

# Americans want check

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Almost 60 per cent of Americans want congress to investigate the safety of Covid-19 vaccines and 7 per cent, or about 12 million, say they have experienced a "major side effect", according to two polls that reveal the stark contrast between popular and official views of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots.

In the first series of polls to ask the public about the effects of the vaccines, more than a quarter claimed they knew someone whose death they believed was "caused by the side effects of Covid-19 vaccines", including 35 per cent of those aged 18 to 39, more than double the share of those over 65.

"Surprisingly, no other reputable pollster has bothered to ask these questions yet," said Mark Mitchell, chief pollster at Rasmussen Reports, which conducted the polls, with a margin of error of 3 per cent, in December and January.

The two polls point to a growing discontent with the Covid-19 vaccines amid a spike in sudden deaths and unexplained injuries of celebrities, journalists and sports stars, including a claim from Tesla chief executive and Twitter owner Elon Musk last Saturday.

"I had major side effects from my second booster shot," Mr Musk tweeted. "Felt like I was dying for several days. Hopefully, no permanent damage, but I dunno."

He added that his cousin "who is young and in peak health had a

serious case of myocarditis (and had to go to the hospital)".

The revelations and survey results came a month after high-profile Australian doctor Kerry Phelps said she and her partner had suffered "devastating" vaccine injuries.

"Regulators of the medical profession have censored public discussion about adverse events following immunisation, with threats to doctors not to make any public statements about anything that 'might undermine the government's vaccine rollout' or risk suspension or loss of their registration," she said in a letter to a federal parliamentary Long Covid inquiry.

Almost a third of US adults surveyed by Rasmussen said they were "very concerned" about

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MARK MITCHELL  
RASMUSSEN REPORTS

Covid-19 vaccine side effects, including 20 per cent of those who had been vaccinated (about 68 per cent of the adult US population) and 21 per cent of Democrats, who have typically favoured making the shots mandatory.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, which recommends all Americans aged six months and up be vaccinated against Covid-19 including with the latest bivalent booster,

## ks on vaccines

approved in October, maintains that Covid-19 vaccines are safe and effective and injuries "rare".

Demand for Covid-19 vaccines in the US has collapsed: 15 per cent of eligible Americans aged over five have been vaccinated with the new bivalent booster, compared with 85 per cent who received at least one dose of the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccines approved under emergency authorisation in late 2020.

In October last year, Texas charity ICAN, which is opposed to compulsory Covid-19 vaccination, obtained the results of the CDC's "v-safe" program, which tracked the health of roughly 10 million Americans who had signed up in the weeks after their Covid-19 vaccinations, under a freedom of information request.

It found 7.7 per cent had "reported seeking medical attention via a telehealth appointment, urgent care clinic, emergency room intervention or hospitalisation following a Covid-19 vaccine", according to a Reuters interpretation of the data.

And about a quarter said they were sick enough to miss school or work.

The new Republican controlled House of Representatives this month compelled the Biden administration to scrap mandatory Covid-19 vaccination for the nation's armed forces.

New house speaker Kevin McCarthy has initiated a subcommittee to probe the US government's response to Covid-19, the impact of vaccines, and the origins of Covid-19.

"There's a lot of confusion out there, there's a lot of uncertainty out there, and I believe every American regardless of their political ideology would like to know the truth," said congressman James Comer, the new Republican chairman of the powerful house oversight committee.

Two recent studies, in Indiana and Ohio, have found that receiving multiple Covid-19 shots, while offering modest protection against illness, made vaccine recipients two to three times more likely to contract Covid-19.

"Risk of Covid-19 increased with time since the most recent prior Covid-19 episode and with the number of vaccine doses previously received," one group of authors found.