COVID-19 Conversations

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COVID19Conversations.org
#COVID19Conversations
A View from New York ...

The COVID-19 Crisis and Clinical Ethics in New York City

Joseph J. Fins and Kenneth M. Prager

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic that struck New York City in the spring of 2020 was a national experiment for the clinical ethics services of New York Presbyterian (NYP). Two distinct Eras of NYP—rigorous academic medical center—was at NYP with the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center (Whitman Medical Center), which was located in the same building, and exposed to the same institutional risks. Each church had its own set of ethical issues to entertain and was expected to address these issues.

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Phases of a Pandemic Surge: The Experience of an Ethics Service in New York City during COVID-19


Abstract

When the COVID-19 surge came to New York City hospitals, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) took a series of unprecedented steps to contain the pandemic. These steps included the declaration of a public health emergency, the implementation of a statewide lockdown, and the mandatory use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all healthcare workers.

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New York Times, June 2, 2020
VENTILATOR ALLOCATION GUIDELINES

New York State Task Force on Life and the Law
New York State Department of Health

November 2015

Hospitals Reported That the COVID-19 Pandemic Has Significantly Strained Health Care Delivery

Results of a National Pulse Survey
February 22–26, 2021

Christi A. Grimm
Principal Deputy Inspector General
March 2021, OIG-05-21-00160
Variation in COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths Across New York City Boroughs

Table. Population and Hospital Characteristics Among New York City Boroughs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>Bronx</th>
<th>Brooklyn</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>Queens</th>
<th>Staten Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population, N</td>
<td>1,452,123</td>
<td>2,582,819</td>
<td>1,618,701</td>
<td>2,378,008</td>
<td>476,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density per square mile</td>
<td>23,721</td>
<td>37,162</td>
<td>21,424</td>
<td>21,981</td>
<td>8112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons per household, mean</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demographic characteristics

| Age, median, y | 34.4 | 35.4 | 37.6 | 19.2 | 40.1 |
| Age ≥65, %     | 12.8 | 13.9 | 16.5 | 15.7 | 16.2 |
| Sex, %         | Male: 47.3 | 47.4 | 47.3 | 48.6 | 48.6 |
|                | Female: 52.0 | 52.6 | 52.7 | 51.3 | 51.4 |
| Non-Hispanic, % | 34.4 | 35.6 | 29.2 | 47.6 | 25.2 |

Race/Ethnicity, %

| White        | 25.3 | 40.6 | 59.2 | 39.6 | 75.1 |
| Black or African-American | 38.3 | 33.5 | 16.9 | 19.9 | 11.5 |
| Asian | 4.6 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 27.5 | 11.0 |
| Other race* | 26.8 | 10.4 | 15.4 | 17.0 | 5.2 |
| Hispanic†    | 56.4 | 12.1 | 25.9 | 28.1 | 18.7 |

Socioeconomic status

| Household income, median, $ | 38,407 | 61,200 | 65,006 | 69,100 | 82,160 |
| Persons living under poverty, % | 27.4 | 19.0 | 15.5 | 11.3 | 11.4 |
| Education level, % | High school graduates or higher | 73.3 | 83.4 | 87.7 | 82.5 | 87.7 |
| Bachelor’s degree or higher | 20.7 | 28.9 | 81.4 | 22.6 | 34.3 |
| Hospital characteristics | Total short-term acute care hospitals, N | 7 | 14 | 66 | 0 | 2 |
| Beds per 100,000 population | 395 | 234 | 251 | 144 | 234 |

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JAMA June 2, 2020 Volume 323, Number 21
COVID-19 makes clear that bioethics must confront health disparities

July 8, 2020 8:16am EDT

With some reluctance, I’ve come to the sad realization that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a stress test for bioethics, a field of study that intersects medicine, law, the humanities and the social sciences. As both a physician and medical ethicist, I arrived at...
The virus should have united Americans against a common threat...
The virus also should have been a great leveler. You don’t have to be in the military or in debt to be a target – you just have to be human.

George Packer
The Atlantic
June 15, 2020
Talking about Ethics when COVID-19 becomes Endemic

Mourning

Solidarity

Imagine Justice

A Theory of Justice
JOHN RAWL

REVISED EDITION

Belknap Press

The New Yorker

New York Times
AP March 30, 2020
Talking about Ethics when COVID-19 becomes Endemic

STEM &

The Humanities

WHO

Global Equity

History and

Civics

Johns Hopkins