

KEY MESSAGES FOR HARVARD POLL

- The results of a new poll examining the American public's attitudes and response to distribution of the vaccine against 2009 H1N1 influenza this winter were released on February 5, 2010. The poll was conducted January 20-24, 2010 and is the eighth in a series of polls on public views concerning the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak undertaken by the Harvard Opinion Research Program at Harvard School of Public Health.
- Conclusions drawn from these findings include intent to get vaccinated for adults and their children, perceptions regarding adequacy of vaccine supply, and satisfaction with public health response.
- Overall findings include:

Outbreak & response

- 59 % of adults rated the overall response of public health officials to the 2009 H1N1 outbreak as “excellent” or “good.”
- 44% of Americans believe the outbreak is over, however 39% thought there are still many cases of people getting sick.
- 61 % of adults think it is “very” or “somewhat” likely that there will be another widespread outbreak of the 2009 H1N1 in the U.S. during the next 12 months.
- 76% of the public reported seeing ads regarding the importance of getting the vaccine against 2009 H1N1 vaccine since December.

Vaccine supply

- 70% of the public believe there is plenty of vaccine available in their community.
- 59 % of respondents believe enough vaccine should be ordered for everyone who wants to get vaccinated, even if there is excess vaccine.

Vaccine and adults

- 37% of adults have gotten or intend to get the vaccine against 2009 H1N1 for themselves, while 61% said they have not gotten the vaccine and do not intend to.
- Those age 65 years and older were more likely to say they have gotten or intend to get the vaccine than those age 18 to 64 (45% v. 36%).

Vaccine and children

- 53% of parents got (40%) or intend (13%) to get their children vaccinated.
 - Of the parents whose children received the vaccine, 29% of parents got at least one of their children vaccinated at school, 46% at a health care provider (such as a pediatrician), and 22% at a health clinic.
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- The topline report includes detailed findings available at www.hsph.harvard.edu (under Research News), or you can contact Robin Herman at rherman@hsph.harvard.edu or 617-432-4752.