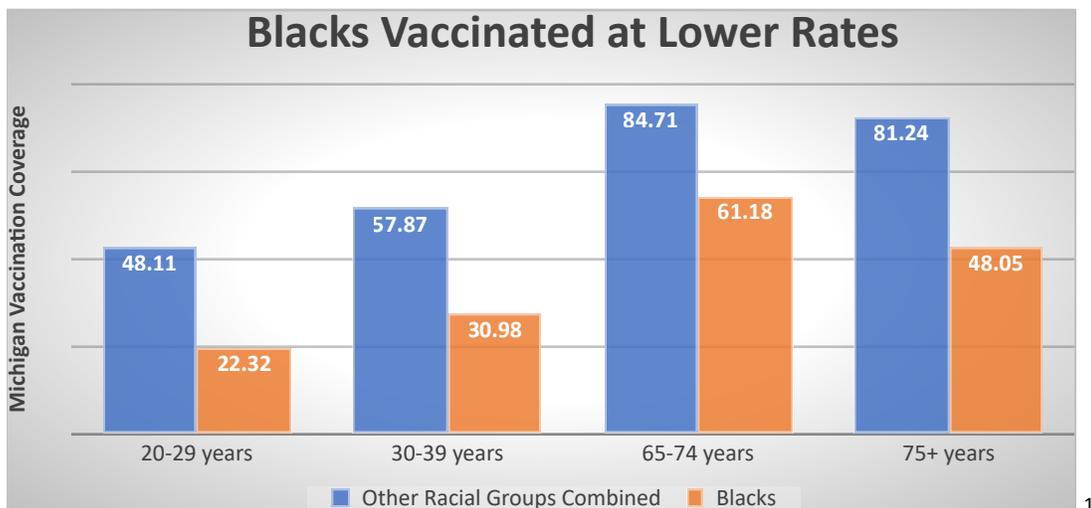


# Racial Disparity in Vaccination Rates

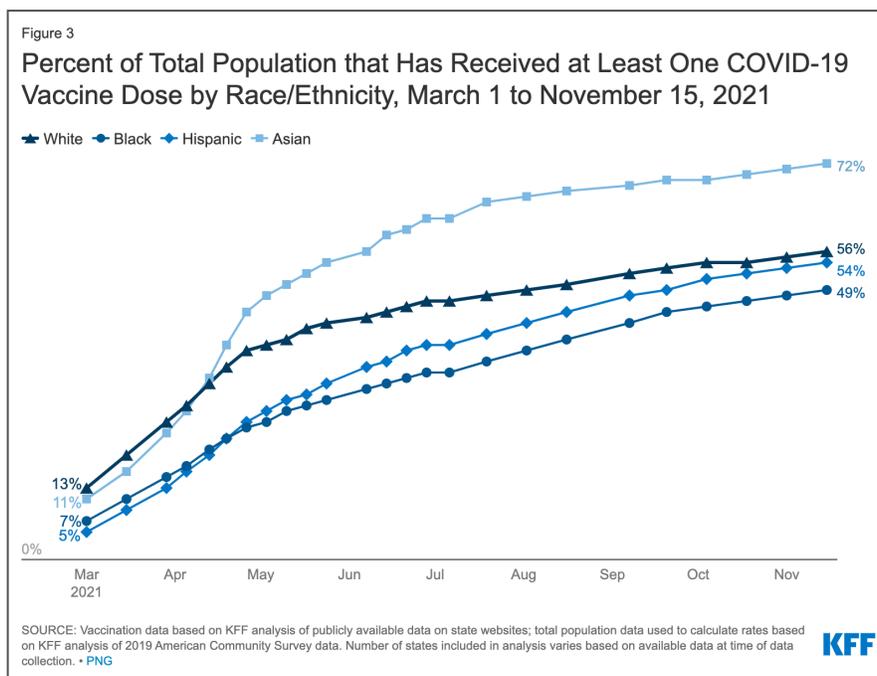
## Black Americans are Getting Vaccinated at Lower Rates than White Americans and Many Claim Systemic Racism for their Vaccine Hesitancy

In Michigan, when compared to all other racial groups combined:

- On average, vaccination rates for non-Hispanic blacks are 22 percentage points lower.
- Vaccination rates for working age black people between the ages of 20-39 years are 27 percentage points lower.
- Vaccination rates for black people aged 65-74 years are 23 percentage points lower.
- Vaccination rates for black people aged 75+ years are 33 percentage points lower.
- Blacks were 3.3 times LESS likely to initiate vaccination of their 5-11 year old children, and 7 times less likely to follow through with the second dose.



Data from Michigan is consistent with National trends showing vaccine hesitancy in Black Americans.



# Racial Disparity in Vaccination Rates

## The KFF/Undefeated Survey<sup>3</sup> done in 2020 found the following:

- “Among Black adults who say they’re not planning to get a vaccine, nearly 40% cite safety concerns, including that it will be too new and there won’t be sufficient testing. Another 35% attributed their concerns to a general lack of trust or have doubts about the government or the health care system.”
- “Overall, 65% of Black adults said they are not too confident or not at all confident that the development of a coronavirus vaccine is taking the needs of Black people into account.”

## The KFF/Undefeated Survey<sup>3</sup> goes on to explain that vaccine hesitancy is largely due to the history of hyper-experimentation on black people in America.

- “Black people were **used as medical research subjects during slavery**. It was long before medical ethics developed as a discipline and “Black bodies often found their way to dissecting tables, operating amphitheatres, classroom or bedside demonstrations, and experimental facilities,” according to a [1982 paper \(PDF\)](#) by Todd L. Savitt, a professor at East Carolina University’s College of Medicine.”
- “That kind of medical exploitation (which sometimes included white people, too) continued for more than a century. Most famously, the [Tuskegee syphilis study](#) began in 1932 with the goal of tracking the damage the disease does to the human body. Without informed consent, the study enrolled 600 Black men, including 399 who had syphilis. The men were told they were being treated for “bad blood,” but they did not receive any treatment for their illness — not even after penicillin was found to cure syphilis in the mid-1940s. The study did not end until it was exposed to the press in 1972, and has gone down as one of the nation’s most egregious examples of medical racism.”
- “But disparate treatment did not end there. Researchers have documented many ways that Black patients are treated differently from white patients. In 2002, the Institute of Medicine’s [groundbreaking report](#), *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, found higher rates of diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and HIV, among Black and other people of color. Yet, minority patients were less likely to receive critical medical interventions such as bypass surgery or antiretroviral therapy. At the same time, people of color were more likely to receive extremely invasive treatments, such as [amputations](#).”

**Studies show that Blacks are overrepresented in health-care support occupations.<sup>4</sup> Further, Black health-care workers are 30% less likely to receive the vaccine than their White or Asian colleagues.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the same Black healthcare workers that put themselves at risk to care for Covid patients during the early part of the pandemic are now being fired for not trusting a health care system that has traditionally marginalized and abused them.**

### Sources:

1 [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_103214-547150--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214-547150--,00.html)

2 <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-by-race-ethnicity/>

3 <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/report/kff-the-undefeated-survey-on-race-and-health/>

4 <https://www.cepr.net/a-basic-demographic-profile-of-workers-in-frontline-industries/>

5 <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10263059/Black-health-care-workers-30-likely-receive-COVID-19-vaccine-four-months.html>