Who We Are

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization based in Topeka.
- Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant by the Kansas Health Foundation.
- Committed to convening meaningful conversations around tough topics related to health.

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Hello!

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Acknowledgments

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Why this matters

In 2020, COVID-19 quickly became one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, people living in rural areas, immigrants, and people who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latino experienced a disproportionate burden of cases and deaths.

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The Kansas Story

What we did

KHI used two approaches to better understand age-adjusted COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity.

- Side-by-side comparison of the crude and age-adjusted death rates by race and ethnicity (APM Research Lab)

- Compare age-adjusted COVID-19 deaths to each group's share of the state's population (KHI analysis)

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Definitions

Age Adjustment

A statistical process applied to death rates that allow comparisons across communities or groups with different age distributions. Because the risk of dying from COVID-19 increases with advanced age (e.g., 60 times higher for those age 65-74 than those age 18-29), it is important to consider the role of varying age distributions among racial and ethnic groups. Hence, age adjustment provides a more accurate comparison.
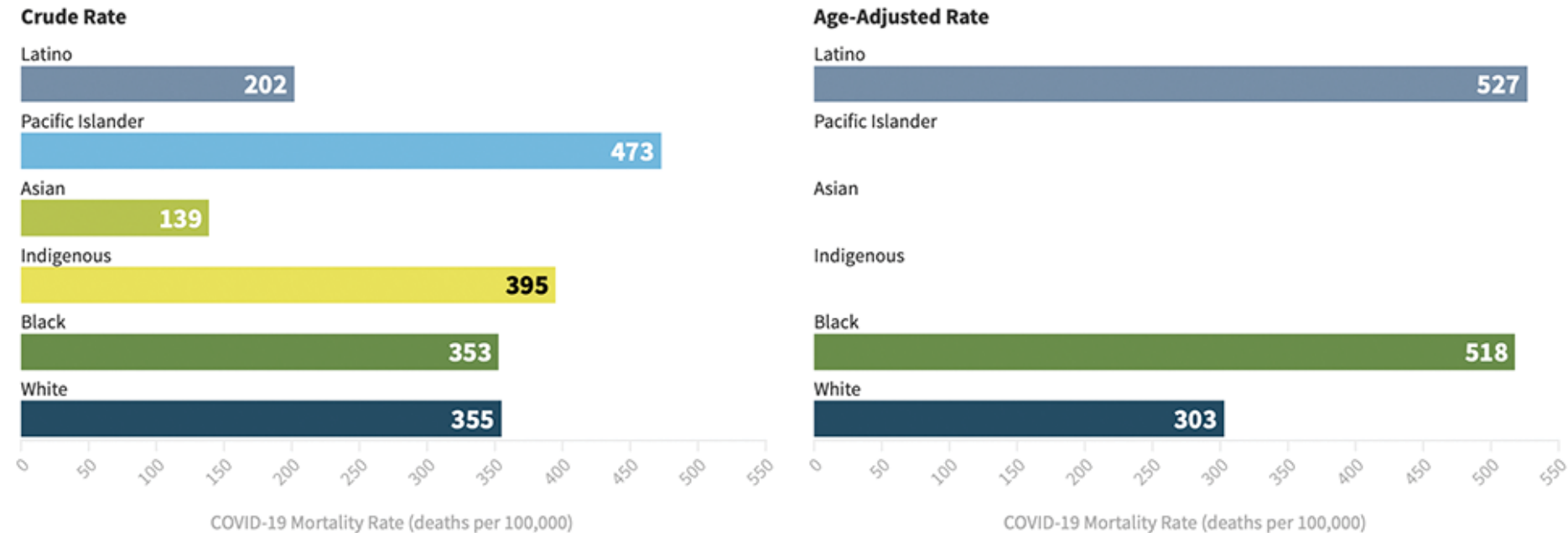
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Age Adjusted COVID-19 Mortality Rates

Figure 1a: Mortality Rates, Crude and Age-Adjusted

Rates are based on deaths reported as of November 16, 2022.

SELECT STATE Kansas ▼

Crude Rate

Race/Ethnicity	Rate
Latino	202
Pacific Islander	473
Asian	139
Indigenous	395
Black	353
White	355

COVID-19 Mortality Rate (deaths per 100,000)

Age-Adjusted Rate

Race/Ethnicity	Rate
Latino	527
Pacific Islander	
Asian	
Indigenous	
Black	518
White	303

COVID-19 Mortality Rate (deaths per 100,000)

Source: Data from US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Analysis by APM Research Lab, Share/embed this graph.
Crude death rates are the actual number of deaths per 100,000 within the given race/ethnicity group and are not adjusted for age. Missing bars indicate groups/time periods for which CDC data is suppressed (between 1 and 9 deaths). Age adjustment uses a direct method where non-suppressed data is available and an indirect method elsewhere. Groups with less than 200 deaths are excluded from the indirect analysis. Full details in our GitHub repository.

APM RESEARCH LAB

Age-adjusted Distribution COVID-19

Figure 1b: **Comparing the Distribution of Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Deaths and the Population in Kansas by Race and Ethnicity as of November 2022**

Race/Hispanic Origin	Distribution of Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Deaths in Kansas (%)	Distribution of Kansas Population (%)	Percentage Point Difference (Higher or Lower) of Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Deaths Than Population Share
Hispanic, Any Race	17.7	13.1	+4.6
Non-Hispanic Black	9.6	5.8	+3.8
Non-Hispanic, American Indian or Alaska Native	2.2	0.8	+1.4
Non-Hispanic, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.1	+0.2
Non-Hispanic Asian	3.4	3.3	+0.1
Other	1.7	2.9	-1.2
Non-Hispanic White	65.0	74.1	-9.1

Note: A positive difference between those two measures indicates that group had disproportionately more deaths from COVID-19 than their share of the population. A negative difference indicates that group had fewer deaths from COVID-19 than their share of the population. The distribution of COVID-19 deaths is standardized by age to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Deaths are age-adjusted to control for differences in age distributions between population groups. "Other" includes those who may be missing race or ethnicity information or who identify as more than one race. Estimates are based on provisional COVID-19 deaths from January 1, 2020, through November 30, 2022.

Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of the National Center for Health Statistics Provisional COVID-19 Deaths by HHS Region, Race, and Age accessed on 12/6/2022 from https://data.cdc.gov/d/jwta-jxbg and Standard Populations (Millions) for Age-Adjustment from https://seer.cancer.gov/stdpopulations/.

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In summary

Both approaches spotlight the higher burden of age-adjusted COVID-19 deaths among Black and Latino Kansans and potentially for Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Natives.

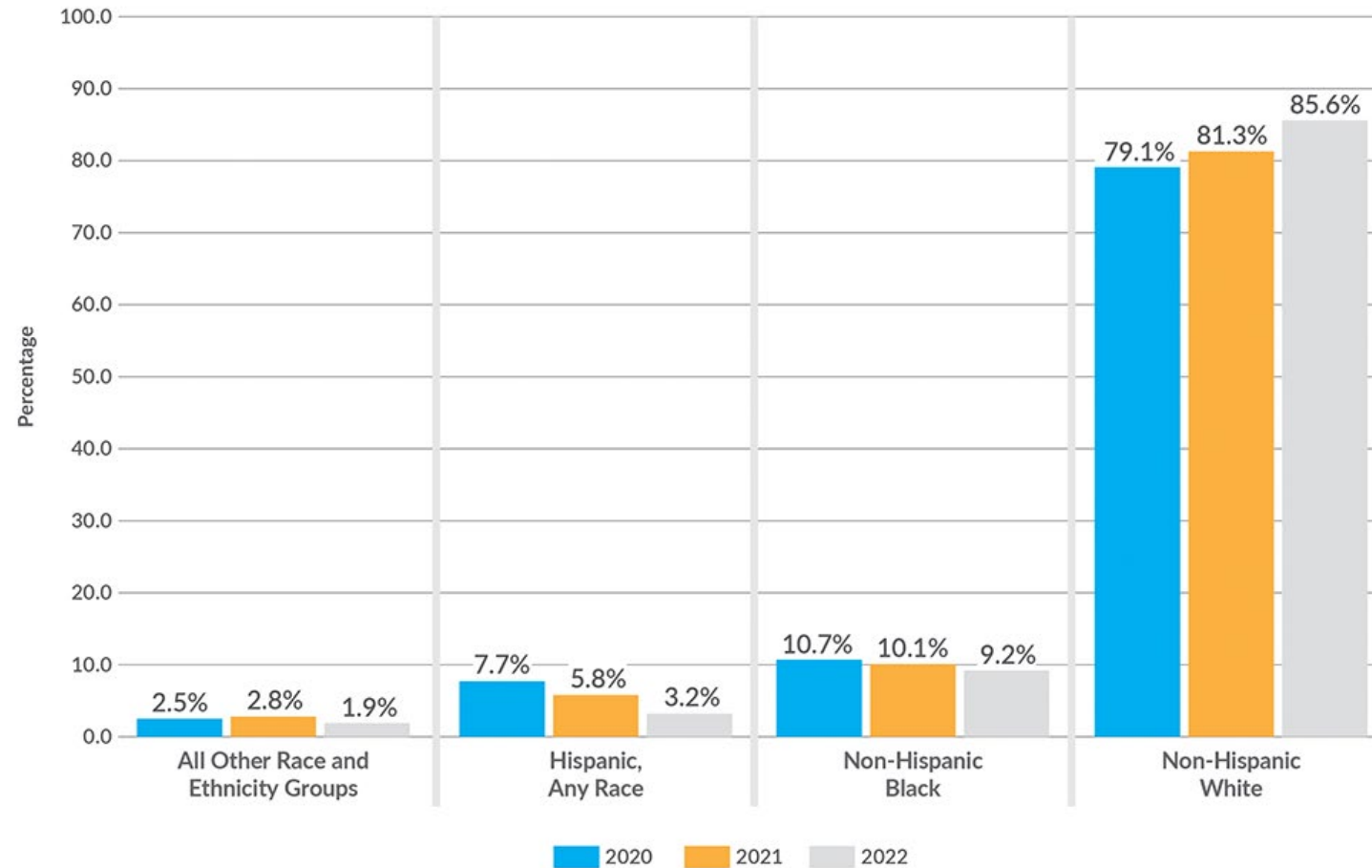This could be attributed to differences in risk factors between groups.

Regional Trends

What we did

KHI explored changes in racial and ethnic disparity throughout the pandemic by comparing age-adjusted COVID-19 deaths by year for each racial and ethnic group.

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HHS Region 7, January 2020-November 2022

Figure 2: Share of Age-Adjusted COVID-19 Deaths by Race and Ethnicity for HHS Region 7, January 2020-November 2022

Regional Trends

In summary

The number of COVID-19 deaths in HHS Region 7 fell 45.2 percent from 2020 to 2022 (as of November 30).

There was a change in the proportion of age-adjusted COVID-19 deaths.

PANEL DISCUSSION

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Today's Panelists

- **Dr. Ximena Garcia, M.D., Senior Advisor for Vaccine Equity, Kansas Office of the Governor**
- **Dr. Manuel Solano, M.D., Director of Behavioral Health, Samuel U Rodgers Community Health Center; formerly Program Director, Community Health Council of Wyandotte County**
- **Dr. Racquel Stucky, D.O., Family Medicine, Garden City, KS**
- **Shaun Rojas, Senior Director of Civic Engagement, Kansas Leadership Center**
- **Dr. Donnis McPhaul, Ph.D., Owner, Personal Touch Events, LLC**

Definitions

Vaccine equity *is when everyone has fair and just access to COVID-19 vaccination.*

Vaccine hesitancy *refers to delay in acceptance or refusal to have a vaccine even when one is available.*

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THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

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