

COVID-19: Communities Standing Together to Vaccinate Latinx

There are nearly 62.1 million Hispanic/Latinx* people in the United States, making up 18.9% of the country’s population. Looking back over the last two years, the United States reported a cumulative total of 96.4 million confirmed cases of COVID-19. What does COVID-19 data tell us about the Latinx community?

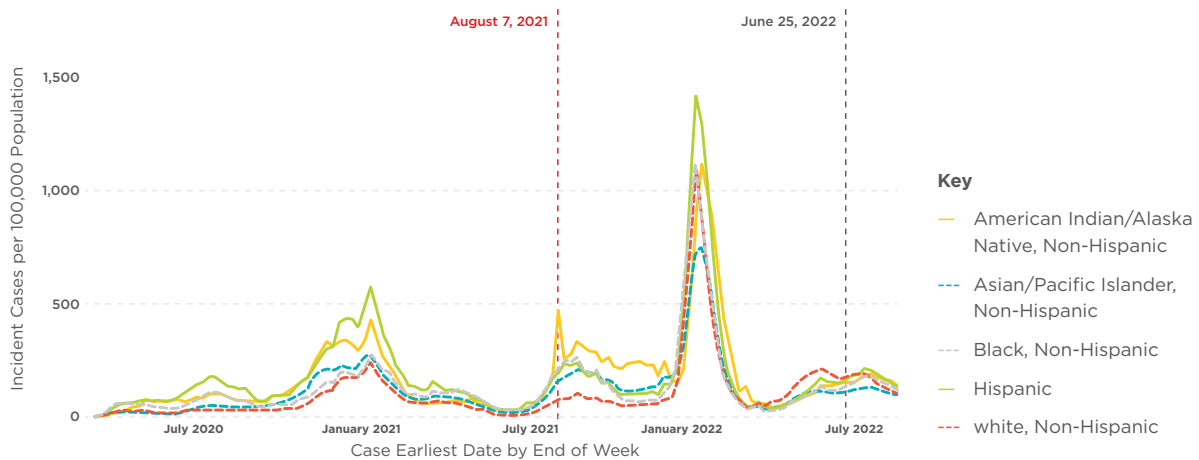
Key Terms

Transition Period: A length of time to distribute vaccines.

Cross-cultural communication: How people from differing cultural backgrounds communicate.

Disparity persists among racial and ethnic groups, and over the years, the Latinx community consistently has the highest number of positive cases, accounting for 14.5 million (24.8%) of cases. The figure reveals that in the past two years during the winter holiday season, Latinxs were the most impacted.

COVID-19 Positive Cases by Race/Ethnicity



Source: COVID Data Tracker

* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout our materials to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Our materials may also refer to this population as “Latinx” to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions present in the community.



COVID-19 FOR LATINX

LATINX PROTECTING ONESELF AND LA FAMILIA

In 2020, hundreds of Latinx communities were disproportionately affected at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly related to health literacy barriers.

Breaking down the problems for Latinx communities finds three issues:

1. Understanding COVID-19
2. Accessing correct information
3. Navigating access to care

Latinx are the most vulnerable to the virus.

The consequences caused by COVID-19 for Latinx began when hospitalization rates increased. During July 2020, the cumulative hospitalization rate was 202.5 per 100,000 persons, but the rate increased to 515.7 per 100,000 persons on December 2020.

As a result, the death rate was 6.4 per 100,000 persons in December 2020, indicating the Latinx struggle with the health care system.

The initial rollout of COVID-19 vaccines showed that racial and ethnic populations are hesitant to get vaccinated.

As of May 2021, about 42.8% of Latinx adults received a completed primary series.

Latinx remain hesitant due to the historical mistrust and inadequate engagement in accessing medical care settings.

PANDEMIC

EMERGENCY


TRANSITION

LATINX STAYING SAFE

Over the course of the pandemic, UnidosUS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Latinx organizations, and communities have collaborated to provide up-to-date information to overcome vaccine literacy barriers and prevent the spread of the virus.

PREVENT COVID-19	SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED EXPOSURE	COVID-19 VACCINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear Facemask • Washing Hands • Use Hand Sanitizer • Disinfect Areas • Avoid Symptomatic People 	Confirm Exposure with COVID-19 Test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antigen or Polymer Chain Reaction (PCR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits • Reduces the risk of infection • Reduces virus transmission to others • Protect against severe symptoms • Minimizes the presence of a new variant
	<div style="background-color: #00a6c9; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">IF POSITIVE TEST</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine • Isolate 	

As we transition out of the pandemic, we must continue our vaccination efforts to reduce future mutations of the COVID-19 virus with the potential to evade current vaccines. According to CDC data from May 2021, 42.8% of Latinx have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Through strategic community-based approaches, Latinx communities have been able to receive vaccines and reduce health disparities exacerbated by COVID-19.

As of a result of these efforts,

85.1%

of Latinx have been vaccinated,
as reported by CDC in August 2022.

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE VACCINATION UPTAKE

UnidosUS launched *Esperanza* Hope for All, a bilingual and culturally relevant public health communications campaign leveraging its affiliate network. Twenty-eight CDC-funded affiliate community-based organizations used their community-level expertise and trust to perform activities that increased COVID-19 knowledge and vaccination in Latinx communities.

AFFILIATES

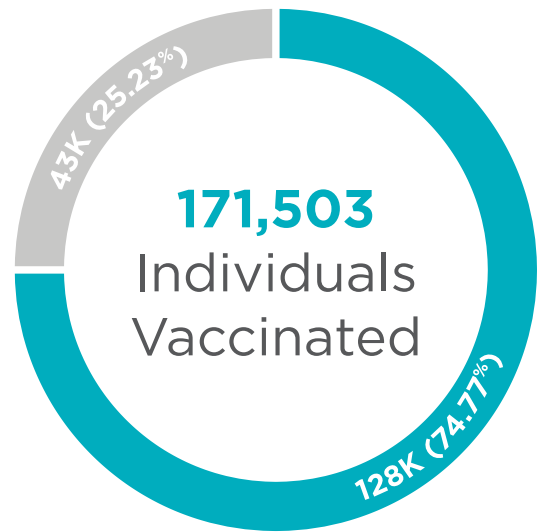
- Improve vaccine confidence
- Uptake through hiring culturally competent staff
- Increase vaccination opportunities

STRATEGIES

- Diversifying vaccination clinic hours and providing off-site locations
- Cross-cultural communication

CONTRIBUTIONS

- 171,503 individuals received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (2021-2022)
- Of these, over 105,894 identified as Latinx



RECOMMENDATION

Leveraging community-based approaches to implement vaccine equity strategies are effective in reducing vaccination disparities by increasing vaccine and health literacy.

TAKEAWAYS

- Efforts to increase vaccine literacy is a valuable tool to make informed health decisions.
- Basic infection control (e.g., masks, tests, vaccines) can protect oneself and one’s *familia* from COVID-19.
- Community outreach efforts where Latinx work, live, play, and worship increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza, is the largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.

SOURCES

1. “COVID-19 Weekly Cases and Deaths per 100,000 Population by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sex,” *COVID Data Tracker*, accessed October 13, 2022, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographicvertime>.
2. “Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations,” Rates of COVID-19 Associated Hospitalization, October 8, 2022, https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html.
3. “Trends in Demographic Characteristics of People Receiving COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States,” *COVID Data Tracker*, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-demographics-trends>.
4. United States Census Bureau, “Improvements to the 2020 Census Race and Hispanic Origin Question Designs, Data Processing, and Coding Procedures,” August 03, 2021, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2021/08/improvements-to-2020-census-race-hispanic-origin-question-designs.html>.