

Abstract

COVID-19 in rural USA

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Abstract

Introduction: In the rural areas of the USA, COVID-19 hit slower, spread faster, and was met with vaccine resistance. The presentation will provide an overview of the factors that contributed to a higher mortality rate in rural communities.

Methods: Data on vaccine rates, infection spread, and mortality rates will be reviewed along with the healthcare system, economic, and social factors that created a unique situation in which infection rates in rural areas were similar, but death rates were nearly double that of their urban peers.

Results: Participants will have a chance to learn how barriers in accessing health care, combined with rejection of public health guidelines, had tragic results.

Discussion: Participants will have the opportunity to consider how public health information can be disseminated in a culturally competent manner that maximizes compliance for future public health emergencies.

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