

Attitudes and beliefs about COVID-19 Vaccines

Health indicator report

Background

- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on attitudes and beliefs about COVID-19 vaccines, based on the responses of Halton adults aged 18 and over who participated in the 2020 COVID-19 Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) survey.
- COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting sick from the virus that causes COVID-19 and can make symptoms milder for those who do get the virus.¹
- When a large percentage of the population becomes immune to COVID-19, the spread of the virus will slow down and may stop.²
- For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit [halton.ca](https://www.halton.ca).
- **Data for this report were collected during October and November of 2020, before COVID-19 vaccines became available to Halton residents. More recent data show that COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in Canada has increased since late 2020. By May 2021, an estimated 82% of surveyed Canadians indicated that they have either received or plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to approximately 75% in the fall of 2020.^{3,4}**

Key findings

In October and November of 2020:

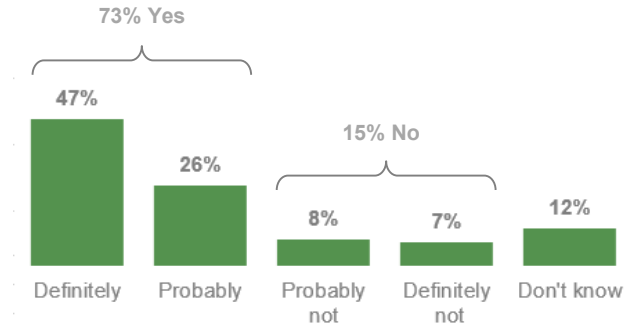
- 73% of Halton respondents indicated that they planned to get a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available. The most common reasons given included a desire to protect one's self, family, friends and community, and wanting life to go back to normal.
- 15% of Halton respondents indicated that they did not plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The most common reasons given were concerns about side effects and concerns that the vaccine was rushed or not thoroughly tested.
- 12% of Halton respondents indicated that they did not know whether they planned to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available.
- Respondents aged 65 and older were most likely to say they definitely planned to get a COVID-19 vaccine.



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Overview

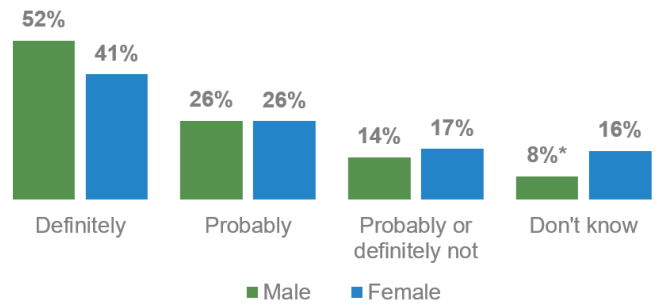
- 47% of Halton respondents indicated that they definitely planned to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available, while 26% said they would probably get one. Eight per cent indicated that they would probably not get a COVID-19 vaccine, while 7% said they would definitely not and 12% said they did not know.



Percentage of respondents aged 18 and over who indicated whether or not they plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, Halton Region, 2020

Sex

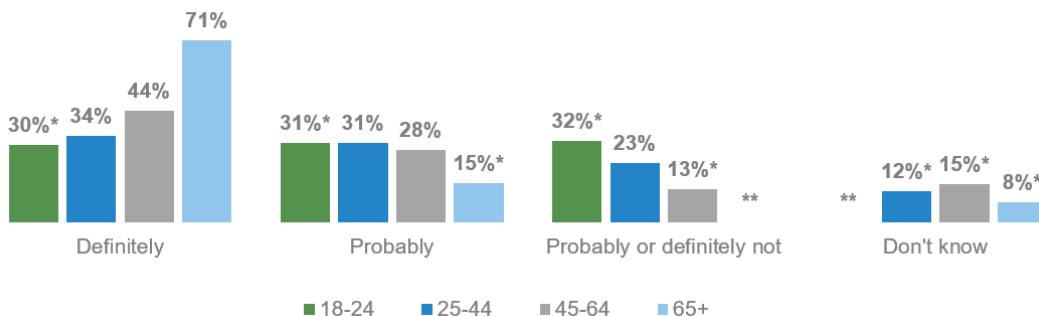
- Male respondents were more likely than female respondents to indicate that they definitely planned to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available, although this difference was not significant. Females were more likely than males to say they did not know whether they would receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of respondents aged 18 and over who indicated whether or not they plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, by sex, Halton Region, 2020

Age

- Respondents aged 65 and older were more likely than those in any other age group to indicate that they definitely planned to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available. These differences were **statistically significant**. Respondents aged 18 to 24 were more likely than those aged 25 to 44 or 45 to 64 to say they would probably not or definitely not receive a COVID-19 vaccine, however these differences were not statistically significant.



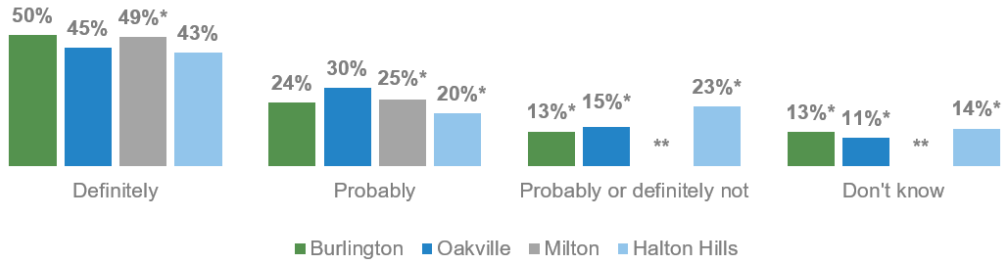
Percentage of respondents aged 18 and over who indicated whether or not they plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, by age group, Halton Region, 2020



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Municipality

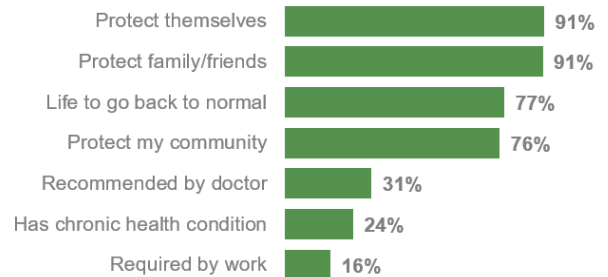
- There were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton respondents who indicated that they would definitely or probably receive a COVID-19 vaccine. There were also no differences in the percentage of respondents who indicated that they probably or definitely would not, or who did not know whether they would receive a COVID-19 vaccine.



Percentage of respondents aged 18 and over who indicated whether or not they plan to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, by municipality, Halton Region, 2020

Reasons given for wanting to get a COVID-19 vaccine

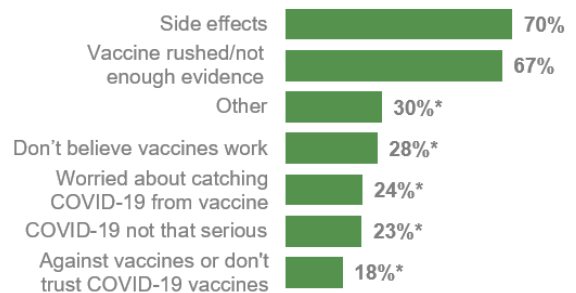
- Among Halton respondents who indicated that they would probably or definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine, the most common reasons included wanting to protect themselves, wanting to protect family and friends, wanting life to go back to normal, and wanting to protect their community.



Percentage of Halton respondents aged 18 and over who indicated that they would probably or definitely receive a COVID-19 vaccine, by reason, 2020

Reasons given for not wanting to get a COVID-19 vaccine

- Among Halton respondents who indicated that they would probably or definitely not get a COVID-19 vaccine, the most common reasons included concerns about side effects and concerns that the vaccine was rushed or not thoroughly tested.



Note: Other reasons included not liking needles and being allergic to vaccines.

Percentage of Halton respondents aged 18 and over who indicated that they would probably not or definitely not receive a COVID-19 vaccine, by reason, 2020

About the COVID-19 Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) survey

- The COVID-19 Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) survey was conducted by the Institute of Social Research and York University. Data were collected from October 27th 2020 to November 15th 2020 among adults aged 18 and over living in Halton Region.
- Data were collected using an online survey panel sample (400 respondents) and convenience sample (834 respondents). For the panel sample, Canadian census data were used in an effort to generate samples that were representative of the population and incentives were used for survey participation. For the convenience sample, a link to the survey was promoted through the Halton Region website (Halton.ca) and social media accounts.
- There were no statistically significant differences between sample type (i.e., panel or convenience sample) in attitudes towards the COVID-19 vaccines. Therefore, data for this report were analyzed with the convenience sample and panel sample combined. Weights were used to adjust the samples in an effort to increase the representativeness of the sample of Halton's population in terms of age and sex.

Data notes

Data Source: COVID-19 Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2020], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability. Estimates marked with a double asterisk (**) are not reportable.

References

1. Halton Region. 2021. Fact sheet: What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine. Retrieved April 2021 from <https://www.halton.ca/getmedia/e8064a40-d164-498c-80ca-26a19427e984/HE-fact-sheet-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-covid-19-vaccine.aspx>
2. Halton Region. 2021. COVID-19 Vaccination: Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved April 2021 from <https://www.halton.ca/For-Residents/New-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccines/Frequently-Asked-Questions>
3. Impact Canada's COVID-19 Snapshot Monitoring, Wave 11 Results. Retrieved May 2021 from <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/cosmo-canada/results/wave11>
4. Leger's North American Tracker, May 10th, 2021. Retrieved May 2021 from <https://2g2cck18vixp3neolz4b6605-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Legers-North-American-Tracker-May-10th-2021.pdf>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics webpage at halton.ca.

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