Data Genocide of American Indians and Alaska Natives COVID-19 Report

Digital Toolkit

American Indian and Alaska Native people continue to be victims of data genocide because of U.S. states' poor data collection and reporting practices. This is happening at a time when Native people are dying from COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of white populations. Every state across the country should be required to collect and report race and ethnicity in their COVID-19 data, but only a handful are doing so effectively. States across the country need to be held accountable for collecting and reporting data on American Indians and Alaska Natives accurately going forward.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit can be used to help raise awareness of COVID-19 data issues and hold states accountable in the collection and reporting of data. Find your state's results on the COVID-19 report page.

KEY MESSAGES

- Indigenous communities continue to be victims of data genocide by eliminating us in the data.
- To truly understand the impact of the COVID-19 virus we need better data, but states are doing a poor job of collecting and reporting data on American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- Inaccurate data can lead to underfunded and under-resourced programs.

- Inaccurate data can lead to incorrect conclusions about the health and well-being of indigenous populations and under-reports cases.
- ['F' state]'s poor data collection and reporting practices are creating a data genocide by erasing Indigenous people from the numbers.
- ['A' state] has done a good job of collecting and reporting COVID-19 data for Native people, but there is still room for improvement.
- We have a responsibility to address the growing health equity gap around COVID-19, and that starts with better data collection and reporting of data at state and federal levels.
- When our public health systems don't report required information about race and ethnicity in COVID-19 data, our government cannot make accurate data driven decisions for resource allocation. We deserve better, we deserve inclusion.

5 States Failing at Collecting and Reporting AI/AN People in COVID-19 data

- Texas (20% = F)
- New York (27% = F)
- New Hampshire (39% = F)
- Maryland (39% = F)
- West Virginia (41% = F)

5 States Succeeding at Collecting and Reporting Tracking AI/AN People in COVID-19 Data

- Minnesota (93% = A)
- Vermont (93% = A)
- Maine (91% = A-)
- Arkansas (91% = A-)
- South Dakota (89% = B+)

Key Hashtags

- #DataGenocide
- #DecolonizeData
- #COVID19
- #HealthEquity

Web Link for Report

- **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data**

SAMPLE CONTENT

Use the following sample content to help advocate for better data practices to protect the lives of Indigenous communities.

Sample Facebook and Instagram posts

General post	States across the country are inadequately collecting and reporting required race or ethnicity in their COVID-19 data. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DecolonizeData #COVID19
Why is racial/ethnic data collection and reporting important?	A recent CDC study found that race/ethnicity data was unknown or not reported for 48% of people vaccinated. Inaccurate data leads to underfunded and under-resourced programs. Inaccurate data leads to incorrect conclusions about the health and well-being of indigenous populations and under-reports cases. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** *For reference on CDC statistic about vaccination -* **CDC Source**
What is the impact of poor data collection and reporting?	American Indian and Alaska Native communities are dying from COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of white populations. We need accurate data now, but Indigenous communities continue to be victims of data genocide because of poor data collection and reporting practices by states. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DataGenocide *For reference on statistic about AI/AN communities –* **CDC Source**

Why you should care about quality racial/ethnic COVID-19 data collection and reporting?	"Until we are represented in all COVID-19 data, Indigenous people will continue to suffer disproportionately." - Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director, Urban Indian Health Institute. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** "Health equity will not be achieved until public health surveillance systems properly collect and report race and ethnicity." - Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director, Urban Indian Health Institute. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data**
What you can do to advocate for better data collection and reporting?	Our state is failing Indigenous people. We demand better data collection and reporting practices to ensure American Indians and Alaska Natives are counted in COVID-19 statistics. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DecolonizeData

Sample Twitter posts

What's going on?	Our state is failing us. To truly understand the impact of the #COVID19 virus, we need better data. Right now, states are doing a poor job of collecting and reporting COVID-19 data for Native people, and we demand better. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DecolonizeData
Why is racial/ethnic data collection and reporting important?	A recent CDC study found that race/ethnicity data was unknown or not reported for 48% of people vaccinated. When data is inaccurate or incomplete, communities become underfunded and under-resourced. This is #DataGenocide. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data**
What is the impact of poor data collection and reporting?	Native communities are dying from COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of white populations. To truly understand the impact of COVID-19 we need better information, but states are failing by not including

	us in their data. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** *For reference on statistic about AI/AN communities* – **CDC Source**
Why you should care about racial/ethnic covid-19 data collection and reporting?	"Until we are represented in all #COVID19 data, #Indigenous people will continue to suffer disproportionately." - Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director, Urban Indian Health Institute. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DataGenocide "Health equity will not be achieved until public health surveillance systems properly collect and report race and ethnicity data." - Abigail Echo-Hawk, Director, Urban Indian Health Institute. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DecolonizeData #DataGenocide
What you can do to advocate for better data collection and reporting:	We demand better data collection and reporting practices by states. We deserve better. We deserve inclusion. **https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data** #DecolonizeData #DataGenocide

Sample Email to Government Official(s)

Dear [Government Official(s) from your state]

American Indians and Alaska Natives are repeatedly being left out of most state COVID-19 data, which is creating a data genocide of America's first people. According to a **new report released by the Urban Indian Health Institute**, [YOUR STATE] received a [GRADE] when it comes to capturing and presenting data for AI/AN people.

This pervasive exclusion of American Indians and Alaska Natives in COVID-19 data makes it impossible to accurately gauge the disproportionate burden this pandemic is placing on tribes and Native organizations.

To truly understand the impact of the COVID-19 virus we need better data. Today, our state is doing a poor job of accurately collecting and reporting these statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Inaccurate data leads to underfunded and under-resourced programs. Inaccurate data leads to incorrect conclusions about the health and well-being of Indigenous populations and under-reports cases. We know that **American Indian and Alaska Native communities are dying at nearly twice the rate of White populations**.

We deserve better. We deserve inclusion.

Signed,
YOUR NAME
TRIBAL AFFILIATION and/or ROLE

Sample Email From Organization to Email List

Dear XXXX,

This has been a challenging time. We know **Native people are dying from COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of White Americans.** We also know that people of color suffer from inequitable access to vaccines, PPE, and health care. One way to bridge these gaps is advocating for better data.

Recently, the **Urban Indian Health Institute released a report** assessing data collection and reporting practices in every state. [YOUR STATE] received a [GRADE]. This affirms what we know to be true: that we deserve better. We deserve inclusion.

To truly understand the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our people, we need accurate and correct data. With so many states, ours included, doing a poor job of collecting and reporting COVID-19 data for American Indians and Alaska Natives, we know that programs will continue to be underfunded and under-resourced.

This is an issue with life or death consequence for us. We have communicated with our legislators and government officials to improve their data collection and reporting practices, and by doing so we are doing our part to advocate for a more equitable future.

Sample Website Content

American Indian and Alaska Native people are repeatedly being left out of most state-COVID-19 data, which is creating a data genocide of America's first people. This pervasive exclusion of American Indians and Alaska Natives, an entire race in COVID-19 data, makes it impossible to accurately gauge the disproportionate burden this pandemic is placing on tribes and Native organizations.

We know **Native people are dying from COVID-19 at nearly twice the rate of White Americans**. We also know that people of color suffer from inequitable access to vaccines, PPE, and health care. One way to bridge these gaps is advocate for accurate data.

When we have accurate race and ethnicity COVID-19 data, states and policymakers will be able to address the enormous disparities that exist in Indian Country. The **new report** [**https://www.uihi.org/projects/data-genocide-of-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-in-covid-19-data**] by the Urban Indian Health Institute shows U.S. States' quality of COVID-19 data and their effectiveness in collecting and reporting data on American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

Sample Letter to the editor

The poor collection and reporting of COVID-19 race and ethnicity data by [YOUR STATE] is detrimental to Native communities' ability to access the resources needed to battle this pandemic. This information is needed to inform the care we provide to our community. It is also needed by policy makers as they continue to write legislation that allocate the necessary resources throughout the state.

It is required by the CARES Act that states across the country collect race and ethnicity in COVID-19 data, but many states, including [YOUR STATE], have not reported this data accurately, if at all. These poor data collection and reporting practices impact all people of color, but Indigenous people especially as we see our Native communities hit hardest by the virus.

While there are still many unknowns around COVID-19, we do know that it will take accurate data if we're going to find equitable solutions to end the pandemic. [YOUR STATE] needs to be held accountable and properly collect and report race and ethnicity data for American Indians and Alaska Natives.