

COVID-19 and poverty in rural areas: the experience of the United States

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Outline for Today

- 1. Rural Poverty in the United States**
- 2. Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Rural Areas**
 - a. New survey data
 - b. Population-level impacts
 - c. Group-level impacts
- 3. Rural Recovery Policy and Known Barriers**
 - a. How they've gotten by
 - b. What they want
 - c. Rural barriers to recovery

I. Rural Poverty in the United States

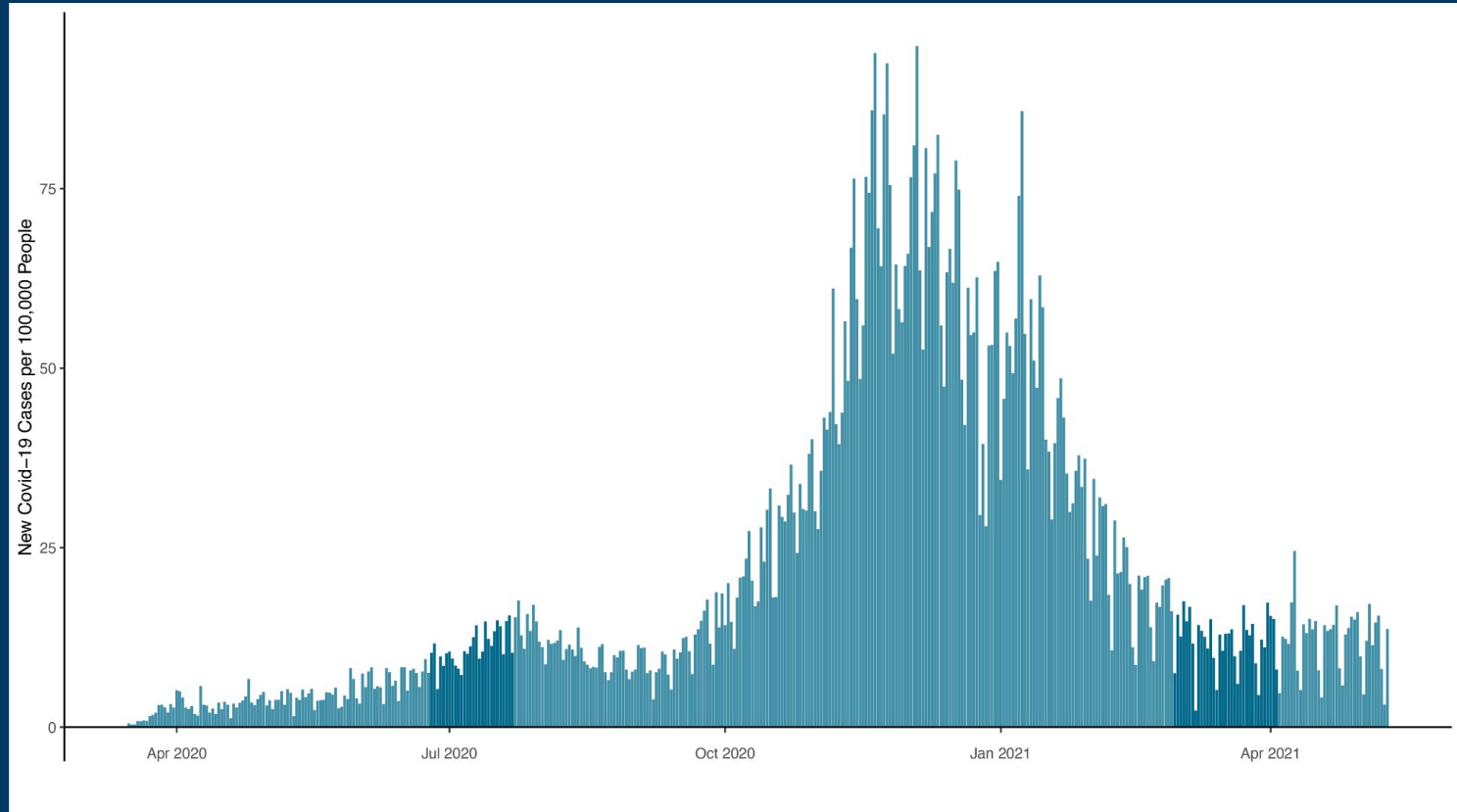
- Higher and more persistent
- Economic restructuring
- Uniquely vulnerable

II. Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic

New Rural Survey on Covid-19 Impacts

- Lack of precise data
- Flawed Covid-19 recovery plans?

Two Waves - Representative Sample



Population-level Impacts

- Greater experience with the virus
- Greater economic disruption
- Severe mental distress

Group-level Impacts

- Unemployment for women and Latina/o rural residents
- Members of the labor force

III. Rural Recovery Policy (and Known Barriers)

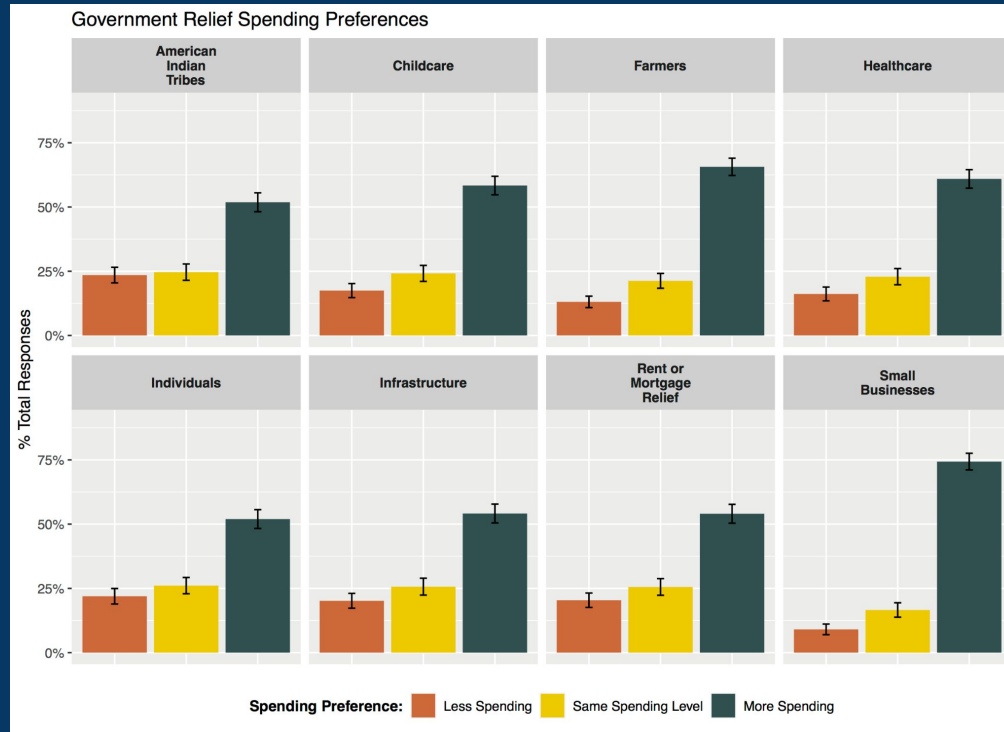
How they've gotten by

- Reliance on *informal* social support, rather than government or civil society
- Yet, the hardest hit relied more on government and civil society

What rural people want (and need)

- Strong support for government relief spending, despite traditionally conservative politics

What rural people want (and need)



Significant Barriers

- High rates and elevated health care costs
- Lack of economic opportunity for young people
- Anti-governmental politics and culture
- Inflexible safety net programs
- Outdated infrastructure

Thank You

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