



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# The March 2020 AP-NORC Center Poll

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

*Interviews: 03/26-29/2020*

*1,057 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

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

**CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the...**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC All adults	Right direction	Wrong direction	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/ REFUSED
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	42	58	*	*
02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	41	59	*	*
01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	38	62	*	*
12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	36	63	*	*
10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	39	60	1	1
09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	38	60	1	1
8/15-18/2019 (N=1,059)	33	66	*	1
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	36	63	*	1
5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137)	35	62	2	1
4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108)	37	62	*	*
3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	35	63	*	1
1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	28	70	1	*
12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067)	39	59	*	1
10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	39	60	*	1
8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	38	62	*	*
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	40	58	1	1
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)	39	60	*	*
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,222)	37	62	1	1
2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	32	68	*	*
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	30	69	1	*
9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	24	74	1	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	34	65	2	*
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	37	62	1	*

**CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2*

**CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If approve in CUR2*

**CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?**

*If disapprove in CUR2*

**CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approving	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis-approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapproving	Some-what dis-approve	Strongly dis-approve	DK	SKP /REF
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>43</b>	26	17	-	*	<b>56</b>	*	16	39	-	*
02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	<b>43</b>	24	19	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	16	40	-	1
01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	<b>41</b>	24	17	1	*	<b>58</b>	*	14	44	-	*
12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	<b>40</b>	23	17	*	-	<b>60</b>	*	15	45	-	*
10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	<b>42</b>	25	17	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	14	42	-	1
09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	<b>40</b>	24	16	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	16	42	-	1
8/15-18/2019 (N=1,058)	<b>36</b>	21	15	*	*	<b>62</b>	-	16	46	*	2
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	<b>38</b>	19	19	*	*	<b>60</b>	*	17	43	-	1
5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137)	<b>38</b>	19	18	*	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	1	13	47	*	1
4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108)	<b>39</b>	19	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	*	13	46	-	*
3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	<b>40</b>	22	18	*	*	<b>58</b>	1	15	42	-	1
1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	<b>34</b>	18	16	*	*	<b>65</b>	1	11	53	*	*

AP-NORC All adults	<b>Approv e NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv -ing	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis- approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapp- roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067)	<b>42</b>	21	21	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	14	42	-	1
10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	<b>40</b>	21	19	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	14	45	-	1
8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	<b>38</b>	18	20	-	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	1	17	43		
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	<b>41</b>	21	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	*	16	42	*	*
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)	<b>40</b>	19	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	15	44	-	1
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	<b>42</b>	20	21	*	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>	*	14	44	-	*
2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	<b>35</b>	19	17	-	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	17	46	*	*
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	<b>32</b>	15	17	*	*	<b>67</b>	*	16	51	-	*
9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	<b>32</b>	20	12	*	*	<b>67</b>	*	17	50	*	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	<b>35</b>	16	18	*	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	17	47	*	1
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	<b>42</b>	20	22	*	*	<b>58</b>	*	14	43	-	1

**CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling ... ?**

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

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
The economy	03/26-29/2020	56	43	*	1
	01/16-21/2020	56	43	1	1
	10/24-28/2019	54	44	*	*
	09/20-23/2019	51	47	1	1
	08/15-18/2019	46	51	1	2
	06/13-17/2019	47	51	1	1
	01/16-20/2019	44	55	-	1
	10/11-14/2018	50	48	*	1
	08/16-20/2018	51	49	*	-
	03/14-19/2018	46	51	*	*
	02/15-19/2018	45	53	-	*
	12/07-11/2017	40	59	*	-
	10/12-16/2017	41	57	*	*
	09/28-10/2/2017	42	56	*	*
	06/08-11/2017	43	55	*	*
	03/23-27/2017	50	47	-	*
Foreign policy	03/26-29/2020	41	57	*	1
	01/16-21/2020	39	59	*	1
	10/24-28/2019	38	59	*	2
	09/20-23/2019	39	58	2	1
	08/15-18/2019	36	61	1	1
	01/16-20/2019	35	63	1	2
	10/11-14/2018	39	59	*	1
	08/16-20/2018	36	62	*	*
	02/15-19/2018	34	64	*	*
	12/07-11/2017	30	68	*	-
	09/28-10/02/2017	34	64	*	*
	06/8-11/2017	34	63	*	*
	03/23-27/2017	40	57	*	*
Coronavirus outbreak	03/26-29/2020	44	55	*	*

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
Health care	03/26-29/2020	42	57	*	1
	1/16-21/2020	38	61	*	1
	10/24-28/2019	43	55	*	2
	8/15-18/2019	37	61	1	2
	6/13-17/2019	35	62	*	2
	1/16-20/2019	35	62	1	2
	10/11-14/2018	36	62	*	1
	8/16-20/2018	36	63	*	-
	12/7-11/2017	29	70	*	-
	9/28-10/2/2017	31	68	*	*
	6/8-11/2017	32	65	*	*
	3/23-27/2017	36	62	*	*

N= 1,057

**BB2. In the next year, do you think each of the following will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

		<b>Much/ Some what better NET</b>	<b>Much better</b>	<b>Some what better</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Much/ Some what worse NET</b>	<b>Some what worse</b>	<b>Much worse</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>SKP/ REF</b>
AP-NORC										
The way things are going in the country overall	03/26-29/2020	<b>39</b>	12	27	<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>	23	14	*	*
	01/16-21/2020	<b>30</b>	7	23	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	24	11	*	*
	12/05-09/2019	<b>28</b>	8	20	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	29	13	*	*
	09/20-23/2019	<b>30</b>	9	21	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	27	14	*	1
	06/13-17/2019	<b>27</b>	9	19	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>	29	15	*	1
	01/16-20/2019	<b>22</b>	6	17	<b>25</b>	<b>52</b>	30	22	*	1
	12/13-16/2018	<b>32</b>	9	23	<b>25</b>	<b>42</b>	25	17	*	*
	06/13-18/2018	<b>30</b>	10	20	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	31	15	*	*
	04/11-16/2018	<b>32</b>	9	22	<b>22</b>	<b>46</b>	29	17	-	*
	03/14-19/2018	<b>32</b>	8	24	<b>22</b>	<b>45</b>	26	19	1	*
	02/15-19/2018	<b>28</b>	10	18	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	27	20	*	*

**VIRUS1. How much have you heard or read about the outbreak of a new coronavirus in December 2019?**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020	AP-NORC 02/13-16/2020
<b>A lot/Some NET</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>87</b>
A lot	64	51
Some	18	37
<b>Only a little/Nothing at all NET</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>
Only a little	9	10
Nothing at all	9	3
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>	<i>1,074</i>

**VIRUS2. How worried are you about you or someone in your family being infected with ...**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

		<b>Extre mely/ Very worrie d NET</b>	Extrem ely worrie d	Very worrie d	<b>Some what worrie d</b>	<b>Not very/N ot at all worrie d NET</b>	Not very worrie d	Not at all worrie d	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC										
The coronavirus	03/26-29/2020	<b>50</b>	28	22	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	13	3	-	*
	03/12-16/2020	<b>31</b>	14	17	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	23	10	*	1
	02/13-16/2020	<b>22</b>	11	11	<b>23</b>	<b>55</b>	37	19	-	*
The flu	03/26-29/2020	<b>23</b>	11	12	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	34	9	-	*
	03/12-16/2020	<b>15</b>	6	9	<b>33</b>	<b>50</b>	37	13	-	1
	02/13-16/2020	<b>23</b>	10	14	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	29	7	-	*

*N= 1,057*

**VIRUS4. How much confidence do you have in U.S. health officials' ability to handle the outbreak of the new coronavirus in this country?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
<b>A great deal/Quite a bit NET</b>	<b>36</b>
A great deal	12
Quite a bit	24
<b>A moderate amount</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Only a little/None at all NET</b>	<b>29</b>
Only a little	21
None at all	8
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

**VIRUS5. How prepared do you think hospitals in your area are to deal with the coronavirus outbreak?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
<b>Extremely/Very prepared NET</b>	<b>15</b>
Extremely prepared	3
Very prepared	12
<b>Somewhat prepared</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Not very/Not at all prepared NET</b>	<b>38</b>
Not very prepared	28
Not at all prepared	10
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>



**VIRUS6. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling the coronavirus outbreak?**

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

AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020	<b>Strongly/ Somewhat approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	<b>Neither approve nor disapprove</b>	<b>Somewhat/ Strongly disapprove NET</b>	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
Your state government	<b>57</b>	19	38	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	14	9	-	*
Your city or local government	<b>54</b>	18	36	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	14	6	*	*
The federal government	<b>38</b>	12	27	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>	23	18	*	*
Leaders in Congress	<b>31</b>	6	25	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	28	13	*	*

*N= 1,057*

**VIRUS7. 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]**

AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020	<b>Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET</b>	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat /Strongly oppose NET</b>	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Banning travel into the U.S. for people from other countries	<b>82</b>	62	20	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	3	3	*	*
Mandating that American citizens entering the U.S. from other countries quarantine themselves for 14 days	<b>88</b>	67	21	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	2	1	*	*
Requiring bars and restaurants to close	<b>76</b>	51	25	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	8	3	-	*
Closing schools	<b>83</b>	58	25	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	3	3	-	*

AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020	<b>Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET</b>	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>Somewhat /Strongly oppose NET</b>	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Postponing elections scheduled in the next two months	<b>61</b>	38	24	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	9	10	*	*
Requiring people to postpone medical care that is not essential	<b>72</b>	44	28	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	10	2	-	*
Restricting travel within the U.S.	<b>76</b>	47	29	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	8	4	-	*
Requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands	<b>78</b>	55	23	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	6	5	-	*
Requiring Americans to limit gathering to 10 people or fewer	<b>84</b>	60	24	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	2	2	-	*

N= 1,057

**VIRUS14. Have you or has a close friend or relative been diagnosed with the coronavirus by a health care provider, or not?**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Yes	6
No	93
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,057

**OREG. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Yes	84
No	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,057

**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.**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>46</b>
Strong Democrat	16
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	11
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>38</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	14
Strong Republican	13
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

**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:**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
<b>Liberal NET</b>	<b>33</b>
Very liberal	8
Somewhat liberal	12
Closer to liberal	12
<b>Neither liberal nor conservative</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Conservative NET</b>	<b>40</b>
Closer to conservative	10
Somewhat conservative	16
Very conservative	14
Don't know/Skipped/Refused	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

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

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Urban	22
Suburban	50
Rural	27
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
18-24	12
25-34	20
35-44	14
45-54	15
55-64	18
65-74	14
75+	7

*N=* 1,057

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Male	48
Female	52

*N=* 1,057

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	9

*N=* 1,057

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Married	47
Widowed	5
Divorced	12
Separated	2
Never married	24
Living with partner	10

*N=* 1,057

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Employed	56
Not employed	44
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

## EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	33
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

## INCOME

	AP-NORC 03/26-29/2020
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	20
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,057</i>

## **Study Methodology**

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and 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 March 26 and 29, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,057 completed the survey—975 via the web and 82 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 18.6 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 3.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.1 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).

### **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.