

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

RIM Monthly Newsletter

Updates and resources for SCALING UP COVID-19 PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES WITH REFUGEE, IMMIGRANT, AND MIGRANT (RIM) COMMUNITIES

August 31, 2022

COVID-19 CDC Data Updates

US COVID-19 data: Number of Confirmed Cases in the past 7 days: 90,676 and 390 deaths (data updated 08/26/2022)

US Monkey Pox data: Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxviral cases: 1,470 (data updated 7/17/2022)

Highlights of the Month

NACCHO360: Presentations from the Refugee, Immigrant and Migrant Communities

NACCHO, in partnership with the University of Minnesota's National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (NRC-RIM) and with awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), aids local health departments and community-based organizations (CBOs) in their work with RIM communities to rapidly scale-up COVID-19 prevention and mitigation through COVID-19 education, messaging, testing, contact tracing, and vaccination with local RIM populations.

Special recognition goes to the presenters; Whitney Greger (Interim Director of Wellness & Health Promotion) Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, and Annabelle Ng (Health Policy Associate) The New York Immigration Coalition.

The presenters at the annual NACCHO 360 conference in Atlanta, highlighted the effectiveness of community engagement and partnership in mitigating the accessibility barriers to equitable healthcare in RIM communities, as well as showcasing their approach in combating inequity by implementing strategies to increase community engagement and partnership in their jurisdiction.

The poster session thus presented the best practices identified from the Scaling-up COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies with RIM Communities project, and the transferability of these best practices to address other communicable diseases in RIM communities.

NYIC Community Engagement

Promising Practices in Partnership Building and Community Engagement
Scaling Up COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies within Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant Communities

C-UPHD Bringing Partners Together

Challenges in Accessing Healthcare
Immigrant populations have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, revealing long-standing health inequities within New York City. With the lack of time, language access, and the prevailing sentiment of vaccine hesitancy, a partnership between the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and community-based organizations is critical to ensuring trusted, culturally relevant programming that can effectively address barriers to healthcare access.

Staten Park, Brooklyn
Staten Park, Brooklyn, is among one of the largest immigrant communities in NYC. With nearly two-thirds of the community being immigrants, many are barred from traditional healthcare because of their immigrant or legal status, or because of language experiences with large healthcare institutions.

Building Partnerships and Engaging Communities
NYIC, AMPHS, and DOHMH are partnering to build a COVID-19 vaccination engagement strategy in Staten Park, Brooklyn.

NYIC The New York Immigration Coalition
An advocacy policy and advocacy organization for over 100 groups in New York State, representing the collective interests of New Yorkers diverse in language, interpretation and economic migration.

AMPHS Asylum of Medicine in Paris Health Justice
A community health organization in Staten Park that offers culturally sensitive information to a co-located community health center. One of the most trusted and respected of the organization, with a focus on language, interpretation and economic migration.

DOHMH Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
A nationally recognized government public health agency committed to protect and promote the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. Does diverse, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
Champaign County is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in Illinois outside of the Chicago area. According to the report, New Americans in Champaign County (2018), 75% of 118,000 residents, 1 in 8 Champaign residents, and 1 in 3 Urbana residents were immigrants—joining our community from over 78 countries around the world.

Champaign County, Illinois
23,982 immigrants lived in Champaign County in 2018, making up 22.6% of the total population. In 2018, the vast majority of the non-metropolitan immigrant population came from:

- 20.8% Mexico
- 10.1% North America
- 10.0% South America
- 6.0% Southeast Asia
- 4.1% Other

The COVID-19 pandemic has had disparate impact on Champaign County, where nearly 1 in 9 residents is an immigrant and as many as 1 in 3 immigrants live in poverty.

According to the 2018 Community Health Rankings of the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute, Champaign County is consistently ranked at or near the bottom of health outcomes and is in socioeconomic factors that contribute to health inequities that disproportionately impact the 24,000 immigrants that live in Champaign County home.

Champaign County was one of only nine counties in Illinois (out of 102) with a growing population.

Champaign County experienced 0.1% of total population growth in the county attributed to immigrants between 2013 and 2019.

Champaign County experienced 0.1% of immigrants in Champaign County remained the 0.1% in 2019 or less.

DISPROPORTIONAL IMPACT

- The pandemic disproportionately affects immigrants:
 - Studies indicate that they are more than twice as likely to become infected.
- This is due to a number of factors:
 - Overrepresentation in frontline employment sectors such as food, hospitality, and healthcare
 - Information and trust gaps
 - High poverty in our community resulting in overcrowded living conditions
 - Use of public transport, and other challenges to consistent social distancing
- Testing and treatment rates are significantly lower for these communities due to many of these same challenges and others including heightened food, housing, and job insecurity; loss of income; discrimination against Asian communities; and, challenges with virtual learning due to digital divide

PROMISING PRACTICES

CHRs are deeply trusted in the community and involved in every step of the project, from developing educational materials to facilitating workshops and providing language interpretation to ensure that community members have the support and resources they need to make decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

AMPHS, NYIC, and DOHMH built a partnership model that utilizes the assets and strengths of our respective agencies to enhance our impact on the most marginalized communities, providing a strong foundation for continued collaboration to promote public health beyond the scope of this project.

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Public Health

NYIC New York Immigration Coalition

Site Spotlight: African Chamber of Commerce, Colorado (ACCCOUSA)

The ACCCOUSA serves Black and African immigrant entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing business education, technical assistance, and access to capital. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ACCCOUSA provided COVID education, outreach, vaccination and test distribution services. As a trusted voice in the community, the organization is well positioned to support health and economic development to build wealth in their community. Partnerships developed to set up vaccine clinics, include community-based organizations like the Salvation Army, Colorado Ethiopian community, the Librarian Association, the Colorado Muslim society/other faith-based organizations, grocery stores and food banks.

Maya Wheeler (Executive Director) and Teguo Daniels Djoyum (Public Health Project Manager) identified going the extra mile to build good faith when building relationships with constituents, as well as increasing the need for community ownership of health programs through appropriate cultural representation during service provision as the key aspect to the organization's success. Other avenues explored include providing certain financial aid, which was beneficial in addressing the vaccine hesitancy some members had regarding lost wages.



News and Announcements

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights efforts to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time vaccination. This year, NIAM focuses our attention on the urgent need to catch up on routine visits and vaccinations that were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. CDC encourages its partners to share these messages and resources throughout August using the hashtag #ivax2protect. Stay tuned for more resources to be released throughout the coming weeks.

NACCHO: Accepting Applications for Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Awards

NACCHO is accepting applications for a second round of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Awards. These awards are intended to provide resources to the MRC network to support COVID-19 response efforts. These awards prioritize building capacity for the MRC to respond, innovate to evolving requirements, sustain staffing requirements, and equip MRC units or state coordinators with resources needed to support their mission. Awards will be available at three tier levels, with approximately 100-125 total awards available to MRC units and MRC state coordinators: Tier 1: \$25,000; Tier 2: \$50,000; and Tier 3: \$75,000. Applications will be open until Friday, September 16. [Learn more and access the request for applications here.](#)

CDC Recommends Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine for Adolescents

CDC's director signed a decision memo that Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine be used as another primary series option for adolescents ages 12 through 17. This recommendation follows FDA's authorization to authorize the vaccine for this age group under emergency use. Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine, which is available now, is an important tool in the pandemic and provides a more familiar type of COVID-19 vaccine technology for adolescents. Having multiple types of vaccines offers more options and flexibility for the public, jurisdictions, and vaccine providers. [Click here to read more.](#)

From the Field: Research, Policy, and Project Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Education Resources Portal

NACCHO, The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM), and Johns Hopkins University recently developed a curated, up-to-date list of resources from trusted sources to assist community health workers, public health workers, and healthcare professionals in improving health equity and COVID-19 vaccination rates. [Click here to read more.](#)

COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Report

This report emphasizes major themes influencing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and uptake, categorized by their level and type of threat to vaccine confidence, degree of spread, and directionality. By examining how Americans think and feel, social processes, and the practical issues around vaccination, the Insights Report seeks to identify emerging issues of misinformation, disinformation, and places where intervention efforts can positively impact vaccine confidence across the United States. You can find back-issues of the [COVID-19 State of Vaccine Confidence Insights Reports online](#). For the ways you can act on these themes, go to the "Ways to Act" section in the report.

Content Validation in Dayton, Ohio: Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA)

Many refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) community members experience significant cultural, linguistic, and logistical barriers to accessing health information and healthcare, including accurate information about COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccines, and vaccination opportunities. Content validation is a structured process through which bilingual, bicultural community members review materials and provide critical feedback to ensure the material is appropriately designed and translated for the community it is trying to reach. Content validators can provide review and feedback on a wide variety of materials, including print, audio, video, and more.

NRC-RIM held an interview with EHA in June and wrote a [promising practice](#) about their language access and content validation process.

[Ebenezer Healthcare Access](#), a non-profit organization in Dayton Ohio, helps community members overcome linguistic and cultural barriers to healthcare by providing health education, medical appointment scheduling, transportation to appointments, medical translation and interpretation, and cultural competency training for healthcare professionals. Ebenezer Healthcare Access also addresses different social determinants of health within the RIM population as a Care Coordination Agency under the [Dayton Community Pathways HUB system](#).

Jean de Dieu Mukunzi, Executive Director of Ebenezer Healthcare Access, says: "We do have hospitals here, many health systems, and they have information. But that information is not accessible to immigrant populations. To me, success is giving that information we have, those resources that we have in English, and making them available to refugee and immigrant populations." [Click here](#) to read more about the interview.

Back to School 2022: Giving Every School the Tools to Prevent COVID-19 Spread and Stay Safely Open All Year Long

The White House released a new fact sheet detailing key supports and guidance for protecting school communities and managing and mitigating the risks of COVID-19. These include, using vaccines as the first line of defense, providing testing at schools, improving indoor air quality, and making federal resources available to implement these strategies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updates to its general COVID-19 community guidance and Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education (ECE) Programs. In the updated guidance, CDC no longer recommends that students or unvaccinated members of the public quarantine after exposure to COVID-19 if they are asymptomatic. Instead, CDC now recommends those individuals mask for 10 days and test after 5 days. CDC still recommends people who test positive isolate for at least 5 days.

Specific to schools, CDC also recommends against routine testing for asymptomatic or unexposed students. CDC's masking guidance for schools remains unchanged, with universal masking indoors recommended in areas of high-level community risk, while masking is recommended for immunocompromised or high-risk individuals or those with high-risk close contacts in areas of medium-level community risk. [Click here to read more.](#)

Applying Lessons Learned from COVID-19 to the Monkeypox Response

On June 23, the World Health Organization [declared](#) Monkeypox a global emergency; there have been more than 16,000 cases in 75 countries.

The work that local governments, community-based organizations and health systems have done during the COVID-19 response to serve refugee, immigrant and migrant (RIM) communities will continue to be valuable as they plan their response to Monkeypox. Organizations can get ahead by ensuring their Contact Tracing and Case Investigation (CIC) practices meet the needs of people in RIM communities, and by embracing community partnerships. NRC-RIM built [contact tracing campaigns](#) in partnership with a community of farmworkers in Florida and a community of Congolese refugees and migrants in Texas. [Click here](#) to read more.

Webinars and Trainings

Topic: 501(c)(3) Decision Guide for Local Health Departments in Community Health Coalitions

Date: Wednesday, September 7th

Time: 1 PM ET

[Register here](#) to participate.

Topic: Practical Considerations for Involving Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants in Creating Public Health Messaging

Date: Wednesday, September 14th

Time: 11 am PT/2 pm ET

[Register here](#)

Topic: NACCHO Quarterly Member Webinar

Date: Tuesday, September 20

Time: 2 pm ET

[Register Here](#)

Virtual Communities Info

Join our Virtual Communities!

How to Sign Up for Virtual Communities (VC)

- Email membership@naccho.org requesting an account
- Once membership has created you an account, email RIM@naccho.org to be added to the group
- You will then be added to the VC page and sent instructions on using the page
- It takes 24-72 hours to enroll in the VC after membership creates an account for you

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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.