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A healthcare worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a person in Miami Gardens, Fla., on April 14, 2021. (Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images)

VACCINES & SAFETY PREMIUM

5,800 Fully Vaccinated Americans Have Contracted COVID-19, 74 Dead: CDC

BY ZACHARY STIEBER April 15, 2021 Updated: April 15, 2021

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Some 5,800 Americans have contracted COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated against the virus that causes it, federal officials said April 15.

The Americans contracted the [CCP \(Chinese Communist Party\) virus](#), which causes COVID-19, despite getting both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) told The Epoch Times via email.

Of the 5,800 fully vaccinated people who were confirmed as so-called breakthrough cases, nearly 400 required treatment at hospitals and 74 died.

A little over 40 percent of the infections were in people 60 years of age or older, and 65 percent were female. The CDC declined to make a state-by-state breakdown available, though it has developed a national database where state health department investigators can enter, store, and manage data for cases in their jurisdiction.

The figures were for cases through April 13.

More than 78 million people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the United States as of April 15.

“To date, no unexpected patterns have been identified in case demographics or vaccine characteristics,” the CDC stated.

“COVID-19 vaccines are effective, and are a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. All of the available vaccines have been proven effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. However, like is seen with other vaccines, we expect thousands of vaccine breakthrough cases will occur even though the vaccine is working as expected.”

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky stated during a congressional hearing on April 15 that the causes of the breakthrough cases are being probed.

“Some of these breakthroughs are, of course, failure of an immune response in the host. And then some of them we worry might be related to a variant that is circulating. So we’re looking at both,” she said.

The number of cases the CDC has identified does not include people who contracted COVID-19 less than two weeks after their final dose, according to Walensky.

In March, states began reporting numbers for people who had gotten infected despite full vaccination. Epidemiologists in Washington state identified 217 of the cases, five of whom died. In Michigan, [246 of the cases were recorded](#) between Jan. 1 and March 31. Three of those patients died.

Texas, South Carolina, and Oregon are among the other states that have reported more than 100 cases among residents.

People arrive at the Javits Center mass vaccination location in the Manhattan borough of New York City on April 13, 2021. (Carlo Allegri/Reuters)

Washington state Health Secretary Umair Shah said in a statement: “Finding evidence of vaccine breakthrough cases reminds us that, even if you have been vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands to prevent spreading COVID-19 to others who have not been vaccinated.

“We encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible, and encourage friends, loved ones, and co-workers to do the same.”

According to U.S. drug regulators, Pfizer’s vaccine is 95 percent effective in preventing infection by the CCP virus. Moderna’s was shown in a clinical trial to be 94.1 percent effective, while Johnson & Johnson’s was 66.9 percent effective. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was tested when variants were circulating, unlike the others.

The percentages are based on results from vaccine recipients two weeks after the final vaccination.

The percentage of vaccine breakthroughs in a population depends on multiple factors, including vaccine efficacy, the amount of virus circulating, and the length of time since vaccination, according to Natalie Dean, an assistant professor of biostatistics at the University of Florida.

“I love to see small numbers as much as anyone, but know that numbers like this cannot be directly interpreted as a measure of vaccine efficacy (although I have a feeling they will be). We can only interpret them against a background rate in unvaccinated people,” Dean [wrote on Twitter](#).

“Similarly, ‘most breakthroughs have been in elderly adults’ should not be read as the vaccine is less effective in elderly adults. The majority of vaccinations (and the longest amount of follow-up time) have been in elderly adults. Again, we need more info to interpret.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, stated in a briefing last week that the breakthrough cases are not a cause for concern.

“I think the important thing is to look at what the denominator of vaccinated people is, because it is very likely—and what we’re hearing at least indirectly, and we’re certainly going to be confirming that—that that number of individuals who were breakthrough infections is not at all incompatible with a 90-plus percent vaccine efficacy,” he said.

“So I don’t think that there needs to be concern about any shift or change in the efficacy of the vaccine.”

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