

THOMSON REUTERS-NPR HEALTH POLL VACCINES

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Each month, the Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR's Scott Hensley on the health blog Shots (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/>) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here:
<http://healthcare.thomsonreuters.com/npr/>

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here:
http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag

The Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey, an independently funded telephone poll which collects information from more than 100,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted below represent responses from 3,011 survey participants interviewed from August 1-16, 2011. The margin of error is 1.8 percent.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey asked respondents their opinions about the value and safety of vaccines. Despite recent research debunking many commonly held fears about the safety of vaccines, concerns persist among more than one-fourth of the U.S. population.

- 26.6% of respondents said that they were concerned about the value and safety of vaccines. Households with children under the age of 18 demonstrated the greatest level of concern (30.8%). The lowest level of concern (18.5%) was found in respondents 65 years old and up.
- Among those with concerns, 47.3% attributed their fear of vaccines to future long-term impact on health and 46% said they were worried about side effects. Only 4.2% said they were worried about ineffectiveness and 2.4% cited religious reasons.
- One in five respondents said they have questioned or refused a vaccine for themselves or their children, a rate that decreased with increasing age.
- 21.4% of respondents said they believe vaccines can cause autism, 9.2% said they believe vaccines can be linked to cancer, 6.9% believe they play a role in diabetes, and 5.9% cite a connection between vaccines and heart disease.
- 23.5% of respondents said their opinions of vaccines have changed in the past five years. Of those who said their opinions have changed, 59.1% say their views on vaccines have become less favorable and 34% said have become more favorable.

SURVEY DATA

Responses in **RED** show inter-year significance

QUESTION 1: Do you have any concerns regarding the value and safety of vaccines?

Age	Yes	No
<35	23.9%	76.1%
35 – 64	30.3%	69.7%
65+	18.5%	81.5%
Total	26.6%	73.4%
Income		
< \$25k	26.6%	73.4%
\$25k – \$49.9k	29.2%	70.8%
\$50k – \$99.9k	26.4%	73.6%
\$100k+	23.3%	76.7%
Total	26.6%	73.4%
Education		
High School or Less	23.2%	76.8%
Some College	29.5%	70.5%
College+	26.3%	73.7%
Total	26.6%	73.4%
Children		
Kids	30.8%	69.2%
No Kids	24.4%	75.6%
Total	26.6%	73.4%



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QUESTION 2: Which of the following best describes your concerns?

1. Fear of side effects
2. Believe vaccines are ineffective
3. Uncertainty regarding the long-term health impacts of vaccine
4. Religious reasons

Age	1	2	3	4
<35	41.4%	7.4%	44.7%	6.4%
35 – 64	46.7%	3.8%	48.1%	1.4%
65+	48.0%	2.6%	46.7%	2.7%
Total	46.0%	4.2%	47.3%	2.4%
Income				
< \$25k	45.8%	1.9%	45.6%	6.7%
\$25k – \$49.9k	41.6%	5.3%	50.9%	2.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	51.2%	2.2%	46.6%	0.0%
\$100k+	38.3%	13.1%	48.1%	0.5%
Total	46.0%	4.2%	47.3%	2.4%
Education				
High School or Less	45.8%	1.5%	49.8%	2.8%
Some College	42.3%	4.7%	48.7%	4.3%
College+	49.4%	5.3%	44.7%	0.6%
Total	46.0%	4.2%	47.3%	2.4%
Children				
Kids	50.0%	3.1%	46.7%	0.3%
No Kids	43.4%	5.0%	47.7%	3.8%
Total	46.0%	4.2%	47.3%	2.4%

QUESTION 3: Have you ever questioned or refused doctor recommended vaccines for yourself or your children?

Age	Yes	No
<35	28.1%	71.9%
35 – 64	19.2%	80.8%
65+	12.7%	87.3%
Total	19.5%	80.5%
Income		
< \$25k	16.4%	83.6%
\$25k – \$49.9k	22.4%	77.6%
\$50k – \$99.9k	21.5%	78.5%
\$100k+	13.3%	86.7%
Total	19.5%	80.5%
Education		
High School or Less	13.4%	86.6%
Some College	24.2%	75.8%
College+	19.5%	80.5%
Total	19.5%	80.5%
Children		
Kids	26.7%	73.3%
No Kids	15.9%	84.1%
Total	19.5%	80.5%



QUESTION 4: Do you believe any of the following are linked to vaccines?

1. Autism
2. Cancer
3. Diabetes
4. Heart disease

Age	1	2	3	4
<35	20.5%	8.9%	8.1%	6.2%
35 – 64	24.5%	11.0%	6.9%	6.3%
65+	13.6%	4.6%	5.8%	4.7%
Total	21.4%	9.2%	6.9%	5.9%
Income				
<\$25k	19.3%	15.8%	8.5%	11.9%
\$25k – \$49.9k	24.2%	8.7%	10.2%	4.9%
\$50k – \$99.9k	23.6%	6.3%	3.8%	2.5%
\$100k+	15.9%	5.1%	4.6%	4.9%
Total	21.4%	9.2%	6.9%	5.9%
Education				
High School or Less	13.4%	11.2%	10.1%	9.1%
Some College	27.0%	11.5%	8.2%	6.7%
College+	21.9%	6.4%	4.2%	3.6%
Total	21.4%	9.2%	6.9%	5.9%
Children				
Kids	24.2%	11.5%	3.4%	4.1%
No Kids	20.0%	8.0%	8.7%	6.9%
Total	21.4%	9.2%	6.9%	5.9%

QUESTION 5: Have your opinions of vaccines changed over the past five years?

Age	Yes	No
<35	24.2%	75.8%
35 – 64	25.3%	74.7%
65+	17.6%	82.4%
Total	23.5%	76.5%
Income		
<\$25k	25.7%	74.3%
\$25k – \$49.9k	21.5%	78.5%
\$50k – \$99.9k	25.7%	74.3%
\$100k+	22.8%	77.2%
Total	23.5%	76.5%
Education		
High School or Less	21.0%	79.0%
Some College	26.0%	74.0%
College+	23.0%	77.0%
Total	23.5%	76.5%
Children		
Kids	28.2%	71.8%
No Kids	21.0%	79.0%
Total	23.5%	76.5%



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QUESTION 6: Have your opinions become more or less favorable?

	More favorable	Less favorable	Remained the same
Age			
<35	43.9%	47.2%	8.9%
35 – 64	29.5%	64.7%	5.8%
65+	39.8%	51.7%	8.5%
Total	34.0%	59.1%	6.9%
Income			
< \$25k	47.8%	46.1%	6.1%
\$25k – \$49.9k	24.1%	66.7%	9.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	26.6%	70.5%	2.9%
\$100k+	42.3%	45.2%	12.6%
Total	34.0%	59.1%	6.9%
Education			
High School or Less	41.9%	46.8%	11.2%
Some College	26.6%	67.9%	5.5%
College+	36.0%	58.3%	5.8%
Total	34.0%	59.1%	6.9%
Children			
Kids	31.8%	59.1%	9.1%
No Kids	35.6%	59.1%	5.3%
Total	34.0%	59.1%	6.9%

