

COVID-19 and Health Disparities: A Crisis within a Crisis



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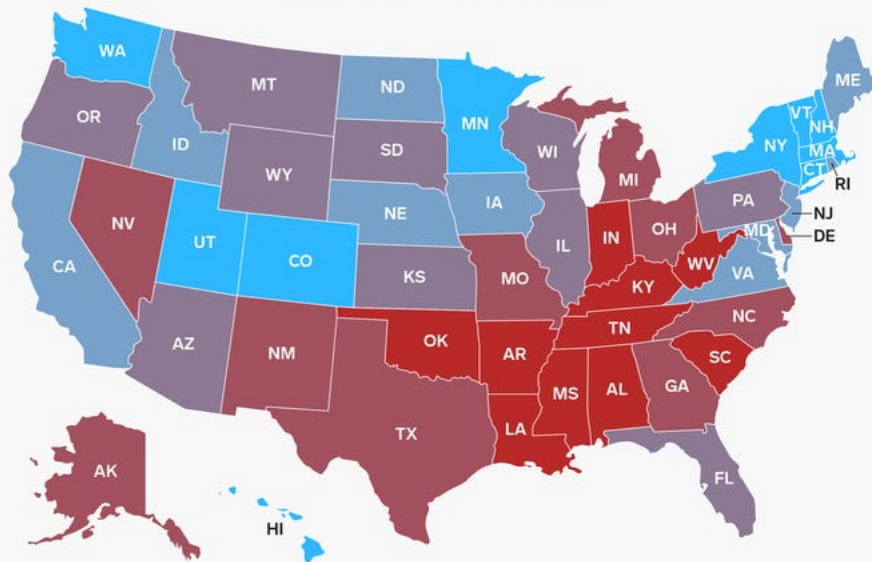
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Louisiana Rankings

Every state ranked by healthiness, 2018

Rank based on behaviors, environmental factors, policies, medical care, and outcomes

Most healthy  Least healthy



Source: United Health Foundation

Insider Inc.

- Ranks **49th out of 50** in the U.S. as one of the **least healthy states**
- Ranks **47th** in the U.S. for prevalence of **diabetes**, **46th** in **cardiovascular deaths** and **45th** for **obesity**
- **3rd** highest state in the nation for its poverty rate



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Health Disparities in Louisiana

Chronic illness

+

Low socioeconomic status

+

Barriers to Accessing Quality Health Care



Poor Health Outcomes
(Perpetuation of Health Inequities)



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Health Equity vs. Health Inequity

Health Equity

Everyone has the same opportunity to attain their highest level of health

Health Inequity

Stems from generations of African-Americans who have not had **access to resources** to obtain quality health care



Impact of COVID-19 on Louisiana

- The coronavirus put racial health disparities and economic inequities in the spotlight, of which Louisiana could not ignore.
- We applaud Governor John Bel Edwards for appointing the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force in April 2020. He heard our voices. The Task Force is a **CALL TO ACTION**



Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

Charge

To provide recommendations relative to health inequities which are affecting communities that are most impacted by the coronavirus. The task force will examine opportunities which provide greater access to high quality medical care and improve health outcomes.

Goals/Outcomes

- Provide reliable and data driven information on COVID-19 safety and prevention
- Provide the medical community with best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities
- Ensure testing availability and ease of access for all communities

Timeline

Louisiana's COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force will begin its work immediately and continue as needed. Its actions and research will ultimately result in improved health equity in Louisiana, serve as a foundation and resource for addressing healthcare disparities in vulnerable populations, and contribute to the progression and improvement of Louisiana's healthcare rankings. To measure progress, a statewide Dashboard on Health Equity will be created.



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Priorities



COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities



COVID-19 Communication and Messaging



COVID-19 Data and Analysis



COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard



COVID-19 in Special Populations – LA Prisons



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Priorities



COVID-19 in Special Populations- Nursing Home residents



COVID-19 Policy and Regulatory Affairs



COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement



COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare



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Deliverables



COVID-19 Testing for Vulnerable and At-Risk Communities

Review State-wide Testing Plan for COVID-19 and antibody testing and quarantine. Review statewide protocols for testing, geomapping of testing, barriers to testing, location of testing sites, COVID-19 mobile testing efforts, and local government's role in testing, contact tracing efforts. A comprehensive recommendation to facilitate COVID-19 testing for vulnerable and at-risk communities (symptomatic and asymptomatic) will be produced.



COVID-19 Communication and Messaging

Develop a Health Equity Task Force website with a social media platform inclusive of COVID-19 safety and prevention, cultural relevant messaging, de-stigmatization, misperceptions, etc. utilizing *The Skin You're In* platform as a template. Incorporate measures to reach rural communities and the elderly with limited or no access to broadband. Include street campaign strategies and incorporate measures such as geofencing to reach our youth.



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Deliverables



COVID-19 Data and Analysis

A comprehensive statewide report on COVID-19 data based on age, gender, and race with geospatial analysis of mortality will be developed.

Obtain COVID 19 data to include deaths by age/race/zip codes; hospitalizations by age and race; cases and deaths in nursing homes and prisons by age and race; # of people tested by age and race; obesity data; cross tabulation of data with co-morbidities; Various nationalities, including Latino community numbers, will be included.



Health Equity Dashboard

Develop a Louisiana Health Equity Dashboard. Explore Health Equity Dashboards in other states to use as a guide.



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Deliverables



COVID-19 in Special Populations – LA Prisons

Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana's prison population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in Louisiana's prison population will be developed.



COVID-19 in Special Populations — Nursing Home Residents

Explore the impact of COVID-19 on special populations, specifically Louisiana's nursing home population (examining the # of positive cases, deaths, age, gender, race, geographic location). A comprehensive plan to address safety and prevention of COVID-19 in nursing home residents will be developed.



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Deliverables



COVID-19 Policy and Regulatory Affairs

This committee will recommend policies and regulations to state legislature to minimize inequitable distribution of healthcare services as it relates to discrimination, access to care, quality of care and other fundamental drivers of health disparities.



COVID-19 Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

Develop a comprehensive guide for best practices, strategies, and resources to address COVID-19 utilizing community and faith-based organizations as it relates to isolation, grieving, and COVID-19 survivorship inclusive of older adults. This subcommittee will also identify platforms to increase community engagement and outreach for COVID-19.



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Deliverables



COVID-19 Racial Disparities in Healthcare

Review *Crisis of Care Standards for Louisiana* and make recommendations for modification or updates. Review provider bias influence on health outcomes. Explore medical mistrust among African Americans. Provide a comprehensive inventory of best practices, evidenced-based solutions that address racial disparities in healthcare for Louisiana.



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Task Force Structure and Members

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Next Steps

- Continue engagement with the Louisiana Department of Health to facilitate:
 - Development and implementation of the COVID-19 Health Equity Dashboard
 - Update the *Crisis of Care Manual*
- Expand messaging communications throughout the state using TV, radio platforms, and digital media.
- Hire a consultant to research the “Cost of Care for COVID-19.”



Next Steps

- Follow up on the availability of disaggregated data from nursing homes and prisons.
- Provide input (through the three representatives) from the Task Force who serves on the LA Vaccine Collaborative Committee regarding safety and equitable deployment of a vaccine (when available).



Next Steps

- Recommend to the Louisiana Legislature to:
 - Remove restrictive regulatory barriers that prevent NPs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training
 - Allow nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives to practice to the full extent of their licensure and education by removing practice barriers.
 - Mandate that Healthcare system trainees, clinicians, staff, and administrators receive continuous professional development and education in confronting disparities in medicine as experienced in their community.



**COVID-19 AFFECTS US THE MOST.
MASK UP. GET TESTED.
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING.**



Thank You

To access the full recommendations from the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, visit

www.sus.edu/lacovidhealthequity

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