

In the Midst of the Coronavirus Outbreak, Concerns about the Health Care System Remain

Conducted by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 2/13-16/2020

1,015 adults

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

Interviews: 5/14-18/2020

1,001 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

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

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HEALTH¹. Would you say that in general your health is ...

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Excellent/Very good NET	41	42
Excellent	9	10
Very good	32	32
Good	42	42
Fair/Poor NET	18	16
Fair	16	13
Poor	2	3
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	1
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

PERSONAL1². The next questions are about your personal health insurance coverage and use. Are you covered by any form of health insurance or health plan?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Yes	91	90
No	9	9
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

¹ HEALTH is an AmeriSpeak profile variable and was only asked of those respondents who have not answered in the last 12 months.

² PERSONAL1 is an AmeriSpeak profile variable and was only asked of those respondents who have not answered in the last 12 months.

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Show if Yes to PERSONAL1.

PERSONAL1A³. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
A plan through your employer	36	33
A plan through your spouse's employer	10	15
A plan you purchased yourself directly from an insurance company	4	3
Health insurance marketplace	4	4
Medicare	27	30
Medicaid	11	10
Some other source	9	4
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	1
N =	939	941

PERSONAL3⁴. About how long has it been since you saw a doctor for a check-up?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Within the past year (anytime less than 12 months ago)	73	75
Within the past 2 years (more than 1 year but less than 2 years ago)	12	12
Within the past 5 years (more than 2 years but less than 5 years ago)	6	7
More than 5 years ago	8	4
Have never seen a doctor for a check-up	1	2
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1
N =	1,015	1,001

³ PERSONAL1A is an AmeriSpeak profile variable and was only asked of those respondents who have not answered in the last 12 months.

⁴ PERSONAL3 is an AmeriSpeak profile variable and was only asked of those respondents who have not answered in the last 12 months.

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CONCERNS1. [How concerned are you about losing your/not having health insurance?/ How concerned are you there are Americans who do not have health insurance?]

AP-NORC	Losing/Not having health insurance [2/13-16/2020]	Losing/Not having health insurance 5/14-18/2020	That there are Americans who do not have health insurance [2/13-16/2020]	That there are Americans who do not have health insurance 5/14-18/2020
Extremely/Very concerned NET	28	19	51	56
Extremely concerned	17	8	22	25
Very concerned	12	11	29	30
Moderately concerned	18	14	34	31
Not too/Not at all concerned NET	53	65	15	13
Not too concerned	29	28	12	11
Not at all concerned	24	37	3	3
DON'T KNOW	-	*	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	2	-	*
N =	525	484	490	517

CONCERNS2. [How concerned are you about the amount you spend on health care?/ How concerned are you about the amount the United States spends on health care?]

AP-NORC	The amount you spend on health care [2/13-16/2020]	The amount you spend on health care 5/14-18/2020	The amount the United States spends on health care [2/13-16/2020]	The amount the United States spends on health care 5/14-18/2020
Extremely/Very concerned NET	44	35	56	47
Extremely concerned	21	15	25	20
Very concerned	24	20	31	28
Moderately concerned	25	26	30	32
Not too/Not at all concerned NET	31	38	13	20
Not too concerned	21	20	10	13
Not at all concerned	9	19	4	7
DON'T KNOW	-	-	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1	1	*
N =	521	505	494	496

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**CONCERNS3. [How concerned are you about having access to high quality care when you need it?/
How concerned are you about Americans having access to high quality care when they need it?]**

AP-NORC	Having access to high quality care when you need it [2/13-16/2020]	Having access to high quality care when you need it 5/14-18/2020	Americans having access to high quality care when they need it [2/13-16/2020]	Americans having access to high quality care when they need it 5/14-18/2020
Extremely/Very concerned NET	58	46	59	62
Extremely concerned	26	22	30	32
Very concerned	33	24	29	30
Moderately concerned	19	21	26	28
Not too/Not at all concerned NET	23	31	15	8
Not too concerned	17	18	11	6
Not at all concerned	5	13	3	3
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1	*	2
<i>N =</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>514</i>

SPENDING. Overall, do you think the US government is spending too much, too little, or the right amount?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Too much	37	25
About the right amount	24	31
Too little	38	42
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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TRADEOFF1. Is the US government spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on ...

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020		Too much	About the right amount	Too little	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
Improving and protecting the nation's health	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	8	36	55	-	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	7	35	56	*	1
Improving the nation's education system	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	9	26	64	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	6	30	62	*	1
Improving the military and national defense	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	30	46	22	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	30	46	22	1	1
Improving and protecting the environment	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	11	32	55	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	10	35	53	*	2
Improving the nation's transportation infrastructure	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	7	37	55	1	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	4	41	53	1	2

PRICE1. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right? When it comes to the health care system ...

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Americans should pay less for their health care, even if it means paying more in taxes	58	57
Americans should not pay more in taxes, even if that means paying more for their health care	40	39
DON'T KNOW	*	2
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2	2
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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PRICE2. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right? When it comes to the health care system ...

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Americans should pay less for prescription drugs, even if that means that there will be fewer new drugs available in the future	65	64
Investment in developing new prescription drugs should increase, even if that means Americans pay more for prescription drugs	33	32
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2	3
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

PRICE3. If offered a choice between the following two health insurance plans, which would you prefer:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Lower monthly premiums, but higher out-of-pocket costs	43	45
Lower out-of-pocket costs, but higher monthly premiums	53	50
DON'T KNOW	1	2
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	4	3
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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PRICE4. If offered a choice between the following two health insurance plans, which would you prefer:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs, but more limited coverage of health care treatments and prescription drugs	46	45
Broader coverage of treatments and prescription drugs, but higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs	50	50
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	3	3
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

PRICE5. If offered a choice between the following two health insurance plans, which would you prefer:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
A plan with no out-of-pocket costs, but restrictions on the providers patients can see	57	56
A plan with substantial out-of-pocket costs, but no restrictions on the providers patients can see	39	40
DON'T KNOW	1	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	4	2
<i>N =</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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SECTOR. If you had to choose, which of the following do you trust to do a better job of handling each of the following:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020		Government	Private sector	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
Providing health insurance coverage	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	46	54	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	44	53	1	2
Improving the quality of health care	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	37	61	*	2
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	36	62	1	2
Reducing costs in the health care system	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	52	47	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	54	44	1	1
Driving innovation in health care	2/13-16/2020 <i>N = 1,015</i>	26	72	*	2
	5/14-18/2020 <i>N = 1,001</i>	28	70	1	1

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

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Democrat	34	32
Republican	28	25
Independent	24	24
None of these	14	17
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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If Democrat in PID1

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

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Strong Democrat	45	44
Moderate Democrat	54	55
DON'T KNOW	-	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*
N=	359	366

If Republican in PID1

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

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Strong Republican	48	44
Moderate Republican	52	55
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	*
N=	286	250

If independent, none of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1

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

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Lean Democrat	31	27
Lean Republican	29	27
Don't lean	39	44
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	2
N=	370	385

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDA, PIDB, and PIDI.

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Democrat NET	45	43
Strong Democrat	15	14
Moderate Democrat	18	18
Lean Democrat	12	11
Independent/None – Don't lean	15	20
Republican NET	39	37
Lean Republican	11	12
Moderate Republican	15	14
Strong Republican	14	11
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

IDEO. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a ... ?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Liberal NET	22	22
Very liberal	11	9
Somewhat liberal	10	13
Moderate	48	48
Conservative NET	31	30
Somewhat conservative	19	18
Very conservative	12	12
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Urban	24	24
Suburban	43	45
Rural	33	29
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

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AGE

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
18-24	12	8
25-34	20	17
35-44	14	17
45-54	16	16
55-64	17	19
65-74	15	14
75+	6	9

N= 1,015 1,001

GENDER

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Male	48	46
Female	52	54

N= 1,015 1,001

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
White	63	64
Black or African American	12	12
Hispanic	16	15
Other	9	9

N= 1,015 1,001

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Married	49	51
Widowed	5	5
Divorced	11	11
Separated	2	3
Never married	25	21
Living with partner	9	8

N= 1,015 1,001

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EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Employed	56	61
Not employed	44	39
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Less than a high school diploma	10	8
High school graduate or equivalent	28	26
Some college	28	29
College graduate or above	33	37
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 2/13-16/2020	AP-NORC 5/14-18/2020
Under \$10,000	5	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10	12
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	19	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14	16
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13	14
\$150,000 or more	7	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>	<i>1,001</i>

Study Methodology

This study was conducted by the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Staff from Harris Public Policy and The AP-NORC Center collaborated on all aspects of the study.

The study featured two surveys, and data for both 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% 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.

The first survey was conducted between February 13 and 16, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,015 completed the survey—940 via the web and 75 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 20.3%, the weighted household panel response rate is 24.1%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.6%, for a cumulative response rate of 4.2%. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.15 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, including the design effect.

The second survey was conducted between May 14 and 18, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,001 completed the survey—890 via the web and 111 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 13.7%, the weighted household panel response rate is 24.1%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.6%, for a cumulative response rate of 2.8%. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.37 percentage points at the 95% 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 2019 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

One of the largest graduate professional schools at the University of Chicago, Harris Public Policy has been driven by the belief that evidence-based research, not ideology or intuition, is the best guide for public policy. For more than three decades, our exceptional community of scholars, students, and alumni have applied this exacting perspective to the world's most pressing problems using the latest tools of social science. Through our undergraduate and graduate programs, we empower a new

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generation of data-driven leaders to create a positive social impact throughout our global society. For more information visit <https://harris.uchicago.edu/>

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- 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.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.