

PARENTS' VIEWS ON HAVING CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

*Key findings from a nationwide survey among
1,603 parents/primary caretakers of children under 18,
conducted April 2021 for*

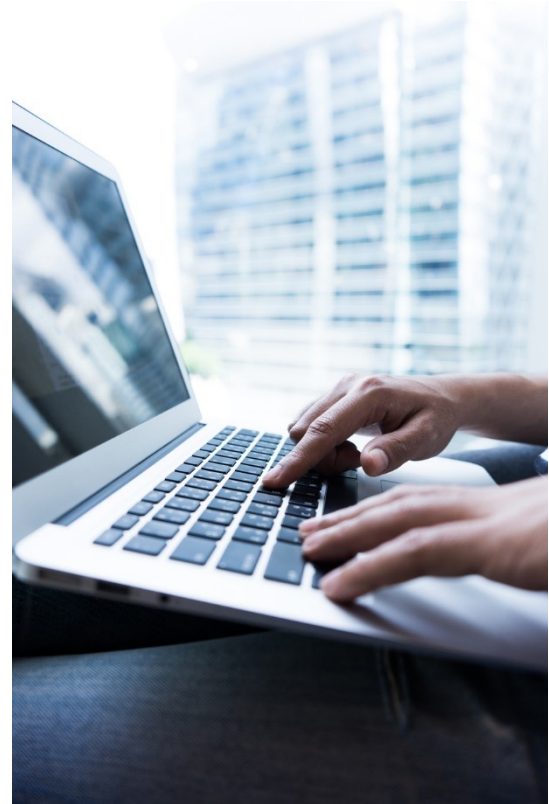


COVID Collaborative



Methodology

- Nationwide online survey among 1,603 parents/primary caretakers of children under 18
 - Includes 404 Latinx parents, 315 Black parents, and 259 Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander parents (*These groups were oversampled, and the survey was weighted to demographically represent U.S. parents overall.*)
- Fielded April 17 to 27, 2021
 - At the time of fielding, only the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine had been authorized for use in people age 16 and older
- The survey was conducted in English.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Survey Findings

- **COVID-19 is a pressing concern for U.S. parents, especially when it comes to the safety of their children.** Three in four parents believe COVID-19 is still a serious problem, and seven in 10 worry about their child getting COVID. Indeed, 12% say they have a child who has already had COVID-19, and 18% have a child with a condition that makes them high risk.
- **Six in 10 (61%) parents say they definitely or probably will vaccinate all of their children, but 27% say they definitely or probably will not vaccinate any of their children; 12% remain mixed or undecided.** Seven in 10 parents themselves have gotten at least one dose of the vaccine or intend to do so, but 24% say they definitely or probably will not get vaccinated and 6% are undecided.
 - Most parents who have been vaccinated or will get vaccinated plan to get their children vaccinated (84%), whereas most parents who will NOT get vaccinated themselves say they will not get their children vaccinated (82%).
 - Parents least likely to say they will get their children vaccinated against COVID-19 include those who live in small towns and rural areas (42% will get all children vaccinated), those age 18 to 29 (46%), women 18 to 39 (51%), White mothers (51%), Black mothers (45%), and women without a college education; and most of these groups are among those least likely to say they have been or will get vaccinated themselves.
- **Vaccine hesitancy is higher for parents with younger children.** Only 56% of parents will definitely or probably vaccinate their child or children under age 6, compared with 66% with children ages 6 to 15 and 65% with children ages 16 and 17. We note that vaccines had not been approved for children under 16 at the time of the survey.

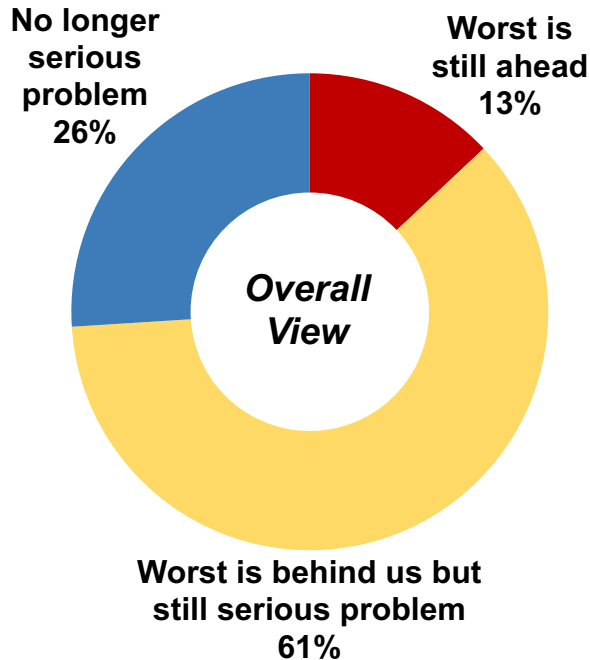
Survey Findings *(continued)*

- **Vaccination intentions for children and parents vary by race and ethnicity.** Asian American/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander parents are most likely to vaccinate themselves (84% are/plan to get vaccinated) and to plan to have their children vaccinated (77%), while Black parents are the least likely (63% selves, 55% children). White parents (70% selves, 60% children) and Latinx parents (69% selves, 62% children) are in the middle. Black mothers (45%) and White mothers (51%) are less likely to vaccinate their children than Latina mothers (62%), AANHPI mothers (75%), and fathers across racial and ethnic groups.
- **Protecting their children is an important reason for parents to vaccinate both their children and themselves.** More than eight in 10 parents say that protecting their children from the virus (83%) and wanting their children to go to school free from worry about COVID (81%) are important reasons to vaccinate their children against COVID-19. Fully 77% say that protecting their children is an important reason to get vaccinated themselves.
- **Parents trust doctors and experts most when it comes to recommendations on vaccinating their children.** Their child's pediatrician or doctor's recommendation earns trust from 83% of parents, and more than three in four say they are more likely to vaccinate their children upon hearing from top experts that the vaccine is safe and effective in children.

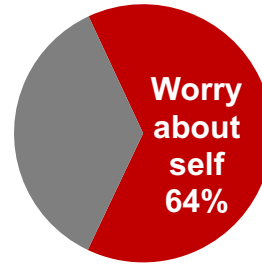
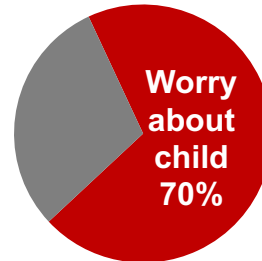
Survey Findings *(continued)*

- **Most parents have heard something about new variants and severe illness from COVID-19 in children, but there is room to increase understanding.** Most have heard at least something about new COVID-19 variants circulating in the United States (92% total heard, 38% hear a lot), children suffering from severe cases of COVID-19 and inflammatory illness (70% total heard, 20% heard a lot), and children suffering long-haul symptoms (65% total heard, 19% heard a lot). Hearing about all of these phenomena increases parents' likelihood of vaccinating their children.
- **Vaccines will play an important role in making parents feel safer sending their children to school.** More than seven in 10 parents with children in school would feel safer sending their children to school if their children were vaccinated or if they knew that most other students were vaccinated.
- **There is widespread support for making vaccines and information about them available at public schools, and nearly three in five parents of children in school support requiring students to get vaccinated to attend school in person.** Eight in 10 parents with children in school favor making vaccines and information about them available at schools for students, parents, and other members of the community. A 59% majority favor requiring children to be vaccinated in order to return to school in person, and 73% of parents with children in school would be more likely to vaccinate their own children if such a requirement were in place.

Majorities of parents believe COVID-19 is still a serious problem and worry about their child getting it. *(12% say this has happened already, and nearly one in five have a child who is high risk.)*

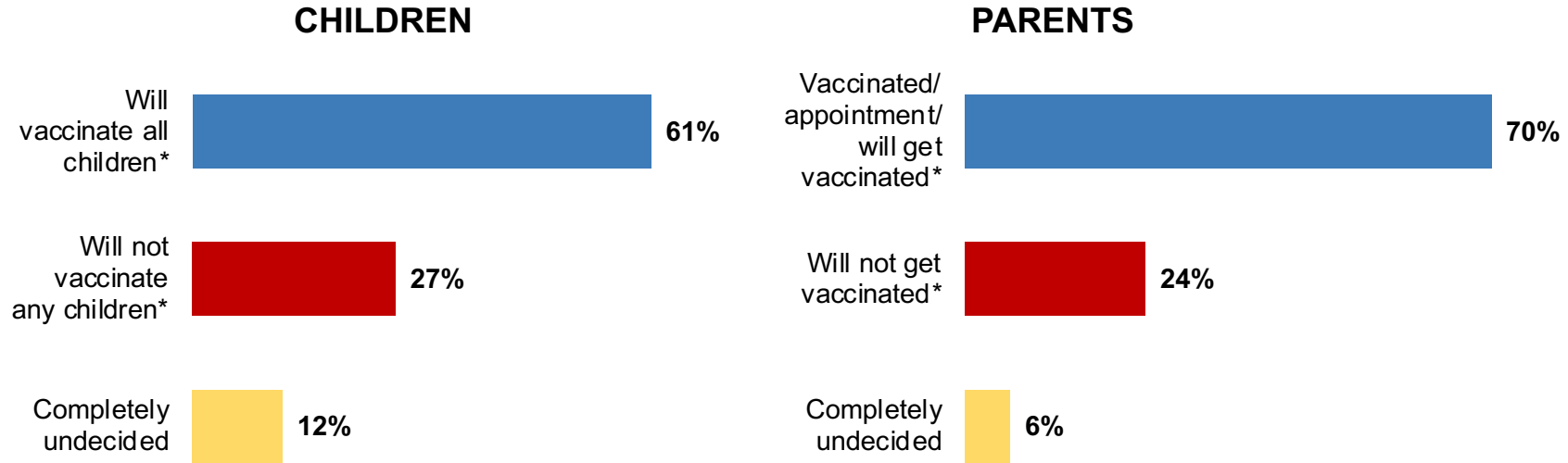


Worry a lot/some about getting COVID:



- **18%** of parents have had COVID-19
- **18%** have a child/children with a condition that makes them high risk
- **12%** have a child/children who has had COVID-19

Six in 10 parents say they will vaccinate all of their children, but 27% say they will not. Among parents, seven in 10 have been vaccinated or plan to do so.



*includes definitely, probably, leaning

84% of parents who are vaccinated or have an appointment plan to vaccinate all of their children.

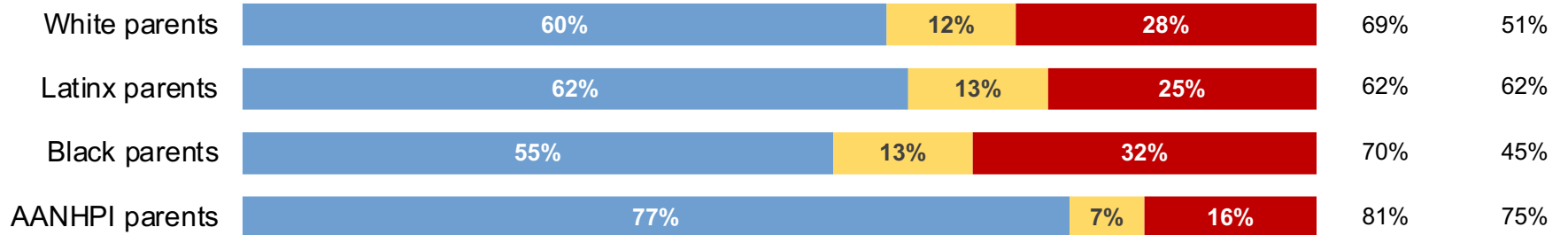
82% of parents who won't get vaccinated also do not plan to vaccinate any of their children.

Vaccination intentions for children and parents vary by race.

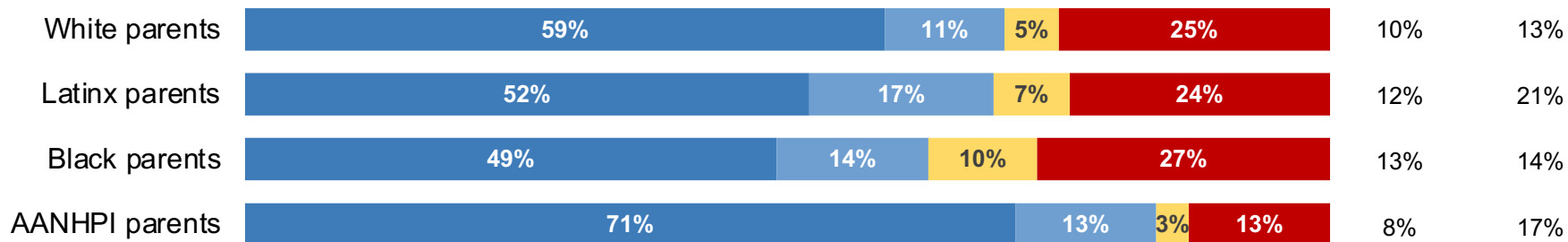


Likely will:

CHILDREN



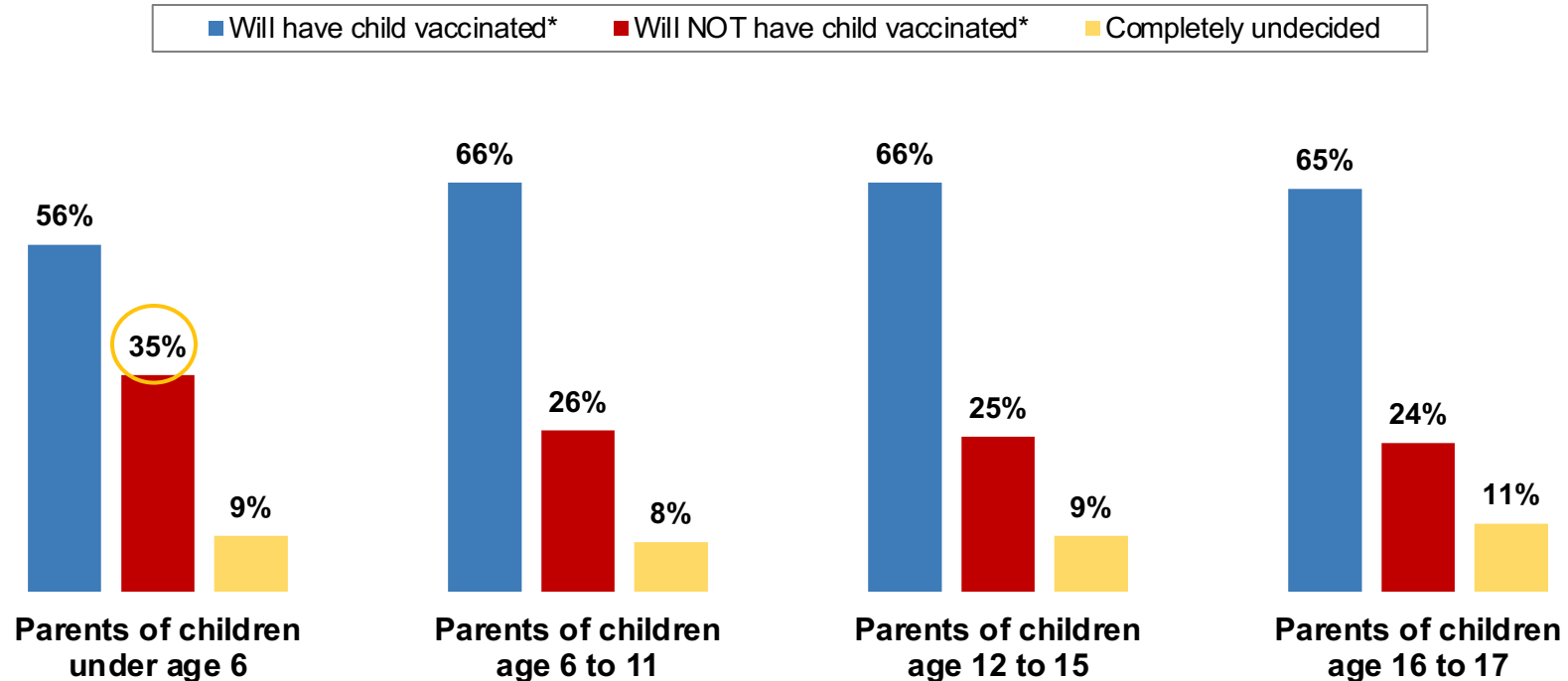
PARENTS



*includes definitely, probably, leaning

Vaccine hesitancy is higher for parents with younger children.

Vaccination Plans for My Family



*includes definitely, probably, leaning

Protecting their children from the virus is an important reason for parents to vaccinate both their children and themselves, but they worry about lack of long-term data, the quick development process, and safety.

Very/fairly important reason to vaccinate children:

Protect my children

83%

Children can go to school w/o worrying about COVID

81%

Protect other people as well as my children

76%

Help get the country back to normal

73%

Big/somewhat concern about vaccinating children:

Vaccine is new, lack of long-term data

72%

Developed too quickly, inadequate safety/efficacy testing

68%

Not safe, could have harmful side effects

64%

Don't have enough information to decide

63%

77% of parents say that protecting their children is an important reason for parents to get vaccinated.

Parents trust doctors and experts on vaccinating their children.



83% trust their child's **pediatrician or doctor's recommendation** about vaccinating their children.

77% say they are more likely to vaccinate their children after hearing from top scientists and physicians that **COVID vaccines are 100% effective in children.**



76% say they are more likely to vaccinate their children after hearing from top scientists and physicians that **COVID vaccines are safe for children.**

76% say they would be more likely to vaccinate their children after **hearing from a doctor about the vaccine development, approval, and testing process.**

Hearing about new variants, the possibility of severe inflammatory illness, and long-haul COVID increases parents' likelihood of vaccinating their children.

I am more likely to vaccinate my children after hearing this



61%

It is important to get children vaccinated to protect them from the increasing **spread of new variants of COVID-19** that are more transmissible and cause more severe disease than the original virus.

59%

Children of all ages are susceptible to **severe inflammatory illness** caused by COVID-19 that can be life-threatening without treatment. A vaccine will likely be highly effective at preventing severe illness.

58%

Children of all ages are susceptible to prolonged, persistent symptoms of fatigue, headache, and heart palpitations long after having the virus. A vaccine will likely be highly effective at preventing these so called **“long-haul” symptoms**.

92% have heard about new variants (38% have heard a lot)

70% have heard about children getting severe cases (only 20% have heard a lot)

65% have heard about children having long-haul COVID (only 19% have heard a lot)

Vaccines will play an important role in making parents of students feel safer sending their children to school. Most favor making schools vaccine hubs, and a majority favor requiring vaccines for in-person instruction.

Among parents with children enrolled in school:

71%

Would feel safer
sending their
children to school
**if their children
were vaccinated.**

77%

Would feel safer
sending their
children to school
**if they knew most
other children
were vaccinated.**

73%

Would be more
**likely to vaccinate
their children if
school required** it
to attend in person

80%

Favor making COVID
vaccines and information
available at public schools
to students, parents, and
community members



*Should schools
require students to
be vaccinated to
attend in person?*

59%
Require

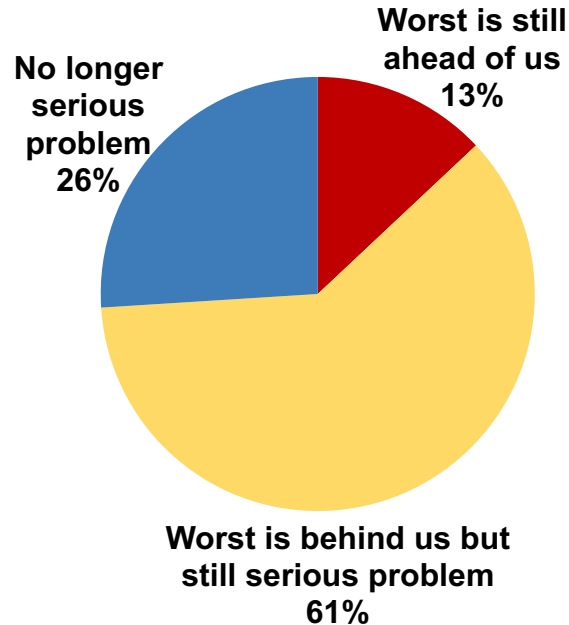
41%
NOT require



THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Three in four parents believe COVID is still a serious problem or that the worst is still ahead.

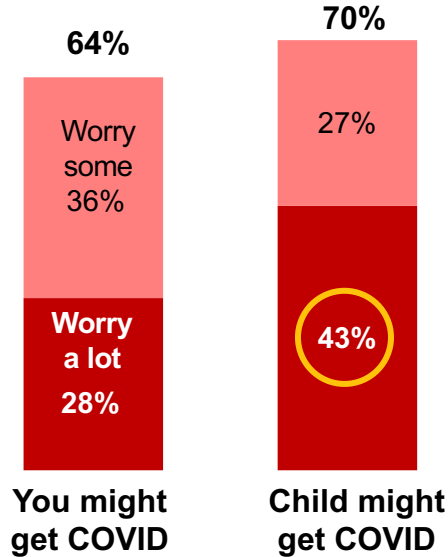
Overall Assessment of Coronavirus



	Worst still ahead	Worst behind/still serious	Worst behind/no longer serious
White parents	11%	57%	32%
Latinx parents	14%	67%	19%
Black parents	21%	58%	21%
AANHPI parents	10%	71%	19%

Parents' concern about getting COVID is amplified when it comes to their own children; nearly one in five have at least one child who is high risk.

How much do you worry that...

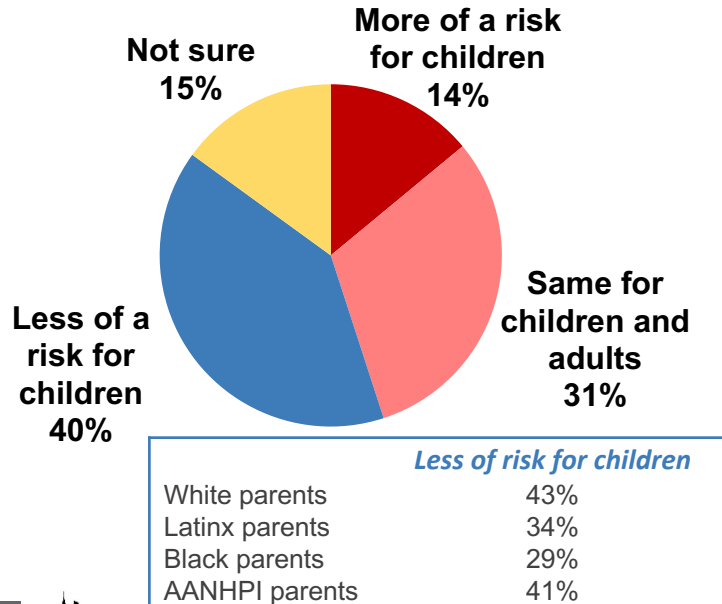


	Worry a lot/some	
	You get COVID	Child gets COVID
White parents	58%	65%
Latinx parents	74%	79%
Black parents	70%	75%
AANHPI parents	74%	78%

- ➔ 18% say they have had COVID-19
- ➔ 18% have a child/children with a condition that makes them high risk
- ➔ 12% say they have a child/children who has had COVID-19

Two in five parents believe COVID is less of a health risk for children than for adults; while most have heard about severe or prolonged cases of COVID in children, few have heard a lot.

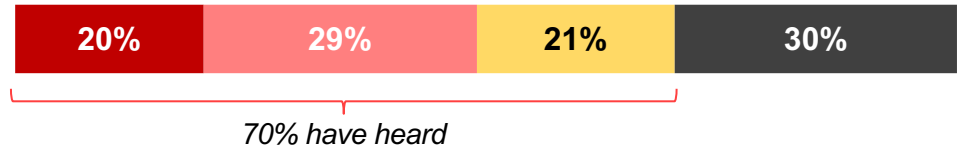
*Health Risk of Getting COVID:
Children vs Adults*



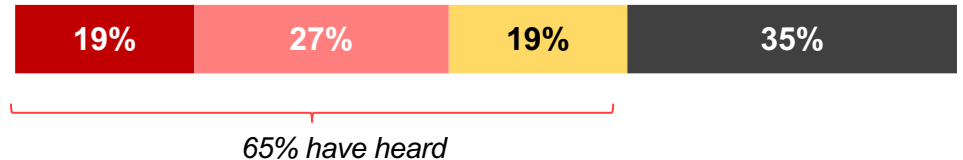
How much have you heard about this?

■ Heard a lot ■ Heard some ■ Heard just a little ■ Haven't heard anything

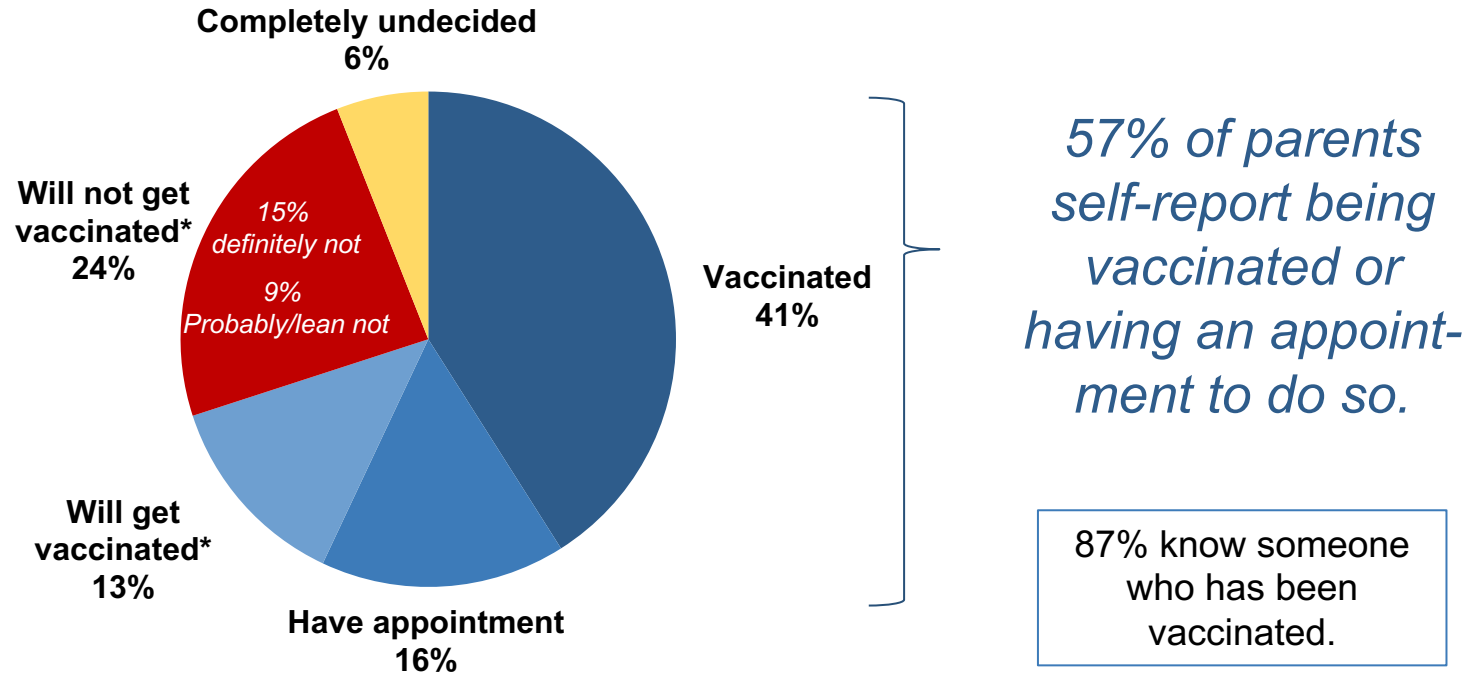
Children suffering acute, severe cases of COVID, including severe inflammatory illness



Children suffering prolonged, persistent symptoms long after getting COVID: long-haul COVID

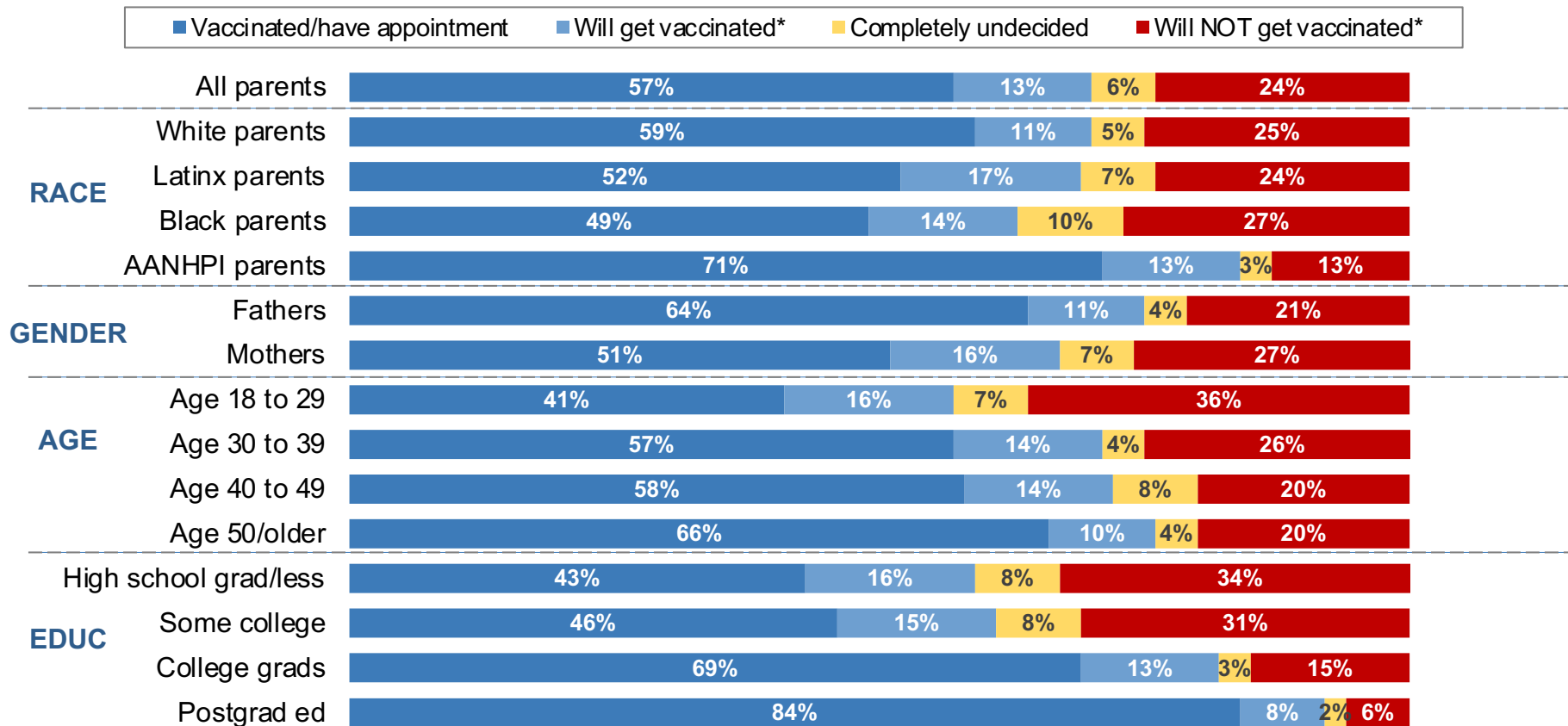


Encouragingly, more than half of parents have received at least one dose of the vaccine or have an appointment—but nearly a quarter say they will not get vaccinated.



*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

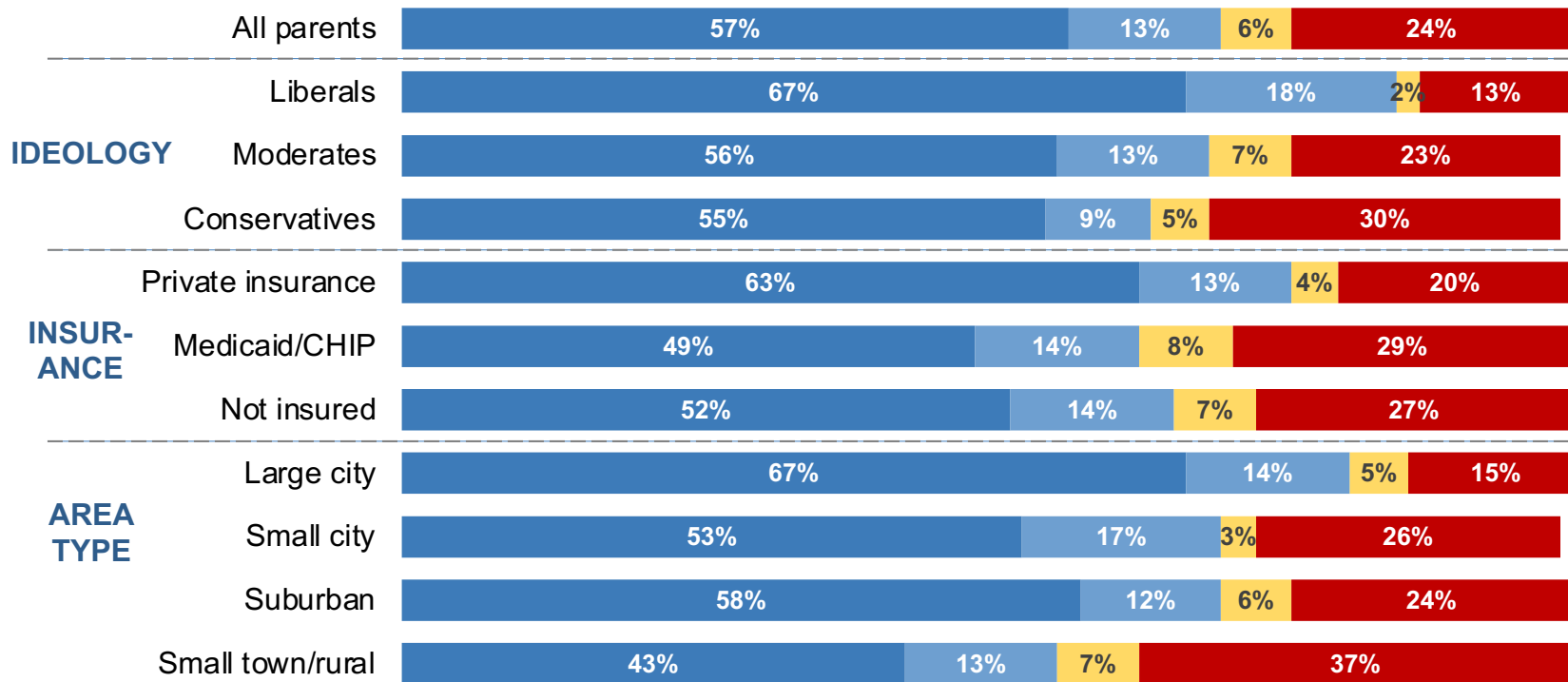
Parents' Vaccination Status/Intentions, by Subgroups



*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

Parents' Vaccination Status/Intentions, by Subgroups (*continued*)

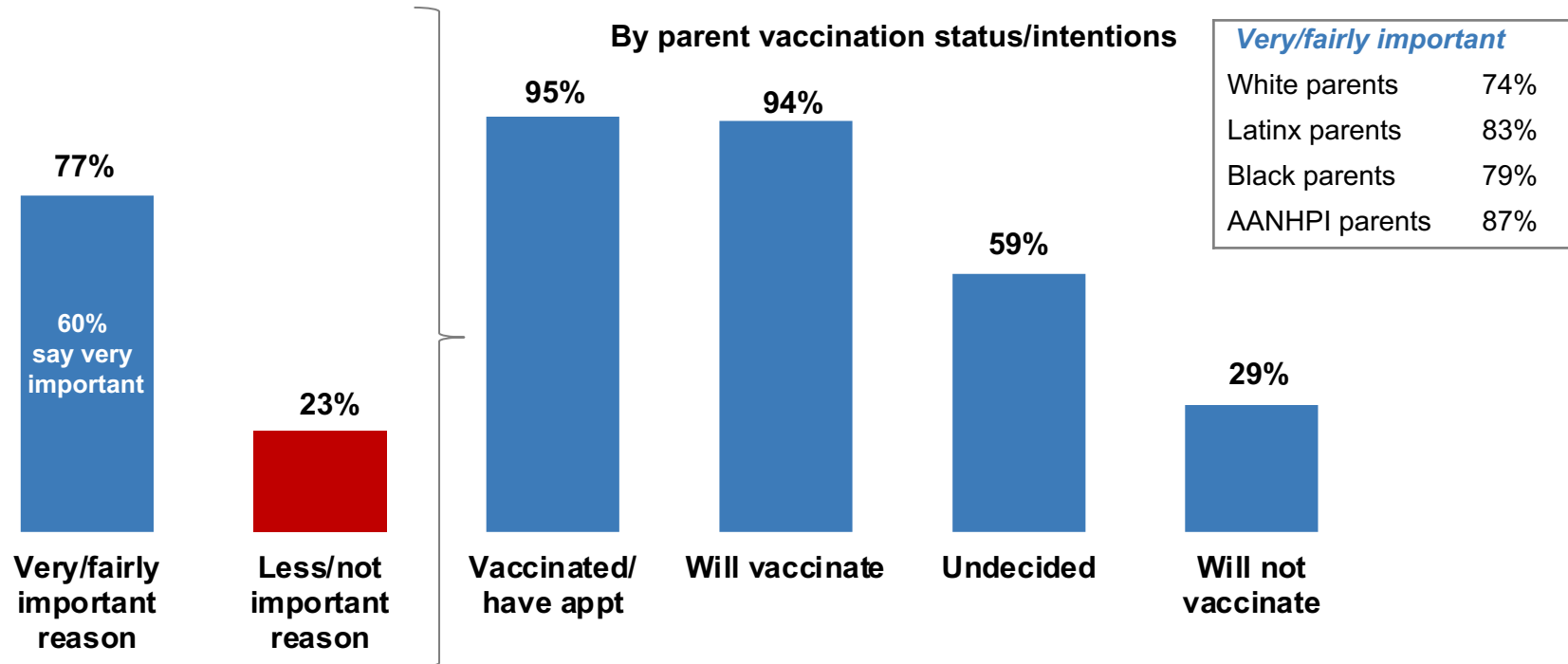
■ Vaccinated/have appointment ■ Will get vaccinated* ■ Completely undecided ■ Will NOT get vaccinated*



*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

Protecting one's own children is an important reason to get vaccinated for most parents, though it is not a motivation for those who have decided against getting vaccinated.

How important is protecting your [child/children] as a reason for you to get vaccinated?

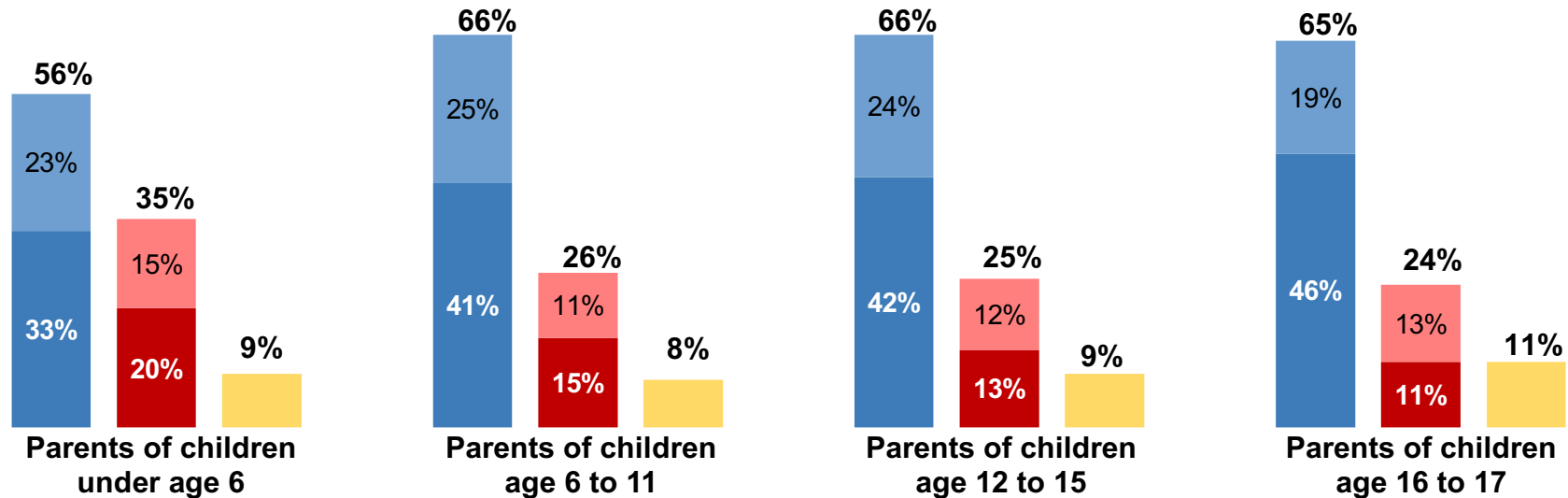




COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN CHILDREN

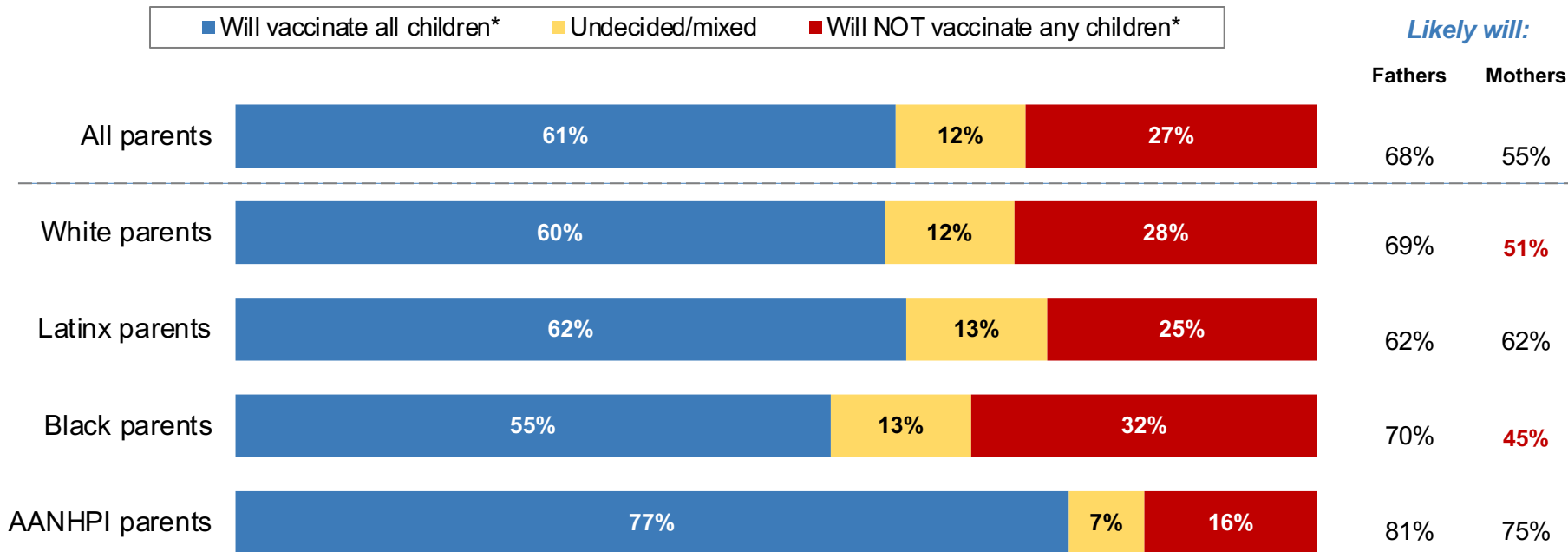
Majorities of parents plan to vaccinate their children, but hesitancy is higher for those with younger children.

■ Definitely will have child vaccinated
■ Probably will/leaning
■ Definitely will not have child vaccinated
■ Probably will not/leaning
■ Completely undecided



AANHPI parents are most likely to get their children vaccinated, while Black and White mothers express greater hesitancy.

Vaccination Plans for Children**

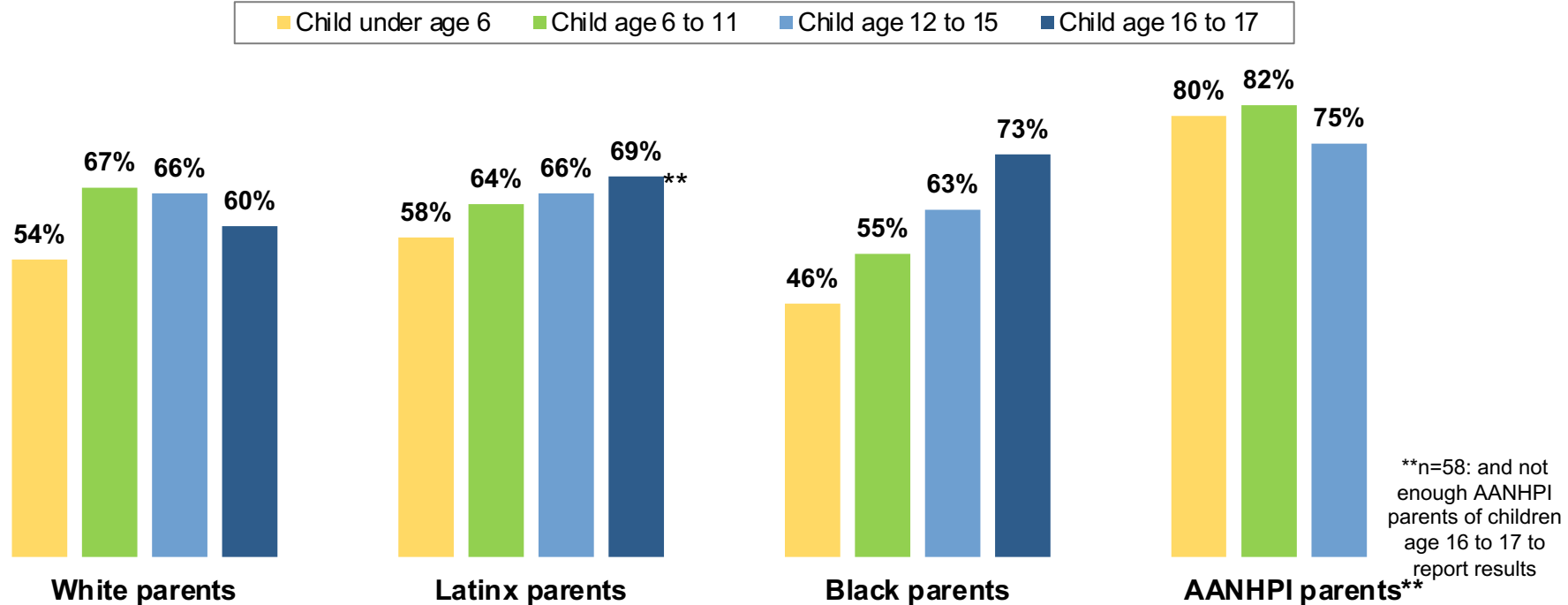


*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

**Reflects aggregated data on parents' intentions to vaccinate all children across the four child age groups

White, Latinx, and Black parents are less likely to say they will get their children under age 6 vaccinated.

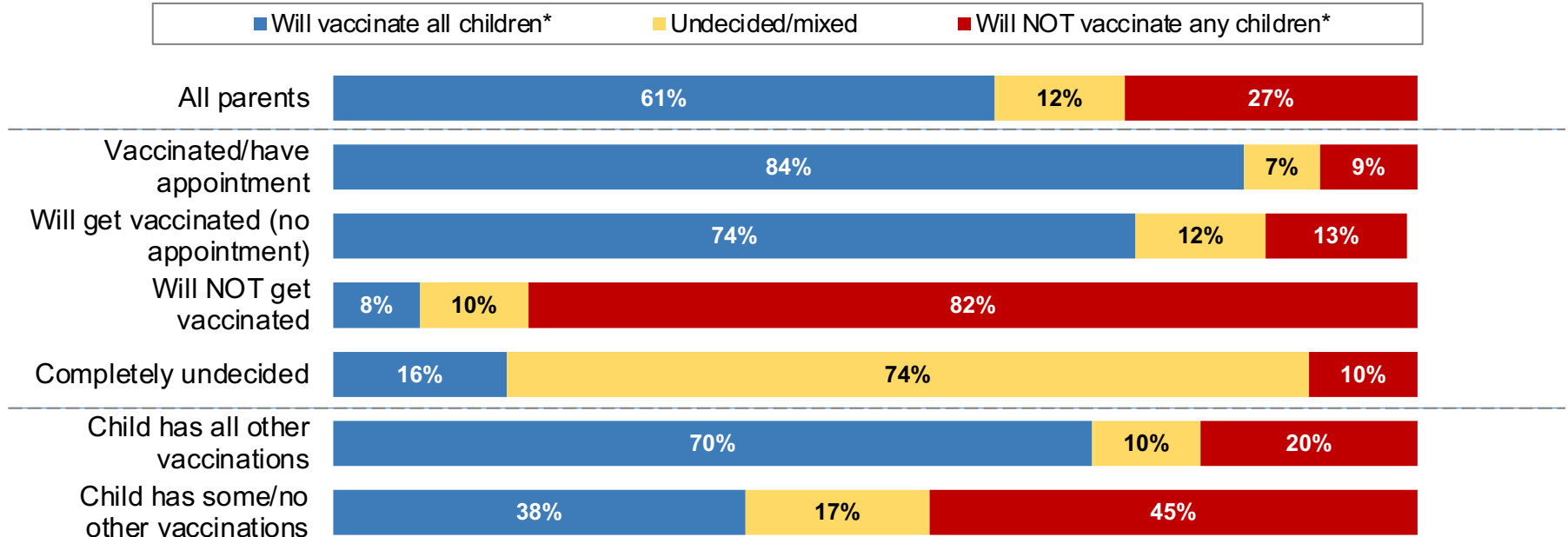
Proportions saying they will have their child vaccinated by child's age*



*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

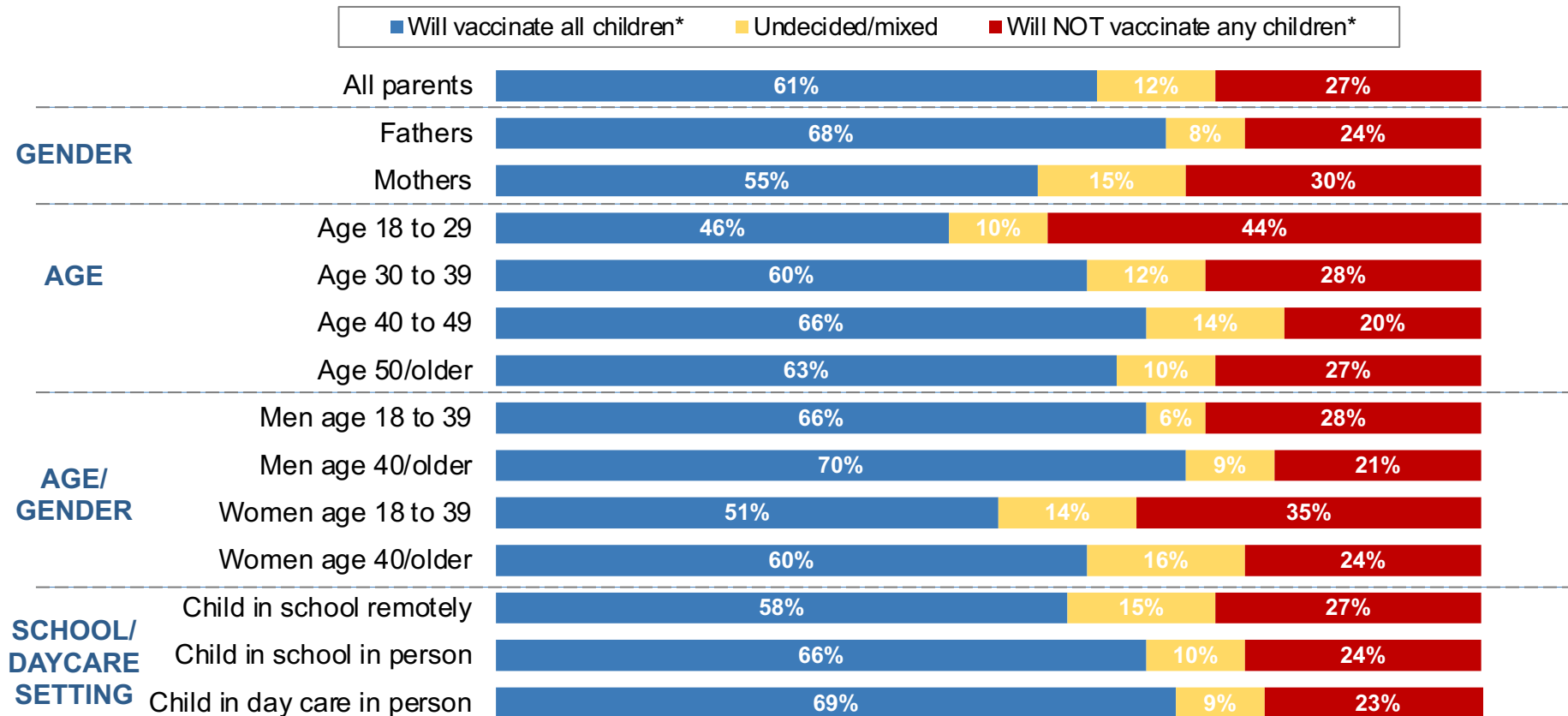
Parents who do not intend to get vaccinated themselves and whose children have not received all other recommended vaccines are least likely to vaccinate their children against COVID-19.

*Vaccination Plans for Children***



*includes definitely, probably, leaning ** Reflects aggregated data on parents' intentions to vaccinate all children across the four child age groups

Parents' Vaccination Intentions for Children by Subgroups**

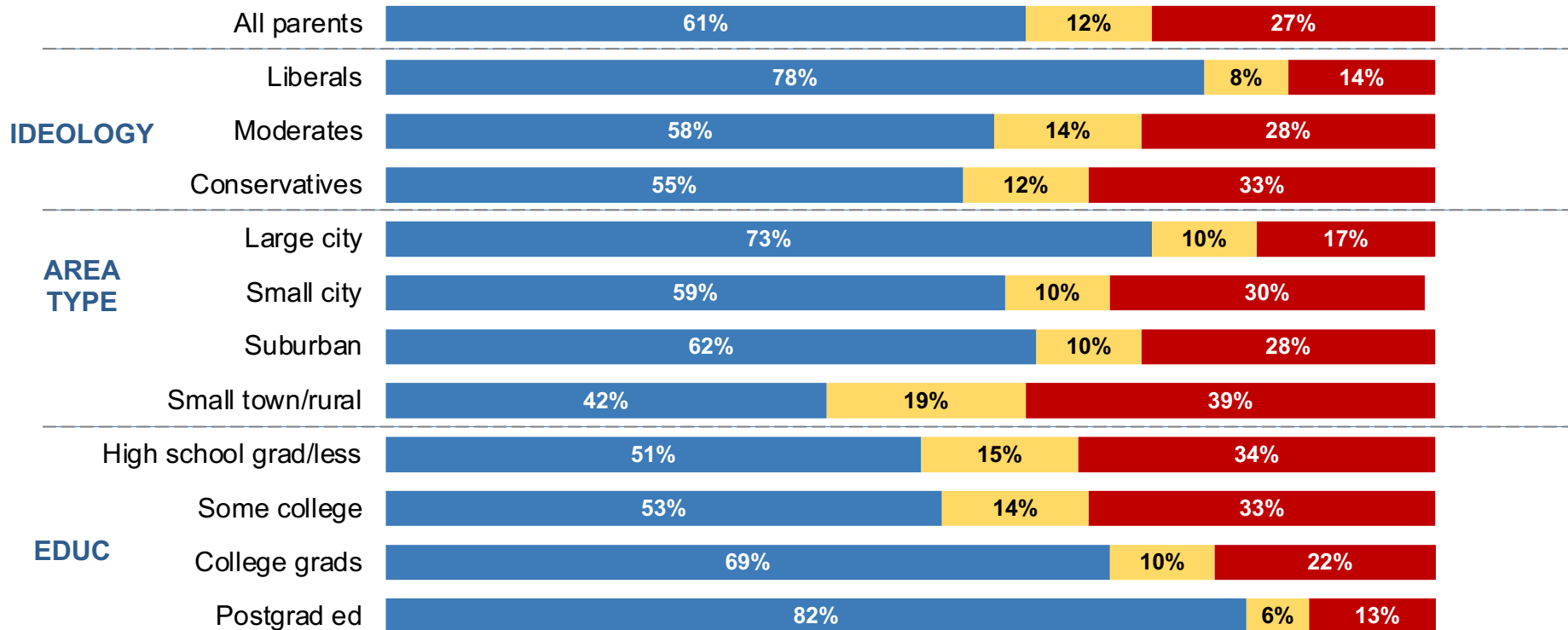


*Includes definitely, probably, leaning

** Reflects aggregated data on parents' intentions to vaccinate all children across the four child age groups

Parents' Vaccination Intentions for Children by Subgroups** (continued)

■ Will vaccinate all children* ■ Undecided/mixed ■ Will NOT vaccinate any children*

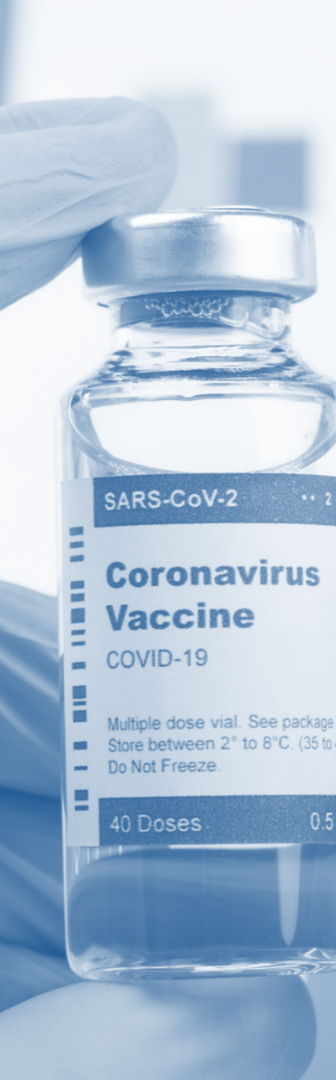


*Includes definitely, probably, leaning ** Reflects aggregated data on parents' intentions to vaccinate all children across the four child age groups

Profile of Parents Who Are Vaccinated/Will Get Vaccinated but Will Not Vaccinate Their Children*

	All Parents	Vaccinate Self/Not Children		All Parents	Vaccinate Self/Not Children
Fathers	45%	41%	High school/less	34%	31%
Mothers	55%	58%	Some college	25%	26%
Age 18 to 29	12%	18%	College grads	25%	29%
Age 30 to 39	37%	45%	Postgrads	16%	14%
Age 40 to 49	35%	15%	Liberals	24%	12%
Age 50/older	16%	22%	Moderates	38%	47%
Child under age 6	39%	53%	Conservatives	32%	35%
Child age 6 to 11	49%	38%	Large city	32%	23%
Child age 12 to 15	40%	32%	Small city	14%	14%
Child age 16 to 17	23%	18%	Suburban	34%	33%
White parents	56%	57%	Small town/rural	21%	30%
Latinx parents	23%	23%			
Black parents	11%	12%			
AANHPI parents	8%	6%			

* Reflects aggregated data on parents' intentions to vaccinate all of their children across the four child age groups



PARENTS' MOTIVATIONS AND BARRIERS TO VACCINATING THEIR CHILDREN AGAINST COVID-19

Protecting their children's health and safety is the primary motivation for those who say they will vaccinate their children against COVID-19.

Volunteered Reasons I Will Have my Child/Children Vaccinated against COVID-19
(aggregated volunteered responses)

**To protect child against the virus,
for child's health, safety** **62%**

Keep them from infecting others, stop spread of COVID 12%

Keep them safe at school, able to send child back to school 8%

Everyone needs to be vaccinated, to reach herd immunity,
right thing to do 5%

Worry about safety, side effects, long-term effects of COVID 5%

Protect myself, family, grandparents 5%

Vaccine is safe, effective 4%

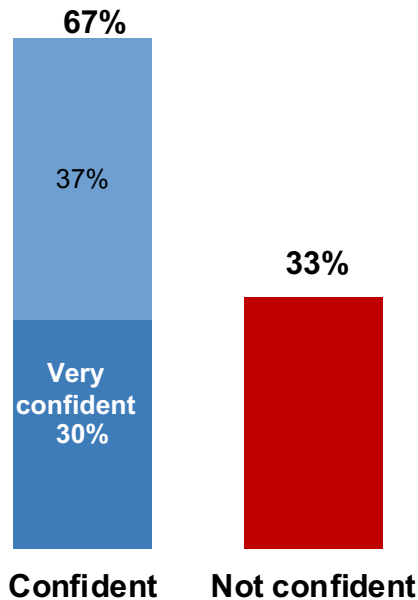
Parents who say they will not vaccinate their children express concern about vaccine safety and the quick development process.

*Volunteered Reasons I **MAY NOT** Have My Child/Children Vaccinated against COVID-19*
(aggregated volunteered responses)

Worry about safety, risks, side effects	36%
Vaccine developed too quickly, not enough research, not adequate testing; my child is not a lab rat	28%
Don't trust the vaccine	14%
Children aren't likely to get virus, doesn't affect them as severely	14%
Worry about the long-term effects of vaccine	11%
Don't think vaccine is needed, necessary	11%
Worry about effectiveness of vaccine, can still get COVID	7%

Two in three parents are confident that a vaccine will be safe for children, but only three in 10 are very confident.

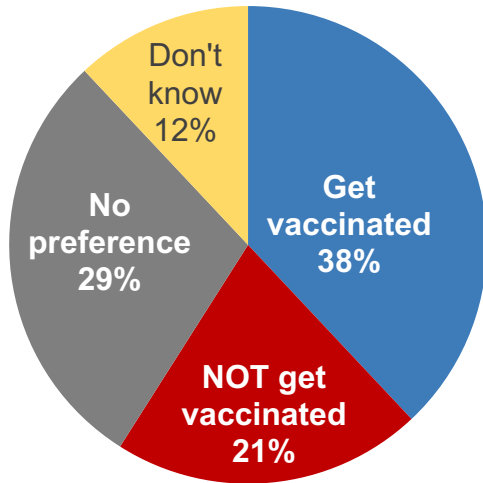
When a COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for use in children by the Food and Drug Administration, how confident are you that it will actually be safe, with no harmful side effects for children who get vaccinated?



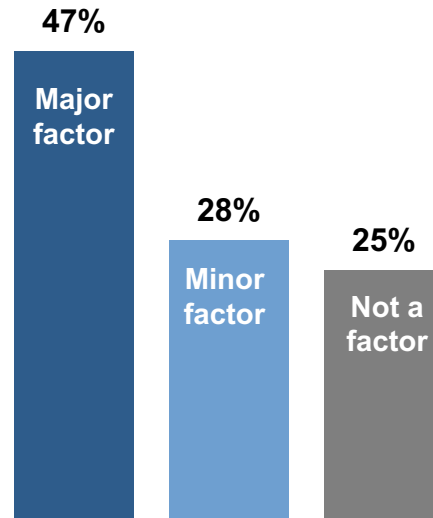
	Confident	Not confident		Confident	Not confident
White parents	68%	32%	Child under age 6	63%	37%
Latinx parents	65%	35%	Child age 6 to 11	69%	31%
Black parents	63%	37%	Child age 12 to 15	71%	29%
AANHPI parents	80%	20%	Child age 16 to 17	67%	33%
Fathers	73%	27%	Liberals	82%	18%
Mothers	63%	37%	Moderates	67%	33%
White mothers	62%	38%	Conservatives	30%	40%
Latina mothers	62%	38%	Large city	80%	20%
Black mothers	55%	45%	Small city	66%	34%
AANHPI mothers	79%	21%	Suburban	68%	32%
Vaccinate self/not children	55%	45%	Small town/rural	49%	51%

Parents whose children want the vaccine factor in their children's preference more than those whose children do not.

Oldest Child's Preference Regarding Vaccine

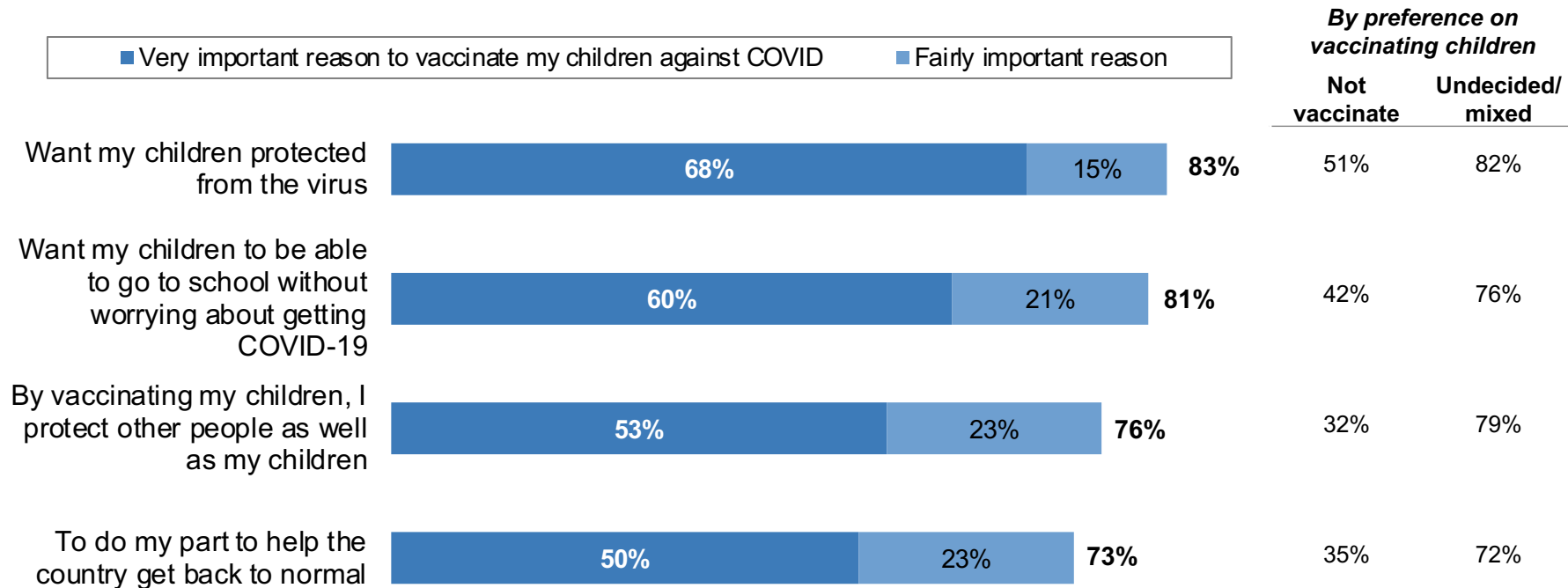


How big a factor is child's preference in your decision?

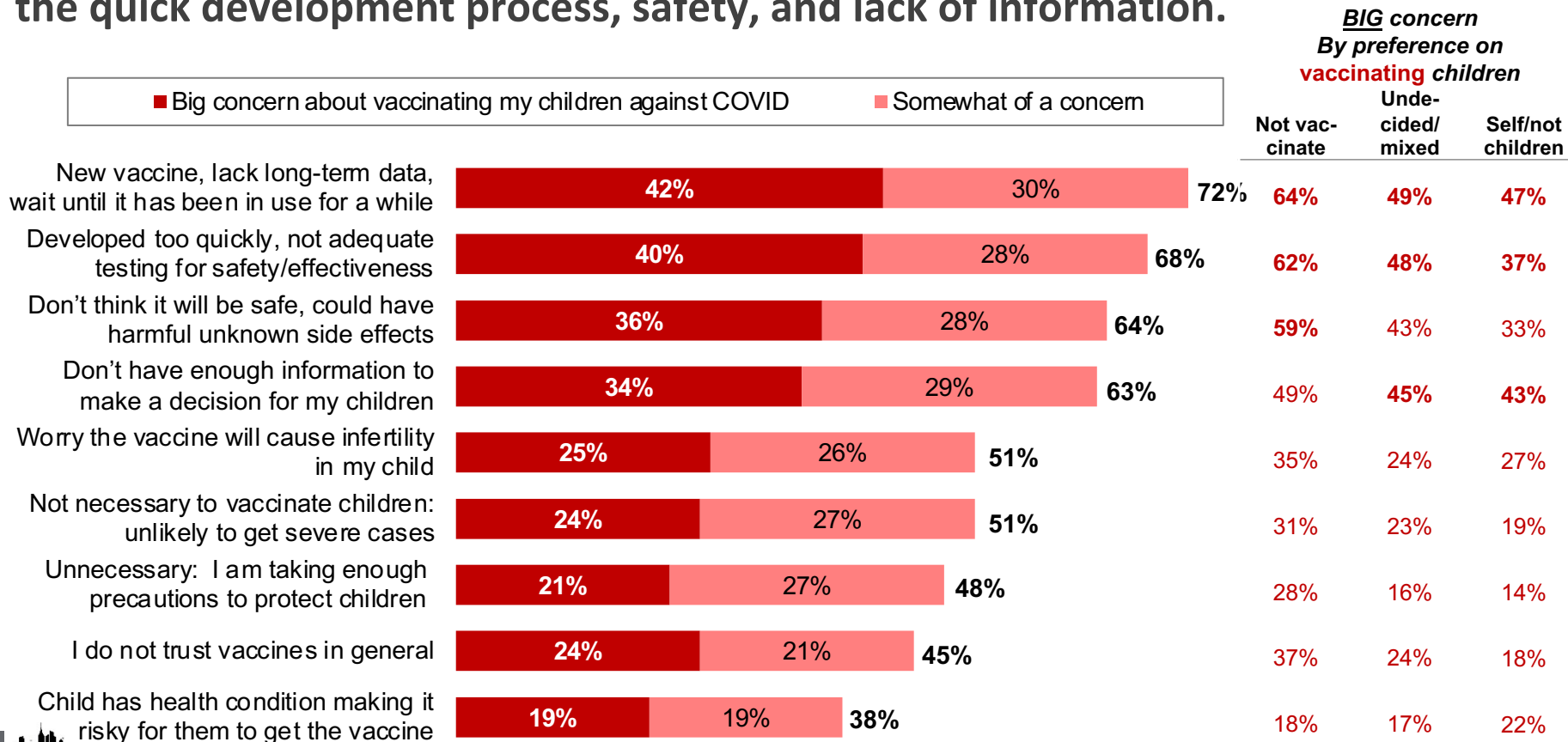


	Child Preference		
	Get vaccinated	NOT get vaccinated	None/unknown
Major factor	71%	44%	27%
Minor factor	21%	38%	29%
Not a factor	8%	18%	44%

Parents indicate that protecting their children from the virus is the most important reason to get them vaccinated, but reopening schools and other reasons are also viewed as important.



Parents' top concerns about child vaccination are lack of long-term data, the quick development process, safety, and lack of information.

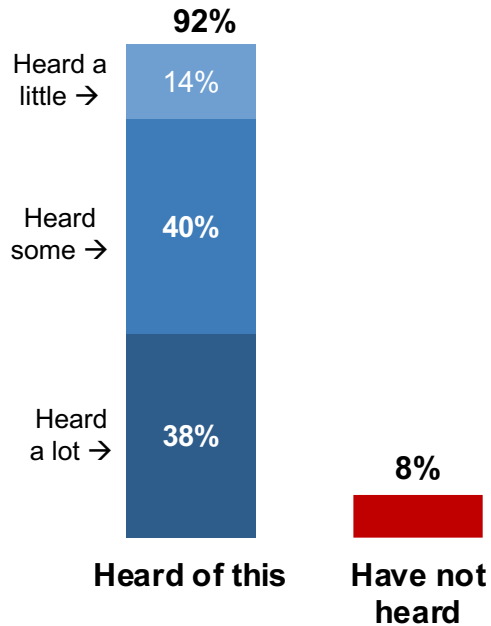


Concerns about vaccinating children are more pronounced among Latinx and Black parents.

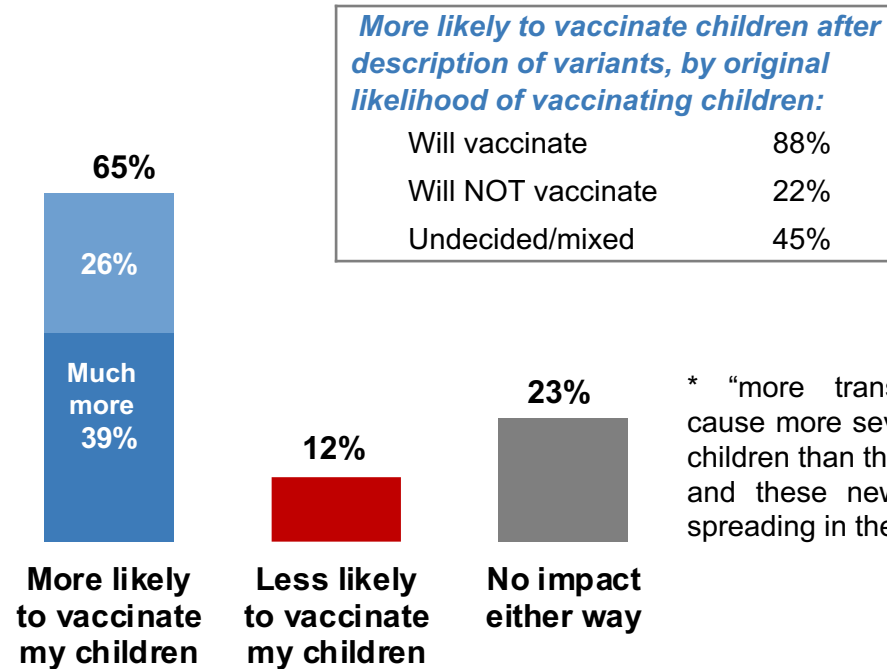
<i>Proportions saying each is a big concern/somewhat of a concern about vaccinating their children against COVID-19</i>	White parents	Latinx parents	Black parents	AANHPI parents
New vaccine, lack of long-term data, I want to wait until it has been in use for a while	68%	79%	78%	67%
Developed too quickly, not adequate testing for safety/effectiveness	66%	75%	75%	54%
Don't think it will be safe, could have harmful unknown side effects	58%	74%	71%	61%
Don't have enough information to make a decision for my children	58%	72%	72%	59%
Worry the vaccine will cause infertility in my child	46%	61%	55%	48%
Not necessary to have children vaccinated: children unlikely to get severe cases	48%	59%	59%	52%
Not necessary: taking enough precautions to protect my children	42%	58%	60%	45%
I do not trust vaccines in general	39%	52%	58%	39%
Child has health condition making it risky for them to get the vaccine	34%	46%	45%	43%

Most parents have heard something about new COVID-19 variants; hearing that these variants are more transmissible and cause more severe disease in children increases their likelihood of vaccinating their children.

Awareness of new variants in U.S.



*Likelihood of vaccinating children after description of variants**



* “more transmissible and cause more severe disease in children than the original virus, and these new variants are spreading in the U.S.”



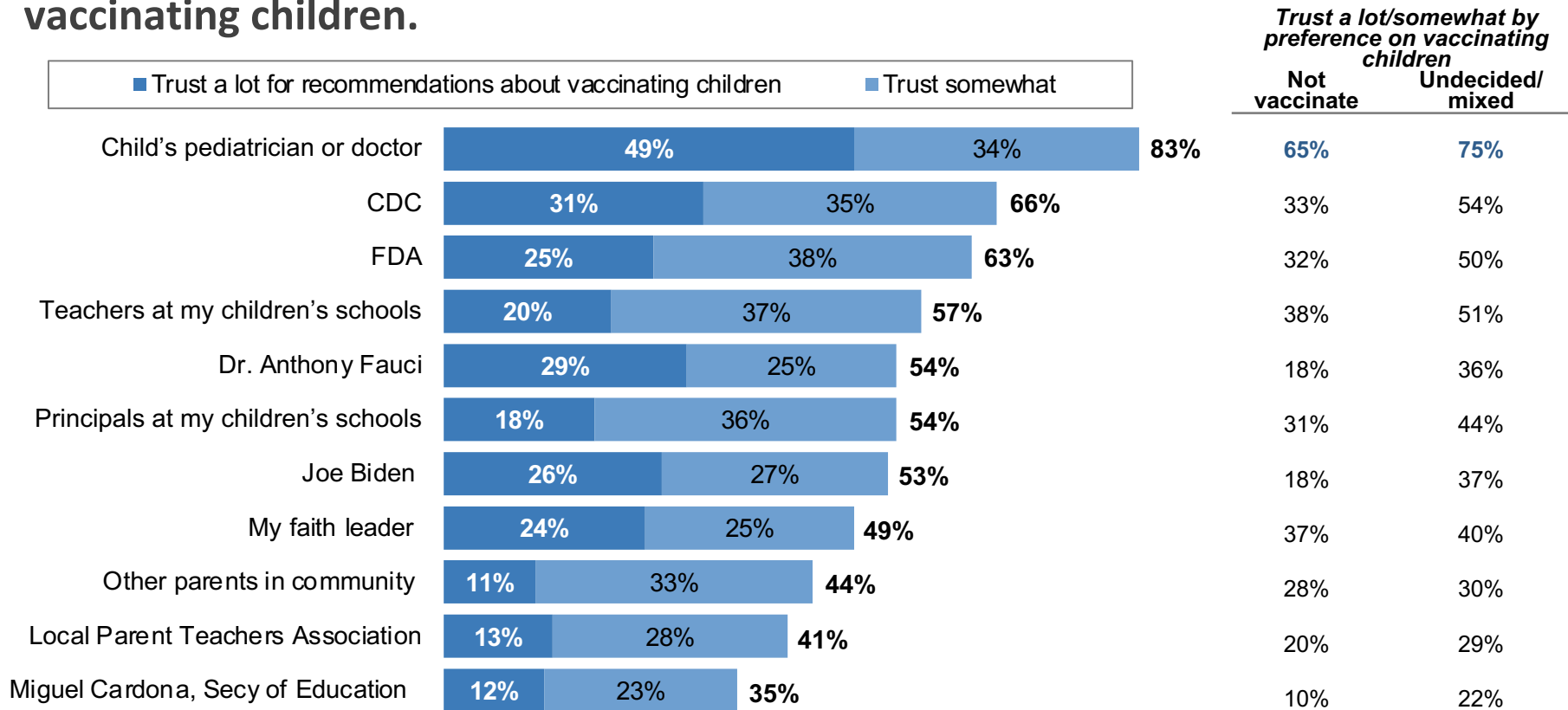
INCREASING COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN CHILDREN

Multiple messages could increase the likelihood that parents would get their children vaccinated. Protecting one's own children and preventing severe illness are most effective with undecided parents.

<i>Proportions saying each would make them more likely to have their children vaccinated against COVID-19 (4-5 ratings on 0-to-5 scale)</i>	All par- ents	Unde- cided/ mixed	Vax self/not children
It is important to get children vaccinated to protect them from the increasing spread of new variants of COVID-19 that are more transmissible and cause more severe disease than the original virus.	61%	47%	36%
Children of all ages are susceptible to severe inflammatory illness caused by COVID-19 that can be life-threatening without treatment. A vaccine will likely be highly effective at preventing severe illness.	59%	50%	n/a*
Even though children are less likely to have COVID-19 symptoms, they can still spread COVID-19 to other children and adults.	59%	45%	35%
The COVID-19 vaccine is being thoroughly tested for children in large trials , and it will be safe and effective once approved by the CDC and FDA.	59%	44%	34%
Many students are suffering emotionally and academically from a year of isolation and remote learning. A vaccine will let our kids get back to in-person school so they can learn and socialize safely .	59%	43%	43%
Safe and effective vaccines have already been approved for adults, and serious side effects have been very rare. Vaccines are undergoing equally thorough testing for children and, when authorized, they will be just as safe for children as they are for adults.	59%	39%	36%
Children of all ages are susceptible to prolonged, persistent symptoms of fatigue, headache, and heart palpitations long after having the virus. A vaccine will likely be highly effective at preventing these so called "long-haul" symptoms .	58%	38%	n/a*
Some experts estimate 80% of the population may need to be vaccinated to stop the spread of COVID-19, and children make up 23% of U.S. population--which means only vaccinating adults is not enough to end the pandemic .	58%	40%	36%
Vaccinating children is essential for our communities and the country to get back to normal. We cannot fully reopen businesses and schools safely until children are vaccinated .	57%	36%	26%

*Sample size is too small to show

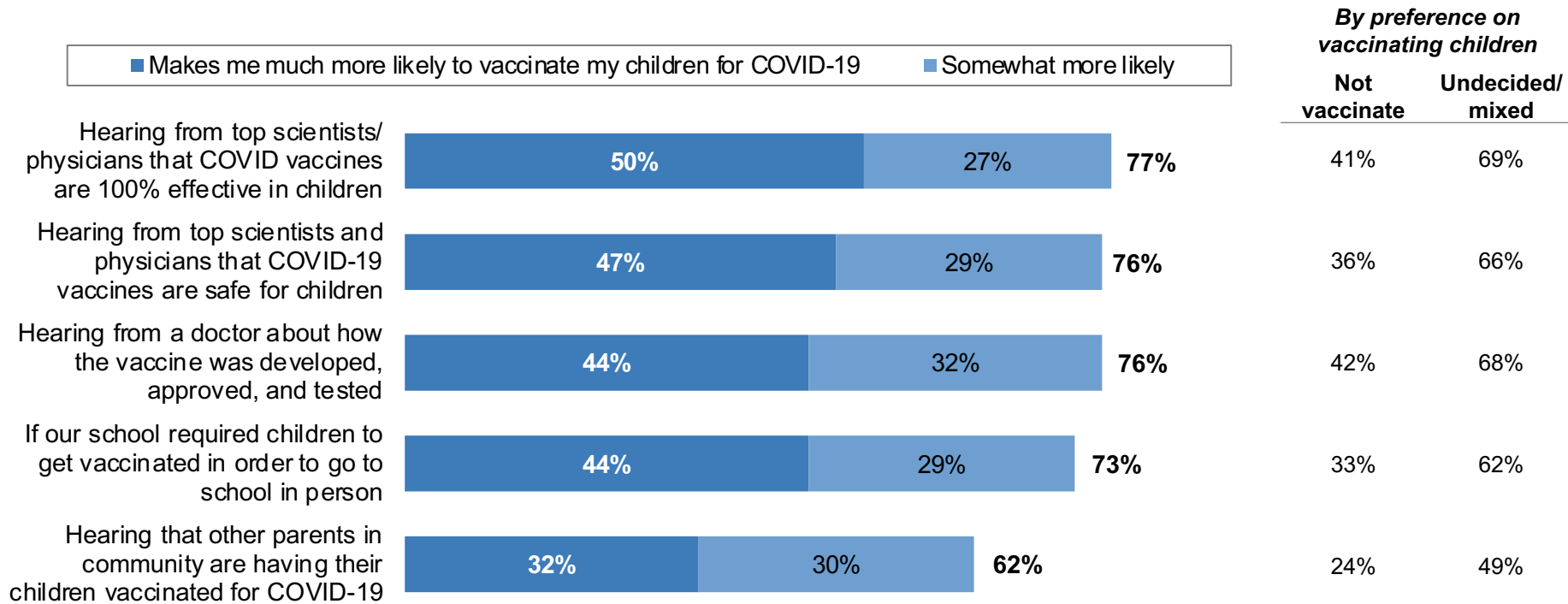
Strong majorities of parents—including those who are vaccine-hesitant—trust their child’s pediatrician’s recommendation about vaccinating children.



Trusted Figures on Child Vaccine Recommendations by Race

White Parents		Latinx Parents	
Child's pediatrician or doctor	84%	Child's pediatrician or doctor	84%
The CDC	65%	The CDC	68%
The FDA	63%	The FDA	63%
Teachers at child's school	58%	Joe Biden	60%
Principal at child's school	54%	Dr. Anthony Fauci	57%
Black Parents		AANHPI Parents	
Child's pediatrician or doctor	77%	Child's pediatrician or doctor	84%
Joe Biden	67%	The CDC	73%
The CDC	62%	The FDA	72%
The FDA	59%	Dr. Anthony Fauci	67%
Dr. Anthony Fauci	58%	Joe Biden	66%

Parents hearing from experts about the vaccine's effectiveness and safety in children has potential to increase child vaccine uptake.



ROLE OF THE VACCINE IN SCHOOLS

Parents whose children are not attending school in person feel less safe about sending them to school than do those whose children are already attending in person.

How safe [do you/would you] feel sending your children to school for in-person instruction right now?

Parents of children attending school in person

Parents of children in school NOT attending in person

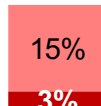
■ Very safe
■ Not at all safe

■ Somewhat safe
■ Not that safe

82%



18%



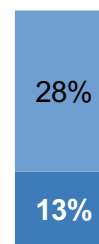
Do feel safe

White parents	82%
Latinx parents	82%
Black	79%
AANHPI	79%

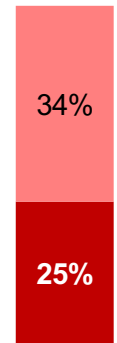
Would feel safe

White	46%
Latinx	36%
Black	36%
AANHPI	44%

41%

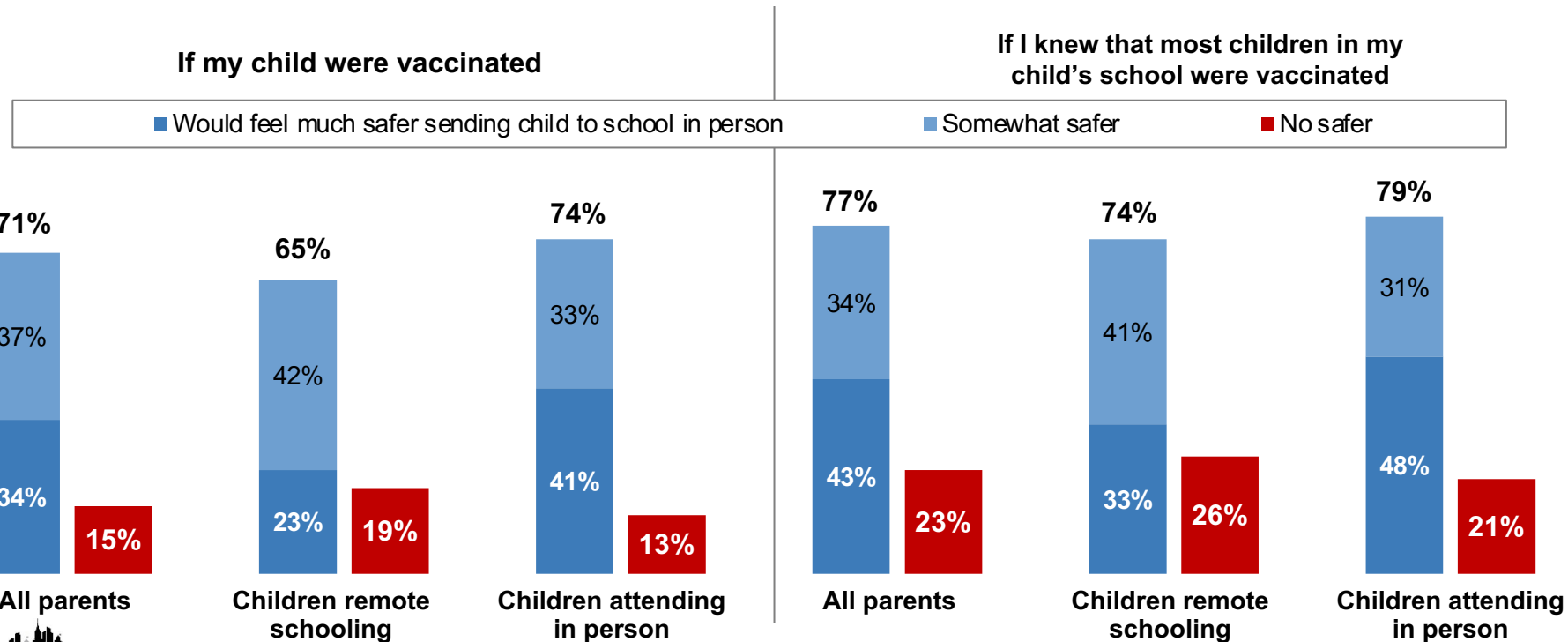


59%



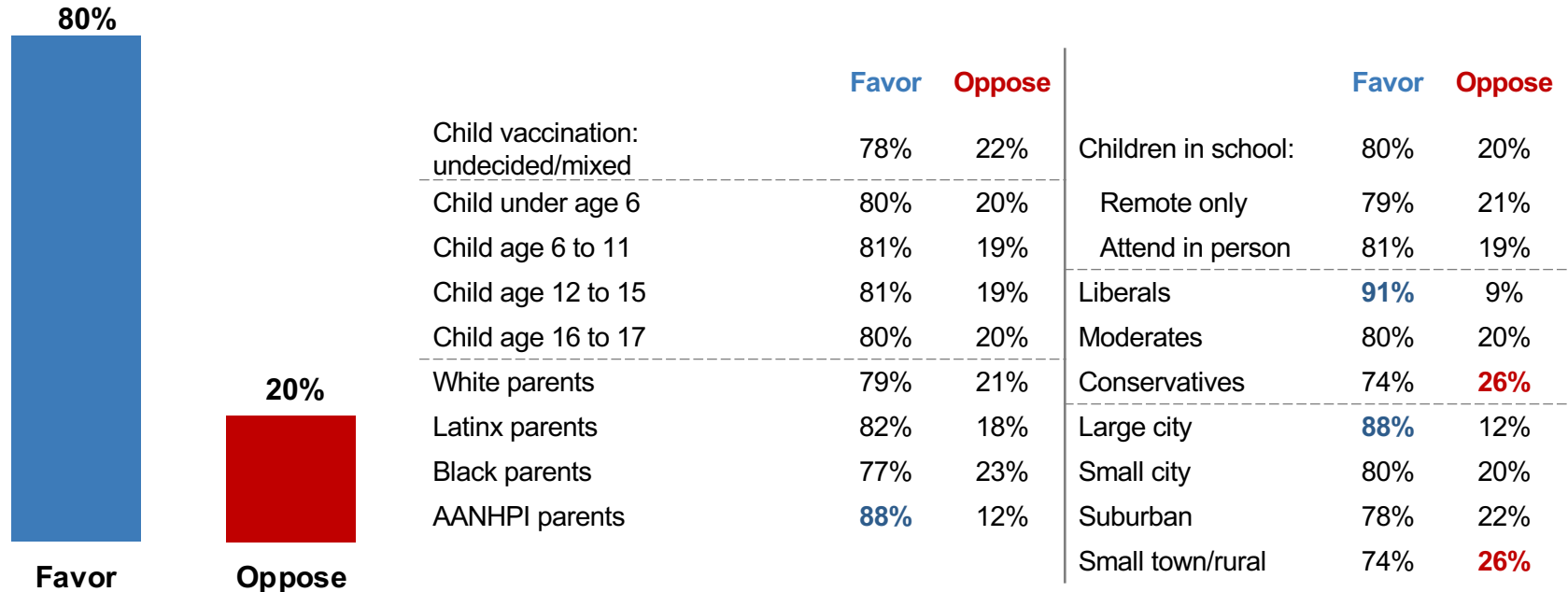
Vaccines play an important role in making parents feel safer sending their children to school, including for parents with children learning remotely—most of whom would not currently feel safe with in-person schooling.

Among parents with children enrolled in school:



Eight in 10 parents favor making COVID-19 vaccines and information available at public schools, including large majorities across political party and child age.

Support for a proposal to make COVID-19 vaccines and information about the vaccines available at public schools for students, parents, and other members of the local community

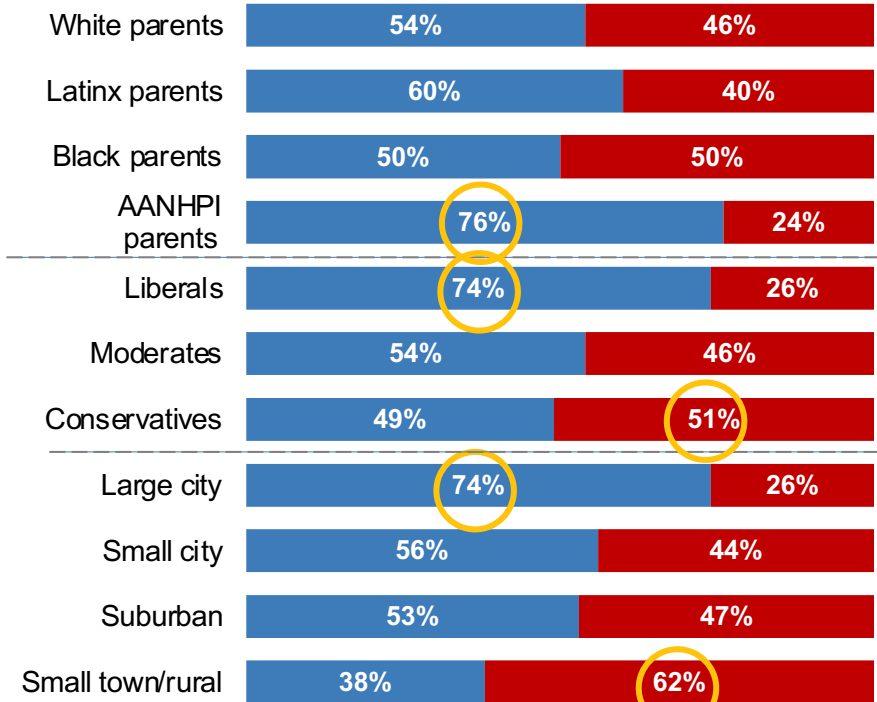
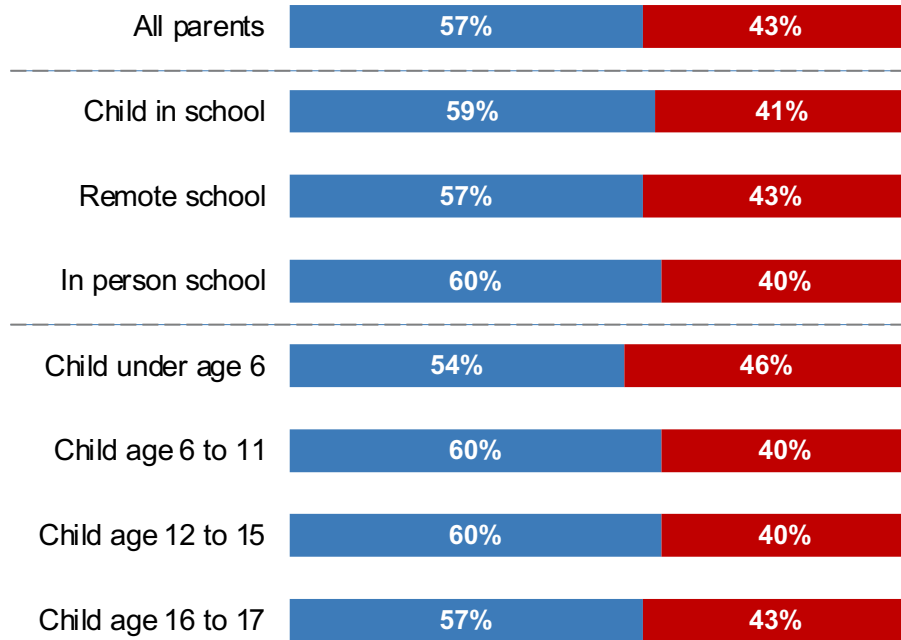


Favor

Oppose

A majority of parents support requiring vaccination for students returning to school in person, but the level of support varies by demographic.

■ IF FDA/CDC determine safe, vaccination should be required for child to return to school ■ Should not be required

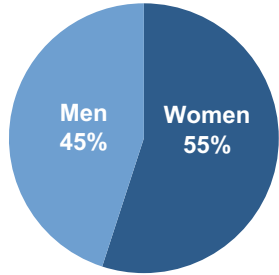




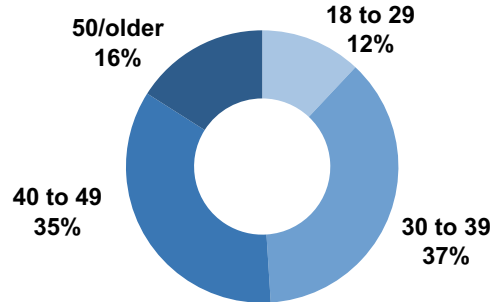
APPENDIX

Profile of American Parents

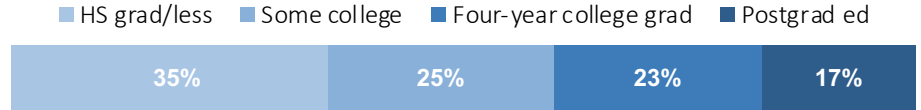
GENDER



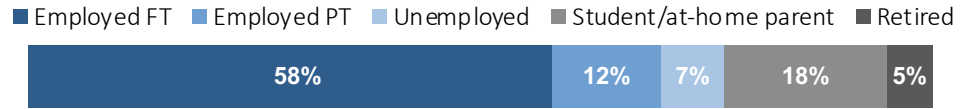
AGE



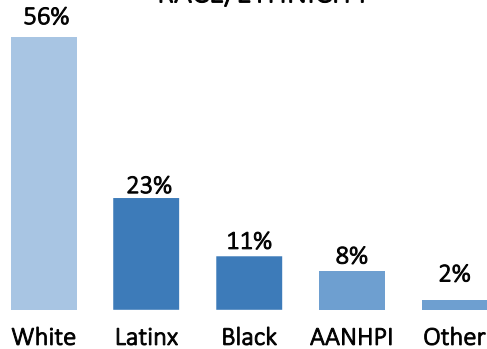
EDUCATION



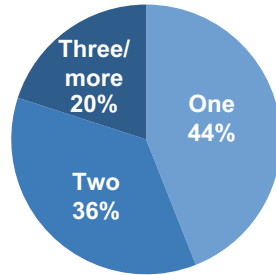
EMPLOYMENT



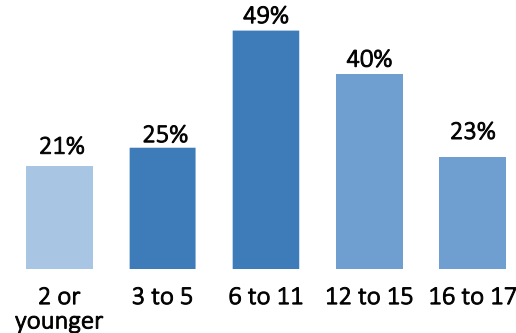
RACE/ETHNICITY



NUMBER OF CHILDREN



CHILD AGE



IDEOLOGY

