



**Connecticut Statewide Survey
Public opinion toward only allowing medical exemptions
for vaccination requirements in Connecticut schools and daycares**

July 2020

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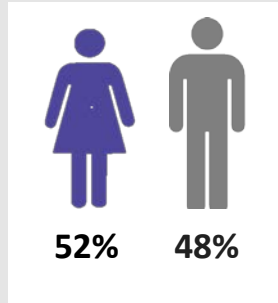
The Next Generation of Every Child By Two

Methodology

- Lake Research Partners was hired by Vaccinate Your Family to design and administer this survey which was conducted online from June 9 – 16, 2020. The survey reached a total of 600 adults in Connecticut and oversamples of 75 African American and 100 Latinx adults. The sample of respondents was drawn from an online panel.
- The base sample was weighted by gender, region, age, race, party identification, and race by gender. The African American oversample was weighted by gender, age, and party identification. The Latinx oversample was weighted by gender, region, age, and party identification. The oversamples were weighted down into the base to reflect their proportion of the overall population. The base and the oversamples were weighted to reflect their actual proportion of the Connecticut statewide population.
- The margin of error for the base is +/-4.0%. The margin of error for the oversamples and subgroups is higher.

Demographics of Adults in Connecticut


GENDER



AGE

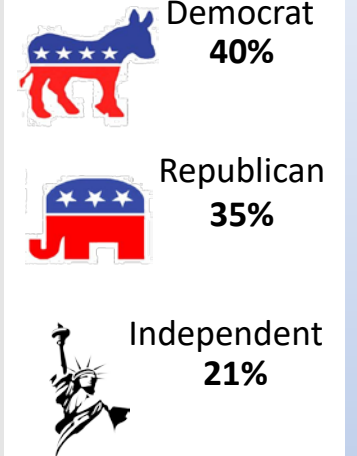
Under 30	21%
30-39	15%
40-49	16%
50-64	28%
65+	19%

EDUCATION



High School or Less	23%
Post-H.S. / Some College	39%
College Graduate	22%
Post-Graduate	15%
37% College Grad or Post Grad	

PARTY IDENTIFICATION



RACE

White/Caucasian	71%
Black/AA	10%
Hispanic/Latinx	13%
Asian/PI	4%
Native American	2%
None/other	1%

REGION

Fairfield	25%
Hartford	25%
New Haven	24%
Rest of state*	25%

INCOME

Above \$51,500	57%
Below \$51,500	40%
Above 200% FPL	69%
Below 200% FPL	24%

MARITAL STATUS

Married	42%
Unmarried	57%

RELIGION

All Christian	68%
Protestant	12%
Catholic	38%
Christian	18%
Jewish	4%
Muslim	1%
Other	4%
None	20%

RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE

Often	24%
Sometimes	18%
Never	44%

* "Rest of state" throughout the report is defined as those who reside in the following counties: Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham.



Key Findings

A solid majority of Connecticut adults support a bill that would only allow parents to opt their children out of school and daycare vaccination requirements for medical reasons, while about a quarter oppose.

The Connecticut State Legislature is considering a bill before the Connecticut House of Representatives that would **ONLY** allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons.

Do you support or oppose this bill?

Most likely to strongly support

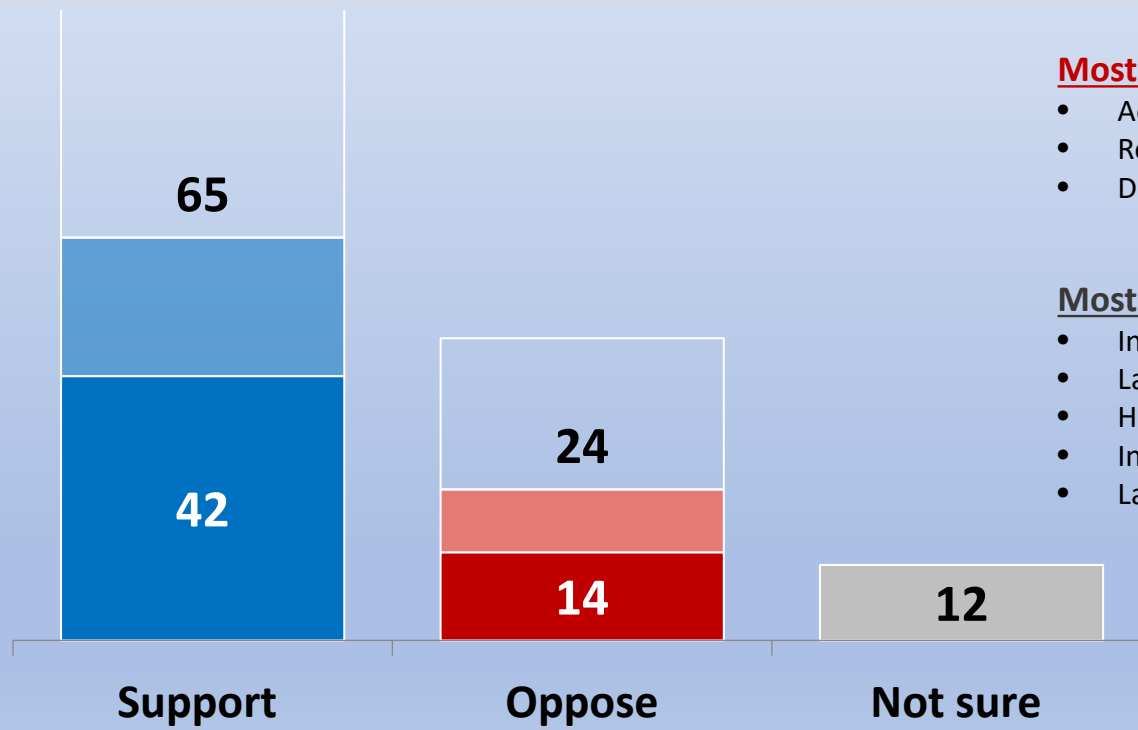
- Parents of high school students – 62%
- Parents of children K-5 – 56%
- Parents whose youngest child is 14-18 – 56%^
- Adults ages 30-39 – 52%
- Protestants – 53%
- Democratic men – 53%
- Strong Democrats – 53%
- Young Democrats – 52%

Most likely to strongly oppose

- Adults 65+ – 23%
- Republicans 50+ – 23%
- Divorced adults – 22%

Most likely to be unsure

- Independent < 50 – 25%
- Latina women – 25%
- H.S./less – 21%
- Independent women – 20%
- Latinx non-college – 20%

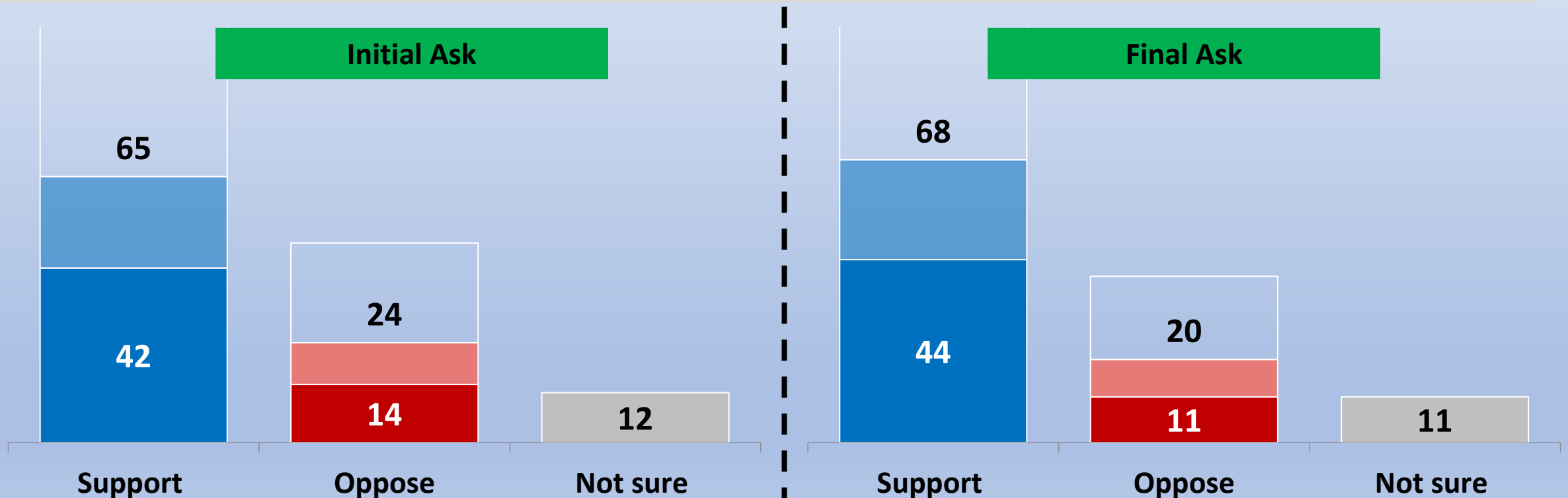


Not so strongly support	Not so strongly oppose
Strongly support	Strongly oppose

Throughout the course of the survey, the bill being considered by the Connecticut House of Representatives that would only allow parents to exempt their children from required vaccines for medical reasons maintains solid support.

The Connecticut State Legislature is considering a bill before the Connecticut House of Representatives that would ONLY allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons.

Do you support or oppose this bill?



Not so strongly support

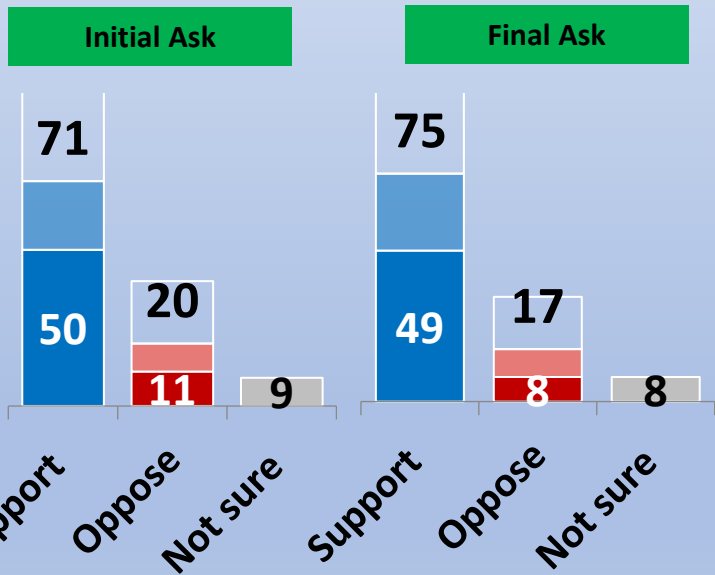
Strongly support

Not so strongly oppose

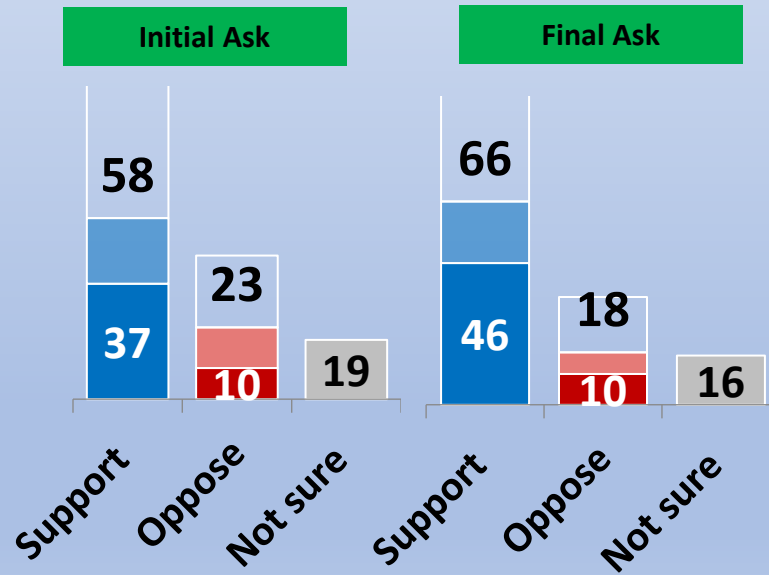
Strongly oppose

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 Do you support or oppose this bill?

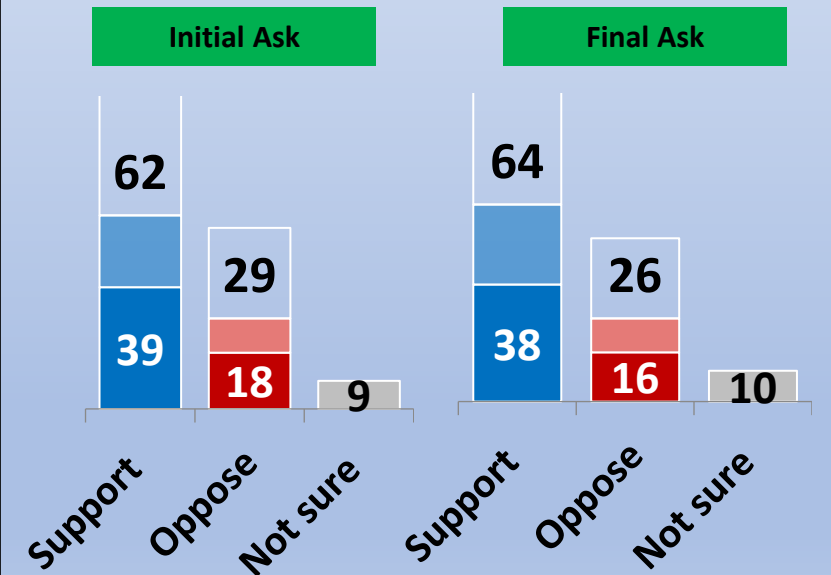
Democrats



Independents



Republicans



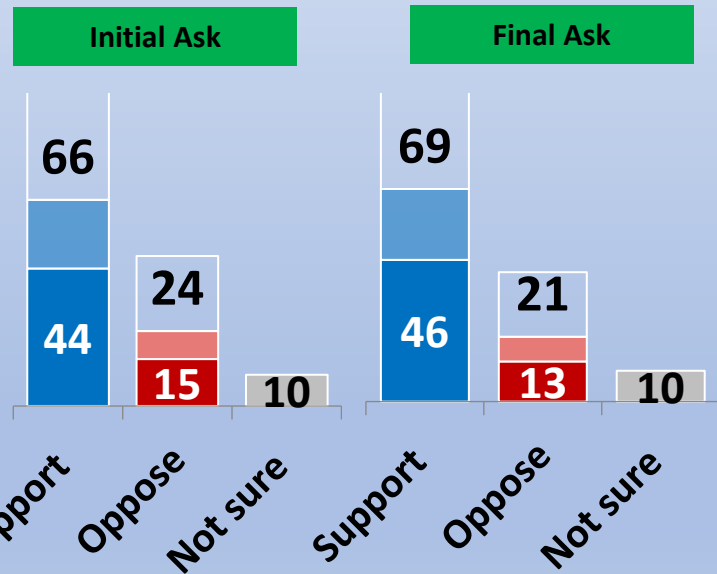
Not so strongly support	Not so strongly oppose
Strongly support	Strongly oppose

A solid majority of adults across race support the medical exemption bill on the initial and final ask. The bill gains support from Latinx adults after they hear vaccine messages and value statements.

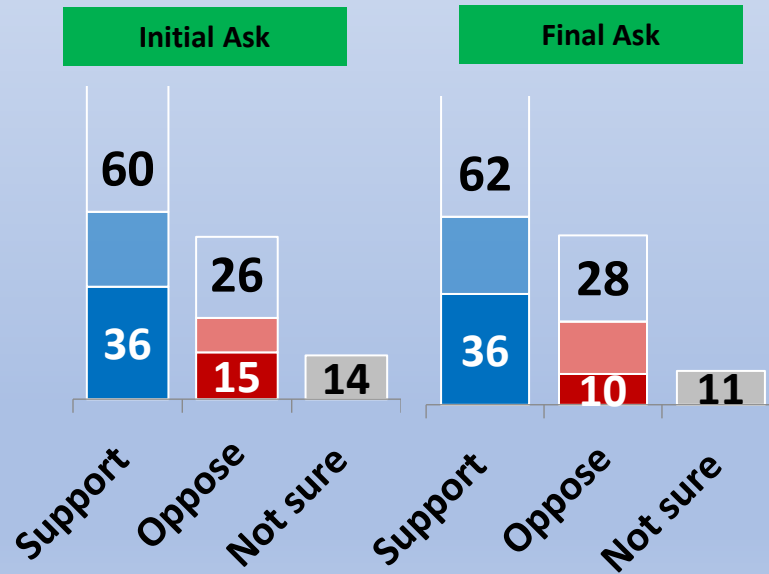
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Do you support or oppose this bill?

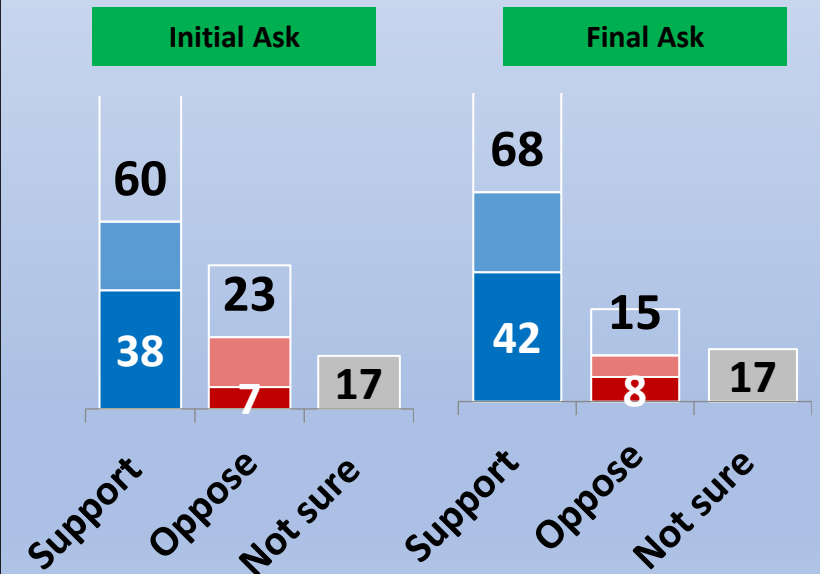
White



African American



Latinx



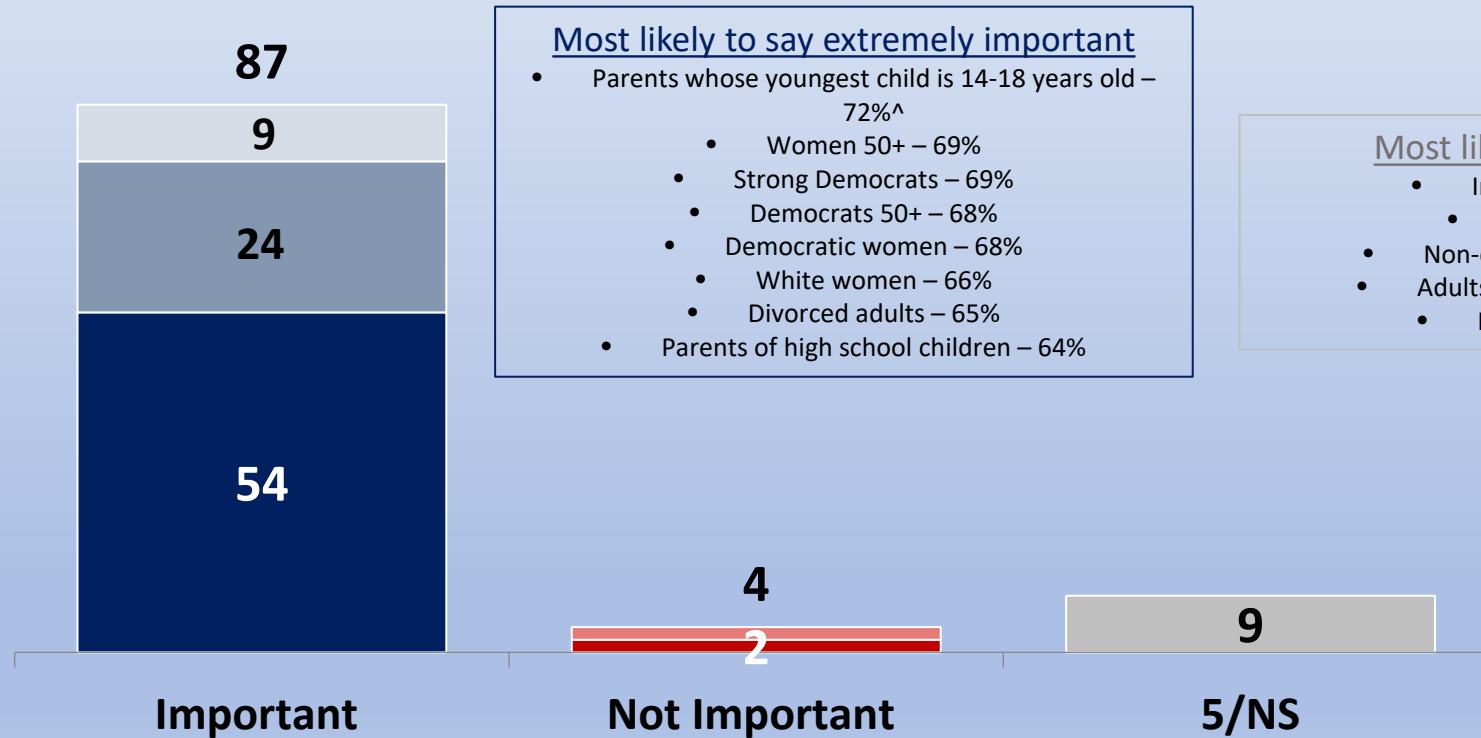
Not so strongly support	Not so strongly oppose
Strongly support	Strongly oppose



Lay of the Land

Adults overwhelmingly believe vaccines are important to protecting people from diseases. Subgroups of parents with older children, women, and Democrats are most likely to say vaccines are extremely important. Independents and people of color are most likely to be unsure or indifferent, but still across groups people see this as important.

Now for something slightly different. On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not important at all and 10 is extremely important, how important are vaccines to protecting people from diseases?



- Most likely to say extremely important
- Parents whose youngest child is 14-18 years old – 72%^
 - Women 50+ – 69%
 - Strong Democrats – 69%
 - Democrats 50+ – 68%
 - Democratic women – 68%
 - White women – 66%
 - Divorced adults – 65%
 - Parents of high school children – 64%

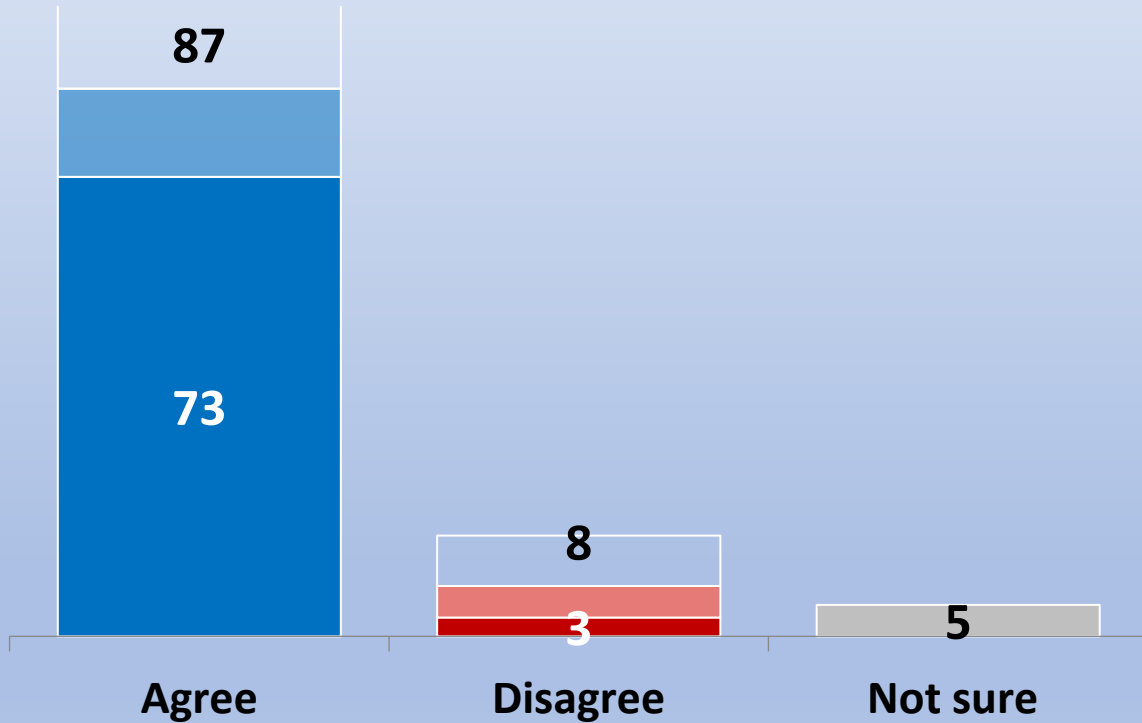
- Most likely to say 5/not sure
- Independent men – 21%^
 - Men of color – 18%
 - Non-college people of color – 17%
 - Adults not registered to vote – 17%
 - Independents <50 – 15%

6-7		
8-9	1-4	
10 – extremely important	0 – not important at all	

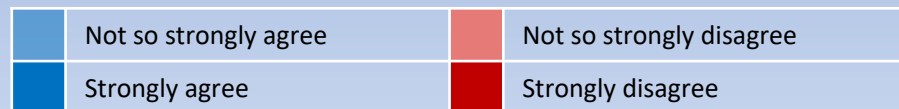
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Nearly nine-in-ten adults agree that children should be required to receive vaccines, with nearly three-quarters in strong agreement. There is strong agreement across subgroups.

Do you agree or disagree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines against diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, polio, and meningitis in order to be enrolled in schools and daycares?

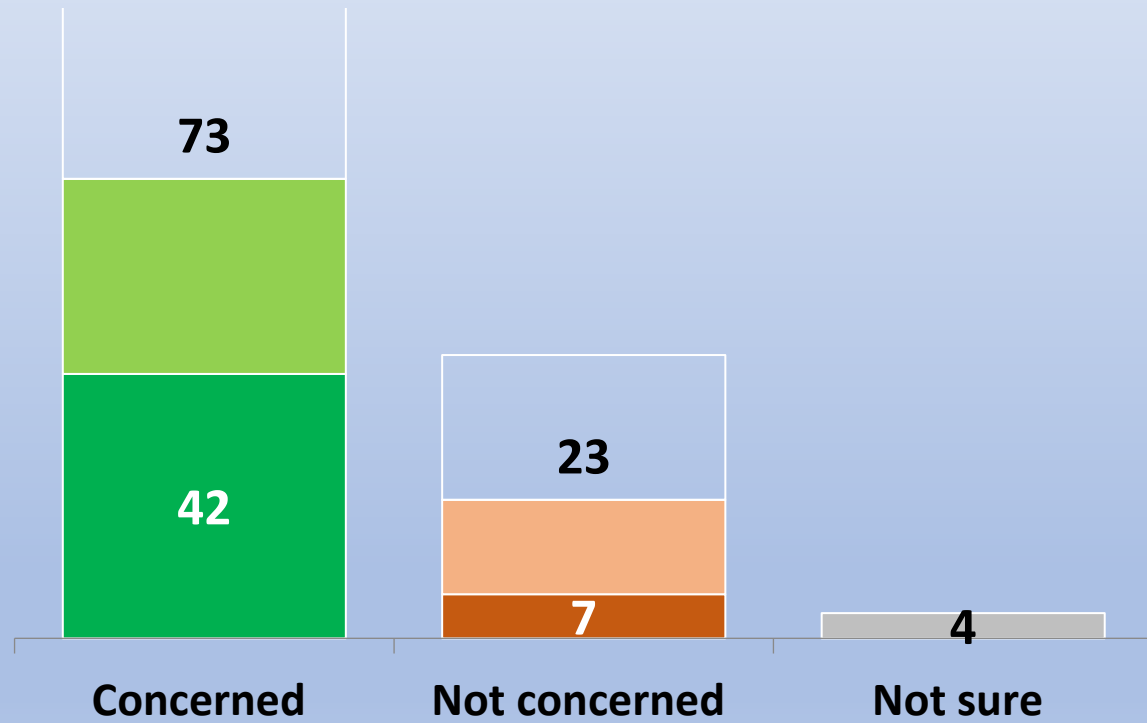


	Strongly agree	Total agree
Men	65	84
Women	80	90
Under 30	65	85
Under 50	70	88
Over 50	77	87
Democrat ID	81	93
Independent ID	68	82
Republican ID	68	85
Fairfield	74	86
Hartford	72	88
New Haven	76	89
Rest of state	71	86
White	80	90
African American	62	80
Latinx	60	84
Non-college	71	86
College	78	89
Parent of school-age children	76	90
Non-parent	73	87
<\$51,500	74	89
>\$51,500	74	87

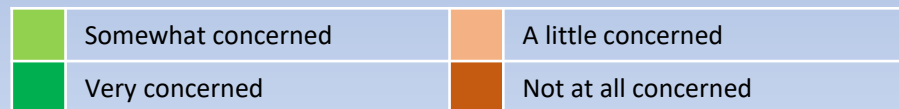


Adults overall are concerned that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases. Residents of New Haven and Democrats are especially concerned. Men, adults under 30, Republicans, African Americans, and parents are slightly more likely than adults overall to not be concerned, although a plurality of these groups are still very concerned.

How concerned are you that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough, polio, and meningitis - very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not at all concerned?



	Very concerned	Total concerned	Not concerned
Men	36	68	28
Women	48	78	18
Under 30	35	68	28
Under 50	38	70	26
Over 50	47	77	19
Democrat ID	48	82	16
Independent ID	44	73	22
Republican ID	36	67	30
Fairfield	44	73	22
Hartford	35	71	24
New Haven	52	79	19
Rest of state	36	70	25
White	43	75	22
African American	46	69	28
Latinx	41	76	16
Non-college	42	73	22
College	43	74	23
Parent of school-age children	45	71	28
Non-parent	41	75	20
<\$51,500	43	74	22
>\$51,500	42	73	24



Parents with older children are more likely to see vaccines as very important to protecting the different age groups. Married adults are more likely than non-married adults to believe vaccines are very important for older age groups. Those who only sometimes or never attend religious services are more likely to find vaccines very important, and Protestants tend to be the religious group that is most supportive.

For each of the following groups, how important are vaccines to protect each age group from serious and life-threatening diseases -- very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

% Very important	All	Parent**		Grade Level of Children			Income				Marital Status		Religious Attendance			Religion			
		Y	N	K-5	6-8^	9-12	< \$51,500	> \$51,500	<200% FPL	>200% FPL	Mar.	Unmar.	Often	Some times	Never	Protest ant	Catholic	Christian	None
Young children	73	79	72	73	76	87	72	75	75	74	77	72	67	75	78	83	74	70	73
Infants	72	78	71	71	73	81	72	74	77	72	77	71	66	74	77	79	73	68	76
Pregnant women	60	64	60	61	77	66	60	62	66	59	63	59	56	68	59	67	58	60	61
Pre-teens and teens	60	62	60	57	59	68	57	63	58	62	66	57	59	54	62	59	58	61	62
College students	58	57	58	49	63	67	56	60	60	58	63	55	55	61	57	63	59	56	55
Adults	53	52	54	41	64	61	51	56	53	54	60	49	50	53	55	59	54	54	53

**this consists of parents of school-age children and those who respond no, they do not have children under the age of 19 living at home with them.

^n size <75

Summary of Key Findings – Lay of the Land

- **Connecticut adults overwhelmingly believe vaccines are important to protecting people from diseases –**
 - **87% say they are important (rate between 6-10 on a 10-point scale), 54% say they are extremely important (rate 10 on a 10-point scale).**
- **Nearly nine-in-ten adults agree (87% total agree, 73% strongly agree) that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines in order to be enrolled in schools and daycares.** There is strong agreement across demographic subgroups.
- **Adults are also concerned that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases –**
 - **73% concerned & 42% very concerned**
- **Adults in Connecticut believe vaccines are important to protect all age groups from serious and life-threatening diseases.** They are most likely to say vaccines are important to protect young children (73% very important, 89% important) and infants (72% very important, 86% important).
 - **Adults across subgroups believe vaccines are very important to protecting people, especially for younger age groups.**



Views on the Proposed Bill to remove non-medical vaccine exemptions

Summary of Key Findings – Views on the Proposed Bill

- More than half of adults (54%) believe medical reasons permit parents to opt their children out of vaccine requirements.
- 30% of adults say there should be no reason to opt out and
- Only 21% say that exemptions should be permitted because of religious reasons.
- Just over one quarter of adults (27%) have heard of the bill before the Connecticut State Legislature that would *only* allow medical exemptions to vaccination requirements. **Nearly three quarters have not heard of the bill or are unsure** (46% have not heard and 27% are unsure/don't remember).
- **Pluralities to majorities across demographics agree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines and support the proposed bill.**

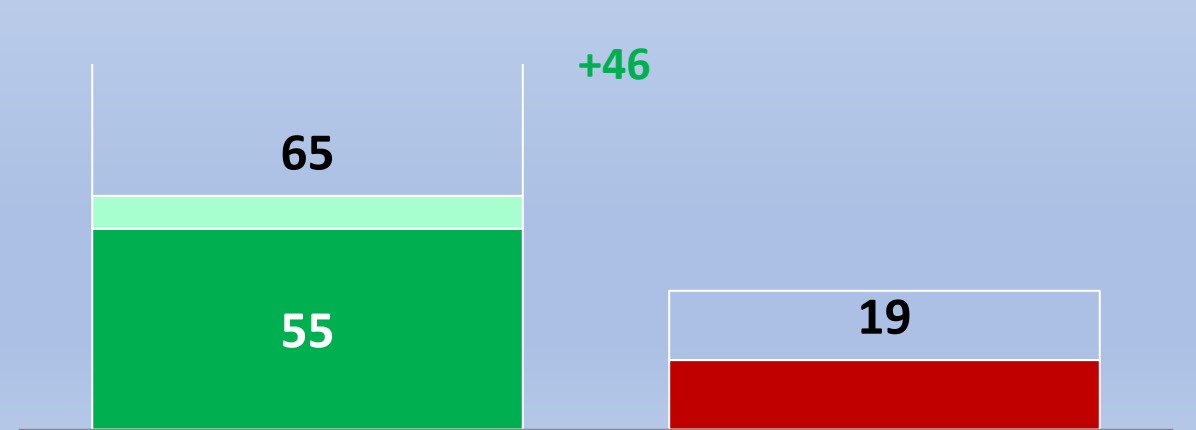
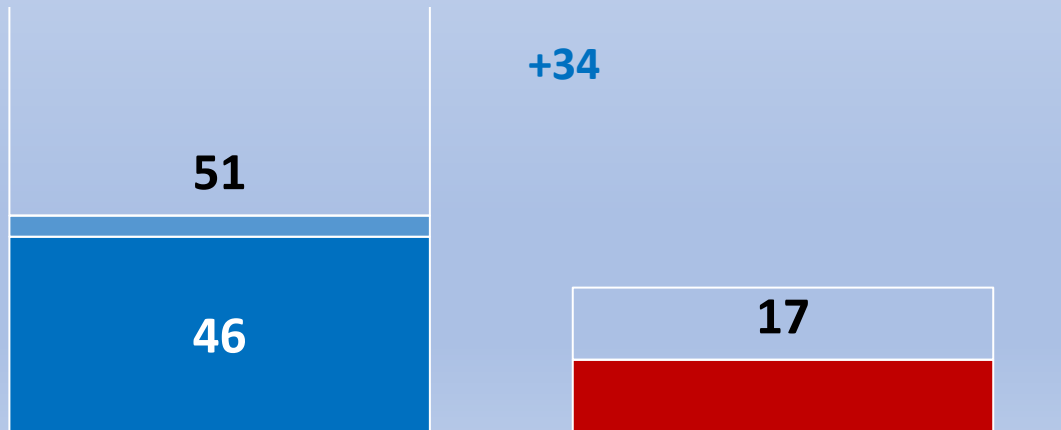
The issue of requiring vaccinations for children to attend schools and daycare is not a competitive debate in Connecticut. Requirements win by large margins when testing statements that highlight children’s rights to be safe in daycare and school and the importance of keeping vaccination rates high to prevent an outbreak against an opposition statement that highlights parent’s rights and religious freedom. However, preventing an outbreak wins by a large margin and has greater intensity.

Which statement is closer to your opinion?*

Parents have a right to decide whether or not their children are vaccinated, and medical reasons cannot be the only allowed reason. Parents should also be able to exempt their children from daycare and school vaccination requirements because of their personal or religious beliefs. Parents should not be forced to choose between compromising their personal or religious beliefs and ensuring their children receive a quality education. By only allowing medical exemptions to school requirements, the state is taking away a child's right to be educated.

[Children’s rights] All children have a right to be safe in daycare or school and this includes not being exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. It is well-known and supported by leading health organizations and medical experts that vaccinations are the best way to prevent children from coming in contact with or spreading diseases to others. Parents in Connecticut have a responsibility to get their children vaccinated - not only to protect their own children, but also to protect other people in their communities through “community immunity.”

[Prevent an outbreak] The more children that get vaccinated in our community, the less likely other people are going to get or spread vaccine-preventable diseases. By requiring parents to vaccinate their children before they can attend school and daycares, communities can help to prevent life-threatening vaccine-preventable diseases. We should be taking steps now to prevent the spread of diseases instead of waiting for an outbreak to occur and being forced to respond when the disease is already spreading in our schools and/or community.



+34

+46

Children’s rights, not so strong

Prevent an outbreak, not so strong

Children’s rights, strong

Prevent an outbreak, strong

*split sampled question



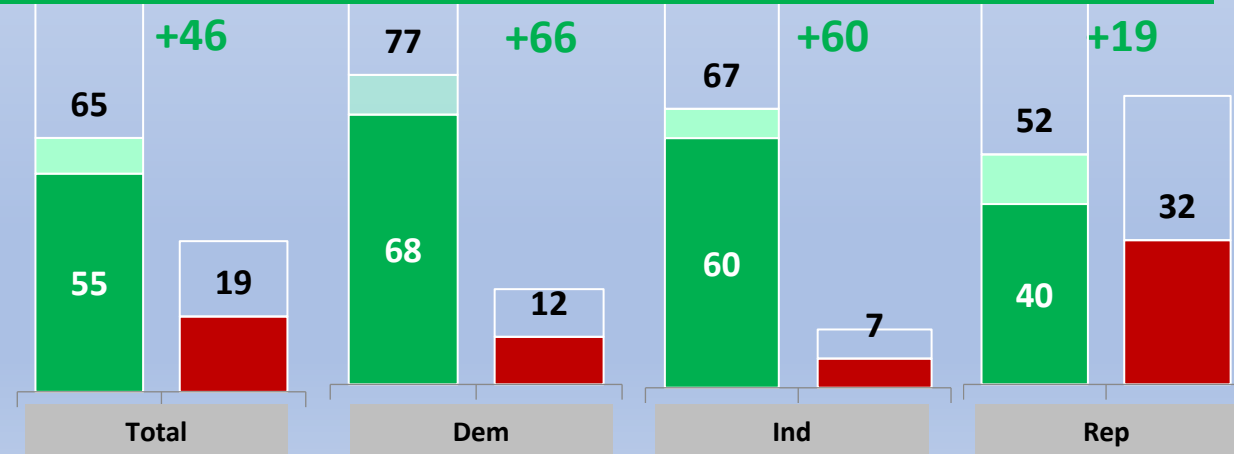
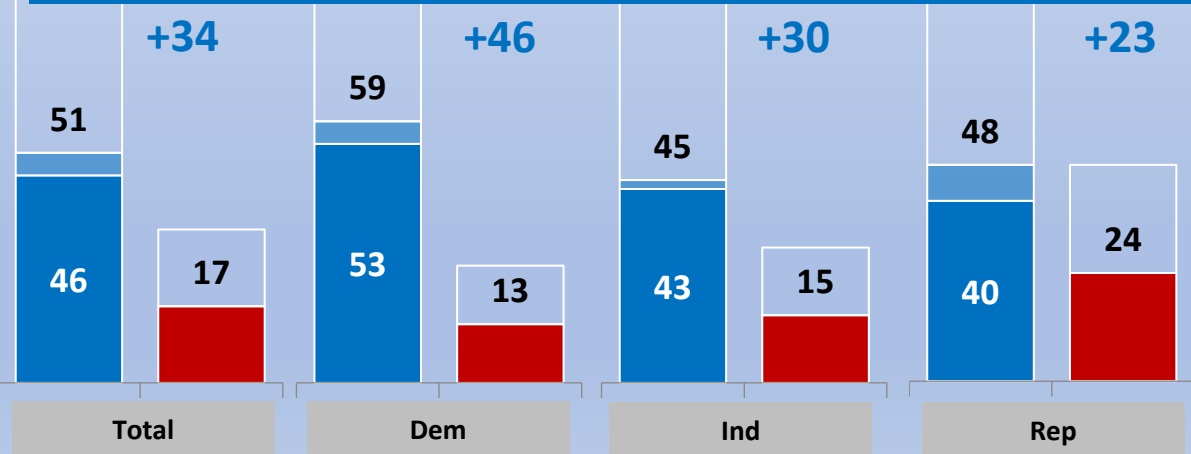
Statements that prioritize children's rights and preventing an outbreak test significantly stronger across party than the opposition statement. The statement that prioritizes preventing an outbreak tests the best, especially among Democrats and Independents.

Which statement is closer to your opinion?*

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Children's rights, not so strong	Prevent an outbreak, not so strong
Children's rights, strong	Prevent an outbreak, strong

*split sampled question



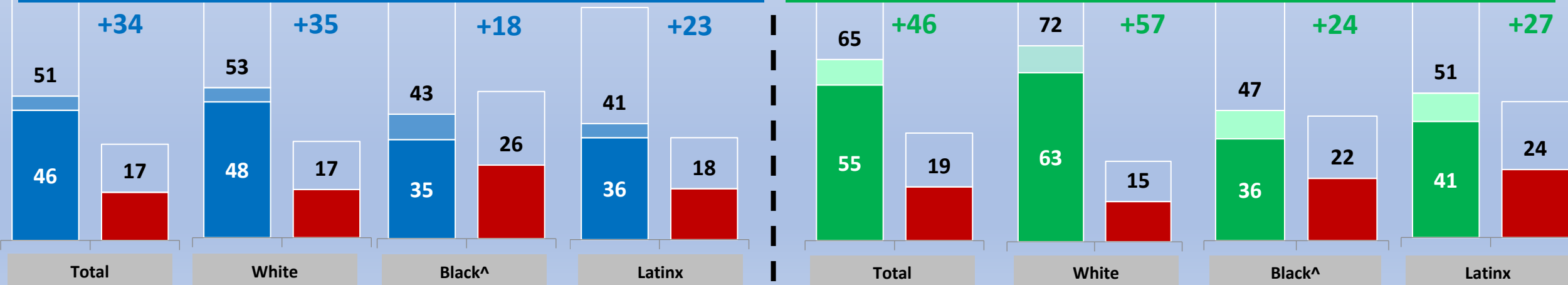
Requirements for vaccines win across race, although intensity is weaker among people of color. Preventing an outbreak is a core value among white adults.

Which statement is closer to your opinion?*

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Children's rights, not so strong	Prevent an outbreak, not so strong
Children's rights, strong	Prevent an outbreak, strong

*split sampled question; ^small N size



Summary of Key Findings – African Americans

- Six-in-ten African Americans support the bill before the Connecticut State Legislature that would only allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons (36% strongly support).
- Eight-in-ten (81%) African Americans in Connecticut believe vaccines are important to protecting people from diseases (51% rate vaccines as 10 – extremely important).
- Eight-in-ten (80%) also agree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines in order to be enrolled in schools (62% strongly agree). African Americans are concerned (69%) that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases (46% very concerned).
- African Americans are most likely to support medical exemptions (61%) as reasons for parents to opt their children out of vaccines. However, a third (33%) support religious exemptions, which is 12-points more than adults overall.

Summary of Key Findings – Latinx Adults

- Six-in-ten Latinx adults support the bill before the Connecticut State Legislature that would only allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons (38% strongly support).
- More than eight-in-ten (83%) Latinx adults in Connecticut believe vaccines are important to protecting people from diseases
- More than eight-in-ten (84%) also agree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines in order to be enrolled in schools (60% strongly agree). Latinx adults are concerned (76%) that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases (41% very concerned).
- Latinx adults are most likely to support medical exemptions (59%) as reasons for parents to opt their children out of vaccines. Twenty-seven percent support religious exemptions, which is 6-points more than adults overall.

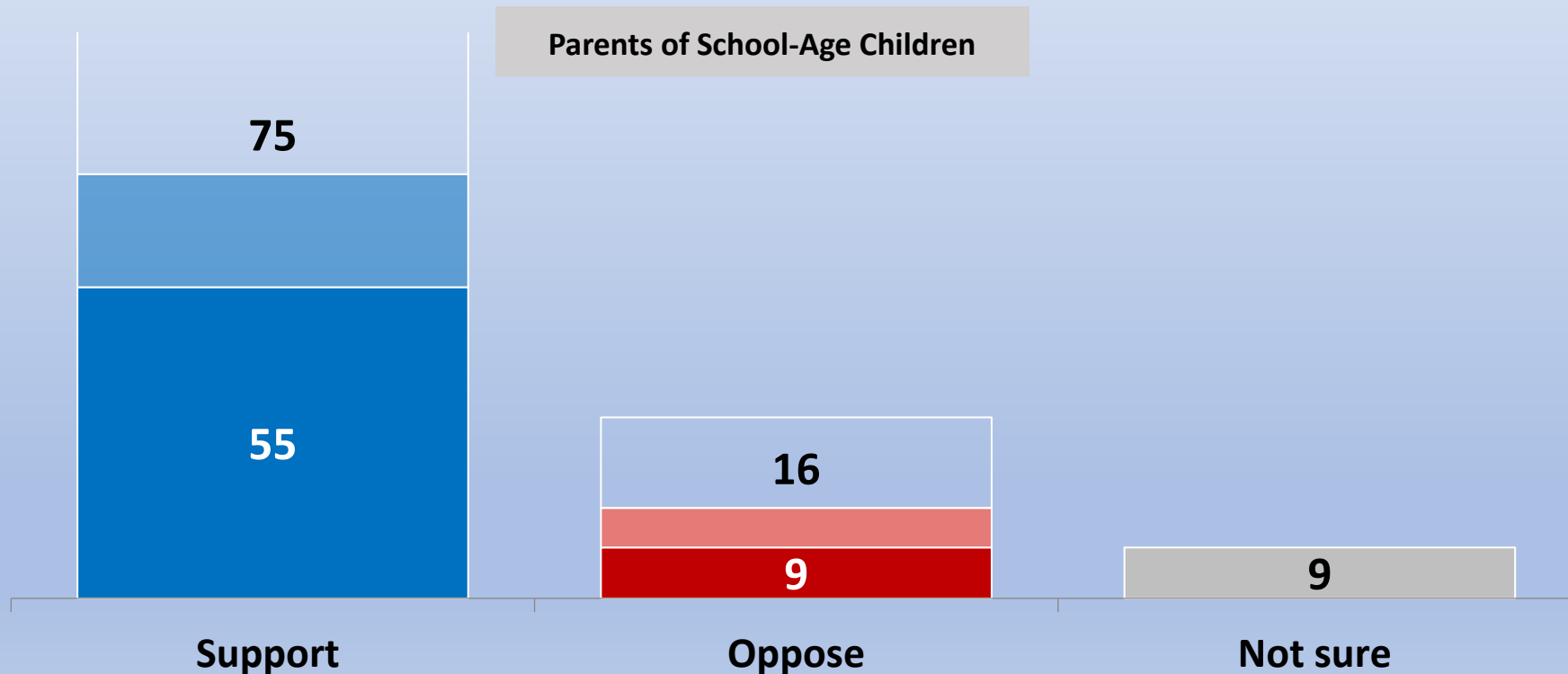
Summary of Key Findings – Parents of School-Age Children

- Three-quarters (75%) of parents support the bill before the Connecticut State Legislature that would only allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons (55% strongly support).
- Parents of school-age children are a base of support for requiring vaccines in schools and only allowing medical exemptions.
- More than nine-in-ten (93%) parents in Connecticut believe vaccines are important to protecting people from diseases (60% rate vaccines as 10 – extremely important).
- Nine-in-ten (90%) also agree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines in order to be enrolled in schools (76% strongly agree). Parents are concerned (71%) that children in Connecticut schools may be exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases (45% very concerned).
- Parents are most likely to support medical exemptions (54%) as reasons for parents to opt their children out of vaccines.
- Only 18% of Parents support religious exemptions.

Parents of school-aged children are strong supporters of the medical exemption bill, with three-quarters supporting the bill on both asks.

The Connecticut State Legislature is considering a bill before the Connecticut House of Representatives that would ONLY allow parents to opt their children out of daycare and school vaccine requirements for medical reasons.

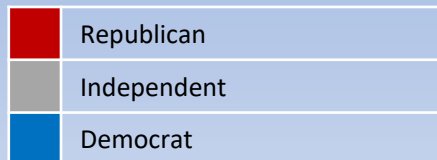
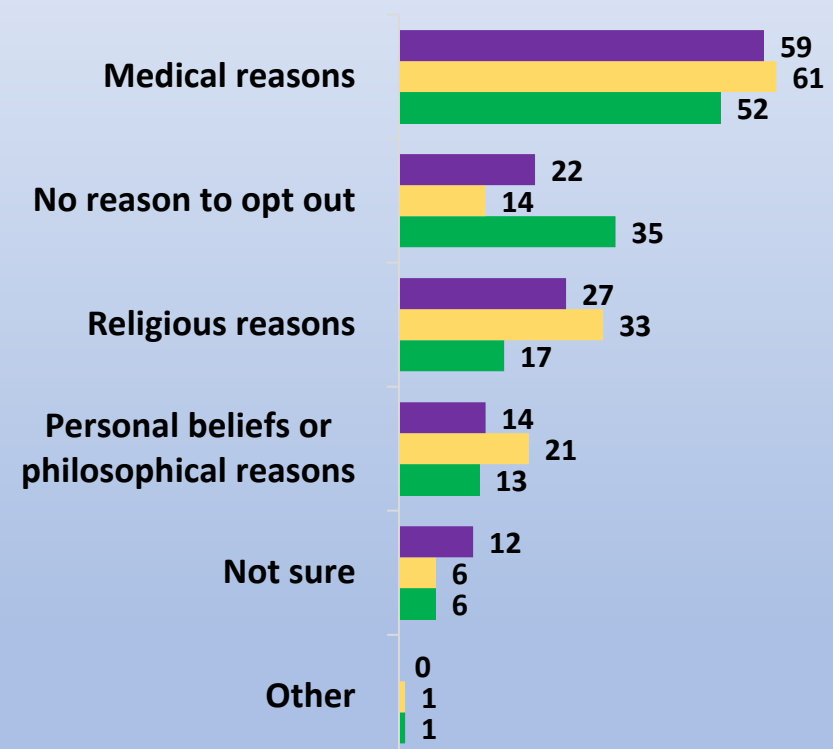
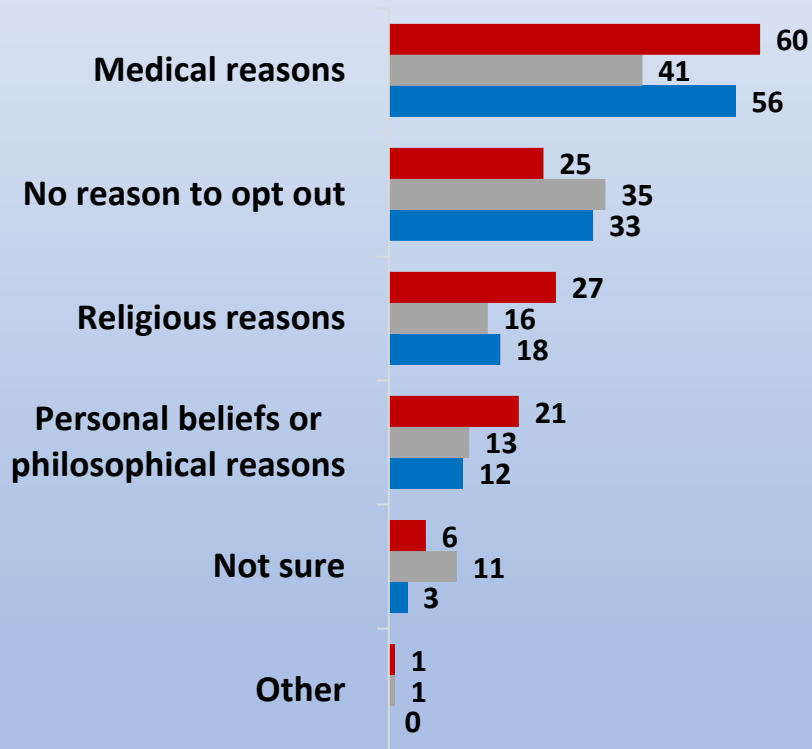
Do you support or oppose this bill?



Not so strongly support	Not so strongly oppose
Strongly support	Strongly oppose

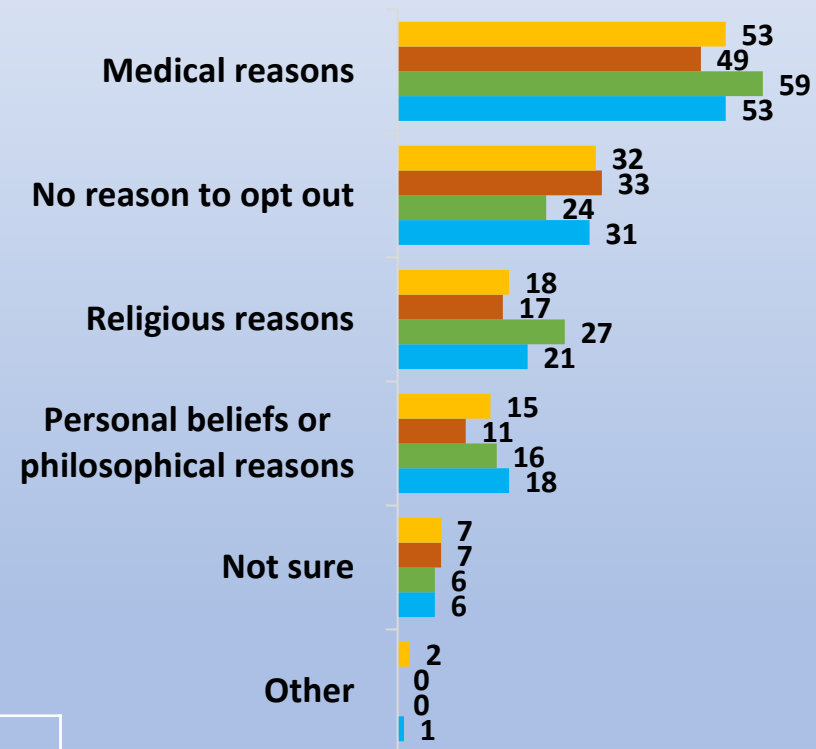
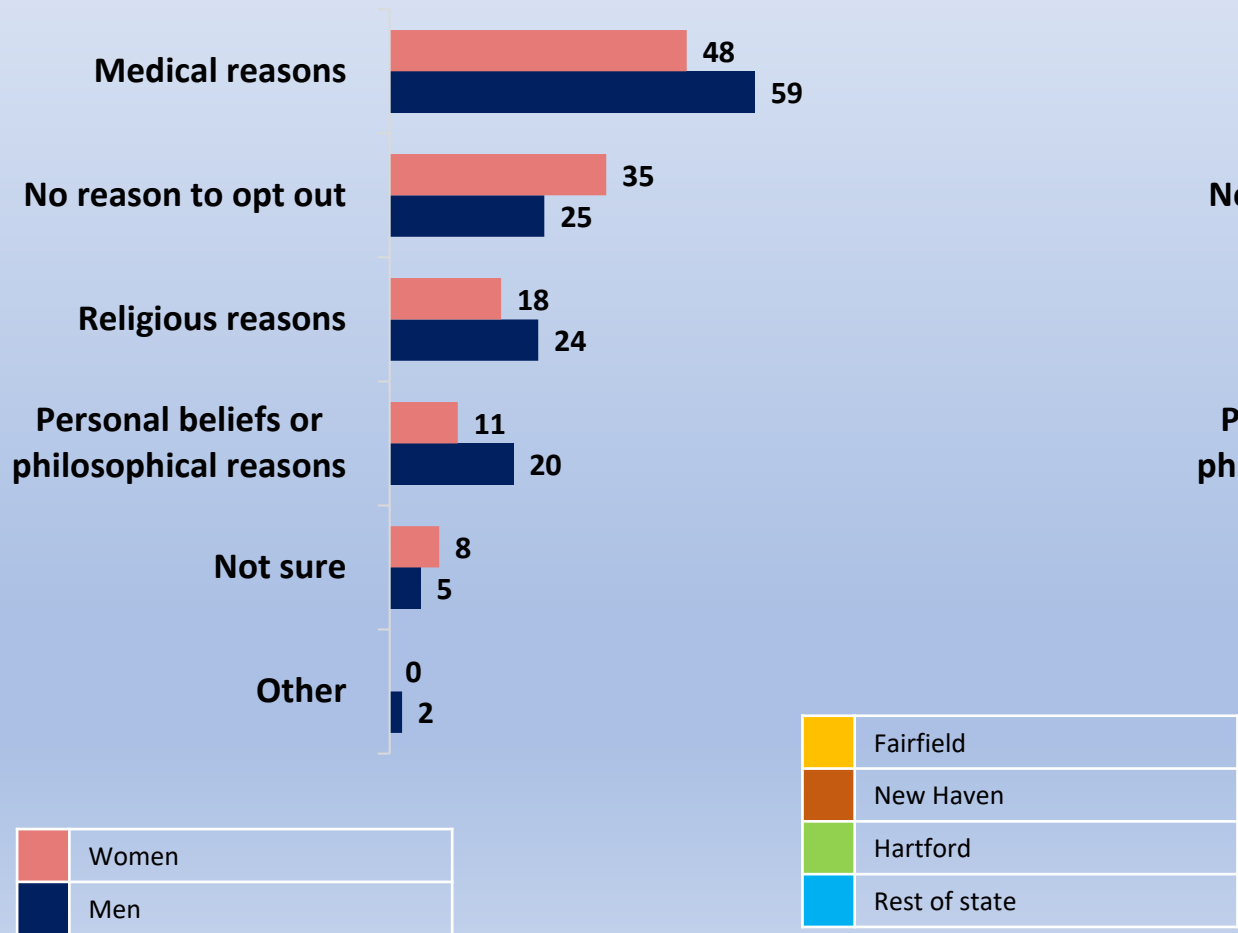
There are similar trends across party, although Republicans and Democrats are more likely than Independents to support medical exemptions. Adults across race also support medical exemptions, but African American and Latinx adults are more likely than white adults to support religious exemptions.

In your opinion, which of the following are reasons a parent should be able to "opt-out" of the daycare and school requirement of vaccinating their children?



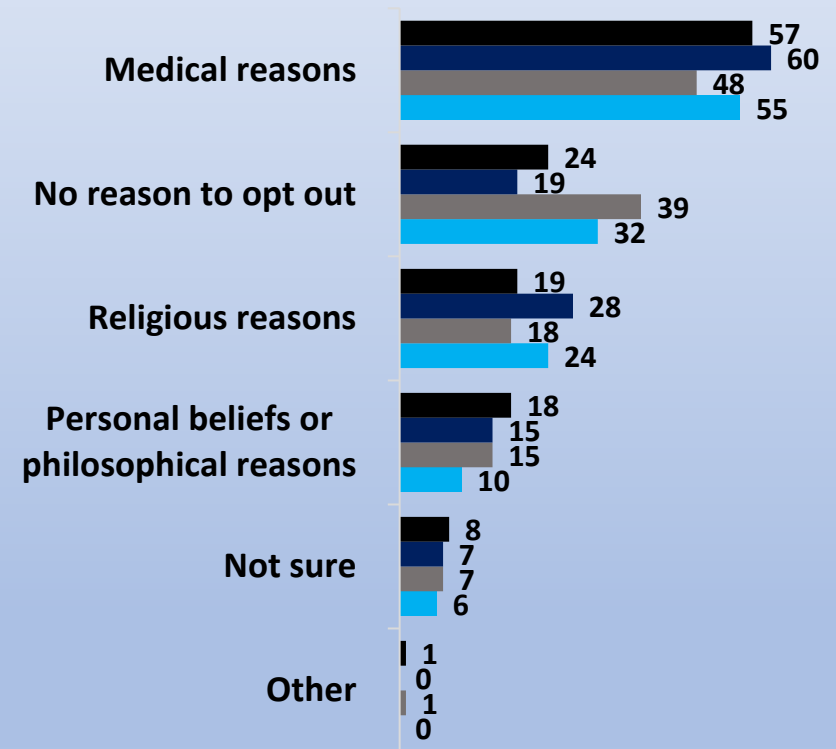
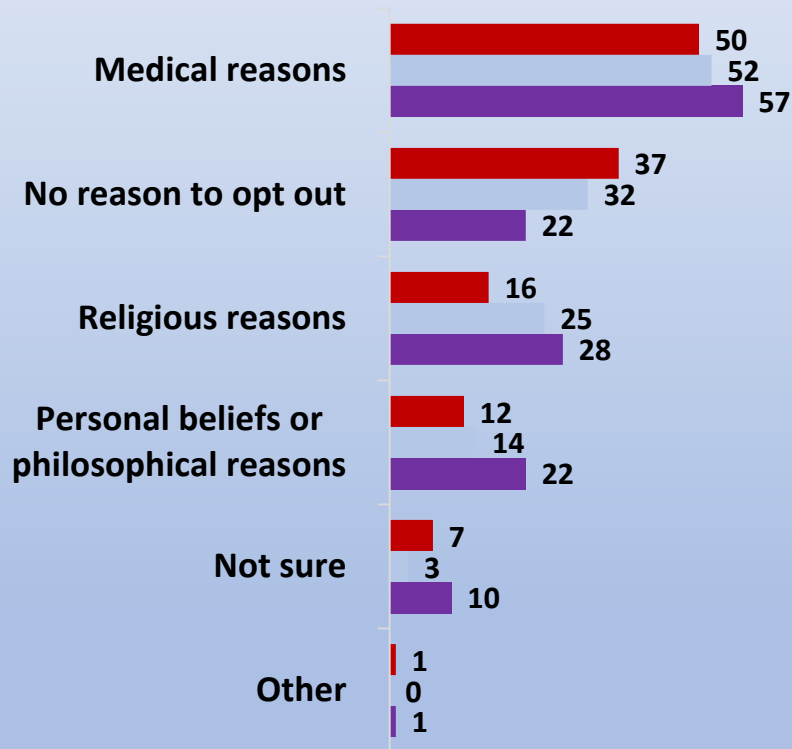
Women are more likely to believe there is no reason for parents to opt out of vaccine requirements, while men are more supportive of exemptions. Adults across region support medical exemptions, but adults in Hartford are most supportive of religious exemptions.

In your opinion, which of the following are reasons a parent should be able to "opt-out" of the daycare and school requirement of vaccinating their children?



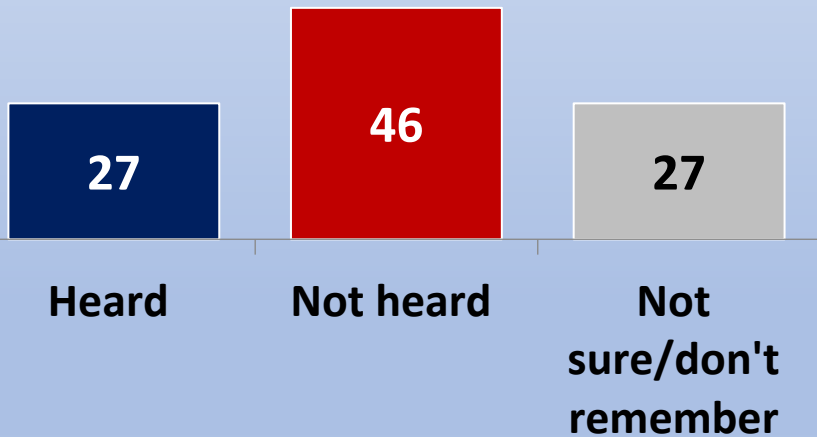
At least half of adults across religiosity support medical exemptions. Adults who attend religious services are slightly more likely to support religious exemptions. Consistent with other patterns, all adults across religions are most likely to support medical exemptions. Protestants and Catholics are more likely to support “no reason to opt out” and Christians are more likely to support religious exemptions.

In your opinion, which of the following are reasons a parent should be able to "opt-out" of the daycare and school requirement of vaccinating their children?



Only a quarter of adults have heard of the bill that would only allow medical exemptions to vaccination requirements. Nearly three quarters have not heard of the bill or are unsure. Partisans are more likely to have heard, whereas Independents are more likely to be unsure. Parents are more likely to be familiar than non-parents. More than half of residents in Fairfield have not heard.

Have you heard or seen anything recently about the Connecticut State Legislature considering a bill that would only allow medical exemptions to vaccination requirements in order for children to attend daycare and school?



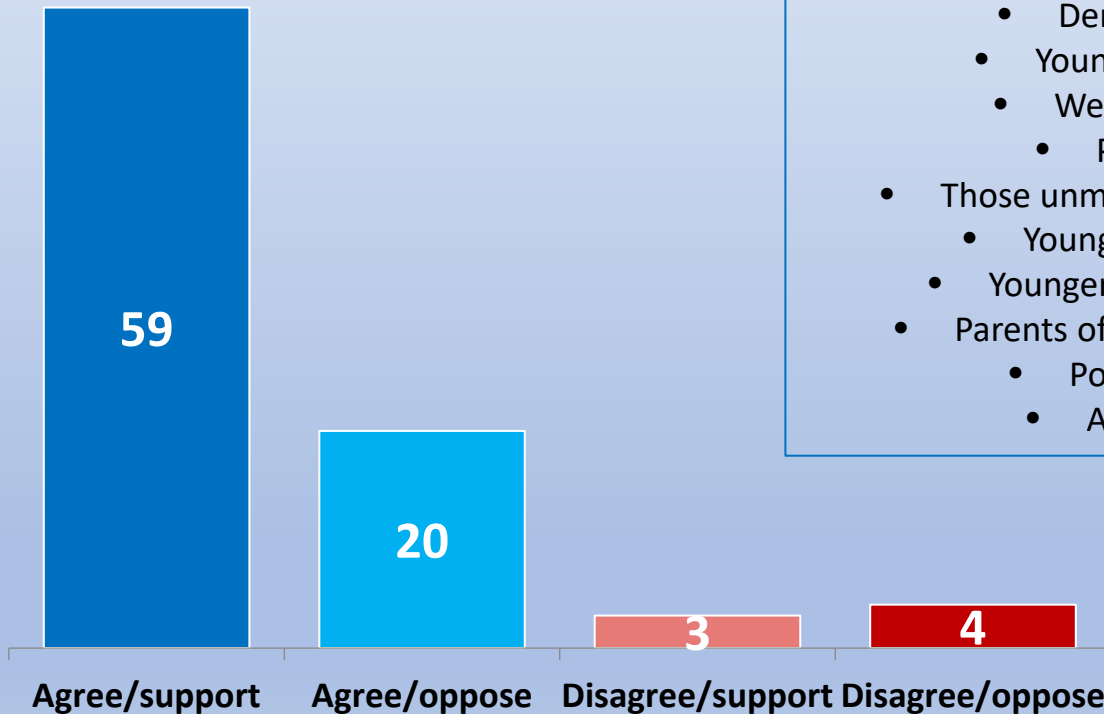
	Heard	Not heard	NS/DR
Men	28	46	26
Women	27	45	28
Under 30	27	42	31
Under 50	29	45	27
Over 50	26	47	26
Democrat ID	31	44	25
Independent ID	21	46	33
Republican ID	29	47	24
Fairfield	19	55	26
Hartford	28	45	27
New Haven	32	40	28
Rest of state	31	43	26
White	28	47	25
African American	28	46	26
Latinx	27	47	26
Non-college	26	47	27
College	30	45	25
Parent of school-age children	35	40	25
Non-parent	24	50	26
<\$51,500	26	50	24
>\$51,500	30	44	26

Pluralities to majorities across demographics agree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines and support the proposed bill.

COMBINED: Do you agree or disagree that children should be required to receive recommended vaccines...in order to be enrolled in schools and daycares?

AND

Do you support or oppose this bill that would only allow medical exemptions for daycare and school vaccine requirements?



Most likely to agree/support the bill

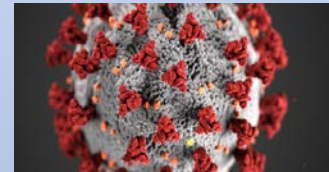
- Mothers – 74%
- Democratic men – 74%
- Younger Democrats – 74%
- Weak Democrats – 72%
- Protestants – 72%
- Those unmarried with a partner – 71%
- Younger white adults – 70%
- Younger college educated – 70%
- Parents of school-age children – 70%
- Post-graduates – 69%
- Adults 30-49 – 68%

Most likely to agree/oppose the bill

- Divorced adults – 31%
- Adults 65+ – 28%
- Women 50+ – 28%
- African American non-college – 28%
- Republicans 50+ – 27%
- Residents of Fairfield – 27%



Vaccines Amidst COVID-19

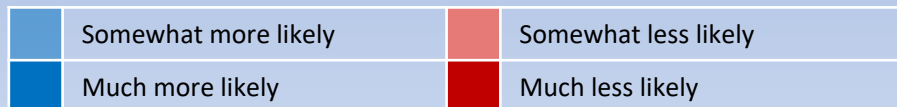
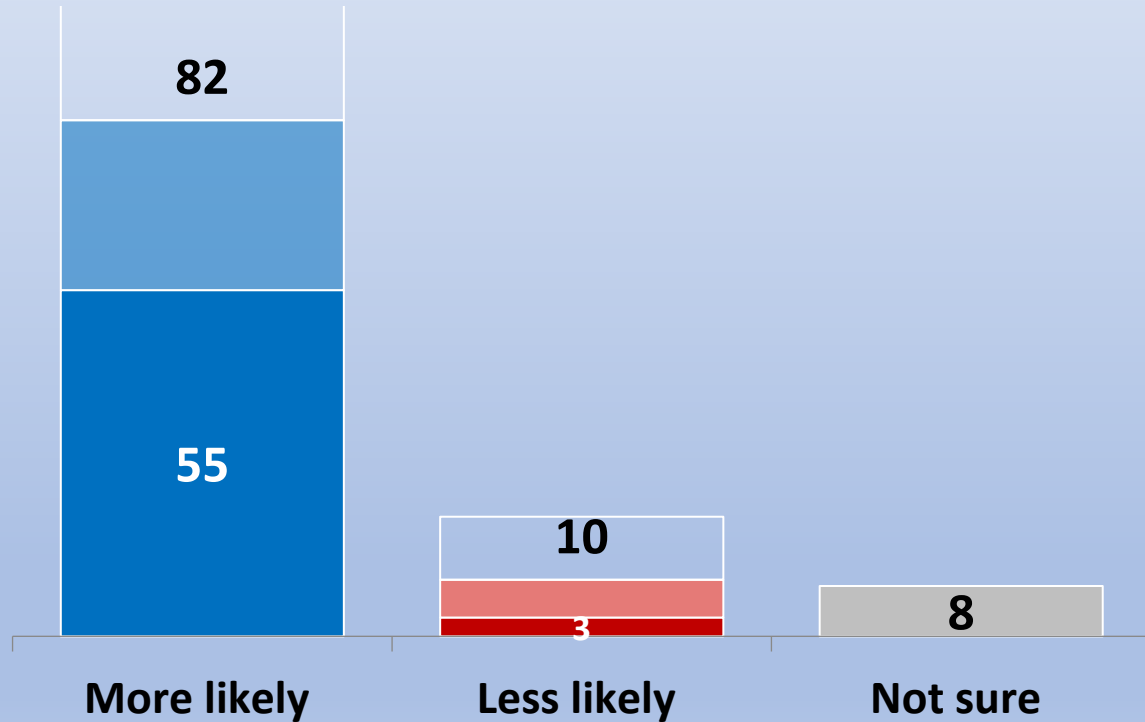


Summary of Key Findings – Vaccines Amidst COVID-19

- In light of COVID-19, Connecticut adults overwhelmingly support children getting vaccinated to protect them from life-threatening diseases and a majority are much more likely to support this – 55% much more likely to support, 82% total more likely.
 - Women (63% much more likely) and Democrats (69%) are the most likely to support vaccines in light of COVID-19.
- When a vaccine is developed, nearly seven-in-ten adults say they would want their children to be vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Adults across subgroups want their children to be vaccinated, including parents of school-age children (71%).
- Adults also overwhelmingly agree that they want it to be required that children in Connecticut receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to remain in both daycare (61% say yes) and school (65% say yes).
 - Adults support these requirements across party identification by wide margins. Seventy-one percent of Democrats agree with the daycare requirement along with 53% of Independents and 56% of Republicans. Seventy-four percent of Democrats agree with the school requirement along with 58% of Independents and 60% of Republicans.
 - Parents are also very supportive of these requirements in schools and daycares. Sixty-five percent of parents of school-age children want it to be required for children to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in order to remain in school, and 67% of parents with children between the ages of 0-4 want the vaccine to be required by daycares.

In light of COVID-19, Connecticut adults overwhelmingly support children getting vaccinated to protect them from life threatening diseases, with a strong majority much more likely to support this. Women and Democrats are especially more likely to support children getting vaccinated.

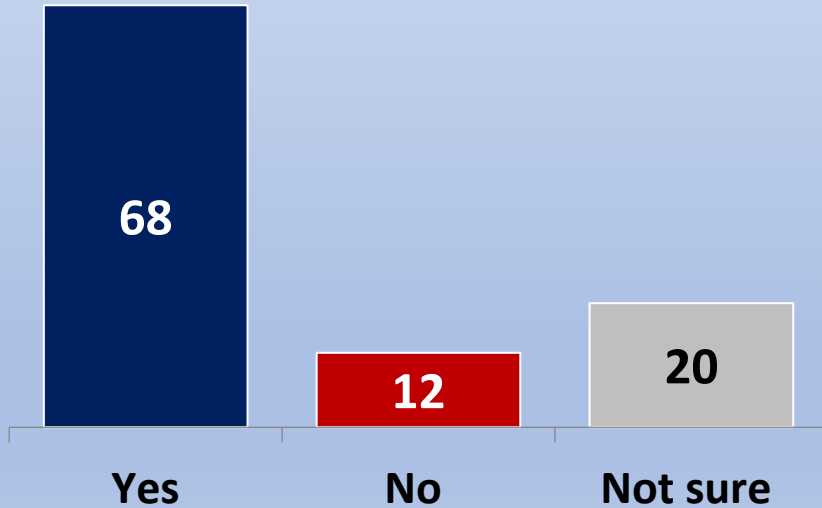
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, are you much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to support children getting vaccinated to protect them from life-threatening diseases?



	Much more likely	Total more likely
Men	47	77
Women	63	87
Under 30	49	83
Under 50	52	83
Over 50	58	82
Democrat ID	69	90
Independent ID	48	78
Republican ID	44	78
Fairfield	59	84
Hartford	50	84
New Haven	57	82
Rest of state	53	80
White	59	84
African American	52	78
Latinx	46	82
Non-college	53	80
College	58	86
Parent of school-age children	61	85
Non-parent	54	82
<\$51,500	55	83
>\$51,500	56	84

Nearly seven-in-ten adults say they would want their children to be vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Democrats and residents of Fairfield are most supportive. Republicans are slightly more likely than adults overall to not want their children to be vaccinated. Independents, residents who live in the area defined as “rest of state,” and African Americans are slightly more likely than adults overall to be unsure.

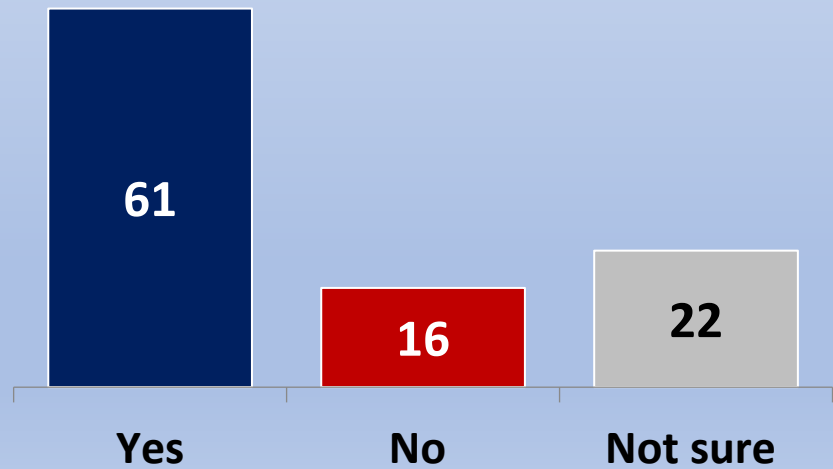
When a vaccine is developed to protect against COVID-19, would you want children (under 19 years old) to be vaccinated?



	Yes	No	Not sure
Men	67	15	18
Women	69	9	22
Under 30	72	11	17
Under 50	70	11	18
Over 50	66	12	23
Democrat ID	78	6	16
Independent ID	64	11	26
Republican ID	66	18	21
Fairfield	75	11	13
Hartford	68	14	18
New Haven	69	9	22
Rest of state	60	13	27
White	70	11	18
African American	60	15	25
Latinx	66	12	21
Non-college	66	12	22
College	72	10	18
Parent of school-age children	71	12	16
Non-parent	67	11	21
<\$51,500	67	11	22
>\$51,500	70	12	19

A majority of adults want it to be required that children in Connecticut receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is developed in order to remain in daycare. Democrats and residents of Fairfield are more likely than adults overall to agree whereas Republicans and African Americans are more likely to disagree. A solid majority of parents of younger children also agree, although they are slightly more likely than adults overall to disagree. Independents are more likely to be unsure.

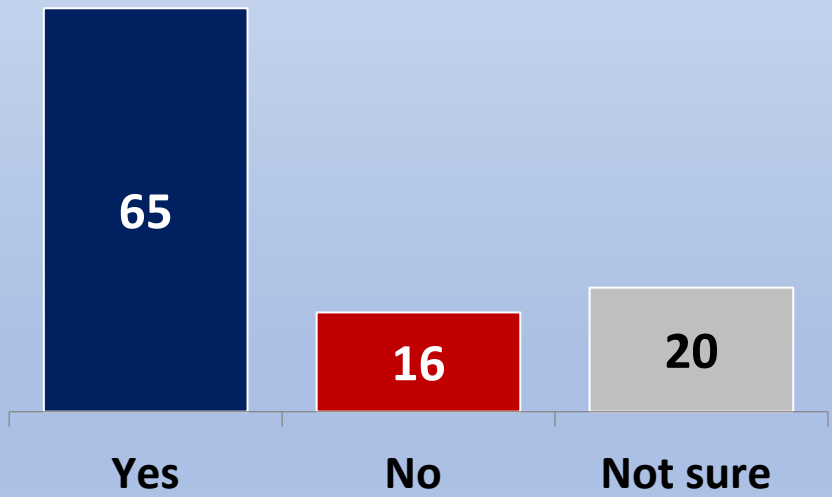
When a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, would you want it to be required that children in Connecticut receive the vaccine in order to remain in daycare?



	Yes	No	Not sure
Men	60	19	21
Women	62	14	24
Under 30	65	19	16
Under 50	62	19	19
Over 50	61	13	26
Democrat ID	71	11	18
Independent ID	53	15	32
Republican ID	56	24	20
Fairfield	67	19	14
Hartford	61	17	22
New Haven	61	11	27
Rest of state	56	18	26
White	64	15	21
African American	56	23	21
Latinx	57	20	24
Non-college	59	17	24
College	65	15	20
Parent of children (0-4)	67	23	11
Non-parent	61	14	25
<\$51,500	62	14	25
>\$51,500	62	18	20

Similarly, a majority of adults also agree that children should be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is developed in order to remain in school. Democrats are more likely to agree, while Republicans are more likely to disagree and Independents are more likely to be unsure.

When a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, would you want it to be required that children in Connecticut receive the vaccine in order to remain in school?



	Yes	No	Not sure
Men	63	19	19
Women	66	13	20
Under 30	70	17	14
Under 50	66	18	16
Over 50	63	14	23
Democrat ID	74	10	16
Independent ID	58	15	27
Republican ID	60	23	17
Fairfield	69	19	12
Hartford	65	17	19
New Haven	69	8	23
Rest of state	56	20	24
White	66	15	19
African American	62	21	18
Latinx	61	21	18
Non-college	64	17	20
College	67	14	19
Parent of school-age children	65	19	15
Non-parent	65	14	21
<\$51,500	63	14	23
>\$51,500	67	16	17



The Next Generation of Every Child By Two

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