

# **We are in this Together**

## **Tribal Covid-19 Response**

### **Collaboration and Partnerships**

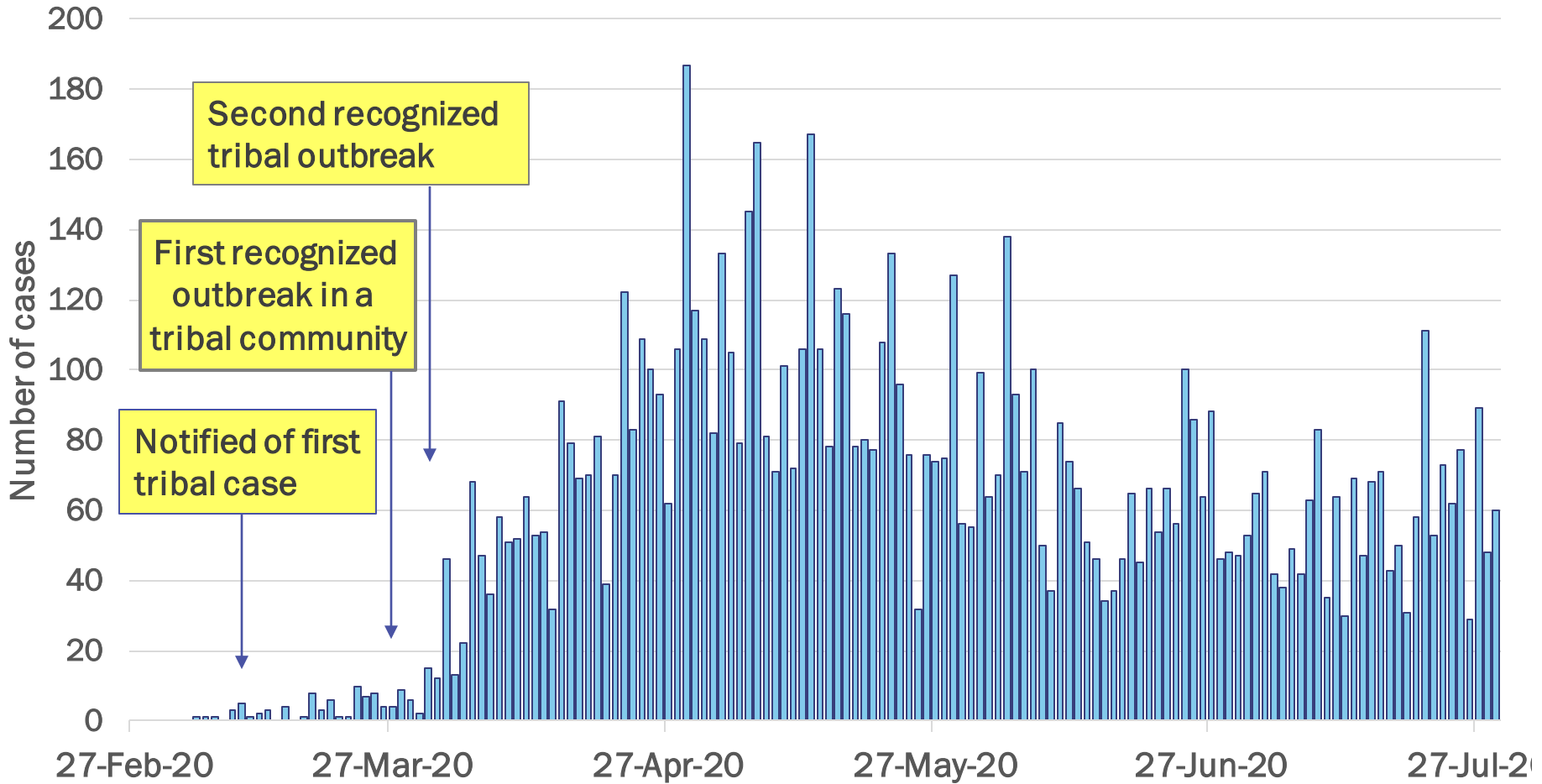
New Mexico Department of Health

Kathyleen M. Kunkel

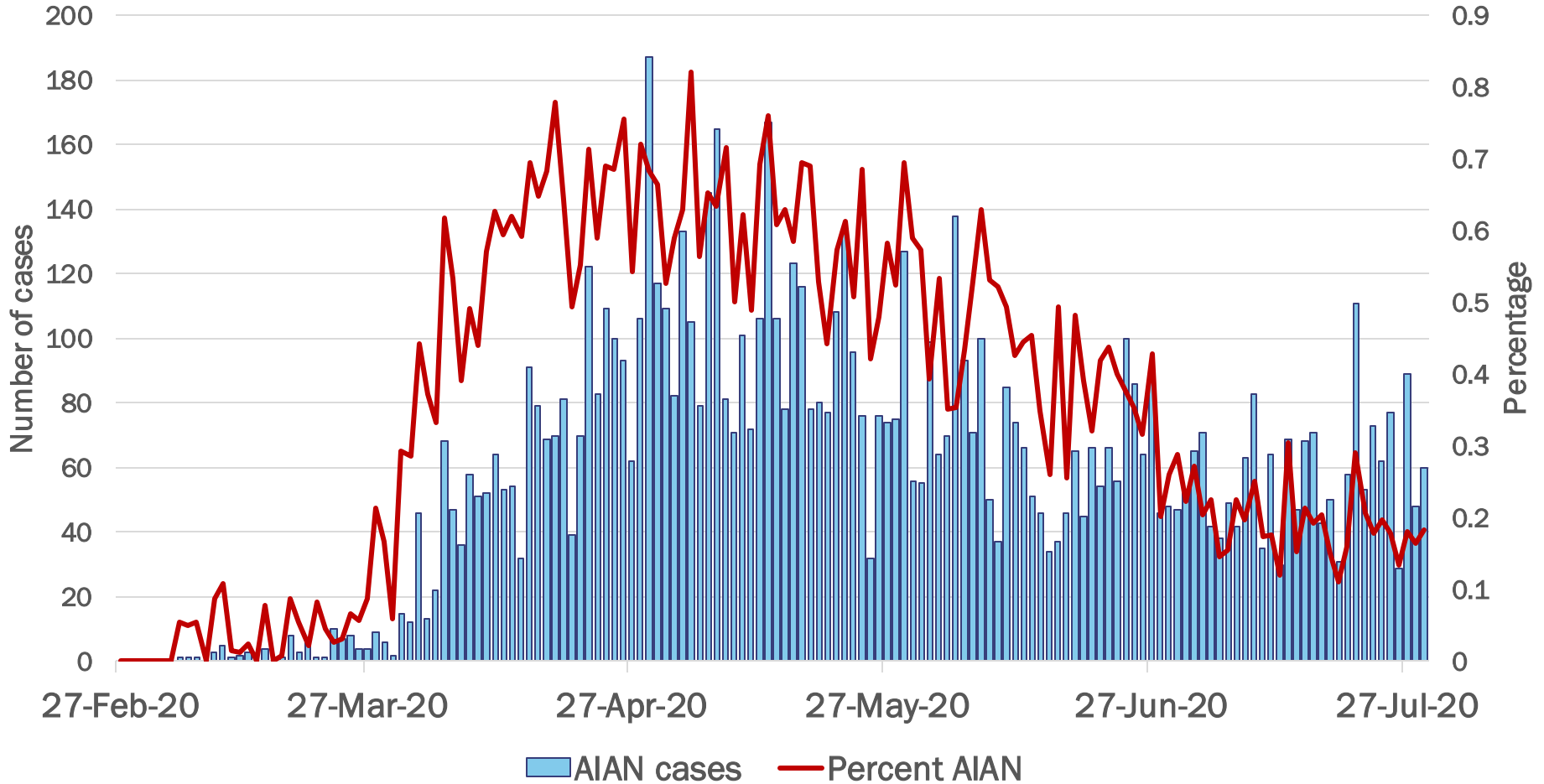
Secretary

August 4, 2020

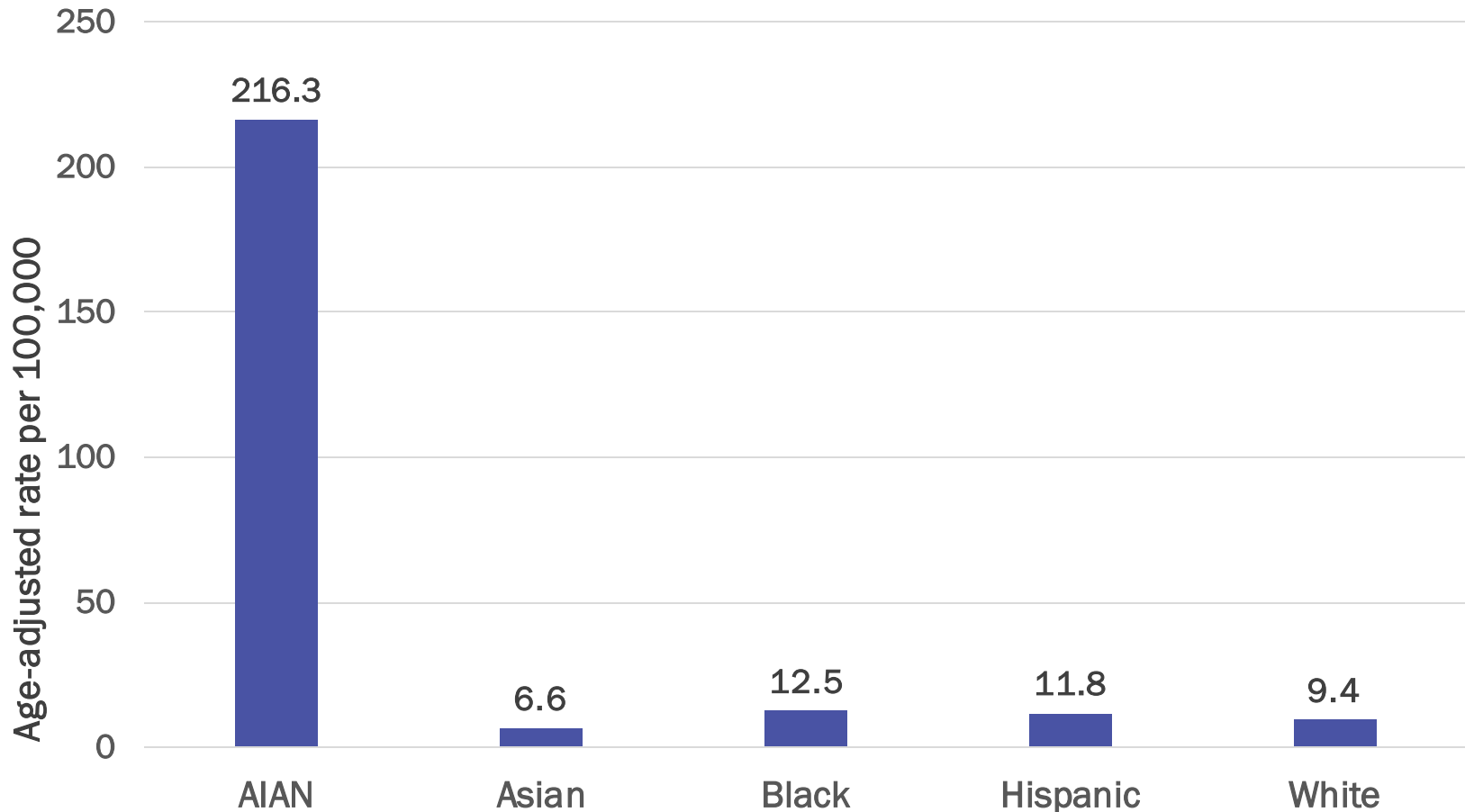
# Number of AIAN COVID-19 Cases by Date



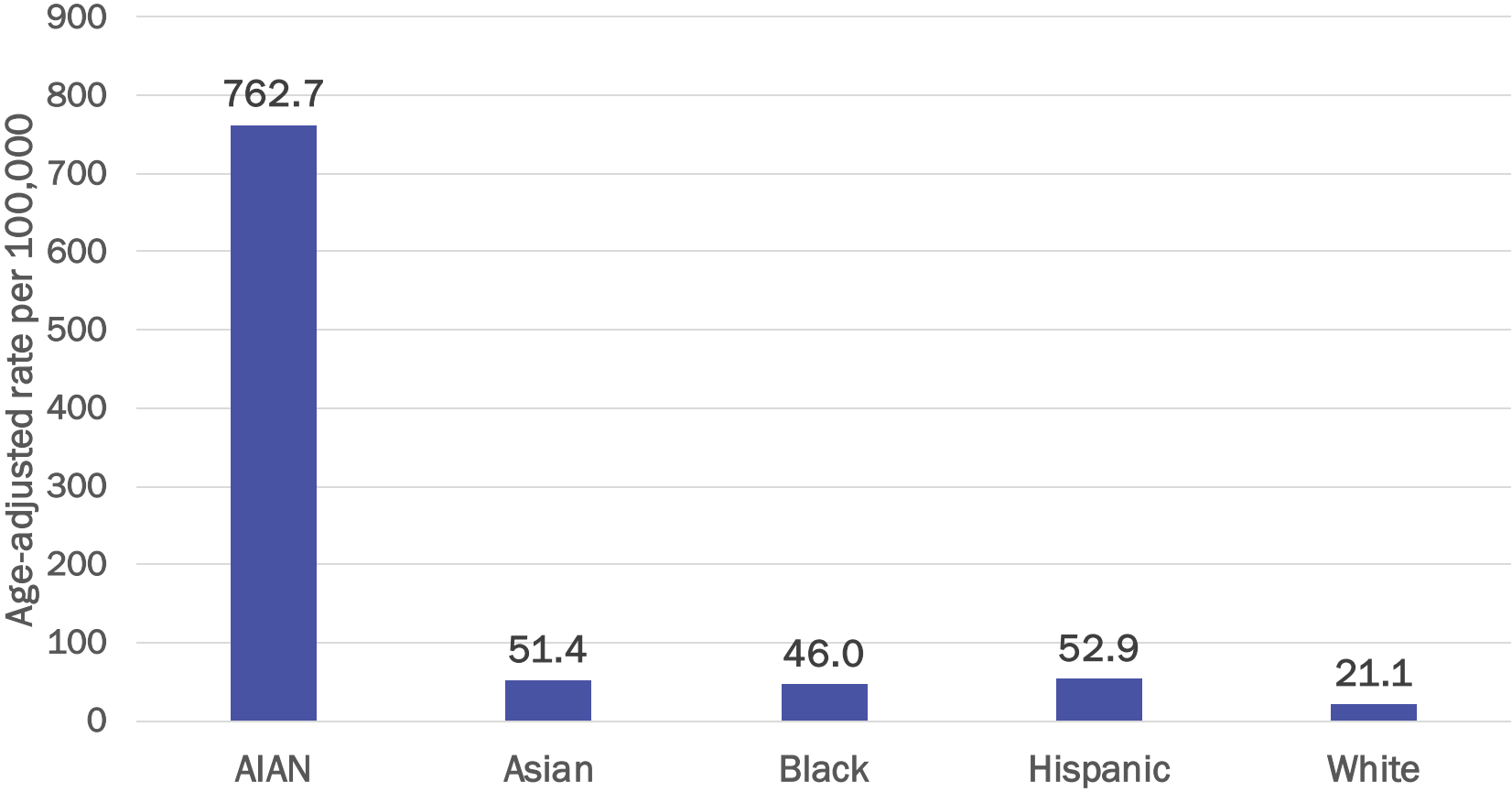
# Number of AIAN COVID-19 Cases and As a Percentage of All COVID-19 Cases by Date



# COVID-19 Age-adjusted Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity



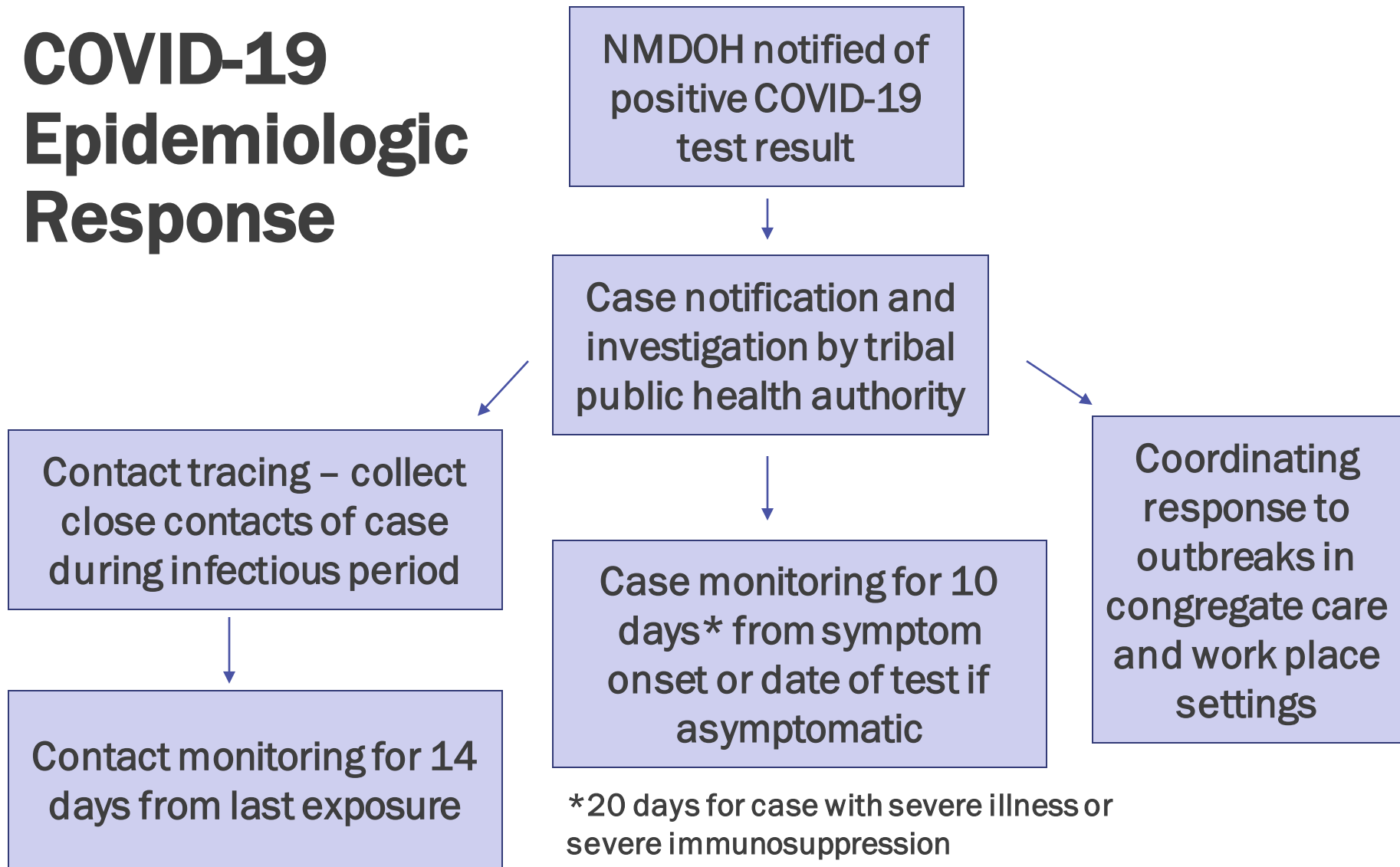
# COVID-19 Age-adjusted Hospitalization Rate by Race/Ethnicity



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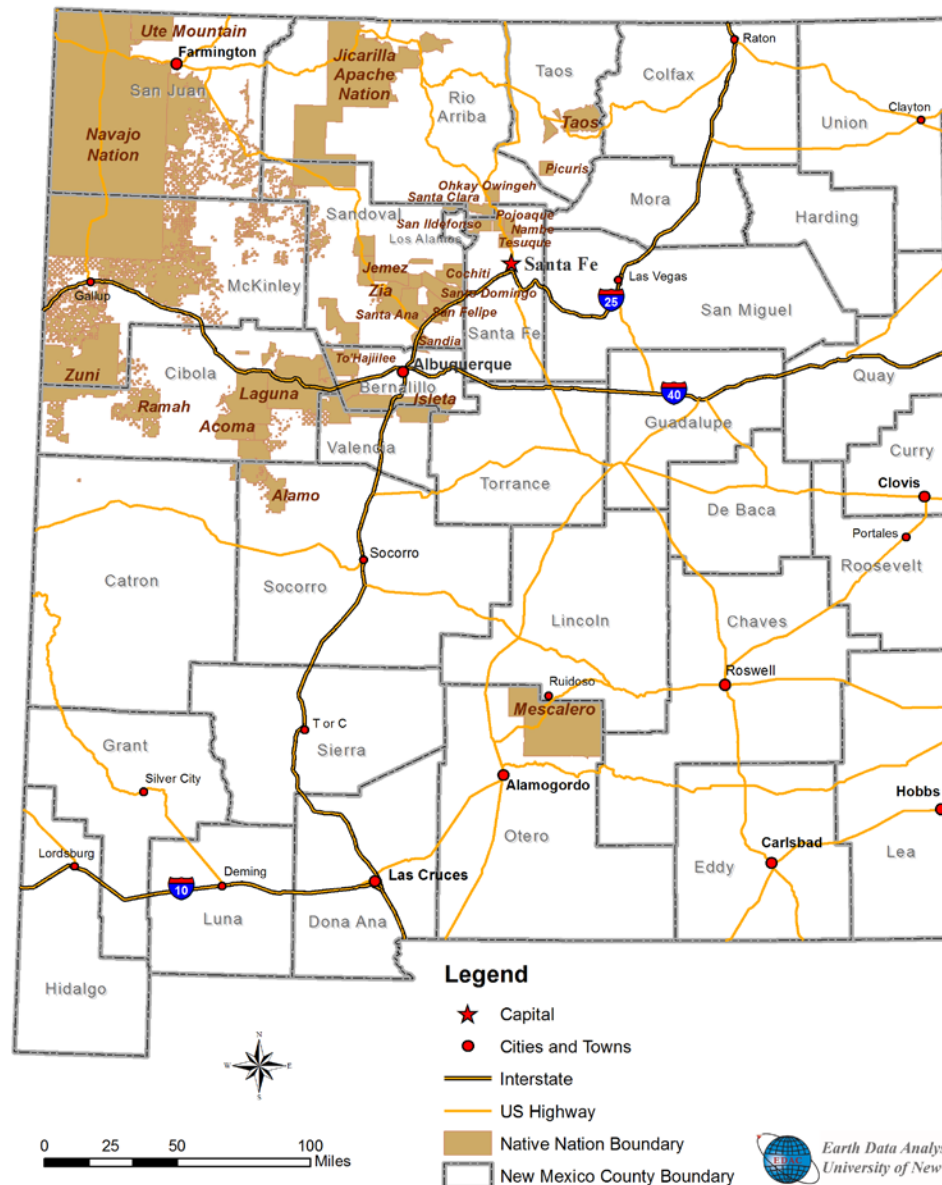
# COVID-19 Epidemiologic Response



# Public Health Authority

- HIPAA Privacy Rule recognizes the legitimate need for public health authorities to have access to protected health information
- Authority based on geographic boundaries not tribal affiliation or race
- Developed a protocol to delegate duties and respect tribe's public health authority
- Leveraged partnerships to respond to this unique public health challenge

## Native Nation Lands New Mexico



# Looking Forward

## Strengths

- Dedicated experienced NMDOH staff
- Existing partnerships
- Volunteer support
- Two-way communication to ensure outbreak control

## Opportunities

- Connect the various data systems needed for outbreak response
- Requirements for identifying race and tribal affiliation data from hospitals, clinics, and labs



# COVID-19 AIAN Tribal Epidemiology Team Contacts

- Medical Epidemiologist / Team Lead  
Dr. Tierney Murphy  
[Tierney.Murphy@state.nm.us](mailto:Tierney.Murphy@state.nm.us)
- Tribal Epidemiologist  
Brooke Doman  
[Brooke.Doman@state.nm.us](mailto:Brooke.Doman@state.nm.us)

# Community Testing and Surveillance Process and Partnerships



# Community Testing and Surveillance Process and Partnerships



- For more information call 1-855-600-3453 or visit [cv.nmhealth.org](http://cv.nmhealth.org)
- Please bring your cellphone to get registered
- Testing is open to everyone at no cost

## DRIVE THRU COVID-19 TESTING

SPONSORED BY THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



**TUESDAY  
JUNE 23, 2020  
8:00AM - 10:30AM  
NAGEEZI CHAPTER HOUSE  
11553 US 550 NAGEEZI, NM**

**Food bag and protective kits (mask, hand sanitizer) will be offered on a first come first serve basis.**

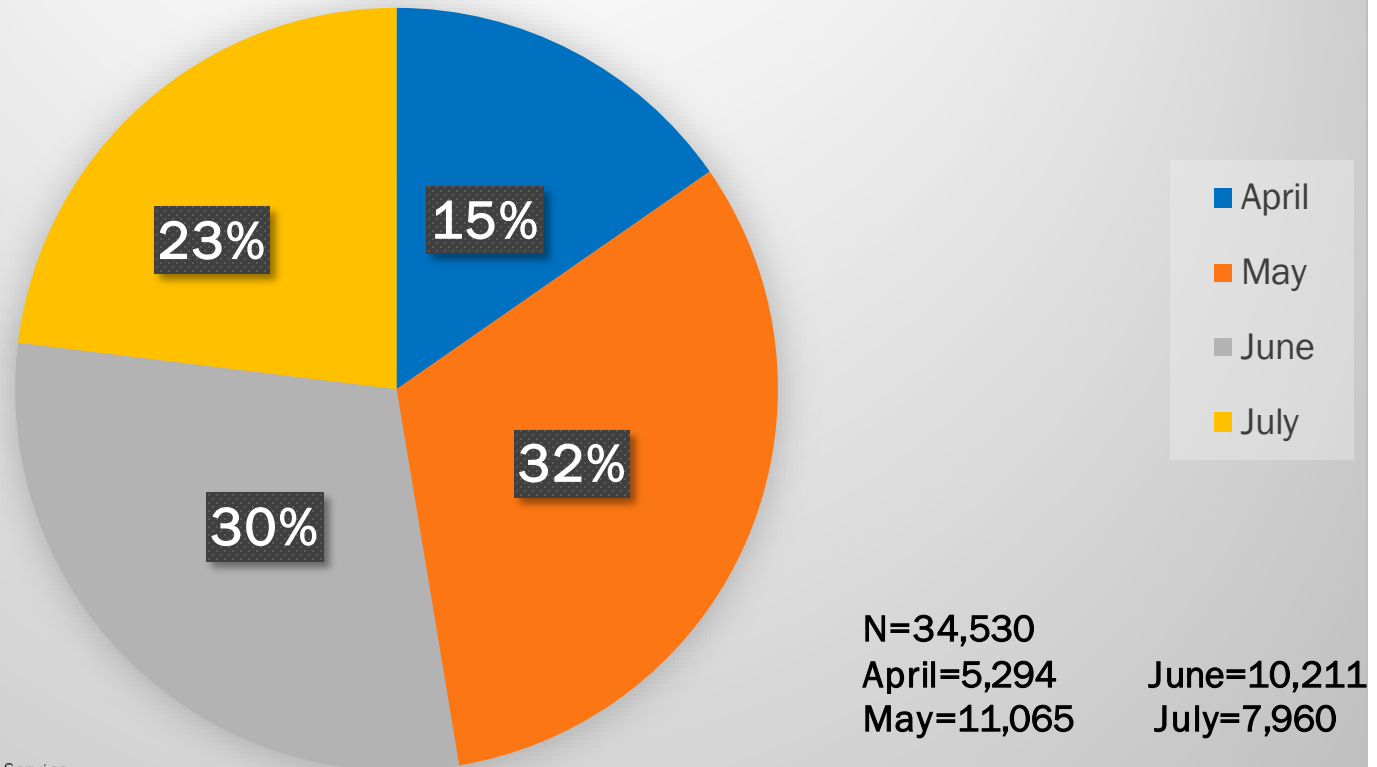


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# Community Test Events and Surveillance Plans

COVID-19 tests performed in tribal communities  
(NMDOH, Presbyterian, I.H.S)  
Not AI/AN exclusive



Source: NMDOH, Presbyterian, Indian Health Service

# Looking forward

## Strengths

- Developed strong working relationships with both IHS and tribal personnel in many communities
- We (DOH NW Region) have learned a lot from Tribal partners

## Opportunities

- Agree with ERD: need for better data systems; better reporting of race/ethnicity data
- DOH personnel dedicated to tribal response
- More lab capacity (not specific to the tribal response – but super important for any place with high case rates)

# Presenter

Public Health Division

Dr. Miranda Durham, Medical Director, NW Region

[Mirandah.durham@state.nm.us](mailto:Mirandah.durham@state.nm.us)

# NM Department of Health

## Bureau of Health Emergency Management

### Department Operations Center (DOC)

- Fulfill COVID-19 test kit requests
- Transport COVID positive and Isolation patients
- Monitor ICU beds and ventilator usage in neighboring states (TX and AZ)
- Provide state-wide volunteer medical personnel and ancillary staff for shelters and alternate care sites through Medical Reserve Corp/NMSERVES
- Work with state-wide emergency managers for jurisdictional requests (i.e., cooling stations during the recent heat wave)

# NM Department of Health, BHEM

## Department Operations Center (DOC)

- Manage the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System (CCDS); 19,000 N-95 masks have been decontaminated to date
- Partner with the National Guard to deliver testing kits; to staff & equip alternate care sites; and in vaccine planning
- Collaborate with tribal partners in developing isolation and quarantine sites
- Collaborate with IHS partners in COVID-19 planning



# Presenter

Sandra Cole, Department Operations Center, Bureau of  
Health Emergency Management, Tribal Liaison  
[Sandra.Cole@state.nm.us](mailto:Sandra.Cole@state.nm.us)

# Communication/Education Resources

- NMDOH COVID-19 weblink <https://cv.nmhealth.org/>
- Weekly clinicians call, Office of Tribal Liaison; semi-weekly non-clinicians call
- Direct follow-ups with tribal leaders
- National and interagency calls

# Presenter

Aiko Allen, Tribal Liaison [Aiko.Allen@state.nm.us](mailto:Aiko.Allen@state.nm.us)