

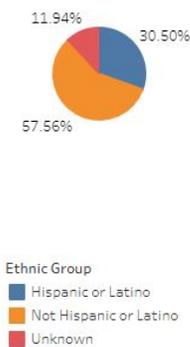
NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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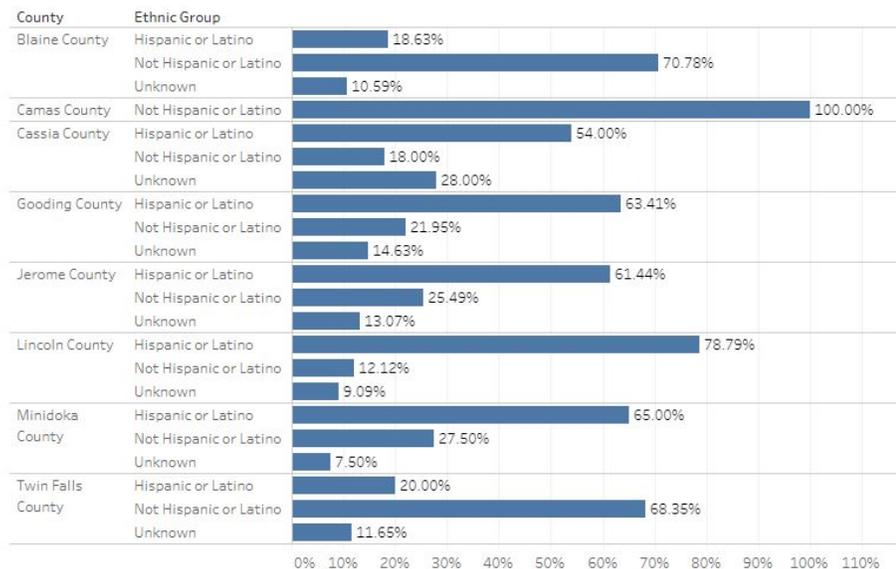
Newly Released Data Shows Ethnicity Breakdown Among Confirmed and Probable Cases.

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) has released ethnicity data on reported cases of COVID-19 in the region. This new data shows about 30 percent of confirmed and probable cases are among Hispanic and Latino residents, district wide. In some counties that is disproportionately high.

Ethnicity in confirmed and probable cases across the district.



Ethnicity in confirmed and probable cases in each county.



Using the data available now, the percentage of cases is disproportionately higher* for Hispanic and Latino residents in several counties.

| County | % of Population Hispanic/Latino | % of Confirmed and Probable Cases Hispanic/Latino |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Blaine | 22.50% | 18.64% |
| Camas | 6.50% | 0% |
| Cassia | 27.40% | 54% |
| Gooding | 29.50% | 63.41% |
| Jerome | 36.40% | 61.44% |
| Lincoln | 30.40% | 78.79% |
| Minidoka | 35.80% | 65% |
| Twin Falls | 16.90% | 20% |

“Nationwide, we’ve seen a disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases in Hispanic/Latino and other minority communities, and our district is no exception,” said Melody Bowyer, SCPHD Director. “Access to health care, safe and adequate housing, health education, and economic stability have long been the important social determinants of health outcomes. There is much to be learned from this crisis, and the uneven disease burden of COVID-19 on different communities will perhaps be one of the most profound lessons. It’s apparent now more than ever why we must try to bridge these gaps.”

SCPHD has also recognized some uneasiness within the Hispanic/Latino community when information about COVID-19 is shared by a governmental agency. The health district is not involved in any investigation into citizenship and will not inquire about immigration status while looking into confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19.

“What we care about is taking care of our residents and controlling the spread of this virus,” said Bowyer. “That is what we are focusing on in our education, our outreach, and all of our investigation.”

South Central Public Health District is working with local community leaders to continue to reach out to minority populations with factual information about COVID-19. The community information toolbox, available on the SCPHD website, also contains a folder stocked with information in Spanish. You can find that toolbox here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2lgxoespit3zjr0/AAAzCqGEx0Pbqt8dSiyV-gs1a?dl=0>

SCPHD continues to urge all residents to protect themselves from COVID-19, and other viruses, by:

- Keeping six feet between themselves and people outside their household
- Washing their hands well and regularly, especially immediately after returning home
- Following the Governor’s Rebound Idaho program- which includes avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people until stage 4

- Wearing a mask when they interact with people outside their home, especially in public areas like grocery stores

SCPHD is also running two hotlines for information about COVID-19. One in Spanish, at (208) 737-5965, and one in English at (208) 737-1138. These hotlines are currently running from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Initial disease reports to public health are often missing information on race and ethnicity. SCPHD collects that information when possible, but residents have the right to decline information about their race and ethnicity. All cases with unknown ethnicity are reflected in the graph.

SCPHD is working continuously on data analysis and will update case data by ethnicity and other demographic factors weekly on <https://www.phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus-dashboard>.

*Demographic data unrelated to COVID-19 was taken from the latest County Health Rankings report. Learn more about how they gather data here: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/measures-data-sources>

Please refer to <https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus> for the latest local numbers, guidance, and resources. Refer to <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> for Idaho-specific information and guidance.