



COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 8, 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](#).

[Sign up](#) for notice of these weekly summaries each Friday morning.

Polls this week show some continued public caution despite coronavirus cases holding low and steady, with most people still restricting their activities at least somewhat. Six in 10 see a need for continued mask use in some public places and half back extending the federal mask mandate on public transportation.

Two years in, most parents say the pandemic has negatively impacted their child's education and mental health. Half of adults cite negative impacts on their own mental health; four in 10 say the same about their physical health and financial situation alike. In another study, just over six in 10 say it's made dating harder.

A new survey finds tourism and business travel still far below pre-pandemic levels, while issuance of green cards and arrivals with temporary worker and student visas largely have rebounded. And in a newly released survey from December, 83 percent of Americans reported feeling frustrated by the amount of political disagreement in coronavirus news.

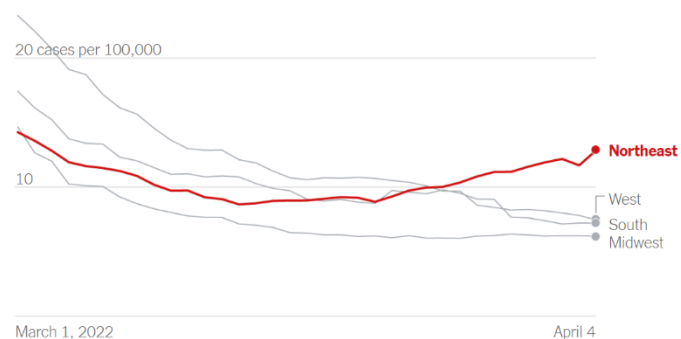
State results from Pennsylvania and Texas are included in this week's summary, as are international results from Chile, Great Britain and Mexico.

Concerns & Outlooks

Deaths tied to the coronavirus are down more than 80 percent from their Omicron peak to an average of about 500 a day ([CDC](#)). New daily cases nationally have stayed low since mid-March, but are [on the rise](#) in some Northeastern states.

Thirty-four percent of adults consider the current level of coronavirus cases in their state a serious problem, down

Daily average cases per capita by U.S. region



Note: Chart shows the seven-day averages. - Source: New York Times database - By The New York Times

from 69 percent in mid-January; 66 percent don't see it as a serious problem, up from 31 percent ([Marquette 3/14-3/24](#)). Four in 10 are very or moderately concerned about personally becoming sick with the coronavirus, down from 55 percent in mid-January to the fewest since July ([CDC 3/20-3/26](#)).

Coronavirus Precautions

Even with most local and state restrictions lifted, 59 percent report still limiting their behaviors, with 42 percent doing some but not all their pre-pandemic activities and an additional 17 percent saying they do very few of their normal activities. Of the rest, 27 percent say they've basically returned to their normal pre-pandemic life and 14 percent never changed their activities.

Among groups, Black people, those with chronic health conditions that put them at higher risk and low-income Americans are most apt to be refraining from pre-pandemic activities, while majorities of unvaccinated adults and Republicans report normal activities.

Fifty-one percent overall say they wore a protective mask every or most of the time they've been in indoor public places within the past month, down from two-thirds in January. An additional 29 percent did this at least some of the time, while 19 percent report never wearing a mask.

Even with fewer cases, 59 percent say people should continue wearing masks in some public places to minimize the spread of the virus and avoid another surge. Similar to a result [last week](#), the public divides 51-48 percent on whether the federal requirement for masks on public transportation should expire [April 18th](#) or be extended ([KFF 3/15-3/22](#)).

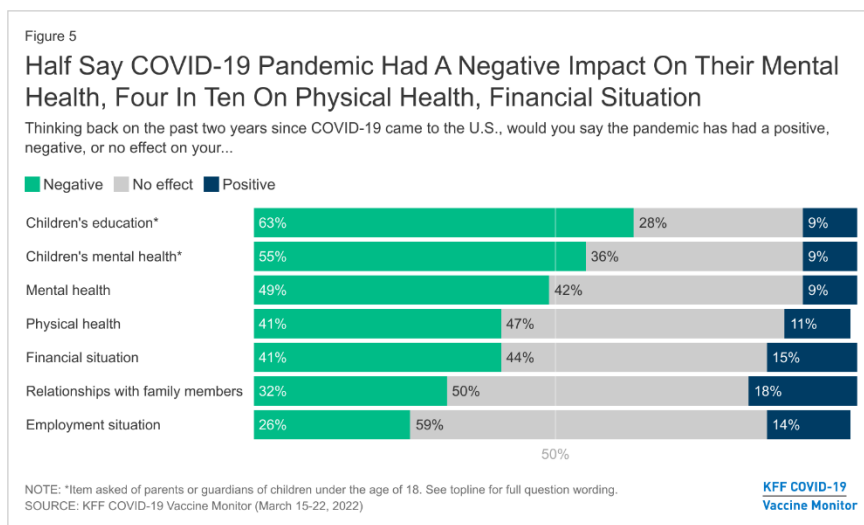
Government Response

One poll finds a 48-47 percent division on Biden's handling of the pandemic, steady since mid-March while up from a low of 39-55 in mid-January ([Quinnipiac 3/31-4/4](#)). Other [polls](#) also found improvements on this measure since the beginning of the year.

Pandemic Impacts

Reflecting on the past two years, most parents say the pandemic has had a negative impact on their child's education (63 percent) and mental health (55 percent). Just 9 percent in either case say it's had a positive impact, while the rest report no effects.

Americans overall also are more apt to report adverse quality-of-life impacts. Forty-



nine percent cite negative impacts on their mental health, 41 percent on their physical health and financial situation alike, 32 percent on their relationships with family members and 26 percent on their employment situation. Each surpasses the share who report positive impacts for any of these items, ranging from 9 to 18 percent.

In an open-ended question, 27 percent say isolation and missing connections has been the hardest change brought about by the pandemic, followed by 13 percent apiece who mention negative financial impacts or restricted activities including travel.

Asked about positive changes, 24 percent mention closer relationships and/or more time spent with family, followed distantly by positive job changes/remote work (8 percent) and improved finances/financial help (7 percent) ([KFF 3/15-3/22](#)).

Dating in the Pandemic

In a newly released mid-February survey, 63 percent of single adults looking for relationships and/or dates say that dating has been harder during the coronavirus outbreak, double the share who think it's remained about the same. Only 3 percent call dating easier.

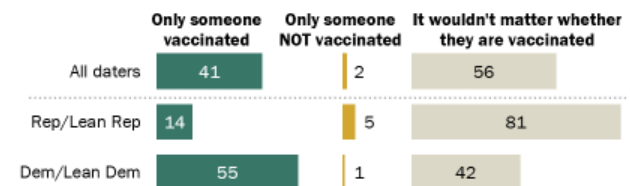
The proportion of single adults who are not currently dating or looking for relationships is up a slight 6 points since 2019, to 56 percent. Ten percent of them say concerns about being exposed to the coronavirus are a major reason.

Fifty-nine percent of daters say the pandemic has not impacted in their interest in finding a committed relationship. About 10 percent apiece say it's made them either more or less interested.

Fifty-six percent say a person's vaccination status wouldn't matter to them in deciding whether to go on a date with someone. Still, 41 percent say they'd only go on a date with someone who was vaccinated, ranging from 55 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents to 14 percent of leaned Republicans ([Pew 2/7-2/13](#)).

Majority of daters say a potential date's COVID-19 vaccination status doesn't matter to them

% of daters saying that, if they were deciding whether to go on a date with someone, they would go on a date with ...



Note: "Daters" are those who are not married, living with a partner or in a committed romantic relationship and have indicated that right now they are looking for: a committed romantic relationship only, casual dates only, or either a committed romantic relationship or casual dates. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 7-13, 2022.

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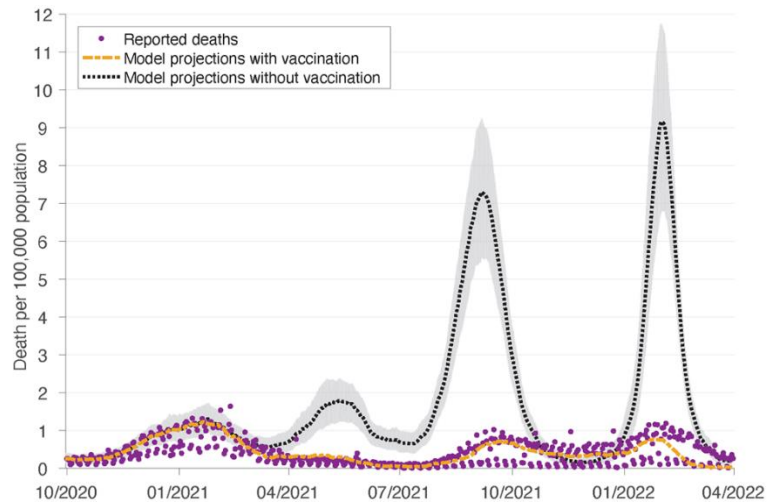
Vaccines

Polls this week place vaccine uptake among adults at 79 and 78 percent, similar to results [last week](#), with survey estimates largely steady since October ([KFF 3/15-3/22](#), [Marquette 3/14-3/24](#)). Seven in 10 say they're fully vaccinated; 52 percent of adults overall (approximately three-quarters of fully vaccinated adults) say they've gotten a booster dose ([Marquette 3/14-3/24](#)).

[CDC estimates](#) of vaccine uptake remain higher, 89 percent for at least one dose and 76 percent fully vaccinated, with estimated booster uptake among fully vaccinated adults lower, 49 percent. The CDC estimates face [noted problems](#) linking doses.

Initial vaccine uptake seems unlikely to increase much. Among the 21 percent of Americans who have not gotten vaccinated, 73 percent say they definitely will not get a shot and an additional 18 percent lean against it. Just one in 10 say they'll definitely (3 percent) or probably (6 percent) get one ([Marquette 3/14-3/24](#)).

According to [updated](#) modeling estimates, approximately 2.2 million deaths and 17 million hospitalizations were prevented in the United States by the vaccine rollout from Dec. 12, 2020 to March 31, 2022. The authors estimate that there would have been nearly \$900 billion in additional associated health care costs without the vaccines ([The Commonwealth Fund 4/8](#)).



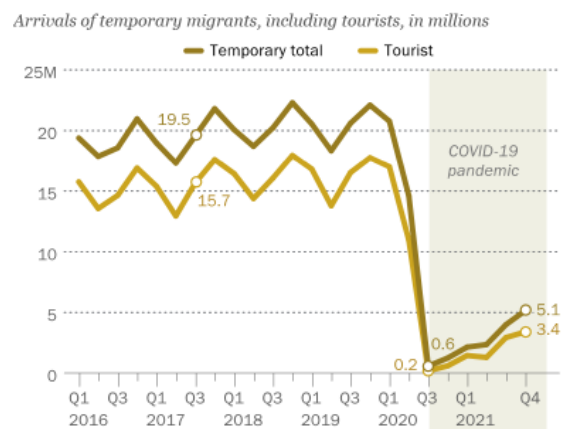
Immigration & Tourism

The number of green cards granted to immigrants has recovered from a more than 70 percent decrease at the onset of the pandemic, rising from 79,000 in April-June 2020 to 282,000 in the most recent data (July-September 2021).

The recovery is driven by issuances for immigrants already living in the United States on temporary visas, up from 60,000 at the onset of the pandemic to 177,000 in July-September, outpacing any quarter since 2016. Conversely, the number of green cards granted to immigrants newly arriving to the United States was still 78 percent of its pre-pandemic average, with 105,000 admissions from July to September.

Travel arrivals remained far below pre-pandemic levels after plummeting in April-June 2020. Tourist arrivals were up from just 185,000 in April-June 2020 to 3.4 million in the latest data; still, that's only 22 percent of the pre-pandemic average of 15.6 million. Arrivals of foreign visitors on

Tourist arrivals to the U.S. have not recovered from pandemic-era drop



Notes: Data labels shown for April-June 2017, April-June 2020 and July-September 2021. Years shown are fiscal years, which run Oct. 1-Sept. 30 of designated year. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics data.

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business travel were at just 21 percent of their pre-pandemic level in the latest data, at approximately 461,000 from July-September.

Arrivals of foreign students have advanced from 11,000 from April-June 2020 to 501,000 in July-September 2021, two-thirds of the way back to their pre-pandemic average in July-September data since 2015. Arrivals of temporary workers have doubled since bottoming out in April-June 2020, rising from approximately 226,000 to 542,000; still, that's only about half its pre-pandemic level ([Pew 4/4](#)).

Coronavirus Information

In a newly released December survey, 83 percent of Americans reported feeling frustrated by the amount of political disagreement in news about the coronavirus and vaccines. Sixty-two percent also said it was difficult to know what to think because there is so much conflicting information. At the same time, 56 percent said it was reassuring to see that knowledge about the coronavirus is always being updated.

More than half said they discussed news about the coronavirus and vaccines with other people they knew at least a few times a week (again, as of mid-December). Comparatively, a third reported regularly talking about health and medicine issues and roughly one in five did the same for energy and environment issues or science generally.

Among social media users, 68 percent reported seeing information related to the coronavirus on social media in the few weeks leading up to the survey. Many fewer, 22 percent, said they specifically followed an account focused on coronavirus information. Most adults overall, 71 percent, said they mostly saw news and information about the coronavirus because they happened to come across it rather than seeking it out directly ([Pew 11/30-12/12](#)).

State Results

In a Texas poll in March, 6 percent cited the coronavirus as the most important issue facing the country, trailing the economy (17 percent), inflation (17 percent) and the threat from Russia (10 percent). Six percent also called the pandemic the top issue facing Texas specifically. Asked the most important problems facing K-12 public education, 7 percent in an open-ended question cited coronavirus restrictions and 4 percent mentioned pandemic-related learning loss ([Texas Lyceum 3/11-3/20](#)).

In a poll conducted in mid-February to early March, 37 percent of Pennsylvanians were extremely or very concerned about the pandemic, similar to its level in November but down from 57 percent a year ago. Seventy-six percent agreed that the worst of the coronavirus is behind us, up 19 points since November. More than eight in 10 thought the United States should move toward opening, including 37 percent who said we should get back to normal life with no mandates or requirements at all. Eleven percent wanted to either keep current precautions and requirements in place; 5 percent, to increase them.

Despite increased optimism, 48 percent disapproved of Biden’s handling of the coronavirus, while 43 percent approved – steady since November. Gov. Tom Wolf was rated similarly. Regarding vaccine uptake, 78 percent said they had received at least one dose, in line with national estimates. Six in 10 adults said they were likely to get an annual coronavirus booster if one becomes available ([Muhlenberg College 2/15-3/8](#)).

International Results

In Chile, a third are worried about catching the coronavirus, up 4 points in a week but still nearly half its January level ([Cadem 3/30-4/1](#)).

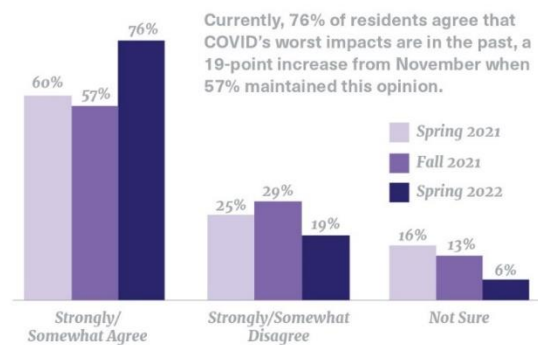
Seventy-two percent of Mexican adults approve of the vaccination process. That’s highest-ranked on a list of four options; half or more disapprove of the government’s handling of the economy, security and corruption ([El Financiero 3/11-3/12, 3/25-3/26](#)).

In Great Britain, coronavirus fears and precautionary measures have dropped since the government eased restrictions at the end of January. A third are very or somewhat worried about the pandemic’s impact on their lives, half its level in December. Three in 10 always or often maintain social distance from others, steady since last week and the lowest since September 2020. Seven in 10 wore face coverings when outside the home in the past week, down from 95 percent in January. Eighty-seven percent say their cost of living has increased, up from six in 10 when the question first was asked in November ([Office for National Statistics 3/16-3/27](#)).

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

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

Pennsylvanians are increasingly optimistic that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.



Muhlenberg College
Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.
 Source: Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion and Public Health Program - March 2022 Margin of error: +/- 5.6%