COVID-19 vaccines: Public sector worker vaccination status and views

In May 2021, MissionSquare Research Institute conducted an online survey of 1,203 state and local government employees, fielded by Greenwald Research. Final data were weighted by gender, age, income, and industry type to reflect the distribution of the state and local government workforce as found in the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey and the U.S. Census of Governments.

In May 2021, MissionSquare Research Institute conducted surveys in May 2020, October 2020, and May 2021 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public sector workers’ financial and employment outlooks, and health and safety concerns. Visit slge.org/workforce for past infographics and reports and be on the lookout for full results for the May 2021 survey throughout the summer of 2021.

Influences on vaccine status

Top 3 factors influencing decision to get COVID vaccine

63% Ensure own personal health
58% Ensure health of family and friends
26% Freedom to travel without worry

Top 3 factors why undecided or will likely not get vaccine

64% Concern about side effects
37% Require more information about how well the vaccine works
33% Lack of trust in the government

Vaccine and work sentiments

Employer’s stance on employees getting COVID-19 vaccine:

5% mandate
8% incentivize
65% encourage
22% neutral
0% discourage

59% of respondents say the vaccine will only be effective if everyone receives it
45% think government employers should mandate that employees get vaccinated against COVID-19
44% are concerned about whether or not their co-workers will get the vaccine