



American Experiences Survey:

A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey

September 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. August results are based on interviews conducted from September 11-21, 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 2,303 interviews, 2,106 by web mode and 197 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 +/-2.85 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 September omnibus contained three blocks of questions (COVID, voting and the post office, and data caps) and respondents saw the COVID block first, with the others randomized. Only the COVID block is shown here.

Prepared by CR Survey Research Department, October 2020

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Survey Notes for Monthly Trends

September 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from September 11-21 with a nationally representative sample of 2,303 US adults.

August 2020 results are based on interviews conducted from August 7-19 with a nationally representative sample of 2,236 US adults.

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?

	SEPTEMBER AES	AUGUST AES	JULY AES	JUNE AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	42	44	53	41	41
Somewhat concerned	33	34	29	34	36
Not too concerned	18	16	12	16	18
Not at all concerned	7	6	5	8	6
Base: All respondents	2,300	2,233	2,031	1,014	2,082

Note: May and June AES did not capitalize the words "NEXT MONTH."

COVCONCERN6MOS.

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

	SEPTEMBER AES	AUGUST AES	JULY AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
Very concerned	41	44	53
Somewhat concerned	35	33	29
Not too concerned	17	17	13
Not at all concerned	7	6	6
Base: All respondents	2,282	2,214	2,031

COVTEST. [ROTATE DIAGNOSTIC ITEM WITH ANTIBODY ITEM.]

Have you gotten tested for COVID-19?			
	SEPTEMBER AES	AUGUST AES	JULY AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
Yes, I've had a diagnostic test (i.e., nasal or throat swab to check for an active COVID-19 infection)	25	21	14
Yes, I've had an antibody test (i.e., finger stick or blood draw to check for a past COVID-19 infection)	7	6	5
No, I have not had any tests done for COVID-19	71	75	82
Had either kind of test	29	25	18
Had a diagnostic test ONLY	23	18	
Had an antibody test ONLY	4	4	
Base: All respondents	2,235	2,236	2,031

NOTE: Blank cells (diagnostic test ONLY and antibody test ONLY for July AES) are omitted due to calculations not performed that month.

COVTESTWAITA. [SHOW IF COVTEST = DIAGNOSTIC.]

How long did you have to wait for the diagnostic test results?		
	SEPTEMBER AES	AUGUST AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
Before I left the testing center (less than two hours or so)	5	7
Less than one day (but after I left the testing center)	10	7
One day to less than two full days	18	16
Two days to less than four full days	36	30
Four days to less than a week	17	20
A week or more	15	20
Total same day	15	14
Total one day to less than a week	71	66
A week or more	15	20
Base: People who had a diagnostic COVID-19 test	559	444

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?			
	SEPTEMBER AES	JULY AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
<i>Wearing a mask when in an indoor public space with other people such as a store or office building</i>			
Always	76	72	54
Most of the time	15	13	21
Some of the time	6	7	14
Hardly ever or never	3	8	11
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	2,282	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	49	50	18
Most of the time	20	17	16
Some of the time	12	10	21
Hardly ever or never	19	22	45
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	2,005	1,626	805
<i>Maintaining a six foot distance from other people when out in public</i>			
Always	43	50	41
Most of the time	42	38	44
Some of the time	11	8	12
Hardly ever or never	4	4	3
Base: Excludes those respondents who selected "Have not visited this type of place since outbreak began"	2,278	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. KEEP GYM ITEMS TOGETHER.]

Overall, how safe or unsafe would you feel doing each of the following today?			
	SEPTEMBER AES	JULY AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
Traveling by plane			
Very safe	11	9	9
Somewhat safe	25	20	21
Somewhat unsafe	28	28	32
Very unsafe	36	44	38
Going to an indoor gym or attending in-person fitness classes indoors*, **			
Very safe	12	12	-
Somewhat safe	23	16	-
Somewhat unsafe	27	27	-
Very unsafe	37	45	-
Going to an outdoor gym or attending in-person fitness classes outdoors*, **			
Very safe	25	12	-
Somewhat safe	46	16	-
Somewhat unsafe	19	27	-
Very unsafe	11	45	-
Going in person to a doctor's office			
Very safe	32	26	25
Somewhat safe	44	43	43
Somewhat unsafe	18	22	24
Very unsafe	6	9	8
Dining indoors at a restaurant*			
Very safe	18	17	-
Somewhat safe	32	22	-
Somewhat unsafe	27	27	-
Very unsafe	23	34	-
Going to a hair or nail salon or a barber shop*			
Very safe	22	22	-
Somewhat safe	37	27	-
Somewhat unsafe	26	30	-
Very unsafe	15	21	-
Going in person to the dentist**			
Very safe	27	24	-
Somewhat safe	43	39	-
Somewhat unsafe	20	24	-
Very unsafe	10	13	-
Voting in person at your local polling place			
Very safe	28	22	21
Somewhat safe	37	35	40
Somewhat unsafe	24	27	24
Very unsafe	12	16	15
Base: All respondents		2,031	1,014

*Note: Certain items asked in July as part of COVLIFTACTIVITIESREV; combined with COVACTSAFETY in September.

**Note: Gym was asked only as "gym" in July, with the indoor/outdoor distinction new in September. Dentist item was a new addition in July.

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?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
Very likely	32	42	40
Somewhat likely	28	25	25
Not too likely	20	16	17
Not at all likely	20	16	17
Unsure	-	1	1
Base: All respondents	2,287	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?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JULY AES	MAY AES
	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%
I worry that a COVID-19 vaccine in particular will be unsafe	46	44	45
In general, I don't believe vaccines are safe	17	16	15
I believe the health threat of the COVID-19 virus has been exaggerated	13	14	14
I am not worried about being infected with COVID-19	6	7	8
I'm afraid it would cost too much	2	3	4
I've already had the COVID-19 virus so I wouldn't need the vaccine	2	2	1
Other	14	13	13
Base: Respondents who say they are not too likely or not at all likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine	856	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?

Respondents selected ALL that apply.	SEPTEMBER AES	JULY AES	MAY AES	APRIL AES
	Total	Total	Total	Total
	%	%	%	%
I've experienced depression or anxiety	39	38	38	38
I've lost wages, salary, or self-employment earnings	28	28	27	29
I've had to cut expenses to pay my mortgage, rent, or for other essentials	21	20	20	18
I've fallen behind on my mortgage or rent	8	8	6	8
I've had trouble accessing my prescription medications or medical supplies	7	7	8	7
Other	8	8	9	5
None of the above	34	37	38	37*
Base: All respondents	2,303	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 option dropped and 376 people were revised to "none of the above" for analysis purposes. April wording included "in recent weeks" at the end of the question.

COVBUS3. [RANDOMLY SHOWED AS EITHER "MORE OR LESS" OR "LESS OR MORE," WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS SHOWING IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE STEM.]

If a local business is following recommended safety and social distancing guidelines...would that make you more or less likely to support that business, or would it make no difference to you?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
More likely to support the business	68	59
Less likely to support the business	4	6
Would make no difference	23	26
Unsure	5	7
Base: All respondents	2,296	1,014

*Note: In June, the 1% who refused to answer the item were not based out, so June here only sums to 99%.

COVBUS6. [RANDOMLY SHOWED AS EITHER "SUPPORT OR OPPOSE" OR "OPPOSE OR SUPPORT," WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS SHOWING IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE STEM, 'UNSURE' SHOWN LAST.]

Overall, do you support or oppose business owners having the legal right to deny entry to customers who are not following local safety and social distancing guidelines?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
Strongly support	65	53
Somewhat support	16	22
Somewhat oppose	7	10
Strongly oppose	5	6
Unsure	7	9
Total support	81	75
Total oppose	12	15
Base: All respondents	2,296	1,014

*Note: In June, Refused and Unsure were combined.

COVBUS5. [ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS; ANCHOR "UNSURE" AT END.]

Which of the following comes closest to your own view even if neither is exactly right?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
As they reopen, all businesses should be legally required to practice recommended safety and social distancing measures	68	61
It should be left up to each business owner to decide which, if any, safety and social distancing measures they will practice	26	29
Unsure	6	9
Base: All respondents	2,300	1,014

COVBUS2. [RANDOMLY SHOWED AS EITHER "TOO MUCH, TOO LITTLE" OR "TOO LITTLE, TOO MUCH" WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS SHOWING IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE STEM, ASIDE FROM "HAVE NOT VISITED," WHICH WAS ANCHORED AT END.]

From what you have seen, do you believe the businesses in your local area are doing too much, too little or just the right amount when it comes to practicing and enforcing social distancing and safety measures among their staff and customers?

	SEPTEMBER AES	JUNE AES
	Total	Total
	%	%
Far too much	2	4
Too much	5	8
Just the right amount	64	58
Too little	21	18
Far too little	4	6
Have not visited local businesses since outbreak began	3	6
Base: All respondents	2,297	1,014

*Note: In June, 1% said either Refused or Don't Know. These were included rather than based out, so June only sums to 99%.

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