Overcoming Barriers to Equitable and Effective COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

DECEMBER 17TH | 11:00 - 12:00PM PST / 2:00 - 3:00PM EST

Health Leads
Courtesy of Amplifier.org Global Call for COVID-19 Art Visit https://community.amplifier.org/campaign/global-open-call-for-art/ to vote for these artists!
Panelists

Nia Aitaoto, PhD, MS, MPH
Technical Assistance Lead
Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response Team

Tiffany Donelson, MPH
President and CEO
Connecticut Health Foundation

Janelle Rocktashel, MS
Special Projects Associate
Camden Coalition

Carly Bad Heart Bull, JD
Executive Director
Native Ways Federation

Maria Lemus
Executive Director
Vision y Compromiso

Denise Octavia Smith, MBA, BS, CHW, PN, SFC
Executive Director
National Association of Community Health Workers
Moderator
Tiffany Donelson, MPH

President and CEO

Connecticut Health Foundation
Connecticut Health Foundation

- Connecticut’s largest independent health philanthropy.
- Since 1999, the foundation has supported innovative grant-making, public policy research, leadership development, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission – to improve the health of the people of Connecticut.

- We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to be as healthy as possible — regardless of race, background or income level. We focus on improving health outcomes for people of color.

- Our theory is that by investing in systems change, we will make lasting changes that impact more lives.
Is Health Equity a Problem In CT?

- According to America’s Health Rankings® in 2019,
  - CT was ranked as the 4th healthiest state in the country
  - CT was also ranked 41st in the nation for disparities in health status.

- Report by DataHaven speaks to the social inequities in CT and the impact of COVID-19.
Ensuring Communities Aren’t Left Behind

- CT Health provided four recommendations to the state to ensure that its COVID-19 response reaches those who are most at risk.

- One of the recommendations is including community health workers in the state’s COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
  - In partnership with 4-CT, CT Health funded nine local health departments to use CHWs for a variety of activities.
    - CHWs were used for contact tracing, connecting people to needed resources, education on COVID-19, flu vaccine distribution.
  
- Looking ahead, community health workers will be important for vaccine education and distribution.
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<th>State</th>
<th>Cases per 100k</th>
<th>Case Rate Ranking*</th>
<th>Deaths per 100k</th>
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*Compared to other races/ethnicities in state; does not incl. Other or Unknown race

NHPI Case and Death Rates
As of Dec. 3, 2020

Data Source: The COVID Tracking Project, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
https://covidtracking.com/race/dashboard
Lessons Learned and Solutions

National and State Level
- Problem: Invisible Community of Color → Lack of support and resources
- Solution: Form Coalitions (State, Regional & National) to advocate for resources and mobilize assets

Local and Community Level
- Problem: Lack of trust in information provided by health officials
- Solution: Mobilize trusted community partners and provide support and training (https://pi-copce.org/)
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December 17, 2020
Health Equity and Native Communities

• COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact in Native communities
• Structural inequities and connection to health disparities – before, during and after the pandemic
• Lack of knowledge of sovereign status and federal trust responsibility
• Importance of engaging with tribal and urban Native communities
What can you do?

• Educate yourself and share information with colleagues
• Recognize history of distrust and build relationships with tribes, tribal programs and organizations to develop and implement culturally appropriate education efforts
• Support better, more reliable data – with Indigenous leadership at the table
• Join in Native-led advocacy efforts around Native health issues – including increasing resources for tribal health services
For more information…

National Indian Health Board (NIHB)
https://www.nihb.org/covid-19/

Indian Health Service (IHS)
https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/

Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)
https://www.uihi.org/projects/covid/

Native Ways Federation (NWF)
Website: www.nativeways.org
Email: cbadheartbull@nativeways.org
MARIA LEMUS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VISION Y COMPROMISO
Visión y Compromiso supports the transformational work of promotores, trusted community leaders who reach our most vulnerable residents during COVID 19 and vaccination efforts.
WE BELIEVE IN “HACIA UNA VIDA DIGNA Y SANA”

Maria Lemus, Executive Director, Visión y Compromiso
maria@visionycompromiso.org • www.visionycompromiso.org
Janelle Rocktashel, MS
Special Projects Associate
Camden Coalition
Vaccination Attitudes & Insights

6. What are your feelings about the COVID-19 vaccine?

DO NOT READ THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ALOUD
INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT THE RESPONDENT EXPRESSED CONCERN THROUGH
CONVERSATION

a. Did the respondent express feelings of concern throughout conversation? YES NO Prefer not to answer

IF THE RESPONDENT EXPRESSED CONCERN, PLEASE CHECK EACH ITEM OF CONCERN
THAT WAS MENTIONED

(If the respondent did not express feelings of concern, please skip to the next question)

I just don’t know enough about it
All vaccines are concerning, COVID is no different
Previous bad experience with vaccines (get a fever, etc.)
Concerns about getting COVID from the vaccine
Worry about insufficient testing
General safety concerns
Concerns about microchipping
Concerns about other governmental control
Vaccines target low-income communities of color
Worry about going into clinical sites during COVID
Lost employment during COVID and therefore
coverage/access to vaccines
Unemployment NOT related to COVID-19
Prefer not to answer
Other (please specify)

Surveying Partners

Camden Coalition Community Advisory Committee

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers
Takeaways:

1. Consulting with the community early in the project design process helps to center equity and strengthen relationships.

2. Leveraging existing, trusting relationships allows for deeper and more meaningful conversations with community members.

3. Using data and community voice to guide intervention design ensures that solutions are community-specific and more likely to succeed.

4. Closing the loop by reporting back to the community opens communication between community members, providers, etc. and demonstrates that community voices are valued.
Next Steps for Action - Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Initiative

Sign on:
Joint Statement On Ensuring Racial Equity In The Development And Distribution Of A COVID-19 Vaccine

Join us:
https://healthleadsusa.org/equitable-vaccine-distribution-project/
Learn more about our panelists!

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