



COVID-19 Survey Summary: July 16, 2021

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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Pandemic-related polls this week document how some vaccine-hesitant Americans have overcome their qualms, find a range of public responses to vaccine requirements in various settings and indicate a vast toll of overdose deaths in the year of the coronavirus.

New surveys also show an easing economic toll, albeit with challenges ahead: With growing inflation, positive ratings of personal finances fell by their most since the onset of the pandemic; a growing number are concerned about their risk of eviction or foreclosure; and more small businesses say a shortage of employees is affecting their operating capacity.

We also cover international results from seven countries this week: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Greece and the Philippines.

Vaccines

Surveys indicate that vaccine uptake is hitting a ceiling, corresponding with [CDC estimates](#) that find the share of adults vaccinated against the coronavirus has plateaued at 68 percent.

- In one poll, 68 percent of adults report having been vaccinated, with an additional 9 percent saying they're very or somewhat likely to do so ([USC 6/24-6/30](#)).
- In another, 67 percent say they've received a vaccine, including 55 percent who've received both doses of a two-shot vaccine, 4 percent one dose of a two-shot vaccine and 8 percent a one-dose jab ([KFF 6/15-6/23](#)).

In a third survey, 81 percent of adults say they have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine; it was 79 percent two weeks ago ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/23-7/5](#)). As noted previously, this survey consistently has estimated higher levels of vaccine uptake than others.

Vaccine Hesitancy

Among the approximately one-third of Americans who are unvaccinated, more than six in 10 say they definitely will not get a shot (44 percent) or will do so only if required (19 percent). Thirty-one percent say they'll wait and see and 6 percent plan to get it as soon as possible.

In an open-ended question asking their main reason for not having gotten vaccinated, 21 percent cite worries about side effects and 16 percent mention concerns about new or untested vaccines. One in 10 doesn't see a need and 7 percent apiece don't trust vaccines in general, think the threat is exaggerated or just want to hold off ([KFF 6/15-6/23](#)).

Vaccination Decisions

A survey of recontacted participants first interviewed in January finds that vaccine intentions at that time largely match actual behavior. Ninety-two percent of those who planned to get a shot as soon as possible in January have received at least one dose by now. Among those who said they'd wait and see, 54 percent are now vaccinated. This falls to 24 percent of those who said they'd only get vaccinated if required or definitely would not receive a shot.

In total, about one in five Americans shifted from being vaccine hesitant in January (i.e., planned to wait or said they were unlikely to get vaccinated) to receiving a vaccine by mid-June. In this group, 52 percent say they learned or heard something that persuaded them to get vaccinated.

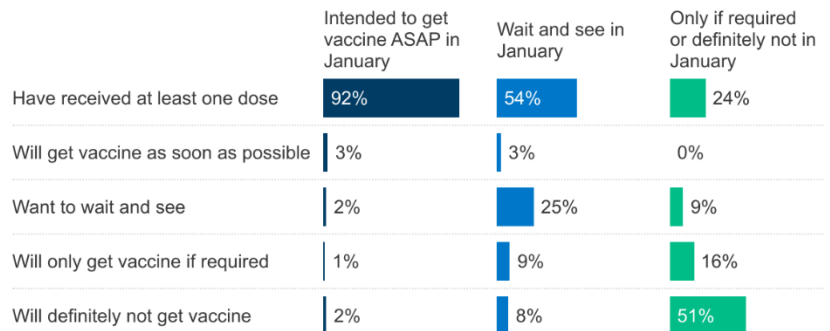
In an open-ended question, a quarter of those who were persuaded mentioned an absence of serious side effects among others who'd received the vaccine as a factor in their decision. Six to 13 percent cited other factors – information about the vaccine's ability to protect themselves and others, the ease of getting a shot, encouragement from doctors or healthcare providers and pressure from friends and family.

Additionally, 36 percent say they talked to someone who persuaded them to get the vaccine – a family member for 17 percent and their healthcare provider for 10 percent. Two-thirds of all vaccinated adults say they've tried to persuade friends or family members to get vaccinated.

On the flip side, a quarter of adults who said in January that they would get the vaccine as soon as possible or would wait and see remain unvaccinated. Many in this group cite worries about side effects, see the pandemic as exaggerated or don't see the need ([KFF 6/15-6/23](#)).

At Least Half Of Those Who Wanted To Get Vaccinated ASAP Have Received Vaccine, As Have Half Of Those Who Wanted To "Wait And See"

Have you personally received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or not? As you may know, an FDA-authorized vaccine for COVID-19 is now available for free to all adults in the U.S. Do you think you will...?



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (Jan. 14-18, 2021 and June 15-23, 2021)

[KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor](#)

Impacts Among Hispanics

In a newly released poll conducted in late March, 52 percent of Hispanic adults said a family member or close friend was hospitalized or died from the coronavirus and 28 percent said they themselves had tested positive for COVID-19 or were pretty sure they'd had it. In all, 62 percent reported contracting the virus themselves or had a close friend or relative experience hospitalization or death because of it. In CDC data, Hispanic adults are at [higher risk](#) of hospitalization or death from the virus than white Americans. In one factor, 45 percent had jobs requiring them to work outside the home.

Most Hispanics have helped those closest to them manage pandemic challenges – delivering groceries, running errands or pitching in with childcare for friends or relatives (39 percent), sending or loaning money to friends or relatives outside the United States (28 percent), or sending or loaning money to friends or relatives in the country (26 percent). These were more prevalent among those who had someone close to them suffer serious illness or death from the coronavirus.

Sixty-five percent thought the worst of the problems caused by the coronavirus in this country were behind us, up from three in 10 last November. Half said they were satisfied with the way things are going in this country, up from 36 percent in November and 22 percent last summer ([Pew 3/15-3/28](#)).

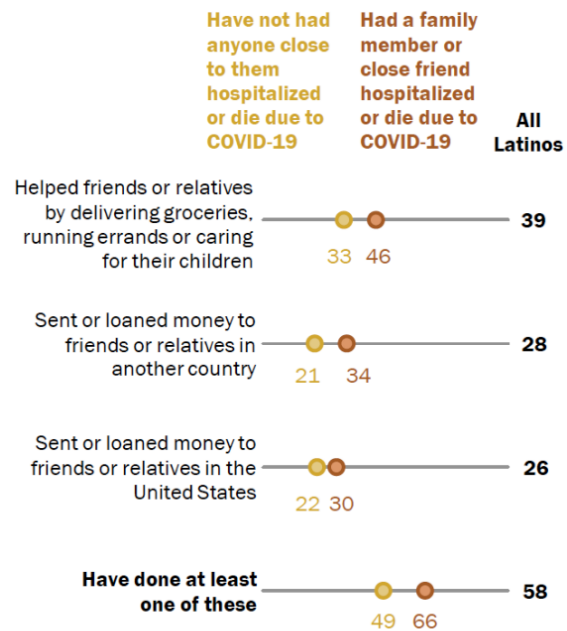
Vaccine Mandates

Sixty-three percent of adults favor requiring all public school teachers to be vaccinated before returning to work, including 70 percent of those with children age 4-17. This ranges from 75 percent among Democrats to smaller majorities of independents (58 percent) and Republicans (56 percent).

Two-thirds overall also favor healthcare institutions requiring all their workers to be vaccinated, again including majorities of Democrats (74 percent), independents (64 percent) and Republicans (59 percent) alike.

Hispanics who had someone close to them fall seriously ill due to COVID-19 more likely to say they helped friends or relatives during the pandemic

% of Hispanic adults who say they ...



Note: Share of respondents who did not offer an answer not shown.
Source: National Survey of Latinos conducted March 15-28, 2021.
For U.S. Latinos, COVID-19 Has Taken a Personal and Financial Toll

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Views on employer-led vaccine mandates, as well as those for public school students and university students and staff, are more divided:

- Fifty-six percent favor colleges and universities instituting vaccine mandates for students, faculty and staff, with 43 percent opposed.
- Half favor requiring public school students age 12 or older to be vaccinated before returning to in-person classes, while 49 percent are opposed. Parents and guardians of children age 12-17 similarly are split, 52-48 percent, favor-oppose.
- Fifty-three percent favor employers mandating all their employees to be vaccinated before returning to work, vs. 46 percent opposed. Employed adults split 48-52 percent ([Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health 6/22-6/27](#)).

As of July 11, 6 percent of small business report requiring their employees to show proof of vaccination before physically coming to work ([U.S. Census Bureau 7/5-7/11](#)).

Vaccine Passports

The public splits 49-50 percent on whether the federal government should provide “a standard document that individuals would carry and would certify that they are vaccinated against COVID-19.” It’s a similar 52-47 percent for state governments providing such a document.

Views on whether customers should be required to show proof of vaccination varies by the type of service in question. On one end of the spectrum, most Americans favor requiring passengers on international flights to show proof before boarding, 62-37 percent. Six in 10 also support proof of vaccination for cruise ship passengers and 56 percent support it for passengers on domestic flights.

However, two-thirds oppose requiring customers entering stores or businesses more generally to show proof that they’ve been vaccinated and 55 percent oppose requiring proof of vaccination for in-person sporting events ([Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health 6/22-6/27](#)).

Daily Life

As the country extends its reemergence from pandemic restrictions, the share of adults participating in social activities and gatherings has steadied at pandemic-era highs:

- A quarter visited a bar, club or other gathering place in the past week, essentially unchanged since mid-June but up from about one in 10 in early March.
- Six in 10 visited a friend, neighbor or relative in the past week, holding near its pandemic peak in June and up from fewer than four in 10 at the beginning of the year.
- Fifty-five percent report having had a visitor at their home, again near its pandemic peak last month and up sharply since the beginning of the year ([USC 6/24-6/30](#)).

Other activities are gaining prevalence. Thirty-seven percent are planning to take overnight trips or trips to places more than 100 miles away in the next four weeks, up from 25 percent in April to a pandemic high ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/23-7/5](#)). Thirty-four percent shared items such as towels or utensils with others, more than double the share in April 2020 ([USC 6/24-6/30](#)).

Financial Impacts

The share of Americans anticipating negative financial impacts in the near future is holding at pandemic lows. Twelve percent expect someone in their household to have a loss in employment income in the next four weeks, down from four in 10 in the initial months of the pandemic to match its pandemic low ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/23-7/5](#)). Eleven percent say they have a chance of running out of money in the next three months, down from a high of 28 percent in April 2020. Seven percent of employed adults think they might lose their job in the next month, essentially unchanged from its pandemic low and a third of its level in April 2020 ([USC 6/24-6/30](#)).

Still, other financial risks remain heightened as the economy reopens. Thirty-six percent of adults who have fallen behind on rent or mortgage payments say their risk of eviction or foreclosure in the next two months is very or somewhat likely, up 5 points since early June to a high in data since last August. Twenty-seven percent of all adults say they've had difficulty paying for household expenses in the past week, essentially unchanged since April of this year ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/23-7/5](#)).

Further, after fully returning to their pre-pandemic level three weeks ago, Americans' positive ratings of their personal finances fell 6 points to 63 percent, the largest such decline since April 2020 amid surging consumer prices. Forty-five percent rate the buying climate positively, also down 6 points from a pandemic high three weeks ago ([CCI 6/15-7/11](#)).

Financial impacts have been particularly stark among Hispanic adults. About half in late March said they or someone in their household had taken a pay cut or lost their job (including temporary job loss or furlough). By comparison, 44 percent of all U.S. adults said so in January.

Thirty-five percent of Hispanics reported trouble paying bills, rising to 51 percent of those who experienced a loss of employment income. Three in 10 said they received food from a food bank or accepted a charitable donation; a quarter had problems paying their rent or mortgage; and about two in 10 said they received government food assistance, had trouble paying medical bills or received unemployment benefits. In all, six in 10 experienced at least one of seven financial challenges listed in the survey.

Despite such challenges, 54 percent said they expected their personal financial situation to improve over the next year ([Pew 3/15-3/28](#)).

Small Business Impacts

The toll of the pandemic on small businesses continues to ease. A quarter say the pandemic has had a large negative effect on their business, down from about half in April 2020. While just 22

percent say their business has returned to normal levels of operation, that's up 3 points in a month to a pandemic high. The share who thinks it will take more than six months to return to normal has dropped to about three in 10, steady this week but down from nearly half this winter.

At the same time, other measures show sustained challenges. Eighteen percent of businesses report a decrease in their operating revenues in the past week, vs. 13 percent who say revenues increased. (Most, 69 percent, report no change.) And as businesses struggle to find employees, 22 percent say their operating capacity was affected by the availability of employees to work, a high in data since August 2020 ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/28-7/4](#)).

Pandemic Origins

Similar to [results](#) in late June, Americans are more apt to think the coronavirus came from a laboratory leak in China rather than human contact with an infected animal, 52 vs. 28 percent. This includes 59 percent of Republicans, 52 percent of Democrats and 47 percent of independents.

About six in 10 think it is extremely (33 percent) or very (29 percent) important that the United States investigate the origins of the coronavirus. There is bipartisan agreement, with 64 percent of Democrats and Republicans alike calling this highly important ([Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health 6/22-6/27](#)).

Overdose Deaths

Newly released provisional data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics finds that overdose deaths rose by 30 percent in 2020, the largest increase since 1999. More than 93,000 people are estimated to have died from drug overdoses last year, the most ever recorded. Deaths from opioids – consisting primarily of fentanyl – accounted for 69,710 overdose deaths in 2020, up from 50,963 in 2019. There also were increases in deaths from psychostimulants such as methamphetamine, natural and semi-synthetic opioids and cocaine ([CDC 2020](#)).

Disparities in Learning Mode

About half of fourth graders attended school fully in-person as of May, up from 44 percent in March. It was 46 percent of eighth graders in May, up from 33 percent. As the school year neared its close, a quarter of fourth graders still were learning fully remotely, as were 30 percent of eighth graders.

There were sharp racial and ethnic differences by mode. Among fourth graders, two-thirds of white students attended full-time in-person classes, compared with 45 percent of Hispanic and 41 percent of Black students. Similarly, 57 percent of white eighth graders were attending in person, vs. 37 percent of Black and Hispanic students alike ([Institute of Education Sciences 6/16-6/29](#)).

NYC Vaccinations

Modeling by epidemiologists at Yale University estimate that vaccinations in New York City prevented about 250,000 COVID-19 cases, 44,000 hospitalizations and 8,300 deaths through July 1. Data from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene show that 98 percent of COVID-19 hospitalizations and 99 percent of deaths from Jan. 1 to June 15 were among people who were not fully vaccinated, further evidence that vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness and death ([NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 1/1-7/1](#)).

International Results

In Chile, the share of adults who are worried about catching the coronavirus fell 6 points in a week to 55 percent, a low since February. Eighty-eight percent report having received at least one dose of a vaccine, unchanged in the past week as the pace of new vaccinations slowed. An additional 2 percent of Chileans say they'll get the vaccine as soon as it's available to them and 6 percent prefer to wait, while just 4 percent rule it out completely. Forty-eight percent approve of the government's handling of the pandemic, up 11 points in three weeks to the most since March ([Cadem 7/7-7/9](#)).

In Brazil, 56 percent of people age 16 and older rate President Jair Bolsonaro negatively for handling the pandemic, up 5 points since May to the most since March 2020. The rest split between giving him middling (21 percent) or positive (22 percent) ratings. Brazilians are split on the Ministry of Health's performance, with roughly equal shares giving positive (34 percent), middling (34 percent) or negative (31 percent) assessments. Governors fare slightly better, with four in 10 rating them positively vs. 27 percent negatively and 32 percent middling ([Datafolha 7/7-7/8](#)).

In Greece, 72 percent of adults have been vaccinated or say they will be, up steadily from 37 percent last November. Among those not yet vaccinated, nearly six in 10 say they definitely (36 percent) or probably (21 percent) will not get a shot, while four in 10 leans toward getting it. The public is divided in its pandemic outlook: Thirty-one percent think the situation will get worse, 30 percent better and 28 percent see no change. Six in 10 are worried about coronavirus mutations, up from 49 percent in mid-June as the Delta variant has become more dominant.

Sixty-five percent favor mandatory vaccinations for people with public-facing jobs, such as those in education, catering and public transportation, including 49 percent who think vaccinations "definitely" should be mandatory. Support is highest among retirees, with 71 percent favoring mandatory vaccinations for public-facing workers, compared with 45 percent of public sector employees, 44 percent of entrepreneurs and 34 percent of private sector workers ([Pulse RC 6/27-6/30; 7/5-7/7](#)).

Six in 10 Canadians give positive ratings (7-10 on a 0-10 scale) to the government's managing of the border with the United States since the pandemic started, vs. 22 percent negative (0-3). Canadians overwhelmingly say public health is more important than the economy when it comes to making decisions about the opening of the Canada-U.S. border, 79 vs. 18 percent. The public divides on when pandemic-related restrictions on cross-border travel should be eliminated – immediately (15 percent), this summer (14 percent), this fall (a plurality, 34 percent), or at year's end (16 percent). The rest are unsure. ([Nanos 6/30-7/5](#))

In Great Britain, 91 percent of adults say they've received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, including 65 percent with two doses, both up a slight 2 points in a week. About half (48 percent) met up with someone outside their household indoors in the past week and 58 percent met up with non-household members outdoors. Two-thirds report always or often maintaining social distance from others outside their household or bubble, matching its low in data since September. At the same time, just 23 percent feel that other people always or often socially distanced when meeting with others outside their bubble ([Office for National Statistics 6/30-7/4](#)).

In Germany, a quarter are worried that they or someone in their family might catch the coronavirus, essentially matching its level last summer. Sixty-two percent are concerned about a new wave of infections and two-thirds are worried about mutations such as the Delta variant. A broad 79 percent are concerned that restrictions are impairing the development of children and adolescents and 46 percent fear restrictions will remain in place long-term. When it comes to preparing schools for the fall, majorities support funding filter systems for all classrooms (84 percent) and frequent coronavirus testing for unvaccinated students (76 percent). Many fewer, 37 percent, support continued mask use in the classroom ([ARD-Infratest Dimap 6/28-6/30](#)).

In the Philippines, 45 percent of adults are willing to get a vaccine if it's free and approved by the FDA, up from 32 percent in May. Twenty-four percent are uncertain, down 11 points, and 21 percent are unwilling, down 12 points. One in 10 has already received at least one dose ([SWS 6/23-6/26](#)).

As of mid-June, a third of Australian adults reported receiving at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, including 78 percent of people age 70 and older. In all, 73 percent had received a vaccine or said they'll get one when it's available to them. Among the quarter who would not get a vaccine, most either pointed to potential side effects (52 percent) or concerns about its effectiveness (15 percent).

Twenty-six percent of Australians think it will take more than a year for life to return to normal, up from 14 percent in November 2020, and 16 percent think it will never be the same, up from 11 percent. About one in five says life never changed or already has returned to normal. In terms of precautions, most continue to wash their hands regularly (85 percent) and keep physical distance from other people (63 percent). Fewer than half wear a facemask (44 percent), disinfect surfaces before using them (43 percent), stay at home except for essential errands (41 percent) or get household products or groceries delivered to their home (14 percent) ([Australian Bureau of Statistics 6/11-6/20](#)).

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

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