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Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives

More than half have prayed for an end to the virus's spread

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are continuing to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. For this analysis, we surveyed 11,537 U.S. adults in March 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives

More than half have prayed for an end to the virus's spread

As the number of confirmed [COVID-19](#) cases [continues to rise](#) and schools, workplaces and public gathering spaces across the United States remain closed, a new Pew Research Center survey finds that the coronavirus outbreak is having profound impacts on the personal lives of Americans in a variety of ways. Nearly nine-in-ten U.S. adults say their life has changed at least a little as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, including 44% who say their life has changed in a major way.

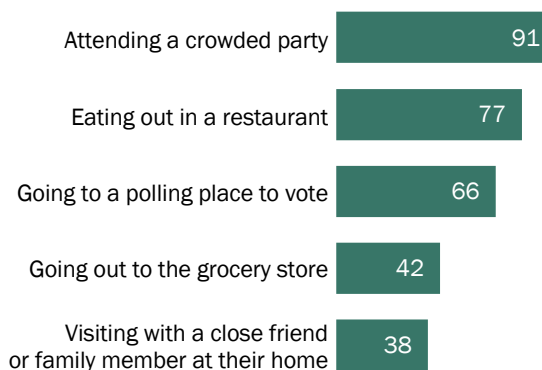
Amid widespread calls from experts for Americans to [socially distance](#) from one another to avoid spreading the virus, what recently seemed like mundane daily activities now elicit concerns from large swaths of the population. About nine-in-ten U.S. adults (91%) say that, given the current situation, they would feel uncomfortable attending a crowded party. Roughly three-quarters (77%) would not want to eat out at a restaurant. In the midst of a presidential election year, about two-thirds (66%) say they wouldn't feel comfortable going to a polling place to vote. And smaller but still substantial shares express discomfort even with going to the grocery store (42%) or visiting with a close friend or family member in their home (38%).

How are people adapting their behavior in light of the outbreak? Four-in-ten working-age adults ages 18 to 64 report having worked from home because of coronavirus concerns – a figure that rises to a majority among working-age adults with college degrees and upper-income earners. Still, despite current circumstances, about two-thirds of adults with children under 12 at home say it's been at least somewhat easy for them to handle child care responsibilities.

The virus also has impacted Americans' religious behaviors. More than half of all U.S. adults (55%) say they have prayed for an end to the spread of coronavirus. Large majorities of

Amid coronavirus outbreak, most Americans uncomfortable going to a party, restaurant or polling place

*% saying that, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they would feel **uncomfortable** doing each of the following*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020. "Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives"

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Americans who pray daily (86%) and of U.S. Christians (73%) have taken to prayer during the outbreak – but so have some who say they seldom or never pray and people who say they do not belong to any religion (15% and 24%, respectively).

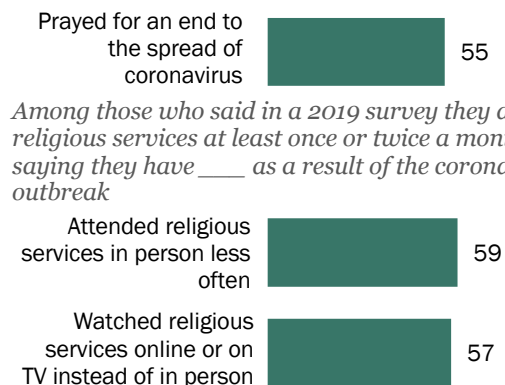
Among U.S. adults who said in an earlier survey they attend religious services at least once or twice a month, most (59%) now say they have scaled back their attendance because of the coronavirus – in many cases, presumably because churches and other houses of worship have canceled services. But this does not mean they have disengaged from collective worship entirely: A similar share (57%) reports having watched religious services online or on TV instead of attending in person. Together, four-in-ten regular worshippers appear to have *replaced* in-person attendance with virtual worship (saying that they have been attending less often but watching online instead).

These are among the findings of a Pew Research Center survey of 11,537 U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020, using the Center’s American Trends Panel.¹ Other key findings from the survey include:

- Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say they feel comfortable proceeding with a variety of activities despite the coronavirus outbreak. For example, 69% of Republicans and people who lean toward the GOP say they would be comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member at their home, compared with 55% of Democrats and Democratic leaners. Along these same lines, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say their lives have changed in a major way as a result of the virus, and that they have been feeling psychological distress.
- Compared with older Americans, young adults are more likely to say they are comfortable going to a crowded party, a restaurant or a small gathering with close family or friends. Still,

Many Americans say they have changed religious habits due to coronavirus outbreak

% saying they have ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020. “Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives”

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¹ For more details, see the [Methodology](#) section of the report.

most adults under 30 say they are *uncomfortable* eating out at a restaurant (73%) or going to a crowded party (87%). Young adults are more likely than their elders to say they have used a food delivery service due to the outbreak.

- Concerns about public activities and changes to personal lives have been felt more acutely in states with higher numbers of COVID-19 cases. For instance, 51% of those living in highly impacted states say their lives have changed in a major way, compared with 40% of those in states with the lowest numbers of cases.

Most Americans say their personal life has been affected by the coronavirus outbreak

Nearly nine-in-ten U.S. adults say their personal life has changed at least a little bit as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, with 44% saying their life has changed in a major way. Just 12% say their life has stayed about the same as it was before the outbreak.

Women (47%) are more likely than men (41%) to say their personal life has changed in a major way as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. And while more than four-in-ten white (45%) and Hispanic (47%) adults say this has changed their lives significantly, about a third of black adults (34%) say the same.

Income and education are also linked to assessments of the personal impact of the coronavirus outbreak. More than half of those with higher incomes (54%) say this has changed their life in a major way, compared with 44% of those with middle incomes and 39% of those with lower incomes.²

Similarly, 61% of those with postgraduate degrees, and a narrower majority of those with bachelor's degrees (54%), say the coronavirus outbreak has changed their life in a major way. By comparison, 43% of those with some college and about a third of those with a high school diploma or less education (35%) say this has happened to them. Across income groups, those with at least a bachelor's degree are more likely

More than four-in-ten Americans say their lives have changed in a major way

% saying that, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, their personal life has ...

	Changed in a major way	Changed, but only a little bit	Stayed about the same
All adults	44	44	12
Men	41	46	12
Women	47	41	11
White	45	45	10
Black	34	43	22
Hispanic	47	43	10
Ages 18-29	43	45	12
30-49	46	43	10
50-64	42	42	16
65+	45	45	9
Postgrad	61	34	5
Bachelor's degree	54	40	5
Some college	43	45	12
HS or less	35	48	16
Upper income	54	39	6
Middle income	44	45	10
Lower income	39	44	16
<i>COVID-19 state health impact to date</i>			
High	51	39	9
Medium	43	44	12
Low	40	47	13

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See Appendix for details. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020. "Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives"

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² Family incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household sizes. Middle income is defined here as two-thirds to double the median annual income for all panelists. Lower income falls below that range; upper income falls above it.

than those with less education to say the coronavirus outbreak has changed their life in a major way.

Across age groups, similar shares say the coronavirus outbreak has had a major impact on their personal life. For example, 43% of adults younger than 30 say the outbreak has changed their life in a major way, as do 45% of those ages 65 and older.

Not surprisingly, those in states with a high number of coronavirus cases are more likely than those in states that haven't been as affected to say their personal life has changed in a major way because of the outbreak. About half of those who live in states with a high number of cases (51%) say their life has changed in a major way, compared with 43% of those in states with a medium number of cases and 40% of those in states with a low number of cases.³

Among the [33% of Americans](#) who say they or someone in their household has either lost a job or took a pay cut because of the coronavirus outbreak, 54% say their personal life has changed in a major way as a result of the outbreak. This compares with 39% of those who say they have not experienced either of these situations.

About half of Democrats say their life has changed in a major way because of the coronavirus

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say their personal life has changed in a major way as a result of the coronavirus outbreak: About half of Democrats and Democratic leaners (51%) say this, compared with 38% of Republicans and those who lean to the GOP.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say their lives have changed in a major way

% saying that, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, their personal life has ...

	Changed in a major way	Changed, but only a little bit	Stayed about the same
All adults	44	44	12
Rep/Lean Rep	38	49	13
Dem/Lean Dem	51	39	10

COVID-19 state health impact to date ...

Among Republicans and Republican leaners

High	42	47	10
Medium	37	49	13
Low	36	49	14

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners

High	57	35	8
Medium	50	38	12
Low	45	44	11

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See Appendix for details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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³ COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See [Appendix](#) for details.

These partisan differences remain even after accounting for the fact that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to live in states with a high number of confirmed cases of COVID-19. About a third of Democrats (34%) live in these states, compared with 22% of Republicans. More than half of Democrats in states with a high number of cases (57%) say their life has changed in a major way, compared with 42% of Republicans in states with a high number of cases. Similarly, in states with a medium or low number of cases, Democrats are more likely than their Republican counterparts to say the coronavirus outbreak has impacted their life in a major way.

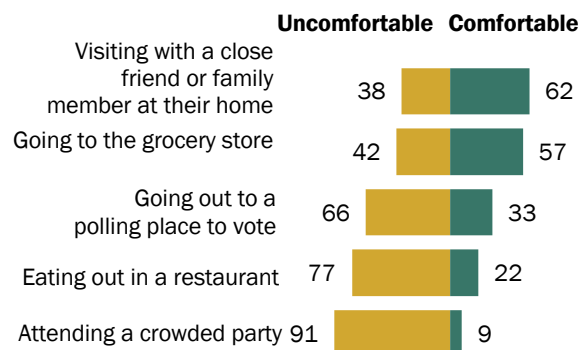
More than three-quarters of Americans say they are not comfortable eating out in a restaurant given the current situation with coronavirus

About six-in-ten Americans say they would feel comfortable visiting with close friends and family members at their home (62%) and going to the grocery store (57%), given the current coronavirus outbreak. Roughly four-in-ten say they would not be comfortable doing these things (38% and 42%, respectively). Far fewer express comfort in going to a polling place to vote (33%) or eating out in a restaurant (22%), and only about one-in-ten (9%) say they would feel comfortable attending a crowded party.

There are some notable demographic differences in what Americans are comfortable doing during the current outbreak. In particular, younger adults are more likely than older Americans to express comfort with leaving their homes for various reasons. Across all age groups, majorities of Americans say they are uncomfortable eating out in a restaurant; still, about one-quarter of young adults ages 18 to 29 (27%) say they *would* be comfortable doing this, compared with just 16% of Americans 65 and older. Younger Americans are also more likely to feel comfortable visiting with family and friends: 68% of adults younger than 30 say they'd be comfortable doing this, compared with 60% of Americans ages 30 to 49, 64% of adults ages 50 to 64 and 56% of those 65 and older.

More Americans feel comfortable visiting a close friend, family member than going to restaurants, parties

% saying that, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they would feel ____ doing each of the following



Note: Share of respondents who did not offer an answer not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020.
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Republicans are more likely than Democrats to feel comfortable visiting with a friend, going grocery shopping

Across a variety of measures, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say they are comfortable continuing with regular activities. Republicans are significantly more likely than Democrats to say they are comfortable going to a grocery store and visiting friends and are far more likely than Democrats to say they are comfortable eating in a restaurant.

Roughly seven-in-ten Republicans (69%) say they are comfortable visiting with a close friend or family member at their home, while 31% say they would be uncomfortable. Democrats are more divided: 55% say they would be comfortable doing this while 45% say they would not be comfortable.

When it comes to Americans' comfort with visiting with those close to them, partisan differences remain even after accounting for the fact that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to live in states with a high number of confirmed cases of COVID-19. About two-thirds of Republicans in states with a high number of cases (65%) say they would be comfortable visiting with close family and friends, compared with 50% of Democrats in these states. Similarly, in states with a medium or low number of cases, Republicans are more likely than their Democratic counterparts to say they are comfortable visiting with family and friends.

Overall, Americans living in suburban and rural areas are more likely than those living in urban communities to feel comfortable visiting with close friends and relatives. However, Americans living in urban areas are divided depending on how many confirmed cases of COVID-19 are in

Among Republicans in states with low numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases, 74% say they are comfortable visiting with close family and friends

% saying that, given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, they would feel ____ visiting with a close friend or family member at their home

	Uncomfortable	Comfortable
All adults	38	62
Rep/Lean Rep	31	69
Dem/Lean Dem	45	55

COVID-19 state health impact to date ...

Among Republicans and Republican leaners

	35	65
High	35	65
Medium	33	67
Low	26	74

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners

High	50	50
Medium	44	56
Low	40	60

Notes: Share of respondents who did not offer an answer not shown. COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See Appendix for details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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their state. Those living in urban areas in states with a high number of cases are the least likely to feel comfortable visiting with others (47%) while urban dwellers in states with a medium (56%) or low (67%) number of cases are more likely to feel comfortable going out to visit friends. These differences are not as stark in suburban areas, and there is no difference in comfort with visiting others among Americans in rural communities, regardless of the number of cases in the state.

About one-in-five adults say they have used a food delivery service because of the coronavirus outbreak

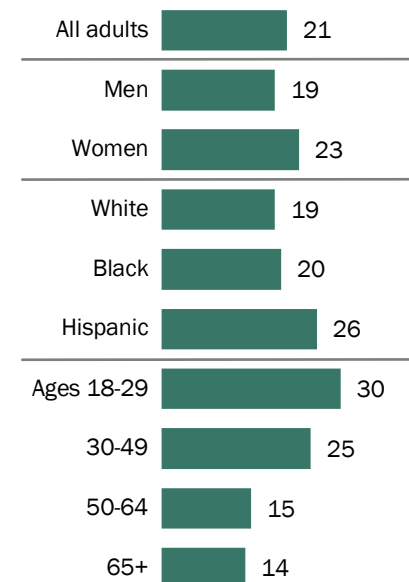
Amid recommendations for [social distancing](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, about one-in-five adults (21%) say they have used a food delivery service instead of going to a restaurant or grocery store as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Adults younger than 30 are particularly likely to say they have used a food delivery service because of the coronavirus outbreak: Three-in-ten in this group say they have done this. A quarter of adults ages 30 to 49 also say they have used a food delivery service because of the coronavirus outbreak, while smaller shares of those ages 50 to 64 (15%) and those 65 and older (14%) say the same.

Hispanic adults (26%) are more likely than white (19%) and black (20%) adults to have used a food delivery service instead of going to a restaurant or grocery store as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. And while about a quarter of women (23%) say they have done this, about one-in-five men (19%) say the same. There are no notable differences by educational attainment, income, or whether people live in states with a high, medium or low number of coronavirus cases.

Younger adults more likely to have used a food delivery service because of coronavirus outbreak

% saying they have used a food delivery service instead of going to a restaurant or grocery store as a result of the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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Most working-age adults with at least a bachelor's degree have worked from home as a result of the coronavirus outbreak

Four-in-ten working-age adults – those ages 18 to 64 – say they have worked from home as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.⁴ Men and women in this age group are about equally likely to say they have worked from home.

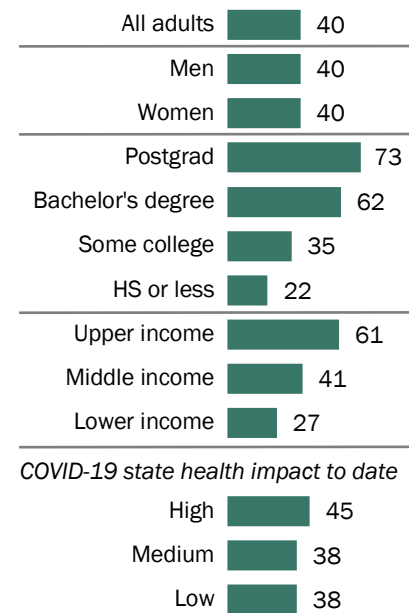
About three-quarters of working-age adults with a postgraduate degree (73%) say they have worked from home as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, as do 62% of those with a bachelor's degree. Far smaller shares of working-age adults with some college (35%) or with a high school diploma or less education (22%) say they have worked from home.

Similarly, working-age adults with higher incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to say they have worked from home because of the coronavirus outbreak: 61% of those in the upper-income tier say they have done this, compared with 41% in the middle-income tier and an even smaller share (27%) of those with lower incomes.

In states with a high number of coronavirus cases, 45% of working-age adults say they have worked from home because of the outbreak; smaller shares in states with a medium or low number of cases say the same (38% each).

Four-in-ten working-age adults have worked from home because of coronavirus outbreak

% of working-age adults saying they have worked from home as a result of the coronavirus outbreak



Note: "Working age" is defined as adults ages 18 to 64. "Some college" includes those with an associate degree and those who attended college but did not obtain a degree. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. COVID-19 state health impact is based on per-capita cases and/or total number of cases. See Appendix for details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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⁴ This analysis includes all working-age adults ages 18 to 64, including some who may not be employed.

Most adults with young children at home say it has been easy for them to handle child care responsibilities

Even as [many schools](#) have closed because of the coronavirus outbreak, 65% of adults with children younger than 12 at home say it has been at least somewhat easy for them to handle child care responsibilities during this time, with 32% saying it has been very easy. About a third (35%) say this has been very or somewhat difficult for them.

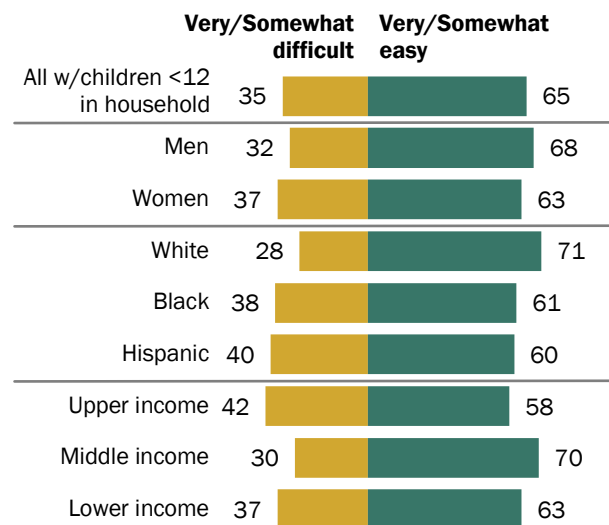
Similar shares of men (68%) and women (63%) with young children at home say it has been easy for them to handle child care responsibilities during the coronavirus outbreak (the difference between the shares of men and women saying this is not statistically significant).

Black and Hispanic adults with children younger than 12 at home are more likely than white adults with children in the same age group to say handling child care responsibilities has been difficult for them during the outbreak: About four-in-ten black (38%) and Hispanic (40%) adults with young children say this, compared with 28% of their white counterparts. Still, majorities of at least six-in-ten in each group say it has been easy for them to handle child care responsibilities during this time.

Majorities across income groups also say handling child care responsibilities has been at least somewhat easy for them so far, but those with middle incomes are more likely than those with upper or lower incomes to say this. Seven-in-ten middle-income adults with children younger than 12 at home say it's been easy for them to handle child care responsibilities, compared with 58% of those in the upper-income tier and 63% in the lower-income tier.

About a third of adults with young children say handling child care responsibilities has been difficult

% of adults with children younger than 12 living in their household saying it has been ___ for them to handle child care responsibilities during the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2018 earnings. See Appendix for details. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19-24, 2020. "Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives"

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Many Americans are praying and staying away from religious services in response to coronavirus

More than half of U.S. adults say they have prayed for an end to the spread of the coronavirus. Evangelical Protestants are among the most likely to say they have prayed for an end to the virus (82% say they've done so). A similar share of adherents of the historically black Protestant tradition (79%) say they have done the same. Two-thirds of Catholics (68%) and mainline Protestants (65%) also say they have prayed for an end to the outbreak.

Roughly one-third of Jews (35%) say they have prayed to end the virus. Religious “nones” – especially self-described atheists and agnostics – are less likely than those who identify with a religion to say they have prayed for an end to the outbreak, though 36% of those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular” say they have prayed about the virus.

Fully 86% of people who pray every day say they have prayed specifically about the virus, as have two-thirds of those who say they pray on a weekly basis. Half of those who say they pray a few times a month report having prayed about the coronavirus, as have 15% of those who generally seldom or never pray.

More women than men say they have prayed for an end to the spread of the disease, and more black respondents than white and Hispanic respondents say the same. Older people are more likely than younger adults to say they have prayed for an end to the virus, and more Republicans than Democrats have prayed about the outbreak. These patterns are consistent with [overall differences in the religiousness of these groups](#).

Most U.S. Christians say they have prayed for an end to virus

% saying they have prayed for an end to the spread of the coronavirus

	%
Total	55
Christian	73
Protestant	76
Evangelical	82
Mainline	65
Historically black Prot.	79
Catholic	68
Jewish	35
Unaffiliated	24
Atheist/agnostic	6
Nothing in particular	36
<i>Among those who pray ...</i>	
Daily	86
Weekly	66
Monthly	49
Seldom/never	15
Men	44
Women	65
White	53
Black	66
Hispanic	57
Ages 18-29	35
30-49	52
50-64	63
65+	67
Rep/Lean Rep	64
Dem/Lean Dem	46

Note: Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey conducted March 19-24, 2020. “Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives”

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The survey also shows that the outbreak has changed the religious attendance habits of U.S. adults, at least for the time being. Among people who said in a previous survey that they generally attend religious services at least once or twice a month, 59% now say they have attended less often recently as a result of the outbreak. And a similar share (57%) say they have watched religious services online or on TV instead of in-person.⁵

Across Christian groups, half or more of those who typically attend church at least monthly say they have been going less often because of the virus. Many of them – including two-thirds of evangelical Protestants – say they have tuned in to church services online or on television instead of attending in person.

Women who attend worship services monthly or more often are a bit more likely than men who attend with the same frequency to say they have turned to the internet or television to watch religious services (though no more likely to say they have been attending less often in-person). White church attenders are more likely than blacks and Latinos to say they have attended less often. Higher shares of Republicans than Democrats say they have stayed away from religious services and that they have turned to virtual alternatives in reaction to the outbreak.

Virus has changed churchgoing habits of U.S. Christians, at least temporarily

Among those who said in a 2019 survey they attend religious services at least once or twice a month, % who have ___ as a result of the coronavirus outbreak

	Attended religious services in person less often %	Watched religious services online or on TV instead of attending in person %
All who attend services monthly or more often	59	57
Christian	60	59
Protestant	61	62
Evangelical	62	65
Mainline	66	54
Historically black Prot.	51	59
Catholic	55	46
Men	58	53
Women	60	60
White	66	58
Black	50	58
Hispanic	42	56
Ages 18-29	55	58
30-49	60	53
50-64	56	56
65+	65	60
Rep/Lean Rep	64	62
Dem/Lean Dem	53	50

Note: Based on those who said in a 2019 survey they attend religious services at least once or twice per month. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. The survey included too few interviews with non-Christian respondents who attend religious services regularly to permit analysis of their responses to these questions.

Source: Survey conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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⁵ The questions that ask respondents whether they have been attending religious services less often or watching them online or on TV instead of attending in-person were asked of everyone. Among all respondents, 27% say they have attended religious services less often and 25% (including 11% who generally attend religious services a few times a year or less) say they have watched them online or on TV in response to

the outbreak. To facilitate interpretation of these data, the analyses reported here are based on those who said in a previous survey (conducted in the summer and fall of 2019) that they generally attend religious services at least once or twice a month. Those who indicated in the previous survey that they attend religious services a few times a year or less often may report low levels of having attended less often or having watched online in response to the virus because they attended sporadically or not at all to begin with, not because they are unconcerned by the virus. The survey included too few interviews with non-Christian respondents who attend religious services regularly to permit analysis of their responses to these questions.

Combining the two questions suggests that four-in-ten Americans who typically attend religious services at least monthly appear to have replaced their in-person attendance with virtual religious participation; 40% say they have been attending religious services less often *and* that they have been watching them online or on television instead as a result of the outbreak. One-in-five (19%) are attending less often but *not* replacing in-person attendance with watching services electronically, and 17% appear to be supplementing their in-person attendance with virtual participation (i.e., they say they are not attending less but that they *are* watching online or on TV). One quarter of those who typically attend religious services monthly say their attendance habits have not changed – they are not attending less often, nor are they watching services online or on television.

Among those who typically attend church at least

monthly, the share of Christians who indicate they have replaced in-person attendance with watching church services online or on TV tops out at 47% among evangelical Protestants. White people are more likely than black and Hispanic respondents to say they are now watching religious

In response to virus, four-in-ten U.S. Christian churchgoers appear to have replaced attending church in person with virtual religious participation

Among those who said in a 2019 survey they attend religious services at least once or twice a month, % who have ___ as a result of coronavirus outbreak

	Been attending less in person, now watching online or on TV %	Been attending less in person, not watching online or on TV %	Been watching online or on TV, not attending less in person %	Not changed (not watching virtually because of virus, not attending less in person) %
All who attend services monthly or more often	40	19	17	24
Christian	41	19	18	22
Protestant	45	16	17	22
Evangelical	47	15	18	20
Mainline	43	23	12	22
Historically black Prot.	38	13	20	29
Catholic	30	25	16	28
Men	37	21	16	26
Women	43	18	18	22
White	45	21	13	21
Black	35	14	22	28
Hispanic	26	16	29	28
Ages 18-29	42	13	16	29
30-49	38	22	16	24
50-64	38	17	18	26
65+	44	21	17	19
Rep/Lean Rep	47	17	15	21
Dem/Lean Dem	31	22	19	28

Note: Based on those who said in a 2019 survey they attend religious services at least once or twice per month. The share who refused to answer both questions (<1% overall) not shown. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. The survey included too few interviews with non-Christian respondents who attend religious services regularly to permit analysis of their responses to these questions.

Source: Survey conducted March 19-24, 2020.

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services online while attending less in person, while black and Hispanic people are more likely than white respondents to say they are supplementing their in-person attendance with virtual religious participation or that their attendance habits have not changed.

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted March 19 to March 24, 2020. A total of 11,537 panelists responded out of 15,433 who were sampled, for a response rate of 75%. This

does not include five panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4.1%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 11,537 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,311
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,335
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	685
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	6,412
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	4,690
	Total	35,014	23,440	15,433

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a

random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. The same recruitment procedure was carried out on August 19, 2019, from which a total of 5,900 were invited to join the panel and 4,720 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 23,440 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 15,433 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.⁶

⁶ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original selection probability. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender	2018 American Community Survey
Age	
Education	
Race/Hispanic origin	
Country of birth among Hispanics	
Home internet access	
Years lived in the United States among Hispanics	
Region x Metropolitan status	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total US adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 19–24, 2020

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	11,537		1.5 percentage points
<i>COVID-19 state health impact to date:</i>			
High	3,138	29	2.7 percentage points
Medium	5,002	41	2.3 percentage points
Low	3,397	31	2.6 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,738	44	2.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	6,474	52	2.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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Appendix

Categorization of COVID-19 state health impact in this report

This report uses a measure of state-level impact of COVID-19. States and the District of Columbia are categorized as having experienced a high, medium, or low impact based on a combination of the total number and the per capita number of people who have tested positive for the novel coronavirus (as of March 22).

States were classified as “high” if they had *either* 1,000 or more total cases or they had more than 100 cases per million residents as of March 22. “Low” states had both fewer than 60 cases per million residents *and* fewer than 300 cases overall. The remaining states were classified as “medium” impact.

Data for positive cases of COVID-19 by state were taken from The COVID Tracking Project (downloaded on March 23).

Categorization of COVID-19 state impact

States where COVID-19 has had a ___ impact on state health (as of March 22)

High	Medium	Low
California	Colorado	Alabama
Washington, D.C.	Connecticut	Alaska
Illinois	Florida	Arkansas
Louisiana	Georgia	Arizona
Michigan	Maine	Delaware
New Jersey	Massachusetts	Hawaii
New York	Mississippi	Idaho
Washington	Nevada	Indiana
	Ohio	Iowa
	Pennsylvania	Kansas
	Rhode Island	Kentucky
	Tennessee	Maryland
	Texas	Minnesota
	Vermont	Missouri
	Wisconsin	Montana
		Nebraska
		New Hampshire
		New Mexico
		North Carolina
		North Dakota
		Oklahoma
		Oregon
		South Carolina
		South Dakota
		Utah
		Virginia
		West Virginia
		Wyoming

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Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2018 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in our sample (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and for household size). The middle-income range for this analysis is about \$40,100 to \$120,400 annually for a three-person household. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$40,100, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$120,400.

Based on these adjustments, among respondents who provided their income, 33% are lower income, 45% are middle income and 22% fall into the upper-income tier.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).