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A COVID Crisis Comes to Light

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"We want to make sure that our elders can continue to live and thrive."

When they learned of [#Covid19](#)'s disproportionate effect on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) jumped in to shed light on the health disparity, and to address it.

See how data led to action: <https://ucla.in/3sti8Ek>

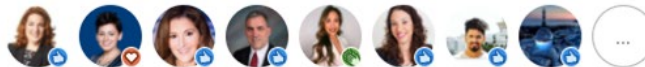


Covid-19 response for L.A.'s Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander comm...

Melissa Abraham and 221 others

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Karla Thomas
Policy director, NHPI Data Policy Lab

but trying to target specifically our Native Hawaiian

When they learned that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were three times more likely to contract Covid-19 compared to white people and nearly twice as...

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"We want to make sure that our elders can continue to live and thrive."

When they learned about [#Covid19](#)'s disproportionate effect on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, [@UCLAchpr](#) jumped in to shed light, and address the disparity.

Story: ucla.in/3sti8Ek | [#AAPIHM](#)



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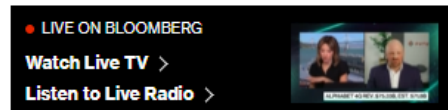
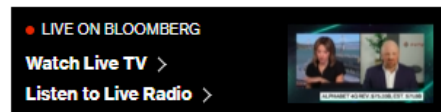
Bloomberg Equality + Businessweek Coverage

Bloomberg Equality + Businessweek

In California, where Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) data is collected, NHPIs had the highest death rates of any racial and ethnic group, according to the NHPI Covid-19 Data Policy Lab at UCLA. Yet government health officials weren't overly concerned with NHPI Covid cases, says Calvin Chang, co-founder of UCLA's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Data Policy Lab. Their response was "you guys should be happy, your numbers are really low," says Chang.

This sheds light on urgent trends. For example, the CHIS shows big health disparities among all Filipinos, not just health workers, compared with the general population. And Ninez Ponce, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, points out that Asian health-care workers overall have the highest Covid-19 case fatality rate—deaths per diagnosed cases—in California, according to restricted data from the state's Department of Public Health.

While there are many Asian ethnicities, the six largest subgroups account for 85% of all Asian Americans. Surveys in the main Asian languages would reach a large swath. It is more expensive to do

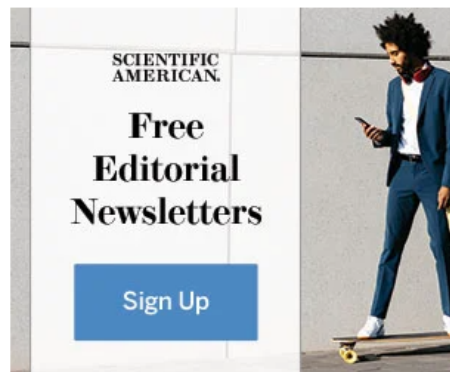


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On a more granular level, COVID has devastated specific groups of AAPIs, such as Filipino nurses. They account for nearly one third of COVID-related nurse deaths although they are just 4 percent of nurses in the U.S. In California, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) had the highest death rates of any racial and ethnic group in the state, according to the NHPI COVID-19 Data Policy Lab at UCLA.

Yet these alarming numbers about Asian Americans and COVID get little attention from mainstream media, academics and public health experts. Thus, resources to prevent and treat COVID are not fully deployed, which results in needless death and suffering. Vulnerable Asians—low-income, elderly, immigrants with limited English, and 1.7 million undocumented who can't readily access health care—are especially at risk. But they are neglected, sometimes until it's too late.



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