COVID-19: What Voters Think

Verified Voter Omnibus Survey
N=1,000 National Registered Voters
March 20 - 24, 2020
Key Findings

• American voters are united in the face of the coronavirus and don't think the threat is being taken seriously enough. More than 8 in 10 agree with public health rationales for staying home, and 41% don't think the threat is being taken seriously enough to 26% who believe it's being exaggerated.

• This extends to support for elected officials who institute lockdowns. 50% more are more likely to vote for these officials while 7% are less likely — with virtually no partisan divide.

• There is a net 17 point positive swing between President Trump’s overall job approval rating (45-54) and his approval of handling the coronavirus (52-44).

• Voters are broadly supportive of economic stimulus proposals with the most support for economic assistance to small business (87% good idea), and individuals (83% good idea). Larger industries don’t fare as well but all get at least plurality support for a bailout or economic assistance.

• The greatest hardships American voters report experiencing due to lockdowns are rooted in feelings of anxiety and isolation. 30% say they feel down or anxious about the overall situation, 30% feel hardship over not being able to go about their routine, and 24% feel hardship about not being able to see friends and family. 13% report economic hardship such as a lost job or reduced hours — with 22% of those under 30 reporting this.
4 in 10 Say People Aren't Taking The Risk Seriously Enough

Q. In general, would you say that people in the United States are exaggerating the risks of the coronavirus, not taking them seriously enough, or getting the risks about right?

- Exaggerating the risks: 26%
- Getting the risks about right: 27%
- Not taking the risks seriously: 41%
Q. Based on what you know, do you believe or not believe the following statements about the coronavirus?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Believe</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Do not believe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying home is essential to slowing the spread of the coronavirus in my community.</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even if you're young and healthy, staying home reduces the chance that older people who are most at-risk will get the coronavirus.</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing will reduce the number of cases of the coronavirus.</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The coronavirus is much worse than the flu.</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing is not primarily about reducing the total number of cases of the coronavirus. It is about spreading cases out over a longer period so the health care system isn't overwhelmed.</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q. Based on what you know, do you believe or not believe the following statements about the coronavirus?

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<th>Do not believe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy will recover quickly once the threat of the coronavirus has passed.</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. will get the spread of the coronavirus under control and life will return to normal within 3 months.</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A majority of the U.S. population will eventually become infected with the coronavirus.</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully getting the coronavirus under control may require lockdowns and social distancing for more than a year.</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Political Downside to Lockdowns, with Bipartisan Agreement

Q. Would you be more or less likely to vote for an elected official who put your community under a lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, meaning civilians were not allowed to leave their homes except for work, health, or other necessary reasons?

More likely | It would make no difference | Less likely | Unsure
---|---|---|---
Total | 50% | 34% | 7% | 9% | 28%
GOP | 51% | 37% | 7% | 6% | 26%
DEM | 54% | 29% | 8% | 10% | 33%
Trump Coronavirus Approval Stronger than Job Approval

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Strongly approve</th>
<th>Somewhat approve</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Somewhat disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His job as president</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. economy</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The spread of the coronavirus in the U.S.</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NET (Approve - Disapprove):
- His job as president: -9\%
- The U.S. economy: -1\%
- The spread of the coronavirus in the U.S.: +8\%

Echelon Insights
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance or a bailout for small businesses</th>
<th>Very good idea</th>
<th>Somewhat good idea</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Somewhat bad idea</th>
<th>Very bad idea</th>
<th>Total Good Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance or a bailout for small businesses</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide all Americans with $1,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance or a bailout for restaurants</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance or a bailout for hotels</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance or a bailout for airlines</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance or a bailout for the cruise ship industry</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q. Which one or two of the following are the greatest hardships you personally have faced due to the spread of the coronavirus?

1. I feel down or anxious about the overall situation in the country right now 30%
2. I haven’t been able to see friends and family members 26%
3. I haven’t been able to move freely or go about my daily routine 30%
4. I’ve had difficulty getting food and other essentials delivered to my home 19%
5. I’ve had difficulty with travel 9%
6. I’ve lost my job, had my hours cut, or lost income 13%
7. I’ve had difficulty with working from home, or other work-related difficulty 7%
8. I’ve had health-related difficulties (seeing doctors, getting medications, etc.) 7%
9. I’ve had difficulty arranging childcare 2%
Q. Which one or two of the following are the greatest hardships you personally have faced due to the spread of the coronavirus?

I feel down or anxious about the overall situation in the country right now
I haven't been able to move freely or go about my daily routine
I haven't been able to see friends and family members
I've had difficulty getting food and other essentials delivered to my home
I've lost my job, had my hours cut, or lost income
I've had difficulty with travel
I've had difficulty with working from home, or other work-related difficulty
I've had health-related difficulties (seeing doctors, getting medications, etc.)
I've had difficulty arranging childcare

DRIVEN BY...

30% Women Under 50 (36%)
30% Men (36%)
26% Seniors (38%)
19% Under 30 (27%)
13% Under 30 (22%)
9% w/ Bachelor's Degree (13%)
7% Employed (12%)
7% Income under $30k (9%)
2% Parents (7%)
Partisan Divide on the Chinese Government’s Responsibility, but a Majority of Democrats Hold Them At Least Partly Responsible

Q. Is the Chinese government responsible for the global spread of the coronavirus?

- **Total**:
  - They are primarily responsible: 37%
  - They are partially responsible: 35%
  - They are not at all responsible: 13%
  - Unsure: 16%

- **GOP**:
  - They are primarily responsible: 56%
  - They are partially responsible: 30%
  - They are not at all responsible: 6%
  - Unsure: 8%

- **DEM**:
  - They are primarily responsible: 20%
  - They are partially responsible: 41%
  - They are not at all responsible: 19%
  - Unsure: 20%

[Image: Bar chart showing responses to the question with categories for each political party]