

COVID-19 Survey Summary: July 3, 2020

The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past week, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

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Rising Concerns

As several states reimpose restrictions in the face of surging coronavirus cases, public concerns about reopening and worries about the virus more broadly continued to mount this week:

- A record 65 percent of Americans say the coronavirus situation in the United States is getting worse, up 17 percentage points in a week and 28 points in two weeks to the most in weekly data since mid-April ([Gallup 6/22-6/28](#)).
- Confidence that the country can limit the impact of the outbreak in the next few weeks has dropped to a new low: Just 37 percent are at least somewhat confident in this, down from 43 percent in early June and 53 percent in April ([Monmouth 6/26-6/30](#)).

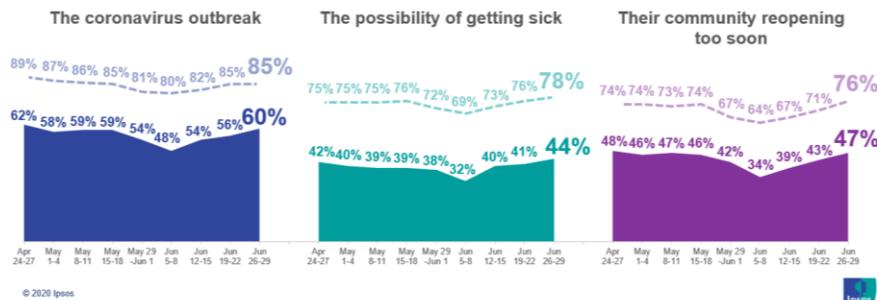
- Three-quarters are at least somewhat concerned about their community reopening too soon, and nearly half, 47 percent, are extremely or very concerned about this. Overall concern is up 5 points in the past week and 12 points since early June; high-level concern is up 13 points from early this month ([Axios/Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).

Concerns related to the coronavirus continue to rise

Large majorities at least somewhat concerned about the outbreak, the possibility getting sick, and their community reopening

Percentage of Americans concerned with...

■ Extremely/Very concerned
-- Extremely/Very/Somewhat concerned



- The public by a 37-point margin, 64-27 percent is more concerned that states are starting to lift restrictions too quickly than not lifting them quickly enough. That's widened from a 28-point gap, 60-32 percent, in early June ([Monmouth 6/26-6/30](#)).

- More registered voters express concern that their own state has moved too quickly in lifting restrictions, allowing the virus to continue to spread (46 percent), than are worried it's taking too long, worsening the economic impact (30 percent). It was a closer 44-38 percent in late May/early June ([CNBC 6/19-6/22](#)).
- Sixty percent are extremely or very concerned about the outbreak overall, up 12 points since early June; six in 10 likewise are that concerned about a second wave, up from 56 percent in mid-June ([Axios/Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).
- The number who are at least somewhat concerned about getting sick or catching the virus is up 9 points since early June in one study and 8 points in a week in another. It's 78 percent in a five-point scale asking about "getting sick," netting extremely, very and somewhat concerned; and 56 percent in a four-point scale asking if you might "get the coronavirus," netting very and somewhat worried ([Axios/Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#), [Gallup 6/22-6/28](#)).
- Worries about local healthcare capacity also have grown: Forty-four percent are at least moderately worried about the availability of hospital supplies, services and treatment in their local area and 39 percent are as worried about the availability of coronavirus tests, up 10 and 6 points, respectively, in the past week ([Gallup 6/22-6/28](#)).

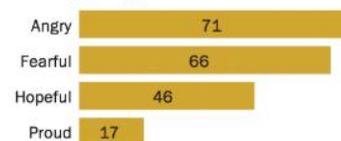
There continues to be broad partisan differences in these views, with Republicans less apt to express concerns about the virus than Democrats, more in favor of reopening quickly and more optimistic that the impact of the pandemic can be contained. But concerns are growing across partisan lines. For example, 59 percent of Republicans now express at least some reservations about their community reopening too soon, up from 44 percent in early June ([Axios/Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)) and three in 10 are at least somewhat worried about getting the coronavirus, up from 22 percent a week ago ([Gallup 6/22-6/28](#)).

Public Mood

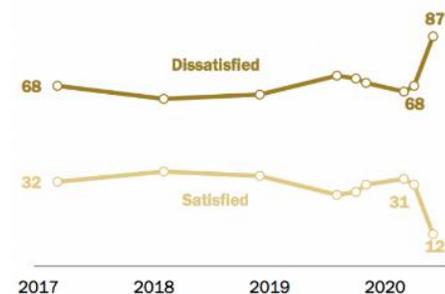
Amid the pandemic, widespread protests on racial justice and an economic recession, the overall public mood has turned sharply down. Eighty-seven percent are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country today, up 19 points since April. Seven in 10 say they feel angry when thinking about the state of the country these days; two-thirds fearful. Fewer than half, 46 percent, feel hopeful, and only 17 percent feel proud ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)). Just 18 percent think the country is headed in the right direction rather than on the wrong track, the fewest in data since 2013 ([Monmouth 6/26-6/30](#)).

Majorities feel anger, fear with state of nation; few feel proud

% who say, in thinking about the state of the country these days, they feel ...



% who say they are ___ with the way things are going in this country today



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Contact

Despite the increase in cases and growing concerns, reports of direct experience with the virus held steady this week: Thirty-seven percent overall know someone in the United States who has tested positive for the coronavirus, 14 percent know someone who has died from it and 12 percent personally have been tested – all essentially unchanged ([Axios/Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).

Daily Life

Three-quarters expect that the level of disruption in travel, school, work and public events in the United States will persist through the end of the year or beyond, up 10 points in the past week. Just a quarter say they would resume their normal day-to-day activities right now if it were up to them, down from 32 percent ([Gallup 6/22-6/28](#)).

After steadily climbing for two months, the number who've visited friends and relatives in the past week pulled back slightly, to 45 percent from 49 percent last week. This is accompanied by an increased perception of risk – 27 percent see attending in-person gatherings of friends and family outside their household as a large risk to their health and well-being, the most since late May/early June ([Axios-Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).

In an encouraging result in terms of controlling the spread of the virus, self-reported mask use reached a numerical high this week since the pandemic began, with 53 percent saying they wear a mask at all times “when leaving home,” up from a low of 30 percent when the question first was asked in mid-April. An additional three in 10 say they do this at least sometimes ([Axios-Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)). In a different question, two-thirds of registered voters say the phrase “always wearing a mask when you go out in public” applies to them ([CNBC 6/19-6/22](#)). (This approach lacks the alternative proposition; interpretations of “leaving home” vs. going “out in public” also may account for some of the difference in results.)

At the same time, there's been no change this week in the number of people reporting various out-of-home activities, and the share who report one of them – going out to eat – is numerically the most since late March. These include visiting a non-grocery retail store in the past week (44 percent), going out to eat (31 percent), visiting a park, beach or other outdoor space (30 percent), visiting a salon, barber shop or spa (17 percent) and visiting elderly relatives (14 percent). Going out to eat is up 26 points and visiting elderly relatives is up 6 points from their April lows. Going to a retail store or a salon are up 7 and 10 points, respectively, from their lows in late May/early June and mid-May ([Axios-Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).

Summer Celebrations

Majorities view several summertime staples as substantially risky. Seventy-eight percent see attending Fourth of July celebrations as at least a moderate risk to their health and well-being; about seven in 10 say the same about taking a vacation. Even more – 83 percent – think attending an indoor wedding is a risk, while six in 10 say the same of an outdoor wedding ([Axios-Ipsos 6/26-6/29](#)).

Economic Impacts

Despite the increase in [employment](#) in the past month, job troubles persist. Thirty-six percent report that they or someone in their household has been laid off from work because of the outbreak, up from 29 percent in early June. Fewer expect the affected person will return to the same job, 52 percent, down from 64 percent. A third say the laid-off person already is back to work; 12 percent expect that to occur in a few weeks ([Monmouth 6/26-6/30](#)).

A U.S. Census Bureau analysis finds that households with children have been particularly hard hit by the financial toll of the pandemic. Adults in households with children are more apt than those in childless households to report either a late or deferred payment on their mortgage or rent and more likely to say they or those they lived with sometimes or often did not have enough to eat ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/11-6/16](#)).

Economic Attitudes

Fifty-four percent of registered voters describe the current economic situation as a slowdown or mild recession while 36 percent see it as a serious recession or depression. That's better than during the Great Recession, when the numbers were essentially flipped. Half think the economy will improve in the next year.

Still, six in 10 think it'll be in the next year or longer before the economy can return to normal, businesses can re-open and people can go back to work, up from 52 percent in late May/early June. Just 31 percent of employed adults believe their wages will grow in the next year, the fewest since 2012 ([CNBC 6/19-6/22](#)).

Discrimination

Recently released data collected in early June found that many Asian and Black adults have experienced discrimination during the pandemic:

- Roughly four in 10 Asians and Blacks alike said people have acted as if they were uncomfortable around them because of their race or ethnicity since the beginning of the outbreak, compared with 27 percent of Hispanics and 13 percent of whites.
- Thirty-one percent of Asians said they've been subject to slurs or jokes, compared with 21 percent of Blacks, 15 percent of Hispanics and 8 percent of whites.
- Twenty-six percent of Asians and 20 percent of Blacks have feared someone might threaten or physically attack them, compared with one in 10 Hispanics and whites.

- Forty-two percent of Blacks, 36 percent of Asians and 23 percent of Hispanics said they worry at least a fair amount that others might be suspicious of them because of their race or ethnicity if they wear a mask in public. Just 5 percent of whites were similarly worried.

Four in 10 overall said it is more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about people who are Asian than it was before the coronavirus outbreak; 30 percent said the same about expressing views about Black Americans. For whites and Hispanics it's 19 and 14 percent, respectively ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)).

News Coverage

Also in results from early June, 38 percent of Americans said that compared with the first few weeks of the outbreak they're finding it harder to identify what is true and what is false when it comes to coronavirus news, while 30 percent said they were having an easier time separating coronavirus fact from fiction. Forty-one percent said they were seeing more partisan viewpoints in the news about the outbreak, nearly double the number who reported seeing fewer partisan viewpoints.

In the same poll, a growing share of Americans thought the outbreak had been exaggerated, with 38 percent saying it had been made a bigger deal than it really was, up from 29 percent in late April. This was driven largely by Republicans and Republican-leaning independents; 63 percent said the outbreak had been exaggerated, up from 47 percent ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)).

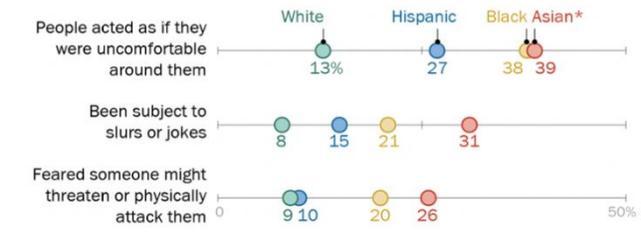
Pandemic Response

Views of how the American public overall is dealing with the outbreak have soured: Six in 10 now think Americans are doing a bad job, up from 43 percent in early June. About three in 10 think the public is doing a good job dealing with the pandemic, down from 46 percent.

In terms of government action, 54 percent think measures taken by the federal government to slow the spread of the virus have not gone far enough, up from 48 percent in early June. (A third think the measures have been appropriate and 9 percent feel they've gone too far.) State governments fare better: Half feel the measures they've taken have been appropriate, but that's down 6 points since early June. Thirty-one percent think their state's measures haven't gone far enough, up from 23 percent; 16 percent say they've gone too far, down from 20 percent.

Asian and Black Americans more likely than other groups to report negative experiences because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak

% saying each of the following has happened to them because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak



% saying they _____ because of their race or ethnicity a great deal or a fair amount



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020.

"Many Black and Asian Americans Say They Have Experienced Discrimination Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak"

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Four in 10 say President Trump has done a good job dealing with the outbreak, compared with 65 percent who say their state's governor has done a good job. Both are little changed since early June ([Monmouth 6/26-6/30](#)).

In early June results, just three in 10 said the Trump administration gets the facts right on the coronavirus almost all or most of the time. More than twice as many, 64 percent, said the CDC and other public health organizations get the facts right that often. About half said the same of their governor and state government (53 percent) and the local news media (50 percent); 44 percent said this about the news media in general ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)).

Presidential Preference

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden holds a 14-point advantage among registered voters in being seen as better on dealing with the coronavirus ([CNBC 6/19-6/22](#)), and more voters are at least somewhat confident that Biden can handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak than say the same of Trump, 52 vs. 41 percent ([Pew 6/16-6/22](#)).

International Results

In Brazil, which is second only to the United States in confirmed cases and deaths from the coronavirus, 65 percent think the pandemic is getting worse in the country, vs. 28 percent who think the situation is improving. Twenty-seven percent approve of President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the crisis, stable since May; 49 percent disapprove and 23 percent take a middle position. Three-quarters oppose reopening schools and resuming face-to-face activities ([Datafolha 6/23-6/24](#)). In another poll, 38 percent of Brazilians say they or someone close to them has contracted COVID-19, unchanged from two weeks ago. Sixty-five percent say their income has been negatively affected by the pandemic and 64 percent say they did not pay any bills in the last month because of it, also essentially unchanged. A third have received emergency financial aid from the government and an additional 14 percent expect they will. Most of them, 71 percent, have spent or intend to spend the money on food, 15 percent on rent and 10 percent to pay off debts ([DataPoder360 6/22-6/24](#)).

In Great Britain, 32 percent of adults with school-aged children say they've been asked to send their children back to school, up from 21 percent last week. Of them, 78 percent say their children are now attending school some or all of the time, up from 67 percent. Mask use also continues to rise; 44 percent have worn a face covering outside their home in the past week, up from 30 percent the week before last. One reason: With masks now mandatory on public transportation in England, 86 percent of those who had travelled on public transport in the past week say they wore a face covering when doing so, up from 62 percent the previous week ([Office for National Statistics 6/18-6/21](#)).

In Greece, in a poll in mid-June, 84 percent said COVID-19 is definitely or probably a serious risk to public health and three-quarters viewed the lockdown measures and the damage to the economy that came with them as necessary. However, most oppose a repeat lockdown in the event of a second wave this fall. Just 21 percent favor countrywide restrictions, while 65 percent

prefer targeted restrictions (e.g., only in places where cases are spiking); few, one in 10, thinks the state should give only recommendations ([Pulse RC](#)).

In Turkey, a mid-June poll found 57 percent worried about the coronavirus, with strong worries up 10 points in two weeks. Eighty-two percent said they wear a mask in public to protect against the coronavirus, three-quarters wash their hands frequently and 68 percent are practicing social distancing (i.e., “not shaking hands”) – all up substantially since May to their highest levels since the pandemic began ([Istanbul Economic Research](#)).

In a mid-June poll in Ukraine, nearly half, 49 percent, said they’d be unlikely to get a free coronavirus vaccine if it were available now, while 41 percent probably or absolutely would do so. Strong fears about the virus have been cut nearly in half in the country since early April, with just 21 percent saying they’re very afraid that they or their relatives will catch it ([R&B Group 6/10-6/16](#)).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

Summary for SEAN by [Langer Research Associates](#).