

On January 21, 2020, the United States reported its first confirmed case of COVID-19, just three weeks after initial media reports of a ‘pneumonia of unknown cause’ came to the attention of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Country Office in the People’s Republic of China. On March 11, the WHO classified COVID-19 as a pandemic, and since, the United States has reported 4.4 million confirmed cases and over 150,000 deaths (as of early August 2020).

It has been clear since the beginning that the elderly population account disproportionately for COVID-19 deaths. It has also become evident that people of color are dying at rates higher than the white population.

While social determinants such as institutional racism, access to care, and wealth play a part in the differences in death rates, this brief focuses on geospatial and racial differences in multigenerational households. Households with multiple generations are particularly susceptible to intra-household COVID-19 spread. Difficulty in maintaining proper distancing for suspected or confirmed cases puts members of these households at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying as a result of COVID-19.

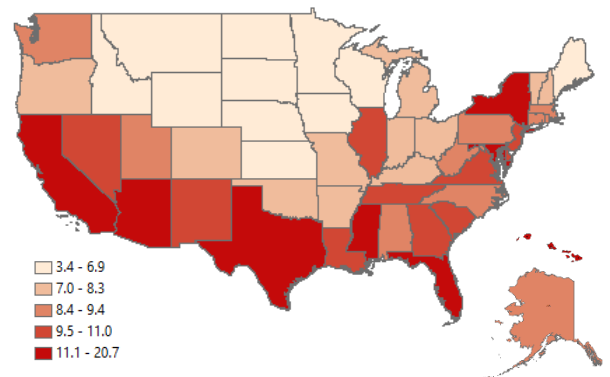
In August 2020, state and local education leaders in the U.S. will move forward to start the 20/21 academic school year. These stakeholders desperately need information to help understand the risks associated with in-person classes, virtual learning, or a combination of modes. This brief was written to support decision makers who are working to ensure students and teachers are brought together safely.

This analysis explores the number (and percent) of multigenerational households¹ by race of head of householder for non-group quarters households, specifically family households with children between the ages of 6 and 17.

In 2018, ten percent of family households with school-aged children were comprised of three or more generations (Table 1). Southern and coastal states were more likely to have multigenerational households, led by Hawaii, California, Washington, D.C., Arizona, Florida, and Mississippi.

Table 1. States with High Percent of Multigenerational Households

State	Households	Multigenerational	Percent
Hawaii	113,326	23,483	20.7
California	3,549,316	482,508	13.6
District of Columbia	40,932	4,979	12.2
Arizona	613,470	71,223	11.6
Florida	1,611,972	186,745	11.6
Mississippi	287,933	33,325	11.6
New York	1,663,447	190,430	11.4
Maryland	547,995	61,944	11.3
Texas	2,774,843	311,260	11.2
New Mexico	182,856	20,064	11
Delaware	82,294	9,008	10.9
Nevada	258,267	27,343	10.6
New Jersey	823,733	85,187	10.3
Georgia	991,568	101,538	10.2
South Carolina	432,003	43,296	10
United States	29,042,549	2,889,502	9.9



Multigenerational households by race and ethnicity are shown in Table 2. The results compare all minority households to all non-minority households, all Black households to all non-Black households, and all Hispanic households to all non-

¹ Multigenerational households are defined as family households consisting of three or more generations.

Hispanic households. The three comparisons are independent and non-exclusive, meaning we do not attempt to separate Black alone, versus Black in combination with another race, versus Black and Hispanic households.

Table 2. Percent Multigenerational Households by Race and Ethnicity

	Non-Minority (%)	Minority (%)	Non-Black (%)	Black (%)	Non-Hispanic (%)	Hispanic (%)
<u>Black Households and Hispanic Households Higher Likelihood</u>						
South Dakota	4	20	6	11	6	7
New York	8	17	10	16	11	14
Arizona	10	16	12	12	10	14
Maryland	9	15	10	15	11	11
Illinois	8	14	9	13	8	13
Florida	11	14	11	15	11	14
Pennsylvania	8	13	8	13	9	12
New Jersey	9	13	10	13	10	12
Virginia	8	13	9	13	10	12
Texas	11	13	11	12	9	13
Massachusetts	8	12	9	12	9	10
Colorado	7	12	8	12	7	11
Michigan	7	12	7	12	8	9
Connecticut	7	12	8	13	8	9
Nebraska	5	11	6	7	5	8
New Hampshire	8	11	8	17	8	10
Indiana	7	10	8	9	8	9
Ohio	7	10	8	9	8	9
Oklahoma	8	10	8	9	8	9
Minnesota	5	9	6	6	5	9
Kansas	6	9	7	8	6	9
Wisconsin	5	9	5	8	5	8
Iowa	5	7	5	5	5	10
<u>Black Households Higher Likelihood</u>						
Alaska	6	16	9	10	9	9
District of Columbia	4	15	6	16	12	11
Mississippi	9	15	9	15	12	8
South Carolina	8	13	8	14	10	7
Wyoming	6	13	6	10	6	6
Tennessee	9	13	9	13	10	7
Georgia	9	12	9	13	10	9
Delaware	10	12	11	12	11	9
Louisiana	8	12	8	12	10	8
Alabama	8	12	8	12	9	6
North Carolina	7	12	7	12	9	7
Missouri	7	10	7	10	8	7
Arkansas	8	10	8	10	8	8

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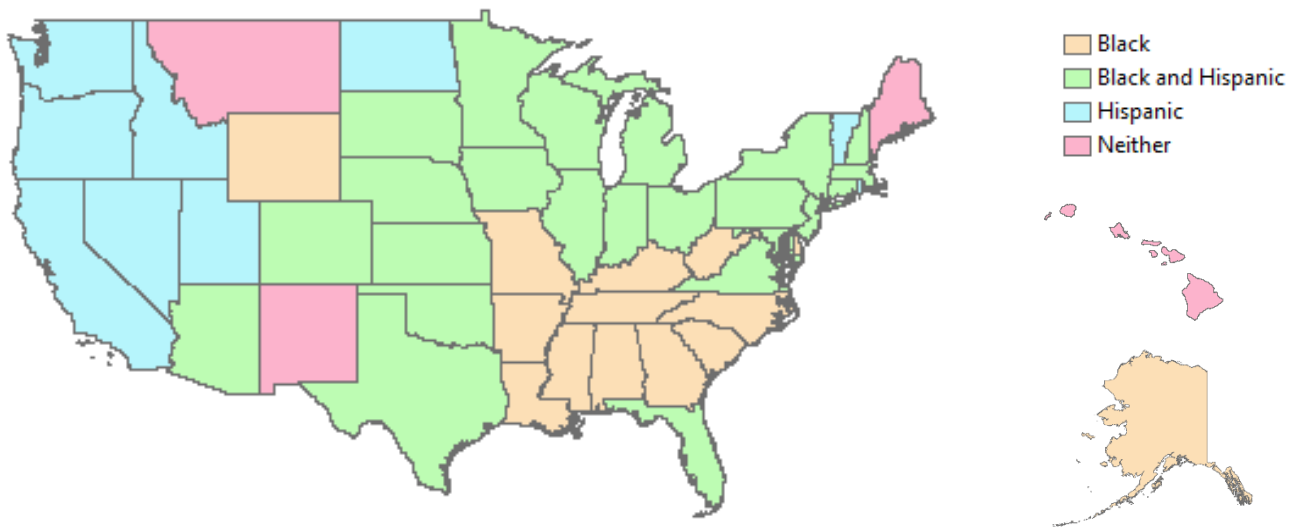
	Non-Minority (%)	Minority (%)	Non-Black (%)	Black (%)	Non-Hispanic (%)	Hispanic (%)
West Virginia	9	9	9	9	9	6
Kentucky	8	8	8	9	8	4

Hispanic Households Higher Likelihood

California	12	16	14	13	11	16
Utah	8	12	9	4	8	11
Nevada	10	12	11	10	10	12
Idaho	6	12	7	5	7	8
Washington	8	12	8	8	8	9
Oregon	8	11	8	7	8	9
Rhode Island	8	9	9	7	8	10
North Dakota	3	9	3	3	3	9
Vermont	7	8	7	3	7	7

Neither / Other Higher Likelihood

Hawaii	14	25	21	13	22	12
Montana	5	17	6	3	6	6
New Mexico	9	16	11	10	11	11
Maine	7	5	7	2	7	6



In all states except Maine, minority households are more likely to be multigenerational than the non-minority households. Of note are South Dakota, Montana, Hawaii, and Alaska whose minority headed multigenerational households are most likely Native American or Pacific Islander rather than Black or Hispanic.

In 23 states, all minority households as well as Black and Hispanic headed households are more likely to be multigenerational households than their respective comparison groups. Fifteen states are more likely to have multigenerational Black households, and 15 states tend to have primarily Hispanic headed multigenerational households.

Geographically, states in the southern United States are likely to have multigenerational households with Black householders. The Hispanic headed multigenerational households are clustered in the western states of California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. The Central States, the Upper Midwest, and states on the Northern Corridor tend to have both Black and Hispanic headed multigenerational households.

People of color in the United States are carrying a disproportionate share of the burden of COVID-19 deaths during the pandemic. Long-standing health inequities have left minority populations poorly prepared from the outset, and many social mitigation strategies (e.g., work from home, remote school) are less likely to be an available alternative for minority populations.

As state and local education leaders begin to develop, and inevitably alter, their school operating plans during the COVID-19 pandemic, attention should be paid to the potential community exposure risk to multigenerational families in their states and districts.

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