

State of the Facts 2020

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from USAFacts

*Interviews: 09/15-25/2020
1,043 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.

Q2. Next, how closely do you pay attention to information about each of the following topics?

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

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely/ Very closely NET	Extremely closely	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too/Not closely at all NET	Not too closely	Not closely at all	DK	SKP /REF
COVID-19	57	27	30	33	10	7	2	-	*

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely/ Very closely NET	Extremely closely	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too/Not closely at all NET	Not too closely	Not closely at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	43	14	29	39	17	11	5	*	*
Natural disasters	49	14	35	36	15	11	3	-	*
Health care	49	16	33	38	13	10	2	-	*
Crime	44	14	30	38	17	13	4	*	*
The economy and jobs	49	14	35	35	15	11	4	*	*
Education	42	14	29	40	18	14	4	-	*
Foreign affairs	38	12	25	38	24	18	6	-	*
Immigration	46	19	27	38	17	13	4	-	*
The federal budget	29	9	21	42	28	21	7	*	*
Infrastructure	24	6	18	41	35	25	10	1	*

N = 1,032

Q6. How much do you trust information from the federal government about the following topics?

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

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
COVID-19	23	7	16	30	47	29	18	*	1

N = 1,043

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019									
The environment	13	3	10	39	46	31	16	*	1
Natural disasters	36	9	28	34	29	21	8	*	*
Health care	22	5	17	38	40	31	9	*	*
Crime	24	5	19	40	35	26	9	*	1
The economy and jobs	24	5	19	41	34	27	7	*	1
Education	21	5	16	42	37	28	8	*	*
Foreign affairs	16	3	13	37	46	30	16	*	*
Immigration	18	5	13	36	45	30	15	*	*
The federal budget	18	3	14	39	43	30	13	*	*
Infrastructure	16	3	13	43	40	29	11	1	*

N = 1,032

Q16. Which comes closer to describing how you think about each of the following issues?

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

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	I rely on facts more than my values	I rely on my values more than facts	DK	SKP /REF
COVID-19	79	20	*	1

N = 1,043

Q17. Thinking about some of the ways you get information about COVID-19 these days, how often, if at all, do you get information from ...

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

	Several times a day/Once a day NET	Several times a day	Once a day	At least once a week	Less often/ Never NET	Less often	Never	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
The news media	46	17	28	27	27	19	8	*	1
Your state or local government	26	6	21	37	37	27	10	-	*
Federal health officials at agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	21	5	16	37	41	30	11	*	*
Donald Trump	16	4	12	21	62	24	38	*	*
Social media	26	11	15	20	53	24	30	*	*
Your doctor or health care provider	5	2	3	15	79	54	25	*	*
Your family and friends	19	7	12	35	46	34	11	*	*
A search engine such as Google or Bing	24	9	15	25	50	27	23	*	1
Other online information besides from social media or search engines	24	8	16	27	48	27	21	*	1

N = 1,043

Q18. Regardless of how often you get information from these sources, how much do you trust information from them about COVID-19?

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

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
The news media	18	4	14	36	46	29	17	-	*
Your state or local government	26	5	21	42	31	22	9	-	*
Federal health officials at agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	36	13	23	38	26	19	7	-	*
Donald Trump	16	7	10	19	64	16	48	*	1
Social media	6	1	5	21	72	35	37	*	*
Your doctor or health care provider	53	18	35	30	16	10	6	*	1
Your family and friends	17	4	14	42	40	33	7	-	*
A search engine such as Google or Bing	12	3	10	38	49	31	18	*	*
Other online information besides from social media or search engines	12	3	9	35	52	34	19	*	1

N = 1,043

Q19. Thinking about the sources you consider trustworthy when it comes to information about COVID-19, how important is each of the following factors?

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

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not very important	Not at all important	DK	SKP /REF
It is accurate	85	61	24	11	4	3	1	*	*
It provides all relevant information	81	42	38	15	5	3	2	-	*
It explains the way the information was gathered	77	34	43	18	5	3	2	*	*
It provides more than one viewpoint on the subject	53	20	34	33	13	9	4	*	*
It has a high quality presentation	33	8	25	38	29	21	8	*	*
It does not include opinions	57	27	30	30	12	10	2	*	*
It includes information I agree with	16	4	11	33	51	33	18	-	*

N = 1,043

Q20. How easy or difficult is it for you to ...

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

	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
Find factual information about COVID-19	43	12	31	27	30	23	7	*	*
Know if information about COVID-19 is true or not	35	9	26	29	36	26	10	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion about COVID-19	48	17	32	26	26	18	8	-	*

N = 1,043

Q21. When it comes to making decisions about the following issues related to COVID-19, how easy or difficult is it for you to find the information you need?

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

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
When and how to get tested for infection with the virus	57	23	34	21	21	16	5	*	1
The safety of reopening schools	39	15	24	29	32	22	10	*	1
The safety of eating indoors at a restaurant	49	20	29	28	21	16	5	*	1
The safety of gathering in groups of more than 10 people	55	25	30	25	19	15	5	*	1
Wearing a face mask	70	43	27	18	12	8	4	*	1
The safety and effectiveness of treatments for the virus	35	11	24	29	35	26	9	*	*

N = 1,043

Q22. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, do you think factual information about COVID-19 has become ... ?

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Easier to find	36
More difficult to find	37
Neither easier nor more difficult	27
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N =

1,043

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

If Democrat in PID1

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

If Republican in PID1

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

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?

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

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Democrat NET	43
Strong Democrat	17
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	8
Independent/None – Don't lean	15
Republican NET	42
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	15
N =	1,043

G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a ...

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Liberal	24
Moderate	36
Conservative	38
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	1,043

AGE.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
18-24	11
25-34	18
35-44	17
45-54	15
55-64	17
65-74	14
75+	7
N =	1,043

GENDER.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Male	48
Female	52
N =	1,043

RACE/ETHNICITY.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
N =	1,043

MARITAL STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Married	48
Widowed	5
Divorced	10
Separated	4
Never married	25
Living with partner	7
N =	1,043

EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Employed	60
Not employed	40
N =	1,043

EDUCATION.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	34
N =	1,043

INCOME.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$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	21
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	8
N =	1,043

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from USAFacts.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak®, NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. 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 September 15 and 25, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,043 completed the survey—966 via the web and 77 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 27.2 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 23.6 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 84.8 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 5.4 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 2020 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 USAFacts

USAFacts is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan civic initiative providing the most comprehensive and understandable single source of government data.

For more information, please visit usafacts.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 an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world’s population sees AP journalism every day. www.ap.org.

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

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.

Learn more at www.apnorc.org.