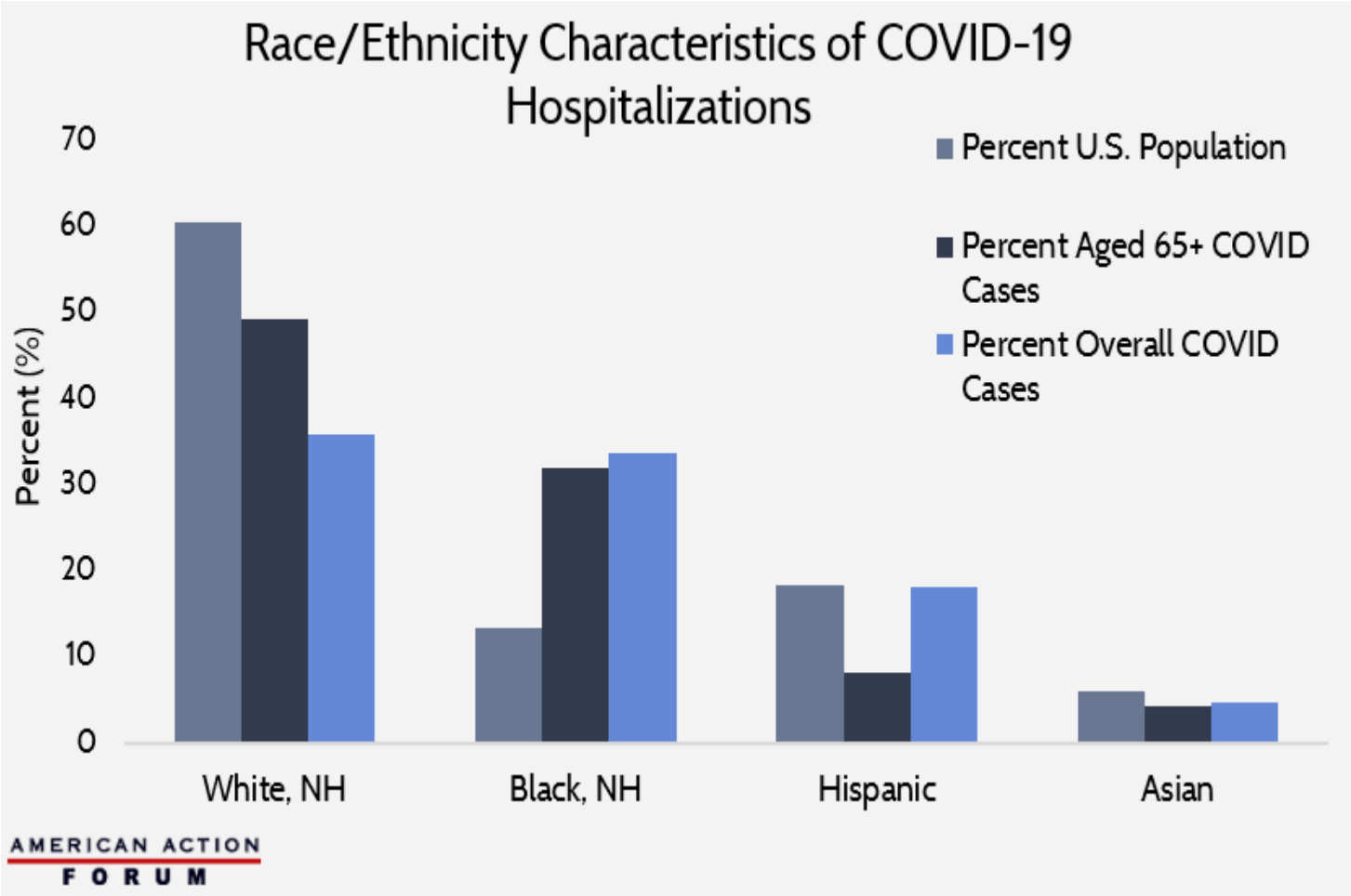
Weekly Checkup

Revisiting Infection Disparities

ANDREW STROHMAN | JUNE 12, 2020

Recently, the Weekly Checkup reviewed data from a retrospective cohort study looking at racial disparities in COVID-19 hospitalization. The data pointed to differences in the presence of comorbidities but especially in the forms of insurance, and such factors may lend to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black patients. **Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released an initiative to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on minority populations. This initiative includes new data collection and dissemination via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including data on race and ethnicity**. Given the new data and research on the subject along with recent efforts by states to reopen their economies, **it is worth revisiting this topic and considering how various groups of people may be affected**.

The chart below highlights some statistics taken from the CDC. White, non-Hispanic (NH) people make up 60.4 percent of the population and 35.7 percent of total COVID-19 hospitalizations. Black, NH people make up only 13.4 percent of the population but account for 33.6 percent of overall COVID-19 hospitalizations. Hispanic people account for both 18 percent of the population and of overall hospitalizations. Asian people are 5.9 percent of the population and account for 4.7 percent of hospitalizations, although the data for hospitalizations combine Asians and Pacific Islanders. COVID-19 hospitalizations for those 65 years of age and above follow similar trends apart from the Hispanic population, whose hospitalizations are skewed toward younger ages.



Data obtained from the CDC