



## **Ammar Lin**

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### **Practicum Site:**

Tennessee Department of Health  
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### **Practicum Site Supervisor:**

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## **Income inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Purpose:** The COVID-19 outbreak has exacerbated existing demographic and socio-economic inequities in the United States. Specifically, income inequality may explain why some states and communities were impacted by COVID-19 more than others. Existing literature is lacking on the relationship between income inequality and resilience to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methodology:** This practicum was based in the Office of Strategic Initiatives at the Tennessee Department of Health. Resources and data products for County Health Councils were developed along with a white paper document to help inform the councils on steps to address income inequality during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Findings:** The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected low income communities and communities of color across Tennessee and the nation. To address this issue, there is a need to increase community awareness and develop interventions that specifically target factors which address income inequality.

**Conclusion:** The County Health Councils can help engage vulnerable and minority communities at a local level to help raise awareness about income inequality and share available resources to help alleviate the pandemic's consequences.