

COVID-19– Vaccine Hesitancy

Fielded February 2021

Every month, IBM Watson Health® conducts a health poll that surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues.

This health poll is powered by the IBM Watson Health PULSE® Healthcare Survey, an independently funded, multi-modal (land line, cell phone, internet) survey that collects information from approximately 60,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted in this report represent responses from 3,004 survey participants interviewed from February 1–15, 2021, with a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

Executive summary

This health poll asked Americans about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and their opinions about receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.

Of all respondents:

17%

said they had received a COVID-19 vaccination. This rate tends to increase with age, education and income.

50%

of those respondents who indicated they had received the vaccine said they were senior citizens, 24% said they were front line workers and 19% said they were medical workers.

53%

said they planned to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, 29% said they would not and 19% said they did not know if they would receive one.

49%

said the main reason for not receiving a COVID-19 vaccination is because it is Not Available or Offered. Other reasons given included Concern Over Safety (14%) and Concern Over Side-Effects (11%).

22%

said their overall mental well-being is Excellent. In a February 2020 health poll¹, 30% of respondents said the same, and the difference is statistically significant.

Source:

1. The PULSE February health poll reflects responses from 3,000 survey participants interviewed between Feb 1–16, 2020 with a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

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Note: Bolded figures are statistically significant.

Question 1: Have you received the COVID-19 vaccination?

Question 2: If you received the COVID-19 vaccination, are you a medical worker?

	Yes	No		Yes	No
<35	13.0%	84.8%	<35	32.1%	67.9%
35 - 64	13.7%	85.5%	35 - 64	23.6%	76.4%
65+	29.3%	70.5%	65+	5.8%	94.2%
Total	17.0%	81.9%	Total	18.6%	81.4%
HS or Less	9.2%	89.3%	HS or Less	9.6%	90.4%
Some College/Associate	11.8%	87.0%	Some College/Associate	25.2%	74.8%
College+	24.2%	75.1%	College+	18.3%	81.7%
Total	17.0%	81.9%	Total	18.6%	81.4%
Silent Generation	49.8%	50.2%	Silent Generation	1.7%	98.3%
Baby Boomers	23.5%	76.3%	Baby Boomers	6.6%	93.4%
Generation X	14.5%	84.7%	Generation X	23.4%	76.6%
Millennials	13.4%	84.7%	Millennials	30.8%	69.2%
Total	17.0%	81.9%	Total	18.6%	81.4%
<\$25k	5.9%	92.4%	<\$25k	11.8%	88.2%
\$25k - \$49.9k	10.7%	88.3%	\$25k - \$49.9k	18.3%	81.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	18.8%	80.4%	\$50k - \$99.9k	19.0%	81.0%
\$100k+	33.5%	65.7%	\$100k+	19.3%	80.7%
Total	17.0%	81.9%	Total	18.6%	81.4%

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Question 3: If you received the COVID-19 vaccination, are you a front line worker?

	Yes	No
<35	35.3%	64.7%
35 - 64	37.9%	62.1%
65+	4.3%	95.7%
Total	24.4%	75.6%
HS or Less	26.4%	73.6%
Some College/Associate	24.5%	75.5%
College+	23.9%	76.1%
Total	24.4%	75.6%
Silent Generation	0.0%	100.0%
Baby Boomers	9.0%	91.0%
Generation X	31.2%	68.8%
Millennials	40.0%	60.0%
Total	24.4%	75.6%
<\$25k	32.0%	68.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	23.8%	76.2%
\$50k - \$99.9k	22.0%	78.0%
\$100k+	25.5%	74.5%
Total	24.4%	75.6%

Question 4: If you received the COVID-19 vaccination, are you a senior citizen?

	Yes	No
HS or Less	46.3%	53.7%
Some College/Associate	52.8%	47.2%
College+	49.7%	50.3%
Total	49.9%	50.1%
<\$25k	34.9%	65.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	56.8%	43.2%
\$50k - \$99.9k	52.8%	47.2%
\$100k+	47.8%	52.2%
Total	49.9%	50.1%

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Question 5: If you haven't received the COVID-19 vaccination, do you plan on getting the COVID-19 vaccination?

	Yes	No	Don't know
<35	41.3%	38.1%	20.4%
35 - 64	52.6%	28.7%	18.7%
65+	69.2%	16.7%	14.1%
Total	52.6%	29.1%	18.3%
HS or Less	36.1%	40.5%	23.2%
Some College/Associate	47.2%	33.0%	19.9%
College+	66.5%	19.3%	14.2%
Total	52.6%	29.1%	18.3%
Silent Generation	70.4%	15.0%	14.6%
Baby Boomers	65.7%	19.7%	14.6%
Generation X	53.0%	27.8%	19.2%
Millennials	43.5%	36.4%	19.9%
Total	52.6%	29.1%	18.3%
<\$25k	39.3%	39.2%	21.5%
\$25k - \$49.9k	47.7%	30.0%	22.1%
\$50k - \$99.9k	59.2%	25.7%	15.1%
\$100k+	67.2%	18.9%	13.9%
Total	52.6%	29.1%	18.3%

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Note: Care should be taken when interpreting Q6 due to small sample sizes.

Question 6: If you haven't received the COVID-19 vaccination, what is the main reason you have not received the COVID-19 vaccine? (Note: Details excluded for categories with less than 5% response rate)

	Not available/ offered	Safety	Side effects	Questions about vaccine	I Don't need in general
<35	37.7%	16.0%	14.1%	8.8%	6.1%
35 - 64	49.3%	14.8%	11.1%	6.5%	5.3%
65+	64.2%	7.5%	8.5%	3.7%	4.8%
Total	48.8%	13.8%	11.4%	6.6%	5.4%
HS or Less	38.2%	17.2%	14.7%	7.3%	5.5%
Some College/Associate	45.9%	15.5%	12.1%	6.1%	6.4%
College+	57.4%	10.4%	9.0%	6.6%	4.8%
Total	48.8%	13.8%	11.4%	6.6%	5.4%
Silent Generation	58.2%	8.8%	8.4%	5.3%	3.4%
Baby Boomers	63.5%	8.5%	8.6%	3.8%	5.1%
Generation X	51.0%	15.9%	10.6%	6.2%	3.7%
Millennials	37.4%	15.1%	14.1%	8.8%	7.4%
Total	48.8%	13.8%	11.4%	6.6%	5.4%
<\$25k	40.2%	17.4%	13.5%	6.3%	5.9%
\$25k - \$49.9k	45.3%	14.2%	12.7%	7.8%	5.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	56.4%	11.6%	10.5%	4.1%	4.6%
\$100k+	52.3%	11.4%	9.2%	8.5%	6.1%
Total	48.8%	13.8%	11.4%	6.6%	5.4%

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Question 6: If you haven't received the COVID-19 vaccination, what is the main reason you have not received the COVID-19 vaccine? (Note: Details excluded for categories with less than 5% response rate)

	Other	Concern about vaccine giving COVID-19	Already had COVID-19	Insurance may not cover (Cost)	No Insurance (Cost)	Don't know
Total	3.3%	2.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%
Total	3.3%	2.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%
Total	3.3%	2.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%
Total	3.3%	2.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%

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Question 7: How would you rate your overall mental well-being? Would you say it's...?

February 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
<35	10.6%	23.4%	25.6%	23.4%	16.9%
35 - 64	6.3%	18.9%	28.5%	24.7%	21.2%
65+	1.3%	9.6%	25.4%	34.2%	29.5%
Total	6.3%	18.1%	27.0%	26.4%	21.8%
HS or Less	9.2%	23.7%	29.9%	20.6%	15.8%
Some College/Associate	8.1%	20.8%	27.2%	25.7%	17.9%
College+	3.8%	13.5%	25.4%	29.9%	27.3%
Total	6.3%	18.1%	27.0%	26.4%	21.8%
Silent Generation	2.4%	5.8%	23.9%	37.1%	30.8%
Baby Boomers	1.4%	10.7%	28.3%	32.1%	27.4%
Generation X	6.8%	20.4%	28.2%	25.0%	19.2%
Millennials	9.5%	21.5%	25.1%	23.5%	20.2%
Total	6.3%	18.1%	27.0%	26.4%	21.8%
<\$25k	10.9%	28.8%	27.1%	19.2%	13.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	9.0%	23.0%	27.5%	22.7%	17.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	4.4%	13.5%	31.2%	29.3%	21.4%
\$100k+	1.3%	7.3%	21.0%	34.1%	36.1%
Total	6.3%	18.1%	27.0%	26.4%	21.8%

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Question 7: How would you rate your overall mental well-being? Would you say it's...?

February 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
<35	5.1%	19.6%	25.8%	23.9%	25.2%
35 - 64	4.0%	10.2%	21.9%	33.8%	29.9%
65+	0.5%	5.7%	26.6%	32.2%	35.0%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%
HS or Less	3.6%	13.8%	28.0%	28.0%	26.6%
Some College/Associate	4.4%	16.5%	24.0%	30.2%	24.5%
College+	3.0%	8.2%	22.3%	31.9%	34.4%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%
Silent Generation	0.1%	5.6%	23.6%	36.5%	34.3%
Baby Boomers	1.8%	6.7%	26.0%	31.3%	34.2%
Generation X	4.3%	12.1%	21.0%	33.7%	28.7%
Millennials	4.6%	16.7%	25.7%	26.2%	26.6%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%
<\$25k	6.6%	19.7%	27.9%	23.8%	22.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	5.0%	14.4%	30.1%	30.6%	19.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	1.8%	8.1%	22.8%	34.9%	32.4%
\$100k+	1.9%	4.0%	15.8%	32.1%	46.0%
Total	3.6%	12.0%	24.1%	30.5%	29.7%

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Question 8: How often do you feel depressed? Would you say...?

	All of the time	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
<35	11.7%	19.3%	38.9%	20.8%	8.9%
35 - 64	7.2%	11.1%	38.3%	31.5%	11.5%
65+	1.1%	3.1%	25.9%	38.1%	31.0%
Total	7.1%	11.6%	35.7%	30.0%	15.1%
HS or Less	9.3%	16.9%	37.0%	22.8%	12.9%
Some College/Associate	6.0%	12.3%	36.5%	29.3%	15.6%
College+	6.6%	8.3%	34.5%	34.2%	16.0%
Total	7.1%	11.6%	35.7%	30.0%	15.1%
Silent Generation	3.2%	0.0%	29.5%	33.2%	32.2%
Baby Boomers	1.3%	3.9%	28.2%	38.3%	27.7%
Generation X	6.4%	11.9%	38.2%	31.8%	11.2%
Millennials	11.8%	17.0%	38.6%	22.6%	9.6%
Total	7.1%	11.6%	35.7%	30.0%	15.1%
<\$25k	9.5%	17.6%	40.9%	21.1%	10.2%
\$25k - \$49.9k	6.5%	14.4%	36.0%	28.9%	13.8%
\$50k - \$99.9k	5.9%	9.1%	33.9%	32.9%	17.7%
\$100k+	7.6%	5.9%	32.6%	35.6%	18.1%
Total	7.1%	11.6%	35.7%	30.0%	15.1%

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