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People Who Are Unvaccinated Are 11 Times More Likely To Die From Covid-19, CDC Says

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Vaccine needle. By. 123RF

New research data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday found that people who are not vaccinated against Covid-19 were 4.6 times likelier to get infected, 10 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 11 times more likely to die from the virus.

The results are from three CDC studies conducted as the Delta variant became the dominant strain of the virus in the country. In the studies, the CDC examined outcomes among patients who visited medical facilities' urgent care departments, emergency rooms as well as veterans' hospitals.

Patients in five Veterans Affairs Medical Centers were tracked between Feb. 1 through Aug. 6 in one study. Another study followed 600,000 positive cases in 13 states and large cities during the

spring and summer times. The third study followed 33,000 Covid-19 patients in nine states who visited hospitals, emergency departments and urgent care centers.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said during a press briefing, “We are seeing more people in the hospital who have been vaccinated, but I want to reiterate that it’s still well over 90 percent of the people who are in the hospital who are unvaccinated.”

The study that tracked the five VA Medical Centers found that mRNA vaccines were 87 percent effective at preventing Covid-19 linked to hospitalization (this includes during the Delta surge). Effectiveness for patients over 65 years old dropped to 80 percent, the study also found. For younger patients, the vaccines were 95 percent effective.

The study tracking the 600,000 cases during spring and summer found that there was a slight decline in vaccine effectiveness beginning mid-June, around the time the Delta variant became the dominant Covid strain in the U.S.

The study that tracked the 33,000 Covid patients found that the vaccines’ protection against hospitalization held at 86 percent in the Delta period, which was close in comparison to periods preceding Delta's dominance. Even so, vaccine effectiveness in persons above 75 years old waned, according to the study.

The Biden administration points to the growing body of data suggesting that vaccination remains the best way to not only protect against the virus, but to usher the U.S. back to normalcy. Mr. Biden on Thursday announced [sweeping requirements](#) that include mandatory vaccination for federal employees, and mandatory vaccination or weekly Covid-19 testing at private firms with more than 100 employees. Those who flout the order could face up to \$14,000 in fines per violation.

Via [The Wall Street Journal](#).