Disaggregating California’s COVID-19 Data for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and Asians

Health statistics for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) and Asians are often combined into a single category — or may not be reported at all — in many public data systems. This masks the toll COVID-19 has taken on smaller racial and ethnic groups, such as Samoans, Tongans, Japanese, Cambodians, Filipinos, and more. A new study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR) shows the importance of disaggregating NHPI and Asian COVID-19 data.

California is home to the largest single-race NHPI and Asian population compared to other states

1 in 4 NHPIs in the U.S. live in California

Nearly 1 in 3 Asians in the U.S. live in California

California COVID-19 crude mortality rates for NHPIs and Asians (deaths per 100,000)

Death rates for NHPIs were almost 1.5 times higher than California’s overall death rate

Among NHPIs, death rates for Samoans were more than 2 times higher than California’s death rate.

Seven Asian subgroups had death rates higher than the Asian aggregate.

California lost 177 NHPIs and 3,835 Asians to COVID-19 in 2020*

*Single-race, non-Hispanic Asians and NHPIs

Source: Read the fact sheet: https://ucla.in/3bRJ1Ma

Includes 2020 COVID-19 mortality data from California Department of Public Health; 2019 one-year data from the American Community Survey; 2020 population estimates from the California Department of Finance.