



# Town Hall Meeting

**Arkansas Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19**

6/29/21

# Goals for Today

- What is the purpose of the coalition?
- What will the coalition do?
- How can we help each other get rid of COVID-19 burden on our communities?

# Purpose of the Coalition

- In the United States, COVID-19 has struck racially and ethnically diverse communities particularly hard.
- Although the nation has opened up, the fight is not over.
- There are over 2000 positive COVID-19 cases in Arkansas on any given day.
- Hundreds of COVID-19 adult and child patients in the hospital and/or on a ventilator.

# Purpose of the Coalition

- The National Institutes of Health has funded the Community Engagement Alliance Against COVID-19 (CEAL) Teams across the country to work closely with community leaders, business, and organizations to help the nation move out of the pandemic.
- Over the next year, Arkansas CEAL seeks to spread trustworthy and accurate information about COVID-19 and the vaccines to the hardest hit communities in Arkansas.



- Our **VISION** is to create a COVID-19 free state, where no one is left behind to suffer from the devastating effects of this infectious disease and its unintended consequences.





# Is COVID-19 as Bad as People Say it Is?

# COVID-19 Update

June 21, 2021



## CONFIRMED CASES

	Total	Change from yesterday
CASES:	269,532	+78
ACTIVE CASES:	1,632	-61
CONFIRMED DEATHS:	4,665	+2

## PROBABLE CASES

	Total	Change from yesterday
CASES:	76,163	+12
ACTIVE CASES:	687	-84
PROBABLE DEATHS:	1,211	+0

<b>TOTAL CASES:</b>	<b>345,695</b>	<b>+90</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE CASES:</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>-145</b>
<b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>	<b>5,876</b>	<b>+2</b>

## VACCINATIONS

	Total	Change from yesterday
DOSES RECEIVED:	2,679,100	+0
DOSES GIVEN:	2,086,830	+1,550
PERCENT DOSES GIVEN:	77.9%	
INDIVIDUALS PARTIALLY IMMUNIZED:	222,736	-127
INDIVIDUALS FULLY IMMUNIZED:	968,173	+866

• All data are provisional and subject to change. PCR testing data reflects result date. Probable cases and deaths may decrease if they are reclassified. The net change is shown. Vaccination numbers include the state and federal program. As more Arkansans are fully immunized, the number of Arkansans partially immunized may decline from day to day.

## HOSPITAL DATA

Most recent statewide data available.

Hospitalized:	281
-Change from yesterday:	+20
On ventilators:	63
-Change from yesterday:	-1
Ever hospitalized:	16,704
Ever on ventilator:	1,705

## TODAY'S NEW CASES

Counties with most new confirmed and probable cases added today.

- 1) Pulaski: 17
- 2) Washington: 9
- 3) Hot Spring: 6

Breakdown of new confirmed cases by type.

Correctional: 0  
Community: 78

## TESTING

	Total this month	Results yesterday
PCR:	45,215	1,019
ANTIGEN:	24,688	254

# What is the problem with COVID-19 in Black/African American Communities?

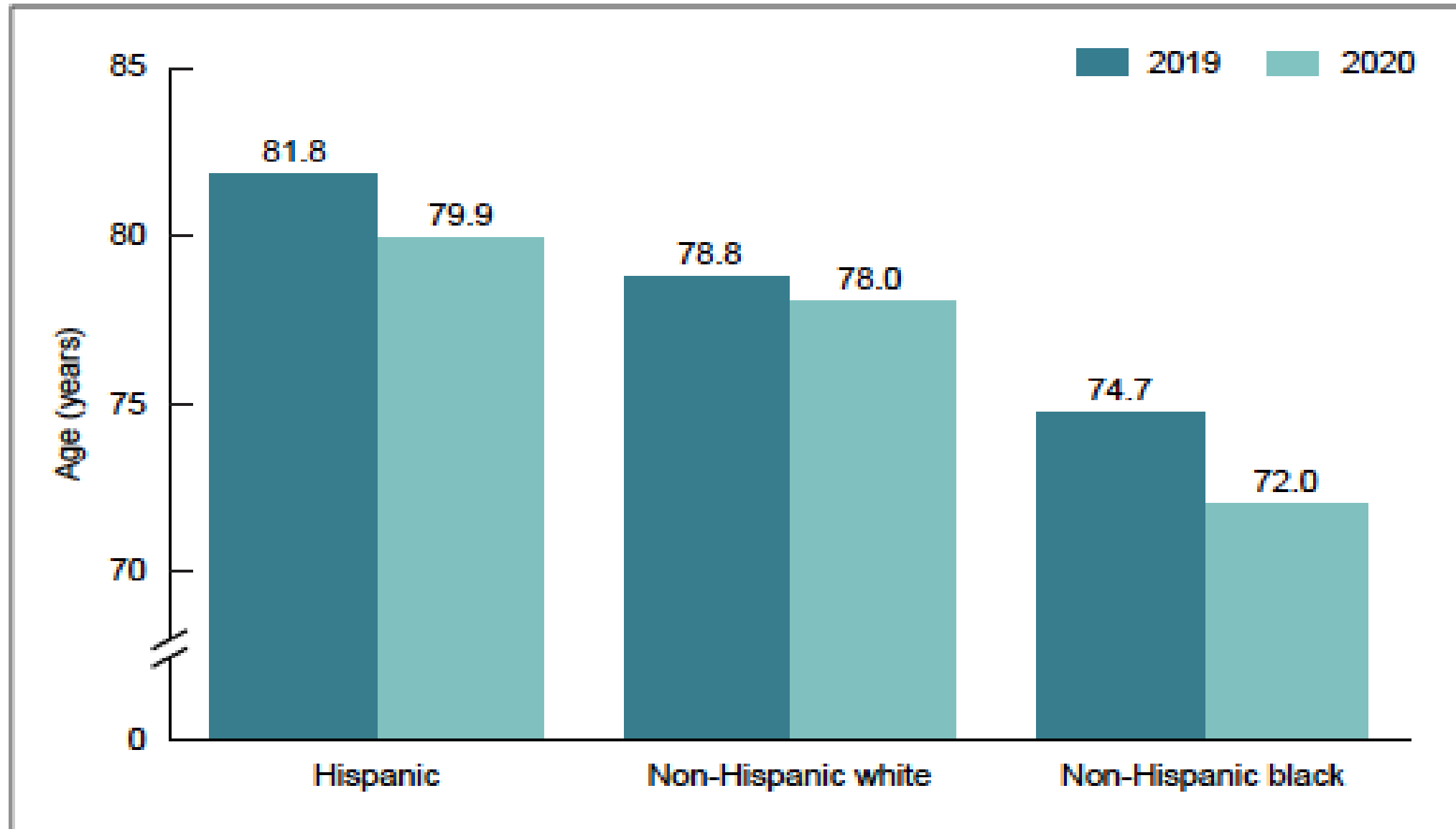
- COVID-19 **more often** infects and kills African Americans/Blacks compared to other racial groups.
- Higher percentage of people who have **existing conditions** make COVID-19 disease outcomes more serious.
- Nearly **3x the hospitalization rate as whites**.
- Life expectancy, that is how long on average we are expected to live, decreased from 2019 to 2020 by 2.7 years. **The life expectancy is now 72 years, the lowest level since 2001.**



- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic kidney disease & dialysis
- Cardiovascular disease
- Immuno-compromising conditions (HIV, cancer, etc.)



Figure 2. Life expectancy at birth, by Hispanic origin and race: United States, 2019 and 2020



NOTES: Life expectancies for 2019 by Hispanic origin and race are not final estimates; see Technical Notes. Estimates are based on provisional data from January 2020 through June 2020.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality data.

What is the problem with COVID-19 in Black?/African American Communities?

What will the Coalition Do?

# What are the IMPORTANT things that we can do to PROTECT Black/African American communities from COVID-19?

- Mask wearing
- Handwashing and sanitation
- Screening and testing for COVID-19
- Physically distancing and social isolation if infected
- Seeking timely health care
- Safe socialization
- Vaccinations
- Follow-up vaccinations
- Booster vaccinations
- Families, including children, and neighborhood vaccinations



# What will the Coalition Do?



- **Develop messages** to help protect Black/African American communities from COVID-19.
- **Provide information and resources** that can help protect Black/African American communities from COVID-19.
- **Determine steps needed to improve overall life expectancy** for Black/African American families and communities in Arkansas.

How can we help each other get rid  
of the COVID-19 burden on our  
communities?



# What is CEALFund?

- **CEALFund** was developed to help community organizations, churches, educational institutions, service organizations, businesses, community leaders, and others expand outreach, educational, and other activities to their clients and provide trustworthy and accurate information about COVID-19 and the vaccines.
- **CEALFund** can support events, activities, educational tools, and novel strategies that promote the inclusion of communities hit hard by COVID-19 in efforts to eliminate COVID-19 in Arkansas.
- The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has received generous funds from the National Institutes of Health to provide **CEALFund** to those who are prepared and ready to join the fight in making Arkansas a COVID-19 free state. **CEALFund** will support over 100 organizations in helping us to actualize our vision in 2021.

# How Do I Know If I am Eligible to Apply for CEALFund?

You are eligible if you are:

- a 501c(3) organization
- Established church
- Educational institution at any level
- Fraternities, sororities, and other service organizations
- Business that targets are communities hard hit (Blacks/African Americans, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islanders, rural areas)
- Small businesses including beauty and barbershops
- Food pantries
- Sport-related organizations, youth sport organizations, and summer programs
- Youth focused organizations
- Adult day care centers

# What are the Requirements for CEALFund?

- Complete an application that describes the following:
  - Description of your organization and its mission
  - Statement on track record of working with the target community
  - Brief statement on how funds will be used
  - Budget
- If you are funded, CEALFunds asks that you participate in monthly online coalition meetings that will provide information that helps you provide trustworthy and accurate information to your clients, provides resources to help you reach your clients, and provides opportunities for discussion on successes and challenges of making Arkansas COVID-19 free.
- Work with us to publicize our key messages.

# What are the Next Steps?

- Are there any questions?
- Contact our Project to learn more about CEALFund.
- Let us know what your concerns.
- Tell us what you think should be done.