



COVID-19 Vaccinations Among VADOC Inmates

VADOC RESEARCH UNIT BRIEF

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Introduction

Correctional facilities, nursing homes, college dormitories, and other congregate living arrangements are high-risk settings for COVID-19 transmission. The availability and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, combined with physical distancing protocols and effective use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), can help mitigate this risk. The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) began offering the COVID-19 vaccine to all inmates in its facilities* and to all staff on January 6, 2021. To encourage vaccinations among inmates, VADOC held Dialogues with the inmates and offered incentives, such as JPay credits, telephone credits, and commissary packages for fully vaccinated inmates. VADOC is also piloting a process at selected facilities where fully vaccinated inmates are permitted to attend in-person programming/classes/activities. The vaccination status of its inmate population on May 13, 2021 was analyzed to see if there were any differences between those who have been vaccinated and those who have not been vaccinated.

Inmate Characteristics

There were 24,139 inmates in VADOC Facilities on May 13, 2021**. Of these, 15,769 inmates had received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (65.3%). Males made up 93.7% of the total population, but they comprised 92.9% of the vaccinated population and 95.3% of the non-vaccinated population. As a result, male inmates had a much lower vaccination rate than females (64.8% vs. 73.9%).

Black inmates made up 57.7% of the total population, but they comprised just one-half (50.1%) of the vaccinated population and more than two-thirds (69.1%) of the non-vaccinated population. White inmates made up 42.3% of the total population, but they comprised almost one-half (48.8%) of the vaccinated population and less than one-third (29.9%) of the non-vaccinated population. As a result, Black inmates had a much lower vaccination rate than White inmates (Black=57.7%; White=75.5%; Other=67.6%). When looking at ethnicity, Hispanic inmates (3.3% of the total population) had a higher vaccination rate than Non-Hispanic inmates (71.5% vs. 65.1%).

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Older inmates were more likely to have been vaccinated than younger inmates. Inmates 45 years old or older comprised more than one-third (36.6%) of the total population. They accounted for 44.0% of the vaccinated population but less than one-quarter (22.6%) of the non-vaccinated population. Inmates under the

*Throughout this report, the term inmate includes inmates in VADOC Facilities and probationers/parolees in a Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) location, and the term facility includes VADOC prisons, correctional centers, work centers, and CCAP locations.

**Total population includes 443 new intakes who have been in a VADOC Facility for less than 30 days.

age of 45 made up 63.2% of the total population, and they comprised more than one-half (55.8%) of the vaccinated population, but they accounted for over three-quarters (77.1%) of the non-vaccinated population. As a result, older inmates had much higher vaccination rates than younger inmates. Vaccination rates for older inmates ranged from 75.3% for 45-54 year olds to 84.5% for 65-74 year olds, while vaccination rates for younger inmates ranged between 41.7% for inmates under 25 years old to 65.3% for 35-44 year olds.

The medical class information for these two groups of inmates was also analyzed for differences in vaccination rates, inmates with medical conditions had a slightly higher vaccination rate than those without any reported medical condition. Inmates with a medical class of something other than “A—No Disabilities” comprised 23.0% of the population, and these inmates had a vaccination rate of 66.9%. Inmates with a medical class of “A—No Disabilities” comprised 77% of the population, and these inmates had a vaccination rate of 64.9%.

More detailed information is in the table below.

VADOC Facility Inmate Characteristics by Vaccination Status (as of May 13, 2021)

	Vaccinated		Not Vaccinated		Total		Vaccination Rate
Gender							
Male	14,652	92.9%	7,976	95.3%	22,628	93.7%	64.8%
Female	1,117	7.1%	394	4.7%	1,511	6.3%	73.9%
Ethnicity							
Non-Hispanic	15,201	96.4%	8,144	97.3%	23,345	96.7%	65.1%
Hispanic	568	3.6%	226	2.7%	794	3.3%	71.5%
Health Status							
No Medical issues or unknown	12,051	76.4%	6,527	78.0%	18,578	77.0%	64.9%
Inmate has a Medical issue	3,718	23.6%	1,843	22.0%	5,561	23.0%	66.9%
Race							
American Indian or Alaskan Native	15	0.1%	8	0.1%	23	0.1%	65.2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	93	0.6%	27	0.3%	120	0.5%	77.5%
Black	7,907	50.1%	5,787	69.1%	13,694	56.7%	57.7%
White	7,697	48.8%	2,504	29.9%	10,201	42.3%	75.5%
Unknown	57	0.4%	44	0.5%	101	0.4%	56.4%
Age Group							
Under 18	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	4	0.0%	25.0%
18 to 24	506	3.2%	705	8.4%	1,211	5.0%	41.8%
25 to 34	3,411	21.6%	3,147	37.6%	6,558	27.2%	52.0%
35 to 44	4,880	30.9%	2,595	31.0%	7,475	31.0%	65.3%
45 to 54	3,574	22.7%	1,169	14.0%	4,743	19.6%	75.3%
55 to 64	2,516	16.0%	565	6.8%	3,081	12.8%	81.7%
65 to 74	744	4.7%	136	1.6%	880	3.6%	84.5%
75 and over	106	0.7%	25	0.3%	131	0.5%	80.9%
Total*	15,769	100.0%	8,370	100.0%	24,139	100.0%	65.3%

* Total includes missing data and unknowns

SOURCE: VADOC Research - Statistical Analysis & Forecast Unit, May 19, 2021