

# UPDATE ON DELAWARE HEALTH

DECEMBER 7, 2023

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*DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES*  
Division of Public Health



DELAWARE  
ACADEMY of  
MEDICINE



## OUTLINE

- Recent changes you need to know about
- Quick stats: Vaccine-preventable respiratory viruses
- Vaccination and Equity – Every job counts!
- The provider's role in expanding coverage.



## RECENT CHANGE: ACCESSING COVID VACCINE

- **The Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 ended May 2023.**
  - COVID vaccines previously free for all via health departments (CDC funded)
  - End of Public Health Emergency → Changes.
- **Vaccine now paid for by many insurance programs: private & government-funded insurance**
- **Bridge Access Program**
  - Established to continue to provide **FREE** vaccine to uninsured and underinsured persons
  - Sites: Retail/community pharmacies, Public Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and private providers.
  - A searchable website allows you to find an enrolled provider near you.
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html>.



# QUICK STATS: RESPIRATORY VIRUSES - TRENDS

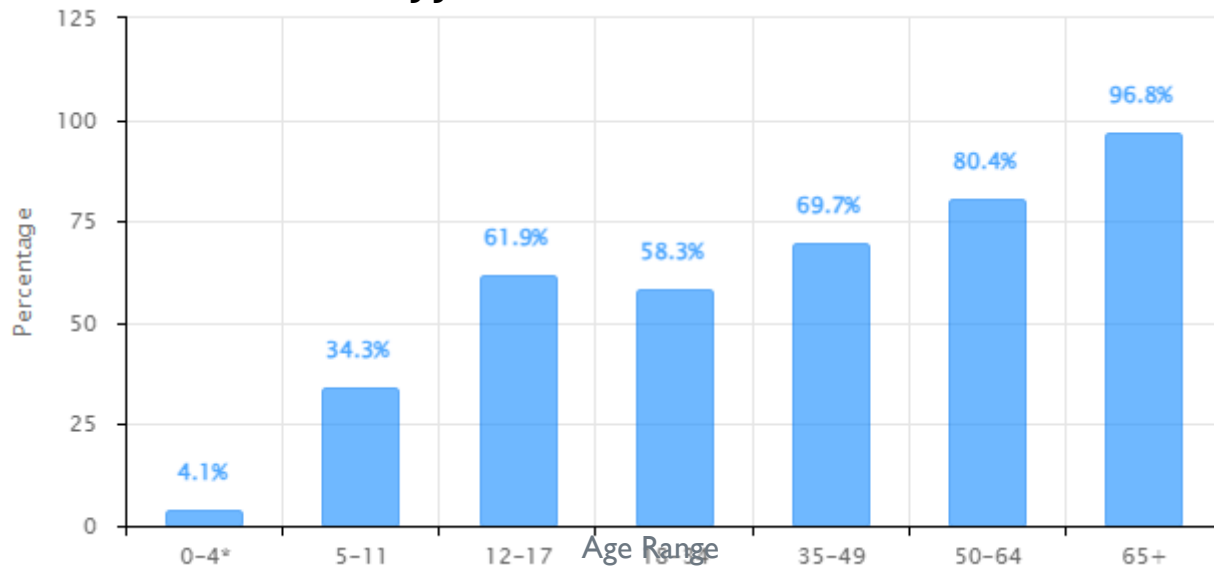
## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS: THE OLD AND NEW

- **Initial vaccine series became available in January 2021.**
  - As of 11/15/2023, there are 651,460 persons (67% of Delawareans) who completed either the 2-dose series from Pfizer/Moderna Series or one dose from Johnson & Johnson.
- **Updated 2023/24 vaccine became available in October 2023.**
  - As of 11/15/23, there are 189,241 persons (9% of Delawareans) who have received it.
- **Still early but vigilance is needed to continue to:**
  - Prevent “COVID-complacency.”
  - Encourage uptake of updated vaccine, especially in younger age groups.

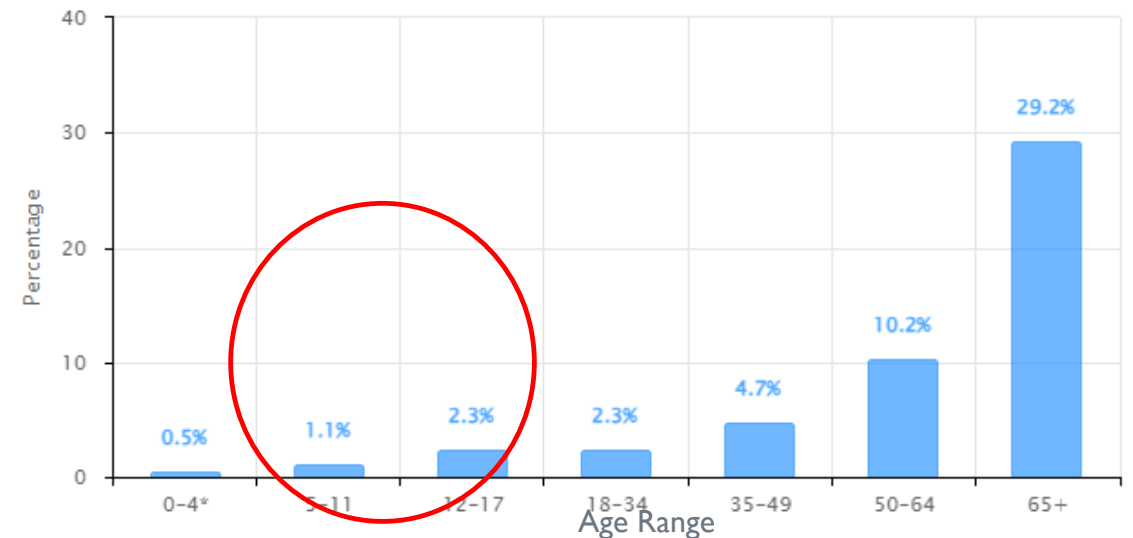
# COVID-19 VACCINATION: INITIAL SERIES VS UPDATED VACCINE

## Delawareans Who Received the Initial and Updated 2023-2024 Vaccine Series by Age Group, Delaware, September - November 14, 2023

**% DELAWAREANS WHO RECEIVED INITIAL COVID-19 VACCINE SERIES (TWO DOSES OF PFIZER MODERNA OR ONE DOSE OF J/J)**



**% OF DELAWAREANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED UPDATED 2023-2024 VACCINE SERIES**



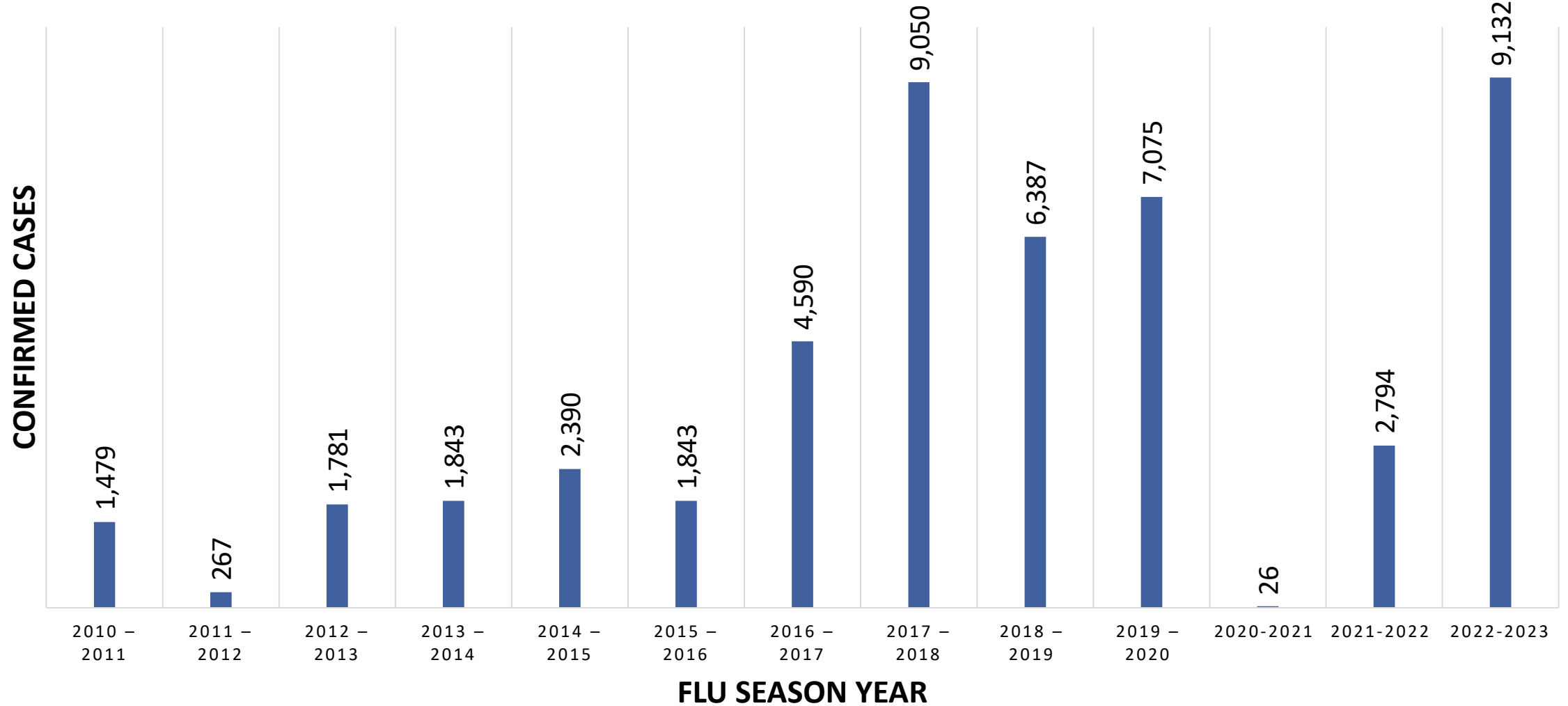
## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

During the week of October 29 - November 4, 2023:

- There were 283 COVID cases reported to DPH.
  - 268 (95% of cases) were not up to date\* on COVID-19 vaccination.
- There were 135 hospitalized persons with COVID-19.
  - 128 (95% of cases) of those hospitalized due to COVID were not up to date\* on COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Despite end of Public Health Emergency, COVID remains a health threat.**
  - Highest risk is in persons not current with vaccination.

*\*Up to date means a person has received the recommended vaccines when eligible.*

### TOTAL INFLUENZA CASES BY FLU SEASON YEAR, DELAWARE, 2010-2011 TO 2022-2023 SEASON



Source: Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health





# EVERY JOB MATTERS:

## HEALTH EQUITY & IMMUNIZATIONS

# HEALTH EQUITY & IMMUNIZATION

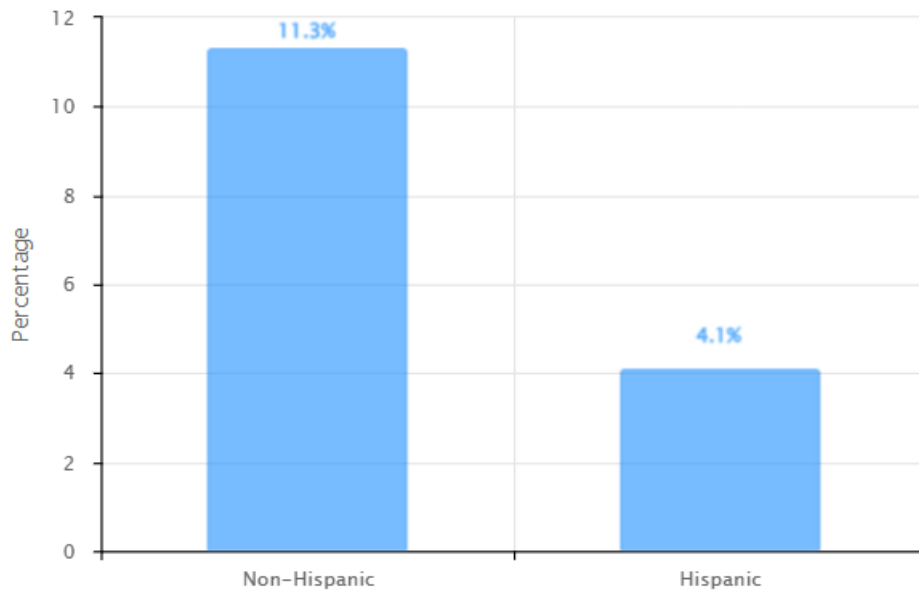
- CDC has recognized inequity in vaccination coverage as an important issue to address.
- According to CDC, there are several drivers of this phenomenon including:
  - Education, income, and wealth gaps
  - Job access and working conditions
  - Racism and other forms of discrimination
  - Gaps in healthcare access
  - Transportation and neighborhood conditions
  - Lack of trust as a result of past medical experimentation.



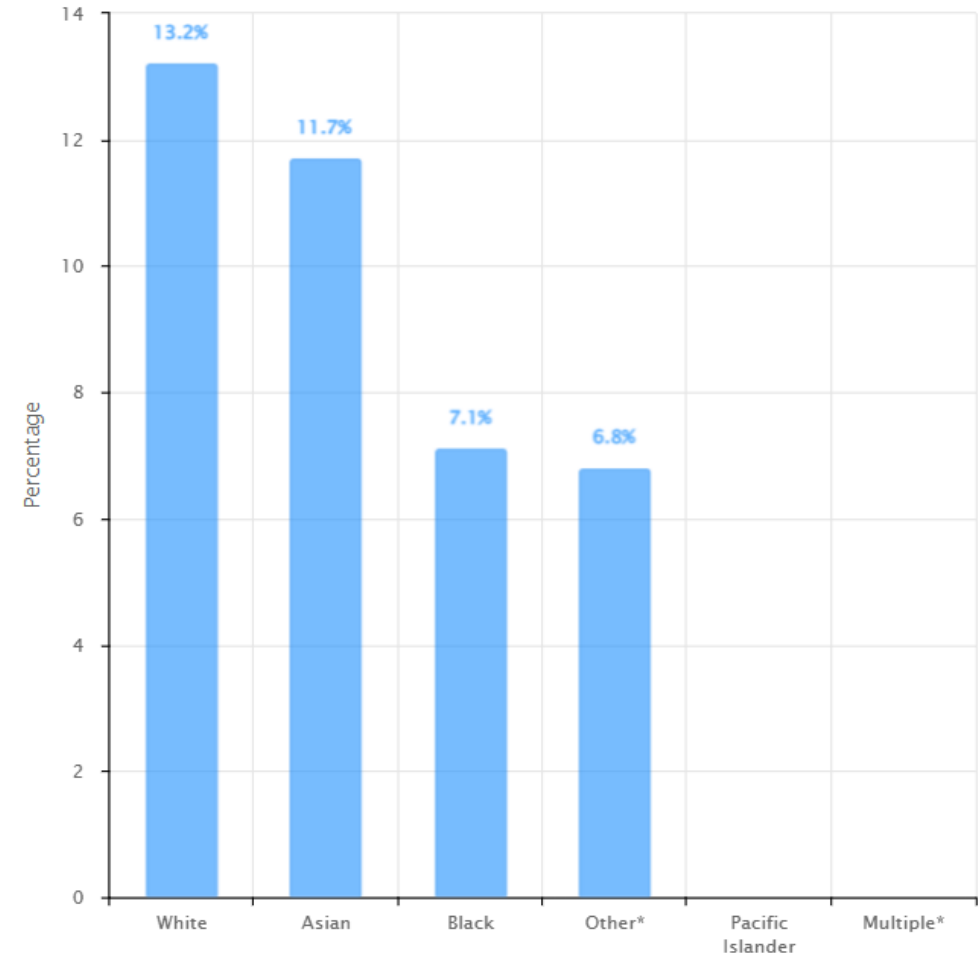
*“CDC is committed to COVID-19 vaccine equity, which is when everyone has fair and just access to COVID-19 vaccination.”*

# WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US WITH UPDATED 2023/24 COVID VACCINES?

% OF DELAWAREANS BY ETHNICITY WHO HAVE RECEIVED UPDATED (2023-2024) DOSES



% OF DELAWAREANS BY RACE WHO HAVE RECEIVED UPDATED (2023-2024) DOSES



# Census Tract 504.08

11/28/2023

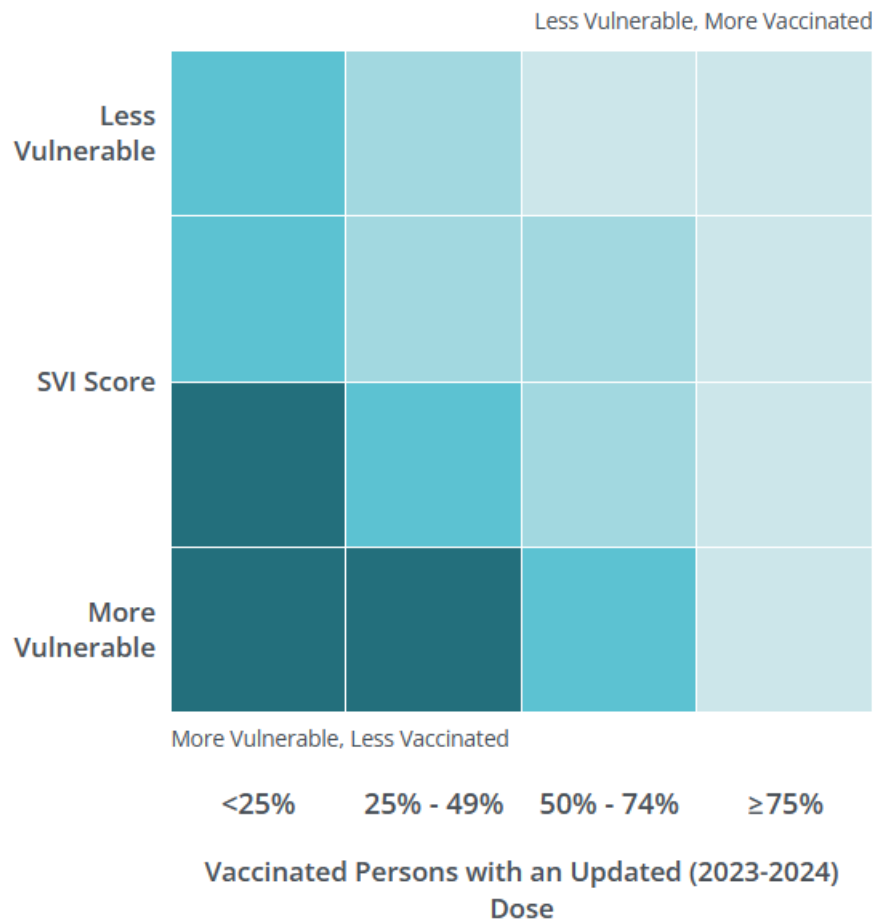
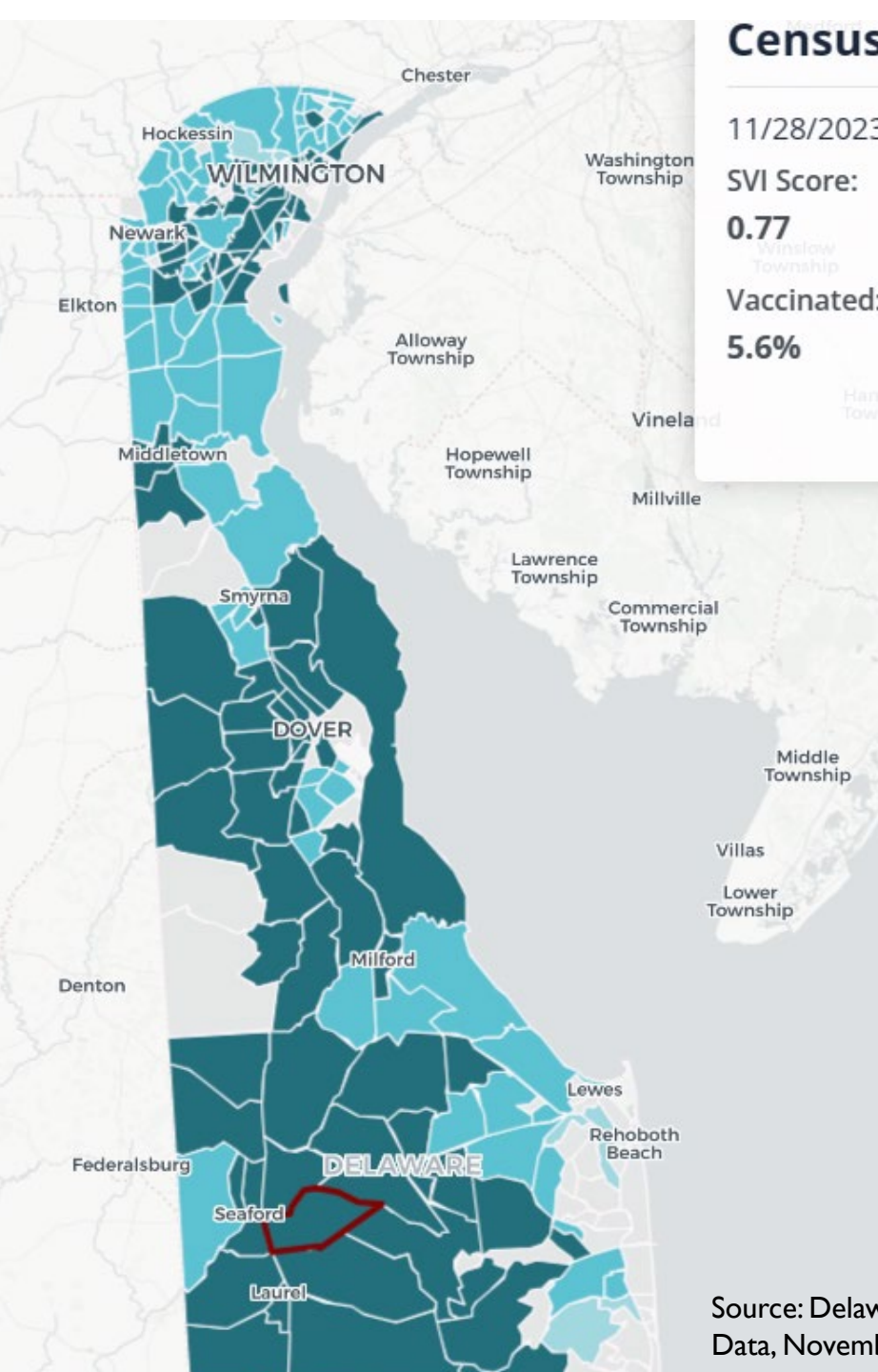
SVI Score:

**0.77**

Vaccinated:

**5.6%**

## COVID VACCINATION BY SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX



SOCIAL vulnerability index (SVI) is used by CDC to track/map how vulnerable a community is to the negative impacts of disaster and disease

Unfortunately, many areas with high SVI have low vaccination rates



# Census Tract 510.17

11/28/2023

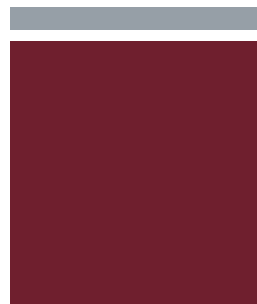
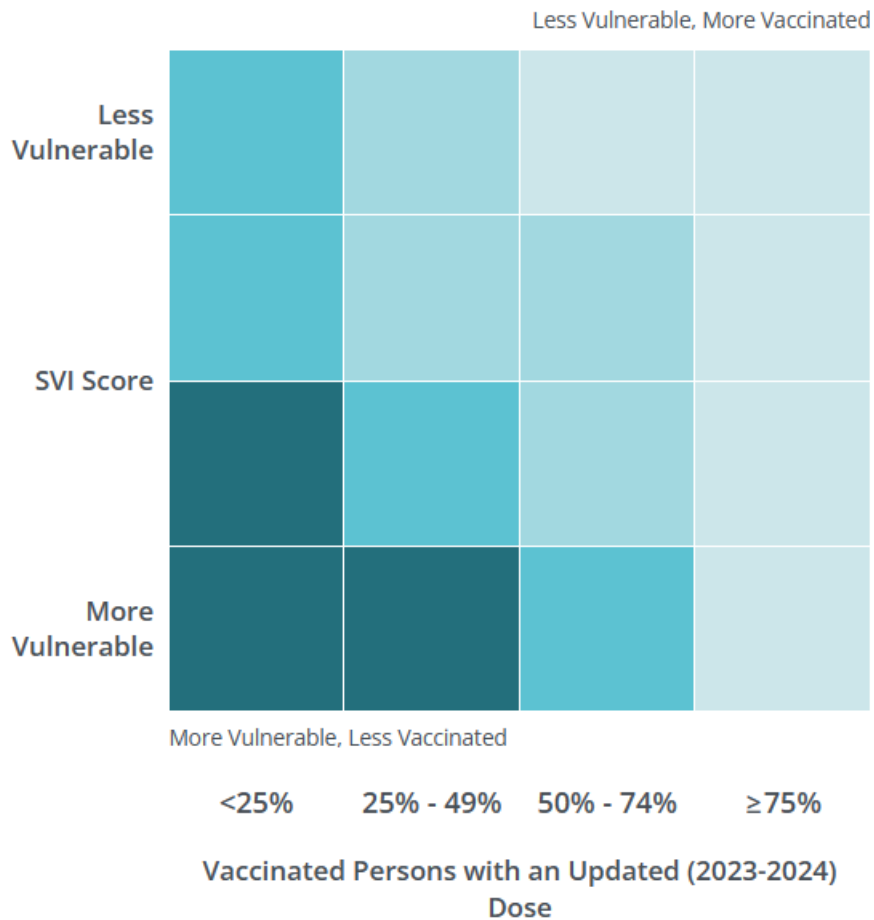
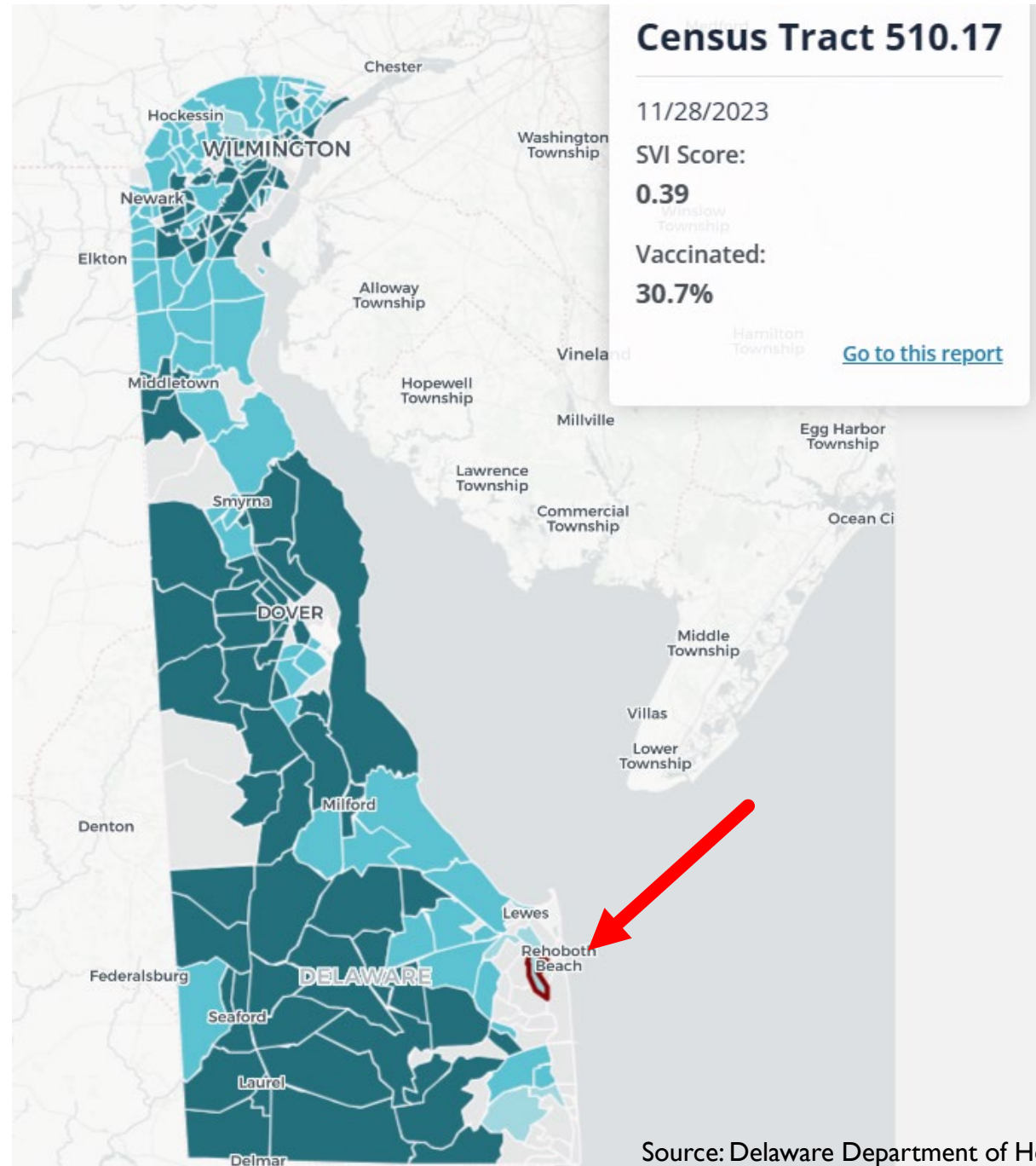
SVI Score:

**0.39**

Vaccinated:

**30.7%**

[Go to this report](#)



The goal is to continue to expand coverage so we have more areas in lighter shades of blue.



# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Much work remains to improve vaccination rates and vaccine equity in:

- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Vulnerable communities.

What **YOU** can do:

1. Help build vaccine confidence in patients by:
  - Share clear and accurate information to educate about vaccines.
  - Adapt key messages to the language, tone, and format that will resonate with target.
2. Avoid waste
3. Stay informed!
4. Use available resources
5. Work with others.





## HOW YOU CAN HELP: AVOID VACCINE WASTAGE



# VACCINE WASTAGE - CURRENT GRANT YEAR

Wasted returnable vaccine	
Expired vaccine	2,093
Other	682
Spoiled—other	48
Natural disaster/Power outage	46
Refrigerator too warm	36
Wasted non-returnable condition	
Other	381
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,286</b>

Vaccine for children grant year (July 1, 2023 - current)

Contributing factors:

- Suboptimal vaccine management- not rotating stock, stockpiling vaccine → Expiration
- Changes to provider formulary/ Introduction of new vaccine: PCV13 → PCV 20
- Sub-optimal monitoring of vaccine storage units; including visual inspections and routine continuous temperature monitoring device reports.



# WHAT CAN YOU DO? STAY INFORMED.

## 1. Sign up to receive Delaware health alerts:

- [healthalertde.org/](http://healthalertde.org/)
- Timely and pertinent updates from DPH.

## 2. Take advantage of DPH's "My Healthy Community" website:

- <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/home>
- Actionable data down to the county (and zip code) level.
- Current Infectious disease data for your location of interest
- Also provides environmental and chronic disease data for your area.



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE DATA: FLU HOSPITALIZATIONS

## HTTPS://MYHEALTHYCOMMUNITY.DHSS.DELAWARE.GOV/



[View Community Profile Reports](#)



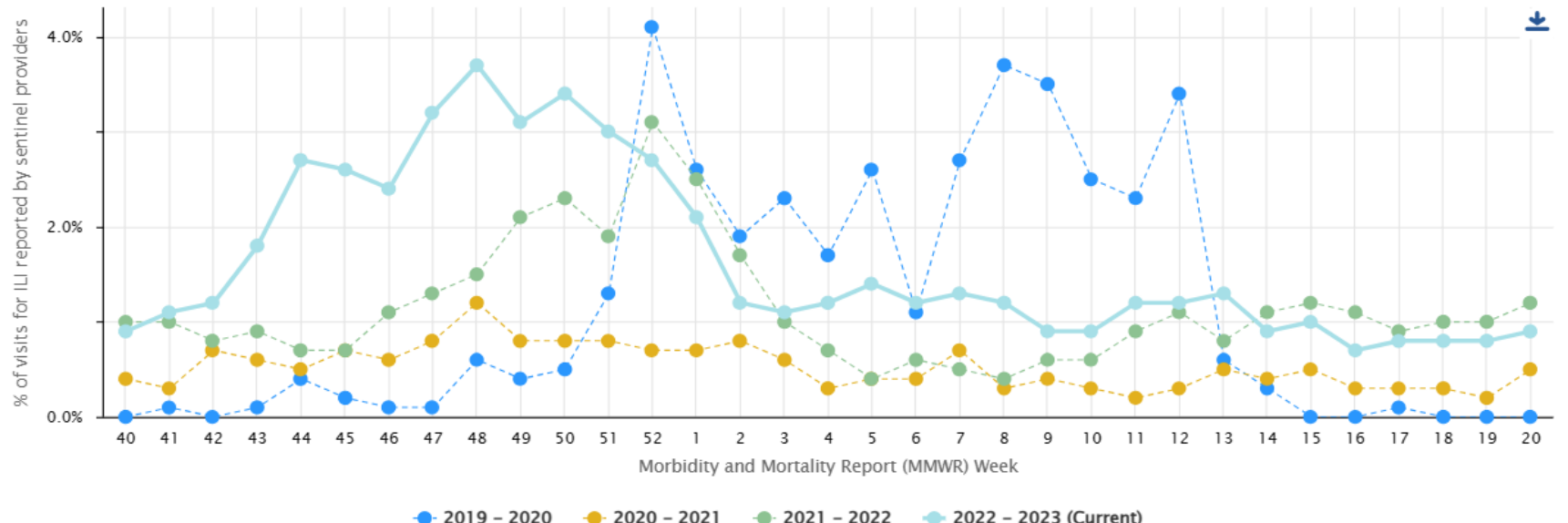
In order to protect privacy small values are not reported



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## Hospitalization Trends

Percentage of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel providers



# OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH DATA: CHRONIC DISEASE, ENVIRONMENTAL

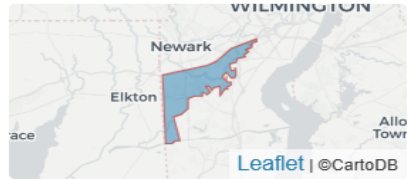
[HTTPS://MYHEALTHYCOMMUNITY.DHSS.DELAWARE.GOV/](https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/)

Currently Selected Location

**Zip Code 19702**

Population: 54,980

[More Details](#)



[Go to Community Profile Report](#)

[Home](#) > [Environment](#)

Selected Location:

'12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18

[View Air Quality Report >>](#)

## PUBLIC DRINKING WATER >>

Public water systems, serving at least 25 people, are required to maintain certain water quality standards. Delaware provides testing and analysis that is conducted at regular intervals to ensure the water delivered to a system's customers meets the appropriate standards.

[View Public Drinking Water Reports >>](#)

## PRIVATE DRINKING WATER (WELLS) >>

It is very important that private groundwater wells are checked regularly to ensure the water is safe for drinking. We present data from wells tested, however presence of contaminants in one well does not necessarily mean the contaminants are present in neighboring wells.

[View Private Drinking Water Reports >>](#)

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[All Topics](#)

[Chronic Disease](#)

[Climate and Health](#)

[Community Characteristics](#)

[Community Safety](#)

[Environment](#)

[Air Quality](#)

[Private Drinking Water \(Wells\)](#)

[Public Drinking Water](#)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO: UTILIZE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- Utilize CDC resources on vaccination/hesitancy/vaccine equity
  - See resource list at end of slide deck.
- Utilize DPH resources:
  - Online resources:
    - Myhealthycommunity.dhss.Delaware.gov
    - Public health information portal: Info on current & emerging public health issues
  - In-person resources: Immunization program, Office of Health Equity, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
  - We want to hear from and support you; reach us via email or phone.
- Partner with others to achieve common goals.



# CASE STUDY: PARTNERING TO OPTIMIZE VACCINE UPTAKE

- On any given day, 4,000 to 4,500 Delawareans are housed in one of the state's prisons.
- Similar to prison services everywhere, there is distrust of the health system.
- Through creativity and partnerships, the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) was able to attain high vaccination rates for a prison system by:
  - Providing incentives that mattered to patients
  - Using trusted voices: Community advocates, previously incarcerated persons, doctors from outside coming in to educate and vaccinate
  - Respect: Meeting with the patients to understand needs, concerns (educational sessions, group discussion).
- As of July 20<sup>th</sup> (before updated COVID vaccine):
  - 61% of sentenced persons had received at least 1 dose
  - 58% of sentenced persons had received 2 doses
  - 1,339 persons had received boosters
  - **3,626 persons had been vaccinated by DOC and released to the community since vaccine became available.**



## DPH IS HERE FOR YOU AND YOUR PATIENTS

- We want to hear from you.
- We want to support you.
- We welcome your feedback to help us improve.
- Work with us to help us reduce wastage of vaccines.
- Help us reach more people with vaccinations.



THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE PEOPLE OF DELAWARE!!!



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DPH Immunization program: 302-744-4850 [immunizedph@delaware.gov](mailto:immunizedph@delaware.gov)

DPH Office of Health Equity: 302-744-4938

DPH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology: 302-744-4990 [reportdisease@delaware.gov](mailto:reportdisease@delaware.gov)



## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Equity: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/vaccine-equity.html>
- Delaware Environmental Health Tracking Network <https://myhealthycommunity.dhss.delaware.gov/home>
- Advancing Immunization Equity: Recommendations from the National Vaccine Advisory Committee: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/nvac-immunization-equit-report.pdf>
- DE Public Health Portal: <https://publichealthalerts.delaware.gov/>
- Delaware COVID-19 website [de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus)
- Delaware flu website [flu.Delaware.gov](https://flu.Delaware.gov)
- Delaware immunization program <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dph/dpc/immunize.html>
- Bridge program (Free COVID vaccines) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/bridge/index.html>