

Monthly attitudes overview, June 2021

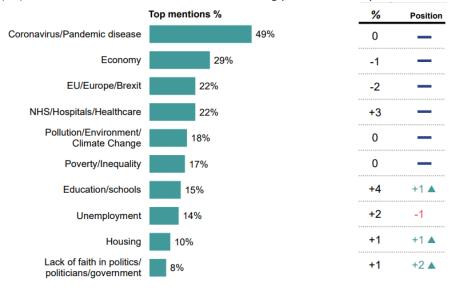
Sunder Katwala and Michelle Mdizi, British Future

Key themes this month:

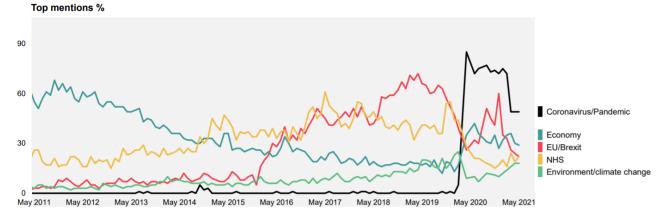
- Few changes in issue salience, though attention to EU/Brexit is slowly declining.
- Renewed Covid concern sees broad support for maintaining restrictions beyond June 21st.
- Strong growth in pro-vaccine norms across groups, though inter-ethnic gaps remain.
- Few expect England to win Euro 2021, but sport can shape ideas about race and identity.

Few changes in issue salience

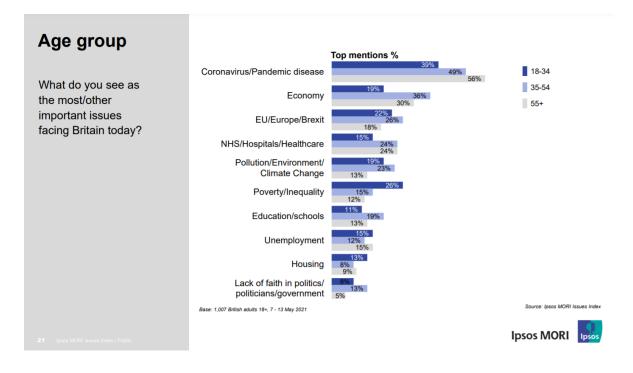
Ipsos-Mori's latest monthly issues index saw no change in the top six public priority issues – Covid, economy, Brexit, NHS, climate and inequality – while education, housing and political mistrust saw modest rises in salience. Immigration ranks 11^{th} – the top issue for 2% and a priority issue for 8% (+1). Published June 21^{st} , with fieldwork taking place from May 7^{th} - 13^{th} .



Covid remains a priority for half of the public – having been at 75% until March. The EU/Brexit remains in 3rd place but 22% is its lowest salience since March 2016, having been 60% as the UK formally exited the EU in December 2020.



The issues index found that concern about Covid remains considerably higher among older people than young adults – while poverty and inequality, sixth overall, ranks second for respondents aged under 35.

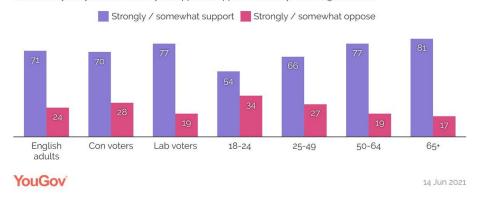


Broad support for delaying the end of Covid restrictions

Covid attitudes became more cautious during June as cases rose. YouGov found broad support – by 71% to 24% - for the government's decision to delay the proposed June 21st lifting of Covid restrictions, though just 36% had favoured delaying a fortnight earlier. There was a broad cross-party consensus, but a narrower majority among young adults (+20) than the over 65s (+64).



It has been reported that most lockdown easing measures in England will not now be lifted on 21st June, but will be delayed by four weeks. Do you support or oppose this delay? % of English adults



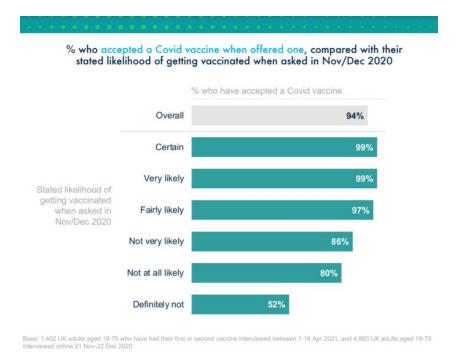
Ipsos-Mori also found that most people would miss some aspects of lockdown. Majorities cite better hygiene, less traffic, quieter shops and more family time as things that they will miss – though 6 out of 10 people will be glad to stop wearing a face-mask.

Miss a great deal / fair amount Not miss very much / at all

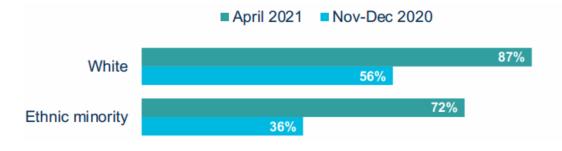
	Miss a great deal / fair amount	Not miss very much / at all
People practising better hygiene	66%	19%
Less traffic on the roads at peak times	63%	22%
Shops / supermarkets being quiet	59%	24%
Spending more time with family	53%	24%
Tourist attractions / public places being quiet	50%	27%

How pro-vacccine norms grew

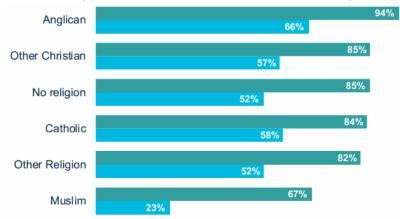
A Kings study illuminated the growth of pro-vaccine norms – to 94% - by returning to respondents who were asked before Christmas about their willingness to take a vaccine. Some 84% of those who thought they were unlikely to take a vaccine had now taken it. Even 52% of those who had said they would "definitely not" accept a vaccine had decided to accept the offer when invited.



The Spring 2021 survey showed 72% willingness to take a vaccine among ethnic minorities, doubling since the late 2020 poll, though with inter-ethnic and inter-faith gaps remaining.

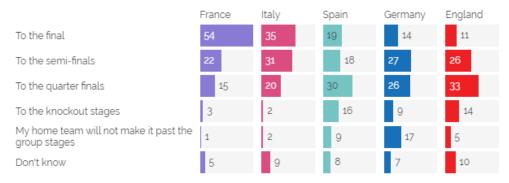


The largest increase in willingness to take a vaccine was among Muslim respondents (+44), but from a considerably lower base, so with more to do when the April 2021 survey was taken.

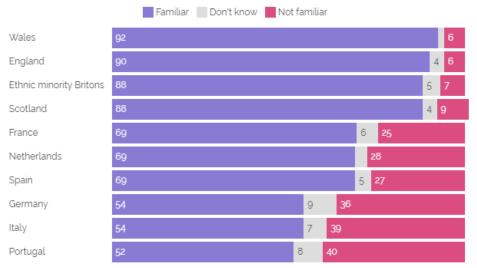


Is football coming home?

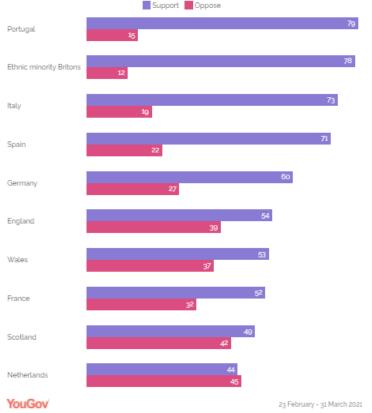
The Euro 2020 football tournament saw England and Wales qualify for the last 16, while Scotland were eliminated. Wales play Denmark on Saturday while England host Germany on Tuesday. Both English and German supporters approached this tournament more in hope than expectation – with 11% of English supporters and 14% of German fans expecting the team to reach the final. Having won the World Cup, most French fans (54%) expected to see their side reach the final.



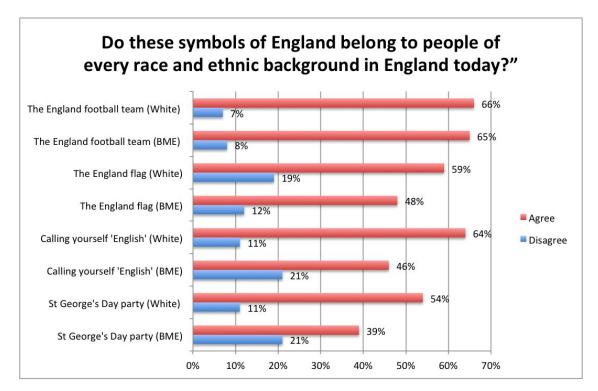
The decision of the England players to 'take the knee' before kick-off sparked debate. YouGov had found comparatively high familiarity with this gesture across the UK, while sizeable minorities of the public had not heard about this in continental Europe.



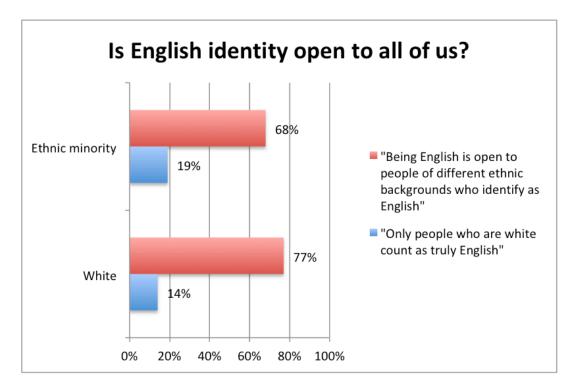
YouGov found that football supporters backed players taking the knee – by 54% to 39% in England (+15), 53% to 37% in Wales (+16) and a narrower 49% to 44% (+5) in Scotland. Ethnic minority supporters favoured the gesture by 78% to 12% (+66) with a majority (58%) strongly supportive.



British Future's <u>pre-tournament study of English identity</u> found that the English football team is the national symbol most felt to belong to people across ethnic and faith groups in England – with two-thirds of white British and ethnic minority respondents feeling that it does so.



The report explores how football has contributed to a shift across generations towards understanding English identity as civic rather than ethnic – though there is broader confidence about this among the white British (+63) than ethnic minorities (+49).



Public attitudes sources and links:

- Ipsos MORI: Issue Index
 https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/ipsos-mori-issues-index-may-2021
- YouGov: extended national lockdown <u>https://yougov.co.uk/topics/health/articles-reports/2021/06/14/seven-ten-english-people-</u> <u>support-delaying-21-june-</u>
- Ipsos MORI: what would the public miss about lockdown? <u>https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/what-will-britons-miss-about-lockdown-ipsos-mori</u>
- King's Policy Institute: updated vaccine uptake numbers <u>https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/half-who-said-they-definitely-wouldnt-get-covid-vaccine-have-</u> <u>since-had-one</u>
- YouGov: England's Euros hopes https://yougov.co.uk/topics/sport/articles-reports/2021/06/11/euro-2020-how-do-fans-expect-do-competition
- British Future: English identity report: Beyond a 90 minute nation https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Beyond-a-90-minute-nation.- Inclusive-England-report.10.6.21.pdf
- YouGov: taking the knee
 <u>https://yougov.co.uk/topics/sport/articles-reports/2021/06/10/taking-the-knee-football-fans-europe-support</u>