THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA POPULATIONS (2021)

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BACKGROUND

The pandemic has impacted the health of millions of individuals, disproportionately impacting people of color. Research has proven the positive effects of vaccinations in reducing the spread of COVID-19, ultimately decreasing negative symptoms and deaths from the virus.

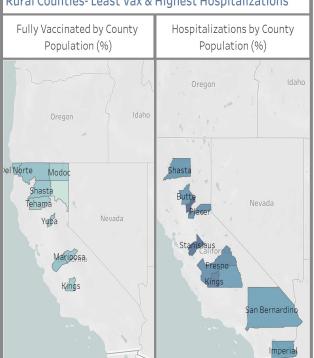
AUDIENCE

Local, county, policymakers, and nonprofits in CA

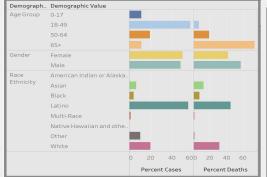
GOALS

Target intervention efforts for populations most in need and decrease the spread of COVID-19.

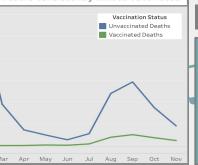
Rural Counties- Least Vax & Highest Hospitalizations







Unvaccinated Deaths Consistently Exceed Vaccinated



Conclusions

An analysis of COVID-19 impact across demographics revealed latinx and elderly communities have the highest percentages of deaths per cases. However, one limitation of this analysis was the lack of health information such as vaccination status, pre-existing health conditions, etc., so we cannot conclude why these communities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Comparing the percentage of fully vaccinated populations to COVID-19 hospitalizations per county, counties with higher percentages of vaccinated populations tend to have lower percentages of hospitalizations. Examining vaccination status and COVID-19 deaths, we observed higher unvaccinated deaths compared to vaccinated deaths. Considering both findings, it appears the vaccine is effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

NEXT STEPS

Interventions efforts need to be focused on increasing the number of vaccinations within unvaccinated communities as they are more likely to be hospitalized and die from COVID-19. Further research would need to be conducted to determine what factors are leading to latinx and elderly communities being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Future research with predictive modeling could be beneficial in focusing intervention efforts; however, we would require additional datasets at the county level.