



Native Health in the Bemidji Area

COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

December 2021

COVID-19 has impacted people living in nursing homes and long-term care facilities more than other groups. This is partially due to the communal nature of living in these places, which facilitates easy spread of the virus. Additionally, coronavirus is more likely to cause death in older adults and those with underlying conditions. As of April 28, 2021, four percent of COVID-19 cases have occurred in nursing homes. However, 32% of COVID-19 deaths have occurred in residents.¹ Because elders are so important to American Indian/Alaska Native communities and cultures, it is vital to understand how COVID-19 might impact them and how to reduce it.

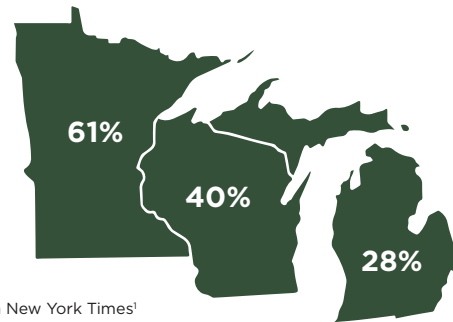
COVID-19 in Nursing Homes in the Bemidji Area

In Michigan, nursing home cases and deaths from COVID-19 were similar in Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA) counties (counties that include or touch a reservation boundary) and non-PRCDA counties (counties that don't include or touch a reservation boundary) until September 2020 when they began to increase at a greater rate in PRCDA counties. Fortunately, the percent of cases resulting in death (the case fatality rate, or CFR) in all counties has decreased as COVID-19 vaccines have become more available.

All counties in Minnesota saw a peak in nursing home cases and deaths from October 2020 to March 2021; however, rates in PRCDA counties were higher.

In Wisconsin, nursing home case and death rates due to COVID-19 were similar in PRCDA and non-PRCDA counties, although PRCDA counties saw a slightly higher peak in cases and deaths in December 2020. While the CFR has remained fairly steady (around 23%) in non-PRCDA counties, in PRCDA counties it increased from five percent in June to about 18% in December and remained at that level through April.

Map 1. Percent of State's Deaths Linked to Long-Term Care Facilities in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, through April 28, 2021¹



Adapted from New York Times¹

Table 1. COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Cumulative Case Fatality Rate for Long-Term Care Facility Residents in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, by Proximity to Reservations (PRCDAs),¹ as of April 25, 2021

	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Cumulative Case Fatality Rate for Residents (Percent)
Michigan	13,968	3,728	26.7
PRCDA Counties	4,412	1,161	26.3
Non-PRCDA Counties	9,556	2,567	26.9
Minnesota	9,303	2,371	25.5
PRCDA Counties	1,896	526	27.7
Non-PRCDA Counties	7,406	1,845	24.9
Wisconsin	8,331	1,814	21.8
PRCDA Counties	3,007	558	18.6
Non-PRCDA Counties	5,324	1,256	23.6

¹PRCDAs are Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Areas: counties that include or touch a reservation boundary

The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC)'s *Native Health in the Bemidji Area* factsheet series presents data on various health-related topics for communities in the Bemidji Indian Health Service Area (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Chicago). GLITEC welcomes discussion with Bemidji Area communities' health staff in the use of this factsheet to support assessment, planning, and evaluation functions. Please contact us to discuss how we may support your community.

Figure 1. Weekly Cases, Deaths, and Case Fatality Rates for Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, by Proximity to Reservations (PRCDAs),¹ June 15, 2020-April 25, 2021



¹PRCDAs are Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Areas: counties that include or touch a reservation boundar

Data Source: COVID-19 Nursing Home Data - Archived Datasets. Accessed May 6, 2021. <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data-Archived-Datasets/dyvx-s2qr/>

Data Note: Reporting of COVID-19 cases in nursing facilities began May 17, 2020. Some but not all facilities reported cumulative COVID-19 cases/deaths dating back to January 1, 2020 in their May 17th report.

References: 1) More Than 100,000 U.S. Coronavirus Deaths Are Linked to Nursing Homes. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html>. Published June 27, 2020. Accessed May 6, 2020.