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# Will Students Come Back?

A July 2021 Parent Survey About School Hesitancy and Parental Preferences for COVID-19 Safety Practices in Schools

For more information on this publication, visit [www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2).

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# About This Report

This report provides the survey questions and weighted responses from a July 2021 survey of parents concerning school hesitancy and preferences for COVID-19 safety practices in schools in the United States. The results are intended to inform school districts' and health officials' planning for operating schools in fall 2021.

A technical appendix describing the survey methods is available at [www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2). Results of a similar survey fielded in May 2021 are available at [www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1).

## **RAND Education and Labor**

This research was undertaken by RAND Education and Labor, a division of the RAND Corporation that conducts research on early childhood through postsecondary education programs, workforce development, and programs and policies affecting workers, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy and decisionmaking. This report is based on research funded by The Rockefeller Foundation.

The authors are grateful to the staff of The Rockefeller Foundation and to the members of the State & Territory Alliance for Testing (<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/covid-19-response/stat>) for their collaboration and feedback on our surveys. The findings presented are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of The Rockefeller Foundation. For more information and research on these and other related topics, please visit [rockefellerfoundation.org](http://rockefellerfoundation.org).

More information about RAND can be found at [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org). Questions about this report should be directed to [hschwart@rand.org](mailto:hschwart@rand.org), and questions about RAND Education and Labor should be directed to [educationandlabor@rand.org](mailto:educationandlabor@rand.org).

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# Overview of the July 2021 Parent Survey

The State & Territory Alliance for Testing (consisting of representatives from more than 40 states and territories) and The Rockefeller Foundation worked with RAND to develop a survey of parents of school-age children. The survey was open from July 16 to July 29, 2021, and 3,146 parents of children ages 5-18 took the survey. The completion rate was 43 percent, and the results have been weighted to be nationally representative of U.S. parents of children ages 5-18.

The July 2021 survey included three similarly worded survey questions from the May 2021 survey to gauge change in parent attitudes over time. Results of the May 2021 survey can be found at [www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-1).

Because children under 12 were not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine at the time the survey was administered, the researchers focused some questions on the youngest school-age child to understand parents' willingness to send their unvaccinated children to school. Overall, 62 percent of parents who took the survey had at least one child under age 12.

Survey methods and a description of the parent sample are available in the technical appendix at [www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2](http://www.rand.org/t/RRA1393-2).

# Key Findings

1. Eighty-nine percent of parents planned to send their children to school in person in fall 2021 as of July, which was an increase from 84 percent in May. Parents took the second survey between July 16 and 29, by which time the number of COVID-19 cases nationally had increased since May 2021, due to the delta variant.
2. As of July 2021, 82 percent of Black and 83 percent of Hispanic parents planned to send their children to school in person in fall 2021, compared with 94 percent of White and 88 percent of Asian parents. Although this racial gap was substantial, it was smaller than in May 2021.
3. Parents with children under 12—who are too young to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccines—were just as likely to plan to send their kids back fully in person as parents with children 12 years and older.
4. COVID-19-related health concerns remained the top reasons for parents not sending their children to school in person in fall 2021, as opposed to concerns about academics, racial discrimination, bullying, or critical race theory.
5. About two-thirds or more of Black, Hispanic, and Asian parents needed each of the following practices in place to feel safe sending their children to school in person: ventilation in classrooms, teachers being vaccinated, social distancing, mandatory masking, and regular COVID-19 testing. Substantially fewer White parents needed these practices in place to feel safe. As in May 2021, parents who were unsure about sending their children to school in person especially wanted all these safety practices, and more.
6. Only 27 percent of parents said that they already knew in detail which specific COVID-19 safety measures their child's school will have in place. Sixty percent of parents wished to know more about which COVID-19 safety measures their child's school is enacting for fall 2021. Sixty-one percent of parents selected a school staff member—most commonly, the principal—as the source from which they most trust information about school safety measures.
7. Fifty-one percent of parents supported voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing at school in July 2021, which was similar to the percentage in May 2021. Seventy-five percent supported COVID-19 testing if their child showed COVID-19 symptoms. The most common reason parents did not support COVID-19 testing at schools was a concern that the test was physically uncomfortable for children.
8. Fifty-seven percent of parents overall planned to get their child vaccinated for COVID-19 as of July 2021. This was true for 79 percent of vaccinated parents but only 10 percent of unvaccinated parents.

# Limitations

- By definition, a survey relies on self-reported answers. The results from this survey could provide overestimates or underestimates if, for example, parents provided what they perceived to be socially desirable answers (e.g., about being vaccinated) that deviated from their actual views and actions. To limit this type of bias, we wrote questions with neutral wording and provided a range of positive and negative responses for each question.
- We fielded this survey in the second half of July 2021. By that point, the delta variant had become the dominant form of coronavirus in the United States, and cases were rising. However, the number of new COVID-19 cases in the country rose much more rapidly in August 2021, after the survey closed. Therefore, parents' school hesitancy might have increased between July (when the survey was administered) and August (when the outbreaks were worse and media coverage was greater). Thus, our survey may underestimate parents' actual school hesitancy as the 2021–2022 school year began.
- Although we surveyed more than 3,000 parents in July 2021 and more than 2,000 parents in May 2021, the number of parents who responded at each point could have been as small as a few hundred in some parent subgroups—namely, Asian parents and Black parents. This relatively small sample size makes it hard to detect statistically significant differences across parent subgroups. With numbers this small, even when there might be substantially large, true differences across parent subgroups or over time—for example, the potential 13-percentage-point increase from May to July among Black parents who reported planning to get their child vaccinated—we were not always able to determine whether those changes are real and statistically significant.
- Readers should keep in mind that there is considerable overlap among the parental categories that we examined. For example, a majority of rural parents who took our survey are White (79 percent), as are a majority of the Midwestern respondents (79 percent).
- To reduce the length of the survey, we focused most questions on the “youngest school-age child” in the family so that we could determine how parents' views differed depending on whether their child was age-eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Our survey's focus on the youngest school-age child means that we do not know how parent preferences changed depending on which child they were thinking about when answering survey questions.

# How to Read the Figures

- Throughout this report, we use asterisks and bold font in the figures to indicate when parent subgroup responses differ statistically significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents in the survey who selected that response.
- There are two types of graphs in this report: heat maps and bar charts.
- How to read the heat maps:
  - The heat maps use variation in color to depict differences in the percentage of parents who selected a given survey response. Lighter yellow cells represent smaller percentages of parents; progressively darker shades of green represent larger percentages of parents.
  - In each heat map, we order the rows from the most to the least common survey response among parents overall. Each column shows responses for a different parent subgroup.
- How to read the bar charts that compare May and July 2021 responses:
  - We posed three nearly identical questions on both the May and July 2021 surveys to gauge change over time. However, we fielded the two surveys to cross-sections of parents, meaning that the same parents did not complete both surveys.
  - At the end of each dark green bar, we display the confidence intervals as horizontal black lines for each estimate. If the May and July confidence intervals do not overlap for a given parent group (e.g., Midwestern parents in May vs. Midwestern parents in July), there is a statistically significant difference in that parent subgroup's response over time.



# **Questions About Parents' Plans as of July 2021 for Sending Their Children to School in Person in Fall 2021**

# Will you send your child(ren) to school in person at least one day per week this fall 2021? [Comparison of May and July]

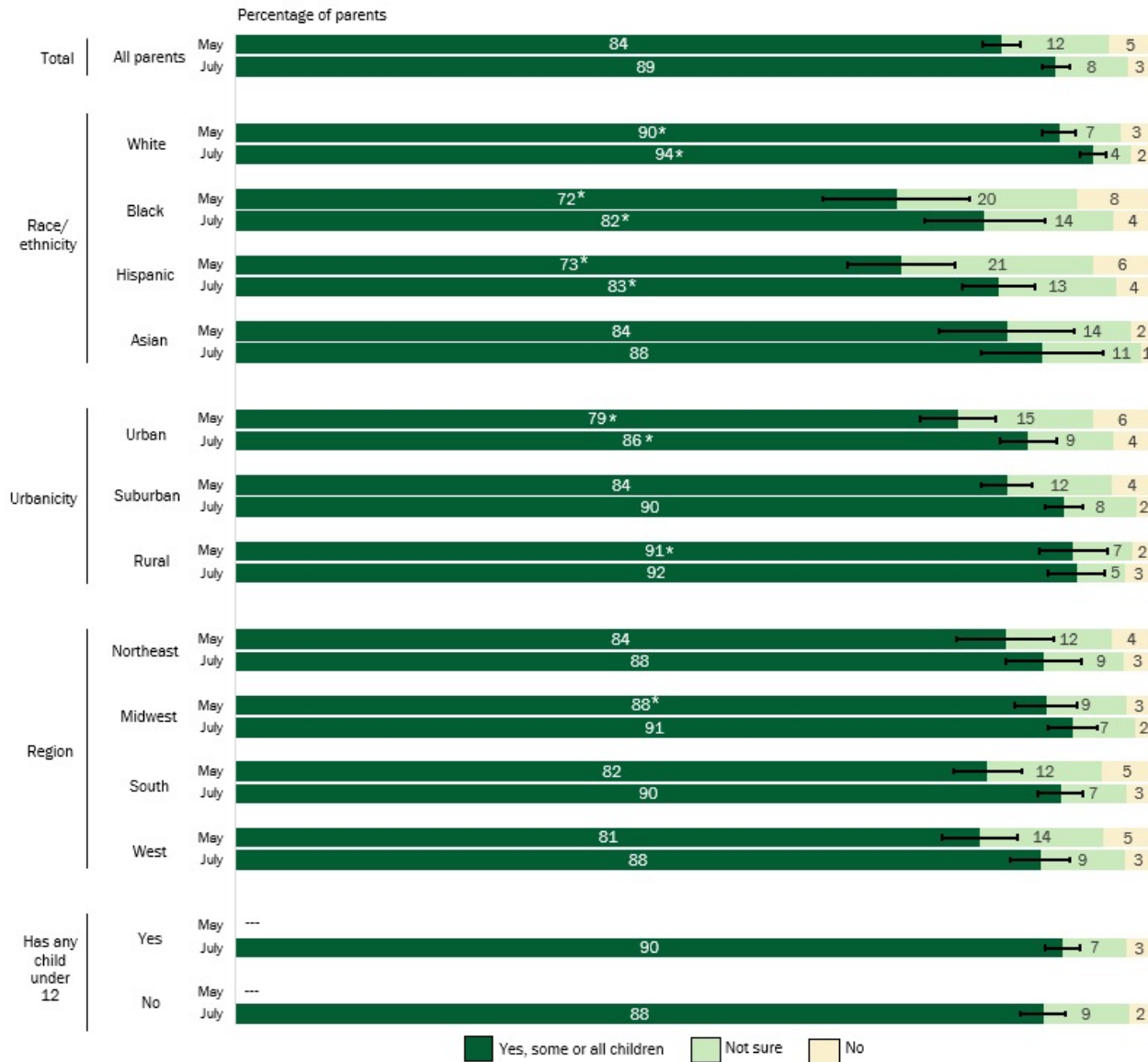


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# Are you sending your youngest school-age child to school in person this fall 2021?

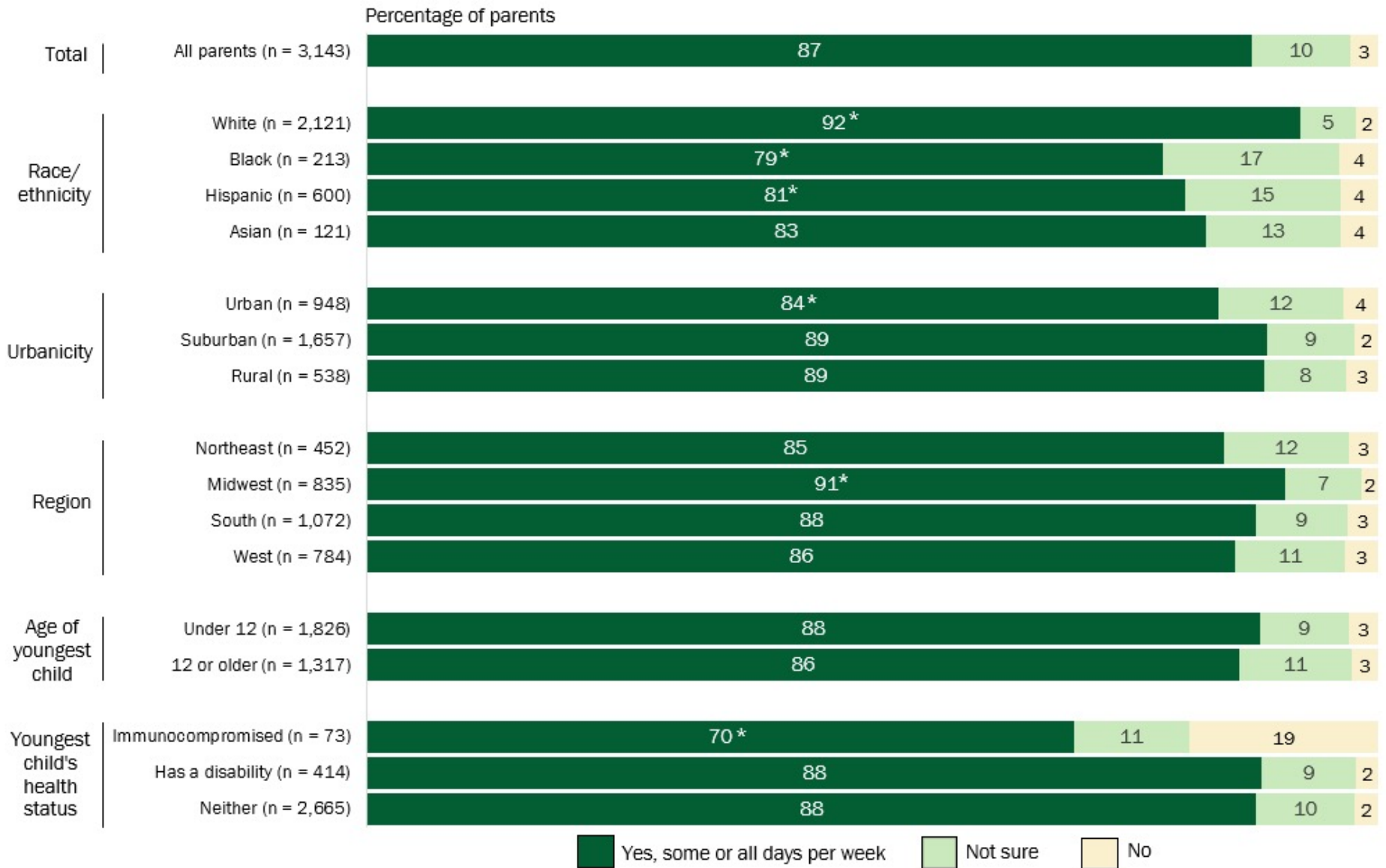


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# Why do you plan to send your youngest school-age child to school in person?

Only parents who responded yes to "Are you sending your youngest school-age child to school in person this fall 2021?" (n = 2,801) answered this question.

	All parents n = 2801	Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Region				Age of child	
		White n = 1955	Black n = 170	Hispanic n = 493	Asian n = 102	Urban n = 822	Suburban n = 1495	Rural n = 484	Northeast n = 395	Midwest n = 762	South n = 955	West n = 689	Under 12 n = 1646	12 or older n = 1155
My child does better academically at in-person school	60	<b>63</b>	<b>44</b>	58	54	57	61	62	63	61	<b>56</b>	62	60	59
My child wants to go to school in-person	59	<b>65</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>47</b>	57	60	61	62	62	<b>56</b>	62	59	60
My child does better socially at in-person school	54	<b>60</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>45</b>	58	51	55	58	52	56	<b>49</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>
The school has made adequate efforts to reduce COVID-19 risks	42	44	<b>32</b>	40	52	41	44	41	<b>49</b>	42	<b>38</b>	45	43	41
I am not concerned that COVID-19 is a significant risk for my child	28	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	29	<b>41</b>	28	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	29	28	28
In-person school is easier for the adults in my house to manage	27	<b>31</b>	23	<b>17</b>	30	29	26	28	26	<b>32</b>	26	27	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>
I am not concerned others in our family will get COVID-19 from my child if child goes in-person	25	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	25	<b>31</b>	24	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	25	25	24
Enough school staff will be vaccinated to make in-person school safe	22	21	17	21	<b>38</b>	24	23	<b>17</b>	24	19	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	23	21
My school is not offering fully remote learning	21	21	22	20	24	21	23	<b>16</b>	20	21	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	22	20
Enough children will be vaccinated to make in-person school safe	9	8	7	9	13	9	9	6	<b>13</b>	7	<b>7</b>	9	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
To access school-delivered programs and services	8	<b>7</b>	14	8	9	10	<b>7</b>	10	7	9	8	9	8	9
To access specialized instruction or therapy for my child's disability	5	5	<b>2</b>	3	4	5	4	6	4	<b>7</b>	4	3	5	4
Our home internet access isn't good enough for remote schooling	4	3	<b>0</b>	6	2	3	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	4	4	4	4	3

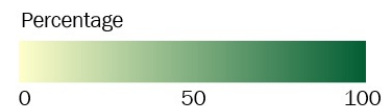


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# Why are you not sending (or unsure about sending) your youngest school-age child to school in person in fall 2021?

Only parents who responded no or unsure to "Are you sending your youngest-school age child to school in person this fall 2021?" (n = 315) answered this question.

	Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Region				Age of child		
	All parents n = 315	White n = 147	Black n = 39	Hispanic n = 104	Asian n = 18	Urban n = 117	Suburban n = 149	Rural n = 49	Northeast n = 52	Midwest n = 64	South n = 110	West n = 89	Under 12 n = 167	12 or older n = 148
I am concerned about my child contracting COVID-19 at school and becoming ill	62	55	67	67	54	64	59	67	55	61	66	62	67	56
I am concerned about my child contracting COVID-19 at school and transmitting it	48	49	38	53	37	47	48	48	<b>33</b>	39	53	57	49	47
My child feels safer from COVID-19 in fully remote school	27	29	18	30	25	28	28	18	33	24	26	25	26	28
The number of COVID-19 cases in my community are too high	25	19	32	24	36	31	24	<b>10</b>	27	20	25	25	28	20
My child does better academically in fully remote school	11	<b>21</b>	10	7	<b>0</b>	9	13	11	9	15	12	10	9	14
My school has not made adequate efforts to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission	7	<b>12</b>	4	4	4	8	5	9	8	11	8	<b>1</b>	6	7
My school is not offering in-person school in fall 2021	5	7	1	3	9	3	6	6	3	6	4	7	5	5
My child experiences bullying at in-person school	5	7	<b>1</b>	2	<b>0</b>	2	7	3	7	4	2	7	3	7
My child does better socially in fully remote school	4	6	4	4	<b>0</b>	5	3	5	7	6	2	4	3	6
I or my child don't want to follow the health measures that my school requires	4	4	<b>0</b>	5	4	2	4	7	<b>0</b>	7	2	7	4	3
My child experiences racial discrimination at in-person school	2	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	5	3	0
I believe the school will teach critical race theory (CRT), which I object to	1	3	<b>0</b>	1	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	2	2	<b>0</b>	2	2	1	1	2
My child helps care for other family members at home while doing remote school	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	2
My child has a job they'd have to quit to return to in-person school	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	2

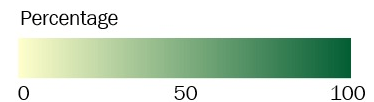


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# If the pandemic were over and you had the choice, what would you PREFER your youngest school-age child do this fall 2021?

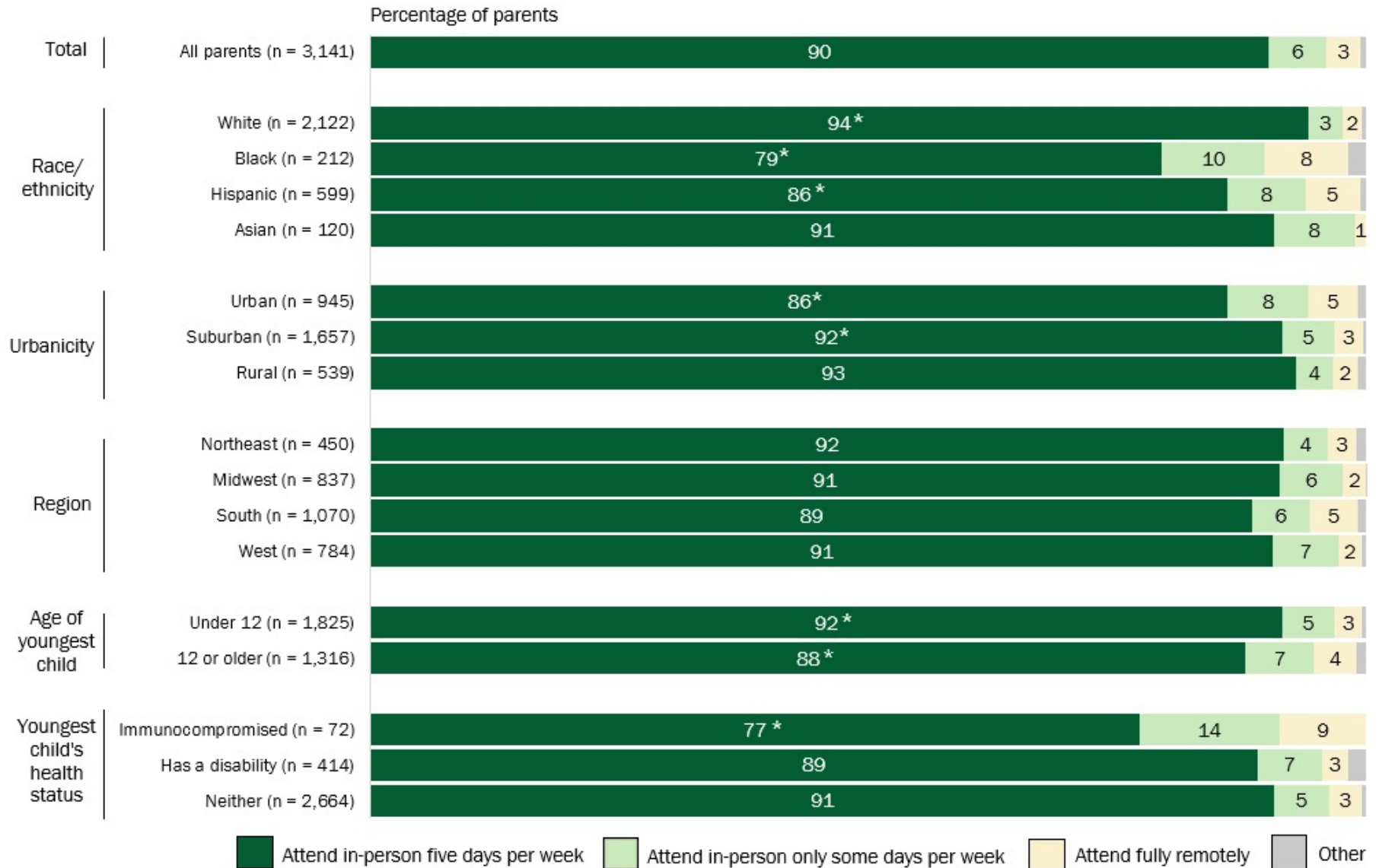


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# What is your youngest school-age child's biggest concern about returning to school in-person? [Open response question]

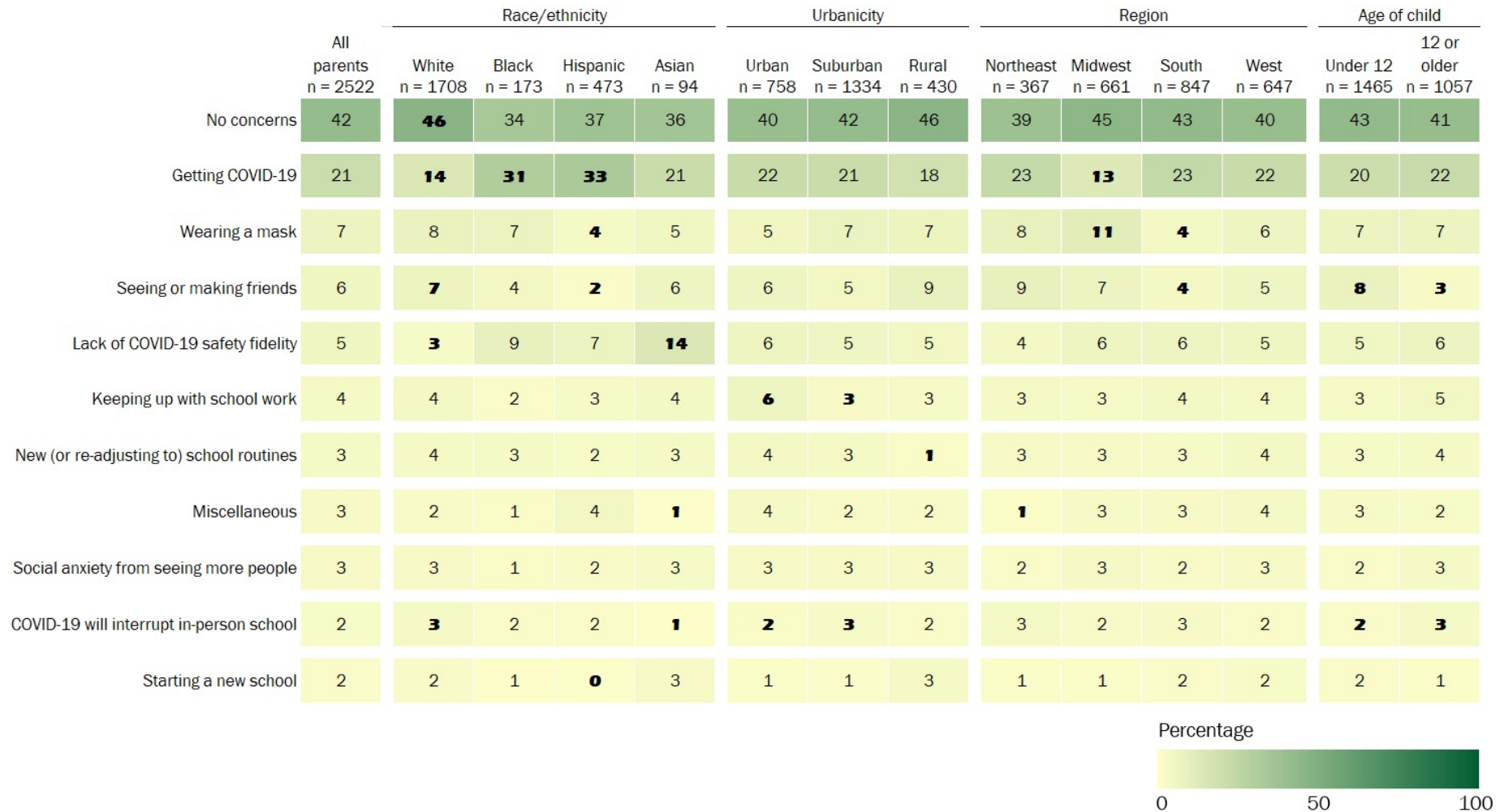


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells are percentage of parents that wrote in a response relating to each theme, which RAND then coded. Parents could write in as many concerns as they wished. One percent or fewer of parents overall (and no more than 2 percent of any single parent subgroup) wrote in concerns about the following list in descending order of frequency (categories not shown): bullying; missing the parent or home; not liking school; uncertain lunch and snack routines; getting a good teacher; not enough recess; COVID-19 bullying, including mask wearing when others are not or not being vaccinated when others are; length of school day; school not being fun; following COVID-19 safety rules; and quality of learning. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# **Questions About Parents' Preferred School Safety Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19**



# Which of the following need to be in place for you to feel your youngest school-age child will be safe at school in person?

	All parents n = 3145	Race/ethnicity				Urbanicity			Region				Age of child	
		White n = 2124	Black n = 213	Hispanic n = 599	Asian n = 121	Urban n = 948	Suburban n = 1658	Rural n = 539	Northeast n = 452	Midwest n = 838	South n = 1071	West n = 784	Under 12 n = 1829	12 or older n = 1316
Ventilation in each classroom at school	71	<b>64</b>	77	<b>80</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>76</b>	72	<b>60</b>	74	<b>62</b>	71	<b>77</b>	72	70
Most teachers being vaccinated	61	<b>53</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>67</b>	62	<b>47</b>	63	<b>55</b>	60	<b>66</b>	62	58
A minimum of 3 feet between people at school	53	<b>40</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>57</b>	53	<b>44</b>	57	<b>44</b>	56	53	53	52
All adults in my household being vaccinated	52	<b>46</b>	57	55	<b>81</b>	<b>58</b>	53	<b>37</b>	54	49	53	52	51	53
Regular COVID-19 testing of staff and students with reporting	47	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>54</b>	49	<b>32</b>	49	<b>38</b>	50	51	47	48
Required mask wearing for students and adults	47	<b>32</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>55</b>	46	<b>34</b>	47	<b>35</b>	<b>50</b>	50	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>
No group gathering at meal times when masks are off	36	<b>24</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>44</b>	34	<b>28</b>	35	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	35	37	34
My own child being vaccinated	35	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>39</b>	35	<b>26</b>	37	<b>30</b>	36	35	<b>23</b>	<b>53</b>
Sneeze guards around each student's desk	33	<b>16</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>23</b>	32	<b>22</b>	<b>39</b>	36	34	33
Most children at the school being vaccinated	33	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>40</b>	32	<b>23</b>	33	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	32	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>
Hybrid schooling to limit the number of people at school each day	24	<b>12</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>	20	22	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>	24	23	25
No team sports	13	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	16	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	12	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	13	13	14

Percentage

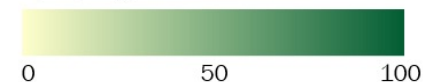
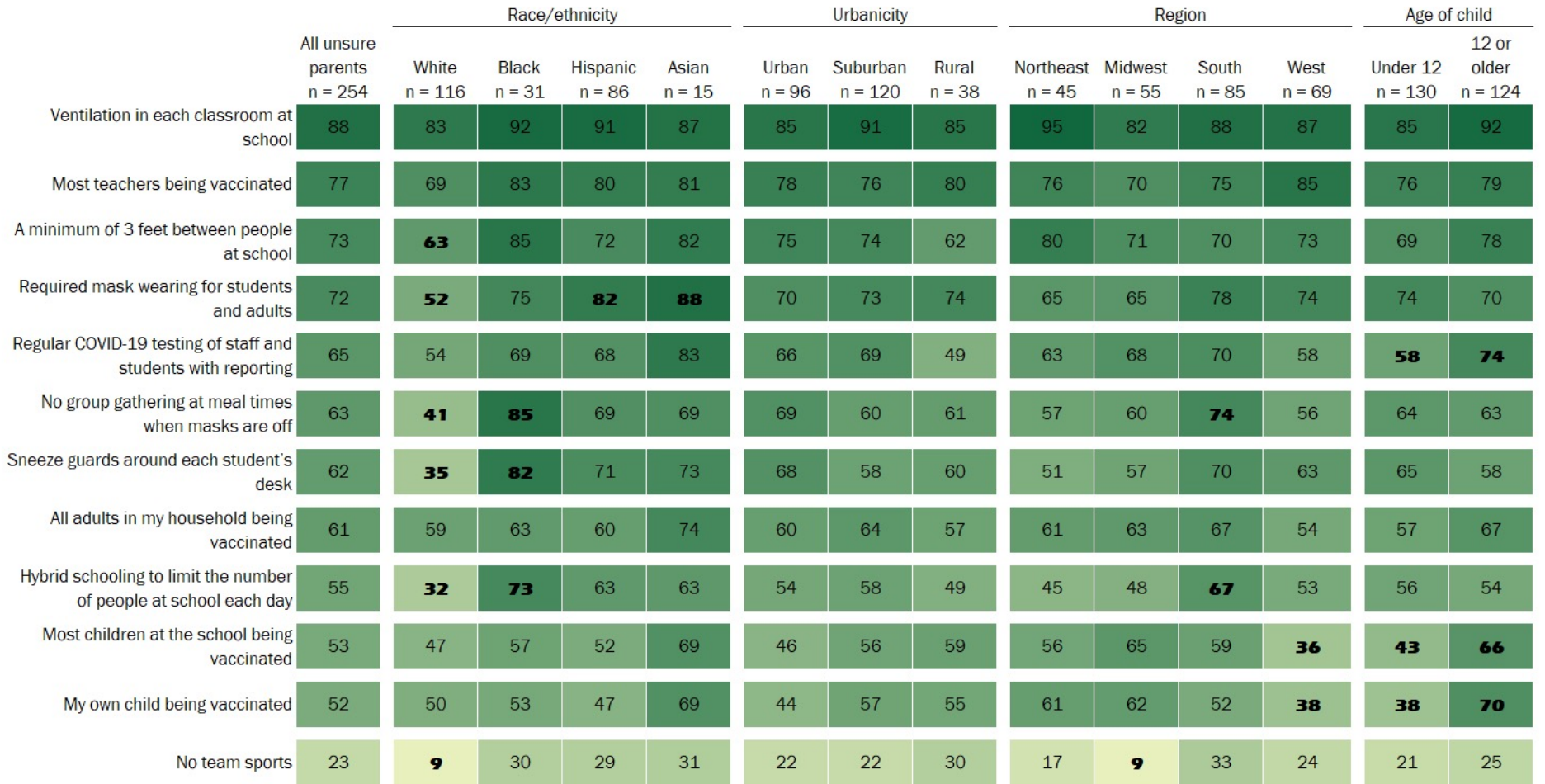


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# Which of the following need to be in place for you to feel your youngest school-age child will be safe at school in person?

This graph includes only parents who were unsure if they would send their youngest child to school in-person in fall 2021 (n = 254).



Percentage

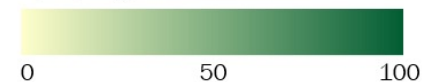


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# Do you know what specific COVID-19 safety measures (e.g., masking, ventilation, social distancing, etc.) your youngest school-age child's school is enacting this fall 2021?

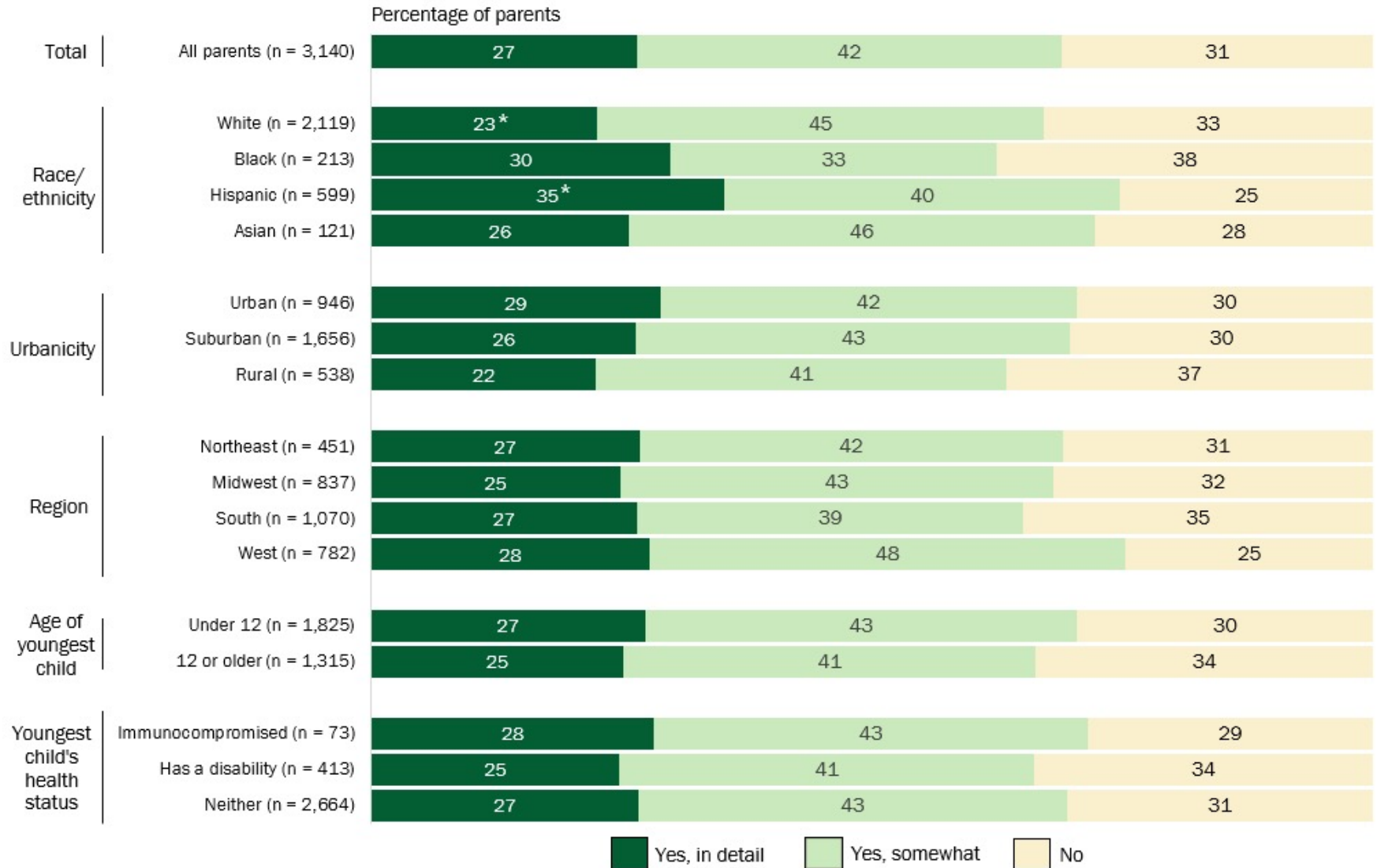


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# Do you wish to know more about what COVID-19 safety measures your youngest school-age child's school is enacting this fall 2021?

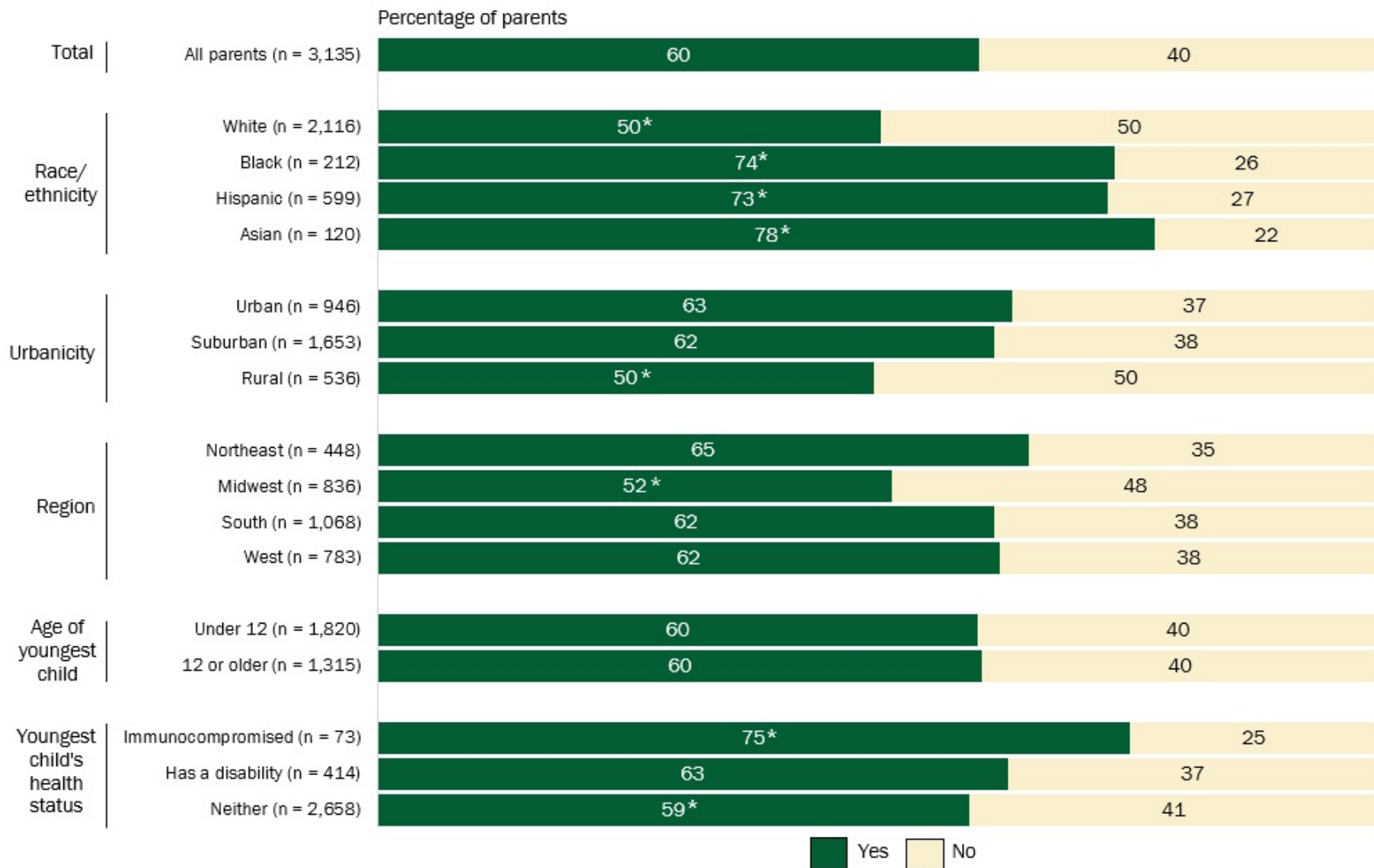


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# From which source do you most trust information about your youngest school-age child's school safety measures for COVID-19?

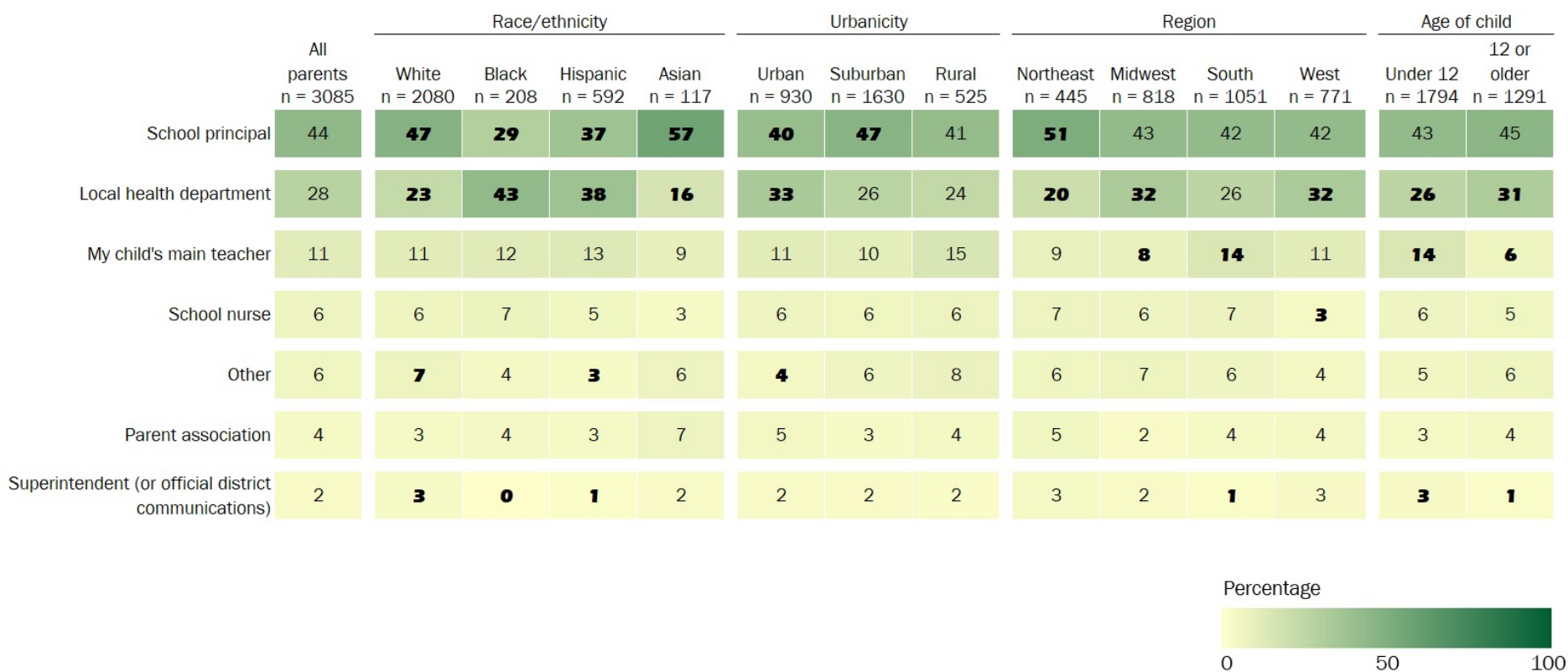


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options, including an "other" option. RAND coded the "other" responses but did not list them in the figure, as each had 1 percent or fewer parents who wrote them in. The most common "other" option not listed in the figure was the school board, family doctor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teacher's union, and research the parent does themselves. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.

# **Questions About COVID-19 Testing of Children at School**

# If there was voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing of students at your child(ren)'s school(s), would you support your children getting tested? [Comparison of May and July]

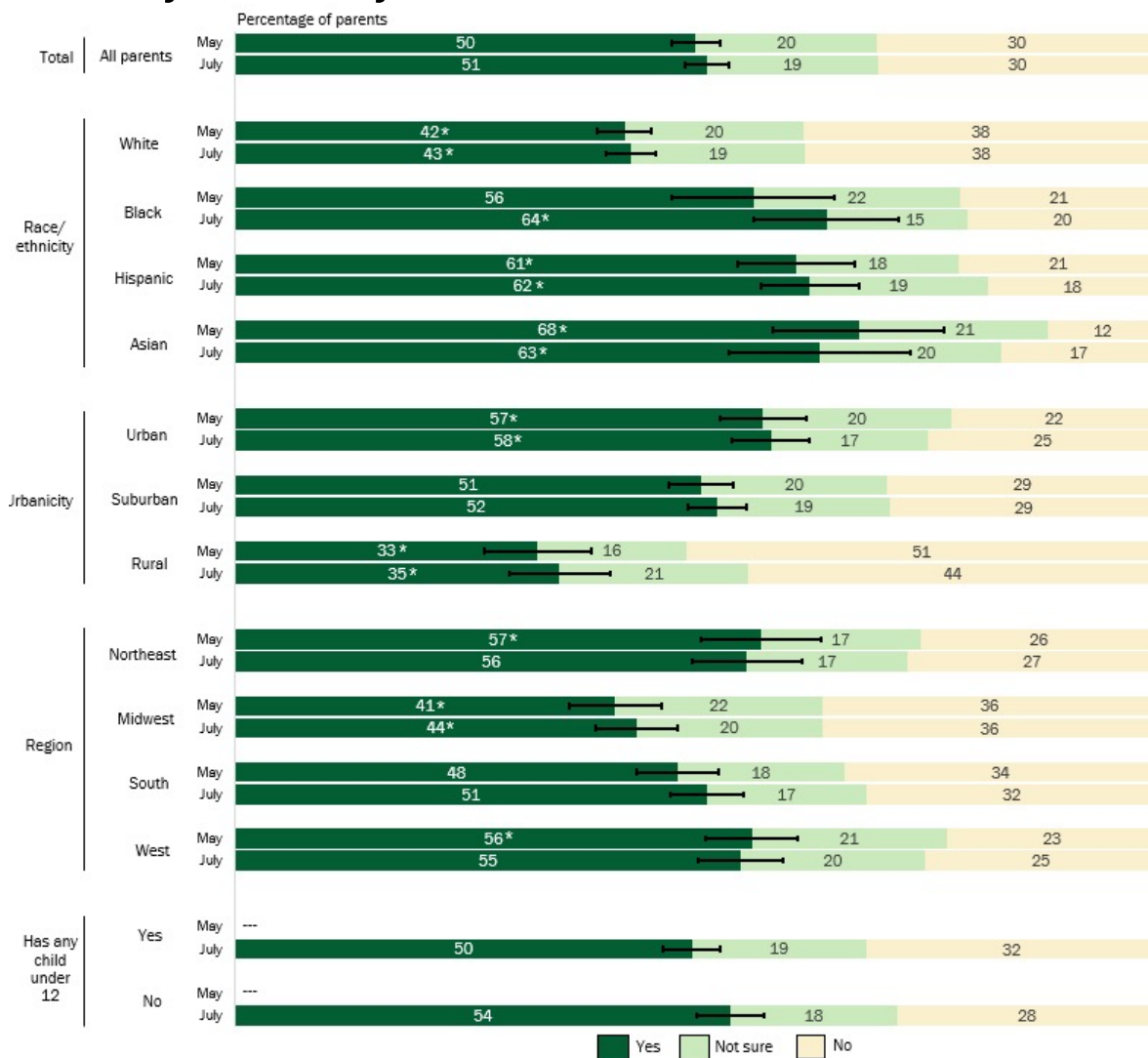


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# For which of the following reasons would you not support or are not sure if you would support your child(ren) getting tested weekly for COVID-19?

Only parents who responded no or not sure to the question about voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing (n = 1,509) answered this question.

	Race/ethnicity					Urbanicity			Region				Any child under 12	
	All parents n = 1509	White n = 1148	Black n = 76	Hispanic n = 203	Asian n = 40	Urban n = 404	Suburban n = 772	Rural n = 333	Northeast n = 195	Midwest n = 450	South n = 513	West n = 351	Yes n = 898	No n = 611
The COVID-19 test is physically uncomfortable for children	43	42	36	42	59	44	43	43	37	40	45	46	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>
Only students with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested	39	40	31	43	44	35	41	41	42	36	40	39	40	39
The COVID-19 test gives too many false positives	33	<b>38</b>	33	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	31	31	37	34	34	33	30	33	32
COVID-19 tests shouldn't be administered at schools	30	<b>36</b>	23	<b>18</b>	18	26	30	35	31	33	31	<b>25</b>	31	29
I do not trust the COVID-19 test is accurate	30	<b>33</b>	33	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	29	27	<b>38</b>	25	31	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>	31	29
Weekly testing is too frequent; less frequent testing is better	25	23	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	35	25	25	24	19	23	24	<b>30</b>	24	26
Testing is not necessary; our schools are safe	25	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	22	22	<b>33</b>	31	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	21	25	24
The government has too much information or say	23	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	21	23	27	23	26	22	23	24	23
Weekly testing will result in too many school shutdowns	20	21	24	<b>13</b>	13	18	20	20	19	21	18	21	20	19
I do not trust that my child(ren)'s results will be kept confidential	19	19	23	16	15	19	20	17	15	20	20	19	19	18
My child(ren) might be stigmatized if they get a positive test result	14	13	19	13	20	15	16	<b>10</b>	12	15	15	15	15	13
My child(ren) will have to quarantine if they get a positive test result	13	12	15	11	14	12	14	11	14	16	11	12	13	11
Other	6	7	7	5	4	6	7	4	7	7	6	6	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

Percentage

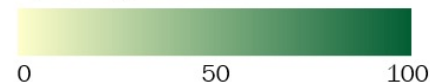


Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents who selected the response. Parents could select multiple response options. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents' responses.



# If your child(ren) had COVID-19 symptoms, would you support getting your child(ren) tested for COVID-19 at school?

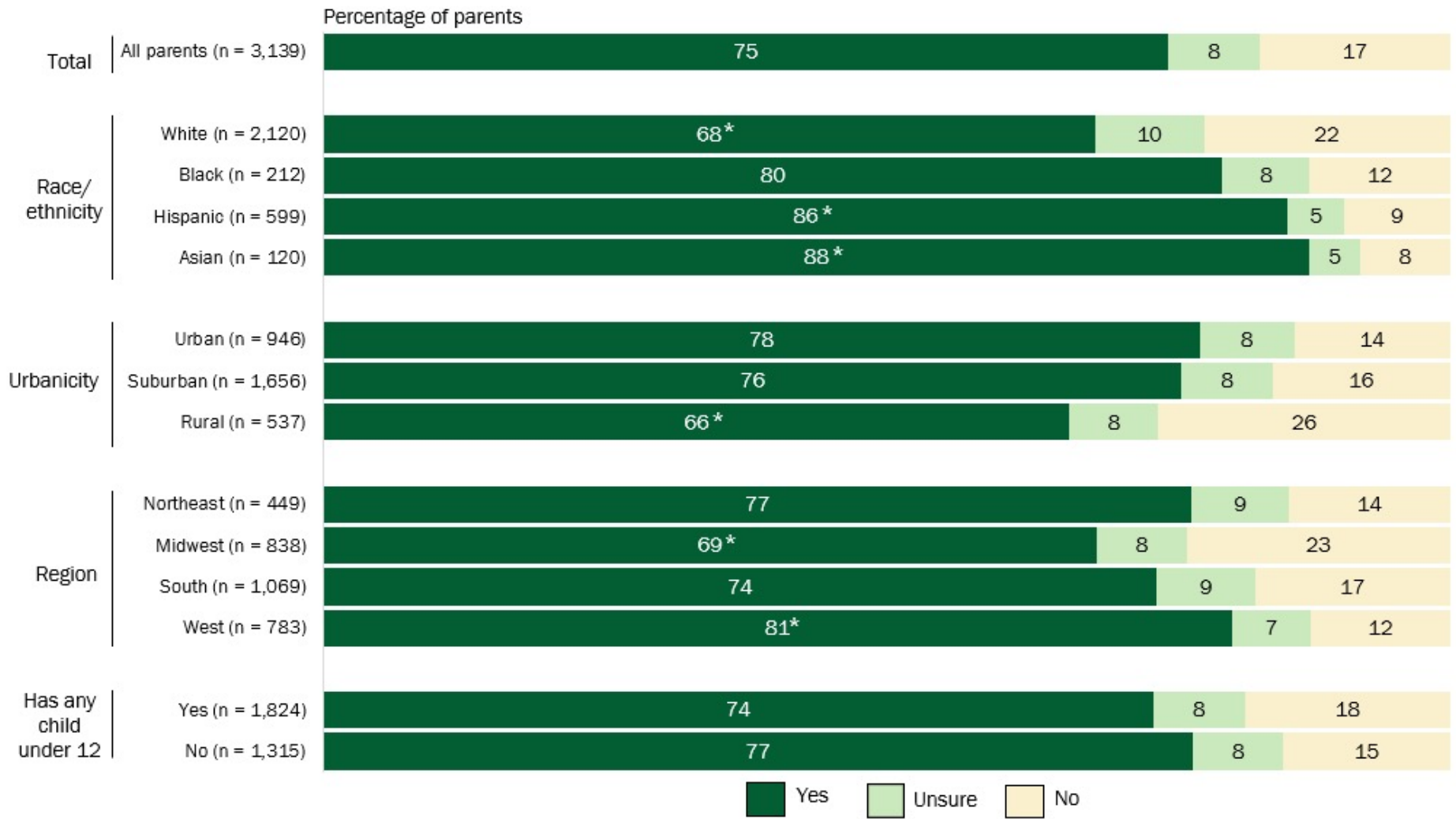


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# How comfortable are you with your child(ren) taking the following kinds of COVID-19 tests?



Figure notes: The numbers in the shaded cells correspond to the percentage of parents that are “comfortable” with the listed kind of COVID-19 test. Respondents provided separate answers for each of the four listed kinds of COVID-19 tests. Bold font indicates the percentage of a parent subgroup selecting a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of parents’ responses.

“Being offered a \$25 gift card in fall 2021 would make me more likely to allow my child(ren) to participate in voluntary, free, weekly COVID-19 testing at school.”

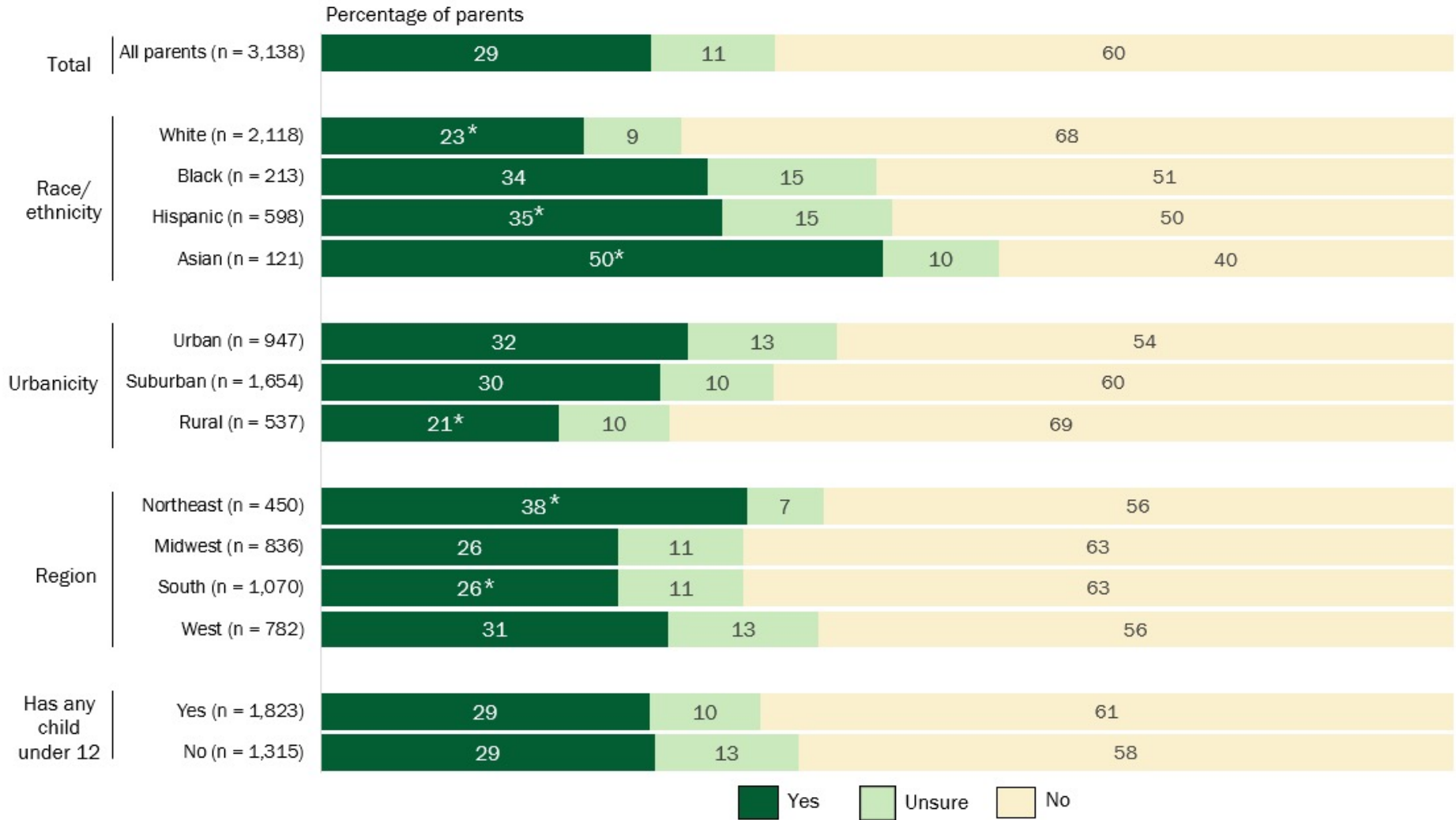


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# **Questions About COVID-19 Vaccination**

# "I will get my child(ren) vaccinated for COVID-19 when a vaccine is authorized and available for their age." [1 of 2 slides; comparison of May and July]

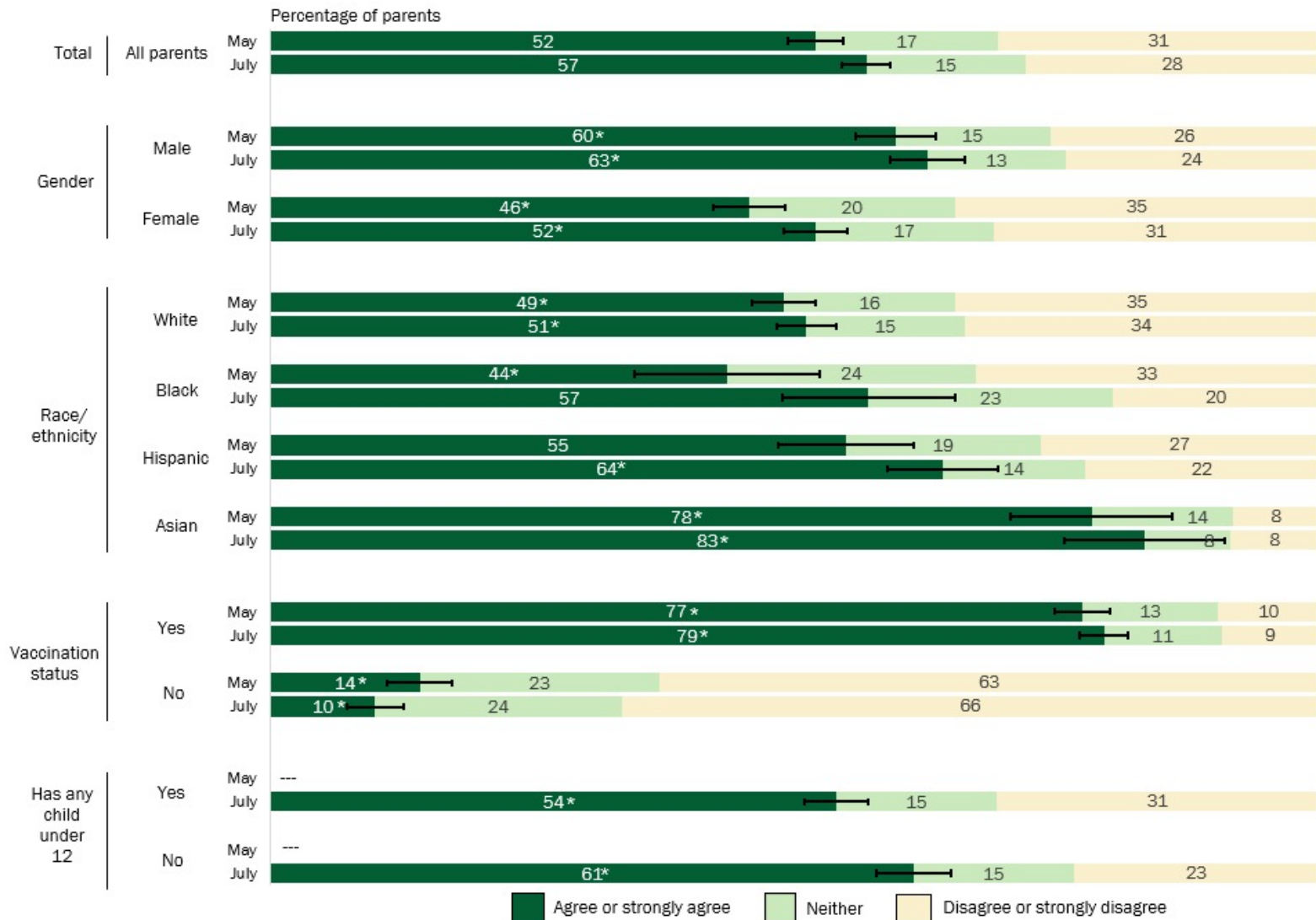


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

“I will get my child(ren) vaccinated for COVID-19 when a vaccine is authorized and available for their age.” [2 of 2 slides; comparison of May and July]

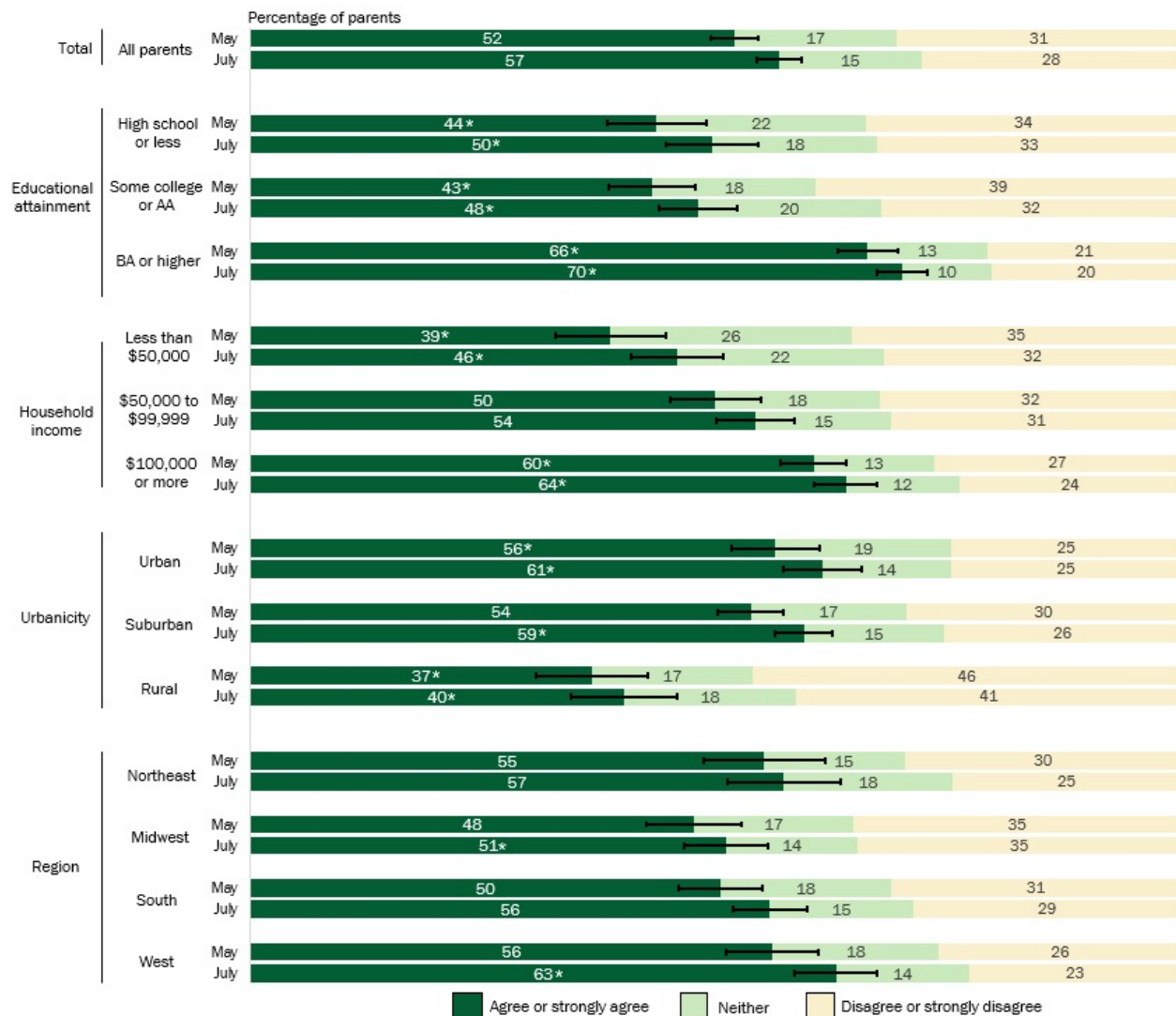
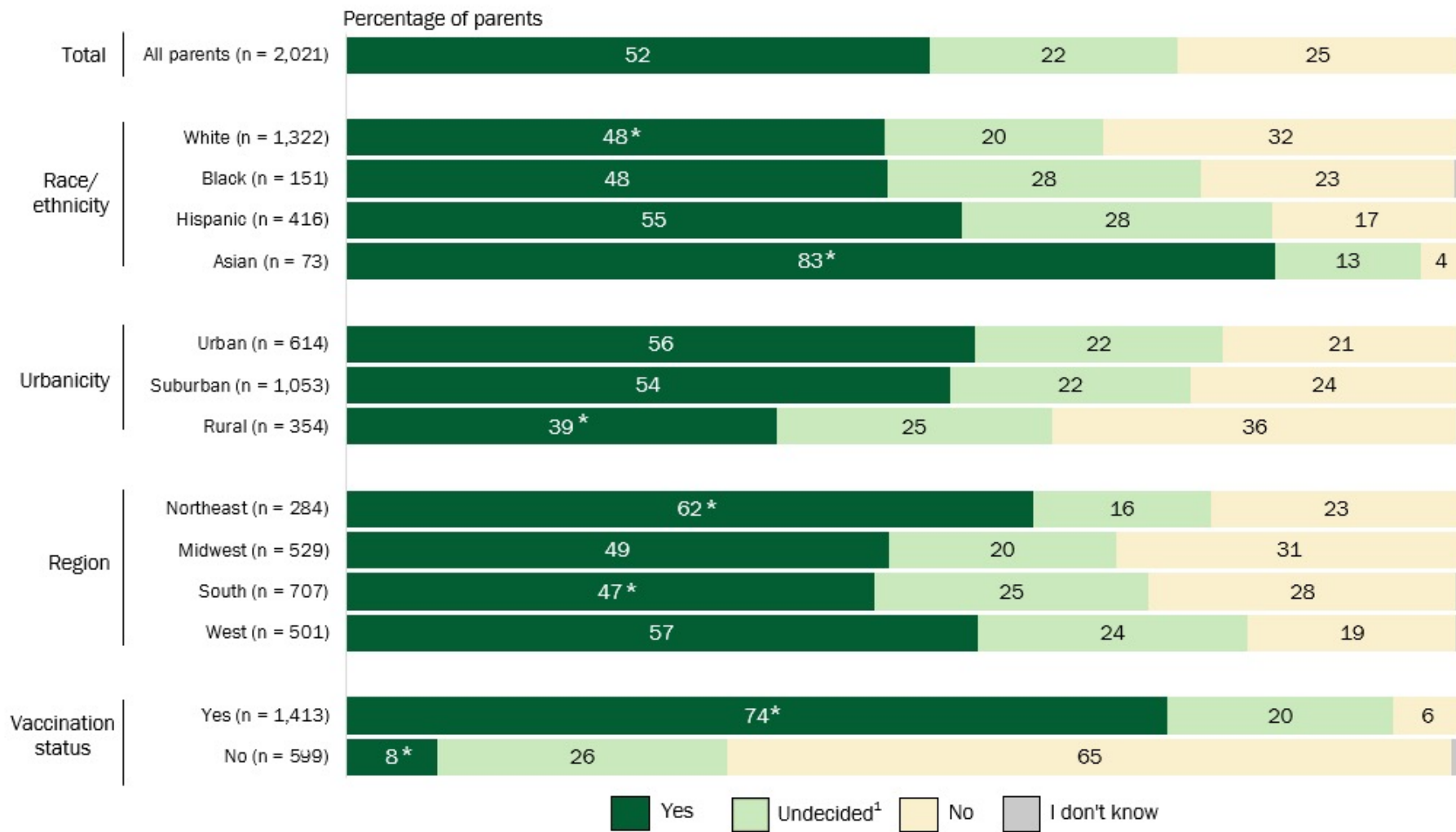


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents at the same time point. Black bars represent 95% confidence intervals. When May and July confidence intervals for a parent subgroup do not overlap, parents' responses in May are statistically different from July. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# Have your child(ren) who are age 12 and over gotten vaccinated for COVID-19?

Only parents with children age 12 and over (n = 2,021) answered this question.



<sup>1</sup> The undecided category includes three responses: (1) "Undecided; they or I want to wait a while to see how it's working", (2) "Some have, and some haven't," and (3) "Not yet, but they are planning to."

Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# Have you personally received the COVID-19 vaccine?

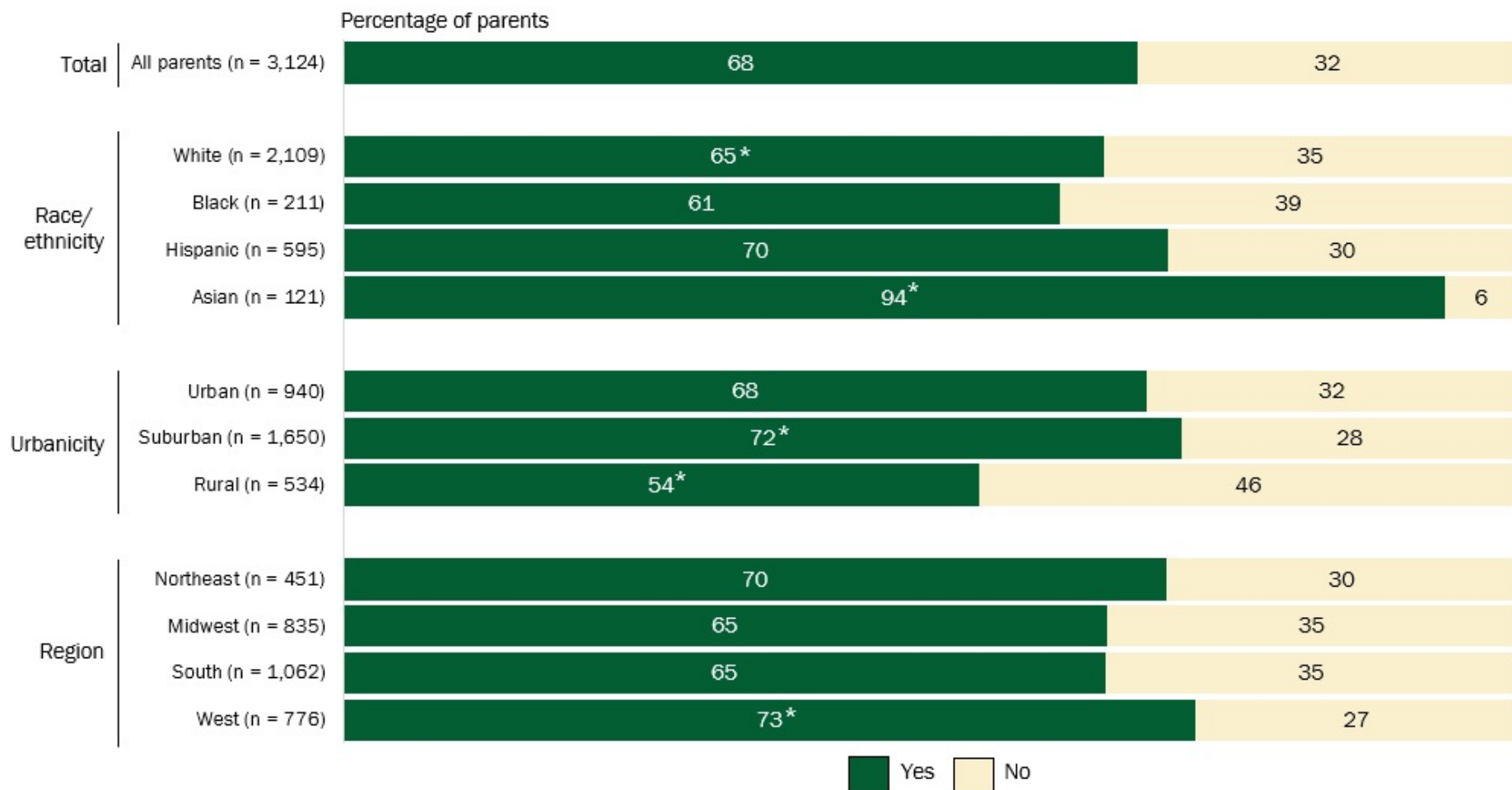
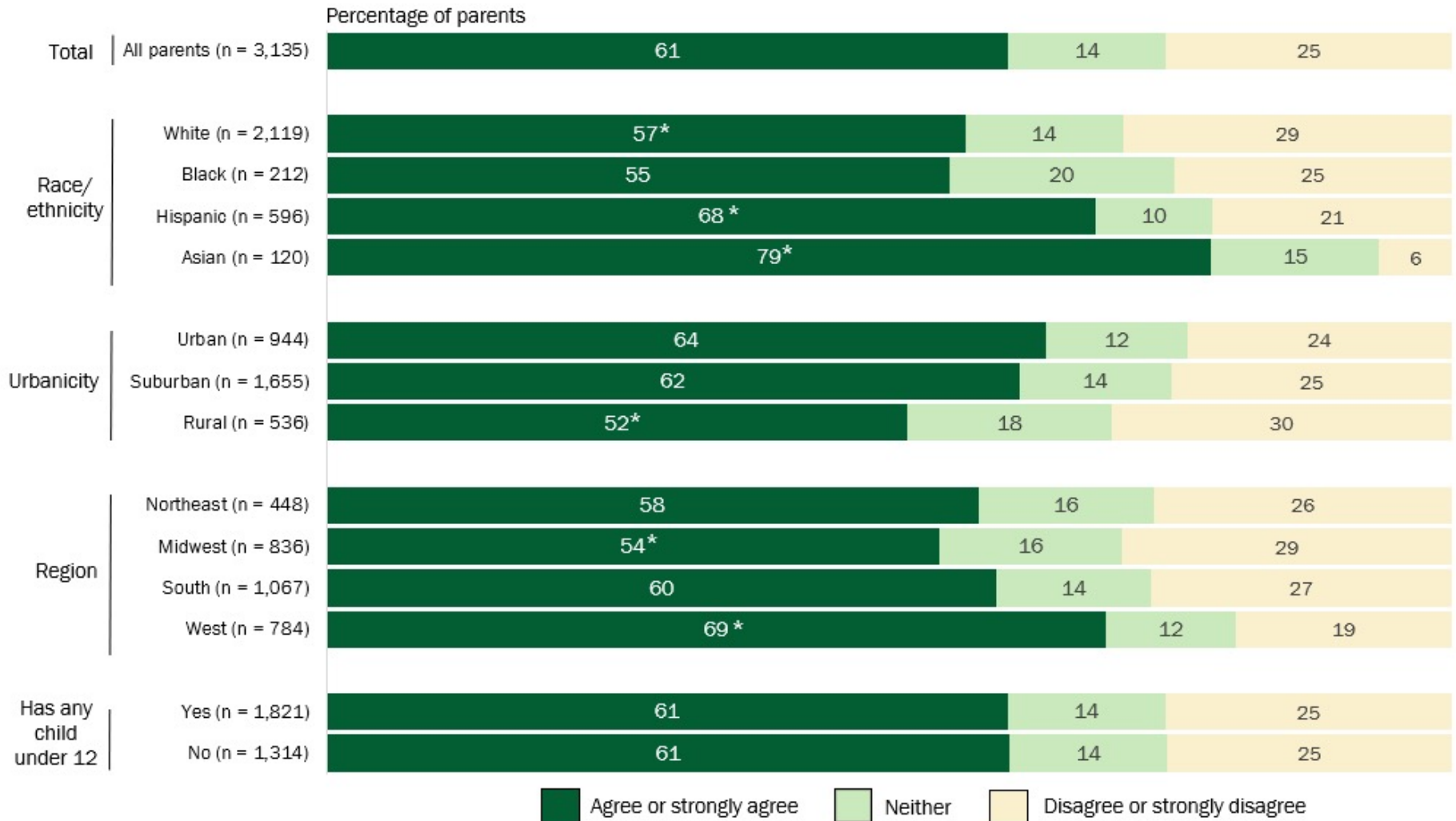


Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.



“I would support getting my child(ren) vaccinated at school for routine vaccines such as polio, TdaP, and/or MMR if they lacked the immunizations.”<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> The survey question went on to read, “(TdaP is the diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine. MMR is the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.)”

Figure notes: An \* indicates that the percentage of a given parent subgroup (e.g., urban, Midwest) who selected a response is statistically different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from the balance of all parents. Parents could select only one response to this question. Percentages might not sum to 100 due to rounding.

# **Toolkits for Schools and Local Health Departments to Use to Communicate with Parents**

# Two Toolkits for Communication

Because 60 percent of parents in this survey wished to know more about which COVID-19 safety measures their youngest school-age child's school would be enacting, we offer references to two communications toolkits:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "School Testing for COVID-19," webpage, last updated August 25, 2021. As of October 15, 2021:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/school-testing.html>
2. Brown University School of Public Health, "Testing in Schools," webpage, undated. As of October 15, 2021:  
<https://www.covidtestingtoolkit.org/library/testing-in-schools/>