

NIH Scientific Initiatives: Women's Health and Intersections with Underserved Populations

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National Institutes of Health
October 20, 2020



National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities



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Health Equity

Equality



The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is equal treatment.

Equity



Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of "affirmative action"), thus producing equity.

Justice



All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.





**Why is it
important to
understand the
health of
undeserved
women?**



Two Pandemics

1. Health Disparities
(then and now)
2. COVID-19
(now)



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Social Determinants of Health

- Availability of resources
- Access to educational, economic, and job opportunities
- Access to health care services
- Quality of education and job training
- Transportation options
- Public safety
- Social support, norms
- Exposure to crime, violence
- Socioeconomic conditions
- Residential segregation
- Language/Literacy
- Access to mass media and emerging technologies
- Culture
- Natural environment, such as green space or weather
- Built environment
- Exposure to toxic substances and other physical hazards



Life Expectancy in the U.S., 2017

Racial/Ethnic Group	Males	Female
White	76.5	81.1
African American	72.0	78.1
Latino	79.2	84.0
Total in 2017	76.1	81.1

Arias E., [NCHS data brief](#), CDC, (2016), no 244
Murphy SL, et al., [NCHS data brief](#), CDC (2018), no 328



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Health Disparities: Women

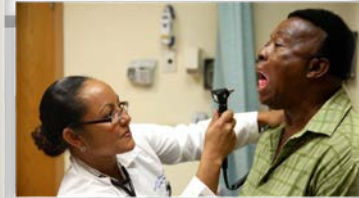
Breast
Cancer

Heart
Disease

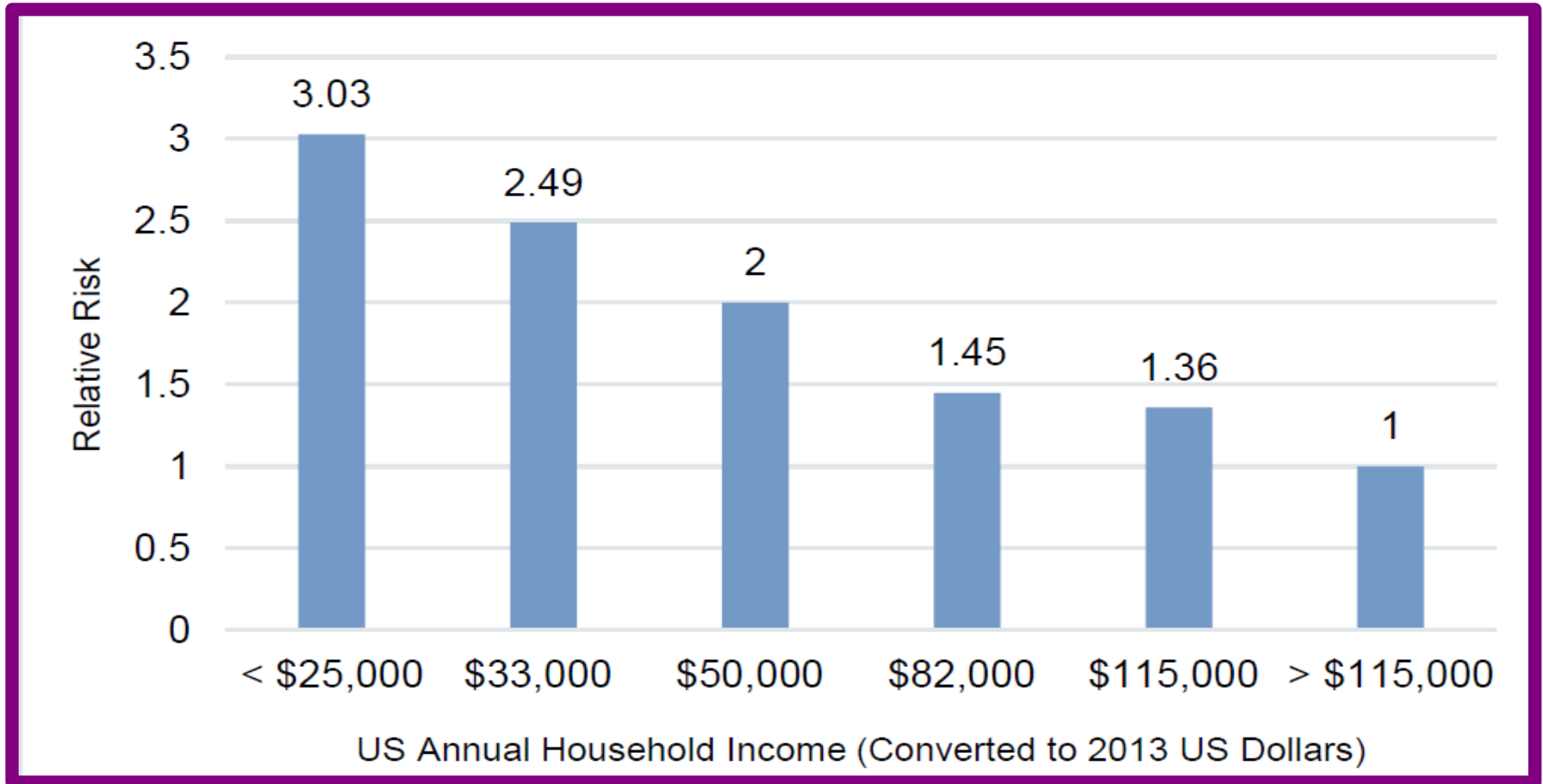
Diabetes

HIV/AIDS

Maternal
Mortality



Relative Risk of All-Cause Mortality by US Annual Household Income Level in 2016



Wyatt R, et al., Achieving health equity: A guide for health care organizations. IHI White Paper. Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2016



Race and Average Income: U.S. 2019

Women by Racial/Ethnic Group	Mean income
	2019 dollars
White	46,100
African American	37,964
Asian	53,361
Latino/Hispanic	32,020





NATIONAL & WORLD AFFAIRS

For Native Americans, COVID-19 is ‘the worst of both worlds at the same time’

The Skywalk over the Grand Canyon was closed by the Hualapai tribe to increase social distancing measures during the pandemic.

ton Lawrimore/Unsplash



The Striking Racial Divide in How Covid-19 Has Hit Nursing Homes

Homes with a significant number of black and Latino residents have been twice as likely to be hit by the coronavirus as those where the population is overwhelmingly white.

Rural America Could Be the Region Hardest Hit by the COVID-19 Outbreak



Black Americans Face Alarming Rates of Coronavirus Infection in Some States

Data on race and the coronavirus is too limited to draw sweeping conclusions, experts say, but disparate rates of sickness — and death — have emerged in some places.

Many Who Need Testing For COVID-19 Fail To Get Access

April 3, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

COVID-19 in Prisons and Jails in the United States

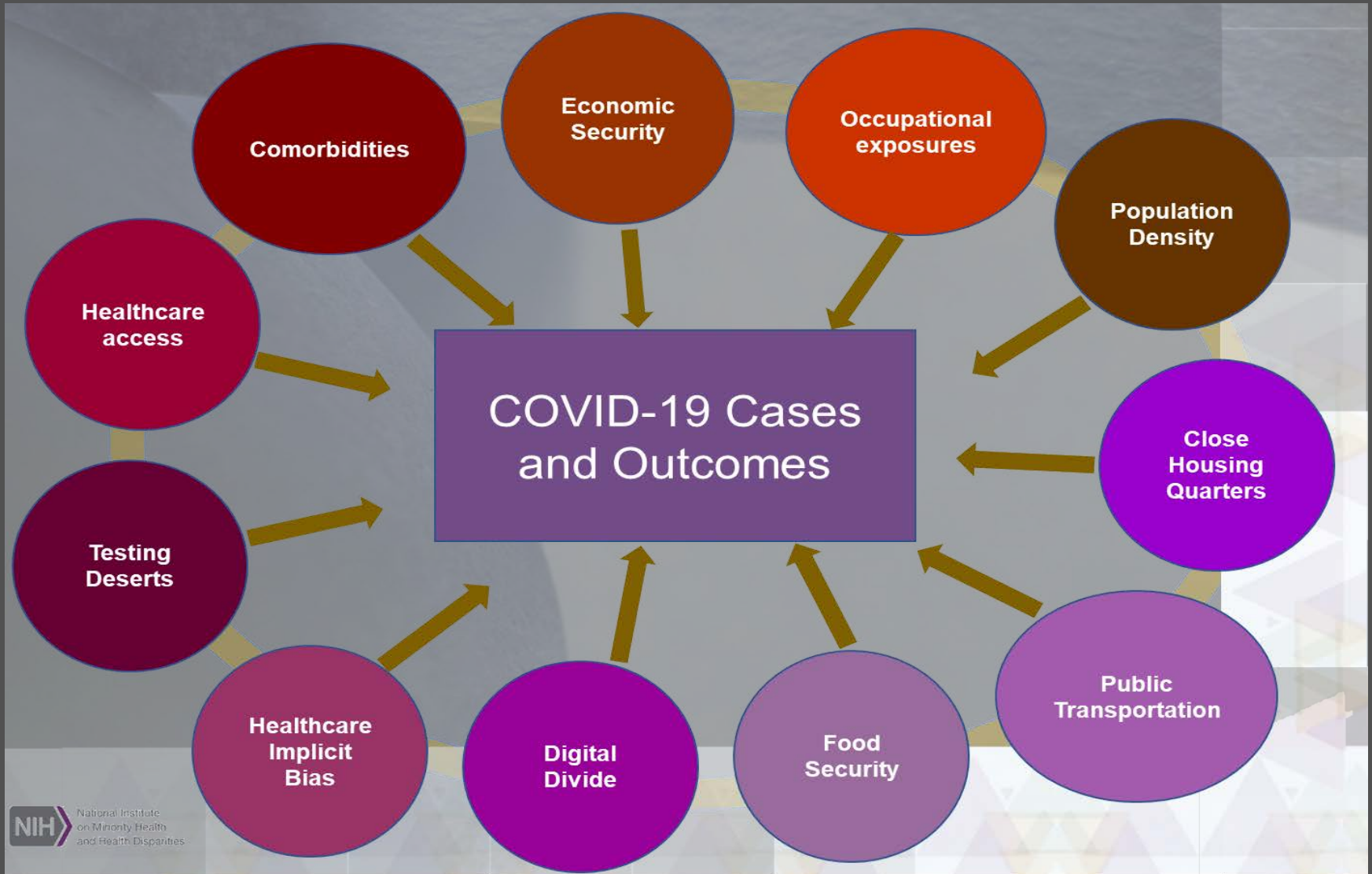
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JAMA Intern Med. Published online April 28, 2020. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.1856



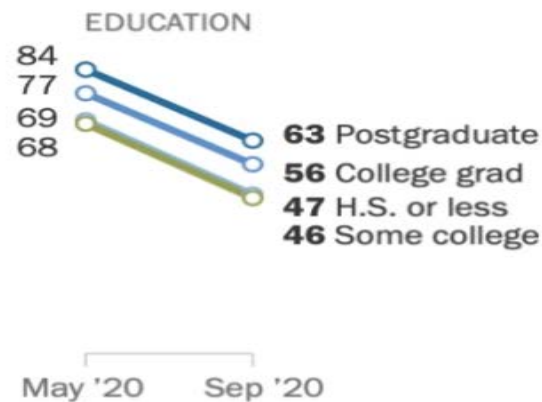
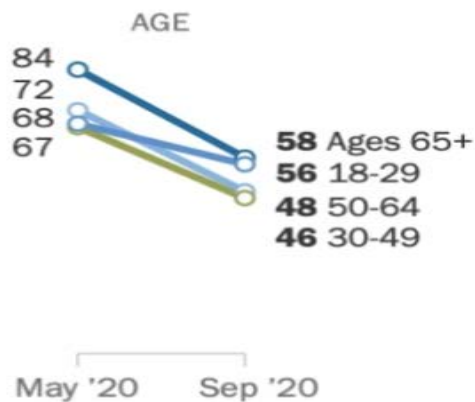
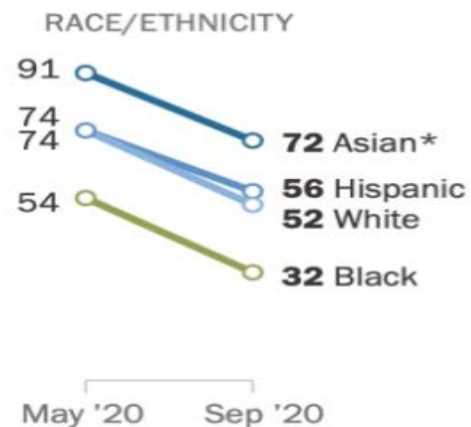
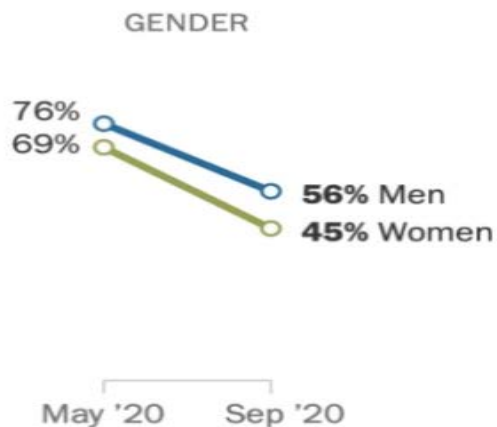
Systemic Inequities



Emerging Issues: Women & Disparities

- **Primary caregiving roles**
- **Impact on careers & employment**
- **Mental health – allostatic load & weathering**
- **Biological factor – obesity**

COVID-19 Willingness Today: National Sample



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.



COVID-19 Research Initiatives

- **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics-Underserved Population (RADx-UP)**
- **Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities**



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RADx-UP: Testing

- Consortium of community-engaged research projects
- **Overarching goal:** reduce COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality disparities
- **Research Testing Projects:** Increase COVID-19 testing among underserved and/or vulnerable populations across the US
 - Best methods to increase reach, access, uptake, and impact
- **Social, ethical, and behavioral implications**
 - What happens next when we test?

Priority Populations



- *NIH-designated U.S. health disparity populations*
- *COVID-19 vulnerable populations*
 - Known medical comorbidities, older adults; homeless populations; pregnant women; children; persons with disabilities, individuals with substance use disorders or serious mental illness; migrant communities; residents of tribal lands or reservations

An illustration of a diverse group of people of various ethnicities and ages, all wearing face masks. The background is a mix of blue, orange, and light blue tones. The people are shown from the chest up, facing forward or slightly to the side.

Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities



National Institutes of Health

Overview - NIH-wide Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities

- Lead **urgent community engagement and outreach efforts** to address **misinformation and mistrust** in underserved racial & ethnic minority communities disproportionately
 - ▶ African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, & American Indians
 - ▶ Initial focus: counties in **11 States** (Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas)



NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities

CEAL works with communities to respond to COVID-19 by addressing misinformation and promoting participation in clinical trials

CEAL Objective 1

Conduct urgent community-engaged **research and outreach** focused on COVID-19 awareness and education to address **misinformation and distrust**.

CEAL Objective 2

Promote and facilitate **inclusion of diverse racial and ethnic populations** in clinical trials (prevention, vaccine, therapeutics), reflective of the populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

CEAL Activities:

- Establish communication networks across multiple channels and through engagement with **trusted organizations** and **trusted messengers** in the communities.





Informing, Educating and Promoting Clinical Trial Participation



NIH COVID-19 Communities Responding Together

Download resources for use in talking to your communities about COVID-19, the vaccines under development, how they are developed, and the importance of being included in research studies.

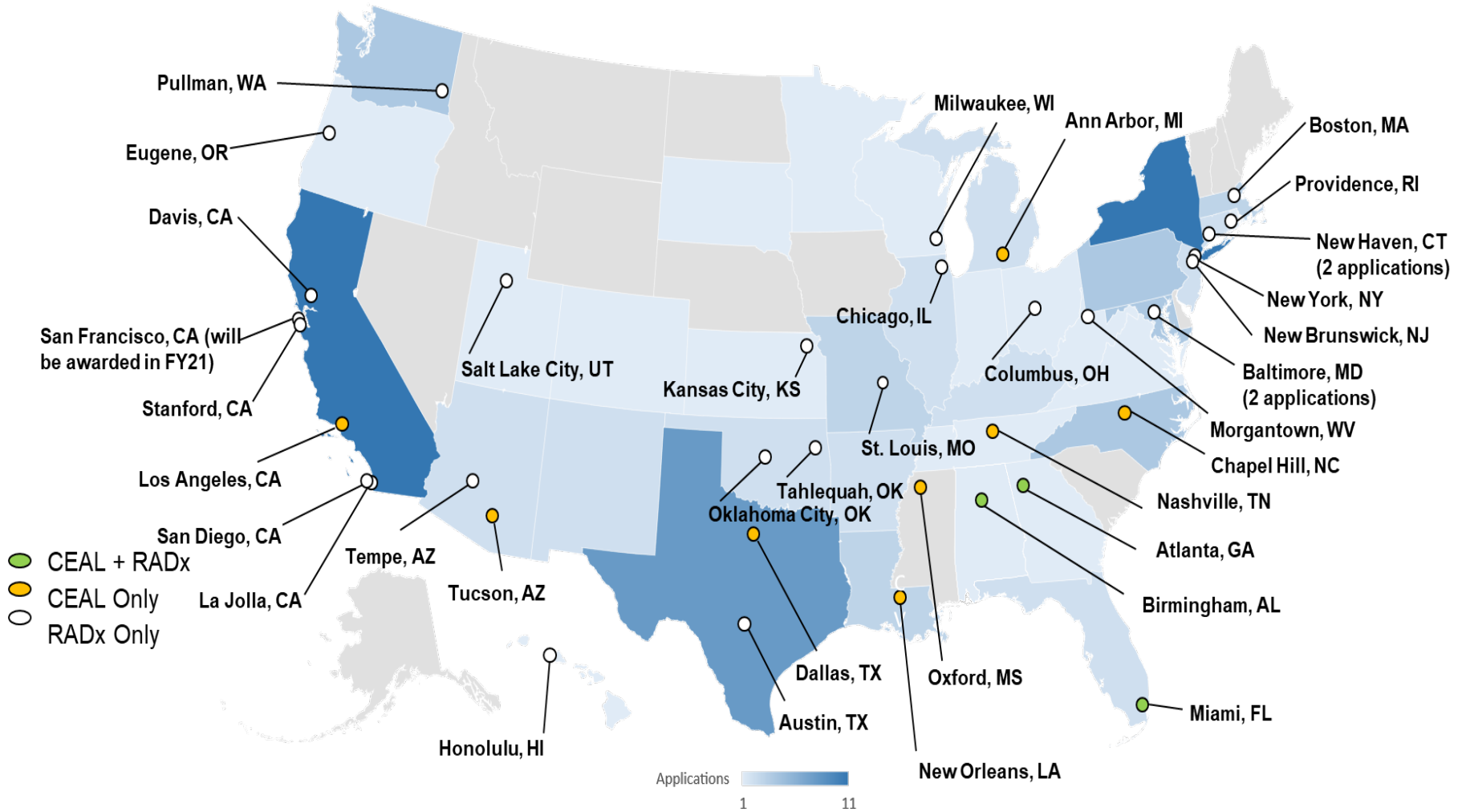
Bookmark this page and return often for new resources to help you engage community organizations and individuals and encourage participation in clinical trials.

<https://covid19community.nih.gov>



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RADx-UP and CEAL Applications Awarded – Institution Cities



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