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POSTER SESSION C: BUILDING AND SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE COALITION ACROSS SITES AND DISCIPLINES FOR EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

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Objective/Goals The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority and other under-resourced communities required a collaborative approach across the state, including community and academic partners. Building any large coalition brings inherent challenges; doing so during a global emergency can increase barriers despite the urgent need for collaboration. This poster will describe the formation of a California-wide coalition for COVID-19 community outreach.

Methods/Study Population California, the third-largest state in the country, is home to almost 40 million people, including nearly a million farmworkers and over 1.5 million Veterans. There is no single racial/ethnic majority of the population and almost half speak a language other than English at home. Established community-academic relationships and an existing academic network across the state facilitated the rapid start of this coalition, which comprises 11 academic sites and over 75 community organizations.

Results: The coalition had to navigate bureaucratic and communication challenges to coalesce this group and address financial hurdles to provide support for each organization. However, throughout the pandemic, this coalition was able to share strategies for conducting rapid needs assessments, including focus groups and town halls within diverse communities, to respond to ongoing community needs.

Discussion/Significance of Impact This statewide coalition and their work within marginalized communities can be a model for community-academic partnerships moving forward, especially ones that cross disciplines, communities, and sectors.

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