



Columbiana County High SVI Community COVID-19 Report

March 2020 – January 2022

SUMMARY

Objective: The purpose of this report is to document the COVID-19 pandemic impact on Columbiana County, specifically on high SVI communities. This report also addresses the age differences of COVID-19 impact in Columbiana County.

Methods: All data originates from the ODRS and U.S. Census Bureau.

Results: People residing in high SVI communities are 12% less likely to report a COVID-19 infection than residents of normal/low SVI communities. People aged 0-17 are 89% less likely to report a COVID-19 infection than people aged 18+.

INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, Columbiana County recorded its first COVID-19 case. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 (SARS-Co-V-2) a global pandemic, its first such designation since declaring H1N1 influenza a pandemic in 2009. To respond to this local, national, and global emergency, the Columbiana County Health Department took prompt measures to protect the county's residents. This included testing and verification, vaccine storage and distribution, community engagement, risk communications, coordination and collaboration with local entities, technical guidance and training, case management, and much more. This report analyzes COVID-19 trends in the pandemic's duration so far (March 2020 – January 2022). The focus is on the three communities in Columbiana County that are determined to have high SVI and individuals who are younger than 18 years old.

The SVI (Social Vulnerability Index) refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 15 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. The three towns within Columbiana County that are determined to have an elevated SVI are Lisbon, Salineville, and Wellsville. This report is interested in determining whether the COVID-19 has affected these communities differently than the rest of the county. Identifying these trends may be vital in helping these towns' citizens, as resources can be more effectively directed to those who need it the most.

This report also addresses how two different age groups have been affected by COVID-19. Assessing the pediatric data may be important in protecting children's health in Columbiana County, especially as there are some uncertainties in determining best practices at the school setting. This report will aid decision makers within the education system in determining best health practices.

METHODS

All data originates from the Ohio Disease Reporting System and the U.S. Census Bureau.¹ The data is current as of January 24, 2022. Analyses were performed in SAS Studio. Statistical analyses methods used best practices elaborated on by multiple publications.^{2,3} Figures and graphs were made in SAS Studio and Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS

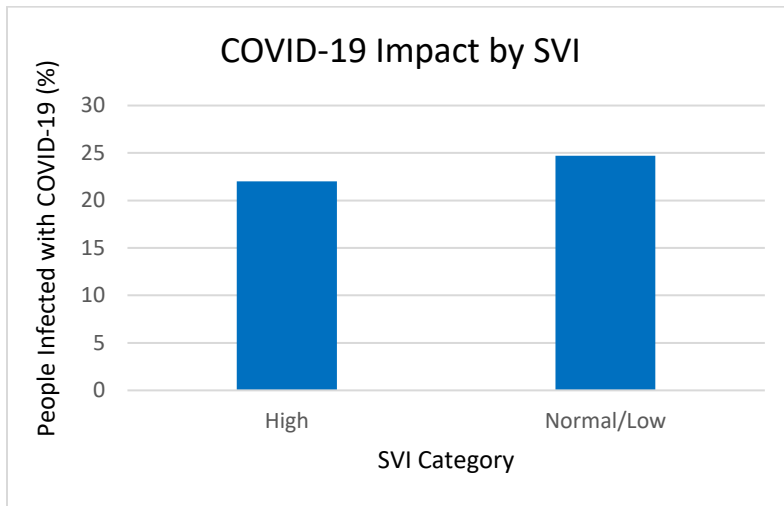


Figure 1. Percentage of Columbiana County residents in the high and normal/low SVI groups infected with COVID-19 at least once since March 2020. People residing in high SVI communities are 12% less likely to report a COVID-19 infection than residents of normal/low SVI communities.

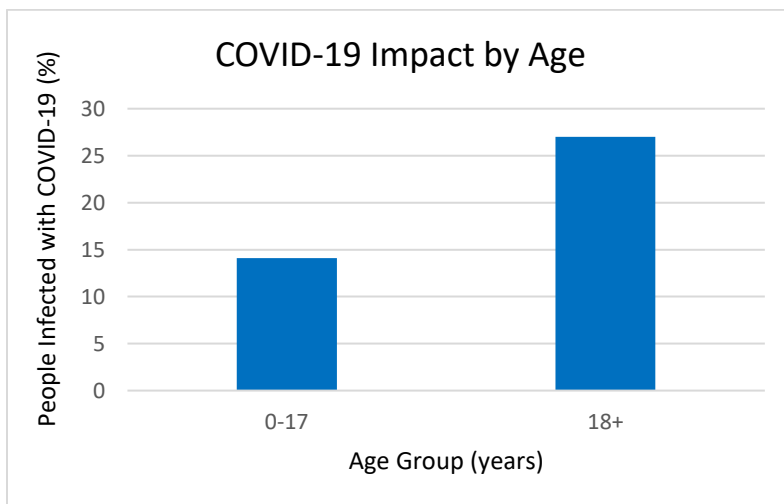


Figure 2. Percentage of Columbiana County residents in the age groups 0-17 years and 18+ years infected with COVID-19 at least once since March 2020. People aged 0-17 are 89% less likely to report a COVID-19 infection than people aged 18+.

DISCUSSION

These preliminary findings shed some light on the differences of how COVID-19 has affected distinct SVI and age groups. It was found that individuals residing in high SVI communities within Columbiana County are slightly less likely to report being infected with COVID-19 than individuals residing in the county's other towns. Further investigation to identify any specific needs in Lisbon, Salineville, and Wellsville may be needed in the future. These analyses should be ongoing as the pandemic continues to ensure these populations are considered in future policy development. It was also found that individuals aged 0-17 are less likely to report being infected with COVID-19 than individuals aged 18+. It is important to state that the pediatric data included in this report may be underrepresented for various reasons. Some explanations for this may include the school system shutting down for a period during the pandemic, children being less likely to display symptoms when infected, and lack of reporting for these cases to the health department. Identifying the differences in COVID-19 rates by age group may be helpful in informing decision makers working in the Columbiana County education system. More analyses are needed to further delve into how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected various SVI statuses and age groups.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was produced by the Columbiana County Health Department. For additional information please contact Wesley Vins, Jamie Elenz, or Jacob Freedman at the Columbiana County Health Department using the following contact information:

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