



COVID-19 Survey Summary: July 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](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

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National, state and international polls released in the past week show growing coronavirus concerns and consequences. While fewer U.S. national polls were released given the July 4 holiday, this week's summary includes a study of U.S. college students on the shift to online learning, state surveys from New York, California and New Hampshire and international surveys from Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, India, Mexico, Kenya, Russia and South Korea.

National Results

With cases surging in many areas, more than half of Americans are now at least moderately worried about a lack of social distancing in their area, up from a low of 41 percent in early June ([Gallup 6/22-6/29](#)), and six in 10 think efforts to reopen the economy are moving too quickly (about the same as in late June) ([ABC/Ipsos 6/8-6/9](#)). These concerns are highly partisan, with Democrats more than three times as likely as Republicans to be worried about the lack of social distancing, 77 vs. 24 percent, and about reopening too quickly, 84 vs. 26 percent.

Eighty-six percent overall say they've worn a mask when outside their home in the past week, a numerical high in data back to early April. Again there's a large partisan gap – essentially all Democrats (98 percent) say they've worn a mask in the past week, as do 85 percent of independents, compared with 66 percent of Republicans ([Gallup 6/22-6/29](#)).

As many states grapple with a second round of business closings, 35 percent of households nationwide expect a loss of employment income in the next four weeks, up from 31 percent two weeks previously. In Texas and Florida, this concern has grown by double-digits; 43 percent in each state now expect a loss of income in the next four weeks ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/25-6/30](#)).

In additional evidence that the recent surge is taking an economic toll, the number of small businesses saying it will take more than six months for them to return to a normal level of operations rose to 44 percent, from 38 percent two weeks ago ([U.S. Census Bureau 6/21-6/27](#)).

Just a third of Americans now approve of President Trump's handling of the coronavirus response, down 8 percentage points since mid-June to a new low. Approval has dropped 14

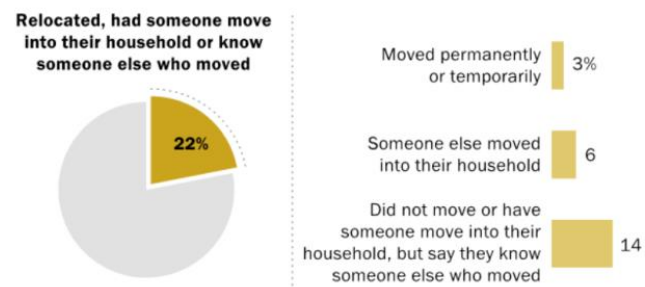
points among independents to 26 percent and 12 points among Republicans to 78 percent. It's 7 percent among Democrats ([ABC/Ipsos 6/8-6/9](#)).

Results from a longitudinal study find that since the beginning of the pandemic, one in three Black, Asian and Latino adults say they have experienced at least one incident of discrimination because of people thinking they might have the coronavirus, compared with one in five whites. Although reports of this type of discrimination have declined since April, racial disparities persist – with Asians more than 2.5 times more likely to have experienced this in early June than whites, and Blacks and Latinos almost two times as likely ([USC UAS 5/27-6/23](#)).

Recently released data from early June find that, because of COVID-19, two in 10 Americans have moved permanently or temporarily (3 percent), had someone else move into their home (6 percent) or know someone who has moved (14 percent). One in 10 young adults (aged 18-29) has moved because of the coronavirus, as have 7 percent of Asians and 6 percent of Hispanics, compared with 2 percent of whites. Among those who've moved, 28 percent said the most important reason was to reduce their risk of catching the coronavirus; 23 percent said it's because their college campus closed; 20 percent because they wanted to be with family; and 18 percent cited a financial reason ([Pew 6/4-6/10](#)).

Roughly one-in-five Americans either have relocated due to pandemic or know someone who has

% of U.S. adults who ___ due to COVID-19



Note: Response categories do not sum to total since some respondents chose more than one answer.

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

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

College Plans

As colleges across the country grapple with how to handle the upcoming fall semester, a newly released national survey of college students finds that student satisfaction fell by 29 points following the move to remote learning this spring, as many students struggled to stay motivated and missed interactions with instructors and fellow students. At the same time, more attributed their problems with their online course to the fact that it was an unplanned move than to inherent limitations of online learning, 45 vs. 37 percent, providing hope that planned virtual classes in the fall may fare better.

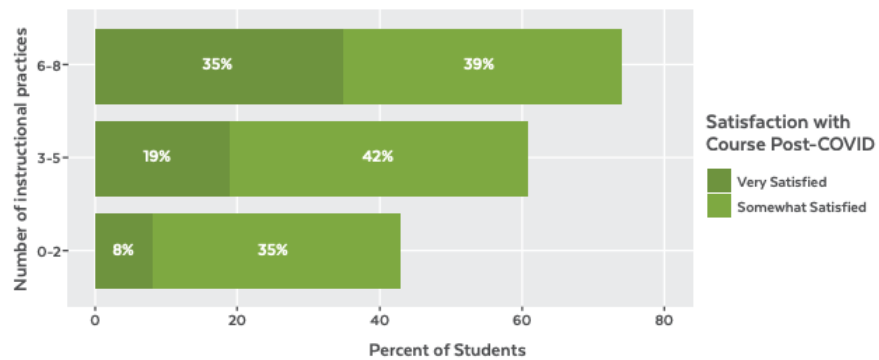
Also noteworthy when it comes to preparing for the fall, online courses that used a larger array of recommended online teaching practices had much higher student satisfaction than courses that used fewer of these practices. For example:

- Sixty-eight percent of students who received personal messages from their instructor on how they were doing or to make sure they could access course materials were satisfied with their course overall, compared with 47 percent of those who did not receive such messages.

- Similarly, 68 percent of students whose course included assignments requiring them to express what they had learned and what they still needed to learn were satisfied with their class, compared with 50 percent of those who didn't have such assignments.
- Two-thirds of those whose instructor used real-world examples to illustrate course content were satisfied with their course, compared with 42 percent of those whose instructor did not.

- All in all, students who said their courses incorporated at least six of the eight recommended practices included in the survey were 31 points more likely to be satisfied with their online course than those who said two or fewer practices were used, 74 vs. 43 percent.

FIGURE 8. SATISFACTION WITH POST-COVID-19 COURSE BY NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ONLINE PRACTICES USED



Other predictors of satisfaction with classes after the transition to online learning include class size and how frequently a student experienced technology problems.

Among the technology problems, internet connectivity issues interfered with students' ability to attend or participate in their course at least occasionally for 44 percent of students, including 16 percent who experienced these problems often or very often. More frequent problems with online access are higher among students providing care for a child, those with household incomes less than \$50,000, racial and ethnic minorities and women, compared with their counterpart groups. Nearly a quarter overall also experienced hardware or software problems that at least occasionally impacted their ability to attend or participate in their course.

Hispanic students reported facing more challenges continuing their course when it moved online, including issues such as fitting the course in with home/family responsibilities and finding a quiet place to work, as well as internet connectivity problems ([Digital Promise 5/13-6/1](#)).

As of July 9, a list compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education indicates that most colleges, about six in 10, plan to return to in-person classes for the upcoming fall semester, while roughly a quarter have proposed a hybrid model, 9 percent are planning to be exclusively online and 5 percent are considering a range of scenarios. Although not a probability sample, the list includes data from about 1,120 colleges and is regularly updated ([Chronicle of Higher Education](#)).

State Results

In New York, the former epicenter of the virus in the country, new daily cases have dropped substantially since April and there's little evidence of the upswing seen in many other states. Perhaps reflecting this, New Yorkers by more than 2-1 think that when it comes to their state, the pandemic will get better rather than get worse, 47 vs. 23 percent (a quarter think it will stay about the same). More generally, nearly six-in-10 voters think the state is moving in the right direction, the most since May 2002, and about seven in 10 approve of how Gov. Andrew Cuomo is handling the pandemic, pushing his overall job approval to its highest on record. (Fewer, 42 percent, approve of how New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has handled the pandemic.)

Three-quarters of New Yorkers say they always wear a mask or face covering when they leave their home, including 82 percent of Democrats who are registered to vote vs. 61 percent of registered Republicans. Half overall, including 46 percent of K-12 parents, think it would be a bad idea to fully reopen public schools with in-school instruction in the fall. (De Blasio announced July 8 that city schools will take a hybrid approach, with most students attending school two or three days a week.) ([NBC 4 New York/Marist Poll 7/6-7/8](#))

In California, where coronavirus cases are surging, a poll conducted just prior to Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to reimpose certain restrictions found that 53 percent thought his shelter-in-place order was being relaxed too quickly, up from 43 percent three weeks previous. Fifty-seven percent are at least somewhat confident that the healthcare system is prepared for another wave of cases, though just 18 percent are very confident in this. That said, 84 percent are at least somewhat confident that, if infected, they or a family member could get the care they need, dropping to 70 percent of low-income Californians and 73 percent of Latinos in the state.

Thirty-eight percent of Californians say they leave home to go to work, including 52 percent of Latinos, 42 percent of Asians, 34 percent of Blacks and 28 percent of whites. Among them, 83 percent say their employer requires them to wear a mask at least most of the time (two-thirds say they're required to wear a mask at all times) and seven in 10 think their employer has done enough to ensure employees are safe. Nevertheless, three-quarters of these workers are at least somewhat concerned about exposing members of their household to the coronavirus after being exposed at work.

Most Californians continue to follow the recommendations of health officials: Ninety-one percent say they frequently wash their hands all or most of the time, 90 percent stay at least six feet away from others in public at least most of the time and 89 percent regularly wear a mask in public spaces when they can't socially distance, up 12 points since April. At the same time, those who say they avoid unnecessary trips outside of the home all or most of the time has declined to 77 percent, down from 88 percent in April ([CHCF 6/26-6/30](#)).

In New Hampshire, one of the relatively few states that has not seen a recent rise in coronavirus cases, a June 18-22 poll found less concern about contracting the virus compared with May and greater comfort engaging in a number of public activities. Majorities said they were currently comfortable going to a golf course, going to a barbershop or hair salon, eating outdoors at a restaurant or going to an in-state beach; half or fewer said they were comfortable with other

indoor activities (e.g., going to church, the bar, or the gym) or attending large events (e.g., political rallies, concerts, or weddings with 50 or more people).

Two-thirds of K-12 parents in the state said they're at least somewhat comfortable sending their children back to their local public school in the fall. But there are broad divisions in views of how schools should operate amid the pandemic, with less than a majority supportive of any of the proposed options: having students remain in one classroom throughout the day to minimize the number of people with whom they interact (48 percent), alternating days when students attend school to reduce the number of students at school at any one time (43 percent), opening schools as usual with all students in attendance (41 percent), having older students continue to learn remotely to leave more room for younger children to attend school in-person (37 percent) or holding school entirely by remote learning (22 percent).

Nearly all residents (96 percent) report having worn a face covering at least once since the outbreak began, and more than seven in 10 said they always wear a face mask when shopping at a grocery store or pharmacy. However, just 19 percent said they always wear a mask when socializing with family or friends they don't live with, down from 26 percent in May.

With President Trump set to hold a rally in the state tomorrow, just 36 percent said they approve of his handling of the coronavirus situation. Far more, 78 percent, said they approve of Gov. Chris Sununu's response, though that's down from 87 percent in May ([UNH 6/18-6/22](#)).

International Results

Eight in 10 Canadians think the Canada-U.S. border should stay closed for the foreseeable future ([Globe/Nanos 6/28-7/2](#)). About nine in 10 call it likely (57 percent) or somewhat likely (32 percent) that there will be a second wave of coronavirus infections in the next six months. Eight in 10 at least somewhat support mandating masks be worn in all public places to protect against the spread of the virus and seven in 10 at least somewhat support closing non-essential businesses if there is a significant increase in cases and hospitalizations in the next few months ([CTV/Nanos 6/28-7/2](#)).

In Chile, where a [recent rise in cases](#) has driven the number of infections in the country to the sixth highest in the world, 85 percent think the pandemic is not under control, up 10 points since mid-April. Just 32 percent approve of the government's management of the situation, down 8 points in the past week. Two thirds are concerned about the possibility of getting the coronavirus, similar to last week ([Cadem 7/1-7/3](#)).

In South Korea, the daily coronavirus case count remains low, but there's been [a slight increase](#) since social distancing restrictions were eased in May. Perhaps reflecting this, as well as growing case counts globally, concern about the coronavirus has rebounded. In early May, a low of 55 percent said they were at least somewhat worried about infection; now three-quarters say so, matching the level of concern in early March when cases were surging. Similarly, six in 10 now think it's at least somewhat likely they will get infected up from 45 percent in early May; and 94 percent say they're reducing or refraining from attending events and gatherings due to COVID-19, up from 76 percent in May. Avoidance of markets, department stores and large marts,

outdoor activities, visits to health facilities and use of buses and subways likewise have increased by more than 10 points apiece since May ([Gallup Korea 6/30-7/2](#)).

In Germany, half of eligible voters are worried that infections could rise significantly in the coming weeks. The vast majority continues to follow health recommendations including washing their hands often (89 percent), maintaining social distance (88 percent) and avoiding crowds (85 percent). Seventy-two percent say they're limiting contact with friends and relatives and 57 percent are not planning to take a summer vacation this year. Seven in 10 think the economic stimulus package proposed by the European Commission to help countries cope with the coronavirus pandemic is going in the right direction; 62 percent think this aid should be in the form of loans, while 29 percent favor outright grants ([ARD 6/29-6/30](#)).

In Mexico, nearly six in 10 say the government's handling of the pandemic has been a failure. Still, when asked why they think Mexico is one of the countries with the highest number of infections in the world, far more attribute it to people's careless behavior (48 percent) than say it's due to bad government decisions (19 percent); 31 percent blame both equally. Forty-three percent know someone infected with the coronavirus, up from 35 percent two weeks previous and 25 percent a month ago. Forty-six percent think infections still are on the rise (28 percent think they're at their peak now and a quarter think infections are declining). In March, just 7 percent felt the coronavirus emergency in the country would last more than six months, but now 36 percent believe it will take that long, and just 16 percent think it will be over in two months or fewer, down from nearly half ([El Financiero 6/26-6/27](#)).

In Great Britain, fewer working adults say the pandemic is impacting their work than did last week, 52 vs. 61 percent, and more are returning to the workplace: About half say they've traveled to work at some point in the past week, up from 44 percent last week and 41 percent the week before. Twenty-nine percent are exclusively working from home, down from 33 percent. Four in 10 parents say they've been asked to send their children back to school, up from 32 percent last week. But the proportion who say their children are attending some or all of the time has declined from 78 to 68 percent. Eleven percent of adults overall say they've found it difficult or very difficult to pay their usual household bills, more than double the rate who said the same was true before the pandemic (5 percent) ([Office for National Statistics 6/25-6/28](#)).

In Bulgaria, anxiety about the coronavirus is on the rise – six in 10 agree with a statement that they are afraid that they or a family member could become infected with the virus, up from 51 percent at the beginning of June. The share agreeing that the pandemic is under control has been cut nearly in half, from 72 percent in early June to 38 percent now. Just four in 10 think there will be a return to normal before the end of the year, down from 61 percent. Despite this, most (61 percent) disagree with a statement that it is necessary to reintroduce strict restrictive measures, and 59 percent agree that the threat of the coronavirus is exaggerated. Two-thirds say they're still complying with restrictive measures, while 28 percent say they followed the measures previously, but are now leading a normal life. Six percent say they never complied ([Gallup Bulgaria 6/25-6/27](#)).

In Russia, which now ranks fourth for total number of coronavirus cases behind the United States, Brazil and India, a mid-June poll found that half the population would not want to be

vaccinated against the coronavirus if a high-quality vaccine were available, while 44 percent would want to be vaccinated. Reasons for not wanting to get vaccinated were fragmented in an open-ended question: among them, 10 percent said it was because they did not trust the quality of a rapidly developed vaccine, 9 percent said they were in good health and in no danger of being infected, 9 percent thought the danger was exaggerated and 8 percent expressed opposition to vaccinations, citing the need for the body to build immunity ([FOM 6/19-6/21](#)).

In Kenya, where [daily cases have more than doubled](#) in the past month, eight in 10 would be highly likely to get a coronavirus test if it were provided free of charge in their neighborhood. But if they tested positive, three-quarters said they would not inform friends and relatives they had the virus, 65 percent would not provide information to the Ministry of Health for contact tracing, 55 percent would not share their diagnosis with immediate family members and 31 percent would not self-isolate for the required 14 days. Roughly a quarter in this poll, conducted in early-to-mid June, said they would not visit with a neighbor who had contracted and recovered from the coronavirus a month previously, and 41 percent would not allow their children to play with a recovered neighbor's children. Forty-six percent thought the worst of the pandemic was yet to come; a third instead thought the worst had passed and things would begin to improve in the next few months ([TIFA Research 6/2-6/15](#)).

In India, which recently surpassed Russia with the third most cases globally, 54 percent agree that they're afraid that they or someone in their family may catch the virus, down from a peak of 61 percent at the end of June. Eight in 10 agree that the Indian government is handling the coronavirus well, relatively unchanged recently though down from a high of 94 percent in April/early May ([CVoter 7/2-7/8](#)).

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

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