

National League of Cities

Race, Equity And Leadership (REAL)

HELO and NBC-LEO Joint Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 29, 2021

Overcoming Disparate Access
to the COVID-19 Vaccine



David Luna
Councilmember of Mesa, AZ
President of HELO

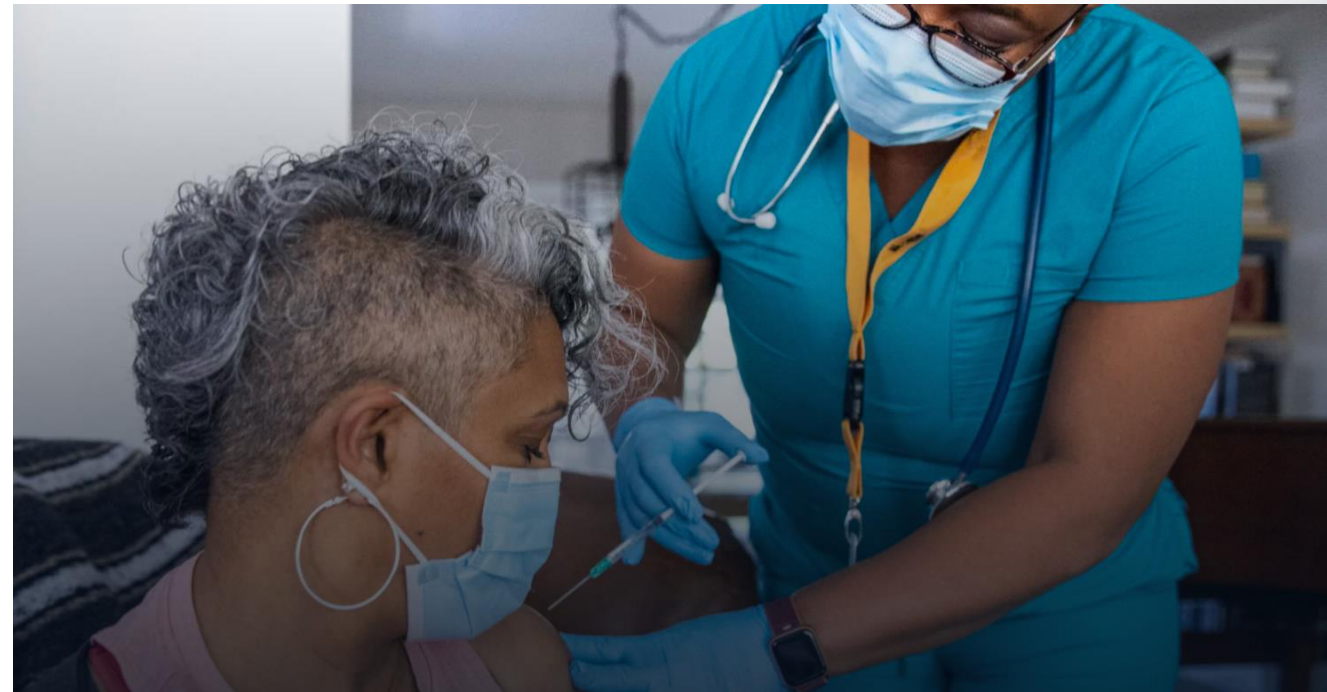


- Welcome
- Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine in Disparately Impacted Communities
- Breakout Group Discussion
- Constituency Groups
- Adjourn

Why Equity in Vaccine Distribution is Critical:

Four Areas to Prioritize

- Track the Data
- Build Community Trust
- Remove Barriers to Access
- Prioritize At-Risk Groups



COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

are often the **hardest** hit



HEALTHCITY

Boston Medical Center
HEALTH SYSTEM

Track the DATA

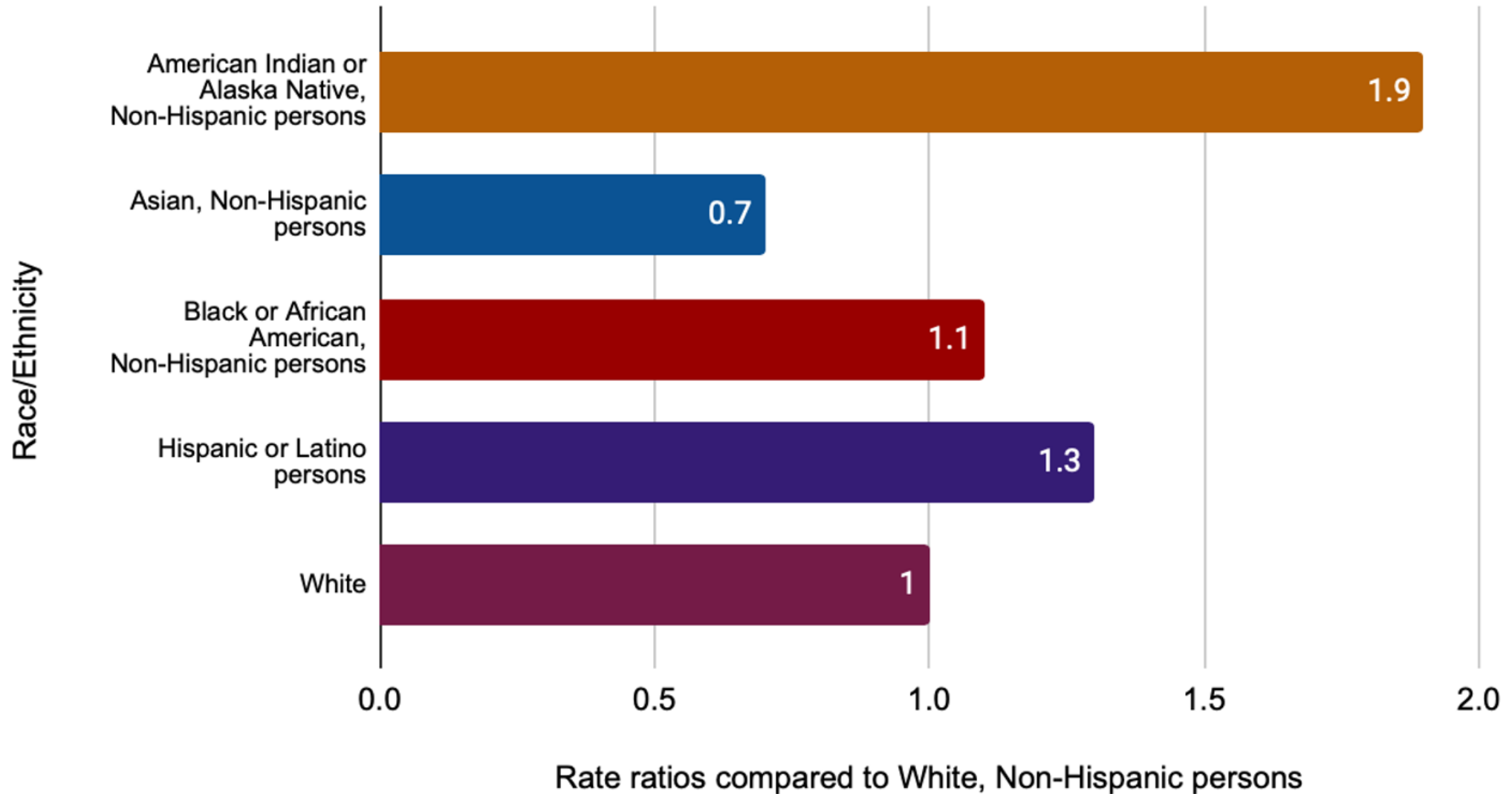
- Ensure transparent tracking of vaccine distribution to create **accountability for equity** and to understand what inequities may exist
- Use **disaggregated data** by race and ethnicity, gender, age, and zip codes: All are crucial components of gaining a deeper understanding of disparities
- Make the information **available to the public** to center the importance of equity in vaccine distribution
- Use models for communication such as that of the [CDC dashboard](#) to increase understanding and to **support local outreach and response**

Data from [CDC](#)

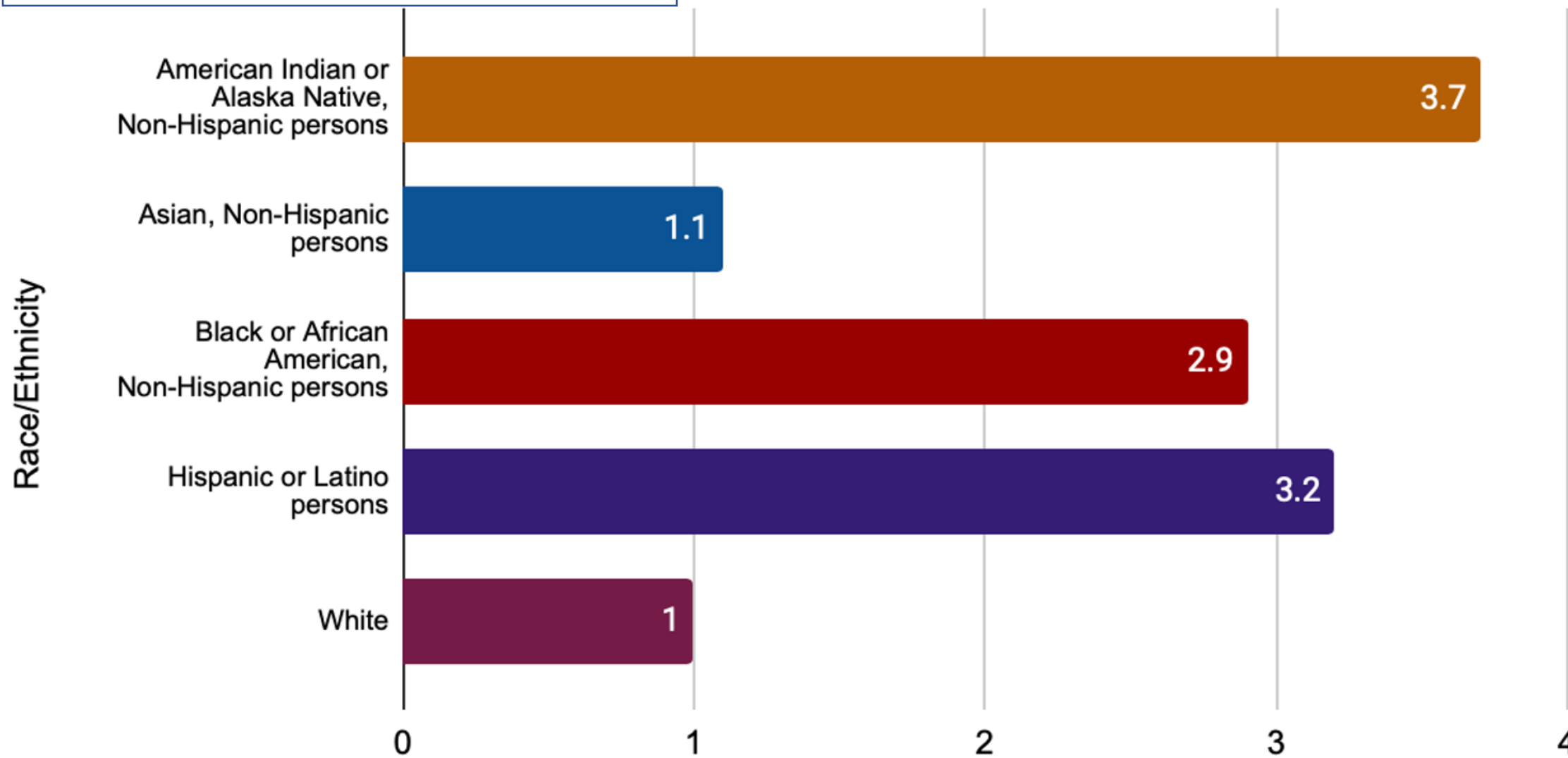
Updated Feb 18, 2021

Cases by Race/Ethnicity

COVID-19 Cases

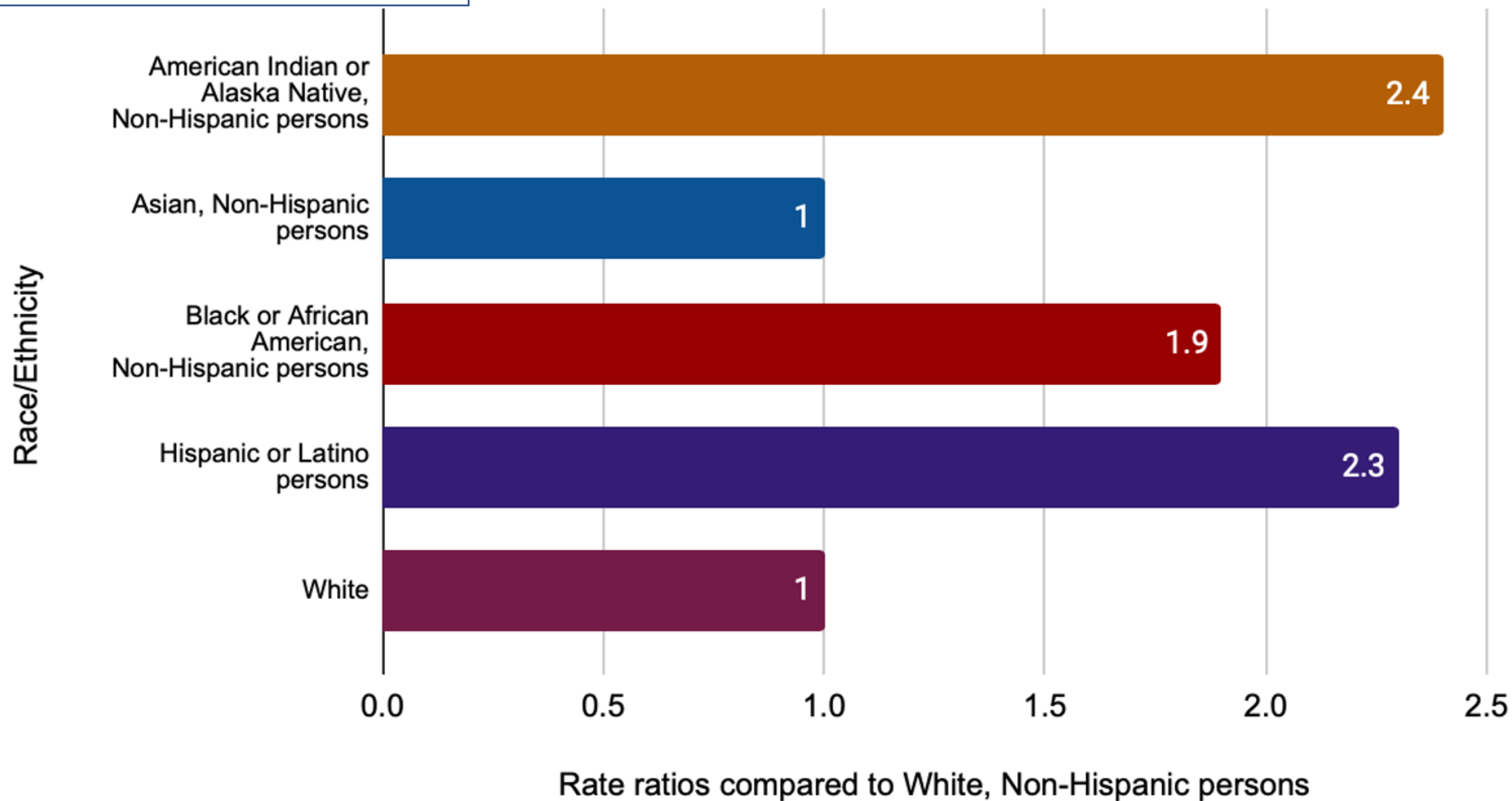


Hospitalizations

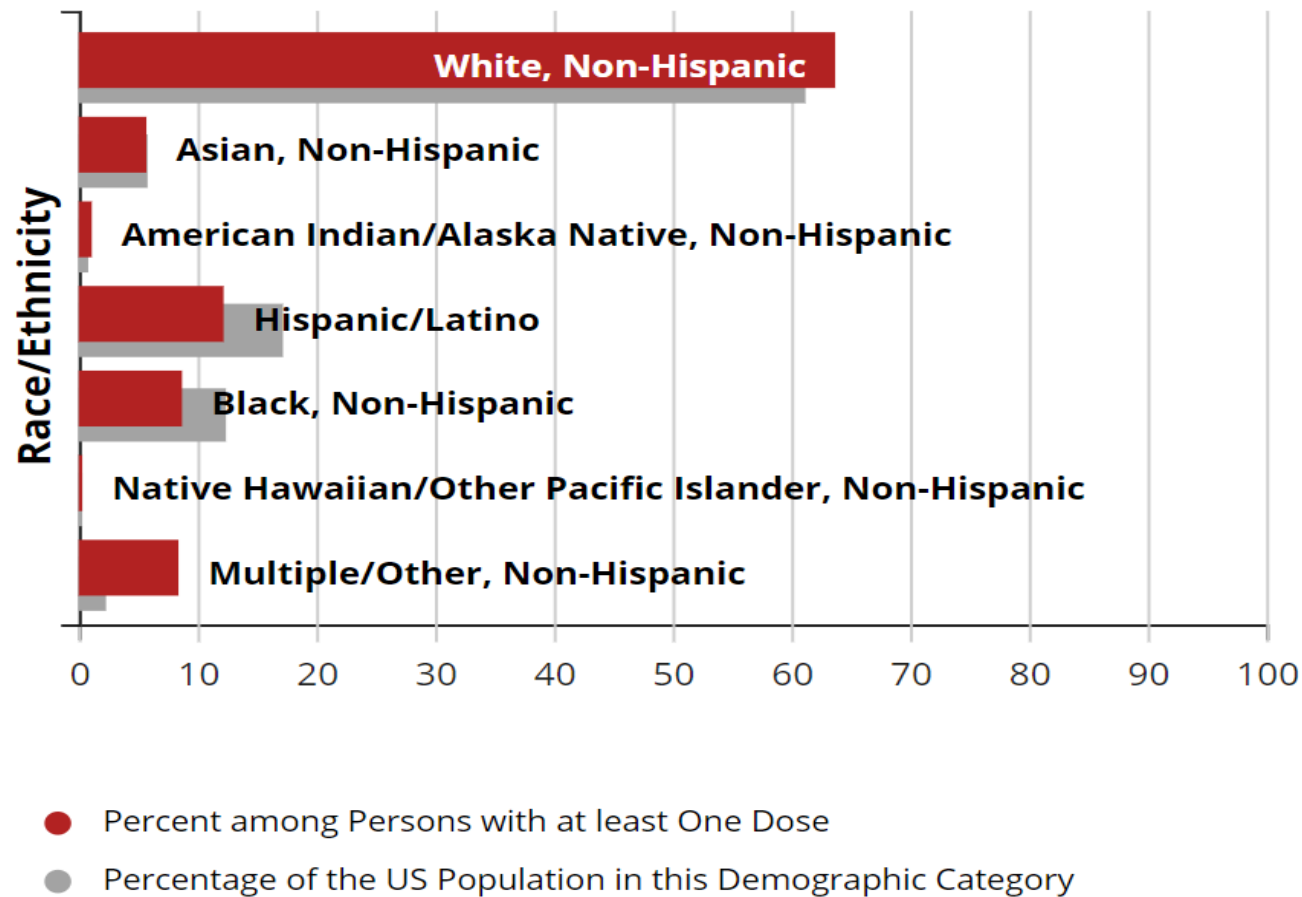


Rate ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic persons

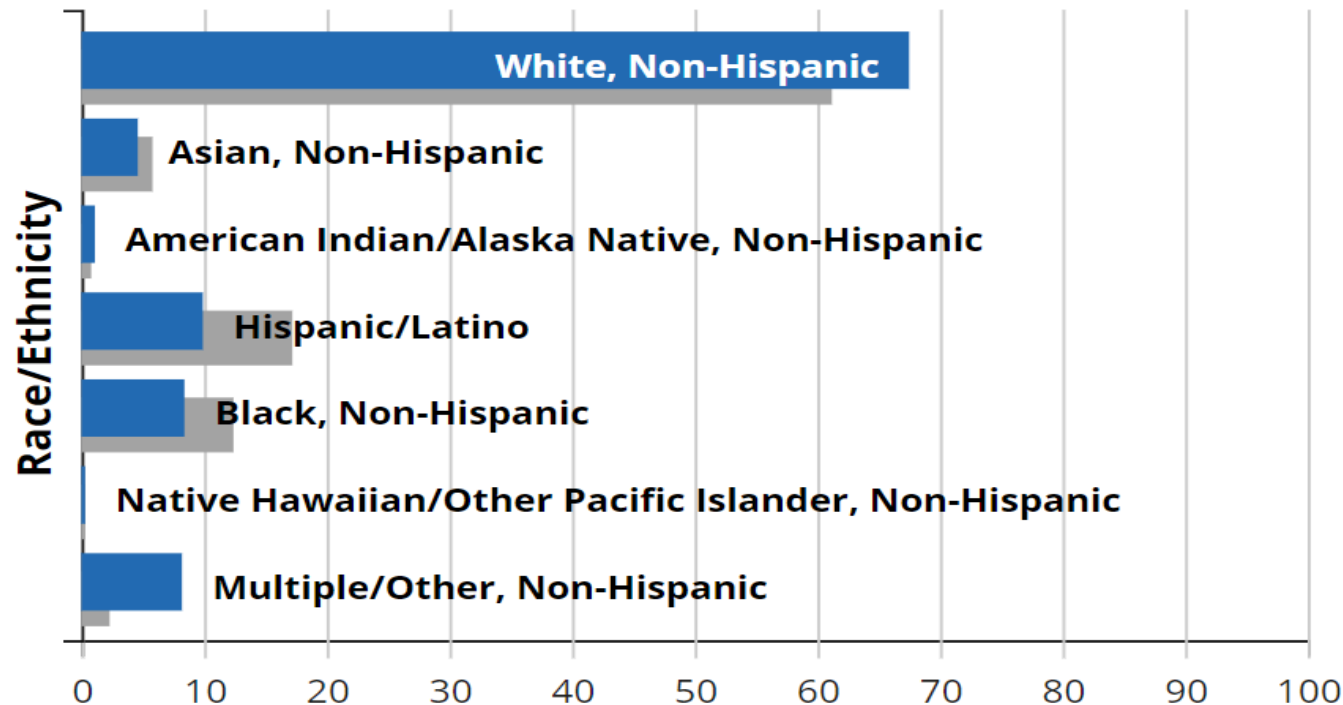
Deaths



Data from 142,692,987 people with at least one dose administered. Race/Ethnicity was available for 79,020,952 (55.4%) people with at least one dose administered.



Data from 98,044,421 people fully vaccinated.
Race/Ethnicity was available for 56,999,556
(58.1%) people fully vaccinated.



- Percent among Persons who are Fully Vaccinated
- Percentage of the US Population in this Demographic Category

Build Community **TRUST**

- Engage and **center the voices and perspectives of trusted messengers** who have roots in the community
- Launch campaigns in **partnership with trusted leaders** and community groups from disproportionately impacted communities
- Allow for **greater dialogue** on vaccines
- Use **multiple channels** of communication to reach vulnerable populations
- Use **accessible channels** to open spaces for community members to ask questions and provide input

Remove **BARRIERS** to Access

Many Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and Indigenous community members, face **limited access** to transportation, information (technology and language proficiency), and healthcare

- Address **historical distrust** in government and traditional medical centers
- Set up vaccine **distribution sites** within vulnerable communities.
- **Partner with community health centers** to improve accessibility of vaccine distribution
- Employ **innovative approaches**: mobile vaccination clinics

PRIORITIZE At-Risk Groups


- A stark example – the intersection of low life expectancy for Black residents and vaccine eligibility.

“More than 80% of Alabama’s Black population lived in a county where life expectancy didn’t meet vaccine eligibility.”

- Individuals most at risk are essential workers where vulnerable populations are over-represented
- Immigration status should not be a factor in prioritization for access to the vaccine

Addressing Vaccine **HESITANCY**

- Create spaces to discuss vaccine information and discuss hesitation
- Acknowledge past harm
- Counter any misinformation
- Reiterate the science
- Continue the conversation



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CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

HARD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE:
5 Resources for Addressing Hesitancy

While COVID-19 vaccines continue to be distributed throughout the country, many are still unsure if they will get the vaccine. Key in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is equitable access and distribution to ensure that vulnerable populations and communities that have been historically left behind are protected against the virus. Equally as important are leadership efforts by elected officials, public health officials, and their partners to ensure that public health messaging regarding the safety and the efficacy of vaccines reaches vaccine hesitant people.

Many Black, Indigenous, Latino/Hispanic and other people of color are hesitant to receive the vaccine due to historical and present accounts of racism in medicine and beyond. Vaccine distribution plans must address vaccine hesitancy concerns to reach herd immunity, protect vulnerable people, and contribute to the return to a sense of normalcy. This 5-step resource is designed to support the hard conversations about the vaccine with vaccine hesitant individuals.

DOWNLOAD NOW

**Thank you
HELO and
NBC-LEO!**

Contact

Leon T. Andrews

Director of Race, Equity And Leadership

andrews@nlc.org

202.626.3039

Rita Soler Ossolinski

Program Director, Race, Equity And Leadership

ossolinski@nlc.org

202.626.3008

Check out our website for more information:

www.nlc.org/REAL

Constituency Groups

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HELO HISPANIC ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS

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NBC-LEO NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF
LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Member Services & Engagement Team



Katrina Loraine Amos Washington
Director
Member Services & Engagement



Alejandra Piers-Torres
Member Engagement Manager
Midwest Region



Samantha Pedrosa
Member Engagement Manager
Constituency Groups
(HELO, LGBTQ+LO, & WIMG)



Timothy Evans
Member Engagement Manager
Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Region



Kirk Ross
Member Engagement Manager
West Region



Angelo Ford
Member Engagement Manager
Constituency Groups
(APAMO & NBC-LEO)



Katie Colten
Member Engagement Manager
South Region



Quineesa Smith
Member Engagement Manager
NLC Service Line Warranty Program



Eli Craveiro Frankel
Member Engagement
Senior Specialist

Russel Neal

Council Representative, Akron, OH
NBC-LEO President



Thank you!



Samantha Pedrosa

Member Engagement Manager
HELO, WIMG, LGBTLO

email: pedrosa@nlc.org | phone: (202) 626-3065



Angelo Ford

Member Engagement Manager
APAMO, NBC-LEO

email: ford@nlc.org | phone: (202) 626- 3137



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