

# COVID-19 Health Equity Through Collective Action

Midyear Impact Report:  
January to June 2022

# Achieving Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination



The Public Health Corps is a citywide effort by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) to expand the public health workforce. It partners with community groups and community health workers (CHWs) in historically underserved communities to eliminate COVID-19 inequities through outreach and education.

To date, the PHC has partnered with 93 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 22 faith-based organizations in 74 Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) priority communities. These partnerships have resulted in at least 70% of adult TRIE community residents completing their primary COVID-19 vaccine series by December 2021. By June 2022, 76% of all TRIE community residents, including children ages 5 to 12, had completed

their primary vaccine series compared to 81% of New Yorkers living outside of TRIE communities.

The PHC has also taken on COVID-19 vaccine equity for younger New Yorkers. By June 2022, 79% of children ages 13 to 17 living in TRIE communities completed their primary vaccine series compared to 83% of children ages 13 to 17 living outside of TRIE communities. The PHC will now focus on ensuring children ages 6 months to 12 years living in TRIE communities complete their primary vaccine series.

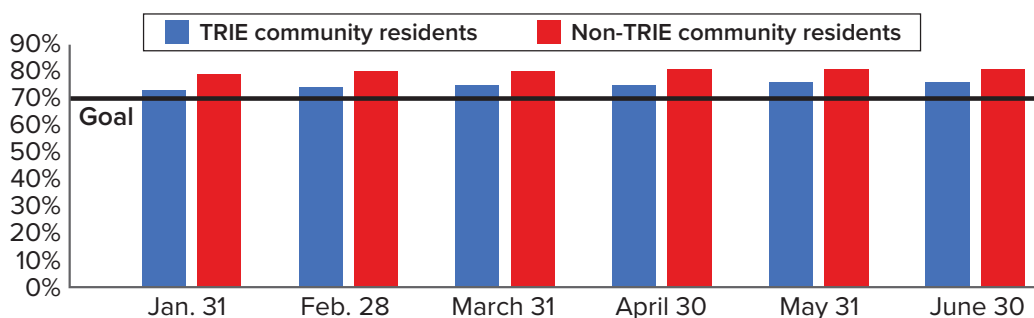
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*I wanted to protect myself and my community because we all need to protect each other. That's what New Yorkers do.*

**- Brooklyn TRIE community resident  
(quote collected by NHS Brooklyn)**

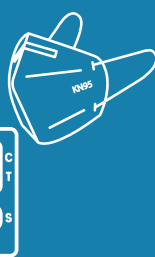
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**Month-by-Month Change in the Percentage of New Yorkers Who Received Their Primary COVID-19 Vaccine Series Between January and June 2022**

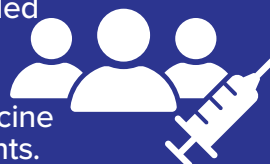


From January through June, the number of vaccinated New Yorkers increased, and the increases in TRIE neighborhoods kept pace with non-TRIE neighborhoods. For example, in January TRIE was at 72% and non-TRIE was at 78%. By June, the percentages were 76% and 81.5%, respectively.

The PHC distributed  
**2,372,949**  
KN95 masks and  
**163,617**  
at-home test kits.



**574,766**  
people attended  
**18,015**  
in-person vaccine  
outreach events.



CBOs made  
**504,551**  
vaccine and  
**138,580**  
testing referrals.



# Partnerships for Vaccine Equity

CHWs are at the heart of the PHC's strategy. They aim to provide New Yorkers with affirming communications (while decreasing stigma<sup>1</sup>) and information about COVID-19 that is tailored to their cultural and language needs. For example, CHW outreach has been conducted across the city in more than 20 languages. To further support CBO partners, the NYC Health Department and PHC have led 61 COVID-19 vaccine trainings for more than 2,000 CBO staff members since January 2022.



The PHC's mission of collective action based on a common goal works even better as their partner network expands, welcoming new partners that continue to make important contributions to COVID-19 health equity goals. For example:

- The NYC Health Department recently partnered with the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to provide a variety of services directly to TRIE community residents.
- In collaboration with CBO partners, 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) hosted 790 community events where COVID-19 vaccines were administered.

## Changing the Narrative

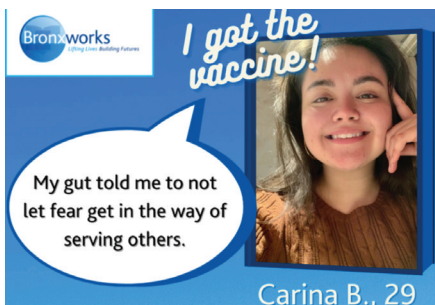
Building trust in communities is hard work and requires creativity and positivity. During COVID-19, the PHC has used positive communications to change the narrative among community members from vaccine hesitancy to vaccine confidence. In early 2022, the PHC asked 169 TRIE community residents to tell their stories about how they went from hesitant to confident and got vaccinated against COVID-19. The most common motivator for people deciding to get vaccinated was to prevent others, especially loved ones, from getting sick or dying. Trusted messengers who influenced people's decision-making included family, friends and CHWs.

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*A nurse consultant helped educate parents about the COVID vaccination in an effort to help loosen fear of vaccinating their children.*

**- Little Sisters of Assumption**

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PHC Partner BronxWorks asked community members why they got vaccinated against COVID-19. Many want to protect other people in their community.

## Partner Contributions

FQHCs vaccinated more than

**18,500**  
TRIE residents.



DHS partners made more than

**600**  
visits to  
homeless shelters.



<sup>1</sup>Negative and often unfair beliefs about something or someone

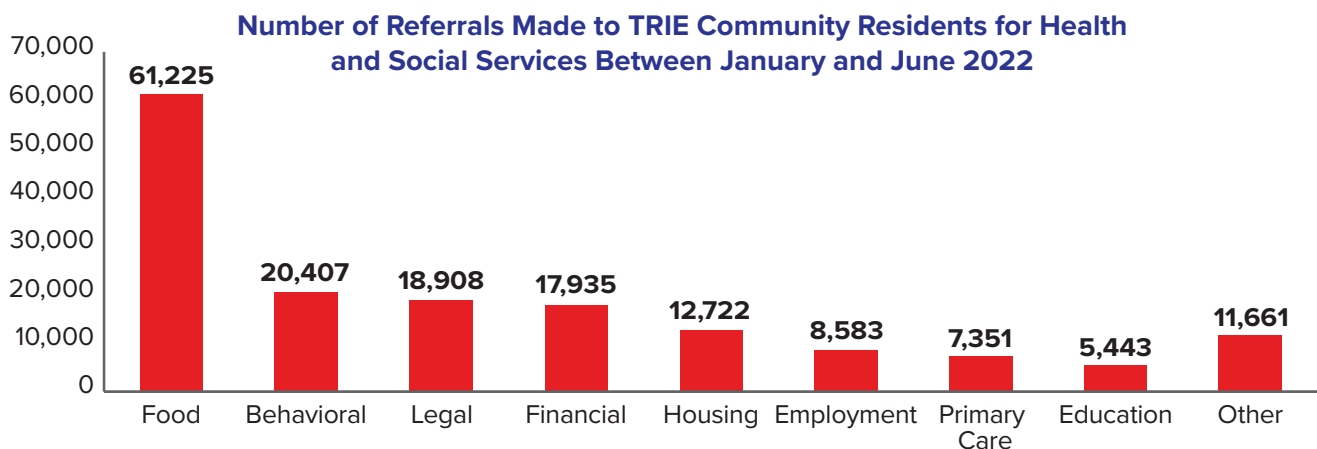
# COVID-19 Recovery and Healthy Communities

The PHC engaged communities to address their residents' health and social needs, approaching the topic of vaccination through the topic of overall wellness. From January to June 2022, CHWs provided 304,005 referrals to frequently requested services to address food insecurity<sup>2</sup> and behavioral health,<sup>3</sup> along with other needed health and social services.

The NYC Health Department recently launched a pilot program called Sports for Family Health to promote healing and recovery for children ages 7 to 17 and their parents in Queens. The successful pilot program offered 300 sports clinics, featuring sports such as soccer and basketball, for 464 children, while parents participated in 10 health promotion workshops where COVID-19 vaccine information was shared with 2,180 people.



The PHC strives to offer an innovative, comprehensive and holistic approach to community life that builds recovery beyond COVID-19 to sustainable health equity.<sup>4</sup>



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*People are concerned about housing, food and financial hardships being faced because of the pandemic. When these concerns and needs are not met . . . individuals are less likely to [bother] about vaccines.*

**- Caribbean Women's Health Association**

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## Goal for July Through December 2022

**50%**

of eligible TRIE community residents age 65 and older receive their updated COVID-19 vaccine booster



<sup>2</sup>Lack of consistent access to enough food in a household for living an active, healthy life

<sup>3</sup>Overall well-being, including mental health, and how it is affected by everyday behavior

<sup>4</sup>Where everyone has the opportunity to realize their full health potential