



# COVID 19 Impacts on Vulnerable Communities

Local, National, Global  
and Across Sectors

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# 1. Black Americans



Washington Post analysis about the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on Black Americans.

- 1. Higher rates of underlying health conditions, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and lung disease, and less access to care.** Hospitals in predominantly black neighborhoods are more likely to close down than those in predominantly white neighborhoods. And there's implicit bias on the part of the health-care providers. Studies have shown that there's bias toward white patients over patients of color.”

## **2. Black Americans hold a lot of ‘essential’ jobs**

- Black people are more likely to work in jobs that put workers in close contact with others making social distancing more difficult such as the food service industry, hotel industry, taxi drivers and chauffeurs.

3. Insufficient information: bad and inconsistent information from governments, and information that did not seem to represent the Black community.

## 4. Housing disparities

- Black children are more likely to suffer from asthma because they live in older buildings that harbor fecal matter and rodent infestations, and which are in segregated neighborhoods that are near busy highways.
- People of color are more likely to live in densely packed areas and in multi-generational housing situations. Families in urban centers tend to double and triple up when rent is unaffordable, making distancing in the home impossible.
- Poorer housing stock and code violations for asbestos, mold and cockroaches increase the risk and prevalence of respiratory and pulmonary diseases.

# EHP – Environmental health Perspectives

## Dwelling Disparities: How Poor Housing Leads to Poor Health



# PrecisionforCovid.org

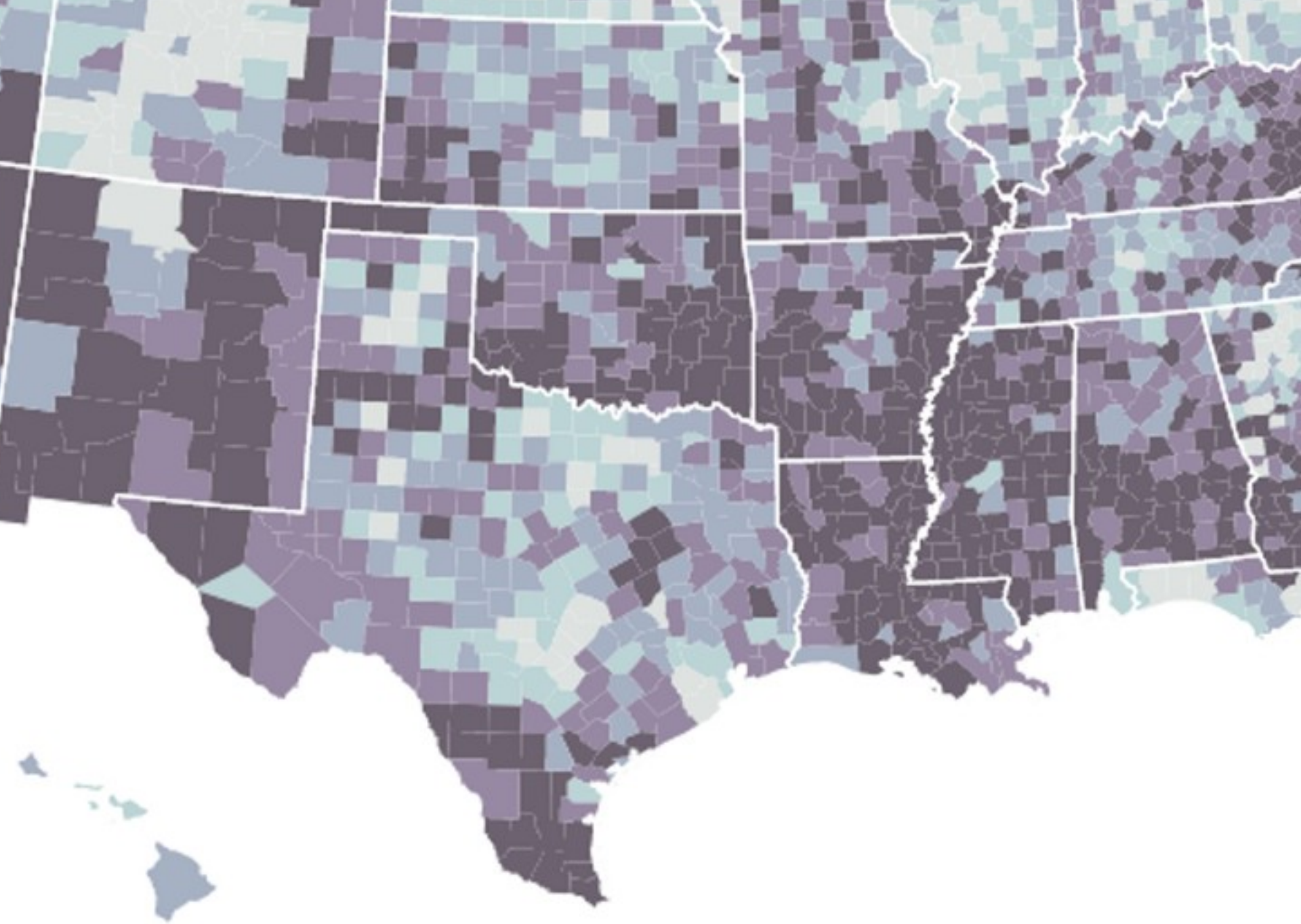




# Precisionforcovid.org/ccvi

The Covid 19 community vulnerability Index

- **This Index identifies which communities may need the most support as coronavirus takes hold. Mapped to US Census tract, county and state levels, the CCVI helps inform Covid-19 planning and mitigation at a granular level.**
- **71% of all vulnerable communities are concentrated in the South.**
- **What does this mean for the future of the pandemic? The Northeast has been the hardest hit region so far, yet it only contains 1% of the vulnerable communities in the US.** The worst is yet to come for many of the nation's most vulnerable communities.



# SVI- Social Vulnerability Index

- Measures the expected negative impact of disasters of any type grouped into 6 themes:
  1. Socioeconomic status.....AR -.9
  2. Household Composition and Disability AR - .98
  3. Minority Status and Language....AR - .36
  4. Housing type and transportation ...AR - .82
- Covid 19 Specific Vulnerability Factors
  1. Epidemiologic Factors ...AR - .84
  2. Health Care System Factors...AR - .82
- Overall Arkansas Score - .96

# State - Level Ranking

- To compare:

1. Alabama – 1
2. Alaska - .3
3. Arizona - .5
4. California -.68
5. Colorado -.12
6. Connecticut - .14
7. Delaware - .36
8. Georgia - .86
9. New York .94
10. Vermont - .02

# 3. Equity in Action

## EQUITY IN ACTION: Envisioning a Post-COVID Arkansas

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | Diversity & Inclusion IDEALS Institute

winthrop rockefeller foundation

A feed-your-mind lunchtime discussion powered by the IDEALS Institute in partnership with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

**MAY 21, 2020**  
12:00–1:30 PM (CDT)

While COVID-19 did not create economic, social or educational inequities, the crisis has certainly sharpened our collective focus on the systemic disparities that negatively impact our most vulnerable communities, both nationally and right here at home. Join us for a deep-dive conversation about equity in Arkansas—both what we are learning from the current crisis and how these lessons can be a catalyst for lasting change. Equity in Action convenes a cross-section of community leaders to share their perspectives on this crisis and envision how our state can move forward, post-COVID, in a way that leaves no one behind.

**PANELISTS**

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  <p><b>SHERECE WEST-SCANTLEBURY, PH.D.</b><br/>CEO OF THE WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION</p> |  <p><b>RICH HUDDLESTON</b><br/>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ARKANSAS ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</p> |  <p><b>MAGALY LICOLLI</b><br/>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VENCEREMOS</p> |  <p><b>KARAMA NEAL, PH.D.</b><br/>PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERN BANCORP COMMUNITY PARTNERS</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

Hosted by **Elecia C. Smith, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director of IDEALS Institute

**TO REGISTER:** <https://bit.ly/EquityAction>  
Please submit any questions for the panelists in advance to: [ideals@uark.edu](mailto:ideals@uark.edu)



# Equity in Action: IDEALS.UARK.EDU

Rich Huddleston from Arkansas Association for Children and Families ( AACF

- In Arkansas, African Americans are 17% of the population and 36% of the cases.
- Pacific Islanders have 4.5 higher case rates and death rates than the Arkansas average.



# AACF: COVID 19: 3 Policy Principles to Advance Equity

- While more federal aid to states could help ease state budget shortfalls, Arkansas lawmakers can help reverse current trends and create a broader economic recovery by enacting policies that adhere to the three principles set out in a new report from the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#):

# 1. Target Arkansans with the greatest health and economic needs

- Serve people experiencing homelessness
- Expand cash assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Extend health care to people who are undocumented
- Enhance food assistance for struggling families and individuals
- Establish emergency child care services for essential workers
- Protect funding for schools and support students most in need
- Release youth from confinement and support re-entry into schools and communities
- Require and fund COVID-19 data tracking to understand its disparate impacts



# Further Concerns

Many jobs won't be coming back.

- Restaurant and hospitality
- Child care – impacting those providing the care and the parents who need it

## Education

- Children from low-income families are losing more ground, lack of online access and technology.
- Loss of after-school and summer programs
- School budgets could face greater cuts than police budgets as cities deal with the economic impact of the pandemic, yet more evidence of racial inequality. NYT, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

# Magaly Licolli - Venceremos

- Risks to meat processing workers, especially with respiratory problems.
- Punished by missing work.
- Most companies not providing adequate PPE or hazard pay.
- Still suppressing information about how many workers are ill.
- So far nationally, there are 14,000 positive cases of COVID-19.
- Undocumented afraid to go to hospital.
- We want justice, not charity.



# TYSON

- **Tyson Foods has doubled its "thank you bonus" pool from \$60 million to \$120 million; workers will receive \$500 bonuses in early May and July.**
- **The company also increased short-term disability leave to 90% of a worker's normal pay, which it offers instead of paid sick leave.**
- **At least eight Tyson workers have died of COVID-19, and more than 1,180 have been infected.**
- **President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Tuesday compelling meat processing plants to stay open.**

# UPDATE on Poultry workers – Democrat Gazette –Huntsville, AR

- There are now more than 100 COVID-19 cases at poultry plants in Northwest Arkansas.
- Ozark Mountain Poultry in Rogers has had 48 cases of COVID-19, Cargill Poultry in Springdale has had 25 cases and Butterball in Huntsville has had eight of those cases.
- In total, Benton County has had 69 cases and Washington County has had 44 cases.
- Butterball said it is working hard to flatten the curve at the plant by having employees wear masks, doing temperature checks and putting up Plexiglas partitions between workers..
- Magaly Licolli with the poultry workers' rights group, Venceremos, said she will keep advocating for the employees until the plants do more to stop the spread of COVID-19.

# ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed - Sherece West

- 41% of Arkansas households can't afford basic household necessities.
- The current crisis is demonstrating how exposed ALICE households — and therefore our communities and businesses — are to an emergency. **Here are some of the intersecting ways ALICE workers, families, and seniors will be impacted by this crisis:**

# 1. Workers

- ALICE workers play essential roles in state and national economies, building and repairing our infrastructure and educating and caring for our past, current, and future workforce. Some are in the trenches caring for COVID-19 patients. Yet many ALICE workers do not have basic employee protections — such as annual salary, adequate health care coverage, and access to other benefits — that would help them withstand the COVID-19 crisis.

## 2. Children and Families

- One-third of families with children (38% across the U.S.) have income below the ALICE Threshold
- Young children will not have their regular routine, including meals, socialization, and early education.
- In households without backup child care options, one parent will not be able to work.
- With less access to the internet and computers, ALICE children will have difficulty participating in online learning.
- Parents who need to go on-site to work cannot stay at home with their children.
- ALICE families will forgo other supports, such as free breakfasts and lunches provided at school.
- Many ALICE students work and are still food insecure; those without access to housing or their meal plan, will be further exposed.
- Potential delays in education credentials will add to and prolong student debt and further push out better employment options.
- Many education workers are ALICE — including child care workers and school and college support staff — and they are paid hourly, without benefits.
- Educators are more susceptible to serious cases of COVID-19 than are children and teens.
- As education institutions close, these workers will lose wages and struggle to support their own children.



# 3. Seniors

- The age group most susceptible to serious illness from COVID-19 is people over 60 years old.
- Half of seniors in the U.S. have income below the ALICE Threshold; they have no extra income and little or no savings to cover extra health care costs.
- Many seniors live in close conditions, such as retirement communities and nursing homes.
- When senior centers close, there are additional hardships for ALICE seniors and their families:
  1. Additional burden on families for care-giving
  2. Lack of other supports such as hot meals and social activity
  3. Social isolation, which can cause or exacerbate depression
  4. Many of the medications that seniors need have had (or may have) their supply from China disrupted.
- Nursing homes are dependent on ALICE workers to provide regular care critical to the health and comfort of seniors; patients will suffer if ALICE workers become sick and cannot work.
- Despite doing physically and mentally demanding work, ALICE health care workers are paid low-wages only for the hours they work; and especially during COVID-19, they are at risk of illness themselves.

# 4. Native Americans



# Navajo Nation Sees High Rate Of COVID-19 And Contact Tracing Is A Challenge: LAUREL MORALES

- After New York and New Jersey, the place with the highest coronavirus infection rate in the U.S. is the Navajo Nation.
- Contact tracing is difficult. Not everybody has a phone, and it takes hours to drive to one home.
- Many households lack clean, running water. Some homes do not have reliable electricity. Hospitals are few and far apart.
- IHS per capita spending is much lower than we see for veterans medical spending or Medicare spending. IHS is chronically underfunded.
- There's an acute nursing shortage on the Navajo Nation, and the tribe is desperately lacking in equipment.
- There are not enough strike teams or contact tracers to get a complete picture of how far COVID-19 has spread on the Navajo Nation.

## The Navajo Nations' Dine College faces the Worst Coronavirus outbreak in the Country. Viviann Anguiano May 21, 2020

- In Arizona, Native Americans have accounted for about 20% of COVID-19 deaths, even though they make up only 5 percent of the state's population. The situation is so alarming that Doctors Without Borders sent at least two teams of doctors to Navajo Nation to help fight the disease.
- Due to this devastation, many Diné College students are caring for family members who are sick with COVID-19. At the same time, students—many of whom already lived in poverty before the pandemic—have lost jobs, face child care shortages, and are without electricity or running water.

# Impact on Native American Economy

- Over the past few decades, Native American nations have increasingly taken on greater responsibility for providing a wide range of governmental services on their lands. Unlike state and local governments, however, the tribes cannot collect adequate taxes to pay for these operations, making them dependent on income from casinos and other enterprises to pay for law enforcement, public safety, and social services.
- With tribal businesses halted and their services in peril, the economic impact of COVID-19 on Native American communities could be devastating. There is not a single Indian casino in the United States open today, and all tribal businesses are closed.
- “Native American tribes’ tax base have been cut literally to zero, and tribal governments don’t have money to run the health clinic or child protection services,” Kalt said. “While state and local governments are also in trouble, at least they have a tax base, but tribes are really struggling because their tax base has been wiped out.”

# 5. Immigration



# Honduras

- **The government's response to the pandemic was centralized, militarized, and devoid of oversight.**
- Doctors and nurses protested the lack of protective gear.
- The government launched a program to provide sacks of food and sanitary supplies which was criticized for focusing distribution on members of the governing Nationalist Party—as well as for being insufficient to meet the increasing demands for food as layoffs escalated.
- The government loan program for businesses was largely unavailable to the informal sector, comprising 70% of the labor force.
- As part of the mandatory lockdown, the Honduran government suspended constitutional guarantees, including freedom of expression and assembly.
- Honduras's Human Rights Roundtable summarized the concerns about the government's handling of the pandemic, denouncing “the reduction of civic space and the repression of the work of human rights defenders; the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; setbacks to workers' rights, such as dismissals and unjustified suspension of labor contracts; and the politicized distribution of humanitarian aid

# COVID-19 compounds a long list of problems in Guatemala

- Guatemala will be hit hard by the effects of COVID-19, piling further hardship on a population already suffering extreme poverty, violence, and years of climate change-driven drought.
- As the number of confirmed cases passed 700, scores of people took to the streets of Guatemala's cities in recent days, waving white or red flags, signaling they need food and medicine.
- Many Guatemalans have lost their jobs or can't access informal work due to strict lockdown measures, and a quarter of overseas remittances –approximately 12 % of the country's GDP – have stopped, according to Oxfam's representative in the capital.





#JUNTOS  
SALIEMOS  
ADELANTE

# Guatemala

- Weak development, high levels of violence, and a lack of government accountability have contributed to mass emigration to the United States, increasingly of women and children and entire families rather than just the young Guatemalan men who used to more typically migrate.
- However, tough US anti-immigration policies – in particular a July 2019 law barring Central Americans from seeking asylum in the United States if they don't seek it first in the countries they cross – have effectively shut the door on Guatemalan asylum seekers.
- Dependent on Washington for aid, Guatemala is bound by a 2019 accord that obliges it to not only to accept Guatemalan deportees from the United States but also any failed asylum seekers the United States wants to return from El Salvador and Honduras.
- Last month, as COVID-19 cases rose rapidly, Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei suspended deportations after planes were found to be carrying large numbers of infected people. The US authorities now appear to be testing deportees prior to departure, and flights have resumed.
- Some 20 % of infections in Guatemala have been traced to the returnees.

# Water scarcity in world adds to virus fears

- HARARE, Zimbabwe -- Some 3 billion people, from indigenous communities in Brazil to war-shattered villages in northern Yemen, have nowhere to wash their hands with soap and clean water at home, according to the charity group WaterAid.
- The group fears that global funding is being rushed toward vaccines and treatments without "any real commitment to prevention."
- In the Arab region alone, about 74 million people don't have access to a basic hand-washing facility, the United Nations says.

## 6. Refugees



- A young mother waits outside of her tent in Moria that she shares with two other families.

# How are Refugees affected by Covid 19?

Johns Hopkins Magazine- Paul Spiegel

- Refugee camps—in which about one out of every three refugees lives—are often located in remote areas with limited health care. Usually, there aren't any hospitals in refugee camps. Some of the bigger camps do have them, but few of them will have ICUs or ventilators. There's a pressing question of whether refugees will be able to access host-country hospitals and ICUs when, in many cases, there aren't enough for that country's national population. So access to health care is a major vulnerability.

# Why are Refugee Populations more Vulnerable?

- Second, refugees often live with multiple families in very high population-density conditions. People are especially concerned about the Rohingya population in Bangladesh because they are almost 900,000 people in an incredibly dense area.
- Refugees are also more likely to have underlying health conditions such as acute malnutrition.
- There are also over 40 million people who have left their home in fear of persecution and conflict but remain in their country. Internally displaced persons such as those in Darfur, Sudan, as well as Idlib, Syria, are at extreme risk because they are being persecuted in their own country and don't have the same rights that refugees have. The health care systems in these places are already in shambles.

# Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh



"IN A CLOSED, DETENTIONLIKE SETTING, THE PANDEMIC WILL SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. THAT'S ONE OF THE WORST SCENARIOS"

## **Have there already been COVID-19 outbreaks within refugee populations?**

- They're starting. There's an outbreak in the Greek detention centers for asylum seekers and migrants. There have also been cases of COVID-19 among asylum seekers and migrants in U.S. detention centers.
- The worst is yet to come as the pandemic expands to the Middle East, Africa, and other parts of Asia because that's where most refugees are located.
- Refugee communities attempt “shielding” the most vulnerable.
- NGOs use strategies of social distancing in handing out supplies .
- Doctors and nurses must triage cases.



# Key strategies to prevent and mitigate cases among refugee populations

- Testing and services must be provided to everyone within a geographic region, regardless of whether an individual is a national or a refugee. Differentiating makes no public health sense.
- High-income countries need to fund the response in low- and middle-income countries because those countries don't have the means to deal with this. When the outbreak gets to these populations, it will be very serious without external help. And that puts the rest of the world at continued risk. It's both of humanitarian interest and self-interest to support these countries.
- The pandemic must not be used as an excuse to increase xenophobia and stigmatization, or to implement policies such as stopping asylum because refugees are too much of a burden. There is concern that governments are going to be using this pandemic as an excuse for repressive policies.

# Water and Covid 19

- Nearly a decade of civil war has damaged much of Syria's water infrastructure, and millions must resort to alternative measures.
- In Yemen, five years of war left over 3 million people displaced with no secure source of water, and there are growing fears that primitive sources such as wells are contaminated.
- In Manaus, Brazil, 300 families in one poor indigenous community have water only three days a week from a dirty well.
- Across Africa, where virus cases are closing in on 100,000, more than half of the continent's 1.3 billion people must leave their homes to get water.
- Where it is made available via trucks or wells, the long lines of people could become "potentially dangerous breeding grounds for the virus."

# The Amazon

- ROSARIO, Argentina-According to the Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network (REPAM), the people of the Amazon region are more at risk to the coronavirus pandemic, due to the lack of a proper educational system and to the inaccessibility to adequate hygienic and sanitary services.
- By April 29, over 967 people in the Amazon region had died of COVID-19, with 16.498 having tested positive for the coronavirus.
- Many communities in the nine-country Amazon region live in semi-isolation or in voluntary isolation.
- The mandatory lockdown and its enforcement in the cities has left the region more vulnerable to illegal extractivist industries, that are responsible not only for the destruction they're causing to the ecosystem, but are also to blame for importing the virus to the region, to communities that have an immune system that is not adapted to diseases common in developed nations.



# US Sanctions

- [Sanctionskill.org](https://sanctionskill.org) webinar
- Ambassadors from several sanctioned countries compared the sanctions to the officer's knee on George Floyd's neck, causing the deaths of thousands of innocents.

# US Sanctions

- Sanctions, also known as embargoes, are essentially the imposition of arbitrary measures of economic and inhumane hardship on a country. **US sanctions affect a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures impacting 39 countries.**
- The countries imposing economic sanctions are the wealthiest, the most powerful, and the most industrially developed countries in the world. The intention is to choke the economies of poor, developing countries, most of which were formerly colonized. The sanctions, as well as visiting extreme hardship upon the civilian population, are intended to serve as a dire threat to surrounding countries, as they impact the economies of the whole region.
- International law and conventions, including the Geneva and Nuremberg Conventions, United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, explicitly prohibit the targeting of defenseless civilians, especially in times of war.

# Countries facing economic sanctions include

1. Afghanistan, 2. Belarus 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4. Burundi, 5. Central African Republic, 6. China (PR) 7. Comoros 8. Crimea Region of Ukraine 9. Cuba 10. Cyprus, 11. Democratic Republic of the Congo 12. Guinea, 13. Guinea Bissau, 14. Haiti, 15. Iran, 16. Iraq, 17. Kyrgyzstan, 18. Laos, 19. Lebanon, 20. Libya 21. Mali 22. Mauritania 23. Moldova 24. Montenegro 25. Myanmar, 26. Nicaragua, 27. North Korea - DPRK, 28. Palestinian Territories, 29. Russia, 30. Rwanda, 31. Serbia 32. Somalia 33. South Sudan, 34. Sudan, 35. Syria 36. Tunisia 37. Venezuela, 38. Yemen, 39. Zimbabwe.

**Sanctionskill.org webinar series**

# Impact of US Sanctions on fighting Covid - 19

- Sanctions

1. Prevent countries from providing needed medical equipment, nutrition and service materials.
2. The unilateral coercive measures affect the ability of economic sectors to perform trades in the energy, banking, health, industry and transportation sectors.
3. They devalue the currency causing inflation.



# North Korea- Key B. Park

- Disproportionate impact on women and children. In N. Korea, in 2018 around 4,000 children died because of sanctions.
- N. Korea only receives 500,000 bbls of oil/year. Australia receives this amount per day. This increases labor for women.
- Sanctions prevent maintenance of medical equipment. Can't find vendors to see needed supplies, or funds, or way to transfer funds, or way to get the supplies through customs.

# CUBA- Ana Silva Rodrigues, Ambassador

- Cuba was unable to receive a plane with medical supplies and aid from China on March 31 because of the U.S. blockade. The resources were sent by the Chinese entrepreneur and philanthropist Jack Ma.
- Blockade started in 1962, has been tightened in last year.

Venezuela – Carlos Ron, Ambassador  
N. Korea – Key B. Park, Medical lecturer

- WHO gave Venezuela test kits. Otherwise testing would have been impossible.
- 20 countries calling for end of sanctions.
- Venezuela and Iran broke through US sanctions bringing in oil. Otherwise, can't find any businesses willing to defy sanctions to send needed supplies, even medical. There are no exemptions for medical equipment despite official claims.
- China and Russia have sent supplies to N. Korea without going through exemption process.

# 8. Community Values



# South Park

- When Seattle Public Schools announced it was suspending classes in response to the coronavirus outbreak, La Shana Williams came up with a plan to offer community breakfasts—scrambled eggs and pancakes, mostly. In her driveway she set up a tent, tables, hot plates, a griddle. A popular neighborhood coffee shop, Resistencia Coffee, offered her their space. Uncle Eddie's sandwich shop gave Williams the meat from its freezer. And people signed up to help set up, distribute food, and clean up afterward.

- Williams organized a network of food stands and sharing tables in neighbors' driveways so people could get supplies anytime they needed them. Donations, she says, came in “Bernie Sanders-style” — small contributions of as little as \$2—from across the country, but many from right there in the neighborhood.
- In this gritty, square-mile pocket south of Seattle, residents created a GoFundMe account to help pay rent for neighbors who had lost their jobs when businesses closed following the coronavirus outbreak. They began communal grocery shopping in the neighborhood, where there are few fresh food markets, and a barter system has emerged for people to exchange what extras they have.

# Community values

- “There’s a whole different set of values when you know people have your back,” Williams says. “When you are of communities that aren’t of financial means, the means to support from within are different and enormous. The way you view what is important is through a different set of lenses.”
- About 4,000 people live in this patchwork of houses, factories, and warehouses at a dogleg on the Duwamish River; An analysis of the 2010 census showed it was the city’s [most diverse neighborhood](#)

# We will emerge stronger

- “More businesses are closing and many of our families have someone in the household—if not both—laid off,” she says. “We have been supporting efforts on how we are going to be able to provide rental support because that is the biggest need right now.”
- “As an organization, we can be helping to solve the problem this month, but what’s gonna happen in May? Or June?” she says. “That’s what has been on my mind.”
- It’s what’s been on all their minds, these tireless sister friends, whose advocacy and activism have moved into their living rooms, onto the neighborhood Facebook page, and onto video chat—strategizing, planning, organizing.
- Williams says she believes not just South Park but the nation will emerge stronger because of what we are enduring now. “There’s a reason that catastrophes hit and there’s fallout from that,” she says. “And if the fallout happens to offer ways that we as humans can change, we will most certainly be better off.”