

 **ELON** POLL**North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake and Experiences: April 2021**

Produced in partnership with
The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun & The Raleigh News & Observer

Survey of North Carolina Adults
March 30th – April 2nd, 2021

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About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,395 in North Carolina from March 30th -April 2nd, 2021.

The overall results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.8 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

Part I of this survey's questionnaire explored attitudes and experiences related to COVID-19 vaccination.

Part II of this survey explored views related to Confederate monuments. Many of these items were previously polled in November 2019. Where possible, the numbers for repeated items are included in the report below as a point of comparison, shaded in grey.

For highlights and interpretation of the key findings from this survey, please see the press release associated with this report.

Toplines: Vaccine Uptake and Experiences

Vaccine Uptake and Intentions Summary

	%	N
Already vaccinated (at least 1 dose)	38	530
Plans to take a vaccine	25	345
Not sure about taking a vaccine	18	249
Does not plan on taking a vaccine	19	270
Total	100	1396

Prior Elon Poll Results

	1/31/21	12/6/20	10/11/20
Already vaccinated (at least 1 dose)	12	x	x
Plans to take a vaccine	45	40	33
Not sure about taking a vaccine	24	39	42
Does not plan on taking a vaccine	20	20	25
Total			

Questions Asked of Unvaccinated Respondents Only

“Are you currently eligible to take a COVID-19 vaccine?”

	%	N
Yes	52.2	405
No	17.1	133
Not sure	30.6	237
Total	100	775

“Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine?”

	%	N
Yes	39.9	309
No	31.2	242
Not sure	28.8	223
Total	100	774

[if planning to get vaccinated] “Have you attempted to get a COVID-19 vaccine?”

	%	N
Yes	29.6	93
No	70.4	221
Total	100	314

[if not planning to take the vaccine or not sure about taking the vaccine]
 “If you were to take a COVID-19 vaccine, how worried would you be about the side effects?”

	%	N
Very worried	58.6	268
Somewhat worried	29.0	133
Only a little worried	7.9	36
Not worried at all	4.5	21
Total	100	457

Questions Asked of Vaccinated Respondents Only

“Overall, are you glad you took the vaccine or do you wish you hadn’t taken it?”

	%	N
I am glad I took it.	92.5	568
I wish I had not taken it.	2.6	16
Not sure	4.9	30
Total	100	614

“Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine--from making the appointment to taking the vaccine itself?”

	%	N
Very easy	56.5	347
Somewhat easy	25.9	159
Neither easy nor difficult	8.8	54
Somewhat difficult	7.9	49
Very difficult	0.9	6
Total	100	615

“Did you experience any negative side effects from the vaccine?”

	%	N
Yes	30.2	185
No	66	404
Not sure	3.8	23
Total	100	612

[if experienced negative side effects]

“Did any of the negative side effects cause you more than a minor disruption?”

	%	N
Yes	29.6	56
No	68.9	130
Not sure	1.5	3
Total	100	189

“Since taking the vaccine, have you felt more relaxed around other people, less relaxed, or has it not made much of a difference for you?”

	%	N
More relaxed	47.2	290
Less relaxed	4.6	28
Not much of a difference	48.2	296
Total	100.0	614

Views on Pandemic

“Which of these statements is closest to your view about how COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in North Carolina?”

	%	N
Restrictions have been lifted too slowly.	28.4	397
Restrictions have been lifted at about the right pace.	42.9	599
Restrictions have been lifted too quickly.	28.6	400
Total	100	1395

“By July 4th of this year, how do you think life in North Carolina will be in terms of the pandemic?”

	%	N
Back to the way it was before the pandemic.	7.7	107
A lot better than it has been in the last year.	33.1	461
A little better than it has been in the last year.	37.0	517
About the same way that it is now.	22.2	310
Total	100	1395

Demographics

Gender

	%	N
Male	48.0	670
Female	52.0	726
Total	100	1396

Age

	%	N
18 to 24	12.6	176
25 to 44	33.8	472
45 to 64	34.1	476
65+	19.5	272
Total	100	1396

Race

	%	N
White (non-Hispanic)	67.0	935
Black	21.0	293
Other	12.0	168
Total	100	1396

 Party Identification¹

	%	N
Republican	30.0	419
Neither	35.0	489
Democrat	35.0	489
Total	100	1396

 County Density²

	%	N
Rural	39.4	550
Suburban	25.1	350
Urban	35.5	496
Total	100	1396

¹ Self-identified.

² County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

Crosstabulations

Note: In this section of the report, the numbers reported are row percentages, and comparisons can be made within columns. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Caution is warranted when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Sub-group sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider.

Vaccine Uptake and Intentions

	Yes	No	Not Sure	Already Vaccinated	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Less than Bachelors	25	24	21	31	100
Bachelors or Higher	24	10	12	55	100
18 to 24	30	22	18	30	100
25 to 44	30	22	23	26	100
45 to 64	24	22	19	35	100
65+	13	9	8	70	100
Republican	20	28	17	34	100
Neither	25	22	21	32	100
Democrat	29	9	15	47	100
White	23	19	17	41	100
Black	26	20	21	33	100
Other	31	19	18	32	100
Rural	21	24	19	35	100
Suburban	25	18	15	41	100
Urban	29	14	18	39	100
Total	25	19	18	38	100

Question Order

1. Have you already taken a COVID-19 vaccine?
2. Are you currently eligible to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
3. Do you plan to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
4. Have you attempted to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
5. Why were you unable to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
6. If you were to take a COVID-19 vaccine, how worried would you be about the side effects?
7. What is the most important reason why you said “piped text” about intending to take a COVID-19 vaccine?
8. Which of the vaccines did you take?
9. Have you already taken your second vaccine dose?
10. Has it been two weeks or more since you received your last dose?
11. Overall, are you glad you took the vaccine or do you wish you hadn’t taken it?
12. Overall, how easy or difficult was your experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine-- from making the appointment to taking the vaccine itself?
13. Did you experience any negative side effects from the vaccine?
14. Did any of the negative side effects cause you more than a minor disruption?
15. Since taking the vaccine, have you felt more relaxed around other people, less relaxed, or has it not made much of a difference for you?
16. What is something you have done since being vaccinated, or that you are looking forward to doing, that you weren't able to do in the past year?
17. Which of these statements is closest to your view about how COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in North Carolina?
18. By July 4th of this year, how do you think life in North Carolina will be in terms of the pandemic?
19. This next set of questions have to do with Confederate monuments.
20. Recently there has been some controversy about what to do with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?
21. Do you think removing Confederate monuments from government property mostly helps or mostly hurts race relations, or does it not make much of a difference?
22. Below you'll find a list of things that could be done with Confederate monuments on public, government-owned property (e.g. parks, city squares, court houses). For each one, indicate whether you think it is a good or bad idea:
 - a. Move them to history museums
 - b. Move them to Confederate cemeteries or memorials
 - c. Install plaques beside them that provide historical context
 - d. Replace them with monuments to honor Southerners who fought to end slavery
 - e. Increase security around them to prevent them from being damaged
23. To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements about Confederate monuments:
 - a. They honor Confederate soldiers who passed away in the Civil War.
 - b. They help people understand an important chapter in American history.
 - c. They glorify what the Confederacy fought for.

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24. What is your impression of the main cause of the Civil War?
25. How much do you think the legacy of slavery affects the position of Black people in American society today?
26. Did the killing of George Floyd and other events in 2020 make you more or less in favor of removing Confederate monuments or did it not make much difference?
27. In which North Carolina county do you reside?
28. What is your zip code?
29. How old are you?
30. What is your gender
31. What is your race? Select all that apply.
32. Are you Hispanic or Latino?
33. What is your annual household income?
34. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
35. With what religious tradition do you most closely identify?
36. Would you describe yourself as a Born-Again or Evangelical Christian?
37. Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Thinking about your life these days, how often do you attend religious services outside of weddings and funerals?
38. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent or something else?
39. Do you lean more towards the Democratic party or the Republican party?
40. Would you consider yourself a strong Democrat?
41. Would you consider yourself a strong Republican?
42. Are you registered to vote in North Carolina?
43. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?

Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	North Carolina Adult Residents
Dates in the field:	March 30-April 2, 2021
Sample Size:	1,395
Credibility Interval	+/- 2.8%
Weighting Variables (NC):	Education, Party Identification, Age, Sex, Race, County Density, Vaccination Rate

Procedure

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace and received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. The survey was not an open-linked posted on social media, but rather was by direct invitation to a very large national pool of people who agree to take online surveys. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available [here](#). Quotas on race, Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and age were applied prior to online survey commencement.

Online interviews were included in the final dataset if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview and particular sections, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted thirty cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about issues in North Carolina.

Credibility Interval

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online surveys do not have traditional margin of errors. Nonprobability quota samples like these do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide a credibility interval. More information about this technique can be found [here](#). The credibility interval was calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by a design effect calculated using the squared sum of weights. For this North Carolina sample, this means: $(1.038 * 2.62 = 2.723)$. We round these values up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, total survey error often exceeds sampling error.

Support for Transparency

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative, which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we release to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

Weighting Information

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. The weight variable was calculated based on all of the variables in the table below. *Party identification population parameters are estimates. Covid-19 one-dose vaccination rate was obtained from NC DHHS dashboard on 4/4/21.

	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-24	13	10	13
25-44	34	35	34
45-64	34	35	34
65+	20	20	20
Male	48	47	48
Female	52	53	52
White	67	66	67
Black	21	20	21
Other	12	14	12
Hispanic	9	7	9
Not Hispanic	91	93	91
< Bachelor's	70	62	70
Bachelor's or more	30	38	30
Rural County	39	41	39
Suburban	25	24	25
Urban	36	35	36
Republican	30	30	30
Neither	35	35	35
Democrat	35	35	35
At least one dose of vaccine	38	44	38

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. Because of this generous support, the Elon University Poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey research organization. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, we generated results using raking based on U.S. Census data. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional random-dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have a clear advantage over online surveys such as this in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. Furthermore, online surveys do not capture opinions of respondents who lack internet access.

However, our opinion is that [declining telephone response rates](#) and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of this survey, we hoped to capture opinions related to a breaking news item. An online survey enabled us to quickly gather a large enough sample size to make inferences about the U.S. population. Additionally, like many college students, our student survey interviewers are not on campus at this time.

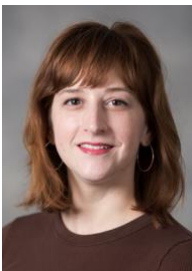
Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

About the Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll conducts statewide, regional, and national surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians as well as other states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes.



[Jason Husser](#) is Director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.



[Kaye Usry](#) is Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are in American politics and political psychology.



[Owen Covington](#) is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. A native North Carolinian, Owen Covington joined the staff of Elon University in 2016 after spending 17 years in the field of journalism as a reporter and editor for daily and weekly news outlets in North Carolina and Kentucky. As director of the Elon University News Bureau, Covington oversees the promotion of Elon and its students, faculty and staff both through stories told across Elon's media channels as well as through interactions with state, national and international media. He is involved in media relations, including responding to requests from print, digital and broadcast media outlets, and works to promote content generated by a variety of Elon news sources.

For more information on the Elon University Poll, visit elon.edu/elonpoll

If you have specific questions about this poll, you can reach the directors of the poll via email (jhusser at elon dot edu & kusry at elon dot edu).

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