SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS
How Parents and Teens are Handling Health and Vaccination during the Pandemic

Unity sponsored a multi-wave national survey with parents and teens on Adolescent Health and Immunization during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The survey was fielded in three waves: August 2020, February and June 2021.

SNAPSHOT:

• The vast majority of parents believe in the importance of routine and COVID-19 vaccines
• More than 4 in 10 parents reported a missed teen’s doctor visit
• Fear of COVID-19 and lack of urgency remained leading reasons for not scheduling teen well visits
• Vaccine safety concerns rose over time, with social media significantly influencing parent and teen beliefs
• Parents say they are most influenced by their doctor or healthcare provider on vaccine decisions for their teens

KEY FINDINGS:

Adolescent healthcare and well-being have been significantly impacted beyond the direct risks of COVID-19, including feelings of isolation and stress, and missed healthcare visits.

However, since the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and the return to regular activities, more teens and parents are feeling hopeful and less stressed.

Most parents intended to get their teen vaccinated against COVID-19 or had already done so by June 2021.

Parents consistently affirmed the value of routine and COVID-19 vaccines for their teens (about 8/10).

Parents and teens increasingly expressed concern about vaccine safety and effectiveness (>60%), and more than half acknowledged social media’s influence on their perceptions.

Concerns about COVID-19 vaccine side effects rose from 40% to 60% across the survey waves.

Prioritize the well-being of teens with these actions:

☑️ Encourage parents and teens to schedule well-visits and routine and COVID-19 vaccinations. Most parents are willing to have their teen receive COVID-19 and routine vaccines together.

☑️ Listen to and acknowledge the concerns of parents - ensure they feel heard.

☑️ Use clear, confident and accessible language when recommending vaccines to parents and teens. Parents trust and rely first on their doctor or other healthcare provider when making decisions about vaccines for their teen, despite an expanding array of sources.