NCVHS Expert Panel Session

Covid-19: Capacity, Gaps & Quality in Collection of Race/Ethnicity Data
Thursday April 1, 1:00-3:30 pm

Moderated by Dr. Vickie Mays and Denise Love

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed a number of data gaps in the ability to respond quickly and efficiently in determining the impact in racial/ethnic minority populations. Early in the Covid-19 epidemic researchers, advocates and states called out the lack of data identifying race/ethnicity in cases, hospitalization and deaths despite the fact that such data is a part of reporting requirements. This raised issues about the method of collection, the lack of reporting of race/ethnicity in health data, electronic health records, and mortality records. Concerns about standards of incompleteness of health records and a lack of enforcement for completion in a timely manner, lack of data quality due to incompleteness, and inability to link records in order to fill in missing data call for national attention and leadership.

The purpose of this expert panel session is to learn about the ways in which current practices and gaps in data collection, input, sharing, linkages and analytic methods could be improved to address health inequities. The lack of race/ethnicity data also impedes future capacity to identify outcomes in research, treatment and appropriate evidence-based interventions at the sub-population level.

As noted by Herman (2021) and Krieger and her team (2021) and others approximately one month into the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination, the CDC Feb 2 MMWR report indicated that of all persons vaccinated for when data was reported, 48.1% were missing data on race/ethnicity. As they note, this stands in stark contrast to the 0.1% and 3% missing data respectively on age and sex. While in some instances there are methods that can be employed to fix such data in a pandemic/disaster emergency response, this adds weeks to having good quality data from which to make decisions, deploy resources or intervene. This lack of complete quality data to determine how racial/ethnic populations fare during Covid-19 in real time leads to inequity.

PANEL A: Data Collection & Inputs
- ***Measuring Racial/Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 in Children and Teens: The Problem of Missing Race and Ethnicity Data***
  Elizabeth Pathak, PhD, MSPH
  Director, The COVKID Project
  President, Women's Institute for Independent Social Enquiry, (WiiSE)
- ***Uncertainty in Demographic and Socioeconomic Data. The Use of Differential Privacy for Disclosure Control, and its Potential Impact on Age and Race/ethnicity Count***
  Seth Spielman, PhD
  Chief Data Strategy and Analytics Officer
  Associate Professor of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder
  Faculty Associate, Institute of Behavioral Science
   and David Van Riper, MA
  Director, Spatial Analysis, Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota
  What Public Health Practice says about Data Gaps for Advancing Rural Health Equity
  Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
  Professor, Kirby & Ellery Cramer Endowed Professor
  Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

Affiliate faculty, UW Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
PI, Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) Study
Adjunct Professor, UW School of Public Health, Department of Health Services

- ***Race, Ethnicity and the Validity of Cause of Death Assignment for COVID-19 in the U.S.***
  Andrew C. Stokes, PhD
  Boston University School of Public Health

PANEL B: Research Innovations in Methods & Solutions

- ***A Predictive Equity Metric for the Distribution of Testing and Vaccination Resources Based on Vulnerability to COVID-19: Race and Ethnicity Plus What?***
  Vickie Mays, PhD, MSPH
  Distinguished Professor of Psychology, College of Letters and Sciences
  Distinguished Professor of Health Policy & Management, Fielding School of Public Health
  Director, UCLA BRITE Center for Science, Research & Policy Special Advisor to the Chancellor
- ***Collection and Use of Race/Ethnic Data through Cross-sector Networks: Implications for COVID-19 Response***
  Glen Mays PhD, MPH
  Professor and Chair, Health Systems, Management and Policy
  University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- ***A National Framework to Improve Mortality, Morbidity, and Disparities Data for COVID-19 and Other Large-Scale Disasters***
  Michael Stoto, PhD
  Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health, Georgetown University
  Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics & Senior Preparedness Fellow
  Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
- ***The Implications for Covid-19 Vaccine Equity in not Disaggregating Data in Asian and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders Communities***
  Ninez Ponce, MPP, PhD
  Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy and Research
  Principal Investigator, California Health Interview Survey
  Professor, Health Policy and Management
  UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
- ***The Contribution of Linked Private-sector Data to the Understanding of Gender, Race/ethnic and SES Disparities in COVID***
  Mark Cullen, MD
  Founding Director, Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences (retired)

PANEL C: Discussion

- **All Panelists & NCVHS members**