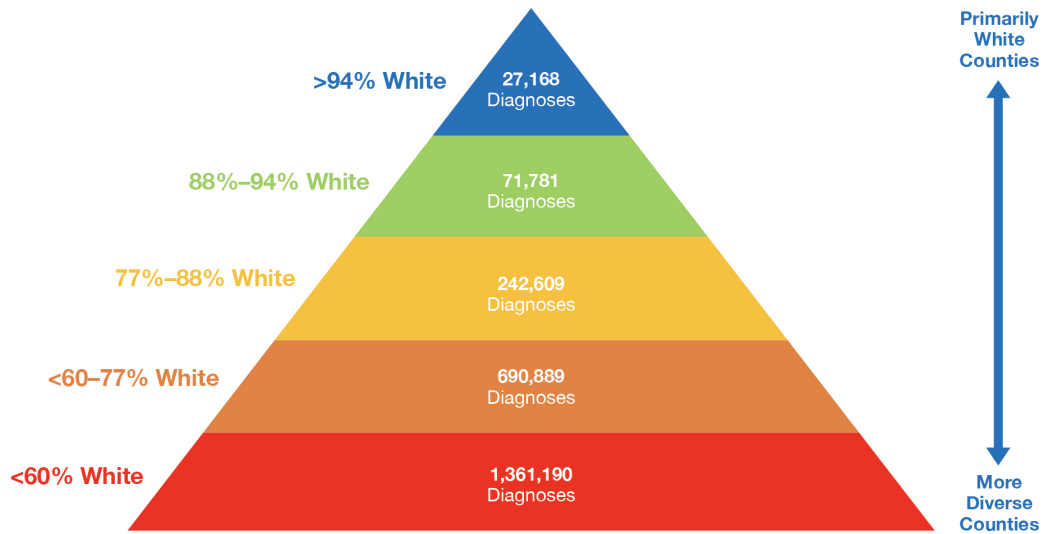


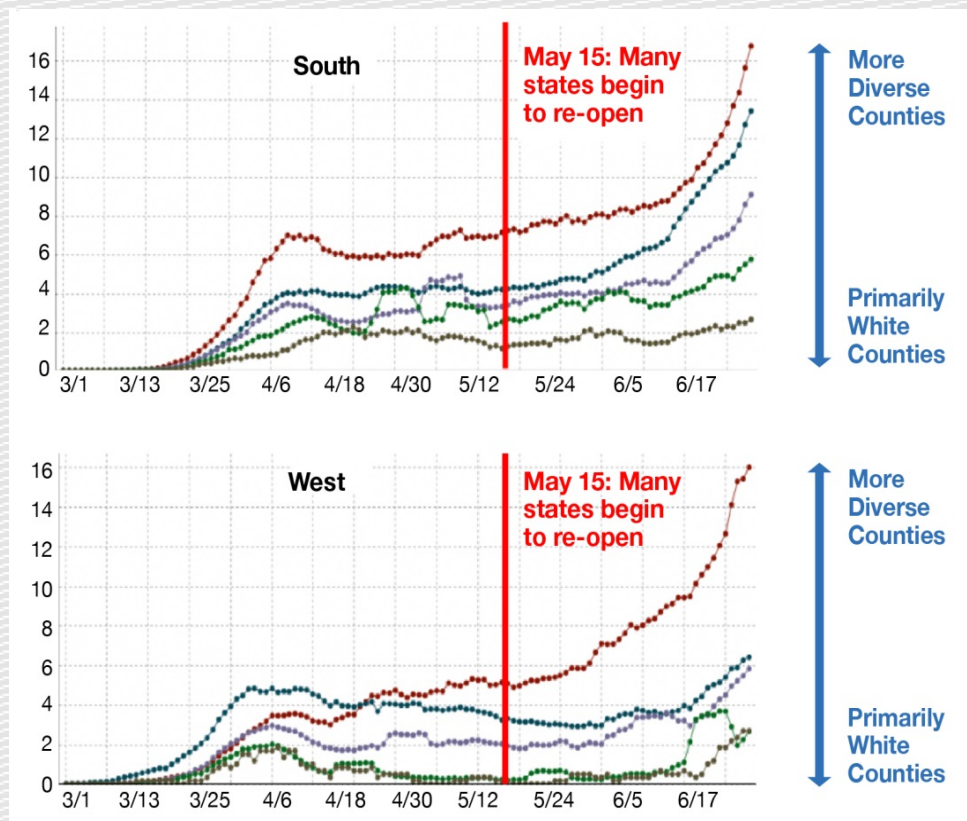
The COVID-19 epidemic has surged since states began reopening in mid-May. But who is least likely to bear the brunt of the rise in COVID-19 diagnoses? We examined differences in COVID-19 diagnoses across counties nationally by proportion of white residents.

COVID-19 diagnoses decrease nationally as the proportion of white residents increases.



Although infections have risen in the South and West since reopening, COVID-19 diagnoses have increased most in counties with fewer white residents.

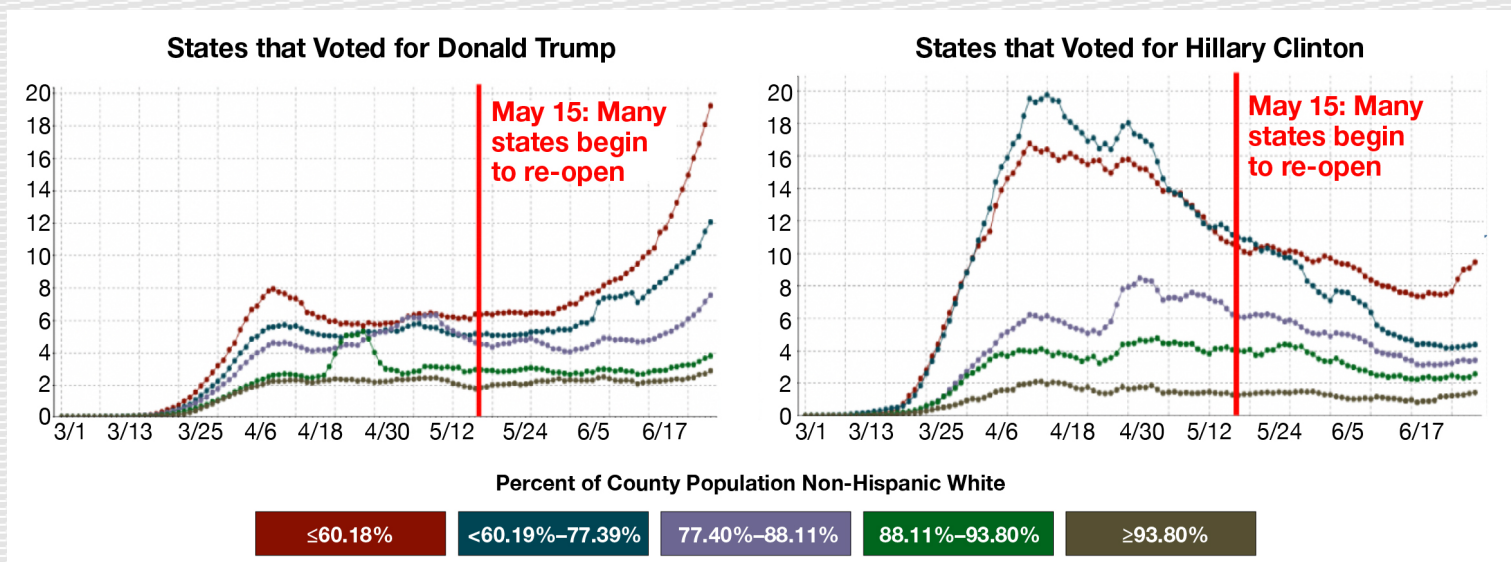
Counties that are 88% or more white (bottom two trend lines in each graph) have had the fewest COVID-19 cases throughout most of the US epidemic.



(Source: Millett et al, AIDS Patient Care STDs, 2020)

The fewest COVID-19 diagnoses have occurred in primarily white counties, whether in red or blue states – before or after reopening.

Even though COVID-19 cases have decreased in states that voted for Hillary Clinton, infections have begun to increase in only the most diverse counties.



There may be lessons learned from the HIV field to address COVID-19 disparities and improve health outcomes in communities of color.

Like COVID-19, HIV disproportionately impacts communities of color. Examples of programmatic and policy initiatives that have improved health outcomes for communities of color are highlighted below.



Mass HIV testing initiatives reduced disparities in late diagnoses. Scaling up COVID-19 rapid tests in communities of color may generate comparable results.



Ryan White's provision of wraparound services (e.g. mental health, health services navigation, and transportation support) not only improves health outcomes, but has reduced health disparities.



The COVID-19 crisis & recession are driving more states to consider expanding Medicaid, which will provide more insurance access to low income communities and help reduce disparities.



There has been demonstrable success in increasing health equity and reducing racial health disparities among US service members and veterans. There may be aspects that can be scaled for the general population.