



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Analysis: As Delta variant of COVID-19 spreads, Surgo Ventures releases list of the 20 U.S. counties deemed “Delta danger zones”

WASHINGTON, July 22, 2021 — Surgo Ventures has found that U.S. counties vulnerable to the health and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 and facing significant barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake **are being hardest-hit with new cases as the Delta variant of COVID-19 spreads**—with 20 counties standing out as “Delta danger zones” that need immediate attention.

Surgo conducted the analysis by combining data from its [COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index](#) with CDC data as of July 19, 2021.

Top 20 Delta Danger Zones* in the United States

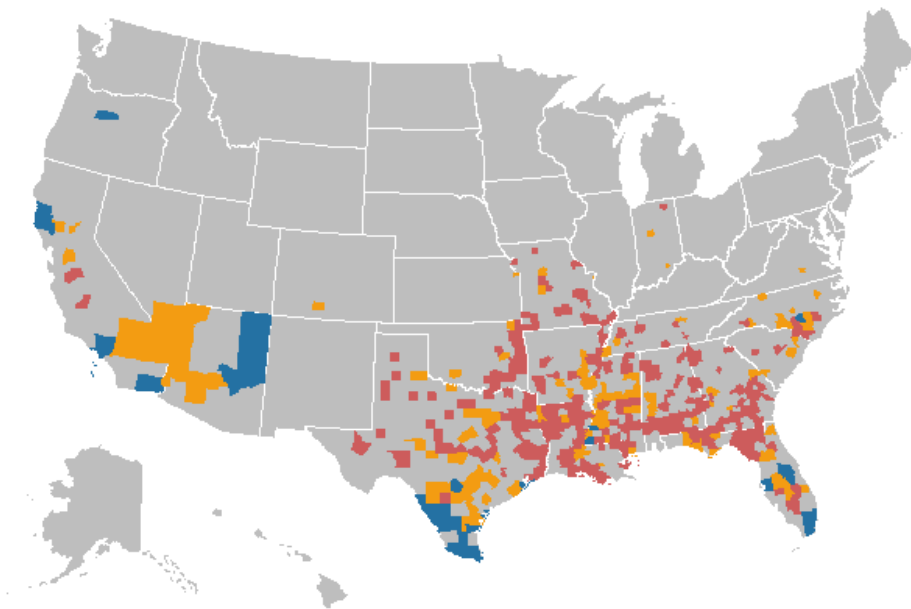
Ranking	County	State	% of county population fully vaccinated with 2 doses (as of 7/19/21)	Average # of new COVID-19 cases per day per 100,000 in the past week (as of 7/19/21)
1	Charlton	Georgia	14.5%	62
2	Newton	Texas	17.3%	51
3	Pemiscot	Missouri	17.8%	8
4 (tie)	McDonald	Missouri	18.4%	28
4 (tie)	Grundy	Tennessee	18.4%	7
6	Ziebach	South Dakota	18.8%	5
7	Hempstead	Arkansas	19.1%	10
8	Ripley	Missouri	19.5%	27
9	Lanier	Georgia	19.8%	7
10	Motley	Texas	20%	0
11	Baker	Florida	20.1%	75
12	Telfair	Georgia	20.2%	11
13	Heard	Georgia	20.5%	13
14	Holmes	Florida	20.8%	11
15	Washington	Florida	21.3%	26

16	Carter	Missouri	21.4%	77
17	Jeff Davis	Georgia	21.4%	9
18	Texas	Missouri	21.5%	37
19	Treutlen	Georgia	21.6%	29
20	Bacon	Georgia	21.7%	26

***Technical notes:** All counties above are ranked as both “Highly Vulnerable” (with a score of at least 0.667 or higher on Surgo Ventures’ [COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index](#)) and “High Concern” (with a score of at least 0.667 or higher on Surgo Ventures’ [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index](#)). State and county [Delta variant data](#) and vaccine coverage rates are provided by [CDC](#) and [COVID ActNow](#).

“We believe these 20 counties are Delta danger zones, which means they represent the strongest convergence of COVID-19 vulnerability, underlying community barriers to vaccine uptake, and low vaccination rates of all counties in the United States at this point in time,” said Dr. Sema Sgaier, Co-Founder and CEO of Surgo Ventures and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “We are calling on public health officials and local leaders in these counties to take immediate action, and they can start by leveraging our [data-driven, 4-step community blueprint](#) for increasing vaccination coverage, co-created with Resolve to Save Lives.”

The Delta Variant Vaccination Crisis at a Glance



Vaccination rate (2-dose)

■ Low (10.7%-32.8%)
 ■ Medium (32.8%-42.7%)
 ■ High (42.7%-88.5%)

Vulnerable counties* with high barriers** to vaccination and rising cases***

* COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) > 0.667

** COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index (CVAC) > 0.667

*** New daily cases per 100,000 (7-day average) > 10

Sources for attribution: Surgo Ventures, CDC, and Covid Act Now as of July 19, 2021.

For additional information, download Surgo's new papers, [Inequities among vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index: Identifying barriers to COVID-19 vaccine uptake across U.S. counties](#).

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About Surgo Ventures

[Surgo Ventures](#) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving health and social problems with precision. We do this by bringing together all the tools available from behavioral science, data science, and artificial intelligence to unlock solutions that will improve and save lives. We work globally; in the United States, the United Kingdom, and in low- and middle-income countries on issues including COVID-19, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, housing, and more.

About Surgo's COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index

Surgo Ventures launched the [COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index](#) (CVAC) in February 2021 to provide federal, state and local leaders the precise, county-level data they will need to address underlying supply- and demand-side challenges and accelerate vaccine rollout. The index measures each U.S. county's barriers to getting their residents vaccinated quickly, safely, and equitably, based on five key themes: historic undervaccination, sociodemographic barriers, resource-constrained health systems, healthcare accessibility barriers, and irregular care-seeking behavior.

About Surgo's COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index

Surgo Ventures launched the [COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index](#) in March 2020 to help federal, state and local leaders target vulnerable communities with more informed and effective interventions. The index—which was inspired by the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#) and is [featured as a CDC resource](#)—ranks U.S. communities in terms of their vulnerability to COVID-19 based on seven key factors: socioeconomic status; household and transportation; minority status and languages spoken; epidemiological factors; healthcare system factors; high-risk environments; and population density. Find the CCVI on CDC's COVID Data Tracker [here](#) and [here](#).