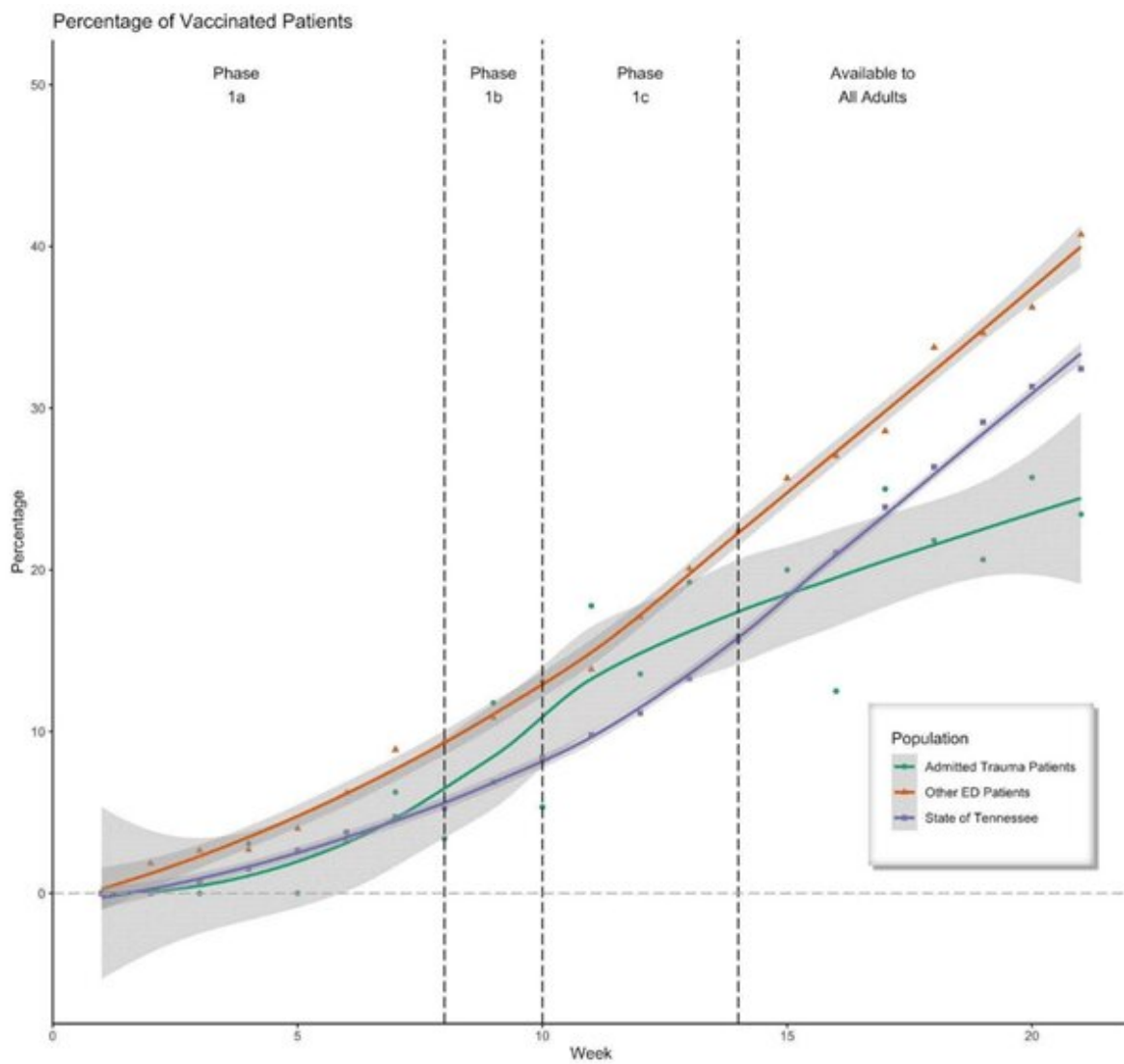


Trauma patients were less likely to be vaccinated against COVID as vaccines became more widely available

March 2 2022



Turer R, et al. COVID-19 Vaccination Gap in Admitted Trauma Patients: A Critical Opportunity. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

Credit: Turer et al, COVID-19 Vaccination Gap in Admitted Trauma Patients: A Critical Opportunity, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* (2022).

Trauma patients treated and hospitalized in a Tennessee medical center had a 33% lower rate of COVID-19 vaccination than non-trauma patients who were hospitalized following treatment in the emergency department (ED). This vaccination gap widened as vaccines became more widely available, according to a study published online as an "article in press" in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons (JACS)*.

"These data show that there's an opportunity to vaccinate a high-risk population that's currently not vaccinated and admitted to the hospital. Admission through the trauma center provides an opportunity to introduce the vaccination conversation to get the vaccine rates in this group to the same level of rates of the general public," said senior study author Bradley M. Dennis, MD, FACS, a trauma surgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) in Nashville, Tennessee, where the study was conducted.

The study included 1,290 [emergency department](#) (ED) patients admitted to the trauma service and 23,901 other patients who came to the ED at VUMC between January 1 and June 1, 2021. This observational study used data captured by the center's electronic health records (EHR) system. VUMC has a Level I trauma center that's equipped and staffed to provide the highest level of trauma care.

The researchers found that 11.7% of trauma patients were vaccinated before arrival compared with 17.4% of the other ED patients (P

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