

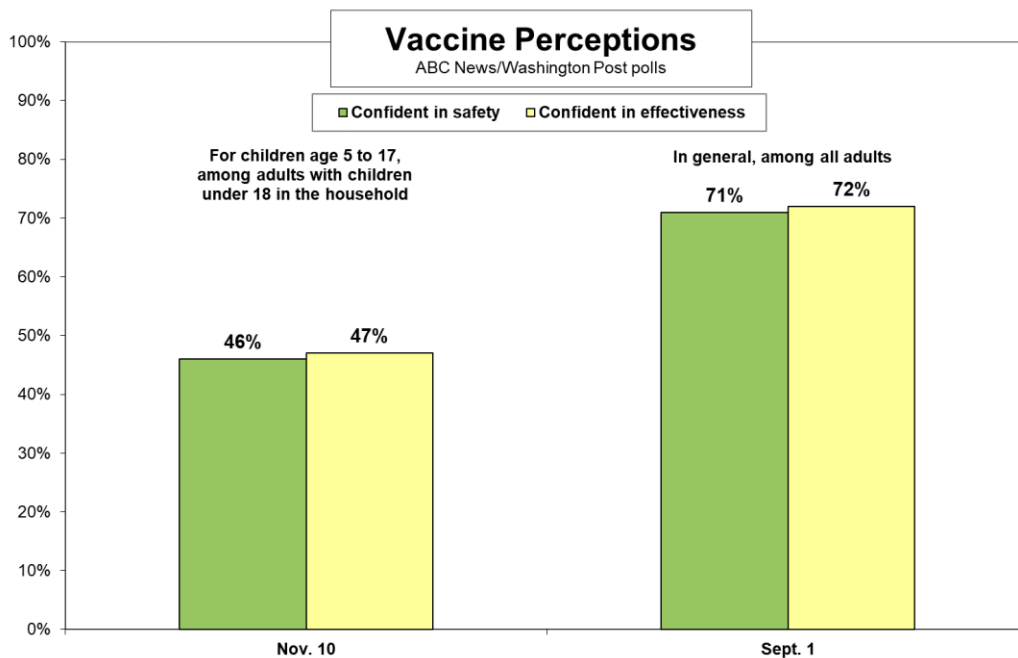
Doubts on Safety, Efficacy in Children Underlie Parents' Vaccine Hesitancy

Half of parents in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll are skeptical about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines for children, potentially a key barrier as the government seeks to boost uptake.

Numerous recent surveys have found substantial numbers of parents hesitant to have their child vaccinated against the coronavirus. This poll explores these compunctions by assessing parents' views of whether the vaccines are safe and effective, both well-established motivators of uptake.

The results: Just 46 percent of adults with a child younger than 18 at home are confident that the vaccines are safe for children age 5 to 17. It's about the same, 47 percent, for confidence that the vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness and death in this age group. Fifty-two percent are not so or not at all confident in their safety or effectiveness.

These are far from ABC/Post results in September asking about the vaccines generally, not specifically for children. Among all adults, 71 percent called the vaccines safe and 72 percent saw them as effective. (Results on safety were similar last April for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, less so for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, measured during a pause in its use.)



This poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that strength of sentiment is a further challenge: Twice as many parents are not at all confident that the vaccines

are safe for children age 5 to 17 than are very confident of this, 41 vs. 21 percent. The gap is smaller on effectiveness, but still 12 percentage points, 38 vs. 26 percent.

Views of Coronavirus Vaccines for Children Age 5 to 17		
<i>Among adults with children under 18 in the household</i>		
	Strength of sentiment:	
	Very confident	Not at all confident
Safe in children	21%	41%
Effective in children	26	38

GROUPS – As with many pandemic attitudes, partisan and ideological preferences inform views on vaccines for children. While sample sizes for parent subgroups are small, skepticism about the vaccines’ safety and effectiveness in 5- to 17-year-olds peaks among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, as well as among conservatives.

In other gaps, mothers are more apt than fathers to be confident in the vaccines’ effectiveness, 55 vs. 38 percent. (The difference between the sexes in views of safety is smaller, and not statistically significant.) Confidence in safety, for its part, is much higher among parents who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, compared with white parents. (On effectiveness, the racial/ethnic gap shrinks, and is not significant.)

A connection with attitudes on school policies is apparent as well. Parents who support their local school district’s pandemic policies are more apt than those who see these policies as too strict to express confidence in the vaccines. That again connects with politics: Seeing school policies as too strict rises sharply among leaned Republicans and conservative parents.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Nov. 7-10, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including 240 adults with children living at home. Results among adults with children at home have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 7.5 percentage points, including the design effect.

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 Steven Sparks.

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

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Full results follow.

1-9, 15-24 previously released. 11-14 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent

10. (ASK IF HAVE CHILD UNDER 18) How confident are you that the coronavirus vaccines are [ITEM] - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

11/10/21 - Summary table

	- More confident -			--- Less confident ---			Depends	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	NET	Not so	At all	which (vol.)	op.
a. safe for children ages 5 to 17	46	21	25	52	11	41	1	1
b. effective at preventing serious illness and death in children ages 5 to 17	47	26	21	52	13	38	*	1

Compare to:

How confident are you that the coronavirus vaccines are [ITEM] - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

9/1/21 - Summary table

	- More confident -			---- Less confident ----			Depends	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	NET	Not so	Not at all	which (vol.)	op.
a. safe	71	43	28	27	12	15	*	1
b. effective at preventing serious illness and death	72	43	29	27	11	15	*	1

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