

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### Introduction and Method

#### Introduction

Members of the Emory Prevention Research (EPRC) Community Advisory Board (CAB) asked the EPRC to conduct a brief needs assessment in southwest Georgia to help understand the reasons for low COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among selected groups, as well as lower than desired uptake in the region. A few key demographic groups of interest were African Americans/Blacks, Whites who identify as politically conservative, adults of childbearing age, and rural residents.

The EPRC, as a part of the national Prevention Research Centers Program, will be receiving supplemental funding to identify key behavioral insights that will inform effective solutions to increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence, and ultimately uptake. This formative work serves the dual purposes of informing the PRC-funded work and providing useful data for community partners.

#### Method

We reviewed similar surveys shared by colleagues or that were publicly available to create the survey. The survey was developed with CAB member input and received their final approval. It includes questions about participant and household member COVID-19 diagnosis, participant vaccination status and that of friends/family, reasons for getting the vaccine if vaccinated, reasons for not wanting the vaccine, factors that might support vaccination uptake, additional information about the vaccine that would be helpful, trusted sources of information about COVID-19, political affiliation, and demographics. CAB members promoted the online survey through their organizations' social media pages (Facebook, primarily) and email listservs. The survey was administered in Qualtrics, a secure online data collection platform, from 3/29/21-4/23/21. A large number of responses were received, with many from outside of the region and/or clearly fake. After careful screening, 138 participants are included in the current report. Each participant received a \$10 gift card of their choice to Amazon.com or Walmart.

At the end of the survey, participants were asked to provide their name, phone number, and preferred days/times to be reached if they were interested in participating in a follow-up interview. We hope to interview approximately 30 people, especially those who fall in the key demographic groups and are not yet vaccinated.

This report presents the data from most survey questions (excluding only the open-ended questions/fields) for the overall sample, and selected data among African Americans; White participants who identify as conservative, independent, or libertarian; and among adults ages 18-45 (as a broad classification of childbearing age).

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### COVID-19 Diagnosis and Vaccine Status (n=138)

Have you ever been diagnosed with COVID-19?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>86.2</b>
Yes	14	10.1
Not officially diagnosed, but I believe I had COVID-19	5	3.6
Total	138	100.0

Have any of the people you live with ever been diagnosed with COVID-19?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>81.9</b>
Yes	23	16.7
Not applicable	1	0.7
Not sure	1	0.7
Total	138	100.0

Do you personally know anyone who has gotten the COVID-19 vaccine?

	Frequency	Percent
No	3	2.2
<b>Yes</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>97.8</b>
Total	138	100.0

How many of your family and friends are planning to get the vaccine as soon as they can?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>All</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24.0</b>
<b>Most</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37.6</b>
About half	16	12.8
A few	27	21.6
None	5	4.0
Total	125	100.0

Note: 13 participants completed this survey before this question was added.

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### Have you gotten the COVID-19 vaccine?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28.3</b>
Yes, partially vaccinated, but need second dose	32	23.2
Yes, fully vaccinated	67	48.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Do you plan to get the vaccine?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No, definitely not</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23.1</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards no</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38.5</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards yes</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Yes, definitely	6	15.4
<b>Total not yet vaccinated</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Already vaccinated (partially or fully)	99	

Note: This question was not asked of partially or fully vaccinated participants.

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### Reasons for Vaccine Hesitance (n=33)

What are your reason(s) for not getting a vaccine as soon as it is available? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I am worried about the safety of the vaccine</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>I am worried about unknown long-term side effects</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>I don't think the vaccine has been tested enough</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>I am worried about bad or adverse reactions</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>I think that the vaccine was made too quickly</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.0</b>
I don't trust the politicians or political environment that is promoting the vaccine	14	10.1
I believe my body can fight the virus alone and does not need the vaccine	13	9.4
I am worried about whether the vaccine really works	10	7.2
The vaccination might give me COVID-19	6	4.3
I've seen or heard bad things about the vaccine from others or on social media	6	4.3
I don't think COVID-19 is very serious for most people	4	2.9
Religious reasons	4	2.9
I believe the vaccine may kill me	3	2.2
I do not have transportation to get a vaccine	1	0.7
Other ("Vaccine associated antibody dependent enhancement")	1	0.7
I cannot afford to get vaccinated	0	0.0
I do not believe in vaccines	0	0.0
No specific reason	0	0.0

What would it take for you to get the vaccine? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
<b>When there is more research on how the vaccine was made and tested</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>When more people get vaccinated and I see that there are no side effects</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>I need more information on the vaccine's safety</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11.6</b>
I will never accept the vaccine	6	4.3
I need to know how I can get vaccinated	1	0.7
I need to know where I can get vaccinated	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### Information about COVID-19 (n=138)

What additional information about the vaccine would be helpful? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Information on how well they work against new variants</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>59.4</b>
<b>Information about the vaccine's side effects</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55.1</b>
<b>Pros and cons of the different vaccine options</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>53.6</b>
<b>Information about vaccine safety</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50.7</b>
Information about how the vaccine leads to herd immunity	49	35.5
Information about how the state of Georgia decides who is eligible and when	26	18.8
Details on where to get it	25	18.1
Details about signing up and scheduling a vaccine	22	15.9
Details about how I will find out when I can get it	12	8.7
Other	10	7.2

What are your main sources of trusted information regarding COVID-19? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
<b>CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) or WHO (World Health Organization)</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>68.1</b>
<b>State health department, local health department, or local board of health</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>67.4</b>
<b>Your primary doctor</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>65.2</b>
<b>Scientists or medical experts</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>54.3</b>
National news	28	20.3
Local news	22	15.9
Friends or social media	17	12.3
Other	9	6.5
Religious leaders	8	5.8
Celebrities/famous people	3	2.2
Political leaders	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### Political Affiliation & Demographics (n=138)

#### How would you describe your political affiliation?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Conservative</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31.2</b>
<b>Liberal</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22.5</b>
Independent	15	10.9
Libertarian	3	2.2
Not politically engaged	10	7.2
Other, specify	1	0.7
Prefer not to answer	35	25.4
Total	138	100.0

#### What gender are you?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	25	18.1
<b>Female</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>81.9</b>
Total	138	100.0

#### What is your age?

	Frequency	Percent
18-25 years old	6	4.3
26-35 years old	13	9.4
<b>36-45 years old</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21.7</b>
<b>46-55 years old</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26.8</b>
<b>56-65 years old</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23.2</b>
66-75 years old	15	10.9
76 years or older	3	2.2
Total	136	98.6
Missing	2	1.4

#### Which of the following best describes your race or ethnicity? Check all that apply.

	Frequency	Percent
<b>White</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>52.2</b>
<b>African American or Black</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42.0</b>
Hispanic or Latinx	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0
Prefer not to say	8	5.8
Total	138	100.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

	Frequency	Percent
High school or GED certificate	10	7.2
Some college or technical school	24	17.4
<b>College graduate</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>36.2</b>
<b>Post-graduate or professional degree</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39.1</b>
Total	138	100.0

### Do any children less than 18 years of age live in your household?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>56.5</b>
Yes	58	42.0
Total	136	98.6
Missing	2	1.4

### What county do you live in? (Includes several participants who answered the original question about zip code.)

	Frequency	Percent	Rank
Baker	2	1.4%	
Berrien	2	1.4%	
Calhoun	3	2.2%	
Clay	3	2.2%	
Colquitt	1	0.7%	
Decatur	2	1.4%	
<b>Dougherty</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34.1%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Early</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>2</b>
Fort Benning	1	0.7%	
Georgia	1	0.7%	
Grady	3	2.2%	
<b>Lee</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>3</b>
Miller	7	5.1%	
Mitchell	3	2.2%	
Schley	1	0.7%	
Seminole	1	0.7%	
Sumter	2	1.4%	
Terrell	1	0.7%	
Thomas	2	1.4%	
Turner	1	0.7%	
Worth	2	1.4%	
Total	138	100.0%	

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### STRATIFIED DATA

#### OF AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK RESPONDENTS (N=58):

	Have you gotten the COVID-19 vaccine?					
	All		Age 18-45		Age 46+	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14.3</b>
Yes, partially vaccinated, but need second dose	13	22.4	7	43.8	6	14.3
Yes, fully vaccinated	34	58.6	4	25.0	30	71.4
Total	58	100.0	16	100.0	42	

	Do you plan to get the vaccine? (n=11)					
	All		Age 18-45		Age 46+	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<b>No, definitely not</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16.7</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards no</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33.3</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards yes</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50.0</b>
Yes, definitely	1	1.7	1	20.0	0	0.0
Total	11	19.0	5	100.0	6	100.0

Of African Americans/Blacks not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following concerns were expressed:

#### What are your reason(s) for not getting a vaccine as soon as it is available? Check all that apply. (n=10)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I am worried about the safety of the vaccine</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70.0</b>
<b>I am worried about bad or adverse reactions</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>I am worried about unknown long-term side effects</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>I don't think the vaccine has been tested enough</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>I think that the vaccine was made too quickly</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50.0</b>
I don't trust the politicians or political environment that is promoting the vaccine	2	20.0
The vaccination might give me COVID-19	2	20.0
Religious reasons	2	20.0
I am worried about whether the vaccine really works	1	10.0
I believe my body can fight the virus alone and does not need the vaccine	1	10.0
I've seen or heard bad things about the vaccine from others or on social media	0	0.0
I cannot afford to get vaccinated	0	0.0
I do not have transportation to get a vaccine	0	0.0



# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



I do not believe in vaccines	0	0.0
I don't think COVID-19 is very serious for most people	0	0.0
I believe the vaccine may kill me	0	0.0
No specific reason	0	0.0
Other (“Vaccine associated antibody dependent enhancement”)	0	0.0

### What would it take for you to get the vaccine? Check all that apply. (n=10)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I need more information on the vaccine's safety</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>70.0</b>
<b>When more people get vaccinated and I see that there are no side effects</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50.0</b>
When there is more research on how the vaccine was made and tested	4	40.0
I will never accept the vaccine	2	20.0
I need to know how I can get vaccinated	0	0.0
I need to know where I can get vaccinated	0	0.0

Of African Americans/Blacks not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following were trusted information sources:

### What are your main sources of trusted information regarding COVID-19? Check all that apply. (n=10)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) or WHO (World Health Organization)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>State health department, local health department, or local board of health</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
<b>Scientists or medical experts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0</b>
Your primary doctor	3	30.0
National news	1	10.0
Other (“basically, I am just watching my family members than have taken it.”)	1	10.0
Local news	0	0.0
Friends or social media	0	0.0
Celebrities/famous people	0	0.0
Religious leaders	0	0.0
Political leaders	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



### OF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERTARIAN/INDEPENDENT WHITE RESPONDENTS (N=47):

Have you gotten the COVID-19 vaccine?						
	All		Age 18-45		Age 46+	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31.9</b>	5	35.7	10	31.3
Yes, partially vaccinated, but need second dose	10	21.3	2	14.3	8	25.0
Yes, fully vaccinated	22	46.8	7	50.0	14	43.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Do you plan to get the vaccine? (n=15)						
	All		Age 18-45		Age 46+	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<b>No, definitely not</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26.7</b>	0	0.0	4	40.0
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards no</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>46.7</b>	3	60.0	4	40.0
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards yes</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13.3</b>	0	0.0	2	20.0
Yes, definitely	2	13.3	2	40.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Of conservative/libertarian/independent Whites not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following concerns were expressed:

#### What are your reason(s) for not getting a vaccine as soon as it is available? Check all that apply. (n=13)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I am worried about unknown long-term side effects</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>76.9</b>
<b>I don't think the vaccine has been tested enough</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>I believe my body can fight the virus alone and does not need the vaccine</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
I think that the vaccine was made too quickly	6	46.2
I don't trust the politicians or political environment that is promoting the vaccine	6	46.2
I am worried about bad or adverse reactions	5	38.5
I am worried about whether the vaccine really works	4	30.8
I've seen or heard bad things about the vaccine from others or on social media	4	30.8
I don't think COVID-19 is very serious for most people	2	15.4
The vaccination might give me COVID-19	1	7.7
I believe the vaccine may kill me	1	7.7
Religious reasons	1	7.7
Other ("Vaccine associated antibody dependent enhancement")	1	7.7
I cannot afford to get vaccinated	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



I do not have transportation to get a vaccine	0	0.0
I do not believe in vaccines	0	0.0
No specific reason	0	0.0

### What would it take for you to get the vaccine? Check all that apply. (n=13)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I need more information on the vaccine's safety</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>When there is more research on how the vaccine was made and tested</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>When more people get vaccinated and I see that there are no side effects</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.8</b>
I will never accept the vaccine	3	23.1
I need to know how I can get vaccinated	0	0.0
I need to know where I can get vaccinated	0	0.0

Of conservative/libertarian/independent Whites not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following were trusted information sources:

### What are your main sources of trusted information regarding COVID-19? Check all that apply. (n=13)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Your primary doctor</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>State health department, local health department, or local board of health</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46.2</b>
<b>Scientists or medical experts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46.2</b>
Other	4	30.8
1) Common sense		
2) Doctors who research drugs use for COVID		
3) Independent study of research on the effects and unknown and possible effects		
4) Peer reviewed research and scientific expert oppositional debate		
CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) or WHO (World Health Organization)	3	23.1
Friends or social media	3	23.1
Local news	1	7.7
National news	1	7.7
Celebrities/famous people	0	0.0
Religious leaders	0	0.0
Political leaders	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



**OF THOSE AGE 18-45 (n=49) \*OVERLAPS WITH BLACK & WHITE STRATIFIED FINDINGS ABOVE\*:**

### Have you gotten the COVID-19 vaccine?

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>38.8</b>
Yes, partially vaccinated, but need second dose	15	30.6
Yes, fully vaccinated	15	30.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Do you plan to get the vaccine? (n=19)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>No, definitely not</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.8</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards no</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31.6</b>
<b>Unsure, but leaning towards yes</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21.1</b>
Yes, definitely	6	31.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Of those age 18-45 not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following concerns were expressed:

**What are your reason(s) for not getting a vaccine as soon as it is available? Check all that apply. (n=13)**

	Frequency	Percent
<b>I am worried about the safety of the vaccine</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69.2</b>
<b>I am worried about unknown long-term side effects</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69.2</b>
<b>I don't think the vaccine has been tested enough</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>I think that the vaccine was made too quickly</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>I am worried about bad or adverse reactions</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.8</b>
I don't trust the politicians or political environment that is promoting the vaccine	6	46.2
I am worried about whether the vaccine really works	5	38.5
I believe my body can fight the virus alone and does not need the vaccine	4	30.8
I've seen or heard bad things about the vaccine from others or on social media	2	15.4
The vaccination might give me COVID-19	2	15.4
I don't think COVID-19 is very serious for most people	1	7.7
I believe the vaccine may kill me	1	7.7
Religious reasons	1	7.7
I cannot afford to get vaccinated	0	0.0
I do not have transportation to get a vaccine	0	0.0
I do not believe in vaccines	0	0.0
No specific reason	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

# COVID Vaccine Opinions in SWGA

## Initial Survey Findings – April 30, 2021



What would it take for you to get the vaccine? Check all that apply. (n=13)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>When more people get vaccinated and I see that there are no side effects</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69.2</b>
<b>When there is more research on how the vaccine was made and tested</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69.2</b>
<b>I need more information on the vaccine's safety</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46.2</b>
I will never accept the vaccine	1	7.7
I need to know how I can get vaccinated	0	0.0
I need to know where I can get vaccinated	0	0.0

Of those age 18-45 not vaccinated (and not planning to get it), the following were trusted information sources:

What are your main sources of trusted information regarding COVID-19? Check all that apply. (n=13)

	Frequency	Percent
<b>CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) or WHO (World Health Organization)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>Scientists or medical experts</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>Your primary doctor</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.8</b>
<b>State health department, local health department, or local board of health</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.8</b>
Friends or social media	2	15.4
Local news	1	7.7
National news	0	0.0
Celebrities/famous people	0	0.0
Religious leaders	0	0.0
Political leaders	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0