

ABC News/Washington Post poll – for release after 7 a.m. Tuesday, April 27

## Finances and Relationships in the Pandemic

Americans are more apt to say their family’s finances have gotten worse rather than better in the coronavirus pandemic, and those impacts have a carry-on influence on personal relationships – evidence of the multiple risks the pandemic has caused more vulnerable populations.

Twenty-two percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll say their family’s finances have worsened since the pandemic began, while 14 percent have seen financial gains; the rest report no change. One in five also reports weaker relationships with family and friends.

Those impacts are related. People with worse finances are more apt also to say their personal relationships have gotten weaker rather than stronger, by 29-17 percent. In an opposite result, those who report better finances say by 29-18 percent that their relationships are stronger.

Indeed, in a statistical analysis known as regression, having worse finances independently predicts having weaker personal relationships, controlling for demographic variables including age, sex, race/ethnicity, education and income.

Relationships:	Finances		
	Better	Worse	Same
Stronger	29%	17	15
Weaker	18	29	19
Same	53	54	66

The survey, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), also finds that economic impacts have landed disproportionately. Thirty-one percent of people with annual household incomes less than \$50,000 report worse finances compared with pre-pandemic times, as do 30 percent of Hispanics, 27 percent of rural residents, 25 percent of women and 24 percent of those who don’t hold a college degree. Such impacts are least apparent among people with post-graduate degrees (11 percent), those with \$100,000-plus incomes (12 percent) and seniors (13 percent).

In addition to their connection with personal relationships, these economic impacts also inform views of the national economy more broadly. As reported Sunday, just 42 percent of Americans say the economy is in excellent or good shape. That includes 60 percent of those whose finances have improved during the pandemic – vs. just 20 percent of those whose finances have suffered.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 18-21, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,007 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 33-24-35 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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Full results follow.

1-7, 8b, 10-19, 22-25 previously released; 8a, 9 held for release.

\* = less than 0.5 percent.

20. Compared to before coronavirus shutdowns began in March 2020, is your family's financial situation today (better), (worse), or is it about the same?

	Better	Worse	Same	No opinion
4/21/21	14	22	64	1

21. Overall, have your relationships with family and friends (gotten stronger), (gotten weaker) or stayed about the same as before the coronavirus pandemic began?

	Stronger	Weaker	Same	No opinion
4/21/21	17	21	61	1

\*\*\* END \*\*\*