

This document provides responses to Oregon Health Authority questions about how Washington County plans to close the COVID-19 vaccination equity gap. We responded to OHA's original questions on May 14, 2021.

Those responses can be found here (ENGLISH/SPANISH).

OHA Question #1

Please review the jurisdiction's response to questions #1 and #2 in the accepted equity documentation, as well as recent race/ethnicity data. Describe any improvements in equity gaps as evidenced in the data. Provide a status update on progress the LPHA and its partners have made to eliminate vaccine access barriers and implement plans to close vaccine equity gaps among specific racial and ethnic populations. Please be specific, provide an example of work about which the LPHA and its partners are particularly proud, and describe any tangible impacts in the community.

Washington County Answer

We have come a long way since COVID-19 vaccines became available in the winter of 2020, and since we submitted our first COVID-19 vaccination equity report in May of 2021. Even though more than 80% of adults (18 and older) in Washington County have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination, and nearly 75% of adults are fully vaccinated, there is still a vaccination equity gap. In Washington county, that gap is most acute among our Black and Hispanic/Latina/o/x populations. The promising news is that our collaborative efforts with community partners are working.

On May 14, 2021, the day we submitted our first vaccination equity report, 43% of Hispanic/Latina/o/x adults in Washington County had been vaccinated. A little more than four months later, on September 20, 2021, that number has increased by 16 percentage points to 59%. On May 14, 2021, 41% of Black adults in Washington County had been vaccinated, that number is now at 58%, a 17 percentage point increase.

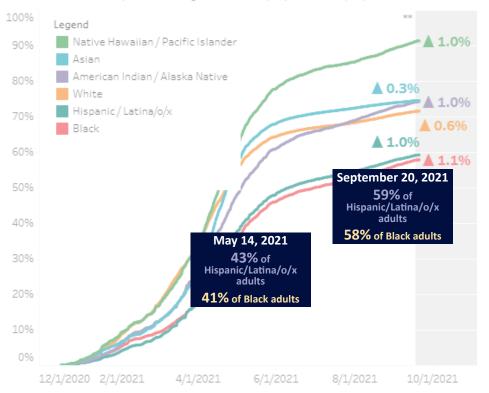
Washington County vaccination progress in adults

OHA dashboard, September 21, 2021

Washington

People vaccinated over time by rarest race and ethnicity

Labeled with relative percent change between 09/10/2021 to 09/17/2021.



HOW WE GOT HERE

There are many reasons behind the vaccination equity gap. When the vaccine became available last winter, it was in short supply and appointments were hard to get. Most of the computer scheduling systems were written in English, required a high degree of computer literacy, and time away from work to refresh the computer browser to find appointments. It didn't help that some of the telephone assistance lines were staffed primarily by English speakers. These obstacles were difficult to overcome for essential workers who didn't have the choice to work from home, or to take time off to make and attend a vaccination appointment.

Transportation and distance were also barriers. Mass vaccination sites were primarily located in Portland, which was inconvenient for people living in many of our rural communities including Cornelius, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Aloha.

The state's vaccination plan also prioritized healthcare workers, teachers and those 65 and older to get the vaccine first, and although there are people of color in these groups, the majority of people in these groups were white.

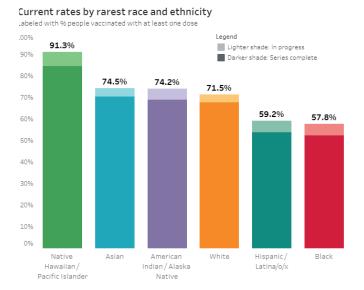
We also heard these additional challenges from partners and community members:

- False rumors on social media about effects of the vaccine
- Lack of access to culturally competent and accurate vaccine information
- Vaccinators asking for insurance cards even though the vaccine is free
- No primary care provider to answer questions
- Fear and distrust of government due to past harms
- Fear of deportation for people who are undocumented

All of these factors resulted in a vaccination equity gap, which persists even though more people are now eligible for the vaccine and we have abundant supply. According to the OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY VACCINATION METRICS DASHBOARD, 59% of Hispanic/Latina/o/x adults in Washington County have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination and 58% of Black adults in Washington County have had at least one COVID-19 vaccination. These vaccination rates are about 15 percentage points lower than the median rates of other racial/ethnic groups in the county.

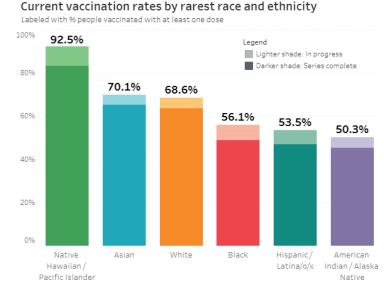
Washington County adult vaccination rates

OHA dashboard, September 21, 2021



Oregon adult vaccination rates

OHA dashboard, September 21, 2021



The vaccination rate for one group (Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) adults in Oregon is higher than the rate for this same group in Washington County. In the other five racial/ethnic groups Washington County has higher adult vaccination rates than the state.

- Most notable is our vaccination rate among American Indian/ Alaska Native adults, which is 24% higher than the state average.
- Our vaccination rate in Hispanics/ Latina/o/x adults is nearly six percentage points higher than the state average.
- Our vaccination rate in Black adults is nearly two percentage points higher than the state average.

Washington County was also the first county in the state to vaccinate 80% of all adults, according to

OHA's county progress vaccination DASHBOARD. Our focus on vaccinating people of color and others with access barriers has helped us achieve this milestone. Governor Brown congratulated the county and partner **ADELANTE MUJERES** during a visit to one of our weekly mobile vaccination events at the Forest Grove Farmers Market. Read the governor's news release in SPANISH and ENGLISH. Watch the KGW story.

Governor Brown thanks 13-year-old Victor Torres Lopez for getting the COVID-19 vaccine at the Forest Grove Farmers Market mobile vaccination site.



Governor Brown elbow bumps a visitor at the Forest Grove Farmers Market, with Washington County Board Chair Kathryn Harrington and Adelante Mujeres' Executive Director Bridget Cooke.



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the pandemic. This included many communities of color. We worked with our partners to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Hiring many local bilingual/ bicultural COVID-19 response staff.
- · Providing housing, lost wages and business resource assistance.
- Providing culturally appropriate isolation and quarantine resources.
- Distributing culturally appropriate education, outreach and communication materials in several languages.

When the COVID-19 vaccine became available, we used this same approach to improve access to the vaccine and to provide education and outreach. Here are some of the highlights:

• Mobile vaccination team: Partnering with community organizations to take the vaccine to the places where people live, work and shop. Our mobile team travels Tuesday through Saturday to farmers markets, shopping centers, businesses and apartment complexes that serve Black, Latinx and Asian communities. According to ALERT data, 75% of people vaccinated at our mobile events identify as people of color. To learn more, watch our closing the equity gap VIDEO.

• Community clinics: Starting in February of 2020, we partnered with more than two dozen community organizations to host 40 community clinics and deliver more than 15,000 vaccinations. In these clinics, 71% of people vaccinated identified as people of color. To learn more, watch our community vaccination VIDEO.





- **COVID-19 Racial Equity Advisory Group:** Co-creating vaccine and recovery strategies with a group of 15 community-based organizations.
- **CBO contracts:** Providing over \$700,000 to community-based partners to conduct outreach and education, promote and staff clinics, and provide canvassing activities to promote vaccine events.
- **Gift cards:** Offering \$50 gift cards for those who are vaccinated to offset barriers like transportation, childcare expenses, and taking time off work to get a vaccine.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers: Supporting Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Neighborhood Health Center with funding to deliver vaccines. Virginia Garcia has delivered more than 55,000 vaccinations, with a focus on Hispanic/Latino/a/x community members.
- Spanish-language channels: Using CONDADO DE WASHINGTON Facebook page and Spanish WEBPAGE to
 provide up-to-date vaccine information. Partnering with Centro Cultural de Washington County and ELEMENTO
 LATINO to produce VIDEOS and monthly Facebook live events about the DELTA VARIANT, the vaccine and
 vaccination opportunities.



Prenda la cámera con un teléfono y apúnto al código para registrarse. O visite https://tinyurl.com/CentroWalmart1 O llame al: 833-969-3468

IGLESIA SAN ALEJANDRO OBTENGA SL CUNA CONTRA COVID-19 27 de junio 18 de julio 9am - 12pm 9am - 3pm Adelante mi gente!

"Quiero estar saludable y poder ver a mi familia."

#SúmateALaLucha



soul2soul@gmail.com| 541.937.5918

• Partner events: Co-creating and sponsoring vaccination events and campaigns. Examples include the Hillsboro Chamber's iVACÚNATE YA! campaign, our joint ¡Adelante mi gente! testimonial campaign with Centro Cultural de Washington County, and the Soul 2 Soul community event to boost vaccination rates among our Black community.



"I advise everyone to get vaccinated for their health, for their families and for others," says Maria Corona Lopez of Hillsboro. Maria, pictured here with her husband Rafael, is one of 10 Washington County community members who won \$10,000 in the Take Your Shot Oregon, campaign. We also provided five \$20,000 college scholarships for children 12-17 who got their COVID-19 vaccinations. Congratulations to all our winners! You can read their stories here:

https://www.co.washingt... See More





"Yo les digo a todos que se vacunen por el bien de su salud, de sus familias y de los demás", dice María, de Hillsboro. María, quien aparece en esta foto con su esposo Rafael, es una de las diez personas ganadoras de premios de \$10,000 del sorteo "Vacúnate Oregon - Take Your Shot, Oregon". Felicidades a ellos y también a quienes ganaron becas universitarias de \$20,000. ¡Enhorabuena y muchas gracias por vacunarse! Un poco más sobre los ganadores en nuestro comunicado de pren... See More

See Translation





• Take Your Shot, Oregon: Offering and promoting 15 Washington County lottery and scholarship prizes to encourage more people to be vaccinated. Our winners included many people of color. We are sharing pictures and stories to encourage others to be vaccinated. OHA shared our press release (ENGLISH/SPANISH) on their social media feeds and in their COVID-19 NEWSLETTER and on the Oregon vaccine news BLOG.

 CBO Newsletter: Circulating our monthly newsletter in ENGLISH and SPANISH to nearly 100 recipients including CBO partners and other interested parties. It includes the latest information on COVID-19 and vaccines

1-833-907-3520 Call us for COVID-19 testing & vaccine information.

Llámanos para información sobre pruebas y vacunas del COVID-19.

Tumawag sa amin para sa impormasyon tungkol sa COVID-19 na pagsusuri at bakuna.

សូមលោកឃ្លាកខុះសិទ្ធមកករន់ក្រុមការម៉ារះបស់យើមដម្លើច្រើសិណាក់ (ភេស្គ) មេរោកខ្វីរី២-19 និមថាកីមានស្គីសំពីការបាក់ផ្លូវរ៉ាក់សាំងៗ

請致電我們獲取有關新冠肺炎檢測及疫苗接種的訊息.

请致电我们获取有关新冠肺炎检测及疫苗接种的讯息.
Naga soo wac baaritaanka COVID-19 & macluumaadka tallaalka

Позвоните нам, чтобы получить информацию о тестах на COVID-19 и вакцинах.

COVID-19の検査&ワクチン情報はお電話でどうぞ。

برای آزمایش کووید -۱۹ و اطلاعات مربوط به واکسن با ما تماس بگیرید.

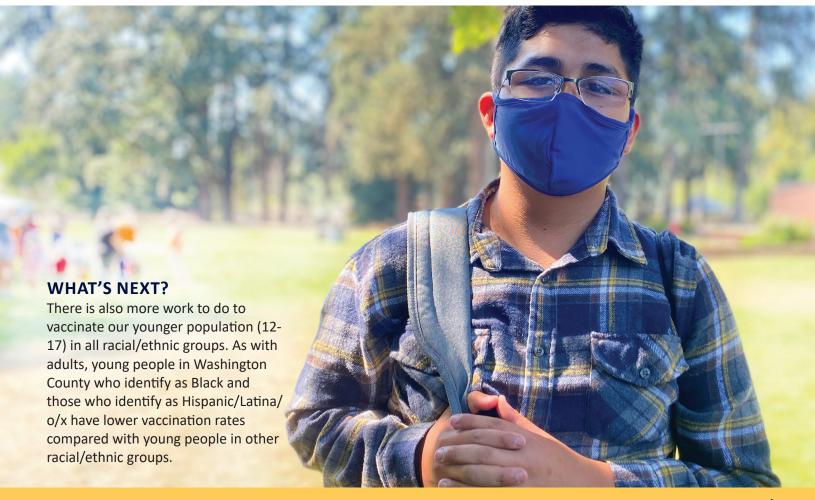
코로나-19 검사 및 백신 정보를 받기위해 저희에게 전화하십시오.

Xin gọi cho chúng tôi để biết thông tin về xét nghiệm và vắc-xin COVID-19. اتصل بنا للحصول على معلومات عن اختبار COVID-19 وكذلك اللقاح.

Public He

www.co.washington.or.us/vaccine www.co.washington.or.us/vacuna

 Vaccination HelpLine: Establishing and promoting our Vaccination HelpLine to assist people who speak the 13 most common languages in the county, and those who need computer help. Callers receive a call back in their preferred language to make an appointment, learn about vaccination locations or to get questions answered.

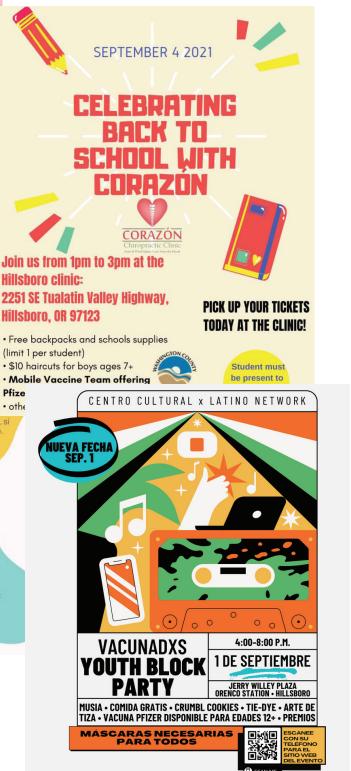




Partnering with Corazon Chiropractic Clinic, Project
 Access Now, Latino Network, and other trusted
 community partners to sponsor and provide vaccination
 at back-to-school events.

Some recent examples to reach young people include:

 Co-creating the "5 reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine" Instagram campaign with Centro Cultural de Washington County.



OHA Question #2

Please review the jurisdiction's response to question #6 and provide an update on the LPHA and its partners' work to address the vaccine needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the jurisdiction and share the outcomes of these efforts.

Washington County Answer

We are providing \$300,000 to Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in 2021 to help with testing, vaccinations, incentives and education. They are using part of this money to visit migrant camps to provide vaccinations to workers, as well as doing outreach to several nurseries in the area. Throughout the summer, they hosted approximately 20 mobile clinics, with about half of those clinics occurring in the migrant camps. Staff from Washington County Public Health joined the VGMHC outreach team to provide additional support and education. Multiple vaccine brands are available during these clinics to help reduce hesitancy that folks may have about a particular vaccine and to ensure that any youth who are eligible can also be vaccinated.

¡Salud! continues to work with the vineyards to provide vaccines to workers and has been doing outreach to growers to help them provide education to their employees. We host a regular call with our partners who serve agricultural workers to share information and discuss any resource needs or barriers to accessing vaccine. We have seen some hesitancy within this group around receiving any vaccine and are coordinating with partners to better understand why some folks in this community do not wish to be vaccinated and how we can best address those concerns.

We also have staff supporting and coordinating delivery of food and other supplies and providing WIC services, giving us additional opportunities to encourage vaccinations and answer questions.



OHA Question #3a

The pandemic has demonstrated and elevated the structural barriers that perpetuate health inequities. To dismantle those structural barriers in the long-term so that health equity can be achieved across all populations statewide, transforming how public health works with communities to engage in multi-directional communication and dialogue with, share power with and center in decision making communities most affected by those inequities is essential.

Please provide an example of feedback the LPHA and its partners received from a community experiencing vaccine inequities, how the LPHA and its partners worked collaboratively with the community to address the feedback and then shared back with the community the outcome or resolution.

Washington County Answer

PARTNERING WITH CBOS TO ADDRESS VACCINE INEQUITIES

Example #1

We partnered with several Pacific Islander-led organizations, including Living Islands, Le'o 'o e 'OFA and Pacific Islanders of Intel to offer vaccinations to elders and caregivers in those communities. The organizations made several requests to ensure the event was successful. They requested a drive-through vaccination event, to make it more accessible for older adults and people with disabilities. They also stressed the need to have hot lunches available, as well as grocery cards for each individual getting vaccinated. They wanted all materials translated into nine Pacific Islander languages and requested that volunteers from the Islander communities be included at each station to make sure people felt welcomed.

At the time, we were most prepared to host walk-through clinics, so we needed to shift our focus to drive-through. We also paid for translation of the federal government emergency use agreements because they were not available in the languages requested. These community-designed vaccination efforts resulted in 300 people being vaccinated during our first event. One of the organizations shared that it was the most positive vaccination event they had been a part of so far, mainly because we were willing to listen and accommodate the community's needs. In addition to reducing our vaccine disparities for this community (Pacific Islanders/Native Hawaiians have the highest vaccination rate in the county), we strengthened our trust and partnerships to continue this work together and used what we learned to help improve other community events.



Example #2

Every interaction we have with our communitybased partners is a learning experience and we are grateful that our CBOs feel comfortable sharing feedback. It gives us an opportunity to share power and co-create events that are more responsive to the community's needs.

One of our key partners in the Hispanic/ Latina/o/x community is Adelante Mujeres an organization that works to empower Latina women and their families. Adelante has strong relationships in our community and a large list of clients and supporters.

Adelante Mujeres worked with us to encourage vaccinations, to schedule appointments, and to volunteer at community clinics. This spring we received some constructive feedback from Adelante's Promotores de Salud Comunitarios (community health workers) that they didn't feel welcomed, that they were given conflicting directions from various volunteer coordinators, and that there weren't enough Latinx faces at our events to make the community feel welcomed.

This was difficult to hear, as we had been working hard to be inclusive and culturally responsive, but it was a message we needed to hear to make further improvements. In response to the feedback, we formed a rapid response team and met with the promotores to co-create solutions which included:

- Creating a new position at clinics to coordinate medical, emergency management and CBO volunteers to ensure clear delineation of roles
- Incorporating a statement on racial equity values during the volunteer briefing
- Sending a message to all clinic staff and volunteers listing expectations that we create a welcoming environment for everyone
- Adding items to our clinic incident commander check list to improve volunteer orientation and coordination
- Coordinating with CBO partners to add more bilingual volunteers as greeters and at every clinic station

The rapid response team continues to meet regularly and has developed a longer term workplan to address racial/ethnic representation in the clinic setting.



OHA Question #3b

Please provide an example of how the LPHA and its partners have shared power with and centered the communities experiencing inequities in decision making to determine strategies to increase vaccine access for communities.

Washington County Answer

As part of our strategy to close the vaccination equity gap, we have prioritized and centered the feedback from community partners, including the feedback we received from the COVID-19 Racial Equity Advisory Group. Our partners told us that while access to vaccines continues to be a concern, communities of color are still reeling from the devastating economic, social and health impacts of COVID-19. So, in developing a strategy for distributing vaccine equity funds, we learned that we must also provide support for COVID community recovery.

In creating contracts with partners, we have been able to 1) center racial equity work and prioritize communities of color and 2) blend funding streams to ensure that partners can not only provide support for vaccine outreach and engagement, but also help communities recover and build resilience.

For example, in contracting with CAIRO, an organization that serves Somali immigrants, we created a contract to support community members' basic needs, as well as efforts to increase access to vaccines. Our funding will allow CAIRO to work with families from the Beaverton School District to share resources, address food insecurity, provide clothing and school supplies, and to educate families about vaccines and offer opportunities for vaccination. This approach shares power with partners that know their communities' needs best and centers lived experiences in our public health response efforts.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND PARTNERSHIP

The progress outlined in this report is a true demonstration of a strong community working together. From businesses to clinics and hospitals, community leaders, volunteers, community-based organizations, and our own staff, we all joined together to respond to the needs of those most impacted by COVID-19. We are committed to continuing this work to close the COVID-19 vaccination equity gap—and to help our communities recover from the pandemic.

Thank you for taking the time to read our COVID-19 Vaccination Equity Update.

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

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THANK YOU TO OUR COVID-19 VACCINATION PARTNERS

Adelante Mujeres

African Family Holistic Health

Organization

Airway Science for Kids

Aloha Farmers Market

Angolan Community Organization of

Oregon

Asian Health and Service Center

Asian Pacific American Network of

Oregon

Beaverton Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT)

Beaverton Farmers Market

Beaverton School District

Bienestar

Brown Hope

CAIRO

Catholic Charities

Centro Cultural de Washington County

Children's Community Clinic

Chinese Friendship Association of

Portland

COFA Alliance National Network of

Oregon

Common Ground Church

Community Action

Cornelius Farmers Market

Doulas Latinas

Familias en Acción

Forest Grove Farmers Market

Forest Grove School District

H Mart

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

Hillsboro Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT)

Hillsboro Futsal

Hillsboro Parks and Recreation

Hillsboro School District

Hillsboro Senior Center

Hmong American Community

Organization

Immigrant and Refugee Community

Organization

Interfaith Movement for Immigrant

Justice

Kaiser Permanente Northwest

Korean Society of Oregon

Latino Network

Le'o 'o e 'OFA

Living Islands

Lutheran Community Services

Northwest

M&M Marketplace

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of

Washington County

Medical Teams International

Mercy Connections

Muslim Educational Trust

Neighborhood Health Center

Nike

OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center

Oregon Chinese Coalition

Oregon Health & Sciences University

Pacific University

PBDG Foundation

Project Access Now

Providence Health & Services

Public Health Institute

Risen Community

iSalud!

Sherwood School District

St. Anthony Catholic Church

The Pacific Islanders of Intel

The Pacific Islanders of Nike

Tigard Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tualatin Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Tigard-Tualatin School District

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Urban League

UTOPIA PDX

Vietnamese Community of Oregon

Village Church

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health

Center

We Care

We apologize for any errors or omissions. If you are not mentioned here, we are also grateful for your work to help close the COVID-19 vaccination equity gap.

