



CANADA IS FAR MORE 'UNITED' THAN THE STATES WHEN
IT COMES TO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS: IDENTIFYING
THE KEY SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC GAPS AND IDEOLOGICAL
PREDICTORS FOR VACCINATION IN THE TWO COUNTRIES

JANUARY 6, 2022

JACK JEDWAB

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN
STUDIES

INTRODUCTION: POLARIZATION IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTOR TO VACCINE UPTAKE

As we approached the end of 2021, North America was hit with yet another powerful wave of Covid 19 cases arising mainly from the highly contagious omicron variant. This latest wave of the contagion has drawn yet increasing attention to the issue of vaccination uptake and seen repeated appeals from politicians, health experts and other influencers targeting the unvaccinated. Over the course of the vaccination campaign those appeals have enjoyed considerably greater success in Canada than in the United States. Although vaccination got off to a slower start in Canada compared with its neighbor to the South, by the end of 2021 Canada stood at about nine in ten fully vaccinated (12 years and over) compared with some seven in ten in the US.

Dr. Anthony Fauci expressed the view that "Canada is doing better not because we are trying any less than they are trying. It's because in Canada, you don't have that divisiveness of people not wanting to get vaccinated, in many respects, on the basis of ideology and political persuasion" Indeed surveys in the two countries reveal that political/ orientation/partisan preferences are a critical determinant of vaccine hesitation.

But key socio-demographic considerations underlie the gap in the respective rates of vaccination in the two countries amongst them age, gender, income and south of the border it is educational attainment that is the source of the largest gap in vaccine uptake. The gaps in vaccine uptake are also wider in the United States across selected ethnic and/or racial groups than is the case in Canada. In sum the socio-demographic and political gaps in vaccine uptake reveals that the United States is far more polarized around the issue than Canada and hence the unvaccinated have more political clout than is the case in Canada where they're a more marginal group.

METHODOLOGY

- The findings arise from a survey conducted via web panel by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between December 3th and 5th, **2021** with 1547 Canadians 18 years of age or older and another over the same period conducted with 1004 Americans. The Canadian survey has a probabilistic margin of error of $\pm 2.9\%$ and the American survey $\pm 3.5\%$ 19 times out of 20

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IS A MUCH BIGGER PREDICTOR OF VACCINE UPTAKE THAN IS THE CASE IN CANADA

Canada December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
	Yes, I am fully vaccinated
High school, general or vocational (8 to 12 years) or less	86.3%
College (pre-university, technical training, certificate, accreditation or advanced diploma (13-15 years))	86.7%
University certificates and diplomas	88.7%
University Bachelor (including classical studies)	93.0%
Gap in rate of vaccination between lowest and highest degree of education	6.7 points

USA December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
	Some high school or less (grades 0-11)
Graduated high school (grade 12)	54.4%
Technical or trade school	63.2%
Some college	66.3%
Graduated college	76.6%
Post-graduate study or degree	81.5%
Gap in rate of vaccination between lowest and highest degree of education	46.9 points

YOUNGER AMERICANS ARE MUCH LESS LIKELY THAN THEIR CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS TO GET VACCINATED

Canada December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
18-24	85.2%
25-34	80.6%
35-44	84.5%
45-54	87.9%
55-64	90.8%
65-74	94.3%
>= 75	98.6%
Gap in rate of vaccination between lowest and highest degree of education	13.4 points

USA December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
18-29	60.8%
30-39	57.7%
40-49	66.7%
50-64	63.3%
>= 65	80.9%
Gap in rate of vaccination between lowest and highest degree of education	20.1 points

THE HIGHEST INCOME EARNERS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE SIMILAR RATES OF VACCINATION BUT THE INCOME GAP BETWEEN THE LOWEST AND HIGHEST IN THE US IS A MUCH PREDICTOR OF VACCINATION THAN IS THE CASE IN CANADA

Canada December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
\$19,999 or less	74.8%
Between \$20,000 and \$39,999	84.5%
Between \$40,000 and \$59,999	86.4%
Between \$60,000 and \$79,999	89.7%
Between \$80,000 and \$99,999	93.1%
\$100,000 or more	92.8%
Gap in Rate of Vaccination between lowest and highest income	18 points

United States	I am fully vaccinated
Less than \$25,000	55.2%
\$25,000 but less than \$35,000	57.0%
\$35,000 but less than \$50,000	62.3%
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	65.6%
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	67.2%
\$100,000 but less than \$150,000	78.5%
\$150,000 or more	92.0%
Gap in rate of Vaccination between lowest and highest income	36.8 points

THE CUMULATIVE GAPS ACROSS SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS ARE INDICATIVE OF THE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER DEGREE OF POLARIZATION AROUND VACCINATION IN THE UNITED STATES THAN IN CANADA WHERE THE SOCIAL DIVISIONS ARE NARROWER

The size of the gap in rates of vaccination along selected socio-demographic lines (December 2021)	Canada	United States	Difference between Canada and the United States
Educational Attainment (lowest to highest)	6.7	46.9	40.2
Age (youngest to oldest)	13.4	20.1	6.7
Income (lowest to highest)	18	36.8	18.8
Average Score for the three indicators reflecting respective degree of polarization	12.3	34.6	22.3

WHEN IT COMES TO VACCINATION THERE ARE SIZEABLE GAPS IN VACCINATION BETWEEN HISPANIC/LATINOS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AND IMPORTANT GAPS BETWEEN PERSONS IDENTIFYING AS BLACK AND WHITE IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE GAP IN VACCINATION BETWEEN ASIANS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AMONGST PERSONS IDENTIFYING AS ASIAN

December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated		
	United States	Canada	Gap between Canada and the rate of vaccination
Asian or Asian-American	79.6%	90.7%	+11.1
Black or African-American	58.7%	80.0%	+21.3
White	66.1%	87.9%	+21.8
Latin American/Hispanic	64.9%	92.9%	+28

THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN VACCINATION UPTAKE ACROSS CANADA'S MAINSTREAM POLITICAL PARTIES WITH PPC SUPPORTERS AS SIGNIFICANT OUTLIERS WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN RATES OF VACCINATION BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

Canada December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
Liberal party of Canada	95.3%
New Democratic Party of Canada	94.1%
Bloc Quebecois	92.4%
Conservative Party of Canada	88.5%
People's Party of Canada	42.0%

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President? United States December 3-5, 2021	I am fully vaccinated
Approve	82.4%
Disapprove	52.9%
Total	65.2%

VACCINE PASSPORTS SECURE CONSIDERABLY GREATER SUPPORT IN CANADA THAN IN THE UNITED STATES

Certain provincial governments have announced the implementation of a vaccine passport. This proof of vaccination will be required to visit certain public places deemed "non-essential" such as bars, restaurants, gyms, concert halls or festivals and where many people are present. Do you or would you support or oppose the introduction of a vaccine passport in your province?

December 3-5, 2021	CANADA	USA
TOTAL SUPPORT	80%	56%
Strongly support it	59%	36%
Somewhat support it	21%	20%
TOTAL OPPOSE	20%	44%
Somewhat oppose it	7%	10%
Strongly oppose it	14%	34%