



COVID-19 Survey Summary: January 15, 2021

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

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With a third of Americans now saying they personally know someone who has died from the coronavirus, some survey results this week indicate an increase in public willingness to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Other findings show no recent change in uptake intentions, however, and in any case a significant share remains hesitant.

Additional newly released findings reveal how the pandemic has particularly impacted women’s workforce participation, indicate that communities with big colleges and universities fared better this fall when classes were held online and suggest that European countries with more stringent containment measures early in the pandemic may have saved lives.

Further, international surveys from Bulgaria, Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Kenya and the Netherlands reveal a great deal of variation in vaccine intentions by country, though in most cases plans to get vaccinated have risen.

Vaccines

Six in 10 Americans say it is at least somewhat likely they’ll get a “first generation” COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it’s available, up 8 percentage points since mid-December to a new high.

Perceptions of the risk of doing so have eased – 16 percent view taking the vaccine as a large risk to their health and well-being, half its level in mid-September, and 22 percent now see no risk, up from 6 percent in the same period.

Moreover, in a separate question focused on timing, 43 percent say that when a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to them they’ll get it as soon as possible, up 10 points since mid-December. Twelve percent say they’ll wait a few weeks, 15 percent a few months, 11 percent a year or more and two in 10 say they won’t get it at all.

After the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, when do you plan to get it?



Intention to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it's available has increased most sharply among seniors (+20 points to 68 percent), Hispanic adults (+20 to 46 percent) and Democrats (+14 to 57 percent). Hesitancy remains greatest among Black people – fewer than a quarter (23 percent) say they'll get the vaccine as soon as it's available to them and three in 10 say they won't get it at all ([Axios-Ipsos 1/8-1/11](#)).

However, a different poll (and question) finds intentions to vaccinate overall have held essentially steady since November. It finds that 65 percent say that if an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine was available right now at no cost, they would agree to be vaccinated. Sixty-three percent said so in November, compared with just half in September.

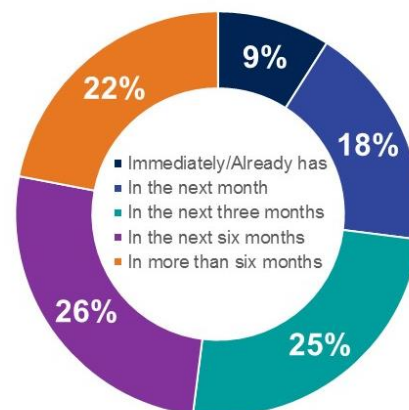
Results show a widening partisan gap. In September, similar numbers of Republicans (49 percent) and Democrats (53 percent) said they'd get vaccinated. Since then, willingness has increased sharply among Democrats, to 83 percent, but decreased slightly among Republicans, to 45 percent ([Gallup 12/15-1/3](#)).

Regardless, fewer than three in 10 expect that the vaccine will be made available to them within the next month. A quarter think it'll be in the next three months and nearly half think it'll be six months or more.

Concerns about vaccine distribution are widespread – three-quarters say they're at least somewhat concerned about the government's handling of the rollout and fewer than half (45 percent) think it's likely the Biden administration will meet its pledge to vaccinate 100 million Americans in its first 100 days.

Half say they personally know someone who has received the vaccine, including 3 percent who have gotten it themselves and 13 percent who say a member of their immediate family has gotten it ([Axios-Ipsos 1/8-1/11](#)).

Regardless of your plans to get the vaccine, when do you think it will be made available to you?



Contact

A third of Americans now say they know someone in the United States who has died from the coronavirus, a new high. Three-quarters know someone who has tested positive, four in 10 personally have been tested and 15 percent say they've been in contact with someone who tested positive after they saw them. All are numerical highs.

Knowing someone who has died from the virus reaches 44 percent among Hispanic adults, compared with 34 percent among Black people and 31 percent of whites ([Axios-Ipsos 1/8-1/11](#)).

Daily Life

Thirty-six percent say they have visited friends or relatives in the past week and three in 10 say they've gone out to eat, both essentially unchanged since last month. However, 22 percent say they've stayed at home and avoided contact with others in the past week, numerically the most since late June ([Axios-Ipsos 1/8-1/11](#)).

Impact on Women in the Workforce

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the U.S. economy lost 140,000 jobs in December. Deeper analysis shows that women – specifically Black and Latina women – accounted for all of these losses. Overall, women lost 156,000 jobs in December while men gained 16,000. And women ended the year with 5.4 million fewer jobs than they had in pre-pandemic February compared with 4.4 million job losses among men in the same period ([CNN](#)).

Hospitalizations and Deaths

In the past three months, the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 has more than tripled, from roughly 36,000 on Oct. 13 to 130,000 as of Jan. 13. States reported 23,259 COVID-19 deaths this week alone, 25 percent more than in any other week since the pandemic began and more than the CDC's current estimate for flu-related deaths during the entire 2019-2020 season.

By region, hospitalizations have declined in the Midwest but risen in the South, especially the South Atlantic census division. In the West, hospitalizations plateaued in the Mountain West, but climbed in the Pacific division, reflecting the sharp surge in Southern California. Similarly, trends in the Northeast are split – hospitalizations have climbed in the Mid-Atlantic region, led by New York, but plateaued in New England ([COVID Tracking Project 3/1-1/13](#)).

Coronavirus on Campus

A new CDC report finds that the trajectory of COVID-19 cases in 101 counties with large colleges or universities differed depending on whether instruction was remote or in-person. Comparing COVID-19 incidence in the 21-day periods before and after fall semester classes started, the 22 counties with large universities using remote instruction saw an 18 percent decline in cases (from 17.9 to 14.7 cases per 100,000), while the 79 counties with large universities using in-person instruction experienced a 56 percent increase in cases (from 15.3 to 23.9 cases per 100,000). Counties without large colleges or universities saw a 6 percent decline in COVID-incidence during the same period (15.3 to 14.4 cases).

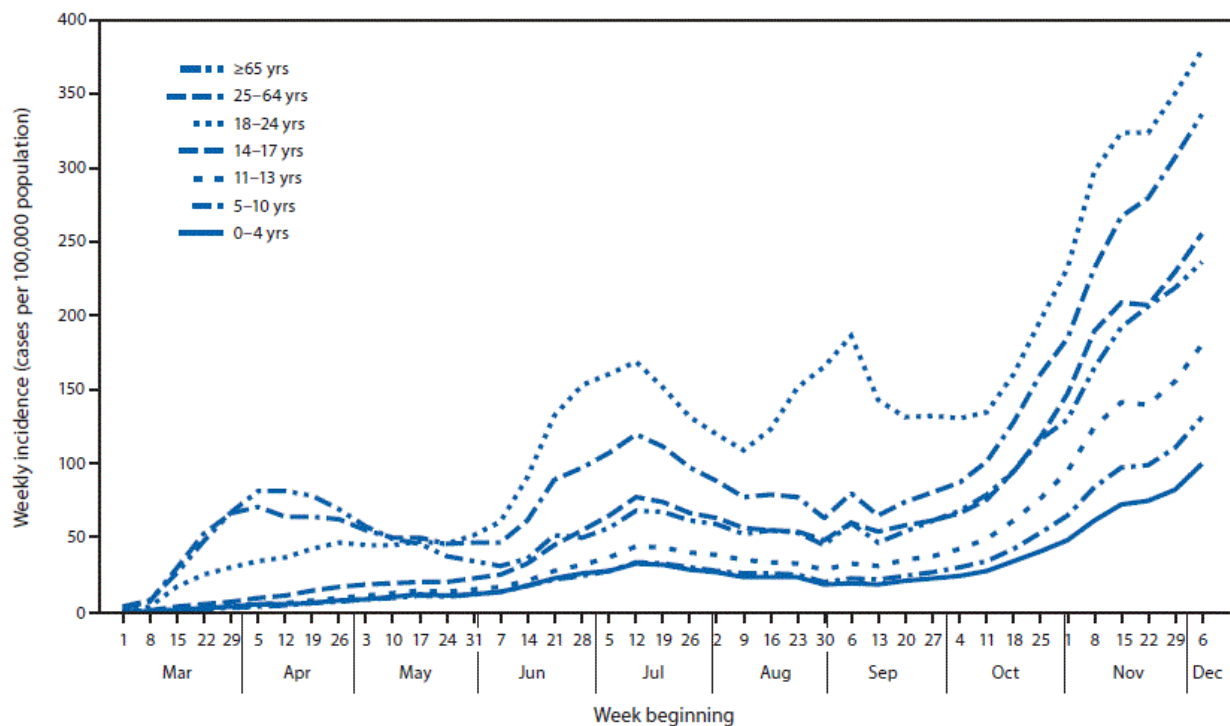
The study focused on counties with universities with at least 20,000 enrolled students and a fall term start date from July 27 to Aug. 28. The differences it found persisted in analyses that matched non-university and university counties for size and geographic proximity. The authors also say the differences do not appear to be mainly attributable to changes in testing. Average daily testing increased in both remote and in-person instruction counties (by 4 and 14 percent, respectively) but declined in non-university counties (by 1 percent), while the test positivity rate

decreased in remote-instruction and non-university counties, but increased in in-person counties ([CDC 7/6-9/18](#)).

Trends Among Children and Young Adults

Another CDC report examined COVID-19 cases among children and young adults from March to mid-December. Of the nearly 2.9 million laboratory-confirmed cases among those younger than 25, most (57 percent) occurred among young adults age 18-24. Sixteen percent were among those age 14-17, 8 percent among 11- to 13-year-olds, 11 percent among 5- to 10-year-olds and 7 percent among those age 4 or younger. Among the roughly 1.5 million child and young adult COVID-19 cases with complete information on race/ethnicity, half were among whites, 27 percent were Hispanic/Latino and 12 percent were among Black children and young adults.

Weekly changes in COVID-19 incidence and percentage of positive test results among children and adolescents (i.e., those age 0-17) generally mirrored trends among adults older than 25, with a bump in early summer, followed by a decline and then a surge starting in September and continuing through December. Among young adults (age 18-24) there was a distinct and large peak during the first week of September. Across all age groups, incidence was highest during the last week included in the report ([CDC 3/1-12/12](#)).



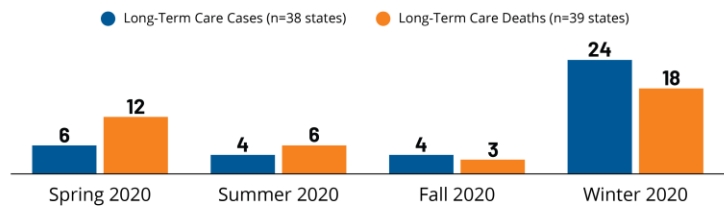
COVID-19 and Long-Term Care

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted those in long-term care facilities, accounting for 6 percent of cases nationwide and 38 percent of deaths from the virus. Although much attention was paid to these facilities during the first wave of the pandemic, a recent analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation finds that the crisis is ongoing, with many states reporting their highest

numbers of cases and deaths in these facilities this fall or winter. Twenty-eight of the 38 states with trendable data on cases in long-term care facilities reported their highest average weekly new cases in November (4 states) or December (24 states). In terms of deaths, 21 of 39 states with available data reported their highest average weekly new COVID-19 deaths in November (3 states) or December (18 states) ([KFF](#))

Most States Had Their Highest New Long-Term Care COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in December 2020

of States that Reported Highest New Cases/Deaths



NOTES: "Peak" is defined as highest average weekly new cases. This classification is limited by when states are reporting data. Spring 2020 = April or May 2020 (32 states with available data). Summer 2020 = June, July, or August 2020 (36 states with available data). Fall 2020 = September, October, or November 2020 (38 states with available data). Winter 2020 = December 2020 (38 states with available data). Washington DC is included in the count of 6 states that peaked in Spring 2020.
SOURCE: Priya Chidambaram and Rachel Garfield, Patterns in COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in Long-Term Care Facilities in 2020

KFF

A separate analysis reviewing 30 studies that examined potential risk factors for COVID-19 at long-term care facilities found that the prevalence of COVID-19 in the surrounding community consistently was associated with the number of cases and deaths in these facilities. In addition, facilities that are for-profit, have larger shares of Black or Hispanic residents, have a larger number of beds and are located in urban areas generally were more likely to have COVID-19 cases and deaths, compared with other facilities ([KFF](#)).

A new CDC report examining data from May 25 to Nov. 22 similarly finds that after late summer declines, cases among nursing home residents and staff members increased in November, and cases in these facilities closely corresponded with COVID-19 incidence in the surrounding communities ([CDC 5/25-11/22](#)).

Regional Results

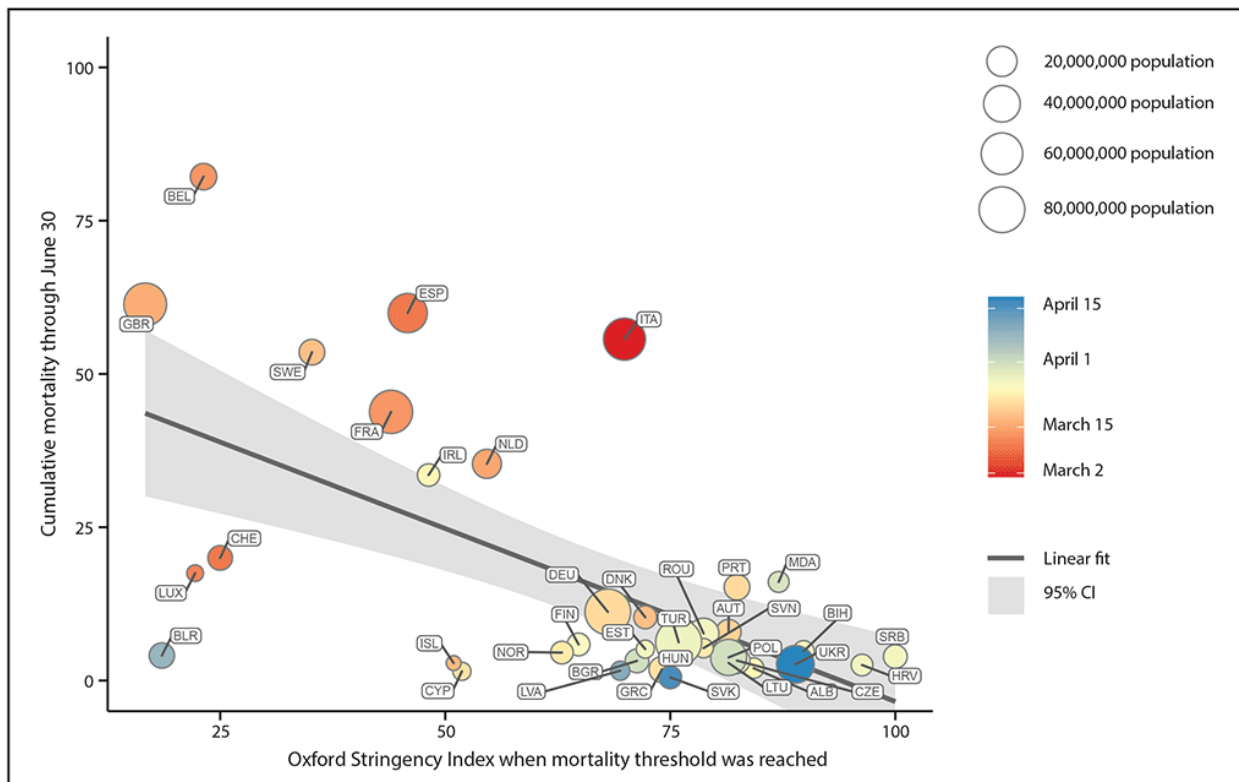
In the Detroit metro area, an analysis of the Michigan EMS Information System finds a 60 percent increase in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OCHA) calls from March 23 to May 31 compared with the same period in 2019. The proportion of OCHA calls for patients who died in the field increased by 42 percent. OCHA calls increased across all demographic groups, but disproportionately so among those age 85 and older, Black people and those living in nursing facilities. The increase in OCHA calls slightly lagged, but closely mirrored, the rise in COVID-19 cases in the region. The authors say this may reflect both a direct impact of COVID-19 and changes in patterns of health care usage during the pandemic ([Nickles et al., 2021](#)).

In the St. Louis region, an analysis examining racial inequalities in COVID-19 testing finds that from March 14 to Aug. 10 just 23 percent of COVID-19 tests were conducted in the 23 ZIP codes that accounted for 50 percent of hospitalizations – 17 of which were predominately Black, according to U.S. Census estimates. Instead, the majority of tests (53 percent) were conducted in the 86 ZIP codes that accounted for only a quarter of hospitalizations, none of which was predominately Black ([Mody et al. 2021](#)).

International Results

A CDC analysis of 37 European countries finds that those with more restrictive policies early in the pandemic had lower mortality rates at the end of June than those with less restrictive measures. Using an [index](#) that quantifies the strictness of containment measures on a 0-100 scale, countries that scored higher (i.e., had more stringent policies) when they first reached a mortality threshold of .02 new COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 population generally recorded fewer total deaths attributable to COVID-19 per 100,000 population as of June 30. This held true after controlling for when the mortality threshold was reached, baseline healthcare capacity, median age of the population, population density and GDP.

The date on which the mortality threshold was reached varied from March 2 (Italy) to April 18 (Ukraine). At the time this threshold was reached, the United Kingdom and Belarus had the least stringent policies (16.7 and 18.5, respectively, on the 0-100 scale) while Croatia (96.3) and Serbia (100) had the most stringent. The most common policies implemented across countries included cancellation of public events (35 countries), school closures (33), restrictions on gatherings (31), workplace closures (31), border closures (27), restrictions on internal movement (25) and closure of public transportation (18) ([CDC 1/23-6/30](#)).



In other international results:

In the Netherlands, 82 percent plan to get vaccinated, up from 69 percent in December, including 63 percent who “certainly” plan to do so, up from 41 percent. Just 36 percent support making vaccination compulsory. Four in 10 want the country’s current lockdown to be maintained and

an additional 33 percent want it tightened further, compared with a quarter who want the lockdown to be relaxed (19 percent) or stopped entirely (6 percent). In a separate question focused less on personal preferences, eight in 10 say an extension of the current lockdown is acceptable. Seventy-two percent support the way the government is dealing with coronavirus measures, up from 66 percent in December ([I&O Research 1/8-1/11](#)).

In Bulgaria, three in 10 intend to get vaccinated, 23 percent are hesitant and undecided and 46 percent do not intend to get the vaccine. Vaccination rates in the country are low in general and 48 percent say the COVID-19 vaccines specifically are dangerous; an additional 18 percent are unsure ([Gallup Bulgaria 1/6-1/8](#)).

In Hungary, 45 percent say they will get vaccinated, up from 35 percent last month. Sixty-two percent are satisfied with the government's response to the pandemic ([Nézőpont 1/5-1/7](#)).

In Germany, 54 percent say they definitely want to be vaccinated, up sharply from 37 percent in early November. An additional 21 percent say they probably will get vaccinated. Fifty-two percent think the vaccine rollout has been too slow; 36 percent think it's been appropriate and 8 percent say it's been too fast. Seven in 10 approve of the European Union's decision to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers together rather than as separate countries. Nearly three-quarters oppose giving those who are vaccinated special rights, e.g., when traveling on vacation or going to a restaurant.

Fifty-three percent think the existing restrictive measures in the country are appropriate, down from 69 percent in mid-December. Instead, three in 10 do not think they go far enough, up from 16 percent (and 17 percent think they go too far, essentially unchanged). The restrictions were set to expire Jan. 10; 47 percent said they should be extended as is and an additional 32 percent said they should be tightened, while 18 percent thought they should be eased. Half think Germany will be able to return to normal without any coronavirus restrictions by the end of the year, but four in 10 expect it will be 2022 at the earliest ([ARD/Infratest-Dimap 1/4-1/6](#)).

In Brazil, three-quarters intend to get vaccinated, 16 percent do not and 9 percent didn't say. This is an increase over the six in 10 who, in a different question, said in December they would definitely get vaccinated. Six in 10 say their employment or source of income has been impaired because of the pandemic and 57 percent say they or someone they are close to have gotten sick with COVID-19, both essentially unchanged since last month ([PoderData 1/4-1/6](#)).

In India, infection concerns have subsided; six in 10 disagree that they are afraid that they or someone in their family may catch the coronavirus, a new high. More than half continue to believe the threat from the virus is exaggerated, essentially unchanged since the fall. More than three-quarters agree that the Indian government is handling the coronavirus well, also unchanged in recent months ([CVoter 1/4](#)).

In Great Britain, 85 percent say it's very or fairly likely they'll get vaccinated, up from 78 percent in mid-December. Forty-one percent say that over the past week they'd stayed at home or left only for work, exercise, essential shopping or medical needs, up from 32 percent the week before. Eight in 10 support mass testing for COVID-19, which is now being performed in some

communities, and seven in 10 say that if such testing were available in their area, they would be likely to get a test even if they had no symptoms. Both are essentially unchanged.

Forty-four percent say they formed an exclusive Christmas “bubble” during the holidays. More, 55 percent, say they stayed at home with their household. Of the rest, two in 10 visited family or friends in their homes but did not stay over, 15 percent had family or friends visit during the day, one in 10 traveled more than 30 minutes by car to visit with friends or family, 5 percent stayed overnight with friends or family and 3 percent had friends or family spend the night at their home. Eighteen percent said they found it difficult to follow the government’s Christmas rules. Of them, 48 percent said it was because they had already made plans before the government changed the rules ([Office for National Statistics 12/22-1/3](#)).

In Kenya, in a mid-December poll, 41 percent said that once a vaccine is available for free they will be among the first to go get it, 47 percent intended to wait and see about side effects and 11 percent did not intend to get it at all. Fifty-four percent were very confident the vaccines will be safe and effective. Sixty-three percent were at least somewhat worried about contracting COVID-19. Thirty-six percent said they know at least one person who has been infected, and nearly as many – 32 percent – know someone who has died from it ([Tifa Research 12/8-12/19](#)).

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

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