

Who Are the Adults Not Vaccinated Against COVID?



Household Pulse Survey Shows Many Don't Trust COVID Vaccine, Worry About Side Effects

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Author: Lindsay M. Monte

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that as of December 14, roughly 85% of adults ages 18 and over in the United States [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-total-admin-rate-total] had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine but 15% remained unvaccinated.

Who are the unvaccinated and why are they choosing not to get a COVID vaccine?

About 42% reported that they “don’t trust the COVID-19 vaccine.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s newest phase of the experimental Household Pulse Survey (HPS) [<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>] , those who were unvaccinated against COVID in early December 2021, reported a variety of reasons why.

"Vaccinated" here refers to adults who have received at least one dose of any COVID vaccine, and "unvaccinated" refers to adults who have not received any.

Unvaccinated adults who responded to the survey could select more than one reason:

About Half of Unvaccinated Say They'll "Definitely" Get COVID Vaccine

The Household Pulse Survey provides insight into attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccines.

[<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/01/around-half-of-unvaccinated-americans-indicate-they-will-definitely-get-covid-19-vaccine.html>]



Many Small Businesses Not Requiring Workers To Get Tested, Vaccinated

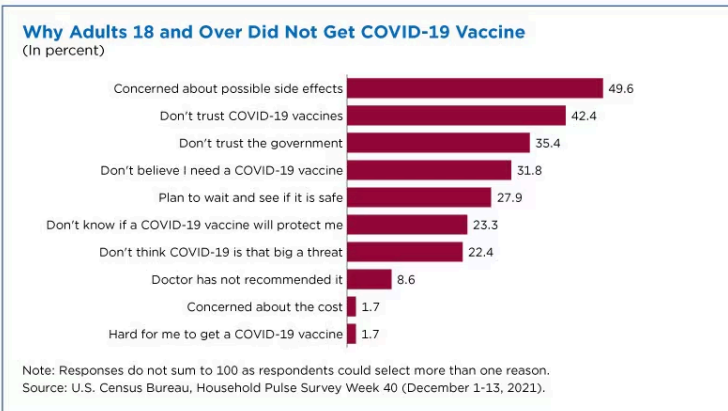
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- About half reported that they were concerned about possible side effects of the vaccine.
- About 42% reported that they “don’t trust the COVID-19 vaccine.”
- Less than 10% reported that they hadn’t gotten the vaccine because their doctor had not recommended it.
- About 2% reported not getting the vaccine because of difficulty obtaining it.



[/content/dam/Census/library/stories/2021/12/who-are-the-adults-not-vaccinated-against-covid-figure-1.jpg]

HPS Phase 3.3

The findings are based on the first data from Phase 3.3 of the HPS. These data were collected Dec. 1-Dec. 13 and released last week.

HPS Phase 3.3 is the latest update to the Census Bureau’s experimental data collection effort to measure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on U.S. households.

The new version of the questionnaire is set to continue into February 2022.

For adults 18 and over, a previous question about plans for receiving all required COVID-19 vaccinations was replaced with one focused on the specific number of vaccinations received. There is also a new question about vaccine brands.

Unvaccinated Adults Younger, Less Educated

Adults who had not received any doses of the COVID vaccine differed from those who had received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine across several measures.

- They were younger, on average, than those who had been vaccinated. Roughly 75% of the unvaccinated were under age 50. Among the vaccinated, less than half were under age 50.
- They had lower levels of education, on average, than those who were vaccinated. Survey respondents who had received at least one dose were twice as likely as the unvaccinated to have a college degree or higher.
- They were much less likely than vaccinated adults to be married (46% vs 56%).

First results from Phase 4 of the Census Bureau’s Small Business Pulse Survey show the majority of respondents do not require workers get tested or vaccinated.

[<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/03/majority-of-small-businesses-not-requiring-employees-get-tested-or-vaccinated.html>]

How Do COVID-19 Vaccination, Vaccine Hesitancy Rates Vary Over Time?

New Household Pulse Survey interactive tracker allows users to view characteristics of the vaccinated and vaccine-hesitant populations.

[<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/how-do-covid-19-vaccination-and-vaccine-hesitancy-rates-vary-over-time.html>]

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Racial and Ethnic Differences

The share of unvaccinated non-Hispanic White adults was not different from the share who were vaccinated. The same was true for Hispanic adults.

But non-Hispanic Black adults were slightly more represented among the unvaccinated (13%) than the vaccinated (11%), a small but statistically significant difference.

There were notable differences for the Asian population, however: 6% of the vaccinated were non-Hispanic Asian but only 1% of the unvaccinated were non-Hispanic Asian.

Who Are the Hard-to-Reach?

Most of the HPS response options are either about information (“Don’t know if it will protect me”) or trust (“Don’t trust the vaccine”).

However, one involves access: “It’s hard for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine.”

Who are the people in the small subset of adults who responded to the HPS who reported that they had not gotten a vaccine because it was hard to get?

Compared to all HPS respondents, the hard-to-reach:

- Were more likely to be non-White.
- Were less likely to be married (35% of the hard to reach were married compared to 54% of all respondents).
- Had lower levels of education, on average, and were more economically disadvantaged; about half of this hard-to-reach population reported difficulty meeting expenses in the week prior to the survey.
- Were much more likely to report a disability. The HPS asks about difficulty seeing, hearing, remembering or walking or climbing stairs. Those who reported being unvaccinated because they had no access to the vaccine were almost twice as likely to report either complete impairment or “a lot of difficulty” with one or more of these measures than the general population.

About the Data

Approximately 1,044,000 housing units were selected from the sampling frame for this HPS collection period, and approximately 61,000 respondents answered the online questionnaire. Their responses were the basis of this analysis.

The Household Pulse Survey was launched in April 2020, to quickly and efficiently gauge the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on households.

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Over the course of 40 collection cycles, HPS data were disseminated in near-real time to inform federal and state response and recovery planning.

The data collected enabled the Census Bureau to produce statistics at the national and state level and for the 15 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

More information is available on these HPS pages:

Household Pulse Survey tables

[<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>] , Technical Documentation

[<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/technical-documentation.html>] and Public Use File (PUF) microdata

[<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/datasets.html>] .

Changes in HPS Phase 3.3

The HPS, developed with input from our federal agency partners [<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>] , continues to measure core demographic household characteristics as well as ask about employment, household spending, food sufficiency, housing security and physical and mental health, and includes a variety of new and adjusted content.

In addition to continuing to ask adults and households with children ages 12-17 about COVID-19 vaccinations and vaccine hesitancy, the survey now asks the same questions for households with children ages 5-11.

Two questions on transportation have returned from previous phases: one about travel before the COVID-19 pandemic began and another about travel in the previous seven days.

A series of questions about unemployment insurance benefits have also been restored.

To reduce respondent burden, the Census Bureau removed a series of questions about summer educational activities for households with children.

The HPS is sent to about a million households every two weeks. If selected, you will receive an email from COVID.survey@census.gov or a text message from 39242. Additional information is available on the HPS respondent website [<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey.html>] .

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Although previous phases of the survey collected and disseminated data every two weeks, Phase 3.3 has shifted to a two-weeks-on, two-weeks-off collection and dissemination approach, with the following anticipated collection periods and data releases:

- Week 40: Dec. 1 – Dec. 13, 2021 (data released Dec. 22, 2021).
- Week 41: Dec. 29, 2021 – Jan. 10, 2022 (data released Jan. 19, 2022).
- Week 42: Jan. 26 – Feb. 7, 2022 (data released Feb. 16, 2022).

In addition to updated detailed tables, upcoming HPS releases will include refreshes to the interactive data tool.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Tracker, which focused on the number of U.S. adults receiving at least one-dose of a COVID-vaccine and attitudes toward the vaccines, was discontinued following Phase 3.2 of the survey.

The tracker was published from April 14-Oct. 20, 2021, and data users can continue to access an archived version of the visualization on the HPS Research and Presentations page [<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/research-presentations.html>] or via the Census Bureau's interactive data visualization gallery.

[<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive.html>]

Lindsay M. Monte is a survey statistician in the Census Bureau's Program Participation and Income Transfers Branch.

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