



Milken Institute COVID-19 Community Explorer

Data-Driven Insights:

Data is current as of June 7, 2020

As the U.S. reopens, the interactive COVID-19 Community Explorer developed by the Research Department at the Milken Institute allows users to determine community-wide risk factors that can make certain areas more vulnerable to the virus.

When we consider population size, race, age, or preexisting health conditions, our researchers find that a single characteristic is not responsible for COVID-19 cases and deaths within communities. Rather, it is a combination of factors – particularly in underserved communities – that contribute to making some areas more vulnerable to the virus, according to Ken Sagynbekov and Brittney Butler, who created the tool.

Insights from the Milken Institute COVID-19 Community Explorer:

- **Communities in Georgia account for four of the top five most affected by COVID-19 nationwide.** When adjusted for population size, Georgia communities see higher rates of COVID-19, likely due to an array of variables, including racial makeup, lower socioeconomic conditions, and higher rates of preexisting health conditions.
- **Two Georgia counties with near identical Black populations experience varying rates of COVID-19.** Nearly three out of four people in Hancock County (70.8 percent) and Clayton County (69.9 percent) are Black. However, when adjusted per 100,000 people, Hancock County reported 311 COVID-19-related deaths, while Clayton County reported only 17 deaths.
 - When analyzing household income, our researchers found that socioeconomic status may play a bigger role in determining risk. Black families in Hancock County have a lower average household income compared to Clayton County (\$27,254 vs. \$45,643). And Hancock County has a significantly higher rural population at 61.1 percent, compared to Clayton County, which is less than 1 percent.
- **Of 10 communities most affected by COVID-19, three are in New Jersey.** Neighboring Essex and Middlesex Counties have similar populations, but Essex County has nearly 1.7 times more COVID-19 deaths when adjusted for population size. Per 100,000 people, there are 213 COVID-19 related deaths in Essex County compared to 125 in Middlesex County.
 - Researchers compared food insecurity to find that populations in Essex County compared to Middlesex County are two times more likely to be food insecure (16 percent compared to 8 percent), more likely to be residentially segregated (two out of five people are Black compared to one out of 10), and have lower median household income (\$62,875 compared to \$87,666).

- **Several characteristics may contribute to more COVID-19 cases in California communities.** Adjusting for population size, Los Angeles County has 26 COVID-19 related deaths per 100,000 people, nearly five times more than Orange County.
 - Differing characteristics between the two counties include the residential segregation rate between Black and White populations in Los Angeles County being 1.2 times higher and the rate of children in poverty being 1.5 times higher compared to Orange County.
- **Counties in Florida with comparable populations of older adults had varying experiences with COVID-19.** More than half of people (58 percent) in Sumter County are 65-and older, compared to nearly two out of five people (37 percent) in Sarasota County. Both counties have significantly higher populations of older adults compared to the state average of 16 percent. Per 100,000 people, Sumter County saw 13 COVID-19 related deaths, while Sarasota County had 20 deaths.
 - Diving deeper into the data, researchers found that location and rates of insured adults can have underlying impacts. For instance, Sarasota County has a higher Latino population, a much lower rate of people in rural areas, and a higher percentage of uninsured adults.

The COVID-19 Community Explorer is developed using data from publicly available sources, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, USDA, and The New York Times COVID-19 database. The Milken Institute welcomes input about the COVID-19 Community Explorer. Please direct your feedback to research@milkeninstitute.org.