

# LGBTQI+ Communities in the COVID-19 Pandemic

*The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*

Lindsey Dawson  
June 22, 2021



Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues.

# KFF: Who We Are + LGBT Data Collection

- **KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation)** is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization focusing on national health issues and the U.S. role in global health policy. We conduct policy analysis, including polling, journalism, and communications programs.
- **LGBT Data Collection**
  - KFF collects LGBT identity in all of our polling
  - Relatively small sample = limited ability to provide demographic breaks among LGBT people
    - 2 months of data when reporting on this population
  - Multi-step questions and disaggregation of sexual orientation and gender identity not used due to sample size limitations

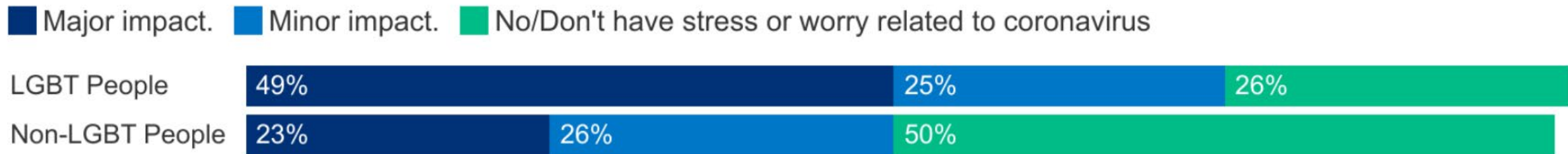
# Data Overview

- **KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor**
  - A project from our polling team - Launched in December 2020 to track public opinion and experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines.
  - Nationally representative monthly surveys of US adults.
  - Probability-based sampling, random digit dial (cell phone & landline), live interviews in English and Spanish, oversamples of Black and Hispanic adults
- Data in this presentation drawn from:
  - Nov. 30 – Dec. 8, 2020 and Jan. 11- 18, 2021
  - April 15-29, 2021 and May 18-25, 2021

Figure 3

# LGBT People Report that COVID-19 Has Negatively Impacted Their Mental Health at Greater Rates & More Severely Than Non-LGBT

*Do you feel that worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on your mental health, or not?*



SOURCE: KFF. Dawson, L., Kirzinger, A., and Kates, J. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT People. March 2021.  
<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-lgbt-people/>

Figure 4

# LGBT Households Faced COVID-era Job Loss at Higher Rates Than Non-LGBT Households

*Since February [2020], have you or another adult in your household lost a job, been placed on furlough, or had your income or hours reduced because of the coronavirus outbreak, or not?*



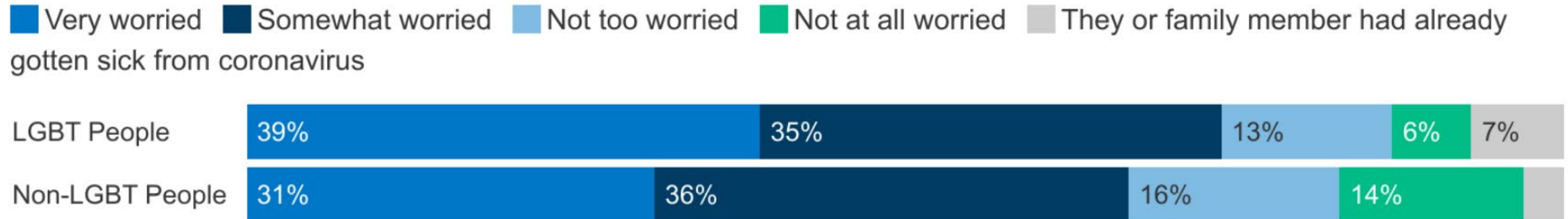
SOURCE: KFF. Dawson, L., Kirzinger, A., and Kates, J. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT People. March 2021.  
<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-lgbt-people/>

Note: As of January 2021

Figure 5

## Three-quarters of LGBT People Worried They or Their Family Would Get Sick From the Coronavirus

*How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will get sick from the coronavirus ? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not at all worried?*



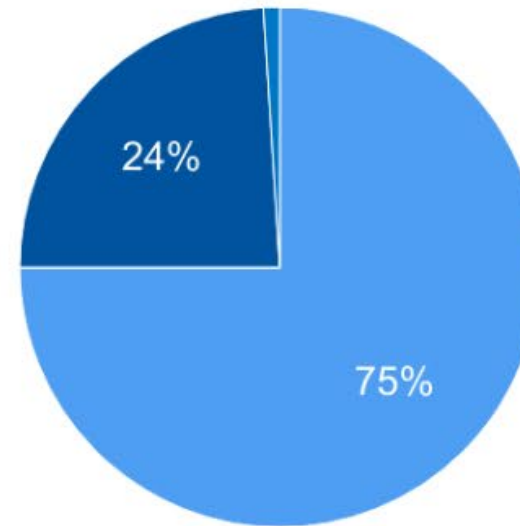
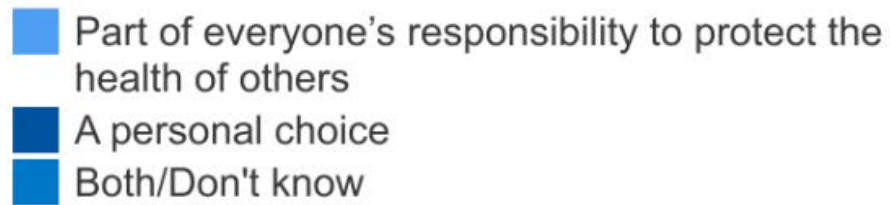
SOURCE: KFF. Dawson, L., Kirzinger, A., and Kates, J. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT People. March 2021.  
<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-lgbt-people/>

Note: As of January 2021.

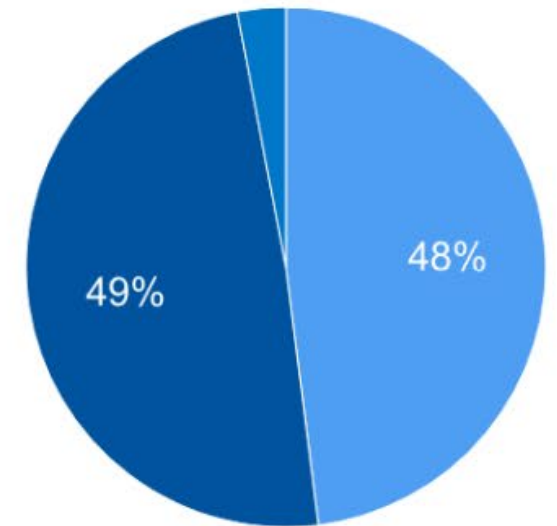
Figure 6

# Three-quarters of LGBT People View COVID-19 Vaccination as Responsibility to Protect Others; Non-LGBT People More Likely to View as Individual Choice

*Which comes closer to your view: Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is...?*



LGBT People



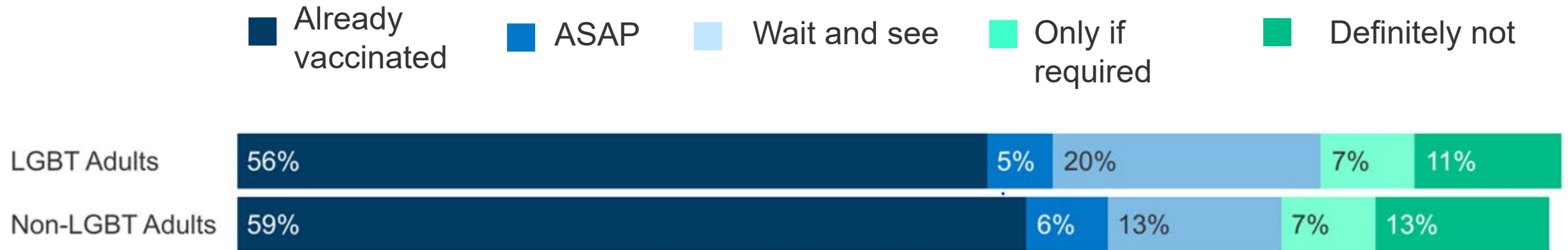
Non-LGBT People

SOURCE: KFF. Dawson, L., Kirzinger, A., and Kates, J. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT People. March 2021.  
<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-lgbt-people/>

Figure 7

## Majority Of LGBT Adults Already Vaccinated, Two in Ten Plan to “Wait And See”

*Have you personally received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or not? As you may know, an FDA-authorized vaccine for COVID-19 is now available for free to all adults in the U.S. Do you think you will...?*



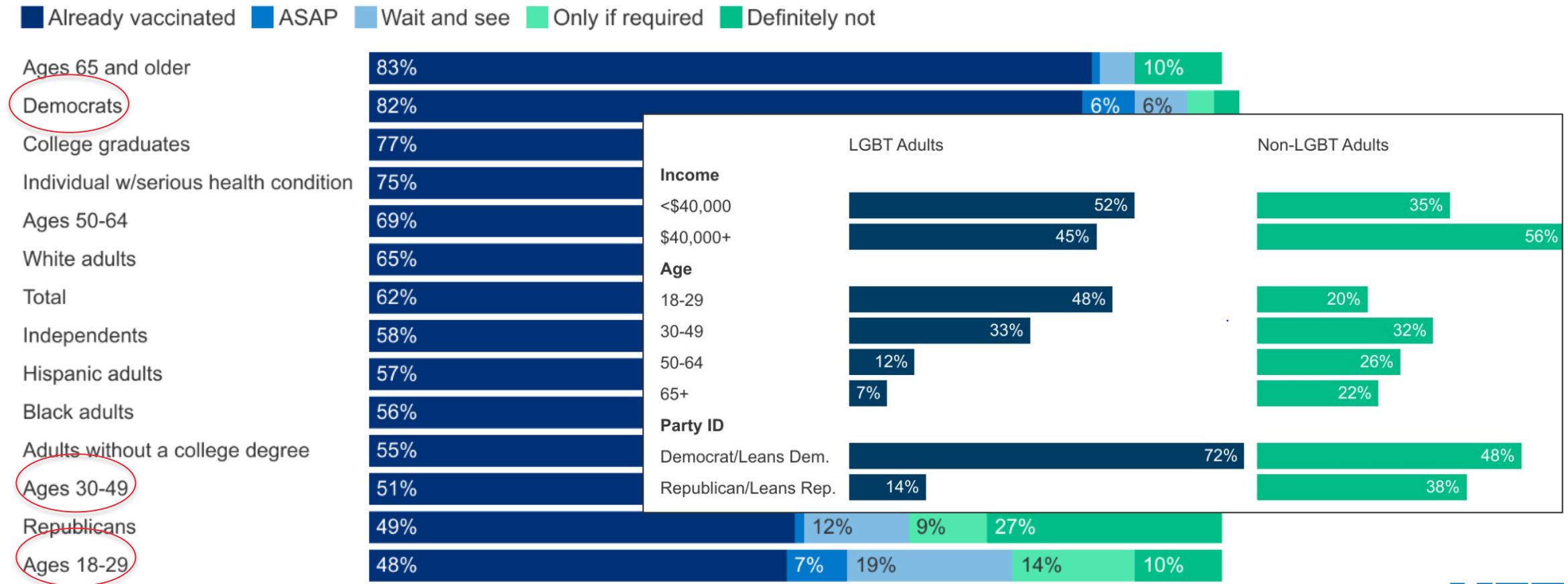
NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (conducted April 15-29, 2021; May 18-25, 2021).



Figure 8

# Looking at Overall Demographics, LGBT People Fall Into Groups with Both High & Low Levels of COVID Vaccine Uptake



SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (conducted April 15-29, 2021; May 18-25, 2021).

Figure 9

## Unvaccinated LGBT Adults Are More Likely to be Uninsured, Lower Income, and have Lower Levels of Education Than Their Vaccinated Counterparts

- Among unvaccinated LGBT adults:
  - Two-thirds (65%) earn **less than \$40,000** annually
    - Compared to 44% of vaccinated LGBT adults
  - 85% **do not have a college degree**
    - Compared to 60% of vaccinated LGBT adults
  - One-quarter (25%) **do not have health insurance**
    - Compared to 17% of vaccinated LGBT adults

Demographics  
associated with  
lower vaccination  
rates overall

NOTE: Insurance status is among adults <65 years old.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (conducted April 15-29, 2021; May 18-25, 2021).

## Concerns and Misconceptions About Vaccine Safety, Side Effects, and Cost Are Top of Mind

- **Top reason** why unvaccinated **LGBT** adults say they have not tried to get a COVID-19 vaccine appointment: **concerns about vaccine safety & side effects**.

\*\*\*\*

- **Half** of **all** unvaccinated adults (incl. LGBT adults) say they are concerned they might need to miss work if the side effects of the vaccine make them sick.
- **One-third** of **all** unvaccinated adults (incl. LGBT adults) say they are concerned they would have to pay out of pocket for a COVID-19 vaccine.

NOTE: See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (conducted April 15-29, 2021; May 18-25, 2021).

## In their own words....

*What is the biggest concern you have about getting a COVID-19 vaccine?*

- “Honestly, I just **think that the vaccine was “rushed”**, but I’ll probably consider it later on [in] the future...” – Female, Black, bisexual, Florida
- “**Know what really it contains? Is it trustworthy?**” – Female, Hispanic, transgender, Florida
- The **side effects; mainly, contracting COVID-19 from the vaccine.** – Male, Black, bisexual, California
- Long lasting **side effects, no long term benefits.** – Male, gay, White, Washington

## In their own words....

*What is the main reason you have not tried to get a COVID-19 vaccine appointment?*

- “Just **waiting to hear** about any adverse reactions. Do plan on going in the next month or so.” Other, White, Minnesota
- “Because **I'm scared of the effects.**” Female, Black, Washington DC
- “Want to **see how it effects other people**, and **other people might need it** bad. I work from home.” Male, White, North Carolina
- “Only knew a few people who've gotten it. **Waiting** for more [people] to safely get it.” Female, Black, New Jersey

The background features a large, stylized blue 'K' shape on the left side, set against a light grey background. The right side of the image is white.

Thank you.