

Data points to Covid vaccine shortfall for Black Americans

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A study out Monday suggested Black Americans had not gotten the coronavirus vaccine at a rate proportionate to their population in the nation.

Between December 14 and January 14, nearly 13 million people received at least one injection of the two vaccines authorized in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the country's main federal public health agency.

The ethnicity of about half of those patients—about 6.7 million people—is known. Of them, only 5.4 percent identified as Black, compared to 60.4 percent who identified as white, 11.5 percent as Hispanic and six percent as Asian.

However, the CDC also noted that about 14 percent of those vaccinated self-identified as "multiple" or "other" ethnicities, limiting the possibility of drawing definitive conclusions.

"More complete reporting of race and ethnicity data at the provider and jurisdictional levels is critical to ensure rapid detection of and response to potential disparities in COVID-19 vaccination," the CDC said.

The data was released amid growing concern in the United States about disparities in access to vaccines.

In certain regions, vaccination centers are located in predominantly white neighborhoods. The same imbalance can be seen in access to an [internet connection](#) needed to make a vaccination appointment.

Meanwhile, African-Americans are 2.9 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 and 2.1 times more likely to die of the disease, Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, who was appointed by President Joe Biden to coordinate an equitable response to the coronavirus crisis, said Monday.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that the executive branch was paying particular attention to this issue, including "supporting additional

venues for vaccinations, targeted (at) reaching those at the highest risk" and calling on states to develop plans for equitable [vaccine](#) distribution.

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