



Aerial view of Salmon ID

# COVID-19 Pandemic in Salmon, ID: Medical Humanities



Cade Budak | RUOP III | 2021 | UW School of Medicine

## Background

- Demographics (3069 population), Surrounding area (9,000+)
  - 93% white
  - 2.33% multiracial (non-hispanic)
  - 1.68% Hispanic
  - 1.3% other
  - .061% American Indian & Alaska Native
- A Top 20 critical access hospital (18 Bed Hospital)
- 2.5 hours either way from a Regional Medical Center
- Median age 42.5 years old
- Poverty rate 13.8% with 1,367 people employed
- Social, physical, intellectual assets
  - Average income \$38-42K (below national average \$65K)
- Top 4 job Categories (percent of Jobs)
  - Retail 21%%
  - Healthcare 14.2%
  - Educational services 6.14%
  - Mining, Quarrying , oil & gas 5%

## Methods

- Recruitment strategies
  - Asking workers at hospital if they would like to be interviewed about COVID-19 pandemic for the National Humanities Center
- Number of interviews: 6
  - CEO
  - CMA
  - RN
  - LPN
  - CNA/Clerk
  - OT
- Format (in-person interviews)
  - Range from 16 min – 1 hour 30 min
- Maintaining Objectivity/Neutrality on topics
  - Asked from a list of questions provided
  - Interviewees had choice of questions pre-interview
- Purpose of humanities project
  - This interview is being conducted as part of a project organized by the National Humanities Center in conjunction with the University of Washington. Our goal is to collect, preserve, and share the stories and experiences of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Results

- Common Themes Identified through interviewing
  - Political polarization of the pandemic though the media
    - Everyone that was interviewed thought that the pandemic should not have been political and that the media's coverage of the pandemic on both sides did not portray the whole story
  - Challenges of child care schooling during the pandemic
    - Nearly everyone interviewed had children in school and were burdened by their children not going to school. Some nearly quit working to help their children with their schoolwork
  - Vaccine distrust/Hesitancy
    - Some people that I interviewed have concerns and hesitancy getting the vaccine. They would like to wait to see more data on it. Some people still got it even with the hesitancy. Nearly everyone disagrees with mandated vaccines.



## Conclusions

- Importance of oral history
  - Oral history is a great way to share the perspectives and experiences of various healthcare professionals during the pandemic
  - It may help learn from the mistakes made and help build a more equipped healthcare system
- How did this experience influence the clinical portion of RUOP?
  - It gave me an understanding that not all areas were effected equally. It also showed me that rural areas can depend on their community
- Recommendations of how this could help the community
  - It was my understanding that the community came together and listened to the healthcare system especially when public figures were hit by the virus
  - Hopefully the community would be more responsive initially if times of future crisis occur



Beaverhead Mountains Salmon, ID