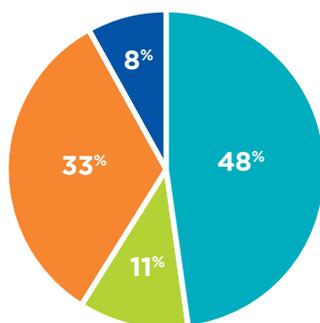


# Texas Hispanic Parents' Concerns Over Vaccine Access for Children

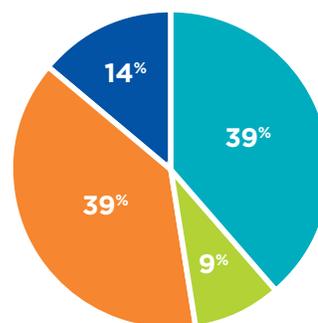
Vaccines remain the strongest and most critical protection against the risks of contracting or dying from COVID-19. Despite high demand for the vaccine, Hispanics continue to experience persistent barriers to access, such as misinformation, immigration concerns, and work obligations, which could impede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

## **MORE THAN A YEAR AND A HALF INTO THE PANDEMIC, HISPANIC PARENTS IN TEXAS 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?**



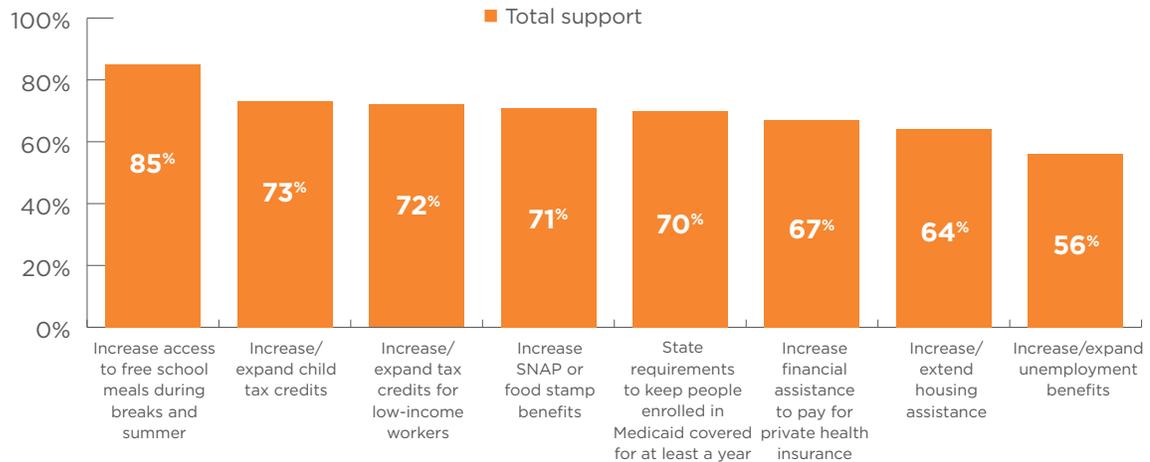
- More worried now
- Less worried now
- Same amount of worry
- Was never worried

\* 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 Hispanic parents were surveyed in Texas.

Elevated concerns reflect their personal experiences with the virus. One in four (25%) was infected with COVID-19, close to three in five (59%) had a close family or household member infected, and almost one in four (24%) lost a loved one due to the virus.

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



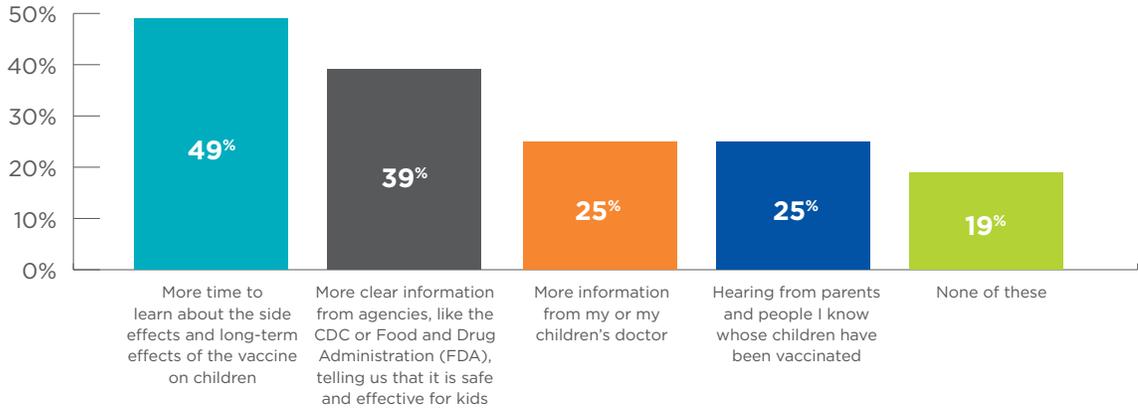
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ARE KEY MESSENGERS FOR CLOSING VACCINATION AND INFORMATION GAPS AMONG PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VACCINE'S SAFETY AND SIDE EFFECTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.**

Though most Texas Hispanic 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 more than two in five (44%) plan to have their children vaccinated right away, close to half (49%) 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 Hispanic parents in Texas with unvaccinated children of any age, nearly three in four (73%) 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.

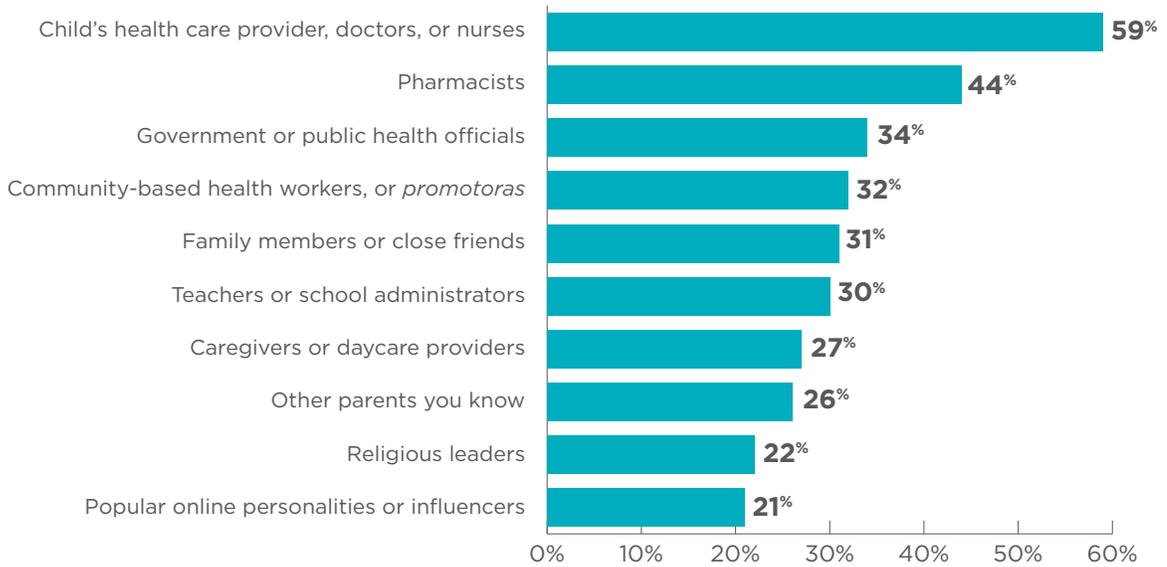
**Which of these would help you feel more comfortable getting your child vaccinated?**

(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, Hispanic parents in Texas 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 Hispanic parents in Texas have not yet received a doctor's recommendation to vaccinate their children of any age.

- Close to two in five (38%) reported that their child's doctor has recommended vaccination. Still, about one in three (33%) has not discussed vaccines for their children with a health care provider.

## FINANCIAL COSTS AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS WEIGH HEAVILY ON TEXAS HISPANIC PARENTS WHEN THINKING ABOUT GETTING THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN VACCINATED.

Hispanics 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 (48%) of Texas Hispanic 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.
- Nearly three in 10 (28%) are concerned about a range of issues pertinent to Hispanic parents with the potential to impact their children getting vaccinated, including immigration consequences, proof of government identification, and language barriers.

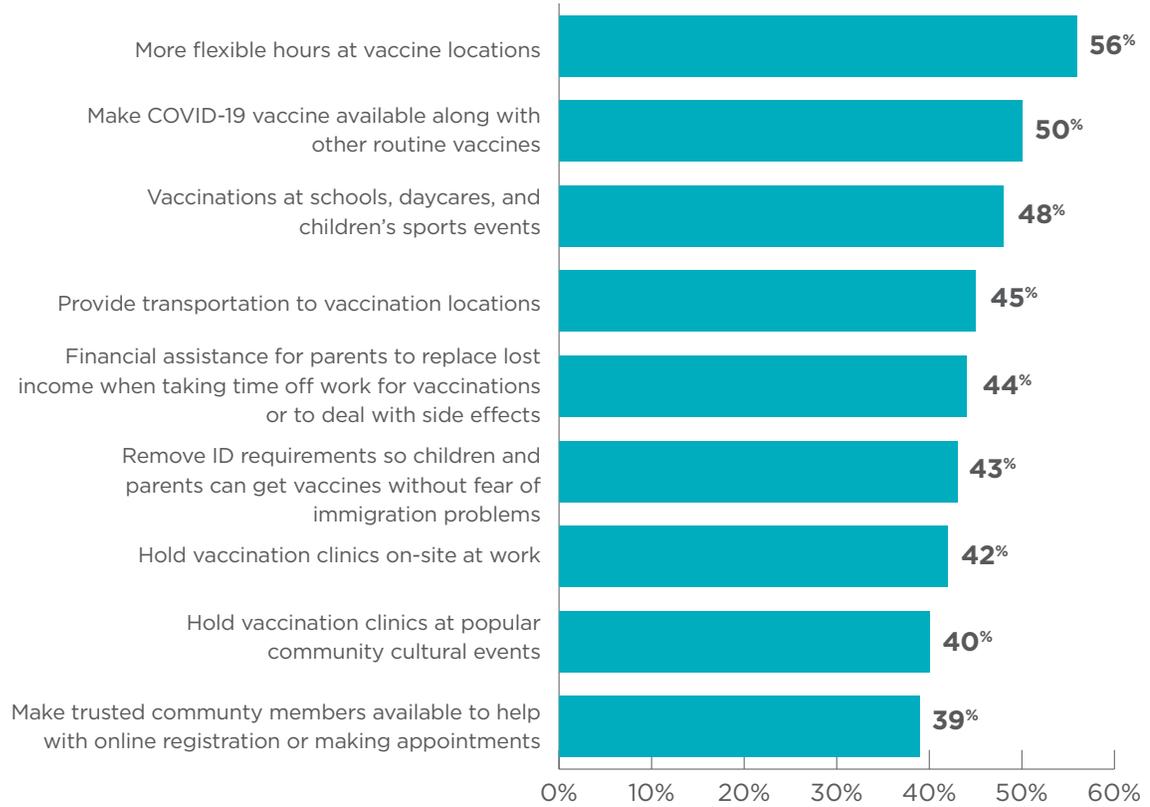
**More than half (56%) of Texas Hispanic parents have had their eligible children vaccinated.**

- Still, more than two in five (42%) 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, nearly two in five (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, Hispanic 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”)**

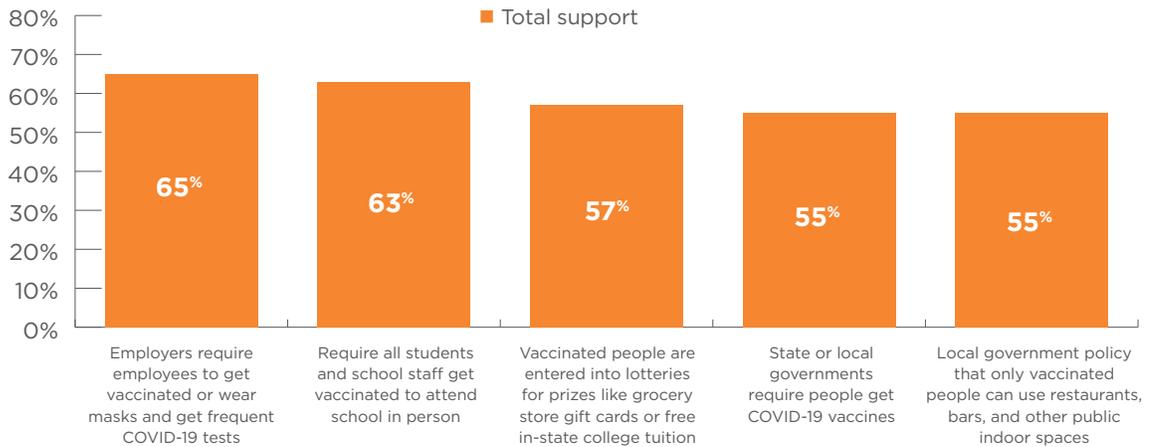


**A MAJORITY OF HISPANIC PARENTS IN TEXAS SUPPORT VACCINE MANDATES IN A WIDE RANGE OF SETTINGS.**

**Overwhelmingly, Hispanic parents in Texas are worried that their children will become seriously ill from COVID-19.**

- Nine in 10 (90%) are worried that their children under 12 will become seriously ill.
- More than four in five (85%) are worried that their children ages 12–18 will become seriously ill.

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



## CONCLUSION

The state of Texas has adopted key interventions to help mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic and increase access to vaccines. Yet, Hispanic 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 Texas policymakers to adopt new policies and approaches to close vaccination gaps for the most vulnerable. They must address the urgent needs of Hispanic 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.

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](https://www.unidosus.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

## ENDNOTES

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