



HERO Door-to-Door Vaccination Survey: Davis County

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The [Utah Health and Economic Recovery Outreach \(HERO\) Project](#) began in May 2020 as a collaborative statewide testing and analysis project to understand the community-based spread of Covid-19. The goal of the HERO Project is to collect and utilize high-quality local data to help inform decision-makers seeking to guide Utah’s citizens and economy through a safe return to normalcy. Webinars and reports on community testing, impacts of Covid-19 on Utah businesses and consumers, and school testing are published on the [HERO Resources & Media](#) website. This report focuses on [HERO Project surveying of attitudes and actions relating to vaccination](#).

Background

In May 2021, the HERO team began working alongside the Utah Department of Health and local health departments to better understand Covid-19 vaccine uptake in communities with low vaccination rates. The team adapted the [Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response](#) (CASPER) method to gather household information on vaccine uptake and attitudes. CASPER is an epidemiologic technique able to obtain fast, reliable information that can be utilized to inform decision-makers navigating a wide variety of community public health scenarios. These surveys will provide additional clarity on the reasons eligible individuals have not yet been vaccinated, including vaccine hesitancy and barriers to access.

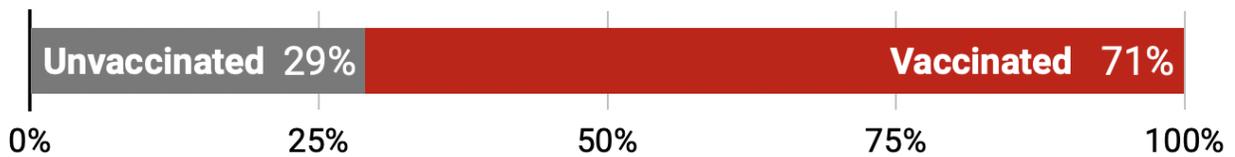
Survey Results

Over a two-week period in May 2021, the HERO team collected 263 surveys from respondents in the Clearfield and Hooper areas of Davis County.

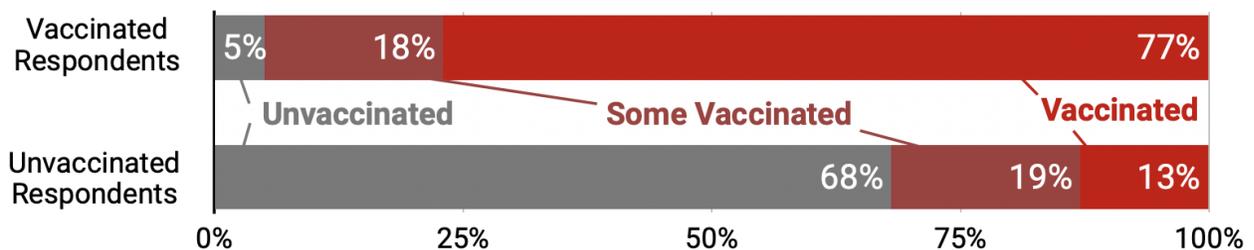
Vaccination Status

A significant majority of respondents indicated that they had been vaccinated: 71% versus 29% unvaccinated. Those who were vaccinated themselves were more likely to live with others who had been vaccinated, as 95% of vaccinated respondents indicated that some or all of their household members had also been vaccinated, as compared to only 32% of unvaccinated respondents.

Vaccination status of respondents



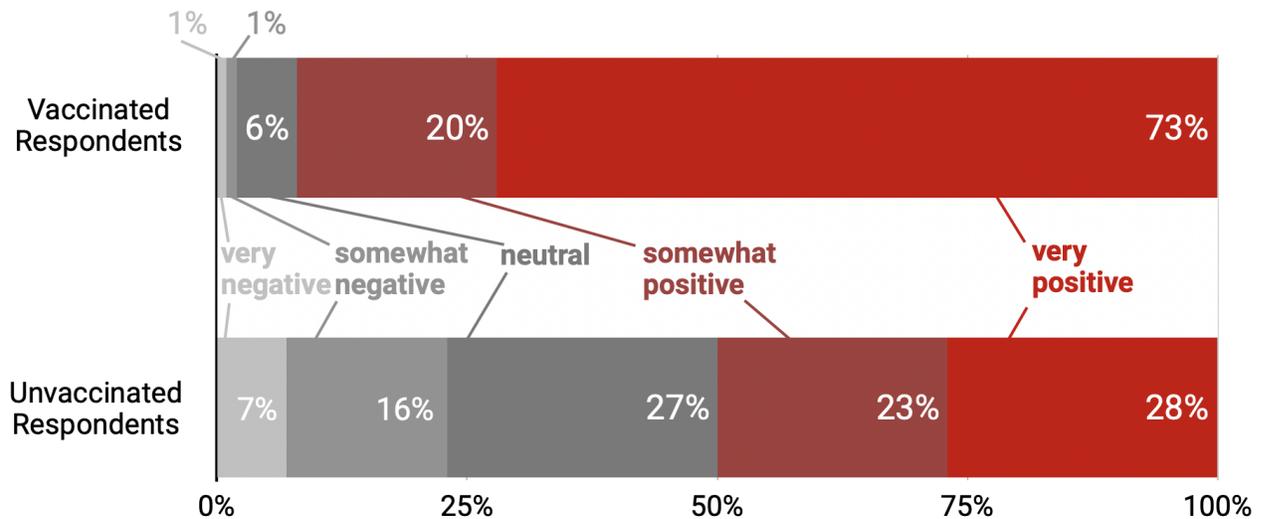
Vaccination status of other household members, by respondent’s vaccination status



Attitudes Towards Vaccination

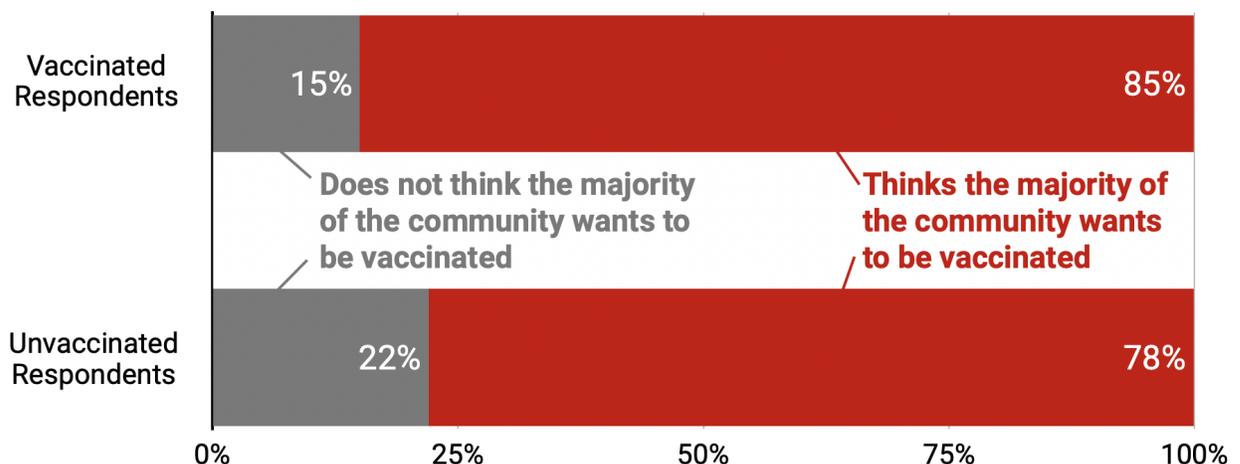
Respondents' attitudes towards Covid-19 vaccines reveal stark differences between those vaccinated and those unvaccinated. Nearly three times as many vaccinated respondents as unvaccinated respondents indicated a "very positive" attitude toward vaccines. Almost twice as many vaccinated respondents as unvaccinated respondents hold some level of positive attitude (either "very" or "somewhat") towards the vaccines. Conversely, unvaccinated respondents hold both negative and neutral attitudes at substantially higher rates than their vaccinated counterparts (11 times higher and 4 times higher, respectively).

Respondent's attitude towards vaccines, by respondent's vaccination status



When asked about the rest of the community's attitudes towards vaccination, however, vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents indicated largely similar sentiments, with a vast majority of both believing that most of the community wants to be vaccinated.

Perception of community attitudes, by respondent's vaccination status



Obstacles to Increased Vaccination Rates

Survey participants were asked why members of their household were not vaccinated or did not plan to be vaccinated. Interestingly, the top reason indicated by both vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents was that they were worried about the future side effects of the vaccine. Even this reason, however, was only indicated by about a quarter of respondents, with the remainder of the lists falling at even lower levels.

Interestingly, the lists of unvaccinated and vaccinated respondents were fairly similar: 6 of the top 10 were consistent across the board. Unvaccinated respondents indicated worries about quick development of the vaccines, lack of trust in the pharmaceutical industry, vaccine-induced DNA alterations, and a lack of concern about contracting Covid-19, all of which were not top 10 reasons for vaccinated respondents. Their vaccinated counterparts indicated political or ideological concerns, worries about getting Covid-19 from the vaccine and about the vaccine’s effects on fertility, as well as complicated scheduling processes, which were not among the top 10 reasons for unvaccinated respondents.

Top 10 reasons household members are not vaccinated, by respondent’s vaccination status

UNVACCINATED RESPONDENTS		VACCINATED RESPONDENTS
Worried about future side effects (26% indicating this reason)	01	Worried about future side effects (21% indicating this reason)
Concerned about quick development (17%)	02	Do not have time to get vaccinated (9%)
Do not have time to get vaccinated (12%)	03	Pregnant, intending to be, or breastfeeding (7%)
Do not think they will get Covid-19 (11%)	04	Had Covid-19, not worried about getting it again (5%)
Do not think they will get very sick w/ Covid-19 (8%)	05	Political or ideological concerns (5%)
Do not trust the pharmaceutical industry (8%)	06	Do not think they will get very sick w/ Covid-19 (2%)
Had Covid-19, not worried about getting it again (5%)	07	Worried they will get Covid-19 from the vaccine (2%)
Difficulty arranging transportation (5%)	08	Worried about effects on fertility (2%)
Pregnant, intending to be, or breastfeeding (3%)	09	Complicated appointment scheduling process (2%)
Worried about vaccine altering DNA (3%)	10	Difficulty arranging transportation (2%)

When asked about the difficulties respondents and/or their household members had experienced in the process of getting vaccinated, respondents indicated five primary difficulties. The foremost of these was finding time to get vaccinated. Relatively high numbers of both vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents experienced this difficulty (8% and 13%, respectively). Importantly, unvaccinated respondents conveyed difficulties in finding nearby service at much higher rates than their vaccinated counterparts, perhaps implying that those able to find nearby service have already been vaccinated and that this may continue to present barriers to those who haven't found it yet. Additionally, vaccinated respondents experienced long waiting times at nearly three times the rates of unvaccinated community members, which could have been a symptom of many vaccinated respondents booking appointments soon after they were opened and when demand was still high, creating longer wait times.

Difficulties in obtaining vaccination for respondents & household members



Asked about increasing the vaccination uptake in their community, vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents alike provided similar suggestions. At the top of both lists is providing more information on vaccines, with over a third of respondents in each category making this suggestion. Three more suggestions—vaccination requirements for activities, friends & family who have been safely vaccinated, and a simpler scheduling process—were also listed across the board. In one small difference, unvaccinated respondents included deploying vaccination sites to residences & workspaces among their top 5, while vaccinated respondents listed closer vaccination sites.

Top 5 suggestions for increasing vaccine uptake, by vaccination status

UNVACCINATED RESPONDENTS		VACCINATED RESPONDENTS	
More information on vaccines (39% indicating this suggestion)	01	More information on vaccines (33% indicating this suggestion)	
Vaccination requirement for various activities (12%)	02	Friends/family who have been safely vaccinated (10%)	
Simpler scheduling process (5%)	03	Vaccination requirement for various activities (10%)	
Mobile vaccination to residences & workspaces (5%)	04	Closer vaccination sites (6%)	
Friends/family who have been safely vaccinated (5%)	05	Simpler scheduling process (6%)	

Next Steps

Throughout the coming weeks, the HERO Project will publish a number of reports on vaccination uptake in communities across the state of Utah. These will include further results from targeted geographic CASPER surveying, data from statewide surveying, and insights from a number of community focus groups. These insights will help inform the state's continuing efforts to increase vaccine uptake among Utahns, approaching [herd immunity](#) and allowing for a safe return to normalcy.

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