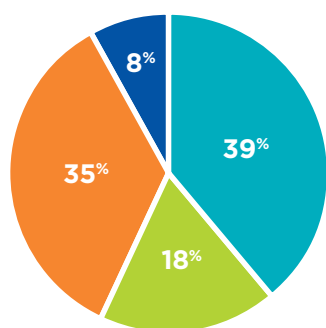


California Latino Parents’ Concerns Over Vaccine Access for Children

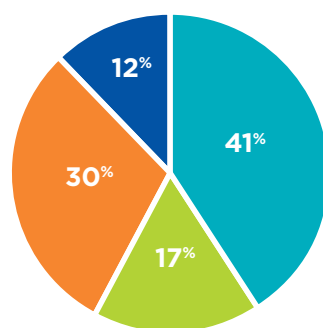
Vaccines remain the strongest and most critical protection against the risks of contracting or dying from COVID-19. Despite high demand for the vaccine, Latinos continue to experience persistent barriers to access, such as misinformation, immigration concerns, and work obligations, which could impede their ability to receive vaccinations for themselves or their children.* To learn more about the Latino community’s barriers to vaccination, UnidosUS conducted a national poll to better understand the perspectives of Latino parents—including those in California—during a critical point in their children’s lives and in the course of the national effort to mitigate the pandemic.^{1,†}

MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF INTO THE PANDEMIC, LATINO PARENTS IN CALIFORNIA TODAY FEEL MORE CONCERNED THAN BEFORE ABOUT COVID-19’S IMPACT ON THEIR FAMILY.

Compared with one year ago, are you more worried or less worried about your/family’s health being affected by COVID-19?



Compared with one year ago, are you more worried or less worried about your/family’s financial situation being affected by COVID-19?



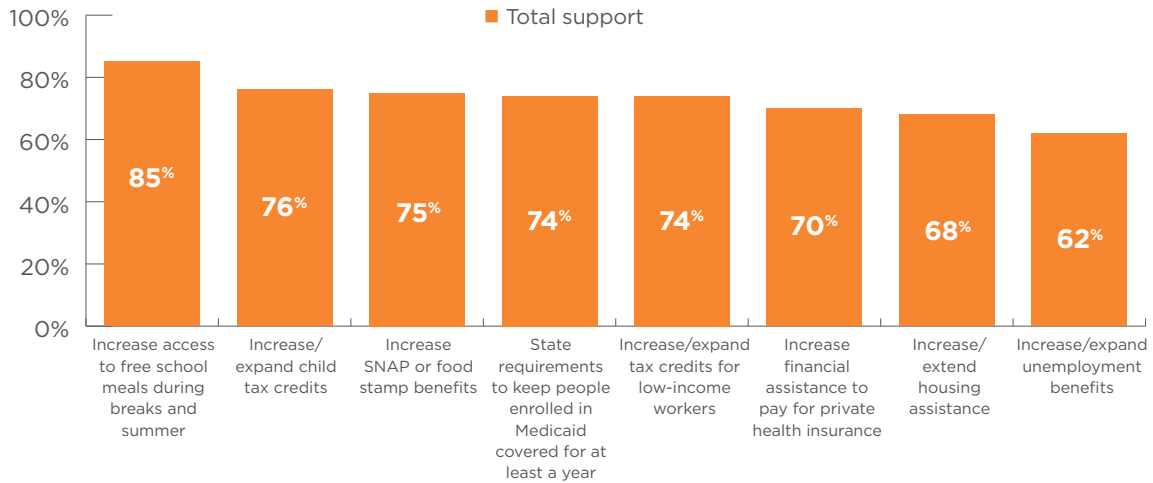
- More worried now
- Less worried now
- Same amount of worry
- Was never worried

* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. This document may also refer to this population as “Latinx” to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.

† UnidosUS conducted a national poll August 12–21, 2021 via telephone and online among 1,478 Latino parents with children ages 18 and younger. The poll included noncitizens and was conducted in English and Spanish. State oversamples were analyzed of respondents in Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas; 250 Latino parents were surveyed in California.

Elevated concerns reflect their personal experiences with the virus. About one in five (21%) was infected with COVID-19, more than half (53%) had a close family or household member infected, and more than one in five (22%) lost a loved one due to the virus.

Given their concerns with COVID-19, Latino parents in California support Congress making additional investments in health and economic relief.



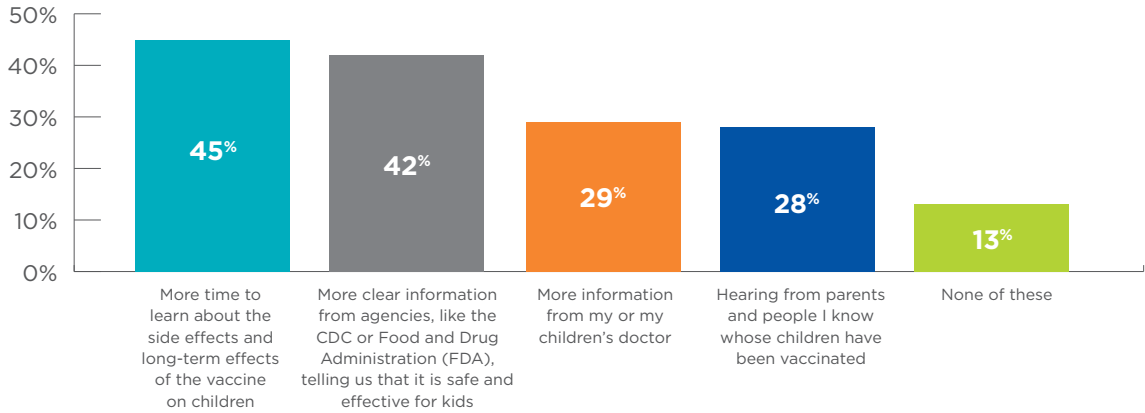
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ARE KEY MESSENGERS FOR CLOSING VACCINATION AND INFORMATION GAPS AMONG PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VACCINE'S SAFETY AND SIDE EFFECTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

Though most California Latino parents plan to get their children under 12 vaccinated once it becomes available, they are uncertain about the vaccine's safety and side effects. While close to half (45%) plan to have their children vaccinated right away, more than half (55%) are "very concerned" about the vaccine's safety and effectiveness, and more than one in three (34%) will "wait and see" how the vaccine is working for children. Among Latino parents in California with unvaccinated children of any age, more than seven in 10 (71%) cite safety and side effects as a top concern about getting their children vaccinated.

The lack of clear information about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines for children appears to be a persistent concern.

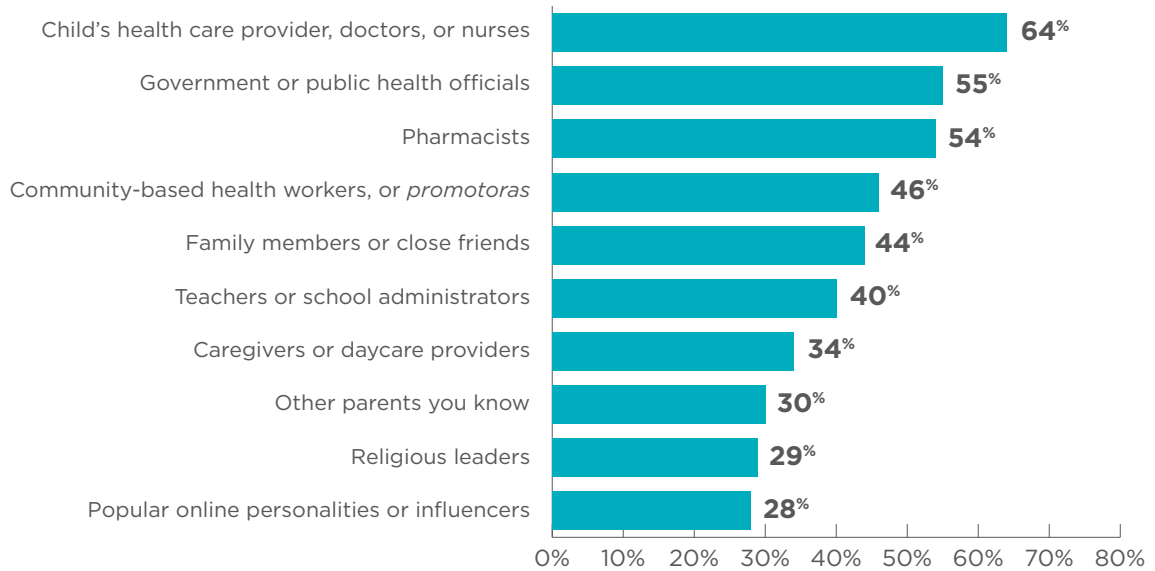
Which of these would help you feel more comfortable getting your child vaccinated?

(Among those who have not vaccinated 12-18 year olds, or won't vaccinate under 12 unless school requires, or do not plan to vaccinate at all)



Overall, Latino parents in California would feel more comfortable hearing from health care providers to address their concerns about vaccines.

How much do you trust the following people or groups who have talked about and made recommendations about COVID-19 vaccines? (% trust "a great deal")



Leveraging trusted health care providers to help close vaccine information gaps is essential to addressing parents' concerns about vaccines, both now and as children under 12 become eligible.

Still, most Latino parents in California have not yet received a doctor's recommendation to vaccinate their children of any age.

- More than two in five (41%) reported that their child's doctor has recommended vaccination. Still, more than one in four (27%) has not discussed vaccines for their children with a health care provider.

FINANCIAL COSTS AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS WEIGH HEAVILY ON CALIFORNIA LATINO PARENTS WHEN THINKING ABOUT GETTING THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED.

Latinos continue to face systemic barriers to accessing vaccines, which contributes to parents' elevated concerns about their ability to get their children vaccinated.

- Close to half (46%) of California Latino parents with unvaccinated children are concerned that they may have to miss work for vaccine appointments or for dealing with side effects of the vaccine at home, or have to pay a co-pay/fees.
- More than one in three (34%) is concerned about a range of issues pertinent to Latino parents with the potential to impact their children getting vaccinated, including immigration consequences, proof of government identification, and language barriers.

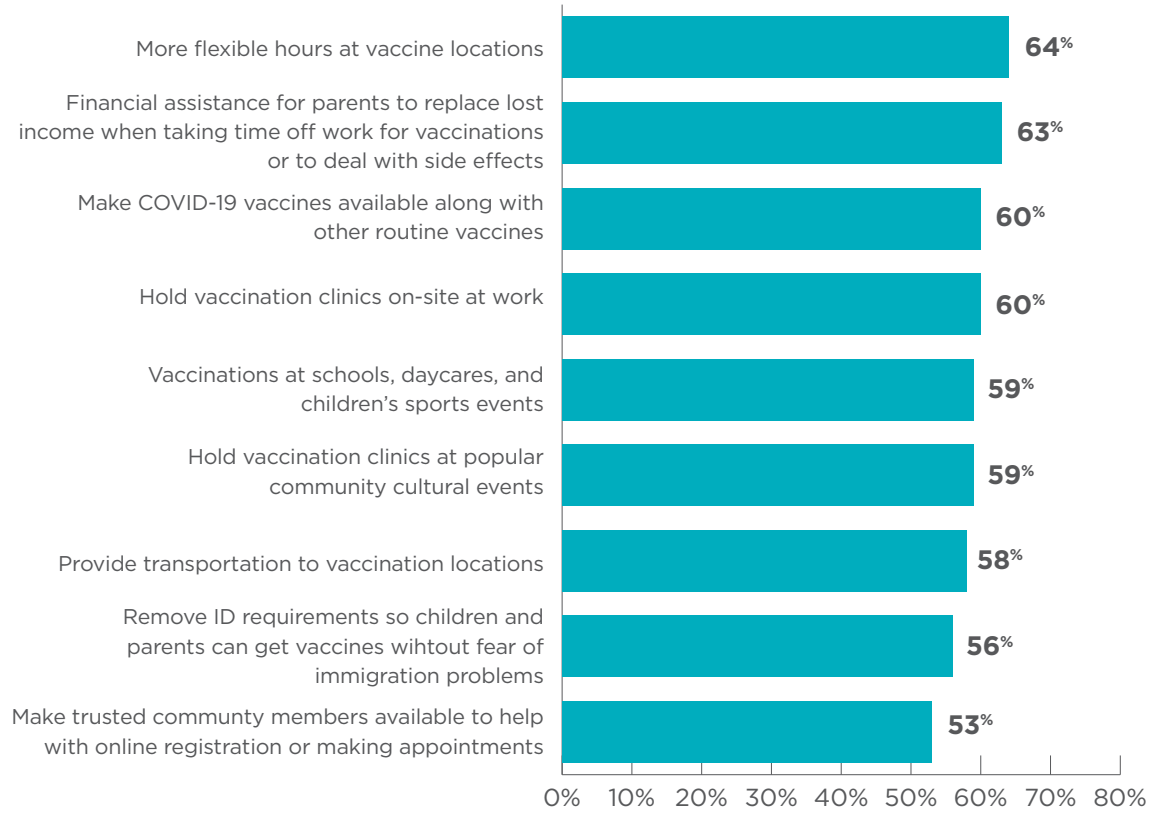
Nearly three in four (73%) of California Latino parents have had their eligible children vaccinated.

- Still, close to half (48%) experienced difficulties during the process, including scheduling vaccine appointments around their work schedules, limited transportation options to vaccination sites, and having trouble finding information about the vaccination process.
- In addition, more than one in three (37%) had to pay a co-pay/fee, provide proof of insurance, or present a government-issued identification in order to have their child vaccinated.

Given their experiences with the COVID-19 vaccination process, Latino parents support approaches that would reduce barriers and increase access to vaccines.



How much would each of these ideas make getting vaccinated easier for you and others in your community? (% would help “a great deal”)

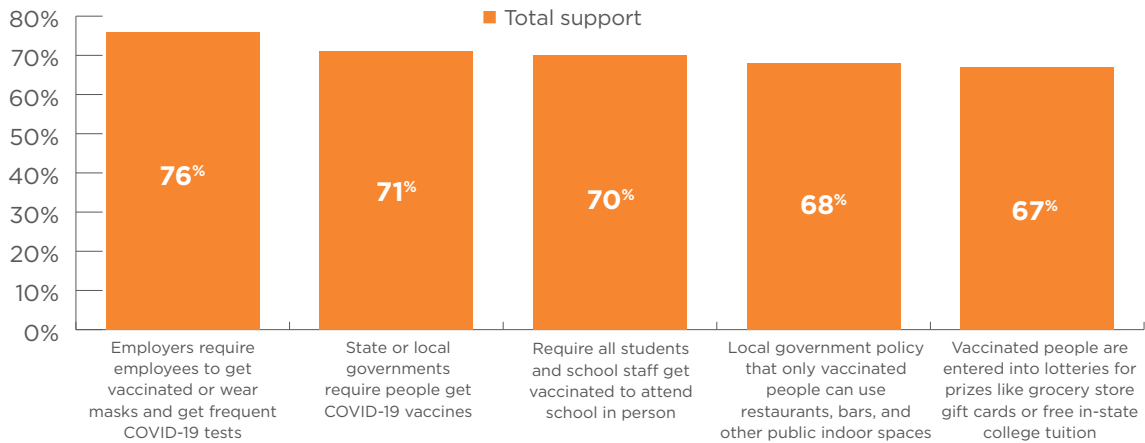


A MAJORITY OF LATINO PARENTS IN CALIFORNIA SUPPORT VACCINE MANDATES IN A WIDE RANGE OF SETTINGS.

Overwhelmingly, Latino parents in California are worried that their children will become seriously ill from COVID-19.

- Close to nine in 10 (89%) are worried that their children under 12 will become seriously ill.
- Close to nine in 10 (87%) are worried that their children ages 12–18 will become seriously ill.

As a result, Latino parents in California support policies to contain the virus, including vaccine mandates in workplaces, schools, and other public indoor spaces.



CONCLUSION

The state of California has adopted key interventions to help mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic and increase access to vaccines. Yet, Latino families face persistent access barriers to health benefits, economic supports, and vaccines. The anticipated authorization of vaccines for children between the ages of five and 11 provides an opportunity for California policymakers to adopt new policies and approaches to close vaccination gaps for the most vulnerable. They must address the urgent needs of Latino families now and prioritize an equitable rollout of vaccines for both children and adults.

ABOUT US

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

The UnidosUS California-based Affiliates include 62 community-based organizations that invest more than \$1.8 billion and employ more than 15,000 staff to provide direct services to approximately 1.8 million Californians annually. UnidosUS is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has an office in Los Angeles and staff in Sacramento.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

ENDNOTES

1 UnidosUS, “National Survey of Latino Parents: Economic Concerns and Vaccine Access for Children,” September 14, 2021. <https://www.unidosus.org/publications/national-survey-of-latino-parents-economic-concerns-and-vaccine-access-for-children/> (accessed September 21, 2021).