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Assignment 8 Data Story

### **COVID-19's Effects on Dating**

Sydney Horn, a junior at [Saint Louis University](#) was recounting the last date she had been on after swiping through a dating app. “I haven't been on a date since 2019. I swipe through apps like Tinder, but something about the whole process of online dating feels disingenuous. I mean, don't get me wrong, it is convenient, but I just miss meeting someone and hitting it off with them.” These sentiments aren't unique to Sydney as they are results of the pandemic's grasp on our entire society. The COVID-19 pandemic created shockwaves around the world, affecting almost every single aspect of our lives. As a society we learned to adjust; working remotely, attending school on our computers, and connecting with friends and family virtually. We are entering the third year of this pandemic and continue to see different ways COVID-19 has changed our lives as we once knew them. One part of many people's lives that has been changed by the pandemic is romance.

According to a [Pew Research Center](#) survey, seven-in-ten people say their dating lives have been negatively affected by the pandemic. The study reports that many were already unhappy with their dating lives prior to the pandemic and that 63% of single adults say dating has become more difficult. They also noted that adults younger than 30 were noticeably more likely to say dating in a post-pandemic world is more difficult. Across all major demographics, the survey showed that the pandemic has not affected their interest in seeking a relationship, but there were a few aspects surrounding dating that have shifted. The survey showed that single

adults under the age of 30 are now the most likely to say that the pandemic has caused them to seek more long-term committed relationships. About 22% of this demographic stated this change in interest and this change in attitude is more prominent in men over women.

Vaccination has been quite the controversial issue as there have been large disagreements throughout the nation about the validity and necessity of COVID-19 vaccines. This divide is shown in the study as despite the majority of survey participants saying that vaccination status does not affect whether or not they would go out with someone, a sizable portion of the participants sampled, around 41%, said that they would only go out with someone if they were vaccinated. On the other side of the vaccination debate, 2% of the participants stated that they would only date someone who has not received a COVID-19 vaccine

Rose Proctor, a junior at the University of Illinois, had this to say about the subject. “I seriously don’t think I could consider going on a date with someone who wasn’t vaccinated. If they didn’t have a medical reason not to, that is. If someone I was interested in told me they never received a vaccine I can already tell there is no way that we could make a relationship happen.”

### **Sources**

- Sydney Horn
  - [sydneyshorn@slu.edu](mailto:sydneyshorn@slu.edu)
- Rose Proctor
  - [rosemp2@illinois.edu](mailto:rosemp2@illinois.edu)
- Pew Research
  - [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/04/06/most-americans-who-are-single-and-looking-say-dating-has-been-harder-during-the-pandemic/ft\\_2022-04-06\\_dating\\_02/](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/04/06/most-americans-who-are-single-and-looking-say-dating-has-been-harder-during-the-pandemic/ft_2022-04-06_dating_02/)