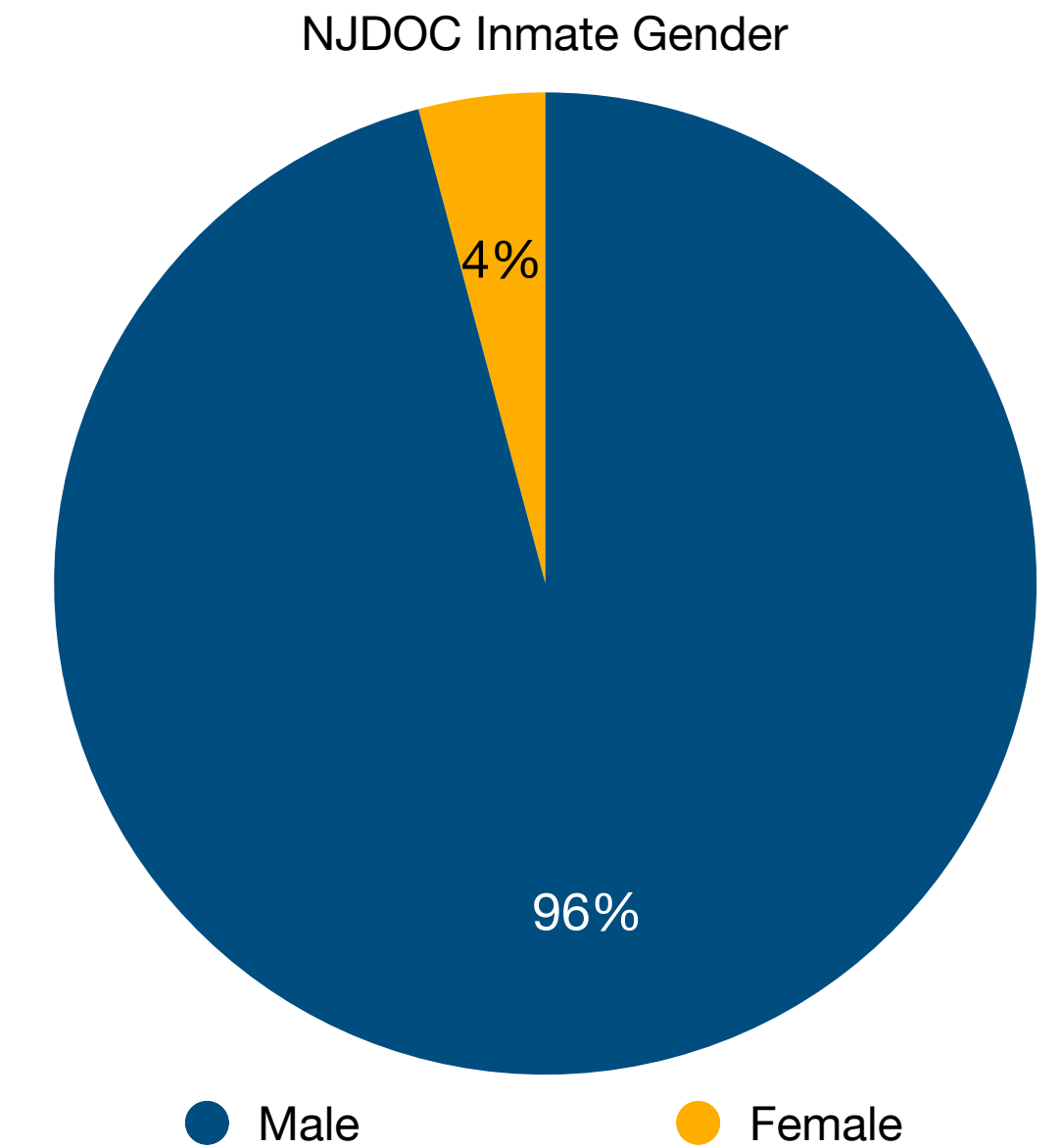
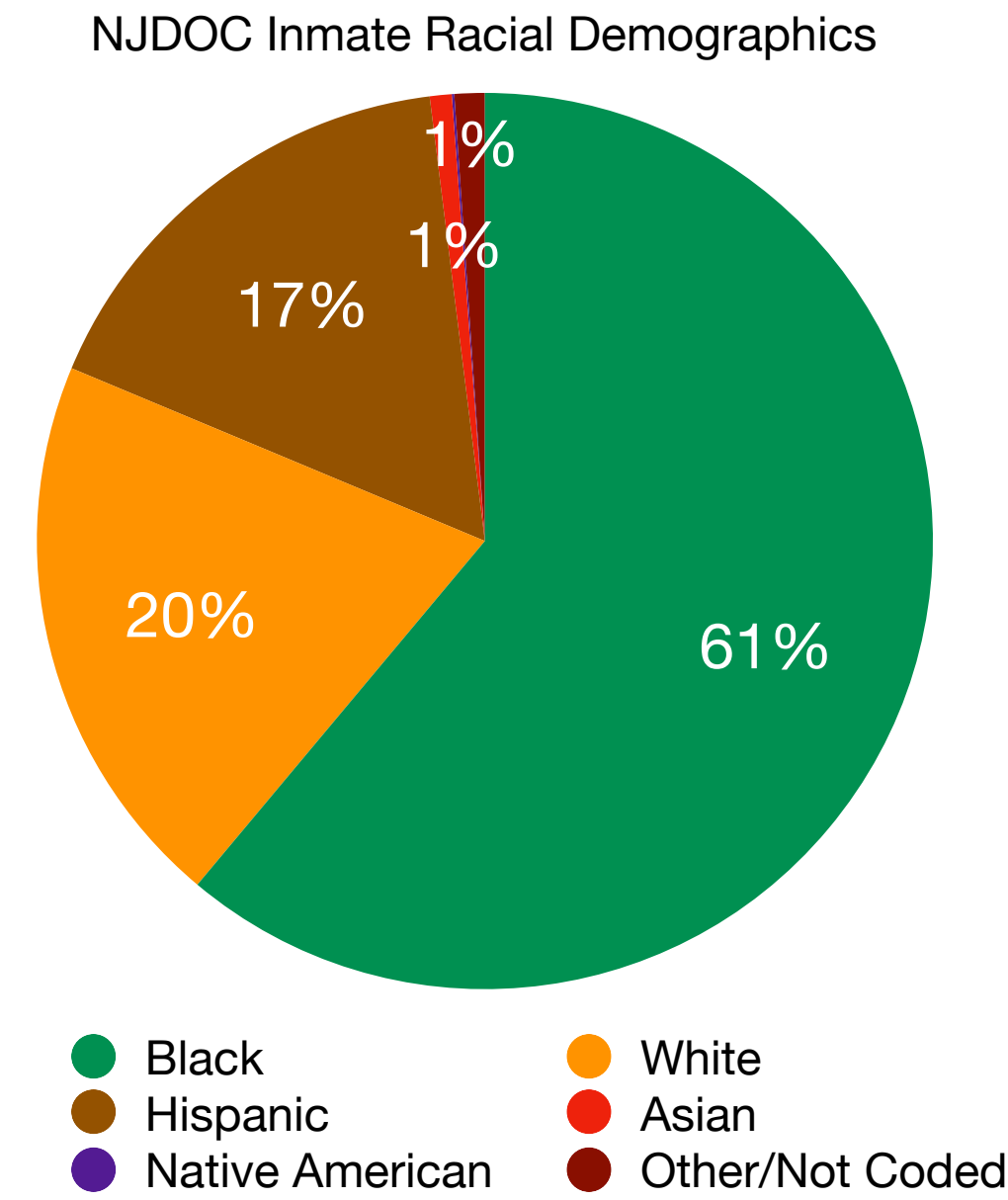
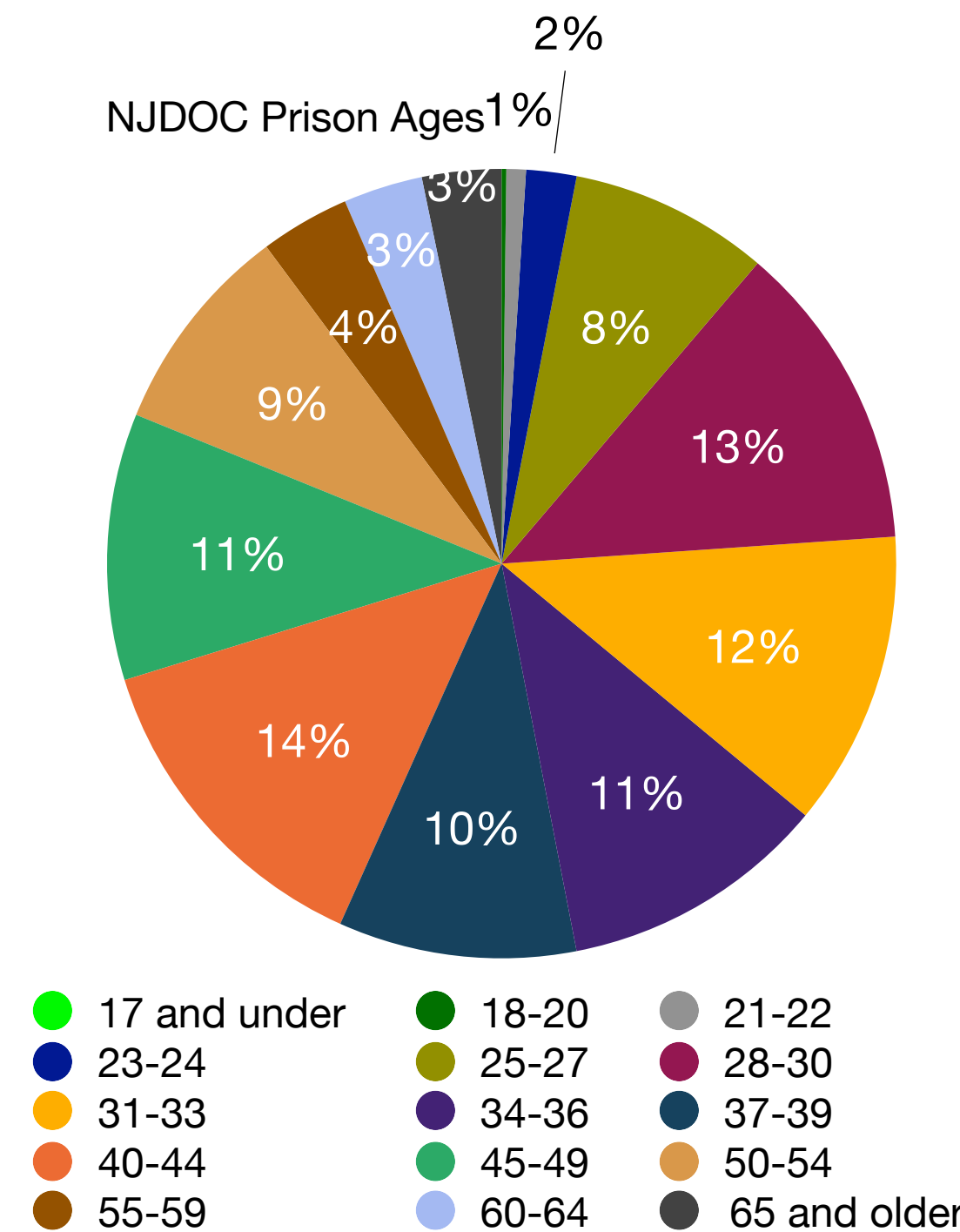


New Jersey Prisons & COVID

Examining NJ State prisons (NJDOC) COVID cases & mortality incidence rates against the incidence rates of the general state population.

Demographics

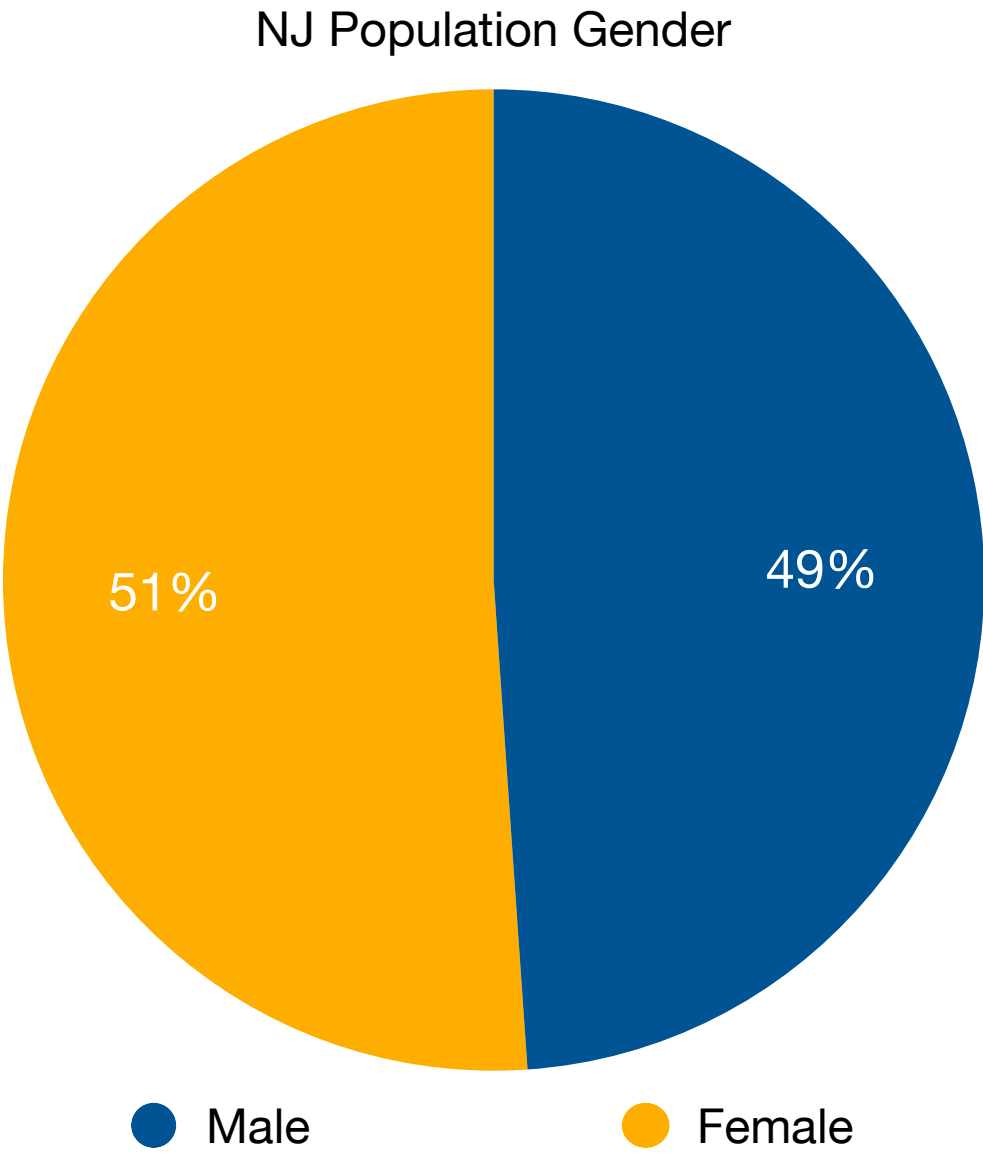
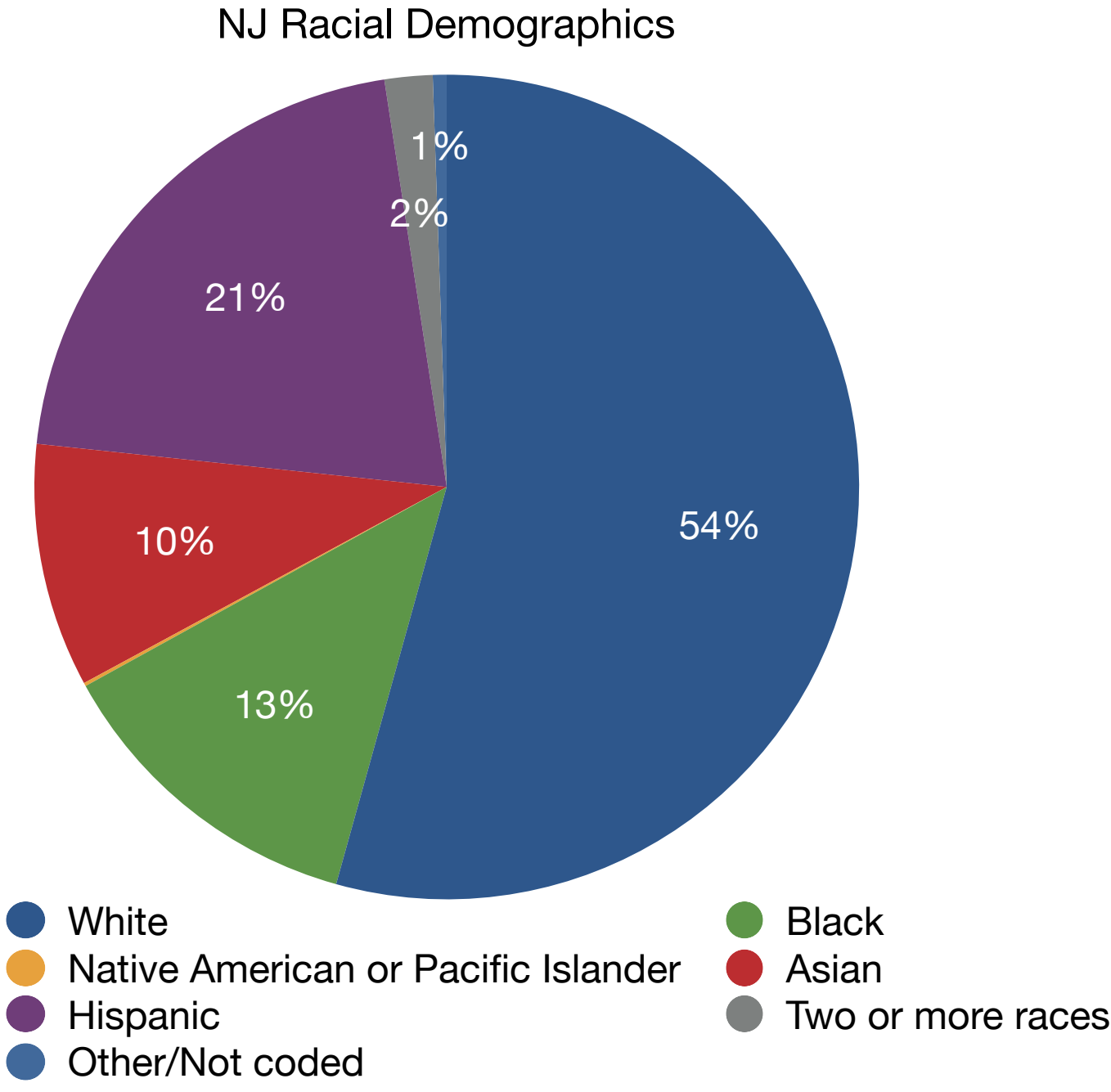
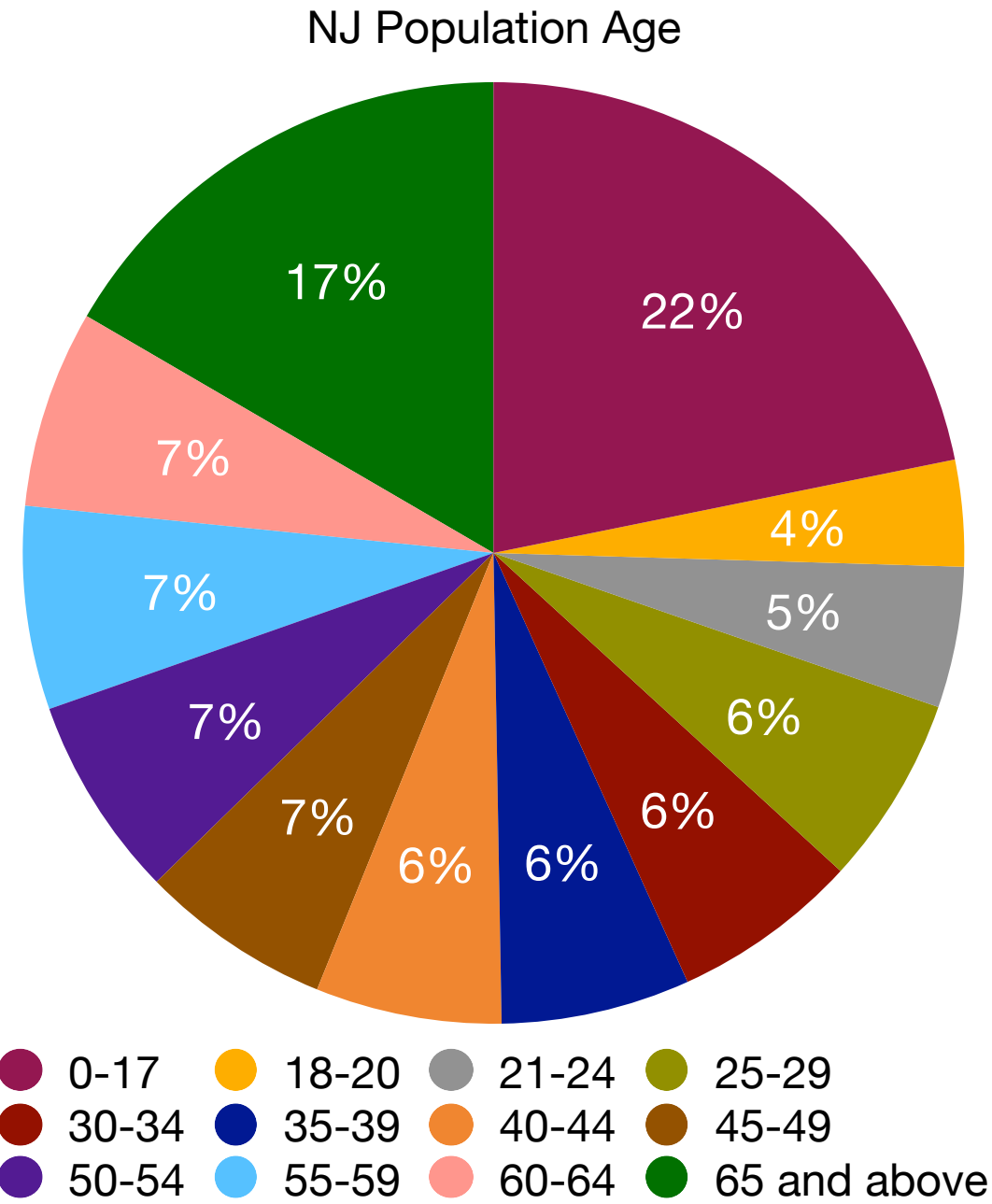
New Jersey Department of Corrections: Prison Inmates



- The average NJDOC inmate is aged 36.5 years
- Gender is highly skewed with a 96% male population.
- Over fifty percent of the prison population identifies as African-American/Black.

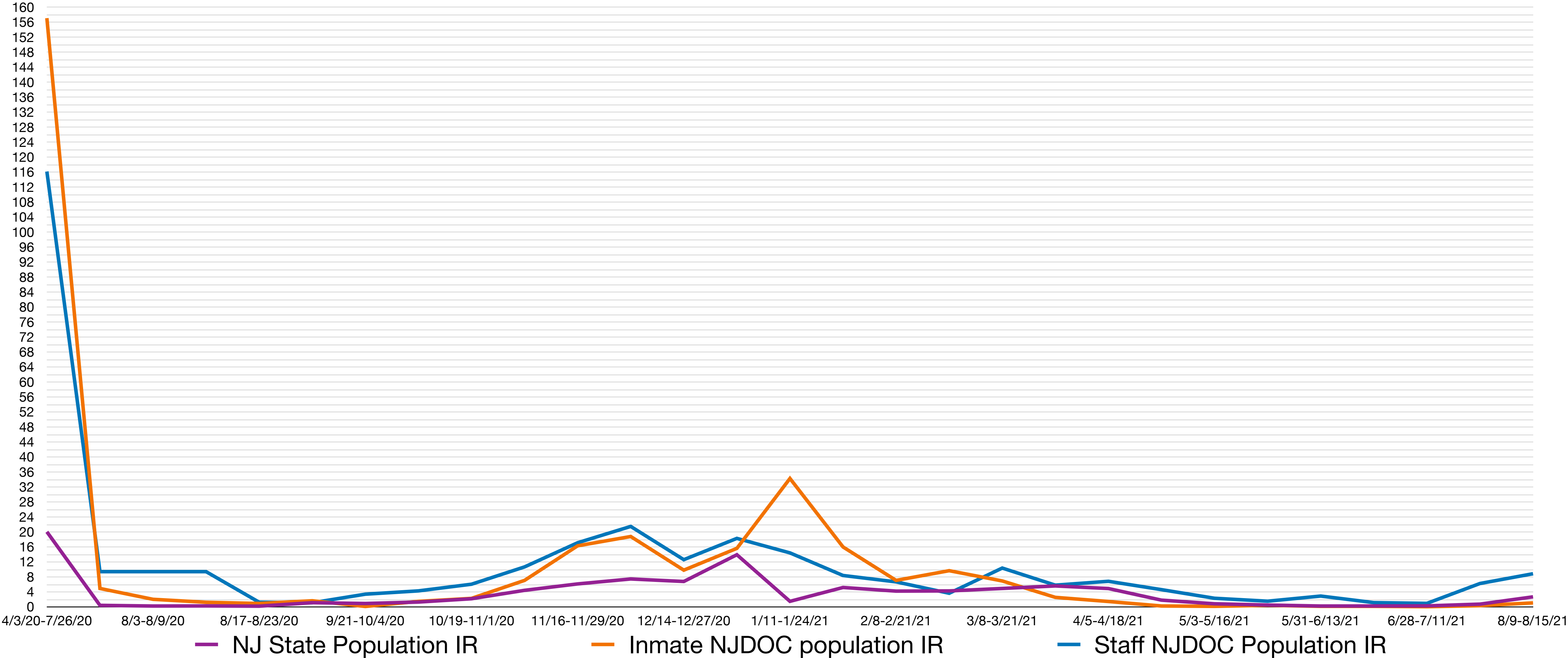
- **Education:** Nationwide more than half only have a GED or HS diploma, and 25% have no credential at all.
- **Income:** The median annual earnings of inmates nation-wide (pre-incarceration) was \$19,650 for men (\$13,890 for women)
- Inmates are more likely than general population to have health issues or be at-risk for them including substance abuse and chronic conditions like HIV, diabetes and hypertension that have gone unchecked.

Demographics: New Jersey General Population



- The average NJ resident is 40.2 years old
- Gender is almost equally split
- Over fifty percent of the state population is white, and only thirteen percent is African-American/Black.
- Income: Median per capita income was \$42,745
- Education: 89.5% of residents over the age of 25 had a high school diploma, 39.7% had a BA or higher

COVID Case Incidence Rate (per 1000) in NJ, NJ DOC Prison Inmates & NJ DOC Staff Populations



Cases Analysis

NJ DOC Inmates

- At the initial start of the COVID outbreak, prison inmates has an incidence rate of 157.15 per 1000 inmates:
This was almost **eight** times the rate of the general population.
- There was spike in cases with-in the inmate population in January 2021 where the number of cases spiked to a high of 34.31 per 1000, versus a general population IR of 13.96
- The NJDOC prisons have had a higher IR than the general population from April 2020 through April 2021, sometimes there was a significant difference between the two.
- From May 2021 through August 2021, the IR of the inmate population remained at or below the general population IR, with the most recent IR being 1.11 cases per 1000.

NJ DOC Staff

- Throughout the pandemic, NJ DOC staff frequently saw a much higher IR than both the inmate population and the general population.
- From the first data set available, the initial IR was 116.23 (compared to 20.08 for general population).
- This number lessened by the end of August 2020 to 1.28, however this was still higher than the general population (0.23) and inmate population (1.27).
- This higher case rate shows that more mitigation strategies are needed for staff, or that the ones in place need to be more effectively implemented.

NJ General Population

- The initial incidence rate at the start of the pandemic was 20.08, as New Jersey was one of the original hotbed states for COVID.
- By the end of July the IR dropped significantly to just 0.45 as strict measures were put in place.
- Like the inmate population, there was a spike in cases in January 2021, with an IR of 13.96 per 1000.
- The incidence rate remained at 4.5-5.63 until mid-April 2021 where the IR started to go down to a low of 0.27 in June 2021.
- With the Delta variant however, numbers are starting to rise again with the most recent incident rate being 2.72 cases per 1000.

Mitigation Strategies

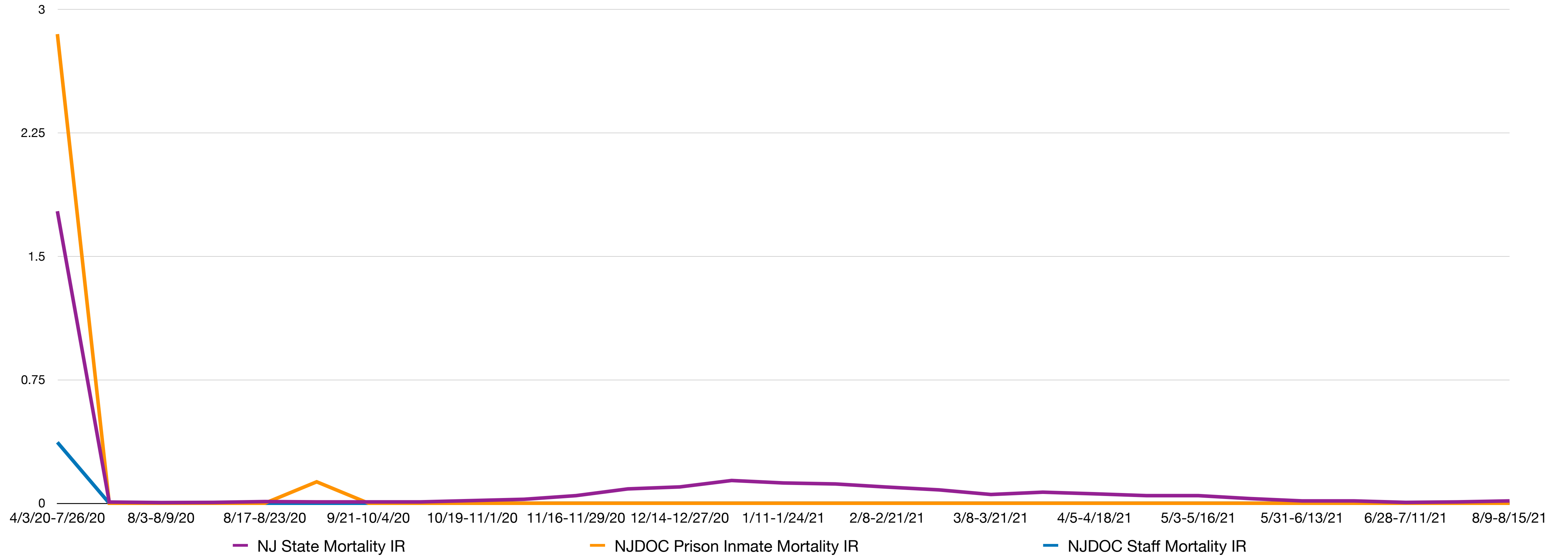
NJDOC

- The large number of initial COVID cases in inmates sparked outcry, and the state responded with mitigation methods including: masks, stopping family visitation, routine testing, early/temporary release of some prisoners, virtual court sessions, minimal travel/communal time and quarantining for ill prisoners.
- When positivity rates were below 1%, some restrictions were been lifted, most notably, allowing outdoor visits with certain restrictions. However, when cases start to rise, the NJDOC has stated that they will put strategies back in place as needed to protect everyone's health.

NJ General Population

- This coincided with lockdown throughout the state general population as well, with schools and many jobs going virtual, curfews, social distancing, sanitizing, special shop hours for elderly and special needs, mandatory masks and the closing of public parks and playgrounds. As well, COVID testing, and now vaccination, have been made readily available to all residents for free.
 - The bulk of these strategies were reduced in late spring/early summer 2021 when positivity rates remained low.
 - The rising Delta variant has made some strategies, like masks, are being “highly encouraged” again while others, like distancing and special shop hours, have consistently remained in place.
-
- These mitigation efforts helped to lessen the incidence rate in both the general population and the inmate population.

COVID Mortality Incidence Rate per 1000: NJ general population, NJDOC Prison Inmate and NJDOC Staff



Mortality Analysis

NJ DOC Inmates

- At the initial start of COVID, NJDOC inmates had a high mortality rate of 2.85 per 1000. However, since July 27, 2020 only two additional mortalities have been reported, a total mortality of 53 inmates from COVID.

NJ DOC Staff

- NJDOC staff lost three employees to COVID, an IR of 0.37 in the initial start of COVID, but has remained at zero since.

NJ General Population

- New Jersey overall has had a low IR with an average of 0.10 per 1000 residents throughout COVID, and an initial high of 1.77 and has lost a total of 26,665 residents to COVID as of the end of August 2021.

Vaccination Rates

NJ General Population Vaccination status:

60.9% of the population is fully vaccinated
68.9% has had one dose (based on 2019 census data)

Inmate Population Vaccination status:

11,425 doses
Estimated: 5712 fully vaccinated with mRNA sequence
An estimated 53% of the inmate population, based on latest population numbers and using a 2 shot vaccination sequence are fully vaccinated

Vaccinations Reported by New Jersey Sites*

Doses Administered**

11,106,462

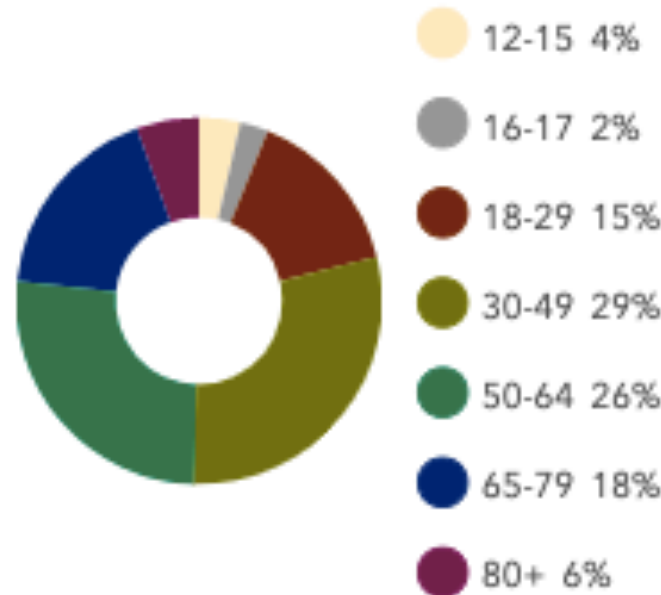
People with at least one vaccine dose¹

6,120,748

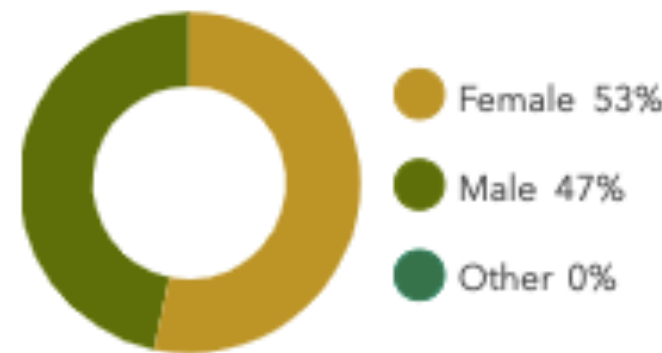
Fully Vaccinated People²

5,409,997

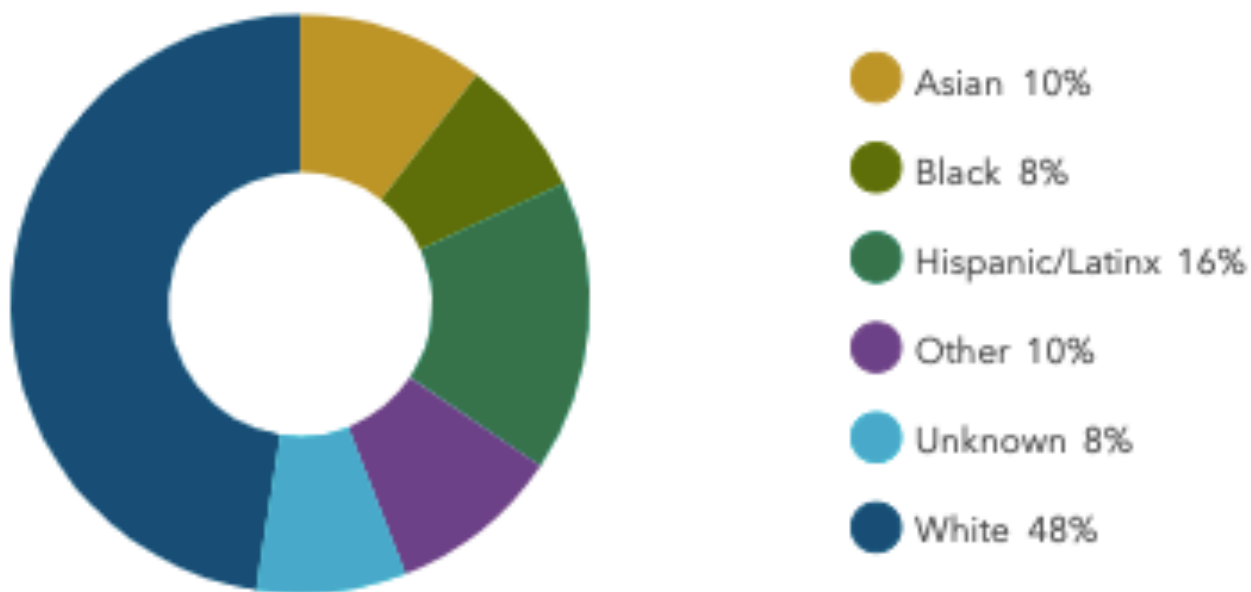
By Age Group



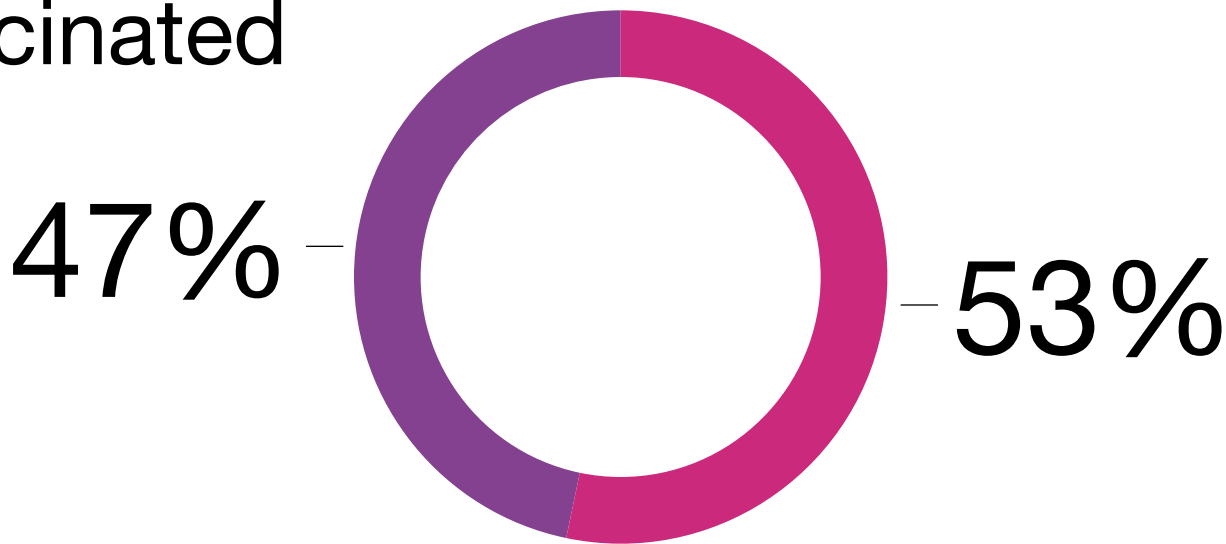
By Gender



By Race/Ethnicity



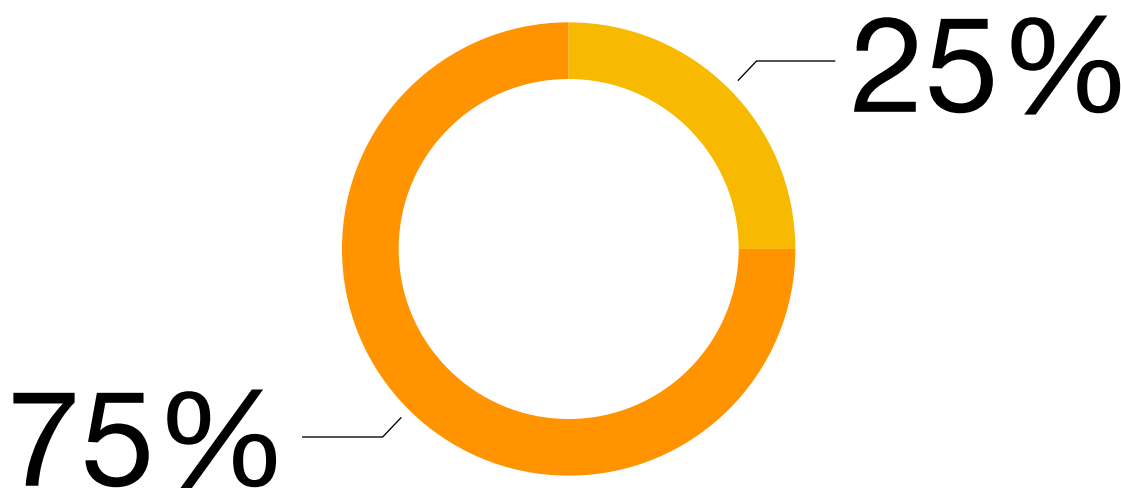
Vaccinated
Unvaccinated



NJDOC Population Vaccination status:

5350 doses given
Estimated: 2675 fully vaccinated with mRNA 2 shot sequence
Using the 2 shot sequence, an estimated 25% of the NJDOC staff is fully vaccinated

Vaccinated
Unvaccinated



Vaccination Analysis

- Like the general population, the COVID vaccination is offered freely to all NJDOC inmates and staff free of charge.

NJ DOC Staff

- Although NJDOC staff have a higher IR of COVID cases, their vaccination rates remain extremely low, even as their case numbers continue to rise.
 - The state has issued mandatory vaccination for state employees by September 7, or they would be subject to at least twice weekly testing.
 - Throughout the country, low prison staff vaccination rates are making them into a "primary source of viral spread" in the community. [Klonsky & Tagyi, 2021]

NJ DOC Inmates

- NJDOC inmates, while at a lower rate of vaccination than the general public, have made strides with over half of inmates potentially fully vaccinated. These numbers are potentially, based on the racial demographics of NJDOC prisons, exceeding the overall vaccination rates for the Black and Hispanic communities in the state overall.

NJ General Population

- Throughout the state population, the fully vaccinated rate is about 60%, surpassing the state goal of 4.7 million fully vaccinated by July 31,2021.
- Due to available data, the racial demographics of the vaccination rates however show that much work needs to be done in Hispanic (16%) and Black(8%) communities to increase their rates of vaccination.

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