



COVID-19 Survey Summary: December 31, 2020

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

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Two-thirds of Americans have at least some intention to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, up from a September low but below its peak last April. New polls also show a holiday bounce in social activity and low ratings for the government's pandemic response.

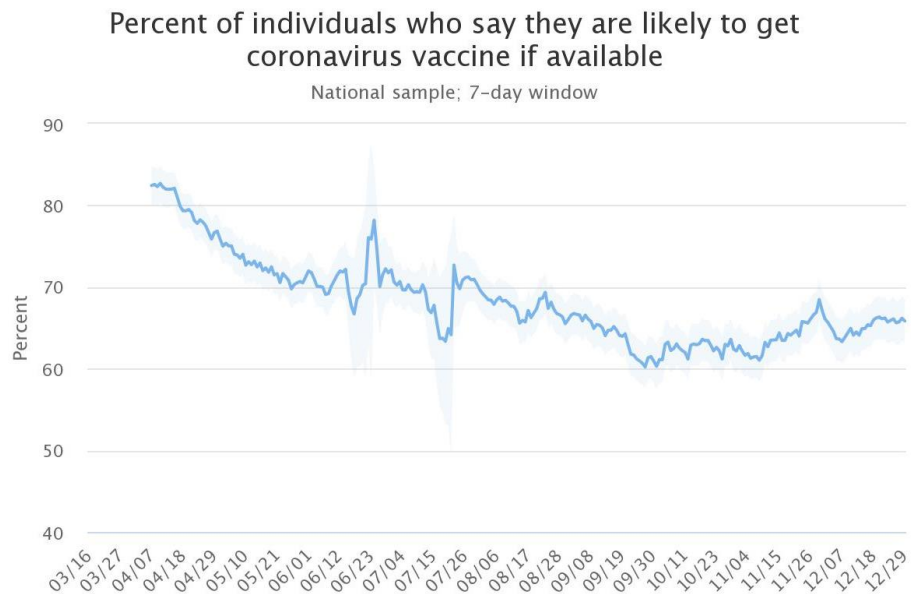
In addition, a newly released analysis finds higher mortality rates among coronavirus patients in hospitals with a greater number of COVID-19 cases in the surrounding community, which two authors, in an [op-ed](#), attribute to stresses on strained hospitals.

International results from South Korea, Pakistan, Chile, Brazil, Russia and Turkey also are included in this week's report, which is being released a day early given the New Year's holiday.

Vaccines

Daily tracking finds that two-thirds of Americans say they're at least somewhat likely to get the coronavirus vaccine once it is available.

Intentions to vaccinate were highest in early April, at more than 80 percent, and dipped lowest in September amid concerns about politicization and a rushed testing and approval process. They've settled at around two-thirds since mid-December, about the time vaccinations started to be administered to select groups ([USC UAS 12/29](#)).



A newly released poll conducted in mid-November produced the same estimate, with two-thirds of Americans saying they definitely or probably will get vaccinated when a coronavirus vaccine becomes available ([WIN/SSRS 11/11-11/18](#)). In international sister studies, uptake intention ranged from 56 percent in Pakistan to 87 percent in South Korea ([WIN/Gallup Pakistan 11/5-11/15](#), [WIN/Gallup Korea 11/7-11/29](#)). (See further international results below.)

Daily Life

Social activity again has picked up during the holidays. After a [Thanksgiving bump](#), the share of Americans who said they'd visited a friend, neighbor or relative or had visitors at their own residence in the past seven days dropped to roughly four in 10 in mid-December. However, that jumped to 48 percent in the past week, as many gathered for Christmas ([USC UAS 12/29](#)).

Variations in Mortality Rates

Data from a large national health insurer indicates a mortality rate of about 12 percent for those hospitalized with COVID-19, based on outcomes among 38,517 patients admitted to 955 hospitals in 43 states and the District of Columbia from Jan. 1 to June 30. In general, the mortality rate improved over time as hospitals gained experience treating the virus. In 398 hospitals with sufficient patient volume for analysis, the rate declined from 17 percent through April to 9 percent in May and June.

The factor most associated with mortality and its change was the community case rate. High county-level case rates were associated with higher mortality rates. Additionally, hospitals in regions where COVID-19 case rates dropped showed significant declines in mortality, while an increase in case rates was associated with worsening mortality rates.

Other risk factors included being male, being older than 85, being a resident of a nursing facility, having metastatic cancer and being admitted within the first 90 days of 2020 compared with being admitted 150 days or more into 2020 ([Asch et al., 2020](#)).

Multi-national Comparisons

Thirty-two percent of Americans in November said the government has handled the coronavirus pandemic very well or "pretty good." Such views were far more positive in South Korea (82 percent) and Pakistan (73 percent).

Sixty-two percent in America rated the capacity of the country's health care system positively; again ratings were higher, albeit not as dramatically, in South Korea (88 percent) and Pakistan (74 percent).

In a third measure, 19 percent of Americans said they were likely to travel outside the country in 2021 on holiday, as were 8 percent on business. It was 14 and 6 percent in South Korea and 17 and 16 percent in Pakistan ([WIN/SSRS 11/11-11/18](#), [WIN/Gallup Korea 11/7-11/29](#), [WIN/Gallup Pakistan 11/5-11/15](#)).

Other International Results

In Chile, 45 percent say they'll get vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available, up 9 percentage points from last week. A third say they'll wait until later (down 9 points), mainly to be sure the vaccine works and has no contraindications. Twenty-two percent say they won't vaccinate at all, unchanged. Of them, 41 percent cite fears about side effects and 26 percent mention distrust of vaccines generally. Fewer than half overall express confidence in a variety of outcomes: that the vaccine will effectively immunize those who get it (47 percent very or somewhat confident), that it will reach Chile in sufficient quantities for everyone (46 percent), that they will have timely access (42 percent), that it will be able to stop the pandemic (41 percent) and that it will not bring negative consequences (38 percent).

Eighty-six percent agree with establishing health cordons during Christmas and New Years to prevent people from leaving their region. About three-quarters agree with a 10 p.m. curfew (except on New Year's, 2 a.m.), and that if the current situation continues it will not be possible to travel to other regions during the January and February holidays. Two-thirds agree with allowing family reunions of up to 15 people for the holidays. Forty-three percent approve of how the government is managing the pandemic, up 6 points from last week ([Cadem 12/22-12/24](#)).

In Brazil, six in 10 say they will get vaccinated, down 7 points in a month; it was 85 percent in July. Twenty-eight percent say they will not get vaccinated, up 9 points this month. Vaccine refusal rises to 47 percent among supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro ([PoderData 12/21-12/23](#)).

In Russia, 38 percent say they're ready to get vaccinated if vaccination is free and voluntary, essentially unchanged since August. Fifty-eight percent are not. Intended uptake rises among those who approve of President Vladimir Putin and older Russians. Reasons for hesitancy include a desire to wait until trials are over and fear of side effects, each cited by about three in 10. Overall, 57 percent are afraid of contracting the coronavirus, down from 64 percent in October ([Levada 12/21-12/23](#)).

In another poll, an identical 38 percent of Russians say they definitely or probably will be vaccinated, including 13 percent definitely. By contrast, 32 percent say they definitely will not get vaccinated. Of those who plan to be vaccinated, 84 percent would prefer a Russian-produced vaccine. Nearly all (97 percent) are aware that a large-scale vaccination of the population with a Russian-made vaccine has begun ([VCIOM 12/11-12/19](#)).

In Turkey, vaccine hesitancy has increased – 35 percent say they will not get vaccinated, up from 24 percent last month ([Istanbul Economic Research 12/17-12/19](#)).

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

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