



COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 10, 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). Surveys cited in this report are available in the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

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Coronavirus Contact and Concern

Coronavirus is hitting home for more Americans. In an Axios/Ipsos poll, 14 percent say they personally know someone in the United States who has “tested positive for the coronavirus,” up from 10 percent a week ago ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)). Test results aside, more in a CNN poll, 22 percent, say they personally “know someone who has been diagnosed with” coronavirus ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)). That’s double the number in an [ABC News/Washington Post poll](#) two weeks ago. A Fox News poll of registered voters shows a similar jump, from 12 percent two weeks ago to 21 percent now ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)).

Knowing someone who has tested positive for the virus is most common in the Northeast (23 percent), but the rate has grown most rapidly in the South in the past week, from 7 to 13 percent ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)). Those who continue to work normally (i.e., not remotely) are more apt to report knowing someone who has tested positive.

Nearly half (46 percent) of Americans think it is at least somewhat likely that they or someone in their family will get coronavirus, though far fewer (13 percent) call it very likely ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

Concern about the coronavirus continues to dominate public attitudes. Nine in 10 report being at least somewhat concerned about it and the number who say they are “extremely concerned” has grown to a third of the population ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)). Seventy-six percent are concerned about personally catching it, up from 69 percent two weeks ago ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)). Thirty-seven percent have grown more concerned about the virus in the last few days, vs. just 5 percent who say their fears have eased ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

Three-quarters or more feel “the worst is yet to come” ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#); [Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)). Just 15 percent are very confident the country will be able to limit the impact of the outbreak over the next few weeks, down 10 points since mid-March ([Monmouth 4/3-4/7](#)). Very few, just 10 percent, expect a resolution to the crisis will come in the next few weeks; 63 percent expect the crisis will be over in a few months and nearly a quarter feel it will take more than a year ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)). (Note here and elsewhere, Quinnipiac results are among self-identified registered voters.)

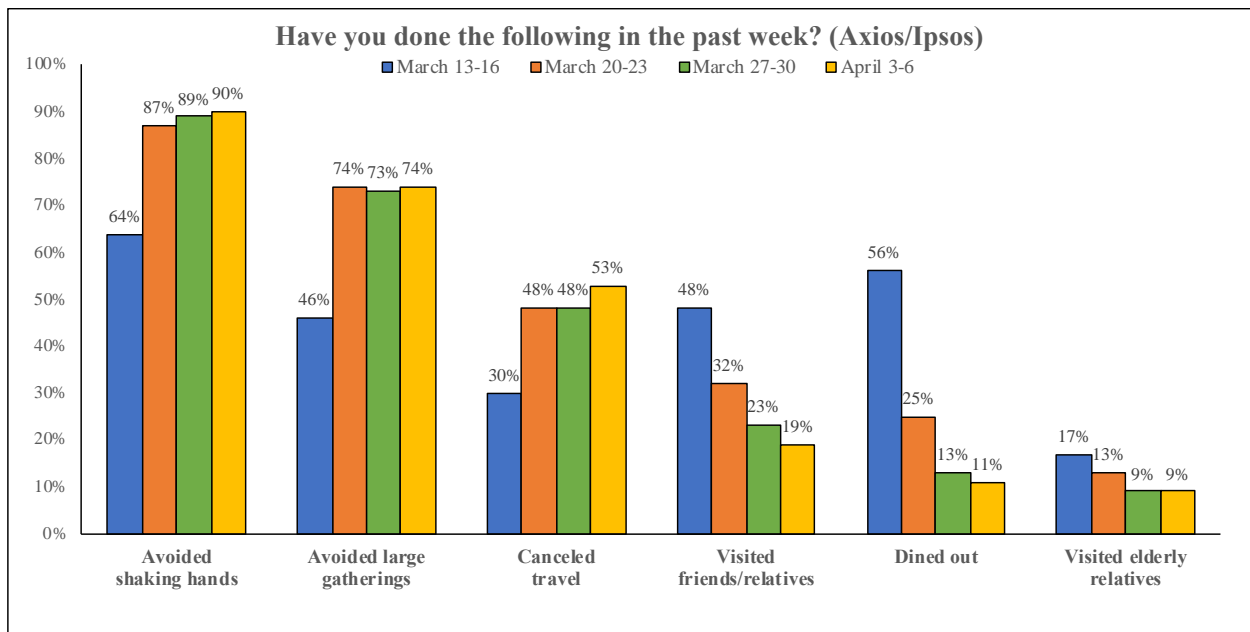
Stress is taking a toll. Forty-five percent say worry or stress related to the coronavirus has negatively impacted their mental health ([KFF 3/25-3/30](#)), 41 percent say their emotional well-being has worsened in the past week and 34 percent say their mental health has worsened ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).

In one brighter spot, 57 percent say the United States is moving in the right direction in the fight against the pandemic ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)).

Changes to Daily Life

The coronavirus outbreak brought massive upheaval to daily life last month (see our [April 3 data summary](#)). These changes now seem to have stabilized.

Reported rates of self-quarantining (55 percent) and being told to work from home (45 percent) have held fairly constant since last week (53 and 42 percent, respectively). The numbers who report avoiding shaking hands, avoiding large gatherings, canceling travel, visiting friends or family and going out to eat likewise have remained largely the same this week after vast shifts in these behaviors in mid-March ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).



Sizable numbers continue to report restricted access to goods. For the third week in a row, roughly four in 10 report being unable to get disinfecting spray or wipes and hand sanitizer. Three in 10 have had trouble buying toilet paper, but that's down 6 points from two weeks ago. While 14 percent report being unable to buy basic foods, that's down from 23 percent two weeks previous ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).

Other results provide additional glimpses into life disruptions: Americans are spending 20 hours a day at home on average ([SSRS/LoT Sports Poll, 3/19-4/5](#)), and most seem prepared to hunker down for the duration. With federal social distancing guidelines set to expire April 30th, six in 10 would not feel comfortable returning to their regular routine if the restrictions were lifted at that time ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)). Half expect they'll be unable to resume their regular daily routine until at least July 1st ([ABC/Ipsos, 4/1-4/2](#)). Just 9 percent say their routines haven't changed due to the outbreak.

Additionally:

- Most, 56 percent, report that they have not left the house to exercise ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).
- Fifty-five percent say they've video chatted with friends or family, up from 48 percent a week ago, and 22 percent say they've "attended" a large gathering via online streaming ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).
- Americans report having left the house to buy groceries or other necessities an average of two times in the past seven days. (Just 16 percent report not having left for this reason at all.) ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).
- When they do leave the house, 55 percent report wearing a face mask or covering in the past week ([ABC/Ipsos 4/8-4/9](#)).

Economic Impacts

With weekly unemployment claims at record highs, consumer confidence continues to crash ([Bloomberg CCI 4/1-4/4](#)). But there's some evidence that the pace of the coronavirus-related devastation of the job market and Americans' wallets has slowed, though with plenty of damage done.

- Nineteen percent of employed adults say they've been temporarily furloughed or suspended from work in the past few weeks, 17 percent say their employer has shut down business entirely and 11 percent report being laid off, all essentially unchanged in the past two weeks.
- Half continue to be at least somewhat concerned about their ability to pay their bills. This has remained stable since mid-March.
- Forty-six percent say their 401k or retirement plan has gotten worse in the past few weeks, a quarter say their ability to afford household goods has gotten worse and 19 percent say the same of their ability to pay rent or a mortgage. Again, all have held largely steady the past two weeks.
- At the same time, half now report that they or someone in their household has low their job or had their hours reduced because of the coronavirus, up from 43 percent two weeks ago ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)). Nearly half (49 percent) report that the coronavirus has caused financial hardship for "you or your household," including 18 percent who say it's caused severe hardship that "affects your ability to maintain your current standard of living" ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).
- Fifty-six percent now report being at least somewhat concerned about their job security, up from 48 percent last week ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).

Local Readiness/Response

Three-quarters of Americans say people in their community are following social distancing guidelines, though just 28 percent feel they're doing so very well. Southerners are least apt to give their neighbors high positive ratings ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

Seven in 10 are at least somewhat confident that they would be able to get necessary medical care if they contracted the coronavirus, but just 36 percent are very confident, and there are broad socioeconomic differences, with confidence lower among minorities and lower-income Americans ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)). Fewer than half overall, 47 percent, are at least somewhat confident they would be able to get tested for the coronavirus if they wanted to ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)).

Limited access is a source of concern to large majorities of American voters – 80 percent say they're at least somewhat concerned about their state running out of medical equipment, 77 percent are concerned about being able to access needed health care services and three-quarters are worried about being able to get a coronavirus test if necessary ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)).

Outside of health organizations and experts, local and state governments continue to be the most trusted source of information about coronavirus. Seven in 10 apiece have a great deal or fair amount of trust in their state and local governments to provide accurate information about the coronavirus, while just more than half (53 percent) say the same of the federal government ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)).

Local news sources, too, are trusted more than are national platforms – 66 percent have at least a fair amount of trust in their local news outlets to provide accurate information about COVID-19. Of the national news platforms, network TV news (59 percent) and national newspapers (55 percent) fare better than cable news (50 percent) or digital news companies (46 percent) ([Axios/Ipsos 4/3-4/6](#)). At the same time (in results from March), 68 percent of network TV viewers and 66 percent of newspaper readers say the media are doing an excellent or good job covering the outbreak. This falls to half or fewer of those who rely on news websites or apps (50 percent), radio (47 percent) or social media (41 percent) ([Pew 3/19-3/24](#)).

Government Response

Views of the federal government response are souring. More than half (55 percent) now say the federal government has done a poor job preventing the spread of the coronavirus, up eight points since last week ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)). In a Fox News poll of registered voters, the same number (55 percent) feels the spread of the virus would have been less if the federal government had acted more quickly ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)).

Fifty-five percent also say the federal government is not doing enough to help states hit hard by the outbreak and 54 percent feel the measures taken by the federal government to slow the spread of the virus have not gone far enough, up from 45 percent last month ([Monmouth 4/3-4/7](#)). Nearly seven in 10 (69 percent) say the federal government should be doing more to address the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical devices ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

Not surprisingly, there are deep partisan divisions in views of the federal government’s response, with Republicans far more positive than Democrats regarding the steps taken so far to combat the virus. The gap is narrowest when it comes to addressing PPE and device shortages – 42 percent of Republicans feel the government should be doing more to address these shortfalls, as do 72 percent of independents and 87 percent of Democrats ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

There is comparative bipartisan agreement on one issue – staying at home. While most state and local governments have issued directives mandating people remain at home, 68 percent of Republicans, 80 percent of independents and 95 percent of Democrats support a nationwide stay at home order ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)).

Donald Trump, who has thus far resisted such an order, receives middling marks for his response. Overall approval of his handling of the coronavirus outbreak has held relatively stable the past week – 44 percent approved in an [AP-NORC poll](#) a week ago, and 45 percent said the same in a CNN poll this week. But more than half, 55 percent apiece, say he could be doing more to fight the outbreak ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)), and that his response has not been aggressive enough ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)).

In the Fox News poll approval of Trump’s coronavirus response among registered voters is slightly higher, at 51 percent. Approval of Mike Pence’s response is similar (52 percent), while Dr. Deborah Birx and Dr. Anthony Fauci receive far better marks with 62 and 80 percent approving of their response, respectively ([Fox News 4/4-4/7](#)).

Views of Congress’ response aren’t any rosier. Despite broad backing of the \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)), 45 percent say Congress has done a bad job handling the outbreak, up from 37 percent a month ago ([Monmouth 4/3-4/7](#)).

Just a quarter think the recent coronavirus stimulus bill does enough to address the crisis ([Quinnipiac 4/2-4/6](#)). More than half think recently enacted bills have done too little for “those who have lost jobs or wages” (55 percent) and for small businesses (53 percent). Perceptions are divided about whether the bills have done too little (44 percent) or the right amount (46 percent) for “people like you.” (Just 16 percent think too little has been done for large corporations ([CNN 4/3-4/6](#)).

State governments do better – 72 percent rate their governor’s response positively, and six in 10 feel the measures taken by their state government to slow the spread of the virus have been appropriate. These positive views are bipartisan and have held relatively steady the past two weeks ([Monmouth 4/3-4/7](#)).