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VACCINE HESITANCY WITHIN NEVADA COUNTIES, JUNE 2021

Health Fact Sheet No. 11 | September 2021

Prepared by: Kelliann Beavers, Madison Frazee-Bench, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet highlights estimated rates of vaccine hesitancy, vaccination rates, the index of social vulnerability, and the level of concern for 17 Nevada counties as of June, 2021. The data are reported in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) estimates.¹

ABOUT THE DATA:

ASPE compiled data through the federal survey, “Household Pulse Survey May 26 - June 7, 2021.” For the estimates considering “hesitant or unsure” and “hesitant” populations, ASPE referred to the survey data from April 14-26, 2021. Individuals were considered ‘strongly hesitant’ if they would ‘definitely not’ receive a COVID-19 vaccine when available; whereas individuals considered ‘hesitant’ would ‘probably not’ or ‘definitely not’ receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Hesitant or Unsure refers to people who would were ‘unsure,’ or would ‘probably not’ or ‘definitely not’ receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) is an indicator created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR).² The Social Vulnerability Index refers to the extent that a community is “socially vulnerable to disaster.” This metric is created by including economic data, education levels, family characteristics, housing information, language ability, ethnicity, and vehicle access data.³

The Level of Concern category refers to challenges that may prevent “widespread COVID-19 vaccine coverage in U.S. Counties.”⁴ These challenges can include, “historic undervaccination, sociodemographic barriers, resource-constrained healthcare system, healthcare accessibility barriers, and irregular care-seeking behaviors.”⁵

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Storey County has the lowest percentage of adults fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with 16.4% of the adult population (18+) fully vaccinated, and 21.4% of the population 65+ fully vaccinated. Conversely, Carson City has the highest percentage of adults (18+) fully vaccinated, 56.2%, and 84.6% of the population 65+ fully vaccinated.
2. Esmeralda and Pershing Counties both exhibit the highest level of concern in Nevada, 0.98, with Mineral County close behind at 0.97. Douglas County exhibits the lowest level of concern, 0.47, with Storey County as the second lowest level of concern, 0.59.

¹ “Vaccine Hesitancy for Covid-19: State, County and Local Estimates.” *ASPE HHS*, 2021. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/vaccine-hesitancy-covid-19-state-county-local-estimates>

² Further information including data sets and interactive mapping is available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

³ “Estimates of vaccine hesitancy for COVID-19.” *CDC*. 2021. <https://data.cdc.gov/stories/s/Vaccine-Hesitancy-for-COVID-19/cnd2-a6zw>

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

3. Eleven counties with the highest percentages estimated as ‘Hesitant’ at 13.9% are: Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and White Pine.
4. The most vulnerable county, as measured by the Social Vulnerability Index, is Mineral County, with an index of 0.98. Eureka County and Storey County have the lowest SVI at 0.07.

Table 1 presents vaccine hesitancy estimations by county including the percent of individuals who are estimated to be hesitant, estimated to be hesitant or unsure, and estimated to be strongly hesitant. Alongside the vaccine hesitancy data, this table presents the percent of adults fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the local social vulnerability index, and the level of concern is included.

Table 1: Vaccine Hesitancy by Nevada County⁶

County	Percent Estimated Hesitant	Percent Estimated Hesitant or Unsure	Percent Estimated Strongly Hesitant	Percent of People (18+) Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	Percent of People (65+) Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19	Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) ⁷	Level of Concern (LOC)
Carson City	12.33	19.58	6.62	56.20	84.60	0.84	0.74
Churchill	13.9	22.26	7.55	38.60	67.50	0.53	0.69
Clark	11.83	19.79	6.24	44.60	67.00	0.74	0.92
Douglas	12.3	19.58	6.62	47.00	66.00	0.18	0.47
Elko	13.9	22.26	7.55	34.40	64.50	0.52	0.71
Esmeralda	13.9	22.26	7.55	35.20	36.90	0.64	0.98
Eureka	13.9	22.26	7.55	24.70	42.80	0.07	0.77
Humboldt	13.9	22.26	7.55	38.80	65.60	0.59	0.88
Lander	13.9	22.26	7.55	34.90	51.20	0.83	0.84
Lincoln	13.9	22.26	7.55	33.00	50.60	0.42	0.87
Lyon	12.33	19.58	6.62	33.00	52.10	0.58	0.76
Mineral	13.9	22.26	7.55	47.40	68.70	0.88	0.97
Nye	13.9	22.26	7.55	37.50	59.40	0.73	0.92
Pershing	13.9	22.26	7.55	32.40	44.70	0.90	0.98
Storey	12.33	19.58	6.62	16.40	21.10	0.07	0.59
Washoe	11.07	17.5	5.82	56.80	80.00	0.53	0.69
White Pine	13.9	22.26	7.55	46.90	68.60	0.37	0.63

⁶ “Vaccine Hesitancy for COVID-19: State, County, and Local Estimates.” June 16, 2021. *ASPE*. Retrieved from: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/vaccine-hesitancy-covid-19-state-county-local-estimates>.

⁷ For more information on the SVI in Nevada, refer to the Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West’s “CDC Social Vulnerability Index: Nevada Counties,” Demography Fact Sheet No. 20, September 2021, at https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_demography/20.