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# Lack of Preparedness Among Top Reactions Americans Have to Public Health Officials’ COVID-19 Response

*Decline in share of fully vaccinated U.S. adults who have been recently boosted*

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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 10,588 U.S. adults from Sept. 13-18, 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](#).

# Lack of Preparedness Among Top Reactions Americans Have to Public Health Officials' COVID-19 Response

*Decline in share of fully vaccinated U.S. adults who have been recently boosted*

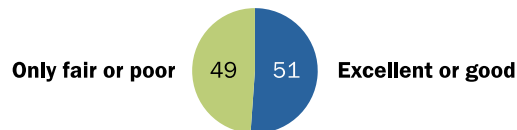
Amid the rollout of updated COVID-19 booster shots around the United States, a new Pew Research Center survey finds mixed views of public health officials at the forefront of the nation's response to the outbreak.

About half of Americans (51%) say public health officials, such as those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have done an excellent or good job communicating with the public about [the coronavirus outbreak](#); however, nearly as many (49%) say they have done an only fair or poor job. The CDC [has received criticism](#) for its COVID-19 response, prompting agency leadership to outline changes to the organization.

Asked in more detail about the response of health officials over the course of the coronavirus outbreak, a lack of preparedness is among the

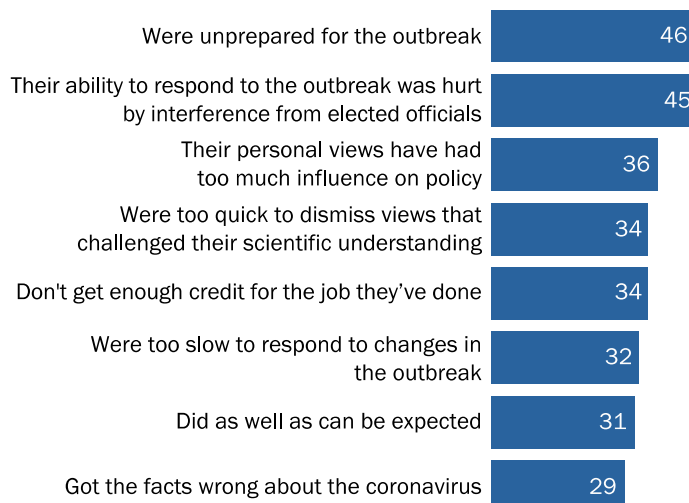
## Public health officials get mixed ratings for the job they've done communicating about COVID-19

*% of U.S. adults who say public health officials have done an \_\_\_ job communicating with the public about the coronavirus outbreak*



*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following statements describes their views **extremely/very well***

### Public health officials, such as those at the CDC ...



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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sentiments that registers most strongly with Americans: 46% say the statement “public health officials were unprepared for the outbreak” describes their views extremely or very well. Notably, similar shares of Republicans and Democrats express this view.

Yet many Americans also feel public health officials have been hampered in their efforts to respond to the outbreak: 45% of U.S. adults say the statement “interference from elected officials hurt public health officials’ ability to respond to the outbreak” describes their views extremely or very well.

Other sentiments about public health officials register less strongly with Americans overall, due in part to polarized views among partisans. For example, half of Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP strongly align with the statement that “the personal views of public health officials have had too much influence on policy,” while 24% of Democrats say the same. Conversely, 51% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say their views are described extremely or very well by the statement that “public health officials don’t get enough credit for the job they’ve done,” compared with just 15% of Republicans who say this.

The survey of 10,588 U.S. adults conducted from Sept. 13-18, 2022, also explores Americans’ views on the factors that have contributed to problems the country has had dealing with the coronavirus outbreak generally. Misinformation and partisanship are seen as top contributors to problems in the national response to the outbreak, ranking ahead of other factors such as the complex nature of the coronavirus and Americans failing to follow public health recommendations.

A majority (57%) of U.S. adults say false and misleading information about the coronavirus and vaccines has contributed *a lot* to problems the country has faced dealing with the outbreak. A similar share of Americans (54%) say disagreement between Democrats and Republicans about how to handle the outbreak has contributed a lot.

Nearly identical shares of Republicans and Democrats (57% and 58%, respectively) say false and misleading information about the coronavirus and vaccines has contributed a lot to the problems the country has faced dealing with the outbreak. The survey cannot address whether they were thinking of the same or different examples of such information. Previous Center surveys have found Republicans and Democrats express widely differing views on [COVID-19 policies](#), the effectiveness of vaccines and the [lessons they’ve taken away](#) from the pandemic.

Other key findings include:

- Roughly seven-in-ten U.S. adults (71%) say they are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, about the same as earlier this year. The share of U.S. adults who say they are fully vaccinated and have had a booster shot within the past six months is down from 49% in May 2022 to 38% in the new survey. As a result, a growing share of the adult population does not have the highest level of available inoculation against the disease.
- Looking ahead, among those who are fully vaccinated, about two-thirds say that they will probably get, or have already received, an updated COVID-19 booster shot designed to better protect against recent variants of the virus. Analyzing vaccination status and booster intent across all U.S. adults, 48% say they are fully vaccinated and will probably get (or have already received) an updated booster; 23% say they are fully vaccinated but will probably not get an updated booster shot; 21% say they have not been vaccinated; and 6% say they have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine but need one more to be fully vaccinated.
- With personal concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19 continuing to edge lower, 69% of Americans say new variants of the coronavirus will not have a major impact on the country's efforts to contain the disease. This marks a significant shift in public outlook from February 2021, when 51% said they thought new variants would lead to a major setback for the country and 48% thought they would not.

## Americans point to false and misleading information, partisan disagreements as particular problems in dealing with COVID-19 outbreak

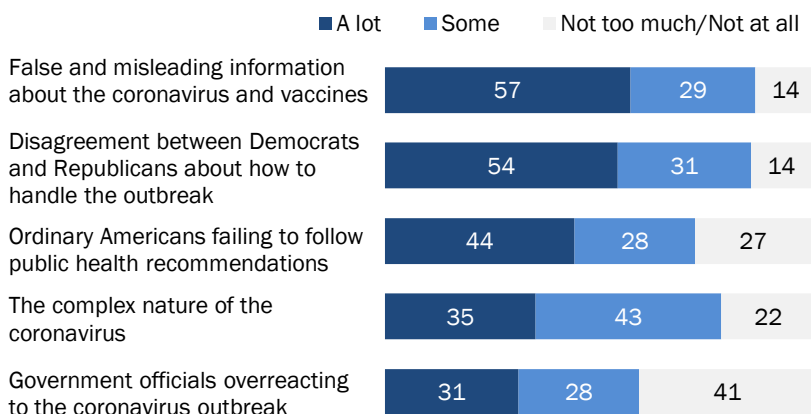
Americans see a range of factors as contributing to the problems the country has faced in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. Foremost among these is false and misleading information; 57% of Americans say this has contributed a lot to problems the country has faced dealing with the outbreak, while 29% say this has contributed some. Just 14% say this has contributed not too much or not at all to the country's problems dealing with the coronavirus.

A majority of U.S. adults (54%) also see partisan disagreements about how to respond to the outbreak as contributing a lot to the country's problems dealing with it.

Smaller shares of the public see other factors as contributing a lot to the country's problems with the COVID-19 pandemic, including ordinary Americans not following public health recommendations (44%), the complex nature of the coronavirus (35%) and government officials overreacting to the coronavirus (31%).

### Majority of Americans say false and misleading information contributed a lot to problems with the country's coronavirus response

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following contributed \_\_\_ to problems the country has faced dealing with the coronavirus outbreak*



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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Republicans and Democrats share a concern about the role of false and misleading information related to the pandemic. A majority of Republicans and those who lean to the Republican party (57%) and of Democrats and Democratic leaners (58%) say false and misleading information has contributed a lot to problems dealing with the outbreak.

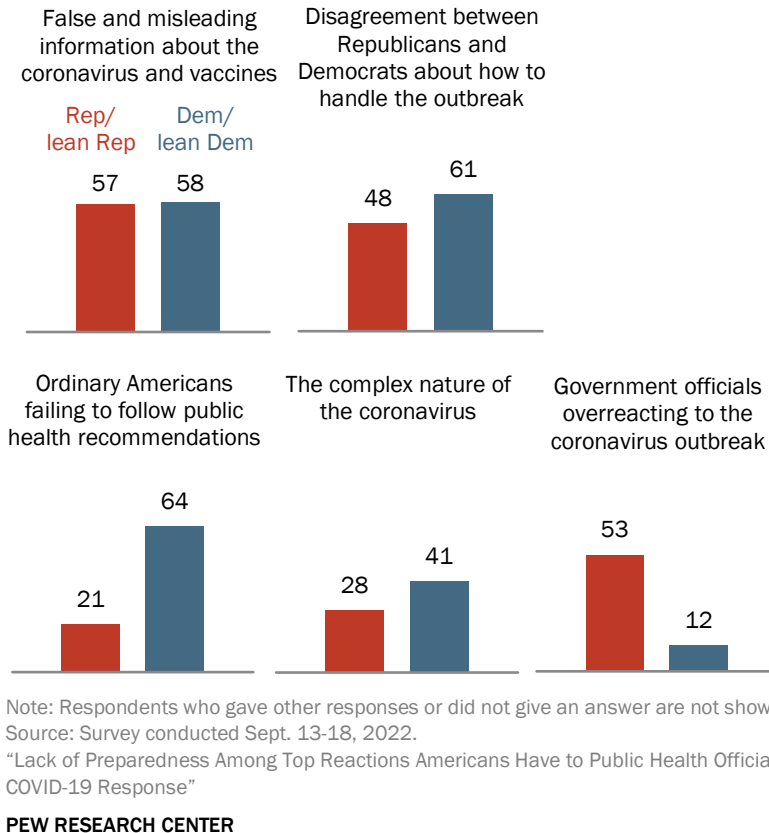
Sizeable shares of both Republicans and Democrats also believe that partisan disagreement has hindered the country's efforts to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. Overall, 48% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats say partisan disagreement over how to handle the coronavirus outbreak has contributed a lot to problems the country has faced dealing with it.

Republicans (53%) are much more likely than Democrats (12%) to say that government officials overreacting to the coronavirus outbreak contributed a lot to problems the country has faced in dealing with it.

Conversely, Democrats (64%) are much more inclined to say that ordinary Americans failing to follow public health recommendations contributed a lot to problems (versus 21% among Republicans). Democrats are also more likely than Republicans to say the complex nature of the coronavirus has contributed a lot to problems the country has faced dealing with the outbreak.

## Republicans, Democrats agree that false and misleading information contributed to problems the country faced dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following contributed a lot to problems the country has faced dealing with the coronavirus outbreak*





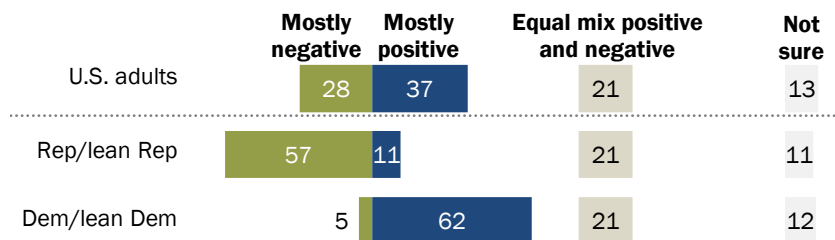
There are also wide differences between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to the impact Dr. Anthony Fauci – the chief medical advisor to the president during the outbreak – has had on the country’s efforts to deal with the coronavirus.

On balance, more Americans say that Dr. Fauci has had a mostly positive (37%) than negative (28%) impact on the country’s efforts to deal with the coronavirus outbreak. Another 21% say his efforts have had an equal mix of positive and negative effects and 13% say they are not sure of their views on this question.

**Democrats and Democratic leaners have largely positive views of Dr. Fauci’s impact: 62% say it has been mostly positive. By contrast, Republicans and GOP leaners have largely negative views of Dr. Fauci’s impact (57% say it has been mostly negative).**

### Democrats view Dr. Fauci’s impact on coronavirus response more positively than Republicans

*% of U.S. adults who say that medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci has had a(n) \_\_\_ impact on the country’s efforts to deal with the coronavirus outbreak*



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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## Americans' ratings of public health officials edged up from earlier in the year; wide partisan differences remain

Ratings of the job hospitals and medical centers are doing responding to the outbreak continue to be higher than for any other group considered in the Center survey, though they have drifted down to 77% from 81% at the start of the year.

About four-in-ten U.S. adults (41%) say that President Joe Biden is doing an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus, roughly the same as in January of this year.

About half of Americans say their state and local elected officials are doing an excellent or good job responding to the pandemic (49% each).

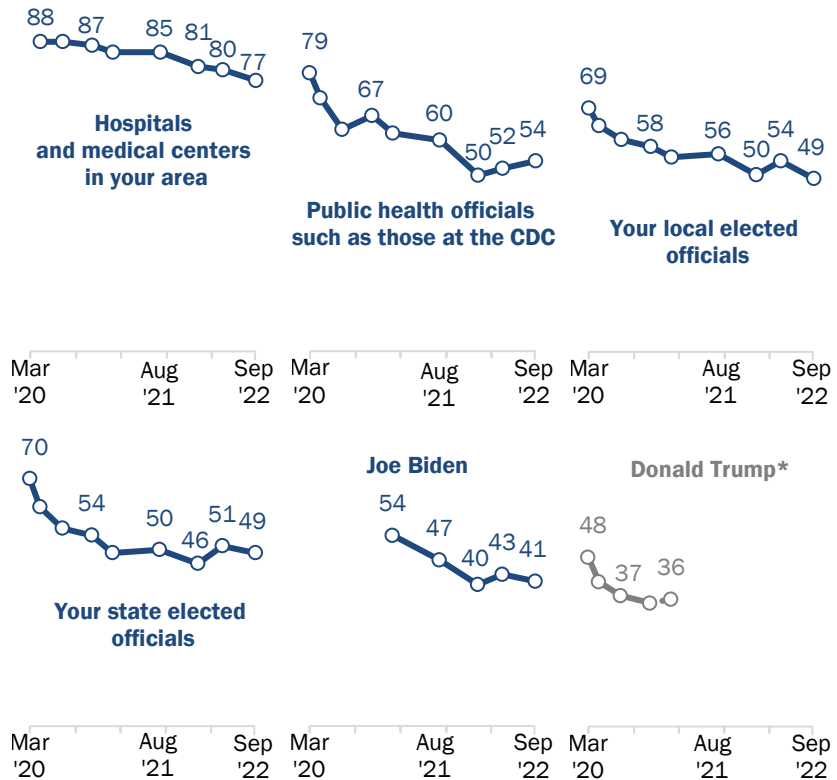
Ratings of state and local elected officials' handling of the outbreak remain considerably lower than in March 2020, early in the outbreak.

Views of the performance of public health officials, such as those at the CDC, now tilt

positive with 54% of Americans saying they are doing an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak. Positive ratings of public health officials have edged up from 50% in January of this year. Still, they remain far lower than they were during the early stages of the outbreak.

### 54% of Americans say the CDC is doing an excellent or good job responding to the COVID-19 outbreak

% of U.S. adults who rate \_\_\_ as 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.

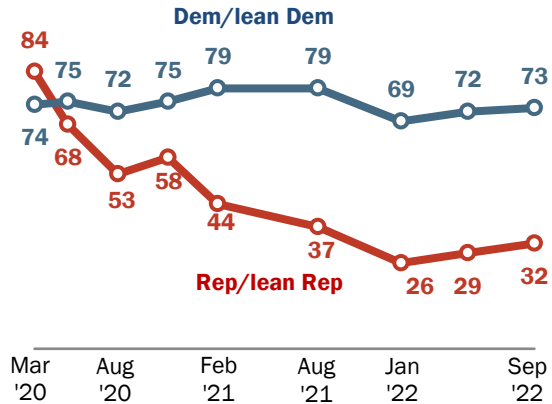
Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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Republicans continue to be critical of how public health officials are responding to the outbreak, though the share saying they are doing an excellent or good job has increased from 26% in January to 32% in the new survey. A majority of Democrats (73%) continue to rate public health officials positively in the new survey, up 4 percentage points from January.

### Partisans continue to differ in ratings of public health officials

*% 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 Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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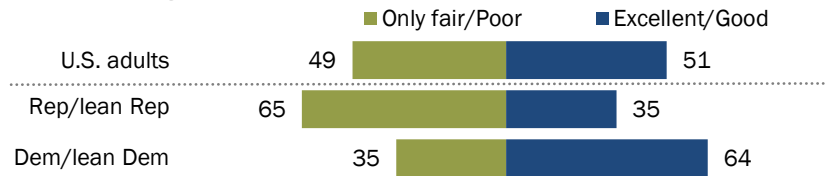
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Americans' views about the job public health officials have done communicating with the public over the course of the outbreak are closely divided: 51% say public health officials have done an excellent or good job communicating, while 49% say they have done an only fair or poor job in this regard.

Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (64%) say that public health officials have done an excellent or good job communicating with the public. Republicans take the opposite view: 65% say that they have done an only fair or poor job.

### Americans' ratings of communication efforts by public health officials are closely divided

*% of U.S. adults who say that in responding to the coronavirus outbreak, public health officials, such as those at the CDC, have done a(n) \_\_\_ job communicating with the public*



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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## Americans offer mixed reactions to public health officials' COVID-19 response

As Americans evaluate how public health officials have responded to the coronavirus outbreak, they acknowledge some difficulty public health officials have faced but also tend to say officials were unprepared for the outbreak.

Overall, 46% of U.S. adults say that the statement “public health officials were unprepared for the outbreak” describes their views extremely or very well. Another 31% say it describes their views somewhat well, while 21% say it describes their views not too or not at all well.

At the same time, 45% of Americans also say the statement “interference from elected officials hurt public health officials’ ability to respond to the outbreak” describes their views at least very well.

When it comes to statements that reflect positively on public health officials’ response, 34% of Americans say the statement “public health officials don’t get

enough credit for the job they’ve done” describes their views extremely or very well. And 31% say that “public health officials did as well as can be expected” in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak describes their views at least very well.

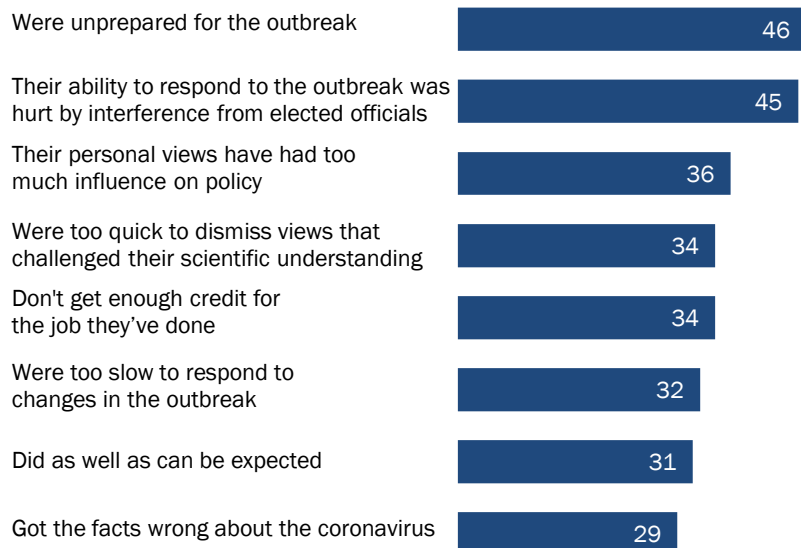
However, several statements critical of health officials’ response resonate with similar shares of Americans. Overall, 36% of U.S. adults say the statement that “the personal views of public health

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### Lack of preparedness among top statements Americans use to describe public health officials’ response to the coronavirus outbreak

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following statements describes their views **extremely/very well***

#### Public health officials, such as those at the CDC ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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officials have had too much influence on policy” describes their views extremely or very well and 34% say “public health officials were too quick to dismiss views that challenged their scientific understanding.” Roughly three-in-ten Americans say public health officials were too slow to respond to changes in the outbreak (32% say this describes their views very or extremely well) or that these officials got the facts wrong about the coronavirus (29% say this describes their view very or extremely well.)

**Republicans and Democrats tend to agree that public health officials were unprepared for the coronavirus outbreak**

Republicans and Democrats offer competing descriptions of public health officials’ performance, though there are a few areas of general agreement.

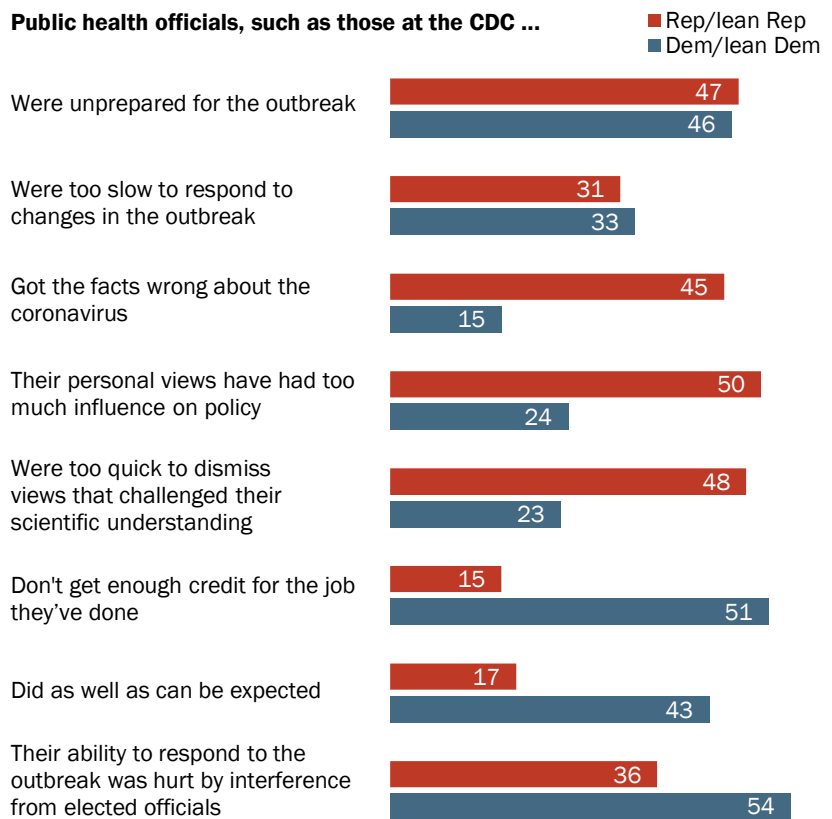
Similar shares of Republicans (47%) and Democrats (46%) say the statement that public health officials “were unprepared for the outbreak” describes their views extremely or very well.

And roughly a third of each group sees public health officials as too slow to respond to changes in the outbreak (31% of Republicans and 33% of Democrats say this describes their views at least very well.)

Republicans are much more critical of public health officials than Democrats in other regards. About half of Republicans and Republican

**Republicans more likely than Democrats to say that public health officials’ personal views had too much influence on policy**

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following statements describes their views **extremely/very well***



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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leaners see public health officials' judgments as biased, and they strongly align with the statements that health officials' personal views have had too much influence on policy and that they "were too quick to dismiss views that challenged their scientific understanding." In addition, 45% of Republicans express strong agreement with the view that public health officials got the facts wrong about the coronavirus. Much smaller shares of Democrats say each of these three critiques describe their views well, including just 15% who say public health officials got the facts wrong.

In contrast, a 54% majority of Democrats and Democratic leaners say their views are described extremely or very well by the statement that public health officials' ability to respond to the outbreak was hurt by interference from elected officials. About half of Democrats (51%) say that the statement public health officials "don't get enough credit for the job they've done" describes their views at least very well; just 15% of Republicans say this.

## Most Americans don't expect major setback for country from coronavirus variants; personal concern over coronavirus continues to fall

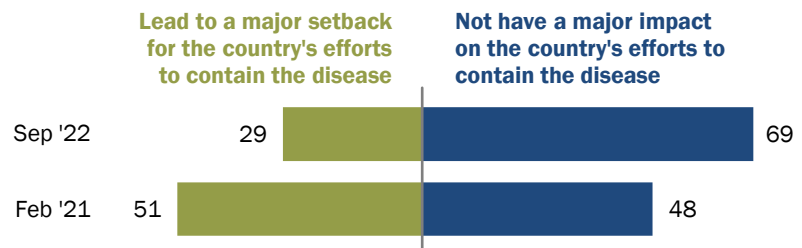
The Center survey finds that a majority of Americans (69%) think new variants of the coronavirus will not have a major impact on the country's efforts to contain the disease; far fewer (29%) believe that new variants will lead to a major setback for the country's efforts to contain the coronavirus.

Concern about new variants of the coronavirus is down significantly from February 2021 when about half of the

public (51%) thought new variants of the disease would lead to a major setback for the country.

### Most Americans do not anticipate a major setback from new COVID-19 variants

*% of U.S. adults who say new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 will ...*



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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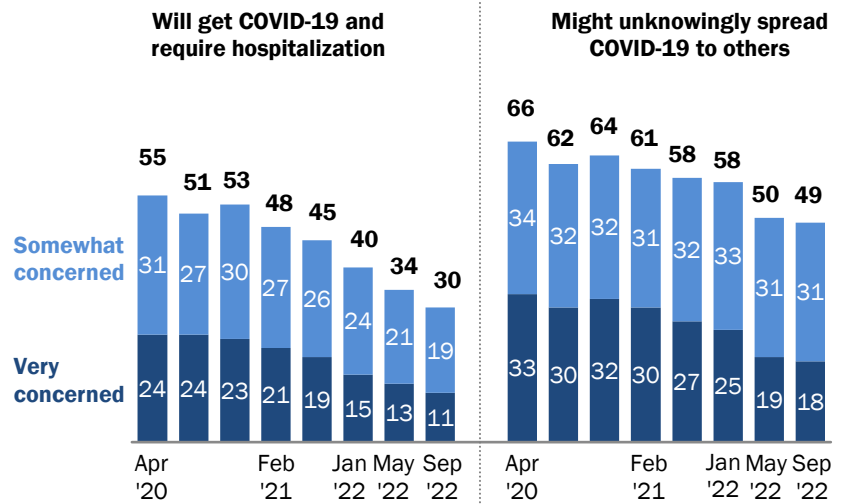
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Personal concern about getting a serious case of the coronavirus has continued to fall throughout the year. In the new survey, 30% of U.S. adults say they are at least somewhat concerned they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization, down 10 points from the start of the year. A majority of the public say they are not too or not at all concerned about this.

Americans are relatively more likely to say they are at least somewhat concerned they might unknowingly spread the coronavirus to others (49%).

### Declining share of Americans express concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say they are \_\_\_ that they ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.  
 Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.  
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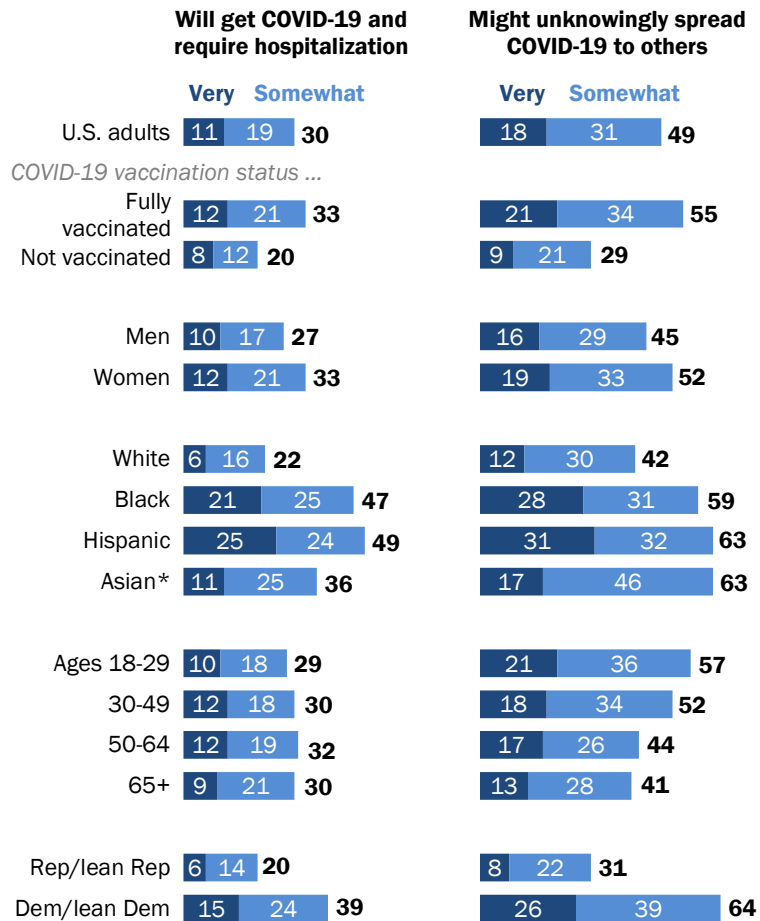
Concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19 remains higher among Black and Hispanic Americans. About half of each group (47% of Black and 49% of Hispanic Americans) say they are at least somewhat concerned about this. This compares with 22% of White Americans and 36% of English-speaking Asian Americans.

Women are slightly more concerned than men about getting a serious case of the coronavirus: 33% of women and 27% of men say they are at least somewhat concerned about this.

And despite the protections COVID-19 vaccines offer against getting the disease, Americans who are fully vaccinated express more concern over getting or spreading COVID-19 than unvaccinated adults.

## Black and Hispanic adults more concerned than White adults about getting a serious case of COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say they are \_\_\_ concerned that they ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers 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.  
 Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.  
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## No rise in the share of Americans who are vaccinated for COVID-19; 48% expect to get an updated booster for omicron variants, or already have

The survey finds 71% of Americans say they are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. (Fully vaccinated is defined by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as having received two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.)

Center surveys find no increase in the share of U.S. adults who say they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 since the start of the year. And the share now saying they have had a booster shot within the past six months is down from 49% in May to 38% in the current survey, resulting in a smaller share of the general public that has the highest level of available protection against the disease.

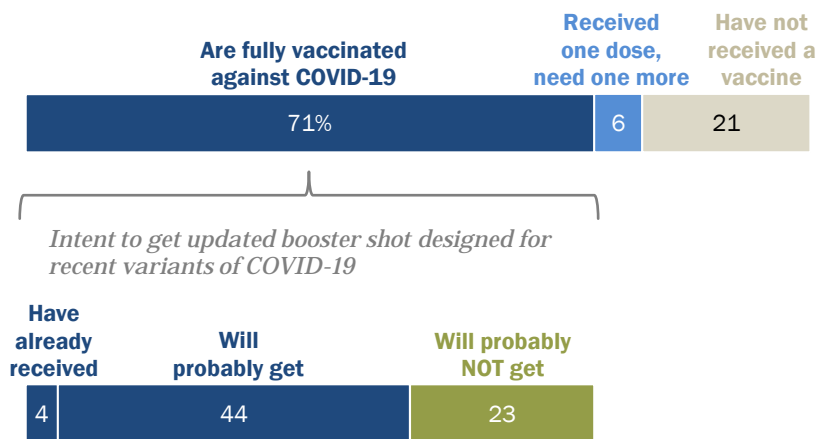
Uptake of a new [booster shot](#), targeting recent variants of the coronavirus, has been [slower than expected](#). The survey, conducted shortly after

updated booster shots first became available, finds about half of Americans say they will probably get an updated vaccine booster or that they already have (44% and 4%, respectively); 23% of Americans say they will probably *not* get an updated booster shot. The question about updated booster shots was only asked of adults who are fully vaccinated. About two-in-ten adults (21%) have not received a COVID-19 vaccine and 6% say they have received one dose but need one more to be fully vaccinated.

As with vaccines generally, older adults are more inclined than younger adults to get an updated booster shot. Among adults ages 65 and older, 56% say they will probably get an updated booster shot and 6% have done so already. Among adults under 30, four-in-ten say they will probably get one and 5% have already done so.

### Among U.S. adults, about half say they will probably get an updated vaccine booster or already have

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



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

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Vaccination status continues to vary by age, party affiliation and other characteristics.

As in previous Center surveys, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (85%) say they are fully vaccinated, compared with 58% of Republicans.

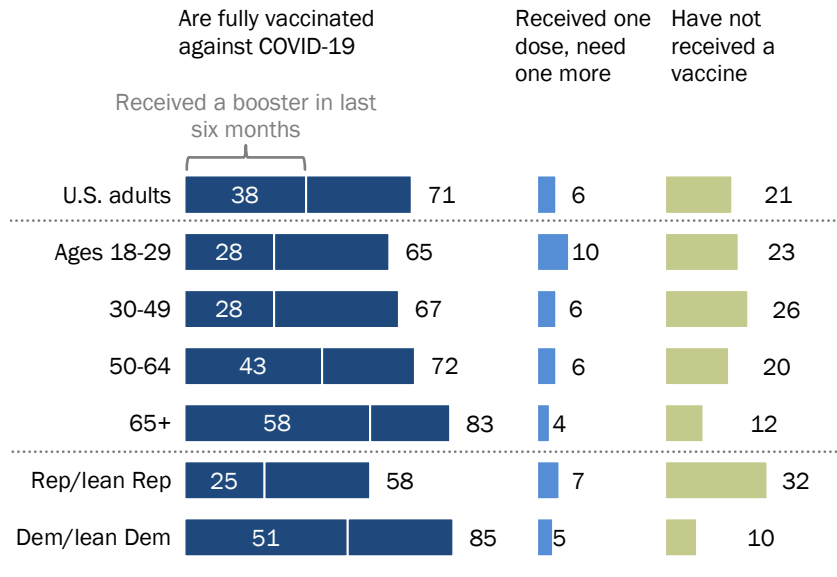
Older adults continue to be more likely than younger adults to say they are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. A large majority of adults ages 65 and older – including 74% of older Republicans and 93% of older Democrats – say they are fully vaccinated.

Americans living in urban areas (76%) are more likely than those living in rural areas (60%) to be fully vaccinated as well.

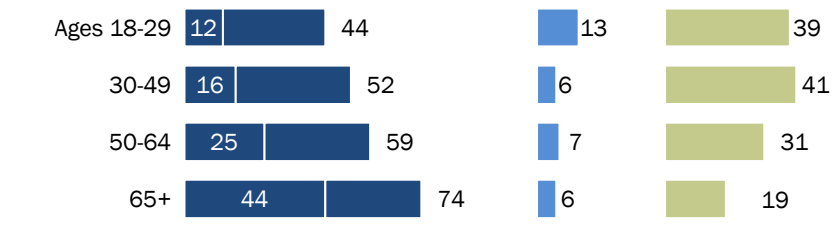
White evangelical Protestants remain less likely than other major religious groups to be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus; 57% of this group says they are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. Among White evangelical Protestants, 27% say they will probably get an updated booster shot and 2% have already done so. [See the Appendix for more details.](#)

### About seven-in-ten Americans say they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

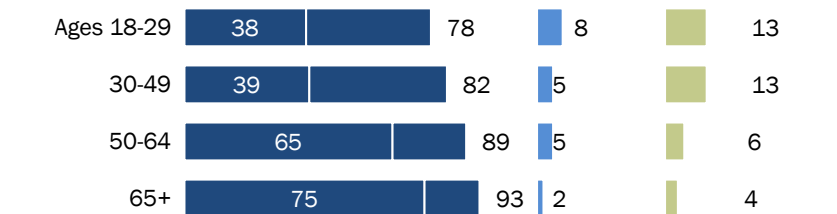
% of U.S. adults who say they ...



Among Rep/lean Rep who are ...



Among Dem/lean Dem who are ...



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

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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[pewresearch.org/science](http://pewresearch.org/science).

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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 Sept. 13-18, 2022. A total of 10,588 panelists responded out of 11,687 who were sampled, for a response rate of 91%. 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 10,588 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

#### 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	1,504
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	882
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	434
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,121
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,478
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,543
May 29 to July 7, 2021				
Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	790
May 24 to July 6, 2022	ABS	2,724	2,324	1,390
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,264</b>	<b>29,738</b>	<b>12,142</b>

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. The 2022 recruitment survey was ongoing at the time W114 was conducted. The counts reflect completed recruitment interviews up through July 6, 2022.

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address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of 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. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the five address-based recruitments, a total of 22,546 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 19,796 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 29,738 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,142 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

### **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.

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

## 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 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 Sept. 13-18, 2022. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Sept. 12.

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 Sept. 13. 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 also sent an invitation on Sept. 13.

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.

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### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	Sept. 13, 2022	Sept. 13, 2022
First reminder	Sept. 15, 2022	Sept. 15, 2022
Final reminder	Sept. 17, 2022	Sept. 17, 2022

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## 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. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are 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.

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

### Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
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	2021 American Trends Panel Annual Profile Survey/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	
<i>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</i>	
Age	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
Gender	
Education	
Hispanic ethnicity	
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2021 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. Volunteerism is estimated using a model to account for potential changes in volunteering behavior due to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020.

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in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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.

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<b>Margins of error</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error in percentage points</b>
U.S. adults	10,588	+/-1.5
Men	4,634	+/-2.3
Women	5,834	+/-1.9
White	7,185	+/-1.7
Black	1,178	+/-4.4
Hispanic	1,397	+/-4.6
Asian <sup>2</sup>	371	+/-7.3
Ages 18-29	857	+/-4.5
30-49	3,411	+/-2.5
50-64	3,051	+/-2.5
65+	3,237	+/-2.6
Rep/lean Rep	4,930	+/-2.1
Dem/lean Dem	5,353	+/-2.1
Fully vaccinated	8,189	+/-1.7
Not vaccinated	1,744	+/-3.6

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 toward each of the parties.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 13-18, 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

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.

### Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	10,588
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	128
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	62
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	901
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	3
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		5
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>11,687</b>
Completed interviews	I	10,588
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,096
Non-contact	NC	3
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,687</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		91%

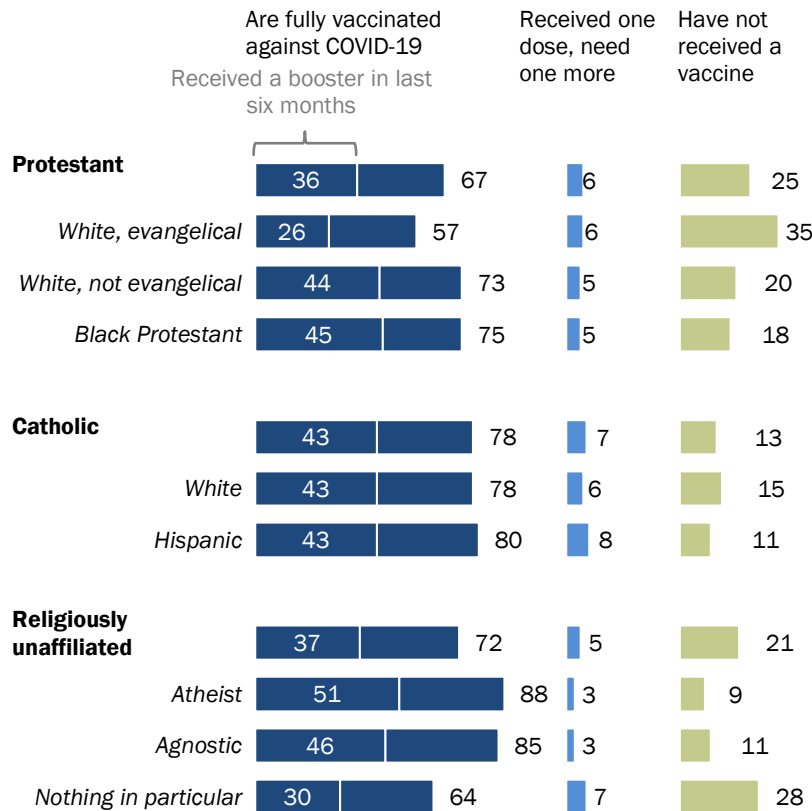
Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	10%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	70%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 114	41%
Response rate to Wave 114 survey	91%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>3%</b>

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## Appendix: Detailed charts and tables

### White evangelical Protestants less likely than other religious groups to say they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19

% 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 Sept. 13-18, 2022.

"Lack of Preparedness Among Top Reactions Americans Have to Public Health Officials' COVID-19 Response"

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## Survey question wording and topline

2022 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
 WAVE 114 – SCIENCE TOPLINE  
 SEPTEMBER 13-18, 2022  
 N=10,588

### OTHER QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

DISPLAY FOR ALL: 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					
Sep 13-18, 2022	12	29	23	34	1
May 2-8, 2022	11	31	24	33	1
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>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=5,311]:</b>					
b. Your state elected officials					
Sep 13-18, 2022	9	40	31	19	2
May 2-8, 2022	11	40	30	18	1
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
Jul 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
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=5,277]:</b>					
c. Your local elected officials					
Sep 13-18, 2022	9	40	34	17	1
May 2-8, 2022	10	44	32	13	1
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
Jul 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

**COVIDEGFP CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)					
Sep 13-18, 2022	13	40	27	19	1
May 2-8, 2022	13	39	26	20	1
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
Jul 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**

g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area					
Sep 13-18, 2022	31	47	16	6	1
May 2-8, 2022	34	46	14	5	1
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
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	43	45	9	3	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	42	8	3	1

**ASK ALL:**

FAUCI

Overall, do you think medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci has had a **[RANDOMIZE ORDER: "mostly positive or mostly negative," "mostly negative or mostly positive"]** impact on the country's efforts to deal with the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS STEM; ALWAYS ASK OPTIONS 3 AND 4 LAST]**

Sep 13-18,  
2022

37	Mostly positive
28	Mostly negative
21	About an equal mix of positive and negative
13	Not sure
<1	No answer

**DISPLAY TO ALL:**

As you may know, new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been found around the world.

**ASK ALL:**

CVDVAR2

When it comes to the country's efforts to control the coronavirus outbreak, do you think new variants of the coronavirus will... **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Lead to a major setback for the country's efforts to <u>contain the disease</u>	Not have a major impact on the country's efforts to <u>contain the disease</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-18, 2022	29	69	2
Feb 16-21, 2021	51	48	1

**ASK ALL:**

HLTHOFCL1

Thinking about how public health officials, such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), have responded to the coronavirus outbreak...

How well do each of the following statements describe your own views? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Extremely <u>well</u>	<u>Very well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at <u>all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
	<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,311]:</b>						
CREDIT	Public health officials don't get enough credit for the job they've done						
	Sep 13-18, 2022	12	22	35	18	11	1
	<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,311]:</b>						
OWNVIEWS	The personal views of public health officials have had too much influence on policy						
	Sep 13-18, 2022	17	18	33	21	9	2
	<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,311]:</b>						
UNPREPARED	Public health officials were unprepared for the outbreak						
	Sep 13-18, 2022	23	23	31	14	7	1
	<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,311]:</b>						
SLOW	Public health officials were too slow to respond to changes in the outbreak						
	Sep 13-18, 2022	14	18	37	22	8	2

**HLTHOFCL1  
CONTINUED ...**

		Extremely <u>well</u>	<u>Very well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at <u>all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASWELL	<p><b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,277]:</b> Public health officials did as well as can be expected Sep 13-18, 2022</p>	8	23	37	19	12	1
FACTS	<p><b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,277]:</b> Public health officials got the facts wrong about the coronavirus Sep 13-18, 2022</p>	14	15	34	26	11	1
DISMISS	<p><b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,277]:</b> Public health officials were too quick to dismiss views that challenged their scientific understanding Sep 13-18, 2022</p>	17	18	35	20	9	2
INTERFERE	<p><b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY</b> <b>[N=5,277]:</b> Interference from elected officials hurt public health officials' ability to respond to the outbreak Sep 13-18, 2022</p>	22	23	33	14	7	1

**ASK ALL:**

HLTHOFCL2 In responding to the coronavirus outbreak, how good a job have public health officials, such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), done communicating with the public?

Sep 13-18,  
2022

11	Excellent
40	Good
32	Only fair
16	Poor
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

CVD\_PROBS How much have each of the following contributed to problems the country has faced dealing with the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<b>Not too much</b>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
PARTISAN	Disagreement between Democrats and Republicans about how to handle the outbreak Sep 13-18, 2022	54	31	11	3	1
COMPLEX	The complex nature of the coronavirus Sep 13-18, 2022	35	43	16	6	1
NOCOMPLY	Ordinary Americans failing to follow public health recommendations Sep 13-18, 2022	44	28	18	10	<1
FALSEMIS	False and misleading information about the coronavirus and vaccines Sep 13-18, 2022	57	29	10	4	1
OVEREAX	Government officials overreacting to the coronavirus outbreak Sep 13-18, 2022	31	28	27	14	1



**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_INFECT How concerned, if at all, are you that... [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. You might spread the coronavirus to other people without knowing that you have it					
Sep 13-18, 2022	18	31	28	23	<1
May 2-8, 2022	19	31	29	20	<1
Jan 10-17, 2022	25	33	26	16	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	27	32	26	15	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	30	31	25	14	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	32	32	23	13	<1
Jun 16-22, 2020	30	32	23	14	<1
Apr 7-12, 2020	33	34	22	11	1
b. You will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization					
Sep 13-18, 2022	11	19	36	33	<1
May 2-8, 2022	13	21	37	29	<1
Jan 10-17, 2022	15	24	37	24	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	19	26	36	19	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	21	27	31	20	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	23	30	30	17	<1
Jun 16-22, 2020	24	27	32	17	<1
Apr 7-12, 2020	24	31	32	13	<1

**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_VAXDMOD Have you received a vaccine to prevent COVID-19?

	<u>NET Have received at least one dose of a vaccine</u>	<u>Yes, have had all the shots needed to be fully vaccinated</u>	<u>Yes, have had one shot but still need one more</u>	<u>No, have not received a vaccine</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-18, 2022	77	71	6	21	2
May 2-8, 2022	78	73	5	21	2
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\_BOOST<sup>3</sup> Have you received a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months?

	Yes, have received a <u>booster shot</u>	No, have not received a <u>booster shot</u>	Does not <u>apply to me</u>	Invalid <u>response</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-18, 2022	38	41	18	1	2
May 2-8, 2022	49	31	17	1	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	48	34	15	1	2

**COVID\_VAXDMOD AND COVID\_BOOST COMBO TABLE**

	Yes, have had all the shots needed <u>to be fully vaccinated</u>	No, have not received a booster shot/Does <u>not apply</u>	No answer to COVID_ <u>BOOST</u>	Yes, have had one shot but still need one <u>more</u>	No, have not received a <u>vaccine</u>	No answer to COVID_ <u>VAXDmod</u>
Sep 13-18, 2022	38	33	<1	6	21	2
May 2-8, 2022	49	23	<1	5	21	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	48	25	<1	5	20	2

**ASK IF FULLY VACCINATED [COVID\_VAXDMOD=1] [N=8,189]:**

VAXBOOST3 Public health officials recently recommended a new booster shot designed for recent variants of COVID-19. Do you think you will...

Sep 13-18,  
2022

62	Probably get an updated vaccine booster
32	Probably NOT get an updated vaccine booster
6	Have already received an updated vaccine booster
1	No answer

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**COVID\_VAXDMOD AND VAXBOOST3 COMBO TABLE**

					Yes, have had one shot but still need <u>one more</u>	No, have not received a <u>vaccine</u>	No answer to COVID_ <u>VAXDmod</u>
Yes, have had all the shots needed to be fully <u>vaccinated</u>							
	Probably get an updated vaccine <u>booster</u>	Probably NOT get an updated vaccine <u>booster</u>	Have already received an updated vaccine <u>booster</u>	No answer to <u>VAXBOOST3</u>			
Sep 13-18, 2022	44	23	4	<1	6	21	2

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**