

**Harvard Opinion Research Program  
Harvard School of Public Health**

**PUBLIC VIEWS OF THE H1N1 VACCINE  
*TOPLINE RESULTS***

**September 14-20, 2009**

**Research Team:**

**Robert J. Blendon, Harvard School of Public Health, Project Director  
Gillian K. SteelFisher, Harvard School of Public Health  
John M. Benson, Harvard School of Public Health  
Kathleen J. Weldon, Harvard School of Public Health  
Melissa J. Herrmann, SSRS/ICR**

**Contact:**

**Robert J. Blendon, 617-432-4502**

**Harvard Vaccine Follow-up**  
**Topline Results**

*The study was conducted for Harvard University via telephone by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from September 14 - 20, 2009 among a representative sample of 1042 respondents age 18 and older. The margin of error is +/-3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.*

**I. Awareness & Concern**

HN-1. How closely are you following news about the recent outbreak of influenza A – H1N1? Are you following the news very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

	CLOSELY			NOT CLOSELY			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
9/20/09	73	28	45	26	18	8	*	*
6/28/09 <sup>i,ii</sup>	72	27	44	28	23	6	*	*
5/6/09 <sup>iii</sup>	76	31	46	23	17	7	*	*
4/29/09 <sup>iv</sup>	77	34	43	22	15	7	*	*

<sup>i</sup> -“How closely did you follow...”; <sup>ii</sup> -asked of those who said they followed news about H1N1; <sup>iii</sup> - “...H1N1 or swine flu”; <sup>iv</sup> -“swine flu”

HN-2. Thinking about this coming fall or winter, how likely do you think it is that there will be widespread cases of influenza A - H1N1 with people getting very sick? Do you think that is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

	LIKELY			NOT LIKELY			Don't know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all		
9/20/09	76	28	48	22	18	4	2	*
6/28/09	59	15	44	37	29	8	3	*

HN-3. Are you concerned that you or someone in your immediate family may get sick from influenza A - H1N1 during the next 12 months, or aren't you concerned about that?

	Yes, concerned	No, not concerned	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	52	47	*	--
9/9/09	49	50	1	1
6/28/09 <sup>i,ii</sup>	38	61	1	*
5/6/09 <sup>ii,iii</sup>	39	61	*	--
4/29/09 <sup>iv</sup>	46	53	1	--

<sup>i</sup> -“And how about today...”; <sup>ii</sup> -“Swine flu or H1N1”; <sup>iii</sup> – asked of half sample; <sup>iv</sup> -“swine flu”

(Asked of total respondents who are concerned they or someone in their immediate family may get sick from influenza A - H1N1 during the next 12 months; n=577)

HN-3a. How concerned are you? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not very concerned?

**HN-3/HN-3a Combo Table**

	9/20/09	9/9/09	6/28/09	5/6/09	4/29/09
Concerned that you/immediate family may get sick from influenza A - H1N1 in next 12 months	52	49	38	39	46
Very concerned	23	21	14	17	20
Somewhat concerned	27	24	21	20	24
Not very concerned	2	3	3	2	2
Not concerned that you/immediate family may get sick next 12 months	47	50	61	61	53
Don't Know	*	1	1	*	1
Refused	--	1	*	--	--

HN-5. Do you think public health officials' concerns about a possible outbreak of influenza A- H1N1 this fall or winter have been (justified/overblown) or (overblown/justified)?

	Justified	Overblown	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	64	31	5	*

## II. H1N1 Vaccine

Public health officials believe there will be a vaccine, or shot, to prevent people from getting sick with influenza A - H1N1 available later this year (2009). They expect to recommend – as a general rule - that people take this vaccine to protect themselves and their family from influenza A – H1N1, as well as to help slow the spread of the illness through their communities.

HN-6. Do you think you, personally, will or will not get this vaccine?

	Will	Will not	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	53	41	6	*
9/9/09	52	37	10	*

9/21/09 – “...(2009)...”\*

(Asked of total respondents who think they personally will get the vaccine; n=568)

HN-6a. Are you absolutely certain that you will get this vaccine, or do you think that you may change your mind and decide not to get it after all?

	Absolutely certain	May change your mind	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	75	21	4	*

### HN-6/ HN-6a. Combo Table

	9/20/09
You personally will get this vaccine	53
Absolutely certain you will get this vaccine	40
May change mind and not get this vaccine	11
You personally will NOT get this vaccine	41
Don't Know	6
Refused	*

(Asked of total respondents who will not get the H1N1 vaccine or (don't think/ are not sure/might change mind and not) get vaccine; n=578)

HN-6b. Please tell me if each of the following is a major reason why (you don't think you will/ you're not sure whether you will/ you might change your mind and not) get this vaccine, a minor reason, or not a reason at all?

	REASON			Not a reason at all	Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Major	Minor			
a. You don't think you are at risk of getting a serious case of influenza A - H1N1	61	28	34	37	1	*
b. You don't think the vaccine would be effective in preventing you from getting influenza A - H1N1	47	17	29	51	2	*
c. You are concerned about getting influenza A - H1N1 from the vaccine	45	21	24	54	1	*
d. You are concerned about getting another serious illness from the vaccine	43	20	23	56	1	*
e. You are concerned about getting other kinds of side effects from the vaccine	55	30	26	44	*	--
f. It would be too expensive for you to get the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	38	20	19	61	1	*
g. It will be too hard to get to a place where you could get the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	29	8	21	70	1	*
h. You don't like shots or injections	35	16	20	64	1	*
i. If you get influenza A - H1N1, you can get medication to treat it	51	26	25	45	4	*
j. Your healthcare provider has told you that you shouldn't get the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	20	10	10	77	3	--
k. You plan on getting a vaccine for the seasonal flu, meaning the flu vaccine available every year, and you believe this will also protect you from getting influenza A - H1N1	31	14	16	67	2	*
l. You don't trust public health officials to provide correct information about the safety of the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	48	19	28	51	1	*

(Asked of total respondents who do not think they personally will get the vaccine; n=402)

HN-7. If there were people in your community who were sick or dying from Influenza A – H1N1, do you think you still would not get the vaccine, or might you change your mind and get it?

	No, still would not	Yes, would get it	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	38	59	3	--

**HN-6/ HN-7. Combo Table**

	9/20/09
You personally will get this vaccine	53
You personally will NOT get this vaccine	41
Still would not get this vaccine if people in community were infected/died	16
Would change mind and get this vaccine if people in community were infected/died	24
Don't Know	6
Refused	*

(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of one child in their household; n=132)

HN-8a. Now thinking about getting the H1N1 vaccine for your child. Do you think you will get this vaccine for your child or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	75	17	8	--

(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of more than one child in their household; n=176)

HN-8b. Now thinking about getting the H1N1 vaccine for your children. Do you think you will get this vaccine for all of your children; some of your children; none of your children)?

	All the children	Some of the children	None of the children	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	60	7	24	7	2

(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in their household; n=308)

**HN-8a/8b. Summary Table**

	9/20/09
Will get vaccine for one or more children	70
Will not get vaccine for any children	21
Don't Know	7
Refused	1

**(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in their household; n=220)**

HN-8c. Are you absolutely certain that you will get this vaccine for (your child/your children/ some of your children), or do you think that you may change your mind and decide not to get it after all?

	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	<b>May change your mind</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>
9/20/09	73	23	4	--

**(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in their household; n=308)**

**HN-8a/8b/8c. Summary Table**

	<b>9/20/09</b>
Will get vaccine for one or more children	70
Absolutely certain	51
May change mind	16
Will NOT get vaccine for any children	21
Don't Know	7
Refused	1

**(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children who will not get the H1N1 vaccine or (don't think/ are not sure/might change mind and not) get vaccine for their children; n=138)**

HN-8d. Please tell me if each of the following is a major reason why (you don't think you will/ you're not sure whether you will/ you might change your mind and not) get this vaccine for your (child/children), a minor reason, or not a reason at all?

	REASON			Not a reason at all	Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Major	Minor			
a. You don't think your (child is/children are) at risk of getting a serious case of influenza A - H1N1	59	27	32	40	2	--
b. You don't think the vaccine would be effective in preventing your (child/children) from getting influenza A - H1N1	51	23	28	47	3	--
c. You are concerned about your (child/children) getting influenza H1N1 from the vaccine	49	24	25	50	1	--
d. You are concerned about your (child/children) getting another serious illness from the vaccine	60	33	26	39	1	--
e. You are concerned about your (child/children) getting other kinds of side effects from the vaccine	75	38	37	24	1	--
f. It would be too expensive for you to get your (child/children) the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	31	13	18	68	1	--
g. It will be too hard to get to a place where you could get the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine for your (child/children)	25	4	22	74	1	--
h. Your (child doesn't/children don't) like shots or injections	37	15	21	63	1	--
i. Your healthcare provider has told you that your (child/children) shouldn't get the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine	24	7	17	73	3	--
j. Your (child is/children are) less than 6 months old and cannot get the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine	7	3	3	91	1	1
k. You plan on getting a vaccine for the seasonal flu, meaning the flu vaccine available every year, for your (child/children) and you believe this will also protect them from getting influenza A – H1N1	32	12	20	65	2	--
l. You don't trust public health officials to provide correct information about the safety of the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine	56	31	24	42	2	--



(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household who would not get this vaccine for their child; n=63)

HN-9. If there were people in your community who were sick or dying from Influenza A – H1N1, do you think you still would not get the vaccine for your child/children, or might you change your mind and get it?

	No, still would not	Yes, would get it	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	38	60	2	--

**HN-8a/HN-8b/ HN-9. Combo Table based on total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in their household; n=308)**

	9/20/09
You will get this vaccine for your child/children	70
You will NOT get this vaccine for your child/children	21
Still would not get this vaccine for child/children if people in community were infected/died	8
Would change mind and get this vaccine for child/children if people in community were infected/died	13
Don't Know	7
Refused	1

HN-12. Just based on what you know, how safe do you believe the vaccine for influenza A – H1N1 will generally be for most people to take? Would you say very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, not at all safe?

	SAFE			NOT SAFE			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
9/20/09	87	33	55	9	6	3	4	*

HN-13. And how about for (INSERT ITEM) - Would you say the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine is very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe for (INSERT ITEM)?

	SAFE			NOT SAFE			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
a. Pregnant women	46	13	33	40	21	18	14	1
b. Children 6 months to 2 years old	56	18	38	34	22	12	10	1
c. Adults age 65 or older	77	29	48	16	10	5	7	*

HN-10. I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not be true about the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine. I'd like to know whether these things make you more likely to get the vaccine personally, less likely to take it personally or makes no difference? (IF LESS LIKELY: Is that much less or somewhat less likely?)

- a. To make the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine work, you will have to take two separate shots several days or weeks apart

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	8	28	17	11	62	1	*

- b. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine will not be able to be taken at the same time as the seasonal flu shot, so you will have to make a separate visit if you want to get both

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	10	20	12	8	69	1	*

- c. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine contains a small amount of mercury, also known as thimerosal or Thimerisol to help prevent the vaccine from getting contaminated with bacteria

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	8	35	19	16	54	3	*

- d. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine can be taken as a nasal spray rather than as a shot or injection

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	28	13	6	6	59	1	*

**(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household; n=308)**

HN-11. I'd like to know whether these make you more likely to get the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine for your (child/children), less likely to get the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine for your (child/children) or makes no difference? (IF LESS LIKELY: Is that much less or somewhat less likely?)

- a. To make the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine work, you will have to take two separate shots several days or weeks apart

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	8	30	18	12	62	1	--

- b. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine will not be able to be taken at the same time as the seasonal flu shot, so you will have to make a separate visit if you want to get both

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	10	21	15	7	69	*	--

- c. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine contains a small amount of mercury, also known as thimerosal or Thermisol to help prevent the vaccine from getting contaminated with bacteria

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	7	47	23	24	43	2	*

- d. The influenza A – H1N1 vaccine can be taken as a nasal spray rather than as a shot or injection

	More likely	LESS LIKELY			Makes no difference	Don't Know	Refused
		NET	Somewhat less	Much less			
9/20/09	33	13	5	8	52	1	1

### III. H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

HN-15. As you may have heard, public health officials have recommended that the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine be made available first to specific groups of people. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following groups were made priorities for receiving the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine? How about:

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
a. Pregnant women	55	36	10	*
b. People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age	73	21	5	*
c. Healthy adults age 26 to 64	31	65	4	--
d. Health care and emergency services personnel	89	8	2	--
e. Individuals 6 months to 24 years of age	64	32	5	*
f. People ages 25 to 64 years who are at increased risk from H1N1 because of chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems	81	14	4	*
g. People age 65 or older	71	26	3	*

### V. Information about Novel Influenza A - H1N1

HN-16. A number of groups will be giving advice this fall and winter about whether you should get the influenza A – H1N1 vaccine for yourself or your family. How much would you trust each of the following sources for information about the safety of the influenza A - H1N1 vaccine this fall? Would you say you would trust them a great deal, somewhat, not very much or not at all? How about:

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=520)

a. Your personal doctor

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	95	68	27	5	2	3	*	--

(Total respondents who are the parent/guardian of kids in the household; n=308)

b. Your child's pediatrician

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	94	68	26	5	3	2	*	1

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=520)

c. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	90	53	37	9	5	4	1	--

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=522)

d. The Food and Drug Administration, or FDA

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	80	34	45	19	9	10	1	--

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=520)

e. The Surgeon General

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	82	43	39	17	7	11	1	--

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=522)

f. The American Medical Association, or AMA

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	88	51	38	11	5	5	1	--

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=520)

g. The Department of Homeland Security, or DHS

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	64	18	46	34	16	18	2	*

(Total respondents answering; n=570)

h. Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	84	39	45	14	6	8	2	--

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=520)

i. Friends or family members who are employed in the field of health care

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	88	47	41	11	6	5	1	*

(Asked of one half of total respondents; n=522)

j. Websites from other health organizations like WebMD

	GREAT DEAL/SOMEWHAT			NOT VERY MUCH/AT ALL			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	A great deal	Somewhat	NET	Not very much	Not at all		
9/20/09	59	12	47	37	20	17	4	*

## VI. General Views of Vaccines

HN-17. Just based on what you know, how safe do you believe the seasonal flu vaccine, meaning the flu vaccine available every year, is generally for most people to take? Would you say very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, not at all safe?

	SAFE			NOT SAFE			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
9/20/09	94	57	37	5	3	2	1	--

HN-18. And how about for (INSERT ITEM) - Would you say the seasonal flu vaccine is very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe for (INSERT ITEM)?

	SAFE			NOT SAFE			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
a. Pregnant women	66	25	42	25	15	10	9	*
b. Children 6 months to 2 years old	72	29	43	22	13	8	6	*
c. Adults age 65 or older	90	50	41	8	5	3	2	*

HN-19. In general, how safe are the vaccines routinely given to young children, such as the vaccine for polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and pertussis or whooping cough? Very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, not at all safe.

	SAFE			NOT SAFE			Don't Know	Refused
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all		
9/20/09	93	59	34	5	4	2	1	--

## VII. Demographics

HN-20. Do you plan to get the seasonal flu shot for yourself this coming flu season, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	55	42	3	--

HN-21. Did you get the seasonal flu shot for yourself in the past flu season, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	47	53	*	--

**(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household; n=308)**

HN-22. Do you plan to get the seasonal flu shot for your child this coming flu season, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	62	32	6	--

**(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household; n=308)**

HN-23. Did you get the seasonal flu shot for your (child/children) this past flu season, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	46	51	3	--

**(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household; n=308)**

HN-24. To the best of your recollection, did you give your (child/children) all, some or none of the vaccines routinely given to young children, such as the vaccine for polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and pertussis or whooping cough?

	All	Some	None	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	87	7	3	3	1

HN-25. Do you believe that you, or any of your friends or family, have experienced a serious side effect from taking any vaccine?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Refused
9/20/09	15	84	2	--

HN-26. Have you been told by a doctor or health professional that you have any of the following medical conditions: heart or lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, or a disease that causes decreased immunity such as cancer or HIV/AIDS?

**(Asked of total respondents who are the parent/guardian of children in the household; n=308)**

HN-27. Have you been told by a doctor or health professional that (your child/any of your children) have any of the following medical conditions: heart or lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, or a disease that causes decreased immunity such as cancer or HIV/AIDS?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Refused</b>
9/20/09	13	86	*	--