



# ELON POLL

## What the Public Knows about Coronavirus

Surveys of U.S. and N.C. Residents

March 16-17, 2020

### Table of Contents

<b>About This Survey .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Topline Results .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Notable Open-Ended Comments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Crosstabulations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Methodological Information .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Weighting Information.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>About The Elon University Poll.....</b>	<b>38</b>

 **ELON** POLL**About this Survey**

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 3,270 adult U.S. residents, and 1,167 adult North Carolina residents on March 16-17, 2020.

The primary purpose of this survey was to explore what Americans know and think about coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with twenty-five statements about the coronavirus outbreak. These statements capture a variety of considerations relevant to decision makers. The twenty-five statements range from basic facts about transmission, symptoms and susceptibility, to worries and expectations about the future.

In addition, respondents were asked about how closely they are following news about the coronavirus outbreak, and where they are getting information about it.

The national results (N=3270) have a credibility interval of +/- 1.9 percentage points. These results are reported in the Toplines.

The North Carolina results (N=1167) have a credibility interval of +/- 3.1 percentage points. We report the North Carolina results as a row in the crosstabulations. The other results in the crosstabulations section reflect national differences between subgroups. Overall, the North Carolina results are quite similar to the national results.

The North Carolina sample was collected simultaneously to, but independently from, the national sample. The two samples do not share common interviews. However, the national sample does include interviews with respondents from North Carolina, in proportion to their share of the U.S. population.

Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages with sample size in parentheses.

## Topline Results

“We’re interested in what people are thinking at the moment about coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. For each statement, please indicate whether you agree, disagree or if you are not sure. It’s okay if you’re not sure. We are interested in people’s quick reactions.”

		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>1</b>	“I’m worried I will have to go to work even if I get sick.”	29.3 (957)	65.5 (2140)	5.2 (168)
<b>2</b>	“I’m worried about the impact of coronavirus on my personal financial situation.”	74.4 (2430)	22.7 (743)	2.9 (95)
<b>3</b>	“I’m worried about developing severe illness from coronavirus.”	56.9 (1858)	38.0 (1240)	5.2 (169)
<b>4</b>	“I’m worried about spreading coronavirus to others.”	59.3 (1936)	36.4 (1189)	4.3 (141)
<b>5</b>	“I’m worried about a family member developing severe illness from coronavirus.”	78.1 (2549)	19.4 (632)	2.5 (82)
<b>6</b>	“On average, coronavirus is no more dangerous to me than the flu.”	42.0 (1371)	49.2 (1607)	8.9 (290)
<b>7</b>	“The flu shot protects against coronavirus.”	3.5 (114)	83.6 (2730)	12.9 (423)
<b>8</b>	“A lot of people are not taking coronavirus seriously enough.”	62.3 (2030)	32.1 (1046)	5.7 (185)
<b>9</b>	“My life will be disrupted for more than two months due to coronavirus.”	66.3 (2164)	20.0 (654)	13.7 (448)
<b>10</b>	“I won’t be able to get a vaccine for coronavirus before next year.”	49.5 (1617)	18.5 (603)	32.0 (1046)
<b>11</b>	“Fever is a common symptom of coronavirus.”	90.2 (2945)	3.0 (99)	6.8 (222)
<b>12</b>	“Sneezing is a common symptom of coronavirus.”	46.3 (1512)	34.2 (1115)	19.5 (637)



# ELON POLL

		<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
<b>13</b>	“If you get coronavirus, you’ll be able to tell from your flu-like symptoms.”	37.5 (1224)	45.6 (1487)	16.9 (550)
<b>14</b>	“It’s a good idea to maintain some distance from people in public settings.”	96.6 (3153)	2.1 (67)	1.4 (45)
<b>15</b>	“Coronavirus can live on some surfaces for over 24 hours.”	68.3 (2226)	7.5 (245)	24.2 (789)
<b>16</b>	“Children and adolescents are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus.”	25.8 (840)	65.9 (2148)	8.3 (272)
<b>17</b>	“The elderly are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus.”	97.7 (3188)	1.1 (36)	1.2 (41)
<b>18</b>	“Coronavirus will likely kill at least 100,000 Americans.”	28.0 (911)	32.1 (1045)	40.0 (1303)
<b>19</b>	“There are enough hospital beds and intensive care units in the United States, even if there is a major outbreak.”	15.7 (512)	68.2 (2228)	16.2 (529)
<b>20</b>	“Ordering products made in China can spread coronavirus.”	23.3 (761)	45.9 (1499)	30.7 (1003)
<b>21</b>	“Major health insurance companies have agreed to waive the costs of coronavirus treatment.”	36.4 (1186)	22.4 (731)	41.2 (1344)
<b>22</b>	“Congress has passed a law mandating that all workplaces offer paid sick leave”	39.5 (1288)	25.1 (818)	35.5 (1157)
<b>23</b>	“Health officials have an accurate idea of the scale of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States.”	29.3 (958)	52.9 (1725)	17.8 (581)
<b>24</b>	“Some leaders are <u>exaggerating</u> the threat from coronavirus for political gain.”	39.6 (1291)	43.4 (1417)	17.1 (557)
<b>25</b>	“Some leaders are <u>downplaying</u> the threat from coronavirus for political gain.”	51.2 (1672)	30.1 (984)	18.6 (608)

 **ELON** POLL

“In general, how much do you trust news media to handle coverage of the coronavirus outbreak?”

	Percent	N
<b>Not at all</b>	14.7	(480)
<b>Not very much</b>	28.9	(945)
<b>A fair amount</b>	45.8	(1497)
<b>A great deal</b>	10.6	(348)
Total	100.0	(3270)

“In the past week, how often have you seen or heard news about coronavirus?”

	Percent	N
<b>Not at all</b>	0.7	(22)
<b>Only once this week</b>	0.3	(9)
<b>A few times this week</b>	3.1	(102)
<b>About once a day</b>	5.7	(185)
<b>Multiple times a day</b>	90.3	(2950)
Total	100	(3268)

“In the past week, where have you seen or heard news about coronavirus?”<sup>1</sup>

	Percent	N
<b>ABC, CBS, or NBC</b>	74.7	(2443)
<b>Local television news</b>	59.7	(1952)
<b>Fox News</b>	47.4	(1548)
<b>CNN</b>	45.6	(1490)
<b>Local newspaper</b>	32.5	(1062)

---

<sup>1</sup> Respondents were provided with a list of possible news sources and asked to select all that apply. We report the five most commonly named sources in this table.

 **ELON** POLL

“In the past week, have you seen information about coronavirus on any of the following social media platforms?”<sup>2</sup>

	Percent	N
<b>Facebook</b>	70.1	(2282)
<b>YouTUBE</b>	43.1	(1407)
<b>Twitter</b>	34.7	(1120)
<b>Instagram</b>	33.7	(1092)
<b>Reddit</b>	15.0	(484)

“How often do you typically look at social media?”

	Percent	N
<b>Never</b>	6.1	(200)
<b>Very rarely</b>	5.3	(174)
<b>About once a week</b>	2.5	(80)
<b>A few times a week</b>	6.3	(204)
<b>About once a day</b>	16.2	(530)
<b>Multiple times a day</b>	63.6	(2077)
Total	100.0	3265

“In the past week, how often have you discussed coronavirus with people in your life—including friends, family, co-workers, and other community members?”

	Percent	N
<b>Not at all</b>	3.2	(105)
<b>Only once this week</b>	3.1	(100)
<b>A few times this week</b>	12.2	(398)
<b>About once a day</b>	18.6	(606)
<b>Multiple times a day</b>	63.0	(2058)
Total	100.0	(3267)

---

<sup>2</sup> Respondents were provided with a list of social media platforms and asked to select all that apply. We report the five most commonly named platforms.

**Demographics**

“Do you have any of the following chronic medical conditions?”<sup>3</sup>

	Percent	N
<b>Yes</b>	34.6	(1127)
<b>No</b>	65.4	(2133)
Total	100.0	(3261)

Age	Percent	N
<b>18 to 24</b>	13.0	(425)
<b>25 to 44</b>	34.0	(1112)
<b>45 to 64</b>	34.0	(1112)
<b>65+</b>	19.0	(621)
Total	100.0	(3270)

Education	Percent	N
<b>Less than Bachelor’s</b>	69.0	(2240)
<b>Bachelor’s or more</b>	31.0	(1030)
Total	100.0	(3263)

---

<sup>3</sup> Respondents were provided with a list of chronic medical conditions. We report here the percentage of respondents who had at least one.

 **ELON** POLL

Party Identification	Percent	N
<b>Republican</b>	31.0	(998)
<b>Independent</b>	31.0	(1020)
<b>Democrat</b>	38.0	(1241)
Total	100.0	(3259)

Race	Percent	N
<b>White</b>	73.0	(2387)
<b>Black</b>	13.0	(425)
<b>Other</b>	14.0	(458)
Total	100.0	(3270)

Census Region	Percent	N
<b>Northeast</b>	18.0	(589)
<b>Midwest</b>	21.0	(687)
<b>West</b>	23.0	(752)
<b>South</b>	38.0	(1243)
Total	100.0	(3270)



## Notable Open-Ended Comments

“What are you most concerned about with respect to Coronavirus?”<sup>4</sup>

Most people in my community are not taking the threat seriously. People are still out and about and actively spreading the virus. Every time people gather in public, they are making the world more dangerous for the rest.

-Georgia resident, age 34

I'm worried about the physical and emotional toll this will take on medical professionals, if we get to the point where they have to turn people away. Also the elderly facing the possibility of being cut off from their community and loved ones.

-Texas resident, age 55

People who are not listening to the truth about the symptoms, how it is spread, what to do if they think they have it. Too much disinformation is being spread & too many people are getting wrong info about what to do.

-North Carolina resident, age 69

I am most concerned with respect to coronavirus that you can have the virus for up to 2 weeks before you might have symptoms. This is very insidious because you can spread it and not know you have the virus.

-Florida resident, age 55

I am concerned it may be over hyped and causing serious financial damage to small business and low-income workers, who I truly hope are not victims due to political ambitions.

-Ohio resident, age 74

---

<sup>4</sup> This open-ended question was included primarily for quality control purposes to identify respondents who were rushing through the survey. However, we received thousands of cogent responses. We selected a few of them with a goal of fair representation. We present them in this report, to at least partially represent the many concerns shared by respondents. The full set of responses to this item are available to academic researchers and journalists upon request.

 **ELON** POLL

That millions, perhaps hundreds of millions, Americans will be out of work for a while as “shelter in place” type of mandates are issued by governments. This will decimate whatever savings people have, drive them into debt to survive, and pretty much cripple the lower earning people of America.

-Missouri resident, age 58

I live alone, I hope I will be able to get help.

-Indiana resident, age 88

I have family members who are out and about and may bring it home. I can contract it and I am in a high-risk group.

-Massachusetts resident, age 38

The people hoarding all the food and toilet paper. The change in how we live our lives. The panic of stupid people.

-New York resident, age 45

The US is not prepared for this. There are not enough tests so that many people who don't have symptoms are spreading the virus since they can't be tested. Our health care system is not prepared with adequate ventilators and respirators let alone enough beds if we reach a crisis in the number of cases.

-Colorado resident, age 68

How are households going to maintain their lifestyles if they can't go out to work and pay for all of their essentials? Some people are barely making it work as it is, and now their lives will be majorly impacted by the virus.

-California resident, age 18

## Crosstabulations <sup>5</sup>

1 “I’m worried I will have to go to work even if I get sick.”

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
North Carolina sample	25	71	4
National sample	29	65	5
18-24	45	48	7
25-44	41	54	5
45-64	23	72	5
65+	10	85	5
Republican	25	71	3
Independent	27	66	7
Democrat	34	60	5
No chronic disease	31	63	6
Chronic disease	28	67	5
Does not trust media	27	68	5
Trusts media at least a fair amount	31	64	5
Less than multiple times a day	34	61	5
Uses social media multiple times a day	21	74	5
Less than multiple times a day	26	9	6
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	31	64	5

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

---

<sup>5</sup> The first row of each crosstabulation are the results for the independent North Carolina sample (N=1167). The remaining rows in each crosstabulation come from the national sample (N=3270). Caution is encouraged when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Subgroup sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider.

2 “I’m worried about the impact of coronavirus on my personal financial situation.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	72	24	4
National sample	74	23	3
18-24	78	17	4
25-44	80	18	2
45-64	74	23	3
65+	62	35	3
Republican	69	27	4
Independent	72	25	3
Democrat	81	17	2
No chronic disease	74	23	3
Chronic disease	75	22	3
Does not trust media	70	27	3
Trusts media at least a fair amount	77	20	3
Less than multiple times a day	68	29	3
Uses social media multiple times a day	78	19	3
Less than multiple times a day	64	31	4
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	80	18	2

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



3 “I’m worried about developing severe illness from coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	54	42	4
National sample	57	38	5
18-24	59	37	4
25-44	58	37	5
45-64	56	38	5
65+	54	39	7
Republican	48	46	6
Independent	54	41	5
Democrat	66	29	4
No chronic disease	50	44	6
Chronic disease	70	26	4
Does not trust media	46	49	5
Trusts media at least a fair amount	65	30	5
Less than multiple times a day	53	42	6
Uses social media multiple times a day	59	36	5
Less than multiple times a day	47	47	6
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	62	33	5

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



4 “I’m worried about spreading coronavirus to others.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	57	39	4
National sample	59	36	4
18-24	67	30	3
25-44	66	30	4
45-64	56	39	5
65+	48	46	5
Republican	55	41	4
Independent	55	40	5
Democrat	67	29	4
No chronic disease	57	38	5
Chronic disease	63	34	3
Does not trust media	52	44	4
Trusts media at least a fair amount	65	31	4
Less than multiple times a day	51	43	5
Uses social media multiple times a day	64	32	4
Less than multiple times a day	48	48	4
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	66	30	5

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



5 “I’m worried about a family member developing severe illness from coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	78	20	2
National sample	78	19	3
18-24	83	15	2
25-44	80	17	2
45-64	77	21	3
65+	73	25	2
Republican	74	23	3
Independent	74	23	3
Democrat	85	14	2
No chronic disease	76	21	3
Chronic disease	82	15	3
Does not trust media	71	26	3
Trusts media at least a fair amount	84	14	2
Less than multiple times a day	73	24	2
Uses social media multiple times a day	81	17	3
Less than multiple times a day	68	28	3
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	84	14	2

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



6 “On average, coronavirus is no more dangerous to me than the flu.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	42	50	9
National sample	42	49	9
18-24	48	44	9
25-44	45	46	9
45-64	43	50	8
65+	32	58	10
Republican	48	44	8
Independent	41	47	11
Democrat	38	55	8
No chronic disease	44	47	9
Chronic disease	38	54	8
Does not trust media	50	41	9
Trusts media at least a fair amount	35	56	9
Less than multiple times a day	40	50	9
Uses social media multiple times a day	43	49	9
Less than multiple times a day	45	44	11
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	40	52	8

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.





7 “The flu shot protects against coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	3	84	13
National sample	3	84	13
18-24	7	72	21
25-44	4	81	15
45-64	2	87	10
65+	2	89	9
Republican	4	85	11
Independent	2	82	16
Democrat	4	84	11
No chronic disease	3	84	13
Chronic disease	5	83	12
Does not trust media	3	83	14
Trusts media at least a fair amount	4	84	12
Less than multiple times a day	3	84	14
Uses social media multiple times a day	4	84	13
Less than multiple times a day	4	79	17
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	3	86	10

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



8 “A lot of people are not taking coronavirus seriously enough.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	64	31	6
National sample	62	32	6
18-24	58	37	6
25-44	61	31	8
45-64	62	33	5
65+	69	28	3
Republican	58	37	5
Independent	55	35	9
Democrat	71	25	3
No chronic disease	60	34	6
Chronic disease	66	29	5
Does not trust media	53	41	6
Trusts media at least a fair amount	69	25	5
Less than multiple times a day	56	37	7
Uses social media multiple times a day	66	29	5
Less than multiple times a day	54	38	8
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	67	29	4

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



9 “My life will be disrupted for more than two months due to coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	62	24	14
National sample	66	20	14
18-24	67	20	14
25-44	68	18	13
45-64	65	21	14
65+	64	22	14
Republican	63	23	14
Independent	62	22	16
Democrat	72	15	12
No chronic disease	65	21	14
Chronic disease	68	19	13
Does not trust media	63	24	13
Trusts media at least a fair amount	69	17	14
Less than multiple times a day	64	21	15
Uses social media multiple times a day	68	19	13
Less than multiple times a day	54	28	18
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	74	15	11

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

**10** “I won’t be able to get a vaccine for coronavirus before next year.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	46	18	36
National sample	50	18	32
18-24	36	27	36
25-44	48	19	32
45-64	51	16	33
65+	57	15	28
Republican	48	21	30
Independent	47	16	37
Democrat	53	18	30
No chronic disease	46	20	34
Chronic disease	56	15	29
Does not trust media	45	22	33
Trusts media at least a fair amount	53	16	31
Less than multiple times a day	50	18	32
Uses social media multiple times a day	49	19	32
Less than multiple times a day	40	24	36
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	55	15	30

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**11** “Fever is a common symptom of coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	91	3	6
National sample	90	3	7
18-24	86	3	11
25-44	90	3	6
45-64	91	3	6
65+	91	3	6
Republican	91	3	6
Independent	89	3	9
Democrat	91	3	6
No chronic disease	90	3	7
Chronic disease	91	3	6
Does not trust media	88	3	8
Trusts media at least a fair amount	92	3	6
Less than multiple times a day	88	3	9
Uses social media multiple times a day	92	3	5
Less than multiple times a day	86	5	10
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	93	2	5

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



12 “Sneezing is a common symptom of coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	45	35	21
National sample	46	34	20
18-24	49	31	20
25-44	45	35	19
45-64	44	36	20
65+	50	31	19
Republican	48	34	19
Independent	45	33	22
Democrat	47	35	18
No chronic disease	46	35	20
Chronic disease	48	33	19
Does not trust media	45	36	19
Trusts media at least a fair amount	47	33	20
Less than multiple times a day	49	30	22
Uses social media multiple times a day	45	37	18
Less than multiple times a day	44	33	23
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	48	35	17

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**13** “If you get coronavirus, you’ll be able to tell from your flu-like symptoms.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	35	46	18
National sample	38	46	17
18-24	47	37	16
25-44	43	42	15
45-64	33	50	17
65+	30	51	19
Republican	37	47	16
Independent	37	43	20
Democrat	39	46	15
No chronic disease	37	45	17
Chronic disease	38	46	16
Does not trust media	34	49	17
Trusts media at least a fair amount	40	43	17
Less than multiple times a day	32	47	21
Uses social media multiple times a day	40	45	14
Less than multiple times a day	38	42	20
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	37	48	15

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**14** “It’s a good idea to maintain some distance from people in public settings.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	97	3	0
National sample	97	2	1
18-24	96	2	2
25-44	96	3	1
45-64	97	2	1
65+	97	2	1
Republican	97	2	1
Independent	95	3	2
Democrat	98	1	1
No chronic disease	97	2	1
Chronic disease	96	2	1
Does not trust media	95	3	2
Trusts media at least a fair amount	98	1	1
Less than multiple times a day	95	2	2
Uses social media multiple times a day	97	2	1
Less than multiple times a day	94	4	3
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	98	1	1

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.





15 “Coronavirus can live on some surfaces for over 24 hours.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	68	8	24
National sample	68	8	24
18-24	61	7	32
25-44	68	7	25
45-64	70	8	23
65+	72	7	21
Republican	69	8	23
Independent	65	7	28
Democrat	71	7	22
No chronic disease	66	8	26
Chronic disease	72	7	21
Does not trust media	65	8	26
Trusts media at least a fair amount	71	7	23
Less than multiple times a day	66	7	27
Uses social media multiple times a day	70	8	23
Less than multiple times a day	62	7	31
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	72	8	20

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

**16** “Children and adolescents are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	26	65	10
National sample	26	66	8
18-24	33	55	13
25-44	32	59	9
45-64	23	70	7
65+	15	79	6
Republican	25	69	6
Independent	26	64	11
Democrat	26	65	8
No chronic disease	26	66	8
Chronic disease	26	66	8
Does not trust media	26	66	8
Trusts media at least a fair amount	26	66	8
Less than multiple times a day	24	66	9
Uses social media multiple times a day	27	66	8
Less than multiple times a day	27	62	11
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	25	68	7

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



17 “The elderly are at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	98	1	1
National sample	98	1	1
18-24	98	1	1
25-44	97	2	2
45-64	98	1	1
65+	98	1	1
Republican	98	1	1
Independent	97	1	2
Democrat	98	1	1
No chronic disease	97	1	1
Chronic disease	98	1	1
Does not trust media	97	2	1
Trusts media at least a fair amount	98	1	1
Less than multiple times a day	97	1	2
Uses social media multiple times a day	98	1	1
Less than multiple times a day	96	2	2
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	99	1	1

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**18** “Coronavirus will likely kill at least 100,000 Americans.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	24	35	42
National sample	28	32	40
18-24	36	29	34
25-44	31	30	39
45-64	25	32	42
65+	21	36	42
Republican	24	41	34
Independent	22	32	45
Democrat	36	24	40
No chronic disease	27	32	41
Chronic disease	30	31	39
Does not trust media	24	41	34
Trusts media at least a fair amount	31	25	45
Less than multiple times a day	24	32	44
Uses social media multiple times a day	30	32	38
Less than multiple times a day	22	35	43
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	31	30	38

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**19** “There are enough hospital beds and intensive care units in the United States, even if there is a major outbreak.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	14	71	16
National sample	16	68	16
18-24	16	59	25
25-44	18	66	16
45-64	14	71	15
65+	13	74	13
Republican	20	63	16
Independent	13	66	21
Democrat	14	74	12
No chronic disease	15	67	17
Chronic disease	16	69	15
Does not trust media	16	66	18
Trusts media at least a fair amount	15	70	15
Less than multiple times a day	14	68	18
Uses social media multiple times a day	17	68	15
Less than multiple times a day	17	62	22
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	15	72	13

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**20** “Ordering products made in China can spread coronavirus.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	24	44	33
National sample	23	46	31
18-24	28	37	35
25-44	29	44	27
45-64	21	49	30
65+	14	50	36
Republican	26	45	30
Independent	19	46	35
Democrat	25	47	28
No chronic disease	22	46	32
Chronic disease	26	45	29
Does not trust media	24	47	29
Trusts media at least a fair amount	23	45	32
Less than multiple times a day	20	46	34
Uses social media multiple times a day	25	46	29
Less than multiple times a day	22	43	34
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	24	47	29

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

**21** “Major health insurance companies have agreed to waive the costs of coronavirus treatment.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	35	21	44
National sample	36	22	41
18-24	27	26	47
25-44	37	21	42
45-64	36	24	40
65+	43	20	37
Republican	43	19	38
Independent	29	23	49
Democrat	37	24	38
No chronic disease	36	22	42
Chronic disease	38	23	39
Does not trust media	33	24	43
Trusts media at least a fair amount	39	21	40
Less than multiple times a day	35	21	44
Uses social media multiple times a day	37	23	40
Less than multiple times a day	33	21	47
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	39	23	38

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

**22** “Congress has passed a law mandating that all workplaces offer paid sick leave”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	36	25	39
National sample	39	25	35
18-24	33	28	40
25-44	41	25	34
45-64	40	24	36
65+	40	26	34
Republican	46	19	34
Independent	34	25	42
Democrat	39	30	32
No chronic disease	39	25	37
Chronic disease	41	25	34
Does not trust media	38	26	35
Trusts media at least a fair amount	40	24	36
Less than multiple times a day	38	23	39
Uses social media multiple times a day	40	26	34
Less than multiple times a day	39	23	38
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	40	26	34

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**23** “Health officials have an accurate idea of the scale of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	28	54	19
National sample	29	53	18
18-24	40	34	26
25-44	32	49	19
45-64	26	58	17
65+	24	64	12
Republican	32	51	17
Independent	26	53	22
Democrat	30	55	15
No chronic disease	29	52	19
Chronic disease	31	53	16
Does not trust media	25	57	18
Trusts media at least a fair amount	32	50	18
Less than multiple times a day	24	56	20
Uses social media multiple times a day	32	51	17
Less than multiple times a day	28	50	22
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	30	54	16

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.



**24** “Some leaders are exaggerating the threat from coronavirus for political gain.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	44	40	16
National sample	40	43	17
18-24	42	38	19
25-44	39	43	18
45-64	39	43	17
65+	38	48	14
Republican	50	34	16
Independent	40	38	22
Democrat	30	56	14
No chronic disease	40	42	18
Chronic disease	39	46	15
Does not trust media	57	28	16
Trusts media at least a fair amount	26	56	18
Less than multiple times a day	40	43	18
Uses social media multiple times a day	39	44	17
Less than multiple times a day	42	37	20
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	38	47	15

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

25 “Some leaders are downplaying the threat from coronavirus for political gain.”

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
North Carolina sample	52	30	19
National sample	51	30	19
18-24	50	27	23
25-44	53	26	21
45-64	50	32	18
65+	52	35	13
Republican	37	44	19
Independent	50	27	23
Democrat	64	22	15
No chronic disease	50	31	19
Chronic disease	53	29	17
Does not trust media	47	36	17
Trusts media at least a fair amount	55	25	20
Less than multiple times a day	49	33	19
Uses social media multiple times a day	53	29	19
Less than multiple times a day	45	32	23
Discussed coronavirus multiple times a day	55	29	16

*Note:* Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Subgroup results are for the national sample only.

## Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	U.S. Residents and N.C. Residents, ages 18+
Dates in the field:	March 16-17 <sup>st</sup> , 2020
Sample Size (US):	3,270
Sample Size (NC):	1,167
Credibility Interval (US.):	+/- 1.9 %
Credibility Interval (US):	+/- 3.1 %
Weighting Variables (US):	Age, Gender, Race, Hispanic, Education
Weighting Variables (NC):	Age, Gender, Race, Hispanic, Education, Census Region

### *Procedure*

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace and received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. The survey was not an open-linked posted on social media, but rather was by direct invitation to a very large national pool of people who agree to take online surveys. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available [here](#). Quotas on race, sex, age were applied prior to online survey commencement. For the national sample, quotas were applied by US Census region.

Online interviews were included in the final dataset if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview and particular sections, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted five cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about coronavirus.

### *Credibility Interval*

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online surveys do not have traditional margin of errors. Nonprobability quota samples like these do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide a credibility interval. More information about this technique can be found [here](#). The credibility interval was calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by a design effect calculated using the squared sum of weights. For the national sample this means:  $(1.09 * 1.7) = 1.9$ . For the North Carolina sample, this means:  $(1.063 * 2.869 = 3.049)$ . We rounded up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, total survey error can exceed sampling error.

### *Support for Transparency*

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative, which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we release to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

## Weighting Information

National weights were calculated based on demographics from the U.S. Census. State weights were calculated separately for the North Carolina sample, also using U.S. Census data.

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. The weight variable was calculated based on the variables in the table below.

	National sample			North Carolina sample		
	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %	Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
18-29	13	9	13	13	10	13
30-44	34	28	34	34	29	34
45-64	34	42	34	34	43	34
65+	20	21	20	20	18	20
Male	49	43	49	48	43	48
Female	51	57	51	53	57	53
White	73	79	73	67	75	67
Black	13	11	13	21	18	21
Other	14	10	14	12	7	12
Hispanic	16	10	16	9	5	9
Non-hispanic	84	90	84	91	95	91
< BA's	69	62	69	70	65	70
BA's or more	32	38	32	30	35	30
Northeast	18	20	18	-	-	-
Midwest	21	21	21			
West	23	28	23			
South	38	31	38			

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. Because of this generous support, the Elon University Poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

### 2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey research organization. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

### 3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, we generated results using raking based on U.S. Census data. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

### 4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional random-dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have a clear advantage over online surveys such as this in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. Furthermore, online surveys do not capture opinions of respondents who lack internet access.

However, our opinion is that [declining telephone response rates](#) and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of this survey, we hoped to capture opinions related to a breaking news item. An online survey enabled us to quickly gather a large enough sample size to make inferences about the U.S. population. Additionally, like many college students, our student survey interviewers are not on campus at this time.

Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

## About the Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll conducts statewide, regional, and national surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians as well as other states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes.



[Jason Husser](#) is Director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.



[Kaye Usry](#) is Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are in American politics and political psychology.



[Owen Covington](#) is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. A native North Carolinian, Owen Covington joined the staff of Elon University in 2016 after spending 17 years in the field of journalism as a reporter and editor for daily and weekly news outlets in North Carolina and Kentucky. As director of the Elon University News Bureau, Covington oversees the promotion of Elon and its students, faculty and staff both through stories told across Elon's media channels as well as through interactions with state, national and international media. He is involved in media relations, including responding to requests from print, digital and broadcast media outlets, and works to promote content generated by a variety of Elon news sources.

For more information on the Elon University Poll, visit [elon.edu/elonpoll](http://elon.edu/elonpoll)

If you have specific questions about this poll, you can reach the directors of the poll via email (jhusser at elon dot edu & kusry at elon dot edu).

Follow us on Twitter @elonpoll