



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

April 29, 2021



### Research Policy Update

#### *COVID-19 Data – Situation Summary – IHS Vaccine Data*

The purpose of this update is to share publicly available data and trends related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Indian Country. The NCAI Policy Research Center reviews updates on public websites in the early morning each day and records available data. The data in this update represents what has been shared publicly by the sources described below, and the NCAI Policy Research Center is not analyzing the primary sources of data. This update represents data posted at the time of viewing each day.

In reviewing this data, it is important to understand that current COVID-19 data is likely an underestimate of the actual data due to current lack of adequate testing availability, underreporting of tribal and urban Indian health program data to the Indian Health Service (IHS), and underreporting of race/ethnicity data to states and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Tribal nations are encouraged to conduct their own surveillance locally in partnership with local, county, state, and federal agencies.

This update focuses on IHS vaccine data. For data on COVID-19 cases and deaths based on IHS and CDC Data, view our weekly COVID-19 Situation Summaries at:  
<https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/resources-for-indian-country/other-resources>

#### **IHS DATA – VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND ADMINISTRATION**

The CDC established a COVID Data Tracker on its website that now includes data on COVID-19 vaccinations in the United States at: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>. The data includes total doses of vaccine distributed, administered, and the number of people receiving one or more doses and two doses for the United States overall and for federal entities such as IHS. As of 3/9/2021, CDC stopped publishing detailed data on the COVID Data Tracker map for IHS but the full dataset can still be downloaded and reviewed.

The NCAI Policy Research Center began tracking this vaccine data daily since February 4, 2021. We calculated the total and percent for the following data: total doses distributed (as a percent of the eligible population, which for we used the IHS user population); total doses administered

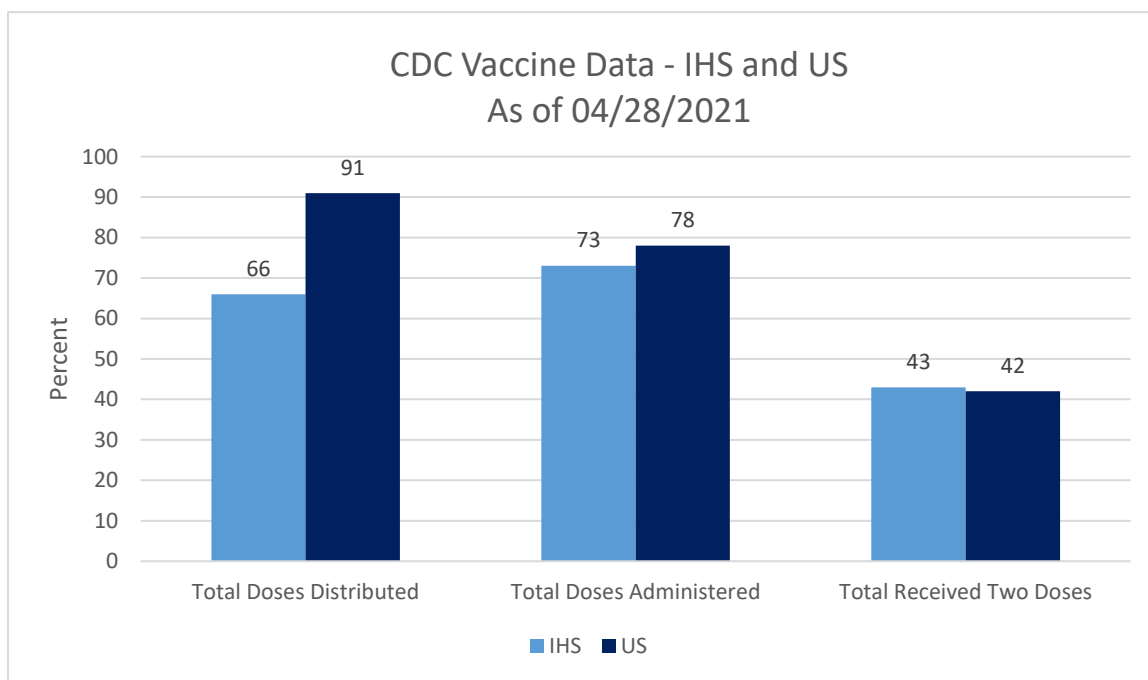
as a percent of total doses distributed; total people receiving one or more doses as a percent of total administered; and total people receiving two doses as a percent of total administered.

Multiple factors may impact the total of vaccine doses distributed and administered, and by using IHS data, the data does not include the total number of American Indians and Alaska Natives who has received the vaccine in the United States since only a portion of them are counted in the IHS user population. If the IHS service population were used in the calculations of percent doses distributed, the percent result would be lower.

#### *IHS and US Vaccine Data*

**Figure 1** shows the percent vaccines distributed and administered for IHS and the United States overall. The numbers and percent results for each category are included in **Table 1**.

**Figure 1. COVID-19 Vaccinations – Overall Results for IHS and US**



Percent results calculated from data on CDC COVID-19 Vaccinations in the US website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>. See Table 1 for data used in calculations of percent results.

**Table 1. COVID-19 Vaccinations – Overall Results for IHS and US**

04/28/2021	Indian Health Service	United States
Total doses distributed	1,682,815	301,857,885
percent of population*	66	91
Total doses administered	1,228,892	234,639,414
percent of distributed	73	78
People receiving one or more doses	709,662	142,692,987
percent of total administered	58	61
People receiving two doses	531,022	98,044,421
percent of total administered	43	42
*IHS user population 2020 (IHS.gov)	2,560,000	
*US population 2020		331,000,000

Data on CDC COVID-19 Vaccinations in the US from website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

The data reveal that the percent of total doses distributed per population is greater for the United States overall compared to IHS. The percent of doses administered of those distributed is still lower for IHS than the overall United States. Of those dose administered, about the same percent have received two doses. The reasons for the difference in administration of doses distributed in IHS compared to the United States is unknown.

The CDC now publishes data on the number and percent of people receiving one or more doses and those receiving two doses as a percent of the total population and as a percent of the total population 18 years and older. Both numbers are helpful; the former gives a sense of progress towards “herd immunity” for the entire population, and the latter provides information about vaccine administration in the population currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. **Table 2** illustrates these results for IHS and the overall US. Note the CDC uses an IHS population number closer to 2 million despite the IHS website data indicating a 2020 user population of 2.5 million. In Table 1, we intentionally use the IHS 2020 user population number from their website fact sheet since the comparison we use to the US is a total population number from 2020. The CDC website does not provide percent of population age 18+ result for IHS data. The data show that the percent of population receiving one or more doses and two doses is lower for IHS than the overall US. Both the US and IHS are still far below the percent needed to achieve herd immunity.

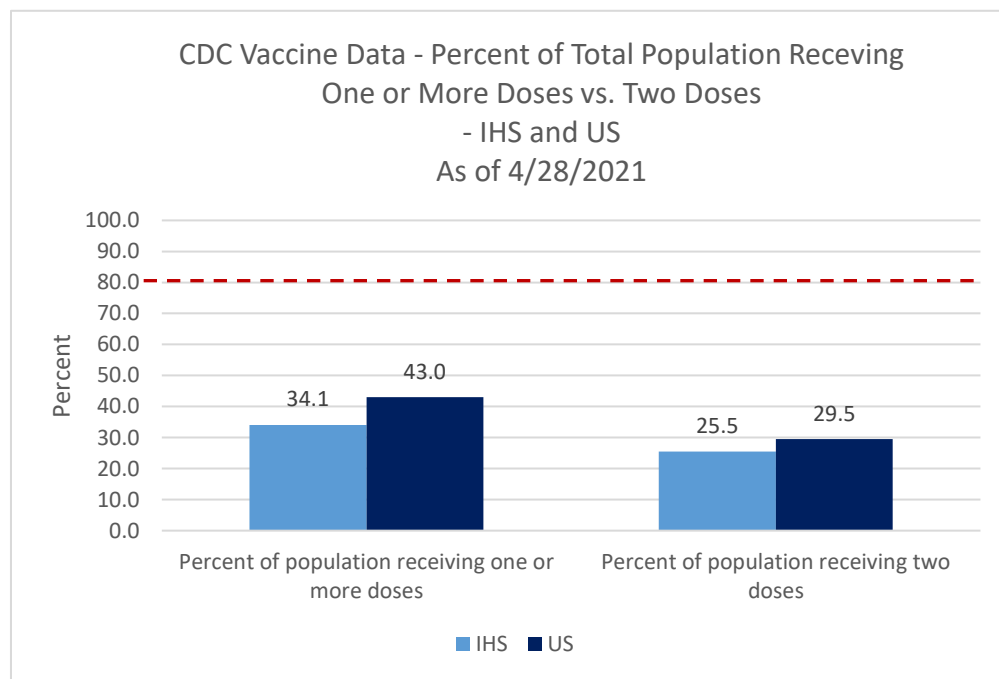
**Table 2. COVID-19 Vaccinations by Doses Received – IHS and US**

04/28/2021	Indian Health Service	United States
Total receiving one or more doses	709,662	142,692,987
Percent of total population	34.1	43.0
Age $\geq$ 18 years – one or more doses	692,654	140,792,606
Percent of population $\geq$ 18 years	n/a	54.5
People receiving two doses	531,022	98,044,421
Percent of total population	25.5	20.5
Age $\geq$ 18 years – two doses	520,836	97,514,016
Percent of population $\geq$ 18 years	n/a	37.8

Data on CDC COVID-19 Vaccinations in the US from website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

Note the CDC COVID-19 Vaccinations website does not provide percent of total population  $\geq$  18 years for IHS for this data. Also, the CDC website uses a total population around 2 million for IHS in their calculation of these percents.

**Figure 2. COVID-19 Vaccinations – Percent of Total Population Receiving One or More Doses vs. Two Doses – IHS and US**



Data on CDC COVID-19 Vaccinations in the US from website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

Note the CDC website uses a total population around 2 million for IHS in their calculation of these percents.

The red dotted line on the graph represents the percent that may be needed to achieve herd immunity per public health experts.

The NCAI Policy Research Center publishes trends in COVID-19 case data in its other reports, *NCAI COVID-19 Data Situation Summary* and *NCAI COVID-19 Data Situation Summary IHS Area Data*, which are published weekly on the NCAI COVID-19 website listed below under the “Other Resources” section. All results should be interpreted in the context of COVID-19 case trends and local public health efforts. Tribal nations are encouraged to track their own data in consultation with local, state, and federal partners.

## Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus (COVID-19) website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Indian Health Service (IHS) Coronavirus (COVID-19) website:  
<https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/>

Tribal Epidemiology Centers:  
<https://tribalepicenters.org/>

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) COVID-19 website:  
<http://www.ncai.org/covid-19>

NCAI COVID-19 Situation Summary documents:  
<http://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/resources-for-indian-country/other-resources>

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