



Covid-19 among American Indians and Alaska Natives: Mid-2021 Update

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Abstract:

At the end of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had affected Indigenous American Indians and Alaska Natives harshly. At that time, the United States (US) had more deaths than any other nation. American Indians and Alaska Natives experienced the highest death and hospitalization rates of any racial or ethnic group in the country. Since then, the Indian Health Service, as well as the national and state governments have made Covid-19 vaccinations a priority. American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest vaccination rates of any racial or ethnic group in the US and this is reflected in their reduced case counts and death rates. Vaccinations were not the only factor. Tight-knit Indigenous communities became even closer and banded together as individuals, families and cultures to survive. This presentation will chronicle this turnaround.

Keywords:

American Indian and Alaska Native; Covid-19; Vaccination; Culture; International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement