



COVID-19 Survey Summary: November 19, 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 express growing optimism about the coronavirus pandemic heading into the holidays: Three times as many say the situation is getting better as say it's worsening, infection concerns continue to ease and seven in 10 plan to spend Thanksgiving with others outside their household, up sharply from a year ago.

One new survey looks at the roots of vaccine hesitancy regarding children, finding that fewer than half of parents are confident in the coronavirus vaccines' safety and efficacy in 5- to 17-year-olds. Fewer than half of all adults now approve of Joe Biden's handling of the pandemic; one poll finds that more oppose than support his vaccine/testing mandate for larger employers, compared with majority support in previous polls.

Other new studies find that Republicans now account for three in five unvaccinated adults, with political partisanship the single strongest predictor of vaccine uptake; overdose deaths increased by nearly 30 percent amid the pandemic; a record number people of quit their job in September; and a clinical trial finds it safe to administer the flu and coronavirus vaccines simultaneously.

This week's summary also includes surveys from Brazil, Canada, Chile, the Netherlands, South Korea and Ukraine.

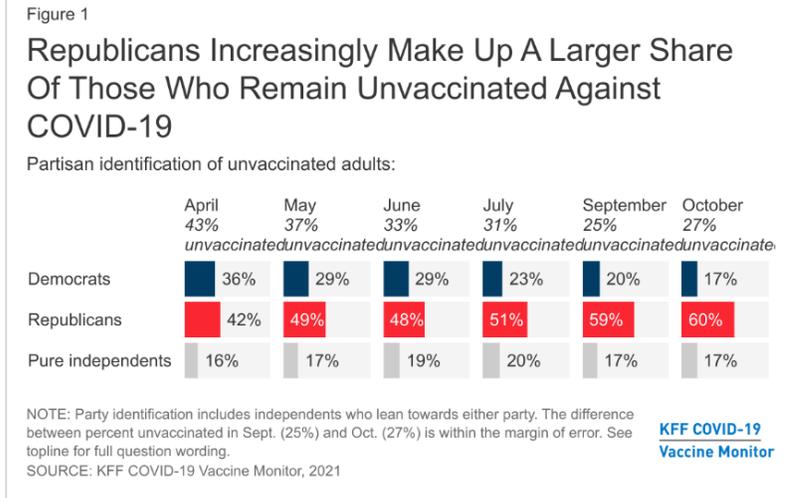
Vaccines

Eighty-two percent of adults have received at least one coronavirus vaccine dose, per the [CDC](#), up 1 percentage point in the past week. It's similar in a poll that uses jurisdictional vaccination data as a weighting adjustment, with an additional 2 percent indicating they'll definitely get a shot and 6 percent saying they probably will or are unsure. Thirteen percent say they definitely or probably will not get one, unchanged since late September but down from 19 percent in June.

So far, 18 percent of fully vaccinated adults have gotten a booster, rising to 38 percent of those age 65 and older. The FDA authorized booster shots for everyone 18 and older on Nov. 19, with

the CDC now deliberating expanding booster eligibility. Many states are [already offering](#) boosters to anyone over 18 ([CDC 10/31-11/6](#)).

A new analysis of mid-October data finds that Republicans account for a growing share of unvaccinated adults, up from 42 percent in April to 60 percent last month. Political partisanship was the single strongest predictor of vaccine uptake in October, surpassing demographic factors such as age, race, education attainment or insurance status ([KFF 11/16](#)).



Childhood Vaccines

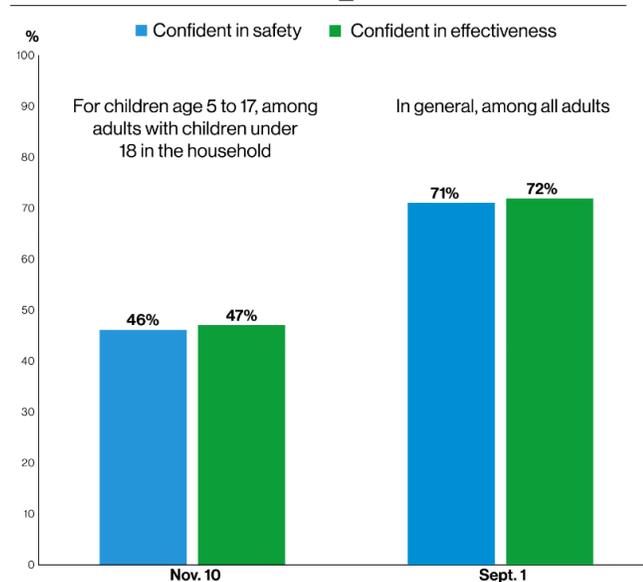
The [CDC](#) estimates that 60 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds have gotten at least one vaccine dose and 51 percent are fully vaccinated. Among children age 5-11, 7.5 percent have been vaccinated, 0.5 percent fully so.

A report from an education-focused news nonprofit says CDC numbers for youth vaccinations deviated from locally reported vaccination rates in many cases, including by double digits in some instances. It says difference in population counts, delays in reporting or double-counting vaccinations may contribute to the inaccuracies ([The 74](#)).

Fifty-two percent of adults in households with children younger than 18 are not so or not at all confident that the coronavirus vaccines are safe for children age 5-17, with as many lacking confidence in their ability to prevent serious illness and death in this age group. Fewer than half are at least somewhat confident, with just 21 percent expressing strong confidence in the vaccines' safety (21 percent) or effectiveness (25 percent) in children.

Trust in vaccine safety and efficacy is far higher when asking about coronavirus vaccines generally, not in regard to children. In an early September poll, 71 percent of all

Vaccine Perceptions



SOURCE: ABC News/Washington Post polls

NEWS

adults thought the vaccines were at least somewhat safe and 72 percent said the same for their effectiveness ([ABC News/Washington Post 11/7-11/10](#)). In another survey, 66 percent of adults think the COVID-19 vaccines are completely or very safe for them personally, up 6 points since late May ([CDC 10/31-11/6](#)).

Trust in vaccine safety is strongly associated with uptake. Among adults who are vaccinated, 79 percent believe the vaccines are very or completely safe. That drops to just 4 percent of those who say they won't get vaccinated ([CDC 10/31-11/6](#)).

In recently published results from phase 2-3 clinical trials of the Pfizer vaccine in children age 5-11, two doses were found to be 91 percent effective at preventing symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. Immune response among fully vaccinated children was at least as strong as the response observed in fully vaccinated 16- to 25-year-olds. Of the 1,518 children who received the vaccine, no serious adverse events related to the vaccines were noted, with reported reactions generally mild to moderate and lasting one to two days ([Walter et al., 2021](#)). Data from the clinical trials formed the basis of the [CDC's recommendation](#) on Nov. 2 for the use of this vaccine for children age 5-11.

Concerns & Outlooks

After steadily declining from their Delta-fueled peak in early September, an increase in coronavirus caseloads has become apparent this past week, with the seven-day average of new daily cases at about 88,000 according to the [CDC](#). The United States has averaged just more than 1,000 new daily deaths in the past seven days, steady over the past week while down from nearly 2,000 at the height of the Delta surge.

Americans are three times more apt to think the coronavirus situation in the United States is getting better than getting worse, 45 vs. 15 percent. Thirty-six percent think it's staying the same ([Quinnipiac 11/11-11/15](#)). In interviews early this month, 42 percent said they were very or moderately concerned about getting the coronavirus, down steadily from 51 percent in late August to its lowest since late July ([CDC 10/31-11/6](#)).

As in other [recent surveys](#), the public no longer sees the coronavirus as the most important problem facing the country. In an open-ended question, 25 percent cite economic problems; 11 percent, division/polarization; and 8 percent, immigration or border security. Five percent mention the pandemic and 3 percent cite vaccine or mask mandates ([Quinnipiac 11/11-11/15](#)).

Government Response

One national poll this week finds Americans split 47-49 percent on Biden's handling of the pandemic, compared with 52-41 percent, approve-disapprove, in early September, and 62-31 percent in late June ([ABC News/Washington Post 11/7-11/10](#)). In another, similarly, the public divides by 45-50 percent, down from a high of 65-30 percent in late May ([Quinnipiac 11/11-11/15](#)).

Vaccine & Mask Mandates

Fewer than half, 46 percent, approve of the federal government mandate that businesses with 100 or more employees get vaccinated or undergo weekly testing, while 52 percent disapprove. This diverges from [previous national polls](#), which have found majority support for the requirement, which is now being heard in the courts.

Fifty-seven percent say unvaccinated employees who work in person should be required to wear masks at work. This ranges from 92 percent of Democrats to 52 percent of independents and 31 percent of Republicans ([Quinnipiac 11/11-11/15](#)).

K-12 Education

Fifty-three percent of Americans think the coronavirus policies in their local school district have been about right; 25 percent say they've been too strict, 16 percent not strict enough. Results are similar among adults with children under 18 in their households.

Strong differences emerge by partisanship. Nearly half of Republicans (45 percent) say the coronavirus policies in their local schools have been too strict, compared with 27 percent of independents and 4 percent of Democrats. Conversely, 26 percent of Democrats say the policies in their local schools have not been strict enough, vs. 16 percent of independents and 7 percent of Republicans ([ABC News/Washington Post 11/7-11/10](#)).

A newly released analysis investigates factors associated with the decision to provide in-person, hybrid or remote learning in schools in five states. It finds that urbanicity was the factor most strongly related to in-person learning, with no observed relationship between local COVID-19 rates and school mode, and no consistent association of race/ethnicity or Title 1 status with instructional mode. The authors looked at three time points in the 2020-2021 year – near the beginning of the first semester (Sept. 15), mid-semester after an increase in coronavirus cases (Nov. 15) and at the start of the second semester when cases were at their peak (Jan. 15). The analysis includes 445 elementary, 379 middle and 390 high schools in Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin, with instructional mode drawn from sources including the U.S. Department of Education, local news coverage, school district websites and direct contact with schools ([Goldman et al., 2021](#)).

Thanksgiving

Seventy-two percent of Americans plan to spend Thanksgiving with friends or family who live outside their household, up sharply from 53 percent last year. This includes 17 percent who intend to spend it with a large number of family or friends, up from 8 percent. Conversely, 26 percent will spend Thanksgiving alone or with just their household, down from 45 percent.

This constitutes a shift toward normality. Sixty-three percent of all adults say they'll spend Thanksgiving with about the same amount of people as before the pandemic and an additional 5 percent intend to spend it with more people; the net, 68 percent, is up from 46 percent a year ago. That leaves 31 percent who say they'll spend the holiday with fewer people than usual, down from 53 percent last year.

Among other shifts, 18 percent of Americans say they'll travel for Thanksgiving to someplace that involves an overnight stay, up from 10 percent in November 2020. Sixteen percent say they will have family or friends join them for Thanksgiving this year remotely by Zoom or video, down from 24 percent last year.

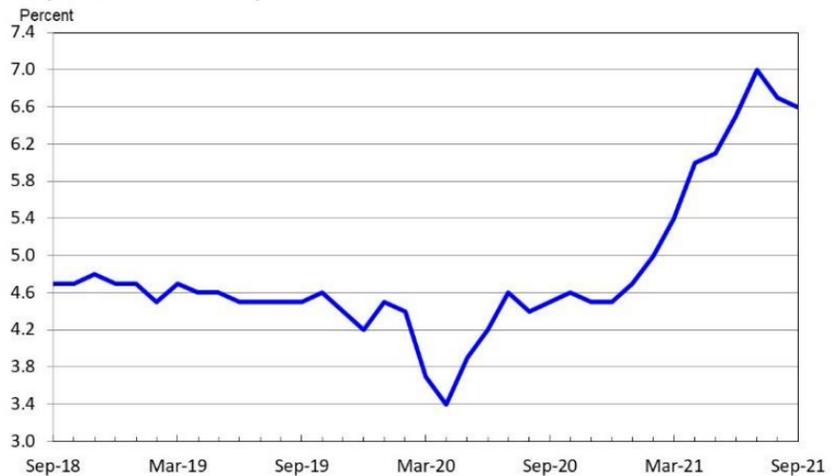
Thirty percent say they themselves will host Thanksgiving at their home with people from outside their household. Among them, 27 percent say they'll require their guests to be vaccinated. Seventy percent will not require this and 64 percent won't ask about it.

Similarly, among the four in 10 who plan to go to someone else's house for Thanksgiving, 60 percent say it doesn't matter to them personally whether or not all guests are vaccinated. Seventy-seven percent will not ask their host ([Monmouth 11/4-11/8](#)).

Job Openings & Labor Turnover

In September, an estimated 4.4 million people quit their jobs, up by 164,000 to a high in data since late 2000. The largest increases were in the arts, entertainment, recreation and other service industries, as well as in state and local education. There were an estimated 10.4 million job openings as of the last day of September, largely unchanged since August but off its record high of 11.1 million in July ([Bureau of Labor Statistics 11/12](#)).

Chart 1. Job openings rate, seasonally adjusted, September 2018 - September 2021



Twenty-eight percent of Americans say they or someone in their household is planning to change jobs in the near future for better pay or working conditions, including four in 10 adults younger than 50 ([Quinnipiac 11/11-11/15](#)).

Overdose Deaths

There were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the 12-month period ending April 2021, up 29 percent from the previous year and accelerating an upward trend in the past two decades, according to newly released provisional data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Deaths from opioids increased by nearly 20,000 and made up roughly 75 percent of all overdose deaths. There also were increases in deaths cause by synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl), psychostimulants such as methamphetamine, cocaine and natural and semi-synthetic opioids ([National Center for Health Statistics 11/17](#)). The rise in overdose deaths in the pandemic also has been covered [previously](#).

Flu Vaccine

A new study from the United Kingdom finds that administering the flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time is safe and does not suppress immune response from either vaccine. The results are from a clinical trial of 679 adults in which participants were randomly assigned to receive either an age-appropriate seasonal flu vaccine or a placebo injection in addition to a second dose of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine. Most reactions to vaccination were mild or moderate, with no meaningful difference in reactions between the randomly assigned groups. There was one serious adverse event, hospitalization with severe headache, that was considered related to the trial. The trial was conducted in 12 sites from April 1 to June 26 ([Lazarus et al., 2021](#))

State Results

In Iowa, 57 percent disapprove of Biden's handling of the pandemic, about matching its level in September while up from 37 percent in March. Forty-one percent approve, down from 57 percent in March ([Des Moines Register/Mediacom 11/7-11/10](#)).

In New Hampshire, two-thirds plan to travel or host people for Thanksgiving (68 percent) and the December holidays (67 percent), up sharply from 38 percent and 33 percent in 2020. Fewer plan to spend less on holiday shopping this year than last year, down 8 points to 31 percent; 58 percent plan to spend about the same, up 9 points. Still, supply chain concerns loom: Fifty-three percent are very or somewhat concerned about holiday presents being delivered on time. Among those with any such concern, 43 percent have started their holiday shopping earlier than in previous years ([UNH 11/11-11/15](#)).

International Results

Following the Dutch government's [announcement](#) of a three-week limited lockdown beginning Nov. 13, support for the government's coronavirus measures dropped sharply from 64 percent in October to 42 percent now. That primarily reflects a 24-point drop in support among vaccinated adults. While six in 10 support the current limited lockdown, 27 percent are opposed and nearly half say the government's decision to relax policies in late September was irresponsible, up from 18 percent who said so in October. In an open-ended question, many adults mention a need for a long-term vision and decisiveness from the government.

Fifty-five percent of Dutch adults support the introduction of a system requiring proof of vaccination or recent recovery from the coronavirus for entry into some public places. Three in 10 oppose this, rising to 93 percent of the unvaccinated ([I&O Research 11/12-11/15](#)).

In Chile, one of the world's [most vaccinated](#) countries, half are at least somewhat worried about the coronavirus in general, steady the past three weeks but up from 34 percent in early October. Despite those worries, 65 percent approve of President Sebastián Piñera's handling of the pandemic, up 5 points since the last week of October ([Cadem 11/10-11/12](#)).

In South Korea, 57 percent approve of the government's coronavirus response, up 10 points since August but 7 points lower than in June, before the country's most recent wave of infections began. Among those who approve of the government's response, a quarter point specifically to the vaccine supply. Looking to the future, half expect to return to daily life without masks by next year, while 14 percent think it'll take longer and three in 10 don't think a return to normality ever will happen ([Gallup Korea 11/9-11/11](#)).

In Brazil, nearly all adults (94 percent) say they wear a mask when they go to public places. Eight in 10 think masks should be required in public; that falls to half among supporters of President Jair Bolsonaro ([PoderData 11/8-11/10](#)).

In Canada, 89 percent of those 12 and older are vaccinated, according to the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). More than eight in 10 say all members of Parliament should be vaccinated. Forty-three percent say members of Parliament who don't want to reveal their vaccination status should be given alternatives, such as daily rapid testing or an option to participate in debates remotely ([Nanos 10/31-11/3](#)).

In Ukraine, newly released data from a poll covered [last week](#) indicates that among the 64 percent who are unvaccinated, just three in 10 plan to get a shot. Forty-five percent refuse it and a quarter are undecided. While 36 percent think mass vaccinations will bring a return to normality, 44 percent doubt it, up eight points since January ([R&B Group \(10/14-10/25\)](#)).

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

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