



the Generation Lab



The
ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION

Covid-19 and Youth Outlook

A study based on a survey of 908 young people in the United States



the
Generation
Lab

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I INTRODUCTION

Although the Covid-19 vaccines have given America a meaningful shield against the virus, aggressive variants and vaccine aversion have dented the momentum.

State of play: As of September 25th, 2021, 56% of Americans are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, yet continued spread of mis- and disinformation about the disease and public safety, and issues of access, have slowed vaccination rates. As businesses, schools, and workplaces resume normal activities, new cases have surged to January 2021 levels.

As part of its ongoing work to support the public health community and policymakers with data to make informed local and national decisions, The Rockefeller Foundation commissioned this study to understand what young people think about the virus, the vaccine, and other important safety measures.

Generation Lab interviewed hundreds of young people around the country to express their views about vaccines, public health and beyond.

Based on a survey of 908 young people conducted on August 16-30, 2021.



Covid-19 Vaccine

- Only 36% of unvaccinated respondents say they will definitely not get vaccinated
- 13% of unvaccinated will definitely get vaccinated and another 33% are likely to get vaccinated



Covid-19 Testing

- 90% of respondents have gotten tested for Covid-19 fewer than 5 times since March 2021
- Over 60% of the respondents are somewhat or very likely to test for Covid-19 every 1-2 weeks if offered



Covid-19 Information

- Nearly 90% of respondents have spoken about the Covid-19 vaccine with family members but only 41% with a healthcare worker
- Only 9% feel as though their questions have not been answered



Covid-19 Risk

- 62% of respondents have become more concerned about getting Covid-19 over the last 30 day
- Over a half of 13-17-year-old respondents, three-fourths of 18-24-year-olds, and two-thirds of 25-29-year-olds are more concerned



Delta Variant

- Over three-fourths of respondents are at least somewhat concerned about the Delta variant
- 72% of the respondents have changed their behavior in response to the Delta variant, many more continued taking precautions before the rise of the variant



Delta Variant Concerns

- Among those concerned with the Delta variant, 72% are most concerned about getting infected or spreading it to other people
- Only 25% of concerned unvaccinated people will get the vaccine if Delta cases rise in their community



II

KEY INSIGHTS



Covid-19 Precautions

- Nearly three-fourths of 18-29-year old respondents prefer being vaccinated over frequent testing and masking
- 64% of middle and high-school aged students support mask-mandates for students and staff



Unvaccinated Youth

- Families of 43% of unvaccinated youth do not want them to get the Covid-19 vaccine at all, 24% do not want their children vaccinated yet
- Over two-thirds of unvaccinated youth plan to mask in public places to keep their loved ones safe



Vaccine Mandates

- 55% of middle and high-school aged students support a vaccine mandate for all compared to 67% of those aged 18-29
- In series of follow-up interviews, vaccine mandates came up as the main lever that would push them over the edge to get vaccinated



II KEY INSIGHTS

Following the survey, we conducted 121 follow-up interviews to better understand the broader trends. Here are the key takeaways from the qualitative analysis:

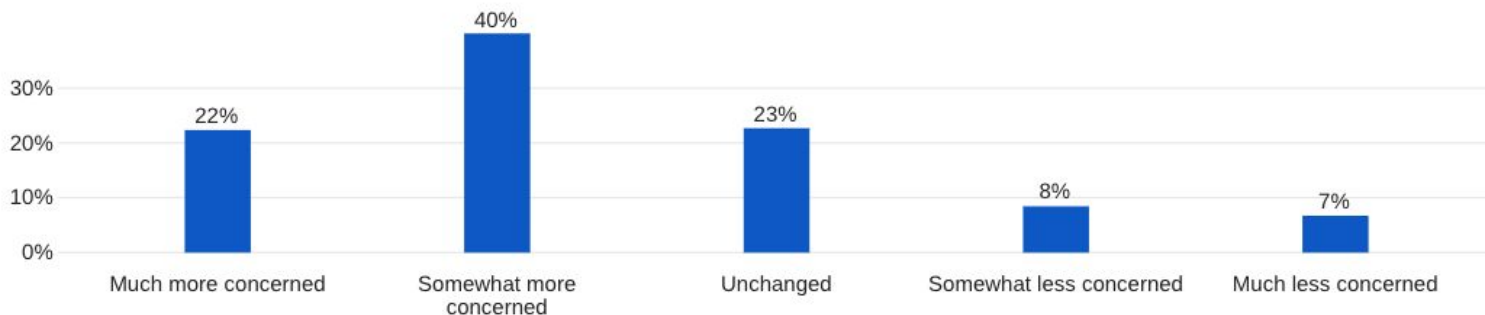
- ❖ When young people talk to their families about the Covid-19 vaccine, one of the most common and **impactful topics is the risk of infection** to family members.
- ❖ When it comes to masking, many young adults don't have a rigid aversion. **They don't have a problem with wearing a mask** when there is a risk of getting infected.
- ❖ **Young people are willing to get tested** if it was accessible and affordable. They also want be supported by their employer or school if they test positive for Covid-19.
- ❖ **Worries about allergies and side-effects, especially concerns about fertility**, are the main reason some young adults remain unvaccinated. Those hesitant cite risk of adverse events, lack of long-term trials, and reports of miscarriages and menstrual irregularities as the reason why they are not vaccinated yet.
- ❖ Among young unvaccinated people, **mandates are the most persuasive tool**.



FINDINGS

1. Concern of getting Covid-19 is rising among youth

“Over the past 30 days, how has your level of concern about your risk of getting Covid-19 changed?”





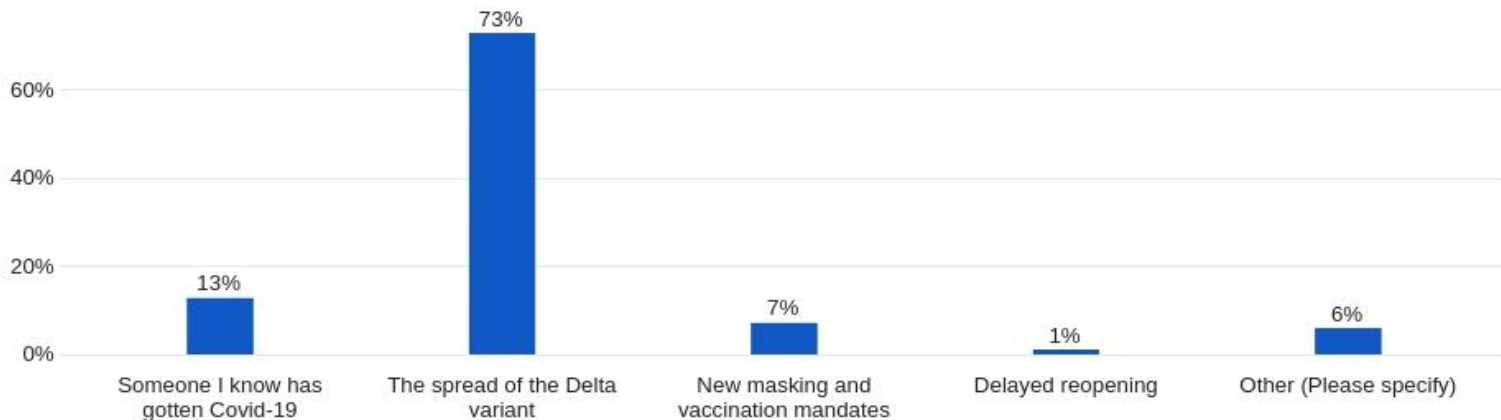
III

FINDINGS

2. Delta's spread is the primary reason for the rise in concern

“What has been the primary reason that’s raised your concern?”

**** respondents who are much or somewhat more concerned ****



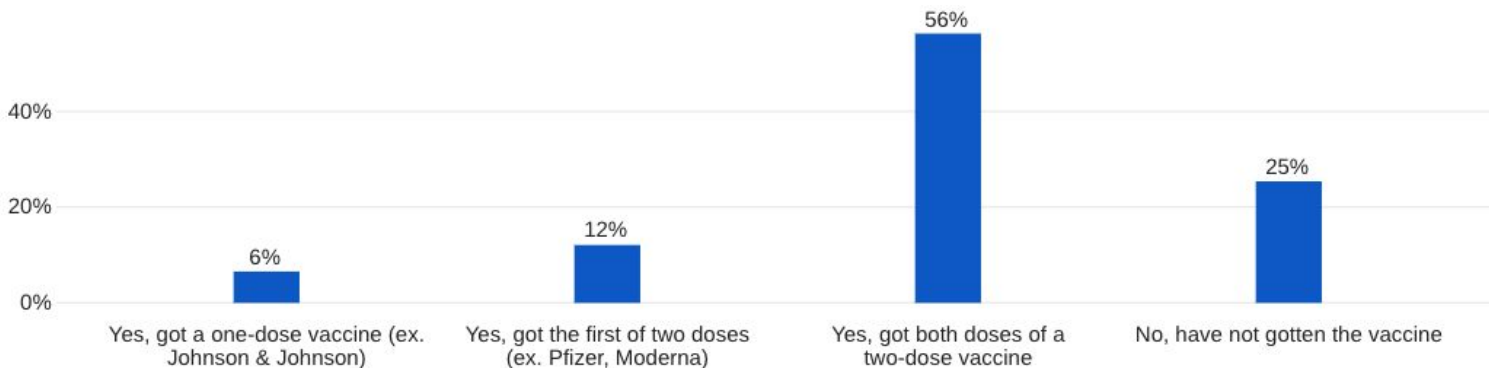


III

FINDINGS

3. Most have received at least one dose of the vaccine

“Have you personally received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, or not?”

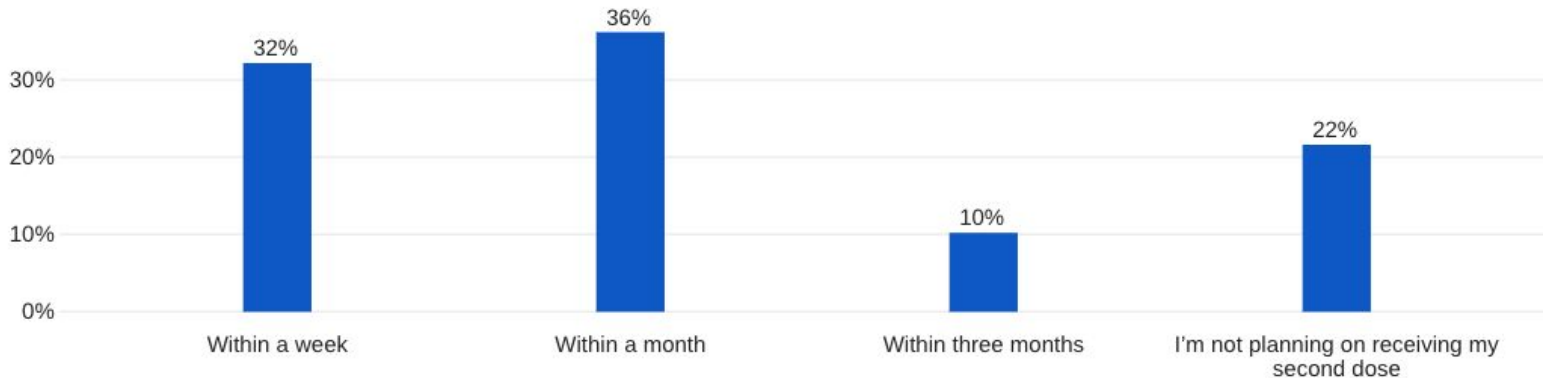




4. Those who need a second dose will likely receive it within 3 months

“When do you plan to receive your second dose of the vaccine?”

**** respondents who haven't received their second dose ****

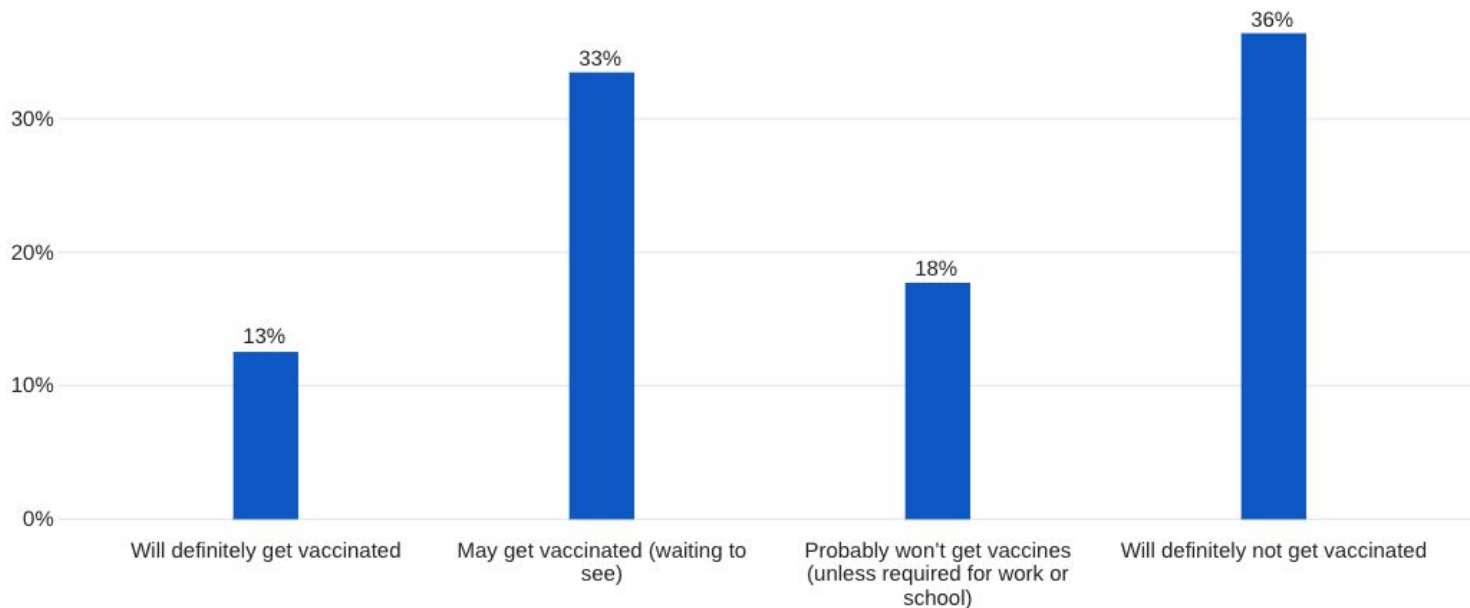




5. Majority of the unvaccinated do not intend to get the vaccine

“Do you think you ...?”

**** respondents who are not vaccinated ****

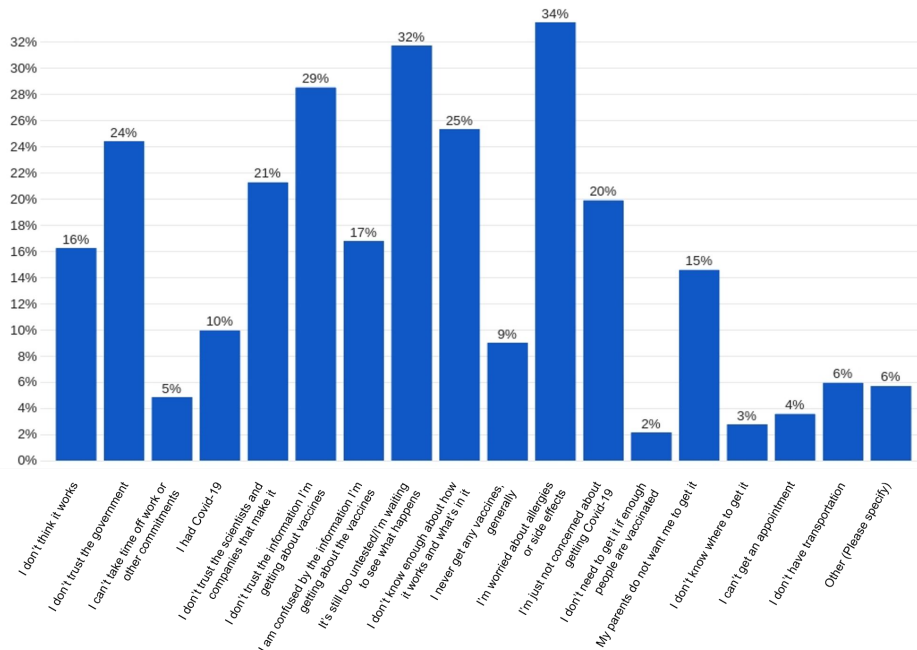




6. Reasons to remain unvaccinated vary widely

“Which of these are the reason(s) why you have not gotten a Covid-19 vaccine?” (Select all that apply)

** respondents who are not vaccinated **



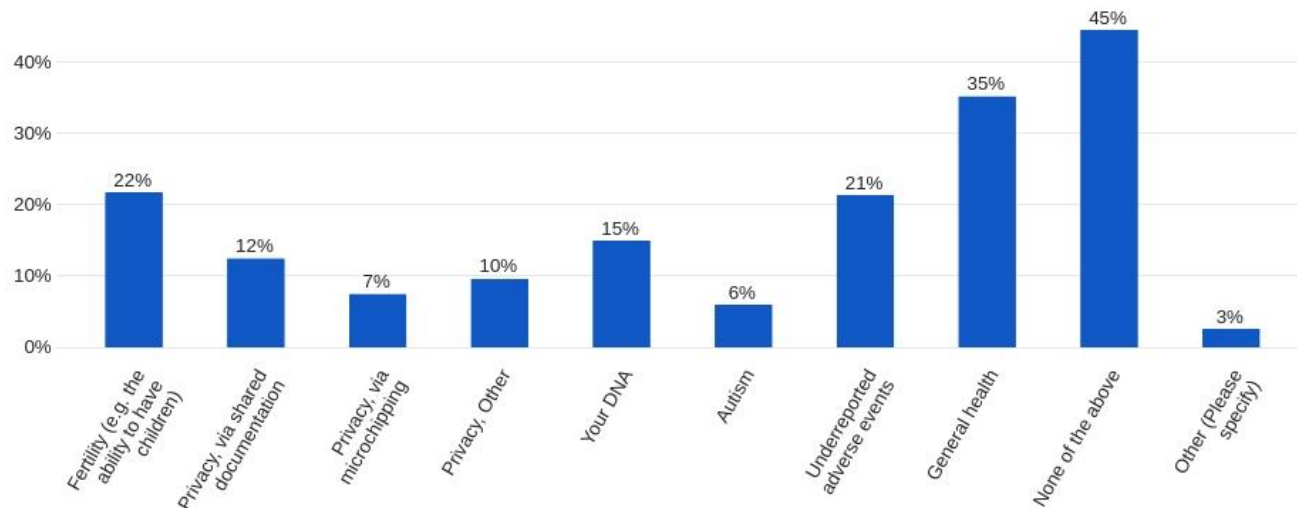


III

FINDINGS

7. Impact on general health is the most common concern of the vaccine

“Are you concerned about the impact of the Covid-19 vaccine on any of the following? (Select all that apply)”



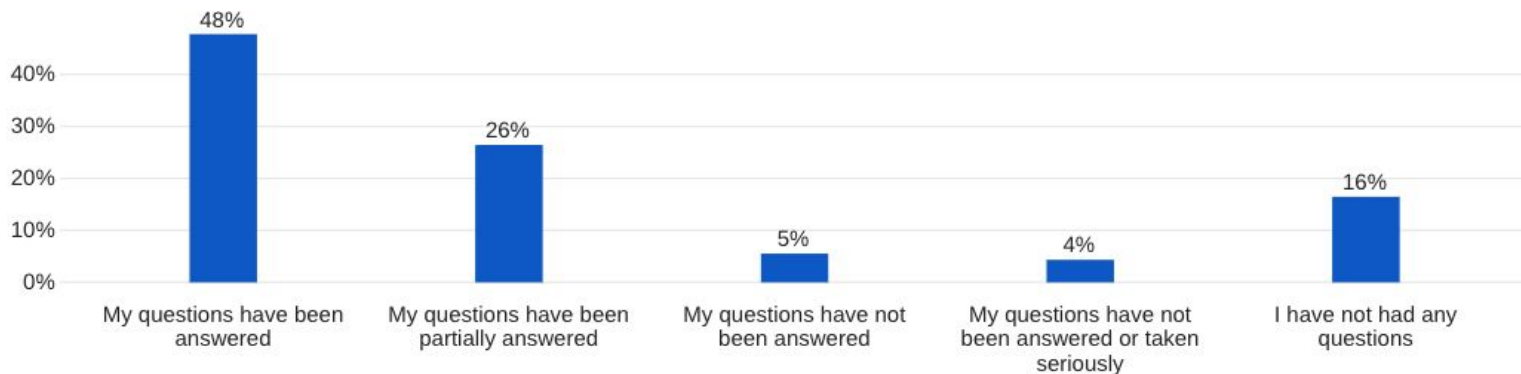


III

FINDINGS

8. Most feel as though their questions have been at least partially answered

“Do you feel like any questions you have had regarding the vaccine have been answered?”





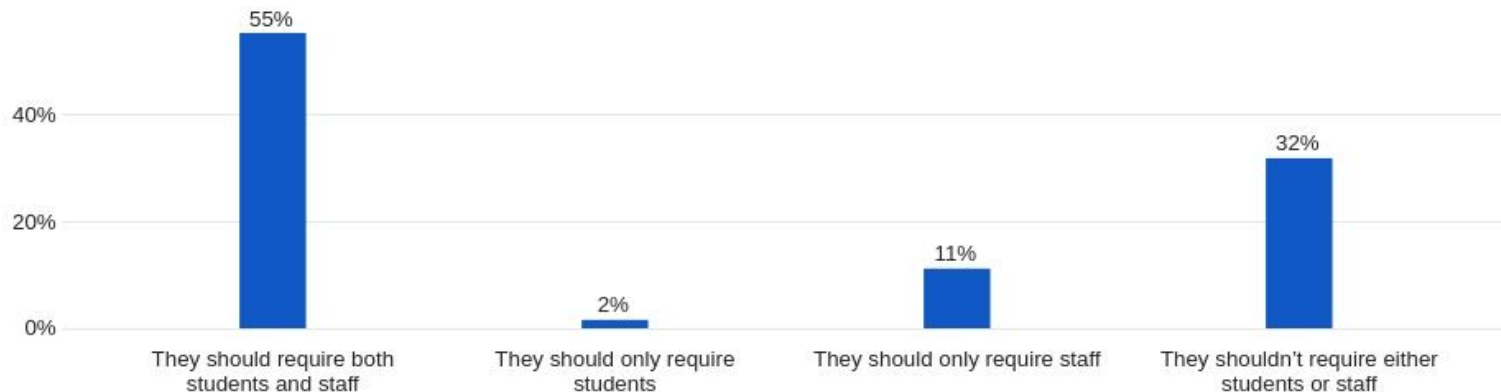
III

FINDINGS

9. Most approve of some form of a campus vaccine mandate

“Do you think your school should mandate the Covid-19 vaccines for all students and staff members (except for those with a medical or religious exemption)?”

**** middle and high-school aged students ****





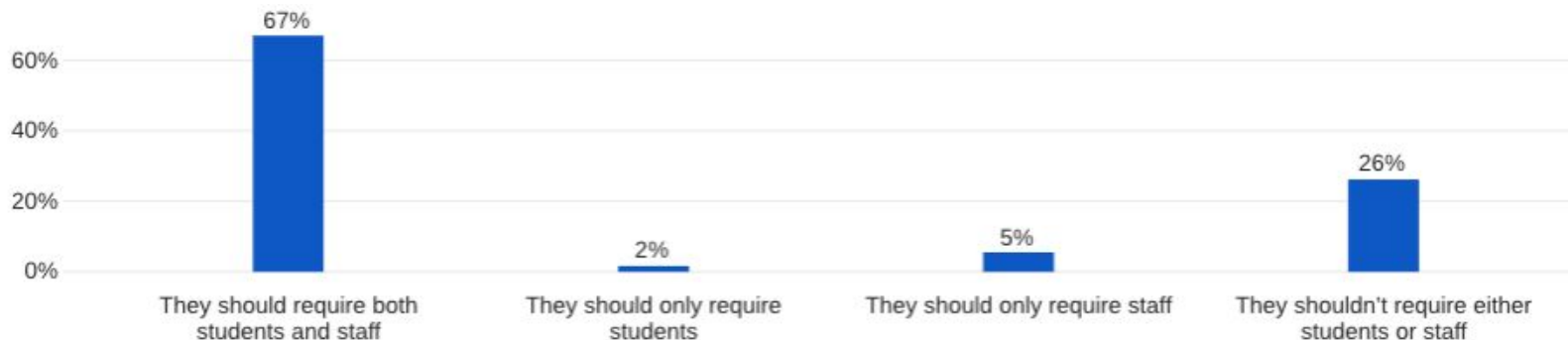
III

FINDINGS

10. Most support a vaccine mandate for both students and staff

“Do you think colleges and indoor workplaces should mandate Covid-19 vaccination for their students and employees (except for those with a medical or religious exemption)?”

**** 18-29-year-old respondents ****

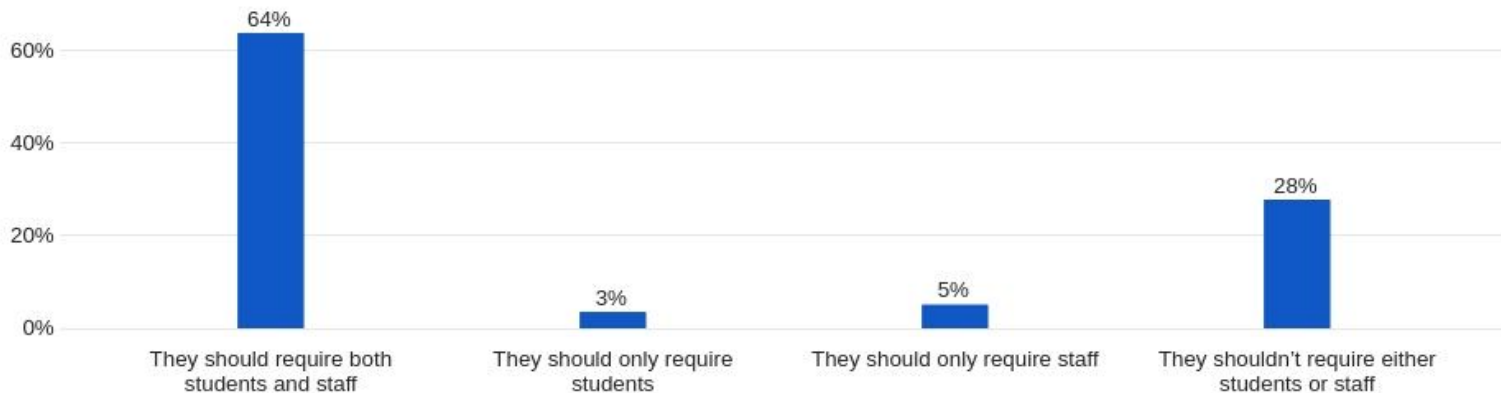




11. Majority support masking indoors

“Do you think your school should require students and staff members to wear a mask indoors?”

**** middle and high-school aged students ****





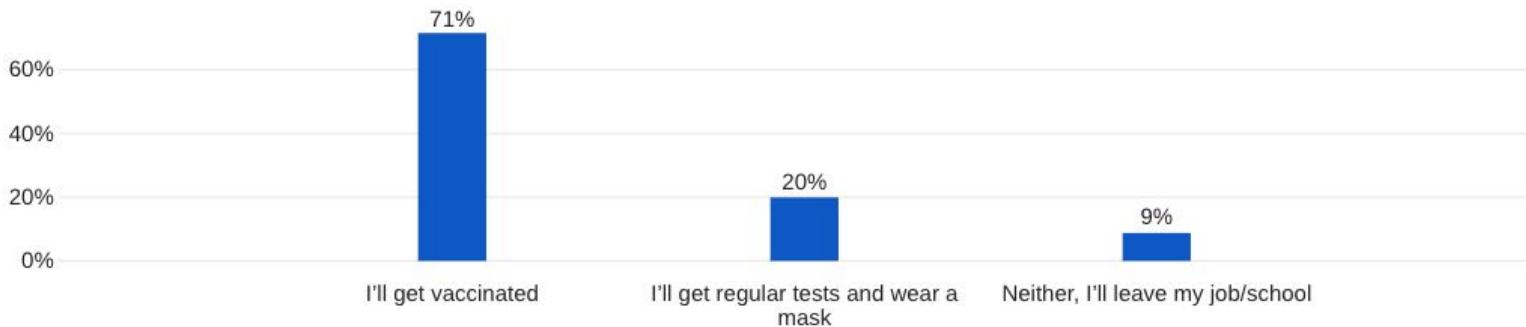
III

FINDINGS

12. Young adults prefer vaccination to frequent testing and constant mask-wearing

“If your job or school mandates either the Covid-19 vaccine OR frequent testing (2-5 times per week) and constant mask-wearing, which will you choose?”

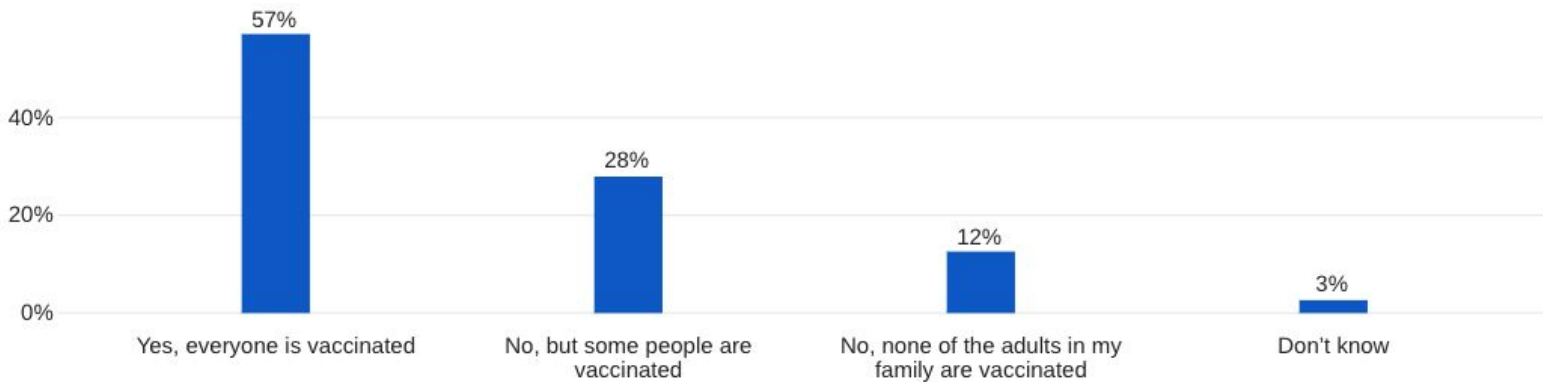
**** 18-29-year-old respondents ****





13. Vast majority of households are at least partially vaccinated

“Is your immediate family or household vaccinated?”

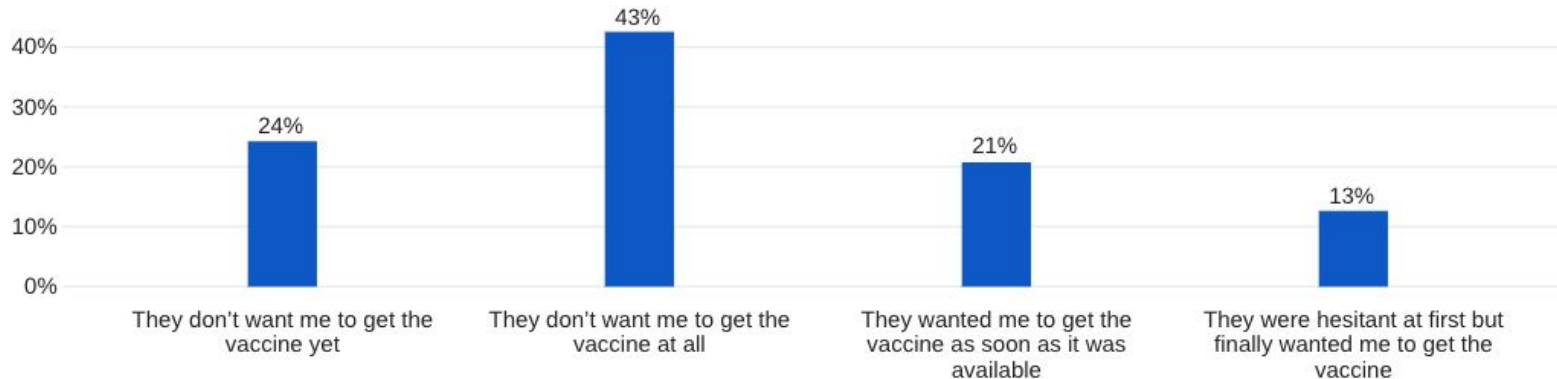




14. Unvaccinated individuals' families tend to disapprove of vaccinating

“What best describes your family's views on your vaccination?”

**** respondents who are not vaccinated ****



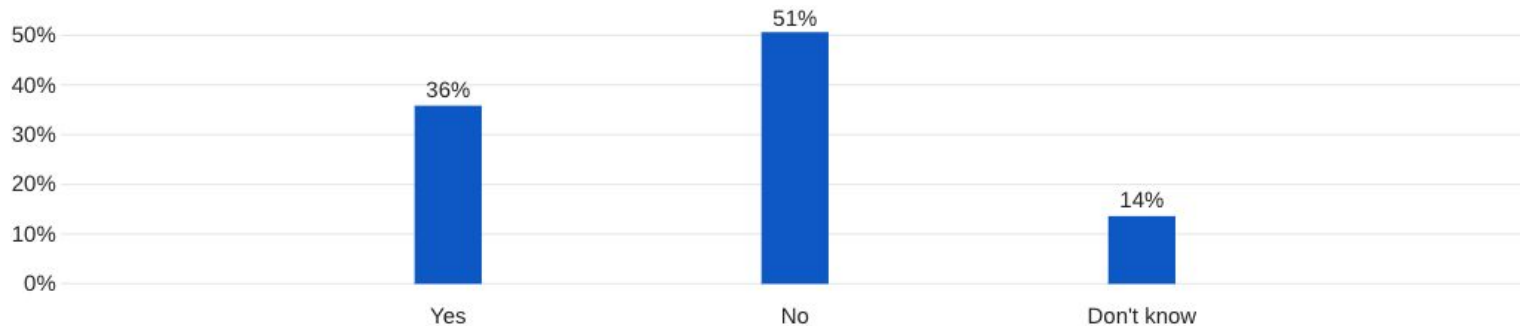


III

FINDINGS

15. Young people split on whether the vaccine should require parental consent

“Do you think people under 18, should require their parental consent to receive the Covid-19 vaccine?”



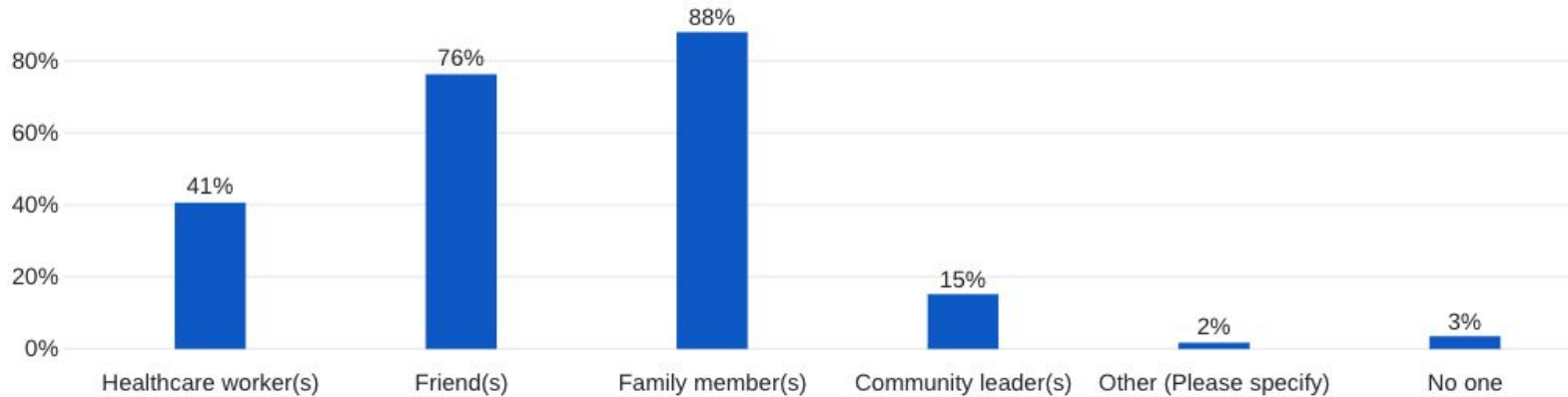


III

FINDINGS

16. Fewer than half have spoke about the vaccine with a healthcare worker

“Who have you spoken with about the vaccine?”



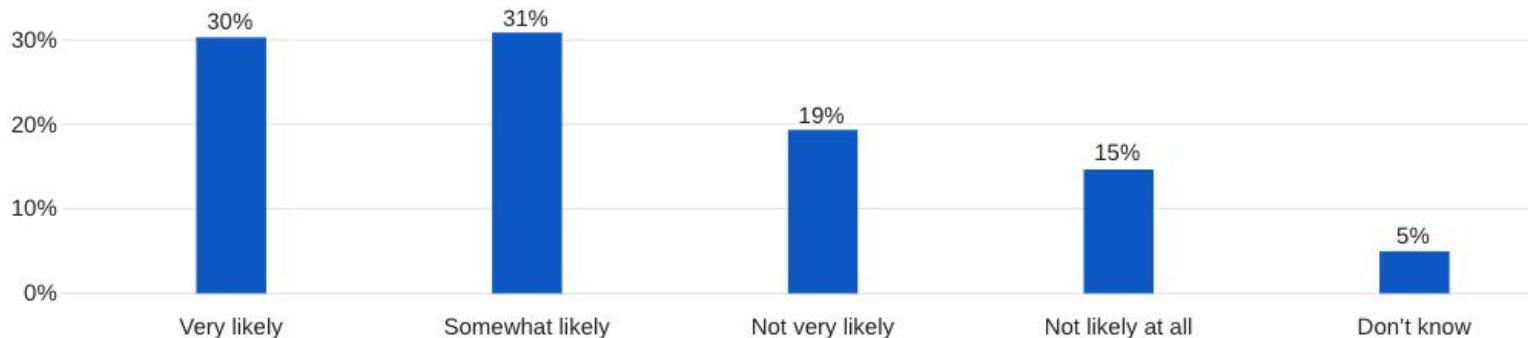


III

FINDINGS

17. Majority are likely to undergo routine testing if offered

“How likely would you be to get tested for Covid-19 (every week or two), if it were offered to you at your workplace or school?”



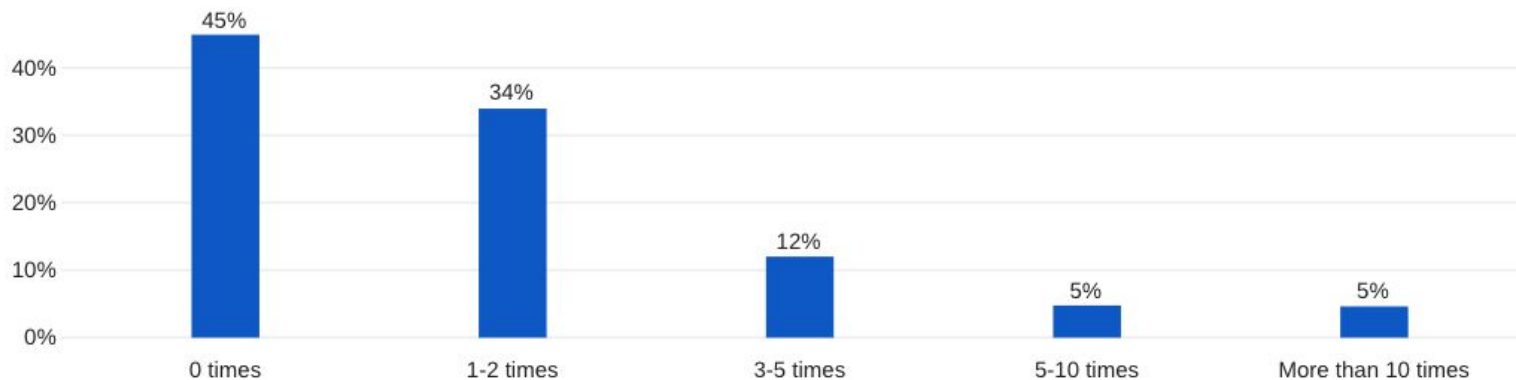


III

FINDINGS

18. Nearly half have gone without a Covid-19 test since March 2021

“How many times would you say you have gotten a Covid-19 test since March 2021?”





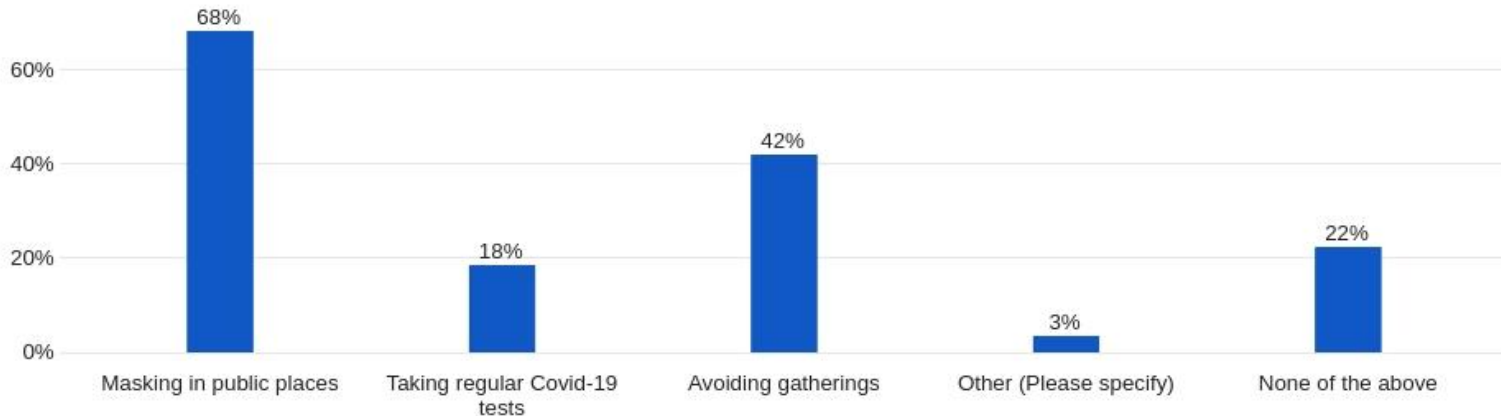
III

FINDINGS

19. Masking is the most popular precaution for the unvaccinated

“If you don’t get the vaccine, what precautions do you plan to take to keep you and your loved ones safe? (Select all that apply)”

**** respondents who are not vaccinated ****



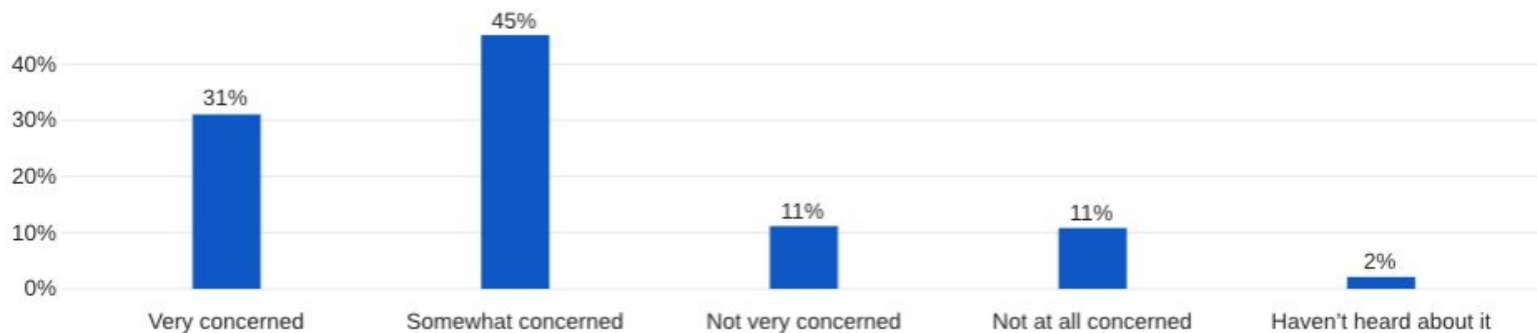


III

FINDINGS

20. Majority of youth are concerned about the Delta variant

“Are you personally concerned, or not concerned, about the “Delta” variant of the coronavirus?”





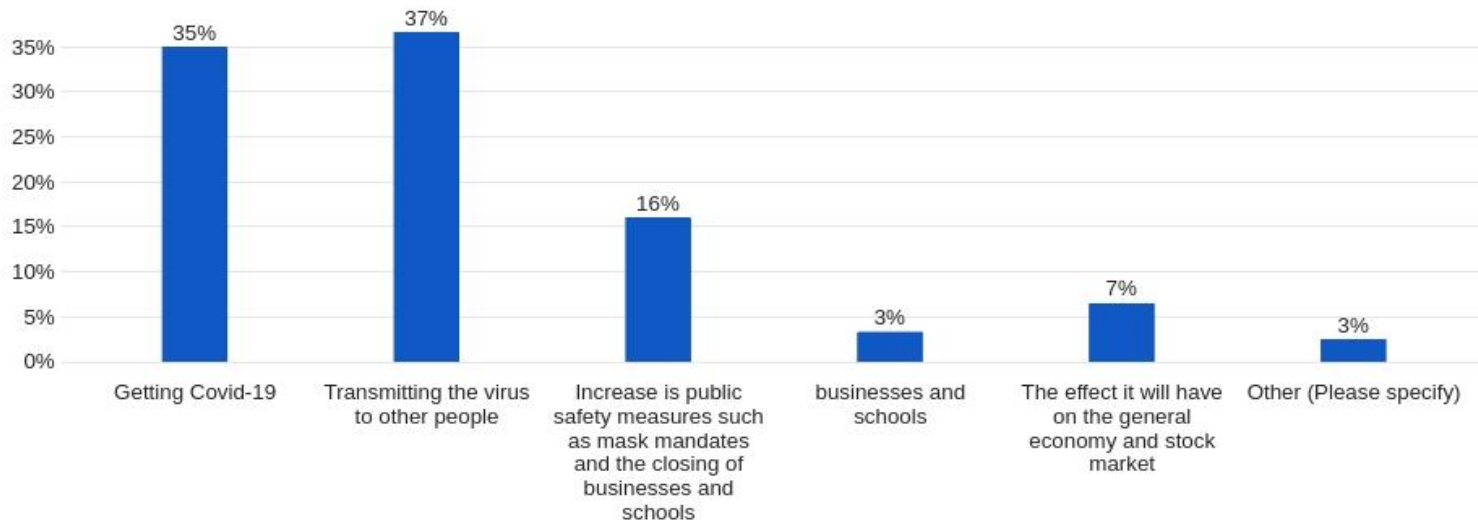
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FINDINGS

21. Catching and transmitting the Delta variant are the biggest concerns

“What is your biggest concern when it comes to the Covid-19 Delta variant?”

**** respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about Covid-19 ****





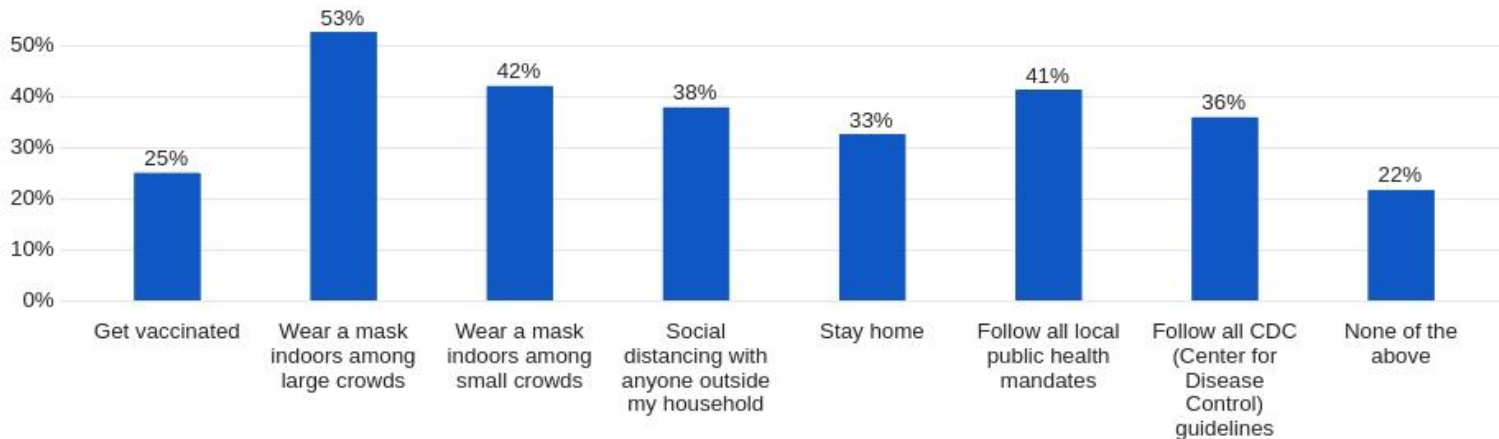
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FINDINGS

22. Concerned unvaccinated young people will take precautions

“If cases rise in your community from the Delta variant (and others), which of the following will you do? (Select all that apply)”

**** unvaccinated respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about Covid-19 ****





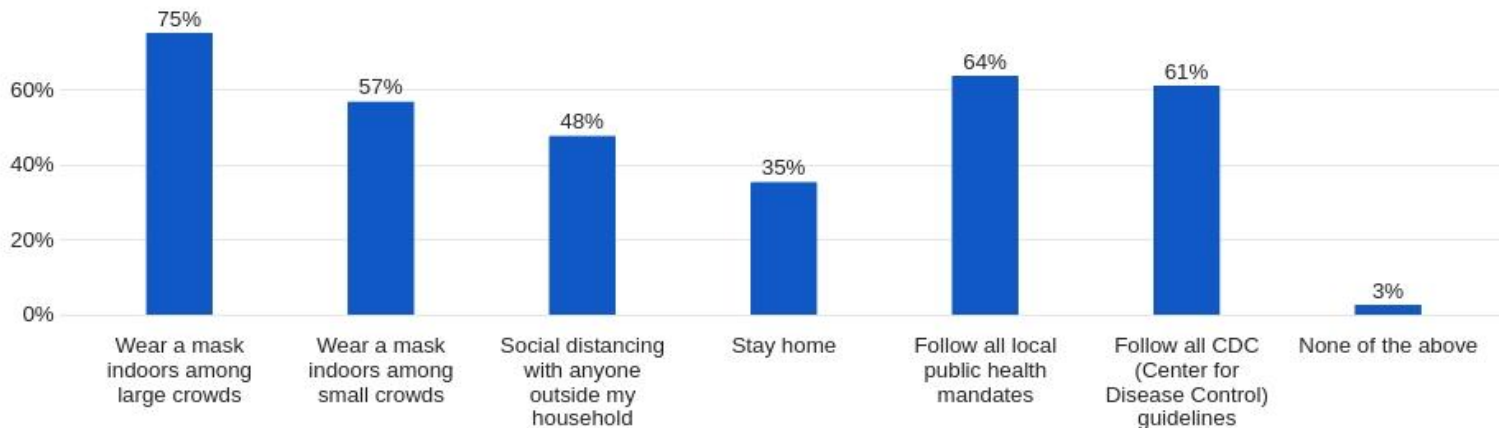
III

FINDINGS

23. Concerned vaccinated young people will take precautions

“If cases rise in your community from the Delta variant (and others), which of the following will you do? (Select all that apply)”

**** vaccinated respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about Covid-19 ****



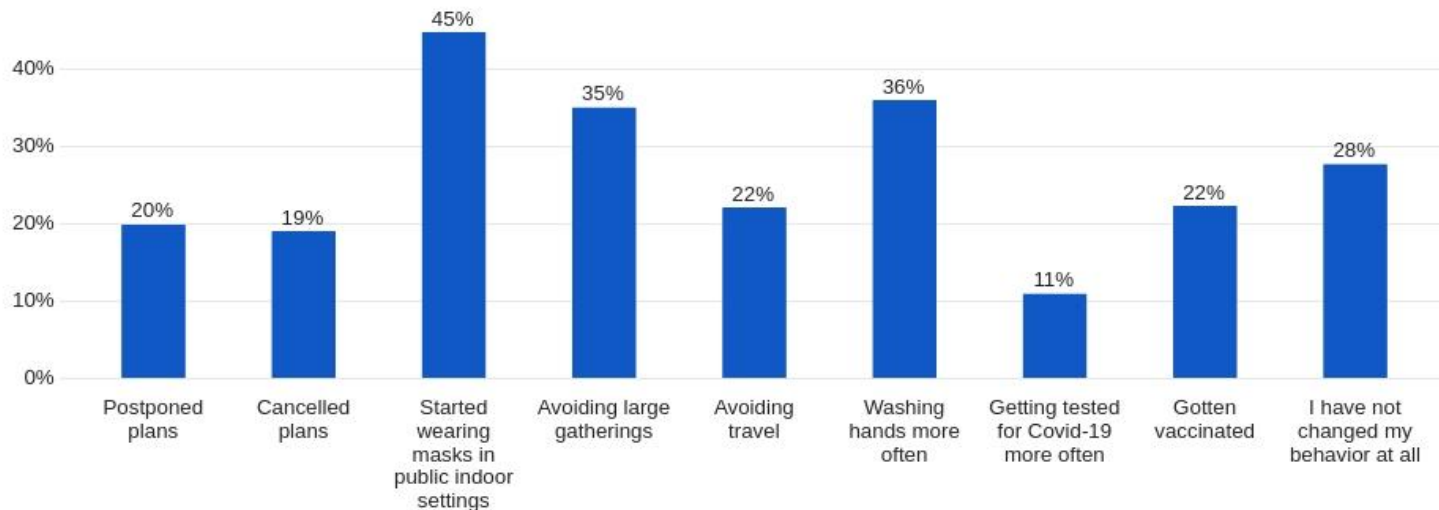


III

FINDINGS

24. Majority have made some change(s) to behavior due to Delta

“How have you changed your behavior, if at all, due to the Delta variant? (Select all that apply)”





FINDINGS

“Where do you receive most of your information regarding Covid-19?”





FINDINGS

“Who do you trust to give you a recommendation about the Covid-19 vaccine?”





IV METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted from a representative sample of 908 young people on August 16-30, using a nationwide panel of individuals between the ages of 13 and 29.

The Generation Lab conducts polling using a demographically representative panel of young people from counties selected by applying probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling to ensure that all individuals in the population have the same probability of selection irrespective of the size of their county.

We add individuals to the Generation Lab Youth Panel by disseminating digital media ads at selected counties. The final frame used in our polling closely resembles a probability-based panel of individuals between the ages of 13 and 29 in the United States. The results of this survey were weighted based on age, sex, race, and education using statistics from the Census Bureau.



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ABOUT US

The Generation Lab is a polling and research firm studying young people and the trends that shape their world.

We translate youth views and behavior for media, academia, businesses, government, and the American public. Whether through a one-day snapshot poll, or a multi-year longitudinal study, we pursue youth truth for our clients and the American public.



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