Alaska Indigenous Research Program
2020: A Year Like No Other

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Director, NIH Tribal Health Research Office (THRO)

May 17, 2021
2020: A Year Like No Other

- Worldwide pandemic
- Shifting society
- New direction
TOTAL Deaths Reported Since 1/22/20: 558,843

NEW Deaths Reported to CDC on 4/10/21: 750

Change in 7-Day Death Average: -5.2%

Current 7-Day Death Average (4/4/21 - 4/10/21): 684

National Forecast

The graph shows the national forecast of new cases over time from March 1 to June 1. The forecast includes reported data and ensemble predictions from various models. The shaded areas represent 95% prediction intervals, with inner bands indicating 50% prediction intervals. The models contributing to the forecast are indicated by different colors and labels.
How Effective Are the mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines?

Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine

The New England Journal of Medicine
Published online December 10, 2020

Safety and Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine
FP Polack et al. for the C4591001 Clinical Trial Group

■ Efficacy: 95%

Moderna Vaccine

The New England Journal of Medicine
Published online December 30, 2020

Efficacy and Safety of the mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine
LR Baden et al. for the COVE Study Group

■ Efficacy: 94.1%
### Effectiveness of Selected Vaccines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Effectiveness</th>
<th>Recommended Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>40-60%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingles</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: CDC; Plotkin’s Vaccines, 7th edition, 2017.
Total Doses Delivered
(12/14/20 - 4/18/21): 264,505,725

Total Doses Administered
(12/14/20 - 4/18/21): 209,406,814

People Receiving ≥1 Dose (% Population):
131,247,546 (39.5%)

People Fully Vaccinated (% Population):
84,263,408 (25.4%)

Percent of People ≥65 Years Fully Vaccinated: 65.9%
“And in communities across the country, Americans are going above and beyond to encourage vaccinations and get people vaccinated — like in Alaska, where workers are delivering vaccine to deep-sea fishermen using a contraption called a “man basket” — a bucket suspended in the air that swings from one ship to a neighboring vessel, vaccinating more than 100 people on each ship. Now, that’s what I call meeting people where they are.”

May 7, 2021 White House Press Briefing
COVID-19 Vaccination in Israel and B.1.1.7

Effect of Robust COVID-19 Vaccination Effort in Israel, Where B.1.1.7 Predominates

Source: Our World in Data
Words Matter!

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC.
If you are vaccinated, you are less likely to get the flu.

Even if you do get sick, vaccination can reduce the severity and duration of illness and can help keep you out of the hospital.
The COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) was formed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the U.S. National Institutes of Health to respond to the global pandemic. Using the infectious disease expertise of their existing research networks and global partners, NIAID has directed the networks to address the pressing need for vaccines and monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against SARS-CoV-2. The CoVPN is comprised of the partners listed here.
## Wild Card: SARS-CoV-2 Variants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.1.1.7</strong></td>
<td>Originally United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.1.351</strong></td>
<td>Originally South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P.1</strong></td>
<td>Originally Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.1.429/B.1.427</strong></td>
<td>Originally California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B.1.526</strong></td>
<td>Originally New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Connection

www.radar-tracker.com
“It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.”

- President Biden, Presidential Memo, January 26, 2021
Committee U
Understanding stakeholder experiences through listening and learning

Committee N
New research on health disparities, minority health, and health equity

Committee I
Improving the NIH culture and structure for equity, inclusion and excellence

Committee T
Transparency, communication, and accountability with our internal and external stakeholders

Committee E
Extramural research ecosystem: changing policy, culture and structure to promote workforce diversity
McGirt v. Oklahoma – Decided July 9, 2020

- Case concerned whether Oklahoma could try a citizen of a Tribal Nation for criminal matters.

- McGirt contended that because his offenses occurred on lands guaranteed to the Muscogee Creek Nation in an 1866 treaty—one never legally extinguished by Congress—only Federal authorities could prosecute his case.

In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled that Oklahoma remains Native Land.

Tribal rights, sovereignty, and jurisdiction are coming to the forefront in a historic way.
A Closer Look – NIH PIs By Grant Mechanism and Race (FY2016-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Demographic Category: Race</th>
<th>All Mechanisms Total</th>
<th>Research Grants</th>
<th>Fellowships</th>
<th>Training Grants</th>
<th>Construction Grants</th>
<th>Other Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td></td>
<td>155</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,530</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>More than One Race</td>
<td></td>
<td>838</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,468</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td>41,419</td>
<td>66.2%</td>
<td>6,557</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>2,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Withheld</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Years</td>
<td>Total All Years Race</td>
<td></td>
<td>62,601</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>9,573</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>3,713</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“D” is entered for suppressed cells due to small count.

Trends:

- In each of the 5 years, **AI/AN investigators** were only 0.2% of research grant awardees
- In each of the 5 years, **10 or fewer** AI/AN individuals received training grants
- And for all 5 years, in aggregate, **10 or fewer** AI/AN individuals received training grants
- Over 5 years, % of Fellowships to AI/AN investigators ranged from 0.4% - 0.6%, averaging 0.5%

https://report.nih.gov/reports/special-reports-and-current-issues
The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) with multiple NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) partnered with the Indian Health Service (IHS) to support the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH). The NARCH program supports opportunities for conducting research and career enrichment to meet health needs prioritized by American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes or tribally based organizations. It aims to:

- Work toward reducing health disparities in AI/AN populations by allowing AI/AN communities to control and prioritize the health research and career enhancement opportunities.
- Support health research projects selected and prioritized by the AI/AN communities.
- Encourage research capacity and infrastructure building within AI/AN communities to provide the framework for sustainability of research within tribal communities.
- Enhance health research partnerships while promoting a cadre of scientists and health research professionals interested in AI/AN health research from within and outside AI/AN communities.
# NIH Tribal Consultations: Honoring Commitments, Building Relationships

## Past
- **2020** Rapid-Response NIH Tribal Consultation on COVID-19 Research
- **2019-2020** The NIH Draft Policy for Data Management and Sharing
- **2019-2020** The *All of Us* Research Program
- **2019** Intellectual Property in Biomedical Research
- **2018** The Opioid Crisis in Indian Country
- **2017** The NIH Strategic Plan for Tribal Health Research

## Current
- **2021** Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) Program

## Upcoming
- **2021-2022** The NIH Draft Tribal Consultation Policy
NIH Tribal Health Research Office (Established 2015)

- Central hub for coordinating Tribal health research and AI/AN capacity building across NIH
- Supports ICO efforts to meet Strategic Plan Goals
  - THRO Coordinating Committee (THRCC)
  - Detail opportunities in THRO
- Ensures that NIH adheres to the "NIH Guidance on the Implementation of the HHS Tribal Consultation Policy"
- Gathers meaningful input from Tribal communities on NIH research policies, programs, and priorities
- Convenes NIH Tribal Advisory Committee with Tribal leaders from across the country
Highlighted THRO Accomplishments and Activities

➢ **Strong relationships** with Tribal Leaders across the U.S.

➢ **Groundbreaking agreement** between Tribes and pharmaceutical companies for COVID-19 clinical trials

➢ First-of-its-kind **Traditional Medicine Summit** with NCCIH

➢ Pivotal **data-sharing and use agreement** between Navajo Nation and NIH grantees of the ECHO Program

➢ Extensive behind-the-scenes **technical assistance to solve issues** across NIH, HHS, and with Tribal Nations
An Eye-Opening Year
Improving AN/AI Health Through Biomedical Research


"In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

Great Law of the Iroquois