



# HEALTH BRIEFS: PHS HEALTH EQUITY SURVEY

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## ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINE IN NEW YORK CITY REMAINS SHARPLY DIVIDED BY RACE AND INCOME

New survey from Public Health Solutions (PHS) shows that many New Yorkers, especially people of color and those living on low incomes, have limited access to vaccines on top of continued economic and health disparities.

### KEY FINDINGS

The latest COVID-19 Health Equity survey by PHS discovered that low-income New Yorkers (defined as an annual income less than \$50,000) and communities of color face significantly more limitations on their access to vaccines compared to their wealthy (defined as annual income greater than \$100,000) and white peers. The survey also shows that even a year after the pandemic's start in March 2020, the devastating health and financial implications are still being felt.

Key findings in the report include:

- 43% of vaccine-eligible high-income New Yorkers have received all doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to just 16% of their vaccine-eligible low-income neighbors.
- The results are even more concerning when broken down by race: nearly half (45%) of vaccine-eligible high-income white respondents have received both doses of the vaccine, compared to 7% of vaccine-eligible low-income Black respondents.

- Nearly 70% of low-income vaccine-eligible Black respondents have yet to receive any doses at all – compared to 18% of vaccine-eligible high-income white respondents.

### BACKGROUND

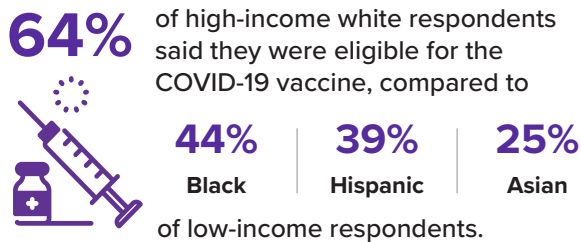
Since it's beginning, the COVID-19 pandemic has widened long-standing disparities among low-income communities and people of color in New York City. A year later, many in these groups have seen little reprieve – COVID-19 continues to spread, the economic pain remains, and now even vaccine access is limited.

The latest data from the City shows that 37% of white adults in New York City have received at least one dose, compared to 19% of Asian, 19% of Latino, and 14% of Black adults. This is even as 60% of vaccination sites are located in communities of color that were hit especially hard during the first wave of the pandemic.

PHS' latest Health Equity survey delved deeper into the disparities in health and vaccination outcomes between wealthier and white New Yorkers and low-income communities and New Yorkers of color. The survey examines the varied rates of vaccinations among these groups, access to COVID-19 care and tests, as well as knowledge of eligibility of vaccines. It also investigates the financial concerns of New Yorkers more than a year after the pandemic began.

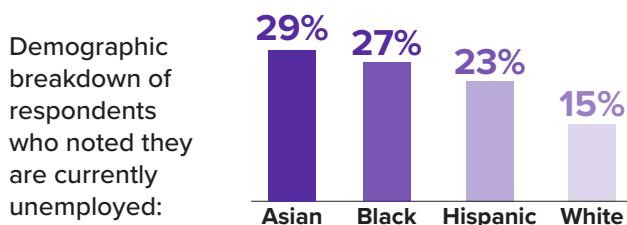
## FINDINGS

**Wealthier respondents are getting vaccinated at higher rates than poorer New Yorkers, and they also report more interest in receiving the vaccine.**



- 59% of vaccine-eligible low-income respondents have not received any shots yet, compared to only 19% of vaccine-eligible high-income respondents.
- High-income white residents were more likely to know they were eligible for the vaccine than low-income Black, Hispanic, and Asian New Yorkers.
- Among those who haven't received a vaccine, 32% of low-income respondents are not sure they will get one, versus 19% of high-income respondents.
- 41% of high-income respondents who haven't been vaccinated say they are extremely likely to get it when they're eligible, versus 26% of unvaccinated low-income respondents

**Economic inequalities are pushing vulnerable communities deeper into poverty.**

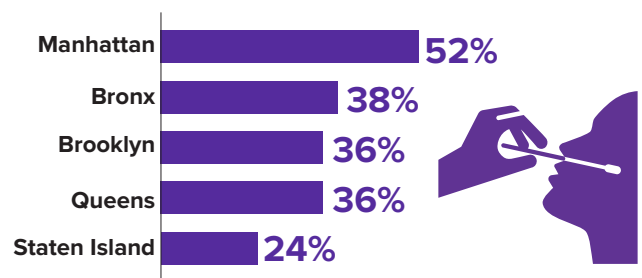


- 32% of low-income respondents say their top concern over the next month is paying the rent or mortgage, compared to just 14% of high-income respondents.
- 55% of white respondents say their job/income is secure for the foreseeable future, compared to 44% of Black, 41% of Hispanic, and just 37% of Asian respondents.
- 29% of Asian, 27% of Black, and 23% of Hispanic respondents noted they are currently unemployed, compared to 15% of white respondents.

**Even during a pandemic, we are still seeing health disparities affect the most vulnerable, including people of color and low-income populations**

- 60% of white respondents have received a COVID-19 test, compared to 50% of Black and 44% of Asian respondents.
- 39% of low-income respondents have not received any form of COVID-19 testing or care, compared to 22% of high-income respondents. A quarter of low-income respondents don't know how close their home is to the nearest COVID-19 testing site.
- Nearly one-third (32%) of Manhattan respondents have received in-person primary care to treat COVID-19, compared to 23% in Brooklyn and 17% in the Bronx.


**COVID-19 test sites within half a mile of respondents' home, according to borough:**



- More than half (52%) of Manhattan respondents have a COVID-19 testing site within half a mile of their home, higher than every other borough – including 38% in the Bronx and 36% in Brooklyn.

## New Yorkers with a COVID-19 diagnosis also reported other hardships.

- 42% of respondents with a COVID-19 diagnosis in their household say they or someone in their household has been laid off in the last year, compared to 24% of those without a COVID-19 case.
- Respondents with a household COVID-19 diagnosis are significantly more likely to have to work in-person than those without a diagnosis.
- 19% of respondents with a COVID-19 diagnosis in their household lost health insurance in the last year, compared to 7% of respondents without a COVID-19 case.
- A higher percentage of respondents with a COVID-19 case in their household anticipate needing social services and government benefits than their counterparts without a COVID-19 case – including WIC, food pantries, food and nutrition services, and mental health care.
- More than half of respondents with a COVID-19 diagnosis in their household report canceling or never scheduling a physical in the last year. 42% skipped routine specialist visits.

 **19%** of respondents with with a COVID-19 diagnosis in their household lost health insurance in the last year compared to 7% of respondents without a COVID-19 case.

## CONCLUSION

Even as vaccines have been rolled out to the entire adult population, this essential piece of COVID-19 health care remains out of reach for many low-income New Yorkers and New Yorkers of color. Disparities in COVID-19's impact have been an unfortunate hallmark of the nation's response to this devastating pandemic, and vulnerable NYC communities continue to bear the brunt of the economic damage. Vaccines offer hope for better health and economic prospects, but that will only be a reality with equitable access.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

1,000 New York City adult residents from varying income levels across all five boroughs were surveyed through an online questionnaire. The survey was conducted from February 25 - March 18, 2021, in partnership with Kantar, the world's leading evidence-based insights and consulting company.

## ABOUT PHS

Health disparities among New Yorkers are large, persistent and increasing. Public Health Solutions (PHS) exists to change that trajectory, and support vulnerable New Yorkers in achieving optimal health and building pathways to reach their potential. We improve health outcomes and help communities thrive by providing services directly to vulnerable low-income families, and supporting 200 community-based organizations through our long-standing public-private partnerships. We focus on a wide range of public health issues including food and nutrition, health insurance, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, tobacco control, and HIV/AIDS. Your support helps us to realize our vision for health equity in New York City. Visit [healthsolutions.org](https://healthsolutions.org) to learn more.