

BRIEF REPORT ON TEXANS' VIEWS ON A COVID-19 VACCINE

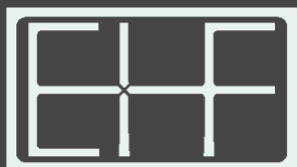
Findings from Episcopal Health Foundation's
Statewide Survey

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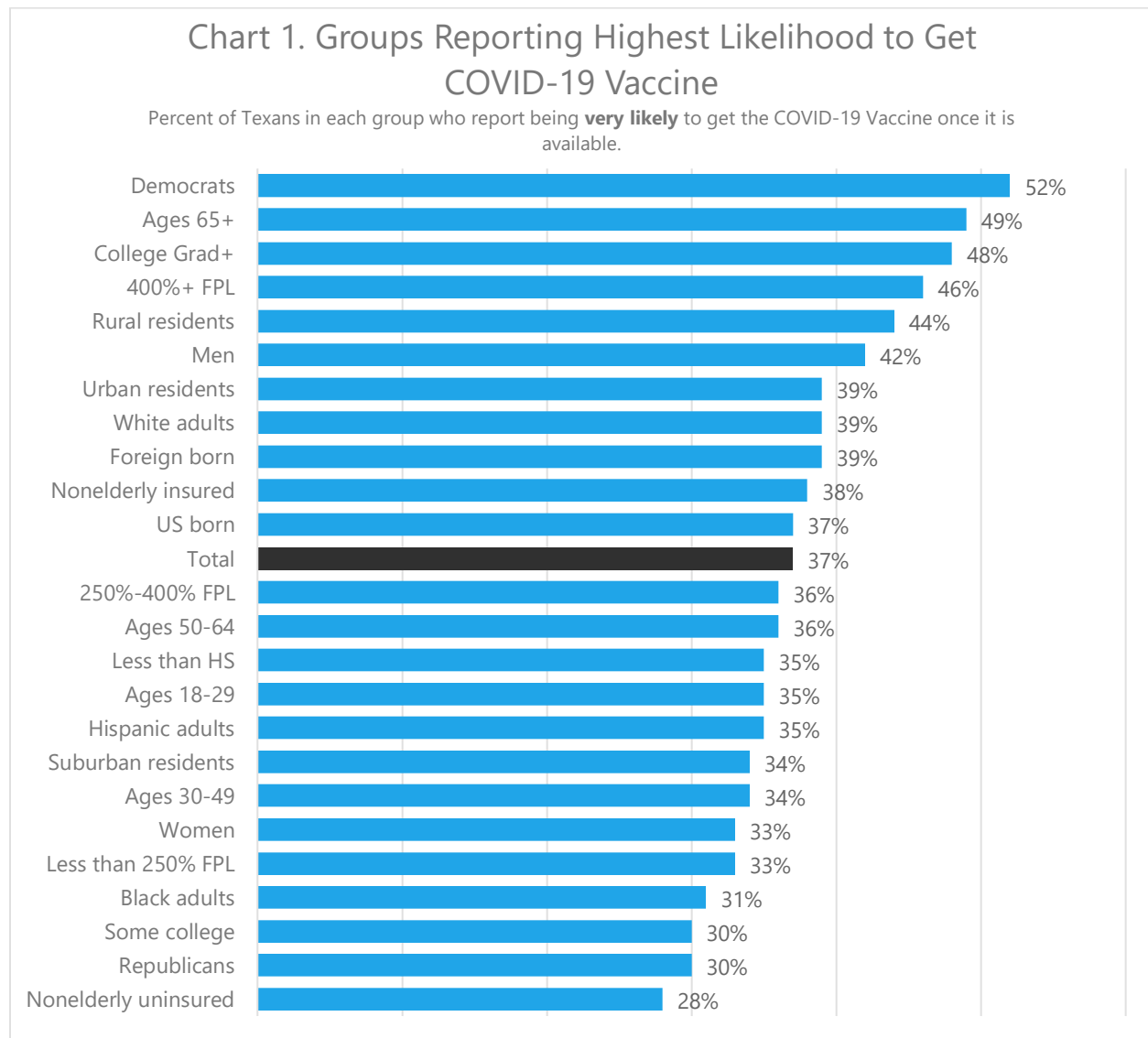
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INTRODUCTION

As the U.S. government approves and begins dissemination of a vaccine against COVID-19, Episcopal Health Foundation's statewide surveys in September and December 2020 explored how likely Texans would be to get a vaccine once available. Overall, three in five Texans (63%) say they are likely to get the vaccine once it is available in the December poll. However, only 37 percent say they are *very likely* to get the vaccine, indicating that the majority of Texans have some level of hesitancy towards getting it.

Furthermore, reported likelihood to get the vaccine varies across multiple characteristics. Namely, lower income Texans, those born in the US, Texans under 65, and Republicans, were significantly less likely to say they will get the vaccine. In other words, while a majority of Texans are inclined to get vaccinated, public health officials and the scientific community may need to focus efforts on encouraging some groups within Texas to do so (Chart 1).



THREE IN FIVE TEXANS SAY THEY'RE LIKELY TO GET THE VACCINE

Overall, findings from the December 2020 survey show that three in five Texans (63%) say they are likely to get the vaccine against COVID-19 when it becomes available, with 37 percent saying they are very likely and 26 percent saying they are somewhat likely. More than a third (35%) say they are unlikely to get vaccinated. While the share of Texans who reported they are likely to get the vaccine in a September 2020 survey¹ was similar to the results in the December poll, the share who say they are very unlikely to get the vaccine has decreased. In September, 28 percent said they were very unlikely to get the vaccine. In December, 20 percent say the same (Table 1).

Table 1: Reported likelihood to get the COVID-19 Vaccine in September and December 2020

	December 2020	September 2020
Likely (NET)	63%	59%
Very likely	37%	37%
Somewhat likely	26%	22%
Unlikely (NET)	35%	38%
Somewhat unlikely	14%	10%
Very Unlikely	20%	28%

*Don't know/Refused not shown

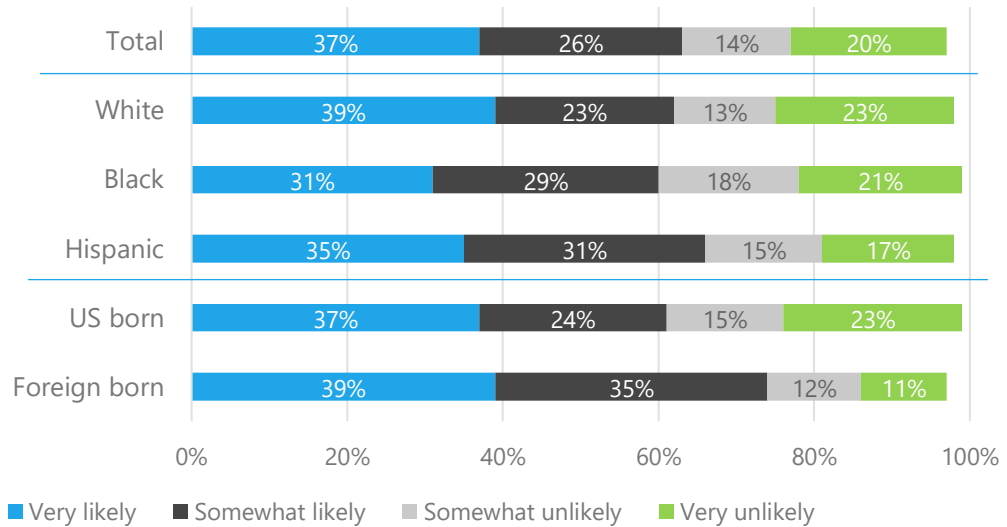
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GROUPS IN REPORTED VACCINE LIKELIHOOD

Some of the population groups most adversely affected by COVID-19, such as lower-income populations, the uninsured, and communities of color, tended to be the least likely to report a strong inclination to get the vaccine.

Across race and ethnic groups, there tend to be similar shares of Texans who say they are very or somewhat likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine once it is available (62% White adults; 59% Black adults; 66% Hispanic adults). When it comes to being very likely, even though differences between White, Black and Hispanic Texans do not reach the level of statistical significance, there is a directional difference. While 39 percent of White Texans say they are very likely to get the vaccine, 31 percent of Black Texans, and 35 percent of Hispanics say the same (Chart 2).

¹ Citation: Sim, S., Marks, E., Sutton, J., Ben-Porath, E., Evans-Pigford, A. (2020). Texans' Views on the COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved from: <https://www.episcopalhealth.org/report-type/covid-19/>

Chart 2: Similar Levels of Reported Vaccination Likelihood Across Race/Ethnicity; More Hesitancy Among those born in the US



In comparison to the September poll, non-Hispanic Black adults now hold more favorable views of the vaccine. Findings from September showed a significant difference in the percent of Blacks adults reporting they were likely to get vaccinated in comparison to White adults (49% v. 59%). This significant difference is no longer observed in December with similar shares of Black and White adults (59% v. 62%) reporting they are likely to get vaccinated (Table 2).

Table 2: More Black Adults Now Say They Are Likely to Get Vaccinated in December 2020

	December 2020	September 2020
Likely (NET)	59%	49%
Very likely	31%	28%
Somewhat likely	29%	21%
Unlikely (NET)	39%	50%
Somewhat unlikely	18%	14%
Very Unlikely	21%	36%

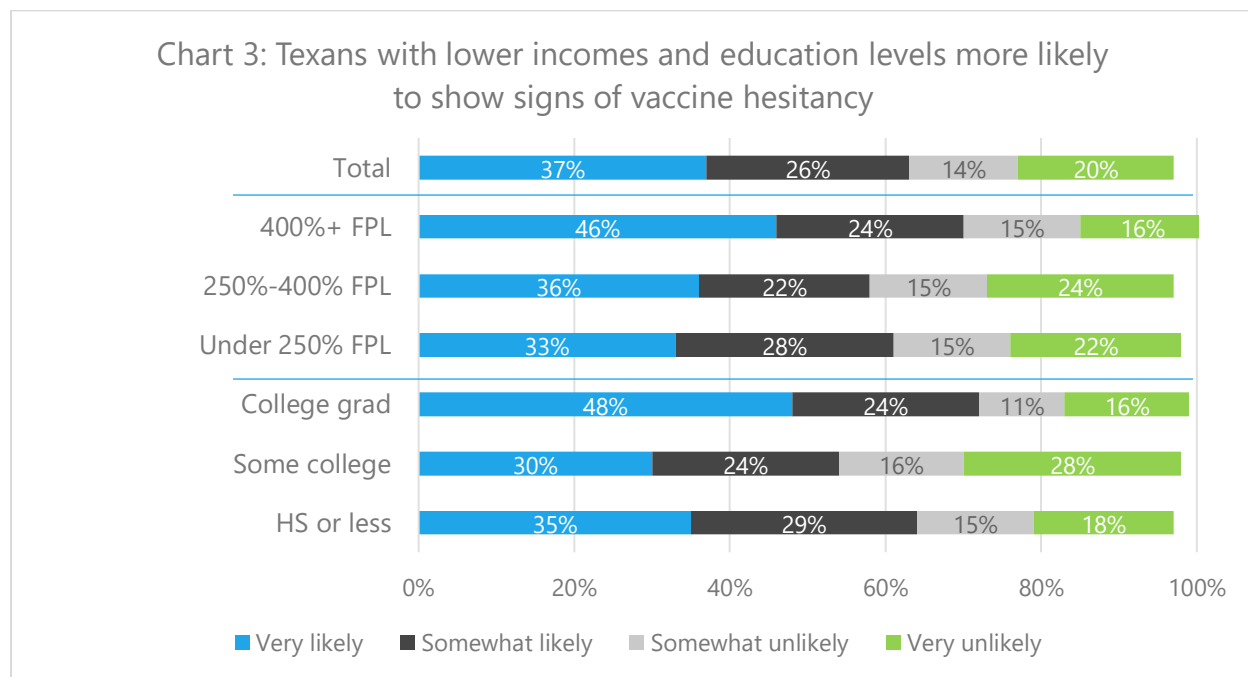
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Among residents who were not born in the US there also tends to be slightly less hesitancy towards a COVID-19 vaccine. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Texans born outside the US say they are at least somewhat likely to get the vaccine compared to only 61 percent of Texas born within the US. Additionally, more US born residents say they are somewhat or very unlikely to get vaccinated (38% v. 23%) (Chart 2).

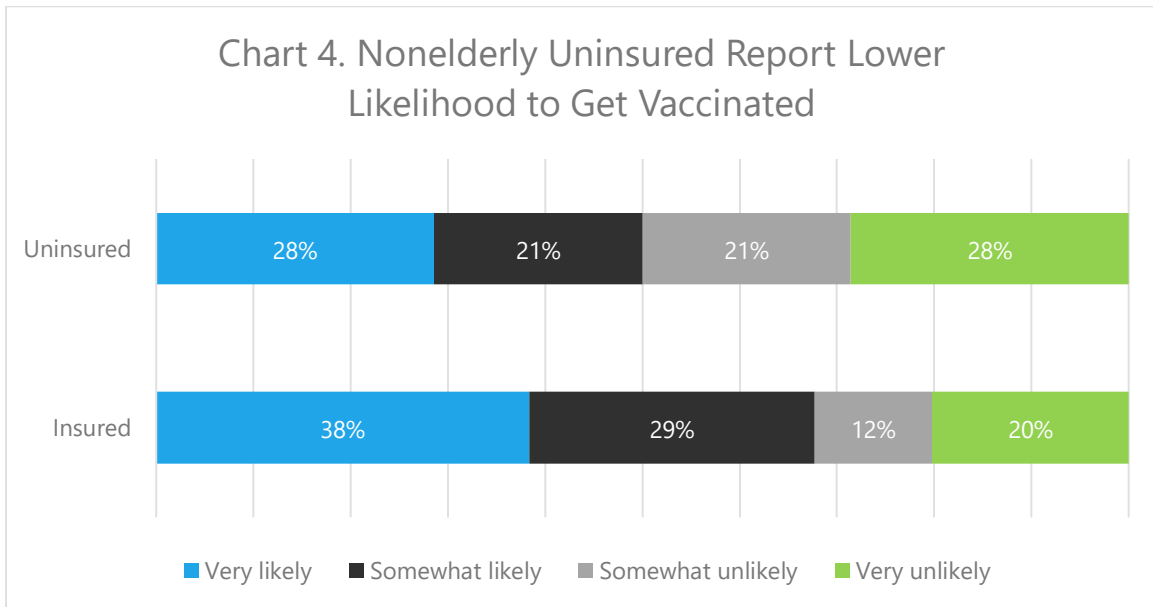
Beyond race and immigration status, Texans also tend to differ in reported likelihood to get vaccinated by income and education levels. While 46 percent of Texans with household incomes greater than 400% of the

federal poverty line (FPL) say that are very likely to get the vaccine, only 32 percent of residents with incomes under 138% FPL report the same.

A similar pattern is observed for education. While almost half of college graduates say they are very likely to get vaccinated (48%) only 30 percent of those with some college and 35 percent of those with a high school education or less say they are very likely to get vaccinated (Chart 3).



Health insurance coverage status is often related to socio-economic characteristics. Those with lower incomes, lower levels of education as well as non-White and foreign-born residents are more likely to be uninsured. Even though the COVID-19 vaccine will be available at no cost to Americans, many Texans without health insurance may have concerns about cost and accessibility to the vaccine. Only 28 percent of nonelderly uninsured residents report they are very likely to get vaccinated against COVID-19. This is 10 percentage points lower than the number of nonelderly insured who say they are very likely to get the vaccine (38%). Additionally, the number of uninsured Texans who report being very likely to get vaccinated is the same as the share who say they are very unlikely (28%) (Chart 4).

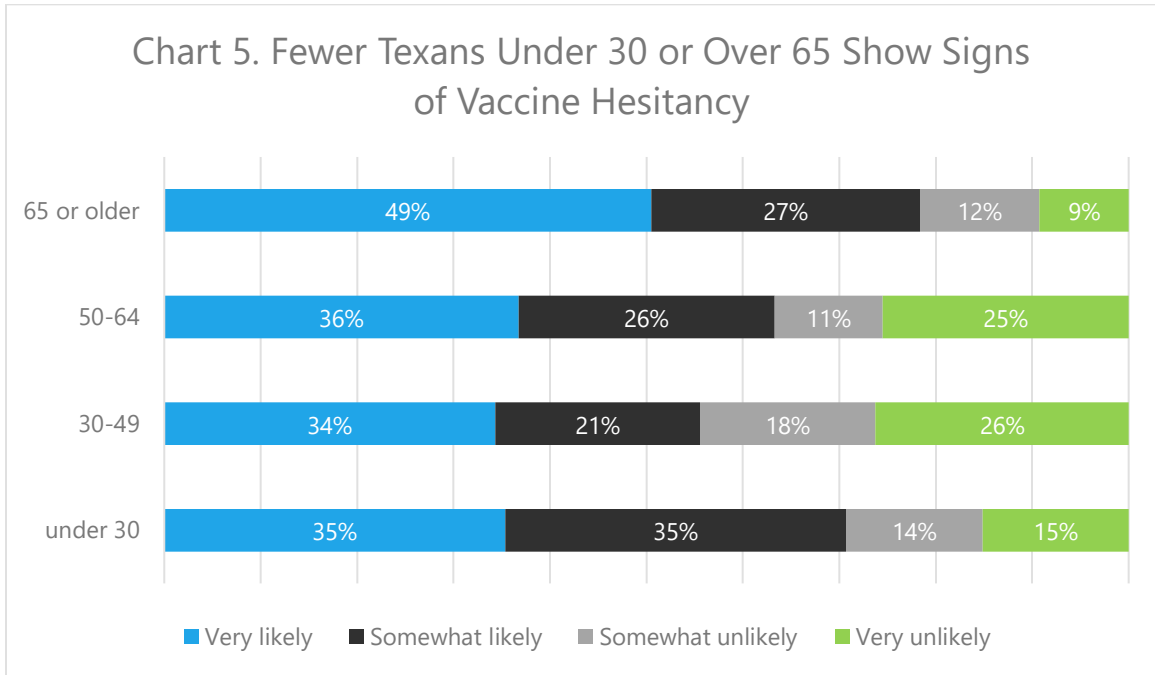


Findings from the survey show that urban residents do not seem to differ from suburban and rural residents in reported likelihood to get vaccinated. Forty-four percent of rural Texas, 39 percent of urban, and 34 percent of suburban residents say they are very likely to get the vaccine.

OLDER TEXANS LESS HESITANT ABOUT VACCINE

In addition to socio-economic differences in reported likelihood to get vaccinated, residents also differ by age. Public health experts often note that older adults are more vulnerable to becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. This greater vulnerability may explain why almost half of Texans over 65 say they are very likely to get vaccinated (49%) in comparison to just 35 percent of those under 65. In fact, more than three-quarters of Texans over 65 say they are at least somewhat likely to get vaccinated (76%; 27% somewhat likely).

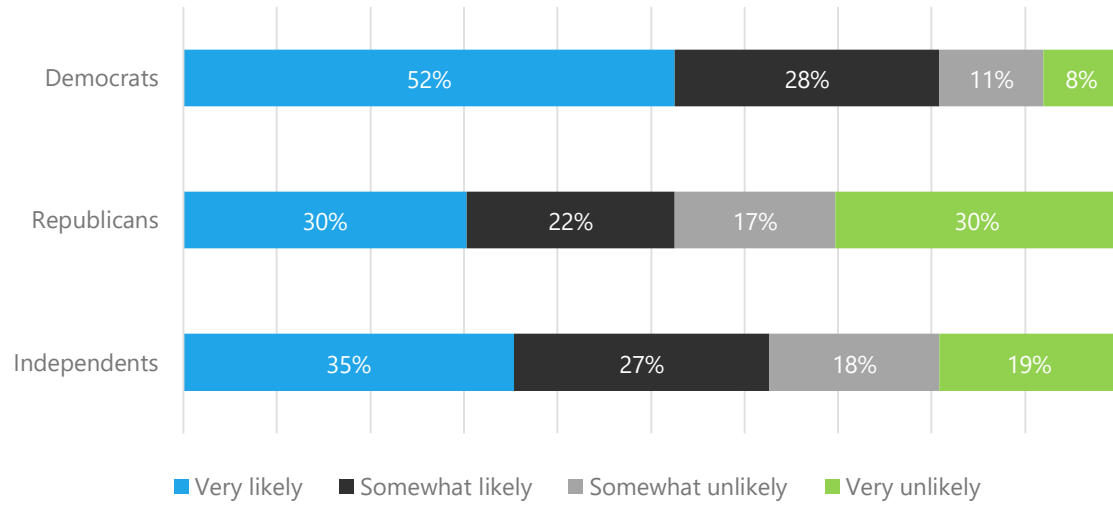
Texans under age 30 also appear to be less hesitant about the vaccine. Seven in ten residents under 30 report being at least somewhat likely to get vaccinated against COVID-19 (70%; 35% very likely; 35% somewhat likely). In comparison, 55 percent of residents ages 30-49 and 62 percent of residents age 50-64 report being at least somewhat likely. Moreover, about one-quarter of respondents in the 30-49 (26%) and 50-64 (25%) age groups say they are very unlikely to get the vaccine. This is significantly higher than the amount who report the same in the under 30 (15%) and 65 or older (9%) groups (Chart 5).



SHARP PARTISAN DIVIDES RELATED TO VACCINE HESITANCY

The production, testing, and approval process for a vaccine for COVID-19 has faced critique and praise from politicians on the state and federal stages. Some raise concerns that the vaccine approval process has been rushed due to political pressure. Others worry that the public health and scientific communities promoting the vaccine have their own political biases. The findings from the survey show that partisan divides are strongly associated with reported likelihood to get vaccinated. While the majority of Democrats say they are very likely to get vaccinated (52%) with another 28 percent saying they are somewhat likely, only 30 percent of Republicans say they are very likely to take the vaccine (22% somewhat likely). Additionally, one in three Republicans say they are very unlikely to get vaccinated (30%) compared to just eight percent of Democrats. (Chart 6).

Chart 6. Strong Support for COVID-19 Vaccine Among Democrats



METHODOLOGY

The findings in this report are from the a statewide survey conducted by Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF) from November 13 through December 9, 2020 in partnership with SSRS. SSRS interviewed a representative sample of 1,204 Texas adults (age 18 or older), reached via landline (n=296) and cell phone (n=908; including n= 747 who could not be reaching via landline) random digit dialing (RDD). Interviews were conducted by live professional telephone interviewers in English or Spanish based on the respondent's language preference.

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. The survey data are weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the Texas adult population. The margin of sampling error for this study is +/- 3.5 percentage points for results based on the total sample.

All differences discussed in the report are statistically significant unless otherwise noted.

ABOUT EHF

The [Episcopal Health Foundation \(EHF\)](#) is committed to transforming the health of our communities by going beyond the doctor's office. By providing millions of dollars in grants, working with congregations and community partners, and providing important research, we're supporting solutions that address the underlying causes of poor health in Texas. EHF was established in 2013, is based in Houston, and has more than \$1.2 billion in estimated assets. **#HealthNotJustHealthcare**

ABOUT SSRS

SSRS is a full-service market and survey research firm managed by a core of dedicated professionals with advanced degrees in the social sciences. Service offerings include the Omnibus Survey, the SSRS Opinion Panel and other Online Solutions, as well as custom research programs – all driven by a central commitment to methodological rigor. The SSRS team is renowned for its multimodal approach, as well as its sophisticated and proprietary sample designs. Typical projects for the company include complex strategic, tactical and public opinion initiatives in the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide. SSRS is research, refined. Visit www.ssrs.com for more information.