



THE COVID-19 RESILIENCE POLL

OCT 2020





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Contributions

Valley Vision

For 25 years Valley Vision has helped governments, businesses, foundations and community groups better understand our region and its people through high quality research. By uncovering common ground facts using scientific opinion polls, focus groups, community needs assessments, best practice reports and other research tools, Valley Vision is a trusted interpreter, commentator, forecaster, and partner for community inspired solutions.

Capital Public Radio

CapRadio serves California's Capital Region, Central Valley and Sierra Nevada as the public-supported alternative to for-profit media. As the NPR-member station based in Sacramento, CapRadio connects with communities through seven broadcast stations, live streaming, podcasts, digital communities, live experiences and more. Known for its award-winning newsroom, CapRadio is recognized as a leader in community-engaged journalism and state government reporting, and CapRadio Music is the exclusive broadcast source of classical and jazz in the region. With more than 500,000 weekly listeners on-air and online, CapRadio provides a trusted and indispensable source of information, music and events.

Sacramento State's Institute for Social Research

The Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State University supports community partners in improving programs and policies in the region and throughout the state. Located at the university's downtown location, the Institute offers a broad range of expertise conducting surveys and applied research. Since 1989, our collaborations with government agencies and nonprofit organizations have contributed to public accountability, program fidelity, and the strengthening of communities.

About the Polling Series

Valley Vision and the Institute of Social Research (ISR) at Sacramento State conduct research via scientifically administered surveys of area resident attitudes. The survey data inform policy-makers and stakeholders on key regional issues by providing on-the-ground public engagement data. The approach used is highly effective and unique- establishing a scientifically valid and demographically representative panel of regional residents that reflects a microcosm of the region as a whole. The panel size is consistently about 2,000 people from eight counties – Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Yuba, Sutter, San Joaquin, and Solano. The panel is weighted to demographically represent the region and each survey achieves a statistically valid margin of error of not more than +/- 3%.

Valley Vision Public Opinion Poll Advisory Committee

Linda Cutler, Committee Chair, Sacramento Region Community Foundation

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Garry Maisel, Western Health Advantage

Michael Marion, Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education for the State of California

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Photography courtesy of **Andrew Nixon**, CapRadio

Regional Attitudes Polling Series:

The COVID-19 Resilience Polls

This writing finds our region, and the rest of the world, in its seventh month of the COVID-19 pandemic. The tumult of the pandemic has deeply touched our lives well beyond the immediate physical health risks of the illness — the social, economic, political, and interpersonal impacts have been far-reaching.

In response, Valley Vision and Capital Public Radio have focused our public opinion polling, conducted in partnership with the Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State, to capture our region's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic — stories both of adaptation and perseverance, and also of suffering, stress, and loss. Together, we are polling our region three times over the twelve months from March 2020 to help us understand how COVID-19 is affecting us all. The polling series will help shine a light on our collective challenges-- how significant they are, who they're affecting the most, and how they continue, and change, as we move through these months together.

Our first poll, conducted in May and published in July ("the May poll"), provided the first region-wide lens on the early impacts of the pandemic, as we emerged from the first strict shelter-in-place orders and began the initial re-opening of the economy. Between that first poll in May and this one, conducted in September, the course of the pandemic included the June 18 statewide mask order; a surge in COVID-19 cases beginning in June and connected to greater social contact as the re-opening began; a second

clamping down on economic activity in August because of that surge; and, through the summer, the increasing politicization of responses to the pandemic, including mask-wearing. As well, the death of George Floyd by the police in Minneapolis in late May sparked sustained nationwide protests and gave greater voice to the need for racial equity. Lastly, the perceived stakes of the November election grew ever-higher once the two presidential nominees emerged from their political parties' conventions — themselves disrupted by the pandemic — and entered the final stretch of the campaign.

In this context, this second of our three polls continues to reveal and provide insight about the many ways that COVID-19 is impacting our region. As ever, it is critically important to see how lives have changed, to understand where there are opportunities for learning and growth, and to know where we need to invest resources, time, and energy for recovery efforts for the people of our region. The COVID-19 Resilience polls will help us understand and navigate the challenges ahead as we aim to recover from the setbacks of COVID-19 while also imagining a more equitable, sustainable, and just future.

Best Regards,



Evan Schmidt
CEO



Joe Barr
Chief Content Officer



Shannon Williams
Sacramento State



Executive Summary

The COVID-19 Resilience Poll series tracks the experiences, perceptions, concerns, and hopes of people in the Capital region, via three polls conducted through the first twelve months of the COVID-19 pandemic- including health impacts and fears, the experiences of the varying public orders and guidance, and the economic consequences of the pandemic. This poll, the second in our series, was in the field September 4-18, 2020, and is demographically representative of the Capital region, encompassing eight counties, including Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, Placer, Yuba, Sutter, Solano and San Joaquin counties, and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

This report reflects the hardship being felt across the region in the truly hard time we are going through -- threats to physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being; income loss and job instability; division in our views about the state of things; and facing an uncertain future. There are areas of particularly deep effects that cannot be ignored, which are similar to what we saw in our May poll, and which in many cases have gotten worse:

- **People of color are feeling the impacts more severely.** These effects deepen the disparities in our communities and create harmful and traumatic setbacks for people of color.
- **Younger people are facing hardship on a level that hasn't been seen in generations.** The mental health and economic challenges that young people are facing could also set them back for years or lifetimes.
- **Families with children in school remotely are stretched in ways that are not sustainable.** Parents worry about impacts to their children, and also about their own abilities to work and earn a living with their kids at home.
- **Emotional resilience is fraying and mental health and well-being are at increasing risk.** Whether it is substance abuse, domestic violence, anxiety and depression, or COVID fatigue- many people are at a crisis level where their health and well-being are at risk.

- **Goodwill for social systems and infrastructure is also fraying.** People are less positive now than they were in May about those institutions that we look to for answers and action – at all levels, from national to local. The major exception is philanthropy and the nonprofit sector, which need investments and support in order to continue to fulfill their essential roles.
- **Our communities are politically divided** and often not even speaking the same language.

The poll also reveals evidence of fatigue, both in our emotional resilience and trust in institutions, and also in our precautionary responses to COVID; we are tired of isolating and we are challenged by all the difficulties that COVID presents to day-to-day life.

This is a challenging report to read, because the numbers and the data lay bare the difficulties being lived every day, for months now, by all of us across the Capital Region. COVID-19 is a public health crisis; it has also brought social and economic turmoil to a degree not seen in generations. To weather this storm, we need sustained focus and action. It is important to agree on a common set of facts on which to build priorities and catalyze action that support recovery. This survey, and the rest in the series, is helping us understand and navigate the challenges ahead as we aim to not just recover from the setbacks of COVID-19, but also to reimagine a stronger future.



Findings Report:

The September COVID-19 Resilience Poll

Levels of concern about aspects of COVID-19 remain high. Respondents who are Black, Hispanic, in a lower income bracket, or younger, reported higher levels of concern across most measures.

Concerns about COVID-19 remain high, and are dominated by concern about health-- of oneself and one's family -- and about the ability to visit and to take care of loved ones. Personal finance and job security are also causes for concern, and one-fifth of respondents find the environment so uncertain that they don't know how to assess their job security (Figure 1).

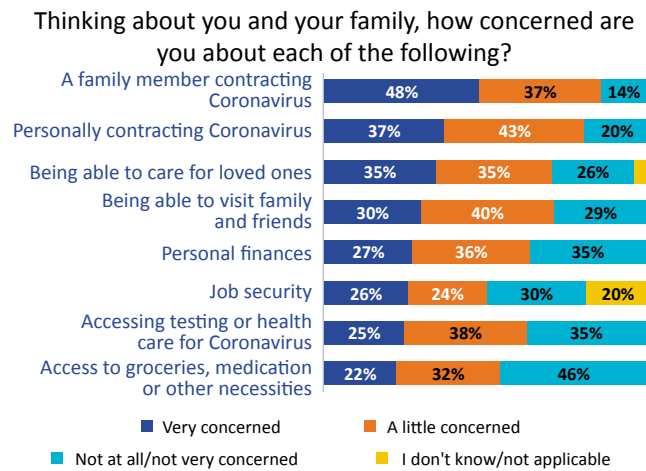


Figure 1

By race and ethnicity, respondents who are Black are consistently the most concerned about the effects of COVID-19, followed across most measures by respondents who are Hispanic (Figure 2). Respondents who are white are the least concerned about personal finance, job security, and access to necessities.

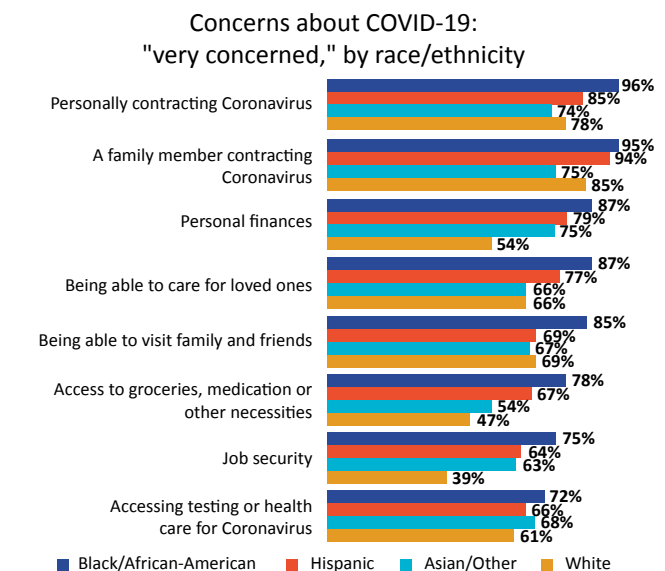


Figure 2



By income level, lower income respondents have greater concerns about personal finance, job security, and access to necessities. Figure 3 below shows respondents in higher-income groups reported fewer concerns about these issues.

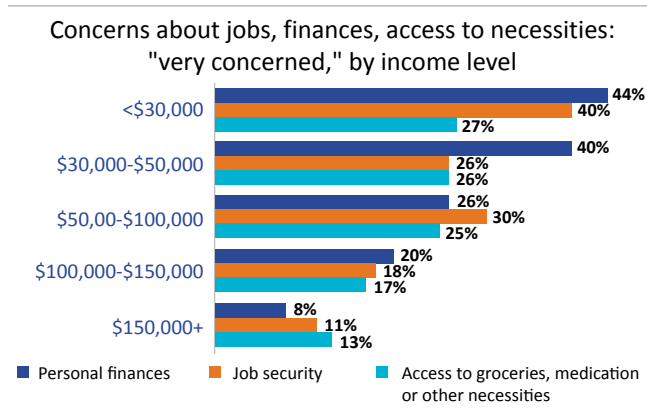


Figure 3

By age, older respondents (80-92 years) are the most concerned about personally contracting COVID-19, while younger ones (18-38 years) are the most concerned about personal finances, job security, and access to necessities. Figure 4 below shows that concerns about personally contracting COVID-19 increase with age, while concerns about personal finances, job security, and access to necessities decline with age.

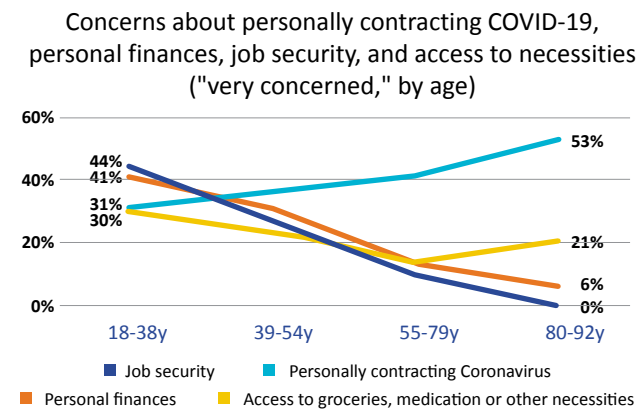


Figure 4





Access to medical services and supplies continues to be more difficult for everyone, but more significantly for respondents who are Black or Hispanic.

Compared to the May poll, a higher percentage of respondents reported having a difficult time accessing medical services and supplies, or not being able to access them at all (Figure 5). Respondents who are Black consistently have the most difficulty getting these medical supplies and services, followed in most cases by respondents who are Hispanic.

Difficulty accessing medical care, compared to before COVID-19: "more difficult / not able to get," by race/ethnicity

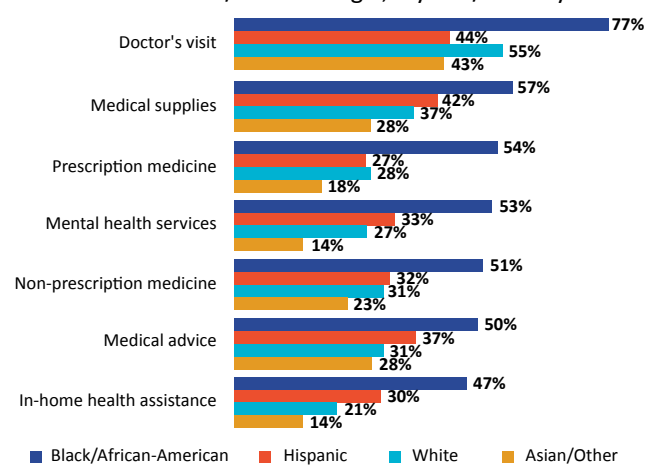


Figure 5

These results are echoed in respondents' replies to an open-ended question about their biggest worries over the next six months. They noted concerns about access to medical care and supplies, especially when those are affected by job or income loss.

"(My) biggest worry is looking for another job and making sure I have access to medical coverage."

"(I) can't get regularly scheduled medical visits. (There is) significant delay in dental services."

"I have opted not to go for 'routine' medical care, such as dental cleanings and yearly check-ups, which I usually think (are) important. But I am worried about potentially exposing myself or family members to COVID."

"I had underlying medical conditions prior to the pandemic, and when the pandemic hit, I was completely pushed aside as less important. My personal medical care has completely plummeted and COVID has turned into an easy way for my healthcare providers to charge me the same as they normally would, but for a 2-minute conversation over the phone. My access to medical care, despite my insurance not changing, has declined greatly, and so has my all around care. My health issues that were here before COVID are still here, but with even more complications now, yet I have been pushed away."

Most believe that COVID-19 remains a threat that we must stop.

Most respondents believe COVID-19 poses a threat to the entire population, and we need to stay focused on stopping the spread regardless of what it takes (Figure 6).

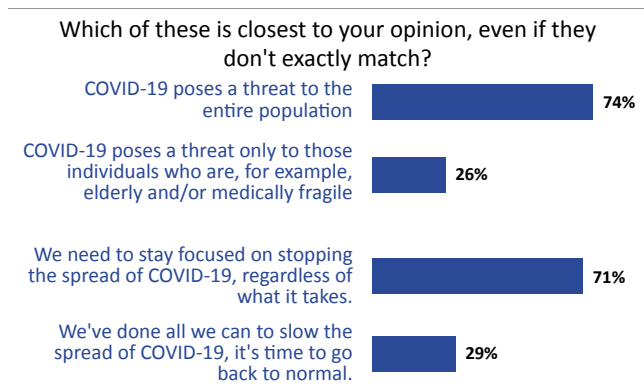


Figure 6

Women respondents and respondents who are Black or Hispanic are more likely to think that COVID-19 is a threat to the entire population (Figure 7). Women respondents are also more likely to think that we need to stay focused on stopping the spread.

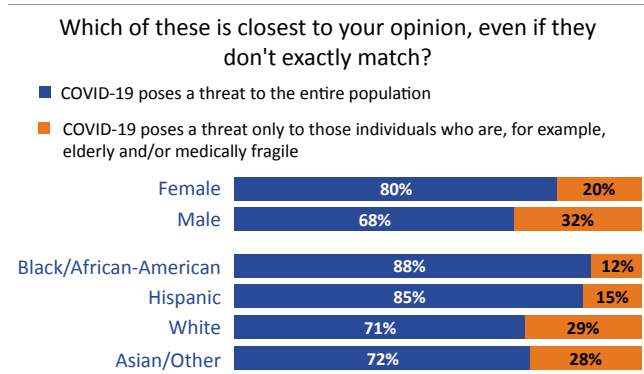


Figure 7



The mental health effects of COVID-19 are significant and reflect disparities in our communities.

Overall, a quarter of respondents are concerned about physical or emotional harm (25%), and about a third are concerned about alcohol or substance abuse (34%) and the wellbeing of children in the household (32%). As many as 63% of respondents reported feeling depressed at least once in the last seven days, and 82% of respondents reported feeling anxious at least once in the last seven days.

These health impacts also continue to reflect different experiences in different communities. Those who are Black, Hispanic, or younger were more likely to report concerns about abuse, substance use, and the well-being of children in the household. Black respondents were most likely to report feeling concerned about alcohol and substance use (60%), about the physical or emotional wellbeing of children in their household (55%), and about physical or emotional abuse (43%), with Hispanic respondents the next most likely (Figure 8). By age, 45% of those 18-38 years old reported feeling concerned about alcohol and substance use.

Percent of respondents concerned about the following at least one day last week, by race and ethnicity

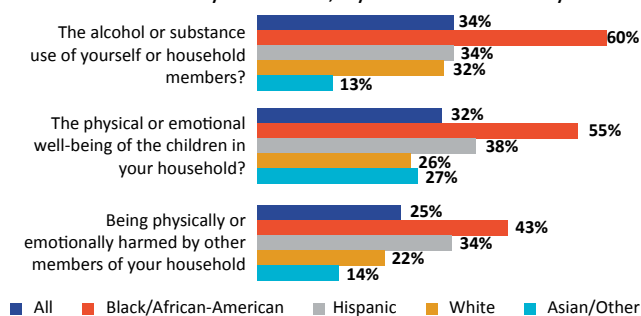


Figure 8

Women (89%) and younger respondents aged 18-38 years old (93%) more frequently reported, as well as depression or hopelessness (71% of women, 82% of younger respondents) in the prior seven days (Figure 9).

Experienced, at least once in the last seven days, feelings of stress or anxiety; depression or hopelessness (overall, by gender, and by age)

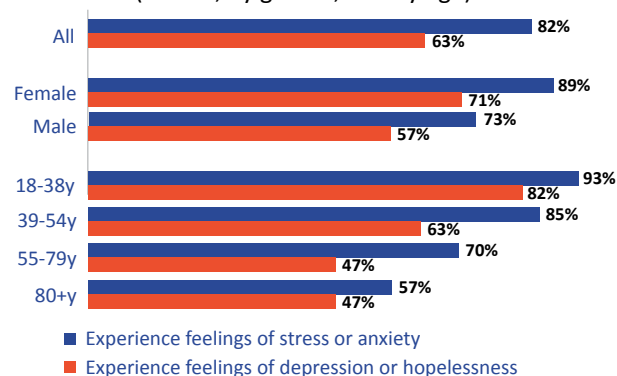


Figure 9

Respondents' answers to open-ended questions further demonstrate the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic is taking its toll.

When asked how it is impacting them the most, 49% of respondents felt it most acutely in their routines, including a loss of social connection with community or church, followed by travel cancellations, loss of entertainment, and loss of normal services.

"(There is a) loss of enjoyment & experiences in my life, a whole year is going by with this virus and I don't know how many more I have to experience."

"The biggest worry is the never ending boredom and resulting depression that I am already experiencing."

"The ban on church functions has been the most severe detriment. I have experienced severe isolation. The closure and subsequent loss of businesses is having an extremely negative impact on our community."

"My biggest worry for the next six months is my mental health, as the isolation is combined with anxiety about increased fire danger, more time indoors as the weather changes, and (the) realization that I won't be able to have my family together at Christmas."

"I'm concerned about another spike in infection rates and whether there will be adequate resources for sick people; continued high unemployment and impacts on local businesses; and how safety restrictions in public places will impact voters' access in the election."

Job loss, income loss, and financial hardship are affecting many in the region, particularly people of color and those who are younger and lower income.

Seventeen percent of respondents reported that they are currently unemployed, while only eight percent reported being unemployed in January.

The youngest age group (18-38 years old) has seen the largest change in unemployment from January to today, compared to older respondents (Figure 10).

By race and ethnicity, respondents who are Black and Hispanic are more likely to be unemployed currently (28% and 31% unemployment respectively) than respondents who are White (13%) or Asian / Other (20%).

Percentage of respondents reporting an unemployed status in January and September (overall, and by age)

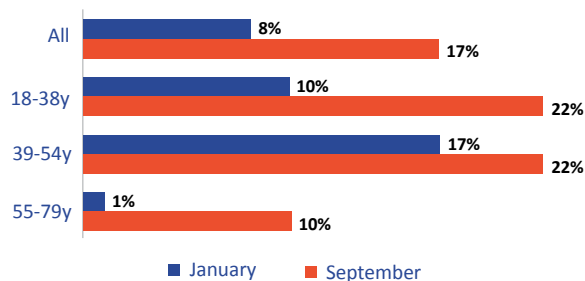


Figure 10

Forty-seven percent of respondents have lost income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents of color, lower income respondents, and younger respondents are disproportionately impacted by income loss (Figure 11).

Nearly three-quarters of respondents who are Black (70%) and more than half of respondents who are Hispanic (56%) have seen their income decline, either somewhat or significantly.

Younger respondents (18-38 years old) are more likely than older ones to have had a reduction in income.

Twenty-seven percent of those in the lowest income bracket (earning less than \$30,000 per year) report a significant reduction in income, while two-thirds of those in the highest earning bracket have seen no change to their income.

Percentage of respondents reporting income significantly or somewhat reduced as a result of COVID-19 pandemic (overall, by age, and by race/ethnicity)

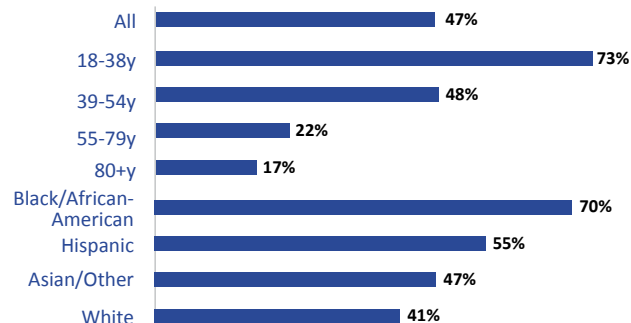


Figure 11

Many respondents are also experiencing significant financial hardship. Nearly one-fifth to more than a third of respondents cannot, or can barely, afford essential items such as adequate food (19%), rent or mortgage (25%), bills (31%), and paying down debt (34%) (Figure 12). Moreover, those whose income has been significantly reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic are much more compromised in their ability to afford these basic expenses. Those with significant reduction in income were twice as likely to struggle to pay down debt and four times more likely to struggle to afford childcare, compared to the group as a whole.

"I Cannot / Can Barely Afford..." (overall, and among those with significantly reduced income)

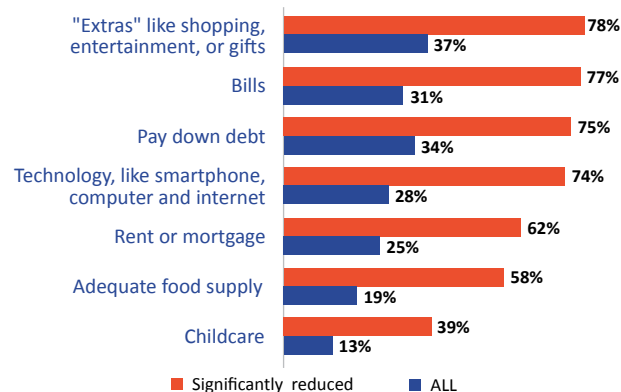


Figure 12

However, compared to the May poll, respondents overall reported somewhat less difficulty affording this range of essential expenses. This small bright spot may reflect the modest re-opening of the economy.

The effects of the pandemic are changing how people think about their employability.

For those who have lost income, or become unemployed, the ability to find additional or new employment becomes paramount. The COVID-19 Resilience Poll asked respondents for their views about whether or not the pandemic has affected their employability, and how. Two findings are prominent:

First, respondents are more likely to believe that their employability has diminished due to external factors than as a result of their own skill set. Forty-one percent of respondents report that they are less employable due to the availability of jobs, and 35% also cite changes in the industries in which they work. Only 29% believe that their own skills have reduced their employability.

Second, respondents are highly uncertain how to interpret their employability in the current environment — across all questions related to employability, 25-31% indicated “don’t know / not applicable.” The uncertain responses to this question may reflect uncertainty about the future direction of the economy and the pandemic.

Views on employability differ by race/ethnicity and by age. Those who are 18-38 years old feel markedly less employable than those who are older — with 67% of them attributing this to the availability of jobs, 58% to industry changes, and 54% to their own skills. Respondents who are Black and Hispanic are more likely to feel less employable due to their own skills (58% and 38%, respectively) compared to respondents who are Asian/Other and White (25% and 23% respectively) (Figure 13).

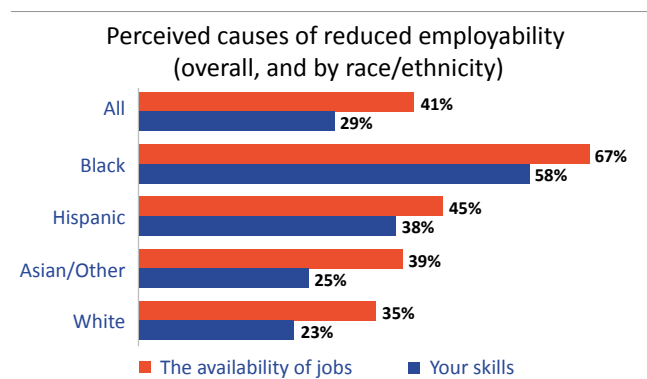


Figure 13

When asked in an open-ended question how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting them the most, about a quarter cited financial and workplace impacts, and 42% of those specifically called out job or income loss.



"My husband lost his job, we are concerned with medical insurance coverage and providing necessities for our family when his severance runs out."

"I am self-employed and my small business (has been) closed since April 2020. It hits hard on us."

"I've lost my job as a flight attendant (and) now need to find a new career."

"It killed my ability to work and make money thus my ability to survive."

"My husband was the insurance carrier for our household, he's now unemployed. I won't be able to provide it until I get a full time job. Both of us have some health issues."

Balancing parenting, work, and children's education is stressful and challenging for parents.

As in the May poll, we asked respondents with school-age children to evaluate the level of challenge that remote education presents (Figure 14). In a bright spot among the results, a much larger share — 29%, more than double the level in May — reported low levels of challenge.

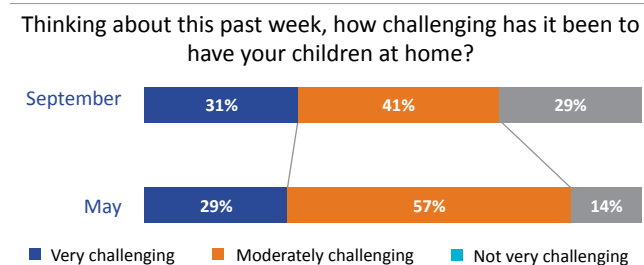


Figure 14

Men and women are experiencing the impacts of having their children doing schooling remotely very differently (Figure 15), with nearly 40% of women respondents describing it as “very” challenging, as compared to only 13% of men saying the same.

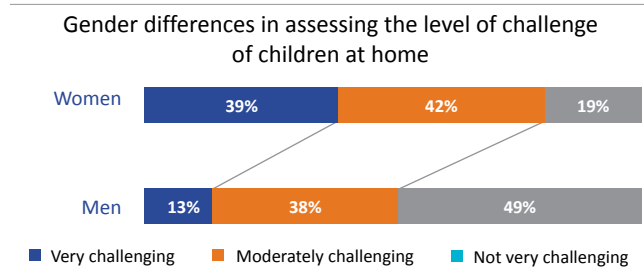


Figure 15

Sixty-one percent of respondents overall indicated that having children home from school or daycare is negatively affecting their or another member of their household's ability to do their job. For more than a third of respondents (35%), it is also negatively affecting their household's overall income (Figure 16).

As the figure below also shows, the youngest respondents (18-38 years old) are more likely to have both their ability to do their jobs and their incomes affected by children at home, compared to older respondents. This disparity may be because those 18-38 years old are more likely to have young children in greater need of supervision.

Respondents for whom having children home from school or daycare "somewhat" or "significantly" negatively affect their or another household member's ...

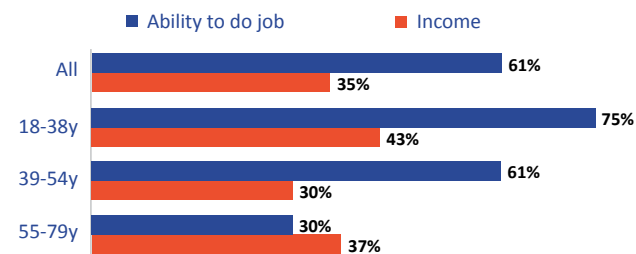


Figure 16

In addition to the overall level of challenge, parents are also very concerned about a number of issues relating to children doing their schooling from home, including the parents' ability to handle their own responsibilities (66%); the risk of their children falling behind academically (61%); and the loss of necessary services (52%), such as school lunches or counselling (Figure 17).

As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, how concerned are you with each of the following? (among respondents who have children under 18 living at home)

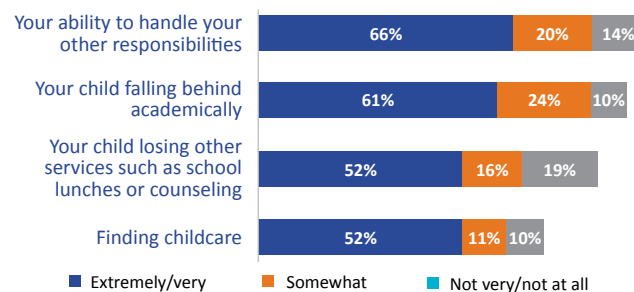


Figure 17



The survey asked all respondents — both with and without children — to share their views on whether schools at various levels should open for in-person instruction “as usual” or with minor adjustments, with major adjustments, or should not open for in-person instruction at all. Most striking is that the views are divided very closely between “minor adjustments,” “major adjustments,” and “not open at all” across schools at all levels (Figure 18). This emphasizes the degree to which the region’s school districts have had to balance split viewpoints, both during the summer planning period and now that school has resumed.

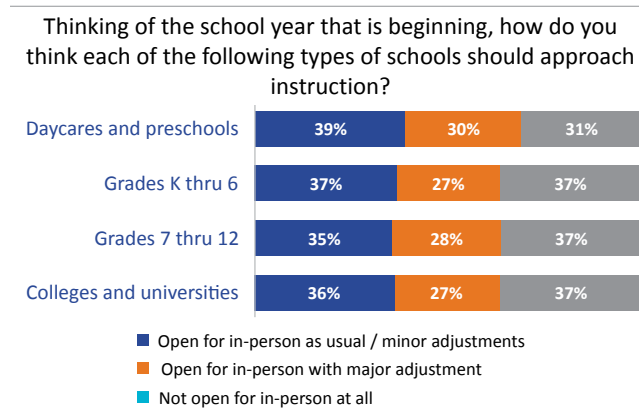


Figure 18

Another striking point is that the subset of respondents with children at home feel very differently from both the overall results (shown above) and also those without children. Forty-eight to 57% of those with children think that schools at all levels should open in-person, either as usual or with only minor adjustments to accommodate COVID-19 (Figure 19). Only 26-28% of those without children share the same view.

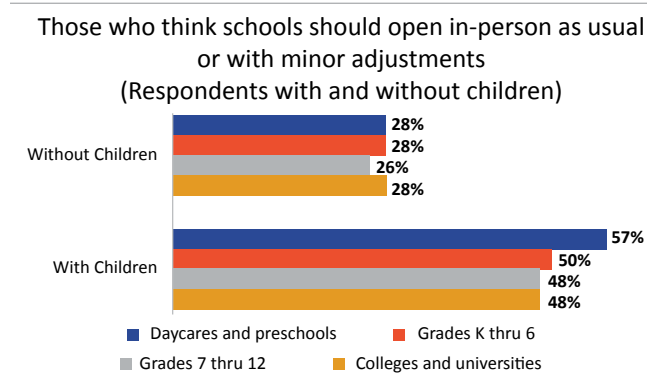


Figure 19

In their responses to an open-ended question about the impact of their children doing distance learning, some respondents noted the toll that it is taking on their lives, their children’s lives, and their household.

“My 2 year old son is home with me full time, so I’m stretched thin with full time work and care.”

“(I’m not) able to get my work done because I’m taking care of the kids.”

“Keeping my 16 year old motivated to do distance learning is wrecking my whole life.”

“My children’s education is degraded, and their ability to spend time with friends is near zero. Everyone has more anxiety. Recreational opportunities are unavailable.”

“Distance Learning is atrocious, especially when working parents are juggling full-time jobs. This is unsustainable.”



In-person work and on-the-job risk of COVID-19 are impacting Black, Hispanic, and lower income respondents more than others.

Among employed respondents, most are either working completely remotely (32%) or in a combination of remote and on-site work (24%). Forty percent of respondents are working on site at their workplace. Respondents who are Hispanic are most likely to be working on site, followed by respondents who are Black (Figure 20).

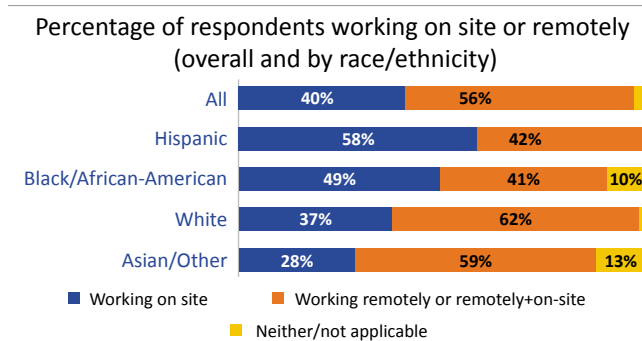


Figure 20

Work location also varies by income level (Figure 21). Lower income respondents are more likely to be working on-site, with the likelihood of remote work increasing as income level rises.

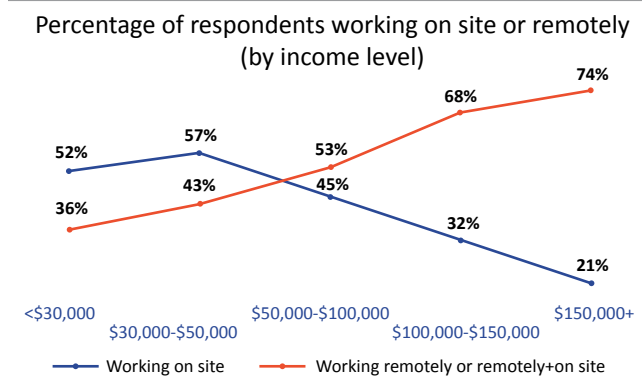


Figure 21

Respondents continue to be concerned about the risk of COVID-19 in the course of doing their job, and those who are Black, Hispanic, have children, or live in the city, are most likely to be concerned (Figure 22).

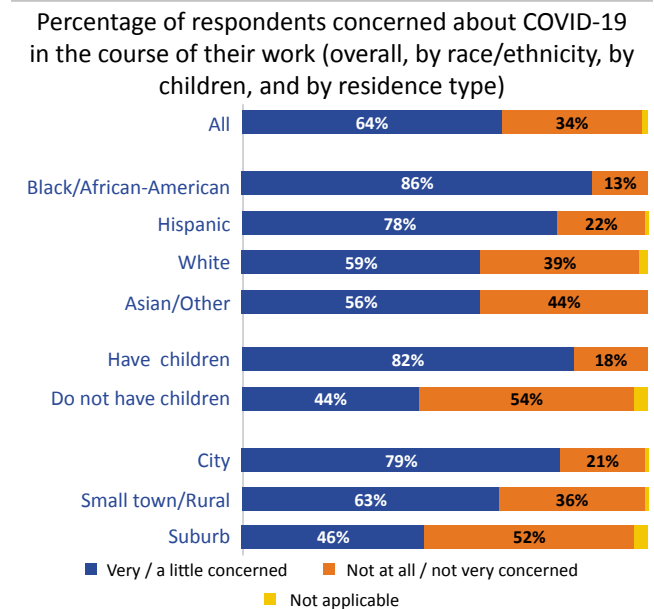


Figure 22



Most people regularly take health precautions, and most can also take necessary precautions at work.

Overall, almost three-quarters of the respondents (73%) report regularly taking at least four common health precautions, such as hand-washing, wearing masks, social distancing, and limiting interactions with those outside their family units (Figure 23). Compared to the May poll, mask-wearing increased meaningfully (from 74% to 90%), likely a reflection of the state's order in June requiring the same. The percentage of respondents taking most other precautions went down. For example, 58% of all respondents report that they avoid visits with friends and family, down from 69% in the May poll. This shift could be a reflection of the change in our understanding of how COVID-19 spreads as well as a degree of "fatigue" with respect to the pandemic and recommended responses to it.

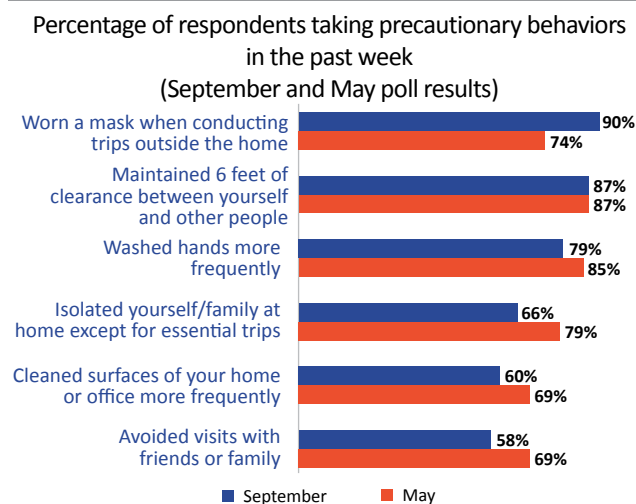


Figure 23

Overall, almost all respondents are able to sometimes or always take the health precaution measures that they think are important when at home (93%), at work (95%), or out in the community (98%). These include wearing masks, maintaining 6' distance from others, washing hands, and more.

Looking more closely at the ability to take precautions at work, those earning in the lowest income bracket (<\$30,000) also reported much higher percentages of never being able to take precautions (21%, compared to a range of 0-2% for higher income brackets). Additionally, women respondents are more likely than men to never be able to take precautions (8%, as compared to 0% of men).



COVID-19 remains a pressing topic for most, though overall attentiveness to COVID-19 news has declined.

Similar to the May poll, most people (89%) are continuing to tune into news and information about COVID-19 (Figure 24), however, fewer are paying very close attention (39%, compared to 55% in May).

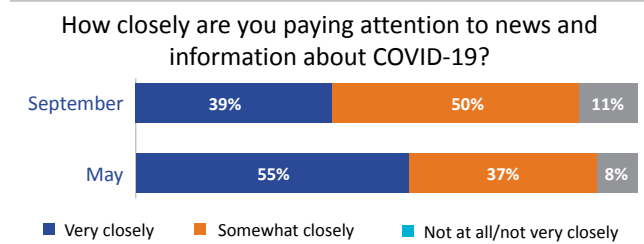


Figure 24

Those respondents who have children, or believe COVID-19 is a threat to everyone, are more likely to pay somewhat or very close attention to news and information about COVID-19 (Figure 25).

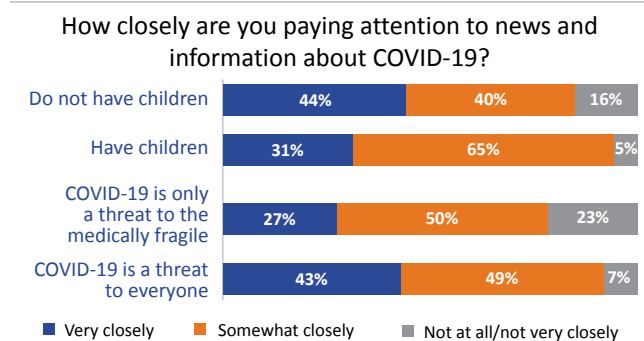


Figure 25

The Internet, television news, and newspapers are the top choices of news and information sources for respondents, with fewer reporting using other sources like social media (Figure 26). Respondents are also relying more on the Internet as compared to the other leading sources than they did in the May poll.

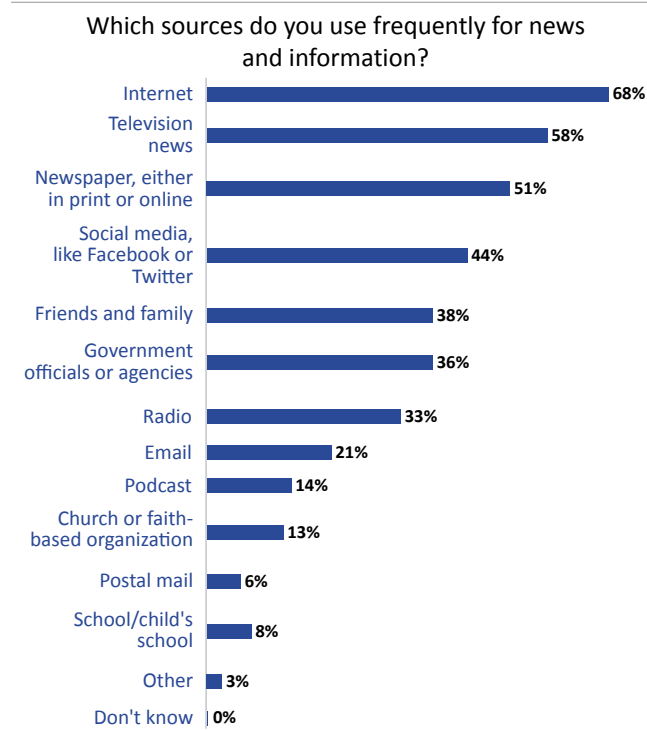


Figure 26

In terms of the degree of trust in various sources of news and information, respondents overall are most likely to place a great deal of trust in newspapers (20%) and friends and family (19%), compared to other sources.



Views about national entities, particularly the federal government and national media, are more negative than views about other entities.

As in the May poll, the majority of respondents think multiple different types of institutions and entities responded adequately (or better) to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sole exception is the federal government, which 63% of respondents believe has responded very poorly / inadequately, an increase from 58% in the May poll.

Moreover, every entity rated by respondents fared more poorly in September as compared to the May poll (Figure 27).

Those receiving the biggest negative change in their “very poor / inadequate” rating include the state government (47% today and 29% in May), educational systems (43% today and 23% in May), local government (40% today, 26% in May), and local media (38% today, 28% in May).

Percentage of respondents rating the response of different entities as “very poor / inadequate” (May and September)

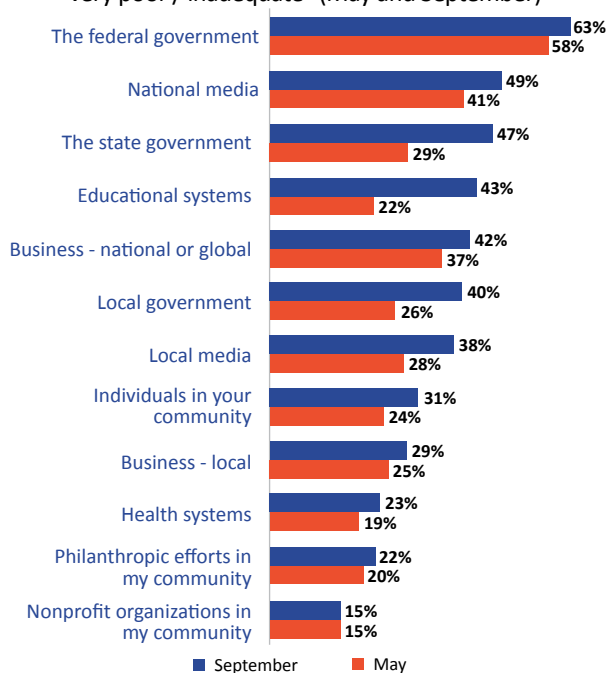


Figure 27



Substantial polarization exists in the region along political party lines as the election approaches.

Because of the upcoming November 2020 elections, this September poll incorporated several questions addressing the current political climate as it relates to the pandemic. The data show greater consistency of opinion among respondents who are Democrats, and greater diversity of opinion among those who are Republicans (Figure 28). For example, 91% of Democrats believe “we need to stay focused on stopping the spread of COVID-19, regardless of what it takes,” as compared to slightly shy of 50% of Republicans. Similarly, 75% of Democrats feel that “The President and other federal-level leaders elected in November should change the course in our response to coronavirus, and make significant changes to how it is being handled,” compared to 42% of Republicans in support.

Percentage of responses to core “political” questions (by major political party affiliation)

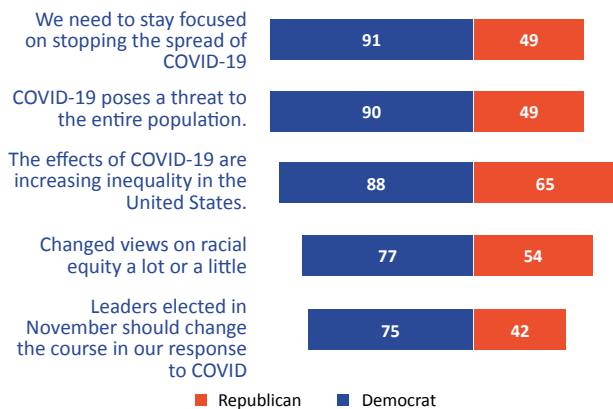


Figure 28¹



Asked to prioritize a list of ten issues based on those that they felt to be of greatest importance to our nation right now, respondents most frequently cited COVID-19 (59%), the election in November (44%), the economy (40%), and racial equity/racial justice (39%) (Figure 29).

Please choose up to three issues that you feel are of the greatest importance to our nation right now.

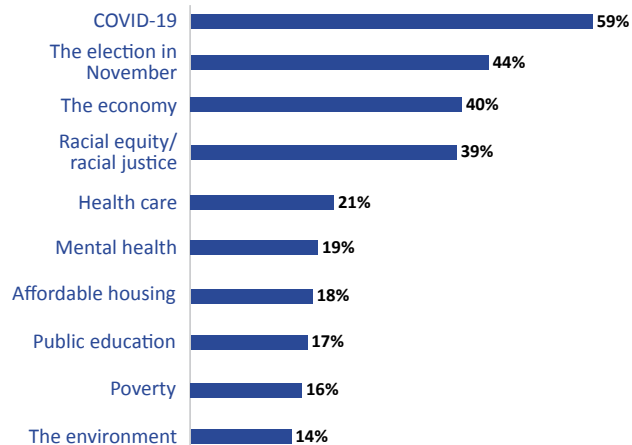


Figure 29

Respondents who believe COVID-19 is a threat to the entire population, by contrast, are more likely to prioritize COVID-19 and racial equity/racial justice. Respondents who believe that COVID-19 is a threat only to the medically fragile are more likely to prioritize the economy and mental health. (Figure 30).

Differing views of issues of greatest importance to the nation right now (by perception of COVID-19 threat)

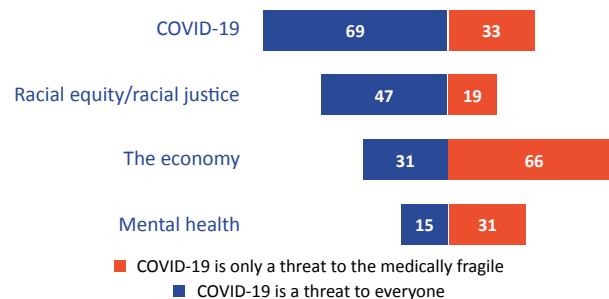


Figure 30

In addition to the questions above, differences in viewpoints by political affiliation are seen in various questions throughout the survey, particularly those focused on broad societal issues, including views on in-person schooling and the responses of various government entities.

By a substantial margin of around three-to-one, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support a return to in-person schooling either as usual or with minor adjustments to accommodate COVID-19 (Figure 31).

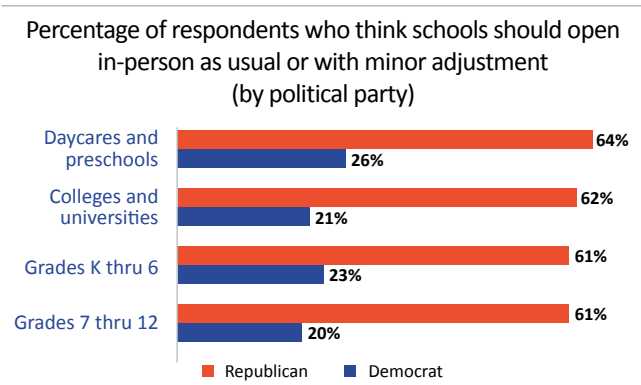


Figure 31

Similarly, Democrats are more likely than Republicans, by factors of two-to-one in most cases, to believe that specific measures should be in place before in-person schooling begins (Figure 32). These measures include faster test results, more frequent school-based testing, greater contact tracing, and more.

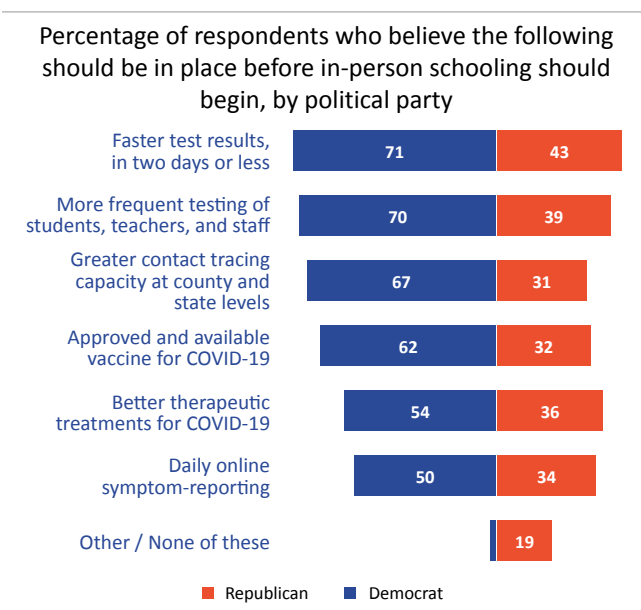


Figure 32

Opinions of the performance of federal, state, and local governments vary significantly by party, with nearly two-thirds of Republicans giving the federal government an “adequate” or “excellent” assessment, compared to less than one-fifth of Democrats (Figure 33). At the local level — closer to home — however, members of the two parties are more aligned, with nearly 60% of Democrats and nearly 50% of Republicans having an “adequate” or “excellent” opinion of their local elected leaders’ actions.

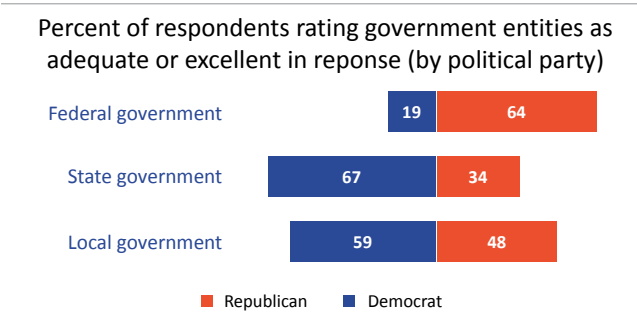


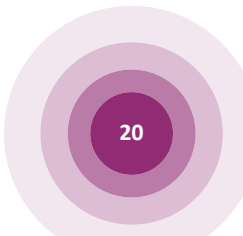
Figure 33

Not surprisingly, given the variance in opinions along political lines in the survey data, respondents expressed similarly strident and polarized views in open-ended questions:

“I’m worried that Trump might get re-elected and our democracy will die. I’m worried that our current isolation (for COVID-19) will continue for much longer. I worry about the wildfires, air quality and global warming. I worry about the safety and futures of our children and grandchildren.”

“Democrat Politicians using this for political purposes in order to hurt our economy and to control people.”

“The financial system recovery. This mess has pointed out the inherent wealth and income gap that I think is going to grow even worse in the next six months to a year. Housing and poverty problems that are riddling the economy while the stock market turns in new highs. I’m worried that our financial system and political system are going to need major overhauls.”



Building our Future Together

We are going through truly hard times, as this report reflects. This will remain the case regardless of the outcome of the coming election, when we will vote to retain or change many pivotal leadership roles across our country. As we move through the last part of this year and into 2021, it will be important to find the energy and courage to act to support each other in these difficult times. There aren't quick or easy answers, but there are calls to action.

First, care for yourself and your loved ones. If you or someone you know is feeling hopelessness or depression, reach the 24-hour Suicide Prevention Hotline for help by phone at 800-273-8255, or text to 838255. If you or someone you know is experiencing physical or emotional abuse call the 24-Hour Domestic Violence at 800-799-7233. If you are concerned about substance use for yourself or a loved one call the SAMHSA National Helpline at 800-662-HELP. As well, some of the many locally-based support services are listed on the Valley Vision website (www.valleyvision.org).

Second, we must find ways to work together for common purpose. It will be important to build from a common set of facts to identify priorities and catalyze the many actions that will support recovery and seize the chance to build a better and more resilience system. One critical piece that must be addressed is racial inequities- these long-term inequities in our institutions and communities are resulting in devastation among communities of color in our region. This is a crisis for all that must be addressed. The road to recovered and re-imagined communities systems will be long and arduous. There are roles for everyone:

- **Community-based organizations, philanthropy, and government agencies** must act with urgency and unity to address immediate needs and plan for long term resilience in our communities.

- **Businesses** must take an expansive and long-term view- supporting healthy communities is an investment for business health. Investing in people in their own workforce as well as supporting a robust and inclusive talent pipeline for the region will help safeguard our region for years to come.
- **Elected officials and decision-makers** are in a position to create policy and investments in our region to support the needs of the communities. It is critical to listen to community voices and recognize that those who are closest to the problems often know best how to solve them.

In all cases, - our systems are made up of humans who are also fatigued and working hard to support self, family, and communities. We must have compassion with each other - these are uncertain and difficult times and each of us will make mistakes. Division and incivility will not help us be resilient or imaginative. What is important is that we move forward together - with urgency and empathy- to reshape our institutions and systems, making something better than what we had before COVID.



The full text of these questions, abbreviated in the chart, is as follows:

1. Respondents chose between these two statements: a) "We need to stay focused on stopping the spread of COVID-19, regardless of what it takes." b) "We've done all we can to slow the spread of COVID-19, it's time to go back to normal." The chart reflects those who chose the first of the two statements.
2. Respondents chose between these two statements: a) "COVID-19 poses a threat to the entire population." b) COVID-19 poses a health threat only to those individuals who are, for example, elderly and/or medically fragile." The chart reflects those who chose the first of the two statements.
3. Respondents noted whether they agreed or disagreed with this statement: "The effects of COVID-19 are increasing inequality in the United States." The chart reflects those who chooses responses of "strongly agree" and "somewhat agree."
4. Respondents were asked "How much, if at all, have recent events, such as COVID-19, protests against police brutality, and protests for racial equity, changed your views on racial relations and equality?" The chart reflects those who chose responses of "a lot" and "a little."
5. Respondents chose between two statements that began, "The President and other federal-level leaders elected in November should...": a) "...stay the course in our response to coronavirus, and make no changes to how it is being handled." b) "...change the course in our response to coronavirus, and make significant changes to how it is being handled." The chart reflects those who chose the second of the two statements.

In recent years, we have focused efforts to oversample areas that have higher concentrations of Hispanic Californians, to compensate for the tendency for surveys to underrepresent this population.

Survey Methodology

Institute for Social Research at Sacramento State University

Summary

Since 2017, the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at Sacramento State University in partnership with Valley Vision have used an online survey panel to collect information about the Greater Sacramento Region. Survey panels are a representative group of individuals who have agreed to participate in multiple surveys over time. In response to the declining response rates and reliability associated with telephone surveys, online survey panels have become an alternative way to gather data about a specific region or population (e.g., GfK's Knowledge Panel, Yougov's Omnibus Panel, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC)'s Amerispeak Panel, and the Pew Research Center's American Trends

Individuals were recruited into the panel by an invitation postcard, which was sent to a random sample of Sacramento Valley households. Any adult in the household could join the panel by going to the online profile or by calling ISR to indicate a preference to participate with mail-in surveys. The strength of this probability-based sampling method is that virtually everyone in the Greater Sacramento Valley had a chance of being included.

The current panel is made up of 2518 residents from El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yuba/Sutter, and Yolo Counties. Recruitment for the Valley Vision panel occurred in both 2017 and 2018. Panelists have the option of receiving a \$5 electronic gift card every time they complete a survey. Statistical weighting is used to ensure that survey responses represent the Greater Sacramento Valley.

Race and Ethnicity Question | For the first Coronavirus poll, ethnicity and race were derived from two questions asked of respondents upon joining the Sacramento Regional Panel. Participants were first asked if they identify as Hispanic or Latino and then asked about their race (e.g., Asian, Black, White, Pacific Islander, etc.). While consistent with the current Census design, this format did not allow direct comparisons between Hispanic/Latino individuals and other racial groups as they were not mutually exclusive. In this second Coronavirus poll, we asked an updated race/ethnicity question, combining the two questions in order to allow for direct comparison between groups (for example between Hispanic/Latino, Black, and White respondents). Combining race and ethnicity into one question has also been shown to reduce the following issues: the

number of respondents selecting "other", the number of invalid responses, and non-response rates. Additionally, researchers have found that the combined question structure more accurately reflects how people self-identify and thus, presents a more precise picture of the population. This change in how race/ethnicity was identified should be considered when comparing findings from the first and second polls.

Survey Panel Methodology

Sampling and Recruitment | The Greater Sacramento Valley Panel uses probability-based sampling methods. Specifically, to recruit a random sample of Sacramento Valley residents we use the United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence File (USPS DSF) of California residential addresses (stratified geographically by county and Hispanic population)[1], as a sampling frame. We send postcards or letters to the sampled residences and invite adult residents to join the panel (via a URL address, or by calling us to indicate a preference for mail participation). The strength of this sampling method is that virtually everyone in the population has a chance of being included in the sample, but those sampled must also choose to do so. The initial sample includes residents from the following counties: El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yuba/Sutter, and Yolo. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at California State University, Sacramento reviewed and approved recruitment procedures outlined above for protecting the rights of human research subjects.





Consent and Initial Profile | During recruitment (and at the beginning of each subsequent survey), panelists learn that their participation is entirely voluntary and that they have the right to opt out at any time. They also learn that their survey responses are strictly confidential. Immediately upon agreeing to join the panel, panelists complete a 15-minute survey that includes questions about their demographics, background, interests, personality, political identity, and household composition. This profile information is merged with future survey data collections, thereby reducing the need to ask panelists to answer these questions with each survey administered.

Survey Procedures | ISR uses the Qualtrics Research Suite online survey platform to administer surveys. The research team optimizes all surveys for completion on mobile phones and tablets, and provides Spanish translations. Panelists receive reminders to complete the surveys every three days following the initial invitation. The Valley Vision profile surveys were offered in English, Spanish, and Chinese. All subsequent surveys have been offered in both English and Spanish. Each time a panelist completes a survey, s/he receives a \$5 Tango gift card, delivered directly to his or her email inbox (or home), which is redeemable at most online retailers. Beginning in 2019 panelists were given the option to receive the Tango gift card or “donate” it back to the study so more people can participate.

Survey Weighting and Analysis | For each survey, the weighting protocol proceeds in stages. First, the base weights are computed to reflect the various selection probabilities for respondents selected from different sampling frames. Second, we adjust for nonresponse and under-coverage by calibrating the base weights to known population-based control totals for gender and age, race/ethnicity, education, income and county using a ‘raking’ process. The population benchmarks are obtained from the most recent Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 5-year estimates and Nielsen Claritas estimates. Finally, we “trim” the raked weights to reduce extreme values. The weighting process ensures that the responses from the panelists responding to the survey will statistically represent the demographics of the Greater Sacramento Valley.

Surveys are analyzed by reporting out the percent of panelists (who are representative of the Greater Sacramento Valley) providing responses to the various questions. Survey results are also often broken down by panelist characteristics, such as gender, income levels, race, and other key demographic information. When the survey responses are broken down by these categories (or disaggregated into cross-tabulations), a statistical test is run to ensure that the differences among these groups are statistically significant (i.e., any differences are not the result of “noise” in the data).



Survey Panel Demographic and Geographic Profile

Sacramento Regional Panel | Coronavirus Impacts

weighted % (n=948)		
County of residence	Sacramento	41%
	San Joaquin	17%
	Solano	13%
	Placer	10%
	Yolo	6%
	El Dorado	6%
	Sutter/Yuba	5%

(n=948)		
Gender	Female	51%
	Male	49%

(n=940)		
Age (requested categories)	18-38 years	34%
	39-54 years	26%
	55-79 years	37%
	80+ years	2%

(n=930)		
Race	White/Caucasian	64%
	Hispanic ²	11%
	Black/African-American	13%
	Asian	9%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
	Middle Eastern or North African	0%
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
	Other (please specify):	1%

(n=948)		
Income	Less than \$15,000	8%
	\$15,000 to \$30,000	13%
	\$30,000 to \$50,000	12%
	\$50,000 to \$75,000	18%
	\$75,000 to \$100,000	14%
	\$100,000 to \$150,000	19%
	\$150,000 to \$200,000	9%
	\$200,000+	7%

(n=944)		
Live in a...	City	48%
	Suburb	29%
	Small town	14%
	Rural community	9%

(n=792)		
Political Party	Democratic	51%
	Republican	33%
	Independent	17%
	Other	2%

(n=942)		
COVID action	We need to stay focused on stopping the spread	71%
	We've done all we can to stop the spread	29%

(n=946)		
Children under 18 living with you	No	61%
	Full-time	37%
	Part-time	2%

Survey Panel Demographic and Geographic Profile

Sacramento Regional Panel | Coronavirus Impacts

(n=946)

Income impact	Significantly reduced	15%
	Somewhat reduced	31%
	No impact	48%
	Somewhat increased	6%
	Significantly increased	0%

(n=961)

Country direction	Right direction	34%
	Wrong direction	57%
	Don't know/not applicable	9%

(n=939)

Know someone with confirmed COVID case (self/hh member/someone else)	Yes	41%
	No	59%

(n=945)

COVID threat	COVID-19 poses a health threat to the entire population	74%
	COVID-19 poses a health threat only to those individuals who are, for example, elderly and/or medically fragile	26%

Note: Results presented used weighted data





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