



COVID-19 Survey Summary: August 13, 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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As students head back to school, polls this week find that about four in 10 parents of vaccine-eligible adolescents have gotten their child a shot, with substantial hesitation among the rest.

Concerns among parents are broad. Roughly six in 10 say they don't have enough information on possible coronavirus vaccine side effects and efficacy in children. While about six in 10 say becoming infected by the virus is a greater risk to their child's health than getting vaccinated, one in three sees vaccination as a bigger risk.

At the same time, another study finds that support for public schools opening for fully in-person learning without social distancing and masking requirements has dropped sharply in the face of the Delta surge.

Among other newly released pandemic-related surveys, one finds that a quarter of renters have little confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent; another underscores racial/ethnic disparities in sharply higher drug overdose deaths; a third anticipates that many activities, such as spending time outdoors and mask wearing when sick, may endure; a fourth shows a big jump since 2019 in ordering groceries online; and others find mixed reviews of the CDC and politicians in their handling of the pandemic overall.

Other analyses find that the vaccines provide enhanced protection against reinfection from the virus and detail an outbreak of the Delta variant in Mesa County, Colorado. We also include international results this week from Canada, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Japan and Russia.

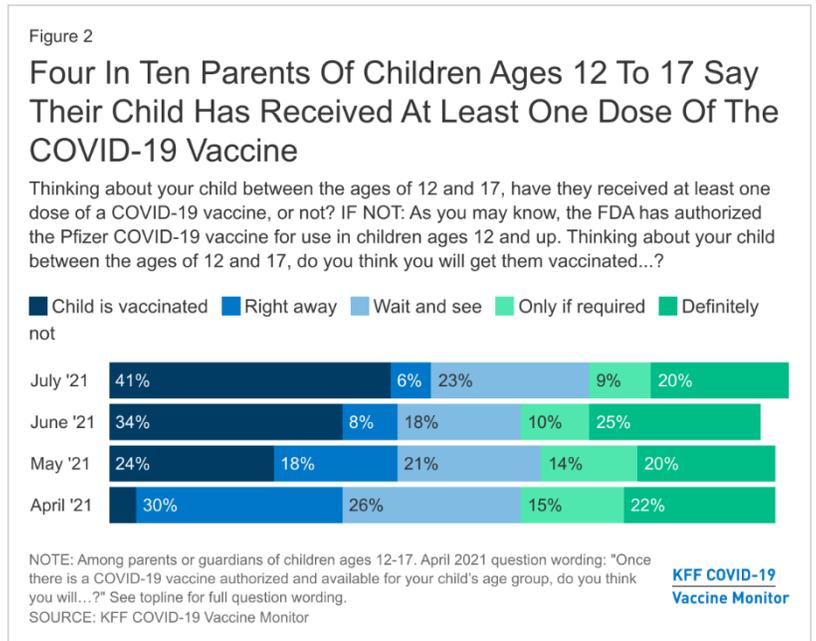
Vaccines

Sixty-eight percent of adults in one study (done in July) and 69 percent of registered voters in another say they've received at least one vaccine dose, in line with other estimates ([Washington Post-Schar School 7/6-7/21](#); [Fox News 8/7-8/10](#)). A third survey, which consistently has projected higher rates, estimates that 82 percent have received a shot, up a point since early July ([U.S. Census Bureau 7/21-8/2](#)). The [CDC estimates](#) uptake at 71 percent, with a slight rise since mid-July, coinciding with a surge in cases caused by the Delta variant.

Among parents of 12- to 17-year-olds, 41 percent say their child has received a shot, up from 34 percent in June ([KFF 7/15-8/2](#)). The [CDC estimates](#) 43 percent uptake among 12- to 15-year-olds and 53 percent among those 16-17, each up 2 points in the past week.

Beyond those already vaccinated, just 6 percent in the KFF survey say they'll get the vaccine for their child right away, 23 percent prefer to wait and see and the rest either rule it out (20 percent) or say they'll act only if required (9 percent).

There's also substantial hesitancy among parents of children who are not yet eligible. Just 26 percent of parents of 5- to 11-year-olds say they'll have their child vaccinated as soon as it's authorized for that age group, and it's two in 10 among parents of children younger than five. Four in 10 in both groups prefer to wait and see; one in 10 will act if required, with the rest saying they definitely will not get their child vaccinated – 25 percent of parents with kids 5-11 and 30 percent of those with under-5s.



As in previous [studies](#), vaccination of children corresponds with parents' own status, but with shortfalls even among parents who've been vaccinated. Sixty percent of vaccinated parents say their 12- to 17-year-old has received a shot; it's 4 percent among unvaccinated parents. Generally following adult patterns, vaccination of children is higher among Democratic parents (61 percent), those in households earning \$90,000 or more (55 percent), and college graduates (54 percent), compared with parents who are Republicans (24 percent), have incomes less than \$40,000 (26 percent) or are younger than 40 (30 percent) ([KFF 7/15-8/2](#)).

Vaccine Concerns Among Parents

Expressed concerns are extensive among parents with eligible children who have yet to be vaccinated. Eighty-eight percent in this group are very or somewhat concerned that not enough is known about the long-term effects of coronavirus vaccines in children, 79 percent about the chance of serious side effects, 73 percent about their child's fertility and 65 percent about an unwelcome mandate.

Overall, 62 percent of parents of 12- to 17-year-olds think that becoming infected with the coronavirus would be a bigger risk to their child's health than getting vaccinated. But 34 percent think the vaccine is a bigger risk, more than doubling to 73 percent of parents who have not gotten a shot themselves.

A third of parents of adolescents say their child has voiced concerns to them about getting vaccinated. Among them, 29 percent say it was about possible side effects, 13 percent about possible long-term effects and 11 percent say their child just doesn't want to get a shot.

Lower-level worries, cited by 3 to 7 percent, include the vaccines' safety overall, needle aversion, distrust in vaccines, doubts about whether it's necessary and concerns about its efficacy.

In other concerns, about half of parents of children age 12-17 are very or somewhat worried about their child getting seriously sick from the coronavirus, that their child will catch the virus and pass it along to someone else in their family or that they themselves will pass the virus to their child. Results are similar among parents of children younger than 12.

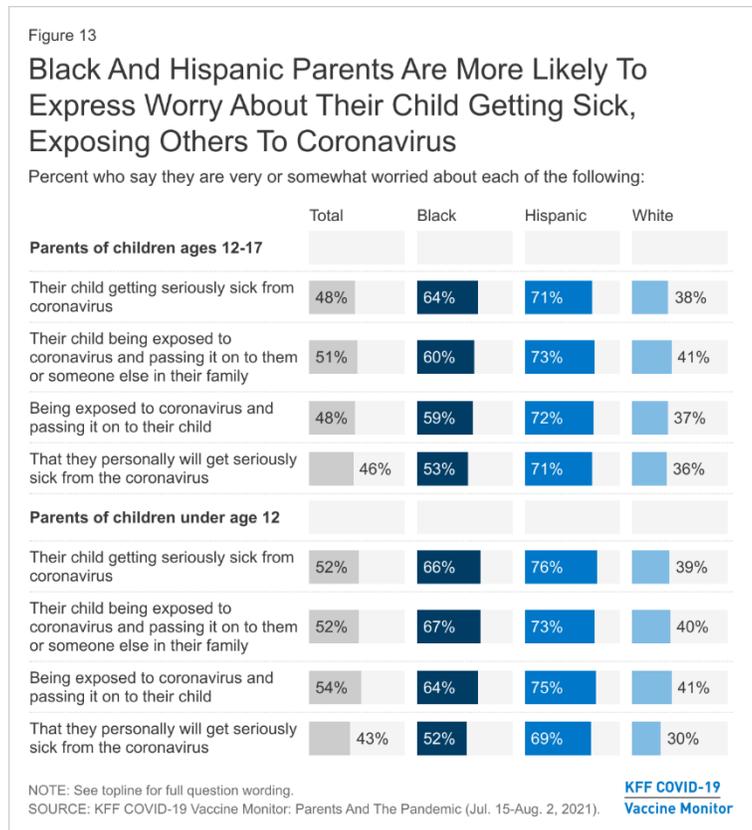
Hispanic parents are particularly apt to cite these concerns, and Black parents also do so at a higher rate than white parents ([KFF 7/15-8/2](#)).

K-12 Education

Thirty-six percent of registered voters say their local public schools should resume fully in-person classes without restrictions, down from 51 percent in May. A third say they should be open for in-person classes but with social distancing and masking in place; 21 percent think there should be a mixture of in-person and remote classes; and 7 percent volunteer that school should be fully remote, up from 1 percent in May ([Fox News 8/7-8/10](#)).

Corresponding with results [last week](#), 54 percent of parents of school-age children do not think schools should institute a vaccine mandate even if the vaccines are approved by the FDA; 45 percent favor such a mandate. That said, most parents think their child's school should require unvaccinated students and staff to wear masks at school, 63-36 percent ([KFF 7/15-8/2](#)). And among registered voters overall, 54 percent say school districts should be allowed to require students to wear a mask or provide proof of a vaccine for in-person learning, with 31 percent opposed ([Fox News 8/7-8/10](#)).

Among parents of children who are eligible to get vaccinated, 58 percent oppose a vaccine mandate. Just 7 percent say one is in place at their child's school. Eighty-seven percent say their



school has not asked about their child’s vaccination status. Forty percent say the school has encouraged them to get their child vaccinated and 42 percent say it’s given them information on how to do that.

Daily Life

Hesitancy to return to pre-pandemic activities was apparent even before the worst of the Delta surge. In interviews in July, about a third of adults were concerned about the coronavirus in terms of attending a large sports event, going to a crowded indoor gathering or going to a movie theater; 22 percent said the same about a crowded outdoor gathering. One in 10 or fewer expressed concern about eating indoors at a restaurant, getting a haircut or visiting a doctor.

Three in 10 Americans at the time said their life had returned fully to its pre-pandemic norm, ranging from 48 percent of Republicans to 15 percent of Democrats ([Washington Post-Schar School 7/6-7/21](#)). More recent data reported [last week](#) found a rise in concern about resuming pre-pandemic activities.

Enduring Effects?

In July interviews, many Americans indicated possible lasting impacts to their behavior.

Seventy-three percent said they planned to spend more time outdoors after the pandemic, 67 percent to wear masks when sick and 66 percent to wear comfortable clothing more often. Forty-six percent planned to socialize with family or friends virtually after the pandemic, 43 percent said they’ll wear masks in crowded places and 41 percent planned to have telehealth appointments with doctors.

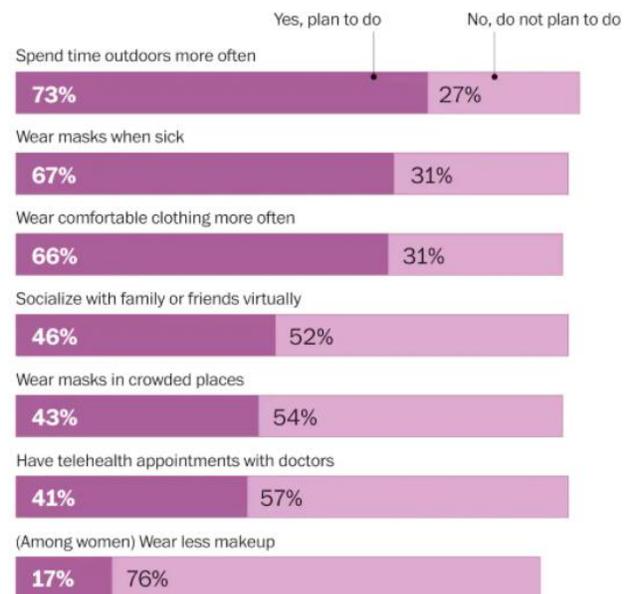
More than half of Republicans, 56 percent, said they’d wear masks when sick after the pandemic, as did eight in 10 Democrats ([Washington Post-Schar School 7/6-7/21](#)).

Another poll, also in July, shows impacts on buying behavior. Twenty-three percent of adults said they ordered groceries online for pickup or delivery at least monthly, twice the share who did so in 2019. Takeout and delivery of meals increased slightly, to 74 percent, vs. 70 percent two years ago.

Conversely, the share eating out at a restaurant at least once a month was down 13 points from two years ago, to 74 percent. Frequent

Once the pandemic ends, most Americans plan to spend more time outdoors, keep masks on when they’re sick and wear more comfortable clothing

Q: After the pandemic ends, do you plan to ____?



Note: "No opinion" not shown.

Source: July 6-21, 2021, Washington Post-Schar School of Policy and Government poll of 469-531 U.S. adults with a margin of sampling error of +/- 5.5 percentage points

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diners – those who eat out more than once a week – were down 7 points to 17 percent ([Gallup 7/6-7/21](#)).

Information Sources

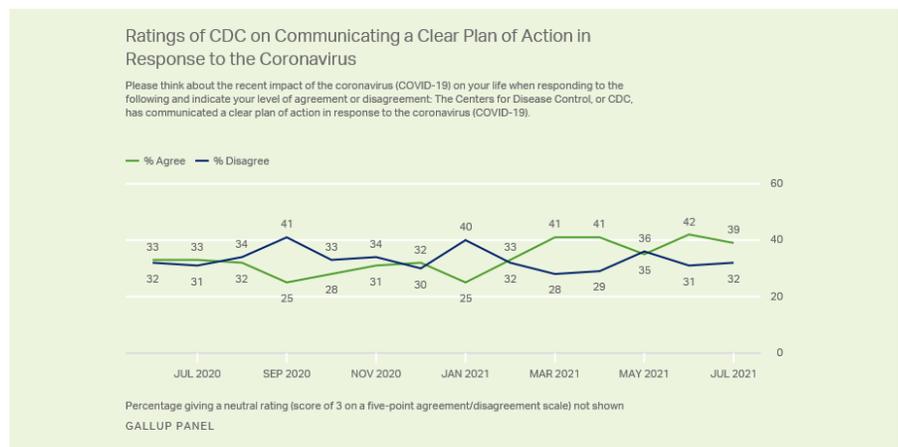
Six in 10 parents of school-age children feel they do not have enough information on possible side effects of coronavirus vaccines in children; 57 percent say the same for the vaccines' effectiveness. Lack of information peaks among Black and Hispanic parents, younger adults, those without a college degree and those in lower-income households.

Seventy-eight percent of parents say they trust their child's pediatrician a great deal or fair amount to provide them with reliable information about the vaccines. Still, only three in 10 have spoken with their pediatrician about getting their child a shot, including 35 percent parents of vaccine eligible 12- to 17-year-olds.

Among other sources, two-thirds of parents trust the CDC to provide them with reliable information about the vaccines, 62 percent trust their local public health department and 58 percent trust their health insurance company. Fifty-three percent trust their employer; fewer trust their child's school or day care provider (44 percent) or other parents (38 percent) for vaccine information.

Parents of eligible yet unvaccinated children are less trusting generally. Still, about two-thirds trust their child's pediatrician; about half trust the CDC and their public health department ([KFF 7/15-8/2](#)).

Among Americans overall, views of the CDC are mixed, in line with results [last week](#). In interviews preceding the CDC's reversal in mask guidance for vaccinated adults, 39 percent agreed that it had communicated a clear plan of action in response to the coronavirus, 29 percent were neutral and 32 percent disagreed. Views of the CDC's performance have varied – more positive when the pandemic situation was improving, more negative when it's worsened or after policy shifts.



Joe Biden and state governors received higher marks than the CDC for their communication: Forty-eight percent agreed that Biden had conveyed a clear plan of action, while 35 percent disagreed; it was 46 vs. 31 percent for governors ([Gallup 7/19-7/26](#)).

Government Response

Registered voters approve of how Biden is handling the pandemic by 54-42 percent, down from 64-34 percent in June. Asked about the federal government's changes in coronavirus guidance, 46 percent say they have more to do with politics, vs. 42 percent who say they chiefly reflect new information. Ten percent say both ([Fox News 8/7-8/10](#)).

In July, Americans were more apt to agree than disagree that Biden had the right approach to dealing with the pandemic, 46 vs. 36 percent; ditto for the CDC, 42 vs. 31 percent. Views of governors were more mixed, 41-37 percent. That includes 47-33 percent for Democratic governors and 41-36 percent for Republican governors ([Gallup 7/19-7/26](#)).

Housing Insecurity

Preceding Biden's temporary extension of an eviction moratorium last week, 14 percent of Americans living in rental properties said they were not caught up on payments and a quarter were not at all or only slightly confident in their ability to make next month's rent. Forty-five percent of those behind on payments said it was likely they would be evicted in the next two months.

Among Americans overall, 6 percent were both behind on rent or mortgage payments and had minimal confidence their household could make next month's payment on time, steady since March. Among those in a household not current on their rent or mortgage, 33 percent said their chance of eviction or foreclosure within the next two months was likely, down a slight 3 points since early July to match its average in polls since August 2020 ([U.S. Census Bureau 7/21-8/2](#)).

Delta Variant

In Colorado, a newly released study assesses cases amid the Delta surge. As of June 6, Mesa County, with less than 3 percent of the state's population, accounted for 51 percent of its confirmed Delta cases just five weeks after the variant first was detected in the county. Estimated vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection was 78 percent in Mesa County in the two weeks ending June 5, vs 89 percent in the rest of the state. In terms of breakthrough cases, the proportion of vaccinated adults age 65 or older who were infected was higher in Mesa County than in other counties, 28 vs. 17 percent. The authors speculate that reduced vaccine efficacy in Mesa County might have resulted from modestly lower vaccine protection against the Delta variant or, alternatively, because the virus was circulating more widely there ([CDC 4/27-6/6](#)).

Protection Against Reinfection

A Kentucky study finds that being fully vaccinated provides additional protection against reinfection among those who've previously caught the virus. The study included adults who were infected in 2020 and had a reinfection in May or June 2021; cases were matched with a control group of those who were not reinfected. Unvaccinated adults with previous infections had 2.34 times the odds of reinfection compared with those who were fully vaccinated ([CDC 5/1-6/30](#)).

Overdose Deaths

A new analysis underscores racial/ethnic disparities in sharply rising drug overdose deaths, which, as reported [previously](#), jumped by 30 percent in 2020, primarily due to opioids. It finds that rates of increase were larger among American Indian and Alaska Native, Black and Hispanic people compared with whites, according to provisional CDC data. Overdose mortality rates in 2020 were highest among AIAN (29.8 per 100,000) and Black people (27.3 per 100,000), followed by whites (23.6 per 100,000) and Hispanics (12.8 per 100,000) ([KFF 8/12](#)).

State and Local Results

Just 38 percent of New York residents say the pandemic situation is getting better in the state, down from 69 percent in February. A third think it's getting worse, up from 10 percent, while a quarter think it's staying about the same ([Marist 8/4-8/10](#)).

In Wisconsin, 68 percent of registered voters say they've received at least one dose of a vaccine, about the same as nationally. Among the unvaccinated, about two in 10 say they definitely (8 percent) or probably will get vaccinated (14 percent), while 27 percent say they probably won't get a shot and 49 percent rule it out altogether.

Voters approve of Biden's handling of the pandemic by 54-42 percent; it's a similar 54-39 percent for Gov. Tony Evers, steady since October. Asked to reflect on school and business closures enacted in the past year, 62 percent think they were an appropriate response to the pandemic, down from 68 percent in October and 86 percent in March 2020. Thirty-five percent say they were an overreaction that caused more harm than good ([Marquette Law School 8/3-8/8](#)).

About two in 10 residents of the Washington, D.C., area said in July that they had returned fully to their pre-pandemic life, compared with three in 10 adults nationally. Roughly four in 10 were concerned about participating in various public activities. When the pandemic is over, most expected to return to their pre-pandemic routines ([Washington Post-Schar School 7/6-7/21](#)).

International Results

Ninety-three percent in Great Britain have received at least one vaccine dose. Nine in 10 say they're likely to get a booster shot if offered. Sixty-two percent report that they met up indoors with someone not in their household, up 7 points in a week and a steep 42 points since May 6, before restrictions on indoor gatherings were eased. Use of face coverings outside the home is down a slight 3 points to a still vast 92 percent; the share who always or often maintain social distancing is down 8 points to 53 percent ([Office for National Statistics 7/28-8/1](#)).

German voters are becoming more receptive to vaccination: Eighty-three percent say they're vaccinated (71 percent) or definitely will get a shot (12 percent), up 8 points since May. About one in 10 remains unwilling; of them, 69 percent cite unknown potential health consequences. The country is split on the question of a vaccine mandate, 46-50 percent, approve-disapprove.

Germans are more open to vaccination incentives: Two-thirds of voters support exempting vaccinated people from restrictions and 61 percent support ending subsidized rapid tests for the unvaccinated. Half say current measures are appropriate, down 10 points since June. Twenty-one percent think they don't go far enough, up 8 points since June, while a quarter say they go too far ([ARD/Infratest Dimap 8/2-8/4](#)).

In Chile, the vaccination rate held steady for the fourth week in a row, with 90 percent saying they've received at least one dose, 88 percent two doses. Approval of the government's handling of pandemic hit a peak of 63 percent, up 6 points in a week. Half are somewhat or more worried about catching the virus, nearly matching the low two weeks ago ([Cadem 8/4-8/6](#)).

Reversing pre-event skepticism, 56 percent of Japanese voters approve of the decision to hold the Olympic Games in Tokyo. But just a third say they were held in a safe and secure manner and 61 percent say allowing the Olympics to go forward during a state of emergency in Tokyo encouraged the public to relax precautionary measures. As coronavirus cases in the country rise, government approval ratings are down to 28 percent, a new low. Two-thirds express no faith in Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's management of the pandemic ([Asahi Shimbun 8/7-8/8](#)).

In Canada, three-quarters support mandatory vaccinations, 53 percent strongly. Nearly eight in 10 support denying unvaccinated people access to public gatherings such as sporting events or indoor dining ([Nanos/Globe and Mail 7/30-8/2](#); [Nanos/CTV 7/30-8/2](#)).

In Russia, a quarter of adults say they're vaccinated and two in 10 are willing to get a shot if given an affordable option; more than half, 55 percent, are unwilling. Among the vaccine acceptant, six in 10 say they want to protect themselves from severe disease and about half want to protect loved ones. Forty-six percent of Russians overall are afraid of contracting the coronavirus, up 5 points in a month ([Levada 7/22-7/28](#)).

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

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