EMBARGOED Lifts Thursday March 11, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. (PT)


David E. Hayes-Bautista, Ph.D., Paul Hsu, M.P.H., Ph.D., Giselle D. Hernández

Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture
UCLA Health

ABOUT CESLAC
Since 1992, the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture (CESLAC) of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA has provided cutting-edge, fact-based research, education, and public information about Latinos, their health, their history, and their roles in California’s society and economy.
While all population groups were affected by the COVID-19 surge from the summer through the winter of 2020–2021, California’s Latino population was among the hardest hit. Looking at increases in age-specific death rates, we can appreciate how many more Latinos than non-Hispanic whites (NHW) in every age group were killed by COVID-19.

**Age 80+**

**Latino death rate over twice the NHW rate.** During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently more than twice as high as NHW rates.

- July 2021: 2.60 times as high
- October 2020: 2.55 times as high
- January 2021: 2.23 times as high

Although age-specific death rates for both Latinos and non-Hispanic whites doubled during this period, this disparity remained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>July Death Rate</th>
<th>October Death Rate</th>
<th>January Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>446.39</td>
<td>916.62</td>
<td>1,828.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>171.90</td>
<td>359.91</td>
<td>819.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COVID-19 Death Rates of Non-Hispanic Whites and Latinos, California, July 27, 2020, to January 27, 2021, Age 80+.**

*Source: UCLA CESLAC Tabulations, CDPH, 07-27-2020 to 01-27-2021, Population: ACS 2018*
Ages 65–79

**Latino death rate over four times the NHW rate.** During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently over four times higher than NHW death rates:

- **July 2020:** 4.41 times as high
- **October 2020:** 4.82 times as high
- **January 2021:** 4.41 times as high.

Although age-specific death rates for both Latinos and non-Hispanic whites doubled during this period, this disparity remained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July Death Rate</th>
<th>October Death Rate</th>
<th>January Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>141.57</td>
<td>322.30</td>
<td>681.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>32.11</td>
<td>66.82</td>
<td>154.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Source: UCLA CESLAC Tabulations, CDPH, 07-27-2020 to 01-27-2021, Population: ACS 2018*
Age 50-64

**Latino death rate nearly six times the NHW rate.** During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently about six times higher than NHW death rates:

- **July 2020:** 5.46 times as high
- **October 2020:** 6.52 times as high
- **January 2021:** 5.94 times as high.

Although age-specific death rates for both Latinos and non-Hispanic whites doubled during this period, this disparity remained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>October Death Rate</th>
<th>January Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>42.57</td>
<td>101.98</td>
<td>207.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>7.79</td>
<td>15.64</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COVID-19 Death Rates of Non-Hispanic Whites and Latinos, California, July 27, 2020, to January 27, 2021, Ages 50-64.**

*Source: UCLA CESLAC Tabulations, CDPH, 07-27-2020 to 01-27-2021, Population: ACS 2018*
Ages 35–49

**Latino death rate about seven to eight times the NHW rate.** During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently about seven to eight times higher than NHW rates:

- **July 2020:** 8.65 times as high
- **October 2020:** 8.42 times as high
- **January 2021:** 6.70 times as high.

Although age-specific death rates for both Latinos and non-Hispanic whites doubled during this period, this disparity remained.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July Death Rate</th>
<th>October Death Rate</th>
<th>January Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>11.33</td>
<td>23.57</td>
<td>45.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*Source: UCLA CESLAC Tabulations, CDPH, 07-27-2020 to 01-27-2021, Population: ACS 2018*
Ages 18‒34

Latino death rate over five times the NHW rate. During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently about five times higher than NHW rates:

- July 2020: 4.61 times as high
- October 2020: 5.39 times as high
- January 2021: 5.19 times as high.

Although age-specific death rates for both Latino and non-Hispanic whites doubled during this period, this disparity remained.

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<th>January Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>8.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic whites</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>1.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Source: UCLA CESLAC Tabulations, CDPH, 07-27-2020 to 01-27-2021, Population: ACS 2018
The surge from the summer through the winter of 2020‒2021 affected all racial/ethnic groups, but it hit California’s Latinos particularly hard. In every age group, the disparity between Latino and non-Hispanic white death rates remained roughly the same throughout this period, ranging from two times to seven times as high, depending on age.

The tragedy of this surge was that many more people were infected during this six-month period, and as a result these disparities were displayed across an increasingly larger infected population base.

Latinos are overrepresented in many essential worker categories, from farm workers who provide California’s food to construction workers who build the state’s houses. The state must ensure that these populations receive priority for vaccinations and other medical care, so that California can recover and continue to go about its business.

**Methods.**
Data on COVID-19 cases, stratified by race/ethnicity and by age group, were furnished by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Population denominators to calculate the rate of cases per 100,000 were tabulated from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS).

For more information, or to arrange a telephone interview with the Center’s Director, David E. Hayes-Bautista, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Medicine, please contact Adriana Valdez, at (310) 794-0663 or cesla@ucla.edu.