

Willingness to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine: Adults and Children

Policy Recommendations

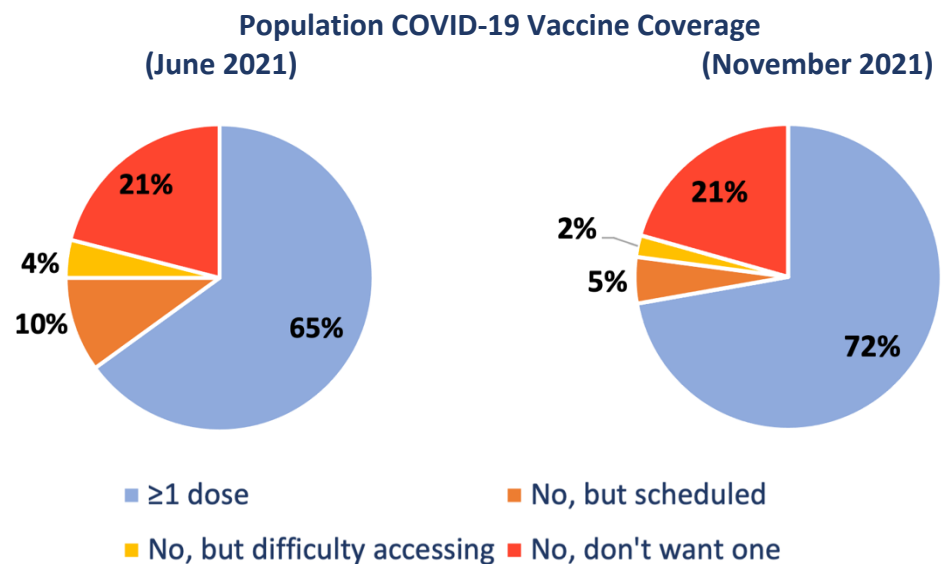
Vaccination uptake remains stalled among certain populations. When working towards reaching COVID-19 vaccination targets, policymakers must consider and understand reasons reported for suboptimal uptake. We suggest policymakers focus on communicating the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, while engaging trusted sources to increase vaccine acceptance in both adults and children.



Building Trust

1. Tailored efforts towards minority communities are needed to emphasize safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. **Engaging social networks, such as friend groups, and trusted medical providers is vital** as these were reported as convincing factors for previously hesitant vaccine recipients.
2. It is important to acknowledge and **address underlying medical mistrust among Black Americans** as possible reasons for lower vaccine acceptance.
3. **Focused efforts to increase vaccination in children** such as vaccination and education campaigns in schools, will make access easier.

Vaccine hesitancy is still high in the United States with **one in five Americans adults** reporting that they **will not receive a COVID-19 vaccine**. This proportion did not change between June and November 2021.

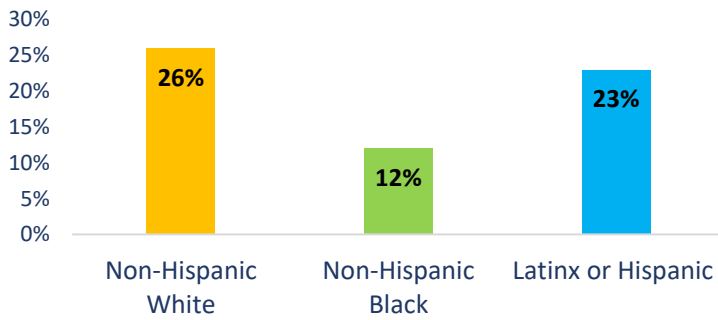


Willingness to receive a COVID-19 vaccine varied among race and ethnicity, gender, and political party. Vaccine hesitancy is 13% higher in Black Americans compared to White Americans and 15% lower in Latinx Americans compared to White Americans.

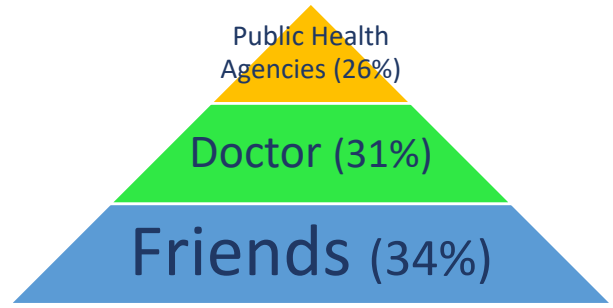
Differences in gender also exist with vaccine hesitancy being 15% higher in females compared to males. These differences in gender were also seen within race categories with Black and White females showing higher levels of hesitancy compared to Black and White males, respectively.

Political party produced the most striking differences in vaccine willingness, with vaccine hesitancy being 200% higher among Republicans compared to Democrats. Republican identifying females also showed the highest levels of vaccine hesitancy, 242% higher than Democrat identifying females.

"The COVID-19 Vaccine is Unnecessary"

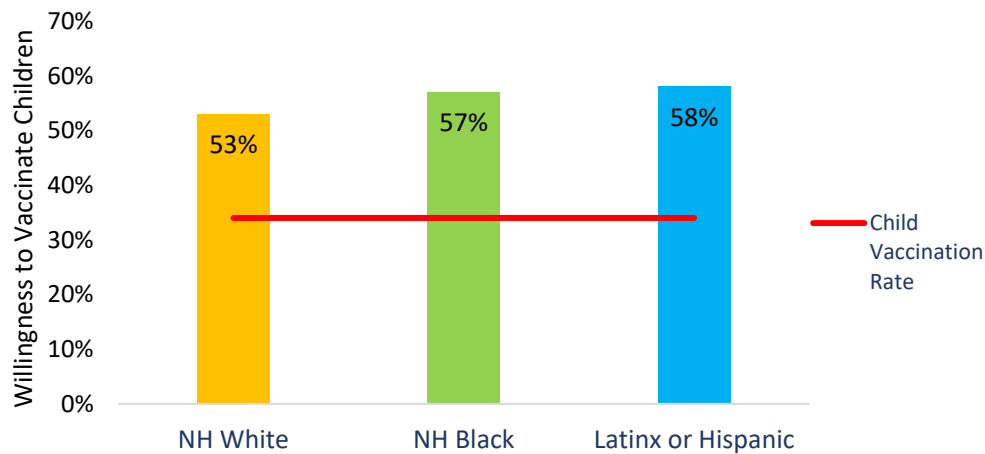


Despite higher levels of hesitancy, Black Americans believe the COVID-19 vaccine is necessary. This may be a result of years of medical mistreatment among Black American populations.



Top convincing factors for those that were previously hesitant but decided to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Overall, about 56% of parents of children under 12 years old reported that they are willing to have their children vaccinated against COVID-19. Willingness to vaccinate children was similar among racial and ethnic groups. Republicans, however, were substantially less likely to express willingness to have their children vaccinated. **Yet only 34% of children in the US aged 5 to 11 years have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.¹ There is a visible gap between vaccination intent and behavior.**



1. <https://www.mavoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-tracker>

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About National Pandemic Pulse

To better understand the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 pandemic among low-income and minority communities in the United States, researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health launched the National Pandemic Pulse surveys. These surveys are administered online to a sample selected to be representative of the US population by age, gender, education, and income for each US Census region. Round 4 of the nationwide survey, implemented between 11/11/2021 – 11/29/2021, had 9,079 respondents. It covered the following modules: risk perceptions, pregnancy experiences, pandemic anger, trust in science, vaccine hesitancy, testing access, economic distress, food insecurity, and mental health. Results are currently under peer-review.