Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill. Older adults and people who have certain underlying medical conditions are more likely to get severely ill. Post-COVID conditions are a wide range of health problems people can experience four or more weeks after first getting COVID-19. Even those who do not become severely ill from COVID-19 may experience post-COVID conditions.[1] Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, there have been 90,369,831 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,022,688 confirmed COVID-19-related deaths in the United States. 222,950,194 U.S. residents have received at least a full vaccine series to reduce the likelihood of transmission.[2]

Racial Disparities

In the United States, COVID-19 incidence disproportionately impacts Multiracial, Hispanic, and Black Americans, compared to other races. Despite comprising just 2.22% of the total U.S. population, Americans who identify as Multiracial have the highest incidence rate of any racial demographic group, with a rate of 28.829.8 (per 100k). Hispanic Americans, who make up 18.45% of the population, have an incidence rate of 21,910.5, and Black Americans, who make up 12.54% of the population, have a rate of 15,930.1.

It is also important to not that, again, despite Hispanic Americans making up 18.45% of the total U.S. population, 24.8% of COVID-19 diagnoses are in Hispanic Americans.

In terms of mortality rates, Black, White, Multiracial, and Hispanic Americans have the highest mortality rates, in that order. Black Americans have a mortality rate of 238.6 (per 100k), White Americans have a rate of 235.1, Multiracial Americans have a rate of 220.9, and Hispanic Americans have a rate of 211.0. The mortality rate of White Americans is of particular interest, as there is a demographic component at play.[2]

Sex/Gender Disparities

While American Females have a marginally higher rate of COVID-19 incidence than their Male counterparts (25,685.5 compared to 23,064.1, respectively), Males are significantly more likely to die from COVID-19 than Females, with mortality rates of 294.4 in Males, compared to 232.6 in Females.

Males make up 55.1% of all COVID-19 deaths in the United States.[2]

Income Disparities

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, counties in the United States with high levels of poverty (i.e., counties in which 17.3% of residents live in poverty) have had the highest rates of COVID-19 incidence and mortality.

In counties with 17.3% of their residents living in poverty, mortality rates of COVID-19 are a staggering 397.6 (per 100k) compared to a rate of just 251.4 in counties in which 12.3% of less of the residents live in poverty.[2]
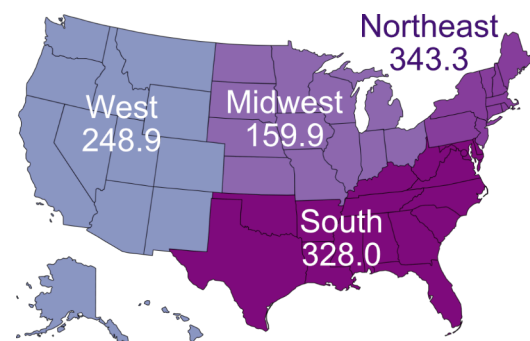
Population Density Disparities

COVID-19 incidence in metro vs. non-metro areas has remained largely comparable for the majority of the pandemic. However, as of November 26th, 2020, mortality rates in non-metro areas have far outstripped those in metro areas, with a current mortality rate of 396.5 in non-metro areas compared to just 295.3 in metro areas.[2]

Regional Disparities

COVID-19 incidence rates are highest in South, with a cumulative rate of 27.730.9 (per 100k), followed by the Northeast with a rate of 27,685.1, and compared to the national rate of 27,470.0.

COVID-19 mortality rates, however, are highest in the Northeast, with a cumulative rate of 343.3 (per 100k), followed by the South with a rate of 328.0, and compared to the national rate of 308.0. The Northeast's mortality rate is heavily impacted by the mortality rate in New York City, which has the highest mortality rate in the nation with a rate of 489.0 (per 100k).[2]

Northeast 343.3
West 248.9
Midwest 159.9
South 328.0

References

[1]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, March 11). *Frequently Asked Questions*. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

[2]Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, July 21). *COVID Data Tracker*. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home