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## **COVID-19 Report: Group 1**

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### **Objective**

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of COVID-19 through reported experiences, attitudes toward vaccination, and perceptions of both personal and governmental responses to the pandemic. The reason for conducting this research stemmed from the need to understand varying public opinions and behaviors around the COVID-19 public health crisis, which could help with targeted public health strategies and interventions. The key outcome variables of interest included demographic characteristics (age, ethnicity, race, gender, and education level), COVID-19 concern levels, infection and vaccination status, personal connections to hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19, compliance with public health recommendations, and level of trust in the U.S. government's readiness for future pandemics. This study aimed to identify patterns and insights that could help improve public health preparedness for potential future health crises.

### **Methods**

Using an online survey design, we collected responses from 35 participants to collect data on their demographics, levels of concern about COVID-19, vaccination and infection status, personal connections to the pandemic's severe outcomes, adherence to health advisories, and confidence in the government's preparedness for pandemics. This study was distributed through an online platform and sent to friends and peers through email, social media, or text. Using percentages within each category, the analysis aimed to provide a quantitative description of the attitudes and experiences of the population.

### **Results**

The data showed that most respondents were aged 25-34 (60%) and predominantly of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (73.53%). Education levels were high, with a majority holding Bachelor's (48.57%) or Master's degrees (31.43%). Concerning COVID-19, a significant portion of respondents had been diagnosed with COVID-19 at one point (71.43%), and vaccination rates were high (100%). The impact of the pandemic was felt by many of the respondents, with 60% knowing someone hospitalized or deceased due to COVID-19. Despite strong compliance with health recommendations, there was a lack of confidence in the U.S. government's pandemic preparedness, with 60% of respondents expressing no confidence and 37.14% only somewhat confident. These results show the importance of timely response to public health emergencies and highlight areas for improvement for public health preparedness planning.

### **Discussion**

From our study group of 35 participants, it can be inferred that most college-educated individuals, across all races, are willing to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination rates among the study group totaled 100%, suggesting that participants were well-informed on COVID-19, and COVID-19 vaccination safety and efficacy. Most participants (68.5%) exhibited some concern of being infected with COVID-19, and most (68.5%) demonstrated concern regarding the effects of

long-covid. 37.1% of participants described their adherence to American public health safety recommendations to prevent COVID-19 transmission as average, while 28.6% described their adherence to these recommendations as above average. 34.3% of participants described their adherence to these recommendations as excellent. 65.7% of participants regularly receive COVID-19 booster vaccinations, and 91.4% regularly wash their hands, and apply hand sanitizer after making physical contact with others. These data suggest that all participants take COVID-19 seriously and are willing to adhere to public health recommendations to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. Most participants cited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (65.7%), healthcare providers (54.3%), and personal social media/knowledge research (48.6%) as their sources of trusted public health information.

This study was disseminated to friends, family, and peers through social media and text message, which may limit the randomness of the sample. Furthermore, most respondents were college-educated (85.7%) which may lead them to care more about COVID-19, as compared to non-college-educated individuals. This is further complicated by the fact that, as public health students, individuals may feel more obliged to adhere to public health recommendations, and demonstrate increased awareness surrounding COVID-19 infection, treatment, and prevention. Most respondents were from California, New Jersey, and New York—all of which are Democratic states. The political leanings of these states may encourage participants to adopt more liberal perspectives and behaviors around COVID-19 vaccination and prevention. In order to receive more comprehensive data, this survey should be randomly distributed across both blue and red states, and to individuals of varying levels of educational attainment.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the collected data, it can be concluded that there may be an association, across all races, between an individual's level of education, and their willingness to be vaccinated against COVID-19, as well as their level of awareness and concern surrounding COVID-19. As 100% of our participants were vaccinated, and 85.7% of participants being college-educated, it can be suggested that level of education influences one's willingness to be vaccinated. Given these results, public health practitioners should focus their efforts on targeting populations with lower levels of educational attainment to dispel myths, concerns, and hesitancy regarding COVID-19 vaccination and prevention. Additionally, the growing role of social media and knowledge research as a source of trusted public health information underscores the importance of combating COVID-19 dis- and misinformation online. To improve the quality of the data, this study should be randomly distributed across individuals of varying educational backgrounds, and across individuals living in both Democratic and Republican states.

## Appendix: Results

Table 1. Demographics

### AGE

	%	(# OF RESPONSE) COUNT
Under 18	0.00%	0
18 - 24	28.57%	10
25 - 34	60.00%	21
35 - 44	5.71%	2
45 - 54	5.71%	2
55 - 64	0.00%	0
65 - 74	0.00%	0
75 years or older	0.00%	0
		35

### ETHNICITY

Hispanic or Latino	73.53%	25
Not Hispanic or Latino	26.47%	9
Prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
		34

**RACE**

<b>White</b>	22.86%	8
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	31.34%	11
<b>Native Hawaiian or Another Pacific Islander</b>	0.00%	0
<b>Black or African American</b>	22.86%	8
<b>Asian</b>	22.86%	8
		35

**GENDER**

<b>Man</b>	31.43%	11
<b>Woman</b>	68.57%	24
<b>Non-Binary</b>	0.00%	0
<b>Other</b>	0.00%	0
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	0.00%	0
		35

**HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL**

<b>Less than High School Diploma or GED</b>	0.00%	0
<b>High School Diploma or GED</b>	14.71%	5
<b>Associate's Degree</b>	0.00%	0
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	48.57%	17
<b>Master's Degree</b>	31.43%	11
<b>Doctoral Degree or Equivalent (e.g., JD, DO, PhD)</b>	5.71%	2
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	0.00%	0
		35

**CURRENT STATE**

<b>WASHINGTON</b>	2.94	1
<b>NEW YORK</b>	20.59	7
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	52.94	18
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	2.94	1
<b>MARYLAND</b>	2.94	1
<b>FLORIDA</b>	2.94	1
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	14.71	5
		34

**Table. 2 COVID-19 RESULT**

	<b>%</b>	<b># of Responses</b>
<b>How Concern about getting infected with COVID-19</b>		
<b>Not at all concerned</b>	31.43	11
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	37.14	13
<b>Concerned</b>	20.00	7
<b>Moderately Concerned</b>	11.43	4
<b>Extremely Concerned</b>	0.00	0
		35
<b>Have you ever been diasnosed with Covid-19</b>		
<b>Yes</b>	71.43	25
<b>No</b>	28.57	10
<b>Don't remember</b>	0.00	0
		35

**Have you been Vaccinated with at least one does of the COVID-19 Vaccine?**

<b>Yes</b>	100.00	35
<b>No</b>	0.00	0
<b>Don't Remember</b>	0.00	0
		35

**Do you personally know anyone who was hospitalized due to infection with COVID-19?**

<b>YES</b>	60.00	21
<b>NO</b>	40.00	14
<b>DON'T REMEMBER</b>	0.00	0
		35

**Do you personally know anyone who died from COVID-19?**

<b>YES</b>	60.00	21
<b>NO</b>	37.14	13
<b>DON'T REMEMBER</b>	2.86	1
		35

**How would you rate your overall compliance with public health recommendation to limit the spread of COVID-19?**

<b>Excellent</b>	34.29	12
<b>Above average</b>	28.57	10
<b>Average</b>	37.14	13
<b>Below Average</b>	0.00	0
		35

**How confident are you that the U.S. government is currently prepared for another pandemic?**

<b>Not at all confident</b>	60.00	0
<b>Somewhat confident</b>	37.14	13
<b>confident</b>	0.00	21
<b>Very Confident</b>	0.00	1
<b>Extremely Confident</b>	2.86	0
		35