

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

**The Surge of Summer through Winter, 2020–2021:
COVID-19 Burned Through California’s Latino Population**

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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.

The Surge of Summer through Winter, 2020-2021: COVID-19 Burned Through California's Latino Population

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+

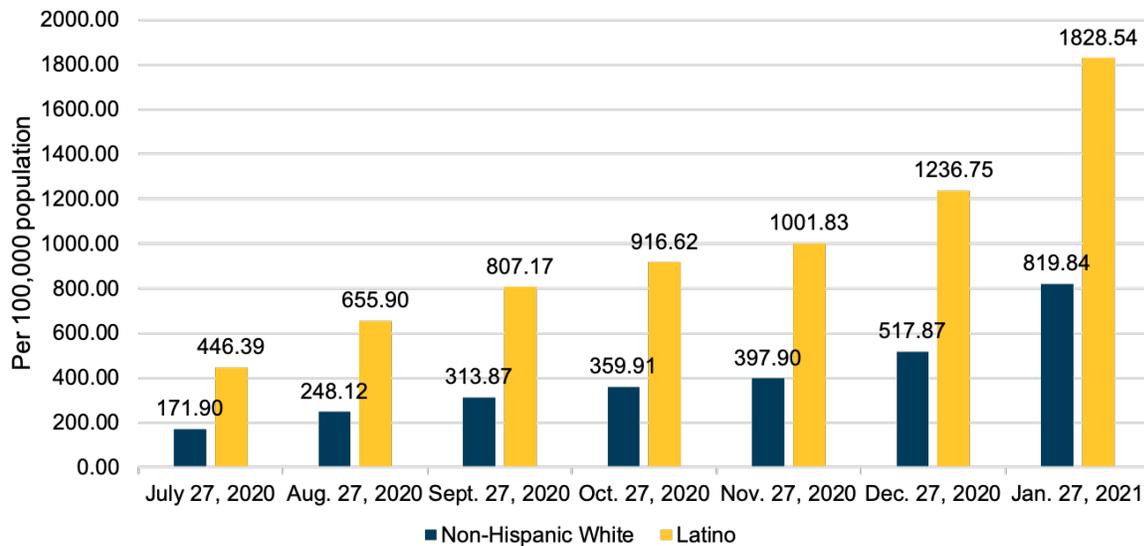
Latino death rate over twice the NHW rate. During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently more than twice as high as NHW rates.

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.

	July Death Rate	October Death Rate	January Death Rate
Latinos	446.39	916.62	1,828.54
Non-Hispanic whites	171.90	359.91	819.84

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

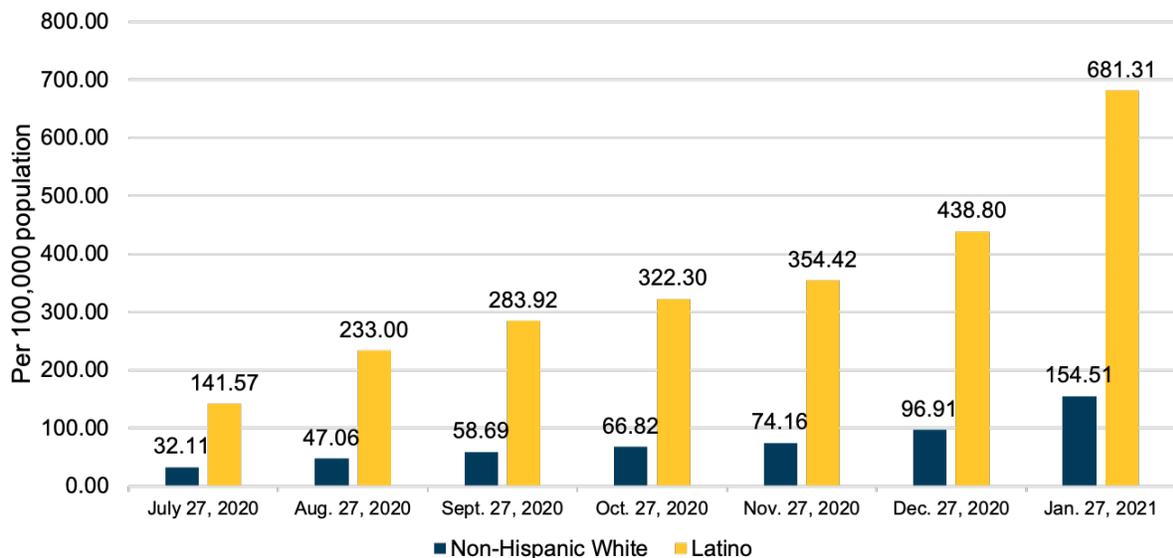
Latino death rate over four times the NHW rate. During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently over four times higher than NHW death rates:

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.

	July Death Rate	October Death Rate	January Death Rate
Latinos	141.57	322.30	681.31
Non-Hispanic whites	32.11	66.82	154.51

COVID-19 Death Rates of Non-Hispanic Whites and Latinos, California, July 27, 2020, to January 27, 2021, Ages 65-79.



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

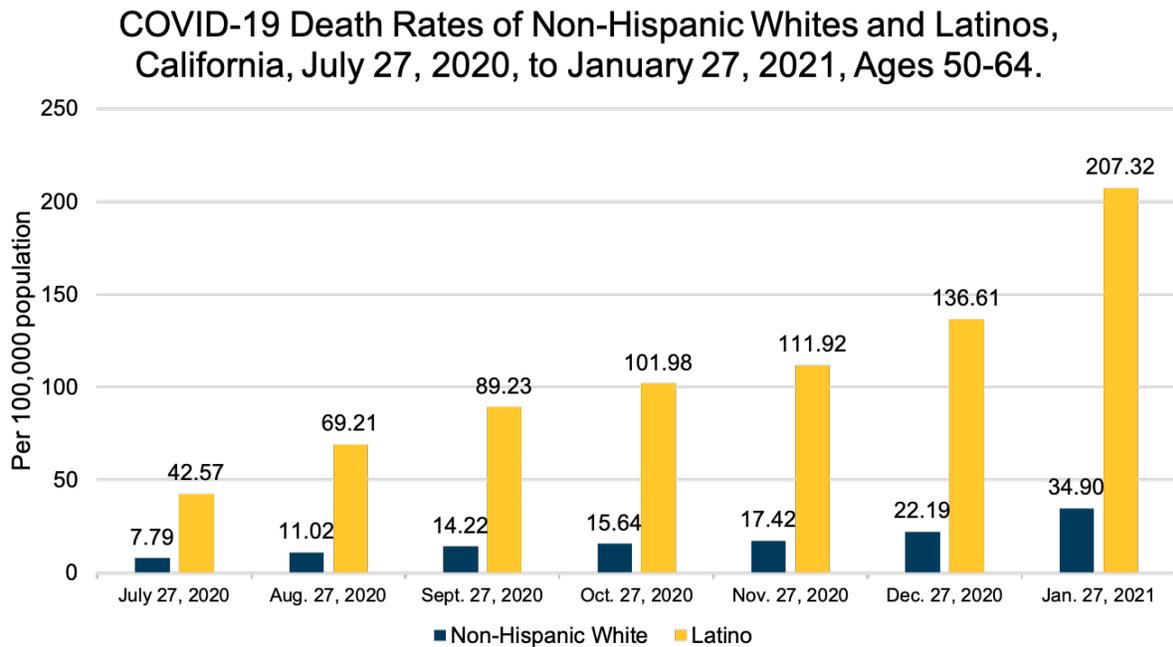
Age 50-64

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.

	July Death Rate	October Death Rate	January Death Rate
Latinos	42.57	101.98	207.32
Non-Hispanic whites	7.79	15.64	34.9



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

Ages 35–49

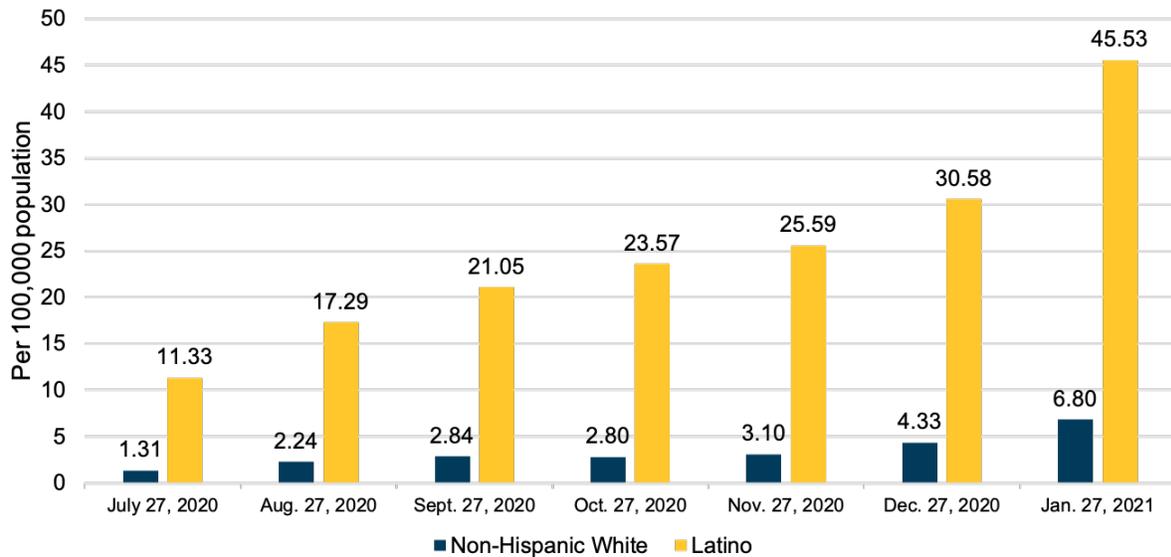
Latino death rate about seven to eight times the NHW rate. During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently about seven to eight times higher than NHW rates:

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.

	July Death Rate	October Death Rate	January Death Rate
Latinos	11.33	23.57	45.33
Non-Hispanic whites	1.31	2.80	6.80

COVID-19 Death Rates of Non-Hispanic Whites and Latinos, California, July 27, 2020, to January 27, 2021, Ages 35-49.



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

Ages 18–34

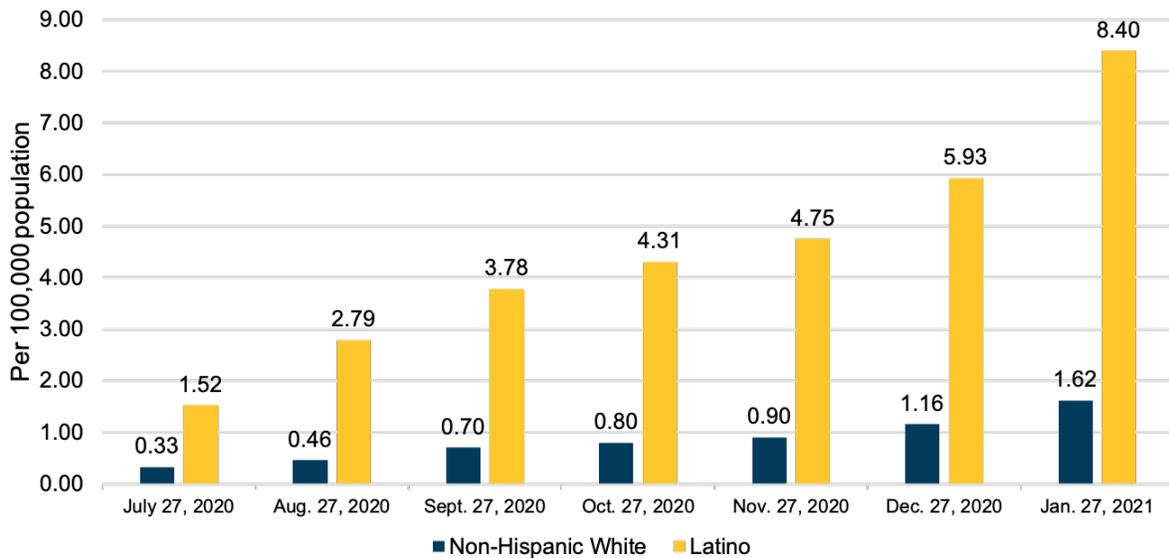
Latino death rate over five times the NHW rate. During this six-month period, Latino death rates for this age group were consistently about five times higher than NHW rates:

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.

	July Death Rate	October Death Rate	January Death Rate
Latinos	1.52	4.31	8.40
Non-Hispanic whites	0.33	0.80	1.62

COVID-19 Death Rates of Non-Hispanic Whites and Latinos, California, July 27, 2020, to January 27, 2021, Ages 18-34.



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.