



## COVID-19 Survey Summary: April 24, 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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### Time to Reopen?

Despite increased calls to reopen the economy, most Americans support social distancing restrictions and are worried about a return to their pre-coronavirus lives:

- Broad majorities continue to favor measures such as requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 or fewer (82 percent), requiring people to stay home except for essential errands (80 percent), requiring bars and restaurants to close (76 percent) and requiring postponement of non-essential medical care (68 percent) ([AP-NORC 4/16-4/20](#)).
- Eight in 10 feel strict shelter-in-place measures are “worth it in order to protect people and limit the spread of coronavirus,” while just 19 percent feel they are “placing unnecessary burdens on people and the economy and are causing more harm than good” ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).
- Eighty-six percent think social distancing and stay-at-home orders are “responsible government policies that are saving lives,” while 14 percent believe they’re “an over-reaction by government that are taking away people’s freedoms” ([ABC/Ipsos 4/22-4/23](#)).
- Just 12 percent think the restrictions put in place in their area go too far. Twice as many, 26 percent, say they don’t go far enough. Most, 61 percent, say they’re about right ([AP-NORC 4/16-4/20](#)).
- About seven in 10 say that returning to their normal, pre-coronavirus life would be a moderate or large risk to their health and well-being ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).
- Nearly two-thirds expect it will be the end of June or later before it will be safe for people to attend gatherings of 10 or more people ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).
- Fifty-eight percent of registered voters are more worried that the United States will move too quickly in loosening restrictions that require most Americans to shelter in place, allowing the virus to continue to spread “with more lives being lost.” Thirty-two percent instead are more worried that it will take too long, worsening the economic impact ([NBC/WSJ 4/13-4/15](#)).
- While partisanship colors perception of risk, 62 percent of Republicans view a return to pre-coronavirus life as a moderate or large risk ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)), 61 percent think strict shelter-in-place measures are worth it to protect people ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)), and half expect it’ll take until June or later for gatherings of 10 or more people to be safe

([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)). Just 22 percent of Republicans think restrictions in their area go too far, though that's four times higher than among Democrats ([AP-NORC 4/16-4/20](#)).

Eight in 10 overall say they can continue to shelter in place for at least another month in order to limit the spread of coronavirus in their community, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents alike ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

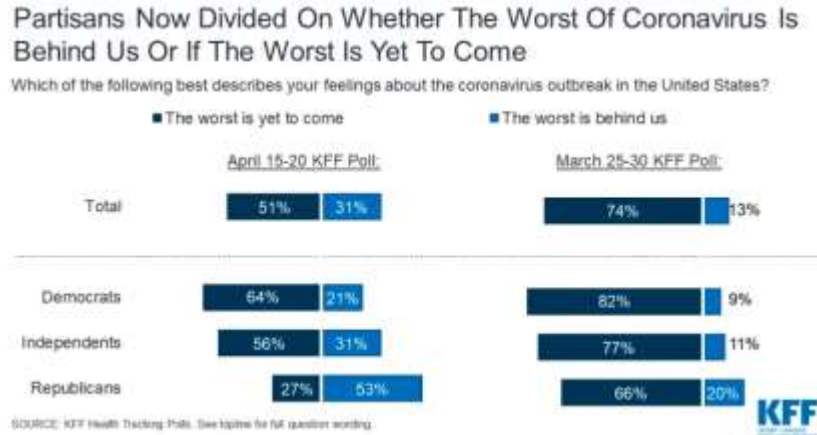
### Coronavirus Contact and Concern

About four in 10 Americans personally know someone who thinks they had coronavirus, tested positive for it or died from related complications ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)). A quarter report personally knowing someone “diagnosed with the coronavirus” ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)) and about two in 10 know someone who “has tested positive” for the virus ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#); [KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

Of those who know someone diagnosed with the coronavirus, 55 percent know someone who has been hospitalized because of it. That means 14 percent of Americans overall know someone who has been hospitalized for coronavirus treatment ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)). Nine percent personally know someone who has died from the virus ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#); [Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).

Concern about the virus continues to be widespread, but has lessened. Forty-three percent are extremely or very worried that they or someone in their family will be infected by the virus, down from 50 percent last month ([AP-NORC 4/16-4/20](#)).

More strikingly, while half of Americans, 51 percent, still think the worst is yet to come, that's down from 74 percent three weeks ago. This shift in views is largely driven by Republicans, among whom 53 percent now believe “the worst is behind us.” Most Democrats (64 percent) and independents (56 percent) still feel the worst is yet to come ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).



### Daily Life

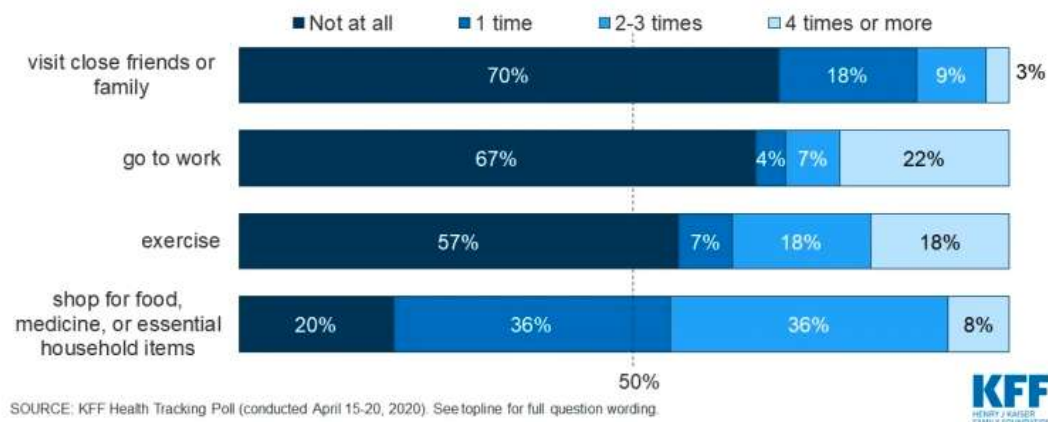
Life remains home-centered for most Americans, albeit with substantial numbers going out for work, exercise and family visits:

- More than half, 56 percent, have left the house to get food, medicine or essential household items just once (36 percent) or not at all (20 percent) in the past week. Thirty-six percent have gone out to shop for such items two to three times, and 8 percent report leaving the house for this reason four times or more.

- More than four in 10 say they've left the house in the past week to exercise, a third have done so to go to work and three in 10 have gone out to visit close friends or family ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

### Most Say They Have Left Home Very Little Over Past Week To Exercise, Visit Family, Go To Work, Or Shop For Food

How many times in the last week have you left your home to...?



Forty-four percent of parents are letting their child watch television or videos more than usual. About as many adults say they're cooking more than usual, 27 percent are purchasing things online more than usual and 13 percent are drinking alcohol more than usual (8 percent are drinking less). With gym closures and social distancing concerns, exercise has taken a hit – 26 percent say they're exercising less than usual, vs. 15 percent who say they're doing so more ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).

More are wearing masks. In three measures:

- Eighteen percent say they left the house without a face mask ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)) vs. 28 percent last week in an [ABC/Ipsos poll](#).
- Eight in 10 say they either have worn a mask (65 percent) or have not left the house (17 percent) ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).
- A third say they always wear a mask when they leave the house; three in 10 say they do so some of the time, an increase from last week ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).

Men continue to be more apt than women to say they have not worn a mask or face covering in public in the past week (22 vs. 15 percent), despite being more likely to have left the house ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).

Restricted access to goods and services, while still substantial, appears to be easing. Forty-nine percent report that their access to food and household needs has gotten worse in the past week, down from 59 percent a week ago. And while 23 percent were unable to buy toilet paper in the past week, this is down from 29 percent last week and 37 percent in mid-March ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).

All told, 84 percent say their life has been disrupted a lot (56 percent) or some (28 percent) by the coronavirus outbreak, up 12 points since late March and double the number who said so in mid-March ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

### Economic Impact

As unemployment claims continue to climb, 43 percent of Americans say that they or someone in their household has lost a job or taken a cut in pay because of the pandemic, up from 33 percent three weeks ago. This includes 61 percent of Hispanics, 52 percent of lower-income Americans and 46 percent of those without a bachelor’s degree ([Pew 4/7-4/12](#)).

In another measure, 21 of blacks report a job loss since mid-March, as do 18 percent of Latinos and 15 percent of whites. Just 40 percent of people with no more than a high school education still have a job, down from 51 percent in mid-March. Only 36 percent of the newly jobless report having received unemployment insurance ([USC UAS 4/1-4/14](#)).

Regardless of employment status, half of Americans say the coronavirus outbreak has caused financial hardship for them or others in their household, unchanged since early April. A third are concerned about being able to pay their bills over the next month, and three in 10 are worried about being able to afford food and basic household items. Concern peaks among Hispanics – just more than half are worried about paying bills over the next month and 48 percent are worried about being able to afford food and supplies ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).

In a related but differently structured set of questions, 44 percent of Hispanics say they won’t be able to pay all of their bills in full this month, 16 points higher than the number who report being unable to do so in a typical month ([Pew 4/7-4/12](#)).

Amid this financial strain, pessimism about the national economy has surged. Fifty-eight percent say the economy is getting worse, matching the most in the height of the Great Recession, up 24 points in the past month and up 37 points in two months, with the two-month gain a record in data since 1986. ([Bloomberg CCI 4/16-4/19](#)).

Most think the economic impact will be long lasting:

- Sixty-three percent expect that economic recovery will be slow once the outbreak is under control; 37 percent expect a quick recovery. Fifty-five percent of Republicans expect a speedy recovery, compared with 34 percent of independents and 24 percent of Democrats ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).
- Seven in 10 think the economic problems arising from the outbreak will last more than six months to a year (32 percent) or a year or more (39 percent) ([Pew 4/7-4/12](#)).

### **More than four-in-ten adults say they or someone in their household has lost a job or taken a pay cut due to COVID-19**

*% saying this has happened to them or someone in their household because of the coronavirus outbreak*

	Been laid off/lost job	Had to take a cut in pay	Net either/both
All adults	28	33	43
White	24	29	38
Black	32	34	44
Hispanic	41	51	61
Ages 18-29	35	45	54
30-49	30	39	49
50-64	29	32	42
65+	17	18	25
Bachelors+	21	29	37
Some college	30	37	46
HS or less	32	35	45
Upper income	18	26	32
Middle income	26	32	42
Lower income	39	41	52

Note: White and black adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 7-12, 2020.  
\*About Half of Lower-Income Americans Report Household Job or Wage Loss Due to COVID-19\*

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- Most, 55 percent, expect economic conditions will be better a year from now than they are today, while 22 percent think they'll be about the same and 22 percent think worse. Again, Republicans have a more optimistic outlook than Democrats ([Pew 4/7-4/12](#)).

### Health Impact

Seven in 10 continue to describe the coronavirus outbreak as a source of stress in their life, though the number who describe it as a serious source of stress has dropped slightly since late March, from 36 to 31 percent ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)).

At the same time, the number of people who report being bothered by at least mild symptoms of depression or anxiety has risen since mid-March:

- Fifty-seven percent report feeling anxious, nervous or on edge in the past two weeks, up from 44 percent last month. That includes 36 percent who felt that way “several days” over the past two weeks, 11 percent who felt that way “more than half the days” and 10 percent who felt that way “nearly every day.”
- Forty-one percent report not being able to stop or control worrying in the past two weeks, up from 31 percent last month.
- Thirty-eight percent have felt down, depressed or hopeless, up from 29 percent, and 36 percent say they've felt little interest or pleasure in doing things, up from 28 percent ([USC UAS 4/1-4/14](#)).

More than half, 56 percent, say that worry or stress related to the pandemic has caused problems for their health and wellbeing, such as difficulties sleeping or eating, frequent headaches, increased alcohol consumption or worsening chronic health problems ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

Some Americans have turned to telemedicine in the past month, including 22 percent who have consulted with a healthcare provider by phone and 13 percent via video chat. Fourteen percent have consulted with a healthcare provider via chat, text or email, while eighteen percent say they've visited a doctor's office. Five percent have visited a hospital or emergency room and 4 percent have visited an urgent care facility ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).

### Potential Mitigation Methods

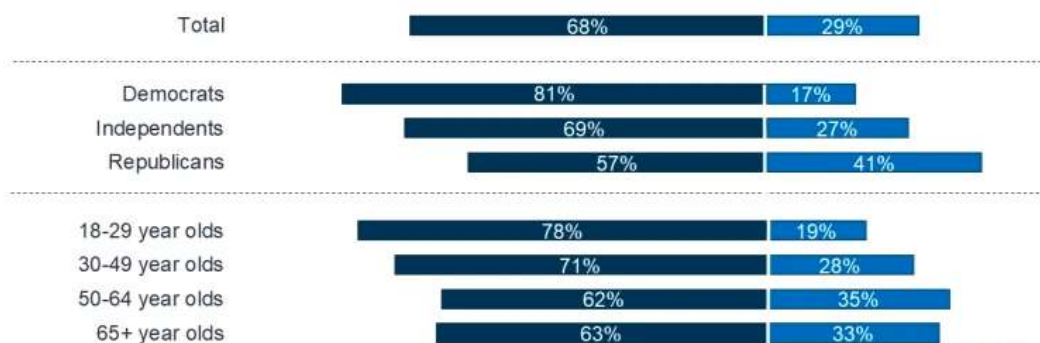
Half the public is willing to download a tracking app to their phone that tracks them and alerts them if they have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus; 47 percent are unwilling. Forty-five percent say they're willing to download and use an app that shares their close contacts with public health officials in order to track the spread of the virus, while 53 percent are unwilling to do this ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

There is skepticism that this sort of tracking can help – as noted [last week](#), six in 10 think cellphone tracking won't make much of a difference in limiting the spread of the virus ([Pew 4/7-4/12](#)). Indeed, just 35 percent say having public health officials track the spread of coronavirus using apps would make them feel safer; 17 percent say it'd make them feel less safe and 47 percent say it'd have no impact on how safe they feel ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

Democrats and adults younger than 30 are more willing than Republicans and older adults to download apps for contact tracing. Willingness is greater if the data from the app is managed by health officials (the CDC, state or local health departments) rather than a private tech company. Expressed willingness rises if use of these apps would help people to go back to work or school and businesses to reopen; it decreases if the data could be hacked ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

### Majorities Willing To Share Test Results Using Smart Phone App

If you were tested for coronavirus, would you be **willing** or **unwilling** to use an app for your phone to share the results with public health officials in order for them to track the spread of the outbreak?



SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted April 15-20, 2020). See topline for full question wording.



At-home testing is far more broadly supported. Seventy-two percent of Americans say it's at least somewhat likely that they'd use a home coronavirus testing kit that they could send out to a lab to find out if they have the virus, including majorities across age groups and regardless of partisanship ([KFF 4/15-4/20](#)).

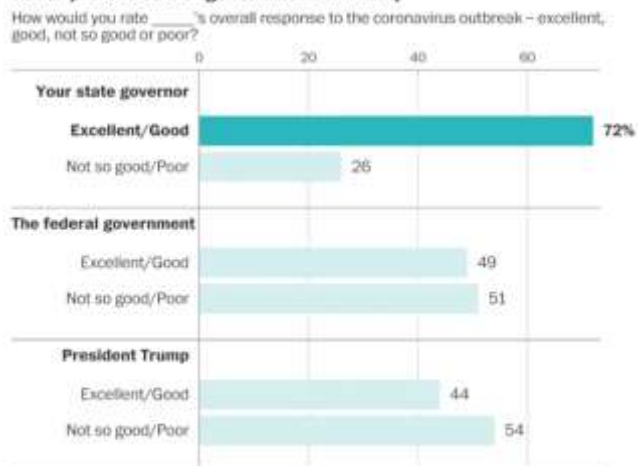
### Government Response

Just a third of registered voters are satisfied with the job the federal government has done ensuring that there is enough testing to determine how far the coronavirus has spread; 64 percent are not satisfied. It's similar for views of the government's performance ensuring enough medical supplies for doctors and nurses, 34-62 percent. Forty-six to 50 percent are satisfied with how the government has provided Americans with reassurance and direction, provided financial assistance for the newly jobless or those otherwise negatively impacted and implemented measures to limit the spread of the virus ([NBC/WSJ 4/13-4/15](#)).

More than six in 10 registered voters (63 percent) approve of the government taking a larger role in the economy in response to the financial crisis resulting from the pandemic. Forty-eight percent express concern that the federal government will spend too much money and drive up the deficit; 40 percent worry more that the government will spend too little and prolong a recession ([NBC/WSJ 4/13-4/15](#)).

Governors continue to be rated more positively for their response to the outbreak than the federal government or President Trump – about seven in 10 rate their state governor’s response as excellent or good, compared with 49 and 44 percent who say the same about the federal government and the president, respectively ([Post/UMD 4/14-4/19](#)). Two-thirds say they have a “great deal” or a “fair amount” of trust in their state governor to do the right thing for the economy vs. 47 percent who say the same about Trump ([Gallup 4/1-4/14](#)).

**Governors get high marks for response to coronavirus outbreak; fewer praise federal government or Trump**



Note: "No opinion" not shown.  
 Source: April 14-19, 2020. Post/UMd. Mid. poll of 1,013 U.S. adults with an error margin of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

Approval of how state and local governments are handling the coronavirus outbreak has increased since late March – 63 percent apiece now approve of the state and local government responses, up from 57 and 54 percent, respectively. Approval of the president’s (41 percent), the federal government’s (40 percent) and congressional leaders’ (28 percent) handling of the coronavirus, however, has held relatively steady ([AP-NORC 4/16-4/20](#)), while trust in the federal government to “look out for the best interests of you and your family” has declined steadily from 53 percent in mid-March to 42 percent now ([Axios/Ipsos 4/17-4/20](#)).

State Results

In addition to national surveys, several statewide polls were released this week.

In Florida, about seven in 10 registered voters do not think the state should loosen social distancing rules by the end of April, when the current stay-at-home order is scheduled to expire. Three-quarters say the state’s economy should reopen only once public health officials say it’s safe to do so. Fifty-two percent disapprove of Gov. Ron DeSantis’ decision to exempt religious services from Florida’s stay-at-home order, while 43 percent approve ([Quinnipiac 4/16-4/20](#)).

In New Jersey, broad majorities approve of the measures taken to help limit the spread of the virus including requiring people to maintain six feet of social distance in public (97 percent), requiring face coverings in public places (95 percent), limiting restaurants to takeout or delivery (94 percent), delaying the primary election (89 percent), banning gatherings and parties (88 percent), limiting supermarket hours (80 percent), stopping nonessential construction (74 percent) and closing gyms (94 percent), libraries (89 percent), child care centers (88 percent), nonessential retail stores (86 percent) and state and county parks (70 percent). Eighty-seven percent approve of schools staying closed at least until May 15<sup>th</sup>, as scheduled ([Monmouth 4/15-4/19](#)).

In a California poll conducted earlier this month, more than eight in 10 say their lives have been disrupted at least some by the outbreak, essentially matching the number nationwide. Nearly as many are worried about contracting the virus and its impact on their personal finances. More than nine in 10 parents approve of how their local school district is handling school closures, though 52 percent say these closures pose at least somewhat of a problem for their family and 63 percent are concerned about providing productive learning at home ([PPIC 4/1-4/9](#)).

### International Results

Lastly, a sampling of results from international polls this month:

- In Japan, 77 percent of voters think Prime Minister Abe was too late in declaring a state of emergency (in Tokyo and six prefectures) and 57 percent think he has lacked leadership during the crisis. Three-quarters report that they are going out less in response to the state of emergency. In terms of policy, nearly eight in 10 support Abe's proposal to provide 100,000 yen to each person, regardless of income, but 63 percent think his plan to distribute cloth masks to households is not good policy. Eighty-two percent say the government should compensate stores and businesses that lose income because of the state of emergency ([Asahi Shimbun 4/18-4/19](#)).
- In Ukraine, the number who report being very afraid that they or their relatives will be infected has declined from 40 to 32 percent in the past week, and the number who see quarantine as very necessary has fallen from 72 to 63 percent. At the same time, fewer than half, 45 percent, feel their national healthcare system will be able to cope with the pandemic ([R&B Group 4/4-4/11](#)).
- In Nigeria, 87 percent are concerned that they may contract coronavirus, an increase of 24 points since early March. About three-quarters support the federal government's lockdown of three states to try to contain the virus and nearly two-thirds think it should be extended to other states. At the same time, 72 percent have concerns about the lockdown ([NOIPolls 4/1-4/7](#)).
- In Germany, three in 10 call restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus very burdensome or burdensome; 43 percent, a little burdensome; and 26 percent, not burdensome. A third of Germans have postponed or canceled summer vacations. Twenty-eight percent still hope to travel; 31 percent had no such plans. ([ARD 4/15-4/16](#)).

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

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