COVID-19 Vaccination Rates and Youth Unemployment During 2021

The first half of 2021 was marked by important trends in COVID-19 vaccination rates and unemployment. The daily number of vaccinations across all states was rapidly increasing, and youth unemployment rates were steadily declining in most states (see figure below).

During the summer, vaccine uptake lost its momentum. This, coupled with the surge in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant, was followed by a slowdown in economic recovery.

Despite these trends, youth unemployment rates in some states, such as California, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, and Virginia, continued to decline. However, in most states, such as Hawaii, Kansas, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington, youth unemployment rates increased once again after the second quarter of 2021.

According to the most recent available data (July–September 2021), youth unemployment was over 15 percent in two states (Maryland and New York), while youth unemployment rates were below 5 percent in six states (Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Utah; see table on the upper right).



COVID-19 vaccination rates and youth unemployment during 2021

Youth unemployment in July - September 2021 (%) **Aaryland** 15.9 Illinois 9.4 Wyoming 6.0 New York 15.7 Michigan 9.3 Georgia 5.5 Vashington 13.6 Texas 9.0 Virginia 5.5 12.4 Hawaii 8.7 Vermont 5.3 Pennsylvania 1assachusetts 12.2 Iowa 8.7 Oklahoma 4.9 11.8 New Jersev 8.3 Utah alifornia 4.4 lansas 10.9 Ohio 8.1 North Dakota 4.3 lorth Carolina 10.0 Minnesota 7.5 Nebraska 4.1 New Hampshire 9.9 Colorado 7.3 South Dakota 4.0 Florida 9.6 Wisconsin 7.2 Missouri 3.7

0 - 4.9% 5.0 - 9.9% 10.0 - 14.9% 15.0 - 15.9%

Source: Mathematica estimates using the Current Population Survey.

Note: Estimates do not account for potential seasonal patterns. Each data point in the figure represents the rolling average of youth unemployment rate for the reference month and the previous two months.

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