



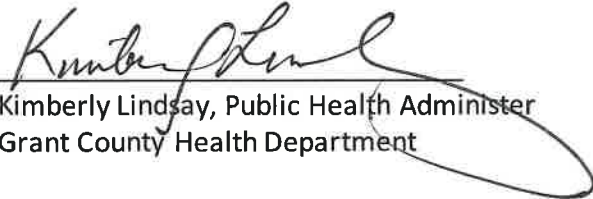
Grant County Health Department

COMMUNITY COUNSELING SOLUTIONS
Changing Lives

Grant County COVID-19 Vaccination Equity Plan

We have each reviewed the attached responses to all questions and affirm that the LPHA jurisdiction will continue to make meaningful efforts to offer culturally responsive, low-barrier vaccination opportunities, especially for populations in our jurisdiction experiencing racial or ethnic vaccine inequities. We commit to implementing this plan to close the racial and ethnic vaccine inequities in our jurisdiction.

The LPHA and its partners will continue to ensure that vaccine sites are culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate and accessible to people with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities and other unique vaccine access needs.



Kimberly Lindsay, Public Health Administrator
Grant County Health Department



Dr Zachary Bailey, Health Officer
Grant County Health Department



Scott Myers, County Judge
Grant County Court

1. Please review race/ethnicity data for the LPHA jurisdiction on the OHA website and the race/ethnicity vaccination rate data shared weekly with the LPHA. Based on the experience of the LPHA and its partners, including community-based organizations, what are the operational, policy, and systemic barriers or strengths demonstrated in these data?

The total number of residents in Grant County is estimated to be 7,189. The population is comprised of:

Ethnicity:

- White: 94.3%
- Black/African American: .3%
- Asian 1.7%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander .1%
- Hispanic or Latino: 3.9%
- Two or more races: 2.9%

Age:

Number of individuals in each age group

12 to 17-year-olds: 355

18 years old and above: 6,294

Over 60 years of age: 3,344

Income:

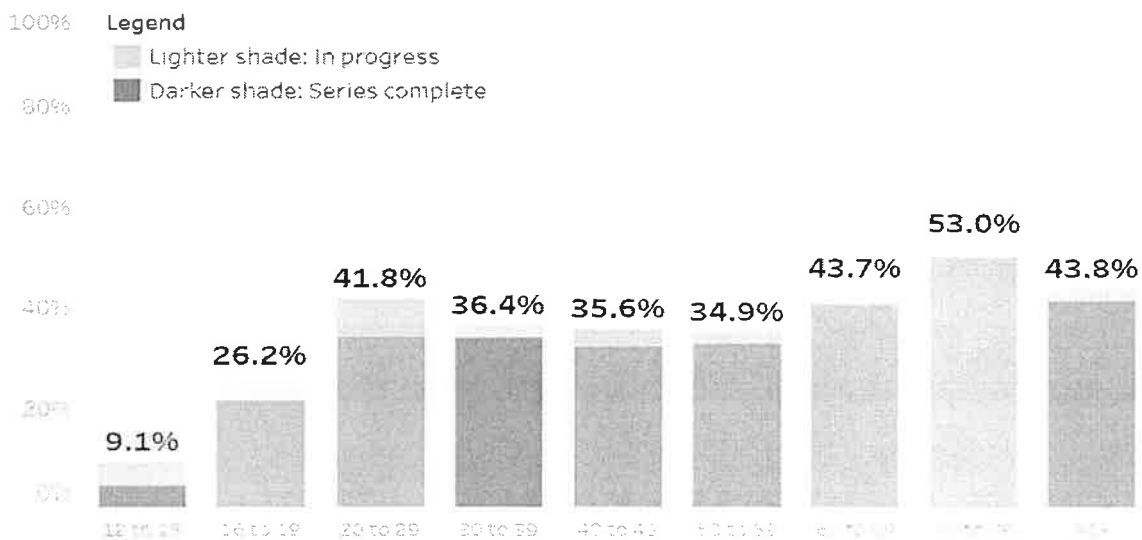
Median household income \$44, 712

Per capita income: \$27,367

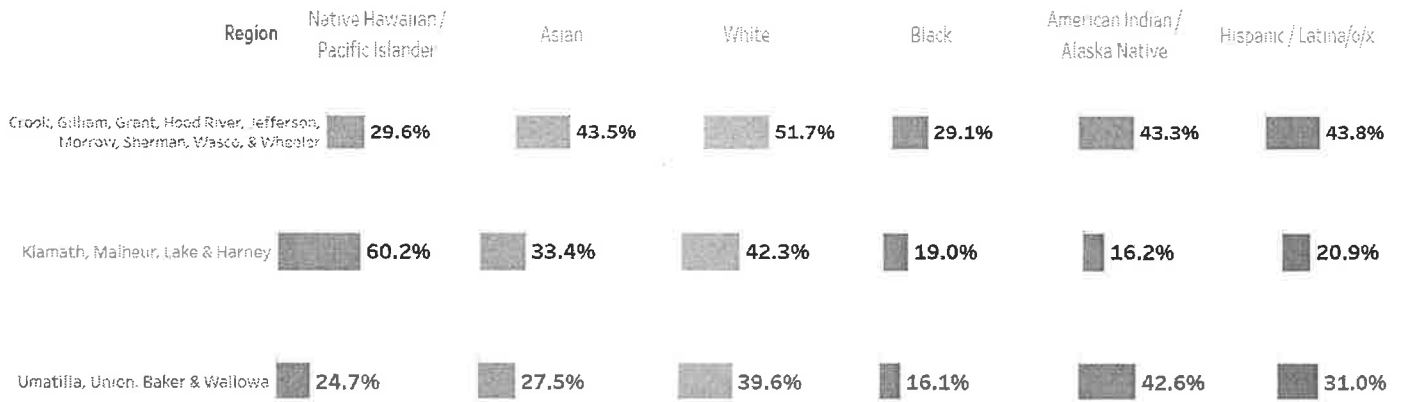
Grant County is estimated to have 15% of the population living in poverty.

The unemployment rate in Grant County is 10.5% compared to 6% for the state of Oregon and 6% for the National average.

Vaccination rates by Age in Grant County



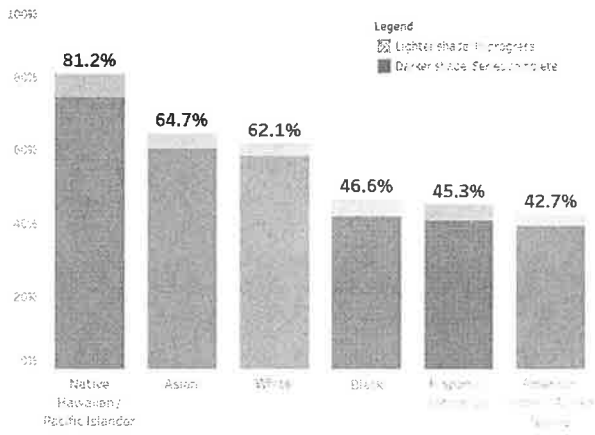
Percent of population vaccinated with at least one dose by region and rarest race and ethnicity



Current Vaccination rates in the state as compared to region 7

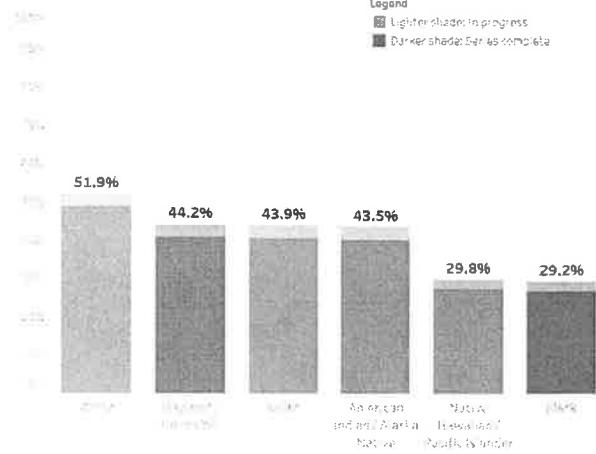
Current vaccination rates by rarest race and ethnicity

Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose

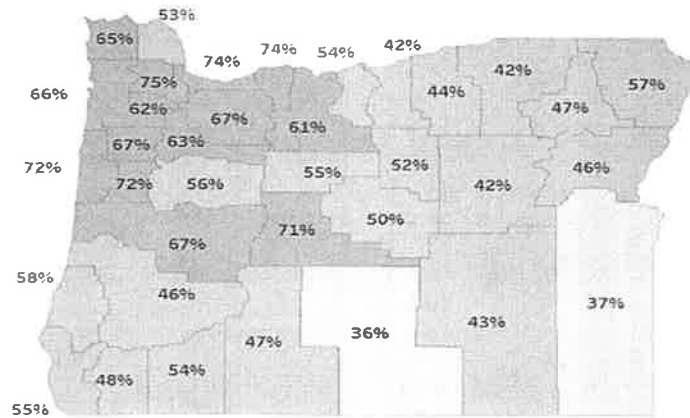


Current rates by rarest race and ethnicity

Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose



County Vaccination Rate



Legend: Population Vaccinated

Strengths:

- During the pandemic there has been close communication and cooperation between health care providers, local public health, CBOs, schools, city and county government agencies.
- In the Grant County area there has historically been significant cooperation and coordination of efforts around health equity issues, and this continues regarding vaccine outreach.
- We have reached out to the agricultural communities in the region in an effort to promote vaccine events.
- The data shows that we live in a rural location. For those counties that are similar to ours geographically, data shows that we are comparative in vaccine rates.
- The school districts, LPHA, local healthcare providers, local government and the CBOs provide all written information in English and Spanish. They also strive to provide resources in a person's native language when appropriate.

Barriers:

- Some residents have expressed distrust of government sponsored efforts.
- There is concern about missing work due to post vaccination side effects, with loss of income.
- We have heard that some residents have had difficulty accessing appointments, and often appointment locations or times are not convenient.
- Many people have received misinformation and disinformation about vaccine safety.
- Some groups have cultural beliefs about the low utility of vaccinations, and/or obtaining vaccinations is not a priority.
- Distance that people have to drive to attend vaccine events can be challenging. In contract staffing needed to be able to go to the outlying communities to provide events in more convenient/closer to home locations is a difficulty.
- Some people have concerns that the vaccine has only been approved for EUA.

2. What steps have the LPHA and its partners already taken to address specific racial and ethnic vaccination inequities in the Community?

- **The Grant County Health Department (GCHD)** has met routinely (weekly, biweekly or every few weeks) with clinical partners, including Blue Mountain Hospital District (Blue Mountain Hospital, Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic, Home Health and Hospice, Blue Mountain Care Center), the assisted living, foster homes, behavioral health, developmental disabilities, CBO's and law enforcement to coordinate vaccine outreach efforts. Since Grant County's data shows that the population has limited American

Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) and Hispanic/Latino/a/x (H/L) residents, our vaccine outreach events have also included reaching those facing equities where transportation is an issue, those living in the remote, outlying communities, elderly/seniors, and those who identify with American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic and Latino/a/x ethnicity.

- **The GCHD** have reached out to agricultural business owners and workers, including ranchers and the orchid to provide vaccine education and to make them aware of vaccine events via email, phone calls, flyers, and social media.
- **The GCHD and along with Blue Mountain Hospital District (BMHD)** have pooled our resources to provide vaccine events in the outlying communities, Seneca, Monument, Dayville and Long Creek.
- **Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO)** serves the Medicaid population of Grant County. They have distributed patient/provider education on a broad level to their entire service area. These have been delivered in both English and Spanish. Additionally, EOCCO has sent out a mailer to their members to address some of the misconceptions associated with the vaccine. EOCCO offers free transportation through their NEMT program. EOCCO has been reaching out to some of their high-risk members directly who have been identified as having chronic conditions, but do not have a record of receiving a vaccine.
- **GCHD** has worked closely with these agencies (**Department of Human Services, Developmental Disabilities, Step Forward, Canyon Creek Clinic, Community Counseling Solutions**) to provide vaccines outreach to all individual, their families and caregivers receiving services. We have vaccinated as many of these individuals that have wanted to be vaccinated, at events, in their homes or facilities. Developmental Disabilities has added into their intake packets, information on getting the vaccine.
- **GCHD** has partnered with the local pharmacy for vaccinations events.
- **GCHD** provided vaccines to both the Blue Mountain Care Center (LTCF) and Valley View Assisted Living to all of their resident that wanted vaccinated. The staff at the health department vaccinated their residents in their facilities.
- **GCHD** has worked closely with all of the school districts in the county to supply vaccine information to students, staff, and parents. Vaccination clinics have been targeted to school staff and we are expanding efforts to reaching students at the local schools by becoming a COVID vaccine site at our SBHC. We are also working to target 12–18-year old’s this summer during well care visits/OSAA sports participation exams.
- The **GCHD** has worked with both the United States Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry to provide vaccine to permanent and seasonal staff.
- **GCHD** has not had as much participation with the Faith based organizations as we would have liked. We plan to reach out directly to Faith based leaders for insight as to that organizations interest in COVID-19 vaccinations and ways to improve collaborations.
- **GCHD** has worked closely with CBOs regarding COVID-19 vaccine outreach and education efforts.

- **GCHD** has strongly encouraged our clinical partners to contact their patients directly and provide opportunities for patients to ask questions of their trusted providers or to schedule them for vaccinations.
- The **GCHD** has worked with the Grant County Jail to provide vaccinations to inmates, and staff. Although there was not a large number of staff or inmates that decided to get the vaccine, the health department staff continue to offer the vaccine to all inmates and staff, especially if they are new.
- The **FEMA/OHA Mobile Vaccination Unit** came to Grant County three times, once in April, May, and June 2021. During their last trip to Grant County, the strike team was able to go to all of the smaller communities in Grant County, and even to some home bound individuals.

3. What steps do the LPHA and its partners plan to take to continue to address these inequities in the jurisdiction?

- GCHD is reaching out to CBOs and other local community partners who provide services to specific racial and ethnic populations to gain insight on perceived vaccination rates and vaccine hesitancy among different populations. This ensures that all populations are being considered when making decisions surrounding vaccine efforts.
- GCHD plans to also reach out again to the faith –based organizations to reach additional racial and ethnic populations.
- There are ongoing meetings with community partners to share information and events.
- GCHD will reach out to EOCCO to mail COVID-19 vaccine information to unvaccinated individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine.

4. What plan does the LPHA and its partners have to close the specific vaccine equity gaps among specific racial and ethnic populations?

- The GCHD has partnered with OHA to facilitate vaccine services, via the strike van, to provide the vaccine to our more remote communities and to our home-bound individuals. We will continue to provide these services in homes.
- We have increased the availability of the Pfizer vaccine by bringing it to several clinics and the pharmacy, targeting the 12 and older population.
- We are planning a two-vaccine event at two well-care events.
- Vaccination events are usually held each fall at local schools, which are a trusted space in the community.
- As previously indicated, we have worked with the state to certify the Grant Union SBHC to provide vaccine.
- We have rented a space at the Grant County Fair to provide outreach and education and are planning on providing vaccines on-site.
- In September, GCHD will meet with school districts to discuss opportunities to provide vaccine information to age eligible children and their families about the safety and

availability of COVID-19 vaccines. If allowed by the school districts, vaccination clinics will be held at the schools.

- Additionally, we will provide the vaccine at flu shots events/clinics in the fall as these vaccines can be co-administered. As indicated above, with the blessing of the schools, the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided at schools during flu clinics.
- The GCHD will call every faith-based organization in Grant County, providing information on the safety of the vaccine and provide vaccine events if desired.
- The GCHD will work to determine those of AI/AA, and Lantix ethnicity that have not been vaccinated and reach out to these individuals if we are able to obtain contact information.

5. What steps are the LPHA and its partners taking to engage and actively partner with these and other organizations to increase meaningful, culturally responsive, low-barrier access to vaccines?

Education materials are provided in Spanish and English. In addition, CBO's or the GCHD provide bilingual staff at vaccine events. The GCHD participates in weekly strategy meetings with local CBO's and other agencies around engagement, access, and use suggestions from CBOs to guide outreach work.

6. How will the LPHA and its partners ensure that CBOs and navigators are aware of vaccine events so they can assist with registration and outreach as able?

Weekly meetings occur with CBOs and other partners and information is shared at those meetings. In addition, we are posting the information on the GCHD website, posting on CBO's and GCHD Facebook pages, sent out in an email list serve, posted at senior center(s) and posting flyers around the communities.

7. Does the LPHA have any additional updates regarding work to serve agricultural workers in its jurisdiction since the LPHA last provided information to the REC?

The GCHD will meet with Grant County OSU Extension and Grant County Economic Development to identify opportunities to provide information on vaccine safety to the agriculture community, as well as exploring opportunities to provide the vaccine at worksites, including in the field.

8. What steps have the LPHA and its partners taken to actively address vaccine confidence in the community?

- Grant County Health Department continues to work with community partners including the clinics, hospital and pharmacy on messaging and ways to improve vaccine confidence.
- The health department shares the state's vaccine messaging including safety, efficacy,

and availability of vaccine, through many medias including but not limited to the newspaper (and their social media outlets), the radio and their social media accounts, CBO's, community partners, and schools.

- The health department has recorded "Coffee Time" with the local radio many times throughout this pandemic to address questions around COVID-19 and most recently COVID-9 vaccines.
- GCHD remains committed to partnering and collaborating with our health care providers to provide education resources and vaccines Individuals.
- The OHA strike team has also been featured on Coffee Time, which we have received great feedback on this "episode."

9. What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to continue addressing vaccine confidence?

- The Grant County Health Department will continue to partner with local healthcare providers, the BMHD and CBO's to determine ways to address vaccine confidence via regular meetings as one main focus.
- The GCHD will also work on a more robust media campaign, including paid advertising, purchasing billboard advertising, providing more social media educational posts, and hang flyers in all communities.
- The GCHD will be partnering with the Peace Corp. They will be coming to Grant County to help with outreach and providing education on vaccines in our community (not door-to-door) and at our local county fair.

10. What is the communications plan to dispel misinformation through a comprehensive, multi-modal communications strategy for communities experiencing racial and ethnic vaccine inequities in your jurisdiction?

- We will continue to share accurate information via social media posts, radio, newspaper, and printed materials.
- We will explore additional advertising avenues to promote vaccine safety and availability.
- We will continue to enlist the help of Spanish-speaking staff to address questions and concerns and dispel vaccine inaccuracies.
- We will work to better distribute Spanish-language materials and social media posts made available by the OHA.
- Will continue to use mail, email, video-conferencing and social media to inform schools, community leaders, and CBOs about vaccine safety.

11. How has and how will the LPHA and its partners ensure language accessibility at vaccine events?

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken in Grant County.

- GCHD has staffed vaccine clinics with bilingual (Spanish) employees and volunteers.

- GCHD has partnered with CBOs to provide additional bilingual (Spanish) support as well as an enhanced culturally responsive presence at vaccine clinics.
- GCHD will continue to utilize available staff, volunteers, and community partners to ensure language accessibility at vaccine events.

12. What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to decrease transportation barriers to accessing vaccines?

- The People Mover in John Day has fixed routes that include stops at all locations in Grant County that provide COVID-19 vaccine. The people mover also has a “dial-a-ride” option to attend vaccine clinics or sites that provide vaccines.
- Medicaid members also have access to transportation through non-emergency medical transport services.
- The FEMA Strike team, Blue Mountain Hospital Home Health and Hospice and the health department have provided in-home vaccines.
- There was an extensive telephone campaign by the Grant County Health Department, the Developmental Disabilities program and the local CBO to provide information on vaccine clinics and/or to provide vaccines in their home.
- GCHD and the FEMA Strike team have provided vaccine clinics in the smaller communities in the county and the GCHD will go to these areas again as needed.
- The GCHD will also look at ways to provide vaccine to those with transportation issues at locations that are already at, such as senior meals, the county fair or other identified sites.

13. What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to ensure meaningful, low-barrier vaccine access for youth, especially those from Black, Indigenous, Tribal and other communities experiencing inequities in COVID-19 disease, death and vaccination?

- GCHD will be meeting with the schools to discuss and develop communication strategies to provide vaccine education, resources and even vaccinations on site as allowed to all eligible students and staff with a focus on those facing inequities.
- The GCHD will closely follow youth related vaccine data to guide our efforts in outreach and engagement with this population.
- The GCHD will look into creating video clips of youth that have been vaccinated on the reasons why they were vaccinated. These videos will run on social media platforms, local media and in the schools on their digital displays as allowed.

14. How will the LPHA and its partners regularly report on progress to and engage with community leaders from the Black, Indigenous, Tribal, other communities of color to

regularly review progress on its vaccine equity plans and reassess strategies as needed?

- GCHD will review the equity plans and goals monthly, to assess efficacy of outreach efforts and events. Also, the health department will review the weekly local vaccination data to assess rates and to direct ongoing efforts.
- GCHD will continue to work with healthcare organizations, local community partners and CBOs and respond to county needs and suggestions.