

# COVID Impacts

## TRUST & VACCINATIONS BY ETHNICITY - CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

This factsheet examines the change in vaccination rates when we examine whether someone has trust in the government and science. From our data, we see decreases in vaccinations across the board when people lack trust in science.

### TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

We currently have data on trust in the following public institutions:

- City and municipal authorities
- Provincial/State Governments
- Federal Governments
- Tribe/Band/Nation Government (For Indigenous respondents only)
- Public Health Officials
- Media/Journalists
- The Military
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Scientists
- Religious Leaders

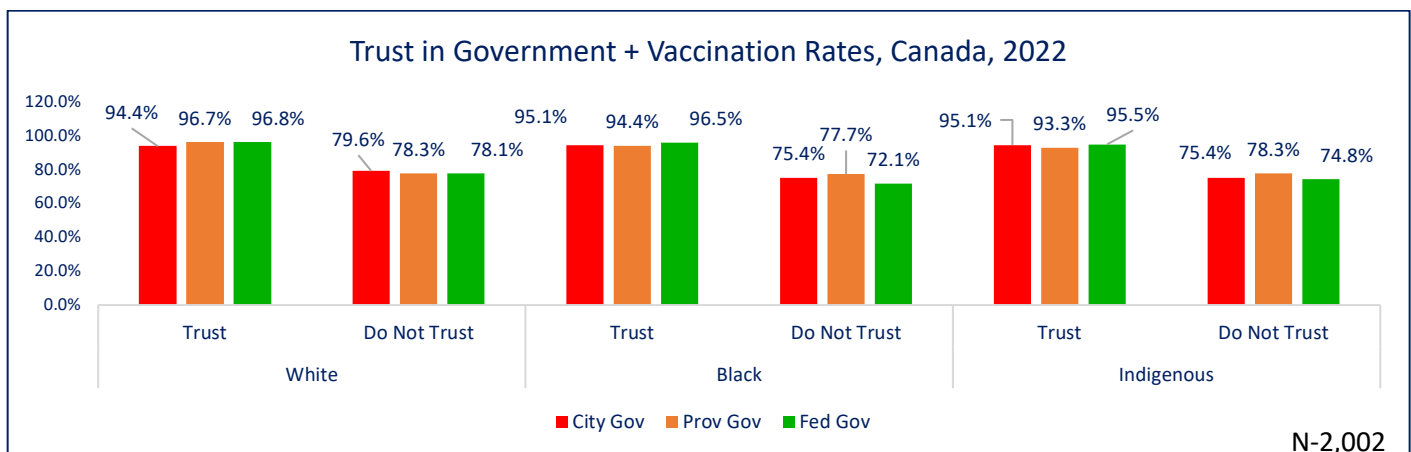
### OTHER TRUST INDICATORS

We also have the following trust indicators:

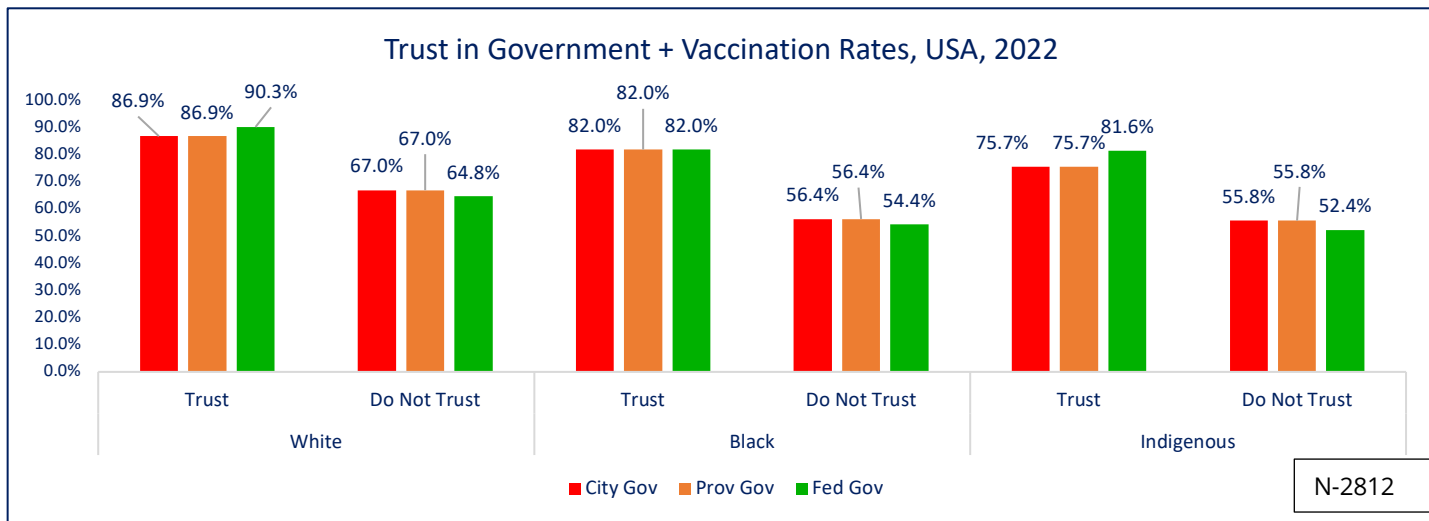
- People in general
- Immigrants/newcomers
- Canadians
- Americans
- Mexicans
- Community Leaders (Elders, Band Council, ethnic group leaders)

These indicators can give us a good idea of the general trust levels a community has. We also know that more equal societies have higher levels of trust (Gould & Hijzen, 2017) and should then, have higher vaccination rates (Thorton, 2022)

## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

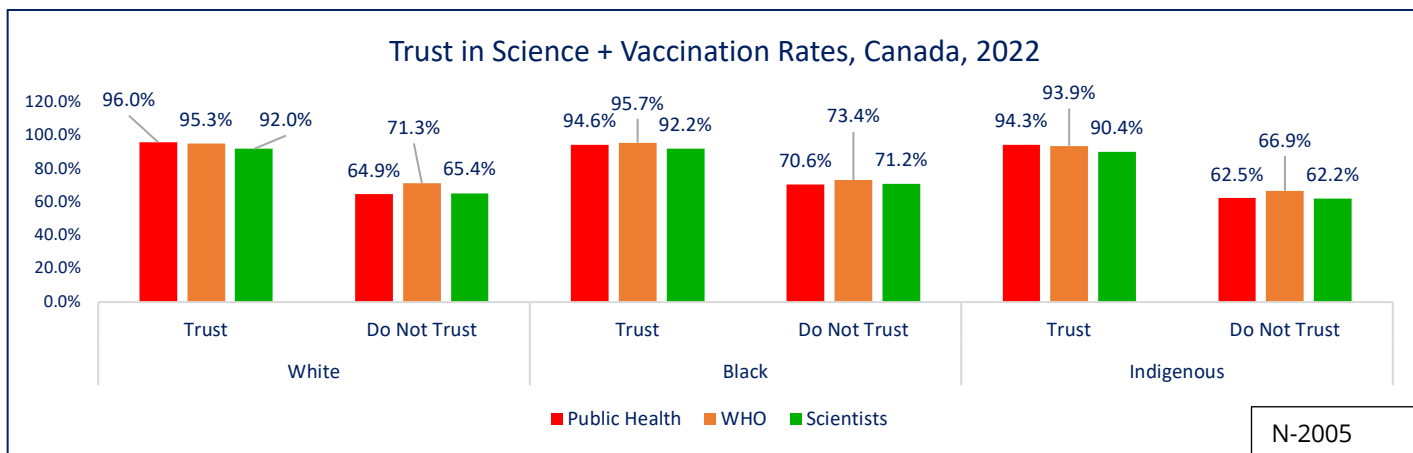


As seen in the above chart, our data shows that if someone does not trust the government, their vaccination rates decrease by 20%. This phenomenon is not seen in Asian respondents and could be an area for further exploration.

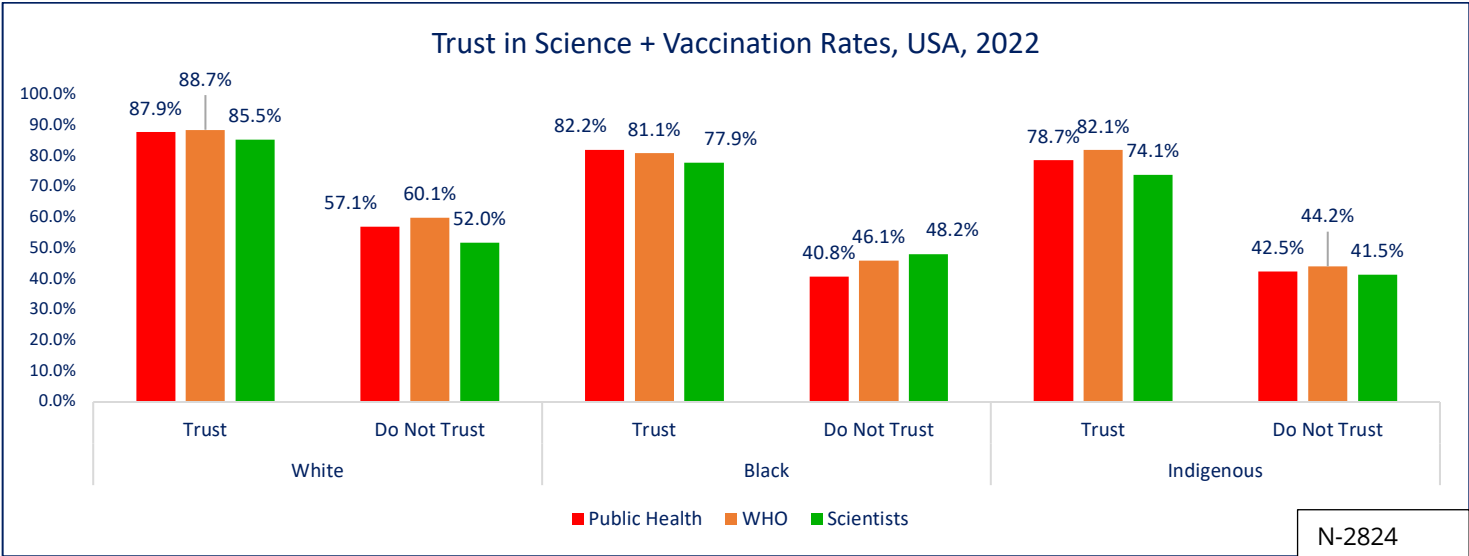


Overall, respondents in the US were less likely to be vaccinated than their Canadian counterparts. However, we see the same decrease when people report a lack of trust in the government. Vaccination rates take a particularly large hit for Black and Indigenous respondents. For example, when Black people report a lack of trust in the federal government, their vaccination rate goes from 82% to 54.4%. We see a decrease closer to 30% rather than the decrease of 20% in Canada, suggesting that trust in the government could be more influential in the US..

## TRUST IN SCIENCE



This graph shows that a lack of trust in science and public health decreases vaccination rates more significantly than a lack of trust in government. For example, when Indigenous respondents report not trusting scientists, their vaccination rate is only 62.2% compared to 74.8% when they report they do not trust the federal government. This shows that to increase vaccination, we need to focus our efforts on building trust in science and public health officials. Interestingly, when white people report not trusting religious leaders, their rate of vaccination increases from 85% to 89.4%- it is the only example in Canada where the vaccination rate increases with lack of trust.



When examining vaccination rates and trust in science in the United States, it differs significantly from Canada. For example, when Indigenous respondents do not trust public health officials, 62.2% of those in Canada report being vaccinated, while only 42.2% of respondents in the US report the same. This suggests that, again, trust is having a more considerable influence in the US than it is in Canada.

**REFERENCES**

Gould, Eric D. & Hijzen, Alexander. (2017) "In Equality, We Trust" *International Monetary Fund*.  
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2017/03/gould.htm>

Thornton J. Covid-19: Trust in government and other people linked with lower infection rate and higher vaccination uptake *BMJ* 2022; 376 :o292 doi:10.1136/bmj.o292

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The researchers: A cross-national team of over 30 researchers led by Dr. Lori Wilkinson, Dr. Kiera Ladner and Dr. Jack Jedwab, received funding from CIHR for this study *COVID-19's differential impact on the mental and emotional health of Indigenous Peoples and Newcomers: A socioeconomic analysis of Canada, US and Mexico*.

The study: The team has been collecting data in Canada since March 9 and the United States since March 27, 2020. Ongoing survey waves now include Mexico.

Our goal is to measure and follow the changes in attitudes, behaviours, health and socioeconomic outcomes among persons living in all three countries using a mixed methodology of surveys and unstructured interviews.

*This Factsheet was created by Avery Hallberg, Research Assistant, University of Manitoba.*

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