

## Introduction

The Henry County Pulse Survey was designed to measure the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on employment status, food security, housing security, education disruptions, childcare, dimensions of physical and mental well-being, and access to health care. There have now been two phases of the survey completed in Henry County. The first phase was carried out in the late Spring of 2020. The second phase was carried out during the December 2020 and January 2021 and is referred to as Winter 2021. The goal of collecting and analyzing data from this survey is to aid local agencies identify coronavirus (COVID-19) related issues in Henry County. The survey was implemented by the Henry County Health Department and the Henry County Health Partners and administered on-line via Survey Monkey. Request for completion was made via social media and among those the Henry County Health Partners serve. Phase 1 nor Phase 2 of the survey are NOT representative of the entire county. Instead, Phase 1 represents a convenience sample of 675 county residents between the ages of 18 and 87. Phase 2 represents a convenience sample of 626 respondents between the ages of 18 and 86.

A third phase was administered in the late Spring of 2021. Most of the same questions asked in Phase 1 and Phase 2 were also asked in Phase 3—marking one year since the initial survey. By doing so, we were aiming to gauge how far we've come and identify lingering or new concerns in our community. Questions regarding COVID-19 vaccinations were added to gauge community acceptance and concerns. The sample size for Phase 3 was underwhelming, in that we were only able to solicit responses from 99 respondents. As such, the analyses we can provide are VERY limited.

## Benchmarking the Henry County Local Pulse Survey

In the following report, and others published by the Henry County Health Department, we often use and/or reference the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is currently the largest nationally representative survey of the U.S. population by the U.S. Census Bureau. Conducted annually, in the mid-2000s it replaced the long form of the Decennial Census providing more frequent estimates of the U.S. population than was previously available. The large sample in the ACS is crucial for analysts to drill down to lower levels of geography for their studies—it allows for the examination of trends at the national, state, county, and even census block-level, among others. Data are released as 1-year estimates available for geographies with populations of at 65,000 people and 5-year estimates for areas with fewer than 65,000 people. The availability of the 5-year samples enables counties with small populations to benchmark their own studies and determine the representativeness of their samples.

# Age

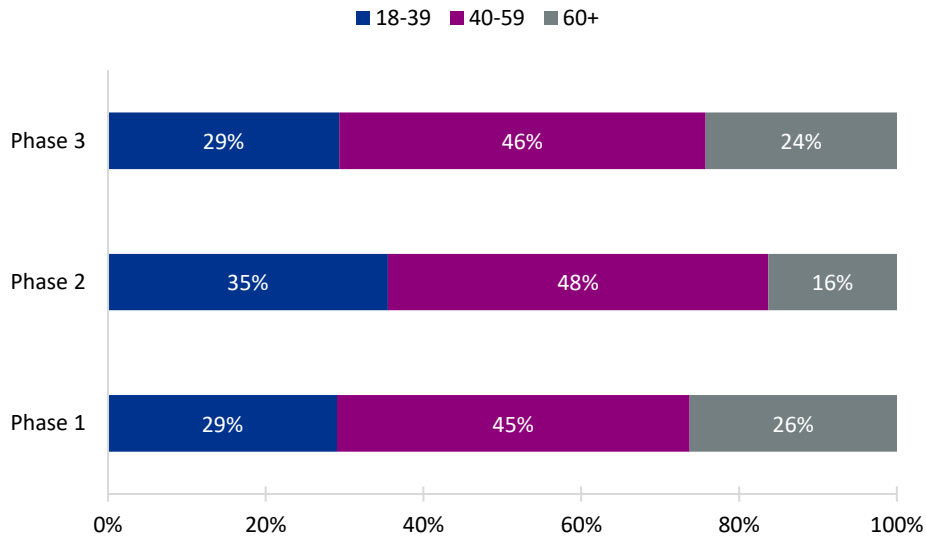
In what year were you born? (Enter 4-digit birth year; for example, 1976)

Table 1. Median Age Comparisons Across Surveys

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	ACS <sup>1</sup>
Median	49	43	50	41

<sup>1</sup>American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table DP05, 2019

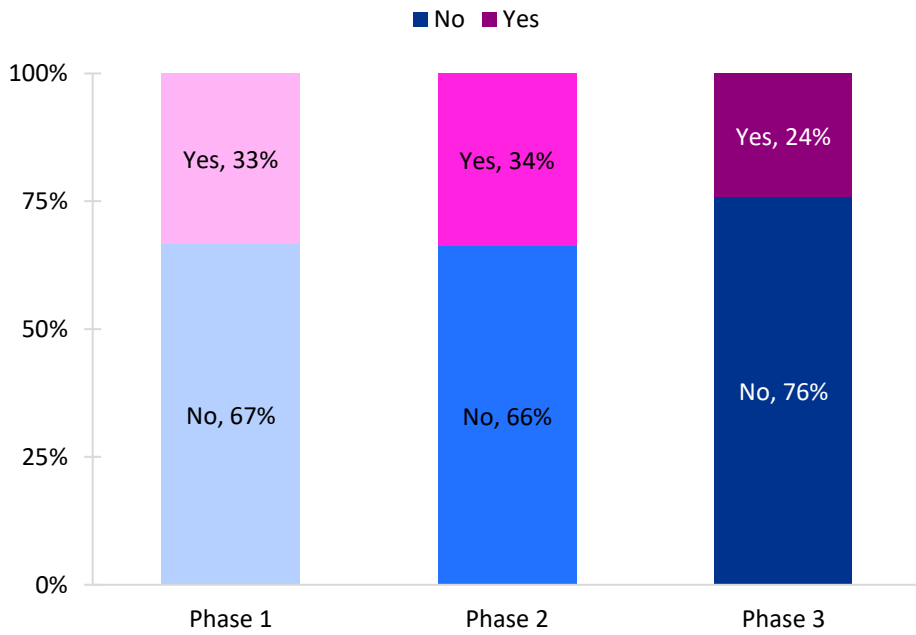
Figure 1. Age Distribution of Survey Respondents



# Employment

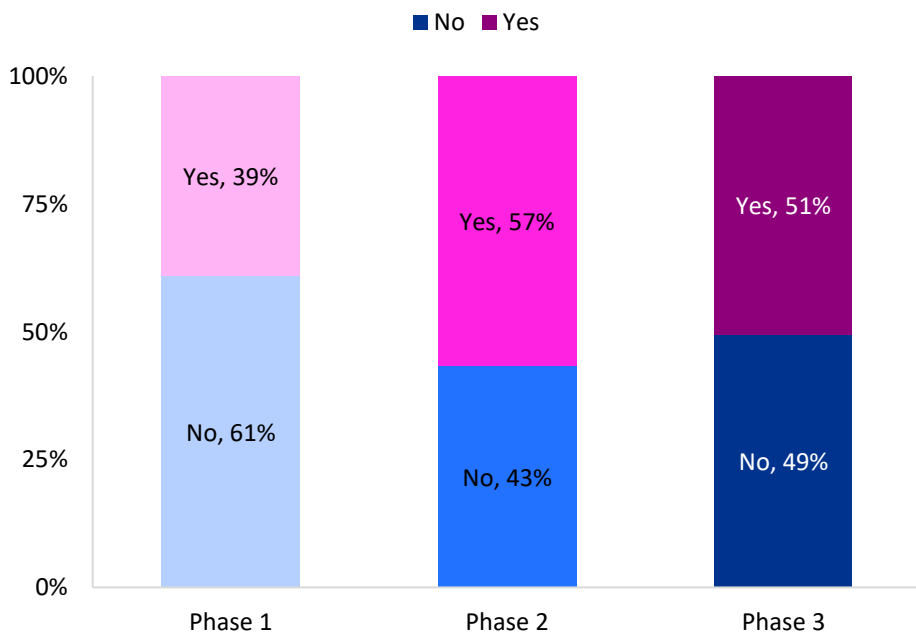
Have you, or has anyone in your household experienced a loss of employment income since the coronavirus pandemic began?

Figure 2. Percentage of Respondents Reporting a Loss of Employment Income



During the pandemic, are/were you or anyone in the home working in a job that you considered to be high risk for contracting COVID-19?

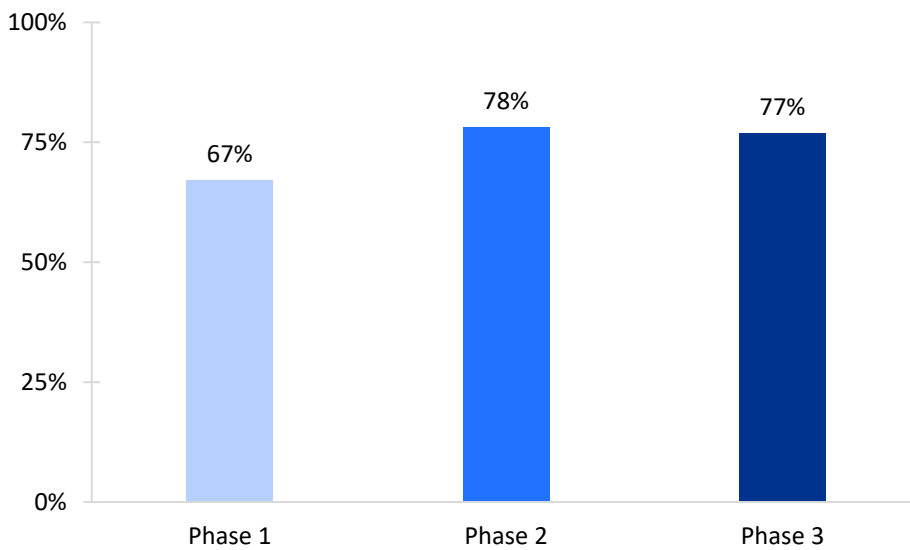
Figure 3. Percentage of Respondents Who Report Working a High-Risk COVID Job



**If you are currently NOT working, what is your main reason for not working for pay or profit? *Select only one answer.***

- I did not want to be employed at this time.
- I did not work because I am/was sick with coronavirus symptoms.
- I did not work because I am/was caring for someone with coronavirus symptoms.
- I did not work because I am/was caring for children not in school or daycare.
- I did not work because I am/was caring for an elderly person.
- I am/was sick (not coronavirus related) or disabled.
- I am retired.
- I did not have work due to coronavirus pandemic related reduction in business (including furlough).
- I am/was laid off due to coronavirus pandemic.
- My employment closed temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- My employment went out of business due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Does not apply to me

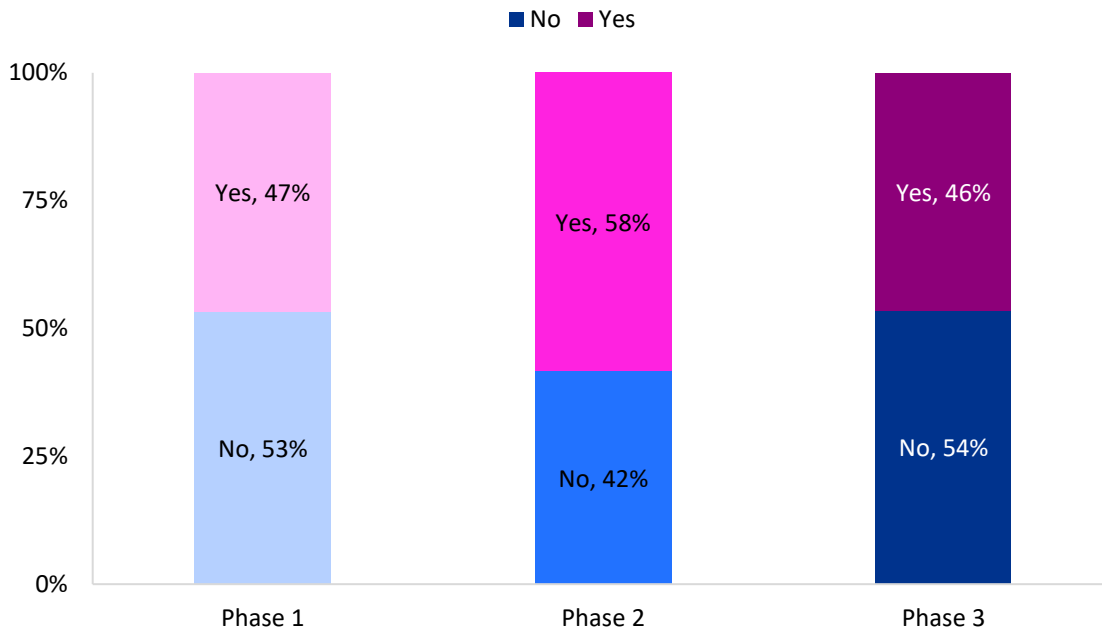
**Figure 4. Percentage of Respondents Employed**



## Childcare

Do you have infants, toddlers, or school-aged children living in your household that you are responsible for?

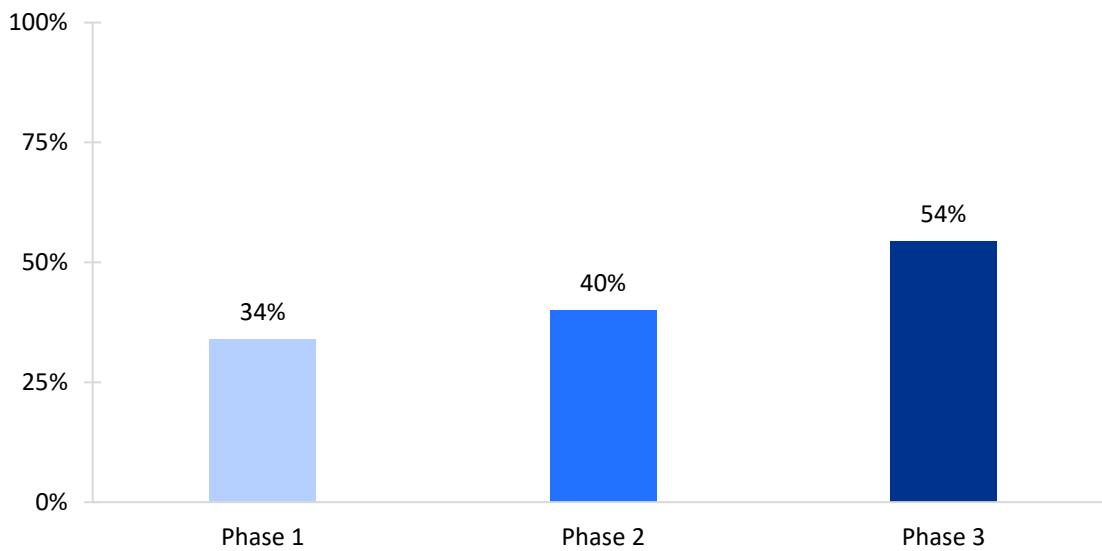
Figure 5. Percentage Reporting Minor Children Living in Their Household They Were Responsible For



In the months prior to the coronavirus pandemic, which of the following childcare arrangements have you used? Select all that apply.

- Grandparents were the most often reported childcare provider prior to the pandemic among Henry County respondents with minor children.
- At each subsequent phase the share who reported they depended on grandparents for childcare increased.

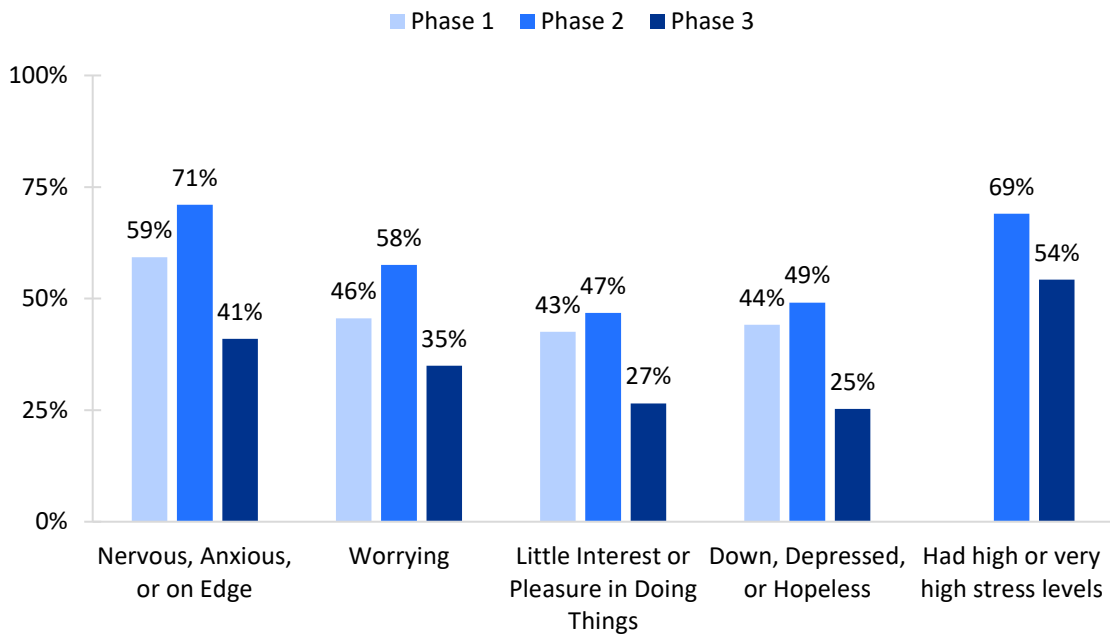
Figure 6. Most Often Reported of Childcare Arrangements Pre-COVID



## Mental Health and General Health Status

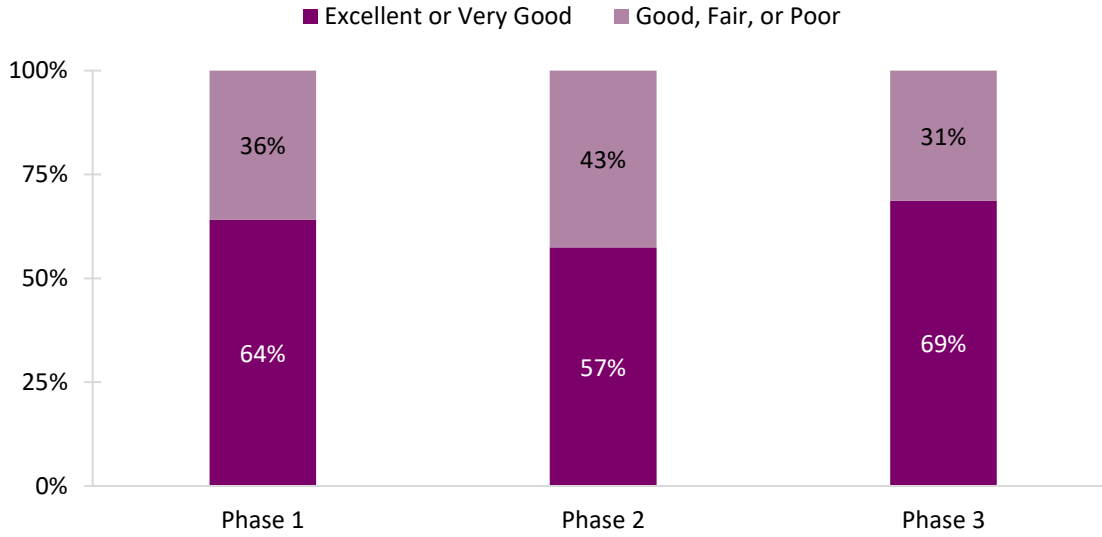
Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ... Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day?

Figure 7. Percentage Reporting at Least “Several” Poor Mental Health Days in the Last 7 Days by Phase



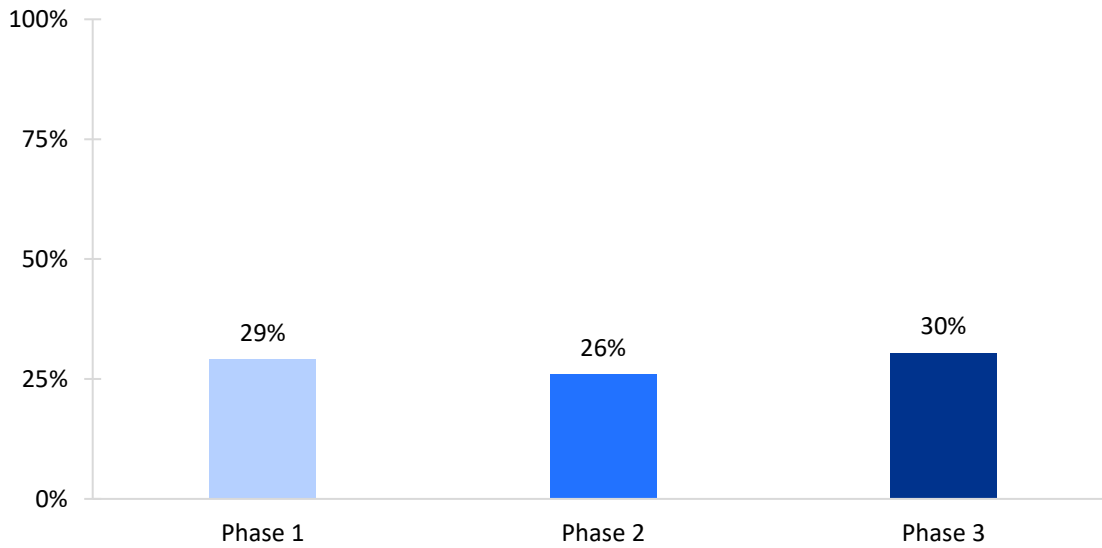
**Would you say your health in general is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?**

Figure 8. General Health Status



**Has a health care provider ever diagnosed you with any of the following? *Select all that apply.***

Figure 9. Percentage of Henry County Residents Reporting At least One Preexisting Condition



# Social Distancing and Isolation

## Are you currently practicing social distancing?

- At the time of the first survey, nearly 93% (92.8%) of Henry County resident respondents reported they were practicing social distancing.

Given Ohio was no longer subject to the same stay-at-home orders they were when surveyed in May, the questions regarding social distancing and mask wearing were changed slightly for the second wave of the survey.

## Are you consistently maintaining 6 feet social distance from individuals who live outside of your household per the State of Ohio orders?

- When asked about consistently maintaining 6 feet, in the Spring of 2021 57% Henry County respondents reported doing so always or usually compared to 78% during the Winter.

## When you are in public, do you consistently wear a face mask per the State of Ohio orders?

- When asked about consistently wearing a face mask in public, in the Spring of 2021 79% of Henry County respondents reported doing so always or usually compared to 97% during the Winter.

Figure 10. Social Distancing

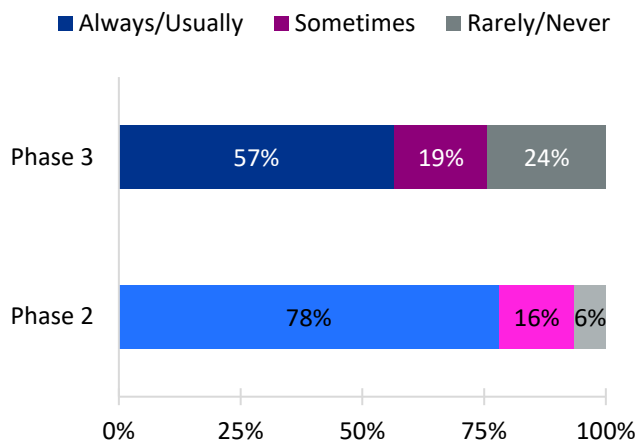
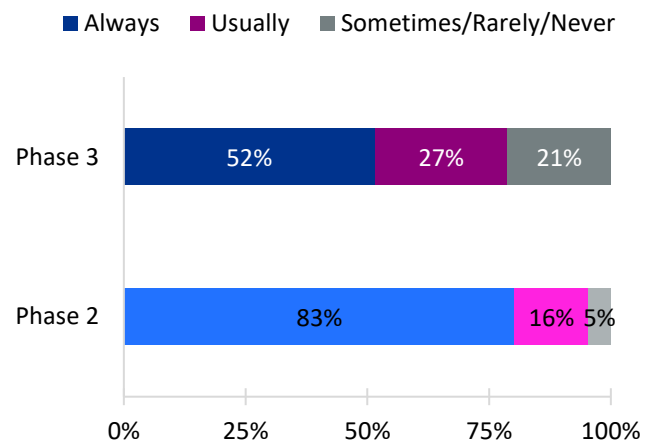


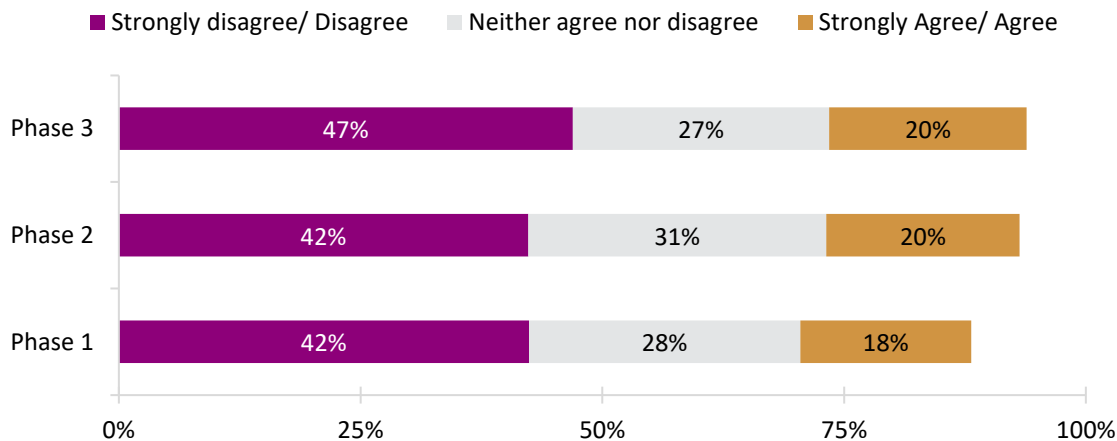
Figure 11. Wearing a Face Mask



Note: Totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

## I believe I can protect others from COVID-19.

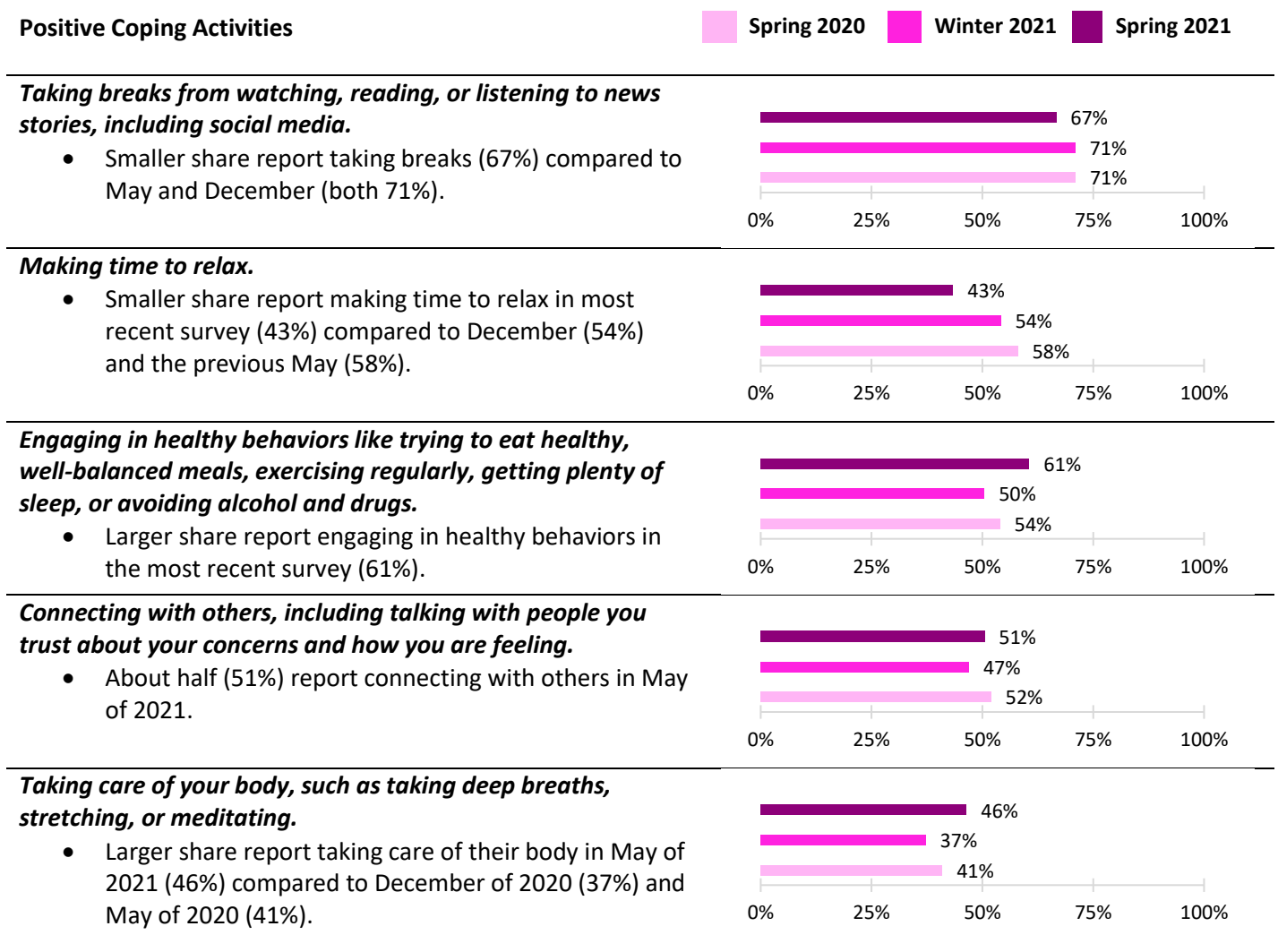
Figure 12. Degree of Belief in Ability to Protect Others from COVID-19





To cope with social distancing and isolation, are you doing any of the following? *Select all that apply.*

Table 1. Henry County Respondents' Reports of Positive Coping Activities, Phase 1 (Spring 2020) & Phase 2 (Winter 2021)



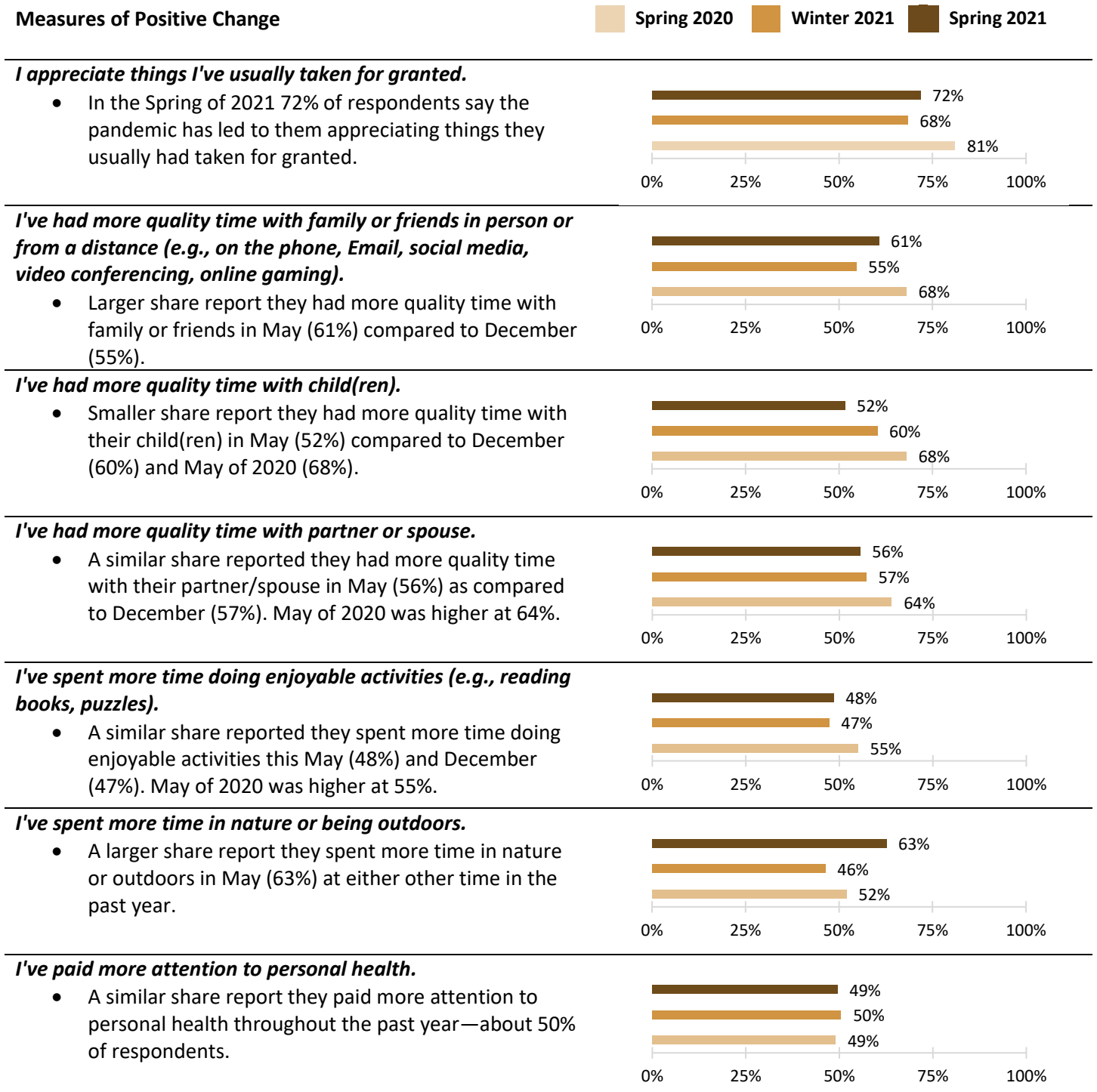
## Positive Change

For each statement below, please indicate whether the coronavirus pandemic has impacted you in the way described.

- Check YES if you were impacted
- Check NO if you were not impacted.
- Check N/A if the statement does not apply to you.

...percentage answering yes among those residents in which the question was applicable.

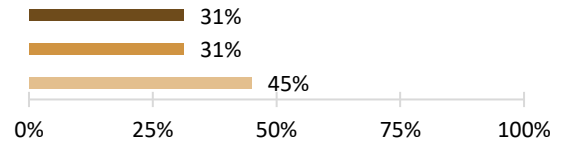
Table 2. Henry County Respondents' Reports of Positive Change, Phase 1 (Spring 2020) & Phase 2 (Winter 2021)



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***I've improved relationships with family or friends.***

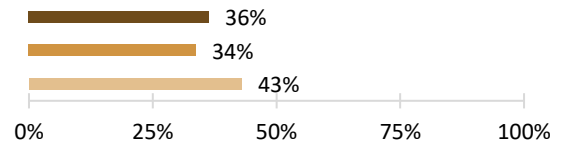
- Compared to December, a similar share reported they improved relationships with family/friends in (31%). Last May was higher at 45%.



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***I've found greater meaning in work, employment, or school.***

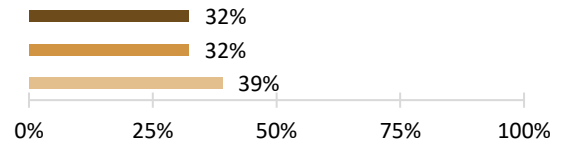
- About one-third reported they found greater meaning in work, employment, or school in May (36%) and December (34%). Last May was higher at 43%.



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***I've paid more attention to preventing physical injuries.***

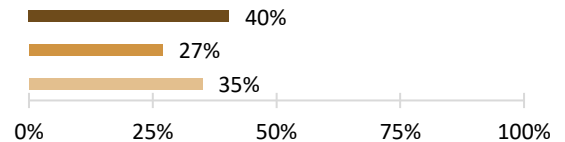
- Smaller share report they paid more attention to preventing physical injuries in December (32%) compared to May (39%).



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***I've increased exercise or physical activity.***

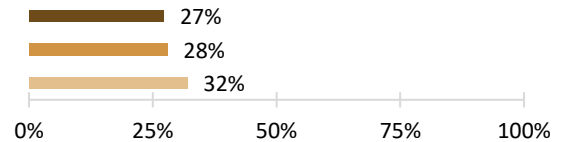
- Among those survey this May, 40% reported an increase in exercise or physical activity. Reports were lower in last December (27%) and last May (35%).



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***I'm more efficient or productive in work, employment, or school.***

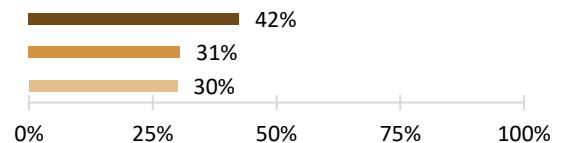
- A similar share reported they were more efficient or productive in work, employment, or school in May (27%) as December (28%). Nearly one-third did so last May (32%).



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***I've eaten healthier foods.***

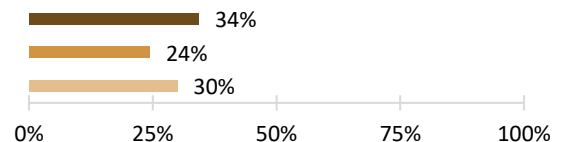
- A larger share reported they had eaten healthier foods in May of 2021 (42%).



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***I've donated time or goods to a cause related to this disease (e.g., made masks, donated blood, volunteered).***

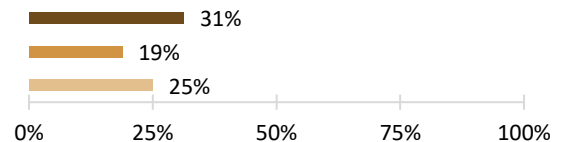
- A larger share—about one-third—reported they donated time or goods in May of 2021 (34%).



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***I've volunteered time to help people in need.***

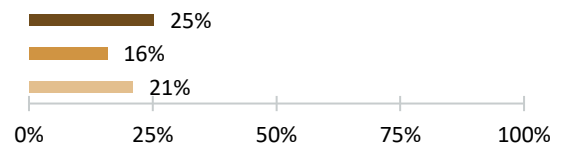
- A larger share reported they volunteered time to help people in May of 2021 (31%) compared to December (19%) and May of 2020 (25%).



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***I've made new connections with supportive people.***

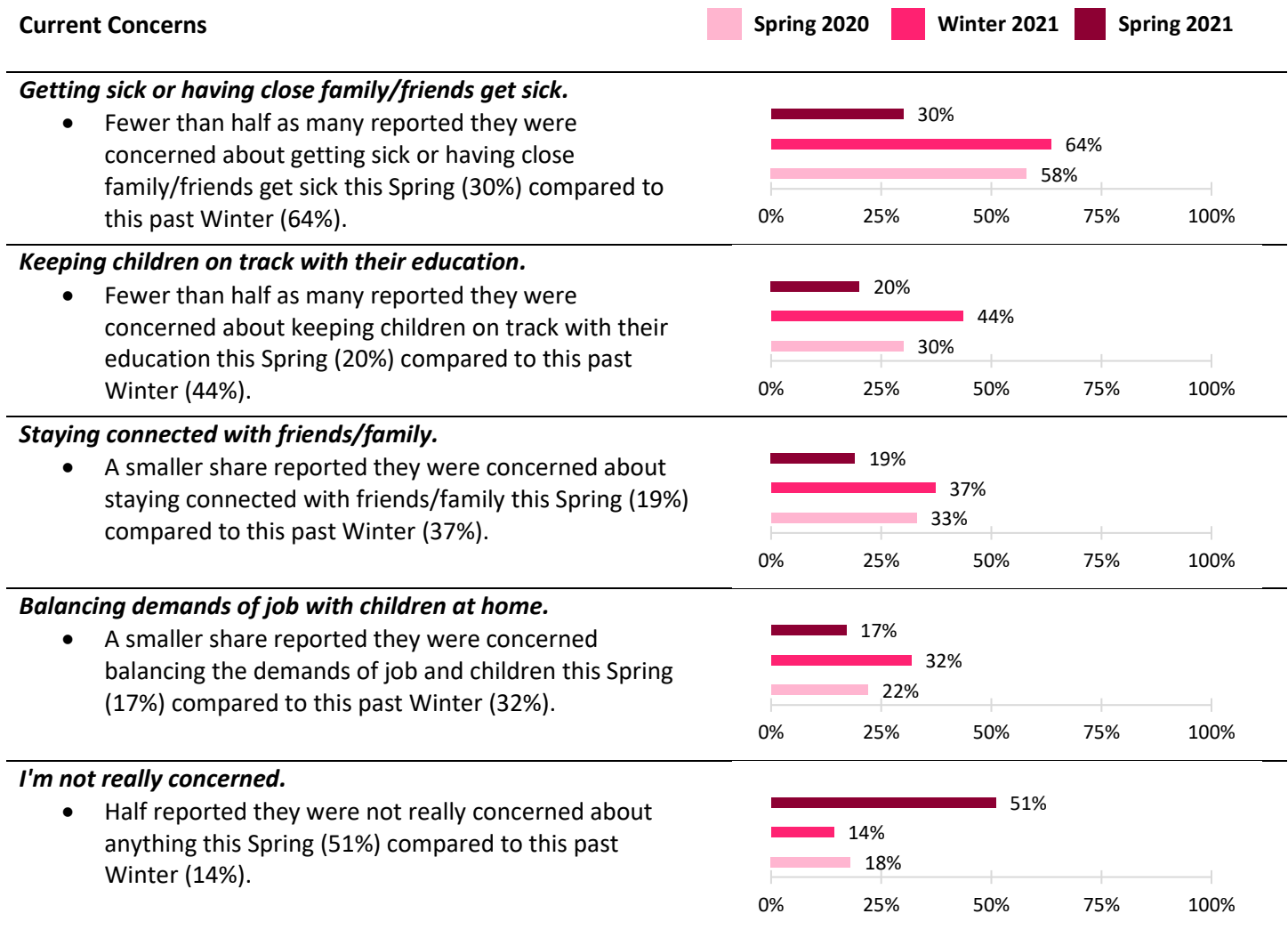
- A larger share reported they made new connections with supportive people in May (25%) compared to December (16%) and May of 2020 (21%).



## Current Concerns

What currently concerns you? *Select all that apply.*

Table 3. Henry County Respondents' Reports of Current Concerns, Phase 1 (Spring 2020) & Phase 2 (Winter 2021)



# Place of Residence

Living in a rural area protects an individual from contracting coronavirus.

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

Figure 13. Distribution of Agreement That Living in a Rural Community Protects Individuals from Covid-19

