

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage by Race and Ethnicity and Age in Washington State

Washington State Department of Health

February 10, 2021



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Overview

Washington's COVID-19 vaccination program began on December 14, 2020, after the first Emergency Use Authorization was approved. Initially, Washington state prioritized vaccination eligibility of health care workers, first responders, people who live or work in long-term care facilities, and all other workers in health settings who are at risk of COVID-19. On January 18, 2021, eligibility was expanded to anyone ages 65 and older and to people 50 and older who live in a multigenerational household. As of February 6, 2021, 741,399 Washington state residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, and 195,467 are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This report outlines vaccination coverage by race, ethnicity, and age to begin describing who is being vaccinated in Washington state.

Race, ethnicity, age, and immunization status data are based on provider reporting to the Washington Immunization Information System (WAIS). All COVID-19 vaccination providers in Washington state are required to report to the WAIS within 24 hours of vaccine administration. DOH monitors vaccination coverage in Washington's population using WAIS data.

To assign race/ethnicity categories, Hispanic ethnicity was assessed first, regardless of race. For those not identified as Hispanic, racial groups were assigned. Racial groups are based on categories in the WAIS and are consistent with Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) race categories, with the exception of "Other" race, which is collected by the WAIS but not reported by OFM. The "Other" race category is a national HL7 data exchange standard, a drop-down menu option in WAIS, and a requested category by CDC. This report contains data for the following race/ethnicity groups:

Hispanic

Non-Hispanic White

Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native

Non-Hispanic Asian

Non-Hispanic Black

Non-Hispanic Multiracial

Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Non-Hispanic Other Race

These categories make it possible to examine immunization coverage by race/ethnicity, but do not fully capture the diversity of Washingtonians. Additionally, race and ethnicity data are not reported for all vaccinated individuals. Race and ethnicity are required fields in the WAIS, but providers may report these as unknown. As of February 6, 2021, 11.3% of people initiating vaccination and 9.9% of fully vaccinated people had unknown race/ethnicity. Missing race/ethnicity data and the high proportion of individuals with race categorized as “Other” impact our ability to make conclusions based on these data. Efforts to make WAIS data more complete are ongoing.

Age was defined as age at time of reporting. Date of birth data are available for all individuals receiving COVID-19 vaccine, to date. Age groups were broken into the following categories: 0-19 years, 20-34 years, 35-49 years, 50-64 years, and 65 and older. This breakdown allowed to specifically evaluate individuals recommended for vaccination.

Vaccine coverage was analyzed two different ways: people initiating vaccination and people fully vaccinated. Individuals receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine were defined as initiating vaccination. Individuals completing the recommended number of COVID-19 doses were defined as fully vaccinated. Those initiating vaccination include fully vaccinated individuals. The count includes doses given outside of the state to Washington residents and does not include invalid doses (doses given at an inappropriate time interval).

Vaccination coverage by race and ethnicity

Figure 1 shows the race/ethnicity of people who have been vaccinated and compares this with the race/ethnicity distribution of the general Washington state population. Data are shown separately for people initiating vaccination and people who are fully vaccinated. These data are also shown in Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this report. Descriptions below are based on those with available race/ethnicity data.

Among those initiating vaccination:

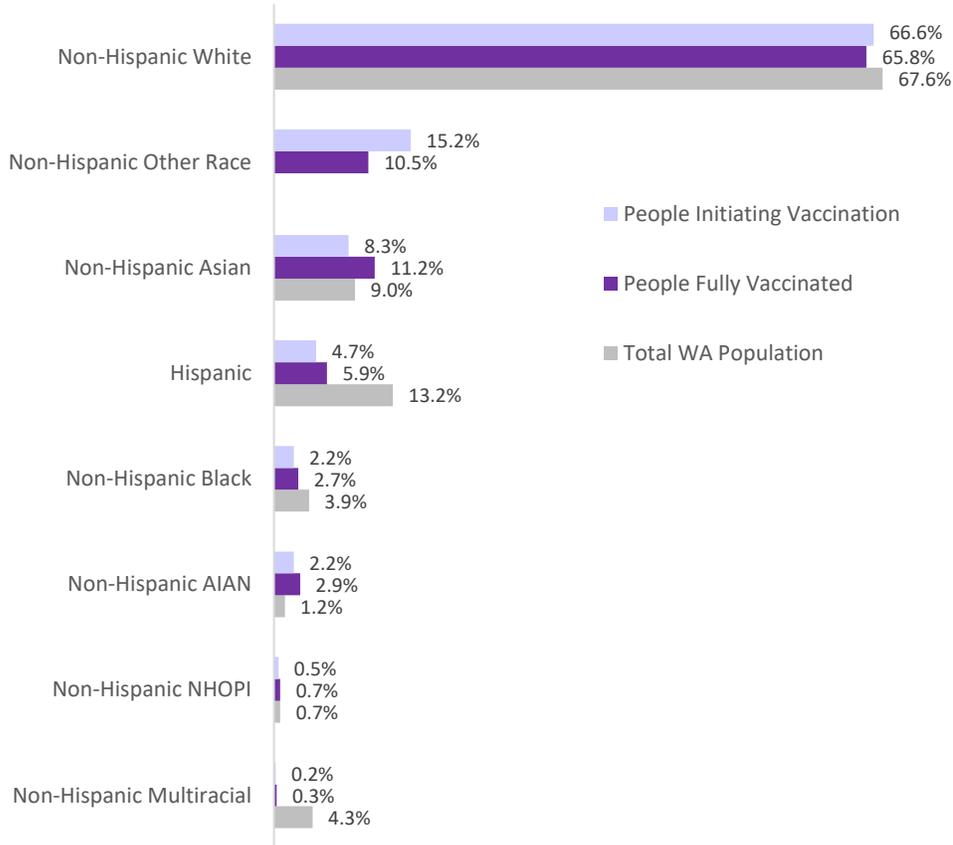
- The proportion who are Hispanic is lower (4.7%) than Hispanic representation in the population (13.2%).
- Non-Hispanic Black and Non-Hispanic Multiracial groups are also underrepresented, compared to the population overall.
- Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Natives make up a slightly larger share, compared to their representation in the population.
- Non-Hispanic Other Race accounts for 15% of those initiating vaccination, but there is no corresponding population group category. Along with missing race/ethnicity data, this poses a challenge for comparing the race/ethnicity distribution of vaccinated individuals with the population.

Among those fully vaccinated:

- The proportion who are Hispanic is lower (5.9%) than in the population (13.2%).
- Non-Hispanic Black and Non-Hispanic Multiracial groups are also underrepresented.
- Non-Hispanic Asians and Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Natives are slightly overrepresented.

- Approximately 11% of those who are fully vaccinated are categorized as Non-Hispanic Other Race, which is not included in the population distribution.

Figure 1: Race/Ethnicity of Vaccinated Individuals, Compared to Washington Population



Race/ethnicity data was not available for 83,661 (11.3%) of people initiating vaccination and 19,412 (9.9%) of people who are fully vaccinated. Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category.

Vaccination coverage by race and ethnicity among individuals 65+ years of age at time of reporting

Washington state prioritized all residents ages 65 and older to be vaccinated starting on January 18, 2021. This is the only priority group whose eligibility is based solely on age. Figure 2 shows a subgroup analysis examining race/ethnicity among vaccinated individuals who are ages 65 and older. Data for people initiating vaccination and people who are fully vaccinated are reported separately. Age is assessed at the time of reporting. The distribution of race/ethnicity among vaccinated individuals is

compared to the general Washington state population ages 65 and older. These data are also shown in Tables 3 and 4 at the end of this report. Descriptions below are based on those with race/ethnicity data available.

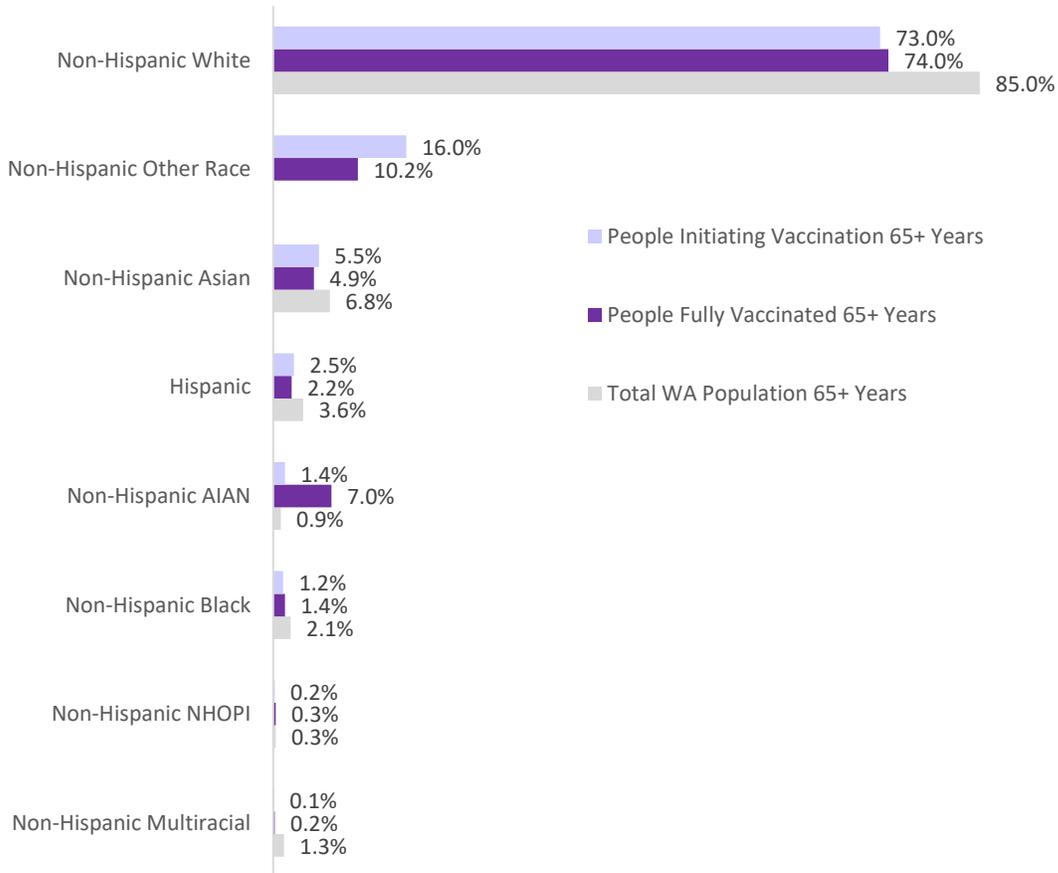
Among those 65+ years initiating vaccination:

- Non-Hispanic Whites were underrepresented, compared to the population.
- For most other race/ethnicity groups, representation was similar or slightly lower than in the population.
- Those with Non-Hispanic Other Race made up 16% of those initiating vaccination but are not represented in the population data.

Among those 65+ years who are fully vaccinated:

- Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Natives made up 7%, but are less than 1% of the population.
- Non-Hispanic Whites were underrepresented, compared to the population.
- For most other race/ethnicity groups, representation was slightly lower than in the population.

Figure 2: Race/Ethnicity of Vaccinated Individuals 65+ Years of Age, Compared to Washington Population 65+ Years



Race/ethnicity data were not available for 34,546 (9.4%) people 65+ years initiating vaccination and 3,989 (14%) people 65+ who were fully vaccinated. Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category.

Vaccination coverage by age at time of reporting

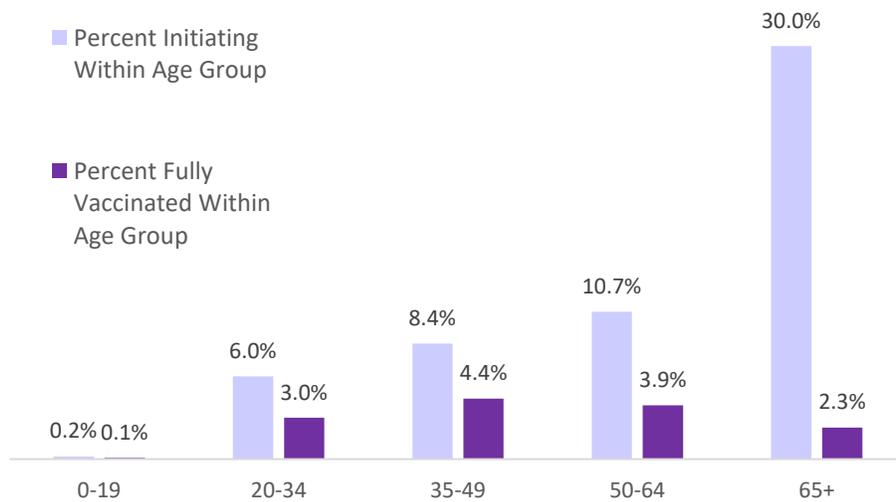
Figure 3 shows the percentage of individuals who have been vaccinated within each age group. We are including all age groups to give a comprehensive view, but because not all individuals in all age groups have been eligible for vaccination, differences in vaccination rates across age groups are expected. To date, only workers in health care settings, people who work or live in long-term care facilities, people ages 65+ years, and those ages 50+ years in multi-generational households have been eligible. For each age group, the percent of individuals who have initiated vaccination and the percentage fully vaccinated are shown. Age is assessed at the time of reporting. For Washington state residents of all ages, a total of

9.8% have initiated vaccination and a total of 2.6% are fully vaccinated. Age data are also shown in Tables 5 and 6 at the end of this report.

Key points:

- The 65 and older age group had the highest percent initiating vaccination (30.0%), followed by individuals 50-64 years old (10.7%).
- The age group with the lowest percent initiating vaccination was the 0-19 age group.
- The 35-49 age group had the highest percent fully vaccinated (4.4%), followed by the 50-64 age group (3.9%).
- Only 0.1% of those in the 0-19 age group have been fully vaccinated.

Figure 3: Percent Vaccinated, By Age



Appendix: Vaccination Coverage Data Tables 1-6

Race/Ethnicity Data Tables

Table 1: People initiating vaccination by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	People Initiating Vaccination	Race/Ethnicity Distribution of People Initiating Vaccination (%)	Total WA Population Distribution
Total Number	741,399	100.0%	
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	83,661	11.3%	NA
Total with Race/Ethnicity Available	657,738	100.0%	100.0%
Non-Hispanic White	438,210	66.6%	67.6%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	100,107	15.2%	NA
Non-Hispanic Asian	54,650	8.3%	9.0%
Hispanic	30,996	4.7%	13.2%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	14,767	2.2%	1.2%
Non-Hispanic Black	14,624	2.2%	3.9%
Non-Hispanic Multiracial	990	0.2%	4.3%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3,394	0.5%	0.7%

Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category. This is indicated with “NA” on the table above.

Table 2: People fully vaccinated by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	People Fully Vaccinated	Race/Ethnicity Distribution of People Fully Vaccinated (%)	Total WA Population Distribution
Total Number	195,467	100.0%	
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	19,412	9.9%	NA
Total with Race/Ethnicity Available	176,055	100.0%	100.0%
Non-Hispanic White	115,904	65.8%	67.6%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	18,564	10.5%	NA
Non-Hispanic Asian	19,693	11.2%	9.0%
Hispanic	10,412	5.9%	13.2%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	5,025	2.9%	1.2%
Non-Hispanic Black	4,778	2.7%	3.9%
Non-Hispanic Multiracial	447	0.3%	4.3%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1,232	0.7%	0.7%

Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category. This is indicated with “NA” on the table above.

Race/Ethnicity Among 65 Years and Older Data Tables

Table 3: People initiating vaccination by race/ethnicity, among those 65+ years of age

Race/Ethnicity	People Initiating Vaccination	Race/Ethnicity Distribution of People Initiating Vaccination (%)	Total WA Population Distribution
Total Number	367,846	100.0%	
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	34,546	9.4%	NA
Total with Race/Ethnicity Available	333,300	100.0%	100.0%
Non-Hispanic White	243,161	73.0%	85.0%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	53,385	16.0%	NA
Non-Hispanic Asian	18,415	5.5%	6.8%
Hispanic	8,473	2.5%	3.6%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	4,735	1.4%	0.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	4,073	1.2%	2.1%
Non-Hispanic Multiracial	247	0.1%	1.3%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	811	0.2%	0.3%

Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category. This is indicated with “NA” on the table above.

Table 4: People fully vaccinated by race/ethnicity, among those 65+ years of age

Race/Ethnicity	People Fully Vaccinated	Race/Ethnicity Distribution of People Fully Vaccinated (%)	Total WA Population Distribution
Total Number	28,571	100.0%	
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	3,989	14.0%	NA
Total with Race/Ethnicity Available	24,582	100.0%	100.0%
Non-Hispanic White	18,182	74.0%	85.0%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	2,502	10.2%	NA
Non-Hispanic Asian	1,200	4.9%	6.8%
Hispanic	532	2.2%	3.6%
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	1,726	7.0%	0.9%
Non-Hispanic Black	333	1.4%	2.1%
Non-Hispanic Multiracial	41	0.2%	1.3%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	66	0.3%	0.3%

Non-Hispanic Other Race is reported in vaccination data, but the population data source does not include this category. This is indicated with “NA” on the table above.

Age Group Data Tables

Table 5: People initiating vaccination by age

Age	Count of People Initiating Vaccination	Total Population	Percent Initiating Within Age Group
0-19	3,777	1,871,578	0.2%
20-34	92,855	1,554,814	6.0%
35-49	122,700	1,457,147	8.4%
50-64	154,221	1,436,108	10.7%
65+	367,846	1,226,763	30.0%
TOTAL	741,399	7,546,410	9.8%

Table 6: People fully vaccinated by age

Age	Count of People Fully Vaccinated	Total Population	Percent Fully Vaccinated Within Age Group
0-19	970	1,871,578	0.1%
20-34	46,472	1,554,814	3.0%
35-49	63,514	1,457,147	4.4%
50-64	55,940	1,436,108	3.9%
65+	28,571	1,226,763	2.3%
TOTAL	195,467	7,546,410	2.6%