

TOP STORY

Stockton poll: Most NJ residents want COVID-19 vaccine, but minority residents less likely to be vaccinated

Claire Lowe
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An AtlantiCare nurse Eileen Xu gives Miriam Ramos, of Pleasantville, a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in January at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

Edward Lea / Staff Photographer

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GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP — New Jersey residents are concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic, and most want to be vaccinated, but a recent poll from Stockton University shows vaccine accessibility can vary greatly by race, ethnicity and income.

The poll of 740 New Jersey adults, published Tuesday by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton, shows that while a majority of New Jersey's Black and Hispanic residents want the COVID-19 vaccine, they are getting vaccinated at much lower rates than white and Asian residents.

Data on race shows 30% of white respondents and 24% of Asian respondents received at least their first COVID-19 vaccine dose while 16% of Black respondents have. Broken down by ethnicity, 27% of non-Hispanics have received at least their first dose compared with 14% of Hispanics.

Income seems to also play a role in vaccine accessibility, as those whose income is more than \$100,000 a year were more than twice as likely to have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine than those who make less than \$50,000 annually.

"These findings reflect inequity in how the virus and the vaccination process are affecting people of color and lower-income populations in New Jersey," said John Froomjian, director of the Hughes Center.

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