
T E G A N
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A T I O N

It's For Us

JUNE 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination and the LGBTQ+ community



Thank you!

Our mission at the Tegan and Sara Foundation is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ women and girls. We know that LGBTQ+ women and girls face greater socioeconomic and health disadvantages compared with their male, heterosexual, and cisgender counterparts.

That's why we launched the LGBTQ+ COVID-19 Vaccination Attitudes Survey to better understand the needs and concerns of our community on the pandemic and vaccine efforts. Without these perspectives, healthcare can't truly be inclusive—which will have repercussions for a long time.

We hope that everyone—from our grantees at the forefront of supporting our community to healthcare institutions with broad reach—can use these results to make a meaningful change.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts with us. We're excited to share these results with you.

Our thanks,
Tegan and Sara



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Introduction

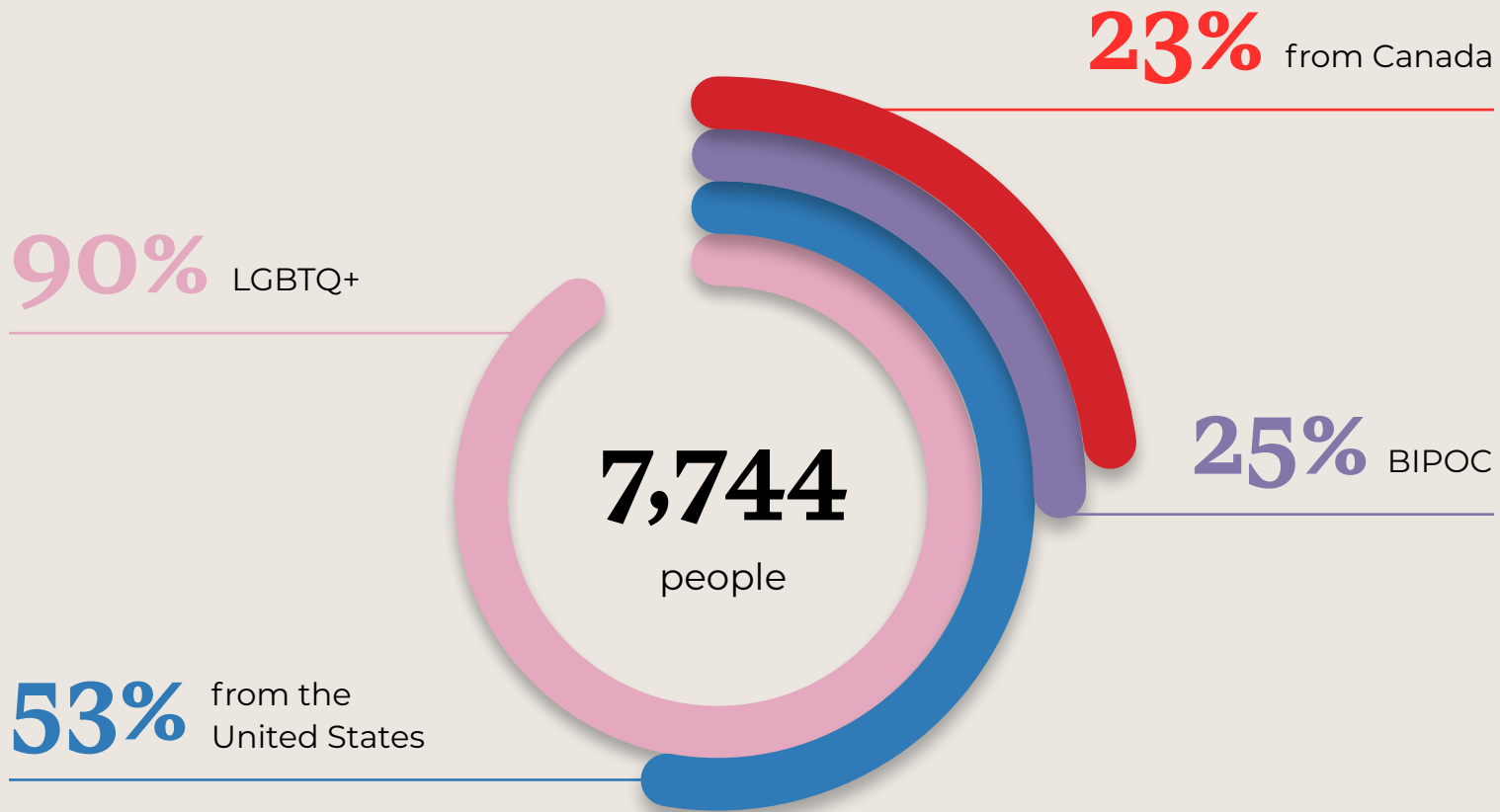
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us. Unemployment and social isolation have compounded the health and personal crises facing many. Vaccinations have been heralded as the path out of the crisis—but will the LGBTQ+ community partake? We set out to find out. We launched an online survey in April 2021 to understand the attitudes of the LGBTQ+ community toward vaccination: why will people be vaccinated, and what concerns might they have that would keep them from getting vaccinated?

Our goal was to understand our community, to provide insights that can help community organizations that are helpful to local organizations and health professionals, and address the concerns and questions of LGBTQ+ people.



An incredible response

We were inspired by how many of you wanted to share your input on how COVID-19 has affected you and how you're feeling about the vaccine.



BIPOC=Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

The community comes first



Most LGBTQ+ people
**want to get
vaccinated**



The most important reason
to get vaccinated is to
“protect others”



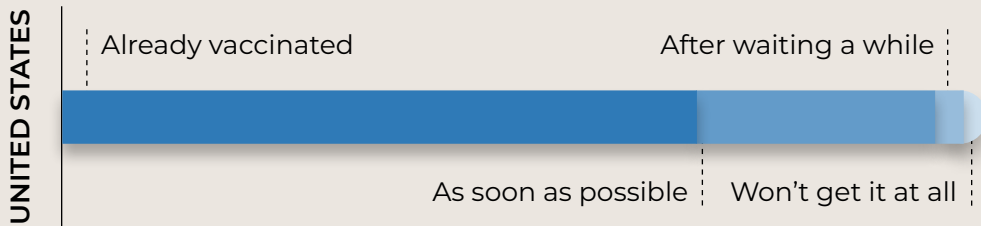
Vaccination providers need to understand the unique needs of our community

“It sucks going to these clinics and being misgendered or having them ask sex assigned at birth. Why is that relevant to me getting a shot?”

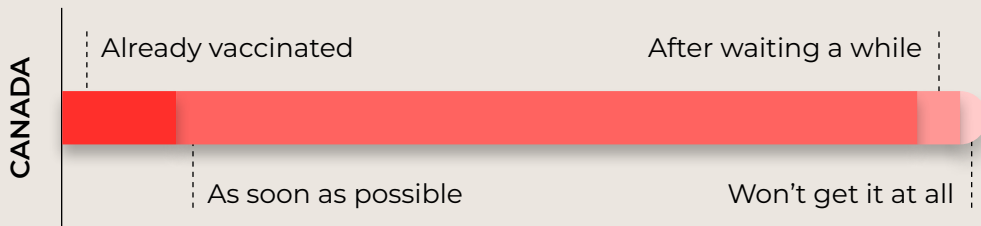
2 countries. 2 vastly different scenarios.

At the time our survey was fielded, vaccine availability varied widely. Each province or state had their own guidelines, and they were in constant flux.

WHEN WILL YOU GET VACCINATED?



★ **In the United States, many people in our survey were already vaccinated as of April 30, 2021.**



🍁 **In Canada, the majority reported they would get vaccinated as soon as they were eligible.**

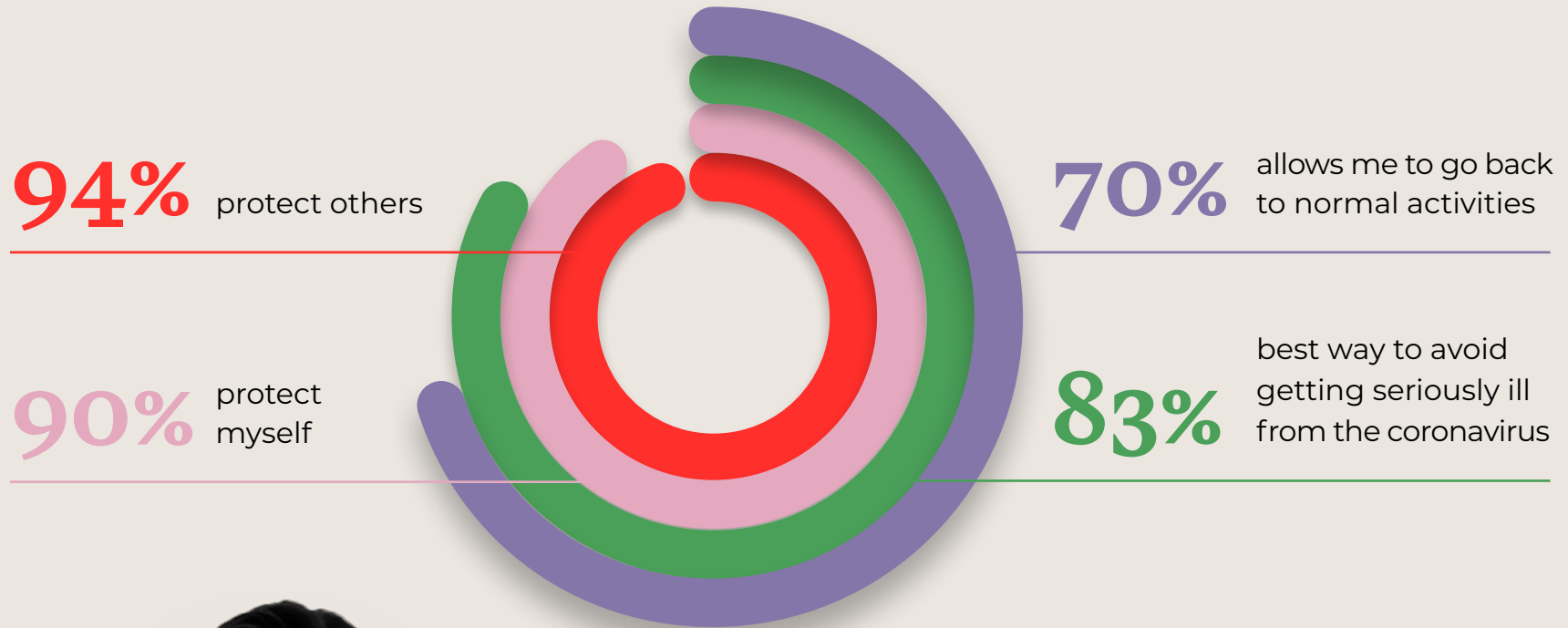


"The data highlight how the issue of 'vaccine hesitancy' is more complex than simply ignorance—especially for 2SQTBIPOC people—and speaks to the crucial need in health care for clearer information, more transparency, and greater sensitivity for marginalized communities."

—Vivek Shraya, Musician, Artist, and member of the Tegan and Sara Foundation Board of Directors

One constant: community

The number one reason people in our survey said they would get vaccinated:
“I want to protect others.”



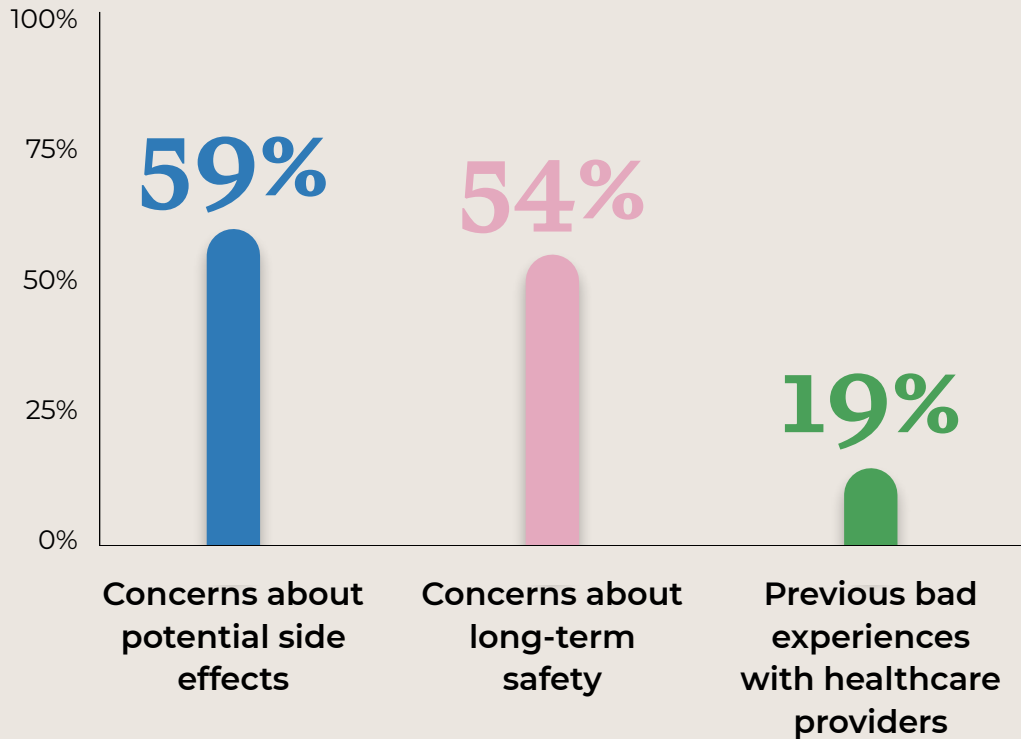
“I’m inspired, but not surprised, by the “protect the community” motivation behind the LGBTQ+ community acceptance of the vaccine even though there are still questions.”

—*Emy Storey, Creative Director, Founder, and President of Revel & Riot, and member of the Tegan and Sara Foundation Board of Directors*

If you have questions, that's okay

Many of the people in our survey had reasons for why they were a bit hesitant about getting vaccinated. **But most of them are getting the shot when it's their turn anyway, to help others around them.**

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?



"Vaccine resistance is no surprise when historically BIPOC have been discriminated against by the medical system. With community, power, and trust we will still show up for our loved ones."

—Kevin Al Perez, *Somos Familia Valle*, Tegan and Sara Foundation Community Grantee

We know healthcare can be scary

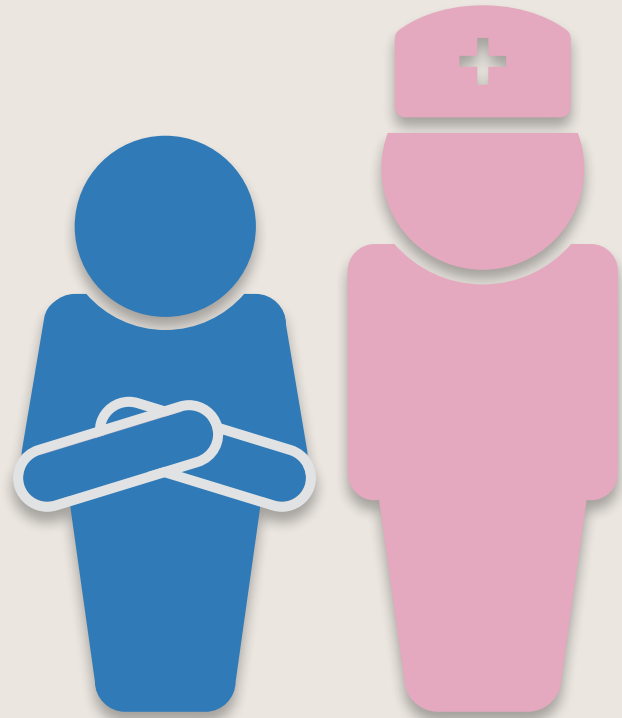
More than

1 in 4 transgender respondents,

and

1 in 3 genderqueer respondents,

said that previous bad experiences with healthcare providers is a reason they might delay getting the vaccine.



"Many communities of color have experienced harm in the hands of medical providers and institutions. When we look at the reservations from BIPOC communities surrounding vaccinations, we also have to acknowledge how those reservations are heightened when living at the intersections of LGBTQ+ identities."

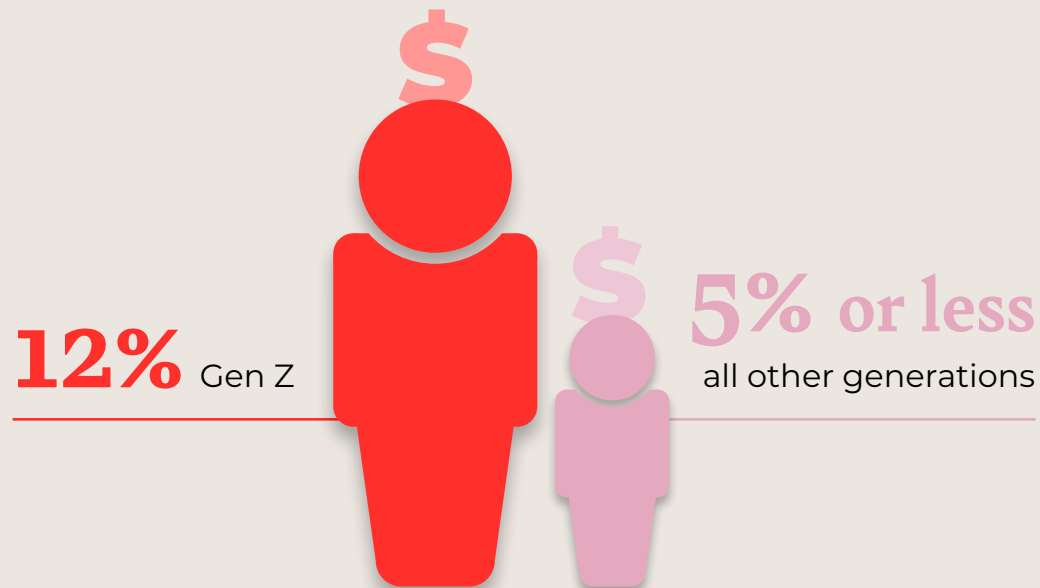
—Erma Standley, Affinity Community Services, Tegan and Sara Foundation Community Grantee

Queers of Gen Z: on board, but concerned about cost

In our study, we didn't see any substantial differences between the generations in the **desire to get vaccinated**. Ninety-five percent of Gen Z (up to age 24), Millennial (25-34), Xennial (35-44), Gen X (45-54), and Boomers (55 or older) were either already vaccinated, or would get vaccinated as soon as possible.

But the youngest residents of the United States and Canada were concerned about the cost of getting vaccinated, despite the fact that the vaccine is available for free in both countries.

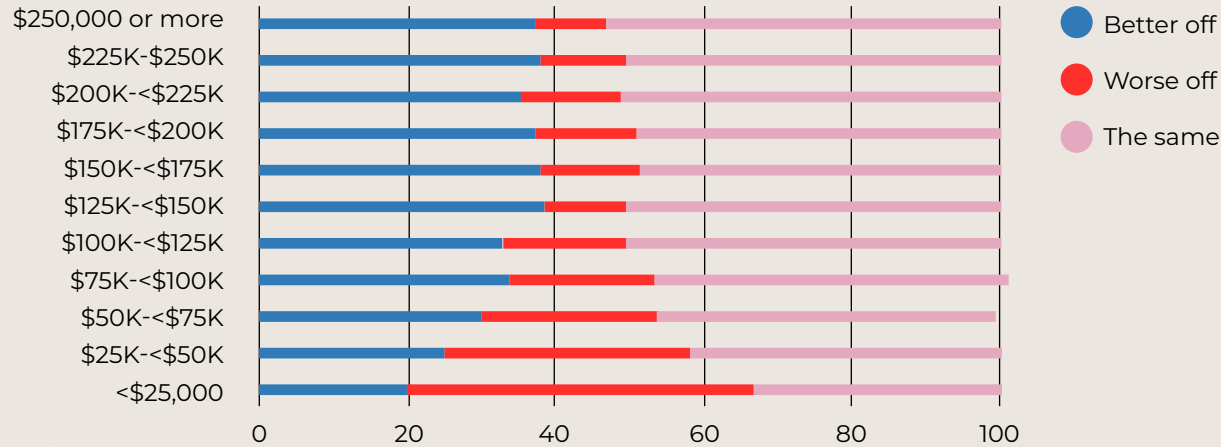
CONCERNED ABOUT COST



For the worst off, the pandemic has made us worse off

People with the lowest household incomes were most likely to say they feel financially worse off than a year ago.

COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO, DO YOU FEEL FINANCIALLY...



"COVID hit the most vulnerable among us the hardest, and this includes the financial impact of the pandemic. While various community and government supports helped, a significant segment of the lower income groups tell us they are financially worse off than before the pandemic. There is work to do to help this community."

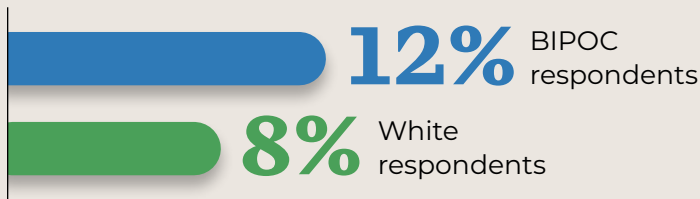
—Carlyn Lamia, Vice President of Strategy and Innovation, Freedom Financial Network, and member of the Tegan and Sara Foundation Board of Directors

Racism worsens the effects of COVID-19

Insights emerged for why queers of color were 60% more likely to report that they would “wait a while” to get vaccinated.

After all, as one of you wrote in the survey, “as a queer, Black woman, I’m leery to trust the healthcare system.” Or as another says, “The government has sterilized Black and indigenous women against their will up until the 1970s.”

PLANNING TO "WAIT A WHILE"



"I'm getting vaccinated for my native friends and family and my PRIDE community."



"There is a long history of racist acts committed against Indigenous people by western medical practitioners. As a result, we are very reluctant to engage with the healthcare system. Yet, for many of us who identify as Indigiqueer, we are choosing to get the vaccine to protect our elders, our families, and our communities."

—Michelle McGeough, Assistant Professor, Concordia University, and member of the Tegan and Sara Foundation Board of Directors

But we're getting through it

Our favorite result from this survey was asking you, "what has helped you get through the pandemic?" Because the results say so, so much about our community.



Thank you for taking care of one another.

Learn more

We've only scratched the surface of what we can learn about our community from these data. What can you learn and use to help your own community?

SOME THINGS YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEARN:

- What are the most important reasons for delaying or skipping the vaccine in your local area?
- Did people find something particularly hard about accessing the vaccine?
- How do the experiences of Black Canadians differ from the experiences of Black people in the United States?

Local colleges, health departments, or for-profit companies may be able to connect you with a data scientist to help you create an analysis that meets your needs. Volunteer organizations like DataKind are also available to help.

You may need some additional data to help paint a fuller picture of your data. Some publicly available datasets include:

- **US Census Open Data:** available at census.gov/data.html
- **Open Data Canada:** available at open.canada.ca/en/open-data
- **The PRIDE study:** available at pridestudy.org
- And a wide variety of other data sources via the **Open Data Network**, available at opendatanetwork.com



“Surviving and thriving depends on how we cope with challenges, stresses, and tragedies. We are only beginning to understand how this pandemic has revealed the unique ways we cope in LGBTQ communities.”

—Carl G Streed Jr MD MPH FACP, Primary Care Physician & Research Lead, Center for Transgender Medicine & Surgery, Boston Medical Center

You can download the full dataset [here](#).

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the generous people who helped make this survey and report possible. Our partners at [Entrée Health](#), [Valuate Health Consultancy](#), and [SurveyMonkey](#) provided survey design, hosting, and analysis support. Entrée Health also wrote and designed this beautiful report.

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