

Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky

Vaccine Confidence



FOUNDATION FOR A
**HEALTHY
KENTUCKY**

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky commissioned the **Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll**, in June and July 2022. At the time of the poll, the COVID-19 pandemic had been underway for more than two years and the BA.5 Omicron subvariant was becoming the dominant strain in the Commonwealth. As of June 18, 2022, the COVID-19 vaccine was available to everyone 6 months and older. But many of the cases at the time were among vaccinated and boosted Kentuckians. Still, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised being “up to date” on the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters – meaning an individual has received all primary doses and boosters available to them – was the best way to avoid serious illness, hospitalization and death.

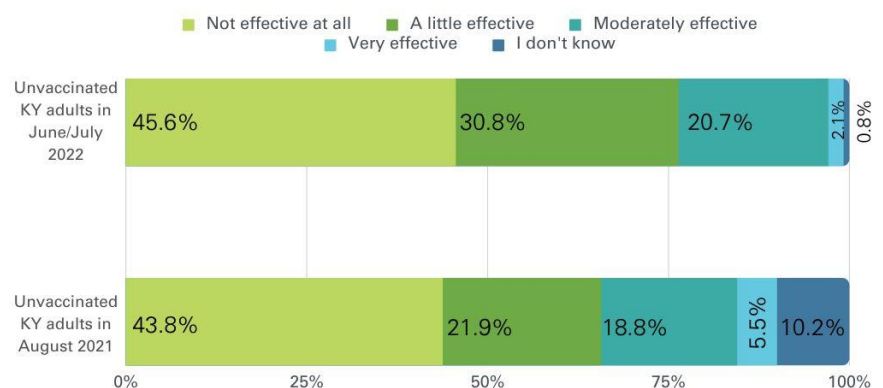
Vaccine Confidence

This poll shows Kentuckians’ confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines dropped since the emergence of the Delta and Omicron variants and subvariants.

At the time of this poll, more than three quarters (76.4%) of unvaccinated Kentucky adults said they believed the COVID-19 shots would only be “a little effective” or “not effective at all” in protecting them from the coronavirus. That’s more than the 65.7% of unvaccinated Kentucky adults who answered the same in August of 2021.

In both polls, the Foundation also asked respondents how effective they think the vaccines will be in protecting them against new strains of coronavirus. In 2022, 82% of unvaccinated Kentucky adults said they believed the vaccine would only be “a little effective” or “not effective at all.” In 2021, 73.1% of unvaccinated Kentucky adults answered the same.¹ At that time, the Delta variant was beginning to spread throughout the Commonwealth.

How effective do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will be in protecting you against COVID-19?



Source: “Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll”, commissioned by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Margin of error +/- 3.4%. (June 4- July 13, 2022); “Vaccines in Kentucky, A Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Poll.” Margin of error +/- 4.3%. (August 4 – September 4, 2021)



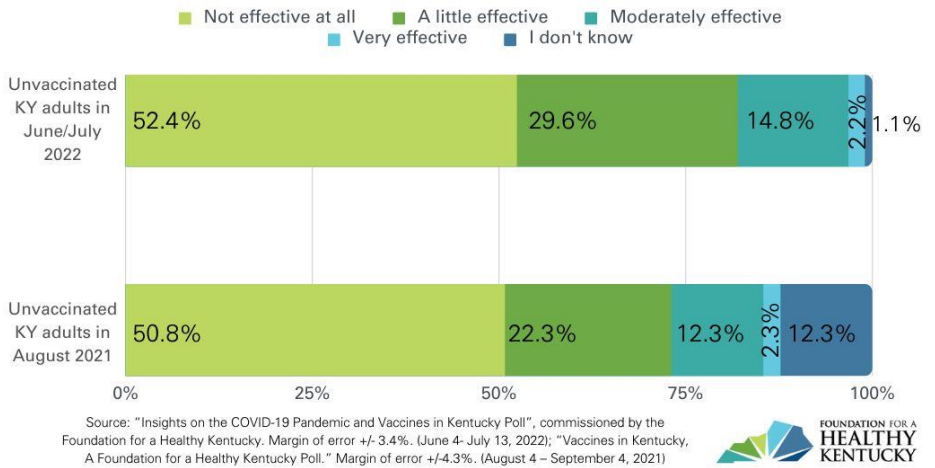
¹ These questions were asked in a slightly different order in the two separate polls, which could have influenced the respondents’ answers. These findings, unless otherwise noted, are from the “Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll,” funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. This Poll was conducted June 4-July 13, 2022, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 814 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. The full sample estimates will be accurate to ±3.4%. These are rounded percentages. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as nonresponse, question wording or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

When asked about protection from new strains of the coronavirus, unvaccinated Kentuckians are less confident in vaccine efficacy in Summer 2022 than they were in Summer 2021.²

Booster Confidence

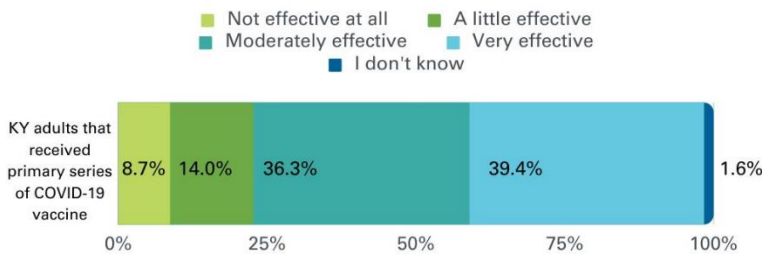
In the 2022 poll, respondents who had received the full primary series of the COVID-19 vaccine were asked their opinions on boosters. At that time, at least one booster shot (if not more) was recommended to everyone over the age of 18 that had completed the primary series of the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

How effective do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will be in protecting you against new strains of coronavirus?



The poll showed three-quarters (75.7%) of Kentucky adults who had received the primary series said they felt booster shots would be "moderately effective" or "very effective" in protecting them from the virus. However, that confidence dropped when respondents were asked about protection against new strains of coronavirus: 63.8% considered booster shots to be "moderately effective" or "very effective" in protecting them from new strains of the virus.

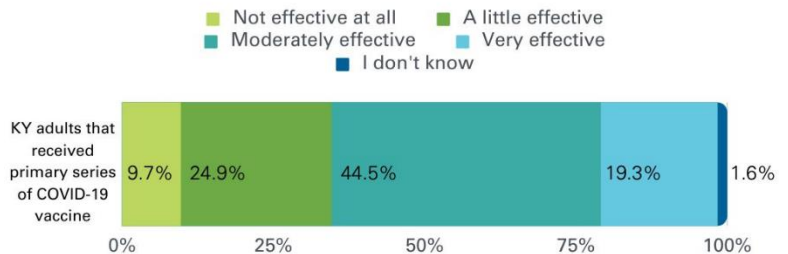
How effective do you think COVID-19 booster shots will be in protecting you personally against COVID-19?



Source: "Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll", commissioned by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Margin of error +/- 3.4%. (June 4- July 13, 2022)



How effective do you think COVID-19 booster shots will be in protecting you personally against new strains of coronavirus?



Source: "Insights on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccines in Kentucky Poll", commissioned by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Margin of error +/- 3.4%. (June 4- July 13, 2022)



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