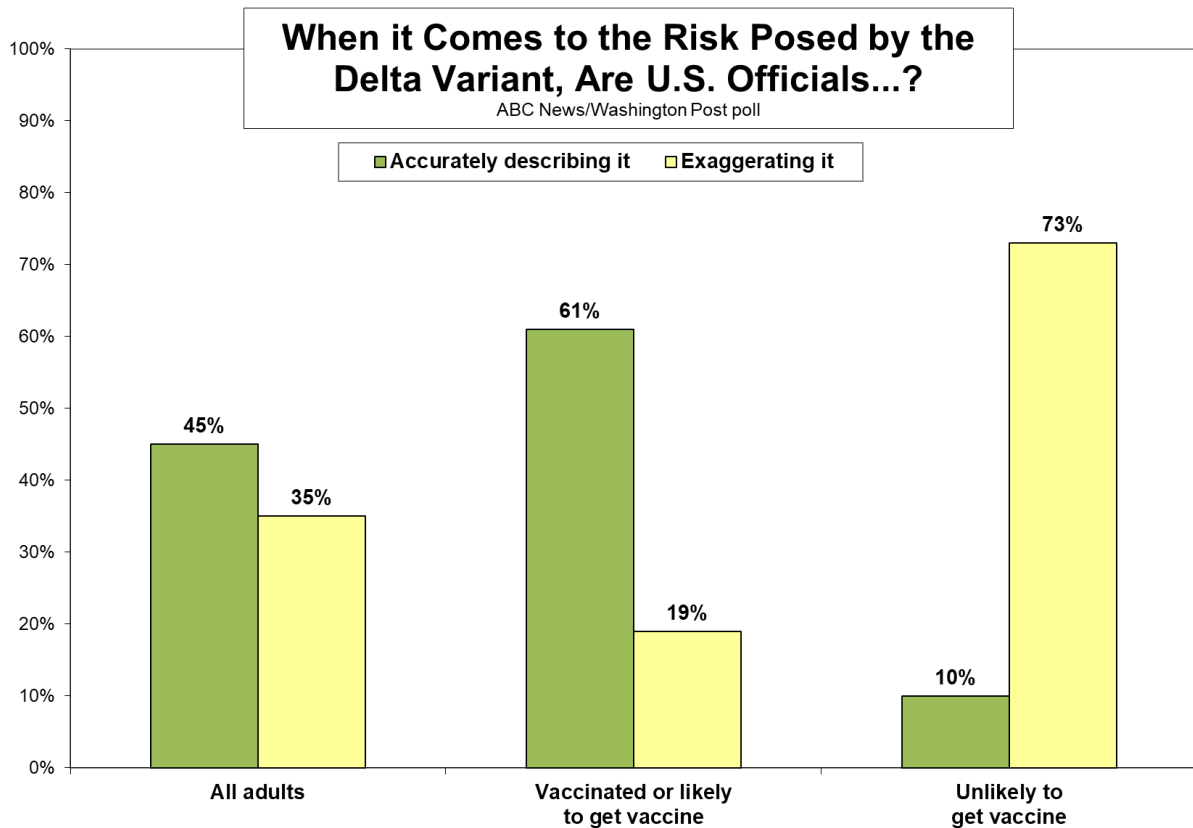


Vaccine-hesitant Americans Reject Delta Risk, Posing Questions for the Pandemic Recovery

Vaccine-hesitant Americans overwhelmingly reject the reported risks of the coronavirus Delta variant, posing questions for the nation’s pandemic recovery on a Fourth of July the Biden administration has marked as a turning point in the nation’s long public health ordeal.

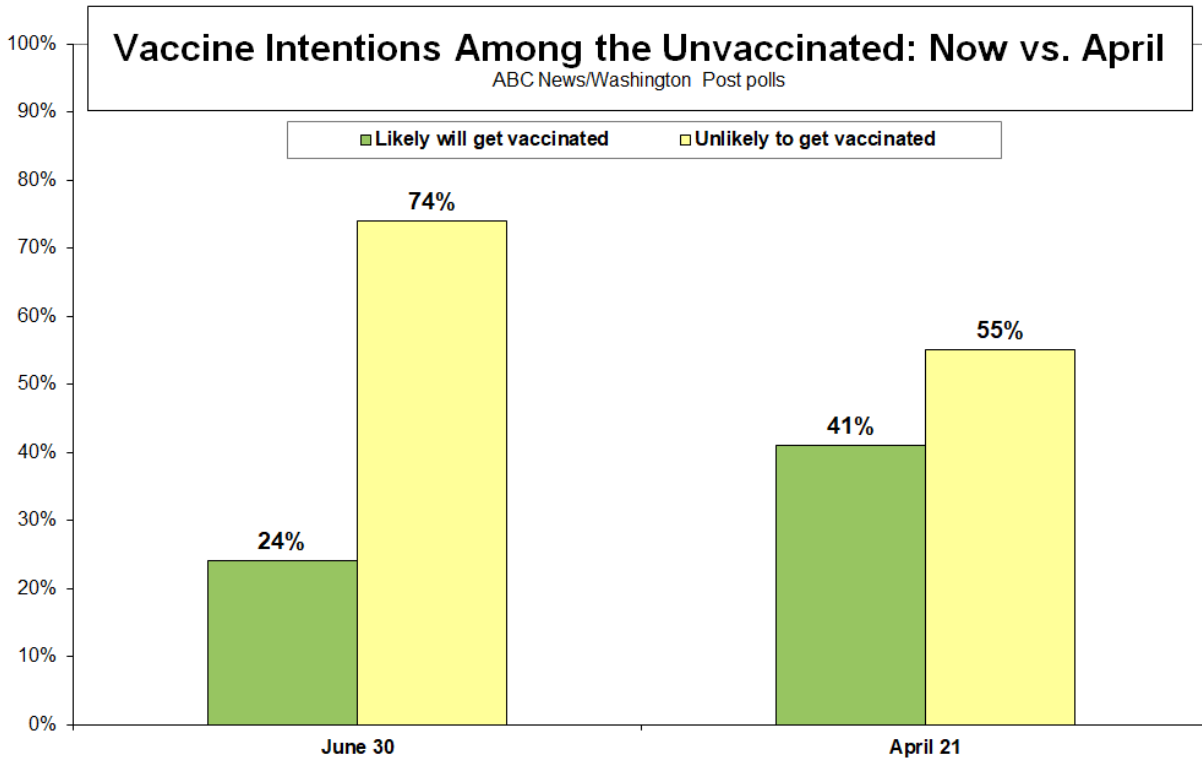
Three in 10 adults in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll say they have not gotten a coronavirus vaccine and definitely or probably will not get one. In this group, a broad 73 percent say U.S. officials are exaggerating the risk of the Delta variant – and 79 percent think they have little or no risk of getting sick from the coronavirus.



Joe Biden, health officials and others have described the variant as more contagious than other strains, and as such a substantial risk to unvaccinated people. It now accounts for more than a quarter of new cases in the country.

But the government’s plan to address it – through vaccinations – looks to have hit a wall. Just 60 percent in this survey, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), report having

received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. While that's below official estimates (66.8 percent per the CDC), it confirms the failure to meet Biden's 70 percent July 4 target. And among those not vaccinated, a growing share – 74 percent, up from 55 percent in April – say they probably or definitely won't get a shot.

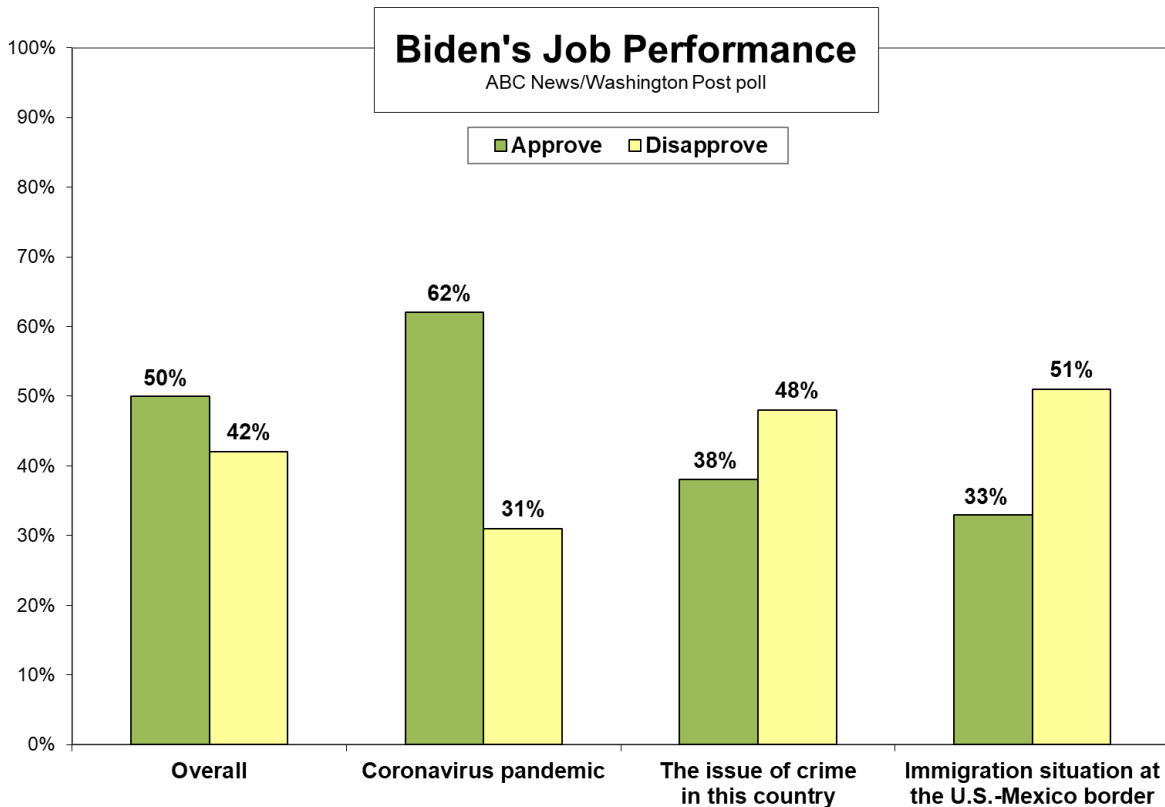


Partisan divisions are sharp, underscoring the politicization of the pandemic: Overall just 45 percent think the government is accurately describing the risk of the Delta variant; 35 percent say it's exaggerating it, with 18 percent unsure. Several groups are especially likely to say it's being exaggerated, including Republicans (57 percent), conservatives (55 percent), evangelical white Protestants (49 percent) and rural residents (47 percent).

Even as things stand, emergence from the pandemic is far from complete. More than 15 months after it gripped the nation, just 16 percent of Americans say their community has recovered fully. Nor is the future assured: While 56 percent think the country has learned lessons that will help it through the next pandemic, a mere 18 percent are very confident of this.

BIDEN – Biden, for his part, enjoys broad approval, 62 percent, for handling the pandemic (including a third of Republicans) – but that isn't enough to keep him aloft. Just 50 percent of Americans approve of his job performance overall, a comparatively weak score nearing his six-month mark in office.

Poor ratings on crime and on the immigration situation on the southern border are among Biden's challenges, as is the hyperpartisanship that marks today's politics.

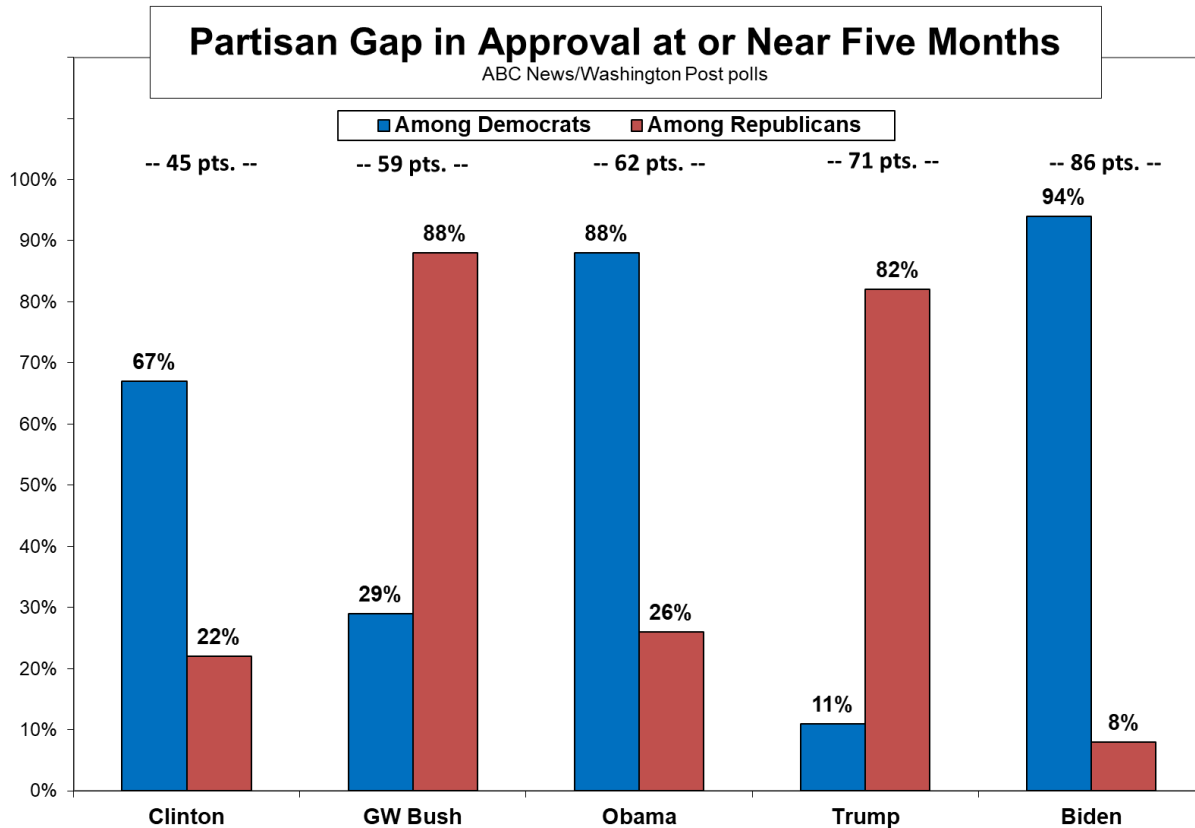


His 50-42 percent job approval rating is the fourth lowest out of the last 14 presidents at about five months in office in polls by ABC and the Post and Gallup previously. Biden’s ahead only of Gerald Ford (after his unpopular pardon of Richard Nixon, among other challenges), Bill Clinton (in a struggling economy and with an otherwise rocky start to his presidency) and Donald Trump (who never achieved majority approval). It’s an unusually low rating in a time of strong economic growth.

Biden’s approval ratings tumble to 38 percent on crime (as reported [Friday](#)) and 33 percent on the immigration situation at the border with Mexico. In partisan terms, 88 percent of Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party approve of his job performance overall; 81 percent of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents disapprove.

Just among party adherents – excluding independents – Biden has 94 percent approval in his own party vs. 8 percent from Republicans, an 86-point partisan gap. That’s grown steadily from the Clinton presidency forward, demonstrating heightened partisan divisions the past three decades.

Biden’s approval rating is similar to its level in an ABC/Post poll in April, 52 percent. There are some shifts among groups – a 16-point drop in approval among Hispanics, a 12-point drop in the Midwest (where this poll finds a larger than typical number of Republicans and GOP leaners) and a slight 7-point drop among liberals. Other slight shifts largely offset these.



PANDEMIC – Additional results show how partisanship has infected pandemic attitudes and behavior. Ninety-three percent of Democrats say they either have been vaccinated or definitely or probably will do so; that plummets to 49 percent of Republicans. (It’s between the two, 65 percent, among independents.)

Vaccine hesitancy also stands out among Republican-leaning groups, such as conservatives, evangelical white Protestants and less-educated adults. And while Republicans are far less likely to get a shot, just 24 percent see themselves as at risk for infection.

As the table below shows, many groups that are vaccine hesitant are, at the same time, no more apt to see themselves at high risk of infection, and more likely than others to see the risk of the Delta variant as exaggerated.

Vaccine Uptake and Perceived Risk of the Coronavirus			
	Vaccinated or plan to be	High/moderate risk of infection	See Delta risk as exaggerated
All	69%	29%	35%
Democrats	93	31	12
Independents	65	28	39
Republicans	49	24	57
Liberals	83	32	22

Vaccine Uptake and Perceived Risk of the Coronavirus			
	Vaccinated or plan to be	High/moderate risk of infection	See Delta risk as exaggerated
Moderates	78	32	28
Conservatives	51	23	55
White Protestants:			
Not evangelical	72	29	33
Evangelical	53	20	49
Urban	79	27	27
Suburban	67	29	40
Rural	60	24	47
College graduates	83	27	26
Non-graduates	61	29	40

The survey also shows Black adults, at 79 percent, more apt than others to say they either have gotten a shot or will do so; it's 68 percent among whites and 70 percent among Hispanics. That's a positive sign after earlier, higher vaccine hesitancy among Black people.

One further result on the pandemic points to the extent of COVID-19 in the United States. Eleven percent report testing positive for it; an additional 12 percent think they had it but never tested positive. The net total is 23 percent, notably higher among Republicans and GOP-leaning independents, 31 percent. Among people who say they never had it, 72 percent have been vaccinated or likely will do so; among those who know or think they've had it, this declines to 60 percent.

VOTING – Lastly, on an unrelated topic, a result released Thursday shows a contrast between public attitudes on voting access and the Supreme Court's decision upholding restrictions in an Arizona law: Americans by a 2-1 margin, 62-30 percent, call it more important to pass new laws making it easier to vote lawfully than to create laws making it harder to vote fraudulently.

There are sharp partisan and ideological differences. Eighty-nine percent of Democrats prioritize making it easier to vote lawfully, as do 62 percent of independents, dropping to 32 percent of Republicans. (Still, that means a third of Republicans hold this view, which is at odds with the national party's focus on the issue.) Similarly, 86 percent of liberals and 70 percent of moderates put a priority on expanding lawful voting, compared with 40 percent of conservatives.

By race and ethnicity, 58 percent of whites say it's more important to make lawful voting easier than to make fraudulent voting harder. This rises to 82 percent of Black people, with Hispanics in between, at 67 percent.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone June 27-30, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 907 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

2c, 10-15 previously released. *= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/30/21	50	30	19	42	7	35	8
4/21/21	52	34	18	42	7	35	6

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Biden is handling [ITEM]?

6/30/21 - Summary table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. the coronavirus pandemic	62	31	7
b. the immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border	33	51	16

Trend where available:

a. the coronavirus pandemic

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/30/21	62	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	7
4/21/21	64	46	18	31	8	22	11

b. the immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/30/21	33	NA	NA	51	NA	NA	16
4/21/21	37	16	20	53	10	42	11

3. Which of these describes you: You have not had COVID-19. You tested positive for COVID-19. OR You think you had COVID-19 but never tested positive.

	Have not had COVID-19	Tested positive for COVID-19	Think you had COVID-19 but never tested positive	No opinion
6/30/21	75	11	12	2

4. Have you personally received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion/Refused
6/30/21	60	38	2
4/21/21	56	43	1

5. (ASK IF NOT RECEIVED VACCINATION OR UNSURE) Will you definitely get a coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?

	----- Will get it -----			----- Will not get it -----			No op.
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Probably	Definitely	
6/30/21	24	8	16	74	23	52	2
4/21/21	41	16	25	55	18	37	3

4/5 NET

	Already got it	----- Have not gotten vaccine yet -----			No opinion	No opinion			
		NET	Def.	Prob.			NET	Prob.	Def.
6/30/21	60	9	3	6	29	9	20	2	x
4/21/21	56	18	7	11	24	8	16	2	x

Compare to:

When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?

	----- Will get it -----			----- Will not get it -----			Already got it (vol.)	No op.
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Probably	Definitely		
1/13/21	63	40	23	32	11	22	3	2

If a vaccine that protected you from the coronavirus was available for free to everyone who wanted it, would you definitely get it, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?

	---- Likely to get it ----			----- Not likely to get it -----			No op.
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Probably not	Definitely not	
5/28/20	71	43	28	27	12	15	2

6. How would you rate your level of risk of getting sick from the coronavirus - would you say you're at high risk, moderate risk, low risk or no risk?

	----- More risk -----			---- Less risk ----			No opinion
	NET	High	Moderate	NET	Low	No risk	
6/30/21	29	13	16	69	44	25	2

7. U.S. officials have said a new strain of the coronavirus called the Delta variant is more contagious and more dangerous than previous strains. Do you think U.S. officials are (accurately describing) the risk posed by the Delta variant, or (exaggerating) it?

	Accurately describing		Underplaying (vol.)		No opinion
	NET	Exaggerating	NET	Underplaying	
6/30/21	45	35	2	18	

8. Would you say that the community where you live has fully recovered from the pandemic, mostly recovered, partly recovered or still has a long way to go?

	----- Recovered -----			----- Not recovered -----			No
	NET	Fully	Mostly	NET	Partly	Long way to go	opinion
6/30/21	60	16	44	36	22	14	4

9. How confident are you that the United States has learned lessons from this pandemic that will help it respond more effectively when another pandemic occurs? Are you very confident in this, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	--- More confident ---			---- Less confident ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
6/30/21	56	18	38	42	21	21	2

16. Which of these do you think is more important: passing new laws making it (easier for people to vote lawfully), or passing new laws making it (harder for people to vote fraudulently)?

	Easier to	Harder to vote	No
	vote lawfully	fraudulently	opinion
6/30/21	62	30	8

*** END ***