

PART TWO

RACE AND THE PANDEMIC:

HARVARD ALUMNI ON THE FRONT LINES IN
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



Ethel Billie Branch,
AB '01, JD '08,
MPP '08



Bijiibaa' Garrison,
HMS '12



Joseph P. Gone,
AB '92, HUNAP
Faculty Director



Joan Naviyuk Kane,
AB '00,
Radcliffe Institute
for Advanced
Study '20

**Sunday, June 7, 2020
4:00–5:15 PM EDT**

PRESENTED BY:



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Harvard South Asian Alumni Alliance

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Native Americans at Harvard College

Task Force for Asian American Progressive Advocacy and Studies

RACE AND THE PANDEMIC

Harvard Alumni
on the
Front Lines in
Native American
Communities



Welcome to RACE AND THE PANDEMIC 2

Presented by

Coalition for a Diverse Harvard & Native American Alumni of Harvard University

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- **PLEASE SAY HELLO IN THE CHAT NOW!** Hover your cursor over the bottom of your screen to get to the Chat box; chat your name, location, and alumni/student group(s) to Everyone.
- PLEASE STAY MUTED during the presentation to avoid background noise.
- FOR OPTIMAL VIEWING on your laptop or desktop, go to the top where it says **View Options** and choose **Side-by-side mode**. In the upper right corner, choose **Speaker View** (if it says Gallery View, you're already in the right place). You can move the double-lined slider between the 2 sides of your screen to adjust the relative sizes.
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During the webinar, we will be showing slides. These slides were prepared by Diverse Harvard – not by the speakers. They may not be related to the speakers' presentations.

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THE COLOR OF CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19 DEATHS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE U.S.



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by **APM RESEARCH LAB STAFF** | MAY 27, 2020 | Next update June 10, 2020





The latest overall COVID-19 mortality rate for Black Americans is 2.4 times as high as the rate for Whites and 2.2 times as high as the rate for Asians and Latinos.

Aggregated deaths from COVID-19 in these 40 states and the District of Columbia have reached new highs for all groups:

- **1 in 1,850 Black Americans has died** (or 54.6 deaths per 100,000)
- **1 in 4,000 Latino Americans has died** (or 24.9 deaths per 100,000)
- **1 in 4,200 Asian Americans has died** (or 24.3 deaths per 100,000)
- **1 in 4,400 White Americans has died** (or 22.7 deaths per 100,000)



Joan Naviyuk Kane

AB '00, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study '20

Joan is an Inupiaq writer who grew up in Anchorage with family from King Island and Mary's Igloo, Alaska. She has authored seven books and chapbooks of poetry and prose, most recently *Another Bright Departure*. She currently teaches in the Department of Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora at Tufts University and in the low-residency MFA program in creative writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts.



Radcliffe Fellow Joan Naviyuk Kane '00 (a Diverse Harvard member) is sharing and preserving her native Alaskan language, King Island Inupiaq, through poetry. Thanks Joan for showing your support for Ethnic Studies during your Radcliffe Lecture! Photo: Kevin Grady/[@RadInstitute](#)





ANOTHER BRIGHT DEPARTURE

by Joan Naviyuk Kane

2018 CutBank Chapbook Contest
Runner-Up

Joan Naviyuk Kane is a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow. Kane was a Harvard National Scholar, and the recipient of a graduate Writing Fellowship from Columbia University's School of the Arts.

PURCHASE VIA CUTBANK STORE



The Cormorant Hunter's Wife

poems by

Joan Kane



MILK BLACK CARBON JOAN NAVIYUK KANE

Joan's publications include the essay collection *A Few Lines in the Manifest* (2018), and poetry books and chapbooks *The Cormorant Hunter's Wife* (2009), *Hyperboreal* (2013), *The Straits* (2015), *Milk Black Carbon* (2017), *Sublingual* (2018), and *Another Bright Departure* (2019).

She has been the recipient of the Whiting Writer's Award, the Donald Hall Prize in Poetry, the American Book Award, the Alaska Literary Award, the United States Artists Foundation Creative Vision Award, a 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry, and fellowships and residencies from the Rasmuson Foundation, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, the School for Advanced Research, the Aninstantia Foundation, the Hermitage Artist Retreat and the Lannan Foundation.

She has been a finalist for the PEN USA Literary Award, the Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Prize, and the Dorset Prize.





To Serve Better —
Speak, memory

Harvard Gazette
Youtube video



Harvard University ✓

1.2M subscribers

At the Radcliffe Institute, Alaskan Inupiaq poet and Harvard alum Joan Naviyuk Kane keeps her language and culture alive through her art and her family.



Bijiibaa' Garrison

HMS '12

Bijiibaa' is a general surgeon focused on caring for Alaska Native and American Indian patients. She practiced at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage and is transitioning to practice as a general surgeon for her home community on the Navajo Nation. She comes from a family of traditional healers and recognizes the value of blending Western and traditional medicine. She collaborated with [Protect the Sacred](#), a grassroots initiative created by Navajo organizers "to protect what's sacred to our people - our elders, language, medicine ways, & culture," to launch a medical humanitarian mission to help combat COVID-19 in Navajo Nation. She is also volunteering with COVID-19 medical relief in Shiprock, NM.



Join us in protecting our culture and elders by supporting front-line efforts to combat COVID-19 in Navajo Nation.

DONATE

Donate to the Navajo Nation to support medical needs for Indian Country

MEDICAL VOLUNTEER

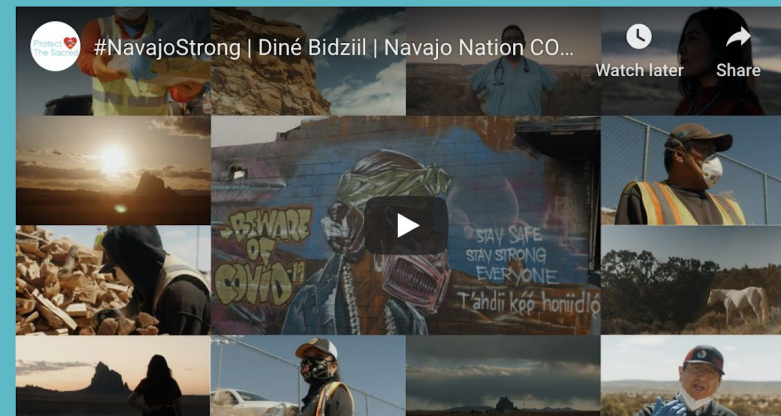
Volunteer for on-the-ground efforts to help combat COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation

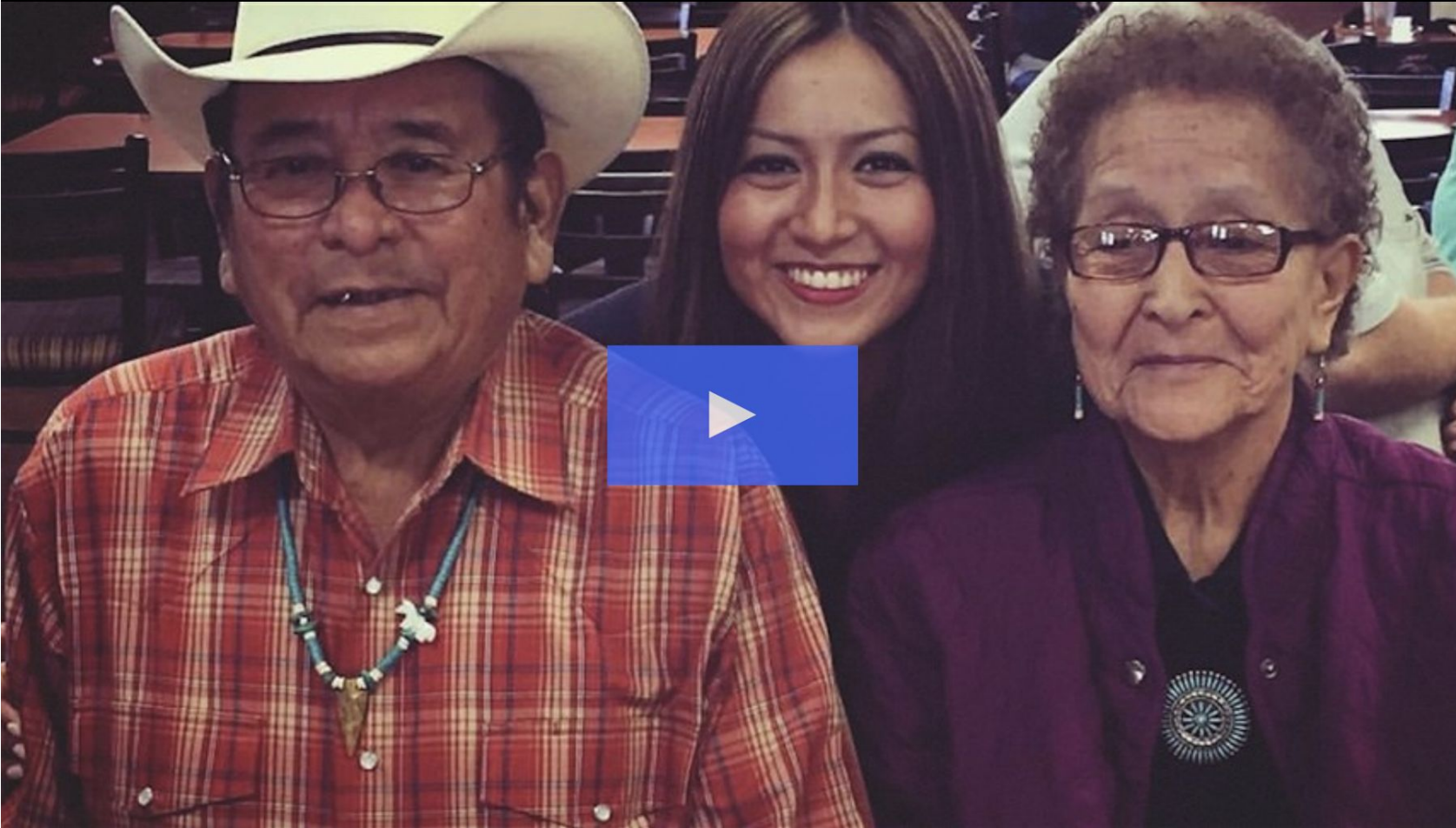
[Book Travel Through Alaska Airlines](#)

HERO CHALLENGE

Native young people, sign up to join the Navajo Hero Challenge

Our People, Our Elders, Our Language and Our Culture are Sacred. Stay Home to Protect It!



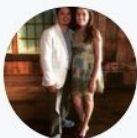


U.S. NEWS

Battered by coronavirus, Navajo Nation fights for elders and traditions they safeguard

Navajo tribe member, Allie Young, created “Protect the Sacred,” a social media campaign calling on the youth to protect their elders, their language and their culture.

April 28, 2020



Bijiibaa' Garrison @Bijiibaa · May 30

61 deaths added that were not previously captured 🧑. Inaccurate data is dangerous in pandemic and gives false reassurance. We owe it to our Diné people who lost their lives and we owe it to our Diné families who have lost loved ones to collect accurate data. @NNPrezNez



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez @NNPrezNez · May 30

1,796 recoveries, 101 new cases, and more deaths related to COVID-19 reported as 964 families receive food and supplies

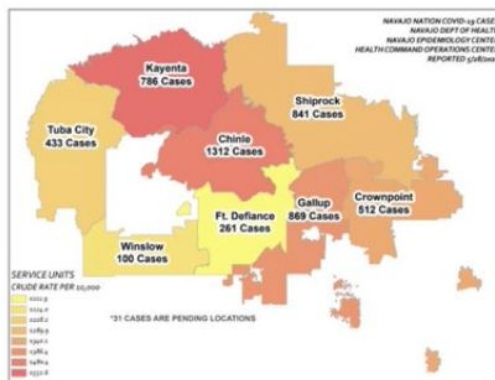


The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:
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(908) 274-4275
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(908) 274-2758
nnppp.communication@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2020

**1,796 recoveries, 101 new cases, and more deaths related
to COVID-19 reported as 964 families receive food and supplies**



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 101 new cases of COVID-19, 1,796 recoveries, and three more recent deaths. The Navajo Department of Health also reported that on May 28, the Navajo Epidemiology Center cross-referenced the number of deaths

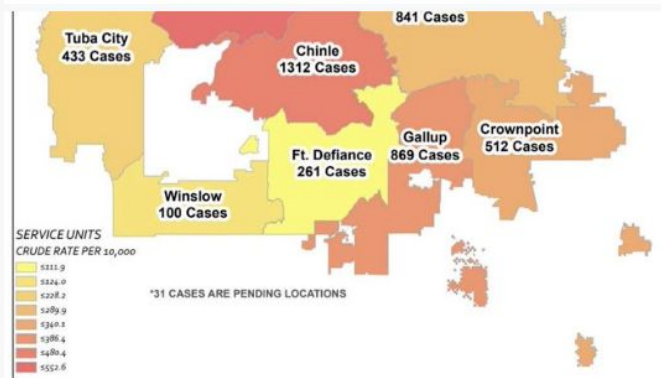
"The number of deaths is very saddening. We know there are a lot of grieving families and we want them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. It takes time to investigate and confirm the cause of death, which likely played a role in the delay in reporting the number of deaths. Please continue to pray for all of the men and women who are working hard around the clock to fight COVID-19," said Vice President Myron Lizer.

Public Health Emergency Order 2020-007 also remains in effect, requiring all individuals on the Navajo Nation to wear protective masks in public to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

For more information, including reports, helpful prevention tips, and more resources, please visit the Navajo Department of Health's COVID-19 website at <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nn.gov/COVID-19>. To contact the primary Navajo Health Command Operations Center, please call (928) 871-6855.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.nnppp.navajo-nn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Native Americans being left out of US coronavirus data and labelled as 'other'

Misclassification raises fears of hidden health emergencies in one of the country's most vulnerable populations

- [Coronavirus - live US updates](#)
- [Live global updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



▲ People lined up to get tested for Covid-19 outside of the center in Oljato-Monument Valley, San Juan county, Utah. Photograph: Kristin Murphy/AP



New York Times, June 5, 2020

U.S. Tells States to Report More Demographic Data

Responding to mounting pressure for data on the pandemic's impact on communities of color, the administration is asking states to include race and ethnicity with test results.



Workers at Atlantic Blueberry were tested for the coronavirus before beginning work in Hammonton, N.J., last month. Chang W. Lee/The New York Times



454 Indigenous Americans are known to have lost their lives to COVID-19 through Tuesday, May 26. This is an increase of 51 deaths among Indigenous people compared to our last report one week earlier (reflecting the same set of reporting areas).

Note that the state of Oklahoma, which we estimated to have 21 Indigenous deaths one week earlier, has downwardly revised its reported percentage. We now estimate eight known Indigenous deaths in Oklahoma; therefore it no longer appears in the below graph.

This total is a known under-count. Numerous states report Indigenous deaths in the Other category, so we cannot see those numbers uniquely.

The graph below shows where Indigenous deaths are over- or under-represented, relative to their population, in places with 10 or more known deaths.

Indigenous Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through May 26, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data and Washington, D.C., in cases where 10 or more known deaths have occurred. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.



Includes data from the 6 states of Arizona, California, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi and New Mexico. These states are those reporting data that have experienced 10 or more known deaths among Indigenous residents. The states of Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin are also reporting Indigenous deaths, but have experienced fewer than 10 deaths each. However, those suppressed data are reflected in the "ALL KNOWN DEATHS" figure of 454, an undercount of Indigenous lives lost nationally due to the uneven data reporting across states. The remaining outstanding states are either not reporting Indigenous deaths (tallying them in "Other") or have experienced no Indigenous deaths. States employ varying methods for reporting race and ethnicity data. Population figures shown here align with method used by each state.

DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG INDIGENOUS AMERICANS' COVID-19 DEATHS

- Data for Indigenous Americans is severely limited, but Indigenous people are dying above their population share in Mississippi (by 3 percentage points), Arizona (by 17 points) and, most dramatically, in New Mexico (by 47 points).
- Arizona and New Mexico both contain portions of the Navajo Nation, **which has been severely hit by the virus.**
- The convergence of racial and geographic disparities in COVID-19 mortality in Mississippi has resulted in more than **1 in 1,000** (not 100,000) Indigenous residents who have died there. The Indigenous mortality rate in New Mexico is also just below this threshold.
- Please see our **complete data file** to examine deaths for “Other” race Americans, which include Indigenous residents in many states.





Why Are So Many Native Americans Dying From Cor...



Watch later



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0:00 / 9:44



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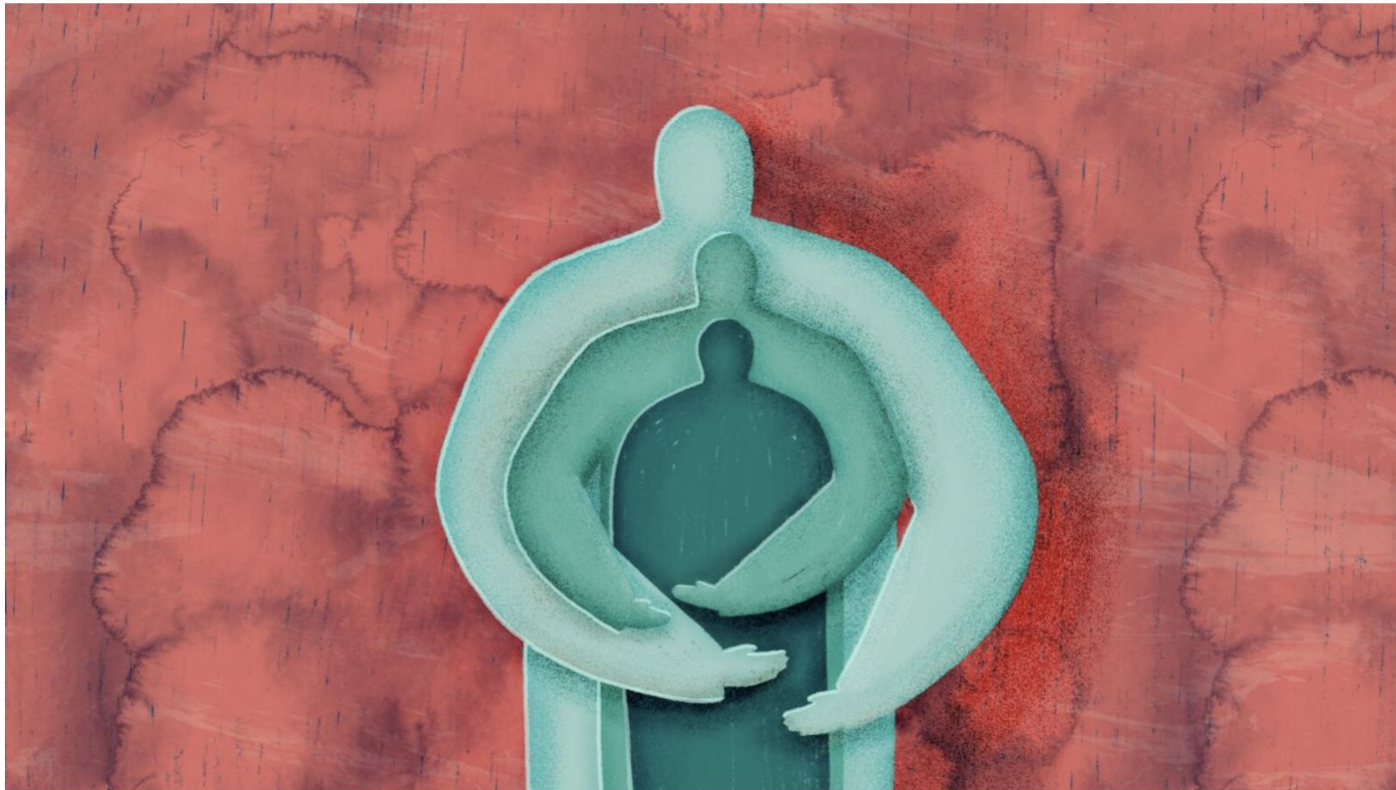


HEALTH

As Covid-19 tears through Navajo Nation, young people step up to protect their elders

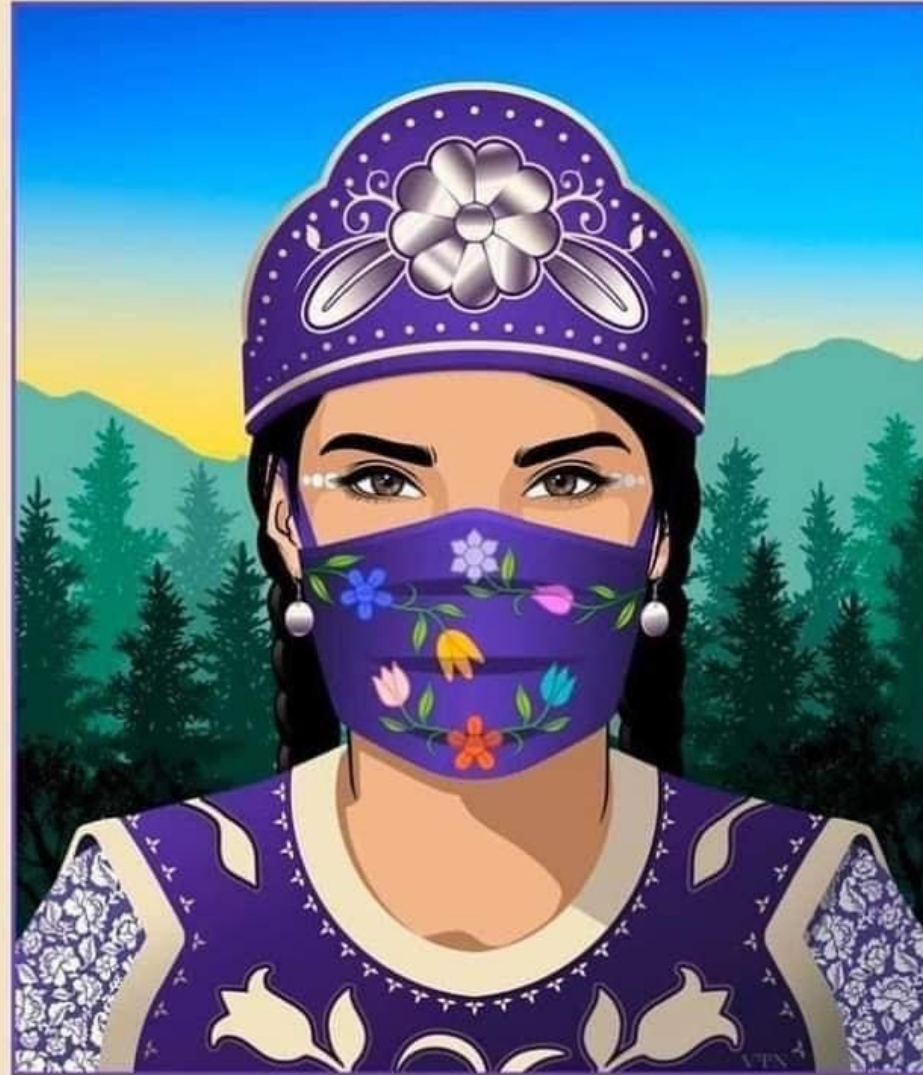
By MONA GABLE / MAY 26, 2020

[Reprints](#)



MOLLY FERGUSON FOR STAT





FIGHTING VIRUSES, PLAGUES,
PANDEMICS AND BIOLOGICAL
WARFARE SINCE 1492



Joseph P. Gone

AB '92

Joseph (Aaniiih-Gros Ventre) is Faculty Director of the [Harvard University Native American Program](#) and Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (Anthropology) and in the Faculty of Medicine (Global Health and Social Medicine) at Harvard. As an interdisciplinary social scientist with both theoretical and applied interests, Professor Gone has collaborated for 25 years with American Indian and other Indigenous communities to rethink community-based mental health services and to harness traditional culture and spirituality for advancing indigenous well-being (see <http://gonetowar.com/>).



New York Times, May 30, 2020
By Nicholas Kristof



Opinion

The Top U.S. Coronavirus Hot Spots Are All Indian Lands

The Navajo Nation, Chinle, Ariz. Adriana Zehbrauskas for The New York Times



Washington Post, May 16, 2020

Coronavirus has been devastating to the Navajo Nation, and help for a complex fight has been slow



Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez picks up a case of bottled water for a resident at a supply pickup point on the reservation Thursday. The novel coronavirus has had an outsized effect on the Native American tribe. (Sharon Chischilly for The Washington Post)



'The Grief Is So Unbearable': Virus Takes Toll on Navajo

By The Associated Press

May 11, 2020



TUBA CITY, Arizona — The virus arrived on the reservation in early March, when late winter winds were still blowing off the mesas and temperatures at dawn were often barely above freezing.

It was carried in from Tucson, doctors say, by a man who had been to a basketball tournament and then made the long drive back to a small town in the Navajo highlands. There, believers were preparing to gather in a small, metal-walled church with a battered white bell and crosses on the window.

On a dirt road at the edge of the town, a hand-painted sign with red letters points the way: “Chilchinbeto Church of the Nazarene.”

From that church, COVID-19 took hold on the Navajo Nation, hopscotching across families and clans and churches and towns, and leaving the reservation with some of the highest infection rates in the U.S.



Time Magazine, May 18, 2020

‘This Is Pure Grassroots.’ How One Community Relief Organizer Is Helping Utah’s Navajo Nation Get Through the Coronavirus Crisis



Pete Sands carries boxes of food and cleaning supplies to Navajo Nation members in need. Sahar Khadjenoury— Utah Navajo COVID-19 Relief Program



Navajo Nation Stymied By CARES Act Restrictions

June 5, 2020 · 12:38 PM ET

LAUREL MORALES

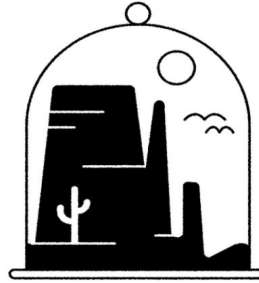


Thirty percent of people on the Navajo Nation haul their water from sources such as windmills, livestock tanks, springs, and water stations. Unregulated drinking water sources are the greatest public health risk on the Navajo Nation, according to the EPA.

Laurel Morales/KJZZ



New York Times, May 13, 2020



Opinion

A Life on and Off the Navajo Nation

The reservation has one of the country's highest rates of infection.

By Wahleah Johns

Ms. Johns is a founder of Native Renewables, a nonprofit that provides solar energy to tribal communities.

May 13, 2020



I was born in the Navajo Nation and raised half on and half off the reservation. Shuttling between my grandmother's ranch in Black Mesa, Ariz., and the small border town of Winslow, I took note from an early age of the vast inequities between those two places.



WORLD & NATION

She's patrolled the Navajo Nation for nearly 20 years. Nothing prepared her for the COVID-19 outbreak



Navajo Nation Police Officer Carolyn Tallsalt looks out at dried sagebrush where her uncle George Billy was buried in April at the Tuba City Community Cemetery in Arizona. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)



New York Times, May 30, 2020

By Nicholas Kristof

The Top U.S. Coronavirus Hot Spots Are All Indian Lands

“The criminal negligence shown by the federal government in the lack of access to testing and P.P.E. and other necessary resources has cost us more lives than we could imagine,” said Janene Yazzie, a Navajo community organizer who helps run the [Navajo and Hopi Families Covid-19 Relief Fund](#). “We did not deserve this negligence.”

Yazzie notes that rivers run through Navajo lands and end up irrigating golf courses in Phoenix, while natives lack legal rights to the water and can’t even get plumbing to wash their hands.





New Mexico Invokes Riot Law to Control Virus Near Navajo Nation

The lockdown in Gallup, on the edge of the country's largest Indian reservation, comes in response to a worsening outbreak.



New York Times, May 11, 2020

Tribal Nations Face Most Severe Crisis in Decades as the Coronavirus Closes Casinos

Nearly 500 tribal casinos remain shut down during the pandemic, causing job losses to spike. The economic damage is spreading quickly, wreaking havoc on fragile tribal finances.



The Emerald Queen Casino & Hotel in Tacoma, Wash. The closure of hundreds of tribal casinos in response to the coronavirus outbreak is eviscerating the revenues many Native American nations use to provide basic services. Ted S. Warren/Associated Press



Navajo Times

DINÉ BI NAALTSOOS

Cases approach 5,500; Ganado new hotspot



By Arlyssa Becenti | Jun 2, 2020 | CORONAVIRUS UPDATES, News | ★★★★★

WINDOW ROCK

There are 5,479 COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation as of Monday night, an increase of 131 over the previous day, and a reported 248 deaths, up two from Sunday. Reports from nine health facilities also indicate there are approximately 1,920 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19.

Valentina Blackhorse, Navajo Pageant Winner With Dreams, Dies at 28

She nurtured political aspirations while raising her 1-year-old daughter. Then she tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The next day she was dead.



Washington Post, May 26, 2020

The federal government fiddles as covid-19 ravages Native Americans



A sign warns nonresidents to stay out of the Navajo Nation town of Tuba City in Arizona in an attempt to stop the spread of covid-19. (Mark Ralston/AFP via Getty Images)

By **Elizabeth Warren** and **Deb Haaland**



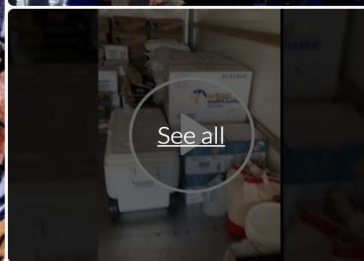
Ethel Billie Branch

AB '01, JD '08, MPP '08


Ethel is the former attorney general of the Navajo Nation and a Harvard Alumni Association Elected Director. Currently a Member at Kanji & Katzen, a law firm that advocates on behalf of Native Nations, she serves as General Counsel to the Havasupai Tribe. She recently established the [Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) to help communities gravely threatened by the pandemic and has raised over \$4 million.



Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund



TEAM FUNDRAISER

 Ethel Branch and 7 others are organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Rural Utah Project Education Fund.

Created March 15, 2020 |  Accidents & Emergencies



\$4,663,760 raised of \$5,000,000 goal

78.2K
donors

96K
shares

78.1K
followers



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Donate now



769 people just donated



Amy Martin
\$15 • 3 mins



Anonymous
\$30 • 5 mins



Anonymous
\$300 • 5 mins



Michelle Forshner
\$25 • 6 mins

[See all](#)





Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief



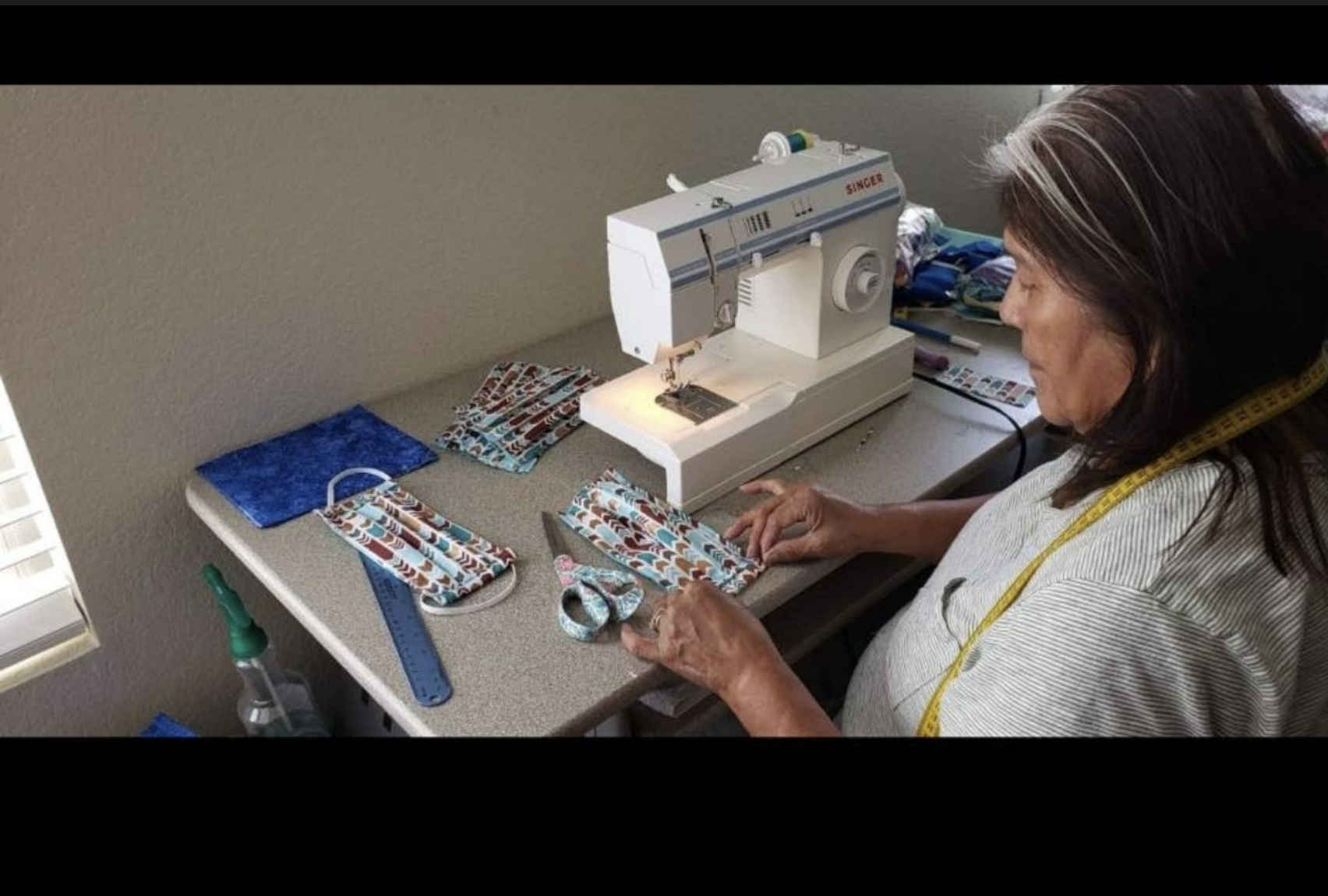






Ethel Branch
Organizer • 9 d

May 21-Thank you to Lt. Preston and Tuba City Department of Corrections staff as well as Theresa Hatathlie who leads our PPE arm for making sure each package included a well balanced food package, essential items, water and PPE for Tuba City Distribution. Photo credit: Rob Preston



Ethel Branch

Organizer • 21 d

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 14,
2020 Cassandra Begay Email:
navahopicovid.smedia@gmail.com
www.navajohopisolidarity.org
Seamstresses Unite to Fight COVID-
19 on Navajo & Hopi Reservations TÓ
NANEESDIZÍ, DINÉTAH, (TUBA
CITY, NAVAJO NATION) — Diné
(Navajo) seamstresses have organized
to fight COVID-19 with
resourcefulness, creativity, and
sewing machines having created over
18,000 masks to date. As confirmed
COVID-19 cases on the Navajo
Nation climb to 3,392 with 119
deaths, the all-volunteer subsidiaries
to the Navajo & Hopi Families
COVID-19 Relief Fund (Relief Fund),





\$10 from **Kris Marsden**

SENT 1H AGO

I donated because of the generosity shown to the Irish people by the Choctaw nation. The English oppressors and the ruling elite in Ireland were indifferent to the millions of starving Irish people during the great famine in Ireland. Yet the native Americans who were also subjected to extreme poverty and privation donated to people who were thousands of miles away and had probably never heard of the Choctaw.

\$5 from **Pat Hayes**

SENT 1H AGO

From Ireland, 170 years later, the favour is returned! To our Native American brothers and sisters in your moment of hardship.



Vanessa Tulley

Team member • 1 mo

Several of our recent donations for our GoFundMe campaign have been inspired by the Great Hunger Famine in Ireland which started in 1845. During this difficult time, in 1847, the Choctaw Nation provided \$170 of relief aid to the Irish to help them (today that is the equivalent of \$5,000). Not long before the Great Hunger Famine in Ireland, 60,000 Native Americans, including the Choctaw people, had suffered through the experience of the Trail of Tears. The death of many people on the Trail of Tears sparked empathy for the Irish people in their time of need. Thus, the Choctaw extended \$170 of relief aid. 173 years later to today, the favor is returned through generous donations from the Irish people to the Navajo Nation during our time of crisis. A message from Irish donor, Pat Hayes sent from Ireland says the



Washington Post, May 13, 2020

The Irish are repaying a favor from 173 years ago in Native Americans' fight against coronavirus



Volunteers sort and deliver food packages to families at the Hopi Village of Hotevilla in Arizona. The food was bought with money that was raised in an online fundraiser run by 12 Navajo and Hopi women who started the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief effort. They have raised more than \$3.5 million. (Courtesy Lillian Hill)





Cassandra Begay

Team member • 8 d

On the Navajo Nation, there is no addressing system and many roads are unpaved. Bad unpaved roads can mean the difference between life or death for community members who live remotely. As state, federal and tribal governments grapple over solutions for paved roads and a mailing address system, tribal residents have to deal with the deplorable conditions of unpaved roads and getting from point A to B safely- a condition that exacerbates and compounds the systemic issue causing the highest per capita COVID-19 infection and death rates in the US on the Navajo Nation.







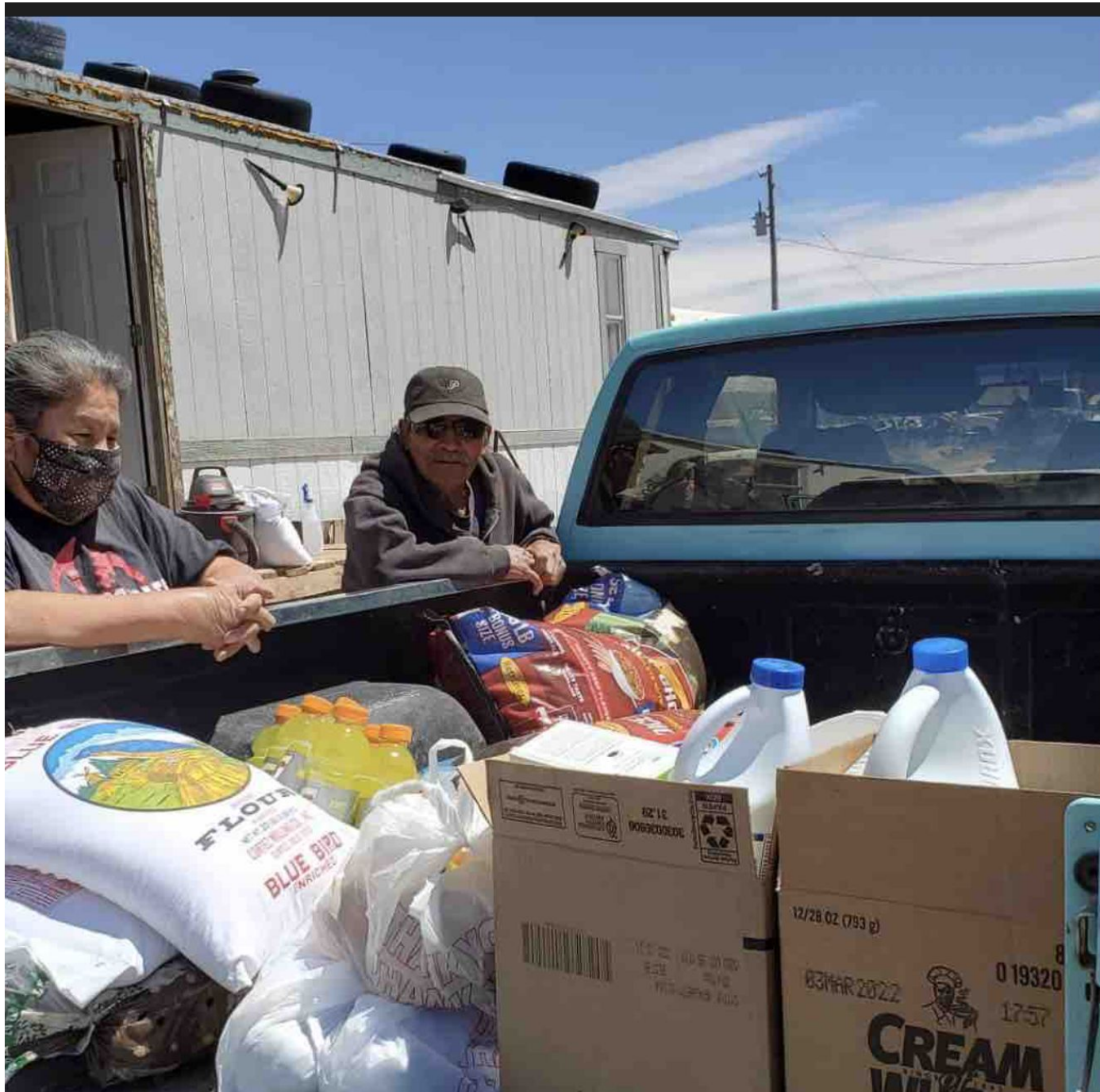
Vanessa Tulley

Team member • 1 mo

250 food packages delivered to the Hopi Village of Hotevilla!! From our incredible Team Leads, Lilian Hill and Pamela Lalo, and volunteers on the ground who made this happen ❤️ : “Many thanks to our community volunteers for your efforts in coordinating, portioning, assembling, and distributing over 250 food/supply boxes to the residents of Hotevilla Village. Thanks to everyday volunteer citizens local Mutual Aid efforts have been extremely helpful in assuring that our people have adequate food and supplies in order to limit travel outside of our villages. We hope the people of Hotevilla Village are happy with their care boxes, we took extra







Ethel Branch
Organizer • 9 d

May 19—Elders from Black Mesa community receiving essential items and food packages from Navajo&Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund. Photo credit: Arizona Team Lead, Delores Greyeyes [Show more](#)





**Navajo &
Hopi
Families
COVID-19
Relief Fund**

**[www.gofund
me.com/f/NH
FC19Relief](https://www.gofundme.com/f/NHFC19Relief)**



Questions of Bias in Covid-19 Treatment Add to the Mourning for Black Families

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised health professionals to be on the lookout for medical bias.



Ami Relf, right, holds a photo of her brother Reginald Relf alongside her mother, Cleona Relf, outside her mother's home in Bellwood, Ill. Mr. Relf died there while quarantining in the basement after experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. Joshua Lott for The New York Times





'A Terrible Price': The Deadly Racial Disparities of Covid-19 in America

For the Zulu club, a black social organization in New Orleans, Mardi Gras was a joy. The coronavirus made it a tragedy.

Members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club before a funeral procession in New Orleans. Eight weeks after Mardi Gras, eight club members had died of Covid-19. L. Kasimu Harris for The New York Times



New York Times, May 17, 2020

Density Is A Healthy Choice

By Mary T. Bassett, director of the Francois-Xavier Banoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard

Cities, large and dense by definition, do not inevitably support explosive viral transmission. But factors that do seem to explain clusters of Covid-19 deaths in the United States are [household crowding, poverty, racialized economic segregation](#) and participation in the work force. The patterns of Covid-19 by neighborhood in New York City track historical redlining that some 80 years ago established a legacy of racial residential segregation.



SCIENCE

Public Health Experts Say the Pandemic Is Exactly Why Protests Must Continue

By SHANNON PALUS

JUNE 02, 2020 • 7:18 PM

TWEET

SHARE

COMMENT



Law enforcement officers stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as demonstrators protest against police brutality and the death of George Floyd on Tuesday.

Win McNamee/Getty Images





RACE

Decolonizing the University

In this interview, Lorgia García-Peña, who was denied tenure by Harvard in late 2019, discusses why ethnic studies has never been more urgent and the important role it can play in protest.

LORGIA GARCÍA-PEÑA, MORDECAI LYON

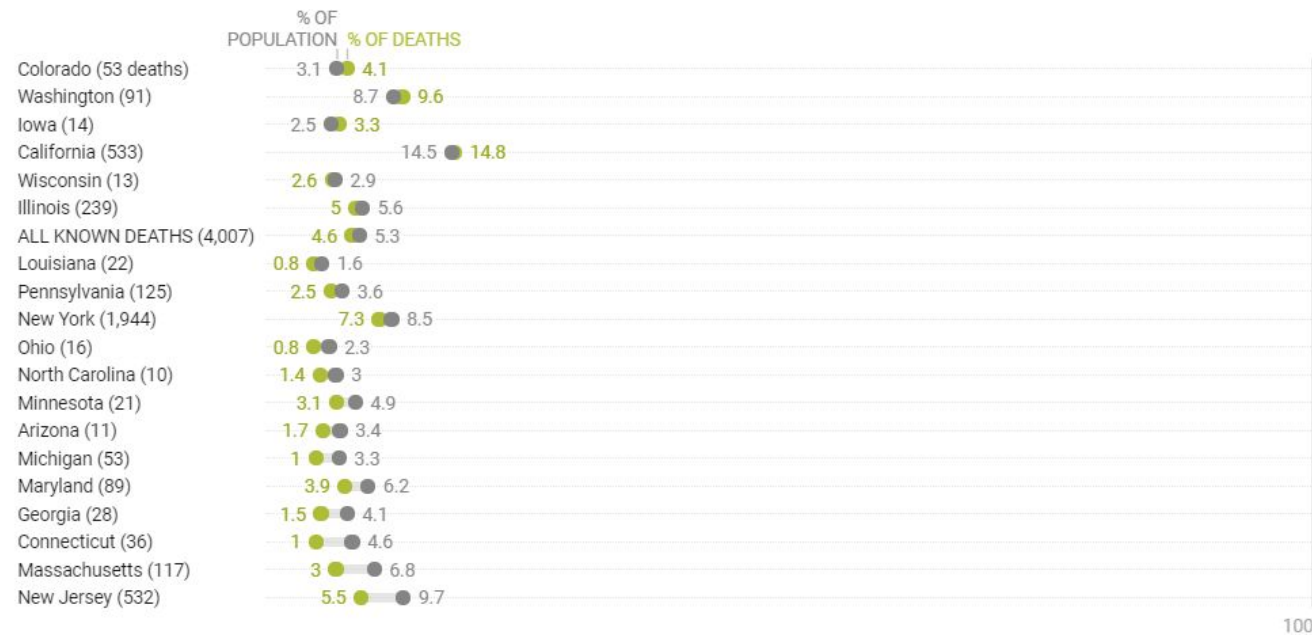


ASIAN AMERICANS

4,007 Asian Americans are known to have lost their lives to COVID-19 through Tuesday, May 26. This is an increase of 265 deaths among Asians compared to our last report one week earlier (reflecting the same set of reporting areas).

Asian Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through May 26, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data and Washington, D.C., in cases where 10 or more known deaths have occurred. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.



Includes data from the 19 states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin. These states are those reporting data that have experienced 10 or more deaths among Asian residents. Data for Connecticut, Michigan and Wisconsin include Pacific Islanders in the numerators and denominators. Florida, Mississippi, Missouri and South Carolina include Asians in their "Other" category, so they cannot be shown here. Additionally, it is not known whether Rhode Island and Virginia—which show zero Asian deaths to date—are also counting Asian deaths in their "Other" category, due to unclear reporting. States employ varying methods for reporting race and ethnicity data. Population figures shown here align with method used by each state.

Source: [APM Research Lab](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS' COVID-19 DEATHS

- For each 100,000 Americans (of their respective group), about 24 Asians have died from the coronavirus, a mortality rate slightly below Latinos (25), slightly above Whites (23) and well below Blacks (55).
- The convergence of racial and geographic disparities in COVID-19 mortality in New York has resulted in more than **1 in 1,000** (not 100,000) Asian residents who have died there (driven largely by New York City).
- Across all 41 reporting jurisdictions combined, Asians are about equally likely to die of COVID-19 as would be expected based on their population share. Collectively, they represent 5.3% of the population in these places but have experienced 4.6% of deaths in all cases where race and ethnicity is known.
- In 13 states, Asians are dying roughly proportional to their share of the population. In six states, Asians are under-represented in mortality statistics relative to their population, most dramatically in New Jersey. *(Note: A difference of two percentage points or more is what we have considered above or below the population share. Proportionality was only examined in states with 10 or more deaths.)*



Why Coronavirus Is Killing African-Americans More Than Others

Higher rates of infection and death among minorities demonstrate the racial character of inequality in America.

By **Jamelle Bouie**

Opinion Columnist

April 14, 2020



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An ambulance driver outside a hospital in New York.

Spencer Platt/Getty Images New York Times



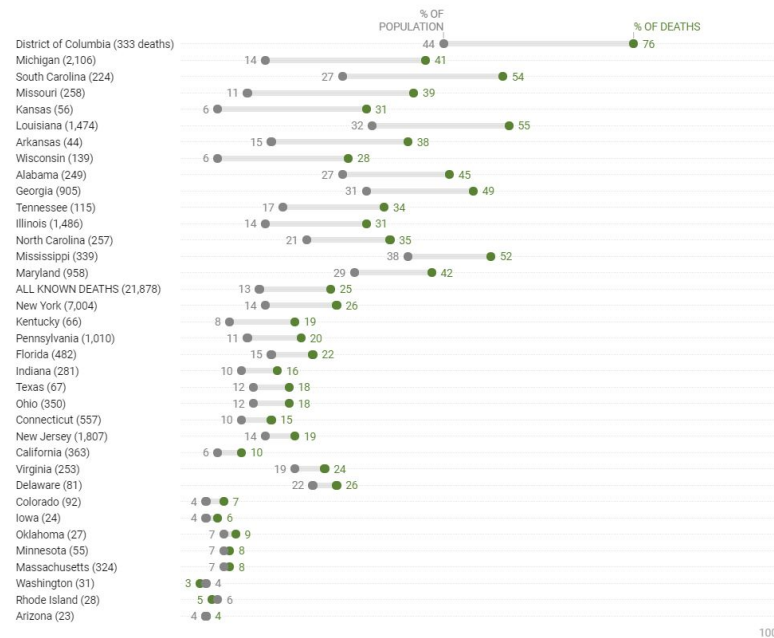
BLACK AMERICANS

21,878 Black Americans are known to have lost their lives to COVID-19 through Tuesday, May 26. This is an increase of 1,683 deaths among Blacks compared to our last report one week earlier (reflecting the same set of reporting areas).

The graph below shows where Black deaths are over-represented or proportionally represented, relative to their population, in places with 10 or more known deaths. (They were not under-represented in any places.)

Black Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through May 26, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data and Washington, D.C., in cases where 10 or more known deaths have occurred. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.



Includes data from Washington, D.C., and the 34 states of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. These states are those reporting data that have experienced 10 or more deaths among Black residents. States employ varying methods for reporting race and ethnicity data. Population figures shown here align with method used by each state.

Source: [APM Research Lab](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



Source: APM Research Lab • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG BLACK AMERICANS' COVID-19 DEATHS

- For each 100,000 Americans (of their respective group), about 55 Blacks have died from the coronavirus, a mortality rate more than double the rate for Asians (24) and Latinos (25), and 2.4 times that of Whites (23 deaths per 100,000).
- Since we began reporting these data, Black Americans' COVID-19 mortality rate across the U.S. has never fallen below twice that of all other groups, revealing a durable pattern of disproportionality.
- In some places, the multiple between Black and White mortality rates greatly exceeds the 2.4 overall figure that we've constructed from all available data for the nation.
- In Kansas, Black residents are 7 times more likely to have died than White residents, while in Washington, D.C., the rate among Blacks is 6 times as high as it is for Whites. In Missouri and Wisconsin, it is 5 times greater. In Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, New York and South Carolina, Blacks are 3-4 times more likely to have died of the virus than Whites. In many states, the virus is also killing Black residents several multiples more often than Asian and Latino residents.
- Disproportionately high mortality is more widespread for Black Americans than any other group. *(Note: A difference of two percentage points or more, before rounding, is what we have considered above or below the population share. Proportionality was only examined in states with 10 or more deaths.)* Blacks are dying at elevated rates, relative to their population, overall and in 28 of the 41 jurisdictions we examined. Collectively, they represent 12.9% of the population, but have suffered 25.0% of deaths. In other words, they are dying of the virus at a rate of roughly double their population share, among all American deaths where race and ethnicity is known.
- In 16 states—Michigan, South Carolina, Missouri, Kansas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, North Carolina, Mississippi, Maryland, New York and Kentucky—as well as in the District of Columbia, Black residents' share of the deaths exceed their share of the population by 10 to 31 percentage points. These are exceptionally large disparities.
- In no state with 10 or more deaths were Black residents under-represented in COVID-19 mortality data. However, in the six states of Oklahoma, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Washington, Rhode Island and Arizona, Black residents are dying at rates roughly proportional to their population.
- The convergence of racial and geographic disparities in COVID-19 mortality in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Michigan, New Jersey and New York has resulted in more than **1 in 1,000** (not 100,000) Black residents who have died. Louisiana is also just below this threshold.



New York Times May 7, 2020



For Latinos and Covid-19, Doctors Are Seeing an 'Alarming' Disparity

The outsized infection rate among Hispanics in some states could hobble efforts to quash the spread of Covid-19, prompting states like Oregon to step up testing and take emergency measures.

Dr. Eva Galvez, a family physician, tested patients for the coronavirus at a clinic in Hillsboro, Ore. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



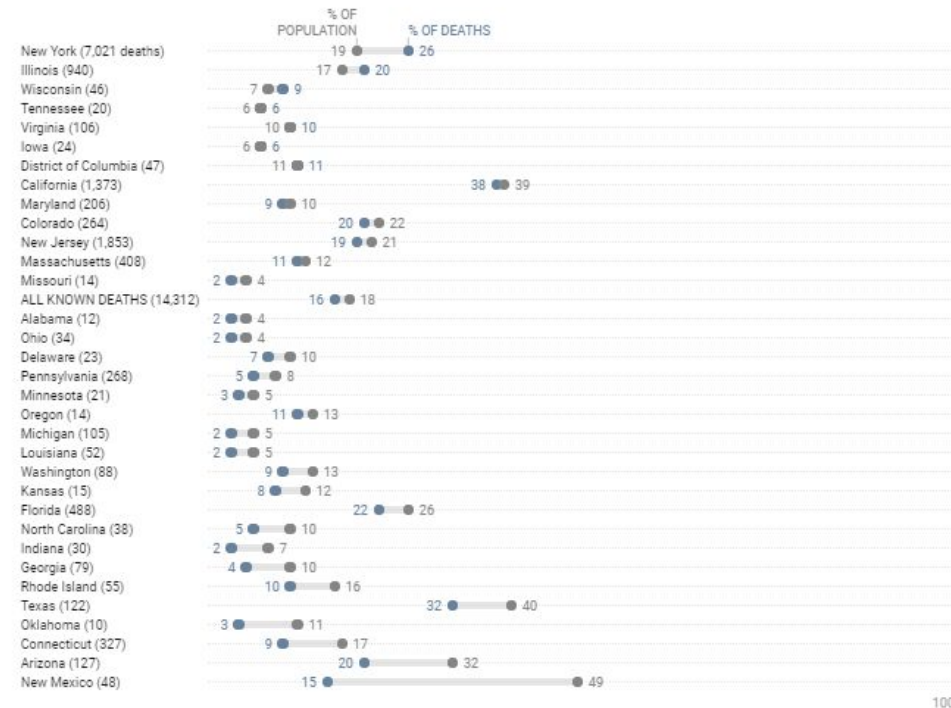
LATINO AMERICANS

14,312 Latino Americans are known to have lost their lives to COVID-19 through Tuesday, May 26. This is an increase of 1,124 deaths among Latinos compared to our last report one week earlier (reflecting the same set of reporting areas).

The graph below shows where Latino deaths are over- or under-represented, relative to their population, in places with 10 or more known deaths.

Latino Americans: Percent of COVID-19 deaths and population, through May 26, 2020

For all U.S. states with available data and Washington, D.C. Sorted from most over-represented to most under-represented.



Includes data from Washington, D.C., and the 32 states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. States employ varying methods for reporting race and ethnicity data. Population figures shown here align with method used by each state.

Source: [APM Research Lab](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



DISPROPORTIONALITY AMONG LATINO AMERICANS' COVID-19 DEATHS

- For each 100,000 Americans (of their respective group), about 25 Latinos have died from the coronavirus, a mortality rate somewhat above Asians (24) and Whites (23), but well below Blacks (55 per 100,000).
- The convergence of racial and geographic disparities in COVID-19 mortality in New Jersey and New York has resulted more than **1 in 1,000** (not 100,000) Latino residents who have died in those two states.
- When we combine data across all 40 states reporting data and Washington, D.C., Latinos are dying from COVID-19 at a rate similar to their share of the population (18.5%). They have suffered 16.4% of deaths in America where race and ethnicity is known.
- However, Latino Americans are dying at rates above their population share in New York, Illinois and Wisconsin. *(Note: A difference of two percentage points or more, before rounding, is what we have considered above or below the population share. Proportionality was only examined in states with 10 or more deaths.)*
- In New York, Latinos comprise 19.2% of the population, but have suffered 26.2% of deaths. At the time of this writing, 7,021 Latinos were known to have died in New York (including 6,201 in New York City), which has experienced the highest overall (and Latino) mortality rate of any state.
- In 21 states, Latinos have a mortality advantage, dying less often than their population would suggest. They are most under-represented—dying far less likely than their population share—in New Mexico.
- Of note, Texas—a state with significant numbers of Latino residents—has only reported ethnicity for 25% of its total COVID-related deaths. From this limited reporting, however, Texas is showing an under-representation of Latinos in its mortality statistics. Users are cautioned, however, that deaths of unknown race and ethnicity may have a different distribution than known deaths.



Human Rights Watch, May 12, 2020

Covid-19 Fueling Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia Worldwide

National Action Plans Needed to Counter Intolerance



In this screenshot, a man helps a shop owner pick up a display stand after a group of teenagers vandalize the store in Chinatown San Francisco on March 16, 2020.

© 2020 CrimesAgainstAsians/Facebook



Coalition for a Diverse Harvard

2020 Endorsements for Harvard Overseer and Elected Director

In these difficult times, the **Coalition for a Diverse Harvard** urges you to VOTE in this year's critical Overseer and Elected Director elections starting in early July. The crises relating to Ethnic Studies, the emergency campus evacuation, and police brutality underscore the need for strong leaders who will promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We are joined in our endorsements by **First Generation Harvard Alumni, Harvard Arab Alumni Association, Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance, Harvard Black Alumni Society, Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus, Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance, Harvard Progressive Jewish Alumni, Harvard South Asian Alumni Alliance, Harvard Tamil Sangam Alumni, Harvard Women of Color, and Native American Alumni of Harvard University.**

The Overseer candidates we endorse – including a national poet laureate; one of the “smartest people in tech”; the first African American and first openly gay person to head one of the Fed's regional banks, and a Harvard Forward candidate – have the strongest histories of advocacy and accomplishments on diversity initiatives and are best positioned to help Harvard be a more diverse, inclusive, and just institution.

For Overseer (in ballot order):

Diego A. Rodriguez MBA '01
David H. Eun* AB '89, JD '93
Raphael William Bostic AB '87
Tracy K. Smith AB '94
Thea Sebastian AB '08, JD '16

For Director (in ballot order):

Kelsey Trey Leonard AB '10
Joyce Y. Zhang AB '09
Mallika J. Marshall AB '92
Vanessa Zoltan MDiv '15
Santiago Creuheras* ALM '00,
ALM '01
Michael D. Lewis* AB '93



Kelsey Trey Leonard

AB '10

MSc '11, University of Oxford, JD '15, Duquesne University, PhD '19, McMaster University, Banting Postdoctoral Fellow, McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



Water and climate scientist Kelsey Leonard is a Banting Postdoctoral Research Fellow at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada.

After graduating from Harvard College, Leonard became the first Native American woman to earn a science degree from the University of Oxford, receiving her master's in water science, policy, and management.

As a citizen of Shinnecock Indian Nation and an environmental leader, Leonard strives to be a strong advocate for the protection of Indigenous waters through enhanced interjurisdictional coordination and meaningful consultation. She is a tribal representative on the Mid-Atlantic Committee on the Ocean and a member of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission.

A member of Native Americans at Harvard College as a student, she is a former president and current board member of the Native American Alumni of Harvard University Shared Interest Group (SIG). She has also chaired the Schools and Scholarships Committee of the Harvard Club of Western Pennsylvania and served on the HAA Board of Directors recent graduate committee.

“Harvard was foundational in shaping my path as a researcher, scientist, and advocate. I want to be able to give back through service and commitment to the alumni community. I believe it is important for the HAA to be guided by the University's charter recognizing that Harvard exists today because of the unique shared history of the University and Indigenous Peoples. As alumni we have a responsibility to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for all through our engagement activities and cultivation of volunteer leaders.”



Michael D. Lewis

AB '93

Strategic technology adviser, iCorps Technologies

Cambridge, Massachusetts



An experienced IT professional, Michael D. Lewis is a partner and strategic technology advisor at iCorps Technologies. He also serves as senior advisor for design firm Carlo Ratti Associati and its Makr Shagr robotic bartending system.

As an undergraduate, Lewis was involved in the Kuumba Singers, Black Students Association, Dunster House Committee, Science Fiction Association, and Harvard Computer Society. As an alumnus, he has remained active in the Harvard community, including the Dunster House Senior Common Room, Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus, Harvard Black Alumni Society, and Harvard Club of Boston.

Lewis has served on the HAA Board of Directors as an appointed director for Harvard College and as a member of the College Alumni Outreach Committee that focuses on engaging alumni between their 10th and 30th Reunions. He has also co-chaired the program committee for his class's 15th, 20th, and 25th Reunions as well as the Chief Marshal Selection Committee.

“All of my volunteerism with the Harvard Alumni Association has been in recognition of and appreciation for how much my Harvard experience has benefited me, both from my time as a student and as a member of the alumni community. The people I've met and the communities I've discovered have led to lifelong friendships that continue to be rewarding. Serving as an elected director would provide me with an even greater opportunity to give back to the institution that has given me so much and that has been so instrumental at shaping who I am and how I think.”



Santiago Creuheras

ALM '00, ALM '01

BS '97 summa cum laude, Universidad de las Américas–Puebla, MSt '14 with distinction, University of Cambridge; Senior consultant on sustainable infrastructure and energy, Inter–American Development Bank

Mexico City, Mexico



An expert on sustainable development, infrastructure, and energy, Santiago Creuheras is a senior consultant for the Inter–American Development Bank and Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation. He also serves as a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and as an advisor to the Mexican Chamber of Deputies on sustainability and the environment.

Creuheras recently served as director general for energy efficiency and sustainability of the Ministry of Energy of Mexico. Additionally, he chaired the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation and co–led the Energy Efficiency and Transitions Finance Working Group of the G20.

An active participant in alumni activities around the world, Creuheras is a former president and current board member of the Harvard Club of Mexico, an alumni interviewer for Harvard College, and a member of Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs and Harvard Alumni for Global Development. As a former leader within “Fundación México en Harvard”, he helped increase opportunities for students pursuing studies at Harvard. He has also served in various roles for Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard Business School’s Energy and Environment Club, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Extension School.

“I have spent a huge chunk of my life on sustainability and climate change initiatives, and I would like to share this knowledge and increase its importance at Harvard. I would also like to support public and community service, and to increase international collaboration and build bridges among alumni across all of Harvard’s Schools.”





Ethnic Studies T-shirt Fundraiser

Support Students with “Ethnic Studies Now!” T-shirts
(\$25 gets one for a student and one for you)

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/ethnic-studies-now-t-shirts>



SUPPORT DIVERSE HARVARD!

Join Diverse Harvard by signing up at our homepage, diverseharvard.org. You will get 1 to 2 emails per month and invitations to special events and briefings (like this one!).

If you are already a Diverse Harvard member - thanks! Please share the sign-up information with your Harvard/Radcliffe friends and encourage them to join.

You can donate to the Coalition at diverseharvard.org/donate. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law and will be much appreciated!

