

THIS CALL IS BEING RECORDED

DHS Provider Briefings

Briefings occur weekly, on Thursdays, at 4:30 PM

March 18, 2021



Agenda

- Announcements
- Dr. Debra Bogen, Director, Allegheny County Health Department
- Program updates



Active Solicitations

- **RFP for Housing Mobility Services for Families in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)**
 - Proposals due April 23
- **Child Welfare Prevention Concept Paper**
 - Submit feedback until **March 24, 2021**
 - We will update the feedback document on the Active Solicitations page as we receive comments
- **RFP for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility**
 - Proposals due April 1
 - Proposals submitted through CCBH, not DHS, but can find RFP on our Solicitations page

[Link](#) to DHS Solicitations



DHS Provider Call COVID-19 Update

March 18, 2021





COVID-19 in ALLEGHENY COUNTY

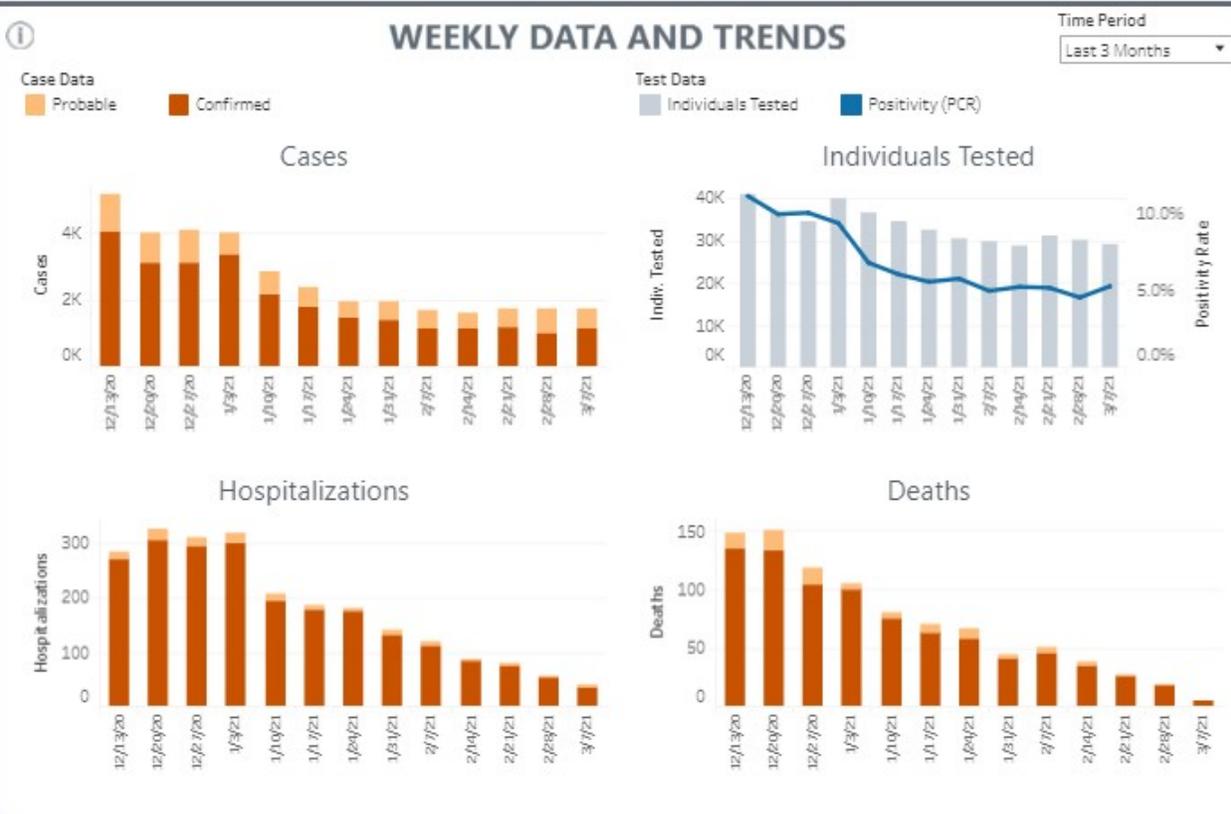


OVERALL

Cases: 80,941	Individuals Tested: 480,143	Positivity (PCR): 6.9%	Hospitalizations: 5,389	Deaths: 1,735
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7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE

Cases: 269	Individuals Tested: 4,113	Positivity (PCR): 5.1%	Hospitalizations: 8	Deaths: 2
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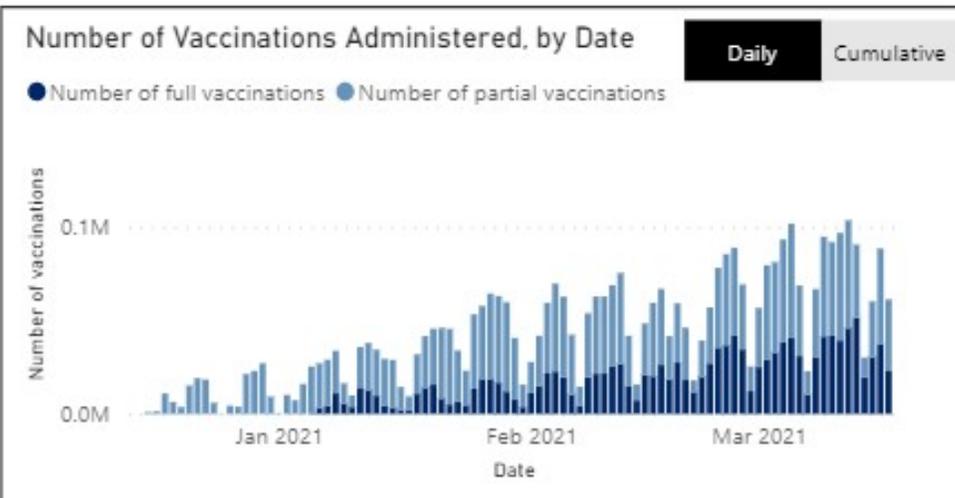


COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

Vaccinations Administered

County/State
 Pennsylvania

Vaccinations Administered	
Partial vaccinations administered	2,542,934
Full vaccinations administered	1,388,612
Total vaccinations administered	3,931,546

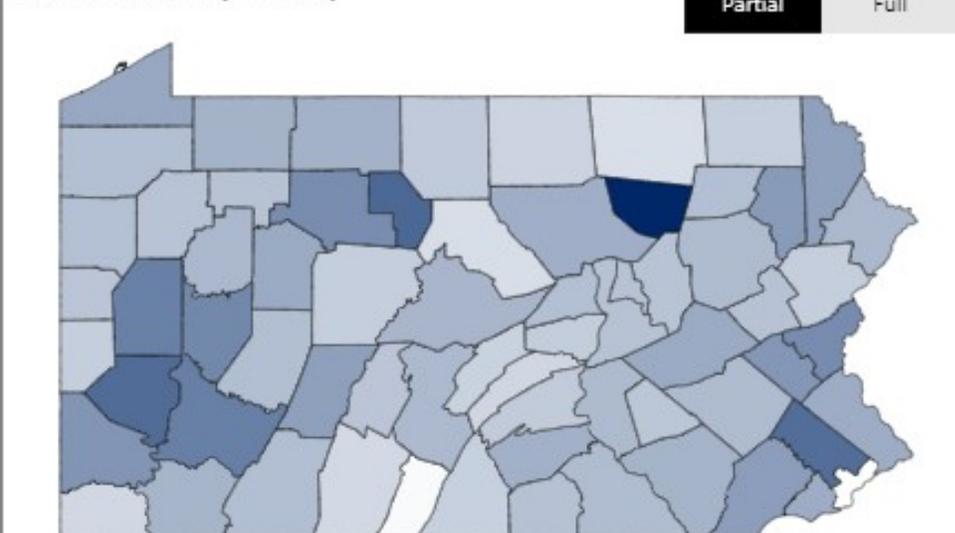


People Vaccinated

Number of People Vaccinated, by County

County	Partially Covered	Fully Covered
Adams	7,434	7,854
Allegheny	175,016	154,509
Armstrong	7,712	7,854
Beaver	10,140	12,474
Bedford	2,507	3,639
Berks	32,335	36,982
Blair	8,390	14,595
Bradford	2,875	6,888
Bucks	56,178	56,773
Total	1,233,781	1,388,603

Rate per 100,000 Residents Who Have Received Partially Covered Vaccinations, by County



PA DOH COVID-19 DASHBOARD

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>

PA Overall

Allegheny County



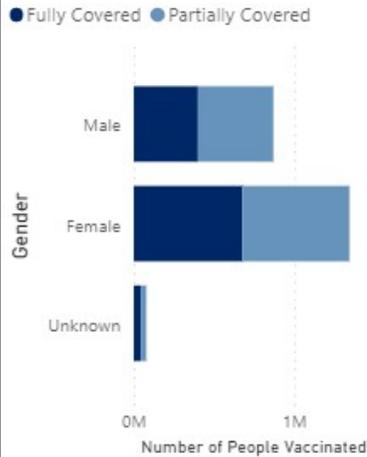
Updated on 3/12/2021

County

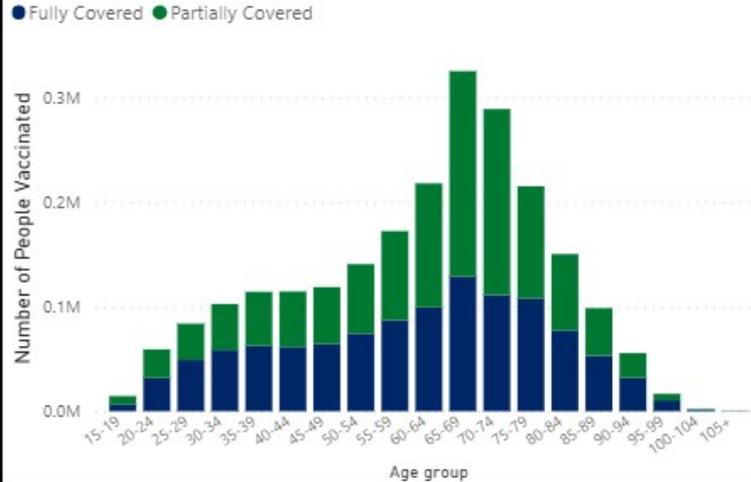
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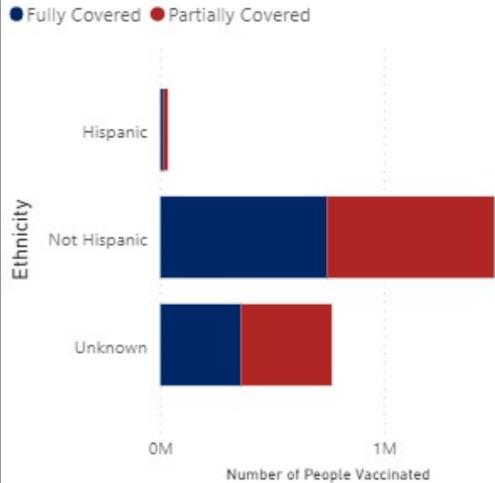
Number of People Vaccinated, by Gender



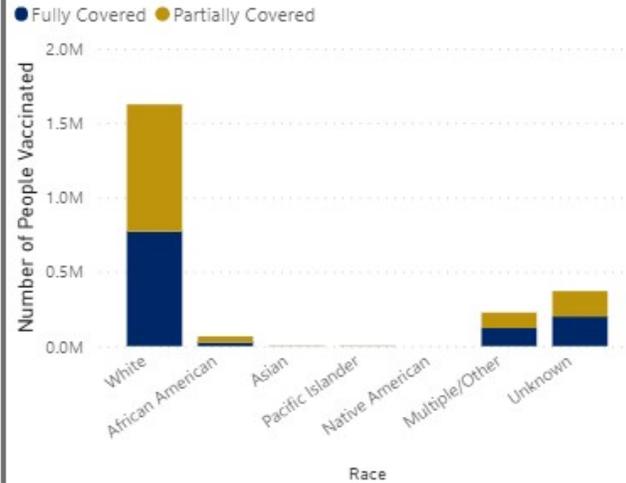
Number of People Vaccinated, by Age



Number of People Vaccinated, by Ethnicity



Number of People Vaccinated, by Race



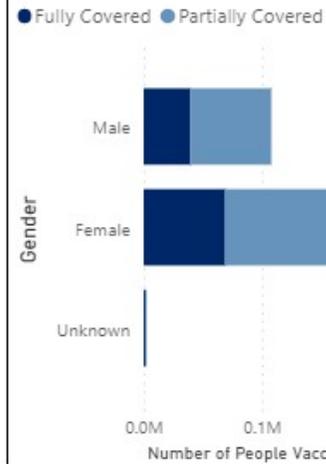
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County

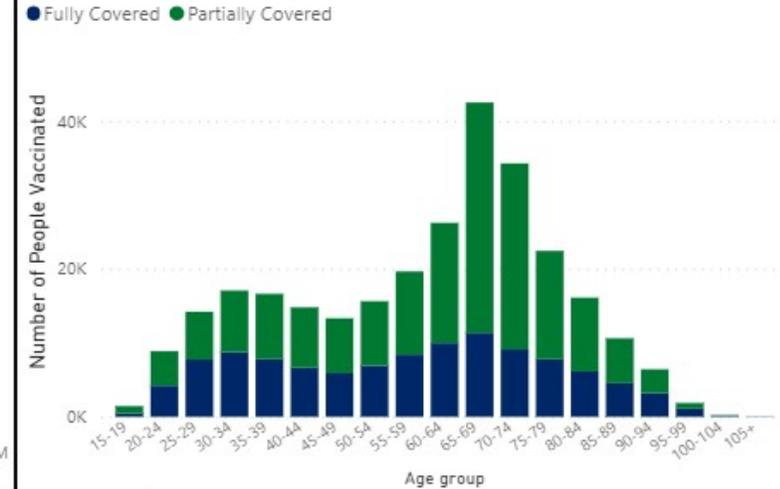
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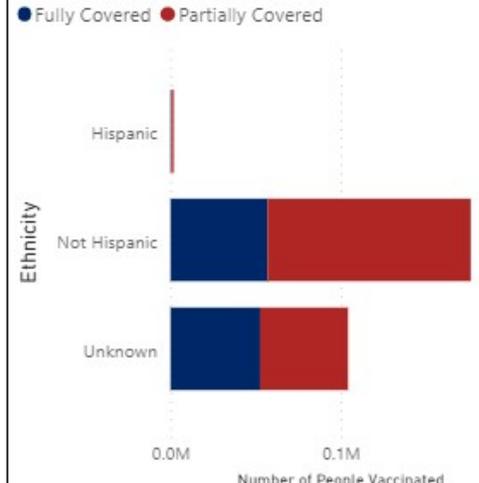
Number of People Vaccinated, by Gender



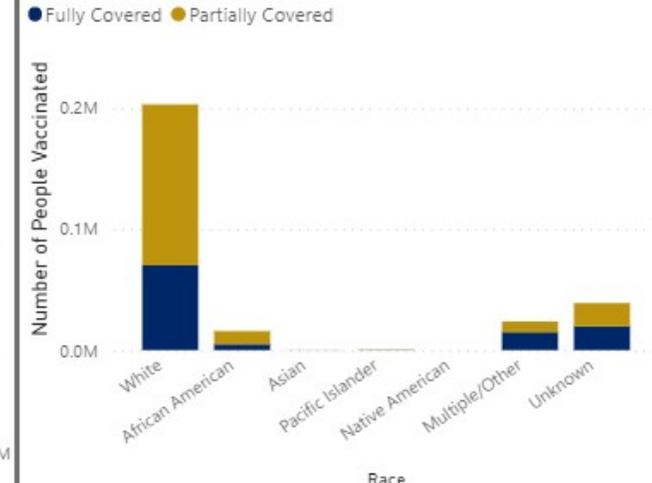
Number of People Vaccinated, by Age



Number of People Vaccinated, by Ethnicity



Number of People Vaccinated, by Race





ACHD Vaccines

- Doses sent to Allegheny County
 - Hospitals, pharmacy, ACHD, FQHC, docs, dialysis
- ~61,000 (~10%) doses receive by ACHD
 - ~ 20% to out of county residents
- Of 1st doses to AC residents (self-identified)
 - Gender: 61% female, 39% male, 0.2% other
 - Age: 76% to 65 year and older
 - Race: 84% W, 9.8% B, 3.1% A, 0.9% O, 2% NR
 - Ethnicity: 1.3% Hispanic/LatinX, 11.8% NR



ACHD Supported Vaccination Locations

- Monroeville
- Castle Shannon
- Hartley Rose Building (downtown)
- Senior Living Facilities & senior center(s)
- Community-led events (n>20)
 - Homewood, Hill, DHS, Duquesne/Pitt students, school nurses, jail medical staff
- Opening: Central Baptist Church, Ross
- Future: Mon Valley and western sites, vans, churches, others ..



Vaccine Challenges & Solutions

- Limited Supply
 - New state tracking improving
 - Delay in 2nd doses (<42 days) - resolving
 - Large 1A group: greater demand than supply
- Limited local control of distribution
- Registration system
 - 2-1-1 United Way; New system coming soon
- Personnel (staffing with collaborations)
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Equity of distribution

Allegheny County Basic Needs COVID-19 Relief Fund

- Eligibility: Families with children under 18 with need due to impact of COVID (loss of job/hours, illness, caregiving, etc.)
- One-time \$700 grant that can be used for almost any need EXCEPT rental assistance (rental relief coming soon)
- Apply here: <http://pa211sw.org/allegheny-cares/>
- ***Please do not widely advertise in newsletters, social media posts; please only directly refer eligible households***



Gov Wolf's Order Lifting Some Restrictions

- **Effective Sunday, April 4, [Gov Wolf announced](#) the lifting of some targeted restrictions on restaurants, some businesses, and increasing gathering limits:**
 - Restaurants may resume bar service; alcohol service will be allowed without the purchase of food; the curfew for removing alcoholic drinks from tables will be lifted; and indoor dining capacity will be raised to 75% for those restaurants that are currently self-certified or are willing to undergo the [self-certification process](#).
 - Restaurants that do not self-certify may raise capacity to 50%. Outdoor dining, curbside pick-up and takeout are still encouraged.
 - Requirements such as mask-wearing, and social distancing, including 6 feet between diners, also still apply.
 - Capacity for other businesses also will be increased, including moving personal services facilities, gyms and entertainment facilities (casinos, theatres, malls) to 75 percent occupancy.
 - Maximum occupancy limits for indoor events to allow for 25% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size, and maximum occupancy limits for outdoor events to allow for 50% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.

Policy & Legislative Update - Federal

Accessing federal stimulus payments created by the American Rescue Plan

- Individuals with an adjusted gross income less than \$75,000 are eligible for \$1,400 payments and \$1,400 for each dependent
 - Payment reduced for individuals with incomes between \$75,001 and 80,000
- IRS began issuing payments on Monday, March 15th
- The IRS will use available information to determine eligibility and issue the third payment to eligible people who:
 - 1) Filed a 2020 tax return
 - 2) Filed a 2019 tax return if the 2020 return has not been submitted or processed yet
 - 3) Did not file a 2020 or 2019 tax return, but registered for the first Economic Impact Payment using the special Non-Filers portal last year
 - 4) Are federal benefit recipients as of December 31, 2020, who do not usually file a tax return and received Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veteran benefits
- For more information: "[Get my Payment](#)" to check status of payments; [FAQs](#)

Policy & Legislative Update - State

- **The recently enacted American Rescue Plan will dramatically increase access to comprehensive health insurance coverage across PA by:**
 - Increasing the subsidies available on [Pennie](#) (open enrollment through May 15th) and making more individuals eligible:
 - eliminates the 400 percent federal poverty limit ceiling on subsidy eligibility
 - increases subsidies available to those already eligible
 - extends subsidies to middle-income households previously ineligible
 - Providing the maximum available Affordable Care Act premium subsidies and reduced cost-sharing for anyone who receives, or are eligible to receive, unemployment compensation at any point throughout this year.
 - Subsidizing 100 percent of COBRA premiums for six months for individuals who lost their employer-sponsored coverage due to layoffs or reduced hours.

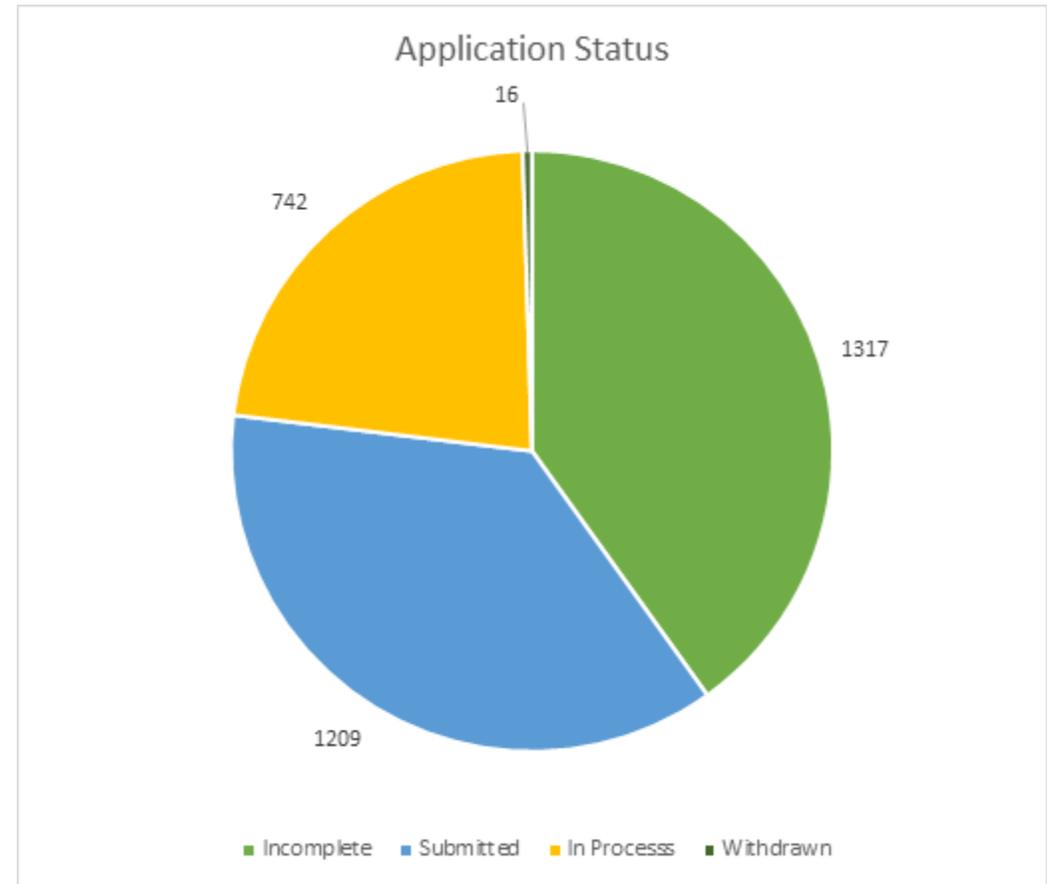
Policy & Legislative Update - State

- **Gov Wolf nominated Suzanne Estrella to lead the State's [Office Victim Advocate](#) (OVA), filling the vacancy left by Jennifer Storm who resigned in January. The PA Senate will need to confirm the nomination.**
 - OVA implements post-sentencing rights and services for victims of crimes.
- **This week, Committees in both houses of the PA General Assembly advanced bills to allow an emergency referendum for an amendment to the PA Constitution that would open a two-year window on the statute of limitations to pursue claims of sex abuse.**
 - Due to an oversight, the PA Department of State did not properly advertise the proposed amendment passed by the General Assembly and, without the above emergency legislation, the referendum would have been delayed by two more years.
 - If the bills pass by a 2/3rds majority in both houses, the amendment will appear on the ballot statewide for the May Primary.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

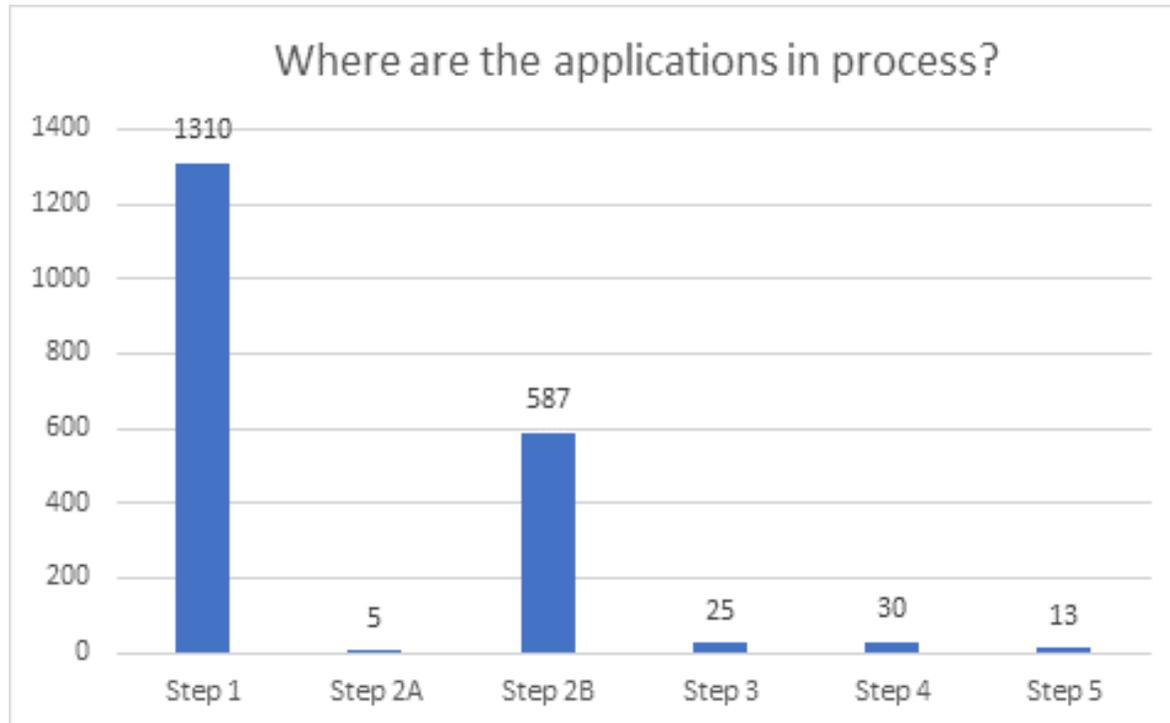
Since Monday

- Almost 2,100 applications submitted
- 400 tenants contacted
- 13 landlords paid

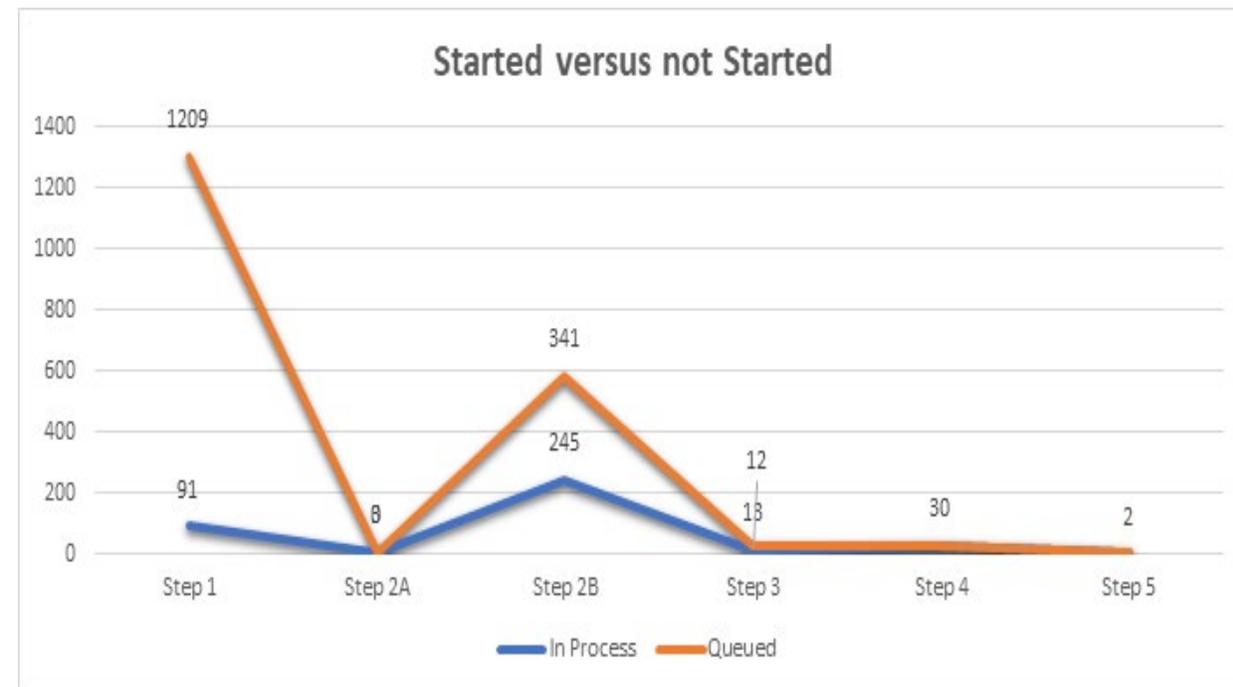


Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Step 1:	Submitted an Application
Step 2:	General Questions
Step 3:	Missing Documentation
Step 4:	Talk with Landlord
Step 5:	Payment



Processing Status



Other Insights

Languages

- 97% English
- 2.5% Spanish

Browser

- 40% Chrome
- 39% Safari
- 7% Edge

Device

- 66% Mobile
- 32% Desktop

Most of the website traffic is coming direct, followed by organic Google searched, followed by referrals (biggest referrers are, Facebook, local CBS and WPXI).

Other than the Homepage, the most visited page is FAQs.

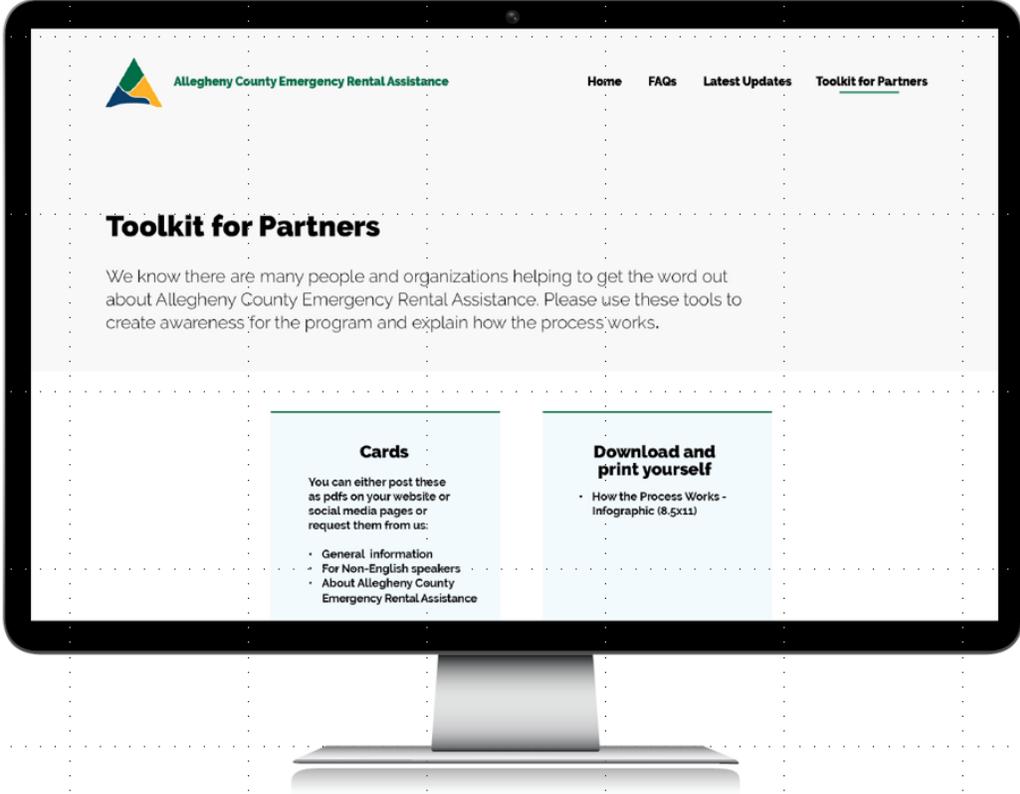
Promoting ERAP outreach & making toolkit available for partners

Toolkit for Partners available now:

<https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/toolkit-for-partners/>

Includes:

- Palm card and fliers to promote the program
- Copy and images to share out on social media



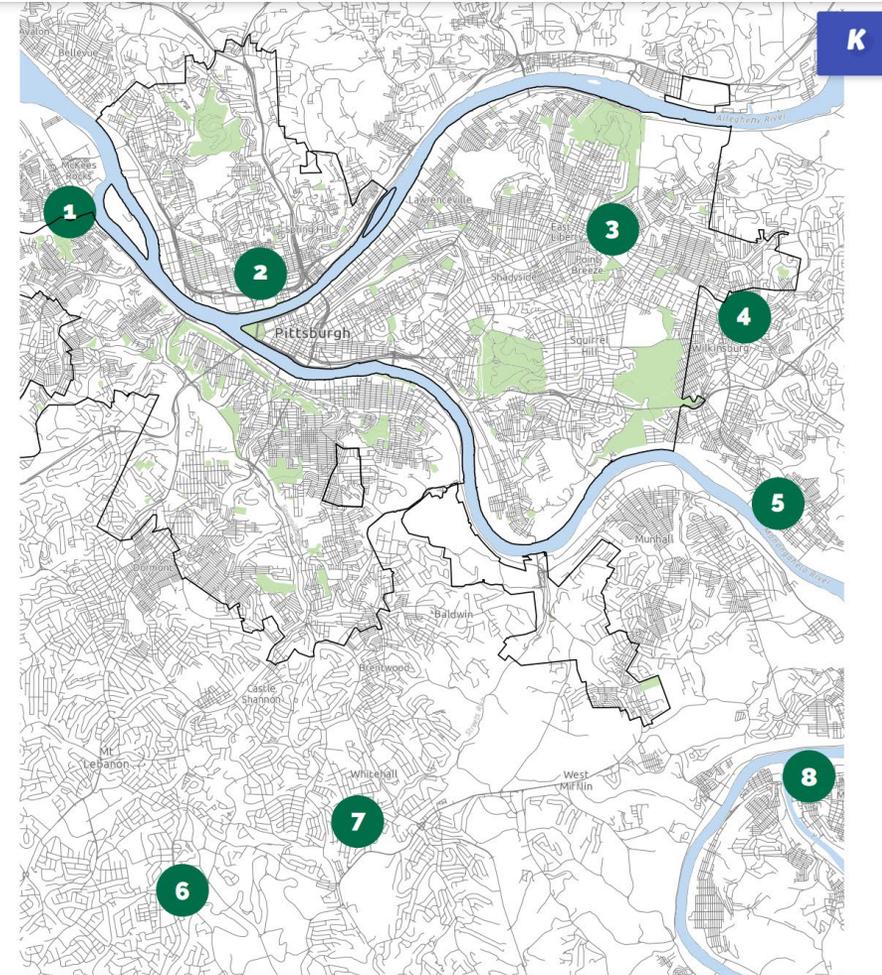
Supports to ensure people don't fall through the cracks

- Drop-in centers & case management
- Support people going through eviction
 - Attending proceedings and supporting with information
 - Supporting people with judgements
- Expanding eligibility and funding for other rental assistance programs
- Open to other ideas if we find gaps

Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Drop-In Centers

Please follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention protocols at all drop-in centers by taking steps to reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth, stay 6 feet away from others and stay home if you are sick.

- 1. Focus on Renewal**
420 Chartiers Avenue
McKees Rocks PA, 15136
- 2. Gwen's Girls**
711 W. Commons 3rd Floor
Pittsburgh PA, 15212
- 3. Kingsley Association**
6435 Frankstown Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
- 4. Wilkinsburg Family Support**
807 Wallace Avenue
Pittsburgh PA, 15221
- 5. Greater Valley Community Services**
300 Holland Avenue
Braddock PA, 15104
- 6. South Hills Interfaith Movement- Bethel Park**
5301 Park Avenue
Bethel Park PA, 15102
- 7. South Hills Interfaith Movement- Baldwin**
201 Knodler Road
Pittsburgh PA, 15236
- 8. The Wander Building**
337 Fifth Avenue
McKeesport PA, 15132



Still seeking your 2 cents

CYF Prevention Concept Paper

- DHS plans to redevelop its CYF prevention services program across the child welfare system (currently known as “in-home services”). This Concept Paper presents the proposed vision, goals and activities of this new design. DHS seeks community, family and provider comments and feedback on the goals and planned activities presented in this paper.

[CYF Prevention Concept Paper](#)

[CYF Prevention Concept Paper Community Comments](#)





Feedback thus far

- There needs to be change that includes the entire system instead of just parts of the current system.
- Assessments!!
- We are also curious to learn more about a “decision support tool”. How will that impact current and future services?
- How does this new approach to prevention services advance racial equity in child welfare?

Complete a universal assessment
in a shorter timeframe - *assessment
drives decision making*

Match the family with the intervention
identified as most successful for them

Equity lens applied to service decision
through a support tool

The right connection reduces the risk of
removal and family is preserved

Casework staff is supported in
their decision making

- Family of 5 living in the Central Northside
- Allegation of Truancy
- After 60 days - Assessed as having Behavioral Health needs, lacks basic parenting skills, financially struggling and parental and youth substance disorder
- Children are at risk of becoming court active and/or removed
- Possible loss of housing
- The family was given generic in- home services
- In home provider connected the family to other services
- Multiple providers challenging good engagement
- Root cause not addressed
- Case closure with risk of rereferral and poor outcome

Where we are going

- Complete a quality holistic assessment (universal assessment) in a shorter timeframe - *assessment drives decision making*
- Match the family with the intervention identified as most successful for them
- The right connection reduces the risk of removal and family is preserved
- Casework staff is supported in their decision making

Hoover House

- Family of 5 living in the Central Northside
- Allegation of teen Truancy
- After 60 days - Assessed as having Behavioral Health needs, lacks basic parenting skills, financially struggling and parental and youth substance disorder
- Children are at risk of being removed
- Possible loss of housing
- The family was given generic in- home services
- In home provider connected the family to other services
- Multiple providers challenging good engagement
- Root cause not addressed
- Case closure risk of rereferral

Key Contacts

- Provider questions for Allegheny County Health Department
 - DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us
 - Use the subject field to indicate if your qq is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
 - <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>
- Key DHS staff
 - Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us
 - Contract inquiries: Kathy Heinz Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us
Laura Brigido Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us
- United Way 2-1-1
 - For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services are available.



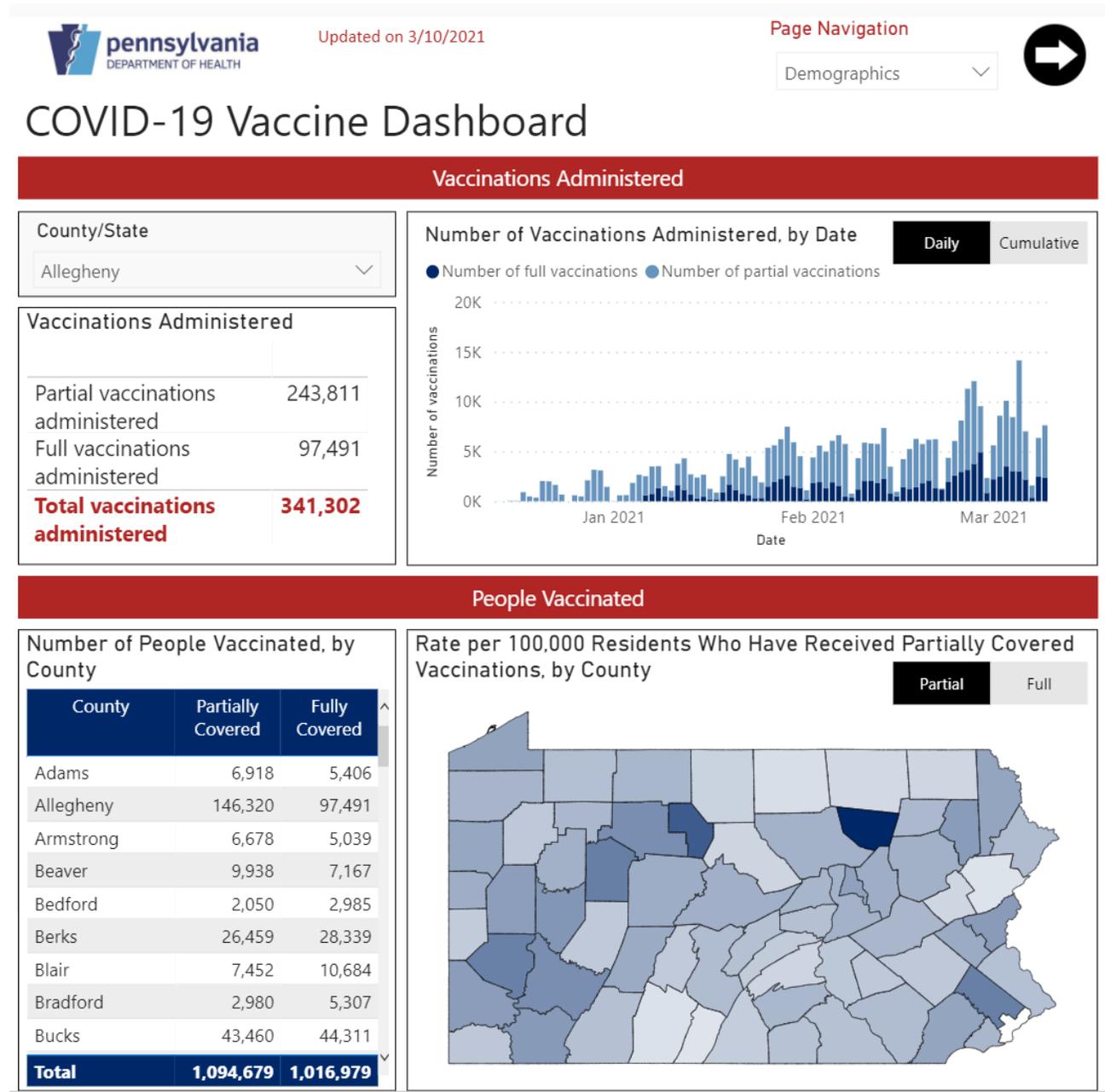
Allegheny County

Updated dashboard to include rate per 100,000 and demographics by county

Through 3/10/2021:

- 146,320 have received only one shot and 97,491 have been fully vaccinated
 - 8% of people are fully vaccinated and 20% have at least one shot

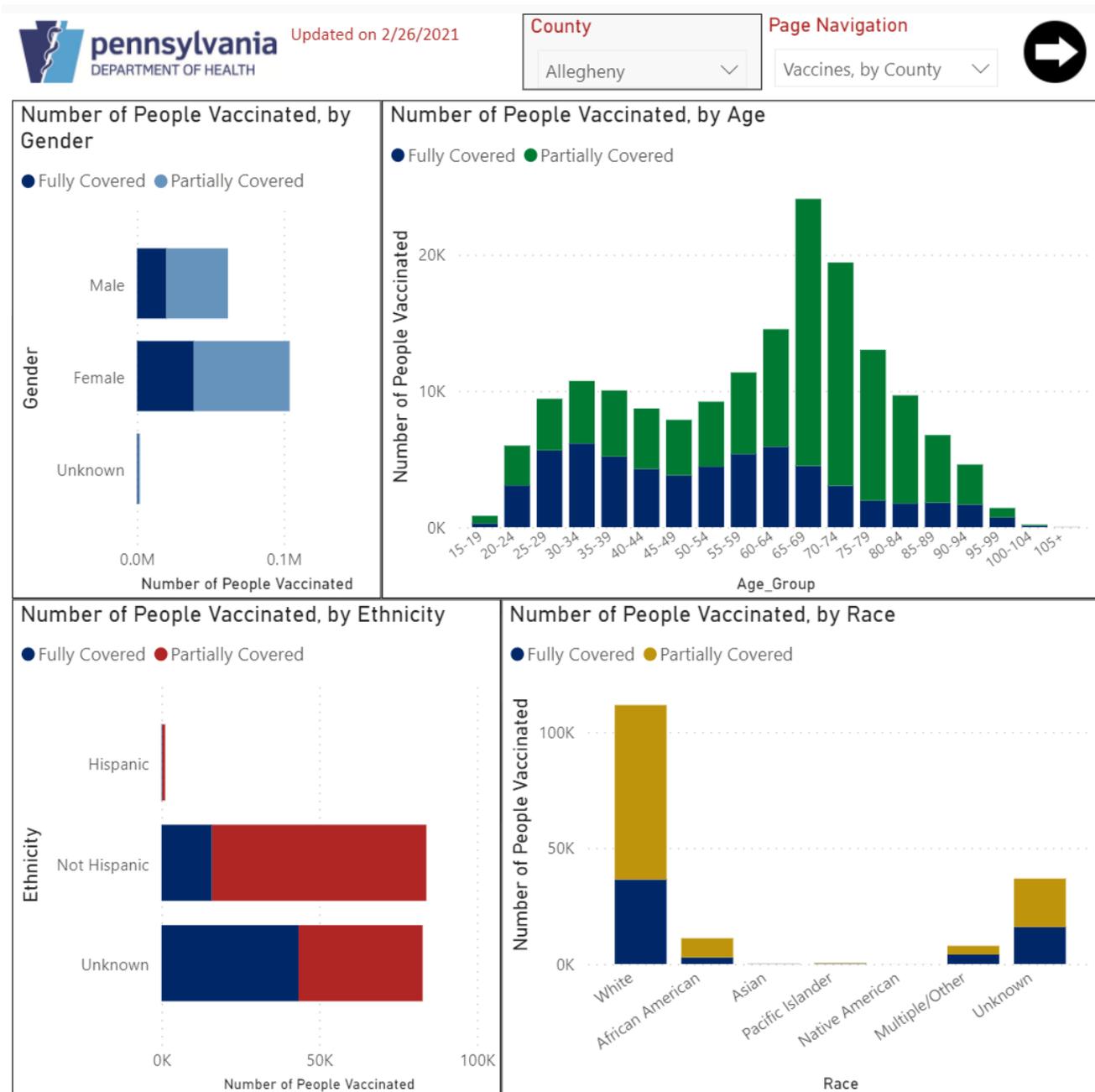
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx#data>



Allegheny County

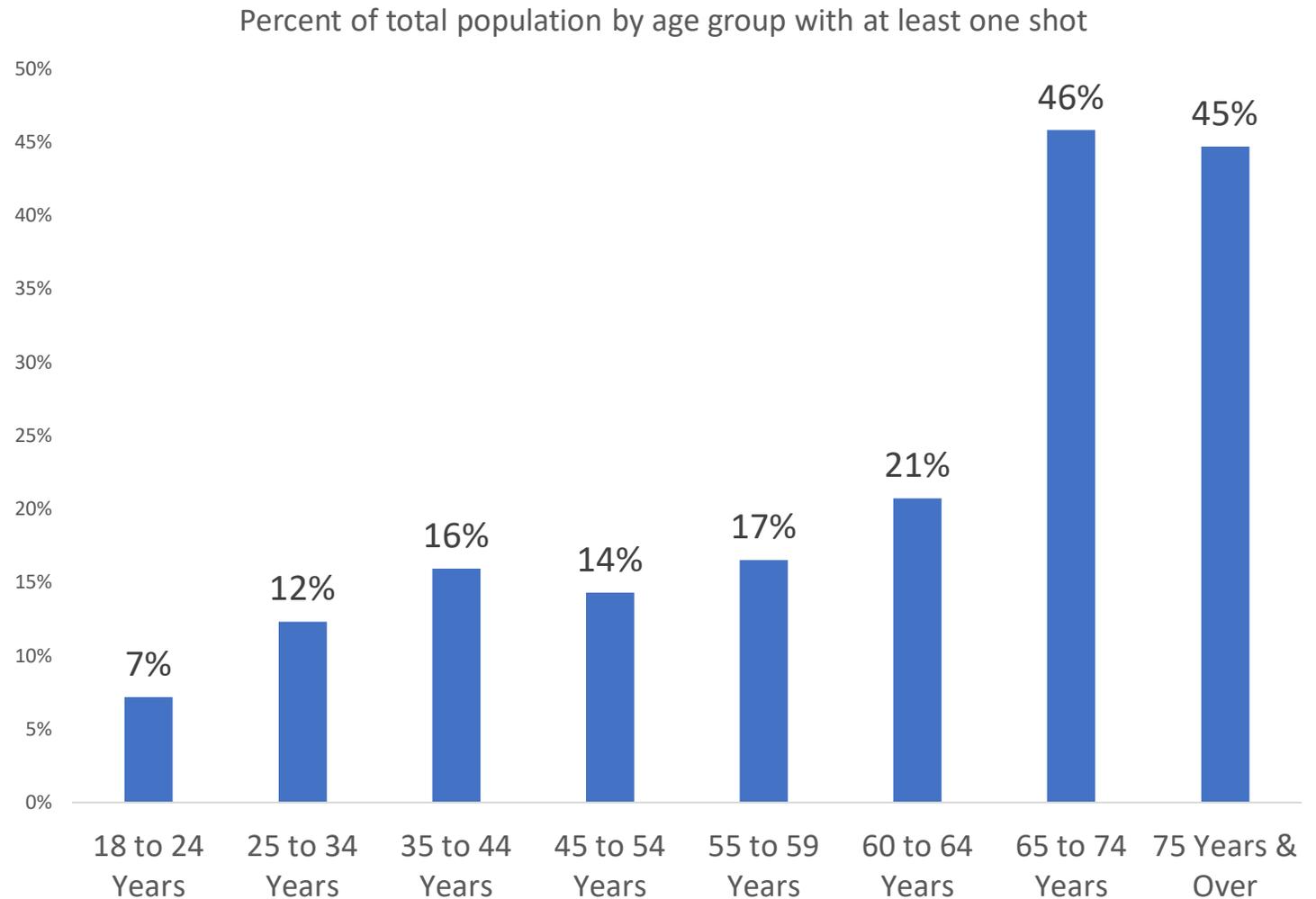
Through 3/10/2021, of all people with at least one shot:

- 62% are females
- 49% are people 65+
- 7% were Black, 87% were White and 6% were another identified race.
 - NOTE: Only out of those with a documented race. 19% of people receiving a vaccine had an 'unknown' race
- Of those with ethnicity data, only 387 have identified as Hispanic (0.3% of records)
 - NOTE: 47% of records are missing ethnicity



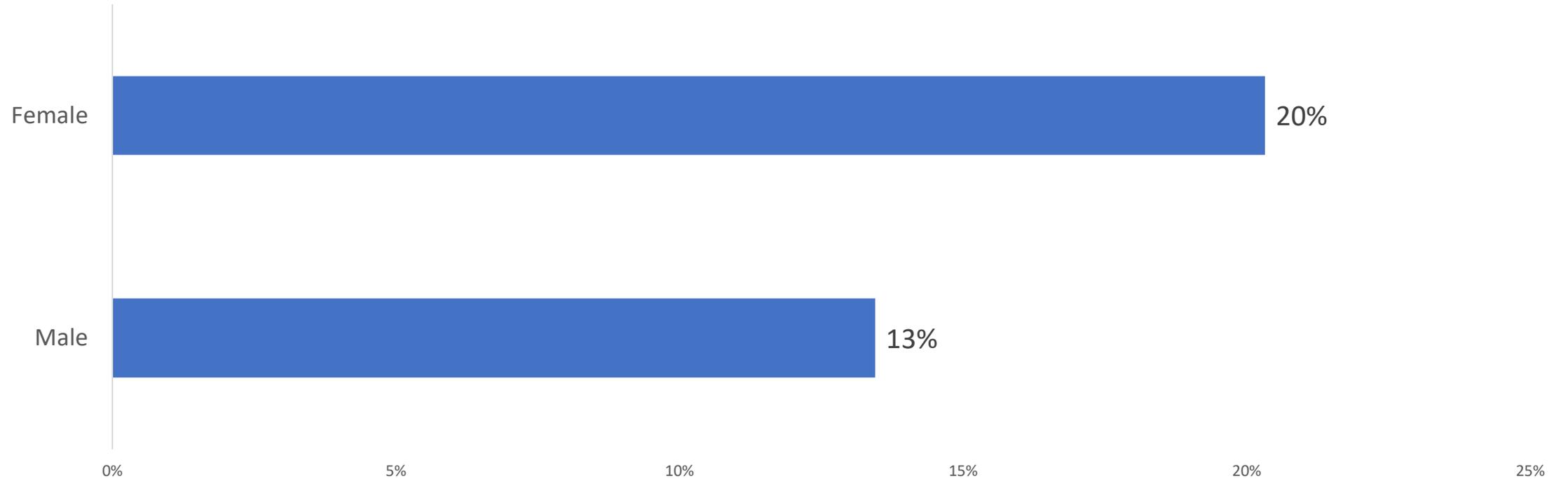
Vaccinations by Age Group

- Almost half of residents 65+ have received at least one shot
- 13% of residents 18-59 have received at least one shot



Vaccinations by Sex

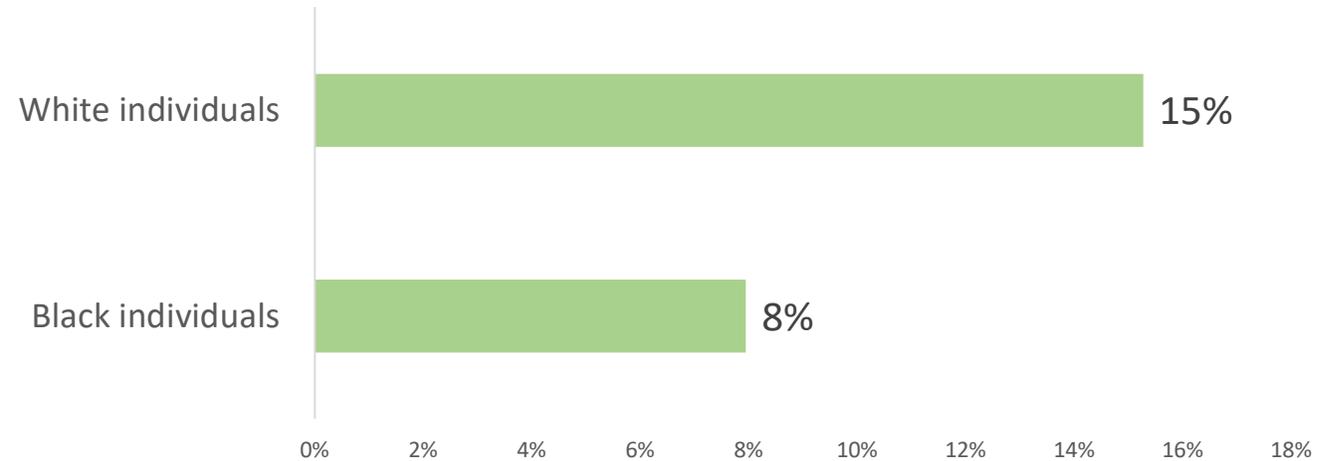
Percent of total population by sex that have received at least one shot



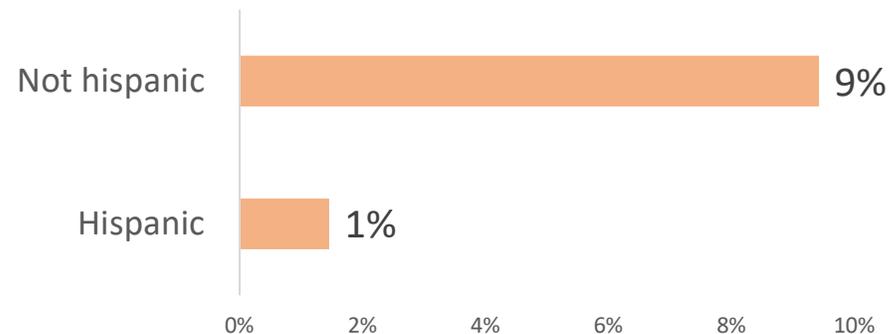
Vaccinations by Race and Ethnicity

- White individuals are being vaccinated at a rate of almost 2x that of Black individuals
- Fewer than 1% of the Hispanic population has had at least one shot.
- **Almost 20% of records do not have race information and half are missing ethnicity data.*

Percent of total population by race with at least one shot



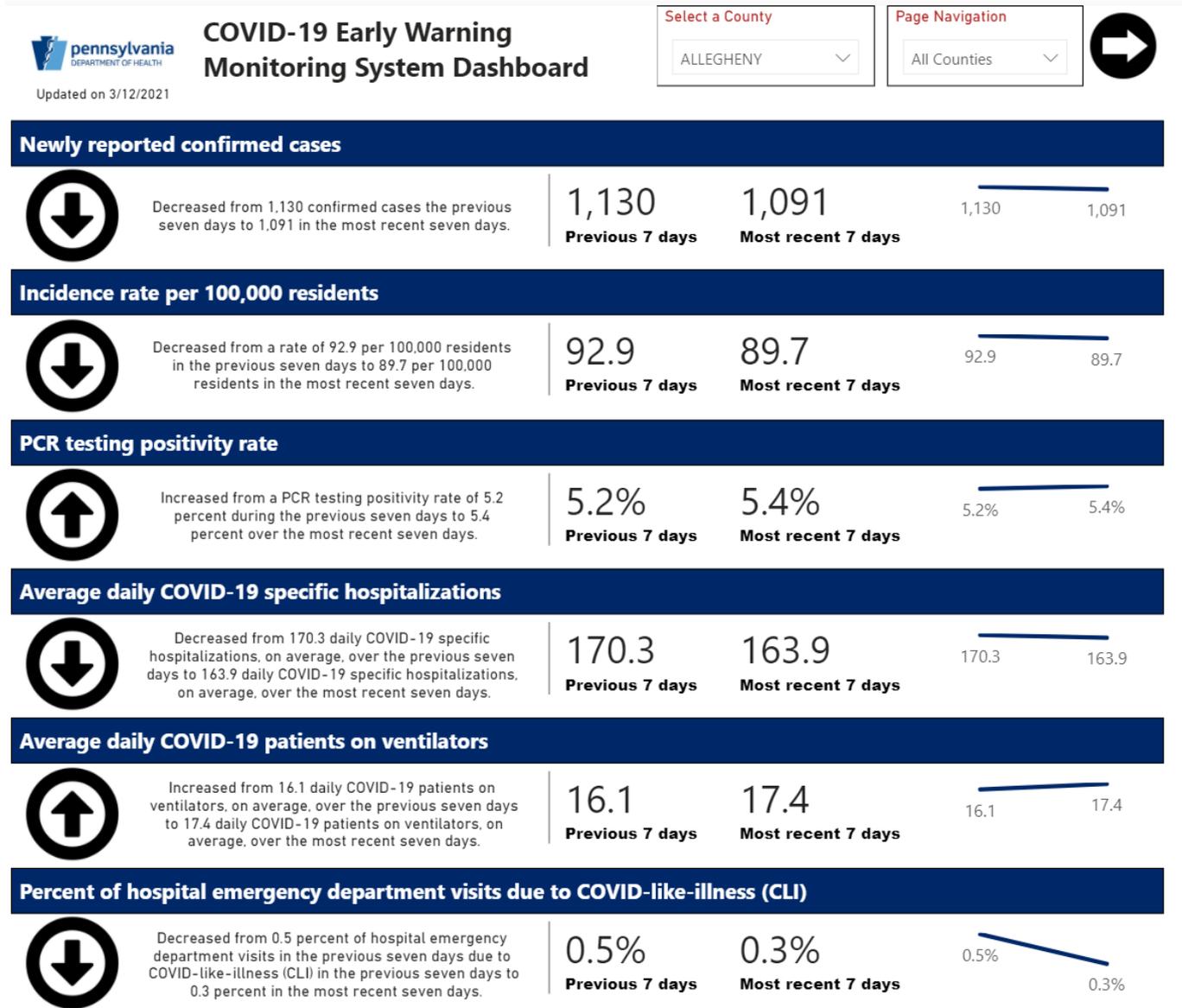
Percent of total population with at least one shot by ethnicity*



PA State Metrics

- Compares this week (March 5th- March 11th) to previous week (February 26th- March 4th). Data is updated every Friday.

	% change from last week to this week
Newly reported cases	-3%
Incidence rate per 100,000	-3%
Positivity rate	4%
Ave. daily hospitalizations	-4%
Ave. daily patients on ventilators	8%
% ED visits due to CLI	-40%



PA state's early warning system dashboard

(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>).

The positivity rate has remained steady since mid-January, mostly has a result of the number of people being tested decreasing. On March 12th, there was a positivity rate of **16%** (135 cases out of 828 tests)



COVID-19 in Allegheny County
Metric #1: Positivity Rate

METRIC
1

METRIC DEFINITION: The average daily positivity rate is less than or equal to 10%.

A positivity rate below 10% indicates that enough testing is being done to find all the active infections. Identifying the active infections is essential for contact tracing and to stop the spread of the disease.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE POSITIVITY RATE	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET
3/6/2021	17.9%	-41.6%	X
2/27/2021	30.6%	81.7%	X
2/20/2021	16.9%	-5.9%	X
2/13/2021	17.9%		X

Data Source: PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS)
Citation: World Health Organization
Note: Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.
 Data through March 12, 2021 was used for this metric.



The number of cases per tests has remained relatively steady since late January/early February.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

METRIC
2

Metric #2: Number of People Tested Per New Case

METRIC DEFINITION: The count of people tested for each case over the last 7 days is greater than or equal to 50.

Testing should be responsive to the number of cases. As case counts increase, so should testing. As case counts decrease, so also should testing.

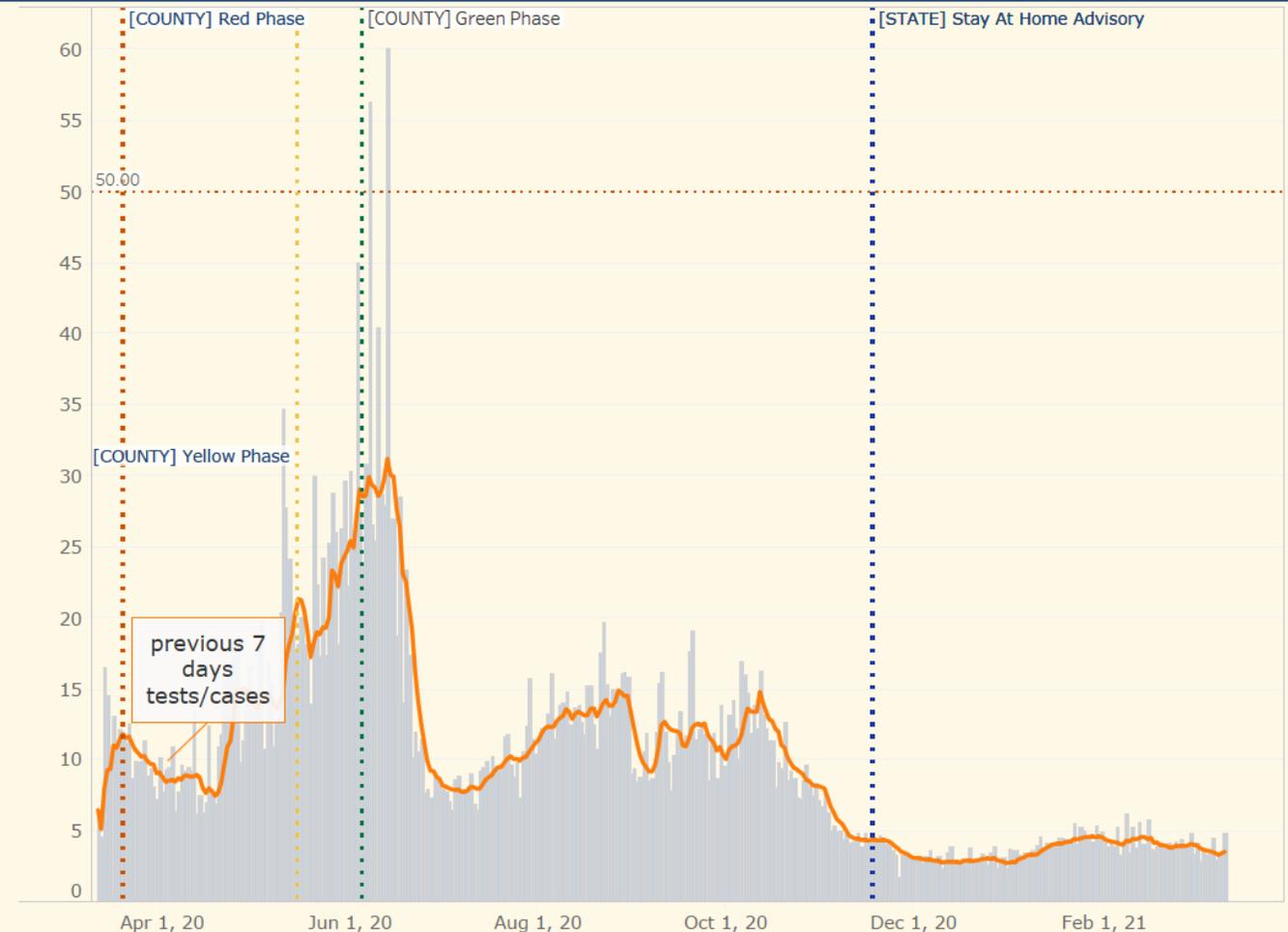
WEEK BEGINNING ON	COUNT OF TESTS/COUNT OF CASES	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET
3/6/2021	3.6	-4%	X
2/27/2021	3.7	-7%	X
2/20/2021	4.0	-1%	X
2/13/2021	4.0		X

Data Source: PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS)

Citation: Washington State Department of Health

Note: Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.

Data through March 12, 2021 was used for this metric.



Cases have remained steady since early February. The number of cases per week is still above what it was mid-summer.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

Metric #3: Declining or Low Case Counts

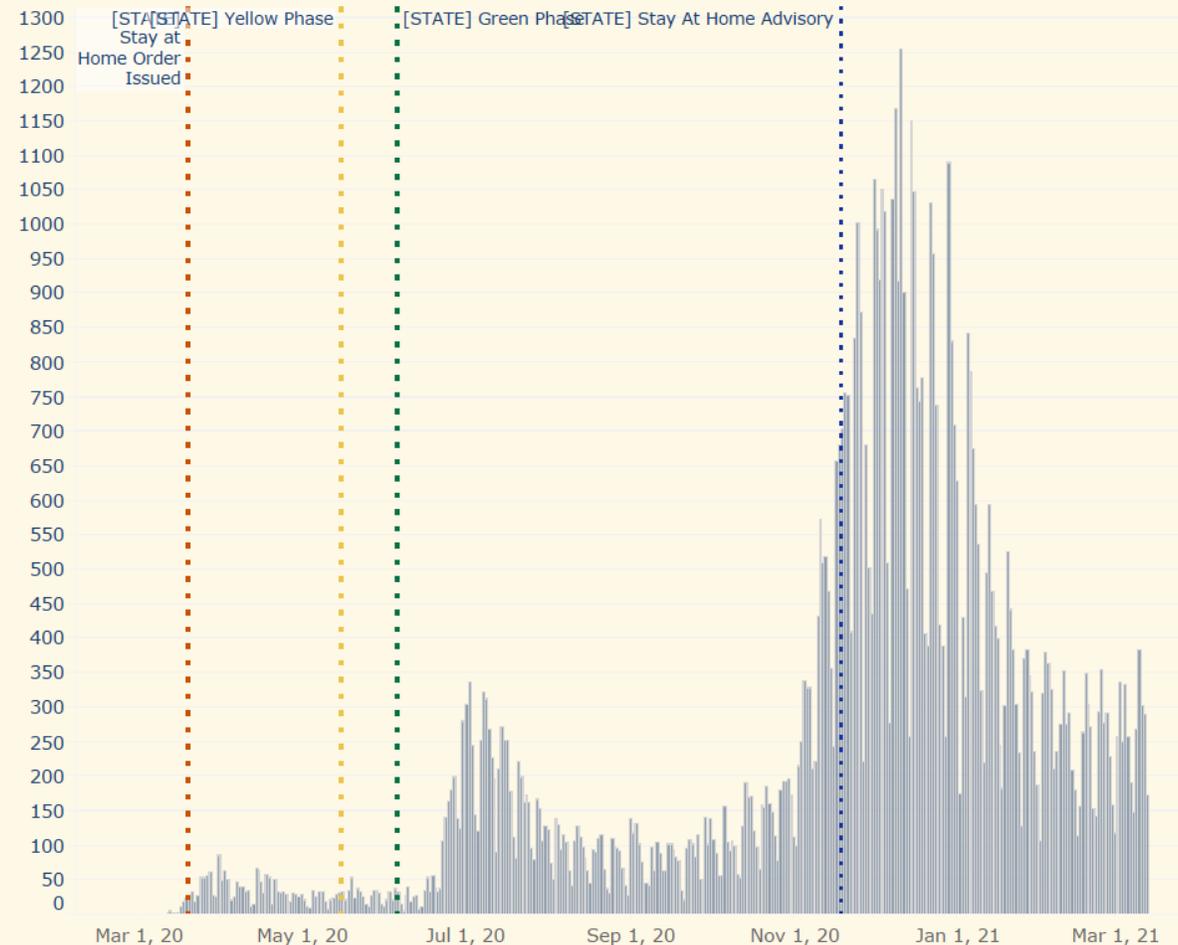
METRIC
3

METRIC DEFINITION: The 14 day count of new cases is declining or is consistently low.

A declining or low case counts indicates fewer people are infected and have the ability to spread COVID-19 to others.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	COUNT OF CASES	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	AVERAGE DAILY POSITIVE TEST RATE	METRIC MET
3/6/2021	1,749	2%	17.9%	X
2/27/2021	1,708	-2%	16.4%	X
2/20/2021	1,739	6%	16.9%	X
2/13/2021	1,635		18.0%	X

Data Source: PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS)
Citation: National Governors Association
Note: Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.
 Data through March 12, 2021 was used for this metric.



The case rate 100,000 residents has risen slightly for the last two weeks.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County
Metric #4: Case Rate

METRIC DEFINITION: The 14 day count of new cases per 100,000 residents is below 50.

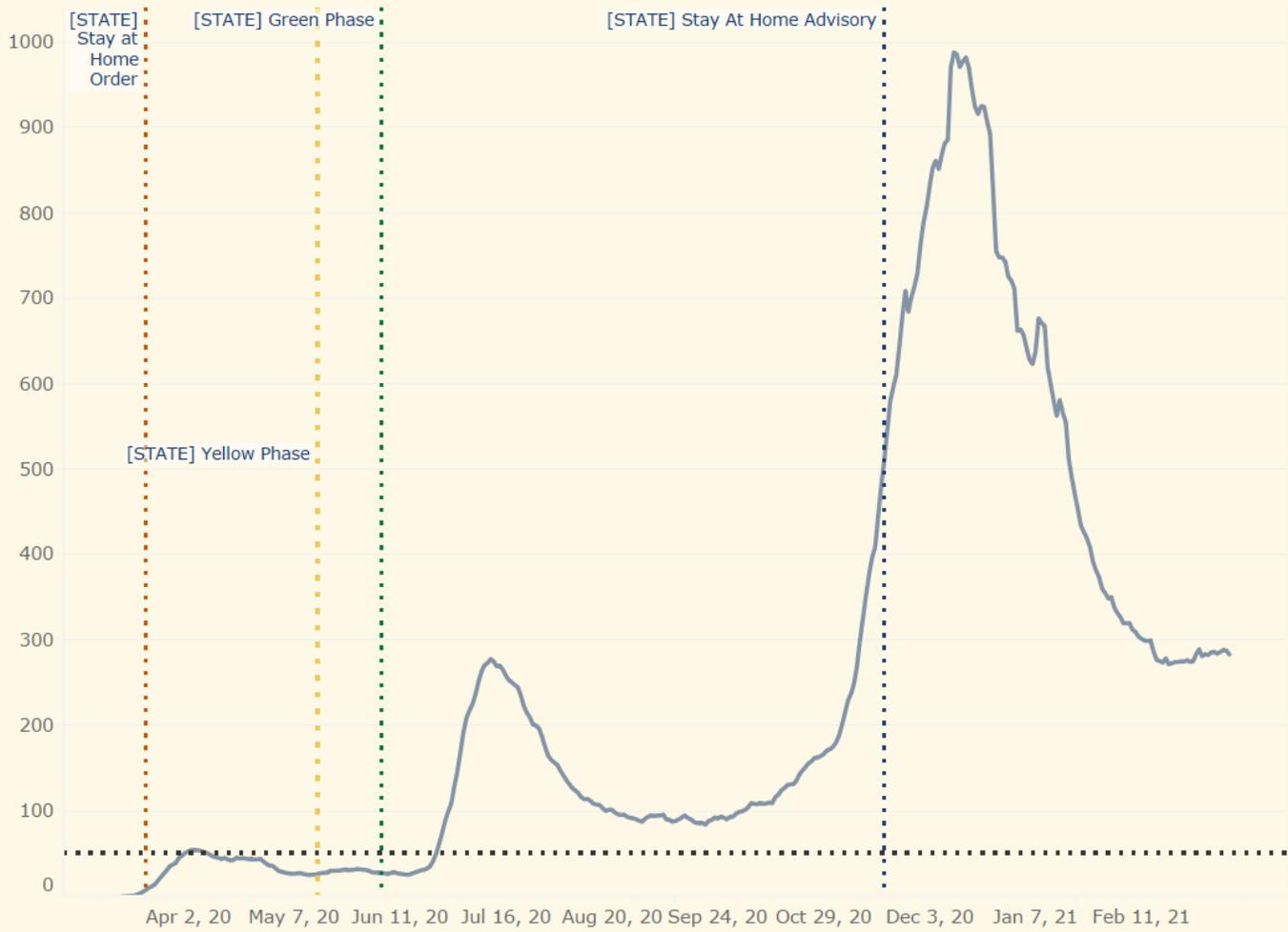
Similar to a low case count, a low case rate indicates fewer people are infected and have the ability to spread covid-19 to others.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE COUNT OF CASES PER 100,000	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET
3/6/2021	286	2%	X
2/27/2021	282	3%	X
2/20/2021	275	-4%	X
2/13/2021	285		X

Data Source: PA National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS), 2018 US Census Bureau population estimates
Citation: State of Pennsylvania (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>)

Note: Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.

Data through March 12, 2021 was used for this metric.



The 3-day average of total net hospitalizations has fallen since 12/17 (859). It was 149 on 3/15.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

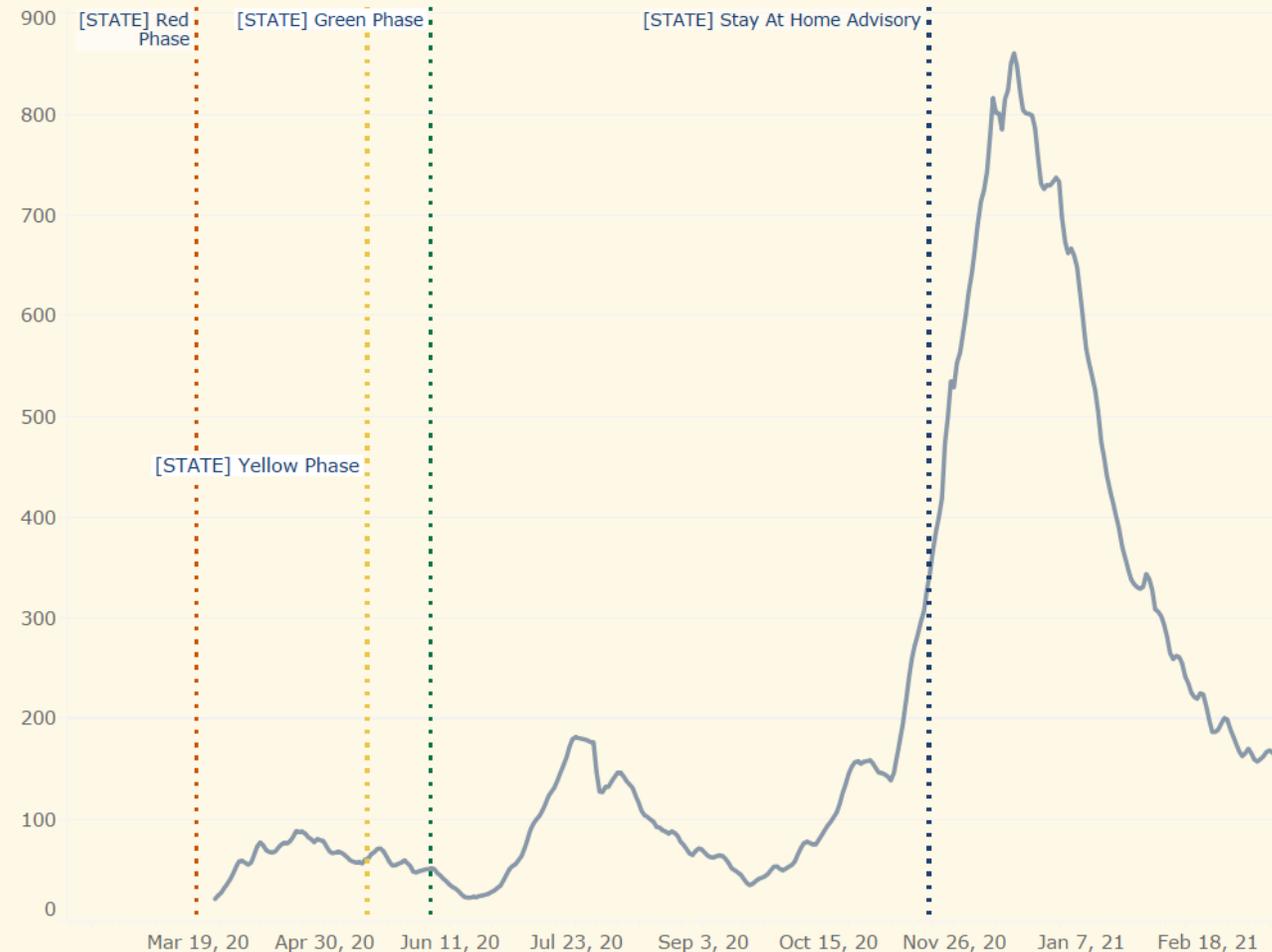
Metric #5: Decline in Hospitalizations

METRIC
5

METRIC DEFINITION: A decline in the three-day rolling average of total net hospitalizations (defined as the total number of people in the hospital on a given day) over the course of a 14-day period.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE WEEKLY NUMBER OF PATIENTS	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET ON LAST DAY OF WEEK
3/9/2021	159	-3%	X
3/2/2021	165	-10%	X
2/16/2021	200		X

Data Source: Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap.research#!/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion>
Citation: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



ICU bed usage has been below 90% since 1/7. On 3/15, the ICU bed usage was 83%.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

Metric #6: ICU Bed Usage

METRIC
6

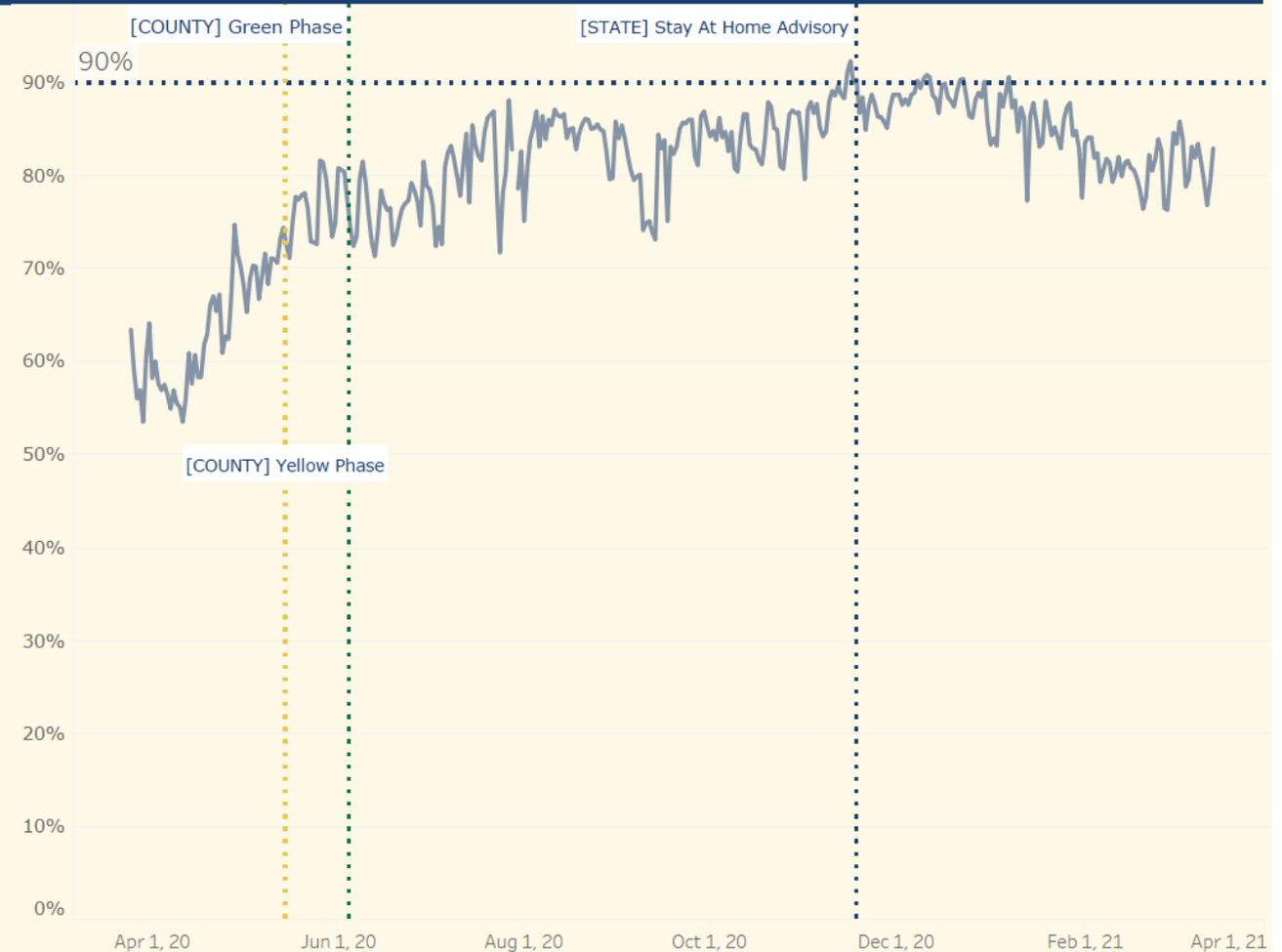
METRIC DEFINITION: Percent of ICU beds that are currently occupied is less than 90%

Nearly 30% of hospitalizations for COVID-19 ultimately require critical care. Regional health care systems should both maintain sufficient bed capacity for a potential resurgence in cases and have specific ICU bed capacity.

WEEK BEGINNING ON	AVERAGE WEEKLY ICU USAGE	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET DURING WEEK
3/2/2021	82.9%	2.5%	x
2/23/2021	80.4%	0.9%	x
2/16/2021	79.5%		x

Data Source: Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap_research#!/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion)

Citation: State of Pennsylvania (<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/County-Dashboard.aspx>)



Deaths continue to fall and are low.



COVID-19 in Allegheny County

Metric #7: Decline in Deaths

METRIC
7

METRIC DEFINITION: The daily decline in the 3 day rolling average count of deaths

WEEK BEGINNING ON	COUNT OF DEATHS	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	METRIC MET ON LAST DAY OF WEEK
3/6/2021	6	-70%	X
2/27/2021	20	-35%	X
2/20/2021	31	-18%	X
2/13/2021	38		X

Data Source: Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/hap.research#!/vizhome/EEIRegion/EEIRegion>

Citation: State of Massachusetts

Note: Per the Health Department, there is a data lag in reported cases and tests.

Data through March 12, 2021 was used for this metric.

