



COVID-19 Social Problems in Contemporary America

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A decorative background consisting of a network diagram with nodes and connecting lines, primarily located on the left and right sides of the page. The nodes are represented by circles of varying sizes and colors (grey, white, blue), connected by thin grey lines.

31,361,208

Cases of COVID-19 in the United States

563,606

Deaths by COVID-19 in the United States

22.9%

Percentage of U.S. Population Fully Vaccinated

COVID-19 Impact

On the surface.

Numbers of cases,
hospitalizations, deaths,
vaccinations

What about...?

Socioeconomic Inequality
and Poverty

Unemployment and
Underemployment

Hazard Pay

Stimulus Packages

Foreclosures/Evictions

Access to Healthcare

Affordable Healthcare

Broadband Access

Educational Inequities

Issues Related to Race,
Gender, and Sexuality

Project Goal

Evaluate how COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing social problems across various American social institutions.



Outline

Socioeconomic Inequity,
Poverty, and Work



Inequities Related to Race



Educational Inequities



Health



Inequities Related to
Gender and Sexuality





1.

Socioeconomic Inequality, Poverty, and Work



Food Insecurity

42 million people may be at risk of facing hunger as a result of COVID-19 (Feeding America, 2021).



Broadband Internet

42 million people in the United States do not have access to internet at home (Barna, 2020).



Stimulus Money

8.1 million people fell below the poverty threshold in the last six months of 2020 after early CARES (Han et al., 2021).



Billionaire Wealth

From March 2020 to January 2021, the combined wealth of American billionaires rose from \$3 trillion to \$4.1 trillion, (Collins, 2021).



Eviction/Foreclosure

Estimates suggest that 30-40 million Americans were at risk in August 2020 (Benfer et al., 2020).



Work

10% of U.S. jobs have been lost in the lowest wage group, compared with only 3% in the highest wage group, between February 2020 and February 2021 (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2021).



2.

Health





Cost

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that around 47.5 million people were at risk of losing their employer insurance in April and May 2020, leading to around 30 million additional claims for unemployment health insurance plans (Antos & Capretta, 2020).

Telehealth

Limitations of telehealth include the need for in-person visits for urgent matters, privacy concerns, limited access to devices for all, lack of technological skills, and non-universal cultural acceptance (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020).

Health Literacy

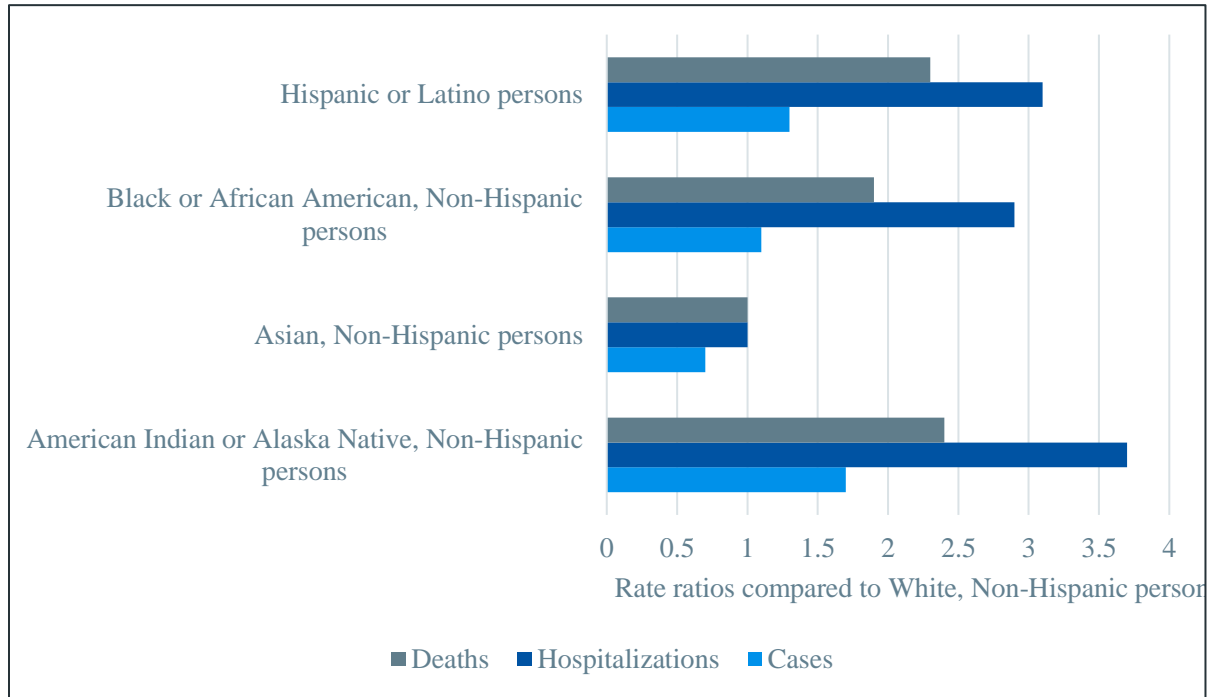
Age, education level, socioeconomic status, disability status, race, and primary language have all been shown to be social determinants of health literacy (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2020).



3.

Inequities Related to Race

Disease Risk – CDC, 2021





Treatment

One large population study found pulse oximeters missed hypoxemia (low blood oxygen concentration) readings in Black patients three times as often than in White patients (Sjoding et al., 2020).

Research

Demographic analysis of an early COVID-19 treatment clinical trial found that Black, Latinx, and Native Americans were underrepresented in the study samples despite their increased rates of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the real clinical world (Chastain et al., 2020).



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All of these factors — underlying health conditions, dense living conditions, employment in the service industry or as an essential worker, access to health care and racism — contribute to the impact of COVID-19 on people of color (Marshall, 2020).



4.

Inequities Related to Gender and Sexuality




Gender

Data from a recent study showed that for every ten women hospitalized or killed by COVID-19, there are twelve men who are hospitalized, eighteen men admitted to intensive care units, and fourteen men dying from the virus (Gerdeman, 2020).

Sexuality

According to the CDC, heterosexual individuals have lower rates of health conditions associated with severe COVID-19 manifestations—including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, kidney disease, cancer, and heart disease—compared to lesbian, gay, or bisexual individuals (Heslin & Hall, 2021).



5. **Educational Inequities**



Access to Resources

Data shows only 65.8% of children from households with an income under \$50,000 are using online resources for school while 85.8% of students from households with an income above \$100,000 are using these online resources (Mcelrath, 2020).

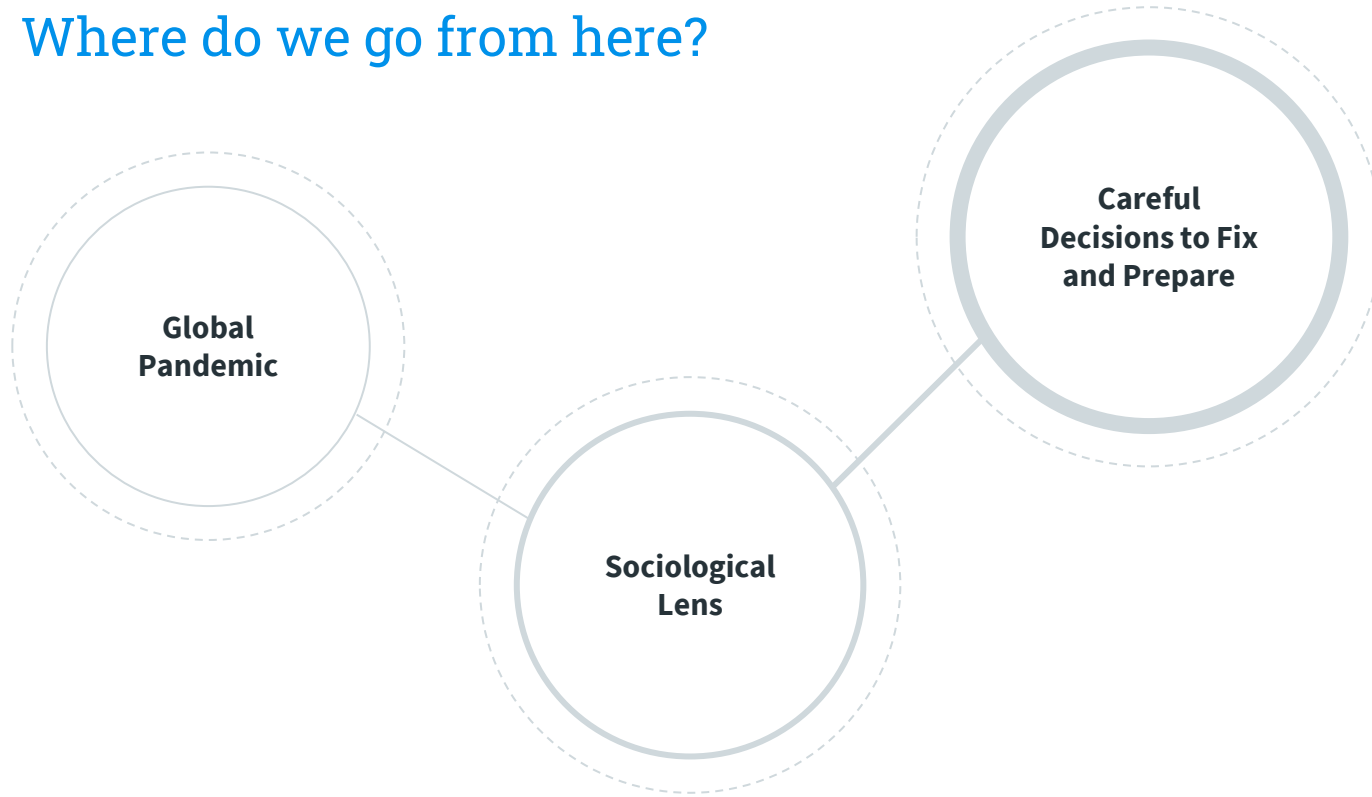
Teachers

Pre-pandemic research also reported that only a little over two-thirds of teachers reported having lessons on how to use computers in instruction—with satisfaction of these lessons being even lower (García and Weiss, 2020).

Food Insecurity

It is estimated that 1.15 billion meals were not provided to students qualifying for free and reduced lunch as a result of the 9-week closure between March 9 and May 1 (Kinsey, 2020).

Where do we go from here?



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