

Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Among Homeless Populations: Successful Partnership Series Minnesota

April 13, 2021

Acknowledgement & Disclaimer

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Today's Discussion Panelists

- **Blair Harrison:** Senior Advisor on Health, Homelessness and Housing, Minnesota Department of Health
 - **Josh Leopold:** Public Health Planner at Minnesota Department of Health
 - **Naomi Windham, FNP:** leader of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) at HCH Hennepin County
 - **Aaronica Jackson:** Community Health Worker for Hennepin County
 - **John Adams:** Program Director at Harbor Light Shelter
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- Moderator: **Katie League, LCSW-C:** COVID-19 Project Manager, National Health Care for the Homeless Council

Agenda for Today's Discussion

- Learn about the **collaboration** within Minnesota that fostered innovative and timely responses to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.
- Discuss the **use of data** to inform the decision to prioritize people experiencing homelessness for critical interventions including early access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Understand how to collect data on equity and use it to **transform equity work**.
- Learn how to **integrate staff** in equity work across agencies.
- Discuss the **role of Community Health Workers** in vaccine engagement.
- Address as many of **your questions/comments** as possible!

Health Inequity Statement

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The Minnesota Department of Health acknowledges that structural inequities result in poor health outcomes across generations. These social, political, and environmental inequities have been exacerbated by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

To ensure equitable vaccine access, we commit to continuing to name systemic racism in health care, the ways in which individuals and families experiencing homelessness have been made to be vulnerable to COVID by the systems we work in every day, and the valid distrust in public health by many who live and work in homeless service settings and encampments.

Statewide Vaccine Progress

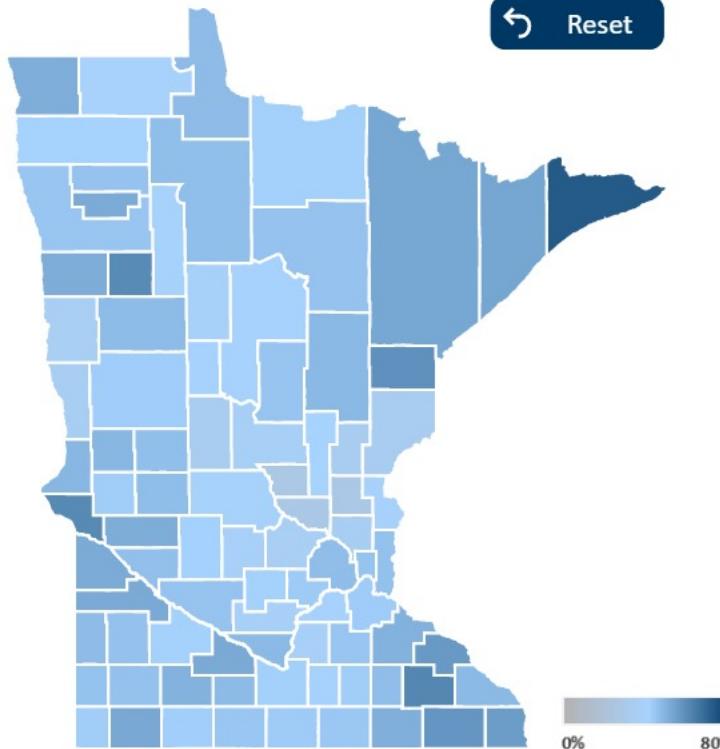
STAY SAFE MN

16+

65+

Total population

Reset



Statewide Data

Click on a county to narrow results. Data reported as of 4/6/2021.

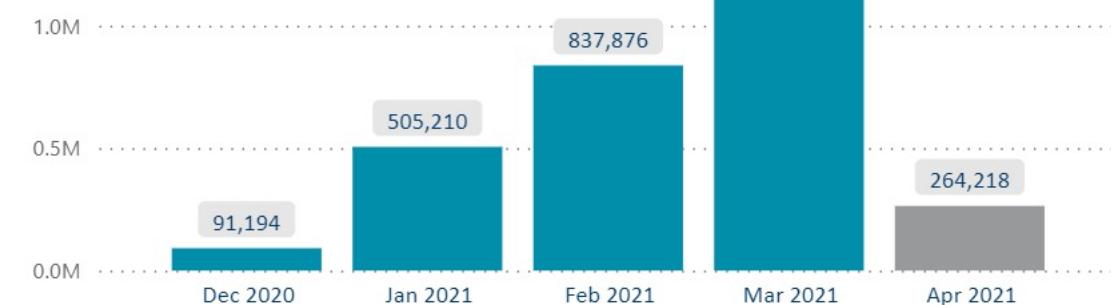


Vaccine Doses Administered

Monthly

Weekly

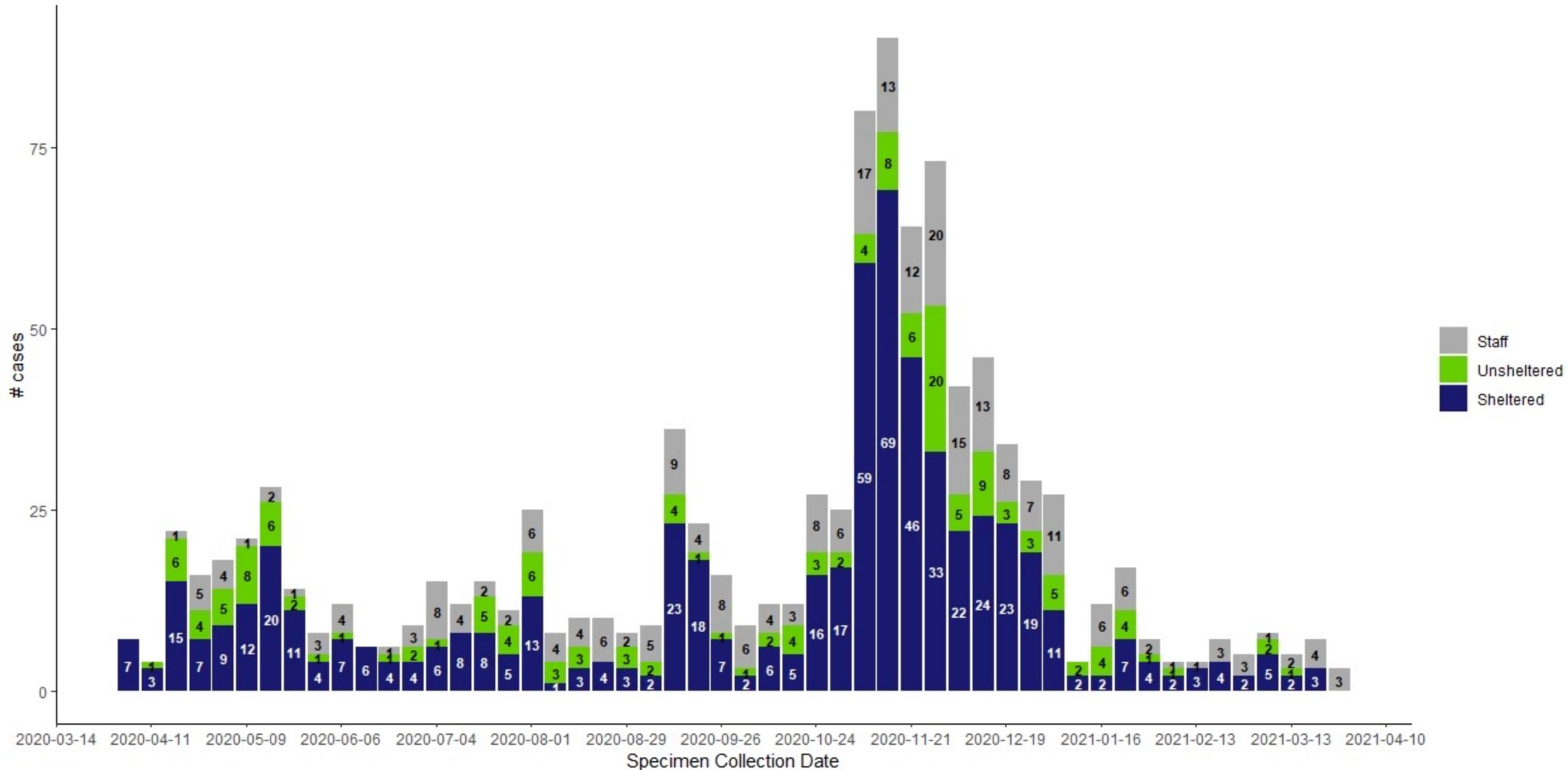
Daily



MN Vaccine Dashboard, 4/8/2021 Data

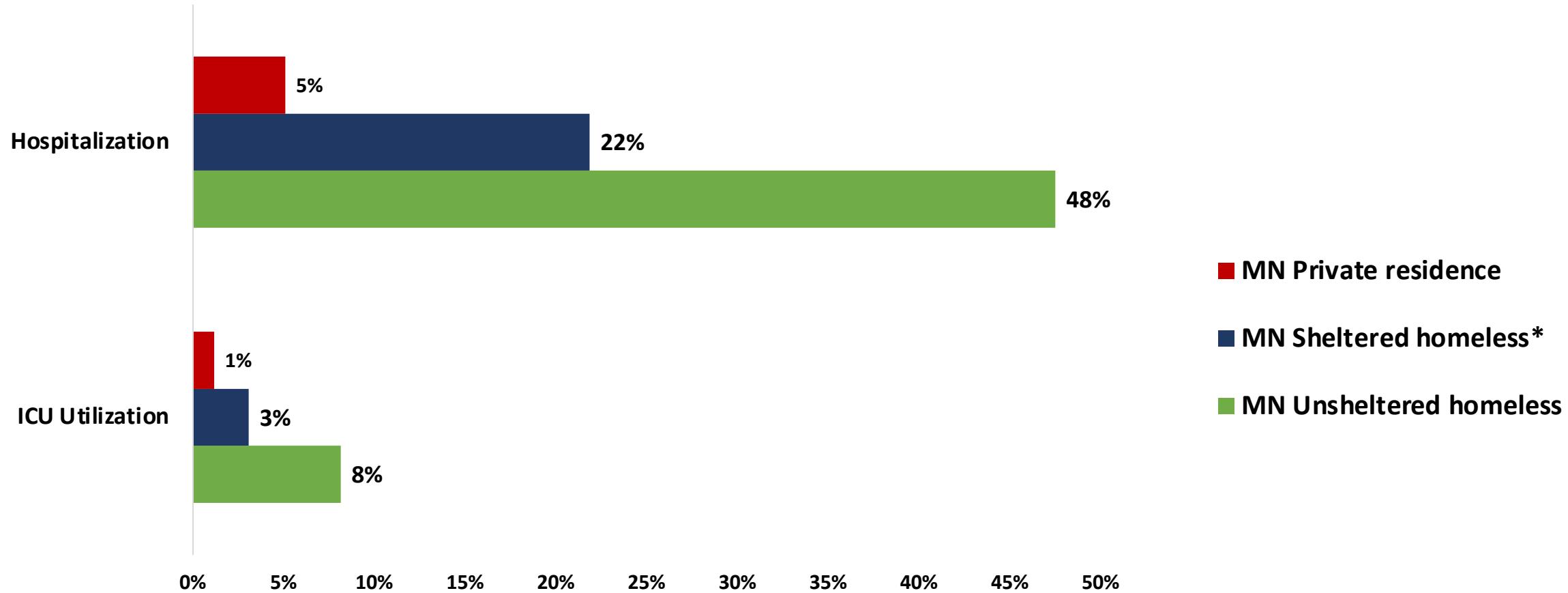
COVID-19 Summary of People Experiencing Homelessness and Staff in Minnesota

Since April 2020, 758 PEH and 264 staff have tested positive for COVID-19



Hospitalization & ICU Data for COVID+ People Who Live in Minnesota

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Hospitalization by Homeless Service Setting Type

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Table 1. Hospitalization of COVID-19 patients among persons experiencing homelessness by Homeless Service Setting (N = 682) —April 1, 2020–March 23, 2021

Homeless service setting	No. cases	No. (%) Hospitalized	Unadjusted risk ratios (95% CI)
Sheltered	386	69 (18%)	Reference
Unsheltered	160	76 (48%)	2.66 (2.03 – 3.48) [§]
Doubled up*	51	22 (43%)	2.41 (1.65 – 3.53) [§]
Hotel Program	52	19 (37%)	2.04 (1.35 – 3.10) [§]
Transitional Housing	33	4 (12%)	0.68 (0.26 – 1.74)

* Staying with others or "couch hopping."

§ Statistically significant (p<0.05)

Settings within the Scope of this Plan

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In Scope

- Isolation Hotels
- Unsheltered Homeless, Outreach Teams, Drop-in Centers
- Shelters (includes DV and youth)
- COVID hotel programs/sites
- Site-based permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, board & lodge settings, and DOC-licensed halfway houses
- Unlicensed sober homes

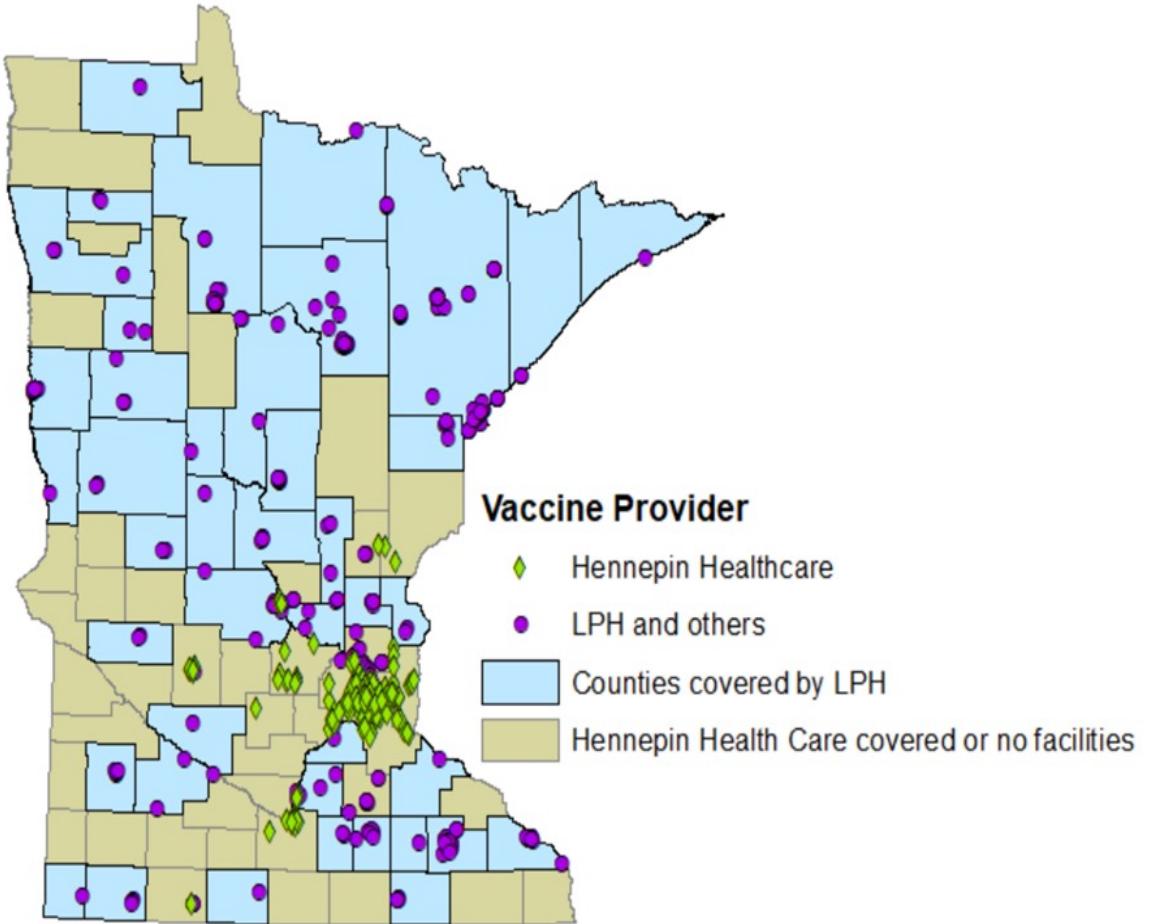
Out of Scope

- Doubled up
- Scattered-site PSH
- Residential treatment facilities

- Tracking doses allocated and doses used (when possible)
- Scheduling survey for state-contractor covered facilities
- Redcap vaccinator request form open to all facilities
- Merging HMIS, MIIC (Minnesota Immunization Information Connection), and EHR Consortium Data over 2 years
 - Will allow us to estimate population coverage statewide
 - Gaps identified will direct targeted intervention/efforts

Statewide vaccination approach

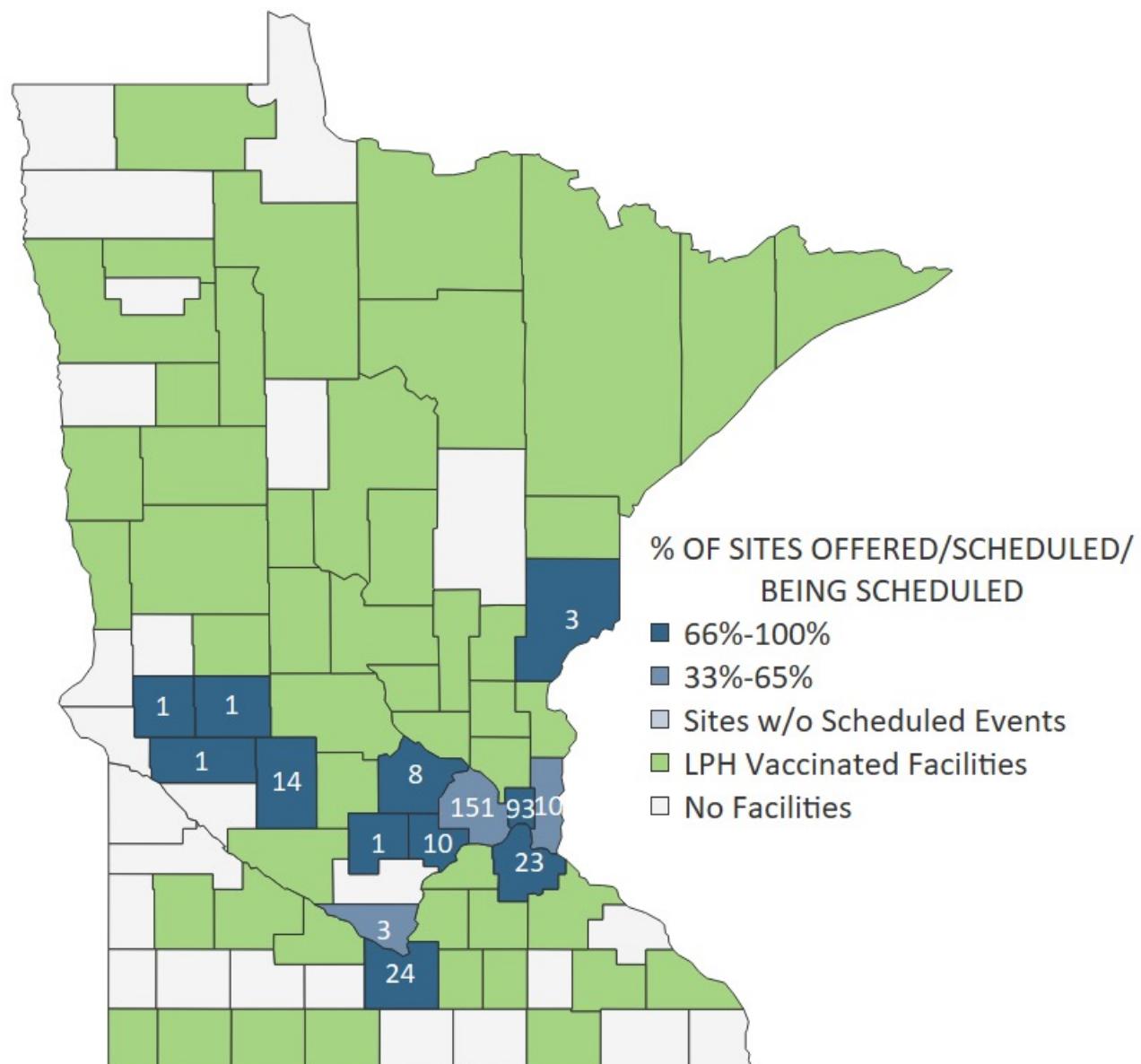
- Outreach to Local Public Health
 - State-contracted vaccinators as safety net
- Connection to vaccine clinics for people who can travel
- Onsite vaccine events if travel not an option



WEEKLY VACCINATION PROGRESS FOR HOMELESS AND CONGREGATE SETTING FACILITIES

VACCINE OFFERED, SCHEDULED OR BEING SCHEDULED AT FACILITIES COVERED BY STATE CONTRACTS

PLEASE NOTE: THIS DATA SET UNDERREPRESENTS LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH VACCINATION EFFORTS.



893

TOTAL FACILITIES

482 (54.0%)

FACILITIES COVERED BY STATE CONTRACTS

SETTINGS OFFERED/SCHEDULED VACCINE ACROSS TIME

GREEN - CUMULATIVE EVENTS | BLUE - NEW WEEKLY EVENTS



OVERALL **370** FACILITIES

IN **25** COUNTIES REPORTED OFFERING VACCINE,
SCHEDULING OR BEING SCHEDULED

*DATA GATHERED FROM SURVEY TARGETED AT FACILITIES TO BE VACCINATED USING STATE CONTRACTS (ALTHOUGH OTHER SITES ALSO RESPONDED). ADDITIONAL VACCINATION DATA RECEIVED DIRECTLY FROM FACILITIES WAS ADDED.

Vaccination—Lessons Learned to Date

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- Importance of having a good list
- Have clear roles and frequent communication
- Give people lots of chances and options for vaccination
- Continued need to balance speed and equity

Next Steps

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- "Rolling-out" MDH vaccine buses
- Follow-up survey of our facilities
- Transitioning to "maintenance mode"
 - Incorporating vaccine into regular care
 - Responding to need for additional vaccine clinics

Mobile Vaccine Bus



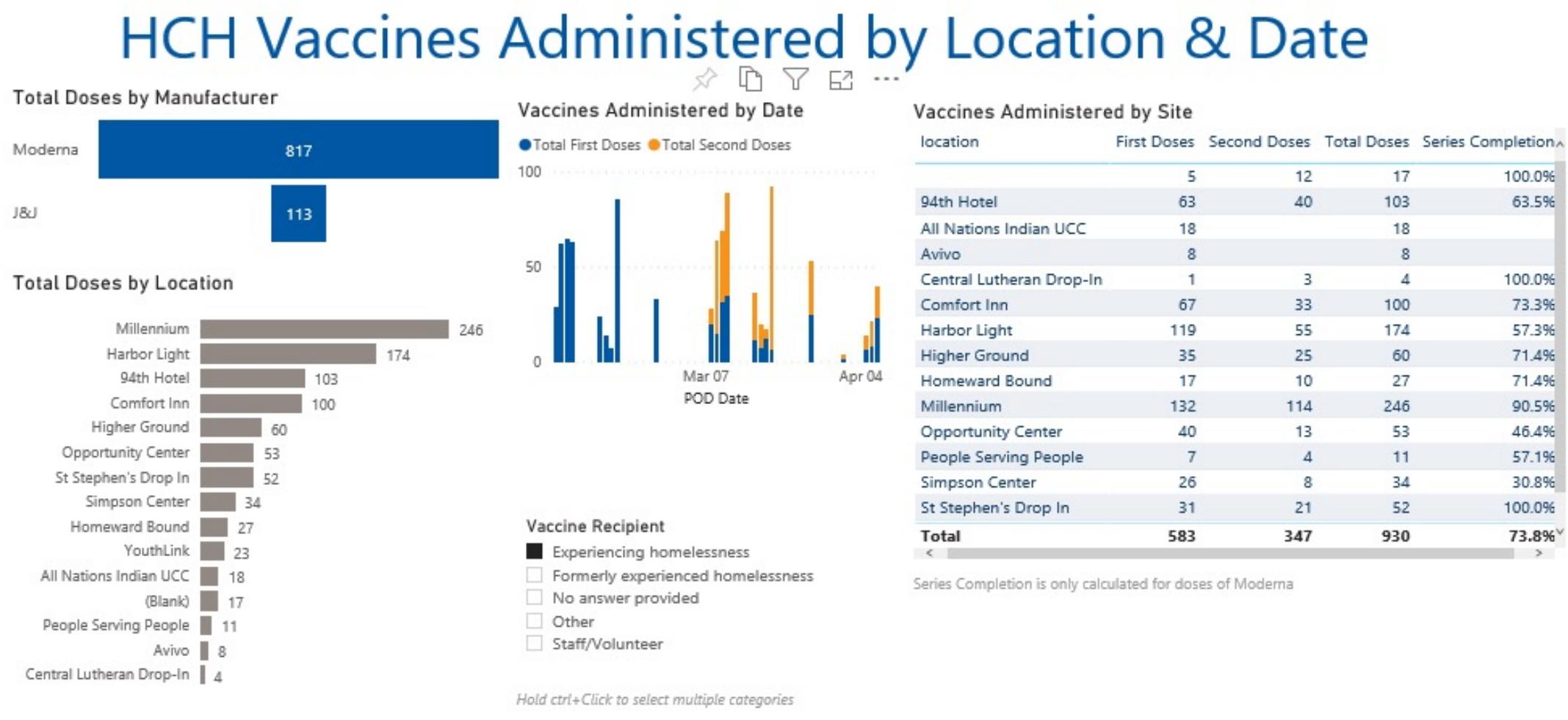
Hennepin County Healthcare for the Homeless

- FQHC
- 5 medical clinics
- 3 high risk hotels, 1 COVID isolation hotel
- Street outreach team
- Mental health services

COVID Vaccinations

- 930 COVID vaccinations to people experiencing homelessness
- Important Factors:
 - Difficulty reaching unsheltered populations, teens, families
 - 2nd doses of Moderna- challenges completing vaccine series.
 - Black and Indigenous populations underrepresented in our vaccine efforts
 - 28% of vaccines have gone to people experiencing homelessness, 44% of vaccines have gone to staff/Volunteers
- Moving Forward
 - Single dose Janssen vaccines will be given in our clinics and by HCH staff
 - Relationship-based
 - Staff/Volunteers diverted to greater Hennepin County Vaccination efforts
 - Equity Intervention efforts are underway at the individual clinic level

The Dashboard: Statistics



The Dashboard: COVID Vaccination Equity

HCH Vaccine Dose Number by Location & Race/Eth

Hold ctrl+Click to select multiple categories

Vaccine Recipient

- Experiencing homelessness
- Formerly experienced homelessness
- No answer provided
- Other
- Staff/Volunteer

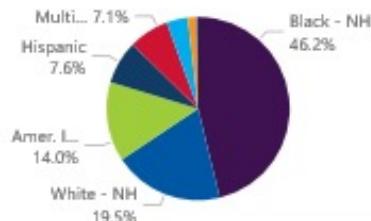
Manufacturer

- J&J
- Moderna

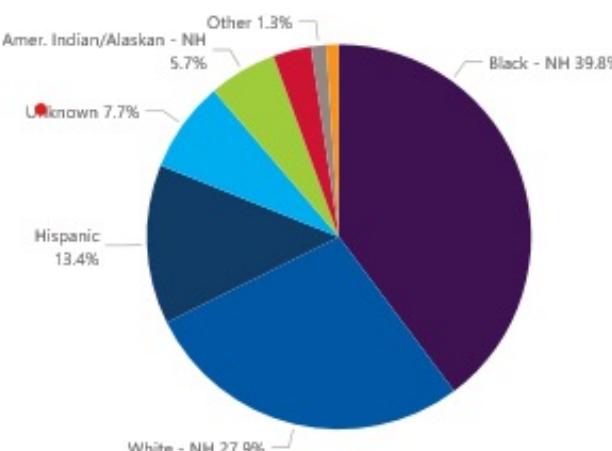
Location

All ▼

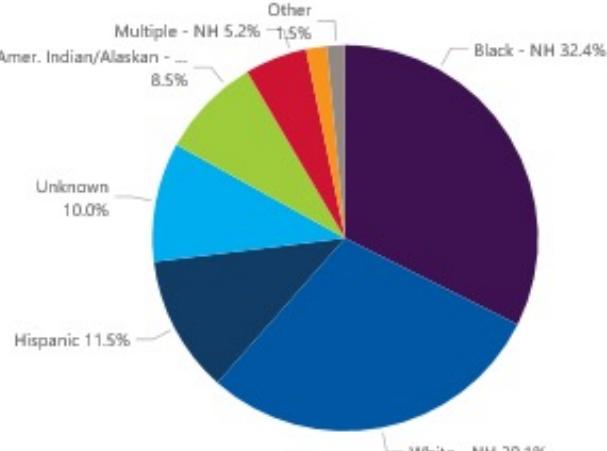
Estimated Race/Ethnicity of Clientele
(Only available for some locations)



One Dose of Moderna (Incomplete Series)



Completed Vaccine Series*



Unknown includes "Preferred not to answer" and unknown/blank

*Completed series includes 2 doses of Moderna or 1 dose of Janssen (J&J)

Data for this page is subject to revision as underlying information is cleaned and processed.



COVID-19 Reports: Vaccination Data





HCH Care/Hygiene kits

Presented by Aaronica

COVID-19 Testing:

- HH/MVNA Nurses are used to perform the Nasal or Oropharyngeal swab
- HH Lab processes all the tests and send information to HC

Vaccine PODs

- HH/MVNA Nurses vaccinate at all of HC PODs including HCH PODs
- This includes bringing all the materials needed (Registration forms and EAU's)
- HH/MVNA Nurses handle everything that has to do with vaccinating an individual
- HH/MVNA Nurses are responsible for determining if an individual should receive the vaccine at a POD or check in with their Dr.

Care/Vaccine kits

- Health Care for the Homeless dispenses “comfort kits” at their PODs to people experiencing homelessness. The items in the kit are intended to alleviate some of the side effects and provide general comfort to those receiving their vaccine.

Contents comfort Kits for Vaccines

- Warm compress (cannot withstand freezing temps)
- Electrolyte powder
- Dry soup
- Tea bag
- Cups(3)
- Spoons(3)
- Socks
- Hand warmers (when available)
- Masks
- Hand sanitizer

Care Kit packaged by Hennepin County



Completed Care Kits ready for delivery



Testing Kits

Adult

- Mask
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hand Sanitizer
- Bodywash/shampoo combo

Children

- Mask
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Bodywash



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Questions for our Panel

Events and Resources

- This webinar is the second of a 3-part series featuring **health centers collaborating with their local jurisdictions**
 - April 29th 1pm CT – Chicago, IL

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I5mzLFeHQEOkQr_ILdcl6A

- 2-part series on **Trust and Trustworthiness**
 - April 21st 1pm CT
 - April 28th 1pm CT

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sIMbonjRQ7GjaNwJ-0L71g

Events and Resources

- Sign-up to receive our bi-weekly **Flash Blast**
<https://nhchc.org/council-covid-19-flash-blast-sign-up/>
- Join us on Monday, April 19th at 12pm CT for a **Community Discussion** about opportunities with HRSA new funding
<https://nhchc.org/webinars/discussion-forum-using-health-center-funding-from-the-american-rescue-plan-act-to-improve-care-for-people-experiencing-homelessness/>
- **NHCHC Conference & Policy Symposium**, May 10-14
<https://nhchc.org/trainings/conferences/hch2021/>

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