



ADA National Network Webinar Series:

Disparities in COVID-19 vaccination status and access for people with disabilities

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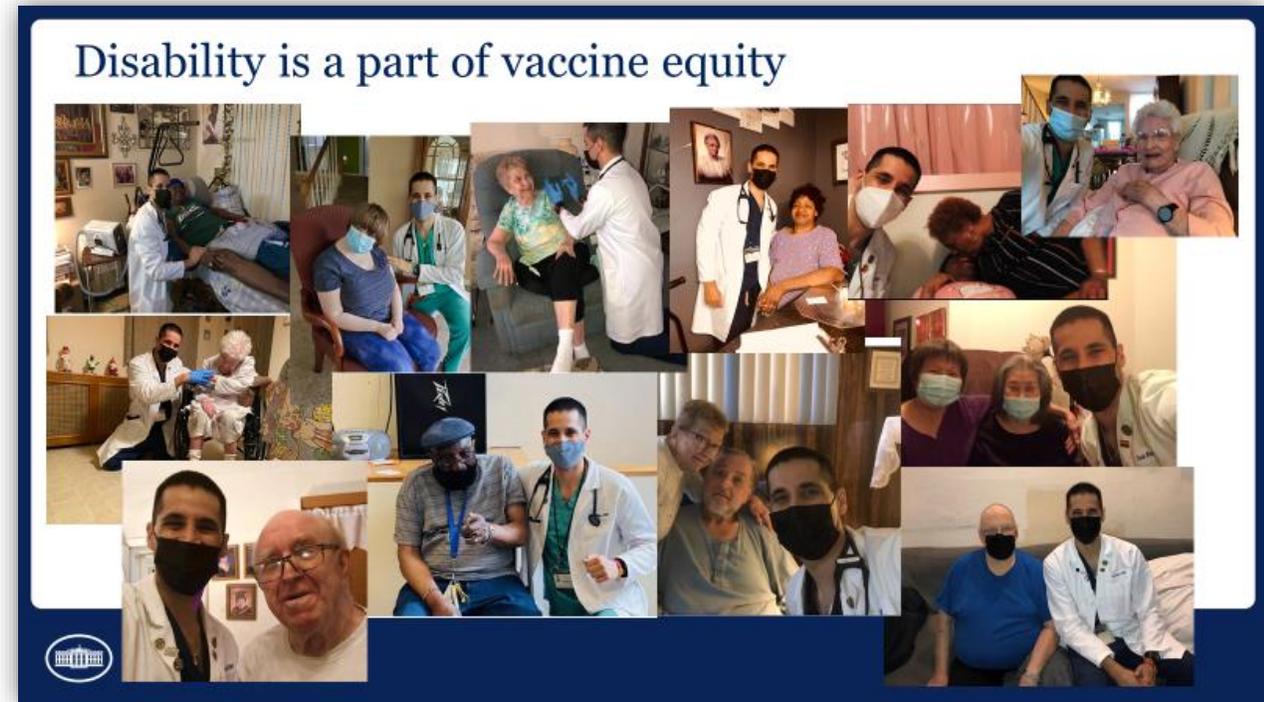
Division Director (Acting)

Division of Human Development and Disability

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Overview

- Background on COVID-19 and people with disabilities
- Disability disparities in COVID-19 vaccine status and access
 - National Immunization Survey
 - Household Plus Survey
- Implications
- Conclusion



Background



Disability

- CDC estimates the prevalence of functional limitations (disability) vary from between 1 in 4 to 1 in 10 adults.
- Adults with disabilities report mental distress almost 5 times as often as adults without disabilities.
- Adults with disabilities are more likely to have some health conditions that may put them at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.



COVID-19 and People with Disabilities

Social inequities and other characteristics increase risk of COVID-19 and severe outcomes for some people with disabilities:

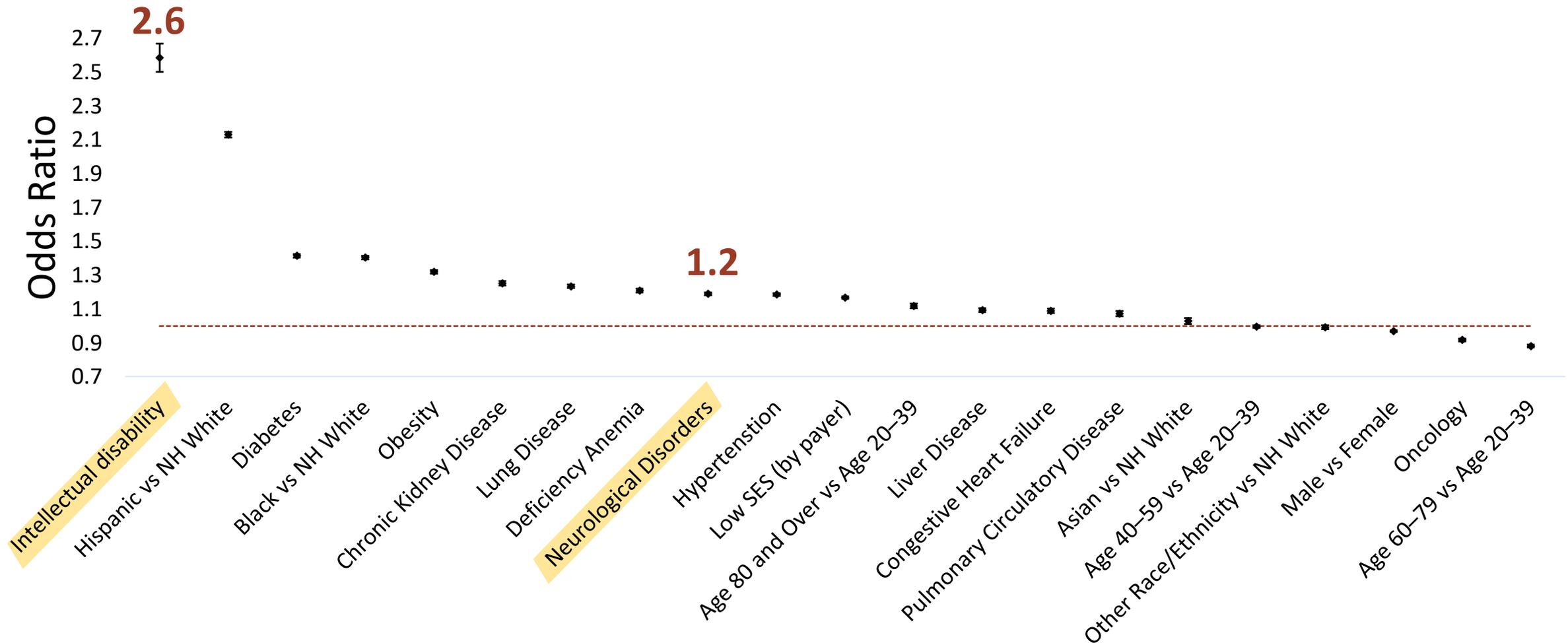
- Chronic health conditions
- Living in congregate settings
- Increased barriers to health care
- Limited mobility
- Require direct support or care
- Trouble understanding or practicing preventive measures
- Challenges with communicating symptoms of illness



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-disabilities.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

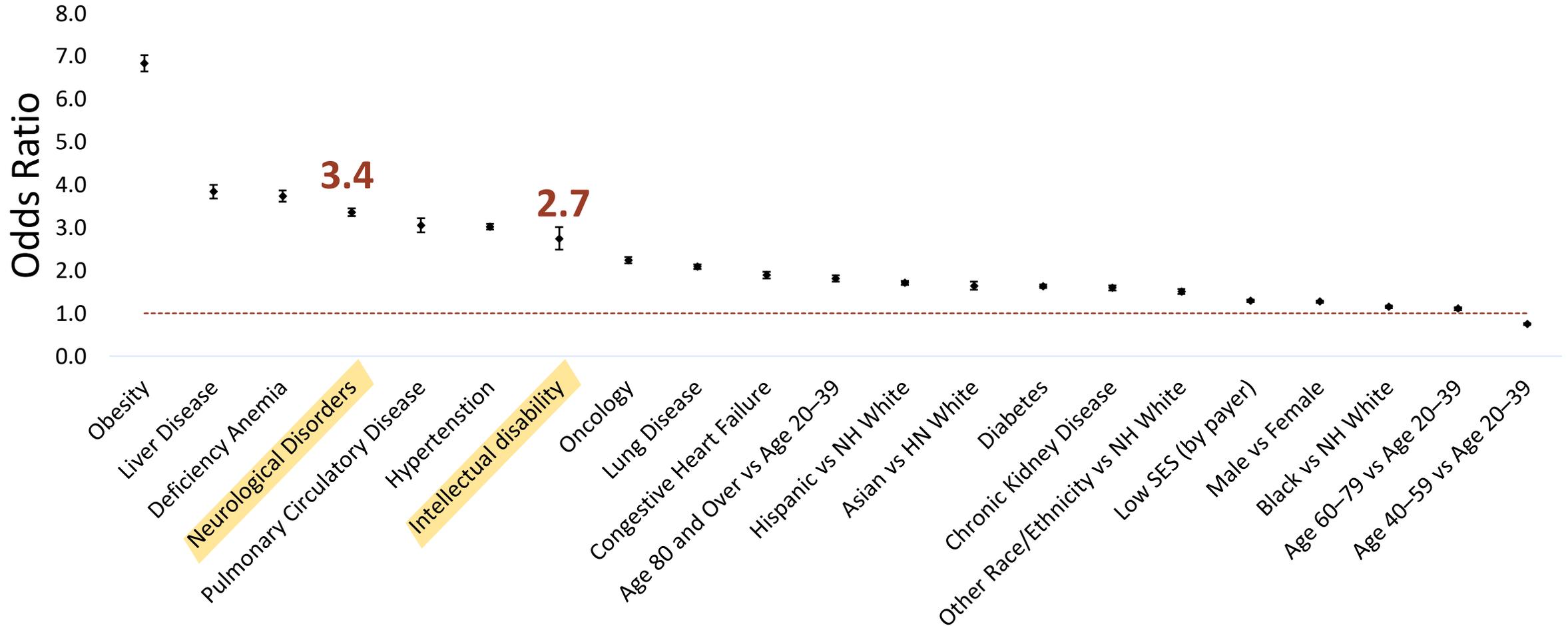
COVID-19 Diagnosis and People with Disabilities

Risk of COVID-19 diagnosis among established patients



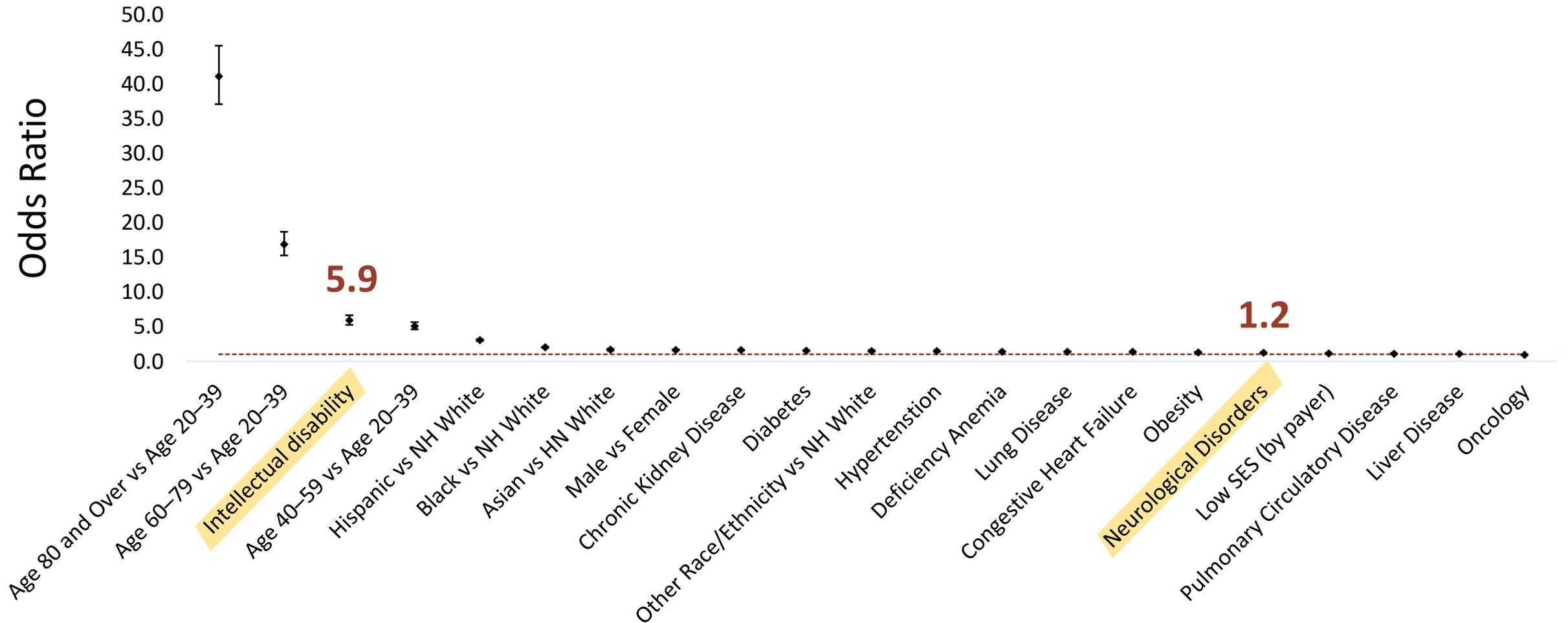
COVID-19 Admissions and People with Disabilities

Risk of COVID-19 admission among diagnosed patients

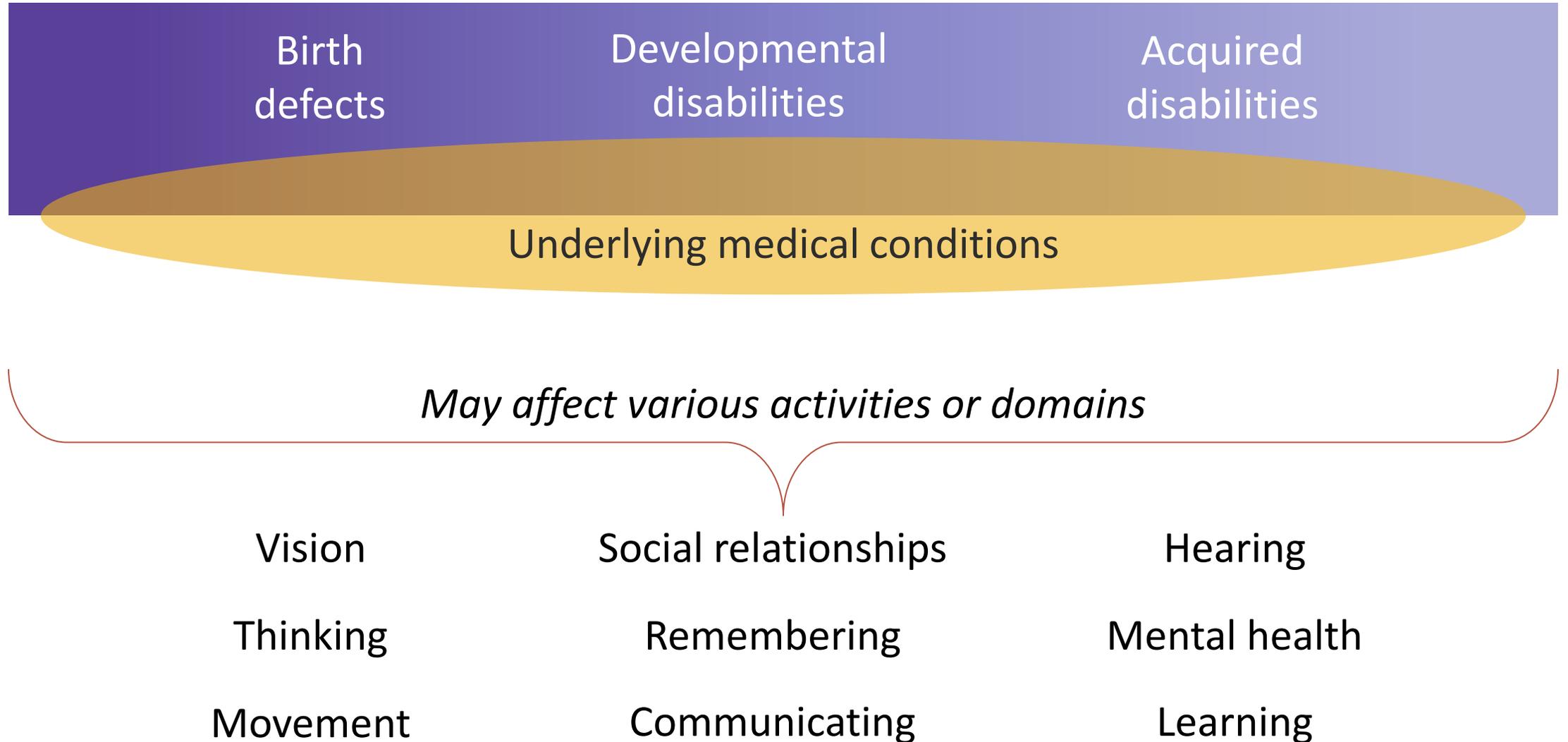


COVID-19 Mortality and People with Disabilities

Risk of inpatient mortality among pre-covid established patients



Measuring Disability – Conceptual Framework



Measuring Disability – HHS Standard

- HHS Implementation Guidance on Data Collection Standards for Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Primary Language, and **Disability Status**:
 - Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty **seeing**, even when wearing glasses?
 - Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty **hearing**?
 - 5 years old or older:
 - Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty **concentrating, remembering, or making decisions**?
 - Do you have serious difficulty **walking or climbing stairs**?
 - Do you have difficulty **dressing or bathing**?
 - 15 years old or older:
 - Because of a **physical, mental, or emotional condition**, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?

Disability Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine Status & Access

National Immunization Survey



Recent Publication

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

MMWR

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Weekly / Vol. 70 / No. 39

October 1, 2021

Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status, Intent, and Perceived Access for Noninstitutionalized Adults, by Disability Status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021

Ryerson AB, Rice CE, Hung M, et al. Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status, Intent, and Perceived Access for Noninstitutionalized Adults, by Disability Status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021;70:1365–1371.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7039a2>.

Adult COVID Module (ACM)

- National Immunization Survey is a group of surveys used to monitor vaccination coverage
- An Adult COVID Module was added in April 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Telephone interviews of adults ≥ 18 years of age
 - Random-digit-dialed sample of cell phones stratified by locality
 - Limited to non-institutionalized adults

ACM Measure of Disability

- Do you have serious difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, making decisions, or communicating?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't Know
 - Refused

MMWR Methods

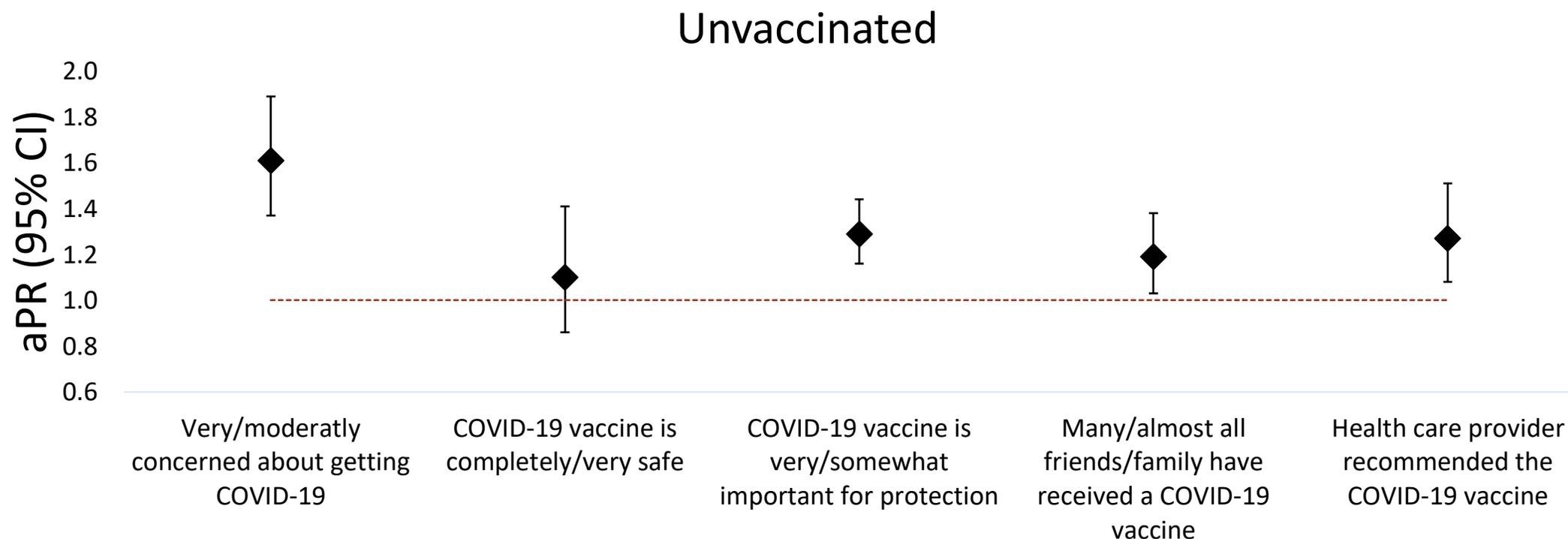
- Responses weighted to represent the non-institutional U.S. population
 - Calibrated to state-level vaccine administration data
- Unadjusted and age-adjusted analyses conducted to detect differences between adults with and without a disability
 - Percentages (t-tests)
 - Prevalence ratios (logistic regression and predictive marginals)

MMWR Results – Vaccination Coverage & Intent

- 9.4% of respondents reported having a disability
- Adults with a disability were **less likely to report receiving ≥ 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine** (aPR=0.88, 95% CI:0.84–0.93)
- Adults with a disability were **more likely to report they would get vaccinated** (aPR=1.86, 95% CI: 1.43–2.42)

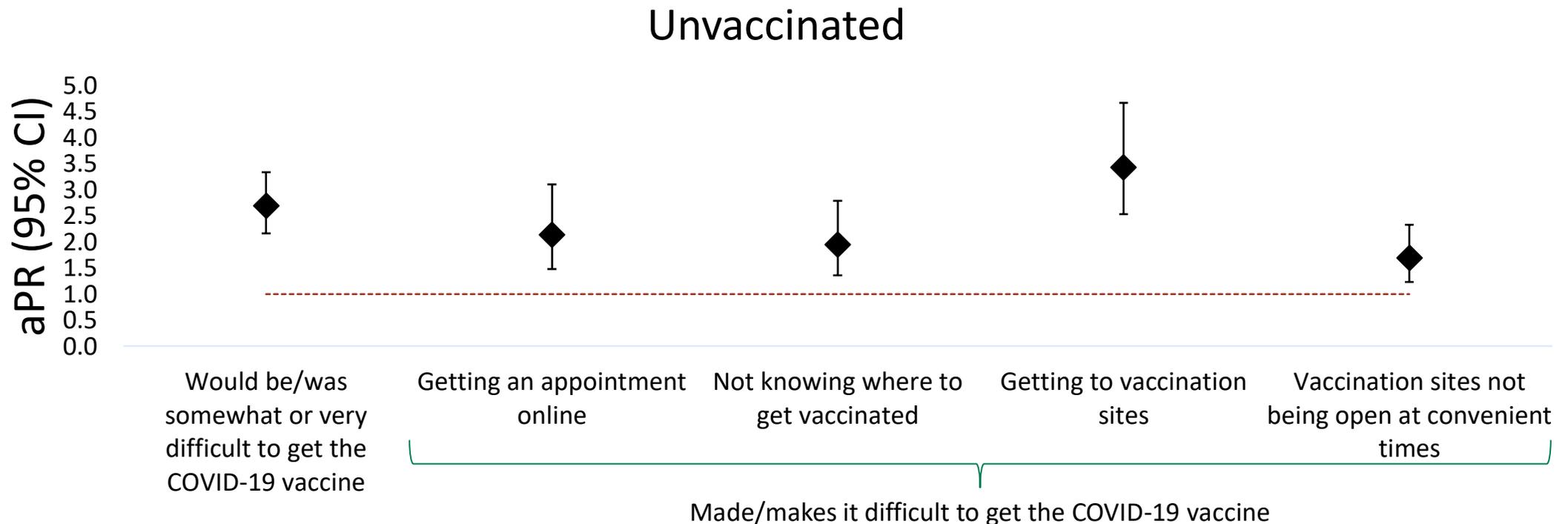
MMWR Results – Attitudes & Perceptions

Age-adjusted prevalence ratios of COVID-19 vaccine attitudes, perceptions, and recommendations among adults aged ≥ 18 years with a disability compared with adults without a disability, by COVID-19 vaccination status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021



MMWR Results – Experiences & Difficulties

Age-adjusted prevalence ratios of experiences and difficulties with getting COVID-19 vaccine among adults aged ≥ 18 years with a disability compared with adults without a disability, by COVID-19 vaccination status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021

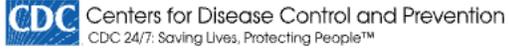


Disability Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine Status & Access

Household Pulse Survey



Disability Data on CDC COVID Data Tracker



COVID Data Tracker

United States
At a Glance

Cases Total **44,801,768**
Last 30 Days

Deaths Total **722,212**
Last 30 Days

77.1% of People 12+ with At Least
One Vaccination

Community Transmission **High**

Data Tracker Home

COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review

Your Community +

Health Equity Data

Pediatric Data

Vaccinations +

Cases, Deaths, and Testing +

COVID Data Tracker

Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States, updated daily by 8 pm ET

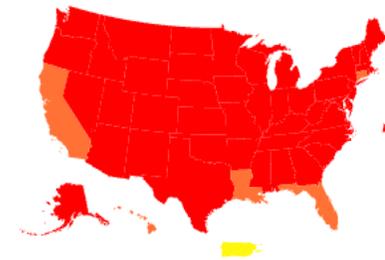
Recent updates:

- New [Hospitalizations by Vaccination Status - COVID-NET](#) tab shows hospitalization rates by vaccination status
- New [Rates of Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#) tab shows infection and death rates by vaccination status



COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review
An interpretive summary of this week's data

Community Transmission in the US



AS FSM GU MP PW RM VI

County level community transmission >

State level community transmission >

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>



Household Pulse Survey (HPS)

- 20-minute online survey of adults ≥ 18 years of age on how the pandemic is impacting households across the country from a social and economic perspective
- Sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Study sample generated from the Census' Master Address File
- Individuals were contacted by phone/email and invited to complete the online questionnaire
- In collaboration with CDC, disability questions were added in the 3rd phase of the survey, starting April 14, 2021

HPS Disability Questions

- Collecting 4 of the 6 Washington Group Short Set on Functioning questions
 - Do you have difficulty **seeing**, even when wearing glasses?
 - Do you have difficulty **hearing**, even when using a hearing aid?
 - Do you have difficulty **remembering or concentrating**?
 - Do you have difficulty **walking or climbing stairs**?
- 
- No – no difficulty
 - Yes – some difficulty
 - Yes – a lot of difficulty
 - Cannot do at all

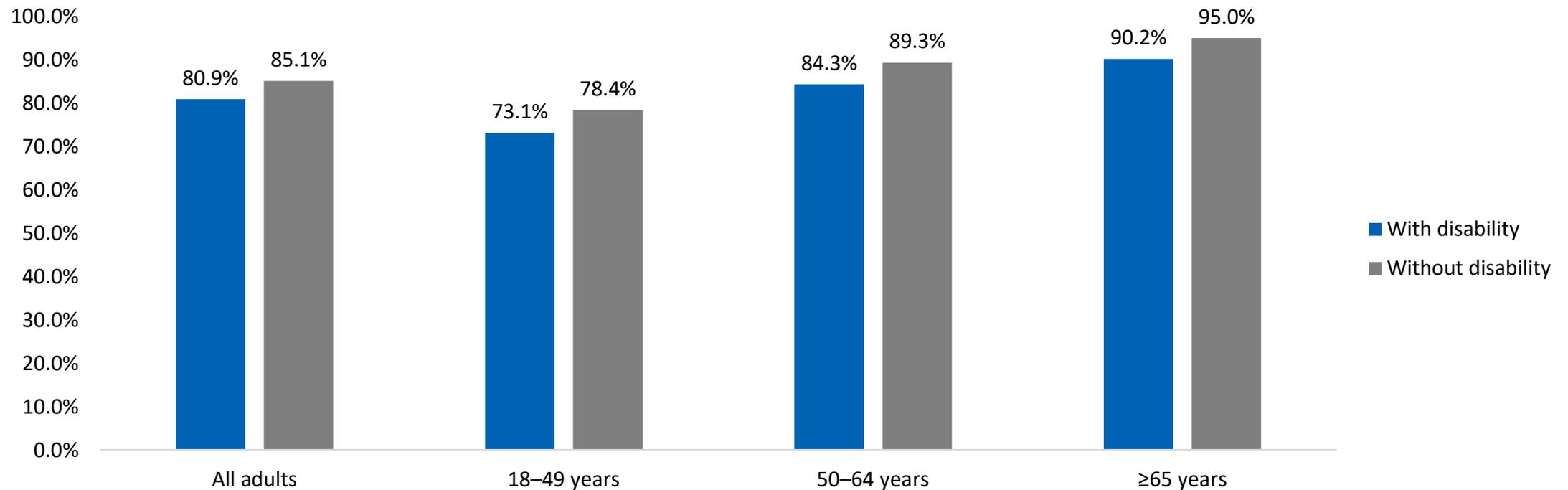
HPS Methods

- New random samples are selected and released for each survey wave, and responses are accepted during the data collection period
- Responses weighted to represent the non-institutional U.S. population



HPS Disability & Vaccination Results – by Age Group

Reported receipt of 1 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine among adults age ≥ 18 years by disability status and age group, Household Pulse Survey, conducted September 1–September 27, 2021, United States*

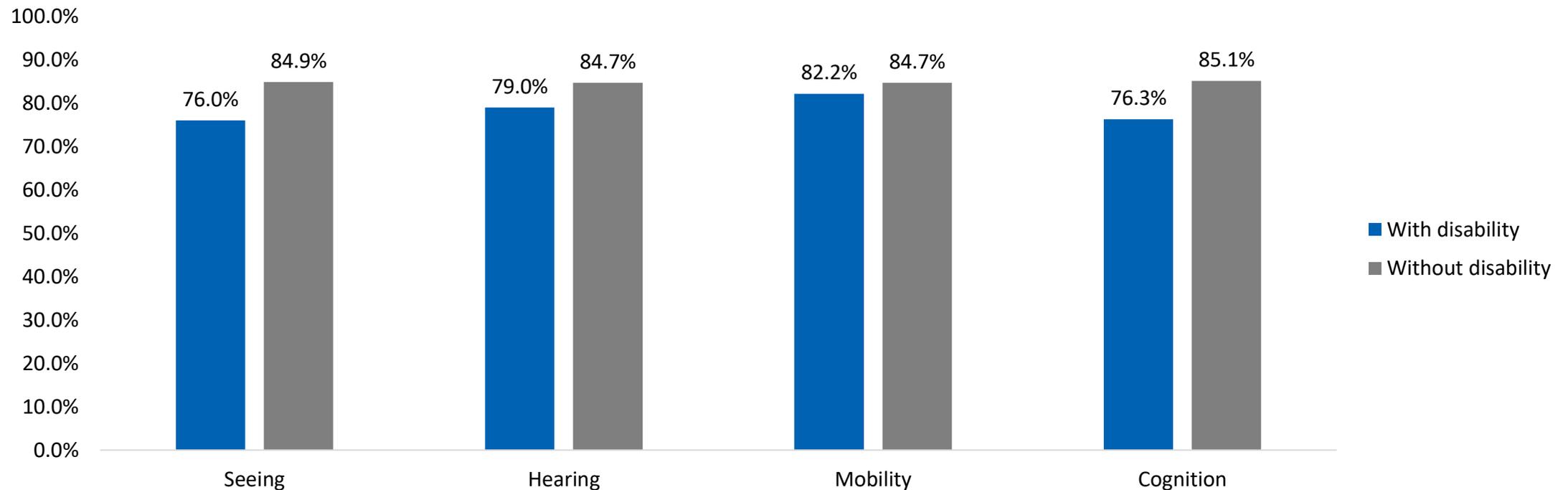


*Online Pulse data are updated approximately every 2 weeks

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations-disability-status>, accessed 10/18/2021

HPS Disability & Vaccination Results – by Disability Type

Reported receipt of 1 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine among adults age ≥ 18 years by disability status and disability type, Household Pulse Survey, conducted September 1–September 27, 2021, United States*

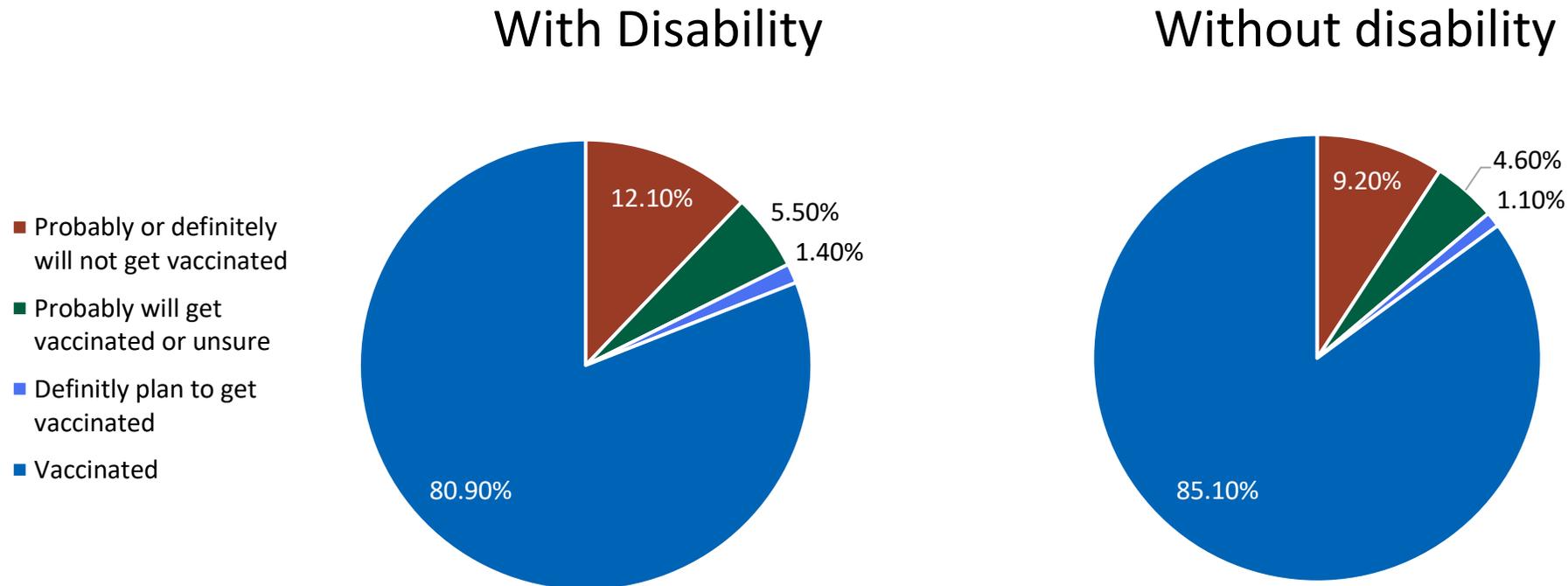


*Online Pulse data are updated approximately every 2 weeks

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations-disability-status>, accessed 10/18/2021

HPS Disability & Vaccination Results – by Intent

Reported receipt of 1 or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine and intention to get vaccinated among adults age ≥ 18 years by disability status, Household Pulse Survey, conducted September 1–September 27, 2021, United States*



*Online Pulse data are updated approximately every 2 weeks

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations-disability-status>, accessed 10/18/2021

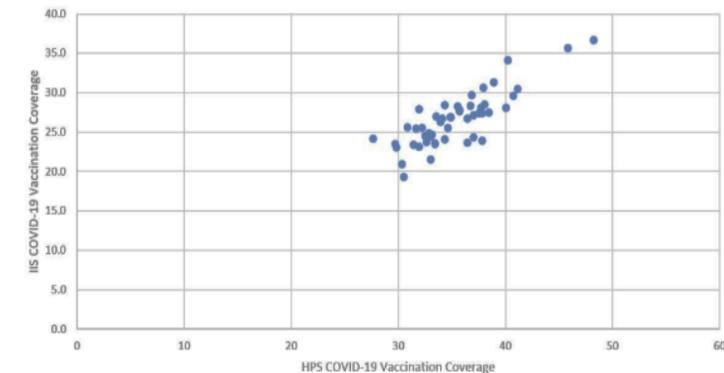
NIS-ACM and HPS Limitations

- Self-report vaccination coverage higher than administrative sources*
 - Self-report may not accurately reflect actual vaccination status
 - Low response rates (18.9% for NIS; 9% for Pulse)
 - Exclusion of certain households and institutionalized populations
 - Still a strong positive association between data sources – important supplement for comparing relative coverage among subpopulations
- Unvalidated (NIS) or incomplete (Pulse) disability status measurement

*COVID-19 vaccination administrative data can come from:

- Immunization information systems (IIS),
- Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS), and/or
- Direct data submissions from federal agencies and pharmacies

Figure 2. Comparison of COVID-19 vaccination coverage estimates* from the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) and vaccine administration data (IIS) by state, United States, March 3-15, 2021



Implications



Disability Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage

- Compared to adults without a disability, adults with a disability:
 - Had lower COVID-19 vaccination coverage
 - Were less hesitant to get vaccinated
 - Were more likely to think the vaccine is important for protection
- There might be potential for increasing vaccination coverage for adults with a disability



Disability Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine Access

- Compared to adults without a disability, adults with a disability:
 - Anticipated or experienced more difficulty obtaining a vaccination
 - Getting an appointment online
 - Not knowing where to get vaccinated
 - Getting to vaccination sites
 - Vaccination sites not being open at convenient times
- Reducing barriers to scheduling and making vaccination sites more accessible might improve vaccination rates among people with disabilities



What can be done?

- Improved accessibility of COVID-19 health messages
 - American Sign Language (ASL)
 - Braille
 - Easy-to-read formats
 - Low literacy formats
- Make vaccination registration and scheduling websites more accessible
- Provide call-lines for people unable to navigate or use online systems
- Ensure people have access to fully accessible vaccination services such as:
 - ASL interpreters
 - Providers trained to work with people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities
- Provide options for in-home vaccination or accessible transportation services



CDC's Efforts to Improve Vaccination Accessibility

- Adaptation of COVID-19 health messages into more accessible formats
- Providing Strategies for Reaching People with Limited Access to COVID-19 Vaccines based on feedback from listening sessions with jurisdictions
- Approximately \$100M provided to Administration for Community Living to:
 - Create national Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL)
 - Provide grants to aging/disability networks in all states and territories to
 - Aid with scheduling appointments
 - Providing direct support services needed to attend appointments
 - Providing transportation to vaccination sites
 - Connecting persons unable to leave their homes independently to in-home vaccination options

Conclusion



Summary

- People with disabilities are at increased risk for COVID-19 related illness and death.
- Compared to adults without a disability, those with a disability are less likely to report having had a COVID-19 vaccine, despite being less likely to report hesitancy.
- Adults with a disability report more difficulties obtaining a COVID-19 vaccine than adults without a disability.
- Reducing barriers to scheduling and making vaccinations sites more accessible might improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage among people with disabilities.

Acknowledgements

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Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov



The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Vaccine Site Accessibility

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November 12, 2021

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- ▶ Prohibits discrimination in the services, programs, and activities by covered entities.
 - ▶ Covered entities: State and Local Government (Title II), Places of Public Accommodation, e.g. businesses, healthcare organizations, doctors offices, vaccine sites (Title III)
 - ▶ Reasonable modifications/accommodations: a change to how things are typically done, that will provide individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in the services, programs, and activities covered by the covered entity.

Planning Ahead - Appointments and Scheduling

- ▶ Accessible registration websites.
- ▶ Alternative registration processes (call-in line).
- ▶ Group scheduling helps for people with caregivers.
- ▶ Provide videos ahead of time.
- ▶ Offer disability rights training for volunteers/staff.
- ▶ Appointment process should include opportunity to request reasonable accommodations.

Some recommendations to ensure accessibility

▶ Site and Day of Vaccine Accessibility

-Registration and accommodation information needs to be accessible

- ▶ ADA accessible bathrooms
- ▶ Adequate parking including van accessible parking
- ▶ Sensory items and sensory options
- ▶ Keep wheelchairs and places to sit on hand
- ▶ In-car vaccinations
- ▶ Lots of signage
- ▶ Plain language signage w/ photos

ADA and Effective Communication

- ▶ “People who have vision, hearing, or speech disabilities (“communication disabilities”) use different ways to communicate.” - U.S. Dept. of Justice
- ▶ Have lots of tools in your tool box.
- ▶ Provide fact sheets on vaccine ingredients, side effects in a variety of formats.
- ▶ Communication cards for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- ▶ Wear clear masks for people who read lips.

Resources

- ▶ Site accessibility:
<https://www.adachecklist.org/doc/fullchecklist/ada-checklist.pdf>
- ▶ Web accessibility:
<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>
- ▶ Office for Civil Rights:
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/federal-legal-standards-prohibiting-disability-discrimination-covid-19-vaccination.pdf>

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