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THE COVID STATES PROJECT: A 50-STATE COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT #64: CONTINUED HIGH PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MANDATING VACCINES

USA, October 2021

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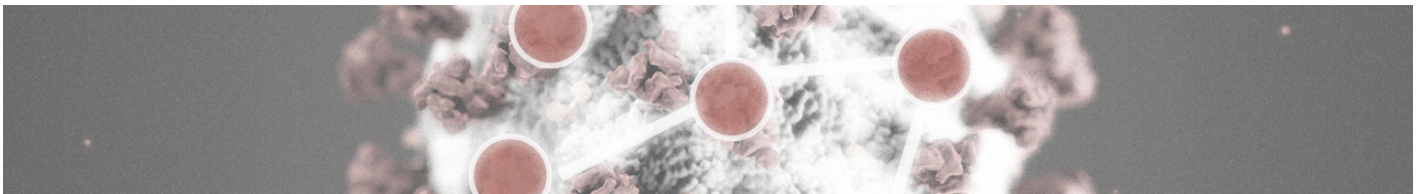
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Report of October 6, 2021, v.1

The COVID States Project

From: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States

A joint project of:

Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

Authors: Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); Ata Uslu (Northeastern University); Anjuli Shere (Harvard University); David Lazer (Northeastern University); Kristin Lunz Trujillo (Northeastern University); James Druckman (Northwestern University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Mauricio Santillana (Harvard Medical School); Jon Green (Northeastern University); Jennifer Lin (Northwestern University); Alauna C. Safarpour (Harvard University); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); Hong Qu (Northeastern University), and Caroline Pippert (Northwestern University)

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COVER MEMO

Summary Memo — October 6, 2021

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From April 2020 through September 2021, we conducted multiple waves of a large, 50-state survey, some results of which are presented here. You can find previous reports online at covidstates.org.

Note on methods:

Between August 26 and September 27, 2021, we surveyed 21,079 individuals across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample, with state-level representative quotas for race/ethnicity, age, and gender (for methodological details on the other waves, see covidstates.org). In addition to balancing on these dimensions, we reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This was the latest in a series of surveys we have been conducting since April 2020, examining attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 in the United States.

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Continued high public support for mandating vaccines

COVID-19 continues to surge in the United States and elsewhere, propelled by the highly contagious Delta variant. As of this writing (on September 29, 2021), about three quarters ([76%](#)) of the eligible U.S. population (age 12 and up) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This is likely not enough to achieve herd immunity in the United States. Though the specific number remains uncertain, a [recent estimate](#) by the Infectious Diseases Society of America suggests that over 80% of the *entire* population must be *fully* vaccinated to reach herd immunity.

More worrisome, around 1 in 5 Americans, depending on the poll, continue to say they are either uncertain or will not get the vaccine. In our most recent survey wave (fielded from August 26 to September 27, 2021), 10% of respondents who indicated that they are not yet vaccinated claimed they are extremely unlikely to get it. Another 12% are “somewhat” unlikely to seek the vaccine.

In recent weeks, the Biden administration has shifted tactics in its efforts to get as many Americans as possible vaccinated. The Administration had from the outset emphasized the benefits of getting vaccinated as its primary strategy for persuading reluctant Americans to do so. Yet, starting in September the prevailing strategy seemingly shifted from emphasizing carrots to sticks. On September 9th, President Biden issued an [executive order](#) requiring all federal employees and government contractors to be vaccinated, and also [announced](#) that the U.S. Department of Labor would require that all companies with more than 100 employees require vaccination or weekly testing, as well as provide paid time off for employees to get vaccinated. The Biden Administration has also encouraged states and smaller companies to impose similar vaccine mandates.

The question arises as to whether the persistence of the Delta variant has increased public support for making COVID-19 vaccines mandatory. In our April/May survey wave, six in ten respondents approved of the government mandating vaccines for everyone (see [Report #52](#)). This figure increased modestly, to 64% in our June/July survey ([see Report #58](#)).

In this report, we update our assessment of public support for vaccine mandates, both nationally and across the 50 states, based on our September survey wave.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Overall, public support for federal, state, and local governments requiring that everyone get vaccinated remains very strong, at 65%.
- Support for narrower mandates for returning to in-person school (63%) or university (68%) or getting on an airplane (71%) also remains high.
- Six in 10 respondents support requiring large companies to require that their employees be vaccinated or regularly tested for COVID-19.
- Public support for such mandates has modestly increased (by 1-2 percentage points) since June/July, both overall and in specific circumstances, like getting on an airplane and returning to school or a university.
- Majorities of respondents -- in most instances *large* majorities -- support every mandate we surveyed across *nearly all* partisan and demographic subgroups we investigated. The notable exception is Republicans, among whom fewer than half support an overall mandate (43%), or narrower mandates for kids attending in-person school (41%), returning to university (47%), or for employees of large businesses (35%). A bare majority of Republicans (51%) support mandating vaccines to get on an airplane.
- Majorities of respondents in *nearly all* states and the District of Columbia support all four types of vaccine mandates we consider. At the high end, majorities in *every state* support mandating vaccines for getting on an airplane, while at the low end, majorities of respondents in 45 states and the District of Columbia support requiring vaccination for children to return to school.

PART I: National Support for Vaccine Mandates

1. Public Support for Government Vaccine Mandates is High and Increasing

As shown in Figure 1, overall support for vaccine mandates is high, increasing slightly in September compared to June/July. In our June/July survey, 64.4% of respondents supported the proposition of federal, state, or local governments requiring that everyone get a COVID-19 vaccine.¹ In September, the number roughly held steady, at 64.7%. We see similar patterns when we asked respondents if people should be required to get a COVID-19 vaccine to “get on an airplane” (an increase of .7 points to 70.8%), “in order to be allowed in school” (an increase of 1.7 points, to 63%), or “in order to go back to university” (an increase of 1.3 points, to 67.7%).

Support for vaccine mandates among Americans

Do you approve or disapprove of the following measures which federal, state, and local governments could take to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the next 30 days?

	Approve (April)	Approve (June)	Approve (September)
Requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine	62%	64%	65%
Requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to get on an airplane	67%	70%	71%
Requiring children to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to be allowed in school	58%	61%	63%
Requiring college students to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go back to university	66%	66%	68%

April: N = 21733, Time period: 4/1/21 – 5/3/21; June: N = 20669, Time period: 6/9/21 – 7/6/21; September: N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21
Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

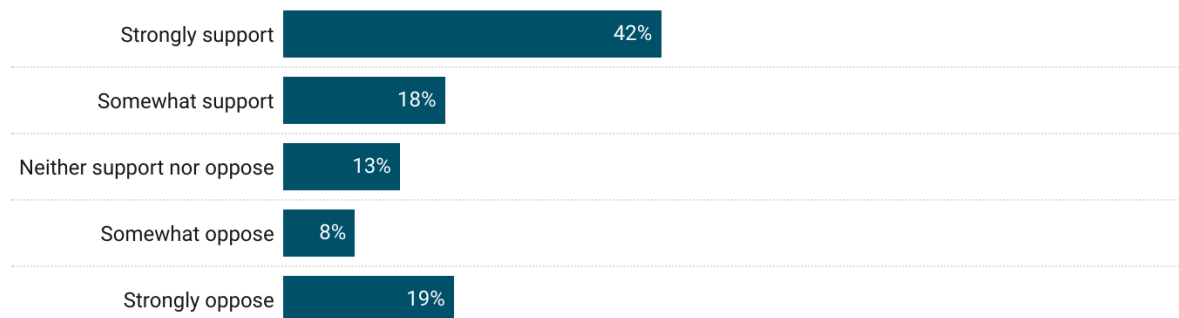
FIGURE 1. Support for vaccine mandates among Americans

In the September wave, we also asked respondents whether or not they supported “requiring large companies to ensure employees are vaccinated for COVID-19 or get tested regularly”. As Figure 2 shows, 60% supported such a requirement “strongly” (42%) or “somewhat” (18%), compared to 27% who opposed it “strongly” or “somewhat”.

¹ Note: Except where otherwise noted, all vaccine mandate questions in this report included 4 response options: Strongly Disapprove, Somewhat Disapprove, Somewhat Approve or Strongly Approve. For this report, we collapsed these into two categories for Somewhat/Strongly Disapprove or Somewhat/Strongly Approve.

Do you support or oppose requiring large companies to ensure employees are vaccinated for COVID-19 or get tested regularly?

[Percent respondents who say they...]



N = 7062, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

FIGURE 2. Support for requiring large companies to ensure employees are vaccinated for COVID-19 or get tested regularly

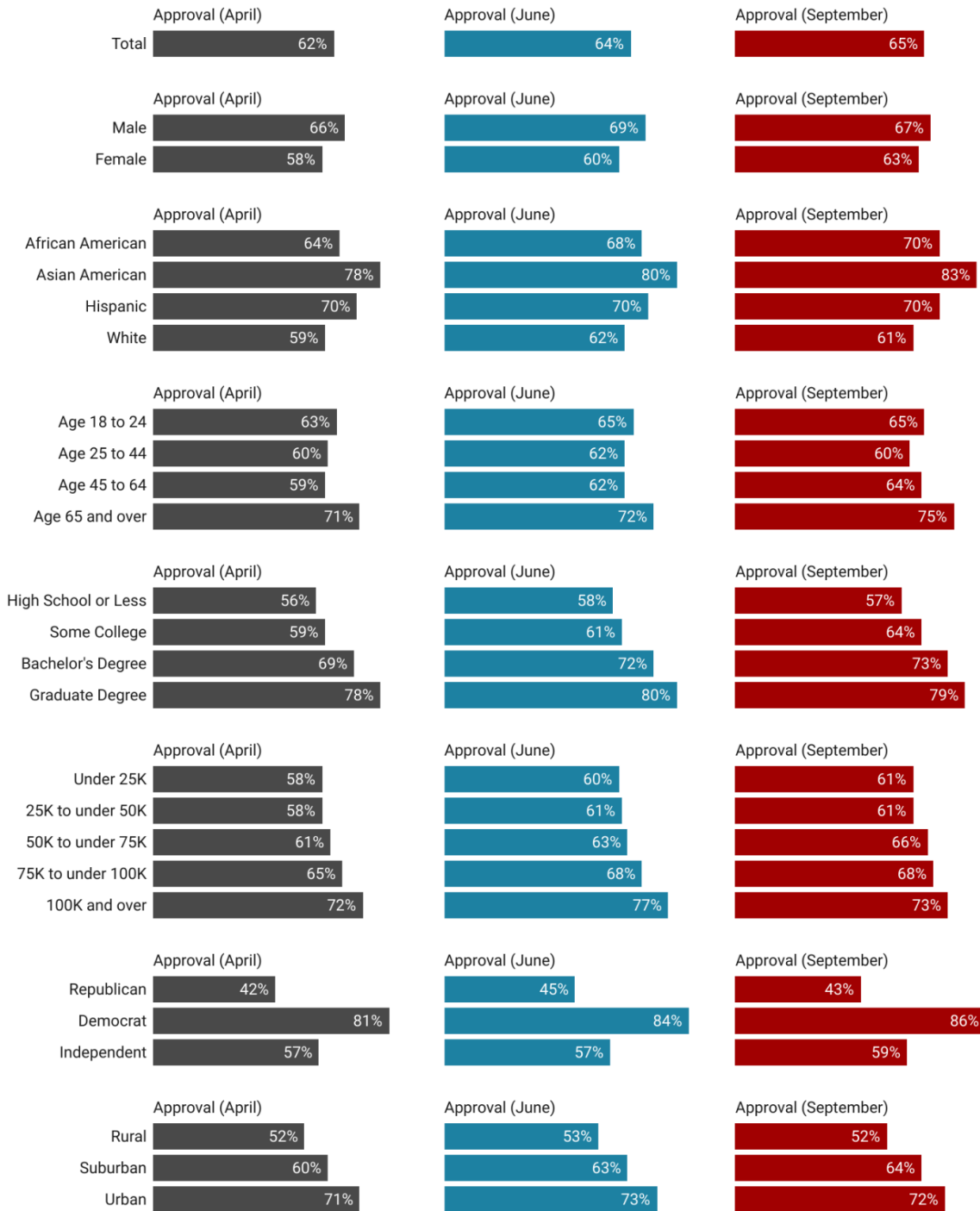
2. Support for Universal Vaccine Mandates, by Population Subgroups

Majorities of all subgroups but one support universal vaccine mandates. The exception is Republicans, 43% of whom support a universal vaccine mandate, down 2 points from June/July. Support for universal vaccine mandates either increased or remained steady across nearly all other subgroups (see Figure 3).

GENDER. The gender gap between men and women fell by more than half in September, to 4 points, from 9 points in June/July, with women remaining less likely than men to support a universal vaccine mandate (63% vs. 67%). Support among men dropped by 2 points (from 69% to 67%) while support among women increased by 3 points (from 60% to 63%).

RACE/ETHNICITY. We find relatively small changes across racial/ethnic groups from June/July to September. **White respondents remain the least supportive group, with their support falling one point (from 62% to 61%). The largest increase in support occurs among Asian Americans, whose already-high level of support (80% in June/July) further increased by 3 points, to 83% in September.** African American support increased by 2 points (from 68% to 70%), while Hispanics remained consistent, with a steady 70% support for a universal vaccine mandate in both survey waves. Once again, these data reveal a large gap between the most- and least-supportive racial/ethnic groups, with Asian Americans 22 percentage points more supportive than Whites. This gap has expanded since June/July, when there was an 18 point difference.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine?



April: N = 21733, Time period: 4/1/21 – 5/3/21; June: N = 20669, Time period: 6/9/21 – 7/6/21; September: N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21
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FIGURE 3. Approval of federal, state, and local governments requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine

AGE. We find fairly small changes in support in September from June/July, ranging from a 2 point decline among respondents ages 25-44, to a 3 point increase among respondents age 65 or older. The gap between the least (25-44) and most supportive (65+) groups increased from 10 points in June/July to 15 points in September (60% vs. 75%).

EDUCATION. Similar to April/May and June/July, we again find that **support for mandatory vaccines increases with education**, in this instance from a low of 57% among respondents with a high school education or less (increased by 1 point since June/July), to a high of 79% among respondents with graduate degrees (a 1 point drop from June/July). Once again, we see modest changes from June/July to September in support across each education group, ranging from the aforementioned graduate drop of 1 point to a 3 point increase among respondents with some college education.

INCOME. Here we find the **lowest support for requiring mandatory vaccines for all Americans among the respondents earning less than \$25,000 per year (61%, nearly identical to the 60% support from June/July), and the highest level of support (73%) among the wealthiest respondents (\$100,000+), down 4 points from June/July.** The gap between the lowest- and highest-income groups thus dropped to 12 points, down from 17 points in June/July. Support across the other income groups largely held steady, with the exception of respondents in the \$50,000 to \$75,000 income range, whose support increased by 3 points, to 66%.

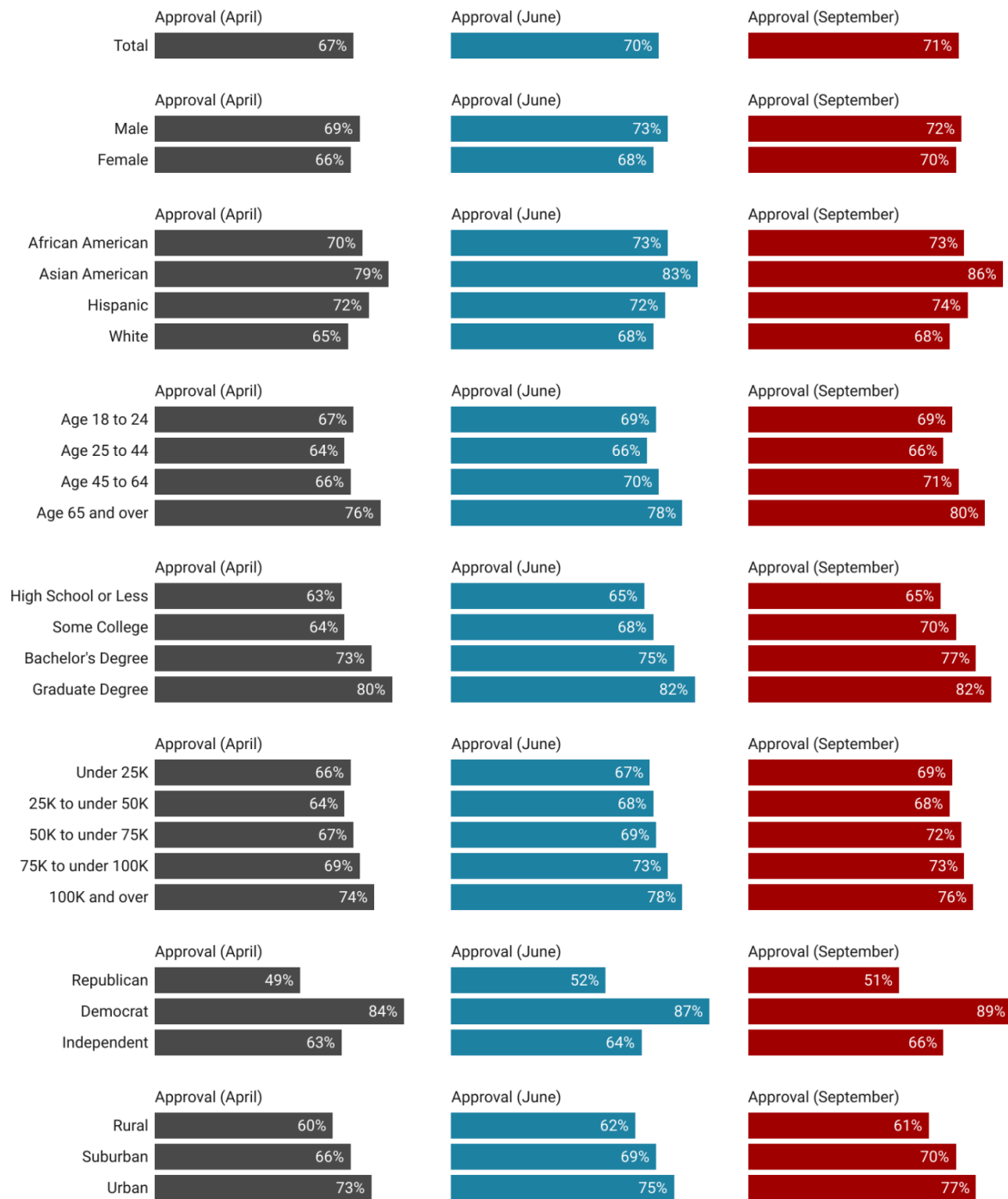
PARTY. The partisan gap in support for vaccine mandates remains extremely large, with **Democrats now twice as likely as Republicans to approve (86% vs. 43%). This represents a 2 point increase for Democrats from June/July and a 2 point decrease among Republicans.** The partisan gap thus increased from 39 to 43 percentage points. Independents increased their support level by 2 points (59% in September).

URBAN/RURAL. The geographic divide remains virtually unchanged in September, with **rural residents remaining 20 percentage points less supportive of government vaccine mandates than their urban counterparts, albeit with a one point decline in support for both groups (72% vs. 52%).** Suburban residents again fall between their urban and rural counterparts, with 64% supporting mandatory vaccines for everyone in September, up 1 point from June/July.

3. Support for Requiring Vaccines to Get on an Airplane, by Population Subgroups

Support for requiring vaccinations to get on an airplane remains higher than for a universal mandate (71% versus 65%). **Majorities of every subgroup support making vaccines mandatory for air travel;** and the support for such mandates has largely held steady from June/July across all demographic categories, with at most small increases or decreases in support (see Figure 4).

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to get on an airplane?



April: N = 21733, Time period: 4/1/21 – 5/3/21; June: N = 20669, Time period: 6/9/21 – 7/6/21; September: N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21
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FIGURE 4. Approval of federal, state, and local governments requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to get on an airplane

GENDER. In the September survey, the gender gap shrank to 2 points (72% for men vs. 70% for women), compared to the 5 point gap recorded in our June/July survey. That said, **while men are 1 point less likely to support such an airplane mandate in September, women are 2 points *more* likely to do so than they were in June/July.**

RACE/ETHNICITY. Looking across racial/ethnic groups, we again find the **largest increase in support for mandating vaccines to get on airplanes among Asian Americans (up 3 points in September, from 83% to 86%),** followed by a 2 point increase among Hispanics (from 72% to 74%). African American and White respondents remained constant from June/July to September (73% among African Americans and 68% among Whites). The gap between the most-supportive group (again, Asian Americans) and the least-supportive group (again, Whites) thus rose to 18 points in September, from 15 points in June/July.

AGE. Support for an airplane mandate largely held steady in September, with no changes from June/July among respondents under age 45 (69% among respondents under age 25 and 66% for those between 25 and 44), and 1 and 2 point increases among the 45-64 and 65+ groups, respectively (71% and 80% in September, respectively.) We continue to see a sizeable 14 point gap between the least- (25-44) and most-supportive (65+) age cohorts.

EDUCATION. We see little change across education categories as well, with most education groups either holding steady or slightly increasing their support for making vaccines mandatory for air travel. **In the September survey, we again see a stepwise increase across education groups, with the lowest support among respondents with a high school education or less (65%) and the highest support among respondents with graduate degrees (82%), in each case identical to June/July.**

INCOME. Turning to income, we again find the highest support level (76%) among the wealthiest respondents (\$100,000+), with the lowest approval rate (68%) among respondents in the two lowest income groups (69% among those earning less than \$25,000 and 68% among those earning \$25,000 to \$50,000). In fact, all income cohorts except the wealthiest group were equally or modestly more supportive of the airplane mandate in September than in June/July. The maximum income gap in support in September is 8 points, down from 11 points in June/July.

PARTY. The partisan gap in support for requiring vaccines to fly on an airplane is again somewhat smaller than for across-the-board mandates, but nonetheless remains large, and increased by 3 points from June/July, with **Democrats 38 points more supportive than Republicans (89% to 51%).** Independents again fall in between, with 66% supporting the airplane mandate, compared to 64% in June/July.

URBAN/RURAL. Turning, finally, to geography, in September **support for mandating vaccines for air travel is 16 points higher among urban residents compared to their rural counterparts 77% vs. 61%), with suburban residents falling in between, at 70%.** This gap is 3 points larger than in our June/July survey.

4. Support for Requiring Vaccines to be Allowed in School, by Population Subgroups

Support for mandating that children be vaccinated in order to attend school was slightly lower than for a universal vaccination mandate (63% versus 65%), but increased by 2 points since June/July. With few exceptions, support held steady or modestly increased across demographic groups (see Figure 5).

GENDER. In the September survey, **the gender gap fell by half, to 4 points (65% for men vs. 61% for women), compared to 9 points in June/July.** While men remain more supportive than women, their support declined by 1 point (from 65 to 64 points). In contrast, **women *increased* their support by 4 points, from 57% to 61%.**

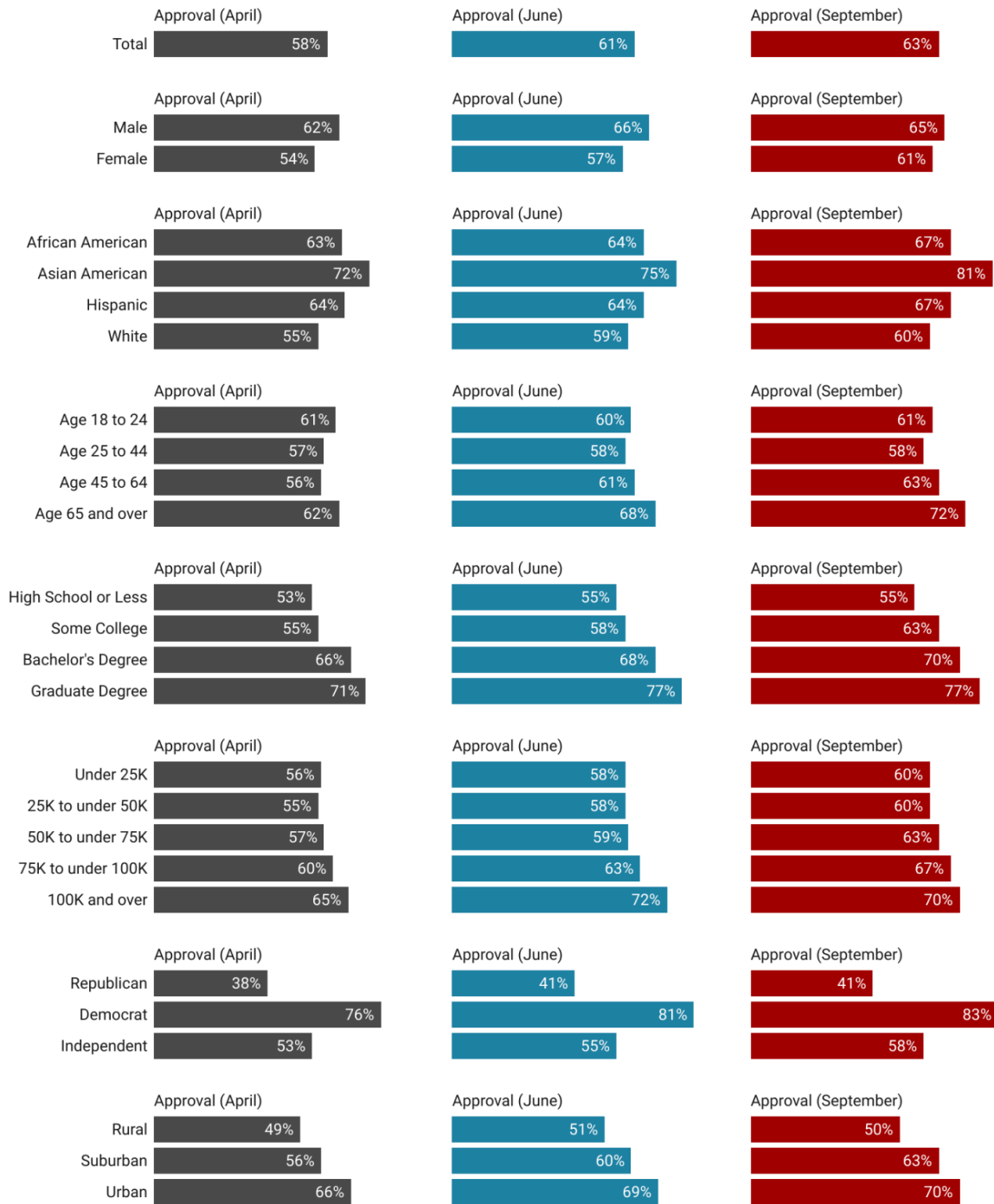
RACE/ETHNICITY. All four racial/ethnic groups increased their support from June/July to September, with increases ranging from 1 to 6 points. As in other cases, **Asian Americans are most highly supportive (81%, up 6 points from June/July) and Whites are least supportive (60%, up 1 point from June/July).**

AGE. **Support for requiring vaccination to be allowed in school increased or held steady in September for all four age groups.** The largest increase is 4 points (from 68% to 72%) among respondents ages 65 or older, who are also the most supportive age cohort. Substantial majorities of the other age cohorts remained supportive, albeit with small differences (0-2 points) from June/July.

EDUCATION. The **education gap in support for mandating vaccines to return to school remained large, at 22 percentage points in September, identical to June/July (in September, as in June/July, 55% support among respondents with a high school education or less, compared to 77% support among respondents with graduate degrees).** The largest increase from June/July to September is 5 points, for respondents with some college education (from 58% to 63%), compared to 0-2 point changes for the other education groups.

INCOME. **Support for this mandate increased modestly among respondents earning under \$100,000 per year.** Increases ranged from 2 points for the two lowest income groups (60% in September), to 4 points for respondents earning \$50,000-\$100,000 (63% for those earning \$50,000 to \$75,000, and 67% for those earning \$75,000 to \$100,000). Support among the highest income group (over \$100,000) decreased by 2 points, to 70%, still the highest support level overall. The income gap in approval for this restriction thus fell to 10 points, a 4-point decline from June/July.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring children to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to be allowed in school?



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FIGURE 5. Approval of federal, state, and local governments requiring children to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to be allowed in school

PARTY. The partisan gap in support for requiring vaccines to return to school remained sizable, reaching 42 percentage points in September (41% for Republicans, unchanged from June/July vs. 83% for Democrats, up 2 points from June/July). Approval of this measure among Independents increased by 3 points, to 58% in September.

URBAN/RURAL. We find only modest changes in support for this mandate across groups, with the largest change being a 3 point increase in support among suburban residents (from 60% to 63%). In our September survey, **the urban-rural divide over mandating vaccines to return to school (20 points) is slightly larger than for June/July (18 points), with 50% support among rural residents (down 1 point from June/July), compared to 70% support among urban residents (up 1 point from June/July).**

5. Support for Requiring Vaccines to Go Back to University, by Population Subgroups

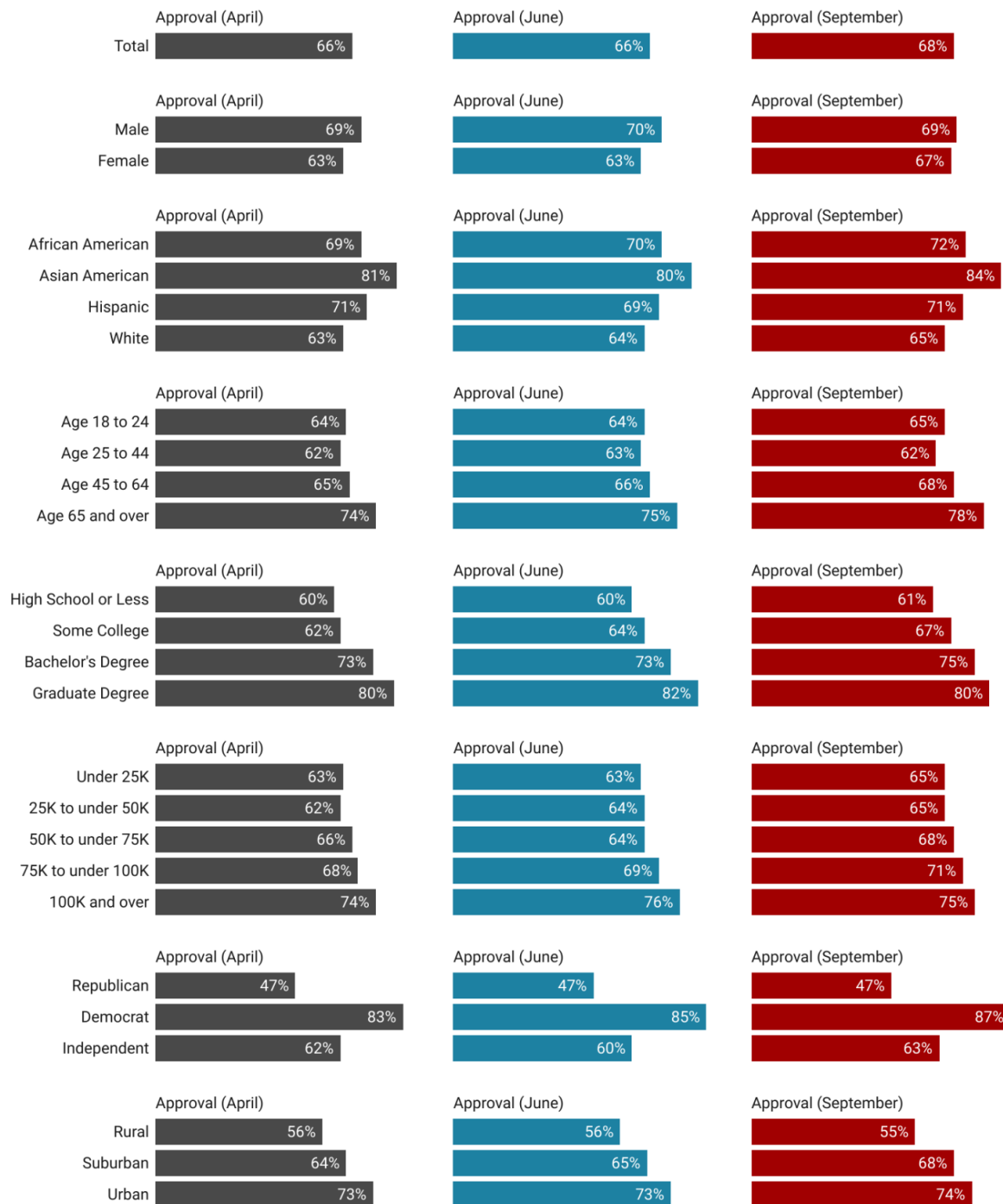
Support for requiring vaccines to go back to university is high, at 68%, up 2 points from June/July. Majorities of every demographic continue to support requiring vaccines to go back to university, except Republicans, who remained flat in their support at 47%. Over-time shifts in support are modest across all demographics (Figure 6).

GENDER. In the September survey, **we again find a smaller gender gap, falling from 7 points in June/July to just 2 points in September (69% vs. 67%).** As above, most of the convergence is due to an increase among women. Men's support declined by 1 point from June/July, to 69% in September, while **women's support increased by 4 points, to 67% in September.**

RACE/ETHNICITY. We again find **large gaps across racial/ethnic groups in September,** but they remain similar to those observed in June/July, with the exception of Asian Americans, whose support for this mandate increased by 4 points in September. The other racial/ethnic groups differed by only 1-2 points from June/July. As with all of the other mandates, we again find the **highest support among Asian Americans (84%, compared to 80% in June/July) and the lowest among Whites (65%, up 1 point from June/July).**

AGE. We see **small changes from June/July to September across all age groups,** with differences ranging from 1 point among respondents under age 45 (+1 for ages 18-24 and -1 for ages 25-44) to a 3 point increase in support among respondents ages 65 or older. In the September wave, the oldest cohort (age 65+) is 13 points more approving of mandating vaccines for returning to university than the youngest cohort (78% vs. 65%), up 2 points from the 11 point gap between these groups found in June/July.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring college students to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go back to university?



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FIGURE 6. Approval of federal, state, and local governments requiring college students to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go back to university

EDUCATION. We also find **small changes over time across education groups.** The largest such change is a 3 percentage point increase in support for respondents who attended “some college” (from 64% to 67%). This represents a 5 point increase for that education group since April/May. Variations among the other education groups are limited to 1-2 points increases in support for those without graduate degrees (+1 point, to 61%, among those with a high school education or less, and +2 points, to 75%, among those with a Bachelor’s degree), and a 2 point *decline* among respondents with graduate degrees, to a still-very-high support level of 80% support).

INCOME. We again find **modest increases in support across income groups, with the exception of the wealthiest cohort (\$100,000+).** Increases in September, compared to June/July, vary from 1-2 points among respondents earning under \$50,000 (65% support in September for both cohorts in this range), as well as respondents earning \$75,000-\$100,000 (71% in September) to 4 points among respondents earning \$50,000-\$75,000 (68% in September). **The wealthiest respondents continue to be most supportive of the school mandate (75%, down 1 point from June/July).**

PARTY. Republican support for mandatory vaccines for going back to university has remained unchanged since Spring 2021, again holding steady at 47% in the September survey. Support among Democrats, in contrast, increased by 2 points in September, and now stands at 87%, following a 2 point increase from April/May to June/July. **The partisan gap on this mandate thus increased from 38 to 40 percentage points.** Independents increased their support by 3 points, from 60% in June/July to 63% in September).

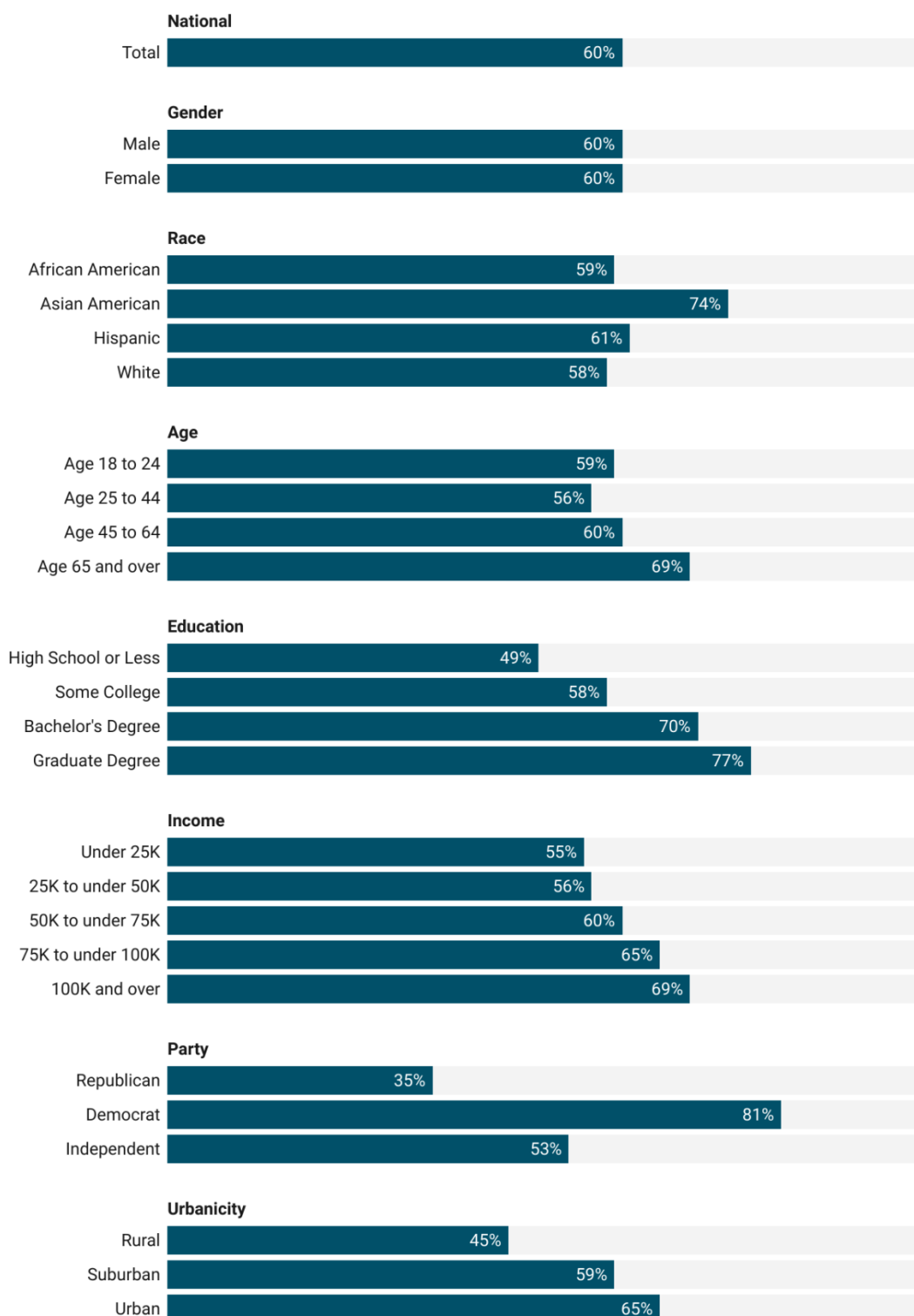
URBAN/RURAL. We observe relatively small over-time changes in this category. Support among rural residents is down one point from June/July, to 55%, while support among urban residents is up one point in September, to 74%. The urban-rural divide thus increased by 2 points, from 17 points in June/July to 19 points in September. **The largest change across geographic groups is a 3 point increase in support among suburban residents (from 65% to 68%).**

6. Support for Employee Mandates, by Population Subgroups

Majorities of most, but not all, subgroups support large companies being required to mandate vaccines or regular testing for their employees (see Figure 7). The exceptions are respondents with less than a high school education (49% support), Republicans (35%), and rural residents (45%).

Do you support or oppose requiring large companies to ensure employees are vaccinated for COVID-19 or get tested regularly?

[Percent respondents who say they "Strongly support" or "Somewhat support"]



N = 7062, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

FIGURE 7. Support for Requiring Large Businesses to Mandate Employee Vaccines

GENDER. There is no gender gap in support for an employee mandate, with 60% of both men and women strongly or somewhat supporting such a mandate.

RACE/ETHNICITY. White respondents are least supportive of an employee mandate, with 58% support. In contrast, Asian Americans are most supportive, at 74%. This represents a 16 point race/ethnicity gap. Hispanics and African Americans fall in between at 61% and 59%, respectively.

AGE. The oldest age cohort is most strongly supportive of an employee mandate (69%), followed by respondents between ages 45 and 64 (60%). The least supportive age cohort, as with other mandates, is 25 to 44 (56%), followed by the 18-24 cohort (59%). The gap between the most- and least-supportive age groups is thus 13 points.

EDUCATION. Respondents with a high school education or less are least supportive across education groups, at 49%. At the opposite extreme, over three-quarters of respondents with graduate degrees support an employee mandate (77%). Respondents with some college education or bachelors' degrees fall in between, at 58% and 70%, respectively. **The 28 point education gap between the least- and most highly-educated respondents is one of the largest in our survey.**

INCOME. Support for an employee mandate increases in a stepwise fashion with income. Among the least-wealthy respondents (less than \$25,000 per year), 55% support such a mandate. At the opposite end, the highest level of support emerges among the wealthiest respondents (\$100,000 or more per year), at 69%. This represents a 14 point income support gap.

PARTY. We find a 46 point partisan gap in support for an employee mandate, ranging from 35% among Republicans -- the lowest support for any mandate in our data -- to 81% among Democrats. Independents once again fall in between, at 53% support.

URBAN/RURAL. The urban-rural divide on an employee mandate is 20 points, with 45% of rural residents and 65% of their urban counterparts supporting the mandate. Suburban residents again fall in between, at 59% support.

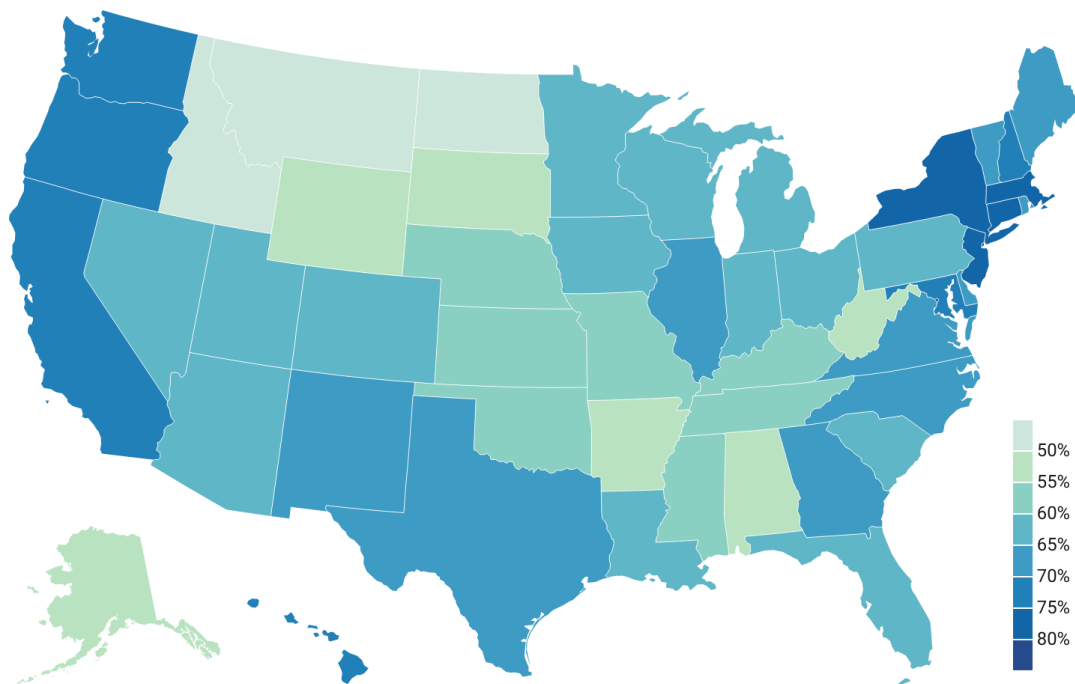
PART II: State-Level Support for Vaccine Mandates

1. Support for Requiring Everyone to Get Vaccinated

Overall, we continue to find strong support for mandating that everyone get vaccinated, with majority support in all but three states: Montana (47% approval), North Dakota (47%), and Idaho (48%) (Figure 8). Exactly half of respondents from another three states -- West Virginia, South Dakota, and Alabama -- support a universal mandate. At the opposite extreme, three-quarters or more of respondents approve of a universal vaccine mandate in the District of Columbia (84%), Connecticut (76%), New Jersey (76%), Massachusetts (75%) and New York (75%), followed closely by California and Washington State (74% each). Notably, 10 of the 11 most-supportive states lean Democratic, while the 18 least-supportive states lean Republican.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

[Percent respondents who say they "Strongly approve" or "Somewhat approve"]



N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

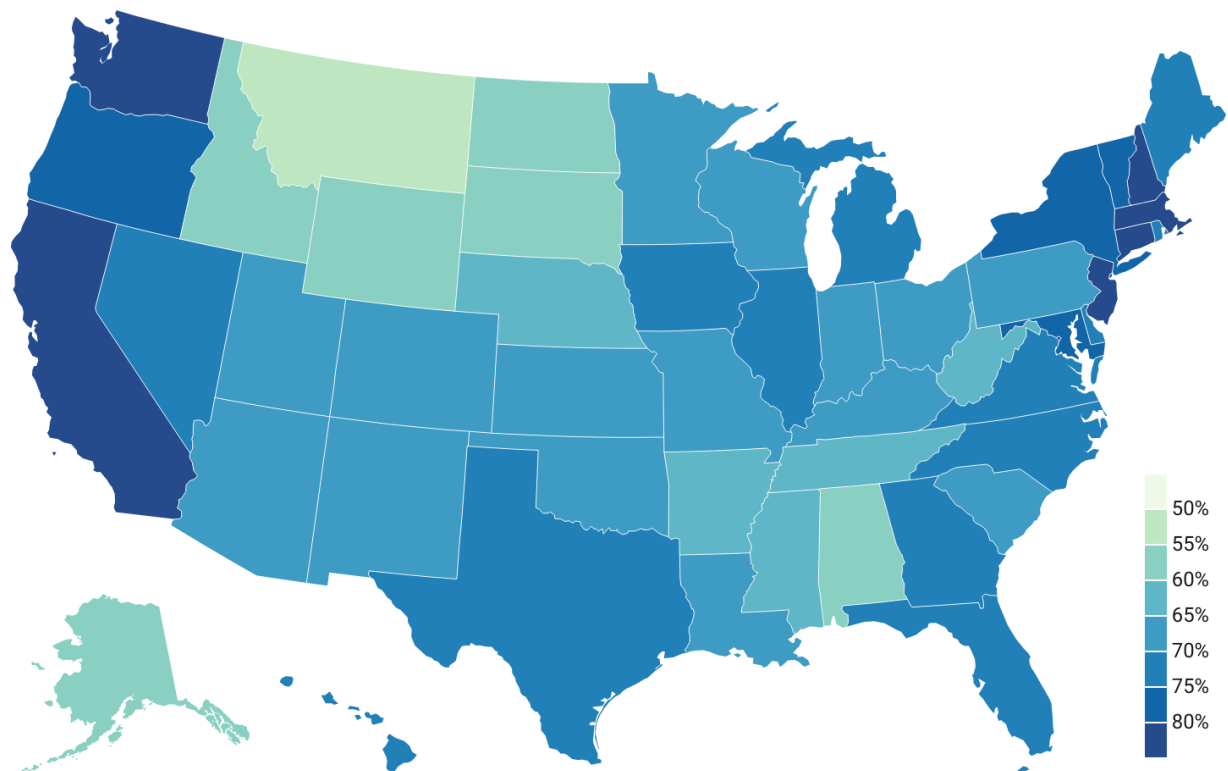
FIGURE 8. State-level approval of federal, state, and local governments requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine

2. Support for Requiring Vaccines to Get on an Airplane

Majorities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia continue to support making vaccines mandatory to get on an airplane (Figure 9). Support levels range from lows of 54%-56% in Montana, North Dakota, and Idaho, to highs of 84% in Connecticut and the District of Columbia, closely followed by Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey at 81% each. In this case, seven in ten or more respondents in another 19 states -- spanning the various regions of the country -- support mandatory vaccines for flying. Note that 12 of the 13 most-supportive states are Democratic leaning, while the 18 least-supportive states are all Republican leaning.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to get on an airplane?

[Percent respondents who say they "Strongly approve" or "Somewhat approve"]



N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

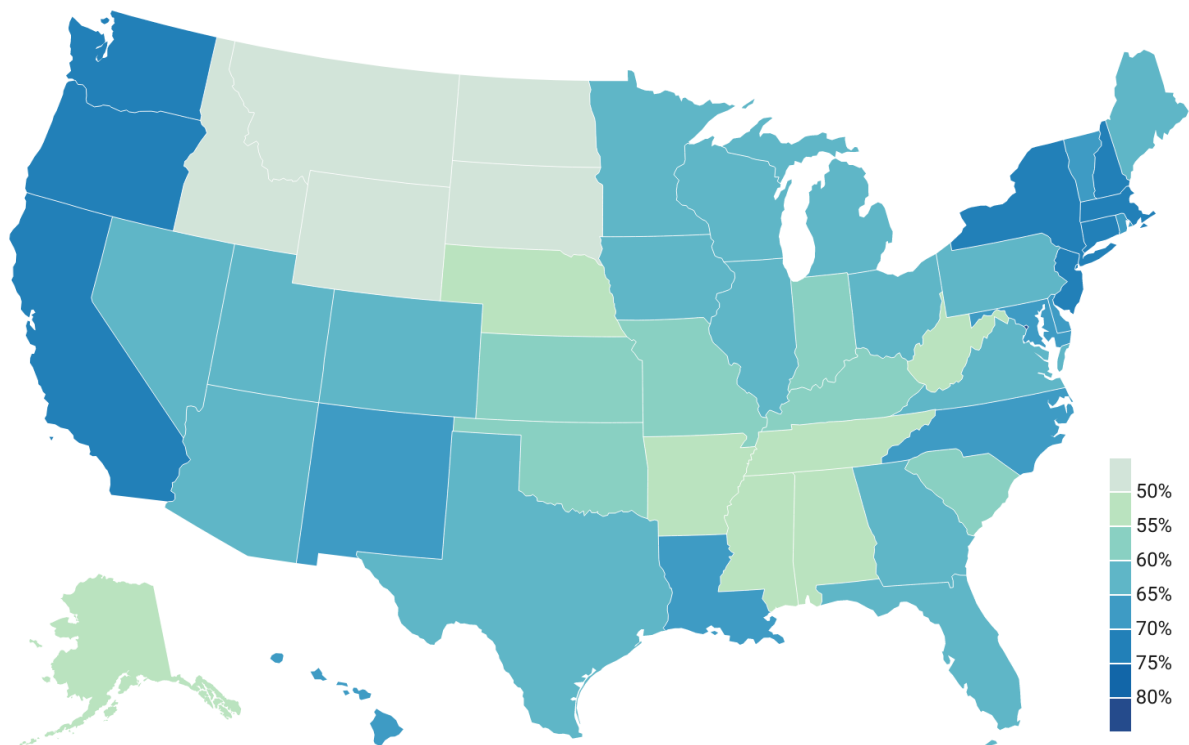
FIGURE 9. State-level Approval of Requiring Vaccines to Get on an Airplane

3. Support for Requiring Vaccines to be Allowed in School

As in the June/July survey, in September, majorities in 45 states and the District of Columbia again support making vaccines mandatory to be allowed in school, making this particular mandate, while still supported by a substantial majority of Americans -- including in over 90% of the states -- a bit less popular than the others considered in this report (Figure 10). In five states, fewer than 50% of respondents supported the mandate, including Idaho (45%), Montana (47%), North Dakota (48%) and South Dakota (49%), and Wyoming (49%). At the opposite extreme, 82% of respondents in the District of Columbia supported this mandate, while at least seven out of ten respondents support it in another eight Northeastern (New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire) and West Coast (California, Oregon, Washington) states. Again, the 18 least-supportive states are all Republican-leaning, while 12 of the 13 most-supportive states are Democratic leaning.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring children to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to be allowed in school?

[Percent respondents who say they "Strongly approve" or "Somewhat approve"]



N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

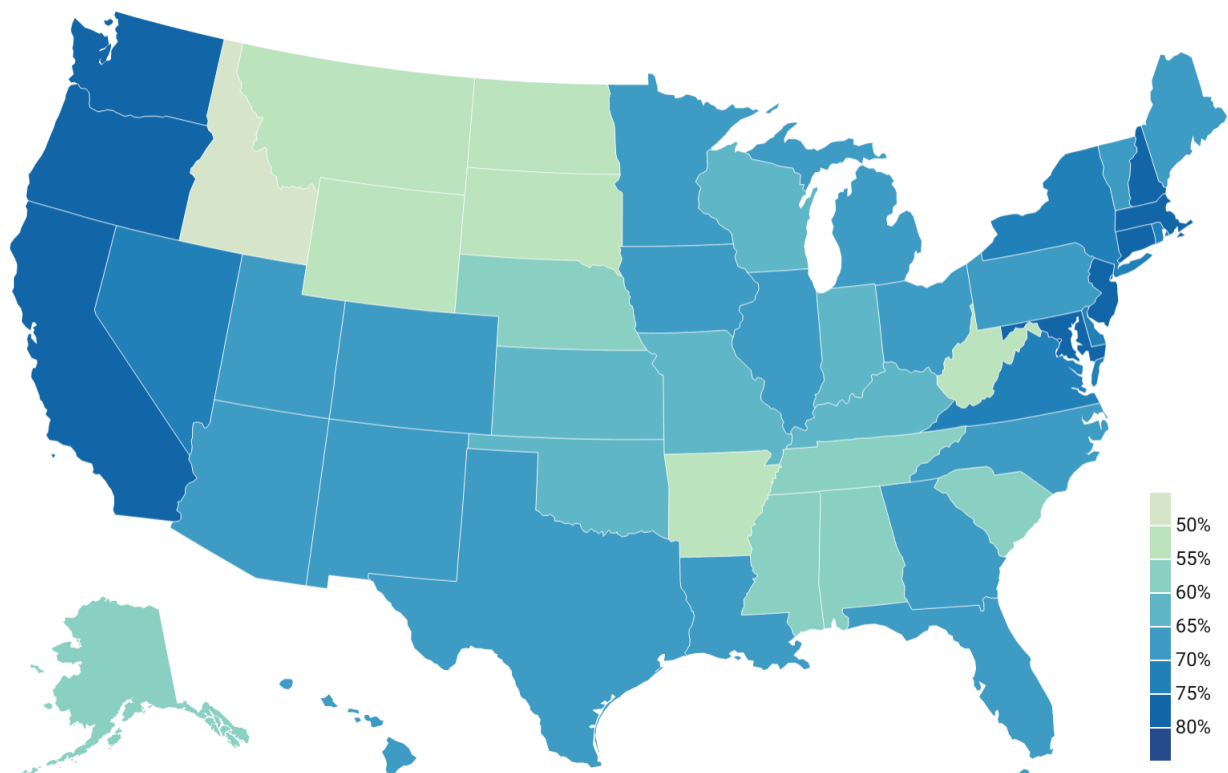
FIGURE 10. State-level Support for Requiring Vaccines to be Allowed in School

4. Support for Requiring Vaccines to Go Back to University

Majorities in 49 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia support making vaccines mandatory to return to University, with support ranging from lows of 49% in Idaho, 50% and Montana, and 52% in Wyoming and North Dakota, to highs of 84% in the District of Columbia, 79% in Connecticut, 78% in Massachusetts and 77% in New Jersey, Washington, and New Hampshire (Figure 11). Seventy percent or more of respondents in an additional 8 states support this mandate. Once again, nearly all (12 of the top 13) of the most-highly-supportive states are Democratic leaning, while the 18 least supportive states are all Republican-leaning.

Do you approve of the federal, state, and local governments requiring college students to get a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go back to university?

[Percent respondents who say they "Strongly approve" or "Somewhat approve"]



N = 21079, Time period: 8/26/21 – 9/27/21

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) www.covidstates.org • Created with Datawrapper

FIGURE 11. State-level Support for Requiring Vaccines to Go Back to University

Appendix: State data

Support for vaccine mandates: Percent respondents who say they “approve” or “strongly approve”

State	Requiring everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine	Requiring a COVID-19 vaccine to get on an airplane	Requiring a COVID-19 vaccine in order to be allowed in school	Requiring a COVID-19 vaccine in order to go back to university	Error Margin	N
AK	50.8	56.9	49.7	56.0	10	202
AL	50.0	56.9	51.1	55.8	6.2	395
AR	51.7	61.5	50.4	54.0	6.8	335
AZ	62.0	68.4	60.1	64.7	5.4	470
CA	73.9	79.9	72.1	76.1	3.5	888
CO	62.5	67.3	61.6	68.9	6.3	387
CT	76.1	83.7	74.1	78.7	5.3	338
DC	83.5	84.4	81.9	84.2	5.5	245
DE	65.5	70.7	64.5	70.0	6.4	379
FL	64.1	70.1	60.3	65.7	4.3	604
GA	66.8	70.0	61.9	67.6	5	462
HI	69.8	74.3	65.2	68.6	6.3	384
IA	63.3	71.4	61.1	67.4	5.7	386
ID	48.1	56.3	45.5	49.3	6	414
IL	64.8	70.2	62.9	68.9	4.5	535
IN	61.6	67.8	58.8	63.3	5.9	393
KS	58.7	66.2	58.5	61.4	6.5	338
KY	58.3	64.9	58.7	62.5	5.7	388
LA	63.4	68.7	64.9	68.6	7.2	309
MA	74.8	80.9	70.6	78.4	4.5	453
MD	70.6	77.1	67.9	74.7	5.3	436
ME	65.5	72.9	64.1	68.7	5.4	362

MI	62.5	70.3	61.1	66.1	4.9	499
MN	59.9	68.4	61.6	65.2	5.8	410
MO	58.4	64.9	55.4	60.2	5.3	434
MS	55.0	61.6	51.0	56.6	6.3	368
MT	47.3	54.4	46.9	50.1	7.2	310
NC	65.4	72.5	64.6	67.5	5.1	472
ND	47.4	56.2	47.8	51.5	6.9	310
NE	54.7	61.7	53.9	54.9	7.2	325
NH	71.9	80.5	70.1	76.7	6	296
NJ	76.2	81.2	69.6	77.4	4.6	427
NM	64.7	68.4	66.9	68.9	6.8	396
NV	61.2	70.6	60.4	69.7	6.1	410
NY	74.5	76.9	70.7	74.0	3.6	784
OH	64.5	69.4	61.9	67.3	4.8	509
OK	58.0	65.8	56.8	60.4	6.1	389
OR	70.0	76.1	70.8	75.8	5.4	423
PA	63.3	68.6	61.7	66.4	4.9	473
RI	64.6	73.9	64.6	72.4	6.9	327
SC	59.8	64.6	56.4	58.4	6.3	375
SD	50.4	56.7	49.1	53.2	7.4	278
TN	57.3	62.8	53.1	58.0	5.5	416
TX	65.1	70.5	62.7	67.8	4.3	662
UT	63.5	67.5	61.9	67.0	5.6	406
VA	66.6	72.7	63.0	70.8	5	467
VT	66.0	75.1	64.9	68.5	8.2	196
WA	73.5	79.8	72.9	77.1	4.6	482
WI	60.1	67.5	60.9	64.2	5.4	438
WV	50.0	60.7	51.9	53.8	6.1	390
WY	51.3	58.0	48.5	51.8	9.1	206