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Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S.

*58% favor vaccine requirement for air travel, but fewer back
requiring vaccines to dine or shop*

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are continuing to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. For this analysis, we surveyed 10,237 U.S. adults from Jan. 24 to 30, 2022.

Everyone who took part in the survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way, nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used](#) for this report, along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S.

58% favor vaccine requirement for air travel, but fewer back requiring vaccines to dine or shop

Nearly two years after the [coronavirus outbreak](#) took hold in the United States, Americans are increasingly critical of the response to COVID-19 from elected officeholders and public health officials.

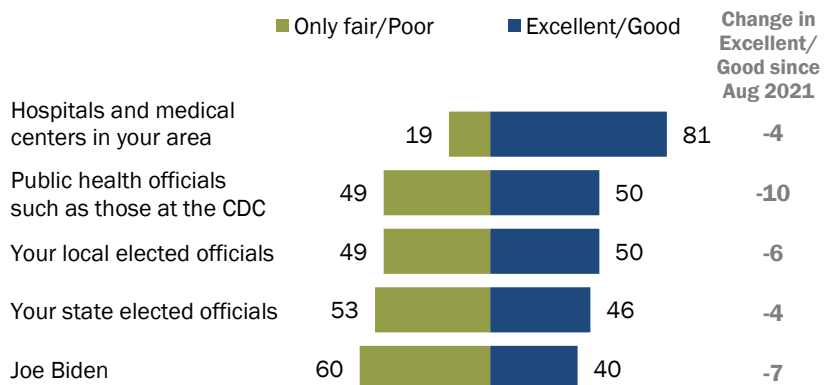
Amid debates over how to address the surge in cases driven by the omicron variant, confusion is now the most common reaction to shifts in public health guidance: 60% of U.S. adults say they've felt confused as a result of changes to public health officials' recommendations on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus, up 7 percentage points since last summer.

Americans are now almost evenly divided over how well public health officials, such as those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are responding to the outbreak, with about half (49%) saying they are doing an only fair or poor job and half (50%) saying they are doing an excellent or good job. Positive ratings of public health officials have fallen 10 points since August and are well below ratings for their initial response to the outbreak in early 2020.

Evaluations of elected leaders at all levels of government have also moved lower. A majority (60%) now describes the job Joe Biden is doing responding to the coronavirus as only fair or poor. The share of Americans who say Biden is doing an excellent or good job (40%) is down 7 points since August and is now only slightly higher than the share who

Declining ratings for response to coronavirus outbreak by public health and elected officials

% of U.S. adults who say each of the following is doing a ____ job responding to the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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said Donald Trump did an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak over the course of his presidency (36%).

The new Pew Research Center survey finds that 78% of U.S. adults say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including 73% who say they are fully vaccinated – having received either two Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one Johnson & Johnson. Among fully vaccinated adults, 66% say they've received an additional COVID-19 “booster shot” within the past six months (this group makes up 48% of all U.S. adults). When it comes to the decision to get a vaccine:

- Democrats and those who lean to the Democratic Party are much more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners to say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (90% vs. 64%).
- Among fully vaccinated adults, partisan differences persist for booster shots: 73% of fully vaccinated Democrats say they've gotten a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months, compared with 55% of fully vaccinated Republicans.

Among Republicans, the decision to get a vaccine, as well as broader views on the outbreak, differ across key demographics and characteristics. For instance, age and education strongly shape the vaccine decision among Republicans:

- Eight-in-ten Republicans ages 65 and older (80%) have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Lower shares of Republicans ages 50 to 64 (62%), 30 to 49 (57%) and 18 to 29 (52%) say the same.
- Republicans with a postgraduate degree are 24 points more likely than those with a high school diploma or less education to have received a COVID-19 vaccine (81% vs. 57%). These differences are more modest among Democrats.

With vaccines widely available, businesses and institutions are grappling with whether to require proof of COVID-19 vaccination to participate in a range of activities. The survey finds:

- A majority of Americans (58%) favor requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for air travel. By relatively narrow margins, more favor than oppose vaccine requirements to go to a sporting event or concert (53% to 46%) and to attend public colleges and universities in person (52% to 47%).
- There is less support for vaccine requirements for more routine activities: 53% oppose a vaccine requirement for eating in a restaurant, and 59% oppose requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for shopping in stores and businesses.

Partisan gaps on vaccine requirements are among the largest of any seen in the survey. Majorities of Republicans oppose vaccine requirements for all five activities listed in the survey, while majorities of Democrats favor them. For instance, 76% of Democrats favor requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination to attend a sporting event or concert, compared with just 26% of Republicans.

Not surprisingly, unvaccinated adults broadly oppose all vaccine requirements, while those who have received a vaccine support most of these measures.

Views on vaccine requirements highlight how partisanship and vaccine status are intertwined, yet both factors play a role shaping views. Among Republicans, those who have received a vaccine are more open to vaccination requirements than those who have not received a vaccine. On air travel, for example, 43% of Republicans who have received a vaccine say they would favor requiring proof of vaccination to travel by plane. Just 9% of Republicans who have not received a vaccine favor this.

One big change seen in the new survey is the increased comfort Americans express around everyday activities. Large shares now say they are comfortable visiting with close family and friends in their home (85%) and going to the grocery store (84%). Majorities also say they feel comfortable visiting a hair salon or barbershop (73%) or eating out in a restaurant (70%). Comfort levels with most activities in the survey are roughly 20 percentage points higher than in November of 2020, before the availability of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

- Notably, unvaccinated adults are *more* comfortable than vaccinated adults with a range of activities. For instance, 62% of those not vaccinated say they feel comfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert, compared with just 37% of adults who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

In part, these gaps in comfort tie to the finding that adults who have not received a vaccine are *less* concerned than vaccinated adults about getting a serious case of the coronavirus themselves. This has been the case throughout the outbreak. Levels of personal concern about the disease have been one of the core factors tied to the decision of whether or not to get vaccinated since vaccines became widely available.

These are among the principal findings from Pew Research Center's survey of 10,237 U.S. adults conducted from Jan. 24 to 30, 2022, on the coronavirus outbreak and Americans' views of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccination rates among U.S. adults

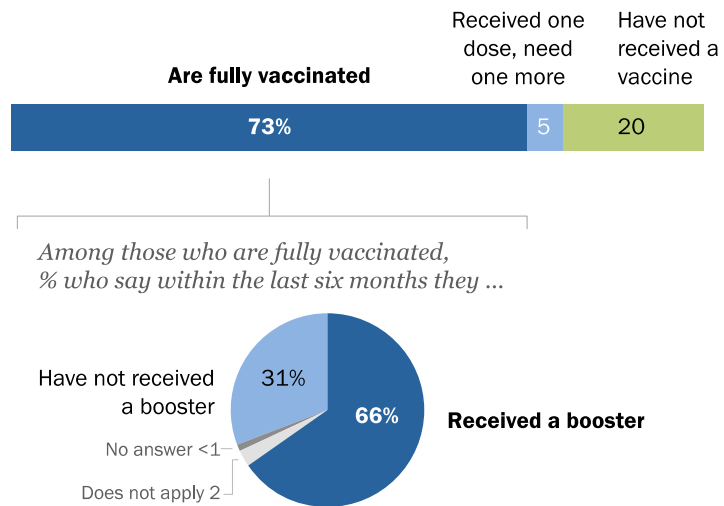
The rise in cases spurred by the omicron variant put renewed focus on vaccination rates in the U.S. as well as the role booster shots play in limiting the impacts from the coronavirus.

Overall, 78% of U.S. adults say they have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including 73% who say they are fully vaccinated (5% say they've received one shot, but need one more). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "fully vaccinated" means having received two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson.

Two-in-ten U.S. adults say they have not received a vaccine for COVID-19. These estimates generally align with other national public opinion surveys, including those conducted by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

Among fully vaccinated adults, two-thirds say they have recently received a COVID-19 booster shot

% of U.S. adults who say they ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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When it comes to booster shots, the current survey finds that 66% of adults who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 say they have *also* received a booster shot within the last six months. This group makes up 48% of all U.S. adults.

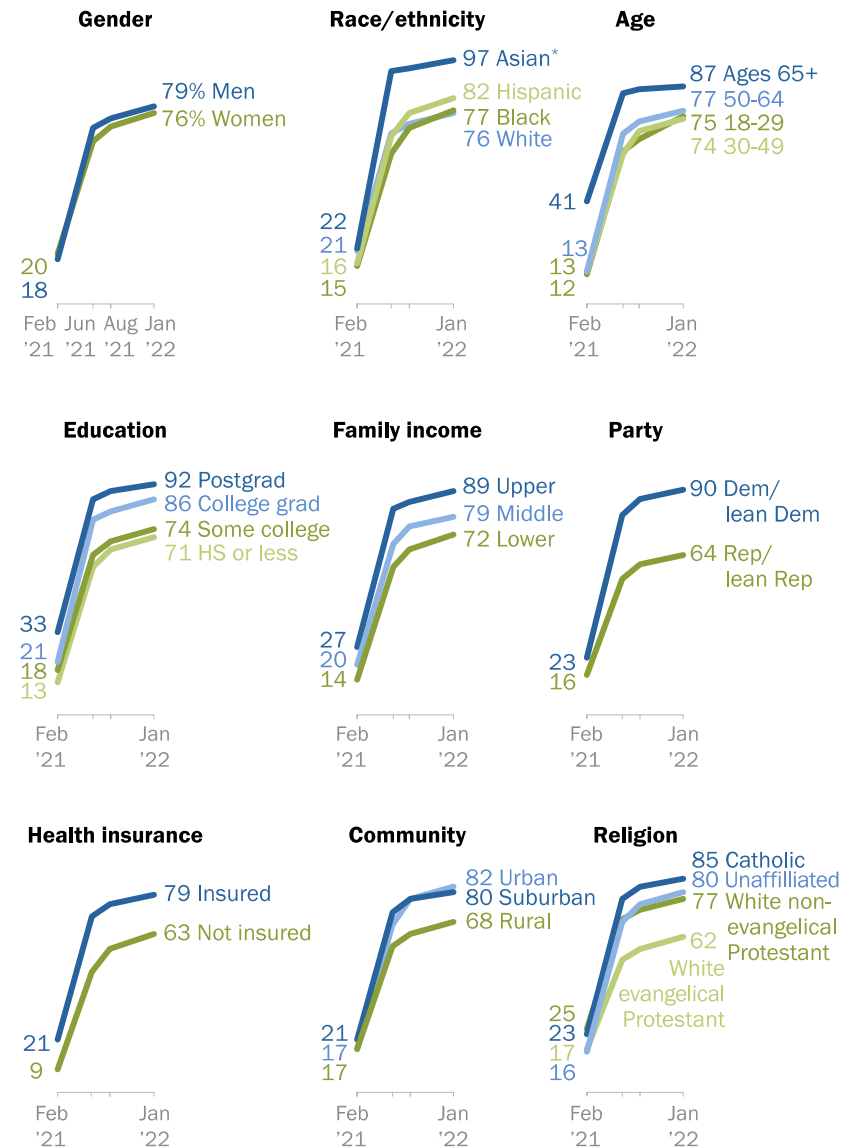
There continue to be sizable differences across groups in the shares who say have received *at least one dose* of a COVID-19 vaccine (78% of all U.S. adults).

Among the largest differences is partisan affiliation: Democrats and those who lean to the Democratic Party are 26 percentage points more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners to say they've received a COVID-19 vaccine (90% vs. 64%).

White evangelical Protestants continue to be less likely than other major religious groups to say they have gotten vaccinated for COVID-19. About six-in-ten White evangelical Protestants (62%) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, compared with 77% of White non-evangelical Protestants, 80% of religiously unaffiliated adults and 85% of Catholics.

Persistent differences in COVID-19 vaccination rates by partisan affiliation, religion

% of U.S. adults who say they have received at least one dose of a vaccine to prevent COVID-19



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
 Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings. White evangelicals and White, not evangelicals are Protestant.
 Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.
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Those with higher levels of education and income are more likely than those with lower levels to say they have received a vaccine for COVID-19. And those with health insurance are 16 points more likely than those without to have gotten a vaccine.

Some demographic differences in vaccination status are more pronounced *within* one partisan group than another. For instance, 80% of Republicans ages 65 and older say they have received a COVID-19 vaccine, compared with far fewer Republicans 18 to 29 (52%). There is a much more modest gap between the shares of Democrats 65 and older and those 18 to 29 who say they've received a vaccine (94% vs. 88%). [See the Appendix](#) for more details on vaccination status within partisan groups.

Partisan differences in the share who've received a booster shot or would be willing to do so every six months

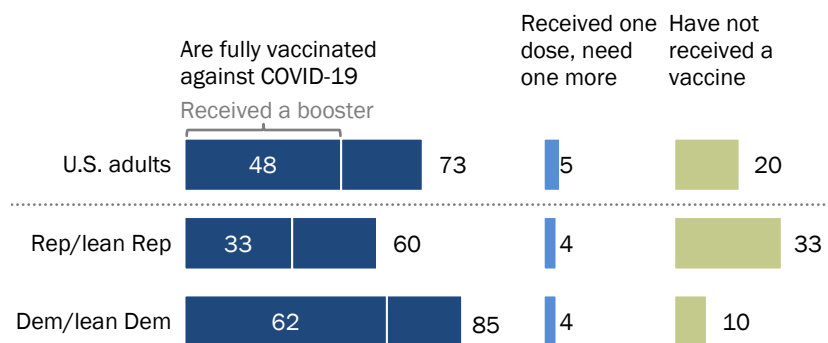
Among those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Democrats and Democratic leaners are more likely to say they've received a booster shot within that last six months than Republicans and GOP leaners.

About three-quarters of fully vaccinated Democrats (73%) say they have received a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months. This group makes up 62% of all Democrats.

Among fully vaccinated Republicans, 55% say they have received a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months (33% of all Republicans).

Among those eligible, larger shares of Democrats than Republicans have received COVID-19 booster

% of U.S. adults who ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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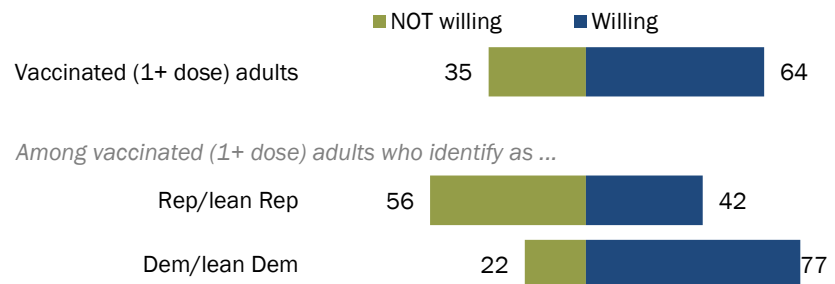
Public health experts are continuing to [evaluate whether to recommend](#) regular COVID-19 booster shots.

The survey finds that 64% of adults who have received a COVID-19 vaccine say they would probably be willing to get a vaccine booster about every six months, if public health officials recommended it; 35% of vaccinated adults say they probably would *not* be willing to get a booster shot every six months or so.

Among adults who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are far more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners to say they'd be willing to get a booster shot regularly (77% vs. 42%).

64% of vaccinated adults say they would be willing to get a COVID-19 booster about every six months

Among U.S. adults who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, % who say they would probably be ____ to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot about every six months



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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High marks for hospitals and medical centers, but criticism of top officials' COVID-19 response grows

A large majority of Americans (81%) continue to say hospitals and medical centers in their area are doing an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus.

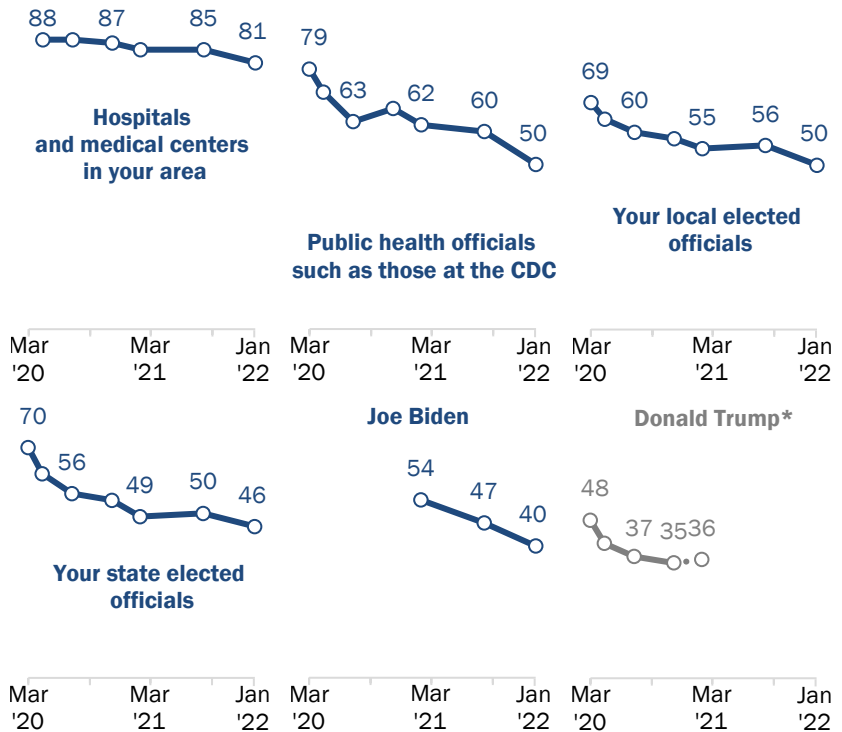
Ratings are far less positive for the performance of public health officials and elected officeholders at the state, local and federal level.

Half of Americans now say public health officials, such as those at the CDC, are doing an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak, down from a high of 79% early in the outbreak and from 60% last August.

The same share (50%) say their local elected officials are doing an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak, and 46% say this about their state elected officials. Ratings for both groups are down since August and are much lower than they were at earlier stages of the outbreak.

Declining ratings for public officials' response to the coronavirus outbreak

% of U.S. adults who say each is doing an **excellent/good job** responding to the coronavirus outbreak



*In February 2021, respondents were asked to rate the job Donald Trump did responding to the outbreak during his time in office; prior surveys measured ratings of his performance at that time.

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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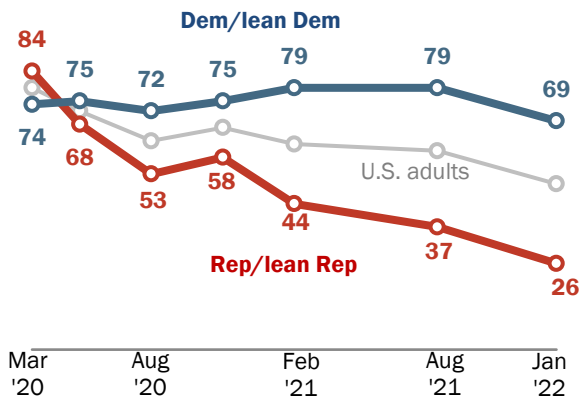
Four-in-ten say Joe Biden is doing an excellent or good job dealing with the coronavirus, compared with 60% who say he is doing an only fair or poor job. Positive ratings for Biden's performance dealing with the coronavirus have continued to decrease, down 7 percentage points since August and 14 points since February 2021, shortly after his inauguration as president. The share of Americans with a positive view of Biden's handling of the coronavirus outbreak is now nearing that for Trump after he left office (36%).

Republicans are especially critical of the response to the coronavirus outbreak by public health officials. Just 26% of Republicans and Republican leaners say public health officials, such as those at the CDC, are doing an excellent or good job; a majority (73%) say they are doing an only fair or poor job. By contrast, 69% of Democrats and Democratic leaners rate the job health officials are doing as excellent or good.

This contrasts with views of public health officials measured in the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak. For instance, in May of 2020, during Trump's administration, 68% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats said public health officials were doing an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak.

Drop in Republicans' ratings of public health officials' response to COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say public health officials such as those at the CDC are doing an **excellent/good job** responding to the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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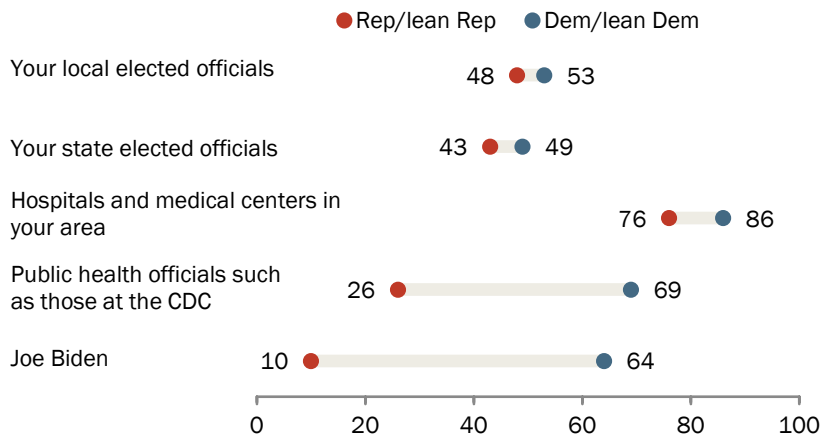
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Partisans continue to offer starkly different ratings of Biden's response to the coronavirus outbreak: 64% of Democrats now say he is doing an excellent or good job, while 89% of Republicans say instead that he is doing an only fair or poor job.

Partisan gaps are more modest in ratings of state and local elected officials, and majorities of both Republicans (76%) and Democrats (86%) say hospitals and medical centers in their area are doing an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak.

Republicans far more critical of public health officials' response to COVID-19 than Democrats

*% of U.S. adults who say each is doing an **excellent/good job** responding to the coronavirus outbreak*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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Changing public health guidance sparks confusion, concern

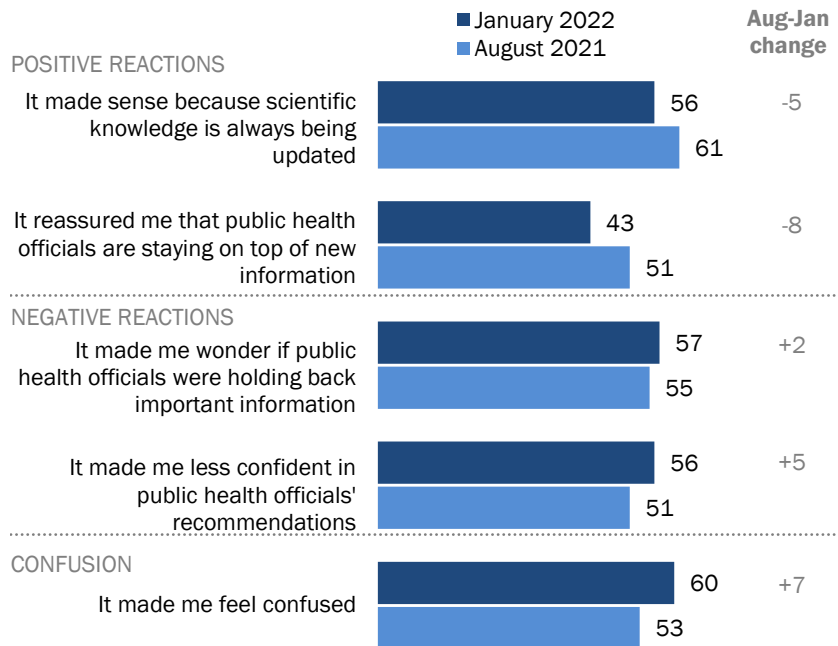
Americans have encountered a number of changes to public health guidelines about how to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. over the past two years.

When asked how they've felt about these changes, confusion is the top reaction Americans express: 60% say they have felt confused by changes in recommendations on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus, up 7 percentage points from the share who said this in August 2021.

Nearly as many (57%) say changes in health officials' recommendations on how to slow the spread made them wonder if public health officials were holding back important information. And 56% say it made them feel less confident in the recommendations. The share saying they've felt less confident in public health officials' recommendations is up 5 points since August.

Majority of Americans say they've felt confused about changing public health recommendations

% of U.S. adults who've had each reaction to changes in public health officials' recommendations on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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Changing health guidance has also prompted some positive reactions from the public: 56% say they've felt that these changes made sense because scientific knowledge is always being updated. Still, the share who say they've felt this way is down 5 points since last summer. Fewer Americans (43%) say changes to health officials' recommendations on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus made them feel reassured that officials were staying on top of new information, down 8 points since August.

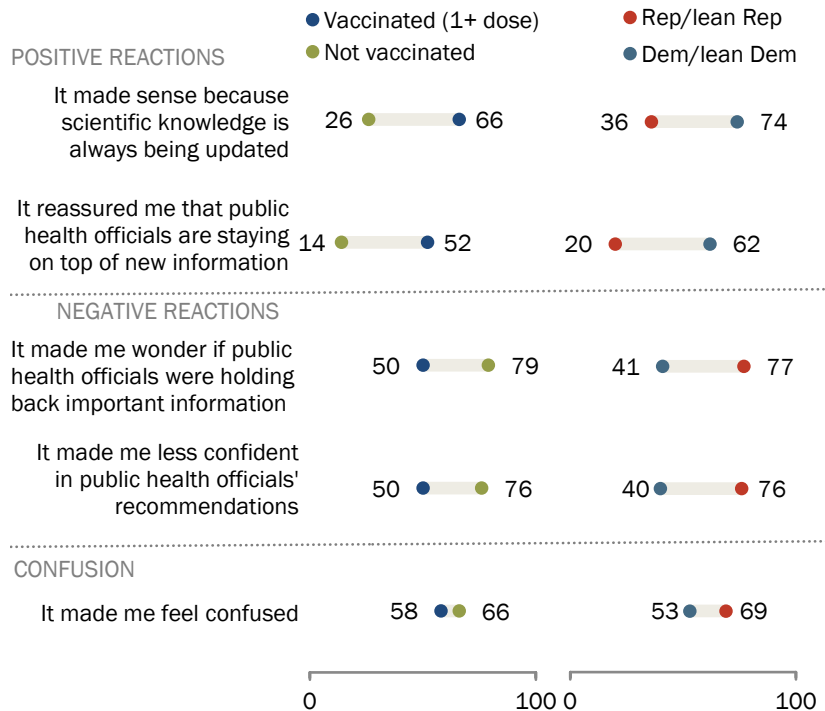
Vaccinated adults express much more positive reactions to changing public health guidance on how best to slow the spread of the coronavirus than adults who have not received a vaccine. Partisan affiliation also strongly shapes views, with Democrats taking a more positive view of changes in recommendations than Republicans.

Two-thirds (66%) of adults who have received a COVID-19 vaccine say changes in recommendations have made sense because scientific knowledge is always being updated; just 26% of adults who have not received a vaccine express this view.

Negative reactions register more widely with adults who have not received a vaccine than those who have. Still, 50% of vaccinated adults say changes in guidance on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus have made them less confident in health officials' recommendations, and 58% say they've made them feel confused.

Republicans and Democrats express differing reactions to changes in public health guidance

% of U.S. adults who've had each reaction to changes in public health officials' recommendations on how to slow the spread of the coronavirus



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.
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Democrats and Democratic leaners are 38 points more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners to say changes in officials' coronavirus recommendations have made sense because scientific knowledge is always being updated (74% vs. 36%). About three-quarters of Republicans say changes in guidance have made them wonder if public health officials were holding back important information and made them less confident in health officials' recommendations (about four-in-ten Democrats express each of these reactions).

The partisan gap is more modest when it comes to confusion: 69% of Republicans and 53% of Democrats say they've felt confused due to changes in public health officials' coronavirus recommendations.

Americans now more comfortable with a range of daily activities

Americans are now much more comfortable with a range of daily activities than they were in November 2020, before the availability of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

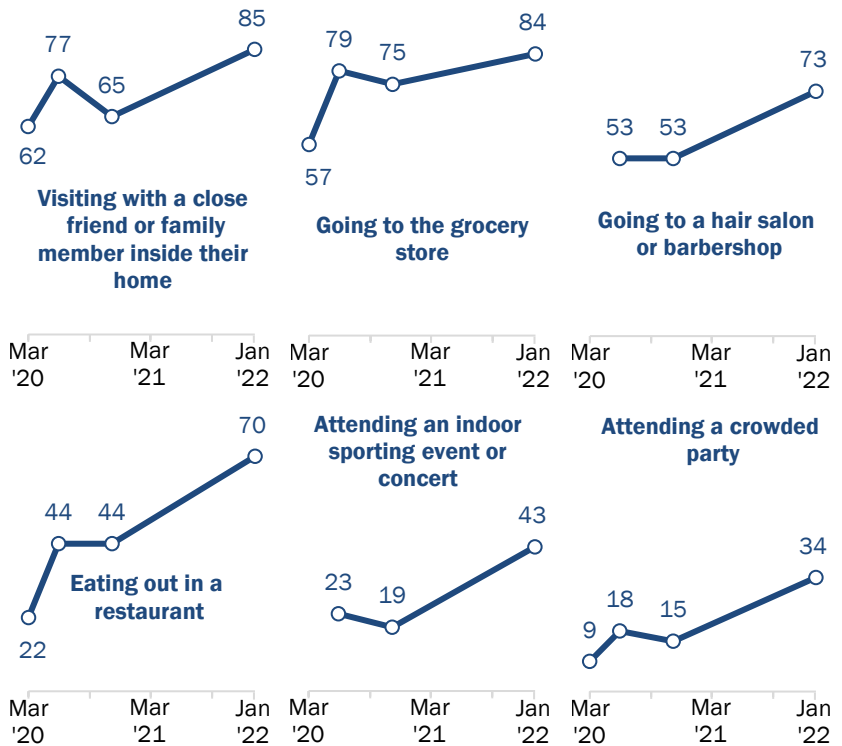
Most Americans (85%) now say they feel comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home, up 20 percentage points from the share who said this in November 2020. About as many (84%) say they feel comfortable going to the grocery store.

Majorities also say they are now comfortable going to a hair salon or barbershop (73%) or eating out in a restaurant (70%). In late 2020, far smaller shares of Americans felt comfortable doing these activities (53% and 44%, respectively).

Still, fewer than half say they feel comfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert (43%) or a crowded party (34%), though these percentages have risen substantially since November 2020.

Americans increasingly comfortable visiting with friends, grocery shopping, going to hair salon

% of U.S. adults who say, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they feel comfortable doing each of the following



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

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The 20% of U.S. adults who have not received a vaccine are less likely than vaccinated adults to see the coronavirus outbreak as a major threat to their own personal health. Consistent with lower levels of concern, unvaccinated adults tend to express *more* comfort with public activities than those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

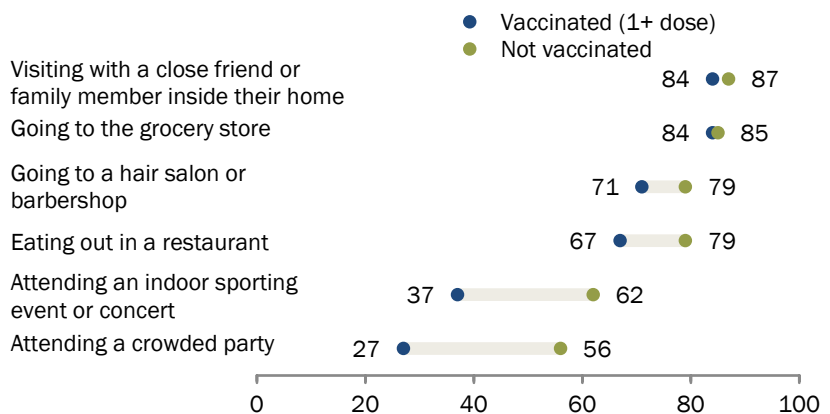
For example, about six-in-ten (62%) of those who are not vaccinated say they feel comfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert, compared with 37% of vaccinated adults.

Unvaccinated adults are 29 points more likely than vaccinated adults to say they're comfortable attending a crowded party and somewhat more likely to say they're comfortable eating in a restaurant and going to a hair salon or barbershop.

Large shares of both vaccinated and unvaccinated adults now say they're comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home and going to the grocery store.

Those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine more likely than vaccinated adults to feel comfortable with attending indoor events

% of U.S. adults who say, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they feel comfortable doing each of the following



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

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Partisan affiliation also shapes views on this question, with Republicans and those who lean to the Republican Party more likely than Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents to say they feel comfortable engaging in a variety of activities.

A majority of Republicans (62%) say they are comfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert, compared with about three-in-ten Democrats (27%). There's a similar gap in comfort with attending a crowded party.

Large shares of both

Republicans and Democrats

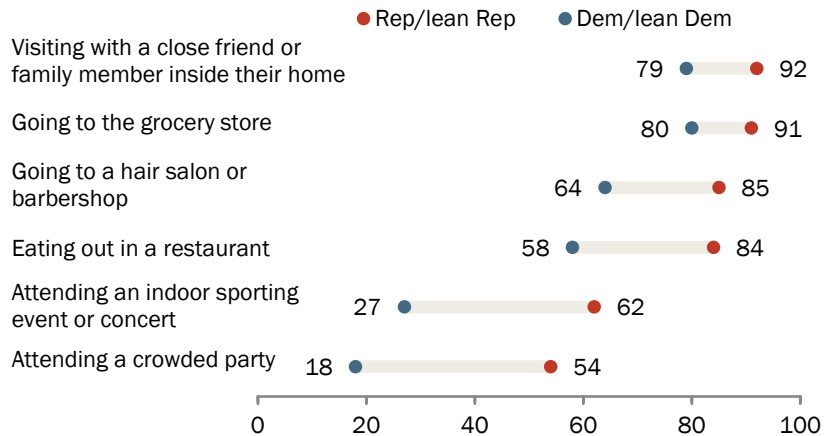
say they are comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home or going to the grocery store, though the size of the majority is about 10 points higher among Republicans than Democrats in both cases.

Mask wearing increased with the arrival of the omicron variant

A separate early-January survey found the share of U.S. adults who say they have worn a mask all or most of the time in stores and businesses over the last month increased from 53% in August of 2021 to 61% in January. Those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine (70%) continue to be far more likely than those who have not (32%) to say they've been wearing a mask in public places regularly. [See Appendix](#) for more details.

Republicans more comfortable than Democrats eating in a restaurant, attending indoor events

% of U.S. adults who say, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they feel comfortable doing each of the following



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

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Majority of Americans favor vaccine requirement for air travel, but not for shopping or dining

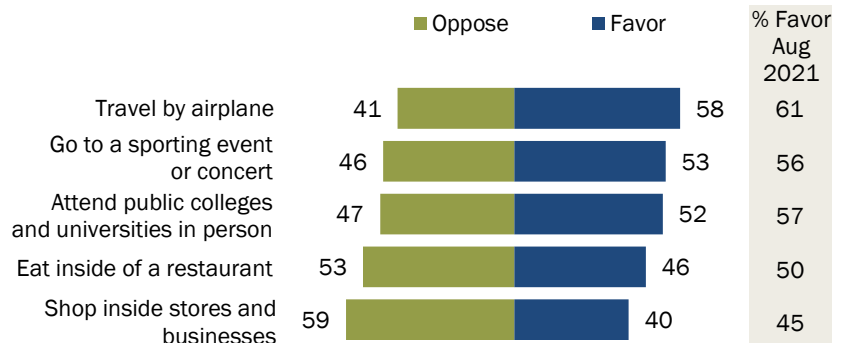
A majority of U.S. adults (58%) favor requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination before being allowed to travel by air.

Slightly more Americans favor (53%) than oppose (46%) a vaccine requirement to go to a sporting event or concert.

By 52% to 47%, more also favor than oppose requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for attending public colleges and universities in person. Support for this proposal is 5 percentage points lower than it was in August of 2021.

Majority of Americans support vaccine requirement for air travel

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ requiring adults in the U.S. to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to do each of the following



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

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Americans lean against requiring proof of vaccination to eat inside of a restaurant (53% oppose, 46% favor), and 59% oppose requiring proof of vaccination to shop inside stores and businesses. Support for both of these proposals has also declined slightly since last summer.

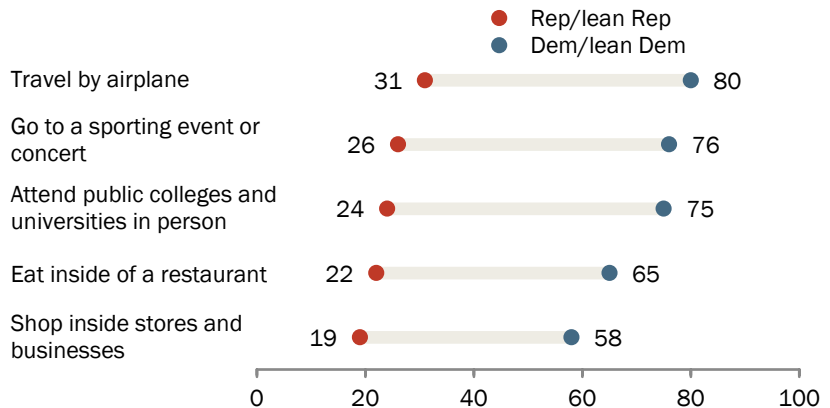
Unsurprisingly, Americans who have not received a coronavirus vaccine are overwhelmingly against vaccine requirements, with around eight-in-ten or more opposing each of these measures.

There continue to be large partisan differences in how Americans view vaccination requirements. Majorities of Democrats favor requiring proof of vaccination status to do each of the five activities listed, while majorities of Republicans oppose requirements in each of these cases.

For example, eight-in-ten Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party favor requiring those traveling by airplane to show proof of vaccination, while only about three-in-ten (31%) Republicans and Republican leaners say they favor this.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to support COVID-19 vaccine requirements

*% of U.S. adults who say they **favor** requiring adults in the U.S. to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to do each of the following*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

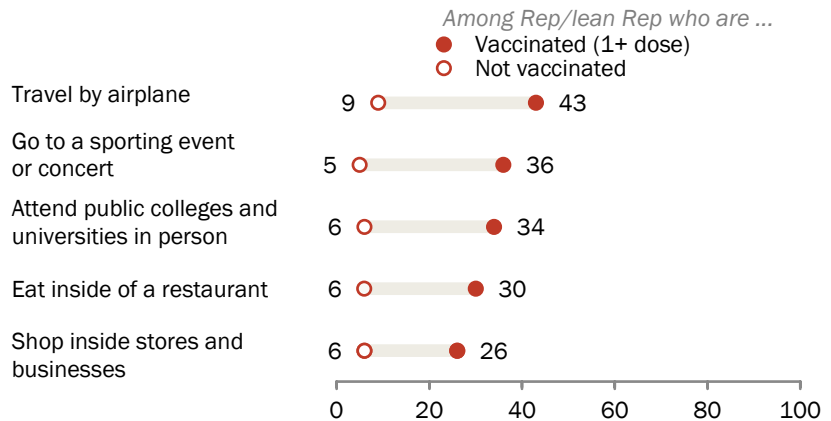
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Among Republicans, opposition to vaccine requirements is far more widespread among those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine than among those who have. For instance, 43% of vaccinated Republicans favor requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination for air travel, compared with just 9% of unvaccinated Republicans who say this. (Overall, 64% of Republicans and Republican leaners have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; 33% have not.)

Among Republicans, views on vaccination requirements differ by vaccination status

*% of Republicans and Republican leaners who say they **favor** requiring adults in the U.S. to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to ...*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted from Jan. 24 to Jan. 30, 2022. A total of 10,237 panelists responded out of 11,609 who were sampled, for a response rate of 88%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,237 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,601
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	938
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	470
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,430
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,625
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,695
May 29 to July 7, 2021				
Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	936
	Total	39,540	27,414	11,695

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. Starting in 2020 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that do not respond to the online survey are sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults returning the paper version of the survey are invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults receive a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the four address-based recruitments, a total of 19,822 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 17,472 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 27,414 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,695 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Jan. 24 to Jan. 30, 2022. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Jan. 25.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Jan. 24, 2022. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Jan. 25.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	Jan. 24, 2022	Jan. 25, 2022
First reminder	Jan. 27, 2022	Jan. 27, 2022
Final reminder	Jan. 29, 2022	Jan. 29, 2022

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, five ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a

base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort and then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2020 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2021 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

Some of the population benchmarks used for weighting come from surveys conducted prior to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020. However, the weighting variables for panelists recruited in 2021 were measured at the time they were recruited to the panel. Likewise, the profile variables for existing panelists were updated from panel surveys conducted in July or August 2021.

This does not pose a problem for most of the variables used in the weighting, which are quite stable at both the population and individual levels. However, volunteerism may have changed over the intervening period in ways that made their 2021 measurements incompatible with the available (pre-pandemic) benchmarks. To address this, volunteerism is weighted using the profile variables that were measured in 2020. For all other weighting dimensions, the more recent panelist measurements from 2021 are used.

For panelists recruited in 2021, plausible values were imputed using the 2020 volunteerism values from existing panelists with similar characteristics. This ensures that any patterns of change that were observed in the existing panelists were also reflected in the new recruits when the weighting was performed.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Margins of error

	Unweighted sample size	Margin of error in percentage points
U.S. adults	10,237	+/- 1.5
Men	4,531	+/- 2.4
Women	5,619	+/- 2.0
White	7,410	+/- 1.8
Black	809	+/- 5.0
Hispanic	1,442	+/- 4.9
Asian*	370	+/- 7.6
Ages 18-29	925	+/- 4.9
30-49	3,268	+/- 2.6
50-64	2,982	+/- 2.7
65+	3,019	+/- 2.5
Postgraduate	2,343	+/- 2.6
College grad	2,817	+/- 2.5
Some college	3,237	+/- 2.7
HS or less	1,809	+/- 3.2
Rep/lean Rep	4,812	+/- 2.2
Dem/lean Dem	5,173	+/- 2.2
Upper income	2,486	+/- 2.8
Middle income	5,020	+/- 2.1
Lower income	2,193	+/- 3.3
Vaccinated (1+ dose)	8,402	+/- 1.7
Not vaccinated	1,629	+/- 3.7

*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect for each subgroup. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who lean to each of the parties.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

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Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	10,237
Logged onto survey; broke off	2.12	102
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	118
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,145
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	2
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		5
Screened out		0
Total panelists in the survey		11,609
Completed interviews	I	10,237
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,370
Non-contact	NC	2
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		11,609
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		88%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	69%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 102	43%
Response rate to Wave 102 survey	88%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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Adjusting income and defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2020 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$42,000 to \$125,900 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$42,000, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$125,900 (all figures expressed in 2020 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, 31% of respondents are lower income, 47% are middle income and 16% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 6% either didn't offer a response to the income question or the household size question.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

A note about the Asian sample

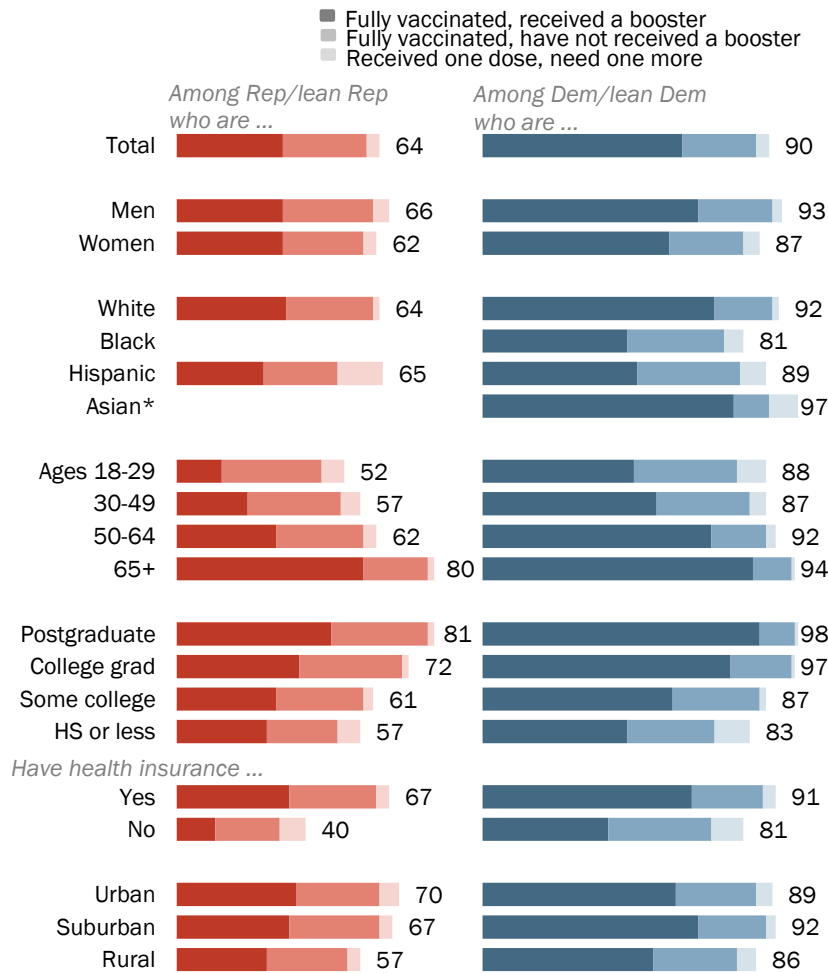
This survey includes a total sample size of 370 Asian Americans. The sample includes English-speaking Asian Americans only and, therefore, may not be representative of the overall Asian American population. Despite this limitation, it is important to report the views of Asian Americans on the topics in this study. As always, Asian Americans' responses are incorporated into the general population figures throughout this report. Because of the relatively small sample size and a reduction in precision due to weighting, we are not able to analyze Asian American respondents by demographic categories, such as gender, age or education. For more, see "[Polling methods are changing, but reporting the views of Asian Americans remains a challenge.](#)"

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Appendix: Detailed charts and tables

Demographics of COVID-19 vaccination status within the Republican and Democratic Party

% of U.S. adults who describe their COVID-19 vaccination status as ...



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. The sample size for Black and Asian adults who identify with or lean to the Republican Party is too small for analysis.

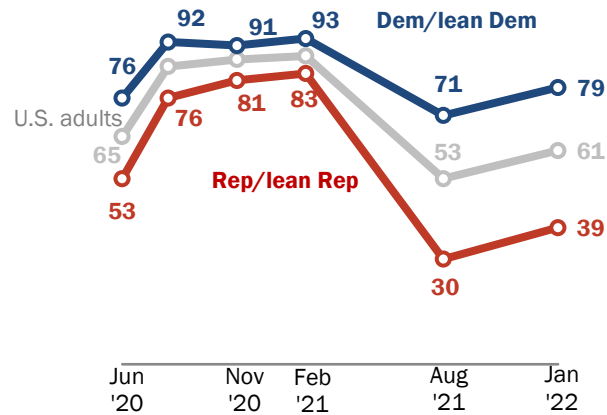
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

"Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S."

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Mask wearing more frequent in January of 2022 than in summer of 2021

*% of U.S. adults who say they have worn a mask or face covering **all or most of the time** in stores and businesses over the past month*

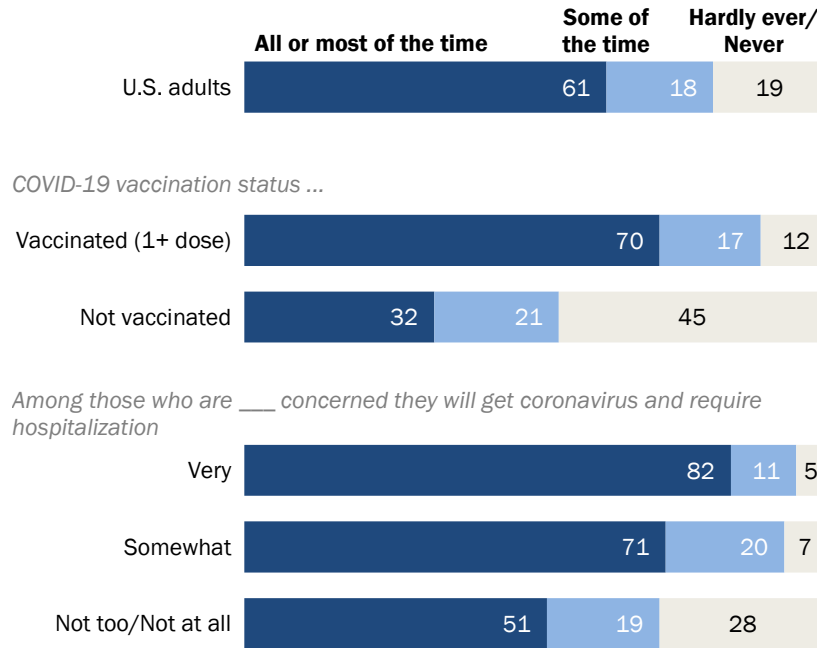


Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey conducted Jan. 10-17, 2022.
 "Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S."

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Mask wearing in stores and businesses more frequent among vaccinated adults

% of U.S. adults who say they have worn a mask or face covering ___ in stores and businesses over the past month



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

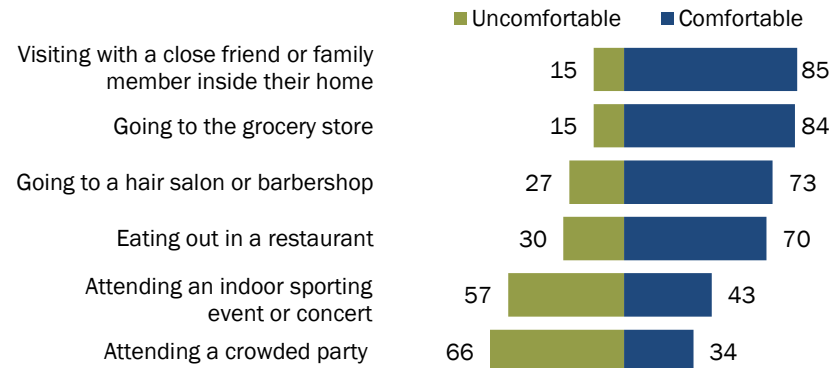
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 10-17, 2022.

"Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S."

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Most Americans feel comfortable visiting with friends, going to the grocery store

% of U.S. adults who say, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they feel ___ doing each of the following



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.

"Increasing Public Criticism, Confusion Over COVID-19 Response in U.S."

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Survey question wording and topline

2022 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
 WAVE 102 JANUARY 2022
 JANUARY 24-30, 2022
 N=10,237

OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

On a different subject ...

ASK ALL:

COVIDEGFP How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Joe Biden					
Jan 24-30, 2022	11	29	24	35	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	14	33	23	29	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	22	32	20	24	1
b. Your state elected officials					
Jan 24-30, 2022	11	35	32	21	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	11	39	29	20	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	11	39	31	19	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	38	27	19	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	39	26	18	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	21	41	25	13	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	21	49	22	8	1
c. Your local elected officials					
Jan 24-30, 2022	10	39	33	16	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	10	46	30	13	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	10	44	31	13	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	14	44	28	14	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	13	47	27	12	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	17	47	27	9	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	17	52	22	7	1
d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)					
Jan 24-30, 2022	13	37	26	24	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	17	43	24	16	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	16	46	25	12	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	22	45	24	9	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	47	25	11	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	24	48	21	7	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	30	49	17	4	<1

NO ITEMS E-F

COVIDEGFP CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area					
Jan 24-30, 2022	36	45	13	6	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	39	46	11	3	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	36	49	11	3	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	45	42	9	3	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	43	45	9	3	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	42	8	3	1

ASK FORM 1 [N=5,124]:

COVID_COMFORT Given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable doing each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Comfortable doing this</u>	<u>Uncomfortable doing this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Going out to the grocery store			
Jan 24-30, 2022	84	15	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	75	24	<1
June 16-22, 2020	79	20	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	57	42	<1
NO ITEM B			
c. Eating out in a restaurant			
Jan 24-30, 2022	70	30	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	44	55	<1
June 16-22, 2020	44	56	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	22	77	<1
d. Attending an indoor sporting event or concert			
Jan 24-30, 2022	43	57	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	19	80	<1
June 16-22, 2020	23	76	<1
e. Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home ²			
Jan 24-30, 2022	85	15	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	65	35	<1
June 16-22, 2020	77	22	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	62	38	<1
f. Attending a crowded party			
Jan 24-30, 2022	34	66	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	84	<1
June 16-22, 2020	18	81	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	9	91	<1

² In past surveys, this item has been asked as "Visiting with a close friend or family member at their house." In W69 (June 16-22, 2020), we split from this item with "Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home." There were no significant differences between the items and the data from both questions were combined.

COVID_COMFORT CONTINUED ...

	<u>Comfortable doing this</u>	<u>Uncomfortable doing this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
g. Going to a hair salon or barbershop			
Jan 24-30, 2022	73	27	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	53	47	<1
June 16-22, 2020	53	46	1

ASK FORM 2 [N=5,113]:

VAXPASS As part of efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, would you favor or oppose requiring adults in the U.S. to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination before being allowed to do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Travel by airplane			
Jan 24-30, 2022	58	41	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	61	38	<1
b. Go to a sporting event or concert			
Jan 24-30, 2022	53	46	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	56	44	<1
c. Attend public colleges and universities in person			
Jan 24-30, 2022	52	47	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	57	42	<1
d. Eat inside of a restaurant			
Jan 24-30, 2022	46	53	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	50	50	<1
e. Shop inside stores and businesses			
Jan 24-30, 2022	40	59	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	45	54	1

ASK ALL:

CVDREC

As you may know, public health officials have changed their recommendations about how to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. since the start of the outbreak.

Have you had any of the following reactions to these changes? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, I have had this <u>reaction</u>	No, I have not had this <u>reaction</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. It made sense because scientific knowledge is always being updated			
Jan 24-30, 2022	56	42	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	61	38	1
b. It made me feel confused			
Jan 24-30, 2022	60	39	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	53	46	1
c. It made me wonder if public health officials were holding back important information			
Jan 24-30, 2022	57	42	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	55	44	1
d. It made me less confident in public health officials' recommendations			
Jan 24-30, 2022	56	43	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	51	48	1
e. It reassured me that public health officials are staying on top of new information			
Jan 24-30, 2022	43	56	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	51	48	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_VAXDMOD

Have you received a vaccine to prevent COVID-19?

	NET Have received at least one dose of a <u>vaccine</u>	Yes, have had all the shots needed to be fully <u>vaccinated</u>	Yes, have had one shot but still need <u>one more</u>	No, have not received a <u>vaccine</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jan 24-30, 2022	78	73	5	20	2
Aug 23-29, 2021	73	69	4	26	1
Jun 14-27, 2021	67	63	4	31	2
Feb 16-21, 2021	19	--	--	80	<1

ASK ALL:

COVID_BOOST³ Have you received a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months?

Jan 24-30,

2022

48	Yes, have received a booster shot
34	No, have not received a booster shot
15	Does not apply to me
1	Invalid response
2	No answer

COVID_VAXDMOD AND COVID_BOOST COMBO TABLE

	Yes, have had all the shots needed to be <u>fully vaccinated</u>	No, have not received a booster shot/Does <u>not apply</u>	Refused COVID_ <u>BOOST</u>	Yes, have had one shot but still <u>need one more</u>	No, have not received a <u>vaccine</u>	No answer to COVID_ <u>VAXDMOD</u>
Jan 24-30, 2022	48	25	<1	5	20	2

ASK IF HAVE RECEIVED A VACCINE [COVID_VAXDMOD=1,2] [N=8,402]:

VAXBOOST2 Looking ahead, if public health officials recommend getting a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot about every six months, do you think you would probably be...

Jan 24-30,

2022

64	Willing to get a vaccine booster about every six months
35	Not willing to get a vaccine booster about every six months
1	No answer

³ COVID_VAXDMOD and COVID_BOOST were asked of all respondents to get measurements on vaccination and booster shot status. Respondents who said "Yes, have had one shot but still need one more" or "No, have not received a vaccine" to COVID_VAXDMOD and said "Yes, have received a booster shot" to COVID_BOOST were coded as "invalid response" to COVID_BOOST. These respondents are ineligible for a COVID-19 booster shot based on their stated vaccination status.