



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 16, 2021

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

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Americans continue to reemerge from the coronavirus pandemic amid rising vaccination rates, with the numbers staying home and avoiding public places, including restaurants, at pandemic lows. Still, a significant minority remains unwilling to get inoculated.

Additional pandemic-related polls released this week show an unprecedented surge in consumer confidence, indicate that nearly two-thirds feel it is safe for students to return to K-12 schools and find divisions on issues including vaccine certificates and mandates for workers and college students. Looking back, three-quarters think many U.S. coronavirus deaths could have been avoided.

Other results explore the financial and mental health impacts of the pandemic, investigate experiences with youth sports leagues, document a surge in overdose deaths following the nationwide lockdown and show racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 hospitalizations.

### Vaccines

In ongoing tracking, three-quarters of Americans say they've received a vaccine or are very or somewhat likely to get one when available, essentially unchanged since last week but up from about two-thirds in mid-February. About half say they've received at least one dose ([USC UAS 4/15](#)). (Nearly all interviews were completed before the Johnson & Johnson vaccine halt April 13. The other surveys cited in this section preceded it entirely.)

In another poll, 21 percent continue to say it is likely they never will get the vaccine if they can avoid it, little changed from 24 percent in January and March. The rest of those not yet vaccinated divide between saying they will get it as soon as they're allowed (14 percent) and planning to let other people get it first to see how it goes (12 percent).

Republicans remain far more likely than Democrats to say they likely won't get vaccinated, 43 vs. 5 percent. Those younger than 65 also are more likely to be reluctant than seniors, 25 vs. 11 percent. Women are more likely than men to say they've already been vaccinated, 56 vs. 45 percent, as are those with a college degree compared with those without one, 64 vs. 45 percent;

Democrats compared with Republicans, 67 vs. 36 percent; and white people compared with those of another race or ethnic identity, 54 vs. 45 percent ([Monmouth 4/8-4/12](#)).

A different poll (and question) finds the number who say they are not planning to get vaccinated even higher, at 27 percent. This also peaks among Republicans (45 percent) and is higher among those age 18-49, Midwesterners and rural Americans, compared with their counterparts.

More than seven in 10 (72 percent) think the Biden administration has done an excellent or good job managing the manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to Americans. Fewer – 43 percent – retrospectively rate the Trump administration positively on this, although a majority (55 percent) positively evaluates the Trump administration for supporting the development of COVID-19 vaccines by pharmaceutical companies ([Pew 4/5-4/11](#)).

The public is split when it comes to a credential or “vaccine passport” to prove an individual has been vaccinated – 49 percent think it’s a good idea, 45 percent say it’s a bad idea. There’s also division on whether businesses should require employees to be vaccinated – 50 percent oppose this while 45 percent support it. And there’s essentially an even split on whether universities should require students to get vaccinated, 49-48 percent, support-oppose ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)).

### Safety & Concerns

Nearly two-thirds think it is safe for students to attend elementary, middle or high schools in person. Fewer, 52 percent, say they would feel safe dining indoors at a restaurant operating at full capacity at this time. Fewer still say they would feel safe getting on a full airplane (46 percent) or going to a large sports or entertainment event at full capacity (41 percent).

Fifty-seven percent are concerned about another surge in COVID-19 cases, with concern highest among Democrats (85 percent), Black people (72 percent), seniors (69 percent) and women (68 percent) ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)). However, the share overall who say the coronavirus is “a very big problem” has declined 11 points since June to 47 percent ([Pew 4/5-4/11](#)).

### Daily Life

Half say they’ve visited a friend, neighbor or relative or had visitors at their residence in the past week, essentially steady from last week but up from about four in 10 in February. A quarter have attended a gathering with more than 10 people and one in six has visited a bar, club or other gathering place, also unchanged since last week.

A third have stayed home except for essential activities or exercise, a pandemic low. Sixty-five percent have avoided public spaces, gatherings or crowds in the past week and 52 percent have avoided restaurants, both also pandemic lows. In February, seven in 10 or more reported avoiding public spaces and more than six in 10 avoided restaurants.

About nine in 10 apiece say they’ve washed their hands several times a day and worn a mask or other face covering in the past week to keep safe from the coronavirus ([USC UAS 4/15](#)). Still,

many fewer, 53 percent, think all states should have a mandatory mask order, with 45 percent opposed. ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)).

### Summer Plans

Sixteen percent of Americans don't plan on taking a summer vacation this year because of concerns about COVID-19, peaking among Democrats (26 percent), Black people (24 percent), women (24 percent) and Hispanic people (23 percent). Just 6 percent of Republicans and 8 percent of men say the same ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)).

### Mental Health Impacts

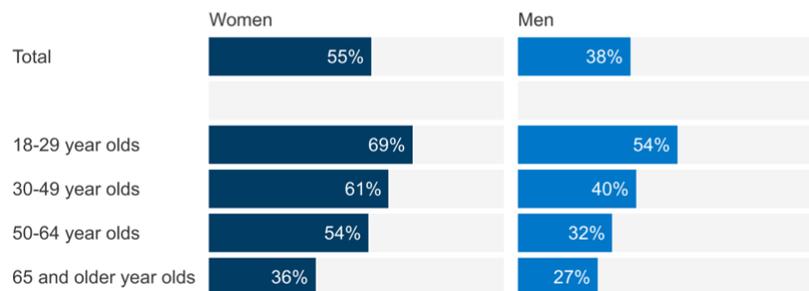
Additional results from a mid-March poll show that the pandemic has particularly impacted the mental health of young people, Black adults and women, including mothers. Among the results:

- Overall, 47 percent said that worry or stress related to the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health, including a quarter who say it's had a major impact.
- Echoing results reported by the [National Center for Health Statistics](#), young adults (age 18-29) were the most apt to report a major or minor impact on their mental health – 61 percent, including 69 percent of women in that age group. This compares with a third of seniors overall and about a quarter of senior men.

- Three in 10 young adults, women, Black people and mothers reported a major impact. By contrast, 14 percent of seniors, 17 percent of fathers, 18 percent of men and 23 percent of whites said the same.

#### Nearly Seven In Ten Women Under Age 30 Report A Negative Mental Health Impact From Pandemic; Fewer Older Adults Say The Same

Percent who say they feel that worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a **negative impact** on their mental health:



NOTE: See topline for full question wording.  
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (March 15-22, 2021)

[KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor](#)

- Consistent with these impacts, women, younger adults and Black people were among the most likely to be concerned that they or someone in their family will get sick from the coronavirus.

- About a third of those who report mental health impacts said there was a time in the past year when they thought they might need mental health services or medication but did not get them. This includes nearly half (46 percent) of mothers who reported adverse impacts of the pandemic on their mental health ([KFF 3/15-3/22](#)).

## Economic Impacts

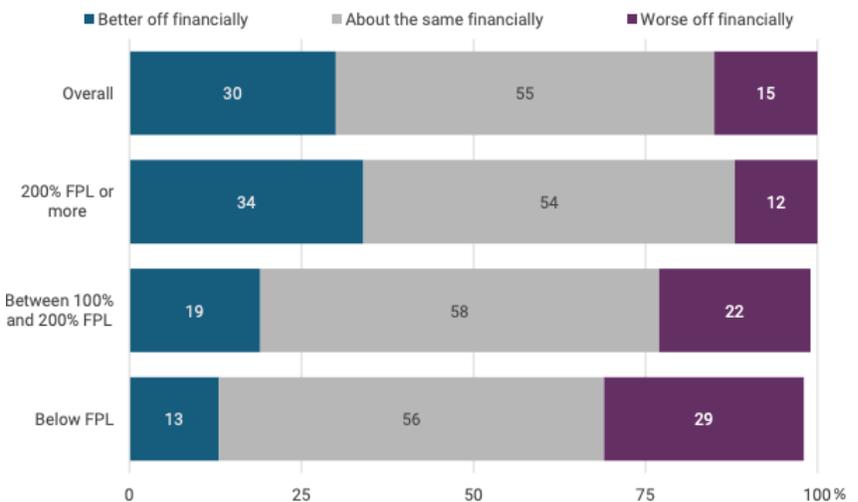
A weekly measure of consumer sentiment has posted its strongest year-to-date growth in 35 years of weekly data, up 10.7 points (on a 0-100 scale) in the past three months to a pandemic high, 53.9. That includes 66.9 for Americans' ratings of their own finances, 48.3 for ratings of the buying climate and 46.5 for ratings of the national economy, all also at pandemic highs. The overall Consumer Comfort Index is up 19.2 points from its pandemic low last spring, but still 9.1 points off its pre-pandemic level ([CCI 4/11/21](#)).

Sixty-eight percent say they're optimistic about their financial future, vs. 26 percent pessimistic. Thirty-five percent rate the nation's economy positively, up from 26 percent in early February. The public divides 35-34 percent on whether the economy is getting better or worse, while three in 10 think it is staying the same ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)).

In a poll conducted mostly in February, three in 10 said their personal finances had improved during the pandemic and 55 percent said theirs had held steady. More than half said they've been able to save money, including nearly a quarter who said they're saving more than \$500 a month.

Fifteen percent said they were worse off financially than they were before the pandemic. This includes three in 10 of those who were living below the federal poverty line before the pandemic ([Impact Genome/AP-NORC 2/12-3/3](#)).

**Fifteen percent of Americans are financially worse off than they were a year ago.**  
Percent of adults



Question: How has your financial situation changed in the past 12 months?  
Source: Impact Genome/AP-NORC poll conducted February 12 - March 3, 2021, with 2,374 adults age 18 and older nationwide.

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## Job Losses

A comparison of unemployment data from the United States and the European Union finds that many more Americans lost jobs during the pandemic than their EU counterparts, despite the EU having a larger population. The analysis estimates that roughly 9.6 million workers in the United States (age 16 to 64) lost their jobs in the first three quarters of 2020, compared with about 2.6 million workers in the EU (age 15 to 64).

In the United States, the unemployment rate increased from 3.8 percent in 2019 to 8.6 percent in 2020, while in the EU it increased from 6.9 to 7.1 percent. Unemployment rose more among women than men in the United States, but not in the EU. Impacts were greatest on younger workers, particularly in the United States. Declines in workforce participation were similar.

The authors suggest that the EU's focus on employment retention schemes, vs. the United States' focus on stimulus checks and unemployment benefits, may have played a role ([Pew](#)).

### Youth Sports

Newly released results from poll done in January find that about a quarter of children age 6-18 participated in school, private or community sports from August to January. Among parents who said their child did not participate in sports, a third cited COVID-19 cancellations and a quarter felt it was not safe to play because of the pandemic.

Among those whose child did participate, nine in 10 received information from the school or sports league about mask and social distancing guidelines for players and parents/spectators. About eight in 10 received information on what to do in cases of COVID-19 infection or exposure. Fewer, six in 10, received information on when players should get tested.

Most rated their child's school or sports league as excellent or good in terms of treating children fairly (87 percent), giving clear information about COVID-19 precautions (86 percent), listening to parents' concerns (83 percent) and consistent enforcement of precautions (72 percent). Nearly three-quarters viewed the precautions as about right; 14 percent thought they were too lenient, 13 percent, too strict ([CS Mott Children's Hospital 1/21](#)).

### Excess Deaths

An updated analysis indicates that 545,600 to 660,200 excess deaths occurred in the United States from Jan. 26, 2020 through Feb. 27, 2021. Excess deaths peaked during the weeks ending April 11, 2020, Aug. 1, 2020 and Jan. 2, 2021. Approximately 75 to 88 percent of these excess deaths were directly associated with COVID-19 ([CDC](#)).

### Overdose Deaths

Newly released CDC estimates indicate that more than 87,000 Americans died of drug overdoses from September 2019 to September 2020, a 29 percent increase compared with the previous 12-month period and the most since the opioid epidemic began in the 1990s. The biggest jump in deaths occurred in April and May when many cities were locked down and job losses were soaring. The increase was driven primarily by abuse of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, as well as polydrug overdoses involving amphetamines ([CDC](#), [New York Times](#)).

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Hispanic patients had the highest proportion of hospitalizations for COVID-19, according to a CDC analysis of more than 3.7 million hospital discharges from 655 hospitals across the United States from March to December 2020. Racial and ethnic differences were the largest from May to July, then eased as hospitalizations increased among white people, although disparities remained. Regionally, across the 10-month period, the share of Hispanic patients hospitalized

with COVID-19 was 3.9 times higher than for white patients in the West, 2.8 times higher in the South and 2.7 times higher in the Northeast and Midwest alike ([CDC 3/20-12/20](#)).

A separate CDC analysis of emergency care data from October to December 2020 also finds racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations. In data from 13 states (Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin), the rate of emergency department care visits for COVID-19 among American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic people was 1.7 times that of white adults. Among Black adults, the rate was 1.4 times higher. The authors stress that emergency department data can identify disproportional effects of COVID-19 in near-real time and help communities address inequities by prioritizing vaccination in affected groups ([CDC 10/20-12/20](#)).

### Pandemic Response

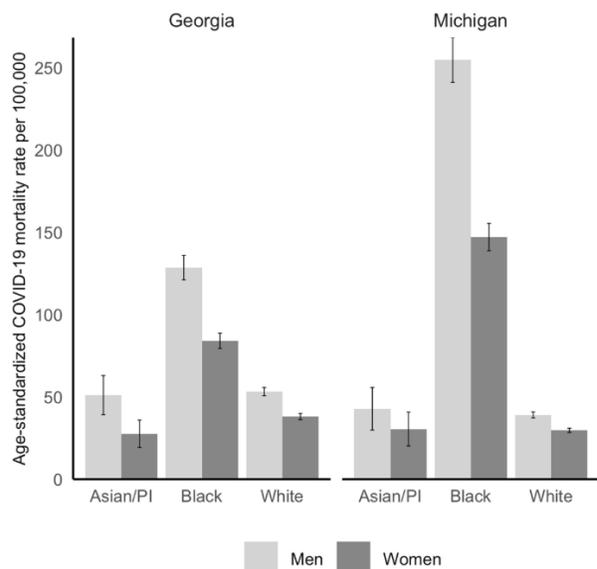
Three-quarters of American think that while some COVID-19 deaths in the United States in the past year were inevitable, many could have been avoided; 17 percent call them inevitable. More than nine in 10 Democrats (96 percent) and Black people (93 percent) think many of the deaths were avoidable.

Sixty-four percent approve of the way President Biden is handling the response to the coronavirus, up 6 percentage points since February ([Quinnipiac 4/8-4/12](#)). Sixty-two percent say their state governor has done a good job handling the outbreak, up 6 points since March. Fewer – 43 percent – think the American public has done a good job, up 8 points.

Sixty-three percent support the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package that was enacted last month, essentially unchanged since March ([Monmouth 4/8-4/12](#)). It's 67 percent in another poll, in which the public by 55-26 percent thinks its overall effect will be mostly positive rather than negative for the country, and, by 49-14 percent, mostly positive for their family ([Pew 4/5-4/11](#)).

### State Results

An analysis of COVID-19 mortality data from Georgia and Michigan through Sept. 21 found that Black men had the highest mortality rate by far, but Black women also had a higher mortality rate than white men, white women and Asian/Pacific Islander men and women. The authors found that the previously documented gender difference in mortality – with men more likely to die from COVID-19 than women – largely was due to a stark gap among Black people. The gender difference in mortality among whites and Asians was far slimmer, suggesting the need for future research to look



at outcomes broken down by gender within race/ethnicity groupings ([Rushovich et al., 2021](#)).

In Ohio, fatal overdoses rose sharply during the nationwide lockdown, from 85 the week after the declaration of a national emergency to a peak of 145 the week of May 31, a 71 percent increase and 77 percent higher than in the same week the previous year. Fatal overdoses then fell to 80 by mid-August, comparable to previous years. Fentanyl-related deaths accounted for 74 percent of the total fatal overdoses and were the only ones to surge during the lockdown. Deaths spiked across age groups, but the largest jump occurred among those younger than 25 ([Currie et al., 2021](#)).

### International Results

In the Netherlands, 16 percent say they've been vaccinated, 8 percent have an appointment, 57 percent plan to get vaccinated and 14 percent say they definitely or probably will not. Thirty-eight percent of those who have yet to be vaccinated say they don't care what brand they receive. However, half say the brand makes a difference to them and 12 percent are unsure; among them, only half say they'd like to be vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine, compared with roughly eight in 10 for the Biontech/Pfizer, Moderna or J&J vaccines. (This poll was conducted before use of the J&J vaccine was halted in the United States.) Fifty-eight percent think people should be able to choose for themselves which vaccine they receive. Four in 10 support the current vaccination policy in the country, down from half in February; 55 percent have a negative view of the way vaccinations have been organized and carried out ([I&O Research 4/9-4/12](#)).

A separate analysis finds that 64 percent of Dutch people want lockdown measures to be eased or lifted entirely, up from 59 percent in early March. Eight in 10 support relaxing visitation limits to allow two guests, 72 percent support opening colleges and universities with rapid testing and about two-thirds back opening terraces (66 percent), out-of-school care (65 percent) and shops (64 percent). Six in 10 support lifting the curfew. Still, 61 percent support the way in which the government deals with the coronavirus measures in general, essentially unchanged ([I&O Research 4/9-4/12](#)).

In India, where cases have risen sharply, more than eight in 10 agree that they'll get a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available, three-quarters agree that the vaccine is important, seven in 10 agree that the vaccine will be safe and effective, six in 10 agree that the country in which the vaccine is manufactured would have no impact on their uptake and a similar share agree that vaccines are compatible with their religious beliefs. Nearly three-quarters say it's at least somewhat likely that they would be willing to participate in a vaccine trial in India.

More than four in 10 agree that they are worried that they or someone else in their family may catch the virus, up from about a quarter in February, before the recent surge. However, more than half continue to agree that the threat from the coronavirus is exaggerated, essentially unchanged in recent months. Three-quarters agree that the Indian government is handling the pandemic well, down from more than eight in 10 in mid-February ([CVoter 4/11](#)).

In Chile, where cases continue to rise, approval of the government's handling of the pandemic fell again, now to 35 percent, down 23 points in six weeks. Sixty-eight percent are afraid of

getting infected, up 5 points in the past week. Half (49 percent) say they've been vaccinated, including 28 percent who have received both doses ([Cadem 4/7-4/8](#)).

In Canada, ratings of the job the federal government is doing with the vaccine rollout have declined since February from 5.7 to 4.9 on a 0-10 scale. Ratings of the provincial government's performance also have declined, from 6.4 to 5.7 ([Nanos 3/27-3/30](#)).

In Bulgaria, a quarter have postponed at least one planned domestic trip or vacation in the past year because of the pandemic and 22 percent have postponed one or more planned trips abroad. Nearly half of those who plan to travel abroad in the coming months say they'll postpone if the coronavirus situation does not improve, as do a third of those who plan travel within Bulgaria. Sixty-three percent say they've been avoiding crowded places because of the virus. Half are in favor of vaccine passports, 43 percent opposed. Nearly a third say they have had the coronavirus or have received both doses of a vaccine ([Gallup Bulgaria 3/18-3/24](#)).

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

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