



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 15, 2022

*The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past week, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).*

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Few Americans in new polling see the coronavirus pandemic as a serious crisis and most continue to support lifting restrictions, with opposition to state, local, school and business-imposed mask requirements up sharply in the past two months.

In a pandemic first, fewer than half report wearing a mask at least some of the time, and more are dining out and gathering with others. Still, six in 10 say they haven't completely resumed their normal pre-coronavirus life.

Two weeks after the FDA approved second booster shots, one in 10 vaccinated adults reports having received a second booster, including 15 percent of those 65 and older. Initial vaccine uptake remains flat, with survey estimates and administrative data continuing to diverge.

A newly released survey finds a broad preference for remote or hybrid work among employees whose job can accommodate it. Other analyses investigate the prevalence of anxiety and depression in the pandemic, track turnover among health care workers and find a sharp drop in the number of incarcerated people in the United States in 2020, accelerating a decade-long trend.

Surveys from Nevada, New Jersey and Detroit are included this week, as are international results from Brazil, Chile, Germany and Russia.

### Concerns & Outlooks

After a steep two-month decline, nationwide coronavirus cases have edged up by more than 20 percent since the beginning of the month to an average of about [31,000](#) new cases a day in the past week. Deaths, a lagging indicator, continue to decline, while hospitalizations remain near their lowest levels since the summer.

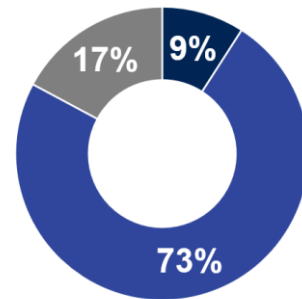
Four in 10 Americans in one survey are very or moderately concerned about becoming infected with the coronavirus, steady this week after falling from 55 percent in mid-January ([CDC 4/3-](#)

4/9). In another, about a quarter are extremely or very concerned about the pandemic, half as many as in early January; an additional 32 percent are somewhat concerned. Thirty-five percent think that returning to their normal pre-coronavirus life would be a large or moderate risk to their health and well-being, steady the past month after dropping from 59 percent in late January.

Just 9 percent view the state of the coronavirus in the United States as a serious crisis. Most, 73 percent, call it a manageable problem; 17 percent, not a problem at all ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

How would you describe the state of coronavirus in the U.S. now?

■ A serious crisis  
 ■ A problem, but manageable  
 ■ Not a problem at all



Daily Life & Precautions

Thirty-seven percent of adults say they have returned to their normal, pre-coronavirus life, up 22 percentage points since early January to the most in data since January 2021. About six in 10 have not, divided evenly between those who think they’ll be able to return to normality within the next year and those who think it’ll be longer than that, if ever.

For the first time in the pandemic, fewer than half, 44 percent, report always or sometimes wearing a mask when outside their home, down from 53 percent a month ago and 73 percent in late January. Twenty-seven percent say they wear masks occasionally; 29 percent report never doing this, more than double the number (12 percent) in late January.

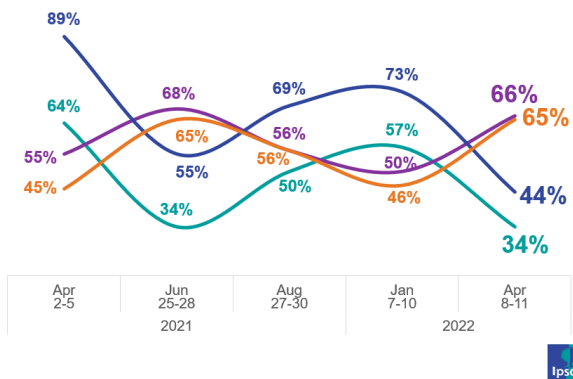
Reduced mask use coincides with loosened restrictions: Just 15 percent say their state or local government requires masks to be worn in all public places, down from 46 percent in early February. Twenty-two percent of workers say their employer requires masks at the workplace, down from six in 10 in early January.

In addition to reduced mask use, Americans are taking fewer coronavirus precautions more generally:

- The share who’ve gone out to eat in the past week edged up to 65 percent, up from 46 percent in early January. It last was this high in late June, before the Delta surge.
- Sixty-six percent visited friends or relatives in the past seven days, up 16 points from early February to the most since mid-July.

Percentage of Americans who have \_\_\_\_\_ in the past week

■ Worn a mask outside the home at least sometimes ■ Social distanced  
 ■ Visited friends or relatives ■ Gone out to eat



- A third report social distancing within the past week (i.e., staying at home and avoiding others as much as possible), down from 57 percent in early January to match its pandemic low in late June ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

### Mask & Vaccine Requirements

More oppose than support mask requirements from state and local governments, 56-44 percent, a reversal from 67-32 percent support in early January. Fifty-four percent of workers oppose their employer requiring all employees and customers to be masked, about double the number who said so early January, 28 percent.

Fifty-one percent support mask requirements in K-12 schools, down from 70 percent at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year; 48 percent are opposed, up from three in 10 ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)). Another survey finds the public divided 37-35 percent on requiring students to wear masks, with 27 percent taking a neutral midpoint ([UChicago Harris-AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#)).

Fifty-nine percent support federal, state and local governments lifting all coronavirus restrictions. About as many, 63 percent, oppose businesses requiring customers to show proof of vaccination before entering stores or restaurants, up from 48 percent in early February.

Views on vaccine requirements in the workplace remain largely steady. Employed adults split 52-47 percent on their employer requiring all employees to be vaccinated, with no clear trend since early November. Most adults overall, 65 percent, support requiring all people in healthcare settings to be vaccinated, steady since October ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

In schools, more favor than oppose requiring K-12 students to be fully vaccinated, 43 vs. 35 percent, with 21 percent neither in favor nor opposed ([UChicago Harris-AP-NORC 3/17-3/21](#)).

### Government Response

Assessments of Joe Biden's response to the coronavirus continue to improve, up from a 50-49 percent division in late January to 58-42 percent approval now, his highest approval in this poll since late August ([ABC-Ipsos 4/8-4/9](#)).

Fourteen percent say the coronavirus is one of the top two issues facing the country, last on a list of eight issues; it trails the topmost item, the cost of living, by 34 points. Sixty-nine percent think business closures and supply chain problems caused by the pandemic are a major cause of inflation ([CNBC 4/7-4/10](#)).

### Vaccines & Boosters

Nearly two weeks after the FDA [authorized](#) second booster shots for some immunocompromised people and adults 50 and older, 9 percent of partially vaccinated adults (corresponding to 7 percent of adults overall) report having received a second booster shot. Among vaccinated adults 65 and older, 15 percent have received a second booster dose ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

While the CDC does not have specific data on second boosters, it reports that the number of people getting vaccinated nearly has tripled since authorization of second booster doses, to an average of 447,000 per day in the week ending April 8, compared with 160,000 per day in the week ending March 29 ([CDC](#)).

Among vaccinated people who have not received a second booster, 64 percent would be likely to get an additional booster if it were available to them, including 39 percent very likely.

Initial vaccinations remain flat. In the only poll to estimate uptake this week, 74 percent say they've received at least one dose, largely steady since September. About seven in 10 fully vaccinated adults report having received at least one booster dose, essentially unchanged since late January ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

The CDC estimates initial uptake far higher, 89 percent, and the share of fully vaccinated adults with at least one booster lower, 49 percent. Challenges linking first, second and additional doses in administrative data are a noted problem ([CDC](#)). Estimates of initial uptake in survey and administrative data began to [diverge](#) when boosters first became available.

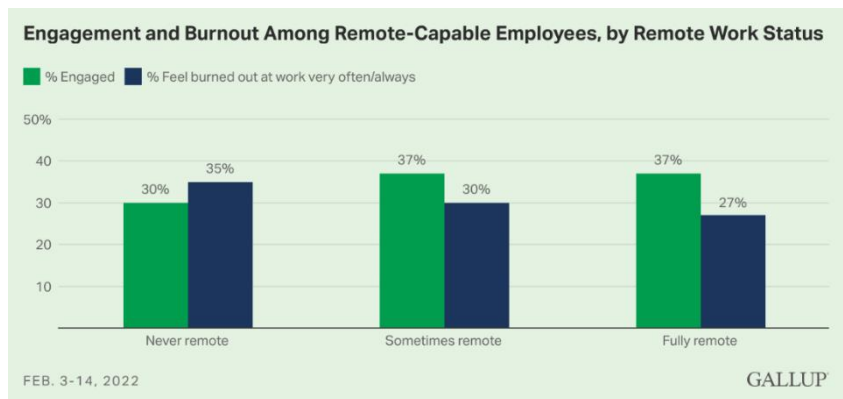
### Remote Work

Twenty-eight percent of all employed adults say they worked from home or remotely within the last few weeks, largely steady the past year. Twenty-two percent say their employer has asked remote/home-based workers back into the office in the past few weeks ([Axios-Ipsos 4/8-4/11](#)).

An early February survey was conducted among a subgroup of employed adults – those working full time and not exclusively self-employed. It found about four in 10 working fully remotely or on a hybrid schedule. Among those whose job was capable of being done remotely, this doubled to about eight in 10.

Nine in 10 “remote-capable” workers preferred their job to be either fully remote or hybrid. Fifty-three percent in this group said their employer had indicated that a hybrid work schedule would be the main office arrangement going forward; an additional 24 percent expected it to be fully remote ([Gallup 2/3-2/14](#)).

Among remote-capable workers who exclusively worked in person, 35 percent reported often or always feeling burnt out at work. That compares with 30 percent of those on a hybrid schedule and 27 percent of those working fully remotely. Conversely, 37 percent of remote-capable employees who worked remotely at least sometimes were engaged, vs. 30 percent of those who worked fully in person ([Gallup 2/3-2/14](#)).



## Mental Health

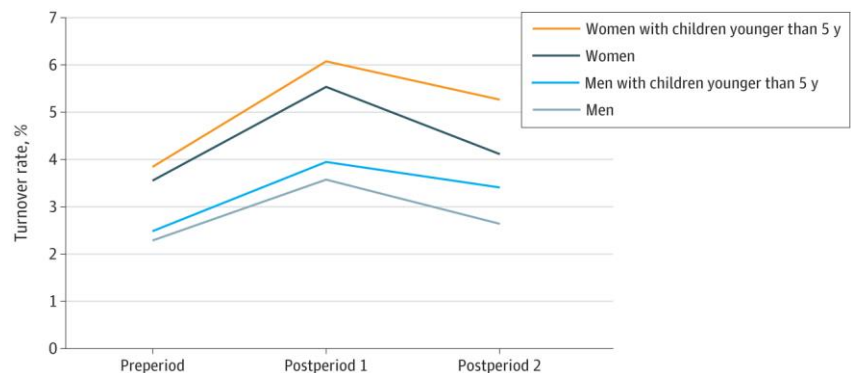
In data collected in the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey last June and July, 48 percent of adults age 18-25 reported anxiety and/or depression symptoms. Thirty-nine percent of them said they received counseling or prescription medications for these symptoms, while 36 percent said they had unmet counseling and/or therapy needs ([Adams et al., 2022](#); [U.S. Census Bureau](#)).

Another study finds mixed evidence of poorer mental health indicators in the pandemic. While the prevalence of depression and anxiety increased significantly when comparing the same health screening questions in the 2019 National Health Interview Survey and the 2020 Household Pulse Survey, particularly among young and low-income adults, the authors found no significant increases when looking at separate mental health indicators asked consistently in the 2019-2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the 2019-2020 NHIS surveys ([Brookings 4/8](#)).

## Turnover Among Health Care Workers

The number of health care workers quitting, losing a job or leaving the workforce increased in the early months of the pandemic and has receded since then. On average, 3.2 percent reported turnover in the 15 months preceding the pandemic. This rose to 5.6 percent in the first nine months of the pandemic (April-December 2020) and subsequently decreased to 3.7 percent from January-October 2021. Turnover rates were lower in 2021 than in the first nine months of the pandemic, except among workers in long-term health care settings and physicians.

Turnover rates among health care workers with children younger than five were higher than their peers and have been slower to recover; rates were particularly high among women with young children. Turnover in jobs associated with lower wages (e.g., aides/assistants) was nearly four times as large as in those with higher wages (e.g., physicians). American Indian/Alaska Native/Pacific Islander workers had consistently higher turnover rates, while white workers had persistently lower rates. The study used data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey among 125,717 full-time health care workers ([Frogner & Dill, 2022](#); [BLS](#)).

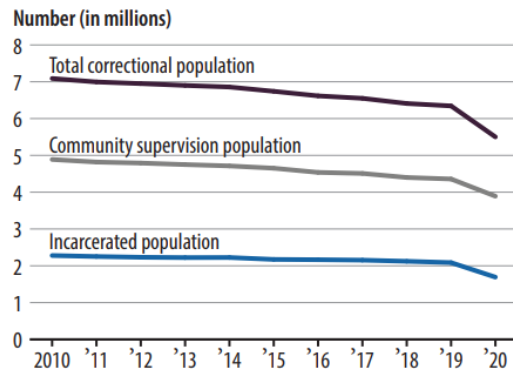


## Correctional Population

A decade-long decline in the number of incarcerated people in the United States accelerated during the pandemic. The number of inmates in local jails and state and federal prisons fell 18.9

percent in 2020, from about 2.1 million in 2019 to 1.7 million in 2020. The incarceration rate fell to 660 per 100,000 residents, compared with 810 per 100,000 in 2019 and 960 per 100,000 in 2010. The number of people on probation or parole similarly declined in 2020, down 277,000 or 6.6 percent compared with 2019 ([BJS 3/24](#)). Researchers say fewer arrests and court slowdowns are contributing factors ([Prison Policy Initiative 3/24](#)).

**Number of persons under the supervision of adult correctional systems in the United States, 2010–2020**



### State & Local Results

In Nevada, 2 percent of likely voters say the coronavirus is the most important issue to them personally, tied for last of a list of 10 items ([Suffolk-RGJ 4/2-4/6](#)).

Twenty-three percent of New Jerseyans are very concerned about a family member becoming seriously ill from the virus, down from roughly four in 10 in 2021 and 60 percent in April 2020. Sixty-four percent oppose reinstating mask and social distancing guidelines in the state and fewer than half, 45 percent, support requiring proof of vaccination to work in an office or around other people. Eight in 10 report having received a vaccine, including 59 percent boosted.

Sixty-seven percent say Gov. Phil Murphy has done a good job handling the pandemic. Fifty-three percent think New Jersey has done better than other states in dealing with it; 14 percent think it's done worse ([Monmouth 3/31-4/4](#)).

An analysis of vaccine uptake among Detroit residents who participated in June-July and November-December 2021 surveys finds that 10 percent received their first dose between the first and second survey, meaning three in 10 initially unvaccinated adults eventually got a shot. Black and Latino residents were three times as apt as whites to be in the delayed-uptake group, and parents were twice as likely as non-parents to delay uptake.

Sixty-four percent of Detroit residents said they were vaccinated by June-July 2021, with whites, older adults and those with higher incomes and educational attainment more apt than others to be early adopters. Twenty-six percent of adults remained unvaccinated as of November-December; women, parents, younger adults, those with lower incomes and educational attainment and people of color were more likely than their counterparts to be vaccine holdouts ([University of Michigan 11/3-12/15](#)).

### International Results

In Chile, 28 percent are highly worried about becoming infected with the coronavirus, half as many as at the peak of Omicron and the lowest since March 2020 ([Cadem 4/6-4/7](#)).

Fifty-seven percent of Germans say the repeal of most coronavirus restrictions earlier in the month was a mistake and 68 percent are against repealing mandatory isolations for people who

test positive for the virus. Fifty-three percent say they'll continue to wear masks in public places even if no longer mandatory; an additional 24 percent say they'll probably do this. Nearly half, 46 percent, support mandatory vaccination for all adults, down 7 points since February. An additional 13 percent support vaccine requirements only for people 50 and older, with 37 percent opposed to any mandate ([ARD-Infratest Dimap 4/4-4/6](#)).

In Russia, 58 percent of adults say they're vaccinated against the coronavirus. This includes 38 percent who got vaccinated because they believed it was the right thing to do and 21 percent because they were required to do so. Four in 10 say the pandemic in Russia still is a serious problem, while 35 percent think it's almost over and 21 percent never saw it as a serious problem to begin with ([FOM 4/1-4/3](#)).

In a late March poll in Brazil, 64 percent said it was best to continue to use masks in indoor spaces, while 32 percent thought indoor mask use should end ([PoderData 3/27-3/29](#)).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

*Summary for SEAN by [Langer Research Associates](#).*