



How Faith Shapes Feelings about the Coronavirus Outbreak

Conducted by the University of Chicago Divinity School and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

With funding from NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 4/30-5/4/2020
1,002 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. How worried are you about you or someone in your family being infected with...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30- 5/4/2020	Top NET	Extremely worried	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Bot NET	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
The coronavirus	47	24	23	29	23	17	6	-	*
The flu	18	9	9	31	51	38	12	-	*

N = 1,002

NORC 04/16- 20/2020	Top NET	Extremely worried	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Bot NET	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
The coronavirus	43	23	20	35	22	17	5	*	-
The flu	22	10	13	30	47	35	12	-	*

N = 1,057

NORC 03/26- 29/2020	Top NET	Extremely worried	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Bot NET	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
The coronavirus	50	28	22	34	16	13	3	-	*
The flu	23	11	12	35	43	34	9	-	*

N = 1,057

NORC 03/12- 16/2020	Top NET	Extremely worried	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Bot NET	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
The coronavirus	31	14	17	35	33	23	10	*	1
The flu	15	6	9	33	50	37	13	-	*

N = 1,003

Q2. Which of the following measures, if any, are you taking in response to the outbreak of the new coronavirus?

Select all that apply.

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Yes
Limiting trips out of the house to essential work or errands	85
Working from home	40
Limiting interactions with others to groups of 10 or less	75
Keeping a 6-foot radius when interacting with people you do not live with	83
Avoiding touching your face	61
Stocking up on extra food	48
Stocking up on extra cleaning supplies	39
Consulting with a health care provider	18
Avoiding other people as much as possible	74
Wearing a mask when leaving home	73
Other	7
None of the above	2
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB	*
REFUSED	-

N = 1,002

Q2A. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 04/30- 5/4/2020	Top NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Bot NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Requiring bars and restaurants to close	67	42	25	14	19	10	9	1	*
Requiring people to postpone medical care that is not essential	57	25	32	18	25	15	10	*	*
Requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands	71	45	26	12	17	9	8	-	*
Requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer	75	53	22	12	13	8	5	-	*

N = 1,002

NORC 04/16- 20/2020	Top NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Bot NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Requiring bars and restaurants to close	76	47	29	11	12	8	3	*	*
Requiring people to postpone medical care that is not essential	68	33	35	13	18	13	5	*	1
Requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands	80	50	30	9	11	6	5	-	*
Requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer	82	59	23	8	9	7	2	*	1

N = 1,057

NORC 03/26- 29/2020	Top NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Bot NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Requiring bars and restaurants to close	76	51	25	13	11	8	3	-	*
Requiring people to postpone medical care that is not essential	72	44	28	16	12	10	2	-	*
Requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands	78	55	23	11	11	6	5	-	*
Requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer	84	60	24	11	5	2	2	-	*

N = 1,057

Q3. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the protests of stay at home orders that have taken place in some states in the U.S.?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 04/30-5/4/2020
Top NET	31
Strongly approve	13
Somewhat approve	18
Neither approve nor disapprove	14
Bot NET	55
Somewhat disapprove	16
Strongly disapprove	39
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N = 1,002

Q4. During the coronavirus outbreak, please indicate whether each of the following should be allowed without any restrictions, allowed but with restrictions on crowd size or physical distancing, or not allowed at all in the United States:

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Allowed without any restrictions	Allowed with restrictions	Not allowed at all	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Drive-thru religious services	87	25	62	11	1	1
In-person religious services	51	9	42	48	*	1
Visiting parks, beaches, or other outdoor spaces	76	9	67	23	-	1
Protests, rallies, or marches in public	49	8	41	50	*	1

N = 1,002

Q5. During the coronavirus outbreak, would you say the following government orders violate freedom of religion in the United States, or not?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Yes, violates freedom of religion	No, does not violate freedom of religion	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Prohibiting drive-thru religious services	42	56	1	1
Prohibiting in-person religious services	34	66	*	*
Allowing drive-thru religious services but placing restrictions on them, such as maintaining physical distancing	17	82	1	*
Allowing in-person religious services but placing restrictions on them, such as limiting crowd size and maintaining physical distancing	17	82	*	*

N = 1,002

Q6. In 2019, how often, if at all, did you do each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Often	Sometimes	Bot NET	Rarely	Never	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Helped or checked in on neighbors	62	23	39	38	20	18	*	*
Donated blood	12	4	8	88	12	76	-	*
Volunteered with a religious organization or group	29	13	15	71	13	58	-	*
Volunteered with a non-religious organization or group	28	10	17	72	20	52	-	1
Signed an online petition or contacted an elected official	29	8	21	71	24	47	*	*
Participated in a protest, march, or rally in public	8	2	6	91	9	82	-	1
Donated money, food, or supplies to a religious organization or group	47	19	28	53	14	38	-	1
Donated money, food, or supplies to a non-religious organization or group	51	15	36	48	19	29	*	1

N = 1,002

Q7. Since the coronavirus outbreak began in the U.S., how often have you done each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Often	Sometimes	Bot NET	Rarely	Never	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Helped or checked in on neighbors	56	21	36	42	20	23	-	1
Donated blood	6	2	4	93	6	87	-	1
Volunteered with a religious organization or group	15	6	9	85	10	74	-	*
Volunteered with a non-religious organization or group	14	4	10	86	11	75	-	*
Signed an online petition or contacted an elected official	20	5	15	79	13	66	-	1
Participated in a protest, march, or rally in public	4	1	3	94	4	90	-	2
Donated money, food, or supplies to a religious organization or group	33	13	19	67	11	56	-	1
Donated money, food, or supplies to a non-religious organization or group	37	11	26	63	17	46	*	*

N = 1,002

Q8. In 2019, how often, if at all, did you do each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Several times a week	Every week	A few times a month	Bot NET	Less than once a month	Never	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Attended religious services in-person at a congregation	21	7	15	11	68	16	51	-	*
Watched live streaming religious services online	16	6	10	12	72	12	60	*	*
Prayed privately outside of a congregation	46	35	12	13	40	9	31	-	*
Participated in informal religious or spiritual activities or gatherings in your or someone else's home or another setting outside a congregation	11	4	7	9	79	12	67	*	*

N = 1,002

Q9. Since the coronavirus outbreak began in the U.S., how often have you done each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Several times a week	Every week	A few times a month	Bot NET	Less than once a month	Never	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Attended religious services in-person at a congregation	5	1	4	5	90	5	84	*	*
Watched live streaming religious services online	27	10	16	11	62	8	54	*	*
Prayed privately outside of a congregation	47	37	10	12	40	7	33	*	*
Participated in informal religious or spiritual activities or gatherings in your or someone else's home or another setting outside a congregation	8	4	4	4	88	6	82	-	*

N = 1,002

Q10. Since the coronavirus outbreak began in the U.S., which of the following statements applies to you?

	NORC 04/30-5/4/2020
The congregation I typically attend was never closed	3
The congregation I typically attend was closed but is now open	4
The congregation I typically attend remains closed	41
I typically do not attend a religious congregation	51
DONT KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

N = 1,002

Q11. Since the coronavirus outbreak began in the U.S., how often did you do each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Several times a week	Every week	A few times a month	Bot NET	Less than once a month	Never	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Attended a drive-thru religious service	4	1	3	2	93	2	91	-	1
Participated in another drive-thru religious activity	3	2	1	2	94	2	92	-	*
Participated in an online prayer or other religious or spiritual group activity	16	7	9	8	75	8	67	*	*
Talked over the phone or a video conference with a religious or spiritual leader	11	4	7	7	82	7	75	-	*

N = 1,002

Q12. Which of the following, if any, would you say is a cause of the current coronavirus situation in the U.S.?

Select all that apply.

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Yes
Climate change	7
Other things in nature	28
Foreign governments' actions or policies	43
U.S. government's actions or policies	37
Christians	2
People of non-Christian faiths	3
Non-religious people	2
Immigrants	9
Global trade	21
Human sinfulness	11
None of these	24
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB	*
REFUSED	-

N = 1,002

Q13. Which of the following statements best describes your views about God:

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
I believe in God today and did before the coronavirus outbreak	80
I believe in God today but did not before the coronavirus outbreak	2
I do not believe in God today but did before the coronavirus outbreak	*
I do not believe in God today and did not before the coronavirus outbreak	17
DONT KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

N = 1,002

Show if currently believes in God, used to believe God, or DK/SKP/REF

Q14. Thinking about the coronavirus outbreak, do you feel each of the following or not?

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Top NET	Yes, strongly	Yes, somewhat	No	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
God will protect me from being infected	55	26	29	43	2	1
God has abandoned humanity	9	2	7	89	1	1
Doubt that God exists	14	6	8	86	*	1
God is telling humanity to change how we are living	63	31	31	35	2	*

N = 828

Q15. Would you say the coronavirus outbreak has made your sense of religious faith or spirituality stronger, weaker, or has it remained the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Stronger	26
Weaker	1
Remained the same	73
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N = 1,002

Q16. Have you or has someone in your household experienced each of the following because of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S.?

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	Yes	No	DONT KNOW	SKP/REF
Been laid off	32	67	*	*
Some loss of income	51	49	*	*
Significant loss of income	31	69	*	*
Loss of health insurance	11	88	1	1

N = 1,002

Q17. Have you or has a close friend or relative been diagnosed with the coronavirus by a health care provider, or not?

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	NORC 04/16-20/2020	NORC 03/26-29/2020
Yes	14	12
No	86	87
DONT KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*	*

N = 1,002

RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)	28
Roman Catholic (Catholic)	20
Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)	1
Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)	*
Jewish (Judaism)	1
Muslim (Islam)	2
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist (do not believe in God)	6
Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)	5
Nothing in particular	9
Just Christian	21
Unitarian (Universalist)	1
Something else	3
DONT KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

N = 1,002

If Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox, just Christian, or Something else in RELIG

BORN. Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Yes	35
No	64
DONT KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N = 733

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

If Democrat:

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?

If Independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Top NET	44
Strong Democrat	16
Moderate Democrat	17
Lean Democrat	11
Don't Lean/Independent/None	19
Bot NET	37
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	14
Strong Republican	12
Unknown	-

N = 1,002

D3. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

If liberal:

D4. Do you consider yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?

If conservative:

D5. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?

If moderate, don't know, skipped, or refused:

D6. Do you consider yourself closer to liberal, closer to conservative, or neither liberal nor conservative?

Combines D3, D4, D5, D6:

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Top NET	31
Very liberal	12
Somewhat liberal	11
Closer to liberal	9
Neither liberal nor conservative	27
Bot NET	39
Closer to conservative	12
Somewhat conservative	16
Very conservative	11
DONT KNOW/SKIP/REFUSE	2

N = 1,002

AGE.

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
18-24	11
25-34	18
35-44	15
45-54	16
55-64	18
65-74	16
75+	6
Under 18	-

N = 1,002

GENDER.

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Unknown	-
Male	48
Female	52

N = 1,002

MARITAL. Marital Status

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Married	49
Widowed	4
Divorced	13
Separated	1
Never married	25
Living with partner	7

N = 1,002

RACETH. Race/ethnicity

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
White, non-Hispanic	63
African American, non-Hispanic	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	-

N = 1,002

HINCOME. Household Income

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	8
DONT KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	-

N = 1,002

EDUC4. Education

NORC 04/30-5/4/2020	
No HS diploma	10
HS graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
BA or above	34

N = 1,002

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by the University of Chicago Divinity School and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between April 30 and May 4, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,002 completed the survey-884 via the web and 118 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 14.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 24.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.6 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 3.0 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org (mailto:info@apnorc.org).

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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