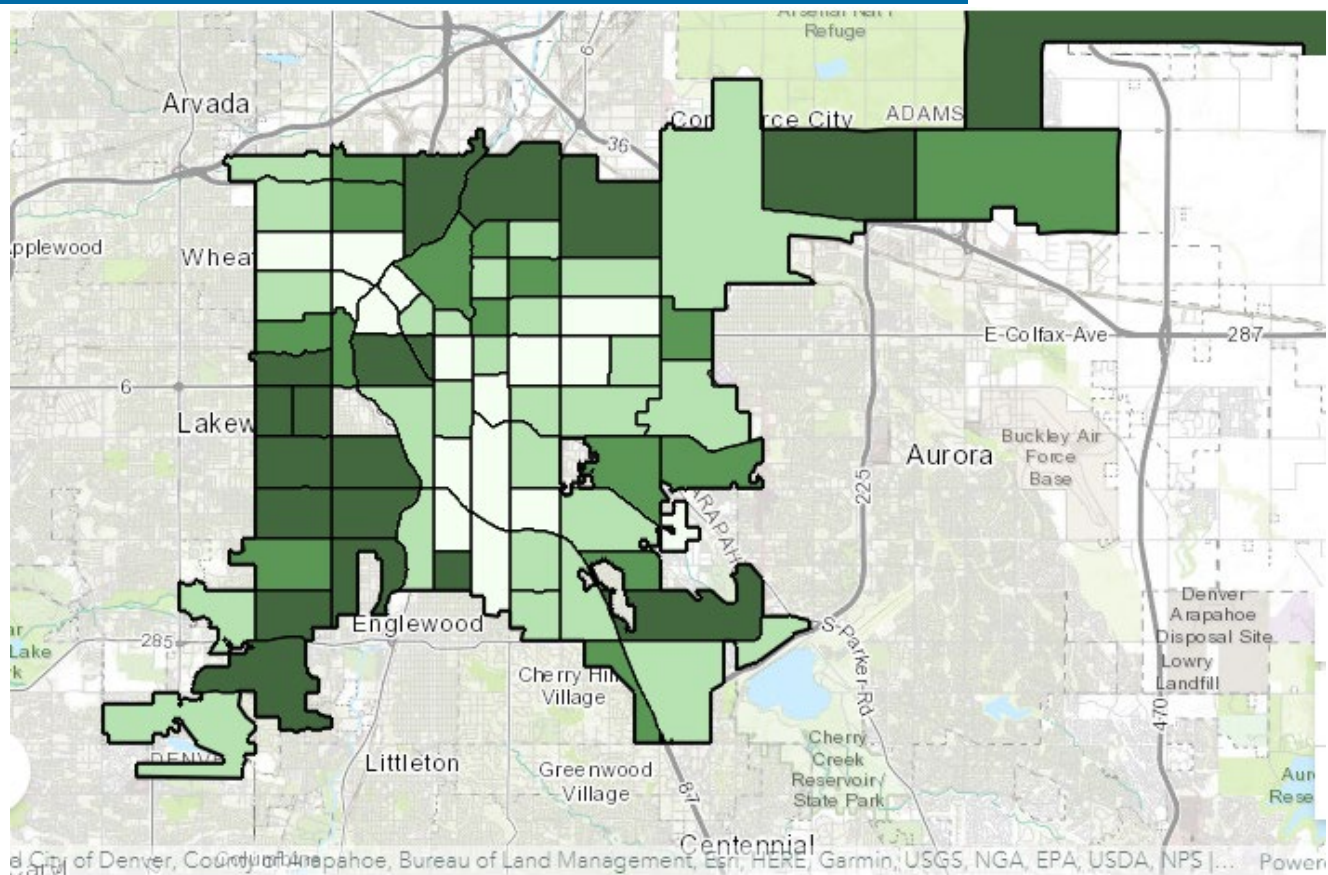# From the frontlines – severe COVID disease

- 51 year old Latino, immigrant from Mexico
- In primary care at a community health center – no major chronic illnesses
- 4/28: urgent care center with sore throat and malaise. Diagnosis – strep throat (COVID test ordered but not done)
- 5/1: ED, with severe shortness of breath, severe hypoxia. Intubation complicated by arrest
- 5/24: died of respiratory failure

COVID cases by race/ethnicity, Denver County (2020)

Podewils LJ, MMWR 2020 69:1812-8
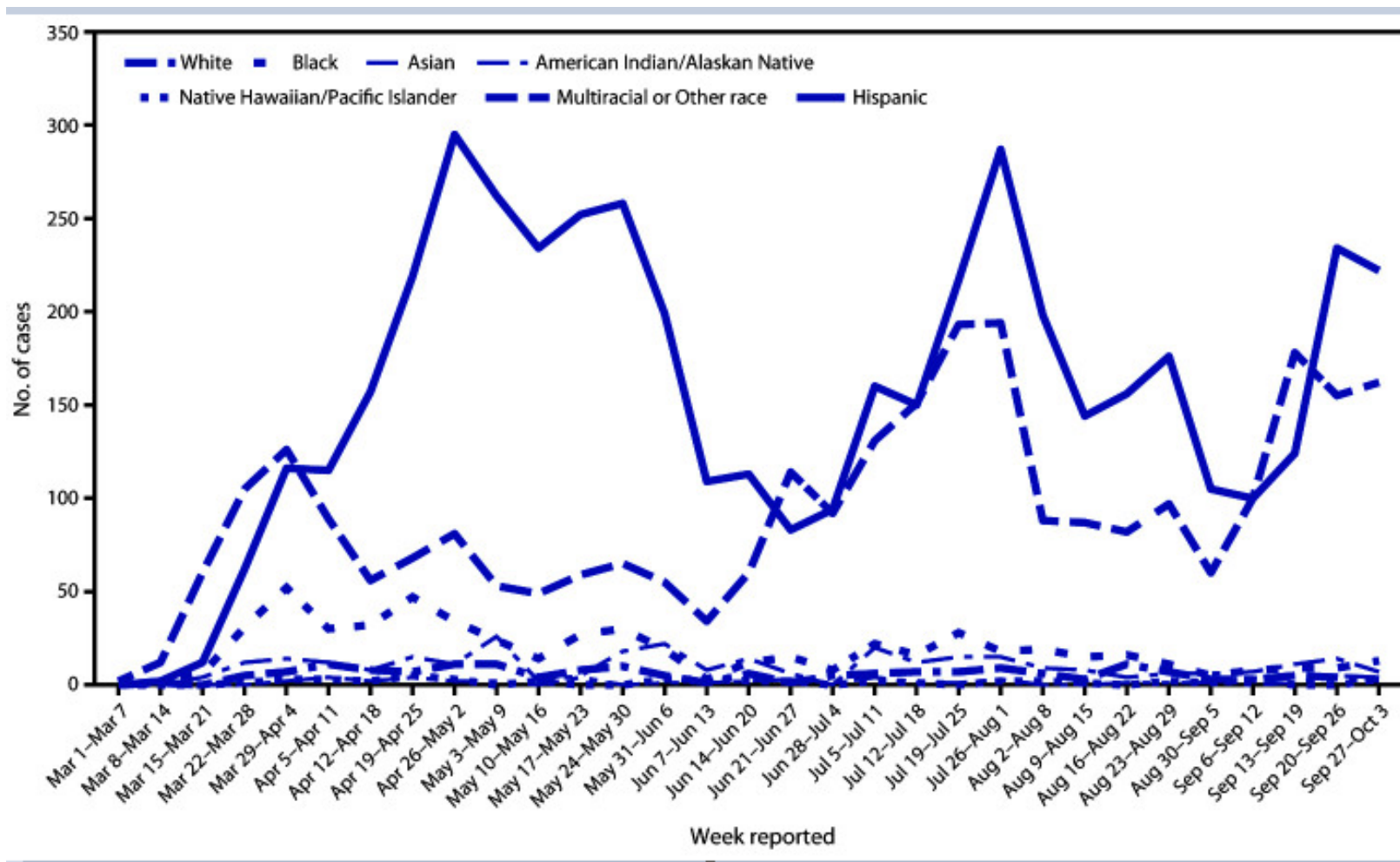
Hospitalizations for COVID, Denver County (2020-21)

Cumulative COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate per 1,000 persons by Denver Neighborhood

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50dbb5e7dfb6495292b71b7d8df56d0a

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# COVID – shining the spotlight on health disparities in Denver

- Hispanics
  - Case rates persistently 2-4 times that of Whites
  - Higher age-adjusted hospitalization and death rates

- American Indians / Alaskan Natives
  - Higher case, hospitalization, and death rates

- African-Americans
  - Higher hospitalization and death rates

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Vaccine equity – assure equal vaccination rates

Lincoln Park – 5/1000

Belcaro – 319/1000
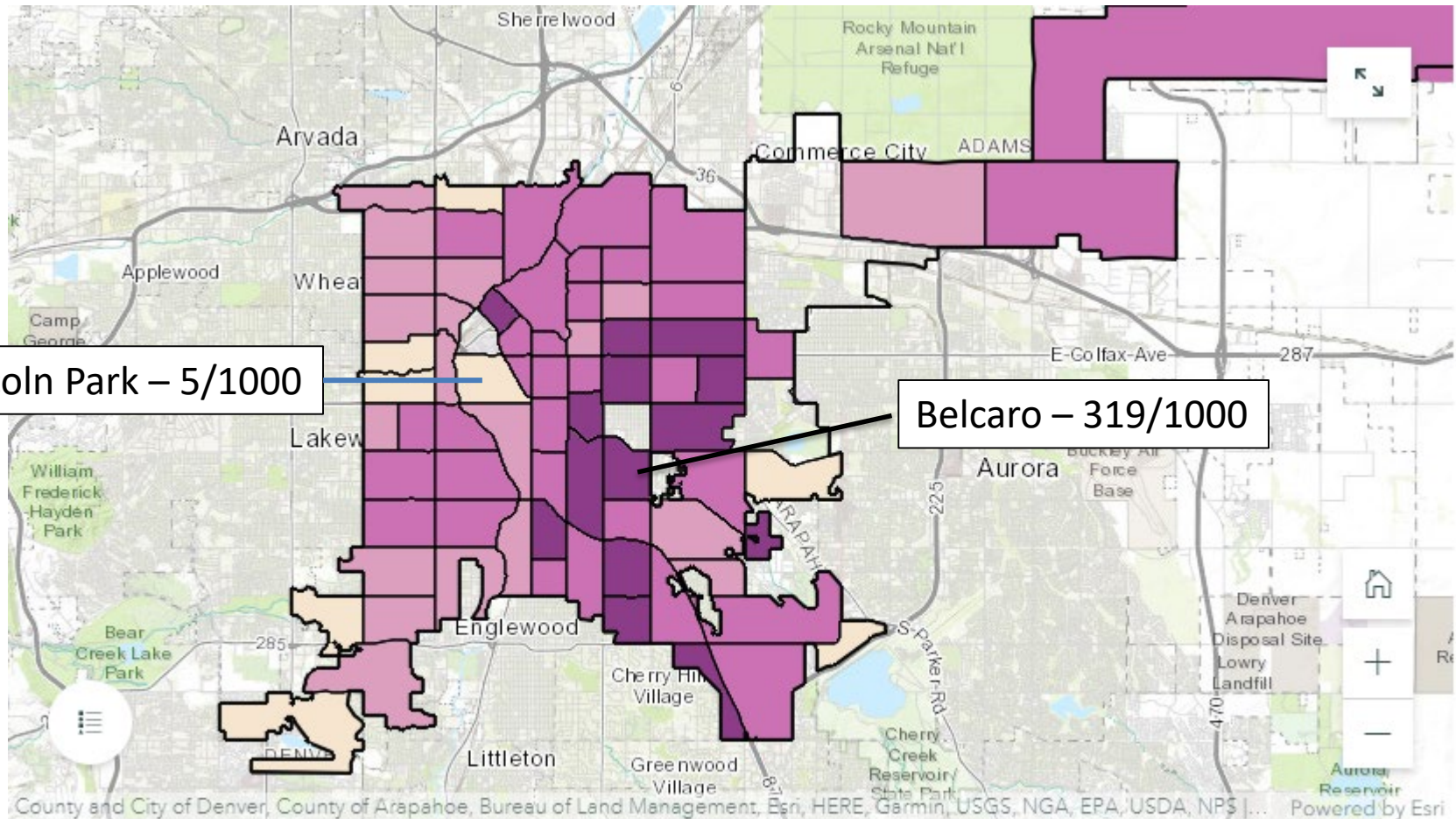
Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccine Initiation Rate per 1,000 persons age 70 and Over by Denver Neighborhood
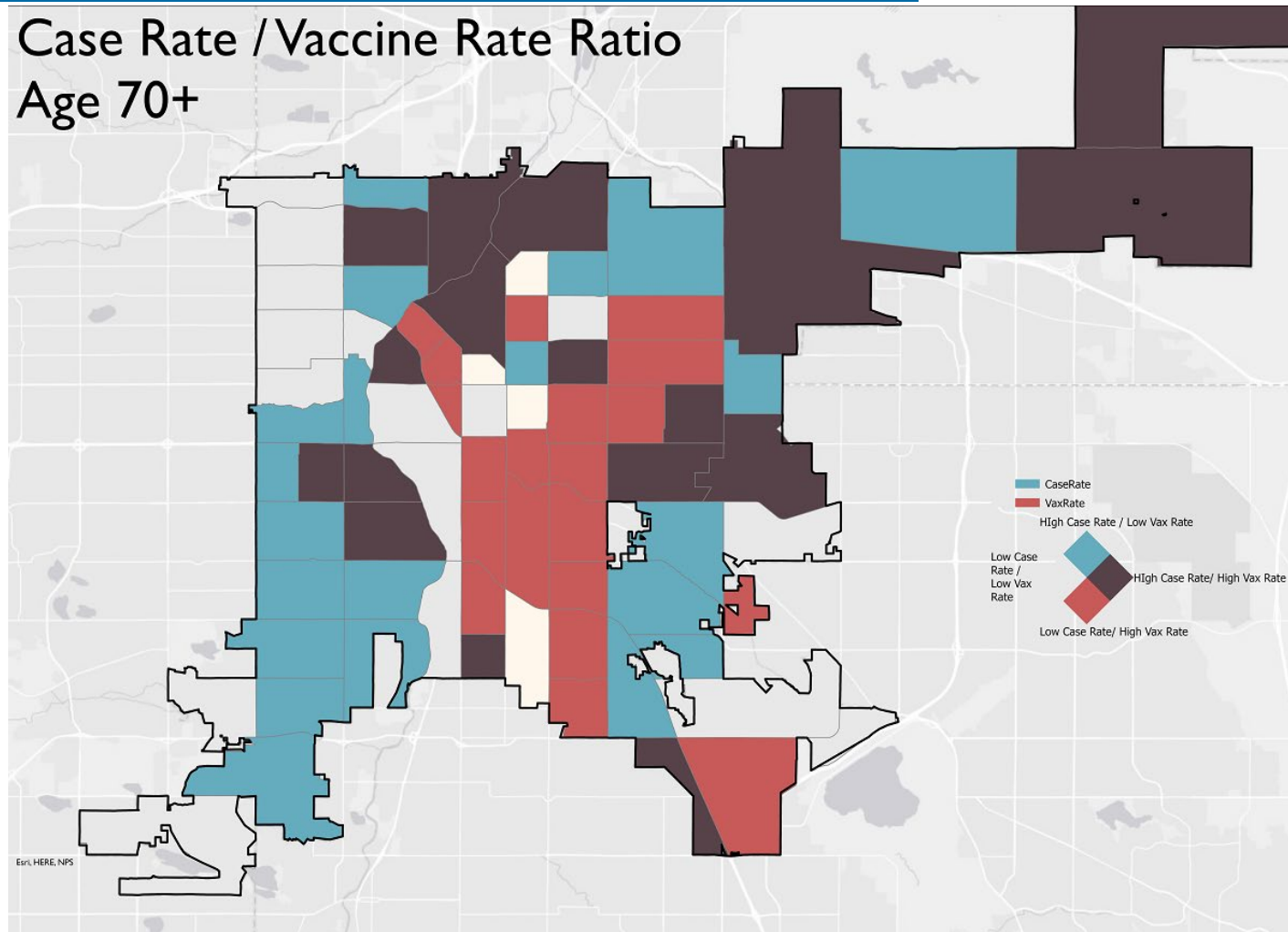
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Vaccine rates per 1000 in over 70 group by Neighborhood Income as of 1.13.2021
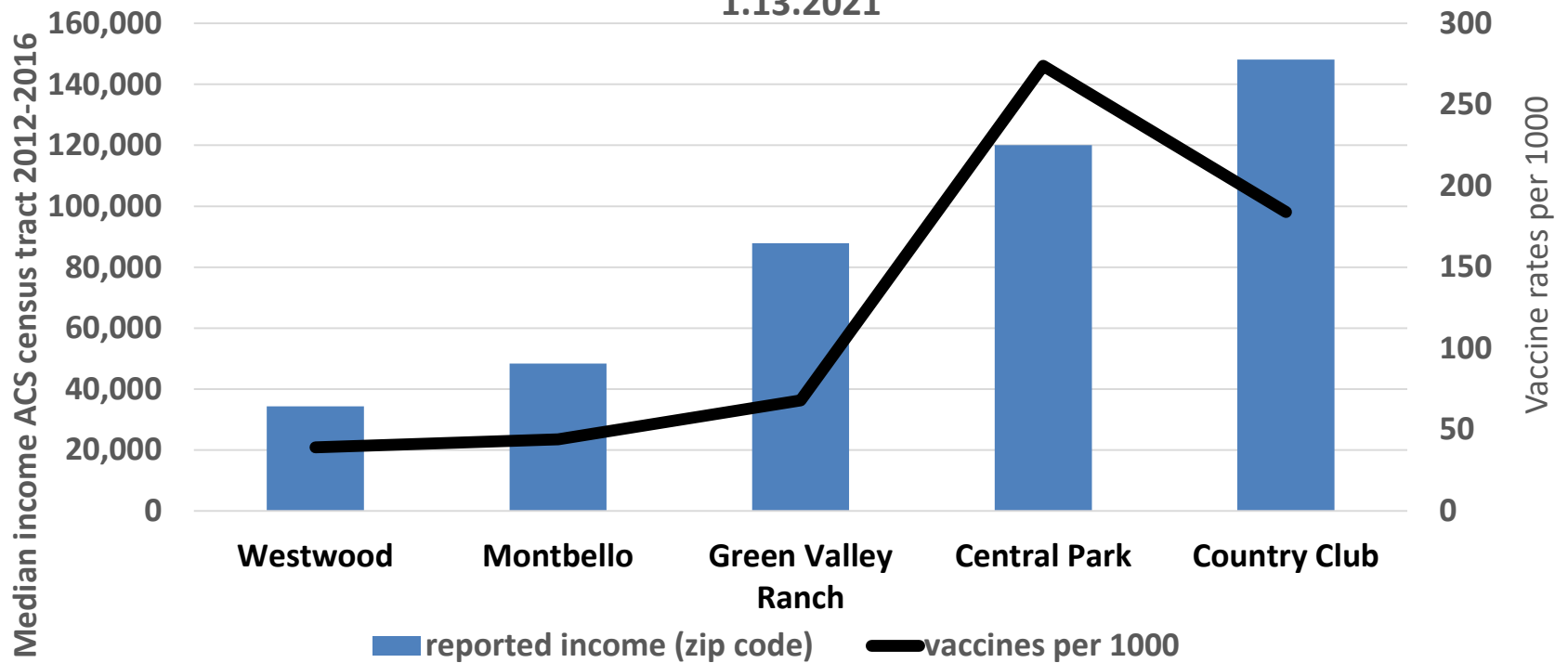
COVID – getting to vaccine equity

Challenge	Responses
Data to identify disparities	• Daily data including age, race/ethnicity, address

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Quantifying disparity – ratio of case rate to vaccination (persons 70+)

COVID – getting to vaccine equity

Challenge	Responses
Data to identify disparities	• Daily data including age, race/ethnicity, address
Knowledge about COVID vaccination	• Culturally- and linguistically appropriate information • Communication from trusted community members • Clarity that COVID vaccine is free
Trust in medical care	• Work with trusted community providers and CBOs
Internet access / familiarity with its use	• Alternatives to internet sign-up (text, phone) • Assistance with sign-up (patient navigators)
Convenient access to vaccination	• Vaccination available at community pharmacies, clinics • Outreach vaccination: senior living settings, food banks, etc.
Accountability	• Publicly-reported, real-time data

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Outreach vaccination in priority neighborhoods

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COVID – getting to vaccine equity

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