus-1500817>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Cynthia Pompa. "Immigrant Kids Keep Dying in CBP Detention Centers, and DHS Won't Take Accountability." ACLU. June 2019. <https://www.aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/immigrants-rights-and-detention/immigrant-kids-keep-dying-cbp-detention>

⁴⁶ Setareh Ghandehari and Gabriela Viera. "Courting Catastrophe: How ICE is Gambling with Immigrant Lives Amid a Global Pandemic." Detention Watch Network. March 2020. https://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org/sites/default/files/reports/DWN_Courting%20Catastrophe_How%20ICE%20is%20Gambling%20with%20Immigrant%20Lives%20Amid%20a%20Global%20Pandemic.pdf

⁴⁷ Green America. "Environmental Justice's Role in the COVID-19 Crisis." April 2020. <https://www.greenamerica.org/blog/how-environmental-justice-connects-covid-19>

⁴⁸ Xiao Wu, Rachel C. Nethery, M. Benjamin Sabath, Danielle Braun, and Francesca Dominici. COVID-19 PM2.5: A national study on long-term exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 nationally in the United States." Harvard University. April 2020. <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/covid-pm>

⁴⁹ "Ethnic Disparities in Asthma." Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. <https://www.aafa.org/burden-of-asthma-on-minorities/>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ United States Census Bureau. "Bronx County (Bronx Borough), New York." Quick Facts. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/bronxcountybronxboroughnewyork>

⁵² State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein. "Asthma Prevention and Management in Bronx, New York and New York State at Large." New York State Senate. July 2011. https://www.monroecollege.edu/uploadedFiles/Site_Assets/PDF/Asthma%20prevention_Final.pdf

⁵³ Lara J. Akinbami. "The State of Childhood Asthma, United States, 1980-2005." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics. December 2016. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad381.pdf>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Lois Parshley. "The deadly mix of COVID-19, air pollution, and inequality, explained." Vox. April 2020. <https://www.vox.com/2020/4/11/21217040/coronavirus-in-us-air-pollution-asthma-black-americans>

⁵⁶ Jasmine Bell. "5 Things to Know About Communities of Color and Environmental Justice." Center for American Progress. April 2016. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2016/04/25/136361/5-things-to-know-about-communities-of-color-and-environmental-justice/>

exposure to air pollution is likely accounting, in significant part, for the higher rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths we're seeing.

Native communities. Native American and Alaska Native populations are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and are more likely to experience complications with over 3,400 cases⁵⁷ identified as of April 29, 2020.⁵⁸ For years, the healthcare systems that serve Native American and Alaska Native populations have struggled with securing funding for these communities. In addition, these communities live in overcrowded homes⁵⁹ that lack safe water⁶⁰ putting them at greater risk. They also have pre-existing conditions including higher rates of diabetes⁶¹ and hypertension than any other racial group in America.⁶² To make matters worse, Native American and Alaska Native tribal communities that have endured ongoing systemic discrimination and racism did not receive any of the \$8 billion in funding they were supposed to get from the CARES Act.⁶³

Anti-Asian and anti-immigrant bigotry. People of Asian descent are experiencing an alarming rise in discrimination and, in some cases, physical violence perpetrated by xenophobic people.⁶⁴ A reporting center tracking attacks received over 1,100 reports of anti-Asian attacks in just two weeks in late March.⁶⁵ In New York's Chinatown, Asian-owned businesses including stores and restaurants are facing financial hardships and struggling to keep their doors open because of the "misinformation, fear, and stigma associated with the virus."⁶⁶ This bigotry was exacerbated by President Trump's early insistence on calling the coronavirus the "Chinese virus."

Immigrants

Essential workers. According to the Migration Policy Institute, immigrants make up about 6 million workers on the frontlines keeping us all safe during this crisis. They make up 1 in 4 of U.S. healthcare workers⁶⁷ and account for 29 percent of all physicians and 38 percent of home health aides on the frontlines.⁶⁸ Additionally, 1 in 8 registered nurses are immigrant women.⁶⁹ Similarly, the majority of our farmworkers making sure we have food in our grocery stores and on our tables are immigrants, including 21 percent legal permanent residents and 49

⁵⁷ "Coronavirus (COVID-19)." Indian Health Service. 2020. <https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>

⁵⁸ Maria Givens. "The coronavirus is exacerbating vulnerabilities Native communities already face." Vox. March 2020.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/3/25/2192669/coronavirus-native-americans-indians>

⁵⁹ Nancy Pindus, et al. "Housing Needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Tribal Areas: A Report From the Assessment of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs." HUD Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R). January 2017.

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/HNAIHousingNeeds.html>

⁶⁰ Native Voice. "2009: Many reservation homes lack clean drinking water." National Institute of Health. 2009.

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices/timeline/616.html>

⁶¹ "Native Americans with Diabetes." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. January 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/ajan-diabetes/index.html>

⁶² Maria Givens. "The coronavirus is exacerbating vulnerabilities Native communities already face." Vox. March 2020.

<https://www.vox.com/2020/3/25/2192669/coronavirus-native-americans-indians>

⁶³ Jennifer Bendery. "Tribes Were Supposed To Get \$8 Billion In COVID-19 Aid. They've Gotten \$0." HUFFPOST. April 2020.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/tribes-covid-19-federal-relief-treasury-deb-haaland_n_5ea9decac5b633a8544487d9

⁶⁴ Brittany Wong. "For Asian Americans, There Are Two Pandemics: COVID-19 And Daily Bigotry." Huffpost. March 2020.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/asian-american-racism-coronavirus_1_5e790a71c5b63c3b64954eb4

⁶⁵ "STOP AAPI HATE. "STOP AAPI HATE Receives over 1,100 Incident Reports of Verbal Harassment, Shunning and Physical Assault in Two Weeks." Press Release. April 2020. http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Press_Release_4_3_20.pdf

⁶⁶ Karina Hernandez. "From stores to Chinatown restaurants, here's how the coronavirus is affecting business owners in the US." CNBC Make It. March 2020.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/04/heres-how-coronavirus-affects-small-businesses-in-the-united-states.html>

⁶⁷ Dennis Thompson. "Immigrants Make Up 1 in 4 U.S. Health Care Workers." U.S. News & World Report. June 2019.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2019-06-03/immigrants-make-up-1-in-4-us-health-care-workers>

⁶⁸ Julia Gelatt. "Immigrant Workers: Vital to the U.S. Covid-19 Response, Disproportionately Vulnerable." Migration Policy Institute. March 2020.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrant-workers-us-covid-19-response>

⁶⁹ New American Economy Research Fund. "Immigration and Covid-19." April 2020.

<https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/immigration-and-covid-19/>

percent undocumented.⁷⁰ The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program⁷¹ has been under attack by the Trump Administration and is now being challenged in the Supreme Court.⁷² With over 200,000 DACA recipients working on the frontlines, including 29,000 frontline medical workers, it is clear that DACA recipients and immigrants contribute to society and are keeping us all safe during this crisis.⁷³ Members of Congress and advocacy groups are demanding President Trump extends protections for DACA recipients and TPS holders.⁷⁴ Immigrants who are already facing health and financial challenges and fear deportation are risking their lives and their families lives to protect us during this crisis.

New immigrants and the threat of deportation. Immigrants face many challenges because of the anti-immigrant policies and practices of the current Administration including the Muslim Ban,⁷⁵ children detained in cages,⁷⁶ increased funding for immigration enforcement and ICE raids,⁷⁷ and attacks on the DACA and TPS programs.⁷⁸ These efforts leave immigrants hesitant to seek medical attention or any support for fear of deportation. Earlier this year, the Trump Administration issued the new Public Charge Rule -- a test that penalizes anyone deemed likely to need government support.⁷⁹ In other words, immigrants who may need assistance with basic human rights like shelter, food, or healthcare may be barred entry or denied legal permanent resident (LPR) status. Although the Administration has clarified that seeking assistance during this pandemic will not count as a negative factor for public charge determinations, many may be unaware of this announcement and reluctant to seek help. President Trump has repeatedly blamed immigration and international travel for the spread of the virus and recently issued an executive order to suspend immigration for at least 60 days.⁸⁰

Immigrants are directly affected. Many noncitizens were completely shut out of relief in the CARES Act, including the approximately 10.5 million undocumented immigrants⁸¹ in the U.S., mixed status families, agricultural workers, and about 5 million immigrants including some Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs), DACA recipients, and people with Temporary Protective Status (TPS).⁸² Immigrants make up about 13.6 percent of the U.S. population as of 2017.⁸³ They are facing disproportionate exposure to COVID-19, as well as systematic exclusion from many programs designed to provide relief. These and other anti-immigrant policies have left immigrants especially vulnerable during this crisis. Immigrants are less likely to have any

⁷⁰ Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Chuck Schumer. "Racial Disparities on Full Display: COVID-19 IS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR." Democratic Policy & Communications Committee. April 2020.

<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DPC%20Report%20on%20Racial%20Disparities.pdf>

⁷¹ DACA. National Immigration Law Center. June 2019. <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/>

⁷² DACA Litigation Timeline. National Immigration Law Center. September 2019. <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-litigation-timeline/>

⁷³ Bill Aseltine, Beth Essig, Debra L. Zumwalt and Abbe R. Gluck. "There's Only One Thing Stopping Trump From Deporting Health Care Workers." New York Times. April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/opinion/trump-coronavirus-daca.html?referringSource=articleShare>

⁷⁴ Jose Munoz. "Members of Congress Demand Trump Extend Protections for DACA Recipients and TPS Holders." United We Dream. April 2020.

<https://unitedwedream.org/2020/04/members-of-congress-demand-trump-extend-protections-for-daca-recipients-and-tps-holders/>

⁷⁵ Understanding Trump's Muslim Bans. National Immigration Law Center. March 2019.

<https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/understanding-the-muslim-bans.pdf>

⁷⁶ Claudia Koerner. "Kids Describe In Their Own Words The Dire Conditions Inside A Border Detention Center." BuzzFeed News. June 2019.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/claudiakoerner/children-border-detention-conditions-immigrants-hungry>

⁷⁷ Daniel Costa. "Immigration enforcement is funded at a much higher rate than labor standards enforcement—and the gap is widening." Economic Policy Institute. June 2019.

<https://www.epi.org/blog/immigration-enforcement-is-funded-at-a-much-higher-rate-than-labor-standards-enforcement-and-the-gap-is-widening/>

⁷⁸ Permanently Protect Dreamers and TPS Holders. Fwd.us. <https://www.fwd.us/immigration/dream-tps/>

⁷⁹ Catherine Kim. "Low-income immigrants are afraid to seek health care amid the Covid-19 pandemic." Vox. March 2020.

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2020/3/13/21173897/coronavirus-low-income-immigrants>

⁸⁰ Franco Ordóñez, Tamara Keith, and Ryan Lucas. "Trump Says He'll Suspend Immigration For 60 Days Over Coronavirus Fears." National Public Radio. April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/21/839547087/trump-says-hell-temporarily-suspend-immigration-over-coronavirus-fears>

⁸¹ Samantha Artiga and Maria Diaz. "Health Coverage and Care of Undocumented Immigrants." Kaiser Family Foundation. July 2019.

<https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/health-coverage-and-care-of-undocumented-immigrants/>

⁸² Population Estimates. "Lawful Permanent Resident Population in the United States: January 2015." Homeland Security: Office of Immigration Statistics.

Office of Strategy, Policy & Plans. May 2019. https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/lpr_population_estimates_january_2015.pdf

⁸³ Jynna Radford. "Key findings about U.S. immigrants." Pew Research Center. June 2017.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/17/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

health coverage, less likely to access safety-net benefits, and more likely to have lower median incomes than the U.S. born -- all factors that put them at greater risk of falling ill and being hit the hardest by an economic fallout.⁸⁴

Excluded from the CARES Act. Undocumented immigrants, who already face anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric, were left out of much of the third coronavirus response package, the CARES Act. Under the provisions of the CARES Act, immigrants without a Social Security number or families where a member of the household files taxes without a Social Security number, will not have access to healthcare including testing and treatment for COVID-19, will not receive cash assistance, and have limited eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.⁸⁵ COVID-19 does not discriminate based on immigration status. Our policy responses should not either. Leaving people out of relief measures puts us all at greater risk.

Employment and Financial Hardship

Employment. With stay-at-home orders, schools and businesses shutting down, and other restrictions in place, millions of people are losing their jobs.⁸⁶ Even in the best of times, workers of color typically see unemployment rates higher than those of white workers, and this recession will be no different. On average, workers of color have jobs with few benefits, lower wages, and limited protections.⁸⁷ They are most vulnerable to potential layoffs during this pandemic and are at higher risk of facing financial hardships. For example, roughly half of Latinx households have lost their jobs and have \$500 or less in their savings accounts.⁸⁸

The current crisis is causing the employment gap to grow even wider. If previous downturns are any indication, people of color could see staggering rates of unemployment in the coming months. Unemployment related to the Great Recession, peaked at 10 percent overall but was 17 percent for black workers and 13 percent for Latinx workers.⁸⁹ The latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office indicate that unemployment during this downturn should peak at 16 percent.⁹⁰ Furthermore, it is worth noting that the unemployment rate does not fully capture the number of people out of a job at any moment and especially in a downturn like this one.⁹¹ Gig workers, part-time workers, and the self-employed may never be officially captured in official unemployment statistics.

The impact of the crisis is further compounded by existing wealth gaps. As people lose their jobs and see reductions in income, some groups tend to have more resources to fall back on than others. Blacks and Latinxs typically have far less wealth than whites. The median black family has 3,500 in wealth and Latinx families had \$6,500 compared to \$147,000 for the

⁸⁴ Muzaffar Chishti and Sarah Pierce. "Crisis within a Crisis: Immigration in the United States in a Time of COVID-19." Migration Policy Institute. March 2020. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/crisis-within-crisis-immigration-time-covid-19>

⁸⁵ National Immigration Law Center. "Understanding the Impact of Key Provisions of COVID-19 Relief Bills on Immigrant Communities." April 2020. <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID19-relief-bills-understanding-key-provisions.pdf>

⁸⁶ Mitchell Hatman. "Despite staggering unemployment numbers, it's even worse than it looks." MARKETPLACE. April 2020. <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/04/09/unemployment-numbers-worse-than-it-looks/>

⁸⁷ Connor Maxwell and Danyelle Solomon. "The Economic Fallout of the Coronavirus for People of Color." Center for American Progress. April 2020. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2020/04/14/483125/economic-fallout-coronavirus-people-color/>

⁸⁸ Adriana Diaz. "Latino communities struggle amid coronavirus outbreak: 'They're crying. They're desperate.'" CBS News. April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/latino-communities-struggle-coronavirus-outbreak/>

⁸⁹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Great Recession, great recovery? Trends from the Current Population Survey. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mir/2018/article/great-recession-great-recovery.htm>

⁹⁰ CBO's Current Projections of Output, Employment, and Interest Rates and a Preliminary Look at Federal Deficits for 2020 and 2021 <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/56335>

⁹¹ Elise Gould. The Unemployment Rate is not the Right Measure to Make Economic Policy Decisions Around the Coronavirus-driven Recession. Economic Policy Institute. April, 2020. <https://www.epi.org/blog/the-unemployment-rate-is-not-the-right-measure-to-make-economic-policy-decisions-around-the-coronavirus-driven-recession/>

median white family.⁹² In aggregate, API families have more wealth than white families, but within this demographic, the richest decile of families has 168 times the wealth of the poorest decile, a ratio higher than other groups.⁹³

Homelessness. People experiencing poverty often struggle to afford housing because typically it is one of the most expensive household expenditures.⁹⁴ More than half of black and Latinx renters spend more than a third of their income for housing and a greater share of their income as homeowners than whites.⁹⁵

As a result, people of color are overrepresented in the homeless population. In Los Angeles, one of the cities hardest hit by COVID-19, about 40 percent of the 60,000 homeless people are black, although they only make up 9 percent of the total population.⁹⁶ Black people make up about 21 percent of the population struggling with poverty and 40 percent of the homeless nationwide.⁹⁷ People living in poverty and experiencing homelessness are at an increased risk of health and financial problems during this crisis due to a number of factors, including the inability to abide by stay-at-home orders without a home, underlying health conditions due to poor living conditions, and an increase in hospitalizations without having a place to recuperate.

Food insecurity. Stay-at-home orders and social distancing practices have prompted many families across the country to stock up on food and make fewer trips to grocery stores. However, many people in communities of color struggle to stock up because they live in “food deserts” with limited grocery store options, are experiencing loss of jobs and income, and have limited access to transportation.⁹⁸ With school closures, many families are now required to provide additional food for their kids since they are not receiving school meals.

Can't work from home. COVID-19 has changed the way we live and has drastically changed the workforce. Millions of people are now teleworking in an effort to contain this pandemic. Unfortunately, for many people of color, working from home is not an option. In general, less than 30 percent of workers have occupations that allow them to work from home.⁹⁹ For black and Latinx communities, even fewer have the privilege of working from home -- about 84 percent of Latinx workers and about 80 percent of black workers report that they are unable to telework.¹⁰⁰ Even for those in occupations that allow or have begun to allow work from home, many do not have access to consistent, high-speed internet.¹⁰¹ House Democrats attempted to address this in the first iteration of the CARES Act with additional funding for building broadband infrastructure, but this provision did not make it into the final legislation.

⁹² Inequality.org. Racial Economic Inequality. <https://inequality.org/facts/racial-inequality/>

⁹³ Christian Weller and Jeffrey Thompson. Wealth Inequality Among Asian Americans Greater than among Whites.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2016/12/20/295359/wealth-inequality-among-asian-americans-greater-than-among-Whites/>

⁹⁴ National Coalition for the Homeless. “HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA.” 2019. <https://nationalhomeless.org/about-homelessness/>

⁹⁵ Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Chuck Schumer. “Racial Disparities on Full Display: COVID-19 Is Disproportionately Affecting Communities of Color.” Democratic Policy & Communications Committee. April 2020.

<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DPCC%20Report%20on%20Racial%20Disparities.pdf>

⁹⁶ National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS (NAEH). “The intersection of Homelessness, Race, and the COVID-19 Crisis.” April 2020.

<https://endhomelessness.org/the-intersection-of-homelessness-race-and-the-covid-19-crisis/>

⁹⁷ Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Chuck Schumer. “Racial Disparities on Full Display: COVID-19 Is Disproportionately Affecting Communities of Color.” Democratic Policy & Communications Committee. April 2020.

<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DPCC%20Report%20on%20Racial%20Disparities.pdf>

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Table 1. Workers who could work at home, did work at home, and were paid for work at home, by selected characteristics, averages for the period

2017-2018. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. September 2019. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/flex2.t01.htm>

¹⁰⁰ Elise Gould and Heidi Shierholz. “Not everybody can work from home - Black and Hispanic workers are much less likely to be able to telework.” Economic Policy Institute. March 2020. <https://www.epi.org/blog/Black-and-hispanic-workers-are-much-less-likely-to-be-able-to-work-from-home/>

¹⁰¹ Monica Anderson. About a Quarter of Rural Americans Say Access to High Speed Internet is a Major Problem. Pew Research Center. September 10, 2018. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/09/10/about-a-quarter-of-rural-americans-say-access-to-high-speed-internet-is-a-major-problem/>

On the frontlines. Long before the pandemic, essential workers -- making up more than 30 million U.S. workers including healthcare and eldercare workers, grocery store clerks, delivery workers, childcare workers, cleaners, warehouse workers, and bus drivers -- were overworked, underpaid, under protected, and under appreciated.¹⁰² People of color -- black, Latinx, Asian-American/Pacific Islander, or someone identifying as something other than white -- are a large share of the new essential workforce making up about 41.2 percent of the total workforce.¹⁰³ As previously stated, about 6 million of those essential workers are immigrants working in some of these critical occupations. That includes the majority of farmworkers that have become essential during this pandemic as they continue to work despite stay-at-home orders.¹⁰⁴

The Trump Administration issued an executive order¹⁰⁵ requiring the Animal Slaughtering and Processing Industry -- an industry in which more than half of all workers are people of color -- to continue operating despite the lack of worker protections in place.¹⁰⁶ It should be noted that the executive order cited the President's powers under the Defense Production Act of 1950 as giving him the authority to compel these worksites to remain open, but was hesitant to do so to compel manufacturers to switch to the production of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). Frontliners are putting their lives at risk to keep us all safe. They deserve to be kept safe with stronger workplace protections including PPE, expanded paid sick leave, and hazard pay.

Lack of Data

Census count. People of color are generally undercounted in the United States Census compared to whites and that undercount is likely to be exacerbated by the current pandemic.¹⁰⁷ Communities of color miss out on critical funding because it can be challenging to contact, interview, locate and persuade people of color to participate in the census.¹⁰⁸ For instance, about 2 percent of black people were undercounted in 2010 and black children are twice as likely to be undercounted compared to non-black children.¹⁰⁹ One challenge some communities of color in particular face is the lack of an appropriate category. For example, people of Middle Eastern and North African descent are not given a category and are forced to check the "white," "black," or "other" categories. Despite strong efforts from advocacy groups to include a Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) category¹¹⁰ in the 2020 Census, the Trump Administration blocked the efforts and the category was not included in this year's Census.¹¹¹ Additionally, President Trump tried, but failed, to add a citizenship question¹¹²

¹⁰² Hye Jin Rho, Hayley Brown, and Shawn Fremstad. "A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries." The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). April 2020. <https://cepr.net/a-basic-demographic-profile-of-workers-in-frontline-industries/>

¹⁰³ Hye Jin Rho, Hayley Brown, and Shawn Fremstad. "A Basic Demographic Profile of Workers in Frontline Industries." The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). April 2020. <https://cepr.net/a-basic-demographic-profile-of-workers-in-frontline-industries/>

¹⁰⁴ Miriam Jordan. "Farmworkers, Mostly Undocumented, Become 'Essential' During Pandemic." The New York Times. April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/us/coronavirus-undocumented-immigrant-farmworkers-agriculture.html>

¹⁰⁵ Executive Order on Delegating Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Food Supply Chain Resources During the National Emergency Caused by the Outbreak of COVID-19. White House. April 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-delegating-authority-dpa-respect-food-supply-chain-resources-national-emergency-caused-outbreak-covid-19/>

¹⁰⁶ Shawn Fremstad, Hye Jin Rho, and Hayley Brown. "Meatpacking Workers are a Diverse Group Who Need Better Protections." The Center for Economic Policy and Research. April 2020. <https://cepr.net/meatpacking-workers-are-a-diverse-group-who-need-better-protections/>

¹⁰⁷ What Is the 2020 Census? United States Census 2020. 2020. <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html>

¹⁰⁸ Mona Chalabi. "How the US census misses people of color – and why it's so harmful." The Guardian. February 2020.

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/datablog/2020/feb/27/2020-us-census-black-people-mistakes-count>

¹⁰⁹ Charmaine Runes. "Following a long history, the 2020 Census risks undercounting the black population." Urban Institute. February 2019.

¹¹⁰ <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/following-long-history-2020-census-risks-undercounting-black-population>

¹¹⁰ Margaret Lowry. "Making Sure Arab Americans Count: Adding a MENA Category to the Census." Arab American Institute. July 2015.

¹¹¹ <https://www.aaiusa.org/making-sure-arab-americans-count>

¹¹¹ Yousef H Alshammari. "Why is there no MENA category on the 2020 US census?" Aljazeera. April 2020.

¹¹² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/mena-category-2020-census-20040114334500.html>

that likely discouraged many communities of color, especially immigrant families, from participating in the census.¹¹³ Arab American populations live in all 50 states but 94 percent of them live in metropolitan areas including Los Angeles, Detroit, New York/New Jersey, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. -- some of the cities hardest hit by COVID-19.¹¹⁴ The inaccurate reporting from the Census Bureau makes it especially challenging to report the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths by race. COVID-19 makes a stronger case for accurate counting by the Census to ensure federal funding is distributed fairly to states where communities of color need it most.

Data and testing capabilities. Historically, there has been poor and incomplete data collection on communities of color. Without demographic data on COVID-19 cases and deaths, it is difficult to properly assess racial disparities. States are providing none to very little data disaggregated by race on their COVID-19 cases and deaths -- 50 percent of COVID-19 cases reported federally are missing race and ethnic data¹¹⁵ and there may be higher rates than being reported for communities of color.¹¹⁶ The We Must Count Coalition is calling for the release of demographic data for COVID-19 to ensure interventions and health resources are allocated equitably for all communities.¹¹⁷ Congresswoman Pressley and Senators Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker, and Kamala Harris sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services demanding federal agencies collect and address racial disparities in the response to COVID-19 but were not successful.¹¹⁸ Now, Congresswoman Pressley is leading a push by the Congressional Black Caucus to include a mandate for federal authorities to collect and report race-specific data in the next coronavirus relief package.¹¹⁹ It is essential that all communities of color are properly counted for our nation's response to COVID-19.

Small Businesses

Minority-owned businesses. Over 50 percent of small businesses -- 4 million establishments -- face financial hardships and other immediate risks due to COVID-19.¹²⁰ Although people of color make up 40 percent of the population, they only represent about 20 percent of the nation's 5.6 million business owners with employees.¹²¹ Minorities already own businesses at much lower rates than non-Latinx or Hispanic white individuals.¹²² Minority-owned businesses are also less likely to have the established credit relationship with a bank that allowed most of the businesses who received aid to get their applications processed before money ran out. Asian-owned businesses also reported losses of up to 80 percent as early as

¹¹² Michael Wines. "2020 Census Won't Have Citizenship Question as Trump Administration Drops Effort." New York Times. July 2019.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/02/us/trump-census-citizenship-question.html>

¹¹³ Steven K. Choi. "The Added Importance of the Census in Light of COVID-19." American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). April 2020.

<https://www.aclu.org/news/voting-rights/the-added-importance-of-the-census-in-light-of-covid-19/>

¹¹⁴ "Demographics." Arab American Institute. <https://www.aaiusa.org/demographics>

¹¹⁵ Matthew Vann and Soo Rin Kim. "Minority groups at risk as states withholding, provide partial COVID-19 racial data." abc News. April 2020.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/states-missing-covid-19-racial-ethnic-data-creates/story?id=70338255>

¹¹⁶ Edwin Rios and Sinduja Rangarajan. "COVID-19 Has Infected and Killed Black People At Alarming Rates. This Data Proves It." Mother Jones. April 2020.

<https://www.motherjones.com/coronavirus-updates/2020/04/covid-19-has-infected-and-killed-black-people-at-alarming-rates-this-data-proves-it/>

¹¹⁷ We Must Count. <https://www.wemustcount.org/>

¹¹⁸ Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. March 2020.

https://pressley.house.gov/sites/pressley.house.gov/files/2020_03_27%20Letter%20to%20HHS%20re%20racial%20disparities%20in%20COVID%20response.pdf

¹¹⁹ Kimberly Atkins. "Pressley Wants Race-Specific Coronavirus Data Requirement In Next Relief Bill." WBUR News. April 2020.

<https://www.wbur.com/news/2020/04/07/pressley-race-data-requirement-coronavirus>

¹²⁰ Joseph Parilla, Sifan Liu, and Brad Whitehead. "How local leaders can stave off a small business collapse from COVID-19." Brookings. April 2020.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-local-leaders-can-stave-off-a-small-business-collapse-from-covid-19/>

¹²¹ Sifan Liu and Joseph Parilla. "Businesses owned by women and minorities have grown. Will COVID-19 undo that?" BROOKINGS. April 2020.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/businesses-owned-by-women-and-minorities-have-grown-will-covid-19-undo-that/>

¹²² Ibid.

late January as fears of the coronavirus mounted.¹²³ This pandemic poses a serious threat to entrepreneurs of color.

Minorities struggle to access emergency loans. Minorities struggled to apply for small business loans that became available under the provisions of the CARES Act due to the requirement to have a credit card or a line of credit with the institution through which they applied for the loan.¹²⁴ In the interim, Congress passed a \$484 billion aid package for small businesses that could provide some relief including \$60 billion through small and mid-size banks, credit unions, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), minority depository institutions, community development corporations, and microloan intermediaries, but entrepreneurs of color and their employees are likely to need much bolder and more systemic support to weather this crisis.¹²⁵

Conclusion

From decades of disinvestment and economic policies that largely fail communities of color, this pandemic has exacerbated and exposed the devastating impact of institutionalized racism. To ensure that communities of color survive the COVID-19 pandemic, we must understand how systemic racism has made communities of color more vulnerable to this pandemic.

And while some policymakers are now calling for a return to normal, for communities of color, normal means a society that systematically discriminates in housing, employment, healthcare, education, and everything in between. Rather than returning to normal, policymakers must rebuild a more just, equitable, and resilient nation that leaves no one behind.

¹²³ Vivian Ho. "Please visit Chinatown: coronavirus fears empty San Francisco district." The Guardian. Feb 27, 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/27/chinatown-san-francisco-coronavirus-fears-empty-district>

¹²⁴ Amy Scott. "Minority-owned businesses struggle to access emergency loans." MARKETPLACE. April 28, 2020.

<https://www.marketplace.org/2020/04/28/covid-19-small-business-aid-paycheck-protection-program-minority-owned-businesses/>

¹²⁵ Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act and Initial Proposals. Congressional Progressive Caucus Center. April 2020.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53cab2c3e4b0207d2957d0d2/t/5ea070b33152a62a4f665416/1587572915154/Covid+3.5+comparison.pdf>