

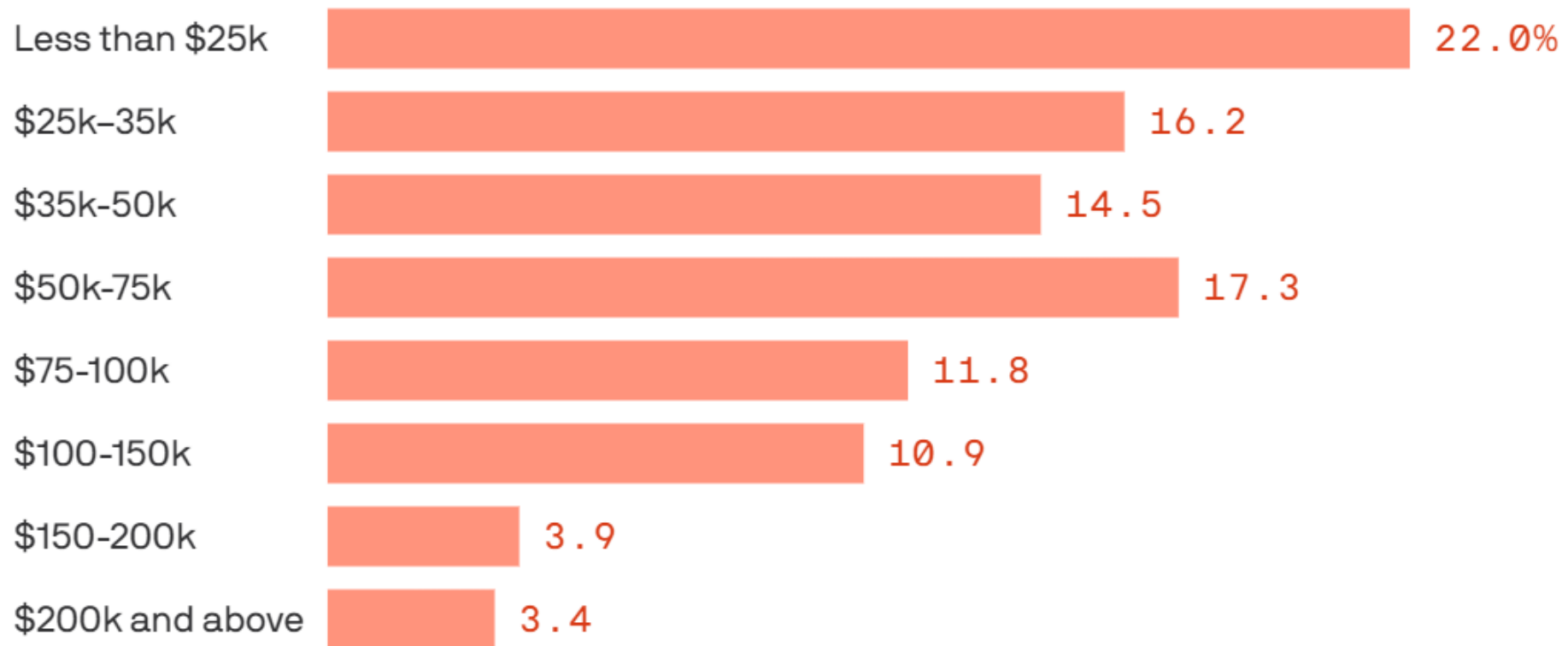
# COVID-19 Vaccination Insights and Disparities

Updated September 2021

# Income Disparity in Vaccine Uptake

## 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

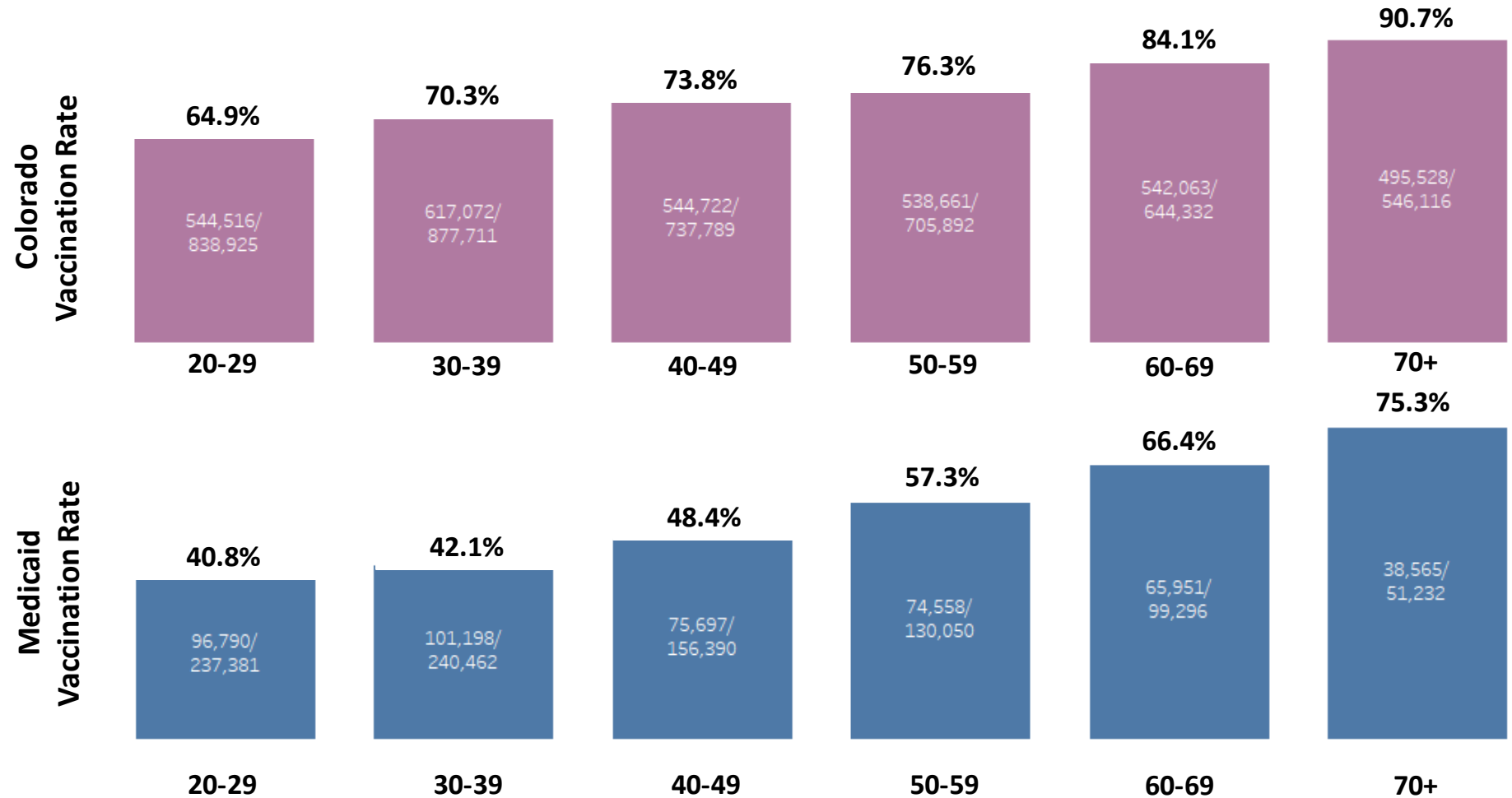
# COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake Disparity

## 25-Point Gap Btw Low Income and Other Coloradans

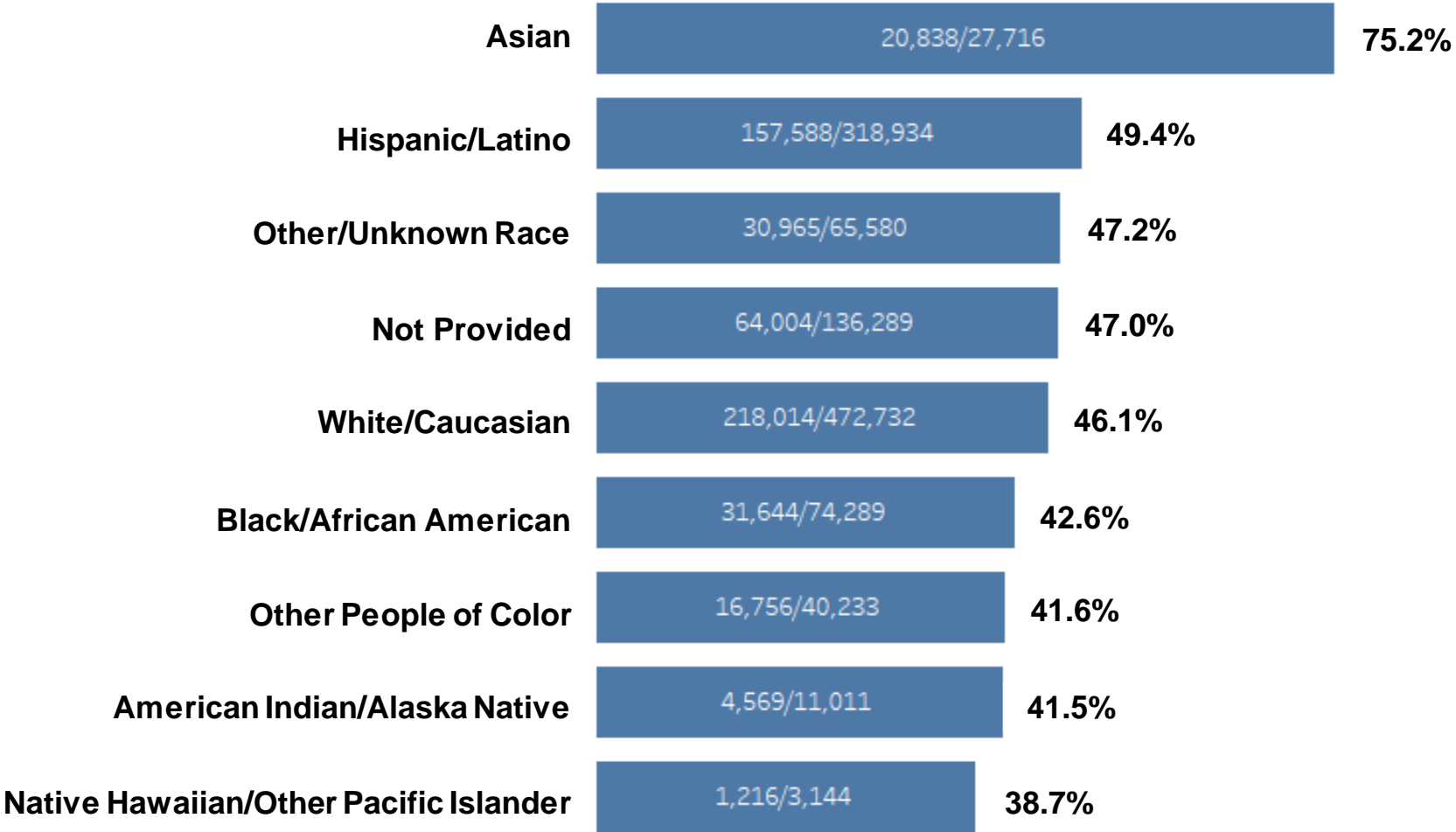
(Age 20+ only)

**75.4%**  
Colorado population  
fully or partially vaccinated  
(as of 9/23/21)

**49.5%**  
Medicaid members  
fully or partially  
vaccinated  
(as of 9/19/21)



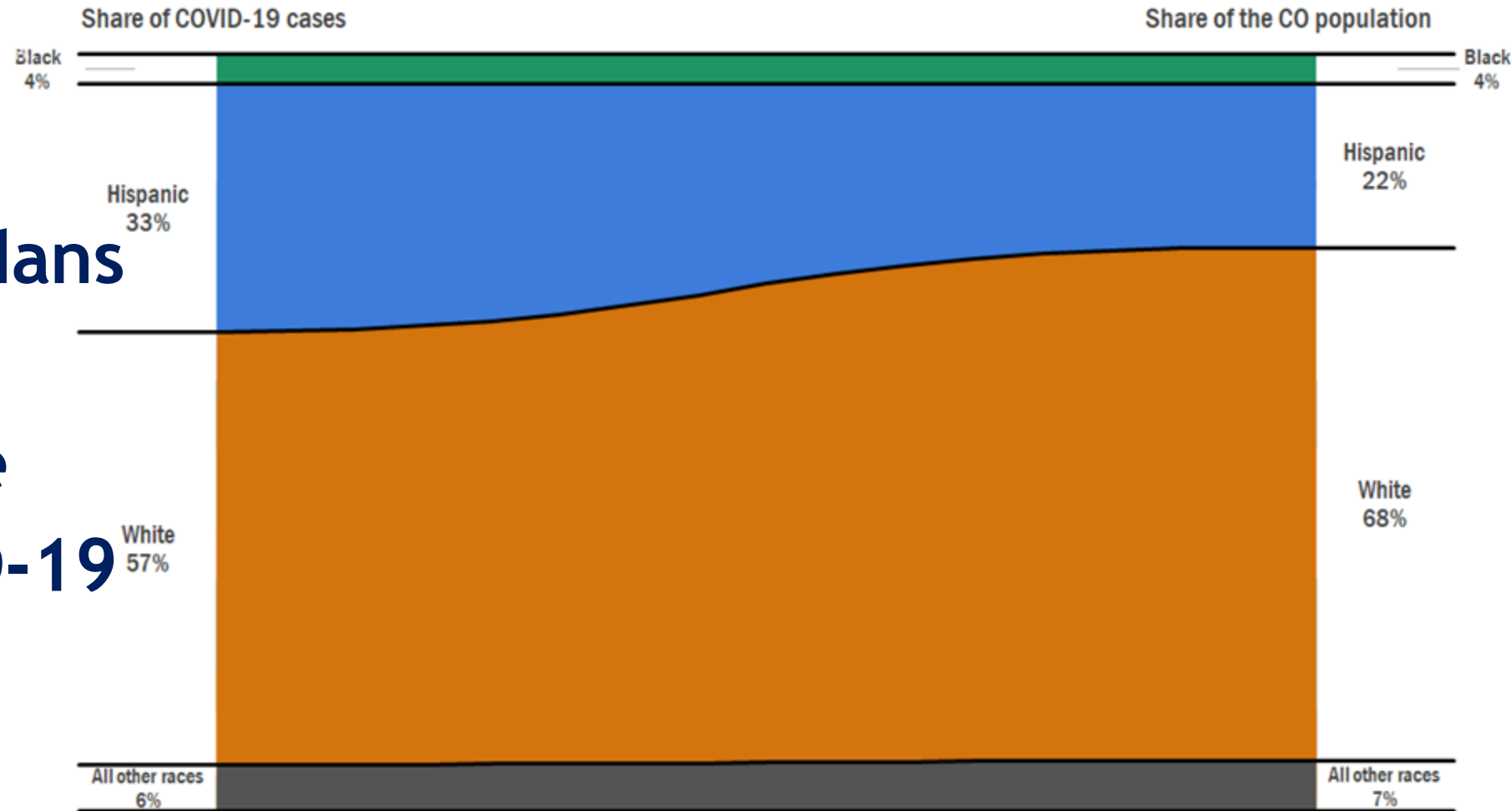
# Inside Medicaid, disparity reduced among people of color through concerted efforts



*Thank you to providers, pharmacists and RAEs for your incredible contributions to reducing gaps.*

# 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.



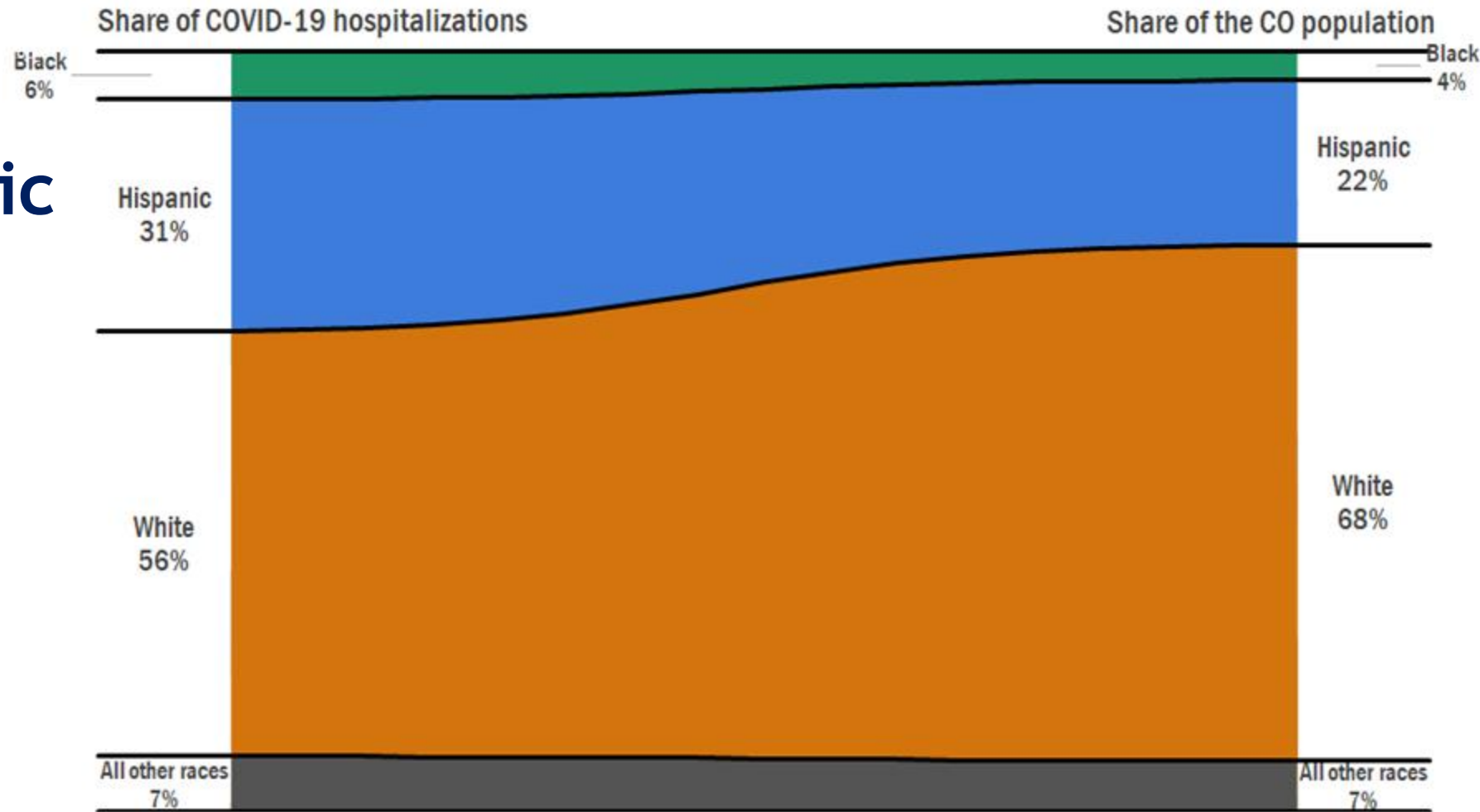
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS), 03/01/2020-08/13/2021

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.



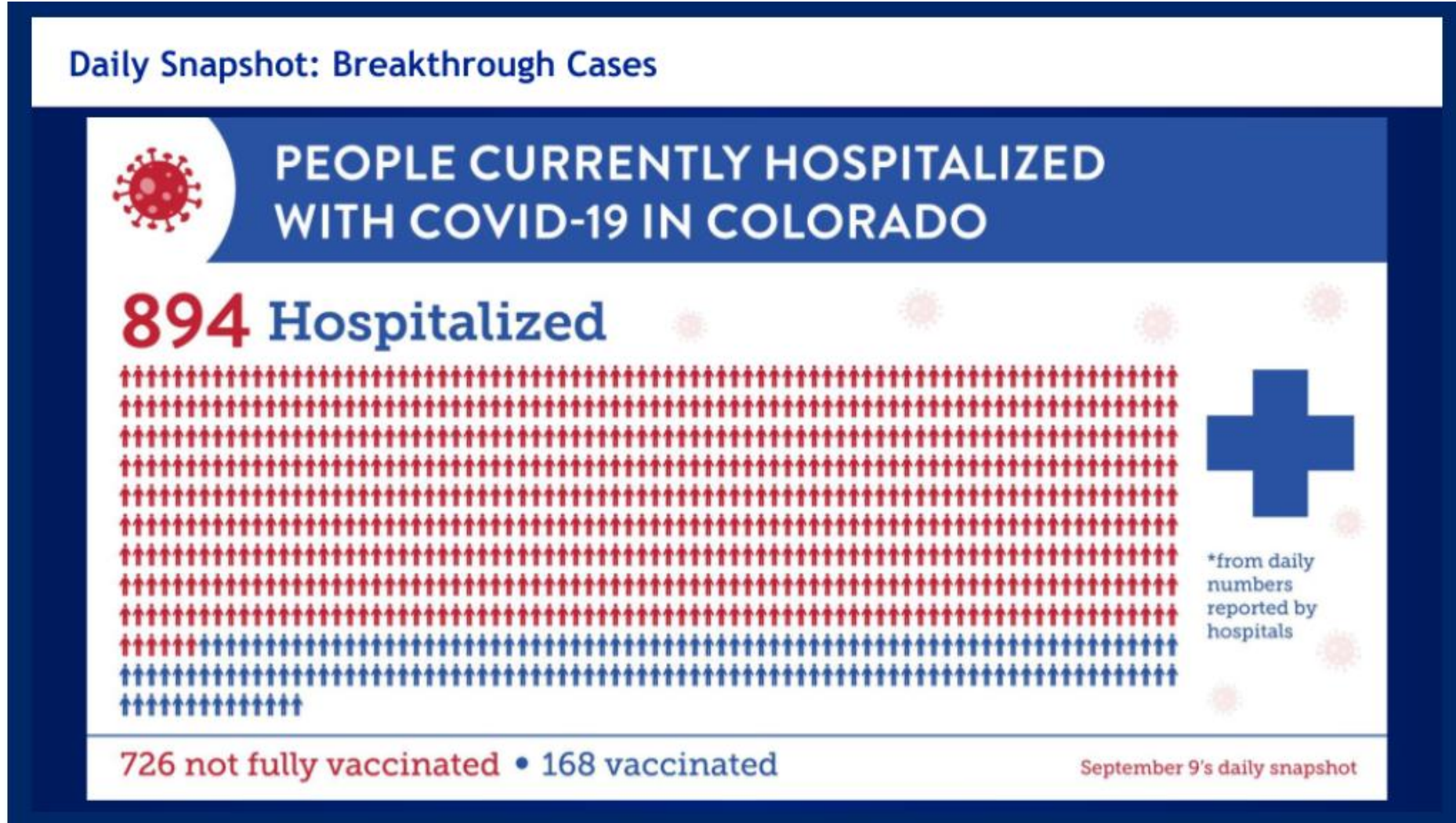
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Patient Hospitalization Surveillance (COPHS), 03/02/2020-08/13/2021.

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

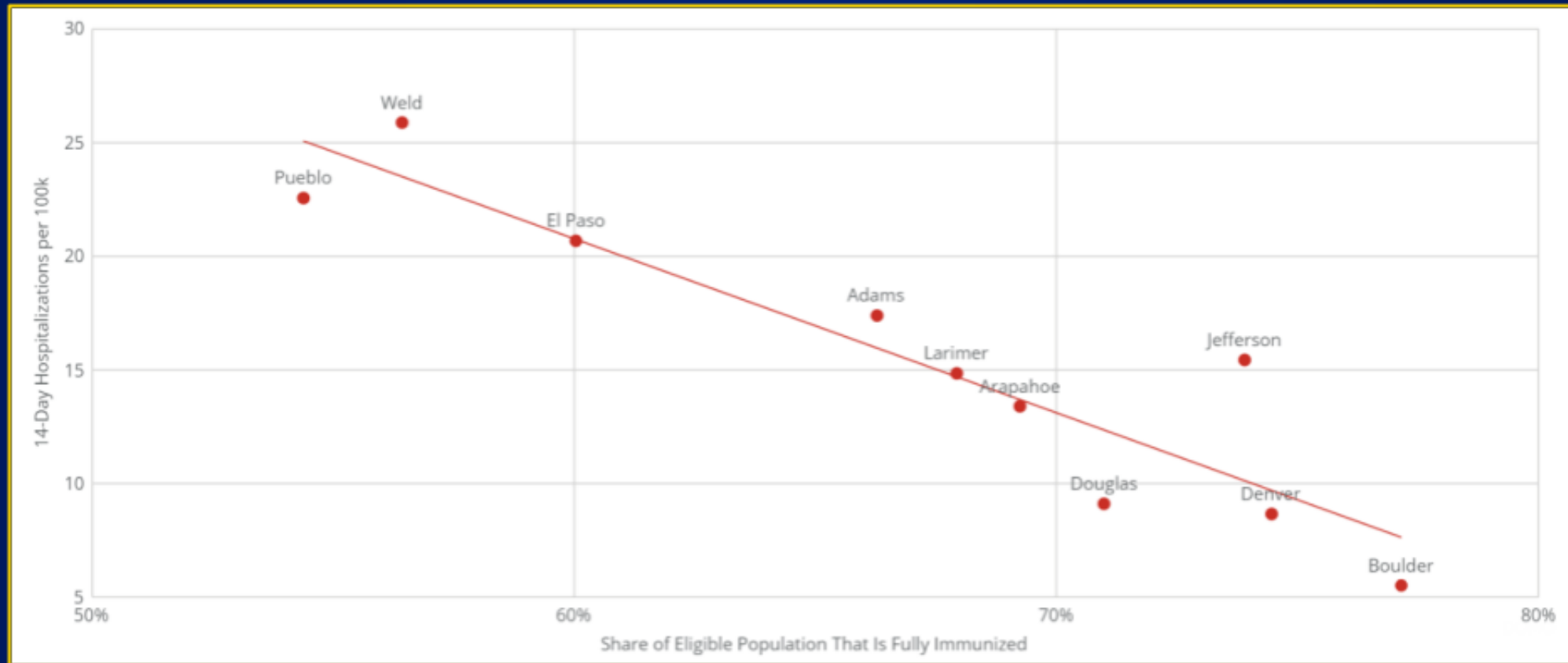




# A majority of CO COVID cases that resulted in hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated



## Comparison of County-level Hospitalization Rates and Vaccination Rates

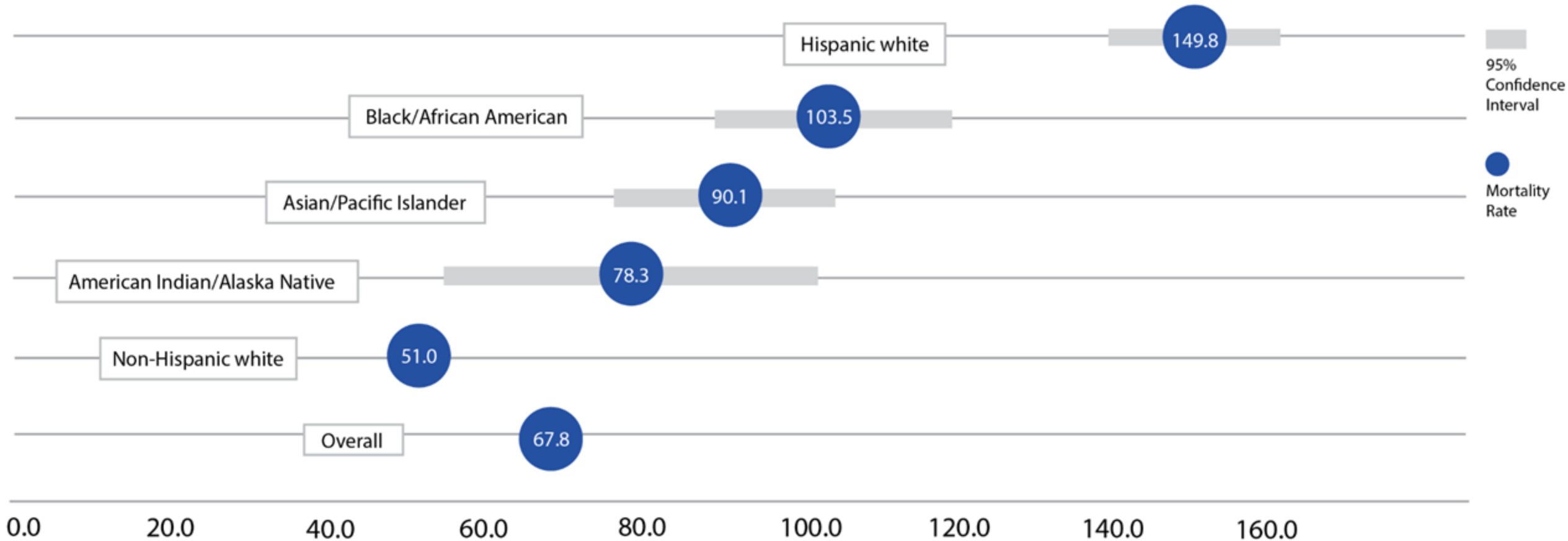


Counties that tend to have the highest hospitalization rates tend to be the counties with the lowest vaccination rates.



# 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.



# Unprecedented rise of respiratory virus infections in kids

- Pediatric **inpatient** & **P-ICU** volumes significantly and alarmingly higher than normal
- **ER** 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

# 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

8/30/21





# 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; admissions tripling in some hospitals; 28% hospitals w/ staff shortages; burnout
- CO hospitals are strained, but less than other states in the region due to higher vaccination rate plus Colorado systems have surge capacity



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

# 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.”*