The role of Emergency Departments in COVID-19 the Pandemic

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First Responder Resiliency ECHO
Disclosures

• Grants/research: UNM CTSC
Where to begin?
Distress, anxiety, fatigue...

Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count

By The New York Times  Updated August 30, 2020, 2:00 P.M. E.T.

TOTAL CASES 5.9 million+
DEATHS 182,752

Includes confirmed and probable cases where available.
But also a lot of support ...
Words from the front lines...

It does. It’s not normal. We didn’t train for this scale of illness. It’s ok to feel overwhelmed and lost. Having y’all’s support is helping me get through this, please know I’m here to chat if anyone needs anything.

I read somewhere that if stored in a bag that is open to air so the masks can dry out, virus should be dead after 4 days, so if you have 4 N95 masks, you can store your mask from day 1 in a bag marked “1” and 2 in a bag marked “2” and so on. after day 4 should be safe to reuse mask 1 (allegedly)

could also bake them in an oven apparently?

Happy message! Winning the wonderfully unexpected CoVID helpers award, the chief of Mass General orthopedics is currently the fast track overnight intern. Orthopedics has agreed to exclusively staff fast track, in particular overnight, including with their attendings.
What is it like to a patient?
How did ED’s Prepare?

• Respiratory Screening Areas
• PPE guidelines – ever evolving w/supply and evidence
• Clinical care guidelines and scenario planning
• Re-organizing the ED and flow
• Staffing up and staffing down
• No shared areas
• Masking all patients
What exactly happened to EDs?

“Regular wards turned into ICUs overnight. Multiple codes an hour. An incomprehensible daily death count. Overflowing morgues and freezer trucks outside the building. Patients came in, got intubated, and died so quickly that often there was no time to obtain a family contact. They died alone, while their loved ones waited by the phone.”
But overall... a dramatic drop in volume
Emergency Departments: The Safety Net of the Safety Net – visits rising annually

SUMMARY
Medicaid and Medicare > Private
Rural > Urban (pop-adjusted)
Black and Hispanic persons > White

Greenwood-Ericksen, JAMA Open, 2019
What happened to vulnerable populations during COVID-19?

• Persons Experiencing Homelessness
• Substance Use Disorder
• Rural and Tribal Communities
Research Letter

April 2023

Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Travis P.

A total of 120 individuals constituted PCR-negative COVID-19 cases were assessed.
Vulnerable Populations – Substance Use Disorder
Vulnerable Populations – Rural and Tribal Communities

Navajo Nation surpasses New York state for the highest Covid-19 infection rate in the US

By Hollie Silverman, Konstantin Toropin, Sara Sidner and Leslie Perrot, CNN

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<tr>
<th>Navajo Nation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
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<td>Area (square miles)</td>
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<td>Population density (per square mile)</td>
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<td>Poverty rate (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covid-19 Infections</td>
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<td>Covid-19 Infection Rate (per 100,000 residents)</td>
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<td>Covid-19 Deaths (n)</td>
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This death toll is disproportionate – for example in New Mexico, American Indians represent 53% of COVID-related deaths in the state despite only representing 11% of the population.
Discussion Question

• What can we do in our communities to reduce health disparities and help those who are vulnerable?