

# Covid-19 BinaxNOW Community Screening

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Fort Hall Reservation  
12/2020 – 6/2021



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# Introduction

- ▶ Intervention and Implementation
- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Results
- ▶ Sustainability
- ▶ Public Health Significance



# Intervention and Implementation

- ▶ Due to rapidly increasing cases and deaths, the Fort Hall emergency response team, Council, & health officials consulted on mitigations against Covid-19.
  - Community screening for COVID-19 by frequent testing using rapid antigen tests has been proposed as a strategy to reduce community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, primarily by early detection of asymptomatic cases.
- ▶ The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) established a community screening program using the BinaxNOW™ COVID-19 Ag Card (BinaxNOW) with support from public health and clinical partners.



# Intervention and Implementation



Eagle Lodge: Mon



Buffalo Lodge: Tues



Casino/Hotel: Weds

# Intervention and Implementation

- ▶ Free testing offered at 3 sites after piloting at 7 total sites
- ▶ 12/8/2020 – 6/30/2021
- ▶ Process
  - Participant written informed consent
  - Nasal swab—results recorded—positives sent to contact tracers
  - Negative symptomatic results qualified for a second nasal swab and RT-PCR test sent to Idaho Bureau of Laboratory.
- ▶ Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Health & Human Services maintained a database to track BinaxNOW testing numbers and results.



# Purpose

- ▶ Intervention was motivated by the affect of Covid-19 on American Indian Tribes.
  - [CDC data show disproportionate COVID-19 impact in American Indian/Alaska Native populations](#)
  - [Reports detail high COVID-19 burden in Native Americans](#)
- ▶ Community spread of COVID-19 began in June 2020, with an increase in cases in November 2020 (Figure 1-epi curve)
- ▶ Purpose to increase the COVID-19 testing availability and slow the spread of COVID-19 by early detection of new cases in the community.



# Epi curve

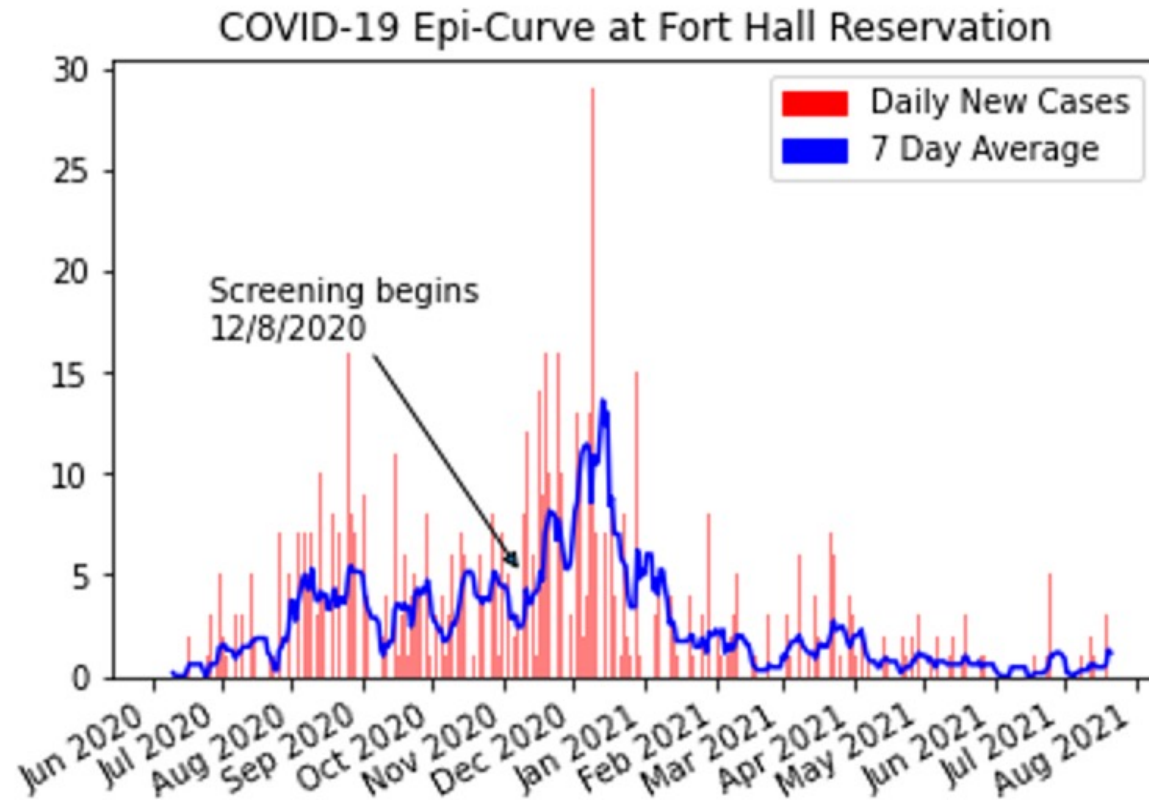
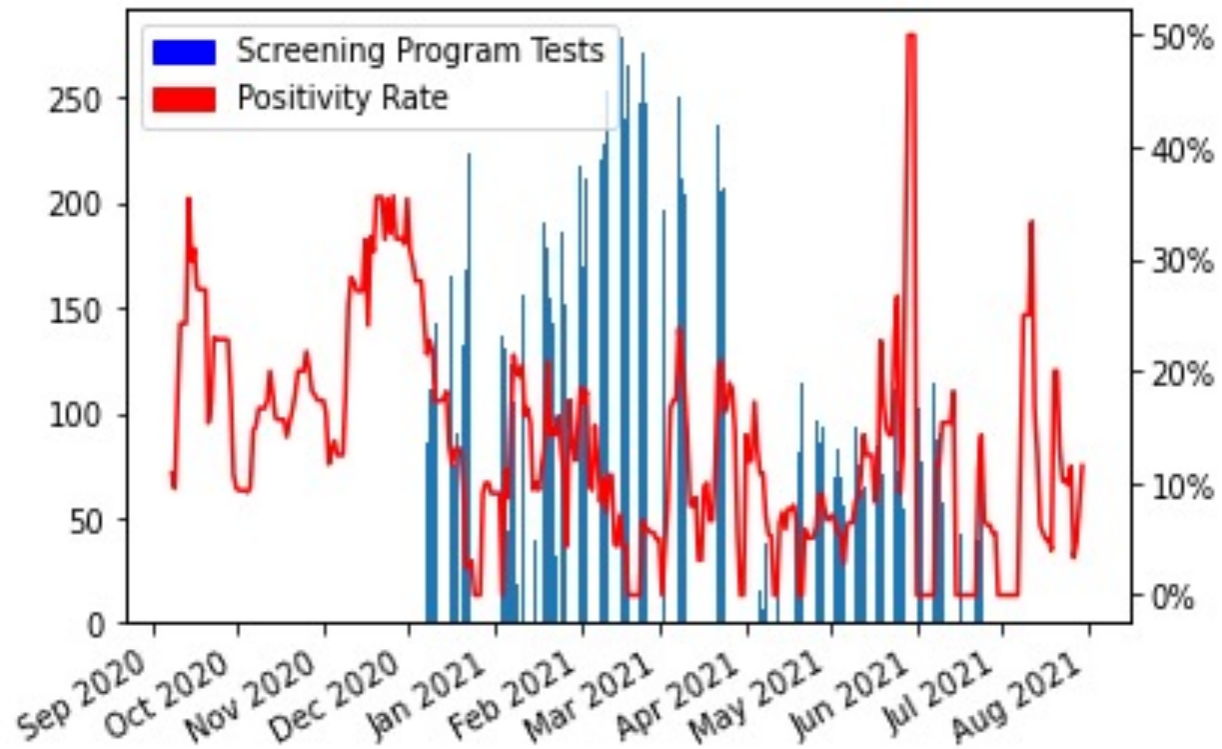


Figure 1: Includes the Fort Hall cumulative daily new Covid-19 cases with the 7 day average. The date of screening is provided in the figure.

# Results

Community Screening COVID-19 Tests Administered with Weekly Clinic Positivity Rate at Fort Hall Reservation



**Key Dates**

1. Dec 8th, 2020: Testing begins with \$25 gas card for tribal members
2. Mar 18th, 2021: Gas Cards no longer available
3. Apr 19th, 2021: \$10 Gas Cards made available for tribal members
4. Jun 30th, 2021: Screening Program ends



Figure 3: The Fort Hall testing & positivity rate is provided along with the incentive information



# Results

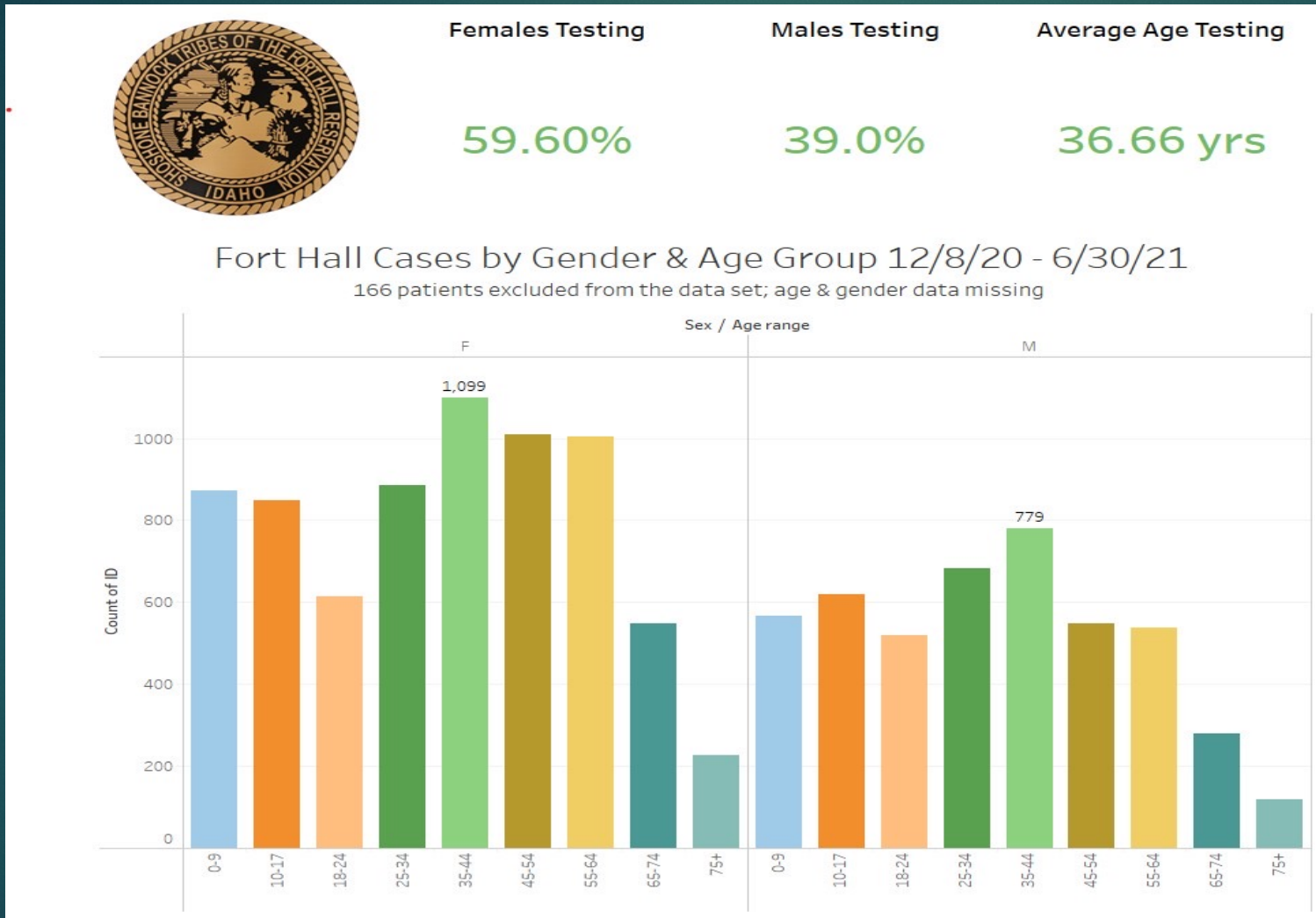


Figure 2: Dashboard snap shot of cumulative BinaxNOW antigen rapid tests administered by age ranges & by gender. The percentage of gender testing & average age is shown; 166 patients excluded due to missing data.

# Results

- ▶ Incentivized screening sites vs. Weekly community vax sites
  - High rate of same individuals testing and many vaccinated
  - Total tests & positives: 13,984 tests & 125 positives & 1236 potentials
  - 8/4/2021 – 10/18/2021: 1189 tests & 154 positives
- ▶ The majority of people testing positive were asymptomatic (71%).
- ▶ Challenges/effects:
  1. Maintaining participant privacy at sites
  2. Streamlining the registration
  3. Data entry processes
  4. Staffing shortages due to Covid-19.
  5. Incentive Process
    - \$10 & \$25 incentive = \$200k + (Tribal cares & THHS funding)



# Sustainability

- ▶ The BinaxNOW community screening program was initially planned to last for eight weeks, however, due to the success of the program it was continued for nearly 7 months.



Tribal Council, Tribal/IHS leaderships, CDC, National Guards & Air Force

# Public Health Significance

- ▶ Covid-19 impacted the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes: Current as of 10/4/21
  - 1325, 113 Hospitalized, 31 Deaths (2.3%)
- ▶ Mitigation measures implemented to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 on Fort Hall Reservation and the surrounding communities
  - BinaxNOW community screening initiative (Began 12/8/20)
  - Covid-19 vaccination program (Began 12/22/20)
  - After 1 month of terminating the screening, it was decided by Fort Hall health entities and the Shoshone Bannock Council to restart the screening 8/4/21 (without the National Guards).



# Thank You

## Additional Resources & References

- ▶ <http://www.sbtribes.com/>
- ▶ [DASHBOARD https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/thhs.data.team/viz/Shoshone-BannockTribesCOVID-19Dashboard/C19](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/thhs.data.team/viz/Shoshone-BannockTribesCOVID-19Dashboard/C19)
- ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- ▶ Fort Hall Indian Health Service, Shoshone-Bannock Community Health Center, Tribal Health & Human Services (THHS), Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Council
- ▶ American Journal Public Health Outline- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes BinaxNOW Community Screening
- ▶ Dunne, Eileen PhD , Former CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officer assigned to Idaho
- ▶ Snidow, Lori Capt., USPHS, Chief Dental Officer, Acting Clinical Director, IHS Fort Hall Service Unit.
- ▶ Martin, Travis BS, MBA, Data Analyst Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Health & Human Services (THHS)
- ▶ Poniatowski, Alex MS, Former CDC Foundation & Data Analyst Consultant at Shoshone-Bannock THHS



QUESTIONS....

