

HCPF Call with County Leadership

Kim Bimestefer
Executive Director
September 21, 2021

Thank you for your partnership through this difficult chapter

- Meeting increased MA demands due to COVID, including dealing with staffing challenges
- COVID keeps morphing. Thx for being agile.
- Thx for helping us improve eligibility accuracy to avoid federal clawbacks
- Thank you for helping improve service metrics
- Thx for helping us modernize county rules



Agenda

- 2020 OSA Audit
- Governor's Office Wildly Important Goals
- Membership and App Volume Update
- PHE & Eligibility Update
- Vaccine Disparity
- Impact to Hospitals, Health Care Workers, Members
- Q & A

Last 6 Years of Audit Findings vs 3% federal target

Year	Audit	Error Rate
2015	OSA: SSWA (State)	3%
2015	OIG: A-07-18-02812 (Federal)	4%
2015	OIG: A-07-16-04228	28%
2017	OSA: SSWA (State)	18%
2018	OSA: SSWA (State)	28%
2018	OSA: SSWA System Issues (State)	14%
2019	OSA: SSWA (State)	26%
2020	OSA: SSWA (State)	26%

2020 Single Statewide Audit

- 125 cases pulled, 32 with errors (26% error rate)
 - 26 of those members remain eligible
 - Missing case file documentation
 - Human error in data entry
 - Six no longer eligible:
 - 1 CBMS system issue
 - 2 due to member date of death
 - 2 due to issues previously identified and unable to address until end of PHE
 - One due to incorrect SSA interface

11 Initiatives to Improve Performance

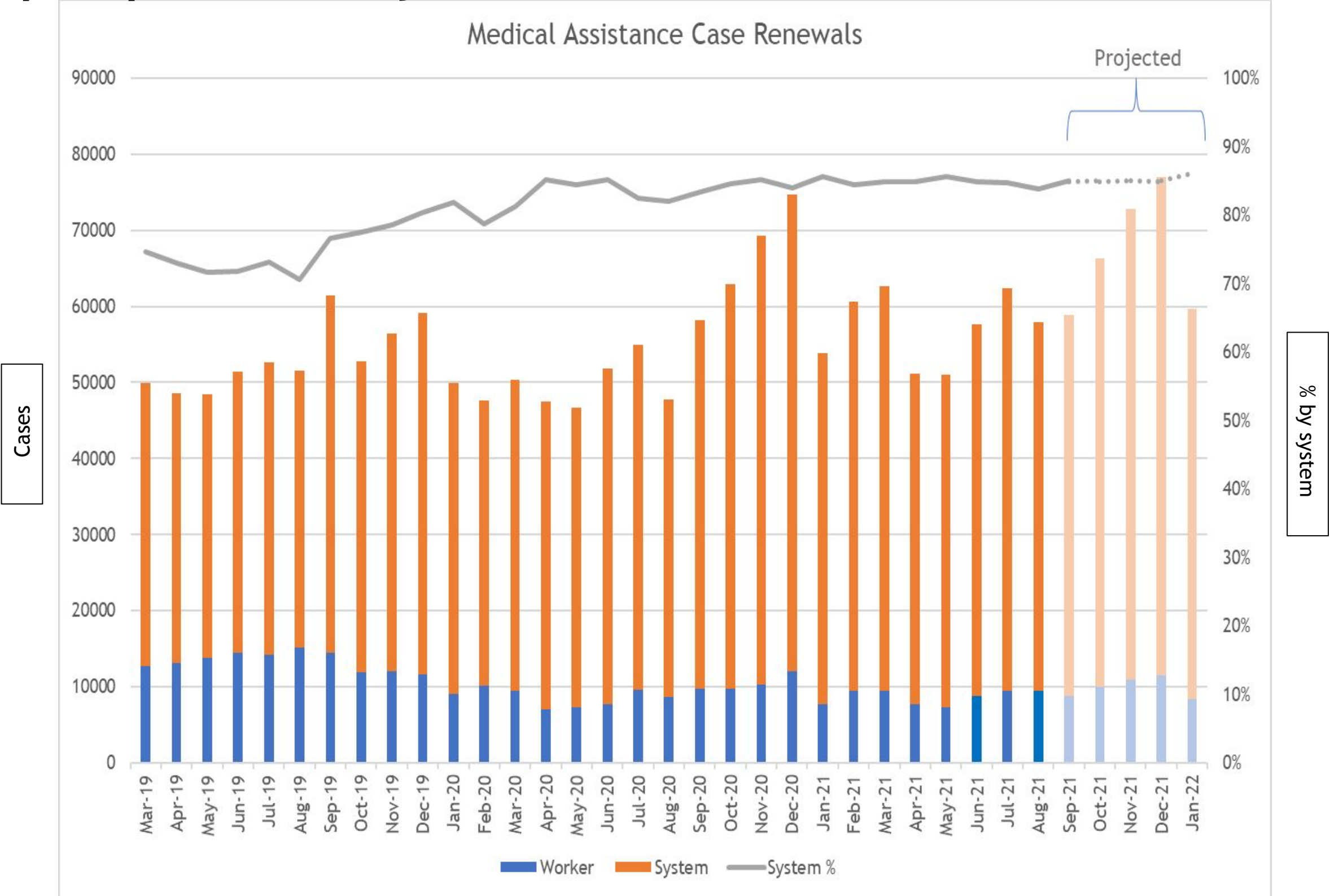
1. Renegotiate contract with Deloitte governing CBMS performance
2. Data mining the CBMS system proactively
3. Income Verification interfaces into CBMS
4. Updating Asset Verification Program
5. Streamlining 12 document retention systems counties use
6. PEAK investments, increased automation
7. Consolidated returned mail process
8. Medicaid Eligibility quality review processes & scorecards
9. County and MA site workforce training
10. Refined county incentives and updated County-HCPF rule
11. Updating annual Eligibility Redetermination Process

Gov. Polis' Wildly Important Goals to re-envision Government and *save people money on health care*

85% Medical Assistance Renewals Processed by the System

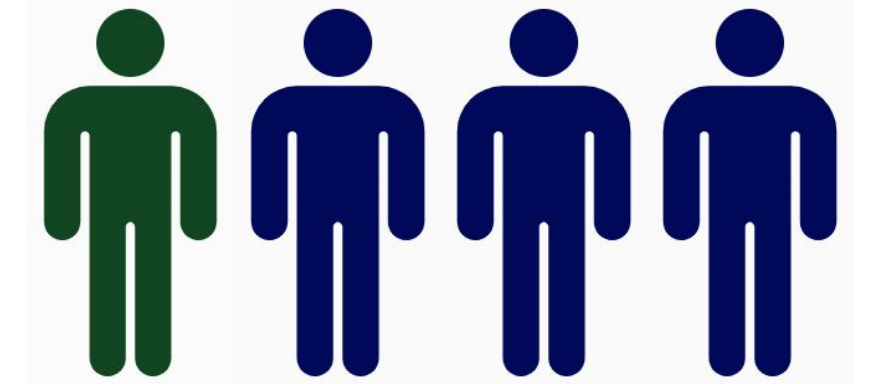
CBMS automated renewals:
2019: **75%** actual
2020: **83%** actual
2021 (85% goal): **85%** current

Increasing # of renewals processed by CBMS reduces burden on eligibility workers while improving member service.



Public Health Emergency and Vaccine Updates

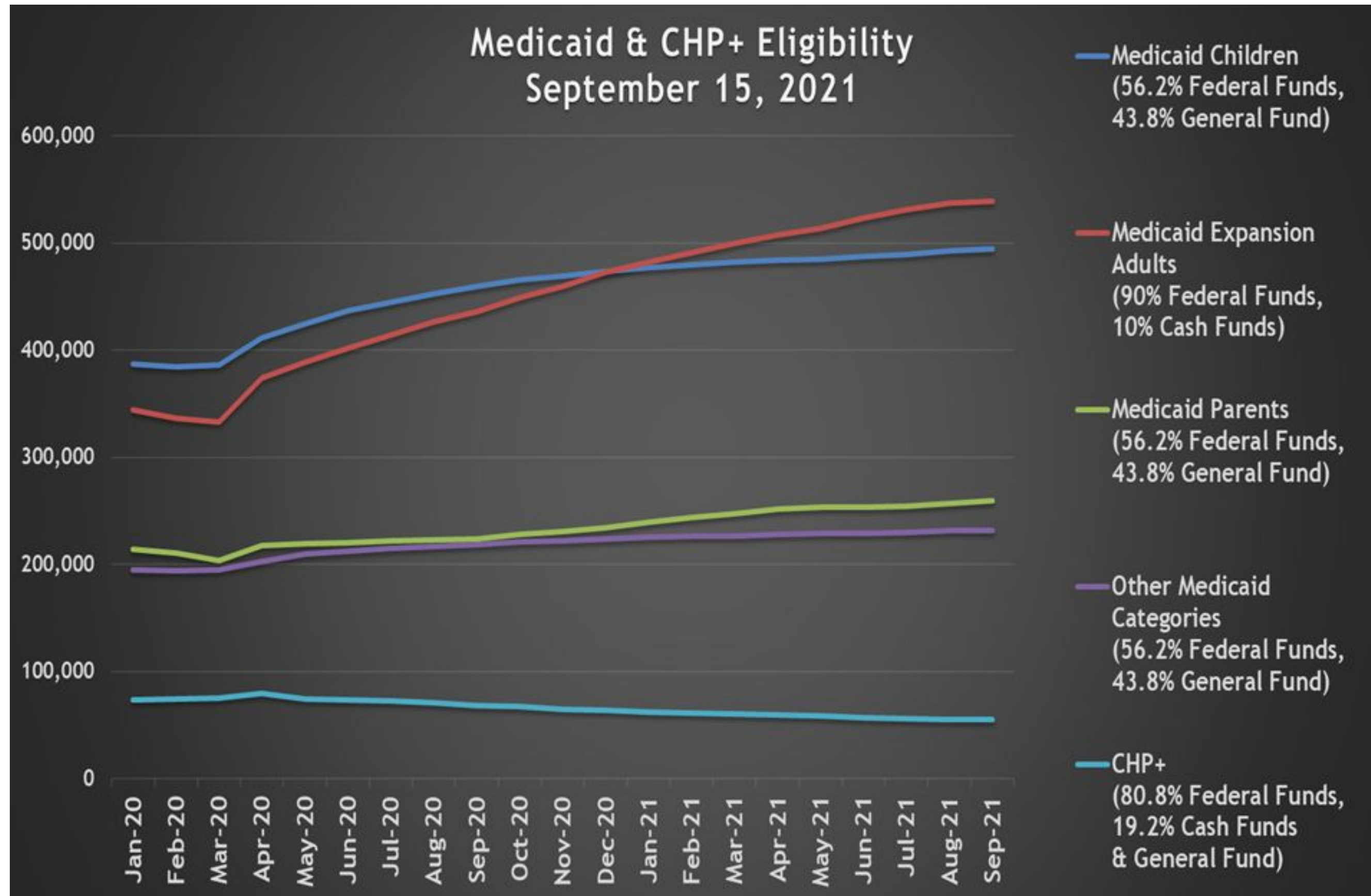
We now cover more than
1.54 million (1 in 4) Coloradans



Since the pandemic
started, enrollment
increased 23%,
285,170 additional
Coloradans

Of the 23% overall increase:

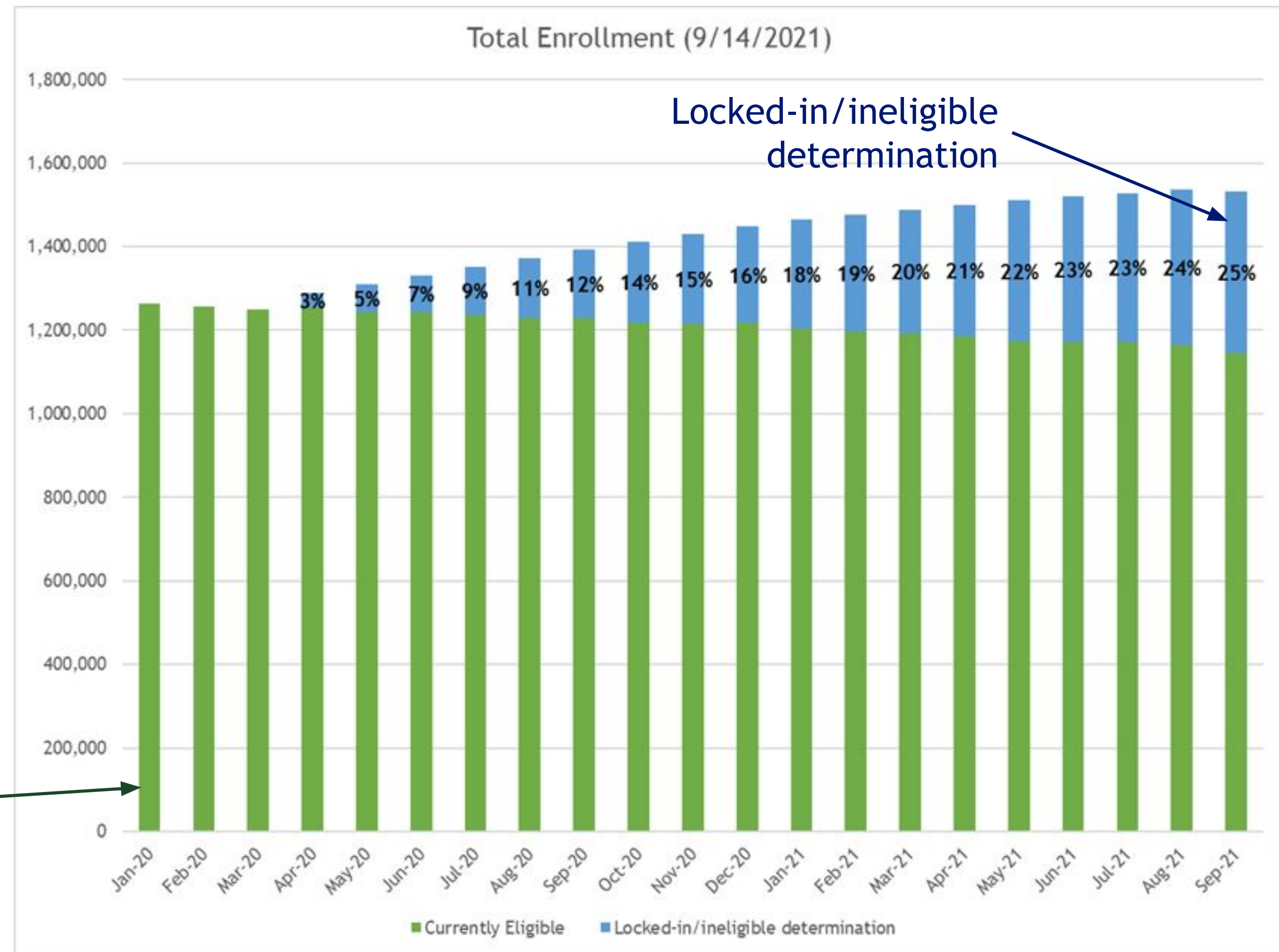
- Medicaid Expansion Adults up 62%, accounting for 50% of overall growth.
- Medicaid Children up 28%, accounting for 30% of growth.
- Medicaid Parents up 28%, accounting for 15% of overall growth.



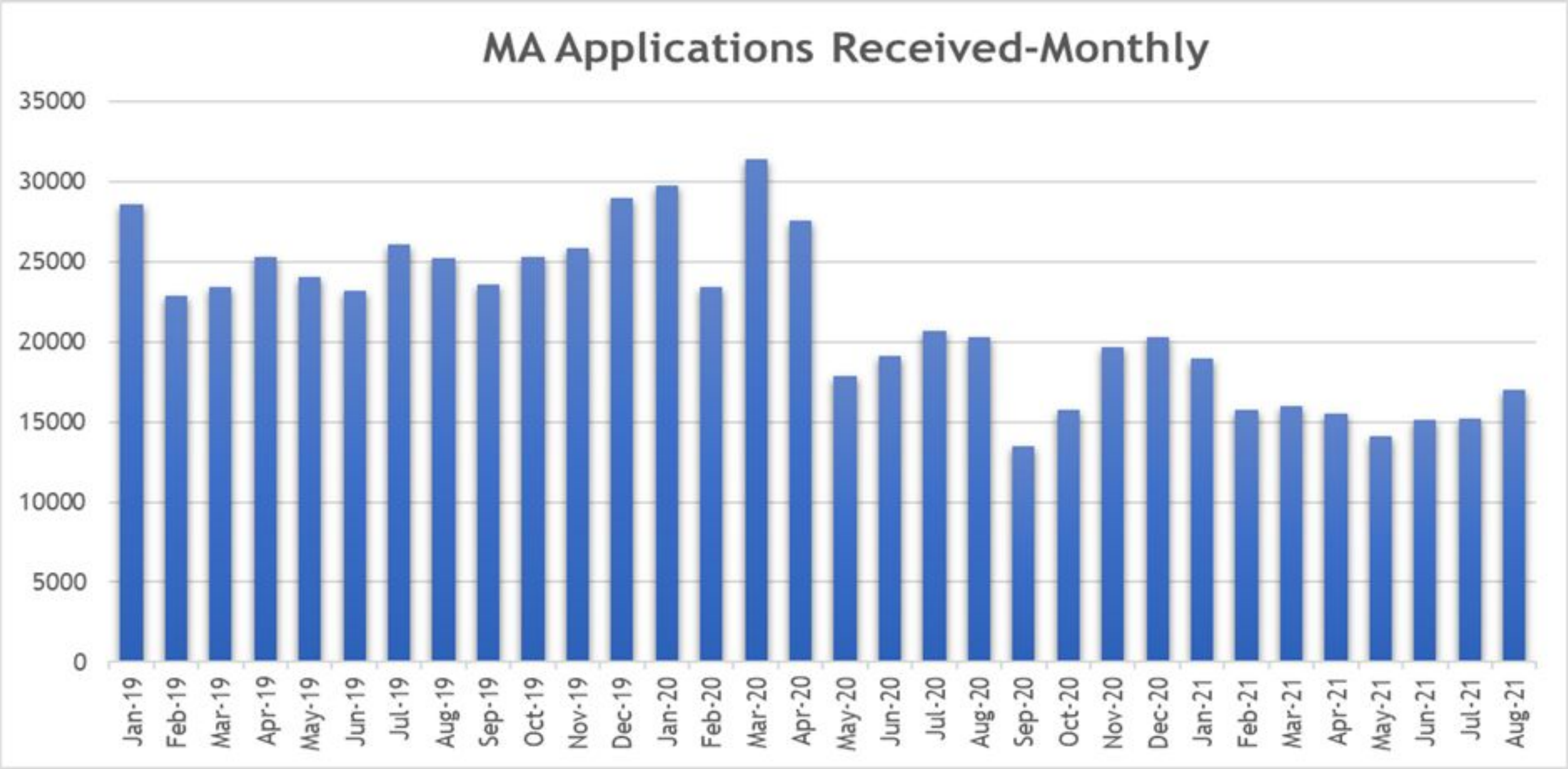
25% of Medicaid enrollment is locked into coverage through Public Health Emergency Continuous Coverage provision

(currently ~400k locked-in, forecasting ~450k)

Currently eligible



Medical Assistance (MA) Applications Received Monthly over the last 30+ months



This shows MA Applications received monthly, back to January 2019. The highest month was March 2020, as the pandemic began. There is a drop off in May 2020 as continuous coverage set in and typical churn no longer occurred. An increase can be seen during open enrollment in the 4th quarter of 2020, which also incidentally corresponds to a spike in COVID cases. New applications since February have been steady, with a slight increase in August.



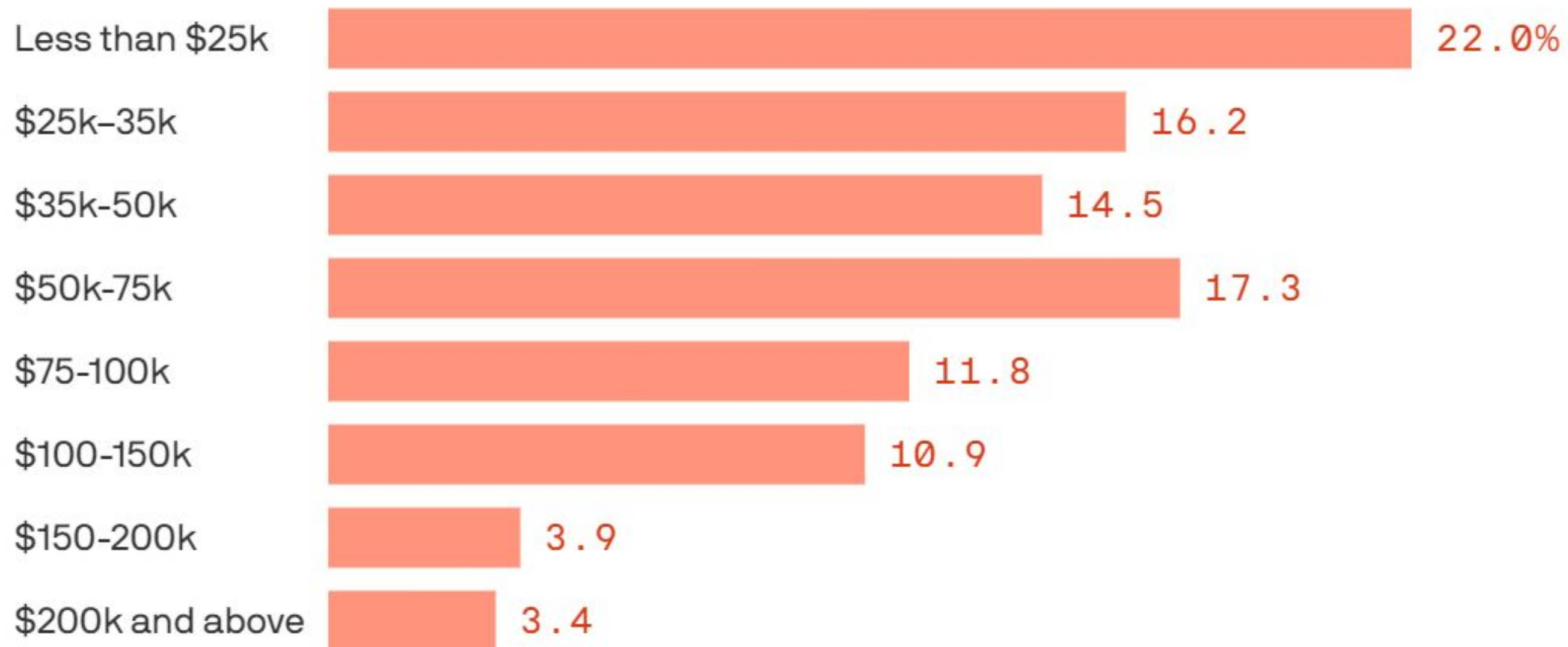
Glidepath to the end of the PHE & Continuous Coverage requirements

- Biden Admin said PHE will continue thru 2021 & plans to give states at least 60 days' notice before the end of the PHE
- Currently analyzing CMS new guidance for what it means for members and eligibility partners as we plan for the end of the PHE together
- Working w/ Connect for Health Colorado to leverage marketplace subsidies to help transition those no longer eligible for Medicaid/CHP+
- Fed extended the unwind for 12 months; however, we need the funding to come with that year. Working to secure that added funding
- FAQs & other documents are at <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/phe-planning>

Income Disparity in Vaccine Uptake is putting the health & lives of our members at risk

Share of unvaccinated Americans, by household income

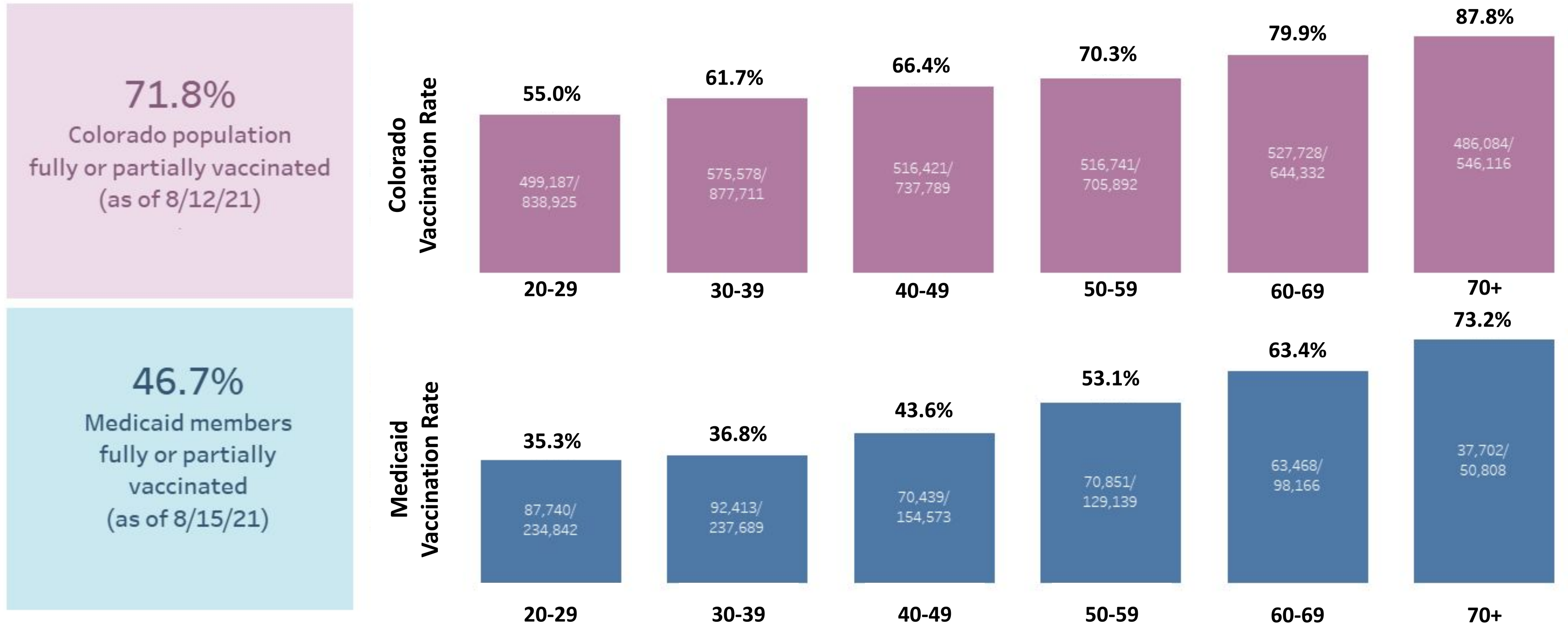
Survey of U.S. adults on their COVID-19 vaccination status, June 9-21, 2021



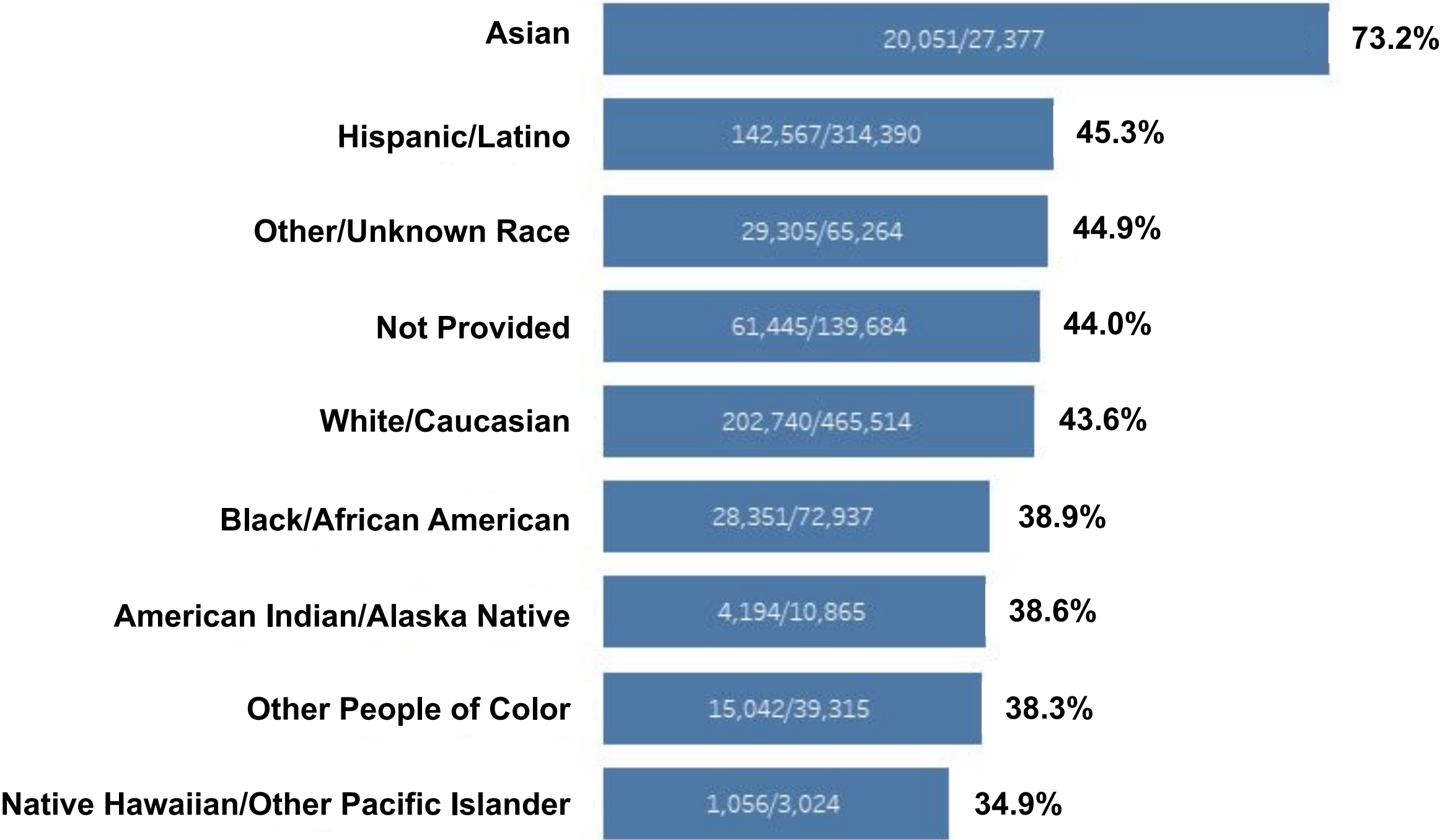
Data: [U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey](#); Note: Does not include respondents who didn't report income; Chart: Axios Visuals

COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake Disparity

25-Point Gap Btw Low Income and Other Coloradans

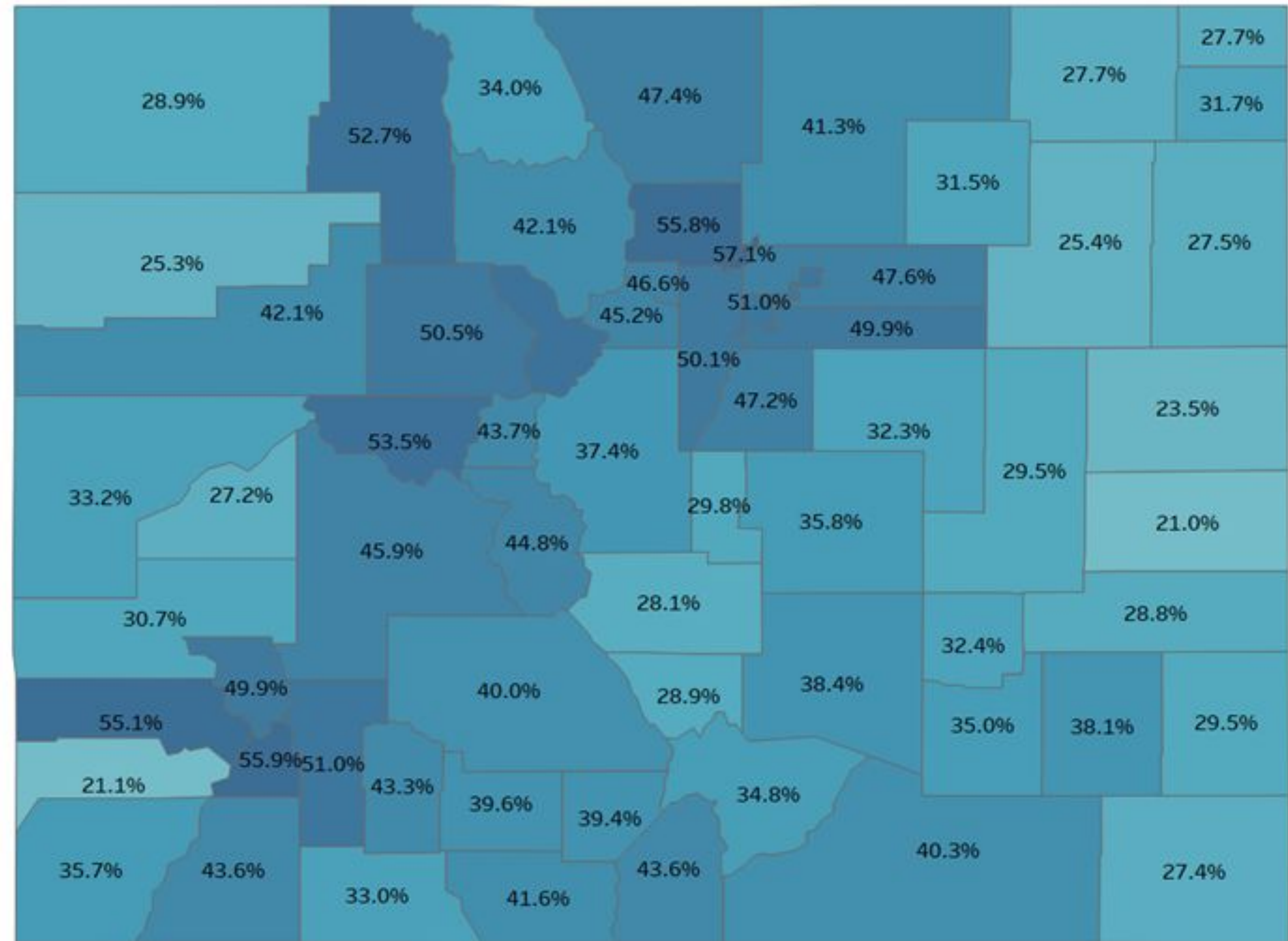


Inside Medicaid, disparity reduced among people of color through concerted efforts



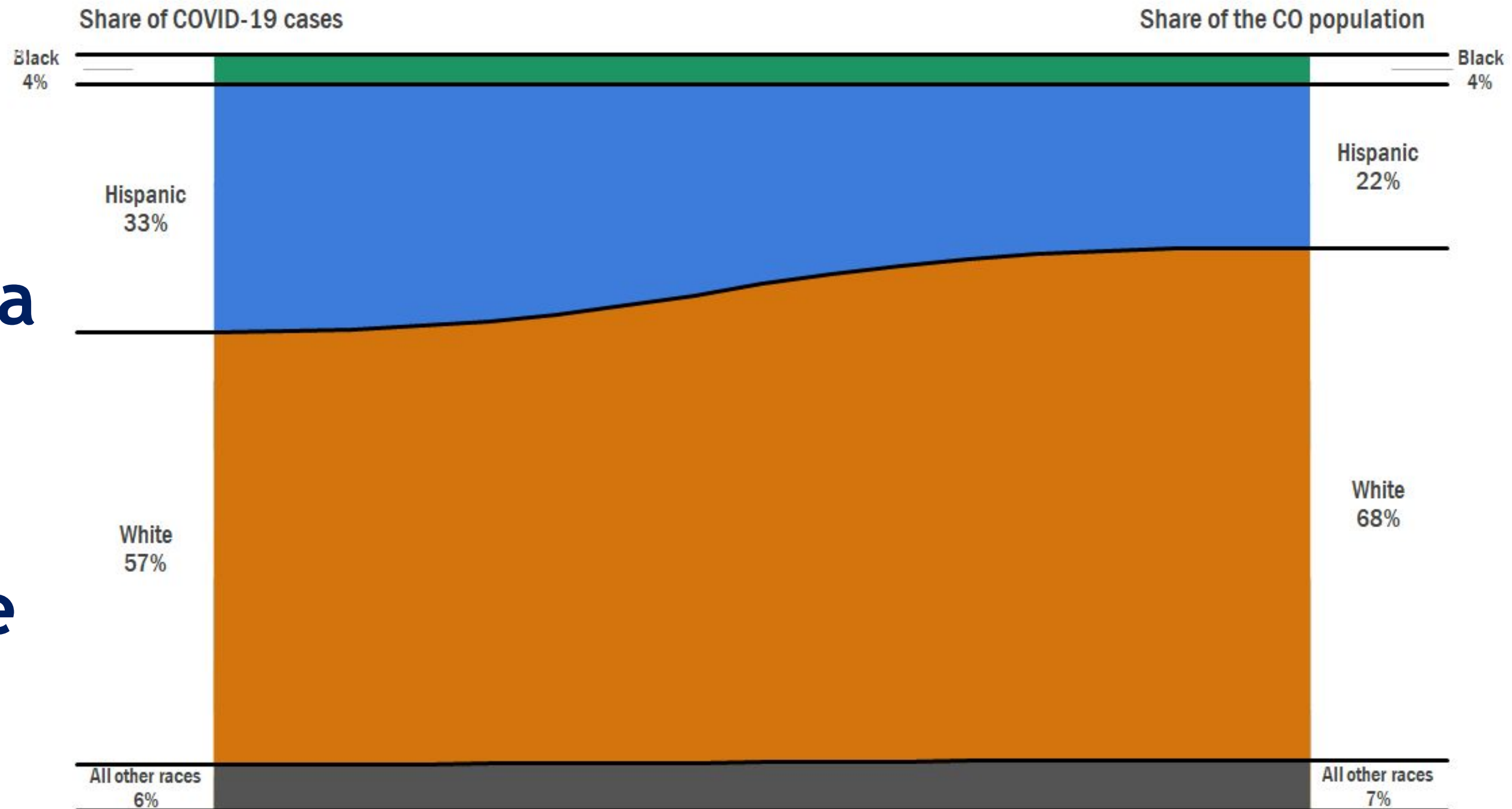
Medicaid COVID-19 Vaccine Rates by County (Age 12+ only)

Note: Darker shades of blue indicate higher vaccination rates in that county. Data only includes Medicaid members 12 and above. Data includes vaccine service dates through 8/15/21. Vaccination rates reported here include both fully and partially vaccinated members.



Hispanic Coloradans bear a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 disease

Hispanic Coloradans are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. If there were no difference in COVID-19 case burden, the shares on both sides of the chart would be equal.



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS), 03/01/2020-08/13/2021.

Data note: Those with missing data for race/ethnicity (19.9%) were excluded from analysis.



Black and Hispanic Coloradans are overrepresented among COVID-19 hospitalizations

Black and Hispanic people have been admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 disproportionately.



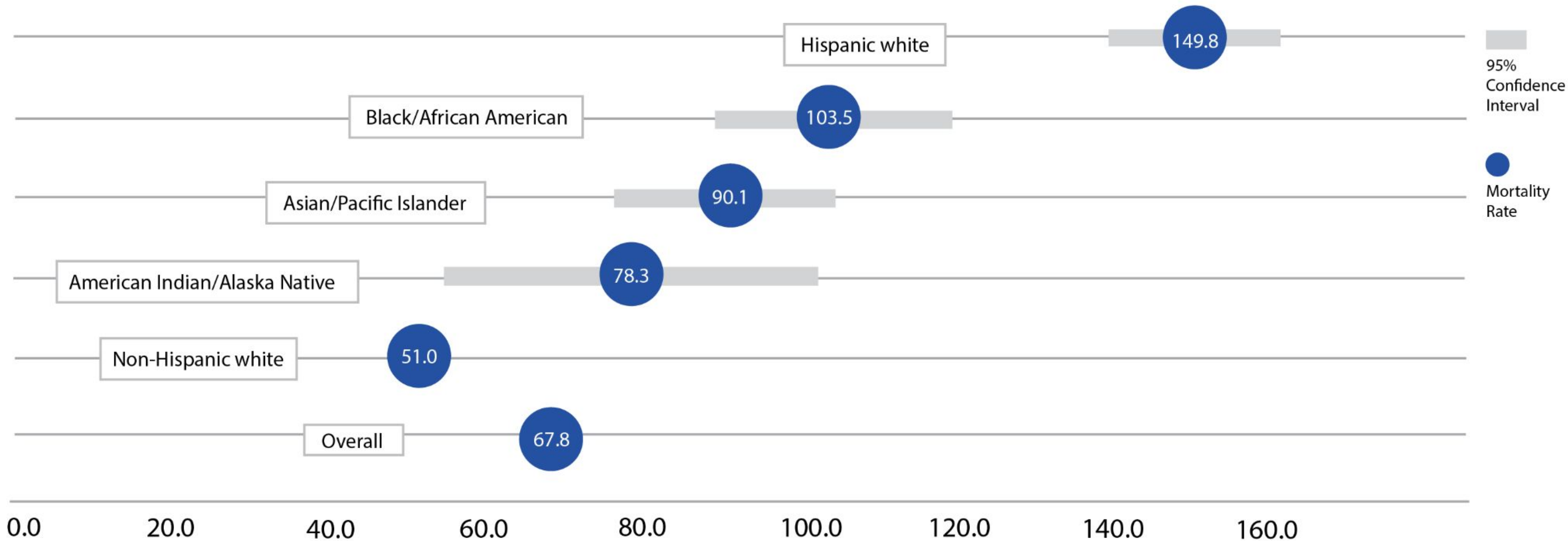
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Patient Hospitalization Surveillance (COPHS), 03/02/2020-08/13/2021.

Data note: Those with missing data (3.4%) for race/ethnicity were excluded from analysis.



COVID-19 mortality rates are significantly higher for people of color in Colorado

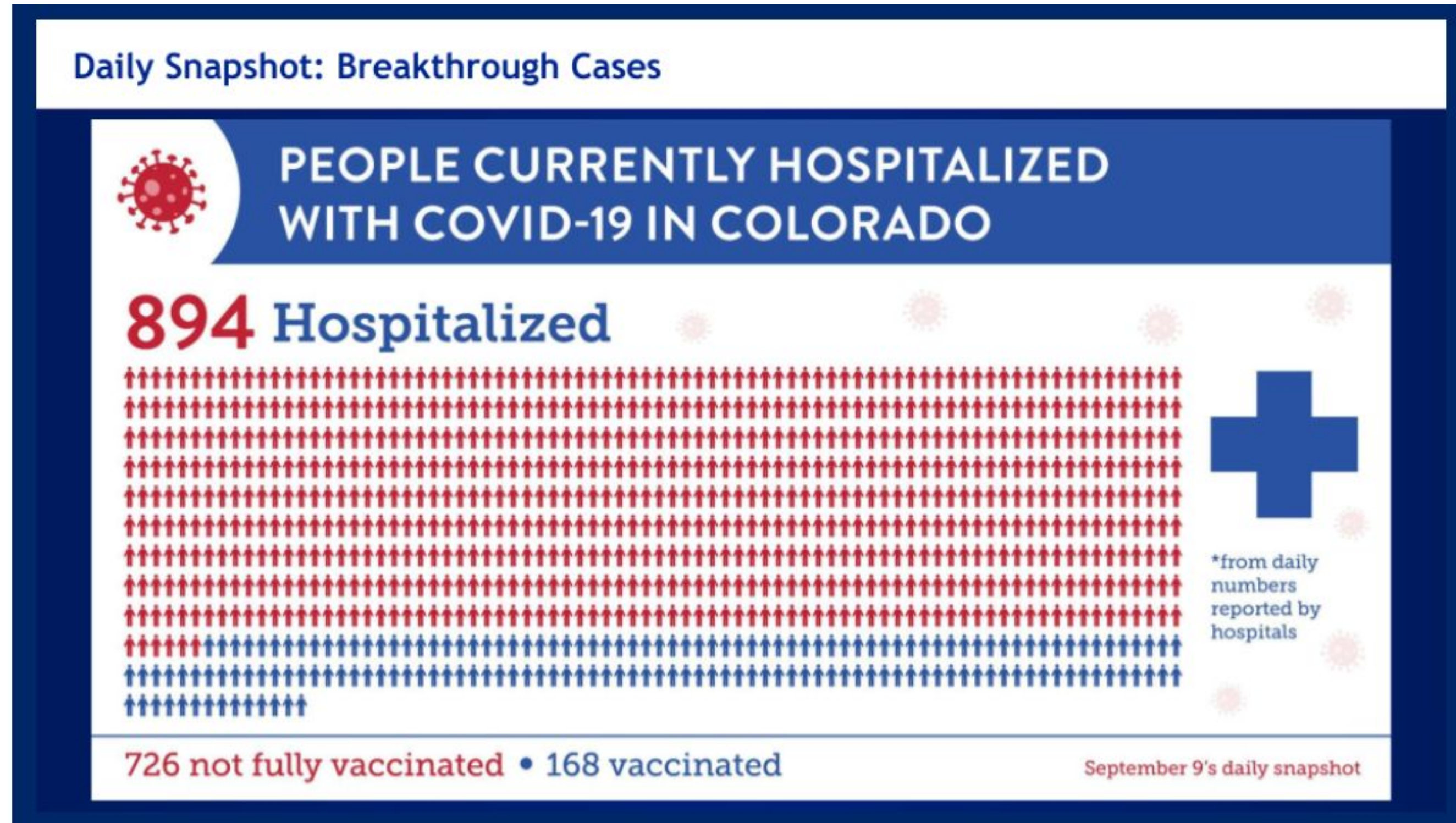
Age-adjusted death rate from COVID-19 per 100,000 population



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Health Information Dataset, Mortality Module, Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, 2020.



A majority of CO COVID cases that has resulted in hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated



Unprecedented rise of respiratory virus infections in kids

- Pedi **inpatient** & **PICU** volumes significantly and alarmingly higher than normal
- **ED** visits & admissions for respiratory disease unseasonably high and rising
- Trends driven by dramatic, off season (never seen before) rise in RSV, other seasonal respiratory viruses & COVID-19



- **This rise in cases began before school started**
- COVID-19 cases in Colorado's school-aged children more than doubled in the first three weeks of the school year
- Increase most notable ages 6-11
- Our state has a limited number of pediatric beds and staff to enable them

As ICU beds fill up, CO hospitals begging people to get vaccinated for COVID & flu

- CO ICUs almost full - fewer ICU beds available now than during the worst days of last winter - Larimer County >100% & South CO >95% ICU beds full
- Hospitals postponing non-emergency surgeries and redeploying staff
- Last flu season, mask-wearing & distancing prevented flu transmission; this winter could be really bad



“We desperately need the community to get vaccinated,”
said Dr. Stephen Cobb, CMO, Centura Health.

Protect Our Children

A Message from the Nation's Children's Hospitals

Children's hospitals are on the frontline of care for kids, anchoring the pediatric safety net for the most vulnerable among us. Tragically, rising numbers of COVID-19 infections among children, surging cases of respiratory illnesses such as RSV, and the pandemic's ongoing impact on mental health are pushing our children's hospitals to capacity. Combined with significant hospital workforce shortages, the pediatric safety net for all children is being threatened in unprecedented ways.

We call on leaders in the public and private sectors and the American public to stand with us to help protect our children.

- All eligible populations should be vaccinated.
- Everyone should mask responsibly, particularly during school and while attending large gatherings.
- All should adhere to proven safe practices of social distancing and hand washing.

Together, we can keep our children safer. They need our support, our care and our commitment to their future. They need it now.

With urgency and respect,

The Presidents, CEOs and Executive Directors of the nation's children's hospitals



COVID taking a heavy toll on rural hospitals

- Dr. Kurt Papenfus, who is recovering from long-haul COVID symptoms, was the only doctor in a rural Colorado hospital. When he got sick last year during a surge in cases, it put a huge strain on his hospital staff. He is one of few doctors serving 2,000 square miles.
- High proportion of cases are unvaccinated - the high severity of illness & acuity in rural areas takes a toll on limited resources & overwhelms staff



“I was very healthy, you know, climbed a bunch of mountains...And I really thought, 'Well, if I get COVID, I should be okay. Man, it took months to get better,” Dr. Kurt Papenfus. “When they really needed me, I was taken out by COVID.”

We are paying in LIVES & in \$\$

- Lost **670K** Americans to COVID
- **287K** unvaccinated Americans were hospitalized Jun-Aug, costing the health care system **\$5.7B**, which is likely an understatement of the cost burden from preventable treatment of COVID-19 among unvaccinated adults





Lots of work done. More to do. Lead by example. Save lives.

- Case Management Agencies - mandate already exists
- State Board of Health emergency rules requiring vaccination for staff in licensed healthcare settings
 - Vaccine requirement applies to health care facilities listed in Colorado Revised Statute [25-1.5-103\(1\)\(a\)\(1\)](#): staff and contractors who interact with patients/clients in assisted living homes, nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, community clinics (among others)
 - State is requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for employees working in state-run 24/7 health care facilities and interacting with vulnerable patients
- Starting Sep. 20, all State of Colorado workers will either be fully vaccinated or get tested for COVID-19 twice a week
- Currently analyzing new federal vaccine requirements related to health care and to Medicaid - anticipating CMS guidance in the coming weeks
- Increasing Medicaid provider reimbursement rates in parallel to the above efforts



Q & A

Send topics for next meeting to:
Breanne.benbenek@state.co.us

Thank You!