



Protecting African American Communities

WHO WE ARE:

Florida State Medical Association, a representative organization of the National Medical Association (NMA), representing over 2000 physicians in Florida. The National Medical Association is the oldest organization of African American professionals in America representing African American physicians.

WHAT WE DO:

We are the collective voice of African American Physicians and the leading force for parity and justice in medicine.

OUR CONCERNS: How does COVID-19 affect African American Residents?

Florida's African Americans, including those from the Caribbean and Africa, suffer with high rates of chronic diseases

City/ County	Orlando/ Orange	Jacksonville/ Duval	Tampa/ Hisborough	Miami Dade	Broward	FloridaState
% of African Americans who have been told they have diabetes	10.00%	16.20%	10.30%	15.40%	16.50%	14.50%
% of African Americans who have been told they have Hypertension	26.50%	35.50%	38.90%	27.00%	25.50%	33.70%
% of Obese African Americans	31.90%	41.80%	25.50%	30.50%	40.00%	34.00%
% of African Americans who have been told they have Coronary Heart disease, Heart attack or stroke	9.00%	8.00%	11.30%	8.50%	11.00%	8.90%
% of African Americans living with HIV	1.61%	1.84%	1.64%	3.20%	2.05%	0.61%

African Americans also experience social and economic conditions that affect their ability to protect themselves from COVID-19 infection. Many work low-wage occupations such as health care attendants, delivery drivers, grocery store clerks, custodial workers, etc. Additionally, many live in small multigenerational occupied homes limiting social distancing.

According to the Center for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) *4/9/2020

427,460 total cases in the United States

14,696 total deaths

According to Detroit News

14 % of the population in Michigan is black

Out of the 14%, the city of Detroit has had 97 fatalities

African Americans make up 33% of positive cases and 41% of deaths

According to Milwaukee County

81% of COVID-19 related deaths are African Americans

The city of Milwaukee is demographically 26% African American

According to the Governor of Louisiana

512 total deaths

70% African Americans who make up 32% of state's population

According to the Mayor of Chicago

Af. Am. make up 30% of city's population and 72% of deaths

City	Orlando	Jacksonville	Tampa	Miami Dade	Broward
Population of Blacks/African Americans	74,899 (25.4%)	277,151	94,786 (24.2%)	474,232	552,216
Average African American/black Household size	3.32	2.64	2.67	3.05	3.03
Average African American/ black Family Size	2.75	3.25	3.37	3.28	3.56
# Multi generational Households 3 or more	1847	6353	2412	17,877	15,437
# of African American/black Households	24,994	93,271	31,024	150,147	111,497
# of 2 or more people per family household	15,154	61,954	19,981	107,039	78,842
2 or more people per non-family household	9,840	4,814	2,231	7,888	5,986

African Americans represent a significant percentage of incarcerated persons at increased vulnerability facing the impossibility of social distancing. In 2018, of the 96,253 inmates present in Florida persons, 45.1% and 1.9% were Black males and females.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO COMBAT THIS?

1. **As a trusted voice within the community, FSMA must be included as a stakeholder in the planning of the COVID-19 response.**
2. **More robust data collecting and reporting including race:** Timely, accurate data on the number of people tested with their results will allow us to alert vulnerable citizens, contain and prevent the infection spread.
3. **Increase access to testing:**
 - Expand the number of testing sites in African American neighborhoods. Specifically, we strongly recommend rapid testing to ensure immediate response to contain spread among family members and community.
 - Update testing guidelines to include symptomatic individuals regardless of age.
 - Include walk-up testing at all testing sites currently in operation.
 - Mobile Testing Units- each unit will be a fully equipped mobile unit with the ability to accept walk up patients and allow outside testing. The unit can be deployed to different communities every day. Screening will be done onsite for testing where doctor’s referrals are not necessary.
4. **Targeted culturally and linguistically appropriate communication and education:**
 - Communicate and educate all African Americans on COVID infection risk, treatment and end of life preparation, using media outlets and personalities servicing African American communities (Haitian and English-speaking Caribbean radio, newspapers, radio and TV programs consumed by African Americans, billboards and social media). Funding should be allocated to ensure prime time programming.
 - Engage and fund community organizations to educate the community on COVID-19.
5. **PPE** for African Americans physicians, healthcare, environmental, non-clinical, and other low wage workers.
6. **Maintain viability** of small private physicians’ practices and Federally Qualified Health Centers, including frontline support staff that provide healthcare in the African American community.