



COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 3, 2022

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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Seven in 10 public schools in April reported increases in the share of students seeking mental health services at school during the pandemic. Two-thirds of schools responded with increased mental health services; fewer, 41 percent, hired new staff to focus on student mental health.

Among teens, eight in 10 are back to full-time in-person classes. Fewer, but still two-thirds, prefer that model for the post-pandemic future, with few reporting high levels of satisfaction with how their school handled remote learning.

Another newly released survey finds that pregnant women or women planning to become pregnant are more likely than adults overall to have heard and believe misinformation related to vaccines and pregnancy and to hold doubts about vaccine safety for pregnant people.

International results from Brazil, Canada, Chile and Greece are also included in this week's summary of pandemic-related polls.

Concerns & Outlooks

After weeks of rising, new [daily cases](#) steadied in the past week, per CDC data. In recent months, testing sites nationwide have been [shut down](#) and reporting has slowed, indicating that available case data may not capture the scale of current infections. Hospitalizations, a lagging statistic, have more than doubled from a low in early April ([CDC](#)).

In an open-ended survey question, just 2 percent mention the coronavirus as the most important problem facing the country, down steadily from two in 10 in mid-January ([Gallup 5/2-5/22](#)).

K-12 Education

In an April-May survey, 80 percent of 13- to 17-year-olds reported having attended school entirely in person the previous month. Looking ahead, two-thirds preferred completely in person classes post-pandemic, 18 percent preferred a hybrid model and 9 percent favored entirely online classes. Seven in 10 white teens preferred in-person school, compared with half of Black teens.

Sixteen percent of teens were extremely or very worried that they may have fallen behind in school because of the pandemic. More of their parents, 28 percent, said the same. This concern peaked among Hispanic and lower-income teens and parents.

Just 28 percent of teens were extremely or very satisfied with the way their school has handled virtual learning; the remainder split between being somewhat satisfied and being only a little or not at all satisfied. More parents were highly satisfied, 39 percent.

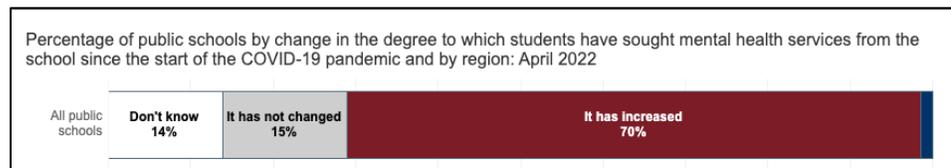
Twenty-eight percent of teens also reported often or sometimes encountering technology-related challenges to completing their homework, such as having to use public WiFi or their cellphone for homework or being unable to access the computers or the internet reliably. This rose to 43 percent of lower-income teens ([Pew 4/14-5/4](#)).

In an April survey of K-12 public schools, a third were offering full-time remote instruction, steady since February while down 7 percentage points from January. Three in 10 reported that there were students at home quarantining because of a coronavirus exposure, a positive test or coronavirus symptoms. In January, 94 percent of schools reported similar absences, as did three-quarters in February ([IES 4/12-4/25](#)). (Data reported in this and the next section are described as “experimental” and to be “interpreted with caution.”)

K-12 Mental Health Services

In the same April survey, seven in 10 public schools reported pandemic-era increases in the share of students who sought mental health services at school.

Three-quarters also reported an increase



since the beginning of the pandemic in the percentage of staff concerned about student depression, anxiety or trauma.

Two-thirds of schools reported increasing the types or amount of mental health services they provide to students since the start of the pandemic. About three-quarters said their school has provided staff with resources to identify student mental health issues. Eighty-five percent encouraged existing staff to address student social, emotional or mental well-being; 56 percent offered professional development to teachers to do so; and 46 percent created or expanded a student mental health program for this purpose. Four in 10 hired new staff to focus on student mental health or wellbeing.

Three in 10 schools reported that share of staff who sought mental health services since the beginning of the pandemic had increased. Half were uncertain about this, two in 10 reported no change and 1 percent reported a decrease. Six in 10 also said that the share of staff who expressed concern about themselves or colleagues exhibiting depression, anxiety or trauma has increased ([IES 4/12-4/25](#)).

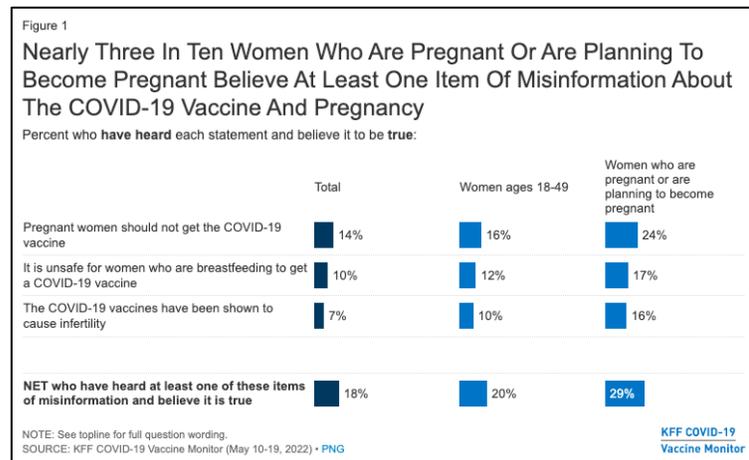
Vaccine Uptake

One new survey finds that 76 percent of adults have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine ([KFF 5/10-5/19](#)). The [CDC](#) estimates initial uptake among adults much higher, at 89 percent. As noted [previously](#), the agency's uptake estimate has exceeded probability-based survey results by an average of 11 points this year, apparently a result of the CDC's difficulty differentiating between initial and booster doses.

Vaccine Misinformation and Pregnancy

Sixty-two percent of adults have heard at least one of three pieces of misinformation about pregnancy and coronavirus vaccines and either say it's true or are uncertain, including 72 percent of women who are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant.

Fourteen percent overall say it's true that pregnant women should not get vaccinated; among women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, a quarter say so. Such women also are more apt to think it's true that the vaccines are unsafe for women who are breastfeeding (17 percent vs. 10 percent) and that the vaccines have been shown to cause infertility (16 percent vs. 7 percent).



Among women under the age of 50, unvaccinated women and women without a college degree are more likely to be uncertain about or believe at least one item of misinformation about the vaccine than their vaccinated or college-educated counterparts.

While about seven in 10 Americans overall are at least somewhat confident that the vaccine is safe for all adults, fewer, 53 percent, say the same for people who are pregnant or are trying to become pregnant. And just 42 percent of women who are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant think the vaccine is safe for this group ([KFF 5/10-5/19](#)).

According to [CDC estimates](#), seven in 10 pregnant people age 18-49 are fully vaccinated. The [CDC recommends](#) coronavirus vaccines for pregnant people and for those who are breastfeeding.

International Results

In Brazil, 16 percent blame the pandemic for rising inflation. More, six in 10, blame either President Jair Bolsonaro or their governor ([PoderData 5/22-5/24](#)).

In Canada, 2 percent mention the coronavirus as the top national issue of concern in an open-ended question based on a four-week rolling average, down from about a third in January.

(Inflation tops the list, at 16 percent.) ([Nanos 5/27](#)). A majority of Canadians report coping very (37 percent) or somewhat (44 percent) well with self-isolation during the pandemic. Even so, Canadians are more likely to say their mental health has declined than improved since the beginning of the pandemic, 39 vs. 14 percent. Half say the amount of alcohol they consume has not changed since the beginning of the pandemic, with the rest divided among saying they don't drink alcohol (22 percent), their consumption has decreased (16 percent) or it's increased (14 percent) ([Nanos 4/29-5/2](#)).

About a third in Chile are concerned about getting coronavirus, up 11 points since the beginning of the month but still off its 2022 peak of six in 10 in January ([Cadem 5/25-5/27](#)).

In Greece, 5 percent name the broad category of education, health or the pandemic as the top issue that concerns them, last on a list of five items. Many more, 57 percent, point to inflation and economic issues ([Pulse RC 5/22-5/25](#)).

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

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