



COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 5, 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](#).

[Sign up](#) for notice of these weekly summaries each Friday morning.

Reopening America

Although fears are easing, majorities of Americans continue to express qualms about reopening the economy and resuming their pre-coronavirus lifestyle:

- Nearly twice as many are more concerned that states are starting to lift restrictions too quickly than not quickly enough, 60 vs. 32 percent, essentially unchanged since last month ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).
- Fifty-seven percent say it's more important to try to control the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy, vs. 37 percent who feel it's more important to try to restart the economy, even if it impedes efforts to slow the spread ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).
- Similarly, 54 percent say "making sure as few people as possible get sick from the coronavirus" should be more important in deciding whether to lift restrictions, compared with 36 percent who prioritize "making sure the economy doesn't go into a deep and lengthy downturn" ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).
- Two-thirds are at least somewhat concerned about their community reopening too soon, down from 74 percent two weeks ago ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).
- Fifty-eight percent say it's "too early" to go to stores, restaurants and other public places the way they did before the outbreak ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).
- Three in 10 say that if there were no government restrictions, they would resume their customary daily activities "right now." This has more than doubled since mid-April ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)).

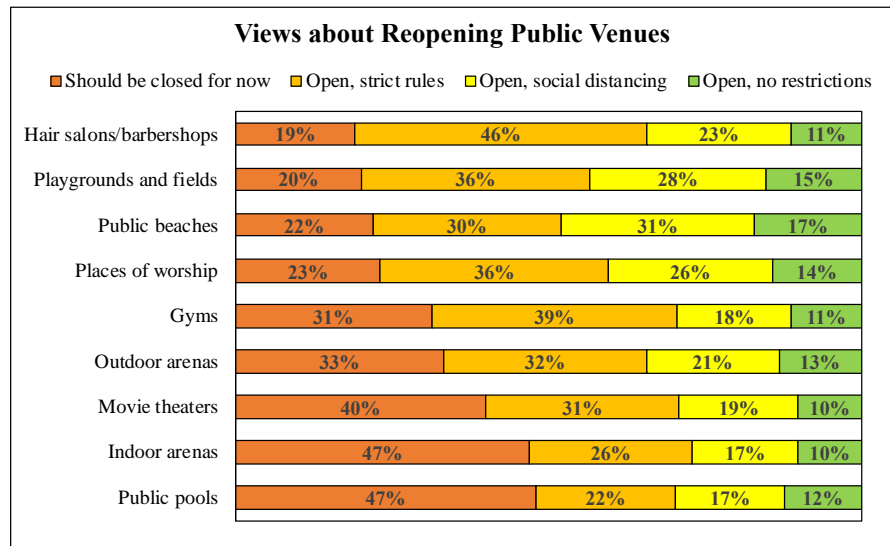
These views continue to be highly partisan. Just 27 percent of Republicans think it's more important to try to stop the spread of the virus, even if it hurts the economy, compared with 59 percent of independents and 81 percent of Democrats. And while two-thirds of Republicans say

they're willing to go back to shops, restaurants and other places as they did before the outbreak, that drops to 40 percent of independents and 18 percent of Democrats ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).

Half or more say each of nine types of public venues should be open in their state. Among those who say so, three-quarters or more say it should be with strict rules on attendance and spacing between people or with social distancing guidelines but no strict rules. Few say they should be open with no restrictions. Specifically:

- Eight in 10 say playgrounds and athletic fields should be open – with strict rules, 36 percent; with distancing guidelines, 28 percent; without restrictions, 15 percent.
- Eight in 10 also say hair salons and barbershops should be open; more, 46 percent, say this should be subject to strict rules.

- Nearly eight in 10 say public beaches should be open – 30 percent with strict rules, 31 percent with distancing guidelines and 17 percent unrestricted.



- Three-quarters say churches and other places of worship should be open, generally with strict rules (36 percent) or distancing guidelines (26 percent).
- Seven in 10 say gyms should be open, 39 percent with strict rules, 18 percent with distancing guidelines and 11 percent without restrictions.
- Across the spectrum, nearly half say public swimming pools and indoor arenas for sports and concerts should remain closed for the time being (47 percent in both cases). Four in 10 say the same of movie theaters ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).

Contact and Concern

Forty-two percent now personally know someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, almost quadruple the 11 percent who said so in late March ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)). A third know someone who has “tested positive” for the coronavirus and 14 percent know someone who has died from it, unchanged from two weeks ago ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Fifty-four percent of blacks personally know someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 28 percent know someone who has died from the virus. Among whites, these drop to 39 percent and 11 percent, respectively ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#); [Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Three-quarters of blacks are extremely or very concerned that the coronavirus is doing greater damage to people of color; fewer whites (30 percent) or Hispanics (42 percent) say the same. Seven in 10 blacks express concern that official responses to the pandemic are biased against certain groups, compared with a third of whites and about half of Hispanics ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Concern specifically about catching the virus also is higher among communities of color. Overall, 63 percent are at least somewhat worried that they or someone in their immediate family will catch the coronavirus, down from 69 percent in late March. This includes 81 percent of Hispanics and three-quarters of blacks, compared with 58 percent of whites ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).

About seven in 10 overall are worried about a possible second wave of infections this fall ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)) or expect a surge in cases sometime over the next year ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)). At the same time, more now say the coronavirus situation in the United States is getting better than say it's getting worse, by 6 points, 42 vs. 36 percent; in mid-May more thought the situation was getting worse. Two in 10 say it is staying about the same ([Gallup 5/18-5/24](#)).

Daily Life

The number of Americans venturing outside their home continues to grow, though the country remains far from a pre-pandemic level of activity:

- Forty-five percent have visited friends or relatives in the past week, up 7 points from two weeks ago ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).
- Thirty-seven percent have visited a non-grocery retail store in the past week (no trend data); 32 percent have gone to a park, beach or other outdoor space (no trend); and 12 percent have visited a salon, barber shop or spa (up 5 points) ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).
- Eighteen percent have dined out in the past week, up 6 points from two weeks previous ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).
- While more than half, 56 percent, have avoided small gatherings in the past week because of concerns about the coronavirus, that's down 6 points in one week ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)).
- Eight in 10 have socially distanced in the past week (stayed home and avoided others as much as possible), down from 87 percent two weeks ago. A quarter have "self-quarantined" in the past week (stayed home and avoided contact with others for 14 days), the fewest since mid-March ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

- Asked another way, 49 percent say they've completely or mostly isolated from non-household members in the past 24 hours, down 5 points since mid-May and down a broad 26 points from late March and early April ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)).

Assessments of the risk of a number of everyday activities also have declined in the past two weeks, with fewer calling it a large risk to shop at retail stores (19 percent, down 6 points); attend in-person gatherings (28 percent, down 5 points); go to salons, barber shops or spas (29 percent, down 6); or dine at a restaurant (35 percent, down 7) ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)). But majorities continue to say they've avoided going to public places (64 percent) or traveling (74 percent) in the past week because of coronavirus concerns ([Gallup 5/25-5/31](#)).

Twenty-seven percent think it'd be a large risk to return to their normal pre-coronavirus life right now, down from 34 percent two weeks ago. Thirty-nine percent call it a moderate risk, 26 percent a small one, and 8 percent say it'd be no risk ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)). Most, 54 percent, think the level of disruption occurring to travel, school, work and public events in the country will continue through the end of this year (31 percent) or longer (23 percent) ([Gallup 5/18-5/24](#)).

Restricted access to food and household supplies continues to ease: Fifteen percent say their access to food and household needs has improved in the past few weeks, up from 9 percent two weeks ago. Twenty-eight percent say it's worsened, down from 36 percent two weeks ago and a peak of 66 percent in March. ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Health Impacts

As reported [last week](#), far more Americans are showing symptoms of anxiety and depression now than did in 2019. But there's evidence the level of mental distress has eased somewhat since the height of the pandemic, with the number who report symptoms of anxiety declining from 40 percent in early April to 27 percent now, and the number who report symptoms of depression inching down from 29 to 25 percent in the same period ([USC UAS 3/10-5/26](#)).

Still, one in three report feeling lonely at least one day per week, up from one in five before the pandemic. Loneliness is particularly high among young adults (aged 18-30), with more than half saying they've felt lonely at least one day in the past week. That compares with 38 percent of adults aged 31-40 and a third or fewer older adults ([USC UAS 3/10-5/26](#)).

Concerns about catching the coronavirus in the course of medical treatment have declined, with 64 percent now saying they're very (22 percent) or moderately (42 percent) concerned that if they needed medical treatment right now they might get exposed at a doctor's office or hospital, vs. more than eight in 10 in late March/early April ([Gallup 5/14-5/24](#)).

Economic Impacts

A weekly measure of consumer sentiment improved for the first time in five months, with advances in Americans' ratings of their personal finances and the buying climate. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 13.3 percent in May, from 14.7 percent in April ([U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 6/5](#); [Bloomberg CCI 5/31](#)).

Still, 24 percent of Americans who were employed before the pandemic began say they have been laid off or furloughed without pay. That includes:

- Thirty-six percent of blacks and 31 percent of Hispanics, compared with 19 percent of whites;
- Forty-one percent of non-college women, compared with 16 percent of college graduates; and
- Thirty-six percent of people with annual household incomes less than \$50,000 a year, compared with 17 percent of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).

Six in 10 black and Hispanic workers are concerned about their job security; 39 percent of white workers say the same ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Sixty-five percent overall think the economic impact will hurt white communities and communities of color equally. Three in 10 feel it will mostly hurt communities of color; almost no one feels it will mostly hurt white communities. While blacks are more likely than whites to think the economic impact will hurt communities of color more, 42 vs. 29 percent, majorities of blacks (53 percent) and whites (68 percent) alike see equal harm ([CBS News 5/29-6/2](#)).

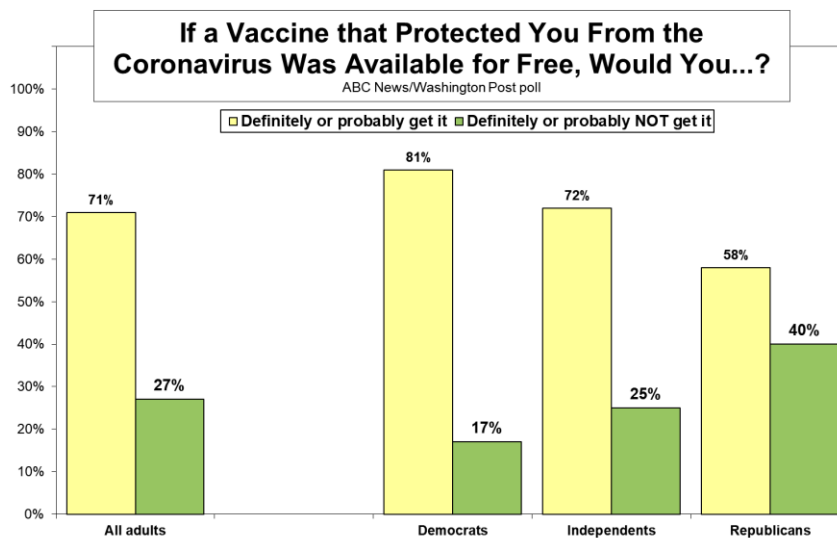
Six in 10 say their community has suffered severe economic impacts because of the outbreak, up from 43 percent two months ago. There is agreement on this: Sixty-one percent of blacks, 60 percent of whites and 54 percent of Hispanics say their community has suffered severely, as do about six in 10 Republicans, independents and Democrats alike ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)). Most, 60 percent, think the jobs lost in their community will come back when the economy improves; 30 percent think the jobs will never return ([CBS News 5/29-6/2](#)).

For the fourth week in a row, roughly half of Americans report a loss in employment income in their household since March 13 and about a quarter have an insecure housing situation (having missed last month's rent or mortgage payment or lacking confidence they can make this month's payment). The number who say they expect someone in their household will lose employment income in the next four weeks has moved slightly lower, from 39 percent four weeks ago to 35 percent now ([U.S. Census Bureau 5/21-5/26](#)).

Vaccinations

Twenty-seven percent say they definitely (15 percent) or probably (12 percent) would not get a coronavirus vaccine if it were free and available to all. That rises to 45 percent of those who call themselves very conservative, four in 10 Republicans and 37 percent of evangelical Christians. Among those who say they're unlikely to get a vaccine, half say they don't trust vaccines in general, while about a quarter don't think it's needed in this case.

Seven in 10, however, say they definitely (43 percent) or probably (28 percent) would get vaccinated, far higher than the number who typically get vaccinated for the seasonal flu (45 percent in the 2018-2019 flu season). This includes eight in 10 Democrats and liberals alike and 77 percent of seniors. Intent to get a vaccine rises among those living in counties with the most COVID-19 cases, in the Northeast and in urban areas ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).



Wearing Masks

Most Americans continue to report wearing masks in public, including half who say they wear a mask “at all times” when leaving the home.

Among the nine in 10 Americans who at least occasionally wear a mask, 3 percent have been asked by another person to take it off and 3 percent say they’ve taken it off out of deference to authority or another’s political views alike. Many more, 43 percent, report taking off their mask when there are no other people within 12 feet. Twelve percent have asked someone else to put on a mask; as many say they worry what other people think when they wear a mask ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Among the half who say they do not wear a mask “at all times” when leaving the house, 28 percent say they’ve not been allowed into an establishment without a mask, 15 percent have been told to wear a mask by another and 6 percent say they have told someone else to take off their mask ([Axios/Ipsos 5/29-6/1](#)).

Government Response

Two-thirds of Americans approve of their state governor’s handling of the coronavirus outbreak, including 63 percent of those with a Republican governor and 69 percent of those with a Democratic governor. Many fewer, 46 percent, approve of President Trump’s response ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)). (Another poll has approval of Trump’s response lower, 39 percent; ([ABC/Ipsos 6/3-6/4](#)).

That said, 57 percent rate the Trump administration positively when it comes to providing financial help to people who need it and 54 percent rate it positively for providing small businesses with loans to help them stay in businesses. Fewer, 49 and 46 percent, rate the

administration positively when it comes to coordinating federal and state responses and making testing available for anyone who wants it ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).

Forty-eight percent say the measures taken by the federal government to slow the spread of the virus have not gone far enough; 12 percent feel they've gone too far and 37 percent feel they've been appropriate. Here, too, state governments fare better: Fifty-six percent say the measures taken by their state have been appropriate. The rest are split, with 23 percent saying their state hasn't gone far enough and two in 10 saying it's gone too far ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).

Fewer than half of registered voters have a great deal (33 percent) or some (14 percent) confidence in the president's ability to handle the post-pandemic recovery. More, 54 percent, have at least some confidence in presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden's ability to handle the recovery, though fewer – 18 percent – have a great deal of confidence in him ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).

About four in 10 registered voters (38 percent) think Trump's handling of the outbreak has made it less likely he'll be reelected in November, up from 31 percent in April. Just 18 percent think it has made him more likely to be elected, down from 27 percent. Forty-one percent think it won't make a difference either way ([Monmouth 5/28-6/1](#)).

Fifty-eight percent support extending the current \$600-per-week increase in unemployment benefits past its current expiration in July. Support for extending unemployment benefits is high among blacks (79 percent), Hispanics (77 percent) and those with incomes less than \$50,000 (66 percent) ([ABC/Post 5/25-5/28](#)).

State Results

In Texas, 56 percent of registered voters approve of Gov. Greg Abbott's handling of the pandemic. Half say the governor has handled the lifting of restrictions on businesses about right, while 38 percent say he's moved too fast and 12 percent think he hasn't moved quickly enough. Three-quarters say they typically wear a mask in public and two-thirds say masks should be required inside businesses. Seven in 10 think it's at least somewhat likely there will be a second wave of cases that will cause businesses in the state to close. Forty-nine percent think it will be safe to send students to college in the fall and 45 percent think it will be safe to send children to K-12 schools. Six in 10 say voters in the state should be allowed to vote by mail because of the pandemic. Thirty-five percent personally know someone who has been diagnosed with the coronavirus; that rises to 47 percent among blacks ([Quinnipiac 5/28-6/1](#)).

In California, seven in 10 approve of Gov. Gavin Newsom's handling of the pandemic. Similar to national results, about six in 10 are more concerned states will lift restrictions too quickly, vs. 38 percent more concerned it'll not happen quickly enough. Just 28 percent want restrictions on public activity reduced in their area; 46 percent think current restrictions are about right and a quarter think there should be more. Thirty-five percent say they or someone in their household has been laid off because of the outbreak; half report having work hours or pay cut. Residents divide on whether the worst is yet to come or behind us, 48 vs. 46 percent ([PPIC 5/17-5/26](#)).

In Virginia, again more express concern that the state will move too fast to loosen restrictions than move too slow, 48 vs. 34 percent. (Eighteen percent are unsure.) Most, 62 percent, say the state government's response to slow the spread of the virus has been appropriate, with the rest split between thinking it's gone too far (17 percent) or not far enough (18 percent). Fewer, 43 percent, approve of the federal government's response; a plurality says it did not go far enough (46 percent). Thirty-one percent report that they or someone they know has gotten the coronavirus ([Roanoke College 5/3-5/17](#)).

Election-focused polls among registered voters in Arizona, Ohio and Wisconsin also contain some coronavirus-related results. Among them:

- In Ohio, 51 percent think Gov. Mike DeWine is reopening the economy at about the right pace. That drops to 39 percent for Gov. Doug Ducey in Arizona and 36 percent for Gov. Tony Evers in Wisconsin. A quarter in Wisconsin say Evers is moving too slowly; this drops to 17 percent for DeWine and 15 percent for Ducey in their states.
- In all three states, more trust Biden than Trump to do a better job handling the pandemic. The margin is twice as wide in Wisconsin (50 vs. 36 percent) as in Arizona (46 vs. 39 percent) and Ohio (45 vs. 39 percent).
- Three-quarters or more in each state express favorable views of people who wear masks, and about two-thirds think it's important for the president to set an example for Americans and wear a mask in public places.
- Majorities in all three states are at least somewhat concerned about catching the coronavirus, including two-thirds in Ohio and Wisconsin and six in 10 in Arizona (Fox News 5/30-6/2: [AZ](#), [OH](#), [WI](#)).

International Results

A survey of government ministries of health in 155 countries by the World Health Organization documents a massive disruption in the delivery of services and medicine for noncommunicable diseases. Sixty-three percent say rehabilitation services in their country have been partially or completely disrupted. It's 53 percent for hypertension; about half apiece for diabetes and diabetes-related complications, asthma services and palliative care; 42 percent for cancer treatment; and 31 percent for cardiovascular emergencies.

Among countries reporting disruptions, major reasons include cancelled elective care (reported in 63 percent of countries), closure of population-level screening programs (45 percent), lockdown-related transportation restrictions limiting access to health facilities (43 percent) and reassignment of medical staff to COVID-19 services (38 percent). Not surprisingly, disruptions rise in countries with more severe COVID-19 outbreaks.

In two-thirds of the countries surveyed, continuity of services for noncommunicable diseases are included in national COVID-19 response plans, but that includes just 42 percent of low-income countries ([WHO 5/1-5/25](#)).

Among other international surveys, in Brazil, 35 percent say they or someone they know has contracted COVID-19, up 9 points in 15 days. Negative ratings of President Jair Bolsonaro, who has referred to the virus as “a little flu” and encouraged lifting restrictions to get Brazilians back to work despite public health recommendations, have edged up from 39 to 44 percent. Sixty-five percent are more worried about the health consequences of coronavirus than the economic impact, about six in 10 favor stricter rules to stop the spread of the virus and 47 percent do not feel safe leaving their homes. As in the United States, views are highly political: Those who back Bolsonaro are more apt to express concern about the economic consequences of the virus, less supportive of stricter quarantine measures and less apt to fear leaving their home ([DataPoder360 5/25-5/27](#)).

Two-thirds of Germans view the federal government’s response to the pandemic positively, even as three-quarters are concerned that the economic situation in the country will worsen and nearly two-thirds are worried that children’s development may be impaired because of school and childcare closures. More than half would like to see more relaxation of restrictions in the coming weeks ([ARD 5/4-5/5](#)).

In Great Britain, 90 percent say they’ve left the house in the past week, up from 86 percent the previous week, and fewer report feeling unsafe outside their home, 29 vs. 41 percent. Nearly everyone continues to say they try to stay at least two meters away from other people when outside their home. Three in 10 report having worn a face covering outside their home in the past week and four in 10 say it’s likely they will wear one in the upcoming week. Sixty-seven percent remain very or somewhat worried about the effect that the coronavirus is having on their life, but that’s down from 72 percent last week ([Office for National Statistics 5/21-5/24](#)).

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

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