



Coronavirus Worries and Social Isolation among Older Adults

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
Funded by The SCAN Foundation

Interview dates: August 20-23, 2021

*Nationally representative sample of 1,015 adults age 50 and older, conducted using the Foresight 50+ Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago
Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

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

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QUALLIFE. In general, would you say your quality of life is...

	NORC 05/21-29/2020	NORC 06/22-07/06/2020	NORC 07/23-8/10/2020	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Excellent/Very good NET	55	53	53	57
Excellent	11	10	9	12
Very good	44	43	44	45
Good	32	34	34	31
Fair/Poor NET	13	12	13	12
Fair	11	10	10	9
Poor	2	2	2	3
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	*	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,131</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,015</i>

Q44. In general, how would you rate your overall mental or emotional health?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Excellent/Very good NET	60
Excellent	17
Very good	44
Good	26
Fair/Poor NET	13
Fair	11
Poor	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

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SATSOC. In general, how would you rate your satisfaction with your social activities and relationships?

	NORC 05/21-29/2020	NORC 06/22-07/06/2020	NORC 07/23-8/10/2020	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Excellent/Very good NET	43	42	40	47
Excellent	10	8	7	12
Very good	33	34	33	35
Good	35	34	35	29
Fair/Poor NET	21	23	24	24
Fair	16	17	18	19
Poor	5	6	6	5
DON'T KNOW	-	*	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,131</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,015</i>

SAT2021. Over the past year, would you say each of the following has gotten better, gotten worse or stayed about the same?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021	Much/ Somewhat better NET	Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Somewhat /Much worse NET	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP /REF
Your quality of life	18	4	13	65	17	15	2	-	*
Your mental or emotional health	15	4	10	63	23	20	2	-	*
Your social life and relationships	15	3	12	59	26	22	4	-	*

N=1,015

LONELY1. How often in the past 4 weeks have you felt that you lack companionship?

	NORC 05/21-29/2020	NORC 06/22-07/06/2020	NORC 07/23-8/10/2020	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Never/Rarely NET	59	63	62	62
Never	35	41	39	36
Rarely	24	22	24	26
Sometimes	26	23	23	24
Often/Very often NET	15	14	14	13
Often	8	8	9	9
Very often	7	7	6	5
DON'T KNOW	-	*	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	-	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,131</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,015</i>

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LONELY2. How often in the past 4 weeks have you felt that you are isolated from others?

	NORC 05/21-29/2020	NORC 06/22-07/06/2020	NORC 07/23-8/10/2020	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Never/Rarely NET	54	60	57	64
Never	31	37	34	41
Rarely	23	22	23	23
Sometimes	26	25	24	22
Often/Very often NET	19	15	16	12
Often	12	9	10	9
Very often	7	6	6	3
DON'T KNOW	*	-	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*	1	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,131</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>1,015</i>

NEW1. Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, have you done each of the following more often, less often, or about as often as before?

AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021	More often	Less often	About as often	DK	SKP/ REF
Met or talked with neighbors	12	36	52	1	*
Did volunteer work for an organization	4	47	47	*	1
Met with friends or family in person	10	55	35	-	*
Used video calling software like Zoom or Facebook Messenger to talk to friends or family	43	14	41	1	1
Attended religious services or participated in faith-based groups	7	43	48	1	1
Talked to a mental health counselor or utilized other mental health services	6	34	56	1	2
Participated in online forums, message boards, or discussions	16	26	55	1	2
Used social media	33	17	48	1	2

N=1,015

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

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC		Extremely /Very worried NET	Extremely worried	Very worried	Some- what worried	Not too/Not at all worried NET	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DK	SKP/ REF
The coronavirus	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	36	17	19	31	33	22	11	-	*
	7/15-19/2021 (N=632)	27	14	13	28	45	31	14	*	*
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	17	9	8	24	59	37	22	-	-
The flu	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	14	4	10	27	58	40	18	-	*
	7/15-19/2021 (N=632)	12	4	9	25	63	43	20	-	*
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	9	2	7	19	72	46	27	-	*

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VAX3. Have you received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine?

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Yes	78
No	21
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N</i> =	1,015

VIRUS7. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often are you:

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

AP-NORC		Always /often NET	Always	Often	Some- times	Rarely/ never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP/ REF
Avoiding nonessential travel	8/20-23/2021 (<i>N</i> =1,015)	54	28	25	18	27	12	15	1	1
	6/10-14/2021 (<i>N</i> =525)	56	32	25	17	26	11	15	-	1
Staying away from large groups	8/20-23/2021 (<i>N</i> =1,015)	62	34	28	16	21	11	10	-	*
	6/10-14/2021 (<i>N</i> =525)	64	35	29	14	21	11	11	-	1
Avoiding other people as much as possible	8/20-23/2021 (<i>N</i> =1,015)	42	17	26	26	32	17	15	-	*
	6/10-14/2021 (<i>N</i> =525)	47	19	28	21	31	18	13	*	1
Wearing a face mask when you're around other people outside your home	8/20-23/2021 (<i>N</i> =1,015)	59	34	25	19	21	10	11	1	-
	6/10-14/2021 (<i>N</i> =525)	58	39	20	15	26	12	14	-	1

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VAX_NEW. Over the past week, how often have you worn a mask while doing each of the following?

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

AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021	Always/ Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely/ Never NET	Rarely	Never	I haven't done this	DK	SKP /REF
Going to the store	58	46	12	14	25	7	17	3	1	*
Interacting with visitors to your home	17	10	7	11	50	12	37	21	1	1
Visiting someone else's home	15	9	6	14	41	13	28	29	1	*
Outdoor activities like going for a walk or visiting with people outside	19	12	8	14	55	14	41	11	1	*

N=1,015

HOPEFUL1. Would you say that you are optimistic or pessimistic that you will be able to fully return to activities you participated in before the coronavirus outbreak in the next year? If you have already done this, you can say that too.

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Very/Somewhat optimistic NET	42
Very optimistic	15
Somewhat optimistic	27
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	16
Very/Somewhat pessimistic NET	24
Somewhat pessimistic	18
Very pessimistic	6
Already have done this	17
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,015

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REOPEN2. In the next few weeks, will you personally:

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

AP-NORC		Yes, definitely /probably will NET	Yes, definitely will	Yes, probably will	No, probably/ definitely will <u>not</u> NET	No, probably will <u>not</u>	No, definitely will <u>not</u>	DK	SKP /REF
Attend religious services in person	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	38	23	15	60	21	39	*	2
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	38	22	16	61	24	37	-	1
Visit friends or family	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	78	36	42	21	15	7	-	1
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	81	41	40	18	11	7	-	1
Use public transportation	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	11	4	7	86	18	67	*	4
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	10	4	6	89	26	63	-	1
Travel	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	42	19	23	56	24	31	*	2
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	44	16	29	54	27	27	-	1
Go out to a bar or restaurant	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	57	23	34	42	19	23	-	1
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	64	28	37	34	18	16	-	1
Go to the movies, a concert, or the theater	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	24	6	17	74	28	46	*	2
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	28	7	21	70	36	34	-	1
Exercise at a gym or studio	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	16	9	7	80	19	61	*	4
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	14	7	8	85	29	56	-	1
Go shopping in person for non-essential items	8/20-23/2021 (N=1,015)	75	35	40	24	15	10	*	1
	6/10-14/2021 (N=525)	82	35	47	17	12	5	*	1

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LTC15. Many health care providers have begun using technology to safely provide patients with medical care from a distance during the COVID-19 outbreak, for example by using a live video service like Zoom, Doxy.me, or FaceTime, talking over the telephone, or by email or text message. This is often referred to as telehealth.

Have you received any care using any of the following since the COVID-19 pandemic started in March 2020?

	AP-NORC 3/25-29/2021	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Any Telehealth NET	56	63
Live video service like Zoom, Doxy.me, or FaceTime	32	33
Talking on the telephone	37	45
Email	17	25
Text message	12	20
None of the above	44	37
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>1,015</i>

If use any type of telehealth in LTC15

Q32. Once the COVID-19 outbreak is over, how likely are you to continue to seek care through telehealth?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Extremely/Very likely NET	18
Extremely likely	6
Very likely	13
Somewhat likely	32
Not too/Not at all likely NET	49
Not too likely	32
Not at all likely	17
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>613</i>

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If have not received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in VAX3

VAX5. Will you...

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Definitely/Probably get a COVID-19 vaccine NET	21
Definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine	7
Probably get a COVID-19 vaccine	14
Probably/Definitely <u>not</u> get a COVID-19 vaccine NET	77
Probably <u>not</u> get a COVID-19 vaccine	28
Definitely <u>not</u> get a COVID-19 vaccine	49
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

200

PARTYID

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Democrat NET	46
Strong Democrat	26
Not so strong Democrat	11
Lean Democrat	9
Independent/None – Don't lean	12
Republican NET	41
Lean Republican	11
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	19
Unknown	1

N=

1,015

AGE

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
50-59	35
60-64	18
65+	47

N=

1,015

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GENDER

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Male	47
Female	53
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
White	71
Black or African American	11
Hispanic	12
Other	7
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Married	54
Not married	46
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Employed	42
Not employed	58
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	31
Some college	25
College graduate or above	17
Post grad study/professional degree	17
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

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INCOME

	AP-NORC 8/20-23/2021
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	8
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	19
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,015</i>

Study Methodology

This study, funded by [The SCAN Foundation](#), was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Data were collected using the Foresight 50+ Consumer Omnibus, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population of adults age 50 and older. 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 or a secondary national address frame, both with over 97% coverage of all U.S. addresses, and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, or field interviewers (face to face). Households were screened for having at least one adult age 50 and older. 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 population. Of note for this study, the panel would also exclude adults age 50 and older who live in some institutional types of settings, such as skilled nursing facilities or nursing homes, depending on how addresses are listed for the facility. Staff from NORC at the University of Chicago, The Associated Press, and The SCAN Foundation collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between August 20 and August 23, 2021, with adults age 50 and older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from the Foresight 50+ Panel, and 1,015 completed the survey—949 via the web and 66 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (\$3) for completing the survey.

The final stage completion rate is 16.0%, the weighted household panel recruitment rate is 19.1%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75%, for a cumulative response rate of 2.3%. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level including the design effect.

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 non-coverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, education, and AARP Membership. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2021 Current Population Survey and AARP. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 50 and over.

Topline data and reports are available at www.longtermcarepoll.org. For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

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About The SCAN Foundation

The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit www.TheSCANFoundation.org.

About The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and non-partisan 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. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at www.apnorc.org