

# Report for Putnam County COVID-19 Vaccine Survey of Parents of Teenagers

Putnam County Department of Health

On May 13, 2021, following Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), New York State extended eligibility for Pfizer BioNtech Covid-19 vaccination to all individuals age 12-15. In order to assess local attitudes and barriers to COVID-19 vaccination in this population, the Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) launched a self-administered online community survey. Survey participation was promoted through the Department’s website and social media platforms, as well as cross promotion by local community partners, and a news release to local media outlets. The survey was available in both Spanish and English and was open from May 11, 2021 through May 24, 2021.

The following report contains summary charts and statistics produced directly from the survey software (© 2021 Alchemer) and additional demographic and cross tab analysis performed outside of Alchemer with data exports in Excel.

## Survey Response and Eligibility

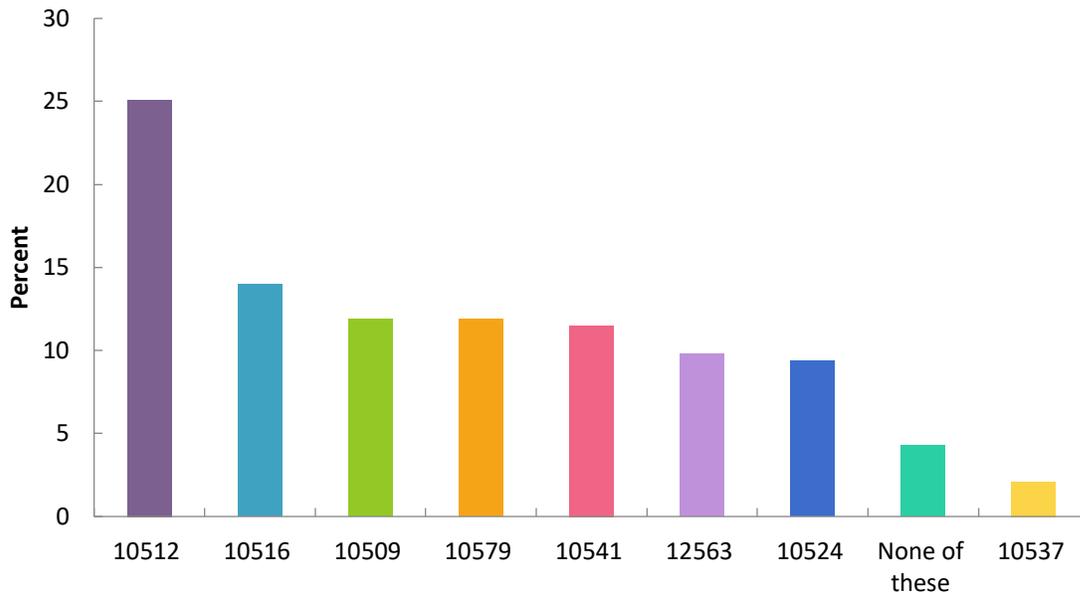
Eligibility was determined by the first two questions in the survey: “Are you the parent or guardian of a child or children who are twelve years old or older?” and “Has another parent or guardian of your child or children already responded to this survey?” All respondents who answered “No” to the first question or “Yes” to the second question were excluded. Surveys with no responses beyond the eligibility questions were also excluded. Total number of children of respondents is the total of the self-reported count of children between 12 and 17 of all eligible respondents. Response totals will vary by question because response was not required for all questions.

| English Version                       |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Responses                       | Total Responses After Exclusion | Total Children of Respondents |
| 387                                   | 257                             | 309                           |
| Spanish Version                       |                                 |                               |
| Total Responses                       | Total Responses After Exclusion | Total Children of Respondents |
| 23                                    | 3                               | 6                             |
| English and Spanish Versions Combined |                                 |                               |
| Total Responses                       | Total Responses after Exclusion | Total Children of Respondents |
| 410                                   | 260                             | 315                           |

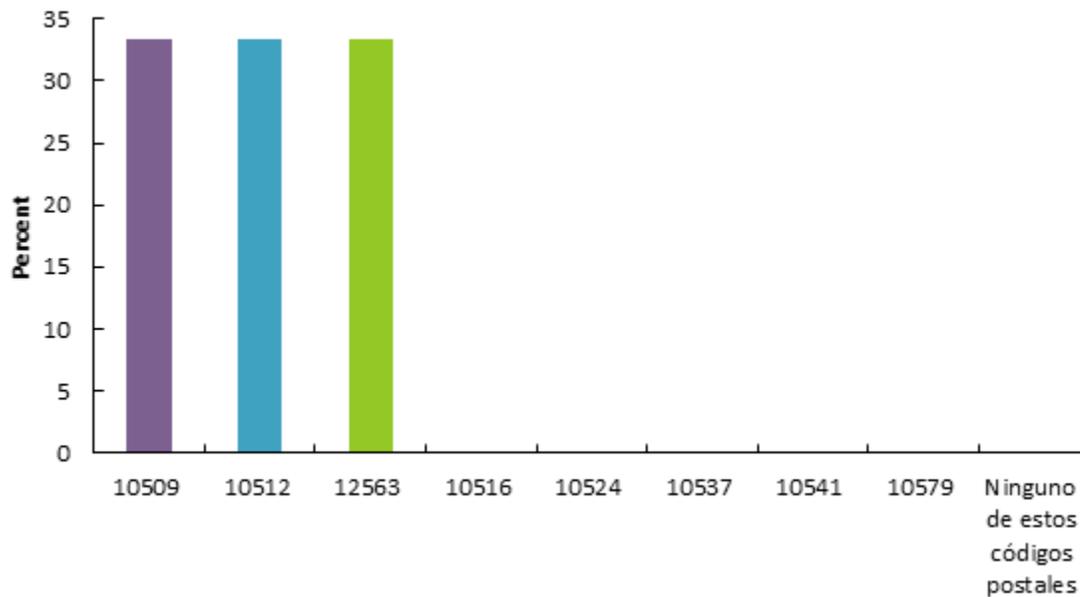
## Demographics

Respondents were asked the following series of demographic questions and distribution was assessed for representativeness of the county as a whole.

What zip code does your child/children live in?



¿En qué código postal vive su hijo/hijos?



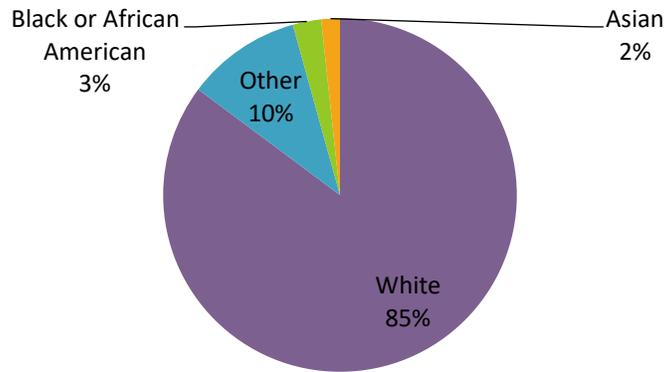
Respondent distribution by zip code compared to overall Putnam County population distribution by zip code

| zip code                   | County        |               | English Survey Respondents |               | English and Spanish Survey Respondents |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
|                            | Popn*         | % Popn        | # responses                | % responses   | # responses                            | % responses   |
| Brewster<br>10509          | 19,582        | 19.7%         | 28                         | 11.9%         | 29                                     | 12.2%         |
| Carmel<br>10512            | 24,672        | 24.8%         | 59                         | 25.1%         | 60                                     | 25.2%         |
| Cold<br>Spring<br>10516    | 5,375         | 5.4%          | 33                         | 14.0%         | 33                                     | 13.9%         |
| Garrison<br>10524          | 4,380         | 4.4%          | 22                         | 9.4%          | 22                                     | 9.2%          |
| Lake<br>Peekskill<br>10537 | 2,441         | 2.5%          | 5                          | 2.1%          | 5                                      | 2.1%          |
| Mahopac<br>10541           | 26,321        | 26.5%         | 27                         | 11.5%         | 27                                     | 11.3%         |
| Putnam<br>Valley<br>10579  | 8,208         | 8.3%          | 28                         | 11.9%         | 28                                     | 11.8%         |
| Patterson<br>12563         | 8,431         | 8.5%          | 23                         | 9.8%          | 24                                     | 10.1%         |
| None of<br>these           | 0             | 0.0%          | 10                         | 4.3%          | 10                                     | 4.2%          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>99,410</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>235</b>                 | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>238</b>                             | <b>100.0%</b> |

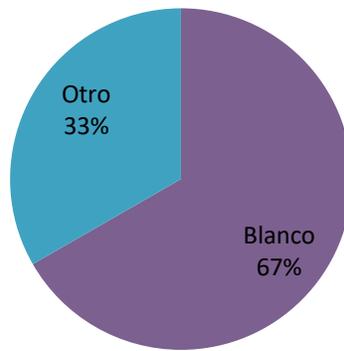
\*American Community Survey 2019 population estimates

Residents of the Western County zip codes 10516 (Cold Spring), 10524 (Garrison), and 10579 (Putnam Valley) were over-represented in the survey while representatives of the 10509 (Brewster), and 10541 (Mahopac) zip codes were under-represented.

What race does your child/children identify with?



¿De qué raza se identifica su hijo(s)?



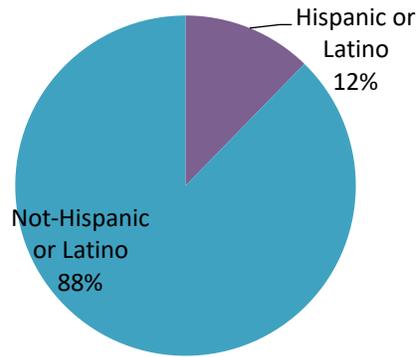
Respondent distribution by race compared to overall Putnam County population distribution by race

| Race  | County |        | English Respondents |             | English and Spanish Respondents |             |
|-------|--------|--------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
|       | Popn*  | % popn | # responses         | % responses | # responses                     | % responses |
| White | 84,960 | 86.4%  | 195                 | 85.2%       | 197                             | 84.9%       |
| Black | 3,352  | 3.4%   | 6                   | 2.6%        | 6                               | 2.6%        |
| Asian | 2,293  | 2.3%   | 4                   | 1.7%        | 4                               | 1.7%        |
| Other | 7,715  | 7.8%   | 24                  | 10.5%       | 25                              | 10.8%       |
| Total | 98,320 | 100.0% | 229                 | 100.00      | 232                             | 100.00      |

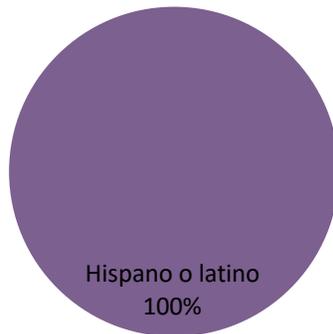
\*American Community Survey 2019 population estimates

Distribution by race in survey respondents was similar to the distribution in the county as a whole, with Black and Asian respondents relatively under-represented, while respondents selecting other race were relatively over-represented. The majority of respondents selecting other race who provided a free text response wrote in mixed race.

What ethnicity does your child/children identify with?



¿Cuál es el origen étnico de su hijo(s)?



| Ethnicity    | County |        | English Respondents |             | English and Spanish Respondents |             |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
|              | Popn*  | % popn | # responses         | % responses | # responses                     | % responses |
| Hispanic     | 16,126 | 16.4%  | 28                  | 12.3%       | 31                              | 13.4%       |
| Not Hispanic | 82,194 | 83.6%  | 200                 | 87.7%       | 200                             | 86.6%       |
| Total        | 98,320 | 100%   | 228                 | 100.00      | 231                             | 100%        |

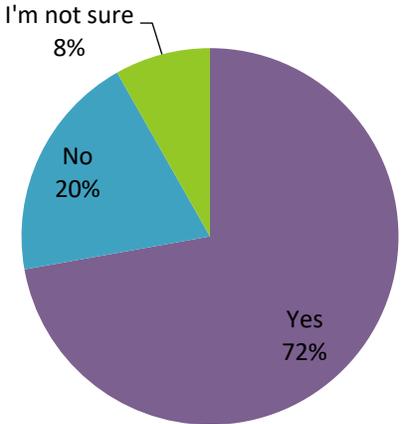
\*American Community Survey 2019 population estimates

Residents of Hispanic ethnicity were relatively under-represented in survey respondents, while Non-Hispanic residents were relatively over-represented.

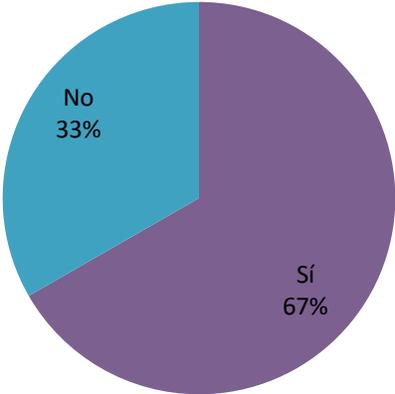
# Attitudes and Perceptions Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination in Teenagers

Respondents were asked the following questions to assess willingness to have teenagers vaccinated and reasons for unwillingness to vaccinate.

When the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for children 12 years old or older, will you be interested in getting your child or children vaccinated?



Cuando la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19 esté disponible para niños mayores de 12 años, ¿Usted estaría interesado en vacunar a su hijo(s)?



There were 258 total responses to this question across both surveys (3 Spanish, 255 English). Nearly three quarters of respondents stated an intention to have their teenage children vaccinated for COVID-19.

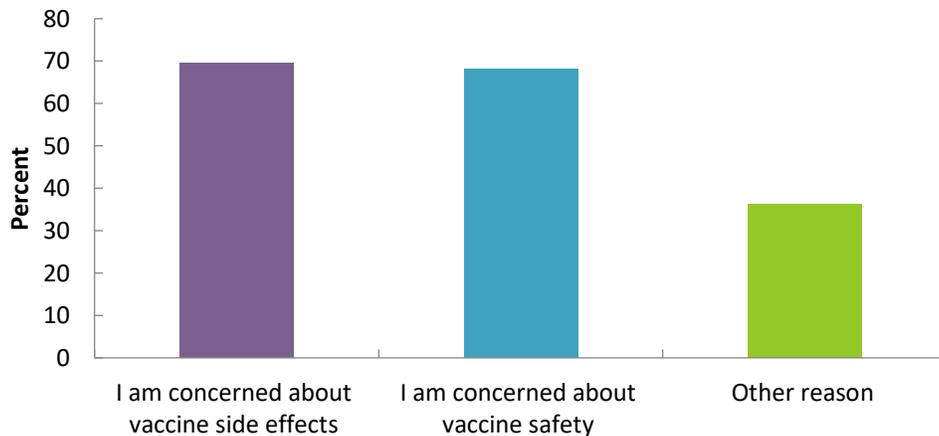
To look for differences compared to the overall survey population, a crosstab analysis by zip code, race, and ethnicity was completed for responses of “No” and “I’m not sure”. Numbers within demographic groups are small, and so inferences should be made with caution.

A higher proportion of respondents in zip codes 10541 (7/27 or 25.9%) and 10579 (10/28 or 35.7%) and in non-white respondents (14/35 or 40%) answered “No” as compared to the proportion of all respondents (51/258 or 19.8%). These results may be predictive of lower vaccination rates in teenagers in these groups.

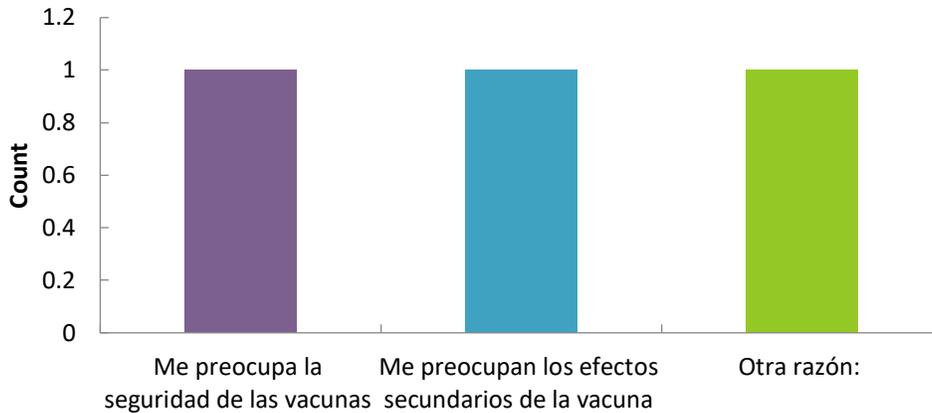
A higher proportion of respondents in zip codes 10509 (4/29 or 13.8%), 10541 (3/27 or 11.1%) and 12563 (3/24 or 12.5%) and those of Hispanic ethnicity (4/31 or 12.9%) answered “I’m not sure” as compared to the proportion of all survey respondents (21/258 or 8.1%). These results may indicate that these groups would benefit from targeted vaccine education and outreach.

To further explore reasons for vaccination hesitancy amongst parents of teens, the following questions were presented to respondents who answered “No” or “I’m not sure.”

When the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for children 12 years old or older, I would not be interested, or am unsure if I’d be interested, in getting my child or children vaccinated because... [Check all that apply]

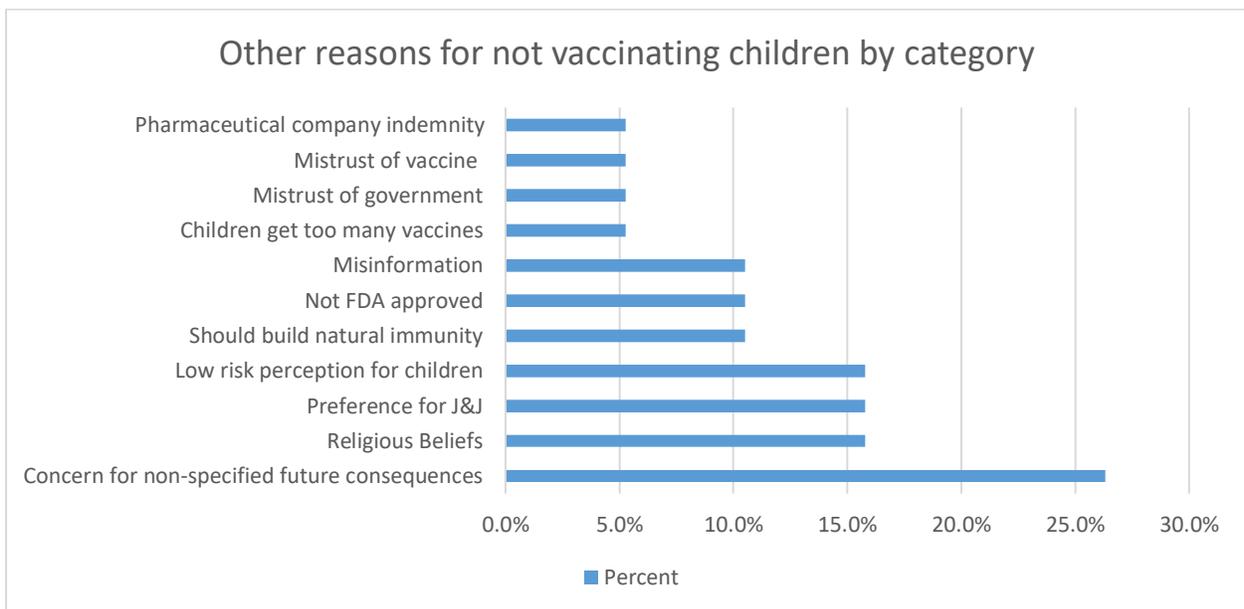


Cuando la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19 está disponible para niños mayores de 12 años, yo no quisiera la vacuna para mi hijo(s) o yo no estoy seguro si le pondría la vacuna a mi hijo(s). La razón sería porque... [Marque todo lo que corresponda]



There were a total of 70 respondents (69 English, 1 Spanish) and 123 responses across both surveys. Proportions are the number of responses per option divided by the total number of respondents. Seventy percent or 49/70 of respondents cited concern over vaccine side effects, 68.6% or 48/70 respondents cited concern over vaccine safety, and 37.1% or 26/70 cited other reasons for concern.

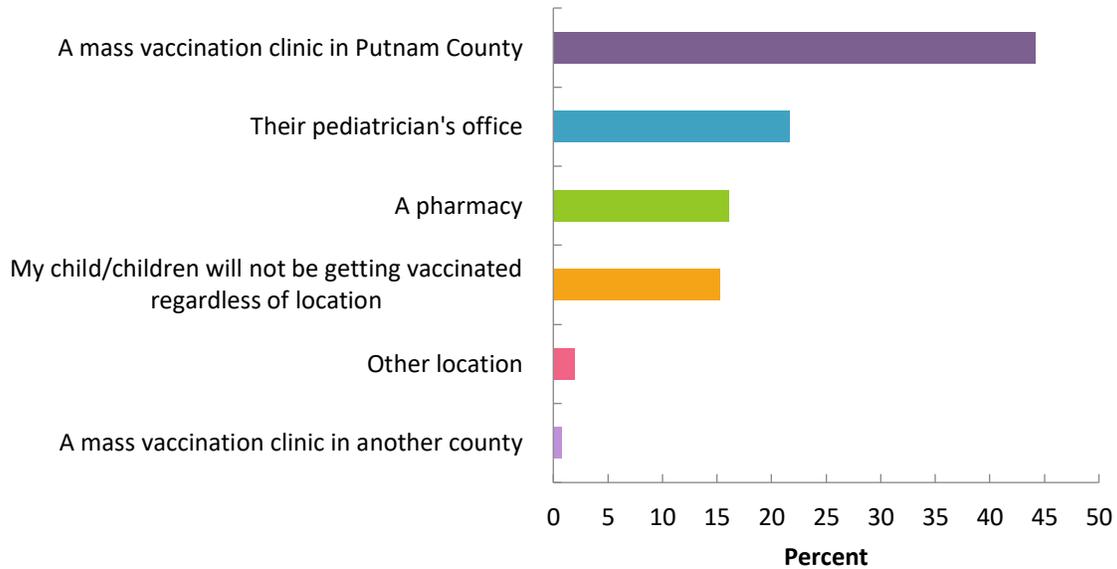
Other reasons included in free text responses were grouped by category and are displayed in the chart below. The highest proportion of respondents providing free text reasons for not getting vaccinated (5/19 or 26.3%) expressed concern about non-specified/unknown future negative consequences of vaccination. Comments across categories commonly mentioned immunity in children: that children should be allowed to develop natural immunity to disease, or that it has been scientifically demonstrated that children are naturally immune to COVID-19 (categorized as misinformation).



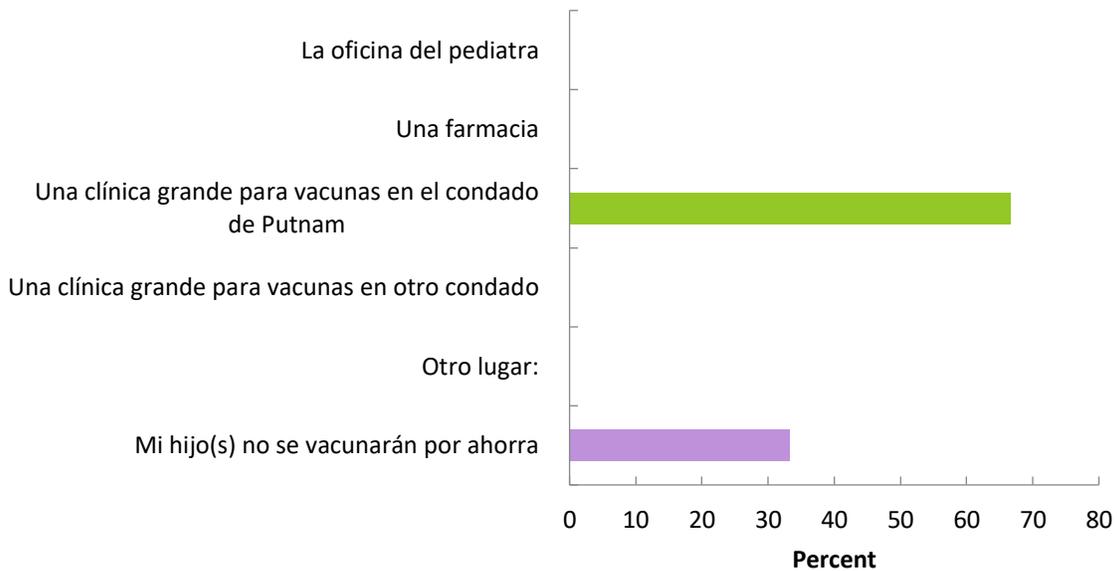
## Access to COVID-19 Vaccination for Teenagers

Respondents were asked the following questions to assess factors affecting resident ability to access vaccination for their teenagers.

Which of the following places would be most convenient for your child/children to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

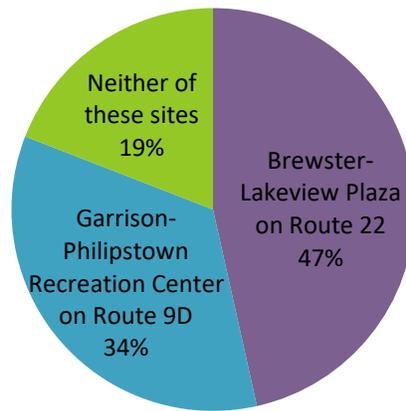


¿Cuáles de los siguientes lugares sería más convenientes para que usted pueda traer a su hijo(s) para recibir la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19?

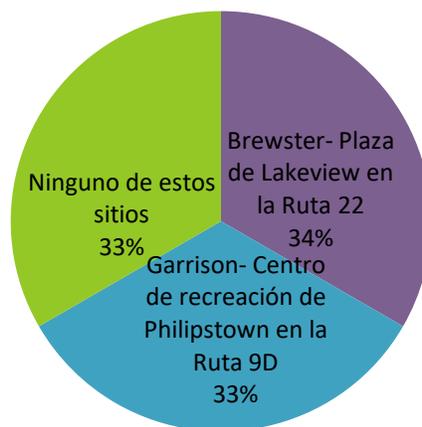


There were a total of 252 responses to this question across both surveys (249 English, 3 Spanish). The highest proportion of respondents (45% or 113/252) stated a preference for a mass vaccination clinic in Putnam County. The second most common preference was for vaccination in the pediatrician’s office (21.4 % or 54/252). Of the four respondents that provided a free text “other” response, two said “anywhere”, and two said “school.”

The Putnam County Department of Health conducts vaccination clinics at two locations in Putnam County. Which site is more convenient for you?

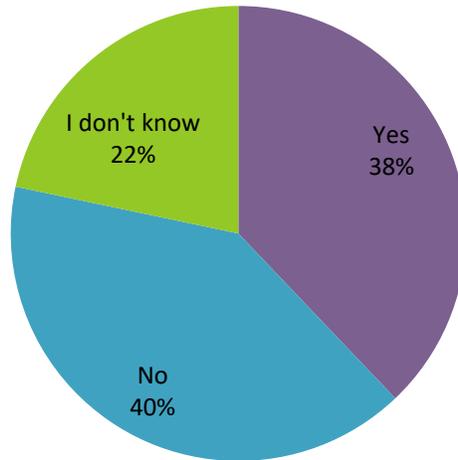


El Departamento de Salud del Condado de Putnam tiene clínicas para la vacuna contra el COVID-19 en 2 lugares en el condado de Putnam. ¿Cuál sitio sería más conveniente para usted?

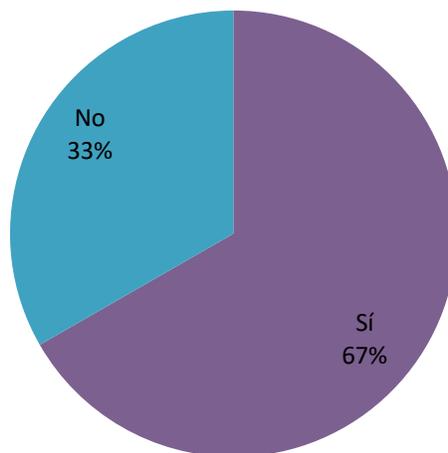


There were a total of 244 responses to this question across both surveys (241 English, 3 Spanish). Over 80% of respondents found one of the two regular PCDOH clinic locations to be convenient.

The Putnam County Department of Health will be holding a COVID-19 vaccination event at 25 Marvin St, Brewster on Tuesday May 18th, from 3:30-7:00pm. Bilingual nurses and support staff will be on-site. Would you bring your child/children to future vaccination clinics at this location?

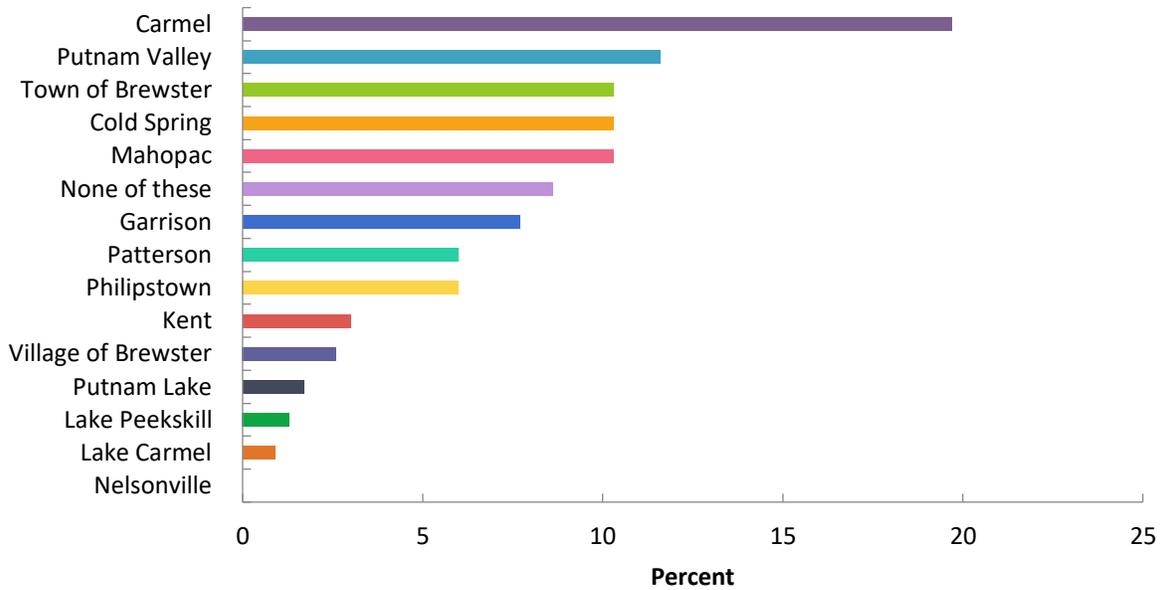


El Departamento de Salud tendrá una clínica para la vacuna contra el COVID-19 en la 25 Marvin St. este Martes 18 de Mayo de 3:30 p.m. hasta las 7:00p.m. Habrá personal que habla español. ¿Si nosotros coordinamos más clínicas, le queda este lugar más conveniente para que usted puede traer a su hijo para recibir la vacuna Pfizer?

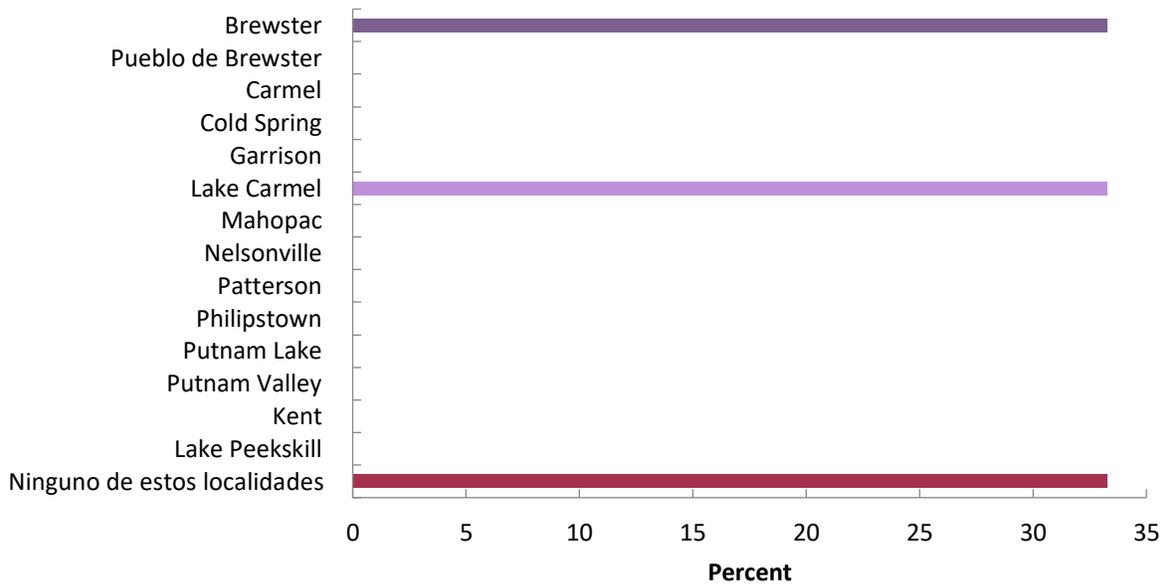


There were a total of 243 responses to this question across both surveys (240 English, 3 Spanish). Approximately 39% of respondents said they would attend a future clinic at that location.

What town would be the most convenient for your child/children to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

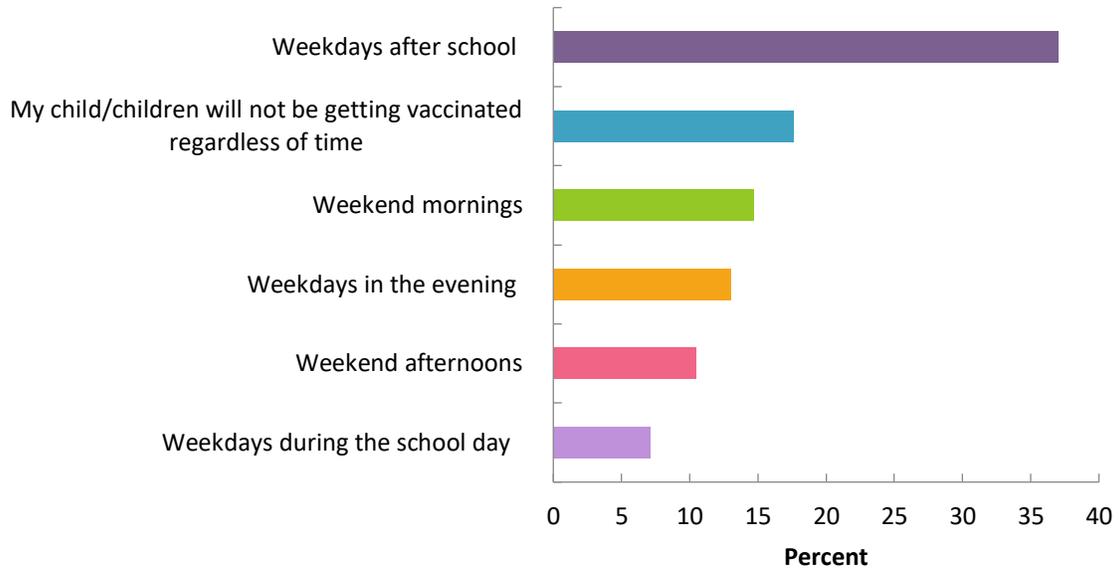


¿Cual localidades en el Condado de Putnam sería más conveniente para que usted pueda traer a su hijo(s) para recibir la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19?

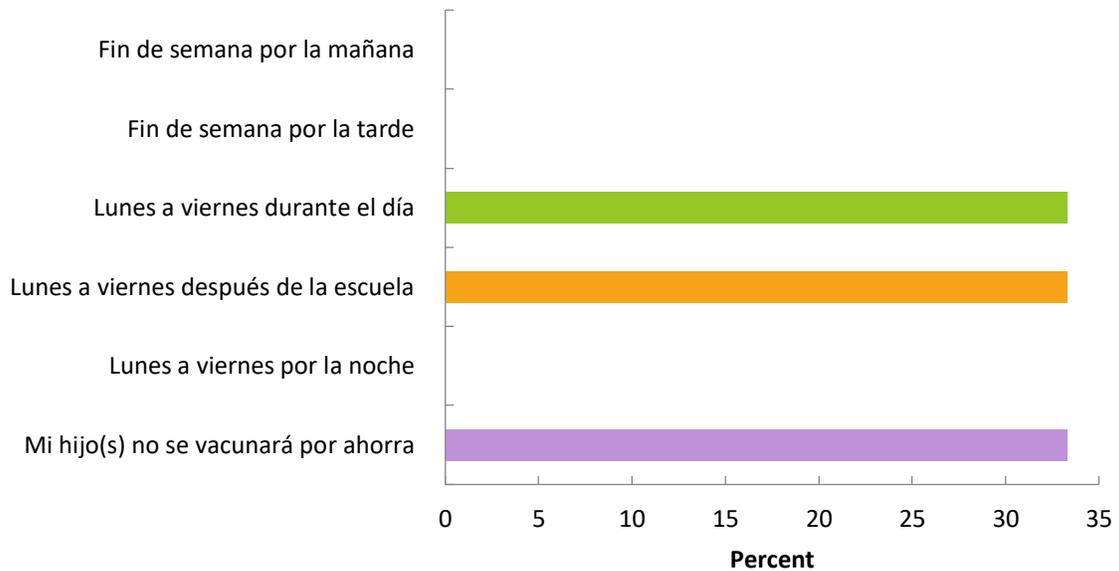


There were a total of 236 responses to this question across both surveys (233 English, 3 Spanish). Locations selected in this question largely mirror respondent zip code demographics.

What days and times would be most convenient for your child/children to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

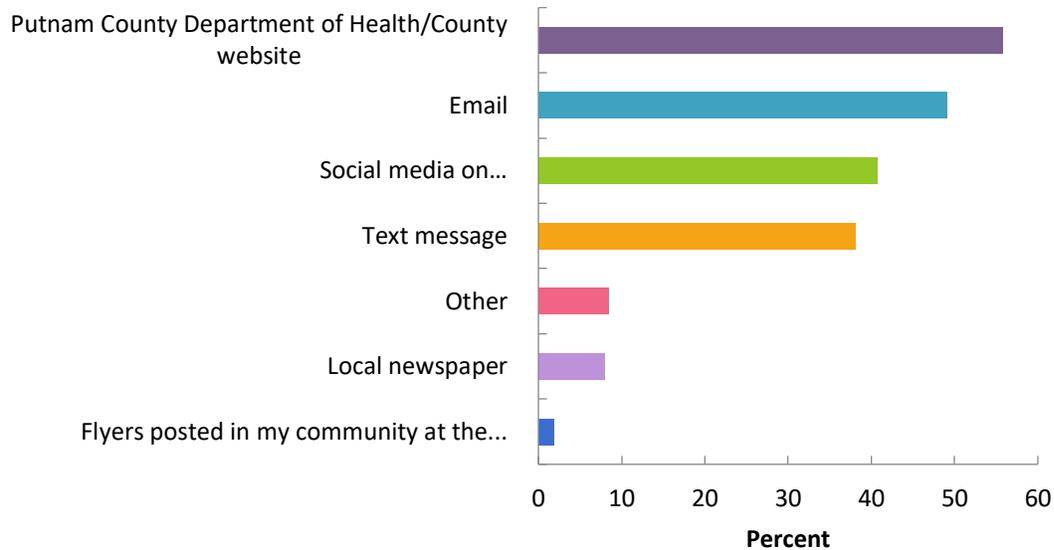


¿Qué días y horarios serían más convenientes para que usted pueda traer a su hijo(s) para recibir la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19?

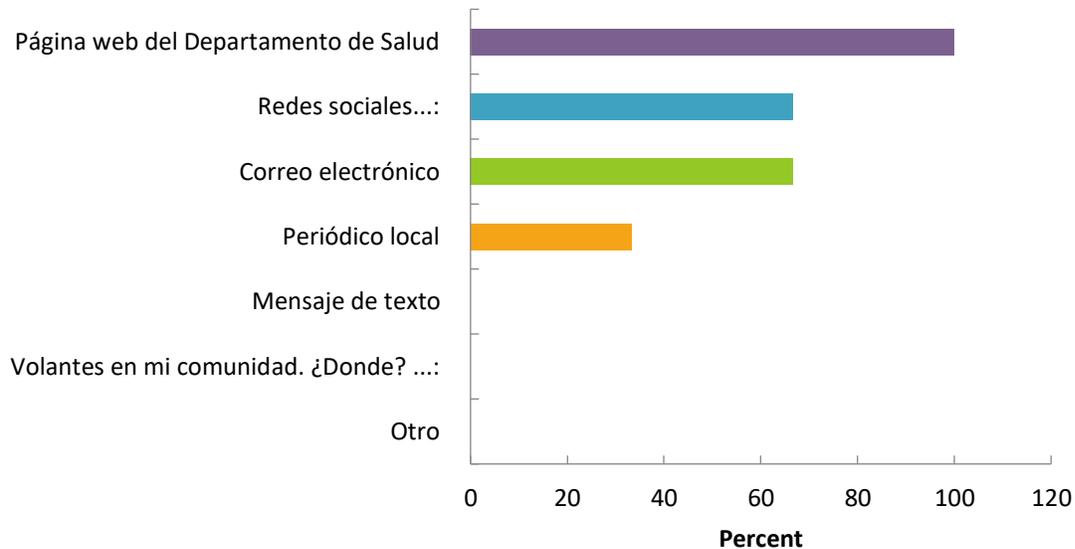


There were a total of 241 responses to this question across both surveys (238 English, 3 Spanish). The highest proportion of respondents (37% or 89/241) stated a preference for afternoons after school. Amongst those planning to have their children vaccinated, the second most common preference was for clinic time was weekend mornings (14.7% or 42/241).

How would you like to find out about opportunities for your child/children to get vaccinated for COVID-19? (check all that apply)



¿Cómo le gustaría saber sobre las clínicas que tenemos para que su hijo(s) se vacune con la vacuna Pfizer contra el COVID-19? (marque todas las que correspondan)



There were a total of 229 respondents to this question across both surveys (226 English, 3 Spanish). The highest proportion of respondents (57% or 129/226) liked getting information on the PCDOH website. Email (50%), social media (42%), and text message (38%) were also common preferences. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter were listed as preferred social media platforms. Two respondents wrote in that they wanted to get information about vaccine from their pediatrician’s office.

## Discussion

The results of the survey show that at the time it was administered, the majority of respondents were interested in having their teenage children vaccinated for COVID-19. Higher rates of unwillingness to vaccinate teens was seen in the Mahopac 10541 & the Putnam Valley 10579 zip codes, as well as in non-white respondents. These results may be predictive of lower vaccination rates in teenagers in these groups. Higher rates of uncertainty in vaccinating teens was seen in Brewster 10509, Mahopac 10541 and Patterson 12563 zip codes as well as in Hispanic respondents. These groups would benefit from targeted outreach and education to address concerns regarding vaccination of teens.

Respondents reluctant to vaccinate teens cited concern about vaccine safety and side effects in nearly equal measure, and also commonly described concern over unknown future negative consequences of vaccination in children. These reasons for hesitancy may be overcome with guidance from trusted sources of medical information such as pediatricians or family practitioners. Putnam County vaccine providers should be prepared to address a wide variety of concerns with their patients as well as hesitancy based in mistrust of government and in misinformation.

The most preferred locations and times for receiving vaccines were after school PCDOH vaccination clinics. From May 13 through June 1st the PCDOH held twice weekly Pfizer vaccine clinics during after school hours. Though these clinics have concluded, the need will be re-evaluated should vaccine eligibility be extended to children less than 12 years of age. As vaccine availability has increased and PCDOH begins to wind down its vaccination operations, the participation of county health care providers in the New York State COVID-19 vaccination program will be key to maintaining uptake of vaccine in Putnam County teenagers.

Finally, survey results indicate that Putnam County vaccination providers should continue to use multiple modalities to communicate vaccination information to the population at large.

There are limitations that should be considered in the interpretation of this survey:

- As there was no incentive provided for survey participation, there is likely a strong response bias towards individuals with strong feelings about COVID-19 vaccination. The survey may have failed to capture parents who do not have strong feelings, or have not considered, vaccination in their teens.
- The survey is not demographically representative of the Putnam County Population as a whole. Over-represented groups include residents of zip codes on the western side of the county which have higher overall vaccination rates than eastern county zip codes. Survey data could be skewed toward residents with greater support for vaccination. Persons of color were relatively under represented, and so opinions in these groups related to vaccination of teens may not be fully illustrated by the survey results.