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# Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases

*Still about two-in-ten ‘pretty certain’ they won’t get vaccine – even when there’s more information*

**BY** Cary Funk and Alec Tyson

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are continuing to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. For this analysis, we surveyed 12,648 U.S. adults from Nov. 18 to 29, 2020.

Everyone who took part in the survey is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

See here to read more about the [questions used](#) for this report, along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

## Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases

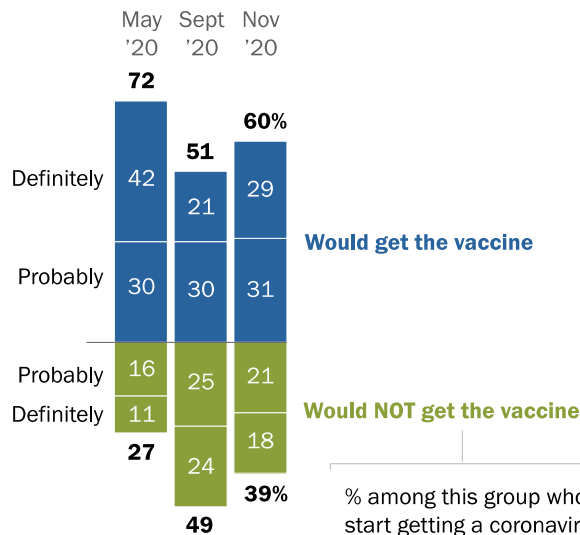
*Still, about two-in-ten ‘pretty certain’ they won’t get vaccine – even when there’s more information*

As vaccines for the coronavirus enter review for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the share of Americans who say they plan to get vaccinated has increased as the public has grown more confident that the development process will deliver a safe and effective vaccine. Still, the U.S. public is far from uniform in views about a vaccine. A majority says they would be uncomfortable being among the first to take it, and a sizable minority appear certain to pass on getting vaccinated.

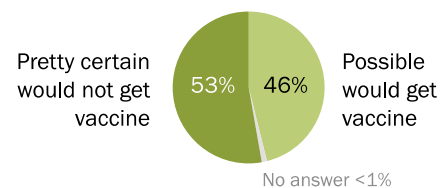
Overall, 60% of Americans say they would definitely or probably get a vaccine for the coronavirus, if one were available today, up from 51% who said this in September. About four-in-ten (39%) say they definitely or probably would *not* get a coronavirus vaccine, though about half of this group – or 18% of U.S. adults – says it’s possible they would decide to get vaccinated once people start getting a vaccine and more information becomes available.

### Majority of Americans now say they would get a vaccine for the coronavirus

*% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they ...*



*% among this group who say once others start getting a coronavirus vaccine and there is more information ...*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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Yet, 21% of U.S. adults do not intend to get vaccinated and are “pretty certain” more information will not change their mind.

Public confidence has grown that the research and development process will yield a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19: 75% have at least a fair amount of confidence in the development process today, compared with 65% who said this in September.

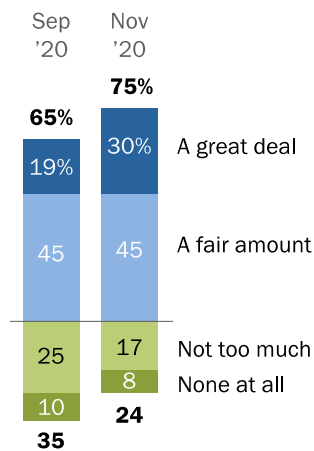
These findings come on the heels of preliminary analysis from two separate clinical trials that have produced vaccines that are over 90% effective; the FDA is expected to issue decisions about the emergency authorization of these vaccines in the coming weeks.

While public intent to get a vaccine and confidence in the vaccine development process are up, there’s considerable wariness about being among the first to get a vaccine: 62% of the public says they would be uncomfortable doing this. Just 37% would be comfortable.

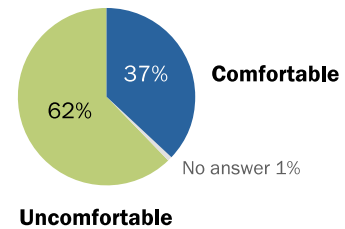
### Rising confidence in the vaccine R&D process but only 37% comfortable being among first to get it

% of U.S. adults who say that ...

They have \_\_ of confidence that the research and development process in the U.S. will produce a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19



They would be \_\_ being one of the first groups of people to get the vaccine



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Nov. 18 to 29 among 12,648 U.S. adults, finds that amid a rising number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., the public's outlook for the country has darkened: 71% say they think the worst of the outbreak is still to come, up from 59% who said this in June.

And while the public continues to give hospitals and medical centers high marks for how they've responded to the outbreak, about half of Americans (52%) think hospitals in their area will struggle to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus in the coming months; slightly fewer (47%) think their local medical providers will be able to handle the number of patients.

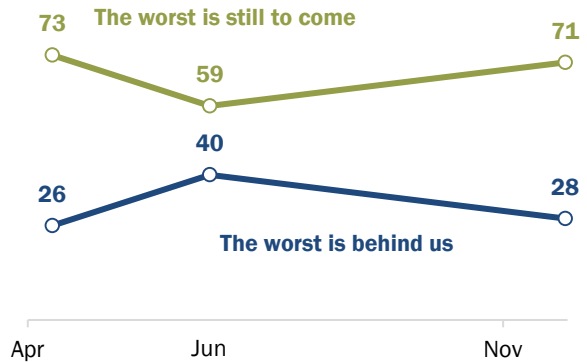
The toll of the pandemic is starkly illustrated by the 54% of Americans who say they know someone personally who has been hospitalized or died due to the coronavirus. Among Black Americans, 71% know someone who has been hospitalized or died because of COVID-19.

The survey sheds light on the complex and interrelated factors that shape intent to get a vaccine for COVID-19, chief among them are:

- *Personal concern* about getting a case of COVID-19 that would require hospitalization. Those most concerned about getting a serious case of the coronavirus indicate a higher likelihood of getting a vaccine. Those who see little personal need by this metric are closely divided over whether they would get vaccinated.
- *Trust* in the vaccine development process. Expressing confidence that the research and development process will yield a safe and effective vaccine is tied to higher levels of intent to get vaccinated.
- *Personal practices* when it comes to other vaccines. Those who say they get a flu shot yearly are much more likely than those who rarely or never do so to say they would get a vaccine for the coronavirus if one were available.

## 71% of Americans say the worst of the coronavirus outbreak is 'still to come'

% of U.S. adults who say, in thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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Partisanship plays a role in many of these beliefs and practices. Overall, there's a 19-point gap between the shares of Democrats and those who lean to the Democratic Party (69%) and Republicans and Republican leaners (50%) who currently say they would get vaccinated for the coronavirus.

These are among the principal findings from the Pew Research Center's latest report on the coronavirus outbreak and Americans' views of a COVID-19 vaccine. The survey also finds:

**Most are 'bothered' when people around them in public do not wear masks; few are bothered by stores that require face-coverings.** About seven-in-ten (72%) say it bothers them a lot or some when people around them in public do not wear masks. Far fewer (28%) say it bothers them at least some when stores require customers to wear a mask for service.

**Americans comfortable going to the grocery but not a crowded party.** Three-quarters of adults say they're comfortable going to the grocery store given the current situation with the coronavirus, but views are more mixed when it comes to a restaurant or hair salon, and most would be uncomfortable attending a crowded party. One key factor tied to people's comfort level is a personal concern with contracting a serious case of COVID-19: Those most concerned are the least comfortable going out.

**Republicans remain less likely than Democrats to see outbreak as major threat to public health.** Overall, 84% of Democrats and 43% of Republicans say the coronavirus outbreak is a major threat to the U.S. population as a whole. The partisan gap on this measure remains about as wide as at any point during the outbreak and stands in contrast to the large shares of both Republicans (83%) and Democrats (86%) who say the outbreak is a major threat to the U.S. economy.

**Confidence in scientists remains slightly higher than before the pandemic.** With scientists and their work in the spotlight, 39% of Americans say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists to act in the public's best interest, an uptick from 35% who said this before the pandemic took hold. Most Americans have at least a fair amount of confidence in scientists. However, ratings of scientists are now more partisan than at any point since Pew Research Center first asked this question in 2016: 55% of Democrats now say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists, compared with just 22% of Republicans who say the same.

## Intention to be vaccinated for COVID-19 rises across the board

Six-in-ten Americans say they would definitely or probably get a coronavirus vaccine if it were available today, up 9 percentage points from 51% in September.

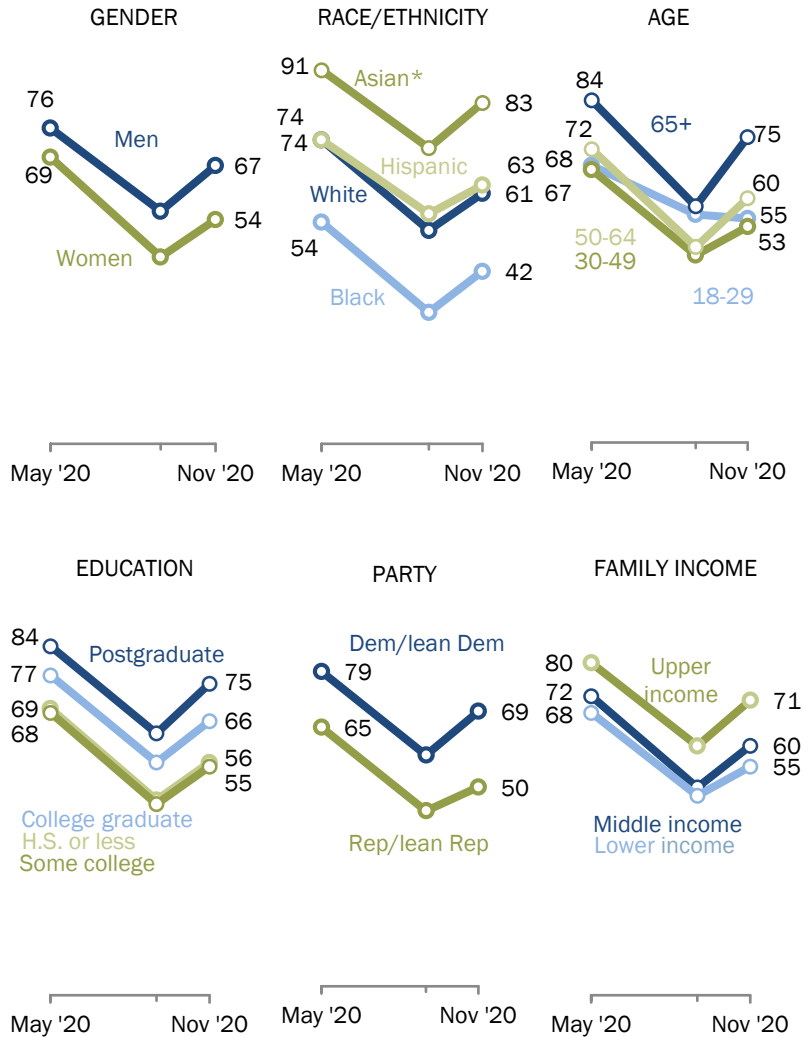
While the uptick in intent to get a vaccine for COVID-19 has been broad based, there remain sizable differences among key demographic groups.

Black Americans continue to stand out as less inclined to get vaccinated than other racial and ethnic groups: 42% would do so, compared with 63% of Hispanic and 61% of White adults. English-speaking Asian Americans are even more likely to say they would definitely or probably get vaccinated (83%).

The coronavirus is thought to be a particular health risk for older adults, who are more likely to have complicating preexisting conditions and weaker immune systems to combat the disease. Three-quarters of adults ages 65 and older say they would definitely

### Growing share intend to get a COVID-19 vaccine, though fewer than half of Black adults say they would

*% of U.S. adults who say they would definitely/probably get a vaccine for COVID-19 if one were available today*



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.  
 Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.  
 "Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"



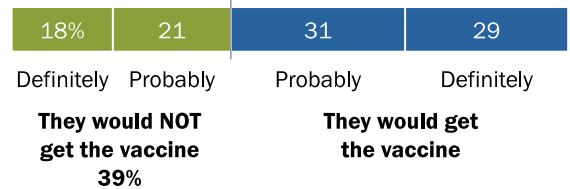
or probably get vaccinated, compared with 55% of those under age 30.

Those with higher family incomes, adjusted for cost of living and household size, are more likely than those with middle or lower incomes to say they would get immunized. (See the [Appendix](#) for more on these and other groups' intentions to get a coronavirus vaccine.)

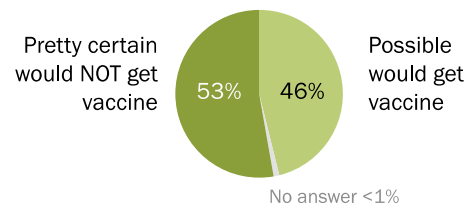
People's views on getting a coronavirus vaccine that is not yet available to the general public remain fluid. Among the roughly four-in-ten Americans who say they would *not* get the vaccine today, 46% says it's possible they would do so once others start getting vaccinated and more information becomes available. Still, 53% of those not currently planning to get vaccinated (21% of all Americans) say they are pretty certain that they won't get a vaccine even with more information.

## Many of those who would not get a COVID-19 vaccine say they could change their mind

*If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, % of U.S. adults who say ...*



% among this group who say once others start getting a coronavirus vaccine and there is more information ...



Notes: Based on those who would probably or definitely NOT get a coronavirus vaccine if one were available today.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

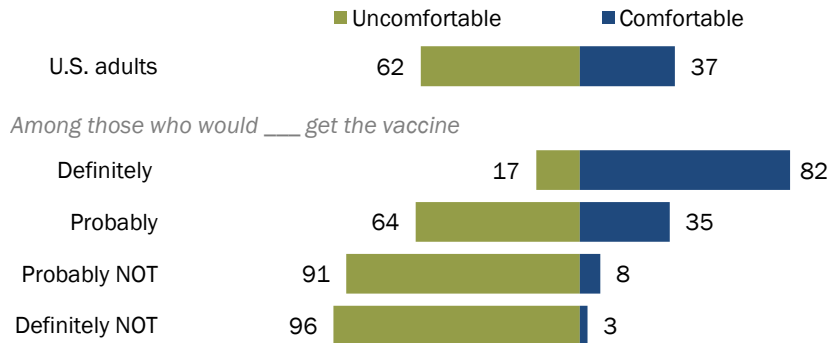
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Regardless of people's intention to get vaccinated, 62% of Americans report they would be uncomfortable being among the first to do so. Roughly two-thirds of those who say they would "probably" be vaccinated are uncomfortable being among the first as are nearly all of those who say they would not be vaccinated if a vaccine were available today. The exception comes from the roughly three-in-ten U.S. adults (29%) who say they would definitely be vaccinated; 82% of this group say they would be comfortable being in the first groups to be immunized against coronavirus.

## Majority of Americans say they would be uncomfortable being among the first to get vaccine

*% of U.S. adults who say they would be \_\_\_ being one of the first groups of people to get a coronavirus vaccine*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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**Those who would not get a coronavirus vaccine are skeptical of the vaccine R&D process and have less personal concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19**

A key question for public health going forward is whether enough Americans will be immunized against the coronavirus to bring collective health benefits known as herd immunity. As of now, it is unclear what threshold will be needed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The **threshold of immunization** is specific to each disease, ranging between roughly 70% and 90% of the population.

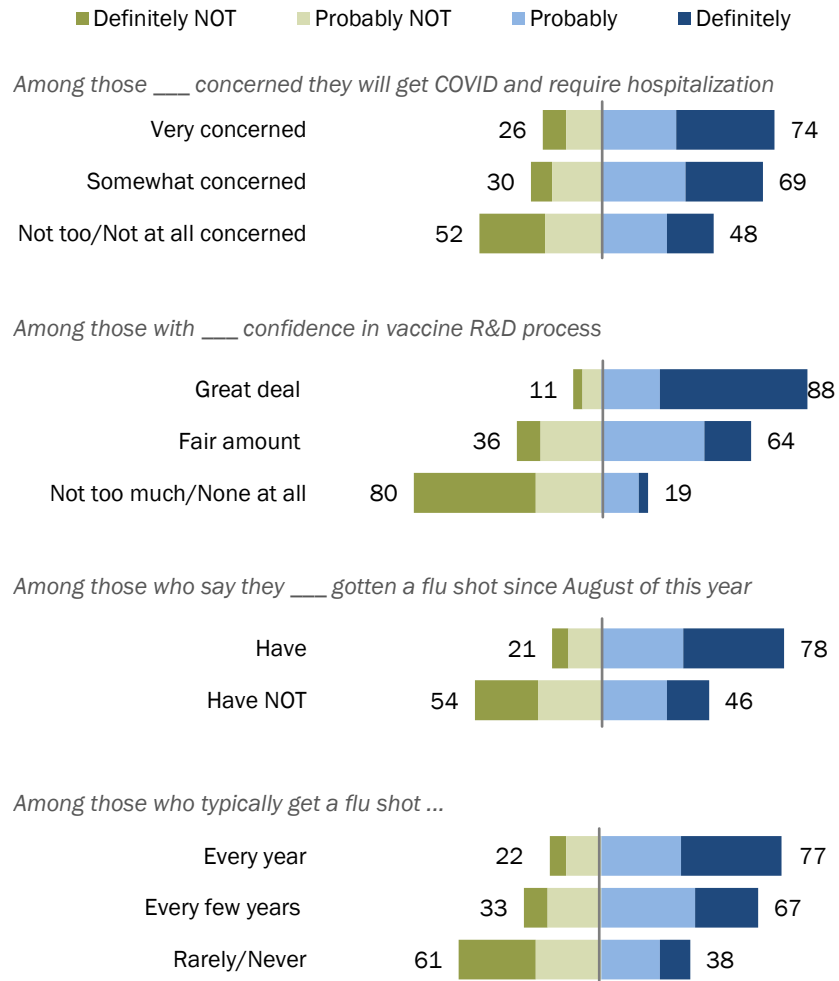
About four-in-ten Americans (39%) say they would likely opt out of a coronavirus vaccine.

One factor in people’s intention to be vaccinated is their assessment of their own need for the vaccine. About half of Americans who see themselves as being at little or no risk of getting a case of COVID-19 that would require hospitalization say they would *not* get vaccinated (52%).

Public confidence in the vaccine development process also plays a role in people’s intention to be vaccinated. The share of Americans with a great deal of confidence in the research

**Intent to get COVID-19 vaccine higher for those concerned about getting serious case of the disease**

*% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they would \_\_\_ get the vaccine*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
 Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.  
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and development process for a coronavirus vaccine has gone up in tandem with the share of those who say they would be vaccinated. In the latest Center survey, three-in-ten (30%) have a great deal of confidence in the R&D process, up from 19% in September; three-quarters of Americans now have at least a fair amount of confidence in the process.

But the roughly quarter of Americans with little or no confidence in this process are disinclined to be vaccinated against COVID-19. In this group, 19% say they would get vaccinated, while 80% would not.

People's habits and practices related to the seasonal flu vaccine also link with their intention to be vaccinated against the coronavirus. Nearly eight-in-ten Americans (78%) who have received a flu shot so far this season, say they would get a coronavirus vaccine, as do most of those who say they typically get a flu shot each year (77%). By contrast, 61% of Americans who report that they rarely or never get the seasonal flu vaccine say they would pass on a coronavirus vaccine if it were available today.

## Divide over mask wearing, comfort with activities align with people’s degree of concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19

Level of concern over getting a serious case of the coronavirus is tied to a range of other views about the outbreak, including attitudes about others not wearing masks in public and comfort with a variety of activities, such as eating out at a restaurant.

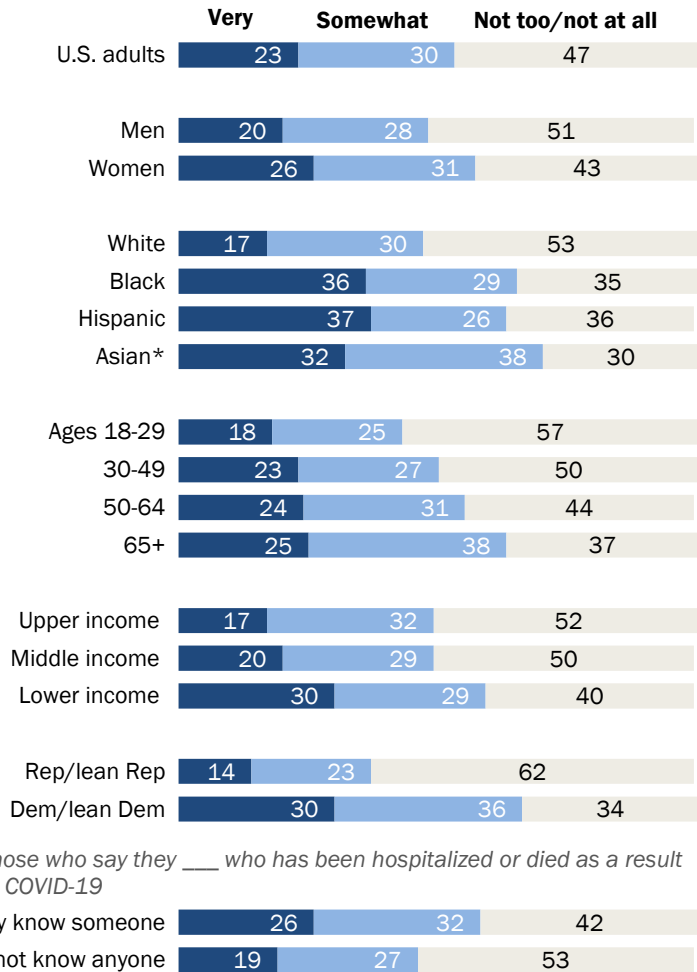
Overall, slightly more than half of Americans say they are very (23%) or somewhat (30%) concerned that they will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization; 47% say they are not too or not at all concerned about this.

Personal concern about getting a serious case of COVID-19 is lower among White adults than those in other racial and ethnic groups. Personal concern is also lower among adults ages 18 to 29 than those in older age groups.

Three-in-ten of those with lower family incomes say they are very concerned about getting a case of COVID-19 that would require hospitalization. People with lower family

### About a quarter of U.S. adults are very concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19

*% of U.S. adults who are \_\_\_ concerned that they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization*



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

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incomes are more worried about getting a serious case of COVID-19 than those in middle- or upper-income tiers.

Personal concern about getting the coronavirus also is linked with partisanship. A majority (66%) of Democrats say they are very (30%) or somewhat (36%) concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19. Some 37% of Republicans say they are very or somewhat concerned about getting the coronavirus and requiring hospitalization, while 62% say they are not too or not at all concerned about this.

Wearing a mask or face covering is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is one of the most visible steps people have taken to limit the spread of the disease.

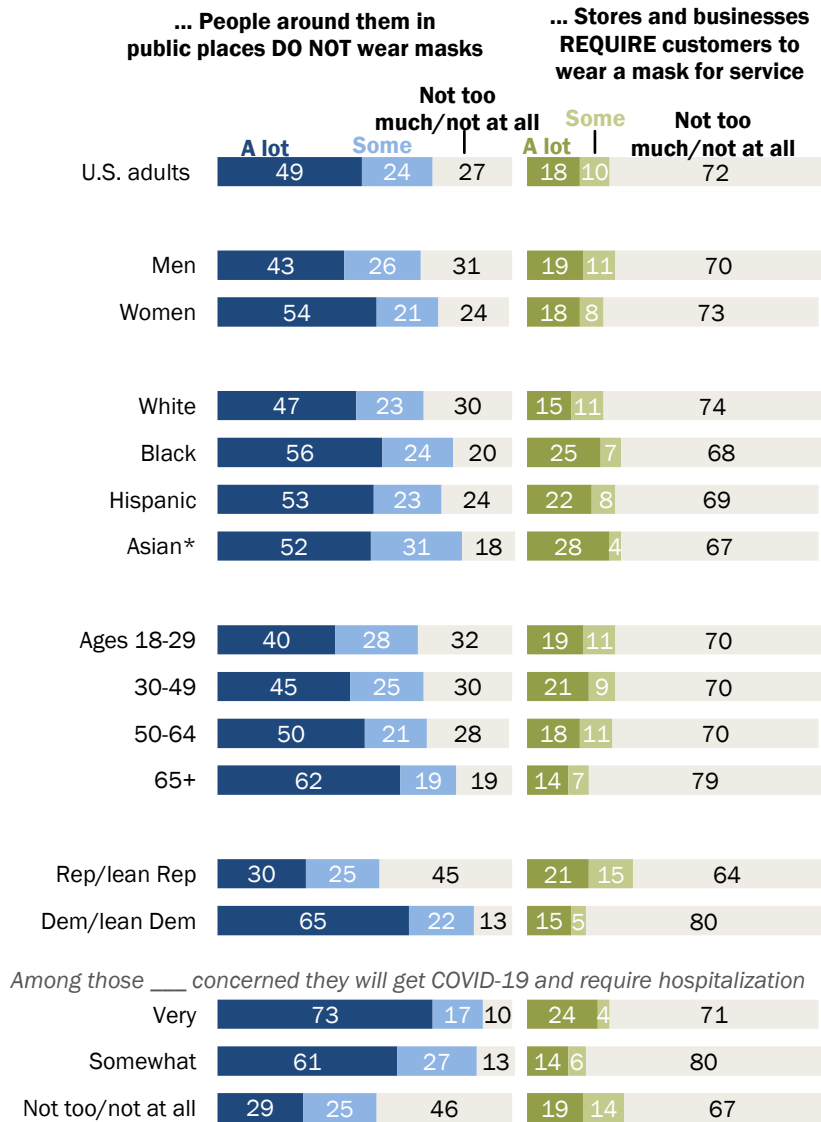
Americans are much more likely to say they are bothered by people *not* wearing masks in public than by stores and businesses requiring masks for service.

About seven-in-ten Americans (72%) say they are bothered a lot (49%) or some (24%) when they are around people in public places who are not wearing masks. By contrast, just 28% say they are bothered at least some by stores and businesses that require customers to wear a mask. Far more (72%) say such a requirement does not bother them much or at all.

Those who are very (73%) or somewhat (61%) concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19 are far more likely to say it bothers them a lot when people around them do not wear masks than those who are not too or not at all concerned

## Far larger shares of Americans bothered by people not wearing masks in public than by store requirements

% of U.S. adults who say it bothers them \_\_\_ when ...



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

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about getting the coronavirus (29%).

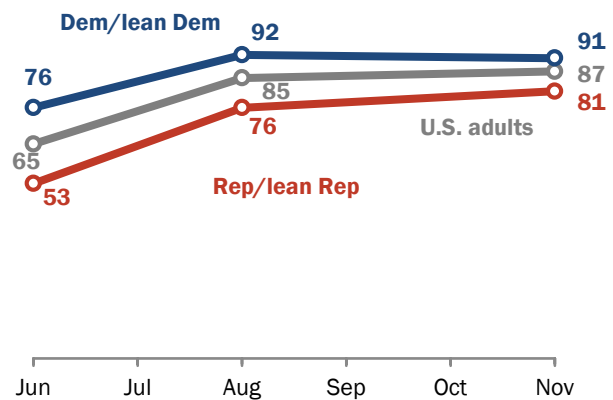
Similarly, adults ages 65 and older (62%) along with Democrats (65%) are more likely to say they are bothered a lot when people around them do not wear masks in public.

Majorities across all major demographic groups say they are not too or not at all bothered by stores and businesses requiring a face-covering. Republicans are relatively more likely to say they are bothered by this than Democrats. Still, just 36% of Republicans are bothered a lot or some by such requirements, compared with 64% who say the requirements don't bother them much or at all.

Large shares of Americans across groups report wearing a mask when out in public. Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) adults say they have worn a mask or face covering all or most of the time when in stores and businesses over the past month, including 91% of Democrats and 81% of Republicans. While a slightly larger majority of Democrats than Republicans reports wearing a mask in stores, the partisan gap is much smaller than it was in June (23 points).

## Americans report widespread mask use when visiting stores, businesses

*% who say they have worn a mask or face covering all or most of the time in stores or businesses over the past month*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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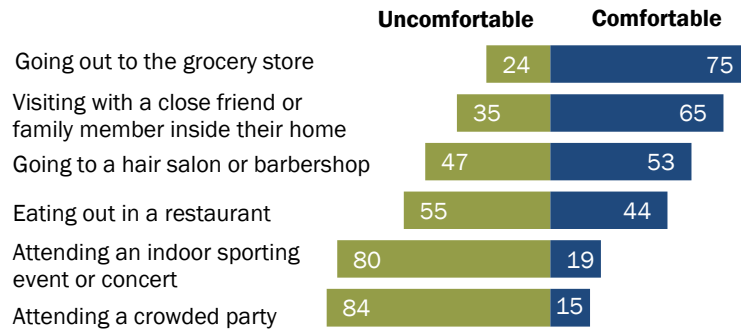


Americans draw clear distinctions between the activities they feel comfortable and uncomfortable doing during the outbreak.

A majority (75%) says they feel comfortable going to the grocery store given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, and about two-thirds (65%) say they are comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home. Just over half (53%) are comfortable going to a hair salon or barbershop.

### Three-quarters say they're comfortable going to the grocery store; few comfortable attending a party

*% of U.S. adults who say, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they feel \_\_\_ doing each of the following*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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By contrast, more say they would be uncomfortable eating in a restaurant than say they would be comfortable (55% vs. 44%), and large majorities would be uncomfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert (80%) or attending a crowded party (84%).

People’s degree of personal concern over getting a serious case of COVID-19 is strongly linked with their comfort level with a range of activities.

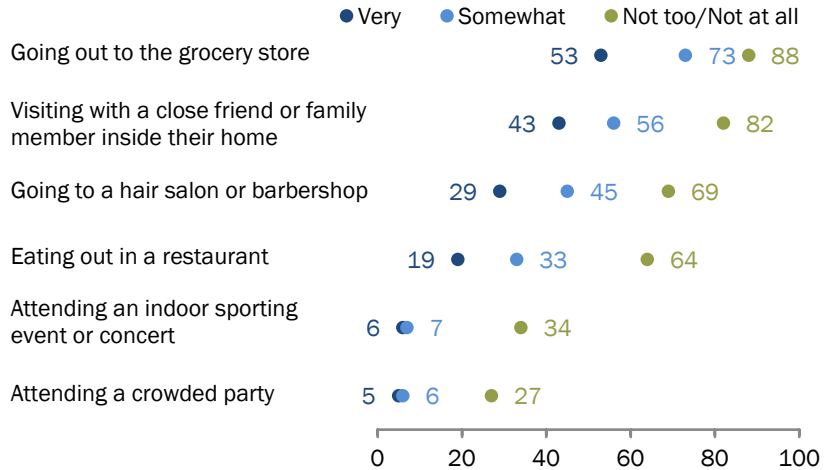
For instance, 53% of those who are very concerned about getting a serious case of the coronavirus say they are comfortable going to the grocery store compared with far larger shares of those who are somewhat concerned (73%) or not too or not at all concerned about getting a serious case of the coronavirus (88%).

Other activities illustrate a similar pattern, including visiting with a close friend or family member in their home and going to a hair salon or barbershop.

**Those most concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19 least comfortable with range of activities**

*% of U.S. adults who would be comfortable doing each of the following*

*Among those \_\_\_ concerned they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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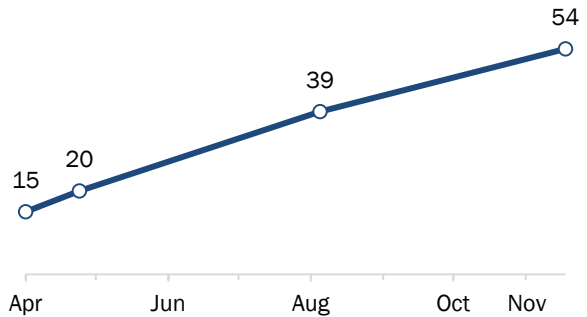
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Reflecting the mounting toll the coronavirus has had on the country, just over half of Americans (54%) now say they personally know someone who has been hospitalized or has died as a result of having COVID-19. The share who say this has risen in each Pew Research Center survey conducted since April.

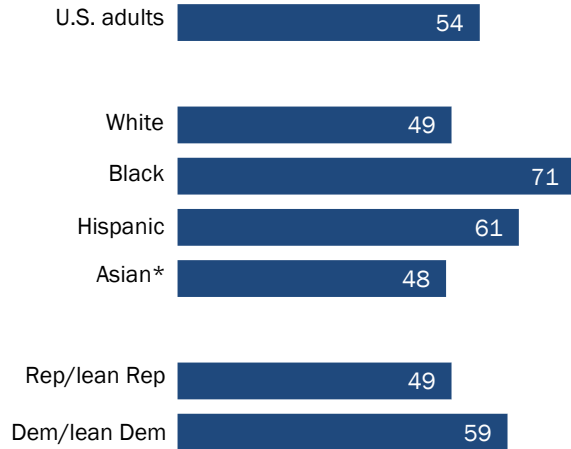
Black Americans are especially likely to say they know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having the coronavirus: 71% say this, compared with smaller shares of Hispanic (61%), White (49%) and Asian American (48%) adults.

### 54% of U.S. adults now know someone hospitalized or who died from COVID-19

*% of U.S. adults who say they personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19*



*% of U.S. adults who say they personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19 as of November 2020*



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.  
 Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

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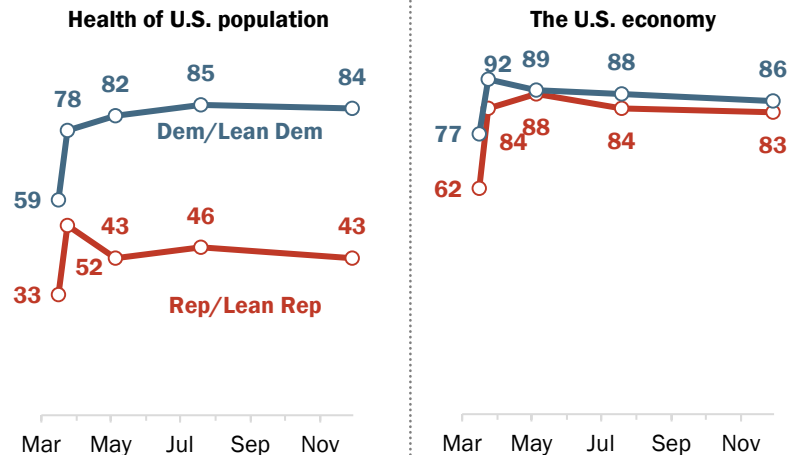
## Republicans and Democrats differ over outbreak's threat to public health

A large majority of Americans (84%) continue to view the coronavirus outbreak as a major threat to the U.S. economy, and about two-thirds (65%) view it as a major threat to the health of the U.S. population as a whole. Public concern about the outbreak's impact on the economy and public health have held steady in surveys conducted since late March.

Democrats remain far more likely than Republicans to say the outbreak is a major threat to public health: 84% of Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party say this, compared with 43% of Republicans and Republican leaners. The partisan gap on this question remains about as wide as it has been at any point during the outbreak.

### Democrats nearly twice as likely as Republicans to view COVID-19 as a major threat to public health

*% of U.S. adults who say the coronavirus outbreak is a major threat to ...*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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By contrast, large shares of both Democrats (86%) and Republicans (83%) say the outbreak is a major threat to the U.S. economy, consistent with Center surveys conducted over the past seven months.

When it comes to how key groups and officials have responded to the outbreak, the public continues to rate the job done by hospitals and medical centers very highly. Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) say they have done an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak.

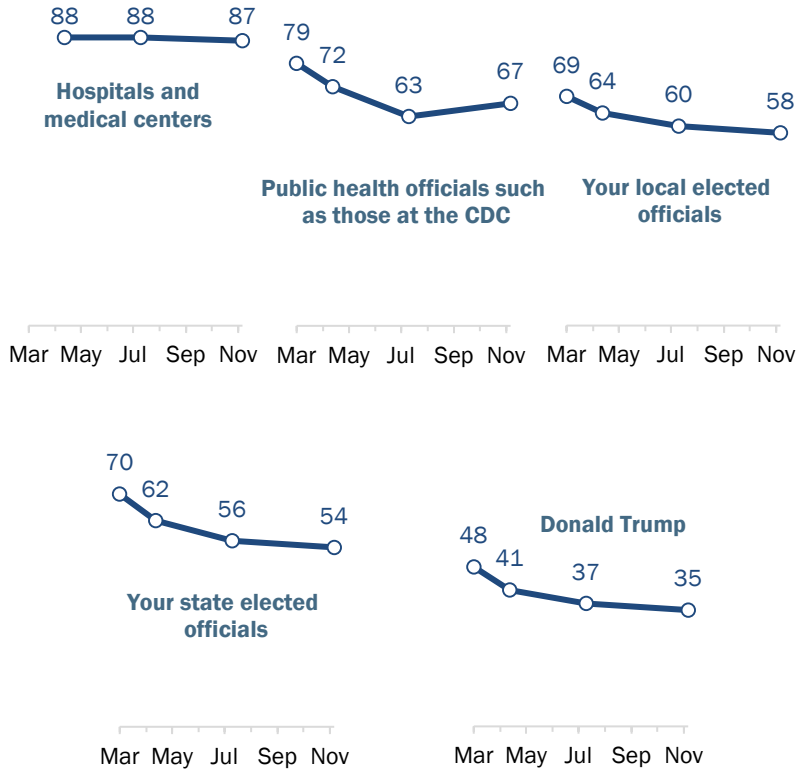
About two-thirds (67%) say public health officials, such as those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have done an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak. This rating is slightly higher than last assessed in July. Narrow majorities rate the responses by local (58%) and state elected officials (54%) positively; both groups have seen their ratings decline since the early stages of the outbreak in the U.S.

The public is largely critical of how President Donald Trump has responded. More say

Trump has done an only fair or poor job than say he has done an excellent or good job (65% vs. 36%) responding to the outbreak. Ratings of Trump are similar to those from July.

### Public continues to give very high marks to hospitals and medical centers for their COVID-19 response

% of U.S. adults who rate \_\_\_ as doing an **excellent/good job** responding to the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020. "Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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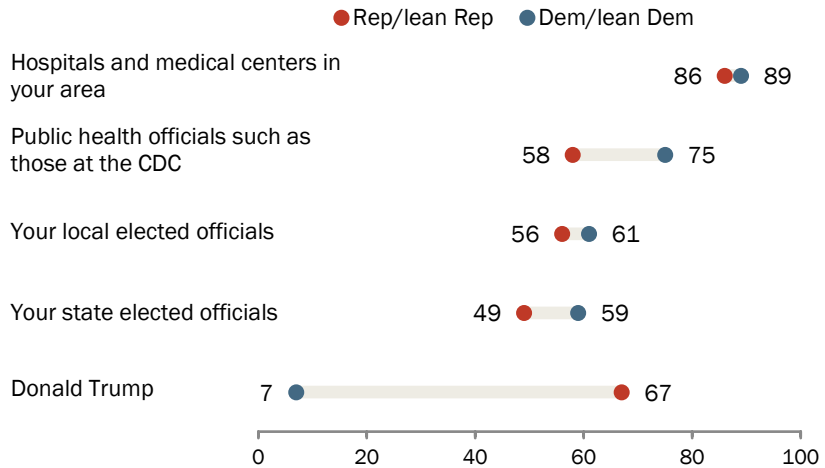
Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say Trump has done an excellent or good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak (67% vs. 7%). Still, Trump's ratings among Republicans have moved lower over the course of the outbreak: 83% rated his performance positively in late March and 73% said the same in late July.

A larger majority of Democrats (75%) than Republicans (58%) say public health officials have done an excellent or good job responding to coronavirus outbreak. Democrats' ratings of health officials have been consistently high in surveys since March, while Republicans' ratings have been lower in comparison.

Partisans are aligned in their highly positive ratings of the response by hospitals and medical centers: 89% of Democrats and 86% of Republicans say they have done an excellent or good job responding to the outbreak.

## Partisans share positive assessments of hospital performance, differ over health officials, Trump

% who rate \_\_\_ as doing an **excellent/good job** responding to the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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Though most give positive marks to hospitals and medical centers for their handling of the outbreak, 52% of U.S. adults think the hospitals in their area will struggle to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus over the next few months; 47% think they will be able to handle the number of patients.

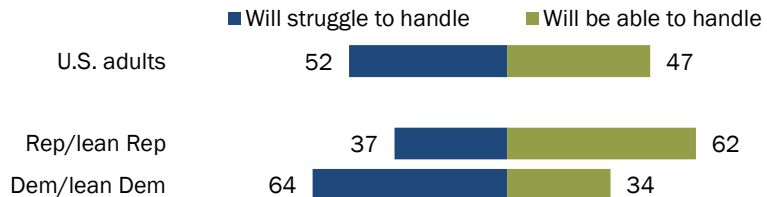
Republicans are less concerned than Democrats that hospitals will struggle to handle coronavirus caseloads, a finding in keeping with wide political differences over the degree to which the coronavirus poses a major threat to public health.

Seven-in-ten of those who are very concerned about getting a case of COVID-19 that would require hospitalization believe hospitals in their area will struggle to handle patient needs over the next few months.

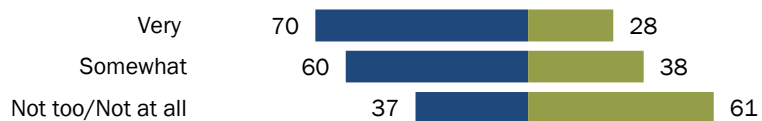
Americans think the effectiveness of treatments for the coronavirus have improved since the early stages of the outbreak: Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say treatments and

### About half of Americans think local hospitals will struggle to handle number of COVID-19 patients

*% of U.S. adults who say when thinking about hospitals and medical centers in their area, over the next few months they \_\_\_ the number of people seeking treatment for coronavirus*



*Among those \_\_\_ concerned they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

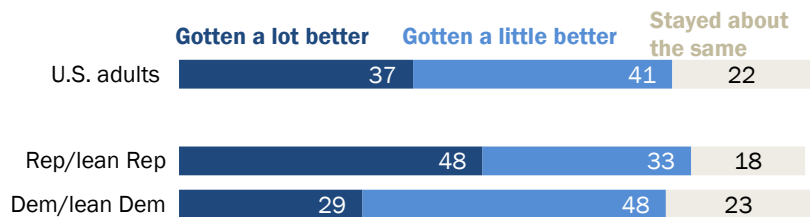
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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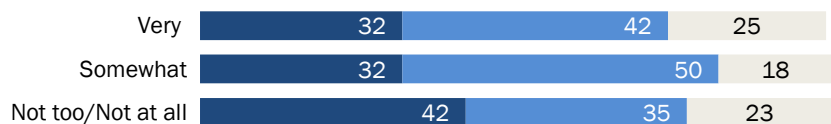
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### Most Americans see some improvement in available treatments for COVID-19

*% who say compared with the early stages of the outbreak, effectiveness of treatments and drugs for people with the coronavirus has ...*



*Among those \_\_\_ concerned they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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drugs for people with COVID-19 have gotten a lot (37%) or a little (41%) better.

## There are growing political divides over trust in scientists since the start of the coronavirus outbreak

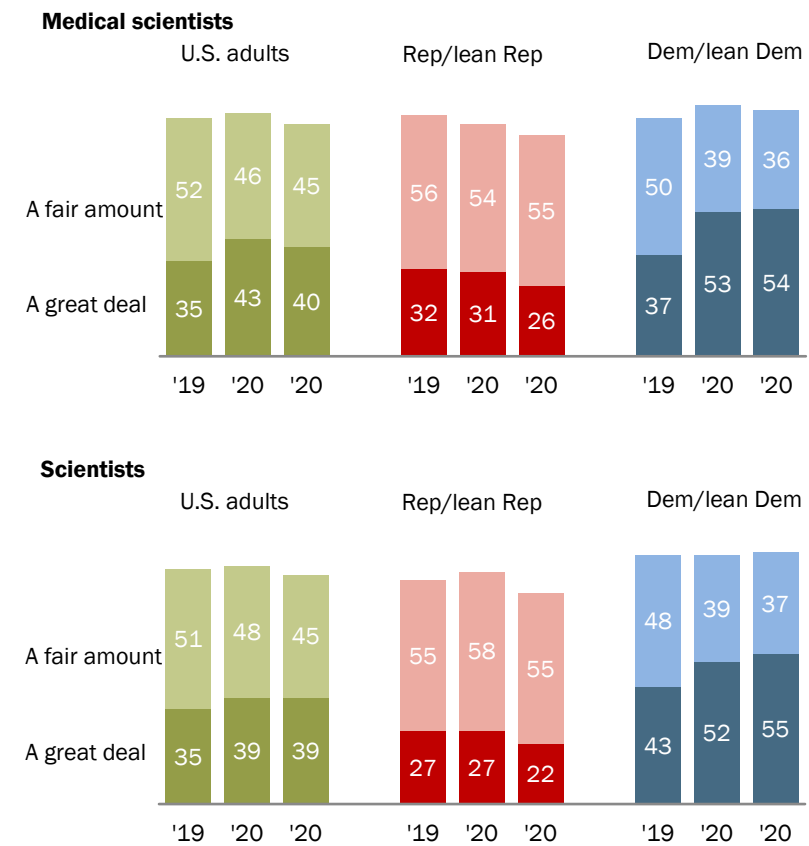
Amid a global crisis that puts scientists and their work in a central role advising government leaders on measures to address the spread of the coronavirus and leading efforts to develop new treatments and a vaccine to prevent it, the Center finds public confidence in scientists stable since last measured in April and thus modestly higher than before the outbreak fully took hold.

About four-in-ten (39%) U.S. adults say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists to act in the public’s best interest, the same as in April and up from 35% in January 2019.

Similarly, four-in-ten U.S. adults (40%) say they have a great deal of confidence in *medical scientists* to act in the public interest, compared with 35% who said this before the pandemic and roughly the same as in April 2020. (Half of survey respondents were randomly assigned to rate their confidence in medical scientists and half to rate their confidence in scientists).

### Trust in scientists remains higher than before the outbreak, but political differences widen

*% of U.S. adults who have \_\_\_ of confidence in the following groups to act in the best interests of the public*



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted November 18-29, 2020.

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Large shares of the U.S. public have at least a fair amount of confidence in both groups to act in the best interests of the public. Very few say they have not too much or no confidence at all in scientists or medical scientists (15% and 14%, respectively).

But these generally positive overall levels of trust in scientists are not universally shared among Americans. Democrats' trust in scientists has risen since January 2019 while that of Republicans has dropped modestly over the same time period. As a result, political differences over this assessment have widened.

In the new survey, 55% of Democrats and those who lean to the Democratic Party say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists, roughly the same as in April and up from 43% in January 2019. The share of Republicans with this strongest level of confidence in scientists to act in the public interest has gone down over the same time period, from 27% in January 2019 and April 2020 to 22% in the new survey. Democrats are now 33 percentage points more likely than Republicans to say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists, a partisan gap that is much larger than it was in January of 2019 (16 points). When the Center first measured public confidence in scientists in June 2016, Democrats were 11 points more likely than Republicans to express a great deal of confidence in scientists.

There is now a similarly large partisan divide in confidence in medical scientists to act in the public interest, in contrast with public assessments before the coronavirus outbreak. In the new survey, 54% of Democrats including leaners have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists to act in the best interests of the public, about the same as in April (53%) and up from 37% in January 2019. Among Republicans and Republican leaners, 26% have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists, down slightly since April, when 31% said this. The partisan gap in this assessment is now 28 percentage points, up from a statistically nonsignificant 5 percentage points before the coronavirus outbreak spread widely in the U.S.

There are also long-standing differences across racial and ethnic groups when it comes to trust in scientists and medical scientists to act in the best interests of the public. For example, White Americans (43%) are more likely than either Black (33%) or Hispanic (30%) Americans to say they have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists. (See [Appendix](#) for details.)

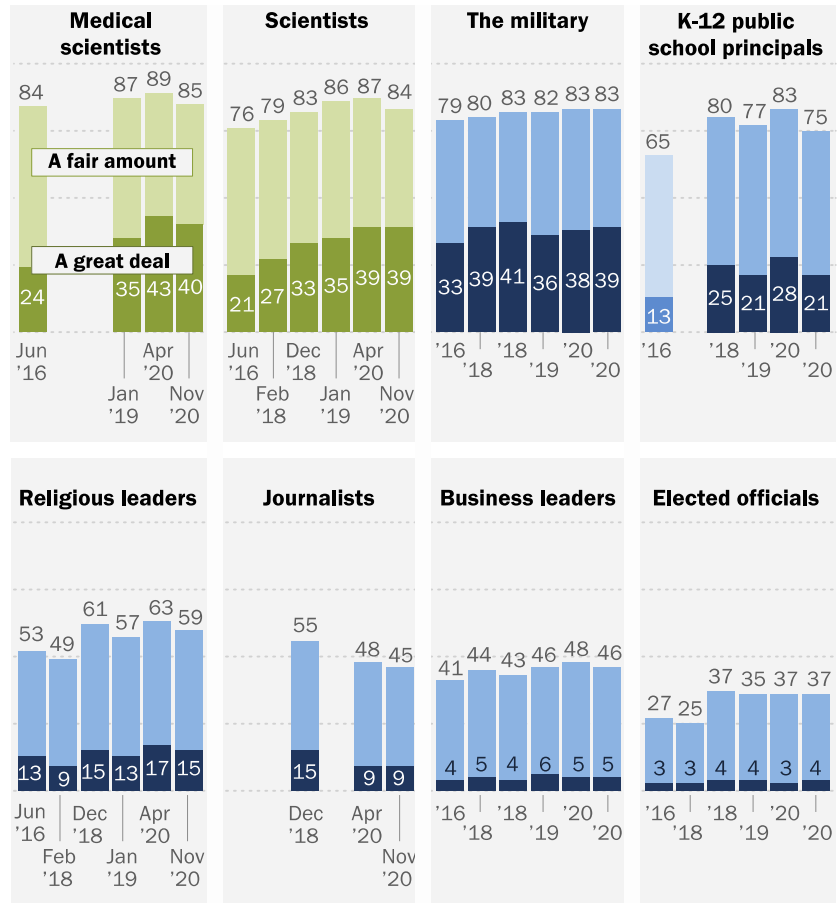
Public trust in scientists and medical scientists is roughly on par with trust in the military. About four-in-ten U.S. adults (39%) have a great deal of confidence in the military to act in the public interest, 44% have a fair amount of confidence in the military and just 17% have not too much or no confidence in the military at all. Republicans remain more likely than Democrats to hold a high level of trust in the military (51% vs. 28%).

Public confidence in other groups is far lower. About two-in-ten U.S. adults (21%) have a great deal of confidence in K-12 public school principals, down from 28% in April but on par with January 2019.

The uptick in public confidence for scientists (as well as for medical scientists) since January 2019 is not seen in ratings of other groups and institutions. For instance, the shares with the strongest level of confidence in the military and religious leaders has stayed about the same since January of 2019, and strong confidence in elected officials remains mired in the single digits. The public is less likely to say they have a great deal of confidence in journalists today than they were in December 2018 (9% vs. 15%) and assessments are the same now as they were in April.

### About four-in-ten Americans have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists, scientists

% of U.S. adults who say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in each of the following groups to act in the best interests of the public



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or who did not give an answer are not shown. In 2016, the question asked about K-12 public school principals and superintendents. Source: Survey conducted November 18-29, 2020. "Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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[pewresearch.org/science](http://pewresearch.org/science).

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted Nov. 18 to Nov. 29, 2020. A total of 12,648 panelists responded out of 13,568 who were sampled, for a response rate of 93%. This does not include four panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 5%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,648 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

| Recruitment dates         | Mode                  | Invited       | Joined        | Active panelists remaining |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014 | Landline/<br>cell RDD | 9,809         | 5,338         | 2,187                      |
| Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015   | Landline/<br>cell RDD | 6,004         | 2,976         | 1,245                      |
| April 25 to June 4, 2017  | Landline/<br>cell RDD | 3,905         | 1,628         | 622                        |
| Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018   | ABS/web               | 9,396         | 8,778         | 5,906                      |
| Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019  | ABS/web               | 5,900         | 4,720         | 2,334                      |
| June 1 to July 19, 2020   | ABS/web               | 1,865         | 1,636         | 1,274                      |
|                           | <b>Total</b>          | <b>36,879</b> | <b>25,076</b> | <b>13,568</b>              |

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,568 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized people ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

### Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Nov. 18 to Nov. 29, 2020. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Nov. 18, 2020.

On Nov. 18 and Nov. 19, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Nov. 18, 2020. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Nov. 19, 2020.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to four email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to four SMS reminders.

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#### Invitation and reminder dates

|                    | Soft Launch | Full Launch |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Initial invitation | 11/18/2020  | 11/19/2020  |
| First reminder     | 11/21/2020  | 11/21/2020  |
| Second reminder    | 11/23/2020  | 11/23/2020  |
| Third reminder     | 11/25/2020  | 11/25/2020  |
| Final reminder     | 11/28/2020  | 11/28/2020  |

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### Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, four ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort.

To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

## Weighting dimensions

| Variable                                                             | Benchmark source                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Age x Gender                                                         | 2018 American Community Survey                                         |
| Education x Gender                                                   |                                                                        |
| Education x Age                                                      |                                                                        |
| Race/Ethnicity x Education                                           |                                                                        |
| Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans |                                                                        |
| Years lived in the U.S.                                              |                                                                        |
| Census region x Metro/Non-metro                                      | 2019 CPS March Supplement                                              |
| Volunteerism                                                         | 2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement                          |
| Voter registration                                                   | 2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement                            |
| Party affiliation                                                    | Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys |
| Frequency of internet use                                            | 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey                          |
| Religious affiliation                                                |                                                                        |

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

| <b>Margins of error</b>                                                        |                               |                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                | <b>Unweighted sample size</b> | <b>Margin of error in percentage points</b> |
| U.S. adults                                                                    | 12,648                        | +/- 1.5                                     |
| Men                                                                            | 5,618                         | +/- 2.3                                     |
| Women                                                                          | 6,930                         | +/- 1.9                                     |
| White                                                                          | 8,652                         | +/- 1.7                                     |
| Black                                                                          | 1,036                         | +/- 4.6                                     |
| Hispanic                                                                       | 2,024                         | +/- 4.5                                     |
| Asian*                                                                         | 372                           | +/- 7.5                                     |
| Ages 18-29                                                                     | 1,264                         | +/- 4.4                                     |
| 30-49                                                                          | 4,128                         | +/- 2.5                                     |
| 50-64                                                                          | 3,752                         | +/- 2.6                                     |
| 65+                                                                            | 3,443                         | +/- 2.6                                     |
| Postgraduate                                                                   | 3,402                         | +/- 2.3                                     |
| College grad                                                                   | 3,752                         | +/- 2.2                                     |
| Some college                                                                   | 3,698                         | +/- 2.5                                     |
| HS or less                                                                     | 1,772                         | +/- 3.1                                     |
| Rep/lean Rep                                                                   | 5,144                         | +/- 2.2                                     |
| Dem/lean Dem                                                                   | 7,201                         | +/- 2.0                                     |
| <i>___ concerned they will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization</i> |                               |                                             |
| Very                                                                           | 2,910                         | +/- 3.2                                     |
| Somewhat                                                                       | 4,198                         | +/- 2.5                                     |
| Not too/Not at all                                                             | 5,516                         | +/- 2.2                                     |

\*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect for each subgroup. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who lean to each of the parties.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.



**Dispositions and response rates**

| <b>Final dispositions</b>                            | <b>AAPOR code</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Completed interview                                  | 1.1               | 12,648        |
| Logged onto survey; broke-off                        | 2.12              | 120           |
| Logged onto survey; did not complete any items       | 2.1121            | 74            |
| Never logged on (implicit refusal)                   | 2.11              | 720           |
| Survey completed after close of the field period     | 2.27              | 2             |
| Completed interview but was removed for data quality |                   | 4             |
| Screened out                                         |                   | N/A           |
| <b>Total panelists in the survey</b>                 |                   | <b>13,568</b> |
| Completed interviews                                 | I                 | 12,648        |
| Partial interviews                                   | P                 | 0             |
| Refusals                                             | R                 | 918           |
| Non-contact                                          | NC                | 2             |
| Other                                                | O                 | 0             |
| Unknown household                                    | UH                | 0             |
| Unknown other                                        | UO                | 0             |
| Not eligible                                         | NE                | N/A           |
| <b>Total</b>                                         |                   | <b>13,568</b> |
| AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$                 |                   | 93%           |

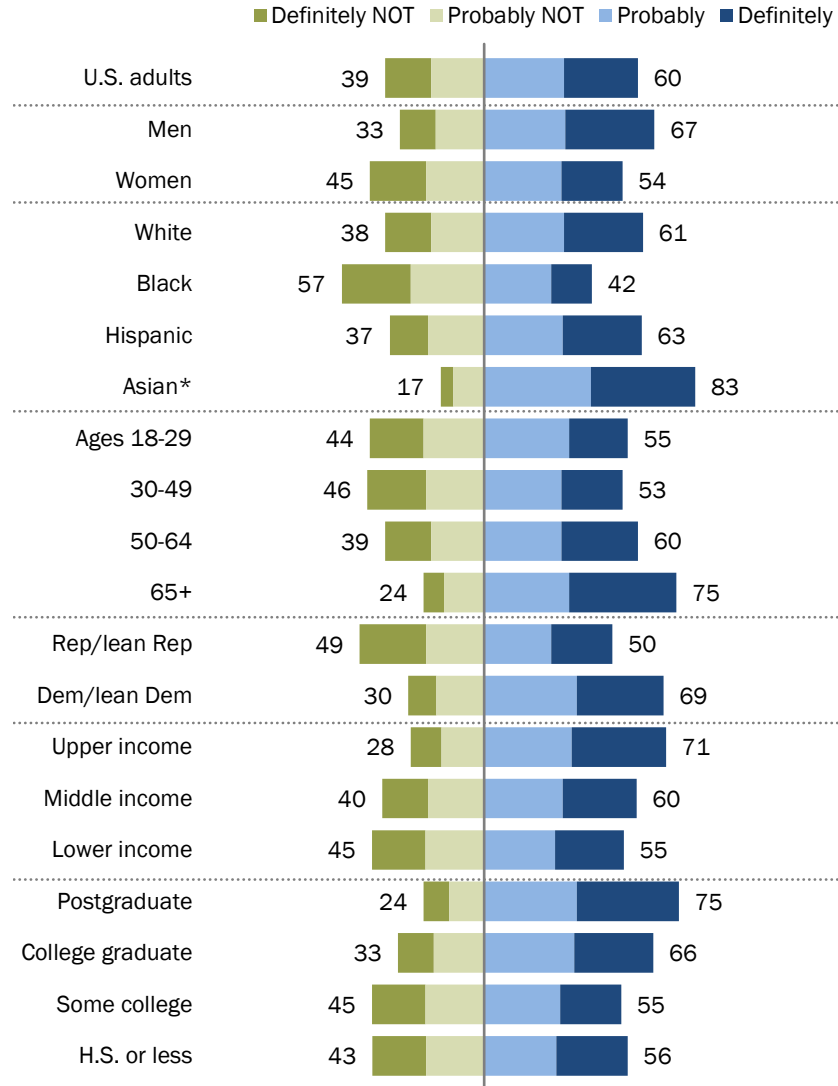
| <b>Cumulative response rate</b>                                                       | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys                                         | 11%          |
| % of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited | 73%          |
| % of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 79             | 65%          |
| Response rate to Wave 79 survey                                                       | 93%          |
| <b>Cumulative response rate</b>                                                       | <b>5%</b>    |

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## Appendix: Detailed charts and tables

### Demographic divides in COVID-19 vaccine intention

% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they would \_\_\_ get the vaccine



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

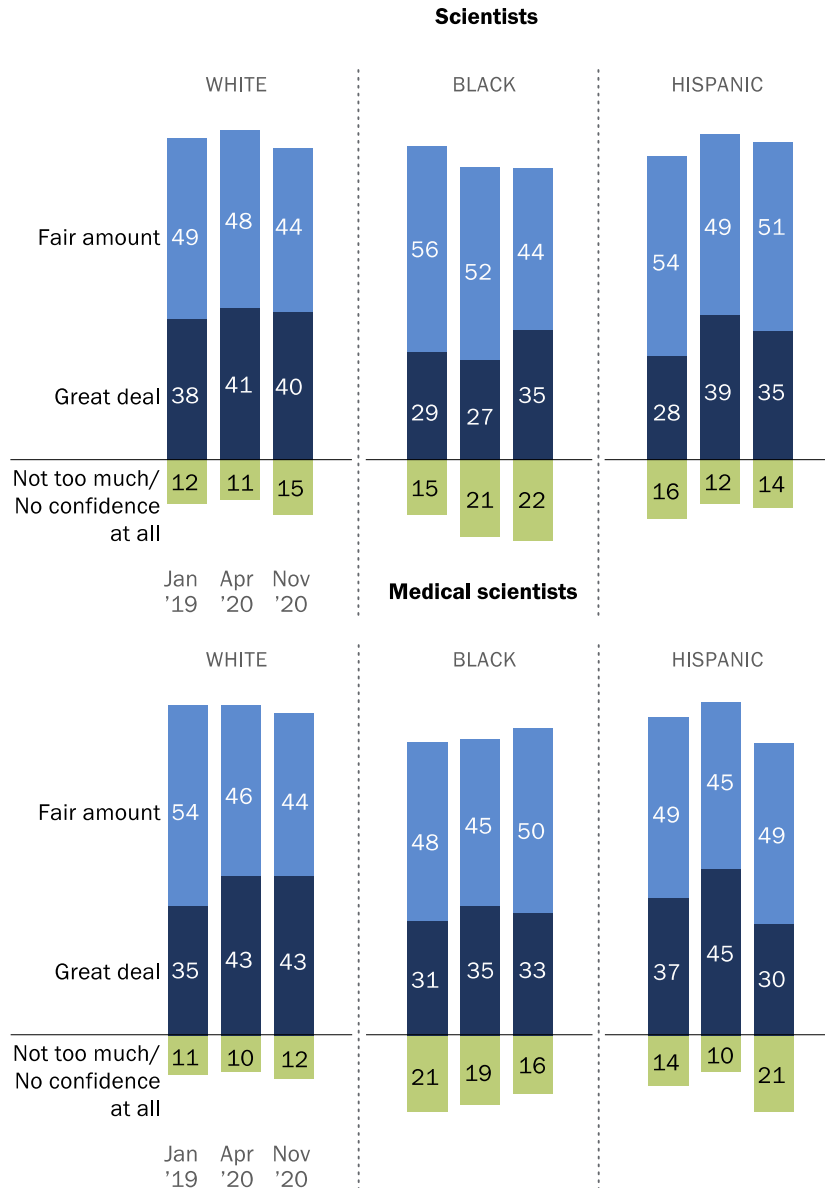
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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## Confidence in scientists and medical scientists among White, Black and Hispanic adults

% who have a \_\_\_ of confidence in the following groups to act in the best interests of the public



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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## Survey question wording and topline

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**WAVE 79 November 2020**  
**SCIENCE TOPLINE**  
**November 18-29, 2020**  
**TOTAL N=12,648**

**ASK ALL:**

CONF How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                              | <u>A great deal<br/>of confidence</u> | <u>A fair amount<br/>of confidence</u> | <u>Not too much<br/>confidence</u> | <u>No confidence<br/>at all</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Elected officials         |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020              | 4                                     | 32                                     | 47                                 | 15                              | 1                    |
| Apr 20-26, 2020              | 3                                     | 33                                     | 49                                 | 14                              | 1                    |
| Jan 7-21, 2019               | 4                                     | 32                                     | 50                                 | 14                              | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 4                                     | 33                                     | 48                                 | 15                              | <1                   |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018          | 3                                     | 22                                     | 52                                 | 23                              | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016          | 3                                     | 24                                     | 54                                 | 19                              | 1                    |
| b. Journalists               |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020              | 9                                     | 37                                     | 31                                 | 23                              | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020              | 9                                     | 39                                     | 33                                 | 19                              | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 15                                    | 41                                     | 28                                 | 16                              | <1                   |
| <b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| <i>The news media</i>        |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Jan 7-21, 2019               | 9                                     | 38                                     | 34                                 | 19                              | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 10                                    | 38                                     | 33                                 | 19                              | <1                   |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018          | 8                                     | 32                                     | 35                                 | 25                              | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016          | 5                                     | 33                                     | 40                                 | 21                              | 1                    |
| c. The military              |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020              | 39                                    | 44                                     | 13                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020              | 38                                    | 45                                     | 13                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| Jan 7-21, 2019               | 36                                    | 46                                     | 14                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 41                                    | 41                                     | 12                                 | 4                               | 1                    |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018          | 39                                    | 41                                     | 15                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016          | 33                                    | 46                                     | 15                                 | 5                               | 1                    |
| d. Religious leaders         |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020              | 15                                    | 45                                     | 29                                 | 12                              | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020              | 17                                    | 46                                     | 26                                 | 11                              | 1                    |
| Jan 7-21, 2019               | 13                                    | 44                                     | 30                                 | 12                              | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 15                                    | 47                                     | 27                                 | 11                              | 1                    |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018          | 9                                     | 40                                     | 34                                 | 16                              | 1                    |
| May 10-June 6, 2016          | 13                                    | 39                                     | 32                                 | 14                              | 1                    |
| e. Business leaders          |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020              | 5                                     | 41                                     | 41                                 | 12                              | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020              | 5                                     | 43                                     | 41                                 | 11                              | 1                    |
| Jan 7-21, 2019               | 6                                     | 40                                     | 43                                 | 11                              | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018          | 4                                     | 39                                     | 43                                 | 14                              | <1                   |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018          | 5                                     | 40                                     | 42                                 | 13                              | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016          | 4                                     | 37                                     | 44                                 | 14                              | 1                    |

**CONF CONTINUED ...**

|                                                                             | <u>A great deal<br/>of confidence</u> | <u>A fair amount<br/>of confidence</u> | <u>Not too much<br/>confidence</u> | <u>No confidence<br/>at all</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=6,365]</b>                                           |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| f. Medical scientists                                                       |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                             | 40                                    | 45                                     | 12                                 | 2                               | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020                                                             | 43                                    | 46                                     | 9                                  | 2                               | <1                   |
| Jan 7-21, 2019                                                              | 35                                    | 52                                     | 11                                 | 2                               | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016                                                         | 24                                    | 60                                     | 12                                 | 3                               | 1                    |
| <b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=6,283]</b>                                           |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| g. Scientists                                                               |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                             | 39                                    | 45                                     | 13                                 | 3                               | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020                                                             | 39                                    | 48                                     | 10                                 | 2                               | 1                    |
| Jan 7-21, 2019                                                              | 35                                    | 51                                     | 11                                 | 2                               | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018                                                         | 33                                    | 49                                     | 14                                 | 3                               | <1                   |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018                                                         | 27                                    | 52                                     | 17                                 | 5                               | <1                   |
| May 10-June 6, 2016                                                         | 21                                    | 55                                     | 18                                 | 4                               | 1                    |
| <b>NO ITEM H</b>                                                            |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| i. Public school principals for<br>grades K-12                              |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                             | 21                                    | 54                                     | 19                                 | 6                               | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020                                                             | 28                                    | 55                                     | 14                                 | 3                               | <1                   |
| Jan 7-21, 2019                                                              | 21                                    | 56                                     | 18                                 | 4                               | 1                    |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018                                                         | 25                                    | 55                                     | 16                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| <b>TREND FOR<br/>COMPARISON:</b>                                            |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| <i>Public school principals and<br/>superintendents for<br/>grades K-12</i> |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018                                                         | 22                                    | 55                                     | 17                                 | 5                               | 1                    |
| May 10-June 6, 2016                                                         | 13                                    | 53                                     | 27                                 | 7                               | 1                    |
| j. Police officers                                                          |                                       |                                        |                                    |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                             | 26                                    | 48                                     | 19                                 | 7                               | <1                   |
| Apr 20-26, 2020                                                             | 24                                    | 54                                     | 17                                 | 4                               | <1                   |
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018                                                         | 30                                    | 48                                     | 16                                 | 5                               | <1                   |

## OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## ASK ALL:

COVIDEGFP How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak? [RANDOMIZE]

|                                                                                                  | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Only fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| a. Donald Trump                                                                                  |                  |             |                  |             |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                                  | 15               | 20          | 16               | 49          | 1                |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020                                                                              | 15               | 21          | 15               | 48          | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                               | 20               | 21          | 17               | 42          | 1                |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                                                                  | 23               | 25          | 19               | 32          | <1               |
| b. Your state elected officials                                                                  |                  |             |                  |             |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                                  | 15               | 38          | 27               | 19          | 1                |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020                                                                              | 16               | 39          | 26               | 18          | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                               | 21               | 41          | 25               | 13          | <1               |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                                                                  | 21               | 49          | 22               | 8           | 1                |
| c. Your local elected officials                                                                  |                  |             |                  |             |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                                  | 14               | 44          | 28               | 14          | 1                |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020                                                                              | 13               | 47          | 27               | 12          | 1                |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                               | 17               | 47          | 27               | 9           | 1                |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                                                                  | 17               | 52          | 22               | 7           | 1                |
| d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) |                  |             |                  |             |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                                  | 22               | 45          | 24               | 9           | <1               |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020                                                                              | 16               | 47          | 25               | 11          | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                                                                               | 24               | 48          | 21               | 7           | 1                |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                                                                  | 30               | 49          | 17               | 4           | <1               |

## NO ITEMS E-F

|                                               |    |    |   |   |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|
| g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area |    |    |   |   |    |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                               | 45 | 42 | 9 | 3 | <1 |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020                           | 43 | 45 | 9 | 3 | 1  |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                            | 47 | 42 | 8 | 3 | 1  |

**ASK ALL:**COVIDTHREAT How much of a threat, if any, is the coronavirus outbreak for... **[RANDOMIZE]**

|                                                 | <u>A major threat</u> | <u>A minor threat</u> | <u>Not a threat</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| a. The health of the U.S. population as a whole |                       |                       |                     |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                 | 65                    | 29                    | 5                   | <1               |
| Jul 13-19, 2020                                 | 67                    | 28                    | 5                   | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                              | 64                    | 31                    | 4                   | <1               |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                 | 66                    | 31                    | 2                   | <1               |
| Mar 10-16, 2020                                 | 47                    | 45                    | 8                   | <1               |
| b. Your personal health                         |                       |                       |                     |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                 | 39                    | 46                    | 14                  | <1               |
| Jul 13-19, 2020                                 | 40                    | 46                    | 13                  | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                              | 38                    | 47                    | 14                  | <1               |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                 | 36                    | 52                    | 11                  | <1               |
| Mar 10-16, 2020                                 | 27                    | 51                    | 22                  | <1               |
| c. The U.S. economy                             |                       |                       |                     |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                 | 84                    | 13                    | 3                   | <1               |
| Jul 13-19, 2020                                 | 86                    | 12                    | 2                   | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                              | 88                    | 10                    | 2                   | <1               |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                 | 88                    | 10                    | 1                   | <1               |
| Mar 10-16, 2020                                 | 70                    | 25                    | 4                   | 1                |
| d. Your personal financial situation            |                       |                       |                     |                  |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                 | 38                    | 42                    | 20                  | <1               |
| Jul 13-19, 2020                                 | 38                    | 43                    | 19                  | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020                              | 41                    | 42                    | 17                  | <1               |
| Mar 19-24, 2020                                 | 49                    | 40                    | 11                  | <1               |
| Mar 10-16, 2020                                 | 34                    | 43                    | 23                  | <1               |

**ASK ALL:**COVID\_FUT Thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak, do you think...? **[RANDOMIZE]**

|                  | <u>The worst is behind us</u> | <u>The worst is still to come</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Nov 18-29, 2020  | 28                            | 71                                | 1                |
| June 16-22, 2020 | 40                            | 59                                | 1                |
| Apr 7-12, 2020   | 26                            | 73                                | 1                |

**ASK ALL:**COVID\_INFECT How concerned, if at all, are you that... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                                                                                      | <u>Very<br/>concerned</u> | <u>Somewhat<br/>concerned</u> | <u>Not too<br/>concerned</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>concerned</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. You might spread the coronavirus to other people without knowing that you have it |                           |                               |                              |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                      | 32                        | 32                            | 23                           | 13                              | <1                   |
| June 16-22, 2020                                                                     | 30                        | 32                            | 23                           | 14                              | <1                   |
| Apr 7-12, 2020                                                                       | 33                        | 34                            | 22                           | 11                              | 1                    |
| b. You will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization                          |                           |                               |                              |                                 |                      |
| Nov 18-29, 2020                                                                      | 23                        | 30                            | 30                           | 17                              | <1                   |
| June 16-22, 2020                                                                     | 24                        | 27                            | 32                           | 17                              | <1                   |
| Apr 7-12, 2020                                                                       | 24                        | 31                            | 32                           | 13                              | <1                   |

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDTRT Compared with the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak, do you think the effectiveness of treatments and drugs for people with the coronavirus has...

Nov 18-29

2020

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 37 | Gotten a lot better    |
| 41 | Gotten a little better |
| 22 | Stayed about the same  |
| 1  | No answer              |

**ASK ALL:**COVIDMED Thinking about hospitals and medical centers in YOUR AREA, over the next few months do you think hospitals and medical centers in your area will... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Nov 18-29

2020

|    |                                                                               |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 47 | Be able to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus  |
| 52 | Struggle to handle the number of people seeking treatment for the coronavirus |
| 2  | No answer                                                                     |



**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_COMFORT

Given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable doing each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                  |                                                                              | Comfortable<br><u>doing this</u> | Uncomfortable<br><u>doing this</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a.               | Going out to the grocery store                                               |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 75                               | 24                                 | <1                  |
|                  | June 16-22, 2020                                                             | 79                               | 20                                 | <1                  |
|                  | Mar 19-24, 2020                                                              | 57                               | 42                                 | <1                  |
| <b>NO ITEM B</b> |                                                                              |                                  |                                    |                     |
| c.               | Eating out in a restaurant                                                   |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 44                               | 55                                 | <1                  |
|                  | June 16-22, 2020                                                             | 44                               | 56                                 | <1                  |
|                  | Mar 19-24, 2020                                                              | 22                               | 77                                 | <1                  |
| d.               | Attending an indoor sporting event or concert                                |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 19                               | 80                                 | <1                  |
|                  | June 16-22, 2020                                                             | 23                               | 76                                 | <1                  |
| e.               | Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home <sup>2</sup> |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 65                               | 35                                 | <1                  |
|                  | Mar 19-24, 2020                                                              | 62                               | 38                                 | <1                  |
| f.               | Attending a crowded party                                                    |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 15                               | 84                                 | <1                  |
|                  | June 16-22, 2020                                                             | 18                               | 81                                 | <1                  |
|                  | Mar 19-24, 2020                                                              | 9                                | 91                                 | <1                  |
| g.               | Going to a hair salon or barbershop                                          |                                  |                                    |                     |
|                  | Nov 18-29, 2020                                                              | 53                               | 47                                 | <1                  |
|                  | June 16-22, 2020                                                             | 53                               | 46                                 | 1                   |

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDMASK1 In the past month, how often, if ever, have you worn a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses?

|                 | All or<br>most of<br><u>the time</u> | Some of<br><u>the time</u> | Hardly<br><u>ever</u> | Never | Have not<br>gone to these<br>types of<br><u>places</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Nov 18-29, 2020 | 87                                   | 7                          | 4                     | 2     | 1                                                      | <1                  |
| Aug 3-16, 2020  | 85                                   | 9                          | 3                     | 1     | 1                                                      | <1                  |
| June 4-10, 2020 | 65                                   | 15                         | 9                     | 7     | 4                                                      | <1                  |

<sup>2</sup> In past surveys, this item has been asked as "Visiting with a close friend or family member at their house." In W69 (June 16-22, 2020), we split from this item with "Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home." There were no significant differences between the items and the data from both questions were combined.

**ASK ALL:**C\_MASKBTHR How much, if at all, does it bother you when... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

|                                                                                          | <u>A lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Not too much</u> | <u>Not at all</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| a. People around you in public places do not wear masks<br>Nov 18-29, 2020               | 49           | 24          | 13                  | 15                | <1               |
| b. Stores and businesses require customers to wear a mask for service<br>Nov 18-29, 2020 | 18           | 10          | 11                  | 61                | <1               |

**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_SCI6E If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, would you...

|                    | <u>Definitely get the vaccine</u> | <u>Probably get the vaccine</u> | <u>Probably NOT get the vaccine</u> | <u>Definitely NOT get the vaccine</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nov 18-29, 2020    | 29                                | 31                              | 21                                  | 18                                    | 1                |
| Sept 8-13, 2020    | 21                                | 30                              | 25                                  | 24                                    | <1               |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020 | 42                                | 30                              | 16                                  | 11                                    | 1                |

**ASK IF PROBABLY OR DEFINITELY WOULD NOT GET VACCINE (COVID\_SCI6E=3,4)****[N=4,972]:**

VACCHNG Once people in the U.S. start getting a vaccine for the coronavirus and there is more information about it, would you say...

Nov 18-29  
2020

|    |                                                                  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 46 | It's possible you would decide to get a vaccine                  |
| 53 | You're pretty certain that you would decide not to get a vaccine |
| <1 | No answer                                                        |

**ASK ALL:**

VAXFIRST

Once a coronavirus vaccine is approved in the U.S., would you be comfortable or uncomfortable being one of the first groups of people to get the vaccine?

Nov 18-29  
2020

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 37 | Comfortable doing this   |
| 62 | Uncomfortable doing this |
| 1  | No answer                |

**ASK ALL:**

VACCNFDT How much confidence, if any, do you have that the research and development process will produce a vaccine for COVID-19 in the U.S. that is safe and effective?

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                             | Sept 8-13<br><u>2020</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 30                       | A great deal of confidence  | 19                       |
| 45                       | A fair amount of confidence | 45                       |
| 17                       | Not too much confidence     | 25                       |
| 8                        | No confidence at all        | 10                       |
| <1                       | No answer                   | <1                       |

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

SCI\_FLU1 Since August of this year, have you gotten a flu shot?

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 44                       | Yes, have gotten a flu shot since August    |
| 55                       | No, have not gotten a flu shot since August |
| <1                       | No answer                                   |

**ASK ALL:**

SCI\_FLU2 How often do you typically get a flu shot?

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 47                       | Every year      |
| 12                       | Every few years |
| 41                       | Rarely or never |
| 1                        | No answer       |

**ASK IF DID NOT RESPOND YES IN W72 OR W67 OR W65 (XKNOWPAT=1):**

COVID\_KNOWPATIENTb Do you personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

|                    | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>No<br/>answer</u> |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Nov 18-29, 2020    | 54         | 46        | <1                   |
| Aug 3-16, 2020     | 39         | 61        | <1                   |
| Apr 29-May 5, 2020 | 20         | 80        | <1                   |
| Apr 7-12, 2020     | 15         | 85        | <1                   |

**ASK ALL:**

SCM2

Which of the following best describes what you think about the scientific method?  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                                                                                | Jan 7-21<br><u>2019</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 67                       | The scientific method generally produces accurate conclusions                  | 63                      |
| 31                       | The scientific method can be used to produce any conclusion the research wants | 35                      |
| 3                        | No answer                                                                      | 2                       |

**ASK ALL:**

KNOW2

Here's a different kind of question. (If you don't know the answer, select "Not sure.")

A scientist is conducting a study to determine how well a new medication treats ear infections. The scientist tells the participants to put 10 drops in their infected ear each day. After two weeks, all participants' ear infections had healed.

Which of the following changes to the design of this study would most improve the ability to test if the new medication effectively treats ear infections? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                                                                                                  | Jan 7-21<br><u>2019</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 60                       | Create a second group of participants with ear infections who do not use any ear drops (Correct) | 60                      |
| 40                       | NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer                                                                 | 40                      |
| 5                        | Create a second group of participants with ear infections who use 15 drops a day                 | 5                       |
| 8                        | Have participants use ear drops for only 1 week                                                  | 13                      |
| 4                        | Have participants put ear drops in both their infected ear and healthy ear                       | 5                       |
| 23                       | Not sure                                                                                         | 16                      |
| <1                       | No answer                                                                                        | 1                       |

**ASK ALL:**

KNOW6

The time a computer takes to start has increased dramatically. One possible explanation for this is that the computer is running out of memory.

This explanation is a scientific... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4]**

| Nov 18-29<br><u>2020</u> |                                  | Jan 7-21<br><u>2019</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 50                       | Hypothesis (Correct)             | 52                      |
| 50                       | NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer | 48                      |
| 7                        | Conclusion                       | 8                       |
| 3                        | Experiment                       | 4                       |
| 19                       | Observation                      | 19                      |
| 21                       | Not sure                         | 17                      |
| 1                        | No answer                        | 1                       |

**ASK ALL:**

KNOW14

Based on what you have heard or read, which of the following statements best describes the scientific method? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2]**

Nov 18-29

2020

66 The scientific method produces findings meant to  
be continually tested and updated over time

34 NET Incorrect/Not sure/No answer

10 The scientific method identifies unchanging core  
principles and truths

23 Not sure

1 No answer

Jan 7-21

2019

67

33

15

17

1

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**