



American Experiences Survey:

A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey

July 2020 Omnibus Results – COVID Items

Overview of Methodology

Each month, Consumer Reports fields the American Experiences Survey (AES) to track consumer attitudes and behaviors over time. July results are based on interviews conducted from July 9-20, 2020. This document focuses on the section of the omnibus survey related to COVID-19.

The survey was administered by NORC at the University of Chicago through its AmeriSpeak® Panel to a nationally representative sample. Interviews were conducted in English and in Spanish, and were administered both online and by phone. In total NORC collected 2,031 interviews, 1,724 by web mode and 307 by phone mode. Final data are weighted by age, gender, race/Hispanic ethnicity, housing tenure, telephone status, education, and Census Division to be proportionally representative of the US adult population.

The margin of error for results based on the total sample is +/-2.95 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Smaller subgroups will have larger error margins, and only those subgroups for which there are at least 100 unweighted cases are included.

TOPLINE RESULTS WITH MONTHLY TRENDS

The COVID questions presented below were shown to respondents in this order unless otherwise noted. Where appropriate, question verbiage, response answer choices, or direction of scales were randomized or rotated and those instances are noted below.

Also shown, where available, are trends over time. Not every item was asked on every recent omnibus survey, and where minor revisions to the wording of an item or response choices were made, they are noted below. *Note these changes may impact comparability of results.*

Note that the July omnibus contained four blocks of questions (items on race/discrimination, television privacy/security, product safety, and COVID) and respondents saw blocks in a random order.

Prepared by CR Survey Research Department, August 2020

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Survey Notes for Monthly Trends

July 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from July 9-20 with a nationally representative sample of 2,031 US adults.

June 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from June 4-16 with a nationally representative sample of 1,014 US adults.

May 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from May 8-18 with a nationally representative sample of 2,085 US adults.

April 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from April 2-14 with a nationally representative sample of 2,164 US adults.

COVCONCERNNOW.

How concerned or not concerned are you about COVID-19 continuing to spread in your local area over the NEXT MONTH?

	JULY AES	JUNE AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
Very concerned	53	41	41
Somewhat concerned	29	34	36
Not too concerned	12	16	18
Not at all concerned	5	8	6
Base: All respondents	2,031	1,014	2,082

COVCONCERN6MOS.

How concerned or not concerned are you about COVID-19 continuing to spread in your local area over the NEXT 6 MONTHS?

	Total
	%
Very concerned	53
Somewhat concerned	29
Not too concerned	13
Not at all concerned	6
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVERSPREC. [ROTATE INDOOR/OUTDOOR MASK ITEMS WITH DISTANCING ITEM. RESPONSE CHOICE "HAVE NOT VISITED THIS TYPE OF PLACE SINCE OUTBREAK BEGAN" INCLUDED ON SURVEY BUT EXCLUDED FOR REPORTING.]

How often are you, personally, doing each of the following?		
	JULY AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
<i>Wearing a mask when in an indoor public space with other people such as a store or office building</i>		
Always	72	54
Most of the time	13	21
Some of the time	7	14
Hardly ever or never	8	11
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	1,989	985
<i>Wearing a mask when in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach where you can't maintain a six foot distance from others*</i>		
Always	50	18
Most of the time	17	16
Some of the time	10	21
Hardly ever or never	22	45
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	1,626	805
<i>Maintaining a six foot distance from other people when out in public</i>		
Always	50	41
Most of the time	38	44
Some of the time	8	12
Hardly ever or never	4	3
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	1,992	999

*Note: June AES outdoor public space excluded the words "where you can't maintain a six foot distance from others"

COVACTSAFETY. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS WITH DOCTOR'S OFFICE/URGENT CARE/ELECTIVE PROCEDURE ITEMS KEPT TOGETHER.]

Overall, how safe or unsafe would you feel doing each of the following today?		
	JULY AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
<i>Traveling by plane</i>		
Very safe	9	9
Somewhat safe	20	21
Somewhat unsafe	28	32
Very unsafe	44	38
<i>Having someone repair or install something inside your home</i>		
Very safe	18	21
Somewhat safe	46	47
Somewhat unsafe	28	24
Very unsafe	8	8
<i>Going in person to a doctor's office</i>		
Very safe	26	25
Somewhat safe	43	43
Somewhat unsafe	22	24
Very unsafe	9	8
<i>Going in person to an urgent care facility or emergency room</i>		
Very safe	16	16
Somewhat safe	36	36
Somewhat unsafe	28	31
Very unsafe	20	16
<i>Having an elective medical procedure done*</i>		
Very safe	20	21
Somewhat safe	36	34
Somewhat unsafe	25	30
Very unsafe	19	15
<i>Voting in person at your local polling place</i>		
Very safe	22	21
Somewhat safe	35	40
Somewhat unsafe	27	24
Very unsafe	16	15
Base: All respondents	2,031	1,014

*Note: June AES item worded as "non-essential" medical procedure instead of "elective"

COVLIFTRRESTRICTIONS. [SCALE DIRECTION ROTATED WITH QUICKLY/SLOWLY VERBIAGE IN QUESTION STEM ROTATED TO MATCH SCALE. 'UNSURE' SHOWN LAST.]

Thinking about your local area, do you think COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted too quickly, at the right pace, or too slowly?	
	Total
	%
The restrictions are being lifted too quickly	49
The restrictions are being lifted at the right pace	29
The restrictions are being lifted too slowly	14
Unsure	7
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVSCHOOLREOPEN. [ROTATE IN-PERSON ITEM WITH ONLINE ITEM.]

At this time, do you feel K-12 schools in your local area should...?	
	Total
	%
Remain closed for the 2020-2021 school year with students taking all classes online	35
Reopen partially for the 2020-2021 school year with students splitting time between in-person and online classes	33
Reopen fully for the 2020-2021 school year with all students back at school taking in-person classes full-time	19
Unsure	13
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVCHILDREN. [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.]

Do you currently have any children living in your household who are...?	
	Total
	%
Preschool-aged child(ren)	9
Elementary/middle school-aged child(ren) (K-8th grade)	22
High school-aged child(ren) (9th-12th grade)	14
I do not have any preschool or K-12 aged children living in my household	65
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVSCHOOLSAFETY. [SHOW IF COVCHILDREN = ANY PRESCHOOL THROUGH 12TH GRADE.]

If your child or children's schools reopen for in-person classes this upcoming school year, how confident are you that they can prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students, teachers, and staff?	
	Total
	%
Very confident	11
Somewhat confident	27
Not too confident	30
Not confident at all	32
Base: Respondents with children preschool-aged through 12th grade living in their household	656

COVLIFTACTIVITIESREV. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS THREE SCREENS WITH INDOOR/OUTDOOR DINING AND INDOOR/OUTDOOR BAR ITEMS KEPT TOGETHER.]

Overall, how safe or unsafe would you feel doing each of the following today?	
	Total
	%
<i>Traveling on local public transportation (such as bus, rail, subway)</i>	
Very safe	10
Somewhat safe	12
Somewhat unsafe	32
Very unsafe	45
<i>Attending large arena events (such as sporting events and concerts)</i>	
Very safe	9
Somewhat safe	11
Somewhat unsafe	20
Very unsafe	60
<i>Going to a movie theatre</i>	
Very safe	12
Somewhat safe	12
Somewhat unsafe	27
Very unsafe	49
<i>Dining indoors at a restaurant</i>	
Very safe	17
Somewhat safe	22
Somewhat unsafe	27
Very unsafe	34
<i>Dining outdoors at a restaurant</i>	
Very safe	28
Somewhat safe	33
Somewhat unsafe	27
Very unsafe	13
<i>Attending a religious service at a church, temple, mosque, synagogue or other house of worship</i>	
Very safe	16
Somewhat safe	20
Somewhat unsafe	26
Very unsafe	38
Base: All respondents	2,031

(continued) Overall, how safe or unsafe would you feel doing each of the following today?	
	Total
	%
<i>Going to a public space where social distancing may not be possible (such as parks, beaches, malls or department stores)</i>	
Very safe	12
Somewhat safe	20
Somewhat unsafe	32
Very unsafe	35
<i>Going to a hair or nail salon, or a barber shop</i>	
Very safe	22
Somewhat safe	27
Somewhat unsafe	30
Very unsafe	21
<i>Going to the gym or attending in-person fitness classes</i>	
Very safe	12
Somewhat safe	16
Somewhat unsafe	27
Very unsafe	45
<i>Going to a bar and sitting indoors</i>	
Very safe	10
Somewhat safe	15
Somewhat unsafe	23
Very unsafe	53
<i>Going to a bar and sitting outdoors</i>	
Very safe	18
Somewhat safe	27
Somewhat unsafe	33
Very unsafe	22
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVTEST. [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. ROTATE DIAGNOSTIC ITEM WITH ANTIBODY ITEM.]

Have you gotten tested for COVID-19?	
	Total
	%
Yes, I've had a diagnostic test (i.e., nasal or throat swab to check for an active COVID-19 infection)	14
Yes, I've had an antibody test (i.e., finger stick or blood draw to check for a past COVID-19 infection)	5
No, I have not had any tests done for COVID-19	82
Base: All respondents	2,031

COVADULTVAC.

Vaccines to protect against COVID-19 are being developed. If one becomes available, what is the likelihood that you will get a COVID-19 vaccine?		
	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
Very likely	42	40
Somewhat likely	25	25
Not too likely	16	17
Not at all likely	16	17
Unsure	1	1
Base: All respondents	2,031	2,080

Note: May AES worded as "potential" vaccines to protect against COVID-19

COVADULTNOVAC. [SHOW IF COVADULTVAC = NOT TOO LIKELY OR NOT AT ALL LIKELY. RANDOMIZE ITEMS, WITH 'OTHER' SHOWN LAST.]

What is the MAIN reason that you wouldn't get a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself?		
	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
I worry that a COVID-19 vaccine in particular will be unsafe	44	45
In general, I don't believe vaccines are safe	16	15
I believe the health threat of the COVID-19 virus has been exaggerated	14	14
I am not worried about being infected with COVID-19	7	8
I'm afraid it would cost too much	3	4
I've already had the COVID-19 virus so I wouldn't need the vaccine	2	1
Other	13	13
Base: Respondents who say they are not too likely or not at all likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine	643	656

COV4. [SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. RANDOMIZE ITEMS, WITH 'OTHER' AND 'NONE OF THE ABOVE' SHOWN LAST.]

In which, if any, of the following ways have you been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19?

	JULY AES	MAY AES	APRIL AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
I've experienced depression or anxiety	38	38	38
I've lost wages, salary, or self-employment earnings	28	27	29
I've had to cut expenses to pay my mortgage, rent, or for other essentials	20	20	18
I've fallen behind on my mortgage or rent	8	6	8
I've had trouble accessing my prescription medications or medical supplies	7	8	7
Other	8	9	5
None of the above	37	38	37*
Base: All respondents	2,031	2,085	2,164

**Note: We discontinued the item "an important event was disrupted" in the May AES. April was recalculated with that choice excluded and 376 people were recoded to "none of the above" for reporting purposes. April wording included "in recent weeks" at the end of the question.*

COVFINANCIALHELP. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS. RESPONSE CHOICE "NO, BECAUSE THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO ME" INCLUDED ON SURVEY BUT EXCLUDED FOR REPORTING.]

Many people are finding they need financial assistance during the outbreak. Have you, personally, done any of the following since the COVID-19 outbreak began?		
	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
<i>Filed for unemployment</i>		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	41	30
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	17	25
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	20	24
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	12	11
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	7	6
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	2	3
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	534	501
<i>Applied for a small business loan</i>		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	15	11
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	20	17
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	39	43
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	13	15
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	9	8
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	2	7
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	278	260
<i>Contacted your landlord about rent relief</i>		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	13	10
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	16	15
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	41	49
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	16	15
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	7	6
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	7	4
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	523	505
<i>Contacted your mortgage company about mortgage relief</i>		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	15	8
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	10	11
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	58	63
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	10	8
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	4	5
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	4	5
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	527	616

(continued) Many people are finding they need financial assistance during the outbreak. Have you, personally, done any of the following since the COVID-19 outbreak began?

	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
Contacted a lender about auto loan relief		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	13	14
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	11	8
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	51	59
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	15	9
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	6	6
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	3	4
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	541	608
Contacted a lender about student loan relief		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	17	15
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	13	10
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	31	33
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	16	15
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	5	10
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	18	17
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	408	453
Contacted a credit card company about delaying payments, lowering your interest rate or waiving fees		
Yes, and I was able to get the help I need	12	11
Yes, but have not been able to get the help I need	12	8
No, because I don't feel like I need the help right now	54	59
No, because I don't think I'll get the help I need	13	12
No, because I'm afraid it will be too much of a hassle	7	7
No, because I received this relief without asking for it	2	3
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "No, because this does not apply to me"	763	881

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