

March 11, 2022

Release is effective immediately

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Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll: Iowans Support COVID-19 Vaccination

According to a recent Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab Poll, the vast majority of Iowans age 18 and older are either already vaccinated or planning to get vaccinated. The online poll, designed by University of Iowa faculty and students as a research project, surveyed 883 voting-age Iowans between Feb. 10 and Feb. 25, 2022. Most respondents, 73.1%, indicated they were already vaccinated, with 48.6% having received a vaccine and a booster shot and 24.5% vaccinated but without a booster. Much smaller percentages were either in the process of being vaccinated (1.4%), planning to get vaccinated (2.6%), or still deciding whether to get vaccinated (2.4%). A total of 18.7% responded that they do not plan to get vaccinated.

Additionally, respondents were compared based on their community, their sex, political party identification, and age group. When looking at sex, male and females who are vaccinated and boosted or vaccinated but not boosted are very similar, 71.9% for male respondents and 74.3% for female respondents. Looking at community, in suburban areas, 77.6% of respondents were vaccinated or vaccinated and boosted, compared to 68.0% of those living in rural communities.

Looking at party identification, an overwhelming majority of Democratic-aligned respondents, 91.3%, were vaccinated and boosted or just vaccinated. On the Republican side, only 67.8% were both vaccinated and boosted or just vaccinated. Additionally, only 4.0% of those who identified as Democrats said they were not planning to receive the vaccine, whereas 23.1% of Republicans were not planning to receive the vaccine.

Lastly, age group played a big role in differences in vaccine status among Iowans. Those in older age categories, 55-69 and 70 and older, reported the highest number of vaccinations and boosters, with 75.3% of those aged 55-69 and 88.0% of those 70 and older. In the youngest category, 66.4% of respondents aged 18-34 reported being fully vaccinated.

Respondents who reported being vaccinated or in the process of getting vaccinated were then asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that those who chose not to get vaccinated were hurting Iowa. Among this group of Iowans, 64.3% indicated that they strongly agree (42.2%) or agree (23.1%) with the statement, whereas only 18.4% indicated that they strongly disagree (8.9%) or disagree (9.5%).

Among those asked this question, more female than male respondents believed that not receiving the COVID-19 vaccine hurt Iowa: 66.9% of female respondents compared to 61.7% of male respondents. Based on respondents' community, 61.3% of those who live in an urban setting agree or strongly agree, 70.1% of suburban respondents agree or strongly agree, and 61.3% of rural respondents agree or strongly agree that choosing not to receive the vaccine will hurt Iowa.

When looking at party identification, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (85.3%) agreed with the statement that those who choose not to get vaccinated are hurting Iowa. This decreases to 55.2% among Independents and to 49.9% among Republicans. In contrast, 31.5% of Republicans disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement compared to 12.0% of Independents and 3.3% of Democrats.

Finally, when it comes to the age of the respondent, those in the older age groups, older than 70 (74.8%) and those aged 55-69 (75.9%) strongly agree or agree with the statement that those who choose not to get vaccinated are hurting Iowa. Among those in the younger age groups, 18-34 and 35-54, a slight majority (about 55%) agree with the statement.

Respondent identification: The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of up to 900 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Sample: 883 voting-age residents in Iowa, margin of error +/-3.4%.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

About the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab

The poll was designed by the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab is co-directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and Kajsia Dalrymple, professor of journalism and mass communication. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and was implemented in collaboration with the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke. The University of Iowa Public Policy Center provided support for this poll as part of its student success mission, intended to expand experiential policy-relevant research for UI students.

Olivia Bull, Elisabeth Oster, Kathleen Hubeli, and Caleb McCullough, research fellows for the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab assisted with the preparation of this release.

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