

Taking the Pulse of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan—in 5 charts (June 2021)

Results from the Social Contours and COVID-19 Survey, Round 10

June 8, 2021

From May 4, 2020 (Phase 1 of the Re-open Saskatchewan Plan), SPHERU researchers have collected data about COVID-19 from Saskatchewan residents through our [Social Contours and COVID-19 Survey](#). This survey has four objectives: 1) to collect behavioural, perceptual, social, and place-based data (i.e., how we act, think, interact, and move); 2) assign a COVID-19 risk level to people and places, over time; 3) identify lower- and higher-risk places in our province; and 4) communicate this information to public health officials and the general public.

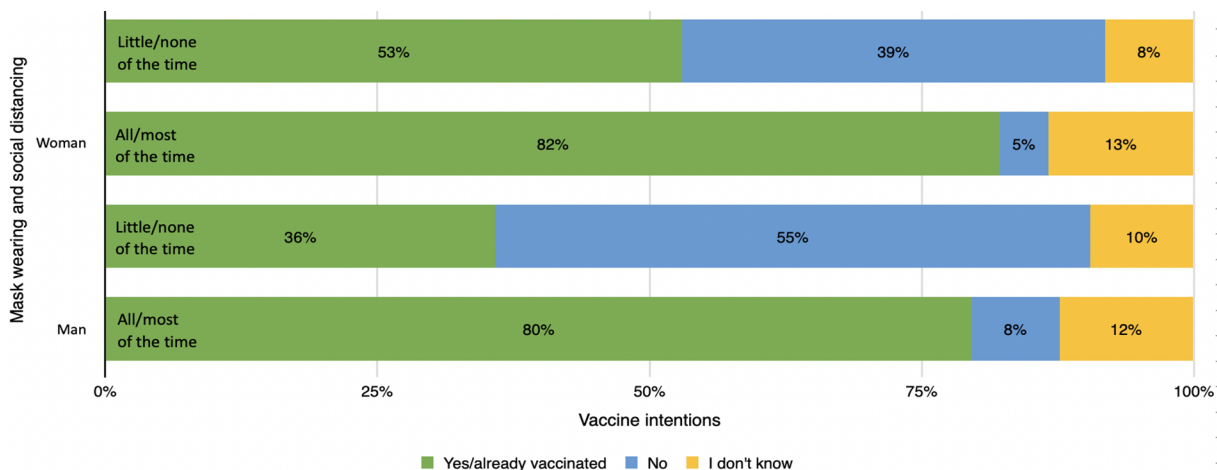
Data below are based on Social Contours and COVID-19 study, as of June 7th, 2021; this includes 10,627 respondents to date (unless otherwise indicated). Results are weighted by age, gender, and location of residence (Census 2016, Saskatchewan adult population) and data are 4-week moving averages when time trends are presented. In this brief, notable findings in the latest iteration of the Social Contours and COVID-19 study are reported (April 2021, n=1,280).

Key Takeaways

With Saskatchewan’s roadmap to reopening proceeding, what does the evidence say about the dual behaviour of mask-wearing and vaccine receipt? Social Contours and COVID-19 research provides the evidence.

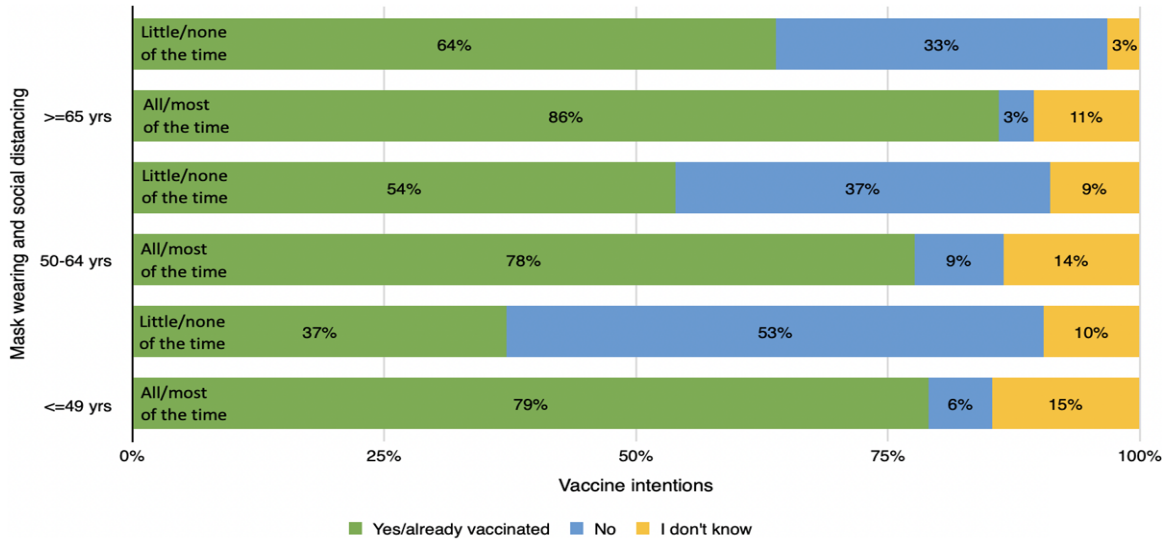
- Several regions (subzones) in the southwest corner of the province and pockets in southeast and northeast show consistently low mask-wearing/social distancing and low vaccine acceptance rates. The opposite is true for Regina, Saskatoon, and the northwest—these regions show high mask-wearing and high vaccine acceptance.
- Men and women who practiced consistent mask-wearing had similar rates of vaccine acceptance. However, among men who reported scarcely practicing mask-wearing, 55% said they will refuse vaccine, whereas among women in that category, 39% said so. Among men who reported not wearing masks, 65% will not get a vaccine or were hesitant, compared to 47% of women who said they will not get vaccine or were hesitant.
- Older respondents, 65 and over, said they wore masks consistently and had the highest vaccine acceptance rate (86%), compared to 78% for those between 50 and 64 and 79% 49 years and younger.
- Among younger respondents, those who reported scarcely wearing masks also reported the highest vaccine refusal rate (53% for 49 and younger vs 37% for those 50-64 and 33% for 65 and older).

1. Mask-wearing and vaccine intention among adults in Saskatchewan, by gender



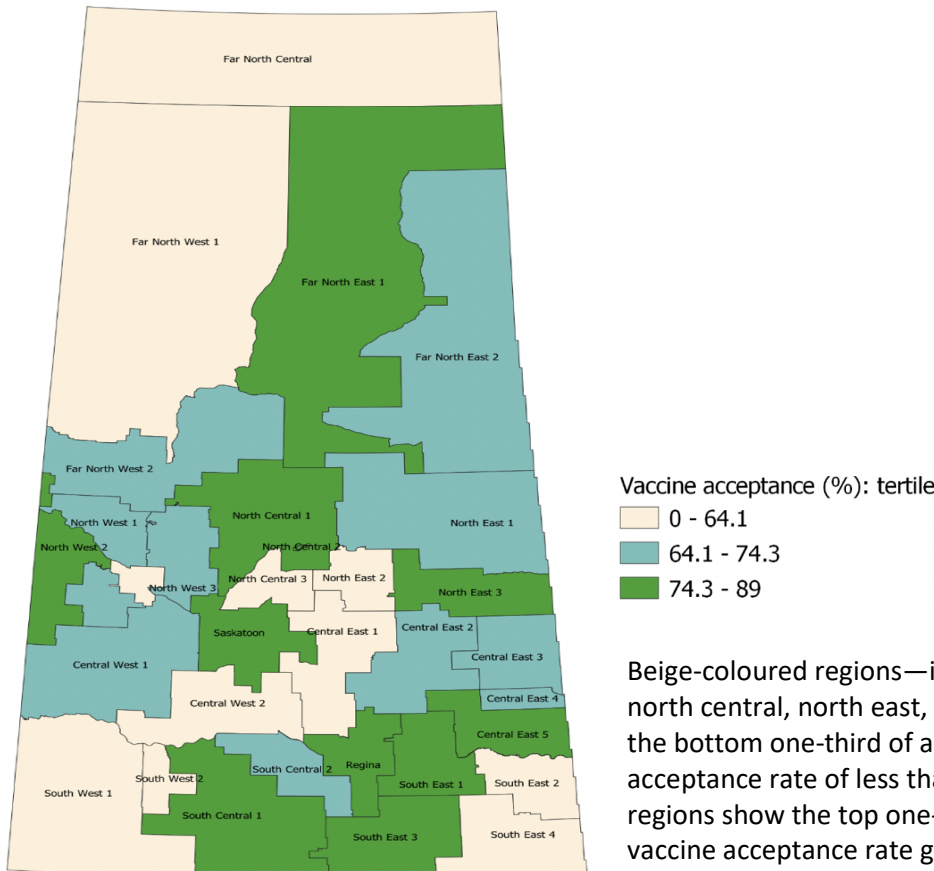
In the month of April 2021, of men who consistently practiced mask-wearing/social distancing, 20% were vaccine hesitant or refused, whereas among men who scarcely practiced mask-wearing, this rate was 65%—more than 300% greater. Of women who consistently practiced mask-wearing/social distancing, 18% were vaccine hesitant or refused, whereas among women who scarcely practiced mask-wearing, this rate was 47%.

2. Mask-wearing/social distancing and vaccine intention among adults in Saskatchewan, by age



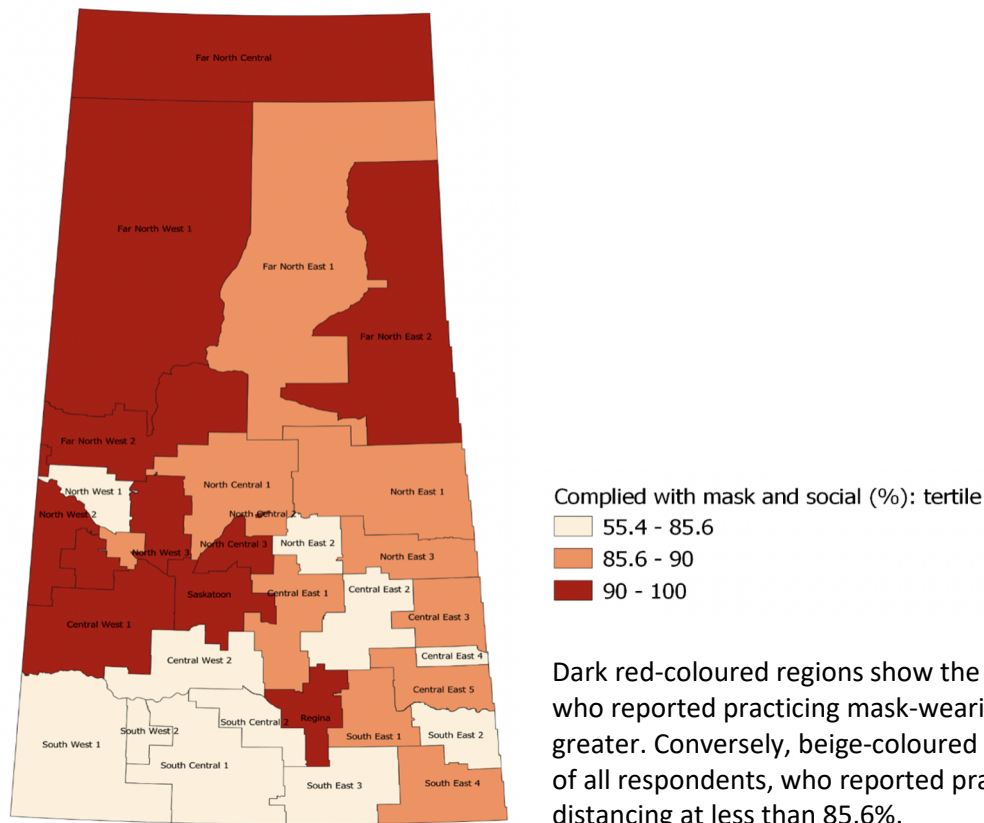
While the majority of respondents who consistently practiced mask-wearing/social distancing were also vaccine accepting (over 75% for each age group), the younger the age groups, the more likely respondents were to not practice mask-wearing and be vaccine hesitant/refusing. Among those 49 and under who reported practicing mask-wearing/social distancing little to none of the time, 53% said they will or have refused vaccines and another 10% were hesitant. Among those aged 50-64, this number was 37% (vaccine refusal) and 9% (hesitant) among those 65 and older, 33% refused vaccines and 3% were hesitant.

3. Vaccine Acceptance According to Area of Residence



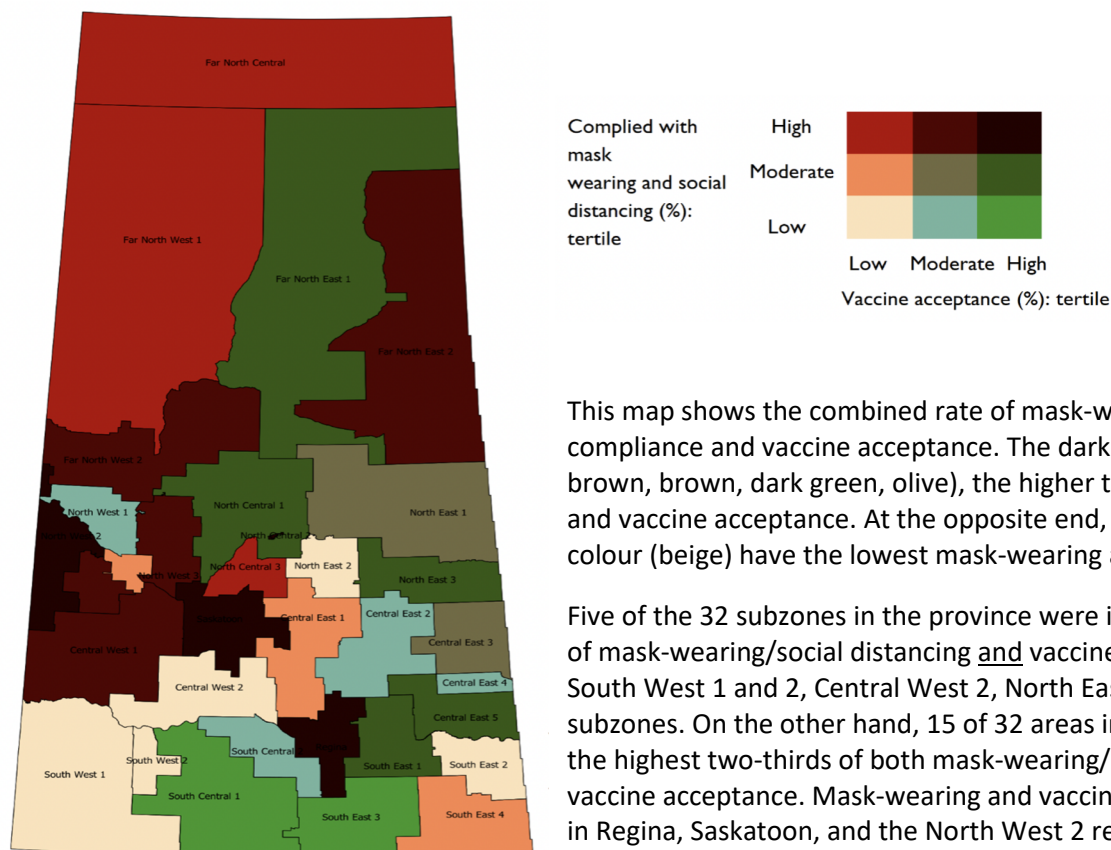
Beige-coloured regions—including the south west, south east, north central, north east, far north west, far north central—denote the bottom one-third of all respondents who reported a vaccine acceptance rate of less than 64.1%. Conversely, green-coloured regions show the top one-third of respondents who reported a vaccine acceptance rate greater than 74.3%.

4. Mask-Wearing/Social Distancing According to Area of Residence



Dark red-coloured regions show the top one-third of all respondents who reported practicing mask-wearing/social distancing, at 90% or greater. Conversely, beige-coloured regions show the bottom one-third of all respondents, who reported practicing mask-wearing/social distancing at less than 85.6%.

5. Vaccine Acceptance and Mask-Wearing/Social Distancing According to Area of Residence



This map shows the combined rate of mask-wearing/social distancing compliance and vaccine acceptance. The darker the region colour (dark brown, brown, dark green, olive), the higher the rate of mask-wearing and vaccine acceptance. At the opposite end, regions that are lightest in colour (beige) have the lowest mask-wearing and vaccine acceptance.

Five of the 32 subzones in the province were in both the lowest one-third of mask-wearing/social distancing and vaccine acceptance. These include South West 1 and 2, Central West 2, North East 2, and South East 2 subzones. On the other hand, 15 of 32 areas in the province were among the highest two-thirds of both mask-wearing/social distancing and vaccine acceptance. Mask-wearing and vaccine acceptance were highest in Regina, Saskatoon, and the North West 2 regions.

For more Social Contours and COVID-19 Saskatchewan survey results:

<https://spheru.ca/covid-19/socialcontours/covid-19-results.php>

Social Contours and COVID-19

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For more information on the project visit: <https://spheru.ca/covid-19/socialcontours/covid-19.php> or email social.contouring@usask.ca