

LatAm Healthcare Pulse

Key data and perspectives on **patient care**

Colombia

GHI has been monitoring health care trends in Latin America throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Interviewing physicians, surgeons, hospital administrative personnel and medical staff on a regular basis to understand how the pandemic, global market supply chains, and government policy are affecting patient health outcomes and healthcare market dynamics.

In this brief, we report key insights and local medical perspectives from Colombia in the second quarter of 2021, from primary research conducted with experts in cardiology, neurology, endocrinology, and other areas of general surgery. GHI's findings track fluctuations in hospital treatment decisions, purchasing patterns and procedure volumes from quarter to quarter. Findings from the first quarter of 2021 are available [here](#).

- 1. New demonstrations in May 2021 and continued state-of-emergencies have prolonged the disruptions in the health market.
- 2. COVID infections continue. The Delta variant is proving more infectious and deadly than earlier strains of the virus and a 2nd wave during the third quarter is a significant concern.
- 3. Less than a third of the population has been fully vaccinated. At the current pace of vaccination, Colombians will reach herd immunity only by 2023.
- 4. Economic activity will continue to recover in 5% and start during the remainder of 2021, with important implications for the medical device and equipment sector.

"With the measures that the government took, nobody respected anything, people went out to the streets to protest and a new outbreak is expected"
—Physician, private practice, Colombia (May 2021)

Key data on COVID in Colombia

- COVID Deaths Official Count - 193,000
- Excess Deaths attributed to COVID - 170,000
- Vaccine supply coverage - Population covered by supply of vaccines - 33.0%
- Vaccination rollout - population having received first vaccine shot - 40%
- Vaccination rollout** - Fully vaccinated population 12%
- Herd immunization speed - estimated date for herd-immunization: Q4 2022

Sources: WHO Tracking LATAM's COVID recovery, 24 June 2021; Council of the Americas, Bloomberg, Statista, The Economist.

*Colombia as of July 25, 2021. While the official death counts have been reported in many outlets, a number of sources indicate that these counts only underestimate the true size of the case and death toll. The forecast which has compared excess deaths to historic averages for the same time period prior to 2020 in order to estimate the excess amount of deaths attributed to the virus.

** Estimate as of August 12, 2021.