

Risk Factors for COVID-19 Positivity and Hospital Admission among Arab American Adults in Southern California

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Abstract

Little is known about risk factors associated with COVID-19 infection among Arab American people. We aimed to understand the predictors of receiving a positive COVID-19 test result and being admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 among Arab American adults using data from a hospital near an Arab ethnic enclave. We used electronic medical record data for Arab American adults aged ≥ 18 years from March 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, at Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, California. The primary outcomes were receiving a positive COVID-19 test result and being admitted to the hospital for COVID-19. We ran logistic regression models with individual- and population-level risk factors to determine the odds of each primary outcome. A total of 2744 Arab American adults were tested for COVID-19, of whom 783 (28.5%) had a positive test result. In the fully adjusted model, women had lower odds of receiving a positive test result than men (adjusted odds ratio [aOR] = 0.77; 95% CI, 0.64-0.92), and adults living in high-poverty areas had higher odds of receiving a positive test result than adults in lower-poverty areas (aOR = 1.25; 95% CI, 1.04-1.51). Of the 783 Arab American adults with data on admission, 131 (16.7%) were admitted. For every 1-unit increase in the Charlson Comorbidity Index, the odds of admission increased by 66% (aOR = 1.66; 95% CI, 1.36-2.04).

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