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Clinical Research Study

# Outcomes in patients hospitalized for COVID-19 among Asian, Pacific Islander, and Hispanic subgroups in the American Heart Association COVID-19 registry<sup>☆</sup>



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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) data from race/ethnic subgroups remain limited, potentially masking subgroup-level heterogeneity. We evaluated differences in outcomes in Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Hispanic/Latino subgroups compared with non-Hispanic White patients hospitalized with COVID-19. **Methods:** In the American Heart Association COVID-19 registry including 105 US hospitals, mortality and major adverse cardiovascular events in adults age  $\geq 18$  years hospitalized with COVID-19 between March–November 2020 were evaluated. Race/ethnicity groups included AAPI overall and subgroups (Chinese, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Pacific Islander), Hispanic/Latino overall and subgroups (Mexican, Puerto Rican), compared with non-Hispanic White (NHW).

**Results:** Among 13,511 patients, 7% were identified as AAPI (of whom 17% were identified as Chinese, 9% Asian Indian, 8% Pacific Islander, and 7% Vietnamese); 35% as Hispanic (of whom 15% were identified as Mexican and 1% Puerto Rican); and 59% as NHW. Mean [SD] age at hospitalization was lower in Asian Indian (60.4 [17.4] years), Pacific Islander (49.4 [16.7] years), and Mexican patients (57.4 [16.9] years), compared with NHW patients (66.9 [17.3] years,  $p < 0.01$ ). Mean age at death was lower in Mexican (67.7 [15.5] years) compared with NHW patients (75.5 [13.5] years,  $p < 0.01$ ). No differences in odds of mortality or MACE in AAPI or Hispanic patients relative to NHW patients were observed after adjustment for age.

**Conclusions:** Pacific Islander, Asian Indian, and Mexican patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in the AHA registry were significantly younger than NHW patients. COVID-19 infection leading to hospitalization may disproportionately burden some younger AAPI and Hispanic subgroups in the US.

## Introduction

Racial/ethnic disparities in coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been documented in the United States (US).<sup>1</sup> Aggregation of individuals into overall race/ethnic categories masks important heterogeneity in health outcomes across race/ethnicity subgroups, but data on COVID-19 outcomes from specific race/ethnic subgroups remain limited.<sup>2</sup> Where data on COVID-19 in Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are available they are frequently presented in a grouped

categories. Similarly, data for COVID-19 patterns in Hispanic/Latino subgroups are limited, and Hispanic/Latino individuals are frequently grouped into a single aggregated category.<sup>3</sup> Growing evidence suggests that AAPI and Hispanic subgroups may have differential risk for COVID-19, which may be related to differences in sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., occupational exposure, socioeconomic position, language, cultural practices) and comorbidity prevalence.<sup>4</sup> To address gaps in understanding COVID-19 hospitalization outcomes in these individuals, we evaluated COVID-19 hospitalization and outcome characteristics in dis-

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**Table 1**  
Demographic and admission clinical characteristics of hospitalized individuals in the AHA COVID-19 registry, March-December 2020

N	NHW	AAPI <sup>a</sup>	Chinese	Asian Indian	Pacific Islander	Vietnamese	Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	Mexican	Puerto Rican	
	7926	902	149	77	74	61	4683	681	46	
<b>Demographics</b>										
Age, years, mean (SD)		66.9 (17.3)	61.2 (17.5)	69.3 (16.0)	60.4 (17.4)	49.4 (16.7)	65.4 (13.2)	55.1 (17.5)	57.4 (16.9)	65.1 (17.8)
Female		3588 (45%)	406 (45%)	58 (39%)	30 (39%)	42 (57%)	19 (31%)	1999 (43%)	279 (41%)	27 (59%)
<b>Insurance</b>										
Private		2980 (38%)	360 (40%)	33 (22%)	31 (42%)	31 (42%)	23 (38%)	1243 (27%)	238 (35%)	14 (30%)
Public		4721 (60%)	509 (56%)	112 (75%)	43 (56%)	35 (47%)	35 (57%)	2930 (63%)	416 (61%)	31 (67%)
Other		225 (3%)	33 (4%)	4 (3%)	2 (3%)	8 (11%)	3 (5%)	510 (11%)	27 (4%)	1 (2%)
<b>Medical History</b>										
Obesity <sup>c</sup>		3179 (40%)	186 (21%)	10 (7%)	13 (17%)	45 (61%)	3 (5%)	1780 (38%)	149 (22%)	20 (44%)
Diabetes		2482 (31%)	327 (36%)	52 (35%)	33 (43%)	33 (45%)	22 (36%)	1541 (33%)	164 (24%)	16 (35%)
Hypertension		4973 (63%)	483 (54%)	100 (67%)	41 (53%)	33 (45%)	38 (62%)	2013 (43%)	200 (29%)	33 (72%)
Smoking/Vaping		591 (8%)	46 (5%)	6 (4%)	6 (8%)	2 (3%)	6 (10%)	197 (4%)	10 (2%)	1 (2%)
Prior CAD		1130 (14%)	73 (8%)	14 (9%)	8 (10%)	6 (8%)	7 (12%)	242 (5%)	19 (3%)	7 (15%)
Prior HF		1177 (15%)	54 (5%)	6 (4%)	5 (7%)	7 (10%)	3 (5%)	257 (6%)	38 (6%)	8 (17%)
Prior CVA		1009 (13%)	76 (6%)	12 (8%)	12 (16%)	5 (7%)	7 (12%)	295 (11%)	317 (47%)	3 (7%)
Atrial fib/flutter		1282 (16%)	59 (7%)	21 (14%)	4 (5%)	4 (5%)	0 (0%)	198 (4%)	28 (4%)	6 (13%)
Pulmonary disease		1907 (24%)	134 (15%)	20 (13%)	6 (8%)	14 (19%)	8 (13%)	485 (10%)	17 (3%)	12 (26%)
PE/DVT		502 (6%)	16 (2%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	86 (2%)	9 (1%)	1 (2%)
Cancer		1293 (16%)	79 (9%)	21 (14%)	10 (13%)	4 (5%)	3 (5%)	399 (9%)	199 (30%)	4 (9%)
<b>Presentation Clinical Characteristics</b>										
Fever		1147 (15%)	170 (19%)	18 (12%)	13 (17%)	11 (15%)	13 (21%)	1069 (23%)	75 (11%)	8 (17%)
Tachycardia		2193 (28%)	216 (35%)	51 (34%)	29 (38%)	24 (32%)	15 (25%)	1181 (39%)	149 (22%)	14 (30%)
Hypoxia		2481 (31%)	282 (31%)	55 (37%)	12 (16%)	32 (43%)	25 (41%)	1594 (34%)	129 (19%)	8 (17%)
CXR/CT infiltrate		4975 (63%)	656 (73%)	114 (77%)	49 (64%)	61 (82%)	48 (79%)	3232 (69%)	326 (48%)	22 (72%)
WBC, mean (SD)		8.1 (4.5)	7.4 (3.6)	7.7 (3.9)	8.1 (4.7)	7.1 (2.9)	7.8 (3.2)	8.2 (4.0)	8.2 (3.9)	7.0 (4.0)
CRP, mean (SD)		83 (145)	62 (70)	81 (86)	51 (53)	46 (47)	90 (75)	81 (98)	37 (62)	95 (92)
D-dimer, mean (SD)		1790 (3140)	1780 (3130)	2960 (5310)	2600 (3680)	868 (966)	1690 (2150)	1670 (3310)	2570 (4300)	1270 (1190)

AAPI: Asian American/Pacific Islander, PE/DVT: pulmonary embolism/deep vein thrombosis, NHW: non-Hispanic White. Data and percentages for obesity, CXR/CT infiltrate, and laboratory measures account for missing data. Data are presented as frequency (percentage) unless otherwise specified. <sup>a</sup>AAPI includes Chinese, Indian, Pacific Islander, Vietnamese, and other Asian participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>b</sup>Hispanic includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other Hispanic participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>c</sup>Obesity defined as  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> in non-Hispanic White and Hispanic patients,  $\geq 27.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> for AAPI patients.

aggregated AAPI and Hispanic/Latino subgroups in the national American Heart Association (AHA) COVID-19 registry.

**Methods**

*Study Population and Data*

The AHA COVID-19 registry is a component of AHA’s Get With the Guidelines quality improvement programs provided by the American Heart Association and available to US hospitals, from which race/ethnic differences have been studied.<sup>1,5,6</sup> Participating hospitals (N=105) retrospectively abstracted data from patients age  $\geq 18$  years hospitalized with COVID-19 between March-November 2020 with admission and discharge dates. We included data from earliest hospitalization record of all patients with complete data for primary measures and outcomes. Registry participation was approved, or review waived, by individual hospital institutional review boards. The registry case report form is available on the AHA website.<sup>7</sup> IQVIA (Parsippany, NJ) serves as the data collection and coordination center. De-identified data is available via the AHA’s Precision Medicine Platform.<sup>7</sup>

*Variable Definitions*

In the American Heart Association COVID-19 Cardiovascular Disease registry, race is categorized as follows: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian (Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Other Asian), Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, Other Pacific Islander), White, and UTD (unable to determine). Ethnicity is categorized as follows: if Hispanic or Latino: Mexican, Mexican

American, Chicano/a; Puerto Rican; Cuban; Another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin. These data are abstracted from the local electronic health record, and subgroup identification was self-reported.

Based on available sample size, an overall category of AAPI patients, and Chinese, Asian Indian, and Vietnamese subgroups were examined. Samoan, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, and ‘Other Pacific Islander’ patients were combined into a Pacific Islander subgroup. Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and ‘Other Asian’ patients were included only in the overall AAPI category due to small sample sizes. Hispanic ethnicity patients of all races were also evaluated, from which Mexican and Puerto Rican subgroups were specifically examined. Cuban or ‘Another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin’ patients were included only in the overall Hispanic/Latino category due to small sample sizes. Patients for whom more than one AAPI or Hispanic/Latino subgroup identification was selected were included only in the respective ‘overall’ category. A non-Hispanic White (NHW) group was evaluated for comparison. The AAPI, Hispanic/Latino, and NHW groups were mutually exclusive. Black patients were not evaluated in this analysis, as characteristics in this group have previously been described.<sup>1</sup>

Insurance was defined as public (Medicare, Medicaid, VA/CHAMPVA/Tricare), private (HMO/PPO/Other), or other (self-pay, no insurance, not documented). If multiple insurance options including ‘private’ were selected, the patient was categorized as having ‘private’ insurance. Medical history, presentation characteristics, hospitalization treatments and outcomes from the case report form were previously defined.<sup>1,7</sup> Consistent with World Health Organization recommendations, obesity was body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 27.5$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> for AAPI patients, or  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> for others.<sup>8</sup> CVD history was defined as prior coronary artery bypass graft, myocardial infarction, or percutaneous

**Table 2**  
Hospitalization treatments, events, and outcomes in the AHA COVID-19 registry

N	NHW	AAPI <sup>a</sup>	Chinese	Asian Indian	Pacific Islander	Vietnamese	Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	Mexican	Puerto Rican
<b>Treatments during hospitalization</b>									
ICU admission	2646 (33%)	285 (32%)	48 (32%)	23 (30%)	16 (22%)	21 (34%)	1249 (27%)	170 (25%)	7 (15%)
Mechanical ventilation	1444 (18%)	191 (21%)	40 (27%)	19 (25%)	7 (10%)	13 (21%)	889 (19%)	114 (17%)	7 (15%)
New RRT	248 (3%)	36 (4%)	12 (8%)	1 (1%)	4 (5%)	2 (3%)	159 (3%)	13 (2%)	3 (7%)
Transfusion	255 (3%)	30 (3%)	8 (5%)	5 (6%)	3 (4%)	5 (8%)	128 (3%)	10 (2%)	1 (2%)
Hydroxychloroquine	2196 (28%)	354 (39%)	86 (58%)	32 (42%)	9 (12%)	15 (25%)	1952 (42%)	291 (43%)	12 (26%)
Remdesivir	1483 (19%)	138 (15%)	4 (3%)	10 (13%)	22 (30%)	15 (25%)	648 (14%)	90 (13%)	8 (17%)
Tocilizumab	554 (7%)	84 (9%)	10 (7%)	11 (14%)	3 (4%)	10 (16%)	432 (9%)	60 (9%)	3 (7%)
Steroids	3122 (39%)	286 (32%)	29 (20%)	21 (27%)	24 (46%)	30 (49%)	1463 (31%)	140 (21%)	9 (20%)
Convalescent serum	751 (10%)	51 (6%)	1 (1%)	7 (9%)	6 (8%)	7 (12%)	292 (6%)	55 (8%)	2 (4%)
<b>Hospitalization events and outcomes</b>									
In-hospital mortality	1294 (16%)	146 (16%)	42 (28%)	11 (14%)	4 (5%)	9 (15%)	628 (13%)	123 (18%)	6 (13%)
Age at death, mean (SD)	75.7 (13.5)	75.0 (12.9)	76.0 (12.1)	72.1 (13.1)	61.5 (19.8)	78.6 (10.3)	67.3 (15.5)	67.7 (15.5)	78.5 (6.5)
YPLL per death, mean (SD) <sup>c</sup>	10.8 (11.7)	11.0 (11.7)	10.1 (10.7)	14.2 (10.9)	24.5 (17.9)	8.4 (7.5)	18.3 (14.6)	18.0 (14.6)	7.0 (5.7)
MACE	1628 (21%)	180 (20%)	50 (34%)	17 (22%)	6 (8%)	12 (20%)	727 (15%)	150 (22%)	7 (15%)
Heart failure	158 (2%)	16 (2%)	2 (1%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	58 (1%)	19 (3%)	0 (0%)
Stroke	124 (2%)	17 (2%)	4 (3%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	42 (1%)	4 (1%)	0 (0%)
MI	282 (4%)	28 (3%)	9 (6%)	2 (3%)	3 (4%)	2 (3%)	75 (2%)	16 (2%)	2 (4%)
Cardiac arrest	280 (4%)	21 (4%)	11 (7%)	4 (5%)	1 (1%)	1 (2%)	274 (6%)	55 (8%)	2 (4%)
Length of stay, days, mean (SD)	10 (11)	10 (11)	11 (11)	10 (20)	11 (13)	10 (10)	10 (12)	9 (10)	10 (10)

AAPI: Asian American/Pacific Islander, MCS: mechanical circulatory support, MI: myocardial infarction, NHW: non-Hispanic White, RRT: renal replacement therapy, YPLL: years of potential life lost. Data are presented as frequency (percentage) unless otherwise specified. <sup>a</sup>AAPI includes Chinese, Indian, Pacific Islander, Vietnamese, and other Asian participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>b</sup>Hispanic includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other Hispanic participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>c</sup>YPLL per death indicates mean number of years of potential life lost from age 85 among decedents in each subgroup.

**Table 3**  
Race/ethnicity subgroup differences in COVID-19 in-hospital outcomes in the AHA COVID-19 registry, March-December 2020

	Rate per 1,000 <sup>c</sup>	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	P	Model 1 <sup>d</sup> OR (95% CI)	P	Model 2 <sup>d</sup> OR (95% CI)	P
<b>All-Cause Mortality</b>							
NHW	163	Reference		Reference		Reference	
AAPI <sup>a</sup>	162	0.86 (0.70 – 1.05)	0.15	1.15 (0.93 – 1.42)	0.21	1.14 (0.91 – 1.41)	0.25
Chinese	281	1.37 (0.90 – 2.08)	0.14	1.53 (0.99 – 2.38)	0.06	1.46 (0.94 – 2.27)	0.09
Asian Indian	143	0.84 (0.43 – 1.63)	0.60	1.14 (0.57 – 2.29)	0.71	1.05 (0.52 – 2.11)	0.90
Pacific Islander	55	0.35 (0.13 – 0.98)	0.05	0.62 (0.22 – 1.76)	0.37	0.62 (0.22 – 1.79)	0.38
Vietnamese	148	0.73 (0.35 – 1.52)	0.41	0.89 (0.43 – 1.87)	0.76	0.83 (0.39 – 1.76)	0.63
Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	134	0.57 (0.50 – 0.65)	<0.01	0.98 (0.86 – 1.13)	0.83	0.96 (0.83 – 1.11)	0.57
Mexican	180	0.69 (0.51 – 0.93)	0.01	1.21 (0.88 – 1.66)	0.24	1.15 (0.84 – 1.57)	0.40
Puerto Rican	130	0.45 (0.19 – 1.10)	0.08	0.49 (0.20 – 1.24)	0.13	0.49 (0.19 – 1.22)	0.12
<b>Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events</b>							
NHW	205	Reference		Reference		Reference	
AAPI <sup>a</sup>	200	0.88 (0.73 – 1.07)	0.20	1.17 (0.96 – 1.43)	0.11	1.17 (0.96 – 1.42)	0.12
Chinese	336	1.41 (0.95 – 2.09)	0.09	1.56 (1.03 – 2.37)	0.04	1.50 (0.98 – 2.27)	0.06
Asian Indian	221	1.15 (0.66 – 2.02)	0.62	1.61 (0.89 – 2.91)	0.12	1.48 (0.81 – 2.70)	0.20
Pacific Islander	81	0.41 (0.17 – 0.96)	0.04	0.70 (0.29 – 1.69)	0.43	0.72 (0.30 – 1.73)	0.46
Vietnamese	197	0.80 (0.42 – 1.54)	0.51	0.95 (0.49 – 1.84)	0.88	0.90 (0.46 – 1.76)	0.76
Hispanic <sup>b</sup>	155	0.56 (0.50 – 0.64)	<0.01	0.95 (0.84 – 1.08)	0.45	0.93 (0.82 – 1.06)	0.28
Mexican	220	0.72 (0.55 – 0.95)	0.02	1.24 (0.93 – 1.66)	0.14	1.18 (0.88 – 1.57)	0.28
Puerto Rican	151	0.44 (0.19 – 1.00)	0.05	0.47 (0.20 – 1.11)	0.08	0.46 (0.20 – 1.09)	0.08

AAPI: Asian American/Pacific Islander, CI: confidence interval, CVD: cardiovascular disease, NHW: non-Hispanic White, OR: Odds ratio. <sup>a</sup>AAPI includes Chinese, Indian, Pacific Islander, Vietnamese, and other Asian participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>b</sup>Hispanic includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, and other Hispanic participants either not further specified or in groups too small to analyze separately. <sup>c</sup>Unadjusted rate per 1,000 hospitalized patients per subgroup. <sup>d</sup>Model 1 adjusted for age, Model 2 additionally adjusted for sex, insurance status, and history of CVD (defined as history of coronary artery disease, heart failure, cerebrovascular disease, hypertension, or atrial fibrillation). Model 3 (additionally adjusted for diabetes, smoking, and obesity) in overall race/ethnic categories is shown in Supplemental Table 3

coronary intervention, history of atrial fibrillation, heart failure, stroke/cerebrovascular accident, or hypertension. The primary outcome was mortality (expired at date of discharge with a recorded death date), the secondary outcome was major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE, defined as death, stroke, new onset heart failure, or myocardial infarction during hospitalization).<sup>1</sup>

**Statistical Analysis**

Baseline characteristics and in-hospital treatments and outcomes were reported as mean (standard deviation) or frequency (proportion). Race/ethnicity subgroup-level differences in mean age at hospitalization or death (among decedents) were evaluated with Kruskal-Wallis tests due to small subgroup size, followed by Dunn’s test of multiple comparisons with Benjamini-Hochberg stepwise adjustment to control the false discovery rate (type I error of 5%). Mean years of potential life lost (YPLL) per death was the subgroup-level average of the difference between age at death subtracted from 85 years as an “optimal” life expectancy.<sup>9</sup> We used sequential multivariable mixed effects logistic regression models to estimate the association of race/ethnicity with outcomes, (unadjusted; model 1 adjusted for age; model 2 further adjusted for sex, insurance, and CVD history). Models included a hospital-specific random intercept to account for within- and between-hospital variability, as we observed non-zero variability in YPLL for non-Hispanic White adults between hospitals. Due to the large number of hospitals, we opted to use a random effects framework, rather than a fixed effect model. Pair-wise comparisons across race/ethnicity subgroups were conducted with Kruskal-Wallis tests with Wilcoxon or Fisher pairwise comparison, employing Benjamini-Hochberg correction to account for multiple comparisons. Analyses were conducted using R 3.5.2.<sup>10</sup> The American Heart Association Precision Medicine Platform (<https://precision.heart.org/>) was used for data analysis.

**Results**

Among 13,511 patients, there were 902 AAPI patients (mean age 61.2 [standard deviation 17.5] years), of whom 149 were identified as Chinese (69.3 [16.0] years), 77 as Asian Indian (60.4 [17.4] years), 74 as Pacific Islander (49.4 [16.7] years), and 61 as Vietnamese (65.4 [13.2] years); 4,683 Hispanic patients (mean age 55.1 [17.5] years) with 681 identified as Mexican (57.4 [16.9] years) and 46 as Puerto Rican (65.1 [17.8] years); and 7,926 NHW patients (66.9 [17.3] years). Clinical, sociodemographic, and medical history characteristics of participants at admission are shown in **Table 1**. Mean age at hospitalization was lower in AAPI patients overall and Hispanic patients overall compared with NHW patients (p<0.01, **Figure, Panel A**). Among hospitalized AAPI patients, Asian Indian and Pacific Islander individuals were significantly younger than NHW individuals (p<0.01), and among hospitalized Hispanic patients, and Mexican patients were significantly younger compared with NHW individuals (p<0.01). Among AAPI patients, the highest prevalence of obesity (61%) and diabetes (45%) was in Pacific Islanders, and of hypertension was in Chinese patients (67%). Among the Hispanic subgroups, Puerto Ricans had the highest obesity (44%), diabetes (35%), and hypertension (72%) prevalence. Pairwise comparisons of patient characteristics are detailed in **Supplemental Figures 1-5**.

In-hospital treatments and events are detailed in **Table 2**. In AAPI individuals overall, mean age at death was 75.0 (12.9) years (**Figure, Panel B**). Within AAPI subgroups, mean age at death ranged from 61.5 (19.8) years in Pacific Islander to 78.6 (10.3) years in Vietnamese patients. In Hispanic individuals overall, mean age at death was 67.3 (15.5) years. Within Hispanic subgroups, mean age at death ranged from 67.7 (15.5) years in Mexican to 78.5 (6.5) years in Puerto Rican patients. Mean age at death was significantly lower in overall Hispanic and Mexican patients, compared with NHW (75.7 [13.5] years, p<0.01). Mean YPLL per death from age 85 years among AAPI subgroups ranged from

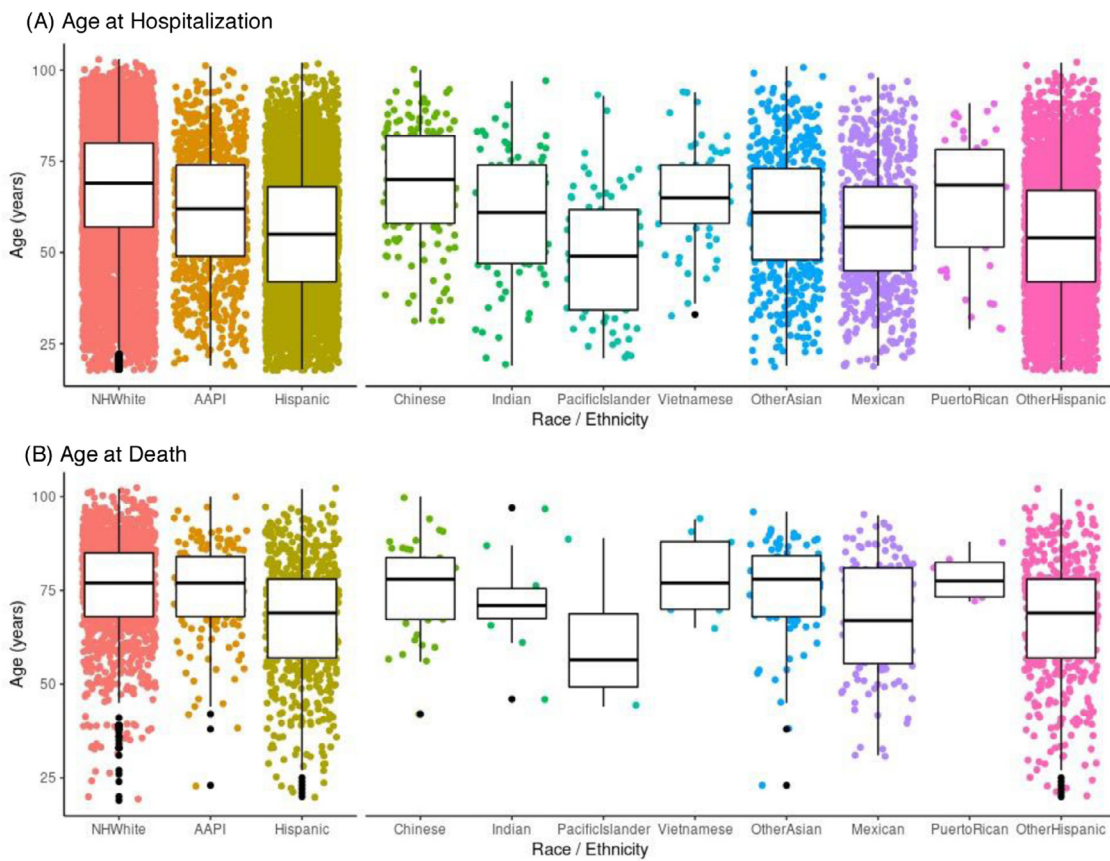


Figure. Age at hospitalization and age at death among patients in the AHA COVID-19 registry by race/ethnic subgroup

8.4 (7.4) years in Vietnamese to 24.5 (17.9) years in Pacific Islander patients. Mean YPLL per death from age 85 years among Hispanic subgroups ranged from 7.0 (5.7) years in Puerto Rican to 18.0 (14.6) years in Mexican patients. Characteristics of patients identified in AAPI and Hispanic subgroups, compared with AAPI and Hispanic patients for whom subgroup ethnicity was not identified, are shown in **Supplemental Tables 1 and 2**.

Odds of mortality and MACE in AAPI and Hispanic subgroups relative to NHW patients are show in **Table 3**. After adjustment for covariates, there was no statistically significant difference in odds of mortality in AAPI or Hispanic subgroups compared with NHW patients. A trend toward higher adjusted odds of mortality was observed in Chinese patients, with odds ratio 1.46 (95% CI 0.94-2.27,  $p=0.09$ ) relative to NHW patients. After adjustment for covariates, there was no statistically significant difference in odds of MACE in AAPI or Hispanic subgroups compared with NHW patients. A trend toward higher adjusted odds of MACE was observed in Chinese patients, with odds ratio 1.50 (95% CI 0.98-2.27,  $p=0.06$ ) relative to NHW patients.

**Discussion**

In a national registry of patients hospitalized for COVID-19, the mean age at hospitalization was significantly lower in Asian Indian (by 6.5 years), Pacific Islander (by 17.5 years), and Mexican (by 9.5 years) patients compared with NHW patients. After adjustment, there were no significant differences in odds of in-hospital mortality or MACE among AAPI and Hispanic subgroups compared with NHW patients, although our findings signaled a trend towards higher adjusted odds of mortality and MACE in Chinese patients. However, relatively small subgroup sizes likely limited power to detect differences for all measures.

These findings extend reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that identified higher incidence of COVID-19 infection in

Hispanic/Latino, non-Hispanic Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander compared with NHW persons in the US.<sup>11</sup> Also, a disproportionately higher proportion of COVID-19 deaths among Hispanic persons younger than age 65 years has been documented.<sup>12</sup> However, these reports were limited by use of broad race/ethnicity categories without disaggregation of individual Asian or Hispanic subgroups.

Disaggregation of AAPI and Hispanic patients as demonstrated in this analysis demonstrates heterogeneity in COVID-19-related illness, hospitalization, and outcome characteristics that is likely multifactorial. For instance, the higher burden of risk factors associated with COVID-19 severity may contribute to the younger age of hospitalized patients in certain groups. The Pacific Islander population has a high rates of obesity, and diabetes prevalence is relatively high among Asian Indian and Mexican populations.<sup>13-16</sup> These findings indicate that COVID-19 may affect individuals in these AAPI subgroups at younger ages compared with the NHW population, in part because of early onset of these COVID-19-related cardiovascular risk factors.

Subgroup heterogeneity in COVID-19 hospitalization characteristics may also be related to sociodemographic factors in AAPI and Hispanic subgroups that may contribute to differences in potential exposure to the severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). For instance, certain subgroups have relatively high prevalence of individuals employed in roles with higher risk for SARS-CoV-2 viral exposure, such as in nursing or home health care professions or industries in which working from home is not possible. Household environment and structure may also contribute to differences in exposure. A relatively high frequency of residence in multi-generational households among AAPI and Hispanic/Latino subgroups may increase the risk of potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2 among individuals in these groups.<sup>17,18</sup> Such character-

istics may contribute to differences in exposure, infection, and hospitalization patterns among subgroups of AAPI and Hispanic populations.

This analysis has several limitations. First, subgroup sample sizes are relatively small. The sample sizes limit robust evaluation of differences and do not exclude the possibility of more modest associations. Additionally, Asian and Hispanic subgroup was not specified in most individuals of these categories. However, this is the only national data source of COVID-19 hospitalization and outcomes that disaggregates broader race/ethnic categories into distinct subgroups, and the Asian and Hispanic patients “not further specified” were not substantially different than those identified in subgroups. Second, only hospitalized patients are described without capture of out-of-hospital events. Third, only patients from participating hospitals were included, which may not represent all US COVID-19 patients. However, the AHA registry is one of the largest national registries with rigorously collected data on COVID-19 patients. Fourth, registry data may be incomplete, nonconsecutive, and independent adjudication of outcomes was not done, which may introduce bias. However, such bias is not expected to disproportionately affect any one race/ethnic subgroup.

In conclusion, in this registry Asian Indian, Pacific Islander, and Mexican patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were significantly younger than NHW patients. Differences in mortality and MACE in AAPI and Hispanic subgroups compared with NHW patients were no longer significant after adjustment for age at hospitalization. These data support growing initiatives by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology<sup>19</sup> and other national organizations to collect and report data according to individual race/ethnicity subgroups in an effort to unmask potential differences in COVID-19 and other health outcomes across diverse communities.

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#### Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors report no conflicts of interest or disclosures related to this work.

#### Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajmo.2021.100003>.

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