



**COVID-19 in North Carolina:  
The impact of the coronavirus outbreak  
on parents and caregivers, views of the economy, and of government**

Produced in partnership with  
The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun & The Raleigh News & Observer

Survey of N.C. Residents  
October 9-11, 2020

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## About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,382 adult North Carolina residents from October 9-11, 2020.

The results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.9 percentage points. Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

This survey's questionnaire explored attitudes related to three primary topics:

### 1. Schools

- Opinions about K-12 schools reopening for in-person instruction
- The impact of remote instruction so far, on kids and caregivers

### 2. The Economy

- The impact of coronavirus on views of the national economy
- Experience with various economic impacts from the pandemic

### 3. COVID-19

- Opinions about government handling of the pandemic
- Comfort going out to various places
- Willingness to take a COVID-19 vaccine

We also included a brief mental health battery, to gauge North Carolina residents' overall level of emotional well-being.

We repeated questions about the economy and COVID-19 that we asked in our [June 2020](#) survey of North Carolina residents. Where appropriate, we include the results from this past survey as a point of comparison in the topline report below.

For highlights and interpretation of the key findings from this survey, please see the press release associated with this report.

## Topline Results

### Schools

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This fall, most schools in North Carolina have held classes online rather than in-person. Overall, would you say this was a good decision or a bad decision?

	%	N
<b>Good decision</b>	77	1066
<b>Bad decision</b>	16	222
<b>No opinion</b>	7	98
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

North Carolina grades K-5 now have the option to offer full time in-person instruction. Overall, would you say this was a good decision or a bad decision?

	%	N
<b>Good decision</b>	48	665
<b>Bad decision</b>	41	565
<b>No opinion</b>	11	157
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

Should school districts have the option to offer full time in-person instruction for grades 6-12?

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	56	768
<b>No</b>	37	515
<b>No opinion</b>	7	100
<b>Total</b>	100	1382

Should school districts have the option to offer part time in-person instruction for grades 6-12, also known as a hybrid model?

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	67	931
<b>No</b>	25	346
<b>No opinion</b>	8	106
<b>Total</b>	100	1382

When do you think K-12 schools should return to full time in-person instruction for most students?

	%	N
<b>As soon as possible</b>	22	302
<b>In the next couple of months</b>	12	159
<b>Before the end of this school year</b>	8	107
<b>At the start of the next school year</b>	14	196
<b>Only when there is a vaccine and/or treatment for COVID</b>	34	470
<b>Don't know enough to say</b>	9	123
<b>No opinion</b>	2	27
<b>Total</b>	100	384

If most K-12 schools returned to full time in-person instruction, how worried would you be about the spread of COVID-19 between students, teachers, and caregivers?

	%	N
<b>Extremely worried</b>	38	523
<b>Very worried</b>	23	317
<b>Somewhat worried</b>	22	307
<b>A little worried</b>	11	149
<b>Not at all worried</b>	6	89
<b>Total</b>	100	1385

Are you the parent or caregiver for a child in North Carolina K-12 public schools? A caregiver is anyone who looks after a child, even if only part-time.

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	41	566
<b>No</b>	59	818
<b>Total</b>	100	1382

**Effects of Remote Instruction on Kids**


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Note: These questions were asked of caregivers only.

What grade is the oldest child you care for, who has had the most recent birthday?

	%	N
<b>K-2</b>	25	145
<b>3-5</b>	21	125
<b>6-8</b>	23	137
<b>9-12</b>	31	182
<b>Total</b>	100	589

Has your student mainly attended class in-person, mainly attended online, or mainly attended through a combination of online and in-person instruction?

	%	N
<b>Mostly in-person</b>	19	109
<b>Mostly online</b>	65	385
<b>Combination</b>	16	97
<b>Total</b>	100	591

Compared to past school years, has your student had a better or worse experience this school year?

	%	N
<b>Better</b>	33	185
<b>Worse</b>	40	222
<b>No difference</b>	28	156
<b>Total</b>	100	563

Compared to past school years, would you say your student is learning more or less this school year?

	%	N
<b>More</b>	29	162
<b>Less</b>	39	218
<b>About the same amount</b>	33	186
<b>Total</b>	100	565

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Overall, has remote instruction had a positive or negative effect on your student?

	%	N
<b>Positive</b>	45	263
<b>Negative</b>	36	213
<b>No effect</b>	19	115
<b>Total</b>	100	591

### **Effects of Remote Instruction on Caregivers**

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Note: These questions were asked of caregivers only.

Generally speaking, to what extent has supervising and assisting with remote instruction disrupted your day-to-day life?

	%	N
<b>Not at all</b>	16	94
<b>Not much</b>	30	180
<b>A fair amount</b>	32	191
<b>A great deal</b>	21	127
<b>Total</b>	100	592

In the past year, have you had to do any of the following in order to supervise and assist with remote instruction?

Fallen behind with your own work

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	43	254
<b>No</b>	41	244
<b>Not applicable</b>	16	94
<b>Total</b>	100	592

Taken on fewer hours at your job

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	33	195
<b>No</b>	47	276
<b>Not applicable</b>	20	120
<b>Total</b>	100	592



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Taken on fewer responsibilities at your job

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	36	211
<b>No</b>	43	253
<b>Not applicable</b>	22	128
<b>Total</b>	100	592

Changed your job

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	18	109
<b>No</b>	60	355
<b>Not applicable</b>	22	128
<b>Total</b>	100	592

Quit your job

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	15	87
<b>No</b>	63	374
<b>Not applicable</b>	22	131
<b>Total</b>	100	592

Summary of the above labor effects:

	%	N
<b>Not a caregiver</b>	59	818
<b>Labor effects not applicable (not in workforce)</b>	12	170
<b>Experienced <u>no</u> effects on work</b>	10	143
<b>Experienced <u>one or more</u> effects on work</b>	18	252
<b>Total</b>	100	1384

**Economy**


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What letter grade would you give the current national economy?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>A</b>	7	98	5
<b>B</b>	19	268	18
<b>C</b>	32	438	40
<b>D</b>	26	366	25
<b>F</b>	16	216	13
Total	100	1386	100

Thinking about tradeoffs between public health and the economy, has the timing of North Carolina's phased reopening been too fast, too slow, or about right?

	%	N
<b>Too fast</b>	33	451
<b>Too slow</b>	28	390
<b>About right</b>	39	543
Total	100	1385

Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, has your personal financial situation gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>Better</b>	12	171	10
<b>Same</b>	56	776	55
<b>Worse</b>	32	438	36
Total	100	1385	100



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As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, have you had any of the following experiences?

Lost a job or got laid off

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	19	259
<b>No</b>	81	1121
<b>Total</b>	100	1380

Taken a pay cut due to reduced hours or demand for your work

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	24	325
<b>No</b>	76	1055
<b>Total</b>	100	1380

Had trouble paying your bills

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	34	468
<b>No</b>	66	911
<b>Total</b>	100	1379

Felt worried about your finances

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	54	737
<b>No</b>	47	641
<b>Total</b>	100	1378

Summary of the above economic effects:

	%	N
<b>All 4 of the above</b>	8	113
<b>3 of the above</b>	12	176
<b>2 of the above</b>	19	258
<b>1 of the above</b>	19	262
<b>None of the above</b>	41	552
<b>Total</b>	100	1384

## COVID-19

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What letter grade would you give President Donald Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>A</b>	21	284	16
<b>B</b>	15	208	20
<b>C</b>	13	177	13
<b>D</b>	9	117	12
<b>F</b>	43	598	39
<b>Total</b>	100	1384	100

What letter grade would you give Governor Roy Cooper for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in North Carolina?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>A</b>	18	244	18
<b>B</b>	25	348	33
<b>C</b>	28	382	25
<b>D</b>	14	192	12
<b>F</b>	16	215	13
<b>Total</b>	100	1382	100

Overall, would you say the state of North Carolina's rules and restrictions around coronavirus have been too restrictive, not restrictive enough or about right?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>Too restrictive</b>	28	389	21
<b>Not restrictive enough</b>	34	472	46
<b>About right</b>	38	522	33
<b>Total</b>	100	1383	100

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In your opinion, how effective are each of the following actions in reducing your chances of contracting COVID-19?

Wearing masks

	%	N
<b>Very effective</b>	62	849
<b>Somewhat effective</b>	29	405
<b>Not at all effective</b>	9	127
Total	100	1382

Washing or sanitizing hands frequently

	%	N
<b>Very effective</b>	75	1036
<b>Somewhat effective</b>	22	304
<b>Not at all effective</b>	3	40
Total	100	1380

Maintaining 6 feet of physical distancing

	%	N
<b>Very effective</b>	64	878
<b>Somewhat effective</b>	30	419
<b>Not at all effective</b>	6	82
Total	100	1379

How comfortable do you feel going out to each of the following places?

	Bars		Indoor restaurants		Outdoor restaurants	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
<b>Extremely comfortable</b>	10	144	14	199	22	305
<b>Somewhat comfortable</b>	13	180	26	352	35	482
<b>Neither</b>	17	234	11	157	13	180
<b>Somewhat uncomfortable</b>	17	237	21	289	17	228
<b>Extremely uncomfortable</b>	43	588	28	382	13	184
<b>Total</b>	100	1383	100	1380	100	1379

  

	Movie theaters		Hair salons or barbers		Indoor church services	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
<b>Extremely comfortable</b>	10	143	18	246	18	249
<b>Somewhat comfortable</b>	15	210	26	352	20	273
<b>Neither</b>	16	214	16	227	16	220
<b>Somewhat uncomfortable</b>	19	262	19	257	17	228
<b>Extremely uncomfortable</b>	40	552	22	301	30	408
<b>Total</b>	100	1381	100	1383	100	1379

  

	Outdoor sporting event		Indoor sporting event	
	%	N	%	N
<b>Extremely comfortable</b>	18	243	12	170
<b>Somewhat comfortable</b>	21	295	14	196
<b>Neither</b>	20	280	16	222
<b>Somewhat uncomfortable</b>	19	268	17	236
<b>Extremely uncomfortable</b>	22	297	40	558
<b>Total</b>	100	1384	100	1382

Note: Responses to these eight items were added together to form a comfort index that ranges from 0-32, for use in the crosstabulations later in this report. Those who scored a 0 on this scale were “extremely uncomfortable” going to all eight places; those who scored a 32 on this scale were “extremely comfortable” going to all eight places. Respondents were then divided into thirds, to compare those with a low (scores ranging from 0-13), moderate (14-23), and high level of comfort (24-32).



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If a COVID-19 vaccine is approved by the FDA, do you plan to take it?

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	33	460
<b>No</b>	25	345
<b>It depends</b>	33	456
<b>Not sure</b>	9	124
<b>Total</b>	100	1385

How often do you get a flu shot?

	%	N
<b>Every year</b>	43	598
<b>Almost every year</b>	12	172
<b>Some years</b>	10	132
<b>Almost never</b>	10	141
<b>Never</b>	25	343
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

Compared to previous years, are you more or less likely to get a flu shot this year?

	%	N
<b>More likely</b>	37	516
<b>Less likely</b>	12	162
<b>No difference</b>	44	612
<b>Not sure</b>	7	93
<b>Total</b>	100	1382

Have you personally known someone who contracted coronavirus?

	%	N	June 2020
<b>Yes</b>	50	692	31
<b>No</b>	50	692	69
<b>Total</b>	100	1384	100

**Mental Health**


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In the last month, how often have you felt each of the following kinds of emotions?

Nervous, anxious, or on edge

	%	N
<b>None of the time</b>	18	246
<b>Rarely</b>	27	371
<b>Some of the time</b>	39	540
<b>Most of the time</b>	16	227
Total	100	1384

Depressed

	%	N
<b>None of the time</b>	27	375
<b>Rarely</b>	26	357
<b>Some of the time</b>	34	463
<b>Most of the time</b>	14	188
Total	100	1383

Lonely or isolated

	%	N
<b>None of the time</b>	30	415
<b>Rarely</b>	25	344
<b>Some of the time</b>	29	406
<b>Most of the time</b>	16	218
Total	100	1383

Hopeful about the future

	%	N
<b>None of the time</b>	9	121
<b>Rarely</b>	24	336
<b>Some of the time</b>	39	543
<b>Most of the time</b>	28	383
Total	100	1383

Note: Responses to these four items were added together to form a mental health index that ranges from 0-12, for use in the crosstabulations later in this report. Those who scored a 0 on this scale reported feeling anxious, depressed, and lonely “most of the time,” and hopeful about the future “none of the time.” Those who scored a 12 on this scale felt anxious, depressed, and

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lonely “none of the time,” hopeful about the future “most of the time.” Respondents were then divided into thirds, to compare those with poor (scores ranging from 0-3), moderate (4-6), and good mental health (7-12).

### Demographics<sup>1</sup>

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#### County Density<sup>2</sup>

	%	N
<b>Rural</b>	39	546
<b>Suburban</b>	25	348
<b>Urban</b>	36	492
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

#### Age

	%	N
<b>18 to 24</b>	13	175
<b>25 to 44</b>	34	468
<b>45 to 64</b>	34	473
<b>65+</b>	20	270
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

#### Gender

	%	N
<b>Male</b>	48	665
<b>Female</b>	52	721
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

#### Race

	%	N
<b>White (non-Hispanic)</b>	67	929
<b>Black</b>	21	291
<b>Other</b>	12	166
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

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<sup>1</sup> Some demographic response options were collapsed for reporting and display purposes.

<sup>2</sup> County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).

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## Ethnicity

	%	N
<b>Hispanic</b>	9	125
<b>Not Hispanic</b>	91	1261
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

## Education

	%	N
<b>Less than Bachelor's</b>	70	970
<b>Bachelor's or higher</b>	30	416
<b>Total</b>	100	1386

## Party Identification

Note: This is self-reported party identification. Those who lean towards one party over the other are treated as partisans.

	%	N
<b>Republican</b>	34	470
<b>Neither</b>	32	444
<b>Democrat</b>	34	470
<b>Total</b>	100	1385

Note: Additional questions followed these demographic questions, about intended vote method. These results will be made available in a future release.



## Crosstabulations

Note: In this section of the report, the numbers reported are row percentages. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100. Caution is warranted when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Sub-group sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider.

### Schools

“This fall, most schools in North Carolina have held classes online rather than in-person. Overall, would you say this was a good decision or a bad decision?”

	Good decision	Bad decision	No opinion
Republican	71	22	7
Neither	70	19	11
Democrat	89	7	4
Male	77	17	6
Female	77	15	8
White	73	20	7
Black	86	6	8
Other	81	13	6
Rural	76	17	7
Suburban	75	17	8
Urban	80	14	6
18 to 24	77	11	12
25 to 44	79	14	7
45 to 64	77	17	6
65+	73	21	6
Caregiver	82	15	3
Not a caregiver	73	17	10
High comfort going out	63	26	11
Moderate	79	13	8
Low	88	10	2
Total	77	16	7

“When do you think K-12 schools should return to full time in-person instruction for most students?”

Note: Some of the original answer options for this question were collapsed into “within the next year,” for display purposes.

	<b>As soon as possible</b>	<b>Within the next year</b>	<b>Only when a COVID vaccine or treatment</b>	<b>Don't know or No opinion</b>
Republican	36	36	19	9
Neither	21	33	35	11
Democrat	9	31	48	12
Male	27	32	33	8
Female	17	35	35	13
White	28	32	31	10
Black	9	35	40	15
Other	12	41	39	8
Rural	25	30	31	13
Suburban	25	33	32	10
Urban	16	37	38	9
18 to 24	13	45	28	14
25 to 44	25	35	29	10
45 to 64	21	29	39	12
65+	24	32	37	7
Caregiver	27	35	31	7
Not a caregiver	18	32	36	13
High comfort going out	46	33	12	9
Moderate	15	40	33	12
Low	5	27	56	11
Total	22	33	34	11



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“If most K-12 schools returned to full time in-person instruction, how worried would you be about the spread of COVID-19 between students, teachers, and caregivers?”

	<b>Extremely worried</b>	<b>Very worried</b>	<b>Somewhat worried</b>	<b>A little worried</b>	<b>Not at all worried</b>
Republican	23	22	27	17	10
Neither	36	22	23	12	7
Democrat	54	24	16	3	2
Male	36	23	23	11	8
Female	40	23	21	11	5
White	33	21	24	14	8
Black	48	26	21	2	2
Other	45	26	15	8	6
Rural	34	26	22	11	7
Suburban	38	19	21	13	8
Urban	42	22	23	8	5
18 to 24	32	30	26	7	4
25 to 44	40	24	20	10	6
45 to 64	41	20	21	10	8
65+	32	21	25	17	6
Caregiver	39	25	21	10	5
Not a caregiver	36	22	23	11	8
High comfort going out	19	19	26	21	14
Moderate	30	27	29	10	3
Low	62	22	12	2	2
Total	37	23	22	11	6



## Economy Letter Grade

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“What letter grade would you give the current national economy?”

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	15	32	35	13	5
Neither	2	19	31	32	16
Democrat	4	7	28	35	26
Male	10	23	30	24	13
Female	4	16	33	28	18
White	8	23	31	25	12
Black	3	7	32	30	28
Other	7	22	31	26	14
Rural	9	22	34	23	12
Suburban	8	20	32	27	13
Urban	4	16	28	30	21
18 to 24	6	17	34	25	18
25 to 44	11	19	32	24	14
45 to 64	6	18	33	25	17
65+	4	23	28	33	13
No economic impact	8	28	33	21	11
1+ economic impact	6	13	31	30	19
Total	7	19	32	26	16



## Reopening Pace

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“Thinking about tradeoffs between public health and the economy, has the timing of North Carolina’s phased reopening been too fast, too slow, or about right?”

	<b>Too fast</b>	<b>Too slow</b>	<b>About right</b>
Republican	28	40	32
Neither	31	28	40
Democrat	39	15	46
Male	31	32	38
Female	34	25	41
White	30	31	39
Black	40	19	41
Other	36	27	37
Rural	36	30	34
Suburban	26	30	44
Urban	34	25	42
18 to 24	29	31	40
25 to 44	40	26	33
45 to 64	32	27	41
65+	23	31	46
No economic impact	24	37	39
1+ economic impact	39	22	39
Total	33	28	39



## Experienced Economic Impact of Pandemic

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Note: This variable is based on responses to the four questions about whether respondents have experienced any economic effects of the pandemic: losing a job, taking a pay cut, having trouble paying the bills, and/or feeling worried about finances. We compare those who experienced none of these impacts to those who experienced at least one.

	<b>No economic impact</b>	<b>1+ economic impacts</b>
Republican	52	48
Neither	35	65
Democrat	34	66
Male	42	58
Female	39	61
White	45	55
Black	31	69
Other	34	66
Rural	43	57
Suburban	41	59
Urban	38	62
18 to 24	34	66
25 to 44	30	70
45 to 64	41	59
65+	61	39
Total	33	33



## Trump Handling of Pandemic

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“What letter grade would you give President Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?”

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	44	31	15	4	7
Neither	14	12	17	13	44
Democrat	3	2	7	8	79
Male	25	15	14	9	36
Female	16	15	12	8	49
White	27	20	14	7	33
Black	3	2	7	12	75
Other	16	12	17	10	45
Rural	25	18	15	8	34
Suburban	23	14	12	9	41
Urban	14	13	10	8	55
18 to 24	6	10	17	12	55
25 to 44	25	12	14	13	37
45 to 64	21	16	14	4	45
65+	21	22	7	6	45
No economic impact	28	20	11	6	35
1+ economic impact	16	12	14	10	49
Total	21	15	13	8	43



## Cooper Handling of Pandemic

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“What letter grade would you give Governor Roy Cooper for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?”

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	15	21	25	16	23
Neither	13	24	29	16	18
Democrat	25	31	29	9	6
Male	19	26	25	13	16
Female	16	25	30	14	15
White	17	25	27	14	17
Black	18	25	31	13	13
Other	22	26	27	13	12
Rural	17	25	26	16	16
Suburban	16	25	27	15	17
Urban	20	26	30	11	14
18 to 24	10	16	37	19	17
25 to 44	18	25	29	12	17
45 to 64	18	27	27	13	14
65+	22	28	20	15	15
No economic impact	15	28	25	14	19
1+ economic impact	20	23	30	14	13
Total	18	25	28	14	15





## COVID-19 Restrictions

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“Overall, would you say the state of North Carolina’s rules and restrictions around coronavirus have been too restrictive, not restrictive enough or about right?”

	Too restrictive	Not restrictive enough	About right
Republican	49	23	28
Neither	25	33	42
Democrat	10	47	43
Male	35	29	37
Female	22	39	39
White	34	29	37
Black	9	47	44
Other	28	41	31
Rural	31	36	33
Suburban	30	30	41
Urban	24	35	41
18 to 24	18	46	36
25 to 44	30	37	33
45 to 64	27	33	40
65+	32	25	43
No economic impact	35	27	38
1+ economic impact	24	39	38
Total	28	34	38



## Level of Comfort Going Out

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Note: This variable was created by adding together responses to questions about how comfortable respondents feel going out to eight different places. Those with a higher score on this variable were more likely to say they feel “extremely comfortable” going out to various places.

	<b>High</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
Republican	48	29	23
Neither	30	35	35
Democrat	19	34	47
Male	37	31	33
Female	29	34	37
White	35	30	35
Black	20	42	38
Other	39	32	29
Rural	37	29	34
Suburban	36	34	30
Urban	25	36	39
18 to 24	36	46	18
25 to 44	39	33	29
45 to 64	31	30	39
65+	22	29	48
Total	33	33	35



## COVID-19 Vaccine

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“If a COVID-19 vaccine is approved by the FDA, do you plan to take it?”

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>It depends</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
Republican	43	26	24	8
Neither	24	27	37	11
Democrat	33	22	37	8
Male	42	20	31	7
Female	25	29	35	11
White	38	22	32	8
Black	18	32	39	11
Other	30	31	30	9
Rural	33	26	32	9
Suburban	31	30	31	8
Urban	35	20	35	9
18 to 24	21	29	40	10
25 to 44	37	31	24	7
45 to 64	27	25	39	9
65+	44	12	33	11
High comfort going out	36	34	21	9
Moderate	32	21	37	10
Low	33	19	40	7
Flu shot every year	50	9	35	6
Almost every year	41	16	34	8
Some years	27	22	41	10
Almost never	22	30	33	15
Never	8	55	26	11
Total	33	25	33	9



## Mental Health

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Note: This variable was created by adding together responses to the four questions about respondent’s emotional well-being over the past month. Those classified as having “good” mental health were less likely to report being depressed, anxious, or lonely, and more likely to report feeling hopeful about the future.

	<b>Good</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Poor</b>
Republican	37	33	30
Neither	29	29	42
Democrat	23	36	41
Male	35	31	34
Female	25	34	41
White	32	32	36
Black	29	35	35
Other	19	31	50
Rural	29	35	36
Suburban	32	33	36
Urban	29	30	41
18 to 24	18	30	52
25 to 44	21	35	44
45 to 64	34	32	35
65+	45	33	22
No economic impact	47	32	21
1+ economic impact	19	33	48
Caregiver	22	36	42
Not a caregiver	35	30	34
Total	30	33	37



## Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	N.C. Residents, ages 18+
Dates in the field:	October 9-11, 2020
Sample Size:	1,382
Credibility Interval	+/- 2.9 %
Weighting Variables (NC):	Age, Gender, Race, Hispanic, Education, County Density

### *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, Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and age were applied prior to online survey commencement.

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 thirteen 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 this North Carolina sample, this means:  $(1.08 * 2.64 = 2.85)$ . We round these values up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, total survey error often exceeds 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

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

	<b>Population %</b>	<b>Unweighted %</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>
18-24	13	10	13
25-44	34	36	34
45-64	34	37	34
65+	20	16	20
Male	48	43	48
Female	52	57	52
White	67	69	67
Black	21	19	21
Other	12	12	12
Hispanic	9	5	9
Not Hispanic	91	95	91
< Bachelor's	70	58	70
Bachelor's or more	30	42	30
Rural County	39	43	39
Suburban	25	26	25
Urban	36	31	36

## 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.



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[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).

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