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**THE COVID STATES PROJECT:  
A 50-STATE COVID-19 SURVEY  
REPORT #78: AMERICAN MASK USE  
AND CDC GUIDANCE**

USA, January 2022

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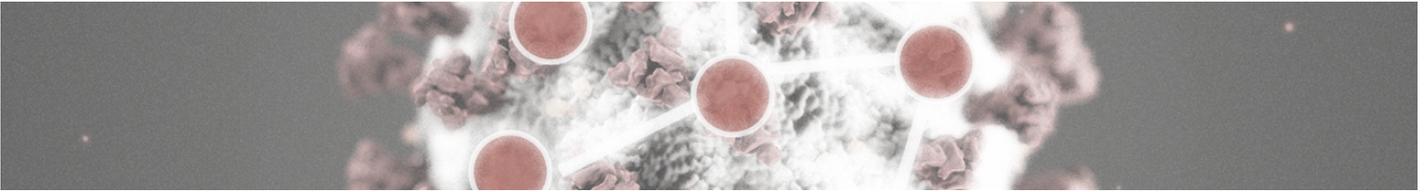
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**Report of January 15, 2022, v.1**

***The COVID States Project***

**From:** The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States

***A joint project of:***

Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

**Authors:** Alauna C. Safarpour (Harvard University); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); David Lazer (Northeastern University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Anjuli Shere (Harvard University); Kristin Lunz Trujillo (Northeastern University); James Druckman (Northwestern University); Mauricio Santillana (Harvard Medical School); Ata Uslu (Northeastern University); Jon Green (Northeastern University); Caroline Pippert (Northwestern University); Jennifer Lin (Northwestern University), and Hong Qu (Northeastern University)

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Northeastern University  
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# COVER MEMO

**Summary Memo — January 15, 2022**

## ***The COVID States Project***

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### **Note on methods:**

Between December 22, 2021 and January 10, 2022, we surveyed 17,475 individuals across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia on their mask use. This included 11,317 individuals who were asked about the type of mask they use (between December 27, 2021 and January 10, 2022) and 2,241 individuals who were asked about their attitudes towards different mask types and what type of mask the CDC currently recommends for use by everyday Americans (between January 3 and January 10, 2022). The survey was conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample, with state-level representative quotas for race/ethnicity, age, and gender (for methodological details on the other waves, see [covidstates.org](https://www.covidstates.org)). In addition to balancing on these dimensions, we reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This was the latest in a series of surveys we have been conducting since April 2020, examining attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 in the United States.

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# American mask-type use, beliefs about CDC mask guidance, and attitudes towards different mask types

[Late Friday](#), the CDC updated its guidance regarding mask types for Americans, saying that people now “can choose” to wear higher quality respirators such as N95 or KN95 masks, if they wish. The updated guidance comes on the heels of President Biden’s announcement on [Thursday](#) that the nation has more than tripled its stockpile of N95s to help ensure the masks are available to the general population. In this report, we examine Americans’ current attitudes towards mask use including whether and what type of masks Americans currently use, beliefs regarding CDC mask recommendations (attitudes collected before the CDC’s updated guidance issued January 14, 2022), beliefs about which types of masks offer the greatest protection, and how mask use has changed over the course of the pandemic. These data shed light on the current masking behavior of Americans and point to current popular understanding (or misunderstanding) of CDC recommendations.

**Note:** in the appendix, we offer a brief history of the CDC’s messaging regarding the use of masks— which, as late as March 2020, discouraged the use of masks; and until January 14, 2022, discouraged the use of N95 and equivalent masks.

## Key findings

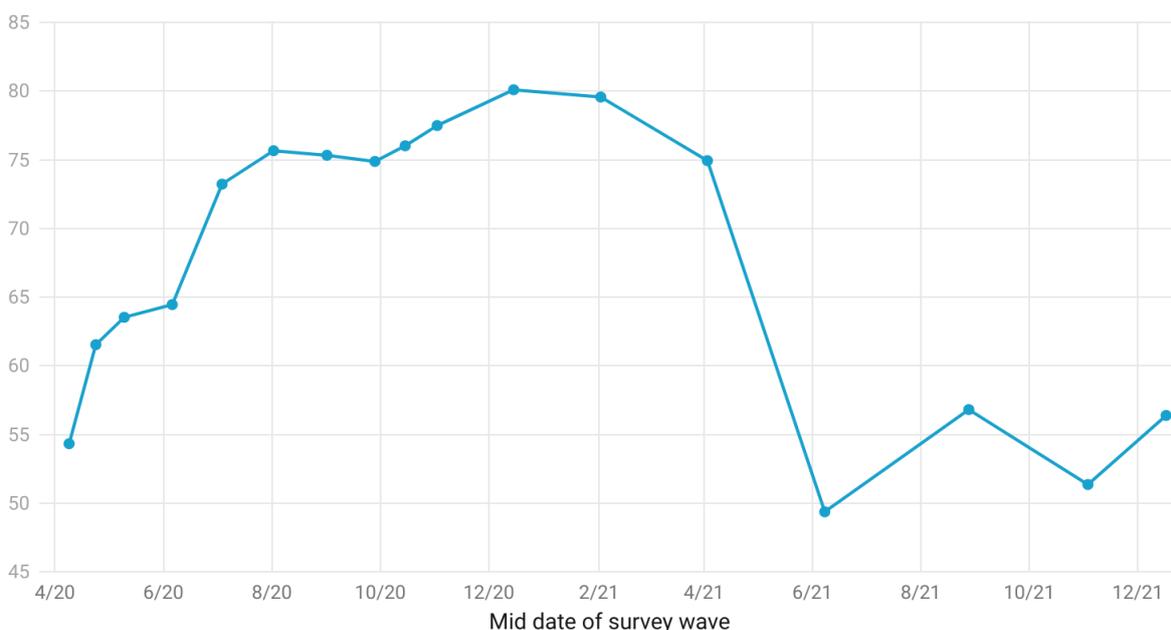
- 64% of Americans use cloth masks, with just 21% saying they use N95 or equivalent masks.
- A majority (54%) think that the CDC currently recommends N95 masks for all Americans. *Note that these data were collected prior to the CDC’s [change in guidance of January 14, 2022](#), which “Clarified that people can choose respirators such as N95s and KN95s.”*
- Democrats, vaccinated individuals, Whites, those with higher incomes, and respondents with more education are more likely to incorrectly identify N95s as the CDC’s recommended mask-type.
- Roughly two-thirds (66%) of Americans correctly identify N95 masks as more protective than cloth masks, while roughly one-quarter of respondents (26%) are unsure of whether cloth or N95 masks offer the wearer more protection.
- Vaccinated individuals, Democrats, those with more education, higher incomes, Whites, and older Americans (50 and above) are more likely to correctly say that N95s offer greater protection than cloth masks.

# 1. Mask usage

Currently, 56% of Americans report following the mask-wearing recommendation closely in the past week. For the first COVID States survey, conducted in April 2020, a bit over half of Americans reported following mask-wearing recommendations closely. Usage peaked during the winter of 2020-21, at about 80%; and plummeted following the CDC recommendation in May 2021, that masks were no longer necessary, to about 50%. There have been modest jumps in mask usage during, first, the Delta wave (in late summer/early fall), and now the Omicron wave.

## In the last week, how closely did you personally follow the mask wearing recommendation?

Percentage of respondents answering "very closely" across 17 survey waves.



National Sample: N1 = 19,489 (04/16/20 - 04/30/20), N2 = 20,305 (05/02/20 - 05/15/20), N3 = 18,103 (05/16/20 - 06/01/20), N4 = 22,470 (06/12/20 - 06/28/20), N5 = 19,058 (07/10/20 - 07/27/20), N6 = 21,196 (08/07/20 - 08/26/20), N7 = 20,315 (09/04/20 - 09/28/20), N8 = 18,002 (10/02/20 - 10/23/20), N9 = 12,540 (10/23/20 - 11/04/20), N10 = 24,017 (11/04/20 - 01/12/20), N11 = 25,640 (12/16/20 - 01/11/21), N12 = 21,500 (02/05/21 - 02/28/21), N13 = 21,733 (04/01/21 - 05/03/21), N14 = 20,669 (06/09/21 - 07/06/21), N15 = 21,079 (08/26/21 - 09/27/21), N16 = 22,277 (11/03/21 - 12/02/21), N17 = 17,475 (12/22/21 - 01/10/22)

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of: Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org) Get the data Created with Datawrapper • Created with Datawrapper

**Figure 1. Self-Reported Mask Use, April 2020 to January 2021.**

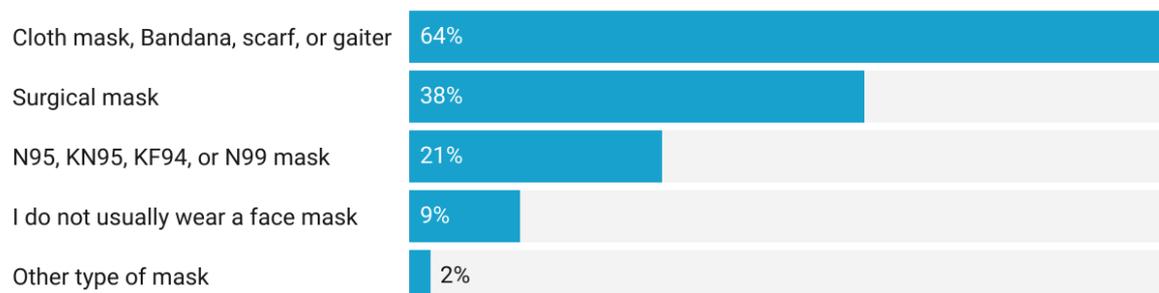
## 2. Types of Masks Worn<sup>1</sup>

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We asked respondents what type of mask they typically wear, and respondents could select as many types as they wished. Overall, 3 in 5 Americans (64%) say that they wear a cloth mask, bandana, scarf, or gaiter. However, 7% note that they specifically wear either a bandana, scarf, or gaiter – which offer the wearer the least amount of protection relative to other types of masks. About 4 in 10 (38%) wear surgical masks, and roughly 1 in 5 (21%) wear a higher quality mask such as KF94, KN95, N95, or N99 mask. Roughly 4 in 10 (41%) say they wear a cloth mask with 1 or 2 layers. Fewer than 1 in 7 (13%) follow current CDC guidelines and wear a cloth mask with 3 or more layers. A similar share (15%) say they use a cloth mask but are unsure about the number of layers. Of those Americans who say they wear a higher quality mask, 10% specifically report using a N95, 12% say they use a KN95, 2% use a KF94, and just 1% of respondents use a N99 mask.<sup>2</sup>

### Over 3 in 5 Americans Use Cloth Masks, 1 in 5 Use N95 or Equivalent Masks.

What type of mask do you typically wear to protect against virus spread? (Please select all that apply)



Survey conducted 12/27/21-01/10/22. Unweighted overall sample size=11,317.

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org) • Created with Datawrapper

**Figure 2. Types of Masks Worn by Americans.<sup>3</sup>**

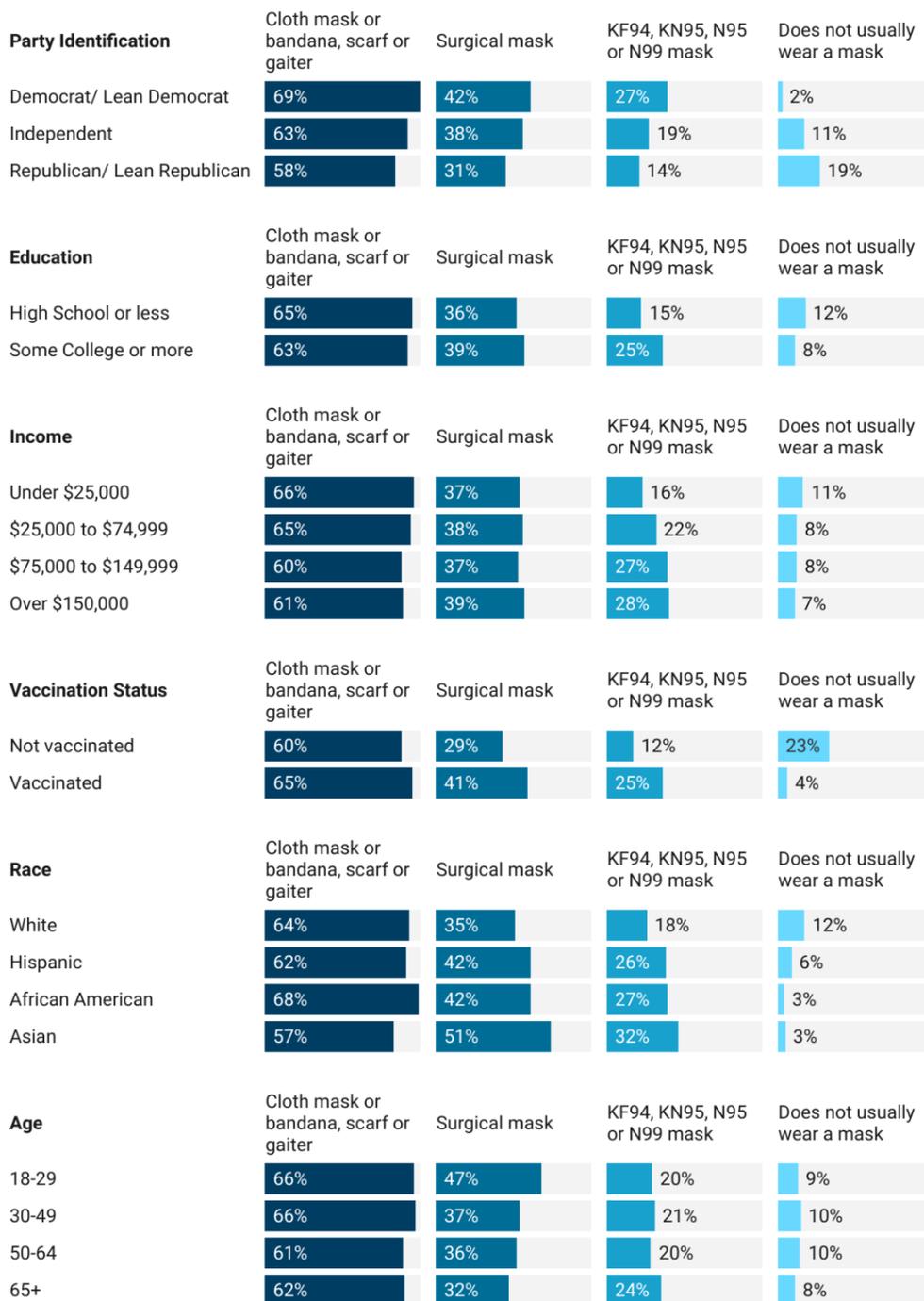
<sup>1</sup> Note that this question allowed respondents to select multiple options, therefore totals will not sum to 100% due to some respondents selecting that they wear multiple mask-types.

<sup>2</sup> N95 masks are regulated by the U.S. government to filter out 95% of particulates. KN95 masks are regulated by the Chinese government for medical use. KF94 masks are Korean masks that filter 94% of particulates. N99 masks filter out 99% of particles. For additional details on these and other types of masks, see the [NYT's guide](#) or the [CDC's guide](#) on masks.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this question allowed respondents to select multiple options, therefore totals will not sum to 100% due to some respondents selecting that they wear multiple mask-types.

## Across Groups, Majorities of Americans Use Cloth Masks, Bandanas, Scarves, or Gaiters.

What type of mask do you typically wear to protect against virus spread? (Please select all that apply)



Survey conducted 12/27/21-01/10/22. Unweighted overall sample size=11,317.

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org) · Created with Datawrapper

**Figure 3. Types of Masks Worn By Socio-Demographic Factors.**

Democrats, the more educated, those with a higher income, and vaccinated respondents are more likely than Republicans, the less educated, those with a lower income, and the unvaccinated to say that they wear a mask, and more likely to use surgical or higher filtration masks. Overall, fewer White respondents report wearing surgical or high filtration masks than non-white groups including Black, Hispanic, and Asian respondents. This is mostly driven by a greater share (12%) of White respondents who report that they don't usually wear a mask, relative to the share of Black, Hispanic, and Asian respondents who say that they don't typically wear masks (3%, 6%, and 3%, respectively).

### **3. Beliefs About CDC Mask Guidance.**

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Although the CDC did not recommend N95 masks for everyday Americans at the time of our survey (and still does not recommend them now as a preferred choice, just that people "can choose" them), 54% of respondents think that the CDC does recommend N95, KN95, or equivalent masks. Roughly 1 in 6 (16%) accurately say that a cloth mask is recommended by the CDC, and about one-quarter (26%) are not sure what type of mask the CDC recommends. Democrats and independents who lean Democratic are 9 points more likely than Republicans and 13 points more likely than Independents to think that the CDC recommends N95 or KN95 masks.

College educated respondents are 11 points more likely than those with a high school education or less to incorrectly identify N95s or equivalent as the type of mask currently recommended by the CDC. Older and higher income respondents are also more likely to incorrectly identify N95s as the CDC's recommended mask. By race and ethnicity, Asian respondents are most likely to (62%) incorrectly identify the CDC's recommended mask as those that offer the greatest protection, followed by Whites (55%) and Hispanics (52%), with Black respondents (50%) least likely to incorrectly identify N95s/ KN95s. People who correctly state that the N95s/KN95s are more protective are more likely to incorrectly state that the CDC recommends those masks.

69% of those surveyed who think that N95s are more protective than cloth masks think that the CDC recommends N95s for everyday Americans, compared to 21% of those who are not sure, 41% of those who say both types of masks offer the same level of protection, and 29% of those who say cloth masks offered more protection.

## A 54% Majority of Americans Overall Think The CDC Recommends N95, KN95, Or Equivalent Masks.

What kind of face mask do the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend for regular people?

■ A cloth mask 
 ■ An N95 or KN95 or equivalent 
 ■ Another type of mask is recommended 
 ■ CDC does not recommend wearing a mask 
 ■ Not sure

### Overall



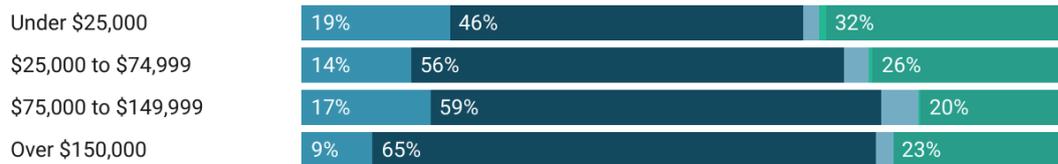
### Party Identification



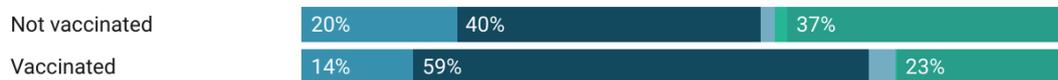
### Education



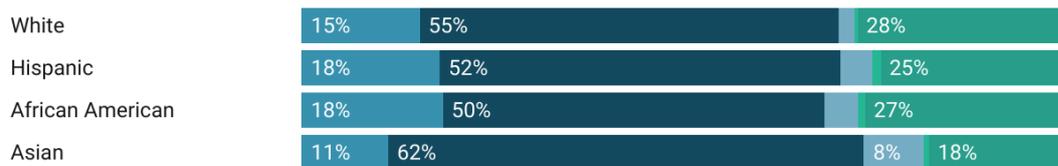
### Income



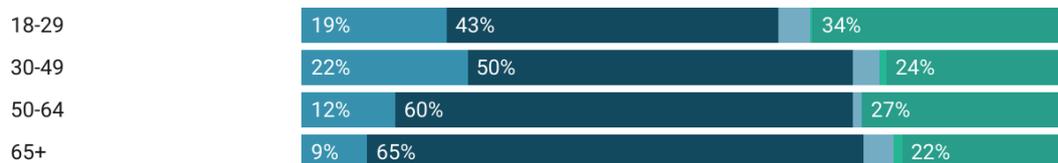
### Vaccination Status



### Race



### Age



Survey conducted 01/03/22-01/10/22. Unweighted overall sample size=2,241.

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org) • Created with Datawrapper

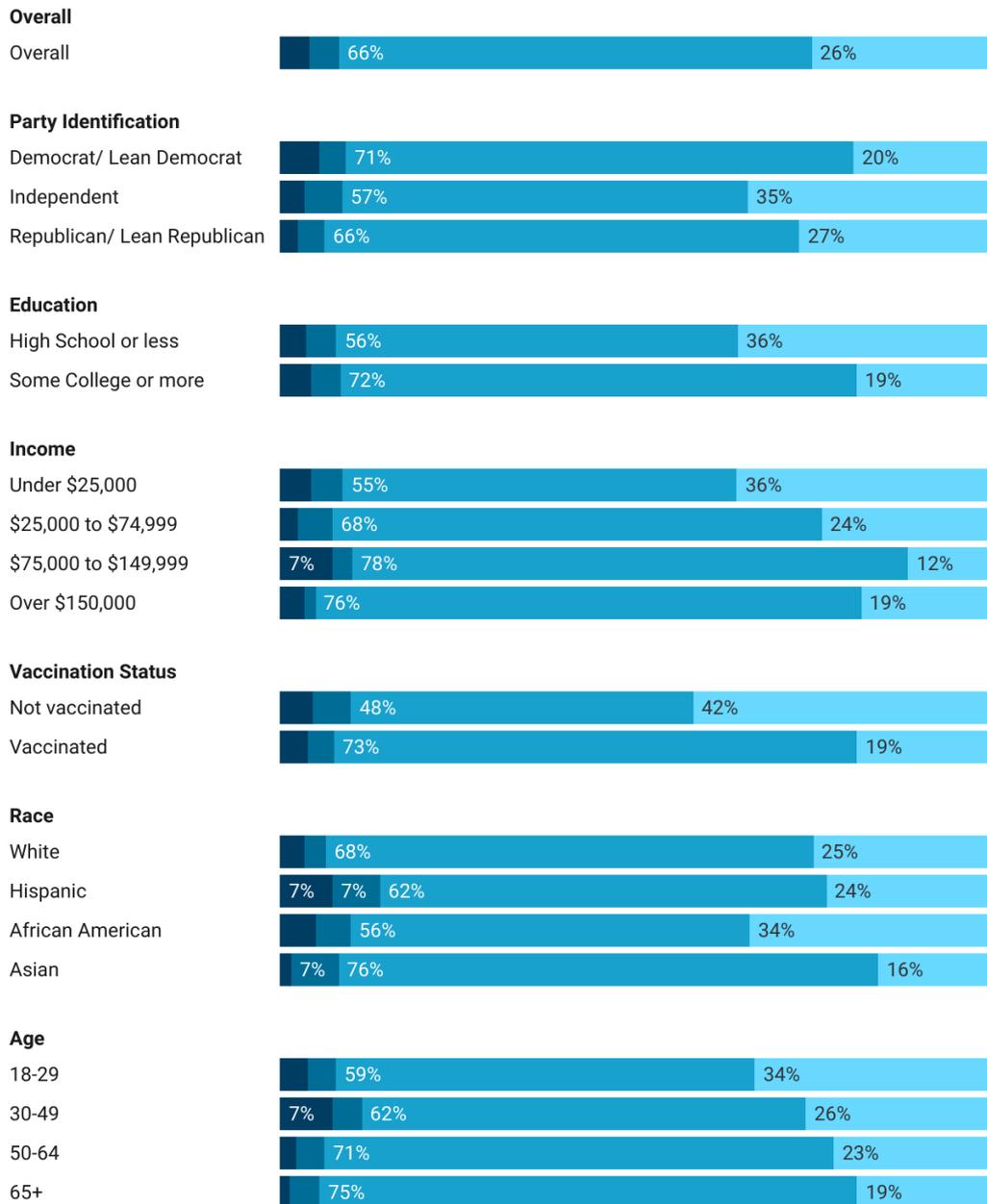
**Figure 4. Beliefs About CDC Mask Recommendations Overall and By Socio-Demographic Factors.**

## 4. Beliefs regarding protectiveness of masks

### One-Quarter of Americans Are Not Sure Whether Cloth or N95 Face Masks Are More Protective.

Which of the following statements is true about face masks?

■ A cloth mask is more protective than an N95 mask
 ■ A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection
 ■ An N95 mask is more protective than a cloth mask
 ■ Not sure



Survey conducted 01/03/22-01/10/22. Unweighted overall sample size=2,241.

Source: The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States (A joint project of Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University) [www.covidstates.org](http://www.covidstates.org) • Created with Datawrapper

**Figure 5. Beliefs About Mask Quality Overall and By Socio-Demographic Factors.**

Overall, roughly two-thirds (66%) of Americans correctly identify N95 masks as more protective than cloth masks, 4% say that cloth and N95 masks offer roughly the same level of protection, and 4% say that cloth masks are more protective than N95s. The remaining roughly one-quarter of respondents (26%) aren't sure whether cloth or N95 masks offer the wearer more protection.

Democrats and Independents who lean Democratic are more likely than Republicans and other Independents to correctly identify N95 masks as more protective than cloth varieties (71% versus 66% and 57%). Similarly, those with more education, higher incomes, Whites, and older Americans (50 and above) are more likely to correctly say that N95s offer greater protection. Over 7 in 10 (73%) of respondents who are vaccinated for COVID-19 also said that N95s offer greater protection, compared with roughly half (48%) of unvaccinated respondents. Unvaccinated respondents were more likely to express uncertainty, with 42% of unvaccinated respondents compared to 19% of vaccinated respondents saying that they were not sure whether cloth or N95 masks offer the wearer greater protection.

# Appendix

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## 1. Brief history of CDC messaging on the use of masks

Guidance from federal health officials on masks has changed substantially throughout the pandemic, often leading to widespread confusion among the public. In part, these vacillations were due to evolving scientific evidence over the course of the pandemic, as well as due to strategic concerns – such as attempts to ensure that enough high quality masks were available for healthcare workers in the early days of the pandemic. As late as March 2020, government health officials [recommended against masks](#) for the general public, citing the need to reserve them for health care workers. Yet by early April 2020, official [guidance reversed](#) course, with the CDC recommending indoor cloth masks for the public at large. During the first winter surge in cases in December 2020, recommendations were expanded to include [mask use at all times](#) outside the home, including outdoors. But, as new evidence emerged to indicate that outdoor masking was unnecessary, guidance shifted to once again only recommend indoor mask use. As the COVID-19 vaccines became more widely available in the U.S. in late spring 2021, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky [announced in May](#) that fully vaccinated Americans no longer needed to wear masks, which prompted many states to rescind the indoor mask mandates they had enacted months earlier. Even after the [World Health Organization disagreed](#), stating that vaccinated individuals should continue masking, the CDC did not reverse its guidance. In late July, however, they [dialed back masking recommendations](#), saying that both those who are fully vaccinated and children should wear masks indoors, but only in areas of high COVID-19 transmission and when attending school. As the Delta variant surged in late summer and fall 2021 and [evidence emerged](#) that vaccinated individuals could experience breakthrough cases, [some states and localities](#) re-imposed mask mandates. This winter, [more states](#) are reimposing mandates in response to the highly contagious Omicron variant causing [cases](#) and [hospitalizations](#) to skyrocket to their highest recorded levels.

The role of N95 and KN95 masks for the general public has been a particular area of confusion. The CDC's early communications offered a weak endorsement of cloth masks ("A cloth face covering may not protect the wearer, but it may keep the wearer from spreading the virus to others."),<sup>4</sup> and did not mention N95s. It later endorsed mask-wearing generally, but indicated a specific prohibition on use of N95s: ("DO NOT: Wear

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<sup>4</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20200523185528/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

masks intended for healthcare workers, for example, N95 respirators.”)<sup>5</sup>-- a recommendation to which it [adhered](#) until the evening of January 14, 2022, at which time guidance on the CDC’s websites offered somewhat conflicting guidance concerning N95s, as discussed below.

As late as January 13, 2022, the [CDC’s website](#) stated that the public should not use N95 masks, as these should be reserved for healthcare workers. This is notable as it has been clear from early in the pandemic that there is a dominant airborne component to the spread of COVID-19, and it has been understood since before the pandemic that N95 masks are much more protective than cloth masks against airborne diseases. The original recommendations regarding N95s were potentially intended to preserve supplies for healthcare workers; although it is not clear whether this is still a concern, President Biden has noted that national stockpiles of N95s are now much larger than in the past.

As of the evening of January 14, the CDC’s website [“Types of Masks”](#) states that respirators can be used, yet the agency’s [“Guide to Masks”](#) specifically states that Americans should not use “surgical N95s, as those should be prioritized for healthcare workers” while at the same time recommending that Americans use masks with “two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric” and also “that you wear the most protect [sic] mask you can.” This messaging will likely be viewed by some as inconsistent and could lead to further confusion about whether the CDC recommends N95 masks for use by the public.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20201201004544/https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

## 2. Question Wording

[cov\_beh] In the last week, how closely did you personally follow the health recommendations listed below? Wearing a face mask when outside of your home.

- Very closely
- Somewhat closely
- Not very closely
- Not at all closely

[mask\_type] What type of mask do you typically wear to protect against virus spread? (Please select all that apply)

- Bandana, scarf, or gaiter
- Cloth mask with 1 or 2 layers
- Cloth mask with 3 or more layers
- Cloth mask, not sure how many layers
- Surgical mask
- KF94 mask
- KN95 mask
- N95 mask
- N99 mask
- Other (please specify\_\_\_\_\_)
- I do not usually wear a face mask

[mask\_cdc] What kind of face mask do the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend for regular people?

- A cloth mask
- An N95 or KN95 or equivalent
- Another type of mask is recommended
- CDC does not recommend wearing a mask
- Not sure

[mask\_comp] Which of the following statements is true about face masks?

- A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask
- A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask
- A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection
- An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask
- An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask
- Not sure

### 3. Data Tables (sample size and error interval)

**Table 1. Type of mask worn overall**

<b>Type of mask</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Bandana, scarf, or gaiter	7.30%
Cloth mask with 1 or 2 layers	41.20%
Cloth mask with 3 or more layers	12.80%
Cloth mask, not sure how many layers	14.70%
Surgical mask	37.60%
KF94 mask	2.00%
KN95 mask	11.60%
N95 mask	10.40%
N99 mask	1.10%
Other (please specify):	1.70%
I do not usually wear a face mask	9.20%

**Table 2. Type of mask worn by party ID**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Democrat/ Lean Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Republican/ Lean Republican</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	69% (2)	63% (2)	58% (2)
Surgical mask	42% (2)	38% (2)	31% (2)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	27% (2)	19% (2)	14% (1)
Does not usually wear a mask	2% (0)	11% (2)	18% (2)
Sample size	5116	2587	3593

**Table 3. Type of mask worn by education**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	<b>Some College or more</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	65% (2)	63% (1)
Surgical mask	36% (2)	39% (1)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	15% (2)	24% (1)
Does not usually wear a mask	12% (1)	8% (1)
Sample size	3056	8261

**Table 4. Type of mask worn by income**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Under 25k</b>	<b>25K to under 75</b>	<b>75K to under 150K</b>	<b>Over 150K</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	66% (2)	65% (2)	60% (2)	61% (5)
Surgical mask	37% (2)	38% (2)	36% (2)	39% (5)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	16% (2)	22% (1)	27% (2)	28% (4)
Does not usually wear a mask	11% (1)	8% (1)	8% (1)	7% (2)
Sample size	3274	4939	2391	713

**Table 5. Type of mask worn by vaccination status**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Not vaccinated</b>	<b>Vaccinated</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	60% (2)	65% (1)
Surgical mask	29% (2)	41% (1)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	12% (2)	24% (1)
Does not usually wear a mask	23% (2)	4% (1)
Sample size	3031	8283

**Table 6. Type of mask worn by race/ ethnicity**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	64% (1)	62% (4)	68% (3)	57% (5)
Surgical mask	35% (1)	42% (4)	42% (3)	51% (5)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	18% (1)	26% (4)	27% (3)	32% (5)
Does not usually wear a mask	12% (1)	6% (2)	3% (1)	3% (2)
Sample size	8114	874	1290	657

**Table 7. Type of mask worn by age**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Cloth mask or bandana, scarf or gaiter	66% (3)	66% (2)	61% (2)	62% (3)
Surgical mask	47% (3)	37% (2)	36% (2)	32% (3)
KF94, KN95, N95 or N99 mask	20% (2)	21% (2)	20% (2)	24% (2)
Does not usually wear a mask	9% (2)	10% (1)	10% (1)	8% (1)
Sample size	2448	4206	2658	2005

**Table 8. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by party id**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Democrat/ Lean Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Republican/ Lean Republican</b>
A cloth mask	17% (3)	18% (4)	13% (3)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	60% (4)	47% (6)	51% (5)
Another type of mask is recommended	3% (1)	3% (2)	3% (2)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	0% (1)	1% (1)	0% (1)
Not sure	20% (3)	32% (5)	33% (4)
Sample size	1099	513	627

**Table 9. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by education**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	<b>Some College or more</b>
A cloth mask	18% (4)	15% (2)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	47% (5)	58% (3)
Another type of mask is recommended	2% (2)	4% (1)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	1% (1)	0% (0)
Not sure	32% (5)	23% (2)
Sample size	579	1662

**Table 10. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by income**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Under 25k</b>	<b>25K to under 75</b>	<b>75K to under 150K</b>	<b>Over 150K</b>
A cloth mask	19% (4)	14% (3)	17% (4)	9% (5)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	46% (5)	56% (4)	59% (5)	65% (9)
Another type of mask is recommended	2% (1)	3% (1)	5% (2)	2% (3)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	1% (1)	0% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)
Not sure	32% (5)	26% (3)	20% (4)	23% (8)
Sample size	670	948	479	144

**Table 11. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by vaccination status**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>Not vaccinated</b>	<b>Vaccinated</b>
A cloth mask	20% (4)	14% (2)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	40% (5)	59% (3)
Another type of mask is recommended	2% (1)	4% (1)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	2% (1)	0% (0)
Not sure	37% (5)	22% (3)
Sample size	583	1657

**Table 12. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by race/ethnicity**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>
A cloth mask	15% (2)	18% (6)	18% (6)	11% (7)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	55% (3)	52% (7)	50% (8)	62% (10)
Another type of mask is recommended	2% (1)	4% (3)	4% (3)	8% (6)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	0% (0)	1% (2)	1% (2)	1% (2)
Not sure	28% (3)	25% (6)	27% (7)	18% (8)
Sample size	1443	273	274	175

**Table 13. Beliefs about CDC recommendation by age**

<b>Mask Type</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
A cloth mask	19% (4)	22% (3)	12% (4)	8% (3)
An N95 or KN95 or equivalent	43% (5)	50% (4)	60% (5)	65% (6)
Another type of mask is recommended	4% (2)	3% (2)	1% (1)	4% (2)
CDC does not recommend wearing a mask	0% (1)	1% (1)	0% (0)	1% (1)
Not sure	34% (5)	24% (4)	27% (5)	22% (5)
Sample size	571	848	435	387

**Table 14. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by party ID**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>Democrat/ Lean Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Republican/ Lean Republican</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	4% (1)	3% (2)	1% (1)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	2% (1)	1% (1)	1% (1)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	4% (1)	5% (3)	4% (2)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	17% (3)	12% (4)	13% (3)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	54% (4)	45% (6)	54% (5)
Not sure	20% (3)	34% (5)	27% (4)
Sample size	1099	513	627

**Table 15. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by income**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>Under 25k</b>	<b>25K to under 75</b>	<b>75K to under 150K</b>	<b>Over 150K</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	3% (2)	2% (1)	4% (2)	2% (3)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	1% (1)	1% (1)	4% (2)	1% (2)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	4% (2)	5% (2)	3% (2)	2% (2)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	14% (3)	16% (3)	14% (4)	13% (6)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	41% (5)	53% (4)	64% (5)	64% (9)
Not sure	36% (5)	24% (3)	12% (3)	19% (7)
Sample size	670	948	479	144

**Table 16. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by vaccination status**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>Not vaccinated</b>	<b>Vaccinated</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	4% (2)	2% (1)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	1% (1)	2% (1)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	6% (2)	4% (1)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	13% (3)	15% (2)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	35% (5)	58% (3)
Not sure	42% (5)	19% (2)
Sample size	583	1657

**Table 17. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by education**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	<b>Some College or more</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	3% (2)	2% (1)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	1% (1)	2% (1)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	4% (2)	4% (1)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	15% (4)	14% (2)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	41% (5)	58% (3)
Not sure	36% (5)	19% (2)
Sample size	579	1662

**Table 18. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by race/ethnicity**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Asian</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	2% (1)	4% (3)	4% (3)	1% (2)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	1% (1)	3% (2)	1% (2)	1% (2)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	3% (1)	7% (4)	5% (3)	6% (5)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	15% (2)	14% (5)	14% (5)	10% (6)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	53% (3)	48% (7)	42% (8)	66% (10)
Not sure	26% (3)	24% (6)	34% (7)	16% (8)
Sample size	1443	273	274	175

**Table 19. Beliefs about mask effectiveness by age**

<b>Mask effectiveness</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>65+</b>
A cloth mask is far more protective than an N95 mask	3% (2)	4% (2)	1% (1)	0% (1)
A cloth mask is moderately more protective than an N95 mask	1% (1)	3% (1)	1% (1)	1% (1)
A cloth mask and an N95 mask provide about the same level of protection	4% (2)	4% (2)	4% (2)	4% (3)
An N95 mask is moderately more protective than a cloth mask	18% (4)	13% (3)	15% (4)	12% (4)
An N95 mask is far more protective than a cloth mask	40% (5)	49% (4)	56% (6)	63% (6)
Not sure	34% (5)	26% (4)	23% (5)	19% (5)
Sample size	571	848	435	387