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5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19

Most Americans say the pandemic drove the country apart

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About Pew Research Center

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand how Americans were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most data on Americans' current views and experiences is from a survey of 9,593 U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024. Data on experiences in the workplace is from a separate survey of 5,273 U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

Everyone who completed these surveys is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection. Surveys were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The surveys are weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other factors. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Here are the questions from the late October survey used for this report, the topline and the survey methodology. Here are the [topline](#) and [survey methodology](#) for questions from the Oct 7-13 workers survey.

We supplemented our recent ATP survey data with previous Pew Research Center findings to explore how views and experiences changed during and after the pandemic. Links to these earlier surveys – including their toplines and methodologies – can be found throughout this report.

Table of Contents

About Pew Research Center	2
How we did this	3
Table of Contents	4
Overview	5
1. Americans' views on COVID-19 risk and the country's response to health emergencies	22
2. How COVID-19 changed U.S. workplaces	35
3. How the COVID-19 pandemic affected U.S. religious life	46
4. How COVID-19 impacted Americans' relationship with technology	52
Appendix	65
Acknowledgments	69
Methodology	70

5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19

Most Americans say the pandemic drove the country apart

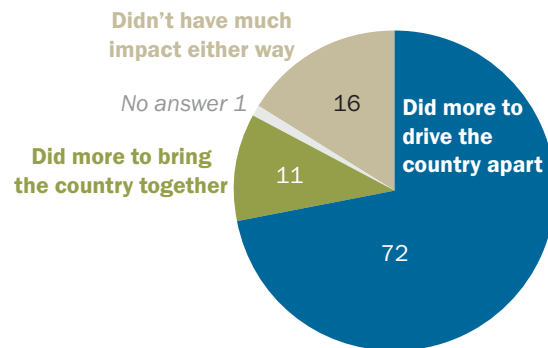
The most significant pandemic of our lifetime arrived as the United States was experiencing three major societal trends: a [growing divide between partisans](#) of the left and right, [decreasing trust in many institutions](#), and [a massive splintering of the information environment](#).

COVID-19 did not cause any of this, but these forces fueled the country's divided response. Looking back, **nearly three-quarters of U.S. adults (72%) say the pandemic did more to drive the country apart than to bring it together.**

Fundamental differences arose between Americans over what we expect from our government, how much tolerance we have for health risks, and which groups and sectors to prioritize in a pandemic. Many of these divides continue to play out in the nation's politics today.

Most say COVID-19 drove the U.S. apart

% of U.S. adults who say that all in all, they feel the COVID-19 pandemic ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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The pandemic left few aspects of daily life in America untouched. Looking back on it nearly five years later, **three-quarters of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic took some sort of toll on their own lives.** This includes 27% who say it had a *major* toll on them and 47% who say it took a minor toll.

The virus itself also had a staggering impact. A [large](#)

[majority](#) of U.S. adults have had COVID-19 at some point, and more than 1 million Americans [died from it](#). Millions continue to struggle with [long COVID](#). And [most say they know someone](#) who was hospitalized or died from the virus.

But **most Americans have moved on.** The vast majority of those who say their lives were impacted report having recovered at least somewhat. Among U.S. adults overall, about one-in-five (21%) now say the coronavirus is a major threat to the health of the U.S. population as a whole. And a majority (56%) think it's no longer something we really need to worry about much.

This is reflected in Americans' behavior: Just **4% regularly wear a mask**, while most never do. And **fewer than half of U.S. adults said they planned to get an updated COVID-19 vaccine last fall**, a stark contrast to the long lines and widespread demand that met the initial rollout of vaccines.

Three-quarters say the pandemic took a toll on them, though most say they've recovered at least somewhat

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on them (and if so, how much they have recovered)



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

"5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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At the five-year anniversary of the coronavirus outbreak, a major Pew Research Center survey conducted in late October 2024 provides insight into how Americans assess the nation's pandemic response. These findings are paired with an analysis of trends dating to early 2020. The report sections take a closer look at COVID-19's impact in four specific areas of American life: health, work, religion and technology.

Massive gaps remain between Republicans and Democrats in views toward COVID-19, including vaccines

Majorities of both Democrats and Republicans were personally impacted by the pandemic: Eight-in-ten Democrats (including independents who lean to the Democratic Party) say COVID-19 took at least a minor toll on them, while 69% of Republicans and GOP leaners say the same.

And virtually identical shares of Republicans and Democrats say they have tested positive for COVID-19 or been pretty sure they had it.

But the pandemic highlighted the different values and priorities of America's two major political parties.

Two years after the pandemic started, **Republicans** were more likely than Democrats to say the country had given too little priority to individual choice and supporting businesses and economic activity in the response to the coronavirus outbreak. And a larger majority of Republicans than Democrats said the country hadn't given enough priority to the needs of K-12 students.

Democrats, meanwhile, were more likely to say the country came up short on limiting risks for vulnerable populations and protecting public health.

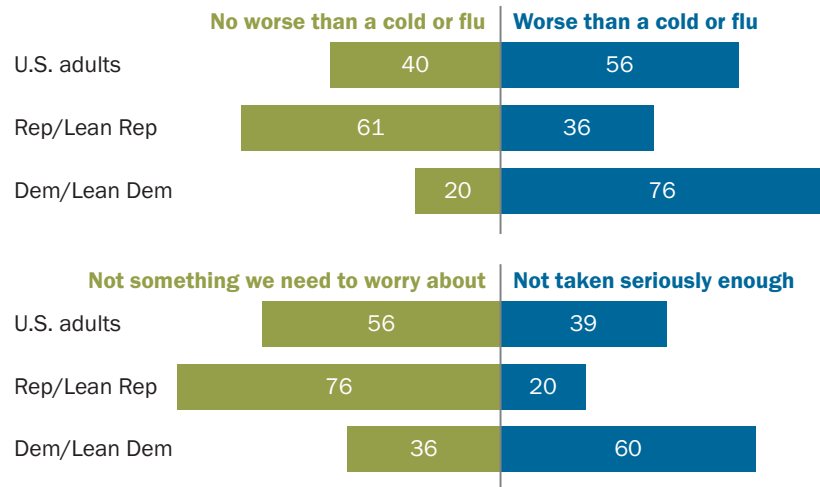
These differing outlooks are part of what shaped the sharply partisan responses to COVID-19 that persist today.

In the new survey:

- **Republicans are much more likely to say COVID-19 is now no worse than a cold or flu.** About six-in-ten Republicans say this. By contrast, 76% of Democrats take the opposite view and describe COVID-19 today as worse than a cold or flu.
- **Meanwhile, Democrats are much more inclined to worry that we're not taking COVID-19 seriously enough today.** Fully 60% of Democrats worry we're not taking COVID-19 seriously enough now, compared with 20% of Republicans.

Large partisan divides on views of COVID-19's severity

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking about the coronavirus **today**, it is ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

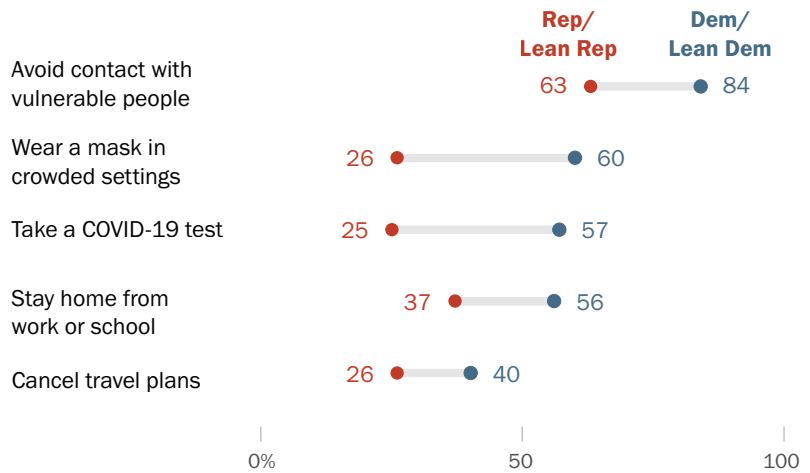
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- There also are **differing views on the steps people should take when they are feeling sick**. While majorities of both parties say it is extremely or very important for a person with cold-like symptoms to avoid contact with vulnerable people, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to express this view (84% vs. 63%). Democrats also are much more likely than Republicans to say it's crucial for someone with these symptoms to stay home from work or school, wear a mask in crowded settings and test for COVID-19.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to say it's important for people with cold-like symptoms to wear a mask, test for COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say that in general, it is extremely/very important for people to do each of the following when they have cold-like symptoms



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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Views of vaccines in the COVID-19 era

The rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was an unprecedented achievement for science and medicine that experts say [saved millions of lives around the world](#). Large shares of U.S. adults lined up to get vaccinated in the pandemic's first year.

- By last fall – with risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far lower than at the height of the pandemic – **most Americans said they probably would *not* get the most updated version of the COVID-19 vaccine**. And the stark partisan differences in vaccine uptake seen throughout the pandemic remained wide. About eight-in-ten Republicans (81%) said [they probably wouldn't get an updated vaccine](#). By contrast, a majority of Democrats said they were planning to get it (39%) or had already received it (23%).
- Among those ages 65 and older, 70% of Republicans said they were unlikely to get the newest vaccine, while more than eight-in-ten Democrats said that they had already gotten it (42%) or probably would (42%).

In a 2023 survey, Americans expressed [lukewarm views of the preventative health benefits of COVID-19 vaccines](#), along with concerns about side effects.

[Health officials worry](#) that currents of skepticism toward COVID-19 vaccines could cross over into views of other vaccines, like the one given to children for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). A March 2023 Center survey found large shares of U.S. adults continued to view the benefits of the MMR vaccine [as outweighing the risks](#), but support for *policies* requiring vaccines for children to attend public schools had fallen 12 percentage points, a drop driven almost entirely by falling support among Republicans.

And [data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) shows that there has been a downtick in the share of kindergarteners with complete vaccination records for measles and other diseases, including polio and chickenpox.

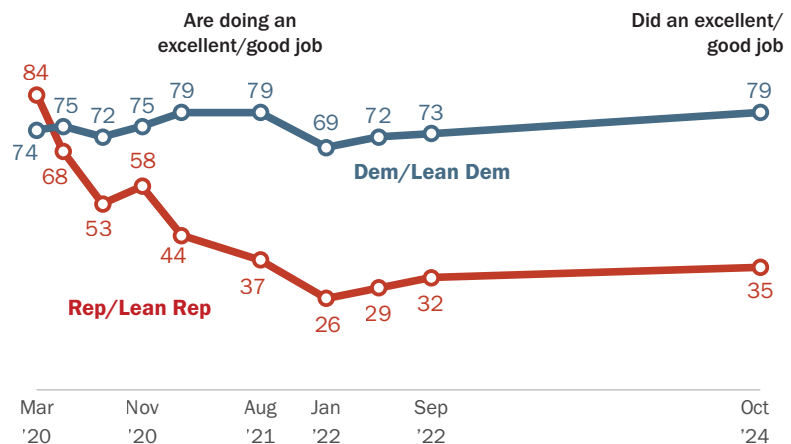
Did the nation's leaders and institutions meet the moment?

With the benefit of five years of perspective, Americans offer a mixed assessment of how their leaders and institutions responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those on the front lines – hospitals and medical centers – stand out for the positive ratings they receive for their performance.

- **About half of U.S. adults or fewer now say their state elected officials (49%), Joe Biden (40%) and Donald Trump (38%) did an excellent or good job responding to the pandemic.** A slim majority (56%) give positive ratings to public health officials, like those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Only local hospitals get a full-throated approval from Americans: Looking back, 78% say medical centers in their area responded well to the pandemic.
- Again, there are huge partisan differences on several of these questions. For example, **79% of Democrats say public health officials' response was excellent or good, while 35% of Republicans agree.** Republicans' positive ratings of public health officials fell 58 points between spring 2020 and the start of 2022.

Democrats and Republicans remain divided over how well public health officials responded to COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say public health officials, such as those at the CDC, ___ responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: Surveys conducted before October 2024 asked respondents to rate the job public health officials are doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak. Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Restrictions on public activity were a central component of officials' response to the pandemic across levels of government.

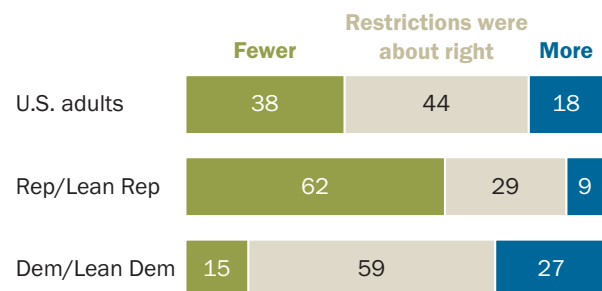
Asked about their assessment today, fewer than half of U.S. adults (44%) say the restrictions on public activity in their area during the pandemic were about right. Another 38% say there should have been *fewer* restrictions in their area, while 18% say there should have been more.

At the beginning of the pandemic, most Democrats and Republicans agreed with newly implemented restrictions on public gatherings and nonessential businesses. But these views changed quickly as the pandemic wore on, with continuing impacts on the economy, schools and other aspects of daily life. Republicans, in particular, became [increasingly critical of activity restrictions](#).

- Now, looking back, **62% of Republicans say there should have been fewer restrictions on activity in their area, while just 15% of Democrats share this view.** A majority of Democrats (59%) think their local officials got it about right, but about a quarter say there should even have been *more* restrictions than there were.
- When it comes to K-12 public schools, **55% of Republicans say schools in their area stayed closed for too long, while just 17% of Democrats agree.** About half of Democrats (49%) say schools in their area were closed for about the right amount of time.

Majority of Republicans say there should have been fewer restrictions in their area during the pandemic

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking back on COVID-19 restrictions on public activity, there should have been ___ restrictions in their area



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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More broadly, the outbreak cast a spotlight on the role of scientists and scientific information. During the pandemic, [Americans' confidence in scientists to act in the public's best interests fell](#): 87% expressed at least a fair amount of confidence in April 2020, but that number dropped to 73% in October 2023. This overall decline was driven by a sharp drop in the share of Republicans who express confidence in scientists to act in the public interest (from 85% to 61%).

[Jump to more details about Americans' views on the virus' health effects and the public health response.](#)

The information environment: Many say the media exaggerated the risks of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Americans to try to parse through information about a new topic that scientists were scrambling to fully understand – and that almost no one had heard of just a few months before. About two years into the pandemic, 60% of U.S. adults [say they felt confused](#) as a result of changes to public health officials’ recommendations, and 57% said false and misleading information about the virus and vaccines [contributed a lot to problems](#) with the response.

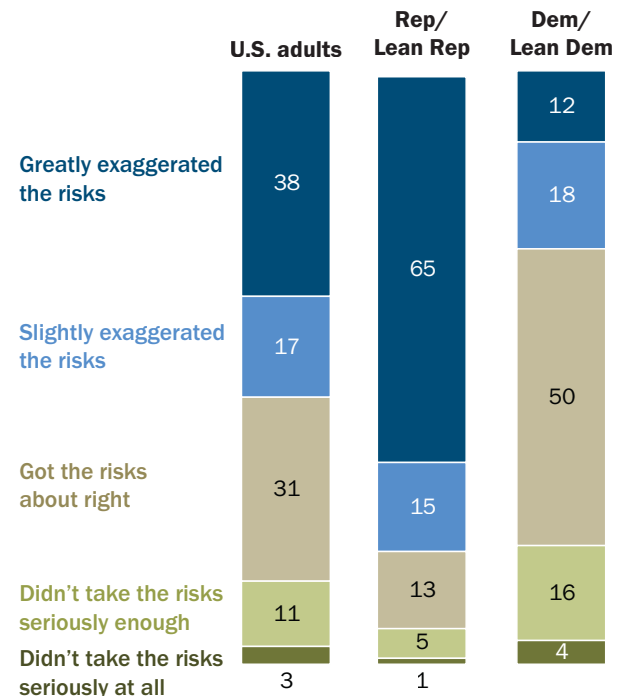
Challenges in public understanding persist even today, with about four-in-ten Americans – including similar shares of Democrats (36%) and Republicans (41%) – saying they are not sure what the current health guidelines are for someone who gets COVID-19.

COVID-19 also arrived in a rapidly changing news environment. Many Americans had [already lost trust](#) in the information from national news organizations – a change driven by Republicans. And news about COVID-19 fit into that trend:

- Overall, **54% of Americans say the news media exaggerated the risks of COVID-19 at least slightly**. This includes eight-in-ten Republicans who say the media greatly (65%) or slightly (15%) exaggerated the risks, compared with three-in-ten Democrats who express similar views. An additional two-in-ten Democrats say the media didn't take the risks seriously enough, while half say they got the risks about right.
- There are similar patterns in views toward public health officials like those at the CDC, Joe Biden and his administration, and state elected officials. In each case, **Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say these sources exaggerated the risks of COVID-19 at least slightly**.
- Republicans have a different perspective on what they heard from the Trump administration: More than half of Republicans (59%) say Trump got the risks about right. By contrast, **81% of Democrats say Trump didn't take the risks of COVID-19 seriously enough**.
- At the same time, **Republicans are much less confident than Democrats that they would be able to find accurate information in the event of a new health emergency**. While about three-quarters of Democrats (74%) say they are at least somewhat confident they could do this, just under half of Republicans (46%) agree. Overall, 60% of U.S. adults express this view.

8 in 10 Republicans say the news media exaggerated COVID-19 risks

% of U.S. adults who say the news media ___ when responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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COVID-19 affected different groups of Americans in different ways

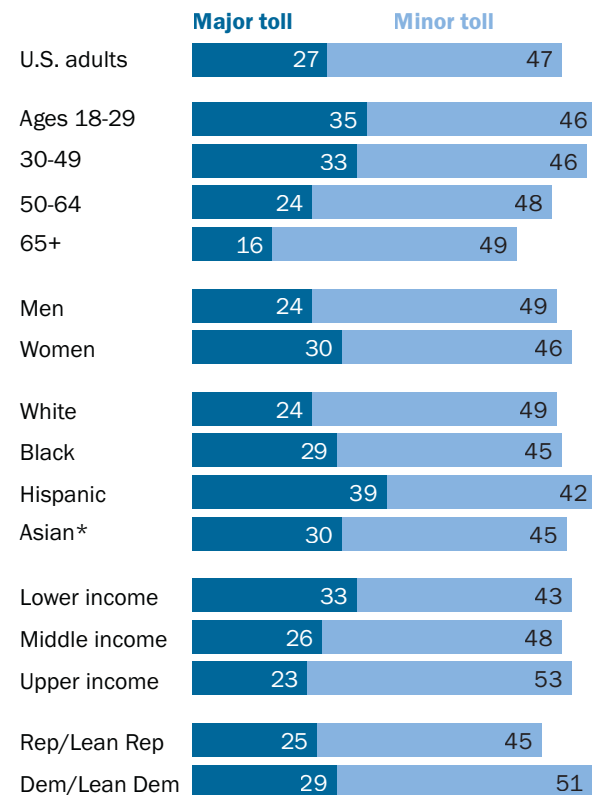
Adults under age 50 are more likely than their elders to say COVID-19 took a major toll on their lives – and to say they haven’t yet fully recovered from the pandemic. Many people in this younger group were finishing their schooling years or parenting young children when the pandemic hit. Still, the vast majority of [people who died from COVID-19 in the United States](#) were ages 50 and older, underscoring the range of health and social impacts COVID-19 had on Americans.

Women and Hispanics also are more likely than men and other racial and ethnic groups to say COVID-19 had a major impact on their lives. And Americans with lower incomes report suffering a major toll at a higher rate. Several data points from the pandemic highlight the differential impacts COVID-19 had on Americans:

- In the early days of COVID-19, young adults were living with their parents at the [highest levels since the Great Depression](#).
- Among adults 25 and older who have no education beyond high school, [more women left the labor force](#) during the pandemic than men. And at [multiple points during the pandemic](#), working mothers with children under 12 were more likely than working fathers in this category to say it was difficult to handle work and child care responsibilities.
- About half of Hispanic adults (49%) [said in March 2021](#) that they or someone in their household had lost a job or taken a pay cut because of the pandemic, higher than the share of

Young adults, Hispanic Americans more likely to say the pandemic took a major toll on their lives

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic took a ___ on them



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2023 earnings. Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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U.S. adults overall who said the same. Younger adults also were more likely to experience job loss or pay reduction.

The pandemic also hit Black and Hispanic communities disproportionately hard in terms of [mortality rates](#) in the first year after the outbreak. And Black Americans remain much more likely than their White counterparts to say that COVID-19 remains a major threat to the health of the U.S. population today.

Work, technology and religion: What changed, and what didn't, about American life amid COVID-19

The pandemic impacted many aspects of life in a variety of ways. Some people have gotten new flexibility when it comes to work and religious worship as technology has gained a new role in many Americans' lives. But the pandemic also highlighted societal disparities in things like access to technology and the option to work remotely.

The way we work

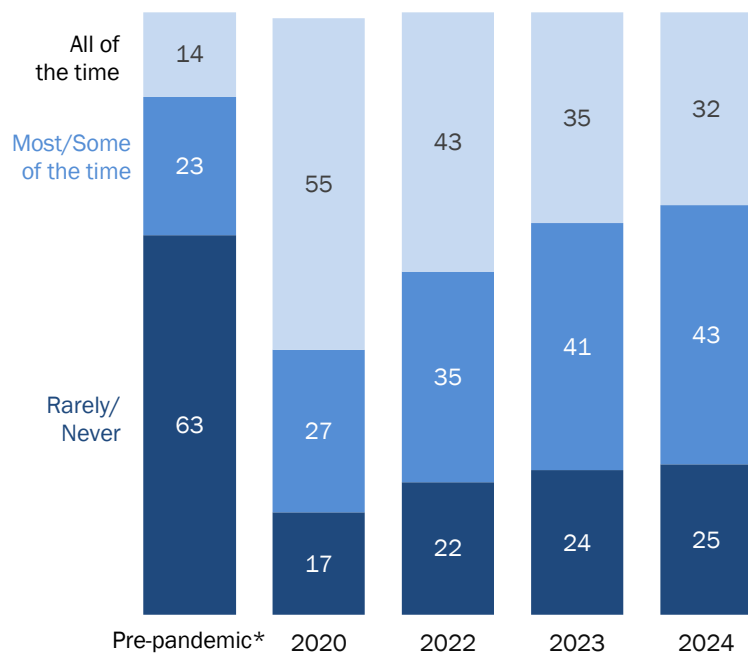
The pandemic created a seismic shock in the labor market, with Hispanic people, young adults and low-wage workers [hardest hit](#).

In the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak, a majority of American workers (62%) had jobs that couldn't be done from home. But for those who could telecommute, the pandemic ushered in an era of increased remote work that continues to this day.

- Among American workers whose jobs currently allow for remote work as a possibility, 14% say they were working remotely all of the time before the pandemic.
- During the first year of the pandemic, that number peaked at 55% in October 2020.
- Today, 32% of these workers still say they are working remotely all the time.

Majority of workers whose jobs allow telecommuting continue to work from home at least some of the time

Among U.S. workers who say that, for the most part, the responsibilities of their job can be done from home, % saying they work from home ...



* Pre-pandemic data is based on what respondents said in 2024 about their work arrangement before the coronavirus outbreak and does not include those who did not have a job before the pandemic.

Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

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- Among workers whose jobs currently allow for remote work, 23% say they were working from home most or some of the time before the pandemic, while 43% say this is the case today.

Many remote or hybrid workers say they prefer to work from home. And the shift to telework (and hybrid schedules) has had one clear upside for workers: Most of them say it has helped them balance their work and personal lives. But the biggest downside for these workers is that many say they feel less connected to colleagues.

[Jump to more details on how COVID-19 changed work in America.](#)

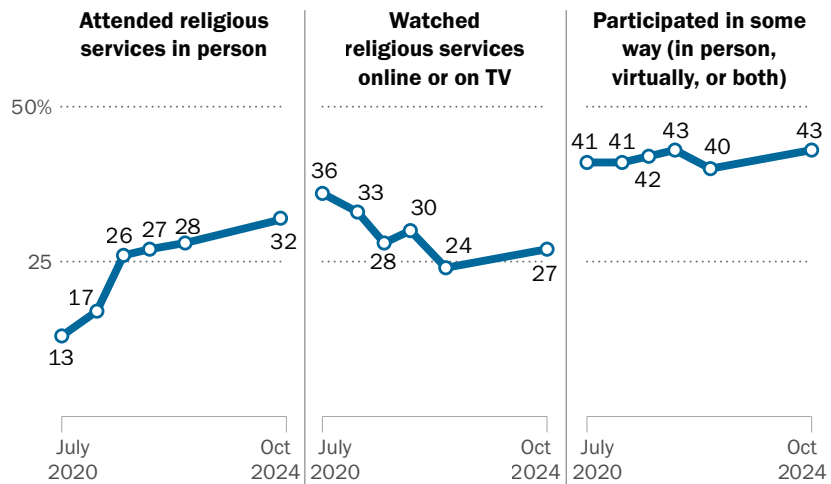
Religious worship

COVID-19 drastically changed how Americans participate in worship services. In July 2020, just 6% of Americans who attend services at least monthly said that their house of worship was open to the public and operating like normal. Like remote work, the share of Americans who report watching religious services online or on TV peaked early in the pandemic, with 36% saying they participated virtually in the last month as of July 2020. And many are still doing so today.

But the pandemic did not shake American religion: The share participating in services in some way has been steady, and the share who say COVID-19 had a big impact on their spiritual life is small.

Since early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, stable share of Americans have participated in religious services either in person or virtually

% of U.S. adults who say they have ___ in the last month



Note: Estimates for July 2020 and March 2021 based on respondents who participated in both surveys.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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[Jump to more details on how COVID-19 affected religious worship in America.](#)

General technology use

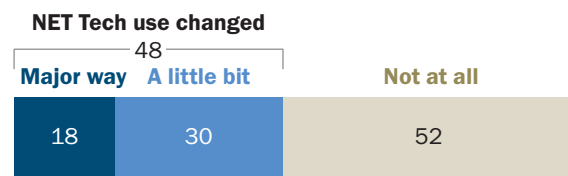
The internet was critical to Americans during the pandemic, with 90% saying it was [important to their life at the time](#) (as of April 2021) – including 58% who said it was essential.

Looking back on the pandemic today, about half of U.S. adults say it changed the way they now use technology, with younger people especially inclined to say this.

The pandemic also intersected with [long-standing digital divides](#), and in many ways brought them into the spotlight. For example, we’ve long seen differences by income in who has access to technology. And during the pandemic, [lower-income teens](#) were more likely to report tech-related challenges with schoolwork, such as needing to complete homework on a cellphone or over public Wi-Fi.

About half of Americans say the pandemic changed how they use technology today

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology (in a) ...



Note: For full question wording, refer to the topline. Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

“5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19”

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Among Americans who say COVID-19 changed the way they use technology, those with lower incomes are less likely to say these changes have made their lives easier (in October 2024). Still, the largest shares regardless of income say these changes have made their lives *both* easier and harder.

[Jump to more details on how COVID-19 changed technology use in America.](#)

Looking ahead: Are we ready for the next health emergency?

Americans' expectations for the nation's response to a future health emergency appear somewhat positive compared with the critiques and divisiveness they associate with the coronavirus response.

More than twice as many say the U.S. would do better with a future health emergency (40%) than say we would do worse (16%), though many Americans (43%) say we would do about the same as we did with how the country handled the COVID-19 pandemic.

About six-in-ten (61%) think the public health system would do at least a somewhat good job dealing with a future health emergency; an even larger share (69%) think people in their own community would do a good job.

A larger share of Democrats (73%) than Republicans (50%) think the public health system in the U.S. would do a good job dealing with a future health emergency. But comparable majorities of both Democrats (72%) and Republicans (68%) express confidence in their own communities to respond well.

4 in 10 say the country would do better in a future health emergency

% of U.S. adults who say that as a country, we would do ___ in responding to a future health emergency compared with the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
"5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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1. Americans' views on COVID-19 risk and the country's response to health emergencies

Five years after the pandemic began, Americans largely see COVID-19 through the rear-view mirror. Overall, they don't feel the virus is nearly as much of a danger as they did in 2020. Still, deep political divides persist about the disease. Democrats and Republicans aren't on the same page about how seriously we should be taking COVID-19 today. And the two parties hold different views on how well public health authorities and elected officials handled the pandemic.

Jump to read about views of COVID-19 today, including: [Do Americans still see COVID-19 as a major threat?](#) | [How dangerous is COVID-19, and how seriously should we take it?](#)

Jump to read about views on protecting others, including: [What steps should people take to protect others when they're sick?](#) | [How often do Americans wear masks?](#)

Jump to read about past and future responses to health emergencies. [Looking back: How do Americans think the country responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?](#) | [Looking ahead: How do Americans feel we would respond to a future health emergency?](#)

Do Americans still see COVID-19 as a major threat?

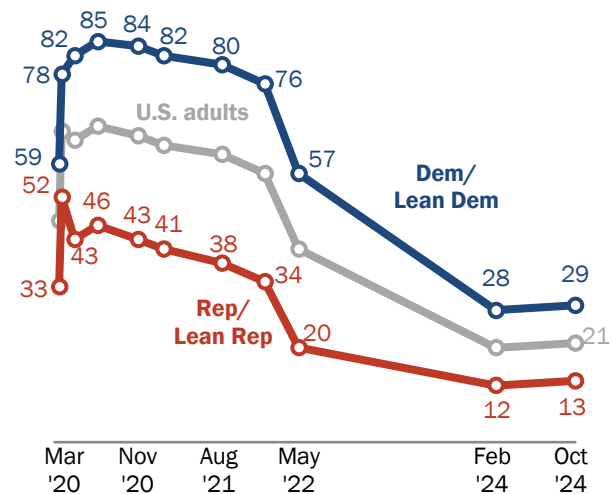
The [COVID-19 pandemic was the deadliest in U.S. history](#). And many experienced the virus firsthand: In our survey, 63% of American adults say that since February 2020, they tested positive for the virus, were told by a health care provider they had it or are pretty sure they had it. With the public health emergency phase now behind us, we asked Americans if they feel the virus poses a threat today.

- About one-in-five Americans say the coronavirus today is a major threat to the health of the U.S. population as a whole. This is down from a high of 67% in July 2020.
- A larger share of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic (29%) than of Republicans and GOP leaners (13%) still see COVID-19 as a major public health threat. But now that the overall threat perception has dropped, the partisan gap is far less dramatic than it was in July 2020 (then 85% among Democrats, 46% among Republicans).

The share of Americans who say the coronavirus is a major threat to their *personal health* follows a similar pattern: There's been an overall decline in the share of Americans who say this. And the partisan gap is less pronounced now that overall threat perception has dropped substantially. (Refer to the [appendix](#) for details.)

21% of Americans still see COVID-19 as a major public health threat

% of U.S. adults who say the coronavirus today is a **major threat** to the health of the U.S. population as a whole



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

"5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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How dangerous is COVID-19, and how seriously should we take it?

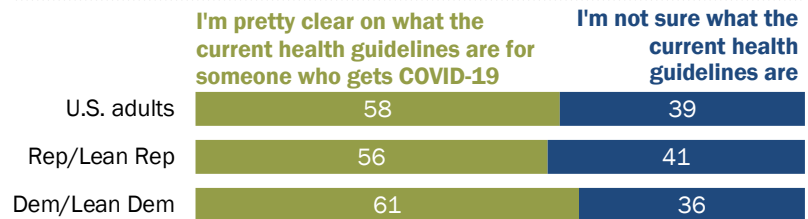
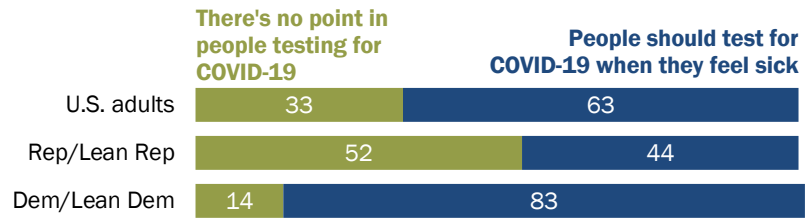
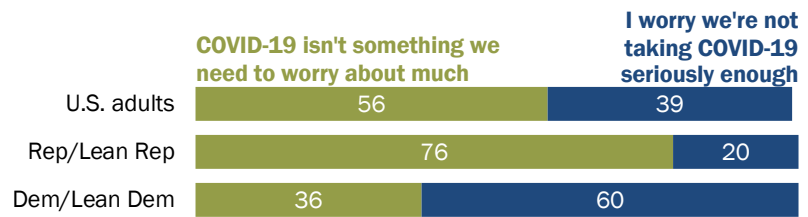
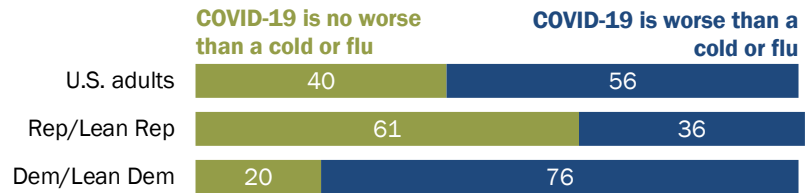
During the pandemic, scientists sounded alarms about how COVID-19 could be [more lethal than a cold or flu](#). But there was fierce debate and widespread confusion about how severe the virus was, and what people should do about it.

How do Americans feel today about COVID-19’s severity, and how people should respond to it?

- Overall, 56% of Americans say COVID-19 is worse than a cold or flu, compared with 40% who say COVID-19 is no worse than these other illnesses.
- A small majority (56%) says COVID-19 isn’t something we need to worry about much. Still, about four-in-ten (39%) say we’re not taking it seriously enough.
- When it comes to testing for COVID-19, nearly two-thirds (63%) say people should take a test when they feel sick, compared with a third who say there is no point in doing this.

60% of Democrats worry we’re not taking COVID-19 seriously enough, 76% of Republicans disagree

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking about the coronavirus today ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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Differences by party

Republicans and Democrats differ dramatically in how they view COVID-19 today, with Democrats much more concerned about it. About three-quarters of Democrats (76%) say COVID-19 is worse than a cold or flu, compared with 36% of Republicans who say this. On the question of how worrisome the virus is, we see a similar partisan gap: About three-quarters of Republicans (76%) say COVID-19 isn't something we need to worry about much, while 36% of Democrats say the same.

When it comes to whether people should test themselves for COVID-19 when they feel sick, a large majority of Democrats (83%) say people should test. But Republicans are much more split. About half (52%) say there's no point in testing, while 44% say people should test.

Many Americans grappled with [rapidly shifting health guidelines](#) throughout the pandemic. Today, similar shares of both parties say they're pretty clear on what the guidelines are for someone who gets COVID-19 (61% of Democrats, 56% of Republicans). But substantial minorities of both Democrats (36%) and Republicans (41%) say they are not sure what the current guidelines are.

Differences by race and ethnicity

Early in the pandemic, [COVID-19's health toll was especially heavy among Black and Hispanic adults](#). And in 2024, larger shares of Black (75%) and Hispanic Americans (64%) than White (51%) respondents say COVID-19 is worse than a cold or flu. This gap is driven by the much smaller shares of White Republicans who hold this view (33%). When we look just among Democrats, the racial and ethnic divide nearly vanishes: 80% of Black Democrats, 77% of Hispanic Democrats and 77% of White Democrats say COVID-19 is worse than a cold or flu.

What steps should people take to protect others when they're sick?

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#) spell out several steps people can take to slow the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Some of these guidelines – such as wearing a mask – became politically charged during the pandemic. Five years later, how do Americans feel about taking measures to prevent the spread of illness?

We asked Americans how important it is for people to take five different actions when feeling sick.

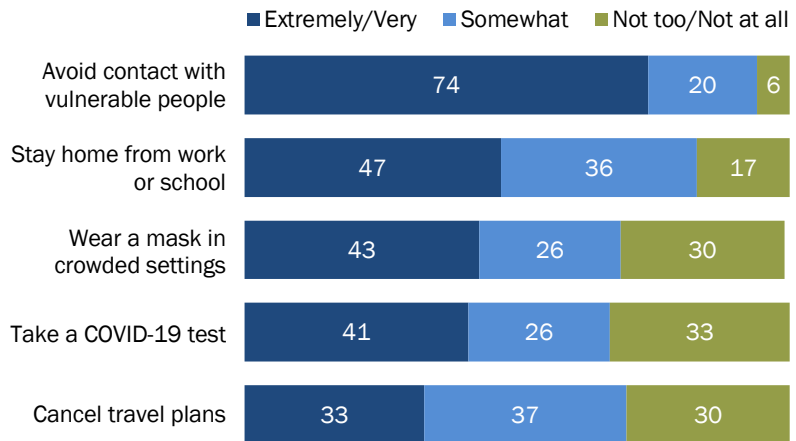
About three-quarters (74%) say it is extremely or very important for people with cold-like symptoms to avoid contact with vulnerable people, such as older people and pregnant women. Of the five actions we asked about, this is the one that respondents deem most important. Just 6% say this is not too or not at all important.

Americans feel much less strongly about other steps people can take to prevent spreading illness. Just under half (47%) of Americans say it is extremely or very important to stay home from work or school when feeling sick. About four-in-ten say the same about wearing a mask in crowded settings (43%) and taking a COVID-19 test (41%), while one-in-three say it is extremely or very important to cancel travel plans when feeling sick.

Still, a majority of Americans say each of these actions is at least somewhat important to do when people feel sick. No more than a third say that any of these five measures are not too or not at all important.

Majority says it's important for people with cold-like symptoms to avoid contact with vulnerable people

% of U.S. adults who say that in general, it is ___ important for people to do each of the following when they have cold-like symptoms



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Differences by party

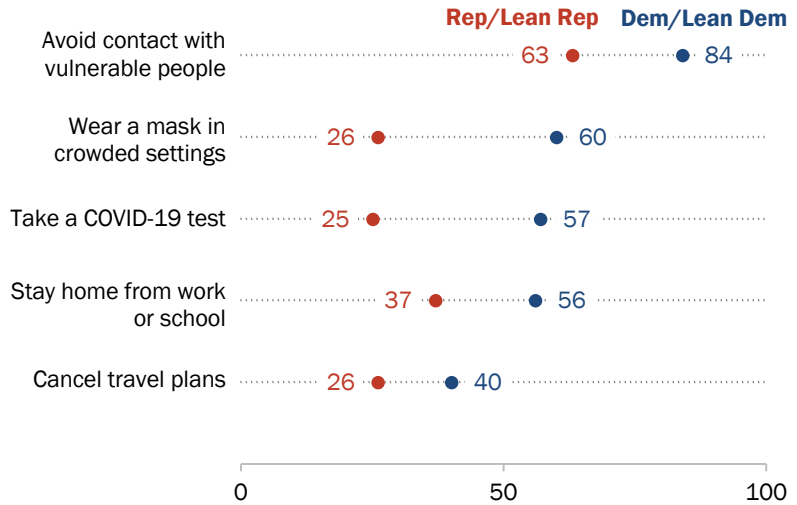
Larger shares of Democrats than Republicans feel these preventive actions are extremely or very important. The biggest partisan gaps emerge around mask-wearing and testing.

Six-in-ten Democrats say it's extremely or very important to wear a mask in crowded settings when people have cold-like symptoms, compared with 26% of Republicans who say this. A similar share of Republicans (25%) say it's extremely or very important to take a COVID-19 test, versus 57% of Democrats.

This partisan pattern holds for other behaviors that can prevent the spread of illnesses. For instance, majorities of both parties say it's extremely or very important for people with cold-like symptoms to avoid vulnerable people. But this is a more widely held opinion among Democrats (84%) than Republicans (63%). Similarly, 56% of Democrats feel it's extremely or very important for sick people to stay home from work or school, compared with 37% of Republicans.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to say it's important for sick people to take steps that can prevent spreading illness

% of U.S. adults who say that in general, it is extremely/very important for people to do each of the following when they have cold-like symptoms



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
 "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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How often do Americans wear masks?

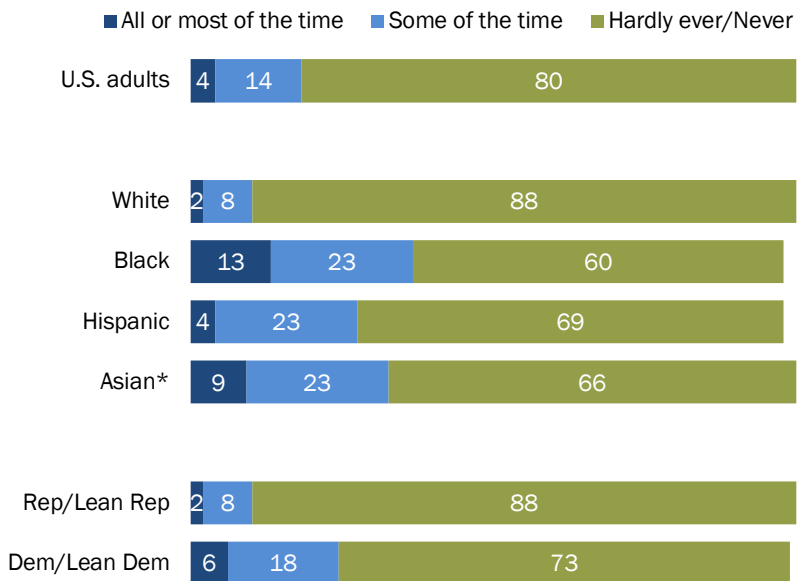
Face masks were a defining, [intensely politicized](#) symbol of the pandemic. Five years later, the vast majority of Americans (80%) say they rarely or never wear a mask in stores and businesses.

Overall, just 4% of Americans say they wore a mask or face covering in stores or other businesses all or most of the time in the past month. This is down from 88% about a year into the pandemic, and a majority (61%) were masking in stores as recently as January 2022.

In 2024, the small shares of Americans who wear a mask frequently are dwarfed by the 80% who say they hardly ever or never wear masks.

Very few Americans say they have worn a mask frequently in stores or businesses in the past month

% of U.S. adults who say they have worn a mask or face covering ___ when in stores or businesses in the past month



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Differences by race and ethnicity

Larger shares of Black (36%), Hispanic (27%) and Asian Americans (32%) say they wore a mask at least some of the time in the past month than White Americans (10%). This pattern holds regardless of party: Among both Democrats and Republicans, White adults are less likely than Black, Hispanic or Asian adults to say they masked at least some of the time in the past month.

Partisan differences

The share of Americans who report frequently wearing a mask in stores or businesses has declined dramatically since early in 2021. **Frequent mask wearers are now so few and far between that the once-stark partisan gap has nearly disappeared.**

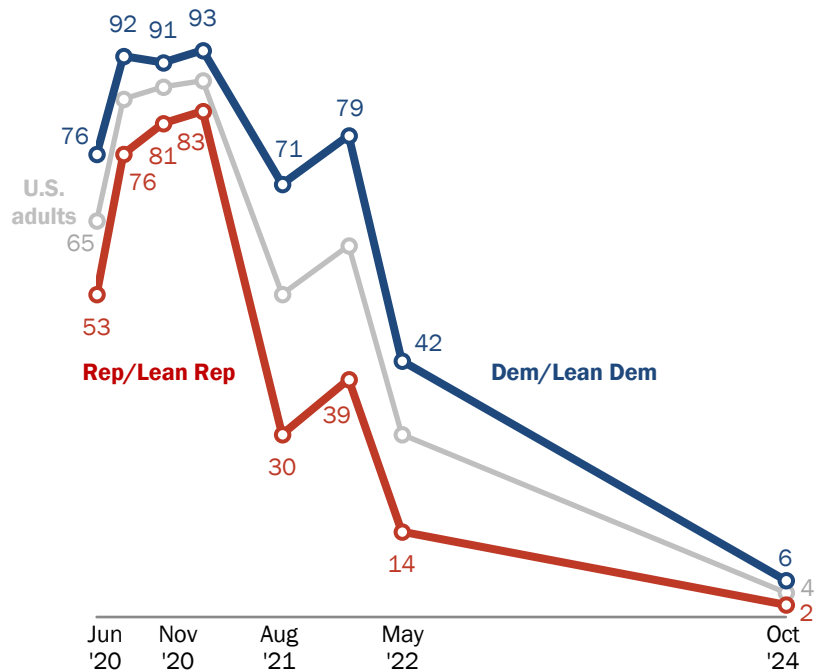
Democrats and Republicans are now similarly unlikely to say they have frequently worn a mask in the past month (6% of Democrats and 2% Republicans say this).

When we last asked this question in 2022, there was a 28-point difference between the shares of Republicans (14%) and Democrats (42%) who said they wore masks all or most of the time.

Still, in the most recent survey, there are some differences between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to wearing a mask. For example, 76% of Republicans say they have *never* worn a mask in the past month, compared with 47% of Democrats who say this.

Mask-wearing in stores and businesses is now rare among both Democrats and Republicans

% of U.S. adults who say they have worn a mask or face covering *all or most of the time* when in stores or businesses in the past month



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Looking back: How do Americans think the country responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?

With five years of hindsight, we asked Americans how they now feel about COVID-19 policies that restricted public activity. We also asked about their views on how hospitals and government officials responded.

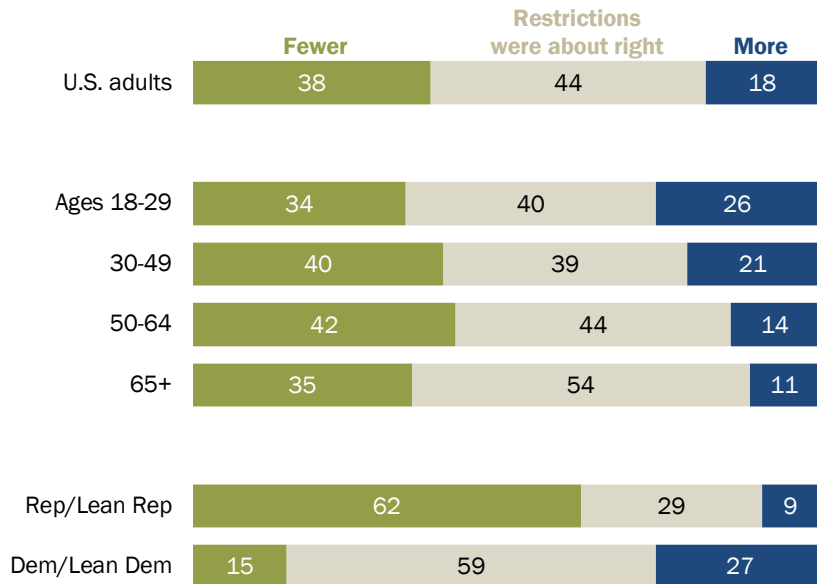
Views on pandemic-era restrictions

During the pandemic, authorities introduced various restrictions to slow the virus' spread. For many Americans, these policies upended travel plans, schools, work and other aspects of life.

- Thinking back, 38% feel there should have been fewer restrictions on public activity in their area, compared with just 18% who say there should have been more restrictions. The largest share (44%) say the restrictions were about right.
- The view that there should have been fewer restrictions is much more pronounced among Republicans (62%) than Democrats (15%).** More than half of Democrats (59%) feel the restrictions were about right, compared with 29% of Republicans.
- Adults ages 65 and older are more likely than younger adults to say restrictions were about right. In contrast, adults 18 to 29 are more likely than older adults to say there should have been more restrictions.

Republicans say there should have been fewer COVID restrictions, but Democrats say they were about right

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking back on the COVID-19 restrictions on public activity, there should have been ___ restrictions in their area



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Views on how hospitals, public health officials and elected officials responded to the pandemic

Hospitals and medical centers were on the front lines treating COVID-19 patients, and 78% of Americans look back and say they did an excellent or good job responding to the pandemic.

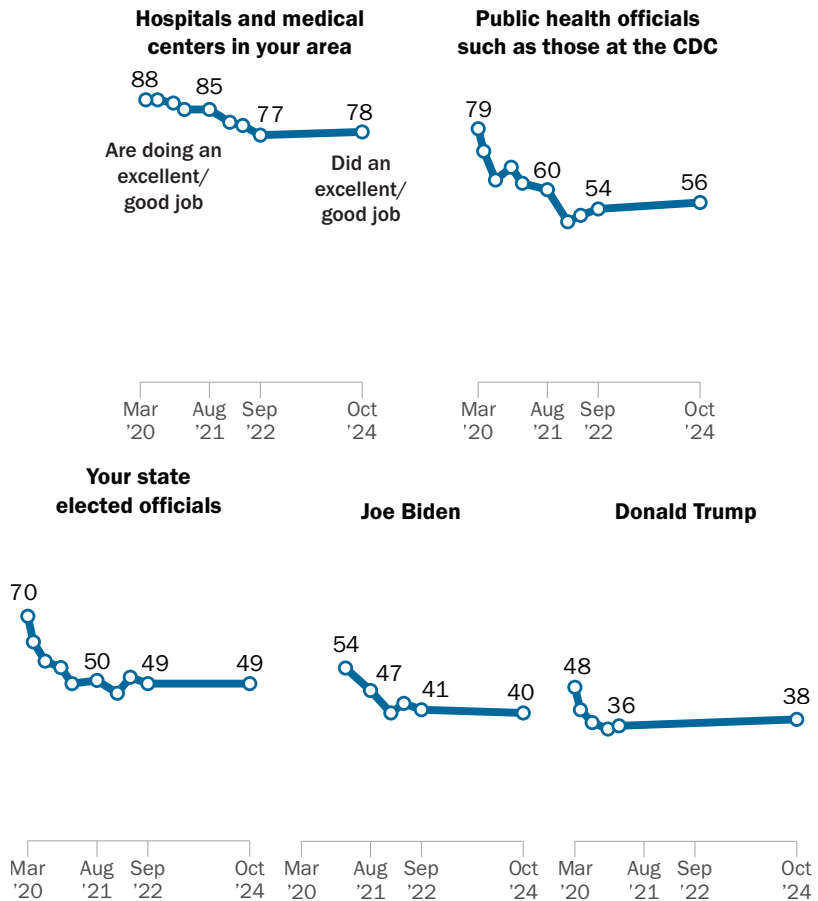
Views on the response of public health officials and elected officials are less positive. In the current survey, 56% of Americans say public health officials, such as those at the CDC, did an excellent or good job – much lower than the share who said this early in the pandemic.

For example, in March 2020, 79% of Americans said public health officials were doing an excellent or good job responding to the pandemic. By September 2022, that share was down to 54%.

Around half of U.S. adults (49%) now give positive ratings to how their state elected officials responded to the pandemic. At a national level, 40% say Joe Biden did an excellent or good job responding to COVID-19, and 38% say the same of Donald Trump.

Most Americans give high marks to hospitals' response to the COVID-19 pandemic

% of U.S. adults who say that looking back, each of the following did an excellent/good job responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: The February 2021 survey asked respondents to rate the job Donald Trump did responding to the coronavirus outbreak during his time in office. All other surveys conducted before October 2024 asked respondents to rate the job each of the following *is doing* responding to the coronavirus outbreak. Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Partisan differences

Looking back at the pandemic response, majorities of both Republicans (71%) and Democrats (87%) say their local hospitals and medical centers responded well.

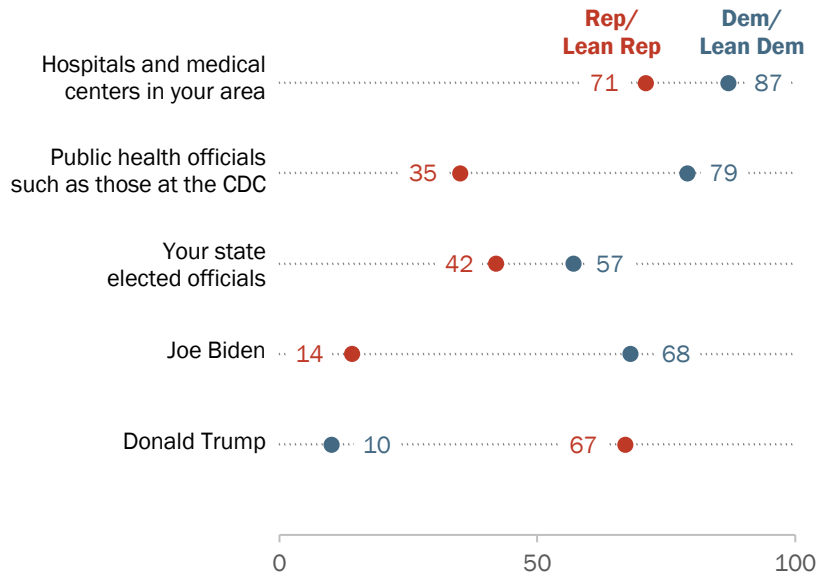
In contrast, there's a bigger partisan divide about how good a job public health officials did: A much smaller share of Republicans (35%) than Democrats (79%) give them high marks.

When asked about how Biden and Trump responded to the pandemic, Democrats and Republicans give reviews aligned with their partisan leanings. Among Democrats,

68% say Biden did an excellent or good job, compared with 14% of Republicans. But when asked to rate Trump, 67% of Republicans say he did an excellent or good job, versus 10% of Democrats.

Large partisan divides over how U.S. public health officials, Biden and Trump responded to COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say that looking back, each of the following did an excellent/good job responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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Looking ahead: How do Americans feel we would respond to a future health emergency?

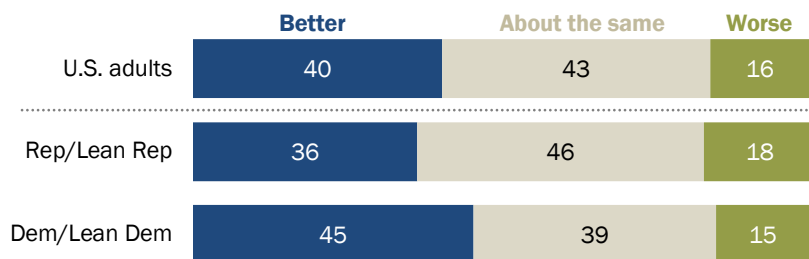
We also asked survey respondents how they think we would respond to a future health emergency compared with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are views they expressed prior to the 2024 presidential election.

How would we do as a country?

Four-in-ten Americans are fairly positive about the prospect of a future health emergency response, saying that the country would do a better job responding compared with the COVID-19 pandemic. Just 16% feel the U.S. would do worse. And 43% say the country would do about the same.

40% of Americans say the country would do better in responding to a future health emergency compared with the response to COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say that as a country, we would do ___ in responding to a future health emergency compared with the COVID-19 pandemic



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Compared with how divided they are on other

COVID-19 matters, Democrats and Republicans aren't so far apart on this. Some 45% of Democrats and 36% of Republicans say the country would do better. Smaller shares of Republicans (18%) and Democrats (15%) say the country would do worse.

How well would the U.S. public health system and local communities deal with a future health emergency?

Both the U.S. public health system and people in local communities play a vital role in addressing health emergencies.

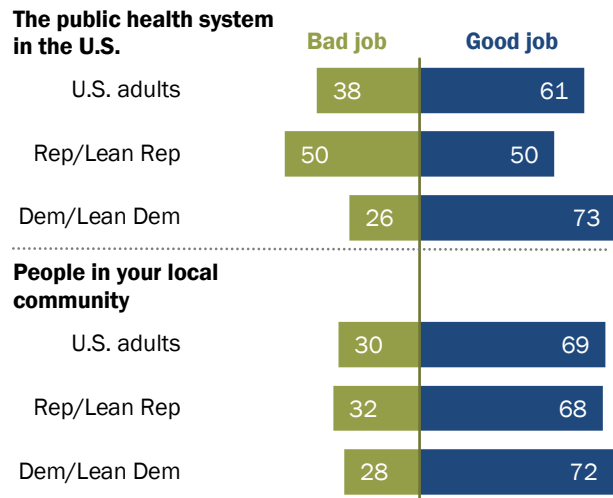
About six-in-ten Americans (61%) say the public health system would do a very or somewhat good job dealing with a future health emergency.

Democrats and Republicans differ on the future response of the public health system in the U.S. Among Democrats, 73% say it would do a good job and 26% say it would do a bad job. Republicans have more mixed views, with half saying it would do a good job and half saying it would do a bad job.

But when asked to think about people in their local community, Democrats and Republicans both have a positive outlook. Majorities of Democrats (72%) and Republicans (68%) say they would do a very or somewhat good job.

Republicans are evenly divided over how well the U.S. public health system would handle a future health emergency

% of U.S. adults who say each of the following would do a very/somewhat ___ dealing with a future health emergency



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
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2. How COVID-19 changed U.S. workplaces

The COVID-19 pandemic sent shockwaves through the U.S. labor market. Businesses shuttered, millions of Americans lost their jobs, and for many others their home became their workplace.

We tracked these changes starting from the early months of the coronavirus outbreak. Our trends outline the journey workers have been through. And new data helps show where things stand now and the lasting impact the pandemic has had on the American workplace.

Labor market impact

The coronavirus outbreak had an [immediate impact on employment](#) in the U.S. In February 2020, before widespread lockdowns and stay-at-home orders took hold, the national unemployment rate stood at 3.8%. By April 2020 it reached 14.4%.

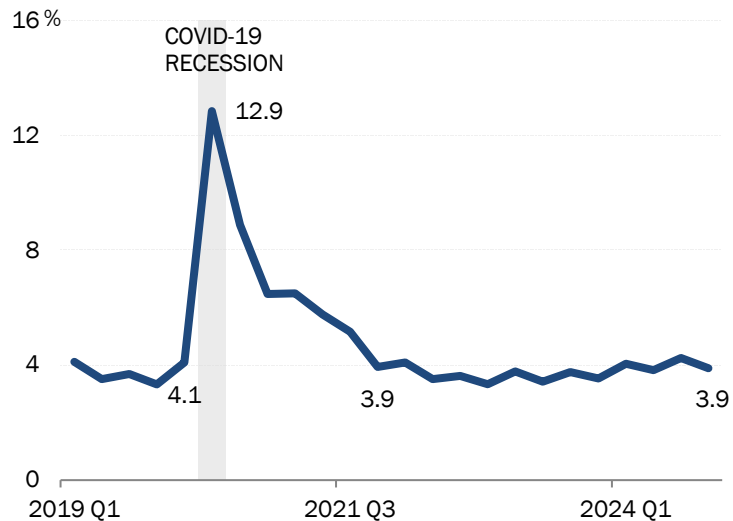
The spike was intense but relatively short-lived. By the fourth quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate was back around 4%.

Some groups were hit harder than others by the [early job losses](#):

- Women
- Immigrants
- Young workers (ages 16 to 24)
- Workers who hadn't completed high school
- [Lower-income workers](#)

COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a large but temporary spike in unemployment

U.S. unemployment rate in each quarter (%)



Note: Data is labeled for 2020 Q1, 2020 Q2, 2021 Q4 and 2024 Q4. The unemployment rate is the share of the labor force actively looking for work or on temporary layoff. Estimates refer to people ages 16 and older and are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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In addition, millions of workers withdrew from the labor force altogether. [More women than men dropped out of the labor force](#) during the first year of the pandemic.

How workers experienced the pandemic from start to finish

Our surveys traced the arc of experiences for American workers from the outset of the pandemic to what work life looks like now. In the sections below, we walk through the key takeaways from our last five years of polling on this topic.¹

Jump to read about: [The pandemic's initial impact on workers](#) | [What things look like today](#) | [Looking back: The challenges working parents faced](#) | [What happened when workplaces began to reopen](#)

The pandemic's initial impact on workers

Not all workers had the option of working from home

As the pandemic took hold, many workers were able to shift their duties from their office or workplace to home. But it's important to keep in mind that a majority of workers (roughly 60%) do not have jobs that can be done from home. Many of these workers lost their jobs in the early months of the pandemic, as businesses and retail establishments temporarily shut down. Others had to continue to show up for work, even as they were at risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Some demographic groups were more likely than others [to not have jobs that can be done from home](#), a 2020 survey found:

- Men were more likely than women (64% vs. 58% said their job cannot be done from home).
- Workers without a four-year college degree were much more likely than those with a bachelor's degree or more education (77% vs. 37%).
- Lower-income workers were more likely than middle- and upper-income workers (76% vs. 63% and 44%, respectively).

In the fall of 2020, we asked workers with jobs that could not be done from home how concerned they were about being exposed to the coronavirus from people they interacted with at work; 53% said they were very or somewhat concerned about this. About four-in-ten (39%) said they were

¹ Throughout this chapter, survey findings are based on U.S. adults who are employed part time or full time and who have only one job or have more than one but consider one of them to be their primary job.

very satisfied with the measures their employer had put in place to protect them from being exposed.

The swift transition to working from home

Looking back, only 14% of workers whose jobs currently can, for the most part, be done from home – “teleworkable” jobs – say they worked from home *all the time* before the coronavirus outbreak. By October 2020, 55% of those with teleworkable jobs were doing so, according to a survey at that time.

That share has since come down. As of October 2024, about a third (32%) say they are working from home all the time.

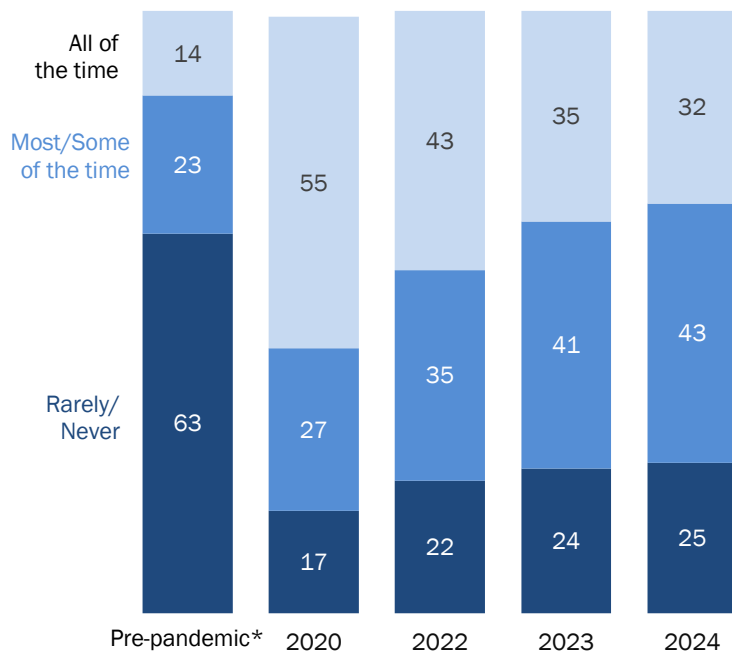
Notably, the share working from home most or some of the time increased since the start of the pandemic as offices gradually began to reopen. Now, 43% of workers say they have this type of hybrid schedule, up from about a third in 2022.

How did workers respond to the shift to telework?

Our October 2020 survey found that most employed adults who were working from home said the transition had been relatively easy.

Remote work peaked in October 2020; hybrid work is now the most common arrangement for workers with jobs that can be done remotely

Among U.S. workers who say that, for the most part, the responsibilities of their job can be done from home, % saying they work from home ...



* Pre-pandemic data is based on what respondents said in 2024 about their work arrangement before the coronavirus outbreak and does not include those who did not have a job before the pandemic.

Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

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- Large majorities said it had been *easy* for them to have the technology they need, to meet deadlines and to have an adequate workspace.
- However, about three-in-ten or more said it had been *difficult* to be able to get their work done without interruptions and to feel motivated to work.
- Younger workers were especially likely to point to difficulty feeling motivated and being able to work without interruptions.

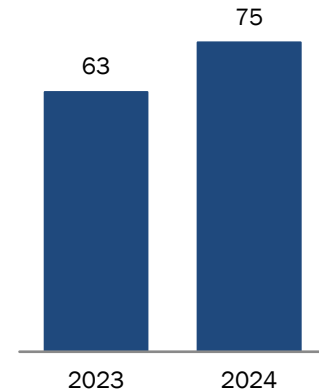
What things look like today

As we approach the five-year mark of the start of the pandemic, a growing share of hybrid workers are facing mandates from their employers to return to the office.

Among those with teleworkable jobs who say they're not currently working from home all the time, 75% say their employer now requires them to work from their office, workplace or job site a certain number of days per week or month. That share is up significantly from 63% in 2023.

Growing share of workers required to be in office a certain number of days

Among U.S. workers with teleworkable jobs who are not currently working from home all the time, % saying they are required to work from their workplace a certain number of days per week or month



Note: Based on workers who are not self-employed and who say their job can be done from home (i.e., "teleworkable"). See topline for full question wording.
Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

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Advantages and disadvantages of working from home

In our polling throughout the past five years – including in our most recent survey – workers have identified a couple of clear upsides to working from home.²

- **Work-life balance:**

Among workers with a teleworkable job who say they work from home at least sometimes, 73% now say their current arrangement has helped them when it comes to balancing work and their personal life. Only 9% say it's hurt, and 17% say it has neither helped nor hurt.

- **Productivity:** 60% say their current work arrangement has helped their ability to get work done and meet deadlines. Only 7% say it's hurt their ability to do this, and 33% say it's neither helped nor hurt.

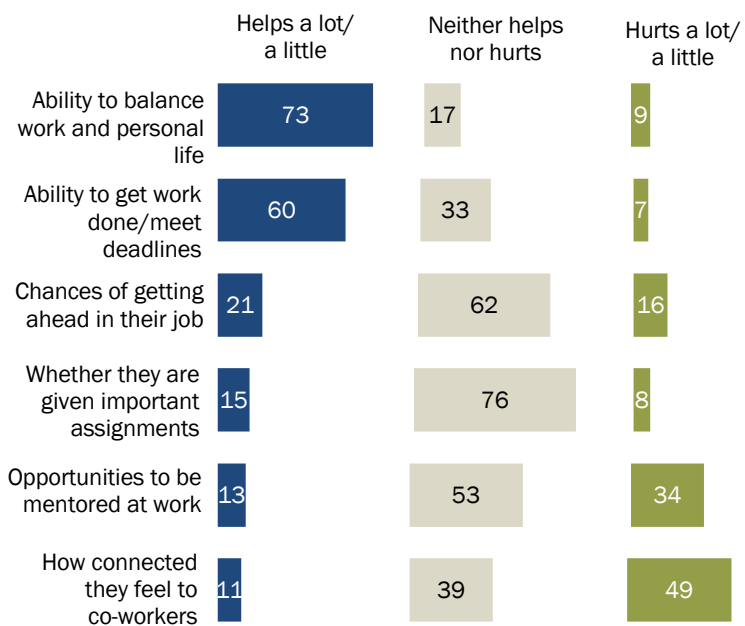
And there are couple of downsides.

- **Feeling disconnected from co-workers:** 49%

of those who are working from home at least sometimes say their current work arrangement has made it harder for them to feel connected with their co-workers; 11% say it's helped them feel connected. A sizable share (39%) say it has neither helped nor hurt.

Most who work from home say doing this has helped them balance their work and personal lives

Among U.S. workers with teleworkable jobs who work from home at least some of the time, % saying this work arrangement ___ with each of the following



Note: Based on workers who are not self-employed and who say their job can be done from home (i.e., "teleworkable"). Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

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² These figures are based on workers who are not self-employed.

- **Fewer opportunities for mentorship:** 34% say their current work arrangement has hurt their opportunities for mentorship at work. Only 13% say it's helped. Some 53% say it's neither helped nor hurt.

Most workers who are working from home at least sometimes say their current work arrangement has neither helped nor hurt these aspects of work:

- Their chances of getting ahead in their job
- Whether they're given important assignments

What if your employer said you couldn't work from home?

So how attached are workers to their new, hybrid work setup? We asked workers who currently work from home at least some of the time how they would feel if their employer no longer allowed them to do this.

Almost half (46%) say they would be unlikely to stay at their current job if this happened, including 26% who say they'd be very unlikely to stay. A smaller share (36%) say they'd be likely to stay at their job.

Women are somewhat more inclined than men to say they'd be unlikely to stay at their job if they could no longer work from home (49% vs. 43%). And younger workers (ages 18 to 49) are more likely than those 50 and older to say this (50% vs. 35%).

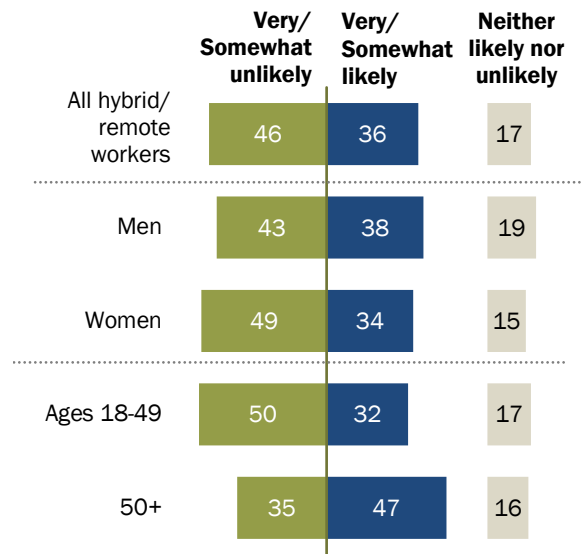
Are video meetings a good substitute for in-person contact?

The pandemic ushered in a new era for video calling and online conferencing. In October 2024, we asked workers with teleworkable jobs how often they use services like Zoom or Webex as part of their work. More than half (54%) say they use these services often, and an additional 25% say they use them sometimes. About one-in-five (21%) say they hardly ever or never use these services. These shares are largely unchanged from 2022.

There are big differences by education and income. Among those with a teleworkable job, 86% who have a bachelor's degree or more education say they use these services at least sometimes. This compares with 69% of those with some college or less education. Similarly, 92% of upper-income workers use these services regularly, compared with 76% of middle-income and 62% of lower-income workers.

Nearly half of workers currently working from home say they'd be unlikely to stay at their job if they could no longer do so

Among U.S. adults who work from home at least some of the time, % saying they would be ___ to stay at their current job if their employer no longer allowed them to work from home



Note: Based on workers who are not self-employed and who say their job can be done from home. Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

"5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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Most workers who use these services at least sometimes (74%) say they're a good substitute for in-person contact. A quarter say they are not a good substitute.

What if there was another pandemic?

Our October 2024 survey also asked workers who are not self-employed how they would feel about the safety of their workplace if there were another pandemic similar to the COVID-19 pandemic.

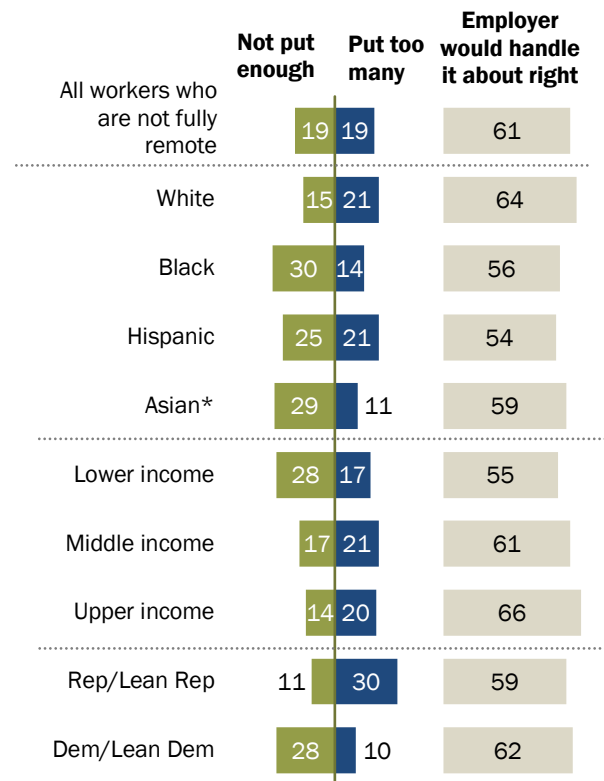
Among those who don't work from home all the time, 61% think their employer would handle safety measures at their workplace about right. Roughly one-in-five (19%) say they worry their employer would *not put enough* safety measures in place, and the same share say they'd be concerned that their employer would put *too many* measures in place.

Some groups of workers are more likely than others to say they worry their employer wouldn't put enough safety measures in place:

- Black, Hispanic and Asian workers
- Lower-income workers
- Democrats and Democratic leaners

Most workers are confident that if there were another pandemic, their employer would handle safety measures correctly

Among employed U.S. adults who don't work from home all the time, % saying that if there were another pandemic similar to COVID-19, they would worry more that their employer would ___ safety measures in place



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Based on workers who are not self-employed. Respondents who did not answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2023 earnings.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024. "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

Looking back: The challenges working parents faced

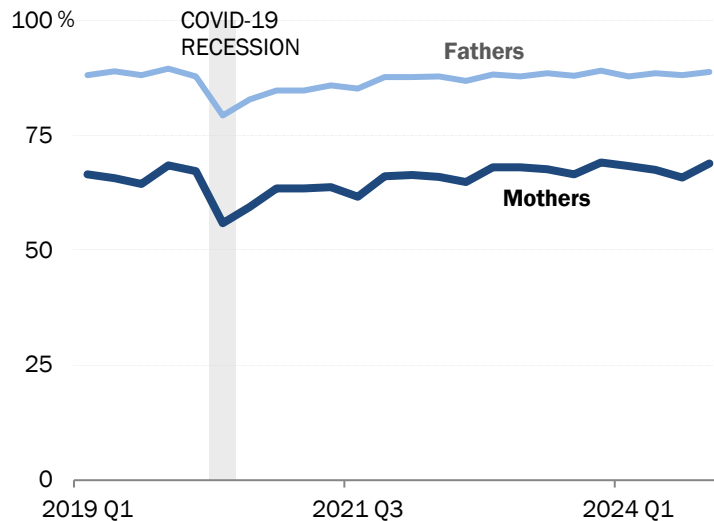
The pandemic presented a special set of challenges for parents. Schools and day care centers shut down for extended periods of time, and many parents had to juggle child care and online schooling with their regular work schedules.

There was a sharp dip in the share of parents – especially mothers – in the labor force during the second quarter of 2020. Employment among moms didn’t fully rebound until the last quarter of 2022.

There was also a decline in the number of hours mothers and fathers were working during the early months of the pandemic. That rebounded more quickly. Here are a few notable findings on what working parents faced during the pandemic.

Initial decline in employment during COVID-19 pandemic was greater for mothers than fathers

% of U.S. mothers and fathers with children at home who are employed and at work



Note: The term “employed and at work” refers to employed workers, full-time or part-time, who are not absent from work for any reason. Estimates refer to women and men ages 16 and older with children younger than 18 at home and are not seasonally adjusted. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the Current Population Survey 2019-2024 basic monthly files (IPUMS).

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- **Full-time vs. part-time work:** [Our surveys](#) found a drop in the share of mothers saying that at this point in their life, working full time would be best for them personally (from 51% in the summer of 2019 to 44% in October 2020). Fathers’ views on this didn’t change.
- **Handling child care:** During the first year of the pandemic, a rising share of working parents with children younger than 12 told us child care had been difficult for them to handle. In March 2020, 38% said this, and by October 2020, the share had risen to 52%. We saw this trend among both working mothers and working fathers.
- **Caring for kids while working:** In October 2020, we also asked parents how much child care they were doing while working. Among parents who were working from home all or most

of the time, 36% of moms and 16% of dads said they had a lot of child care responsibilities when working from home. Not surprisingly, these were many of the same parents who said balancing work and family responsibilities had gotten harder during the pandemic.

What happened when workplaces began to reopen?

In 2022, we saw an important shift in the [reasons people were working from home](#). As workplaces began to reopen, fewer workers told us they were working from home all or most of the time (compared with late 2020). But among those who were still working from home, a majority said they were doing this because they *wanted to* – not because their workplace was closed or unavailable.

We also asked workers who had the option of working from home but were choosing to go into the office instead why they didn't want to work from home more often. Most said it was just their preference or that they felt more productive in the office. Relatively few said they felt pressure to be at their workplace or that they thought they'd have more opportunities for advancement if they showed up at the office.

Concerns over safety in the workplace

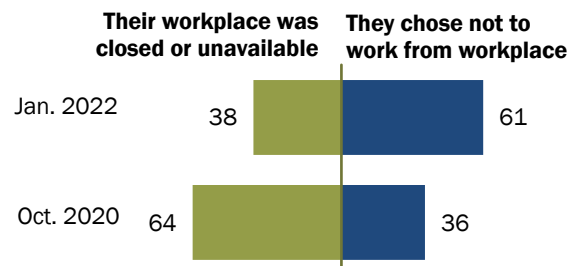
Even as life had started to get back to normal, many workers were still concerned about being exposed to the coronavirus at their workplace. In January 2022, about half of all workers who told us they interacted in person with others at work at least sometimes said they were either very (20%) or somewhat (32%) concerned about being exposed. This was virtually unchanged from October 2020.

Some groups were more concerned about this than others:

- Black and Hispanic workers
- Younger workers
- Lower-income workers

By 2022, a desire to work from home replaced a need to do so

Among employed U.S. adults with a workplace outside their home who were working from home all or most of the time, % saying they were doing so because ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.
"5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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Most workers who were not working exclusively from home remained at least somewhat satisfied with the measures their employer had put in place to protect them from being exposed. Black and Hispanic workers were among the least likely to say they were *very* satisfied.

What about vaccines?

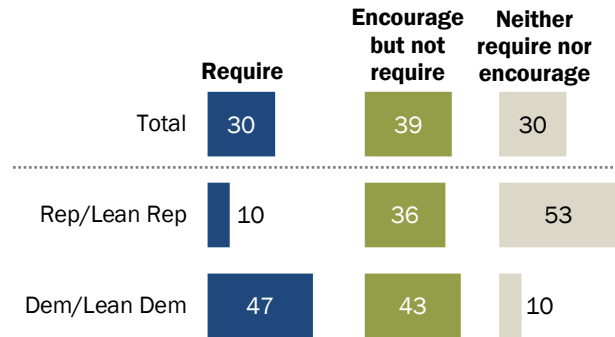
Our [2022 survey](#) found that among adults who weren't working from home all the time, 22% said their employer had required them to get a COVID-19 vaccine. An additional 47% said their employer had encouraged this but not required it, and 30% said their employer had done neither.

Most workers weren't in favor of vaccine requirements from their employers. Only 30% said their employer should require vaccines.

There was a big party divide here – 47% of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic thought their employer should require vaccines. This compared with only 10% of Republicans and Republican leaners.

In 2022, there was a wide partisan gap in views of COVID-19 vaccination requirements at work

Among employed U.S. adults who were not working from home all of the time, % saying that regardless of what their employer is doing, they thought their employer should ___ employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.
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3. How the COVID-19 pandemic affected U.S. religious life

The COVID-19 pandemic had an enormous impact on how religious communities gather for worship.

In a Pew Research Center [survey in July 2020](#), a few months after the coronavirus struck the United States, just 6% of Americans who regularly attend religious services said their house of worship was open to the public and holding services in the same way as before the COVID-19 outbreak. The vast majority reported either that their house of worship was *not* open for in-person services (31%) or that it was open but with changes to limit the spread of disease (55%).

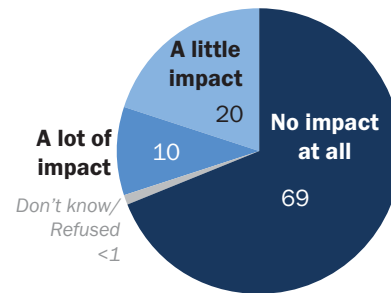
More than a year and a half later, in March 2022, fewer than half of regular worshippers (43%) reported that their church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship had completely returned to normal, pre-pandemic operations.

Yet, despite COVID-19's widespread effects on how houses of worship operate, **most Americans say their religious and spiritual lives have not been changed by the pandemic**, according to a Center survey conducted in October 2024.

Just 10% of U.S. adults report that the COVID-19 pandemic had *a lot* of impact on their religious or spiritual lives, while 20% say the pandemic had *a little* impact. About seven-in-ten Americans (69%) say the pandemic had *no impact at all* on their religious or spiritual lives.

7 in 10 Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic had no impact on their religious or spiritual life

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic had ___ on their personal religious or spiritual life



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024. "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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Among those who say their religious or spiritual lives were impacted, the pandemic's effects appear to be a mixed bag: Roughly equal shares of U.S. adults say the pandemic's effect on their religious or spiritual lives was mostly positive (10%), mostly negative (9%) and neither positive nor negative (11%).

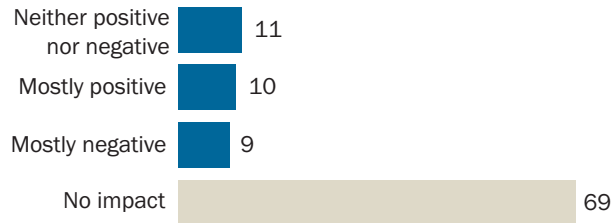
Trends in religious service participation

Throughout the pandemic, we periodically asked U.S. adults whether they had attended religious services in person in the prior month and, separately, whether they had participated virtually (either by streaming religious services online or by watching them on TV).

Since the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, the ways in which Americans participate in religious services have changed dramatically, with steadily rising numbers attending in person (and an overall drop in virtual participation) as the pandemic gradually receded.

Similar shares say pandemic had a positive and negative impact on their religious or spiritual life

% of U.S. adults who say the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their religious or spiritual life was ...



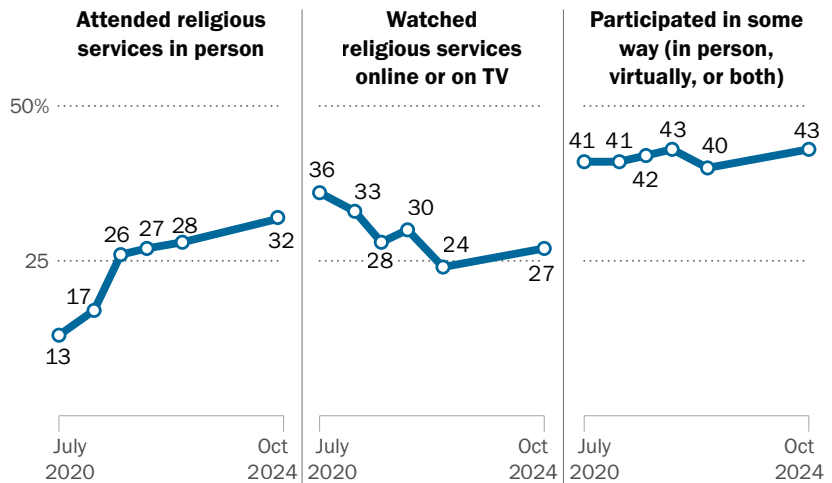
Note: Respondents who did not answer whether the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on their religious or spiritual life or whether that impact was positive, negative, or neither positive nor negative are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024. "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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Since early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, stable share of Americans have participated in religious services, either in person or virtually

% of U.S. adults who say they ___ in the last month



Note: Estimates for July 2020 and March 2021 based on respondents who participated in both surveys.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024. "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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Yet **the percentage of U.S. adults taking part in religious services *in some way* – in person, virtually or both – has remained quite steady.** In each of six surveys between 2020 and 2024, about 40% (or slightly more) of respondents reported that they had participated, one way or another, in services during the past month.

In the October 2024 survey, 32% of Americans say they attended religious services in person in the month prior to the survey, and 27% say they watched services online or on TV during the same period – both up slightly from the last time we asked these questions in November 2022.

The new survey also asked respondents whether they currently attend religious services in person more often, less often or about as often as they did *before* the pandemic. A second question asked the same thing about how often they watch services virtually.

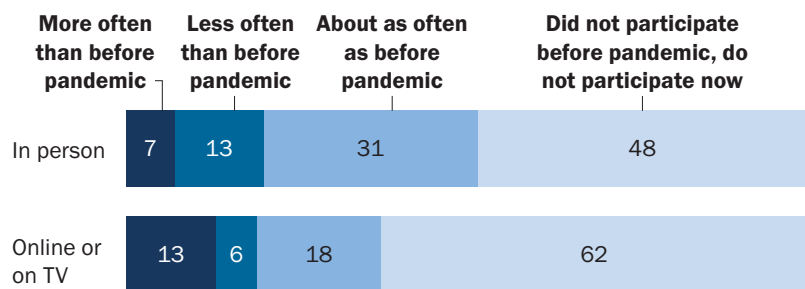
The vast majority of U.S. adults say their religious participation habits have not changed:

- About eight-in-ten say either that they attend services *in person* about as often as they did before the pandemic (31%) or that they did not attend before the pandemic and still don't (48%).
- Roughly eight-in-ten say either that they watch services *virtually* about as often as they did before the pandemic (18%) or that they didn't watch services before the pandemic and still don't (62%).

There may be a small net decrease in *in-person* attendance: 13% of Americans say they attend in person less often than they did before the pandemic, while just 7% say they now attend more often. But that difference is almost exactly offset by an increase in *virtual* participation: 13% of Americans say they watch services online more often than they did before the pandemic, while 6% say they now watch less often.

Slight decline in worship attendance in person since before COVID-19 pandemic has been balanced by slight increase in virtual participation

% of U.S. adults who say they participate in religious services ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Together, these survey findings paint a picture of remarkable stability in U.S. religious life during a time of widespread upheaval in how houses of worship operate and despite a decades-long [decline in religious affiliation and participation](#).³

The spiritual impact of the pandemic among religious groups and by race/ethnicity

Black Protestants and Hispanic Catholics are more likely than some other large U.S. religious groups to say the pandemic affected their religious or spiritual lives. Nearly half of Black Protestants (46%) and Hispanic Catholics (47%) say the pandemic had at least a little impact on their religious or spiritual lives, compared with 30% of U.S. adults overall.

This appears to reflect a broader racial and ethnic pattern. Black Americans (44%), Hispanic Americans (40%) and Asian Americans (44%) are far more likely than White Americans (24%) to say the pandemic affected their religious or spiritual lives. These differences hold up even in statistical analyses that control for the effects of age, gender, education, political party, ideology, religious affiliation, income and region.

Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans far more likely than White Americans to say the pandemic impacted their religious or spiritual lives

How much impact did the COVID-19 pandemic have on your religious or spiritual life? (%)

	NET At least a little	A lot	A little	None at all
U.S. adults	30%	10%	20%	69%
Christian	37	14	24	62
Protestant	37	14	23	63
White evangelical	36	12	24	64
White nonevangelical	25	7	18	75
Black Protestant	46	19	27	54
Catholic	37	13	25	62
White Catholic	30	9	21	70
Hispanic Catholic	47	16	31	53
Jewish	23	7	16	77
Religiously unaffiliated	12	3	9	88
White	24	7	16	76
Black	44	17	27	55
Hispanic	40	15	25	59
Asian*	44	15	29	56

* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding. Respondents who did not answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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³ [Recent data](#), however, suggests that the growth of the religiously unaffiliated population in the U.S. may have slowed.

Among those who say their religious or spiritual lives were impacted by the pandemic:

- Black Protestants are more likely to say the pandemic had a *mostly positive* impact on them than a mostly negative impact (17% vs. 11%).
- White Catholics are more likely to say the pandemic had a *mostly negative* impact than a mostly positive impact on them (11% vs. 6%).

When looking at race and ethnicity more broadly, Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans are somewhat more likely to say the pandemic had a mostly positive than a mostly negative impact on their religious or spiritual lives.

Roughly equal shares of White Americans say the pandemic’s effect on their religious or spiritual lives was mostly positive (7%) and mostly negative (8%).

Roughly equal shares of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic had positive and negative impacts on their religious or spiritual lives

% of U.S. adults who say the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their religious or spiritual life was ...

	Mostly positive	Mostly negative	Neither positive nor negative	The COVID-19 pandemic had no impact
U.S. adults	10%	9%	11%	69%
Christian	12	11	14	62
Protestant	12	11	14	63
White evangelical	12	12	11	64
White nonevangelical	7	7	11	75
Black Protestant	17	11	18	54
Catholic	10	12	14	62
White Catholic	6	11	12	70
Hispanic Catholic	17	13	15	53
Jewish	6	8	9	77
Religiously unaffiliated	4	3	4	88
White	7	8	9	76
Black	16	10	17	55
Hispanic	16	10	13	59
Asian*	15	9	20	56

* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.
 Note: Respondents who did not answer whether the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on their religious or spiritual life or whether that impact was positive, negative, or neither positive nor negative are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.
 “5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19”

Trends in religious service participation among religious and demographic subgroups

Throughout the pandemic, overall participation in religious services remained quite stable among most religious subgroups, most age groups and supporters of both major U.S. political parties. There are two notable exceptions:

- Religious service participation estimates for Jews are higher in the November 2022 and October 2024 surveys than they were in July 2020 and March 2021. This may reflect the timing of those surveys, which were fielded shortly after the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a peak season for synagogue attendance.
- Among adults under 30, participation in religious services is somewhat higher in the latest survey (38%) than it was in July

2020 (30%). There has been a fair amount of fluctuation in the self-reported rates of attendance of Americans in this age group, which have been as low as 28% and as high as 38% since the start of the pandemic. Throughout this period, however, young adults (ages 18 to 29) have tended to participate in religious services much less often than those 65 and older, which was also the case before the coronavirus outbreak.

Religious service participation levels remained stable over course of COVID-19 pandemic for nearly all groups

% of U.S. adults who say they have participated in religious services *either* in person or virtually (or both) in the last month

	July 2020	March 2021	Sept. 2021	March 2022	Nov. 2022	Oct. 2024
U.S. adults	41%	41%	42%	43%	40%	43%
Christian	54	56	56	58	56	58
Protestant	61	60	62	62	61	63
White evangelical	71	72	74	77	72	74
White nonevangelical	37	38	40	43	39	38
Black Protestant	70	65	67	61	69	73
Catholic	41	44	44	49	44	48
White Catholic	38	44	42	48	43	46
Hispanic Catholic	42	40	44	47	43	48
Jewish*	26	39	n/a	n/a	44	51
Religiously unaffiliated	10	8	10	10	9	10
Rep/Lean Rep	49	50	51	52	48	52
Dem/Lean Dem	34	32	33	35	32	34
Ages 18-29	30	32	32	36	28	38
30-49	37	36	38	37	37	38
50-64	46	45	47	48	45	46
65+	50	49	49	53	49	52

* November 2022 and October 2024 participation figures for Jewish respondents are larger than the earlier estimates, likely due to the timing of the two most recent surveys (fielded shortly after the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur).

Note: Figures for Jewish respondents in September 2021 and March 2022 not shown due to insufficient sample size. July 2020 and March 2021 estimates for all U.S. adults, partisan groups and age groups are based on respondents who participated in both surveys.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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4. How COVID-19 impacted Americans' relationship with technology

For many Americans, life in the early days of COVID-19 was lived on screens. Schools pivoted to virtual learning and businesses shuttered or moved online as in-person contact risked spreading the virus.

Not everyone could – or wanted to – avoid in-person interaction. And some did not have the resources or skills to navigate this technological shift. But for others, relying more on technology was the “new normal.”

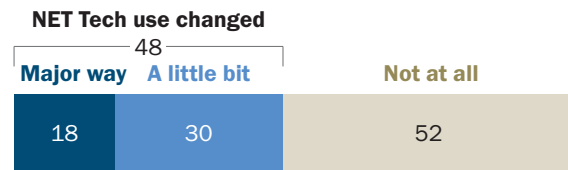
Some of these changes are still with us: 48% of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they *now* use technology, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in October 2024.

This includes 18% who say the pandemic changed their current technology use in a *major* way.

Like Americans' pandemic experiences, these changes – and their impacts – are far from one-size-fits-all.

About half of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic changed how they use technology today

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology (in a ...



Note: For full question wording, refer to the topline. Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

“5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19”

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By age

Younger adults stand out – 62% of adults under 30 say the pandemic changed how they now use technology. Still, some older adults say this too:

- 51% of those ages 30 to 49
- 42% of those 50 to 64
- 36% of those 65 and older

By race and ethnicity

About six-in-ten Black, Hispanic and Asian Americans say their technology use is different now due to the pandemic. This compares with about four-in-ten White adults.

By community type

Urban adults are most likely to say their technology use is now different, followed by their suburban counterparts. Rural Americans are least likely to say this.

By household income

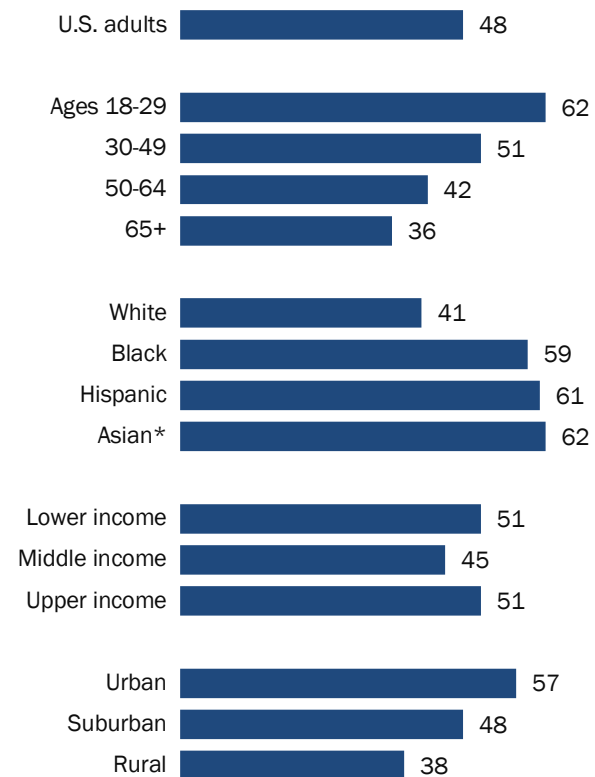
There are only modest differences by income. About half of those in lower-income and upper-income households say the pandemic changed their technology use. A slightly smaller share of those in middle-income households say this.

How changing technology use impacted Americans' lives

Asked how these changes have impacted their lives now, people report a mix of good and bad.

A majority of adults under 30 say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology

% of U.S. adults who say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: "Yes, [changed] in a major way" and "Yes, [changed] but only a little bit" are combined. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2023 earnings. Respondents who did not answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Among those who say COVID-19 changed the way they now use technology:

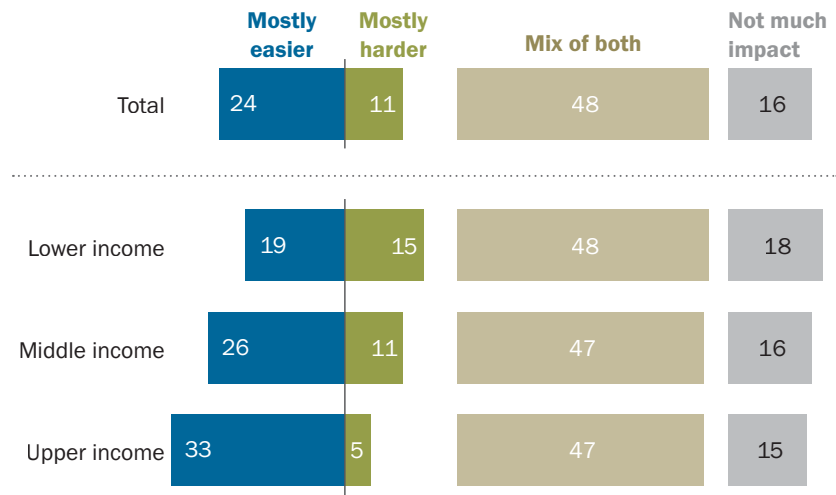
- 48% say these changes made their life a mix of **both easier and harder**
- 24% say they've made life **mostly easier**
- 11% say they've made life **mostly harder**
- 16% say **they haven't had much impact** either way

By household income

Those living in upper-income households are most likely to say that these changes have made their life easier. People in lower-income households, by comparison, are most likely to report hardship – though relatively few in each income group say this.

About half of those who say the pandemic changed how they now use technology think these changes have made life both easier and harder

Among those who say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology, % who say they think these changes have made their life ...



Note: "Those who say the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way they now use technology" includes those who say this changed "in a major way" and "only a little bit." Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2023 earnings. Respondents who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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The largest shares across income levels say these changes have had mixed effects – that is, they've made life both easier and harder.

By age

Among those who report change, adults ages 65 and older (29%) are more likely than those 50 to 64 (16%) or under 50 (13%) to say these changes didn't have much impact on them.

Looking back over the pandemic

Our findings reflect the complex – and sometimes challenging – realities of how Americans used technology as the pandemic unfolded. In the sections below, we walk through some of what we've learned over the past five years.

Jump to read about the role of the internet in Americans' lives during the pandemic: [The importance of the internet during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Jump to read about the digital divides the pandemic shone a spotlight on, including: [Affordability](#) | [Digital literacy](#)

Jump to read about key stories of tech and daily life during the pandemic: [Virtual learning](#) | [The "homework gap"](#) | [Screen time](#) | [Virtual connections and "Zoom fatigue"](#) | [Tech and relationships](#)

The importance of the internet during the COVID-19 pandemic

As many daily activities shifted online, Americans' reliance on the internet ticked up over the first year of the pandemic. By April 2021, 58% of Americans said it had been essential to them during the outbreak, up slightly from 53% a year prior.

The share saying the internet was essential rose for [younger and older adults alike](#). The share of adults under 30 saying it was essential rose from 62% to 72%. Among those 65 and older, it rose from 31% to 38%.

The shares of Americans ages 30 to 64 who said the internet had been essential remained stable over that same period.

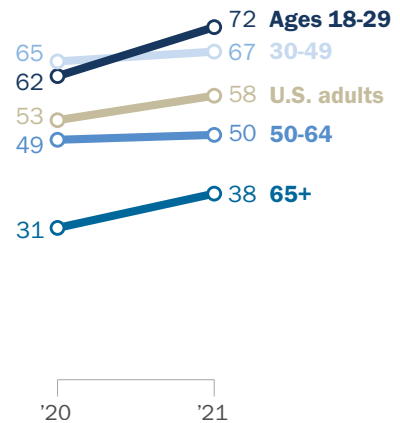
All told, 90% of Americans acknowledged at least some importance of the internet in their lives at the pandemic's one-year mark. (That includes 33% who said it was important, but not essential.)

Digital divides and the pandemic

Not everyone faced this shift with the same resources and skills. COVID-19 thrust long-standing [digital divides](#) into the spotlight, from [gaps in internet access by age and income](#) to [struggles with reliable connections](#).

Internet's importance rose for youngest, oldest adults in first year of pandemic

*% of U.S. adults who say the internet has been **essential** for them personally during the coronavirus outbreak*



Note: Respondents who did not answer or said the internet was "important, but not essential," "not too important" or "not at all important" are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 12-18, 2021.

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Americans saw clear disadvantages for those without internet access during the pandemic.

In 2021, majorities of Americans said those who didn't have high-speed internet were [at a major disadvantage](#) for schoolwork and job searching. About half said the same about getting medical care.

Even for those with access, the pandemic thrust issues of affordability and digital literacy into the spotlight. Some groups were more likely to struggle in these areas than others.

Affordability

Broadband costs have long been an issue for some Americans and are [among the main reasons people don't subscribe](#).

As the pandemic hit Americans' pocketbooks, subscribers struggled with costs too. About three-in-ten U.S. home broadband subscribers [were at least somewhat worried about being able to pay their internet bills](#) in our April 2020 survey.

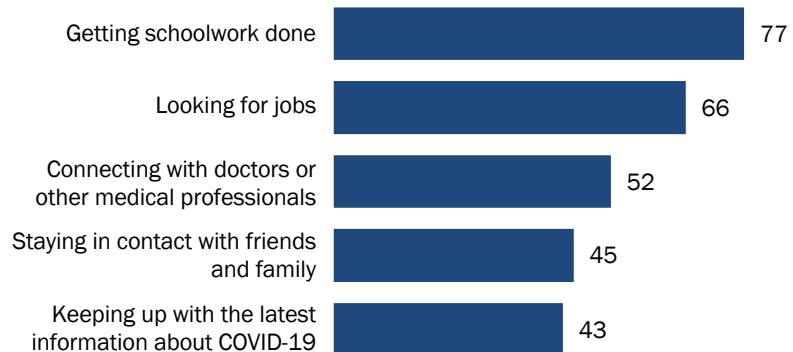
By household income

Lower-income households were hit especially hard: **52% of home broadband subscribers with lower incomes said in April 2020 they worried at least some about paying their internet bills over the next few months.** And as the pandemic continued, the government [stepped in to help people pay](#).

Today, affordability remains a concern as inflation [looms large](#). Our fall 2024 survey shows 34% of broadband subscribers worry a lot or some about paying their internet bills. By income, this is:

In 2021, majorities of Americans said those without high-speed internet were at a major disadvantage for school, job searching during COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who say that people who do NOT have high-speed internet access at home are at a major disadvantage during the COVID-19 pandemic for ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 25-Feb. 8, 2021. "5 Years Later: America Looks Back at the Impact of COVID-19"

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- 56% of subscribers in lower-income households
- 31% in middle-income households
- 12% in upper-income households

Digital literacy

One of the major narratives from the pandemic centered around whether Americans – especially older Americans – had the digital skills they needed to face a technology-focused reality. From [registering for vaccine appointments](#) to [ordering food online](#), everyday tasks suddenly required tech “savviness.”

Our work found that [a year into the pandemic in April 2021](#), 10% of adults said they had little to no confidence using computers, smartphones or other electronic devices to do what they needed to do online. And 26% said they usually needed help setting up new devices or learning how to use them.

By age

[Older Americans were far more likely to struggle in these ways](#). In 2021, 24% of Americans 75 and older said they had little to no confidence in their digital skills, and 66% usually needed help with new devices.

Differences by age persist today. For example, 65% of those 75 and older say they usually need help with device setup, according to the October survey. This compares with smaller shares of adults ages 65 to 74 (48%), 50 to 64 (25%) and under 50 (9%).

Technology and daily life during COVID-19

Even as digital divides played out, the “new normal” some Americans were thrust into extended across areas like school, socializing and [work](#). A year into the pandemic, four-in-ten Americans overall told us [they had used technology in new ways](#) (though a larger share hadn’t done this).

Below, we look back on some of the biggest stories about how Americans were using – and sometimes struggling with – technology during this time.

Virtual learning

As schools closed and assignments went virtual, concern that the pandemic would [hurt test scores and widen achievement gaps](#) drew widespread attention.

And two years into the pandemic, we found **a majority of teens (ages 13 to 17) said they'd prefer in-person schooling post-pandemic**, versus online or hybrid learning. Teens also had mixed feelings about how virtual learning was going. About three-in-ten teens (28%) said they were extremely or very satisfied with how their schools had handled it, but a similar share (30%) reported being only a little or not at all satisfied.

At the same time, we found 16% of teens were extremely or very worried they'd fallen behind in school due to pandemic-related disruptions.

A larger share of parents of teens (28%) were highly worried that their teen was falling behind in school due to these disruptions.

But this varied by income:

44% of parents whose annual household income was less than \$30,000 said they were extremely or very worried, compared with 24% of those living in households earning \$75,000 or more a year.

Parents also had mixed feelings about how virtual learning was going overall, though their views were slightly more positive than teens'.

The 'homework gap'

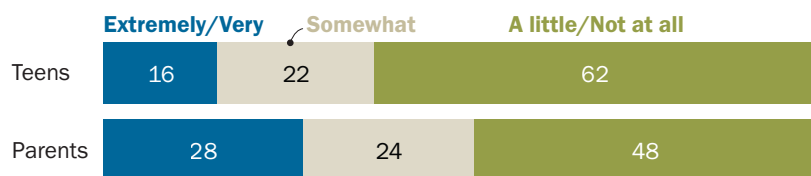
The same survey found that teens in lower-income households were especially likely to face technology-related barriers to getting schoolwork done – often called the “homework gap.”

One of these was having to **do homework on a cellphone**. About one-in-five teens said in 2022 they often or sometimes had to do so, and lower-income teens stood out:

- 35% of teens in households making less than \$30,000 annually said they at least sometimes had to use a cellphone for homework.
- 24% of teens in households making \$30,000 to \$74,999 said this.

In 2022, 16% of teens were extremely or very worried they'd fallen behind in school due to COVID-19 – and 28% of parents said the same about their teen

% of U.S. teens/parents of teens who say they are ___ worried that they/their teen might have fallen behind in school because of disruptions caused by COVID-19



Note: Teens refer to those ages 13 to 17. Respondents who did not answer are not shown. Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

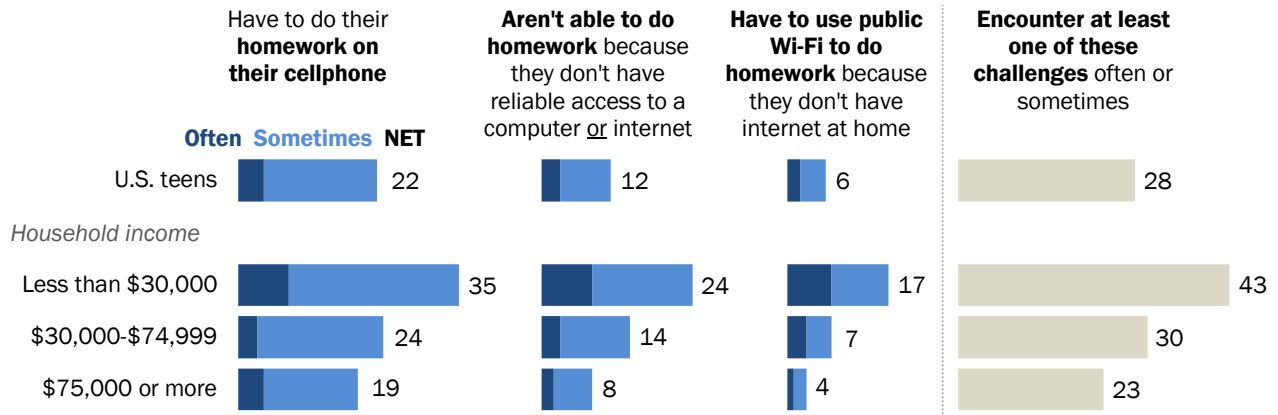
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- 19% of teens in households making \$75,000 or more said the same.

In 2022, teens living in lower-income households were more likely to face certain challenges related to the ‘homework gap’

% of U.S. teens who say they *often* or *sometimes* ...



Note: Teens refer to those ages 13 to 17. Respondents who did not answer or gave other responses are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

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About a quarter of teens in lower-income households said they at least sometimes **couldn't complete homework because they lacked reliable access to a computer or the internet**. That's higher than the shares of teens in higher-income households reporting the same. And there's a similar pattern in using **public Wi-Fi to do homework**.

Amid struggles like these, [schools scrambled to get technology in the hands of students](#).

The share of Americans saying K-12 schools should provide technology to all students during the outbreak rose [over the first year of the pandemic](#):

- From 37% to 49% among all adults
- From 28% to 43% among Republicans and GOP-leaning independents
- From 45% to 54% among Democrats and leaners

At the same time, some [called on the federal government to do more](#) to address the digital divide.

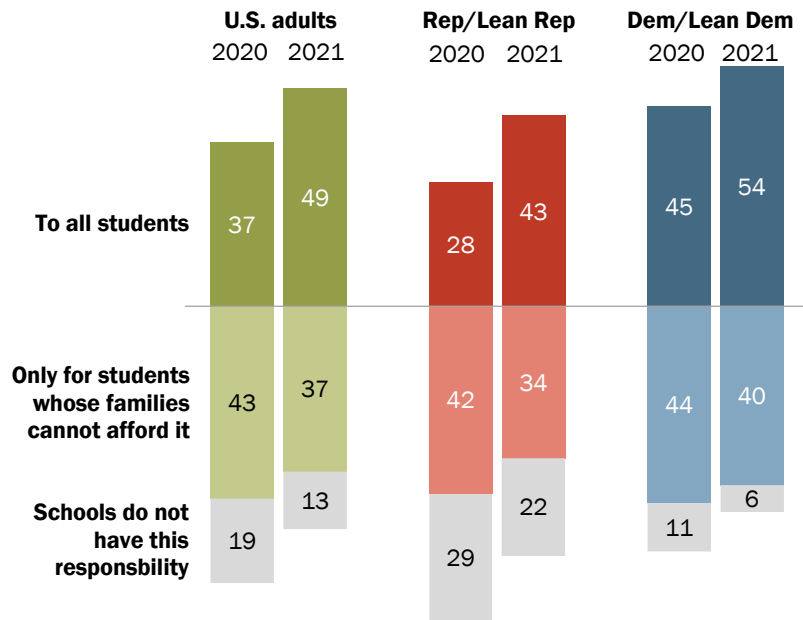
And we saw the share of Americans saying the federal government had a responsibility to provide access to high-speed internet to all Americans rise from 28% in 2019 to 43% in 2021, according to [a separate 2021 Center study](#). By comparison, the other views of government responsibility we measured changed little over the same period.

Screen time

In addition to understanding the virtual learning environment, we also tackled a modern conundrum for many parents: screen time.

Over the first year of COVID-19 pandemic, rising shares of Americans in both parties said K-12 schools should provide technology to all students

% of U.S. adults who think K-12 schools have a responsibility to provide laptop or tablet computers ___ to help them complete schoolwork at home during the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 12-18, 2021.
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In April 2021, [most parents reported their kids' screen time was on the rise](#). Overall, **72% of K-12 parents said their child was spending more time in front of screens than before the outbreak**. Smaller shares said their child's screen time was about the same as before (20%) or was less than before the pandemic (7%).

Asked about screen time aside from schoolwork, parents were also more likely to say they softened their rules than to say they became stricter.

- 39% of K-12 parents said they become less strict about their child's screen time since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 18% became more strict.
- Another 43% said things had stayed about the same.

Today, screen time is still [top-of-mind for many parents](#). And our [2023](#) and [2024](#) surveys show teens are as digitally connected as ever.

Virtual connections and 'Zoom fatigue'

People were finding virtual ways to connect in the early days of the outbreak. Overall, [32% of adults said they had a virtual party or social gathering](#) with friends or family due to the outbreak, according to an April 2020 survey. For adults under 30, that figure rose to roughly half.

From personal calls to [remote work](#), video calls became a mainstay of some Americans' lives. One year into the pandemic, [81% of U.S. adults said they had talked with others via video calls](#) at some point since it began. This included one-in-five who said they did this daily.

Roughly 7 in 10 parents said in 2021 that their children were spending more time in front of screens than they did before COVID-19 pandemic began

Among parents with children in grades K-12, % who say their children are spending ___ in front of screens compared with before the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak



Note: "Parents with children in grades K-12" refers to those who said they were the parent or guardian of any children who were enrolled in elementary, middle or high school and who lived in their household. Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 12-18, 2021.

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But these calls did have a downside to some users, [popularly coined “Zoom fatigue.”](#) Four-in-ten of those who had used video calling in the first year of the pandemic [felt worn out from such calls at least sometimes.](#)

Tech and relationships

Behind the video calls and virtual parties was a lingering question: What was all this doing to our relationships?

Many Americans thought connecting via technology left something to be desired. Our [March 2020 survey](#) found that a majority thought meeting online or over the phone couldn’t fully substitute for meeting face-to-face.

That was still true [when we surveyed Americans again about a year later.](#) About two-thirds (68%) felt that virtual interactions had been useful, but not a replacement for in person contact. In contrast, 17% said that these interactions had been as good as in-person and another 15% said they were not of much use.

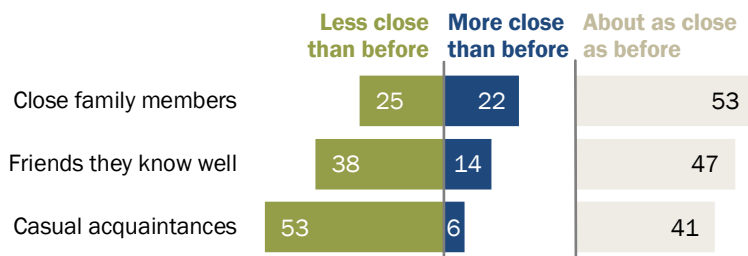
For some, [the closeness of relationships changed over this first year.](#) But how this played out depended on the relationship in question.

About half of U.S. adults said they felt less close with casual acquaintances. Roughly four-in-ten said the same about friends they know well. And a quarter said this about close family members.

Still, some said relationships grew closer. For example, 22% said they felt *closer* to family than before the pandemic.

In 2021, 53% of Americans said they felt less close to acquaintances than before the pandemic, and 25% said this about close family members

% of U.S. adults who say that compared with before the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, they now generally feel ___ to each of the following



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 12-18, 2021.

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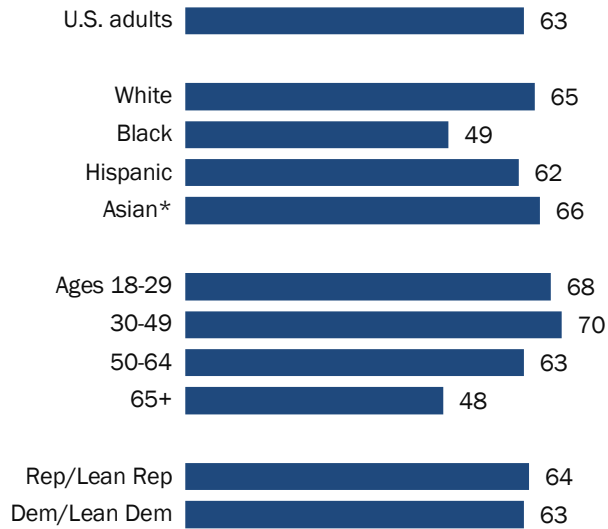
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But for close friends and family alike, the largest shares of Americans said these relationships had stayed about the same.

Appendix

Similar majorities of Republicans and Democrats say they've had COVID-19 at some point since February 2020

% of U.S. adults who say that since February 2020, they have either tested positive for/been diagnosed with COVID-19 or been pretty sure they had it



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

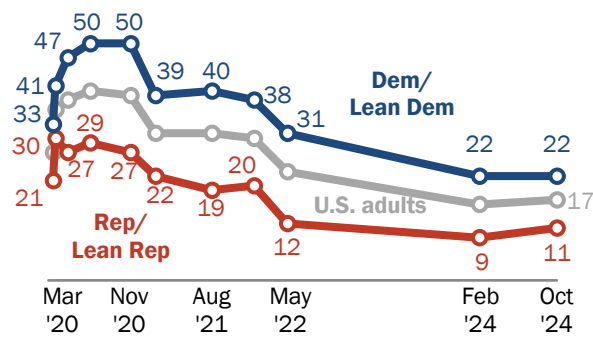
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Modest partisan gap in the shares who say COVID-19 is a major threat to their personal health

% of U.S. adults who say the coronavirus today is a *major threat* to their personal health



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

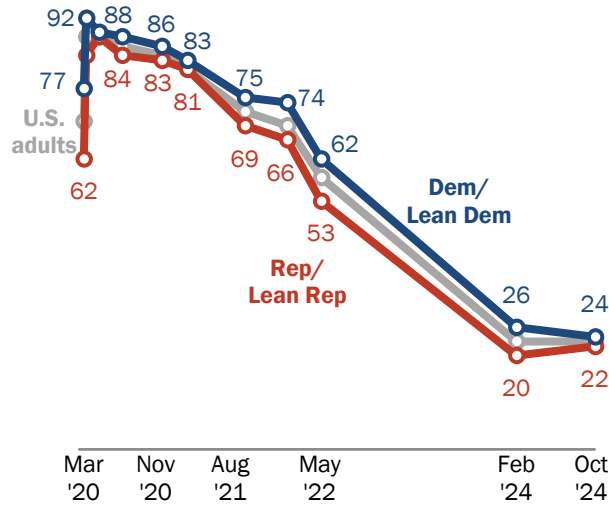
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Similar shares of Republicans and Democrats say COVID-19 is a major threat to the U.S. economy

% of U.S. adults who say the coronavirus today is a *major threat* to the U.S. economy



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

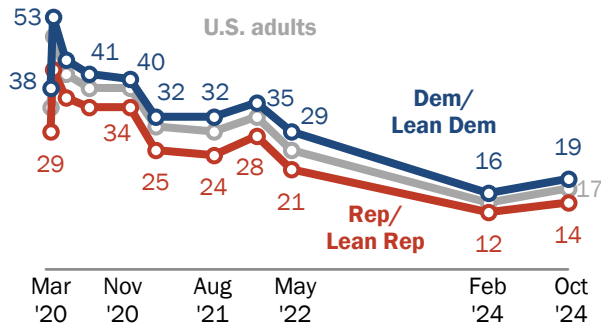
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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17% of Americans say COVID-19 is a major threat to their personal finances

% of U.S. adults who say the coronavirus today is a major threat to their personal financial situation



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 21-27, 2024.

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 158 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from Oct. 21 to Oct. 27, 2024. A total of 9,593 panelists responded out of 10,612 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 90%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 9,593 respondents is plus or minus 1.3 percentage points.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=9,320) and live telephone (n=273) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel.](#)”

(Note: Data on workplace experiences comes from ATP Wave 157, a survey of 5,273 U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024. [Read the full methodology of that survey here.](#))

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.⁴ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.⁵ Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”)

⁴ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)”

⁵ Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. All active panel members were invited to participate in this wave.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Oct. 21 to Oct. 27, 2024. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online:⁶ Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on Oct. 21.⁷ Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Oct. 21. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Oct. 22.

⁶ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.

⁷ Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents, ATP Wave 158

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	October 21, 2024	October 22, 2024
First reminder	October 24, 2024	October 24, 2024
Final reminder	October 26, 2024	October 26, 2024

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on Oct. 18. Soft launch took place on Oct. 21 and involved dialing until a total of seven interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, four ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th

percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2022 American Community Survey
Age x Gender	(ACS)
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Black (alone or in combination) x Hispanic	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2021 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

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

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

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 158

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	9,593	1.3 percentage points

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

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 158

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	9,593
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	194
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	64
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	757
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	4
Total panelists sampled for the survey		10,612
Completed interviews	I	9,593
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	258
Non-contact	NC	757
Other	O	4
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		10,612
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		90%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 158

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 158	35%
Response rate to Wave 158 survey	90%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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A note about the Asian adult sample

This survey includes a total sample size of 548 Asian adults. The sample primarily includes English-speaking Asian adults and, therefore, may not be representative of the overall Asian adult population. Despite this limitation, it is important to report the views of Asian adults on the topics in this study. As always, Asian adults' responses are incorporated into the general population figures throughout this report.

How family income tiers are calculated

Family income data reported in this study is adjusted for household size and cost-of-living differences by geography. Panelists then are assigned to income tiers that are based on the median adjusted family income of all American Trends Panel members. The process uses the following steps:

1. First, panelists are assigned to the midpoint of the income range they selected in a family income question that was measured on either the most recent annual profile survey or, for newly recruited panelists, their recruitment survey. This provides an approximate income value that can be used in calculations for the adjustment.
2. Next, these income values are adjusted for the cost of living in the geographic area where the panelist lives. This is calculated using price indexes published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. These indexes, known as [Regional Price Parities \(RPP\)](#), compare the prices of goods and services across all U.S. metropolitan statistical areas as well as non-metro areas with the national average prices for the same goods and services. The most recent available data at the time of the annual profile survey is from 2022. Those who fall outside of metropolitan statistical areas are assigned the overall RPP for their state's non-metropolitan area.
3. Family incomes are further adjusted for the number of people in a household using the methodology from Pew Research Center's previous work on [the American middle class](#). This is done because a four-person household with an income of say, \$50,000, faces a tighter budget constraint than a two-person household with the same income.
4. Panelists are then assigned an income tier. "Middle-income" adults are in families with adjusted family incomes that are between two-thirds and double the median adjusted family income for the full ATP at the time of the most recent annual profile survey. The median adjusted family income for the panel is roughly \$74,100. Using this median income, the middle-income range is about \$49,400 to \$148,200. Lower-income families have adjusted incomes less than \$49,400 and upper-income families have adjusted

incomes greater than \$148,200 (all figures expressed in 2023 dollars and scaled to a household size of three). If a panelist did not provide their income and/or their household size, they are assigned “no answer” in the income tier variable.

Two examples of how a given area’s cost-of-living adjustment was calculated are as follows: the Pine Bluff metropolitan area in Arkansas is a relatively inexpensive area, with a price level that is 19.1% less than the national average. The San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley metropolitan area in California is one of the most expensive areas, with a price level that is 17.9% higher than the national average. Income in the sample is adjusted to make up for this difference. As a result, a family with an income of \$40,400 in the Pine Bluff area is as well off financially as a family of the same size with an income of \$58,900 in San Francisco.

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2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**W158****OCT 21-27, 2024****N=9,593**

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	9,593	+/- 1.3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

SYMPTOMS**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-d WITH ITEM e ALWAYS LAST; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1.]

In general, when people have cold-like symptoms, how important do you think it is that they...

		<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Stay home from work or school Oct 21-27, 2024	17	30	36	13	4	<1
b.	Wear a mask in crowded settings Oct 21-27, 2024	19	24	26	17	13	<1
c.	Avoid contact with vulnerable people, such as older people and pregnant women Oct 21-27, 2024	40	34	20	4	2	<1
d.	Cancel travel plans Oct 21-27, 2024	12	20	37	24	6	<1
e.	Take a COVID-19 test Oct 21-27, 2024	19	22	26	18	16	<1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**DIGCONF****ASK ALL:**

Overall, how confident do you feel using computers, smartphones, or other electronic devices to do the things you need to do online?⁸

<u>Oct 21-27, 2024</u>		<u>May 15-21, 2023</u>	<u>Apr 12-18, 2021</u>	<u>Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019</u>
49	Very confident	53	57	58
36	Somewhat confident	36	33	31
10	Only a little confident	9	7	7
4	Not at all confident	2	2	3
*	No answer	*	1	*

⁸ In the April 2021 survey, the question wording was slightly different: "Overall, how confident do you feel, if at all, using computers smartphones, or other electronic devices to do the things you need to do online?"

TECHHELP**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1]**

Which of the following best describes you, even if neither is exactly right?

When I get a new computer, smartphone, or other electronic device, I usually...

<u>Oct 21-27,</u> <u>2024</u>		<u>May 15-21,</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Apr 12-18,</u> <u>2021</u>
23	Need someone else to set it up or show me how to use it	22	26
76	Am able to set it up and learn how to use it on my own	77	73
1	No answer	*	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**COVPAYTECH****ASK IF HOME BROADBAND SUBSCRIBER OR HAS A SMARTPHONE (BBHOME=2 OR SMARTPHONE=1):****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

How much, if at all, do you worry about being able to pay for each of the following over the next few months?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK IF HOME BROADBAND SUBSCRIBER (BBHOME=2) [N=8,238]:⁹					
a. High-speed internet connection at home					
Oct 21-27, 2024	13	21	26	41	*
Apr 12-18, 2021	8	18	25	49	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	9	19	28	44	*
ASK IF HAS A SMARTPHONE (SMARTPHONE=1) [N=9,105]:					
b. Your cellphone bill					
Oct 21-27, 2024	13	21	25	41	*
Apr 12-18, 2021	9	15	26	50	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	11	18	27	43	*

⁹ The questions used to identify "home broadband subscribers" have varied slightly over the years. In 2020, all panelists were asked if they subscribe to dial-up internet service at home, a higher-speed broadband service or no home internet service. In 2021, we asked the same question to those who had home internet. Those who did not have home internet (and were provided a tablet for participation) did not receive this question. In 2024, a two-part approach (HOME4NW2 and BBHOME) was used for all panelists. Refer to the questionnaire for full question wording.

COVIDTHREAT**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS.]**How much of a threat, if any, is the coronavirus today¹⁰ for...

	<u>A major threat</u>	<u>A minor threat</u>	<u>Not a threat</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The health of the U.S. population as a whole				
Oct 21-27, 2024	21	53	26	<1
Feb 7-11, 2024	20	55	24	<1
May 2-8, 2022	41	45	13	1
Jan 10-17, 2022	57	35	8	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	61	33	6	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	63	31	5	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	65	29	5	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	67	28	5	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	64	31	4	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	66	31	2	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	47	45	8	<1
b. Your personal health				
Oct 21-27, 2024	17	47	37	<1
Feb 7-11, 2024	16	48	36	<1
May 2-8, 2022	23	50	26	<1
Jan 10-17, 2022	30	50	20	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	31	50	19	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	31	52	17	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	39	46	14	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	40	46	13	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	38	47	14	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	36	52	11	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	27	51	22	<1
c. The U.S. economy				
Oct 21-27, 2024	23	45	31	<1
Feb 7-11, 2024	23	48	28	1
May 2-8, 2022	58	34	8	1
Jan 10-17, 2022	69	25	5	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	72	24	3	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	81	16	3	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	84	13	3	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	86	12	2	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	88	10	2	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	88	10	1	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	70	25	4	1

¹⁰ In all surveys prior to February 2024, the phrase "coronavirus outbreak" was used instead of "coronavirus today".

COVIDTHREAT CONTINUED...

	A major <u>threat</u>	A minor <u>threat</u>	<u>Not a threat</u>	<u>No answer</u>
d. Your personal financial situation				
Oct 21-27, 2024	17	34	49	<1
Feb 7-11, 2024	14	36	49	1
May 2-8, 2022	25	44	30	1
Jan 10-17, 2022	32	44	23	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	29	46	25	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	30	46	24	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	38	42	20	<1
Jul 13-19, 2020	38	43	19	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	41	42	17	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	49	40	11	<1
Mar 10-16, 2020	34	43	23	<1

[PN: DISPLAY CVDSTMNTS_CLDFLU, CVDSTMNTS_WORRY, CVDSTMNTS_TEST, CVDSTMNTS_GDLINES ON SAME PAGE; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF QUESTIONS. ROTATE THE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 FOR EACH QUESTION INDEPENDENTLY OF ONE ANOTHER]

TXT:

[PN: DISPLAY TO ALL:]

Thinking about your views on the [coronavirus today...](#)

Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.

[PN: IF WEB:] *[Please select one item from each pair]*

CVDSTMNTS_CLDFLU

ASK ALL:

[PN: ROTATE 1-2/2-1.]

Oct 21-27,

2024

40	COVID-19 is <u>no worse</u> than a cold or flu
56	COVID-19 is worse than a cold or flu
4	No answer

CVDSTMNTS_WORRY

ASK ALL:

[PN: ROTATE 1-2/2-1.]

Oct 21-27,

2024

39	I worry we're not taking COVID-19 seriously enough
56	COVID-19 isn't something we need to worry about much
5	No answer

CVDSTMNTS_TEST**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE 1-2/2-1.]

Oct 21-27,

2024

33	There's no point in people testing for COVID-19
63	People should test for COVID-19 when they feel sick
4	No answer

CVDSTMNTS_GDLINES**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE 1-2/2-1.]

Oct 21-27,

2024

39	I'm not sure what the current health guidelines are for someone who gets COVID-19
58	I'm pretty clear on what the current health guidelines are for someone who gets COVID-19
3	No answer

COVIDMASK1**ASK ALL:**

In the past month, how often, if ever, have you worn a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses?

	All or most of <u>the time</u>	Some of <u>the time</u>	Hardly <u>ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	Have not gone to these types of <u>places</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Oct 21-27, 2024	4	14	19	61	2	<1
May 2-8, 2022	30	23	22	22	2	<1
Jan 10-17, 2022	61	18	12	7	2	<1
Aug 23-29, 2021	53	21	14	11	1	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	88	6	3	1	2	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	87	7	4	2	1	<1
Aug 3-16, 2020	85	9	3	1	1	<1
June 4-10, 2020	65	15	9	7	4	<1

BOOST3MOD
ASK ALL:

Public health officials recently recommended an updated vaccine for COVID-19. Do you think you will...

Oct 21-27,
2024

24	Probably get an updated vaccine
60	Probably <u>not</u> get an updated vaccine
15	Have already received an updated vaccine
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

ASK IF FULLY VACCINATED [COVID_VAXDMOD=1] [N=8,189]:

VAXBOOST3 Public health officials recently recommended a new booster shot designed for recent variants of COVID-19. Do you think you will...

Sep 13-18,
2022

62	Probably get an updated vaccine booster
32	Probably <u>NOT</u> get an updated vaccine booster
6	Have already received an updated vaccine booster
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

COVID_VAXDMOD
ASK ALL:

Have you received a vaccine to prevent COVID-19?

	<u>NET Have received at least one dose of a vaccine</u>	<u>Yes, have had all the shots needed to be fully vaccinated</u>	<u>Yes, have had one shot but still need one more</u>	<u>No, have not received a vaccine</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 13-19, 2023	77	70	7	21	2
Sep 13-18, 2022	77	71	6	21	2
May 2-8, 2022	78	73	5	21	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	78	73	5	20	2
Aug 23-29, 2021	73	69	4	26	1
Jun 14-27, 2021	67	63	4	31	2
Feb 16-21, 2021	19	--	--	80	<1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:**COVID_BOOST****ASK ALL:**

Have you received a COVID-19 booster shot within the last six months?

	<u>Yes, have received a booster shot</u>	<u>No, have not received a booster shot</u>	<u>Does not apply to me</u>	<u>Invalid response</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 13-19, 2023	34	44	19	1	2
Sep 13-18, 2022	38	41	18	1	2
May 2-8, 2022	49	31	17	1	2
Jan 24-30, 2022	48	34	15	1	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON:**NEWCOVVAX****ASK ALL:**

Have you gotten the updated vaccine for COVID-19 that became available last September?

Feb 7-11,
2024

28	Yes, have gotten the updated COVID-19 vaccine
70	No, have not gotten the updated COVID-19 vaccine
1	No answer

NOCVACC

**ASK IF PROBABLY OR DEFINITELY WOULD NOT GET VACCINE (BOOST3MOD=2) [N=5,203]:
[PN: RANDOMIZE IEMS a-c WITH ITEM e ALWAYS LAST.]**

How much of a reason, if any, is each of the following for why you will probably not get an updated COVID-19 vaccine?

	<u>A major reason</u>	<u>A minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Concern about side effects				
Oct 21-27, 2024	60	19	21	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	72	17	11	<1
Sept 8-13, 2020	76	14	9	<1
b. Do not think I need it				
Oct 21-27, 2024	61	21	18	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	42	26	31	<1
Sept 8-13, 2020	31	24	45	1
c. It would cost too much				
Oct 21-27, 2024	5	9	85	<1
Sept 8-13, 2020	13	19	67	1

NO ITEM d

e. Do not get vaccines in general				
Oct 21-27, 2024	26	19	54	<1
Feb 16-21, 2021	36	22	42	<1

COVID_SELF
ASK ALL:

Since February 2020, have you done or experienced the following?

	<u>Yes, I have</u>	<u>No, I have not</u>	<u>No answer</u>
NO ITEM A			
b. Been pretty sure you have had COVID-19 even though you have not been officially diagnosed			
Oct 21-27, 2024	49	50	1
May 2-8, 2022	34	65	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	24	75	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	21	79	1
Aug 3-16, 2020	13	87	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	14	85	1
c. Tested positive or been told by a healthcare provider that you have or had COVID-19			
Oct 21-27, 2024	49	51	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
c. <i>Tested positive for having COVID-19</i>			
May 2-8, 2022	28	71	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	13	86	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	9	91	1
Aug 3-16, 2020	2	97	<1

PANDCNTRY

ASK IF FORM 1 [N=4,785]:

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST.]

All in all, do you feel the COVID-19 pandemic...

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>	
11	Did more to bring the country together
72	Did more to drive the country apart
16	Didn't have much impact either way
1	No answer

PANDCMNTY

ASK IF FORM 2 [N=4,808]:

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST.]

All in all, do you feel the COVID-19 pandemic...

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>	
14	Did more to bring your local community together
53	Did more to drive your local community apart
32	Didn't have much impact either way
1	No answer

COVIDEGFPX**ASK IF FORM 1 [N=4,785]:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS.]**

Looking back, how would you rate the job each of the following did responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Joe Biden Oct 21-27, 2024	12	27	26	33	1
b. Your state elected officials Oct 21-27, 2024	11	37	29	21	1
NO ITEM c					
d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Oct 21-27, 2024	19	37	21	22	1
NO ITEMS e-f					
g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area Oct 21-27, 2024	35	43	13	8	1
h. Donald Trump Oct 21-27, 2024	14	24	21	40	1

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:
COVIDEGFP**

ASK ALL:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Joe Biden					
Sep 13-18, 2022	12	29	23	34	1
May 2-8, 2022	11	31	24	33	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	11	29	24	35	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	14	33	23	29	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	22	32	20	24	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=5,311]:					
b. Your state elected officials					
Sep 13-18, 2022	9	40	31	19	2
May 2-8, 2022	11	40	30	18	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	11	35	32	21	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	11	39	29	20	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	11	39	31	19	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	38	27	19	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	39	26	18	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	21	41	25	13	<1
Mar 19-24, 2020	21	49	22	8	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=5,277]:					
c. Your local elected officials					
Sep 13-18, 2022	9	40	34	17	1
May 2-8, 2022	10	44	32	13	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	10	39	33	16	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	10	46	30	13	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	10	44	31	13	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	14	44	28	14	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	13	47	27	12	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	17	47	27	9	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	17	52	22	7	1
d. Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)					
Sep 13-18, 2022	13	40	27	19	1
May 2-8, 2022	13	39	26	20	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	13	37	26	24	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	17	43	24	16	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	16	46	25	12	<1
Nov 18-29, 2020	22	45	24	9	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	16	47	25	11	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	24	48	21	7	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	30	49	17	4	<1

NO ITEMS E-F

COVIDEGFP CONTINUED ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
g. Hospitals and medical centers in your area					
Sep 13-18, 2022	31	47	16	6	1
May 2-8, 2022	34	46	14	5	1
Jan 24-30, 2022	36	45	13	6	1
Aug 23-29, 2021	39	46	11	3	1
Feb 16-21, 2021	36	49	11	3	1
Nov 18-29, 2020	45	42	9	3	<1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	43	45	9	3	1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	47	42	8	3	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON**ASK ALL:**

COVIDEGFPDT And overall, how would you rate the job Donald Trump did responding to the coronavirus outbreak during his time in office?

Feb 16-21,
2021

16	Excellent
21	Good
15	Only fair
48	Poor
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON

COVIDEGFP How would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Donald Trump					
Nov 18-29, 2020	15	20	16	49	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	15	21	15	48	<1
Apr 29-May 5, 2020	20	21	17	42	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	23	25	19	32	<1

COVIDETONE24**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

In general, how do you think each of the following responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?

		Greatly exaggerated <u>the risks</u>	Slightly exaggerated <u>the risks</u>	Got the risks about <u>right</u>	Didn't take the risks quite seriously <u>enough</u>	Didn't take the risks seriously <u>at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	The news media Oct 21-27, 2024	38	17	31	11	3	1
b.	Donald Trump and his administration Oct 21-27, 2024	6	11	34	19	29	1
NO ITEM c							
d.	Public health officials such as those at the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Oct 21-27, 2024	30	15	44	8	2	1
e.	Joe Biden and his administration Oct 21-27, 2024	30	13	43	9	3	1
f.	Your state elected officials Oct 21-27, 2024	20	16	42	15	6	2

PANDRSTRCT**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST.]**

Thinking back on COVID-19 restrictions on public activity in your area, do you think there should have been...

Oct 21-27,

2024

18	More restrictions
38	Fewer restrictions
44	The restrictions were about right
<1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:**GAP21Q10****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about restrictions on public activity in the United States over the course of the coronavirus outbreak, do you think there should have been...

Feb 1-7,

2021

56	More restrictions
26	Fewer restrictions
17	The restrictions were about right
1	No answer

PANDSCHLCLS**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3, 4, AND 5 LAST.]**

Thinking back over the COVID-19 pandemic, do you think the K-12 public schools in your area stayed closed to in-person instruction...

Oct 21-27,

2024

35	Too long
9	Not long enough
36	About the right amount of time
3	K-12 public schools in my area were never closed
17	Not sure
<1	No answer

PANDTOLL**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about your own life, how much of a toll did the COVID-19 pandemic take on you?

Oct 21-27,
2024

27	Major toll
47	Minor toll
25	Did not take a toll
<1	No answer

PANDTOLL2**ASK IF TOOK A TOLL (PANDTOLL=1,2) [N=7,248]:**

Thinking about the toll the pandemic took on you, would you say you have...

Oct 21-27,
2024

59	Mostly recovered
32	Somewhat recovered
8	Not recovered
1	No answer

TECHCOVIMP1**ASK ALL:**

Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way you now use technology?

Oct 21-27, 2024

18	Yes, in a major way
30	Yes, but only a little bit
52	No, not at all
1	No answer

TECHCOVIMP2**ASK IF CHANGED (TECHCOVIMP1=1,2) [N=4,581]:****[PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 AND 4 LAST]**

Overall, do you think these changes have made your life...

Oct 21-27, 2024

24	Mostly easier
11	Mostly harder
48	A mix of both
16	Haven't had much impact
1	No answer

[PN: SHOW ATTENDMONTH AND ATTENDONLINE ON SAME SCREEN; DO NOT RANDOMIZE ORDER]

ATTENDMONTH

ASK ALL:

In the last month, did you attend religious services in person at a church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship?

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>		Nov 16- Nov 27, <u>2022</u>	Mar 7- Mar 13, <u>2022</u>	Sep 20- Sep 26, <u>2021</u>	Mar 1- Mar 7, <u>2021</u> ¹¹	July 13- July 19, <u>2020</u> ¹²
32	Yes, attended religious services in person in the last month	28	27	26	17	13
68	No, did not attend religious services in person in the last month	71	71	74	82	86
<1	No answer	1	2	1	1	<1

ATTENDONLINE

ASK ALL:

In the last month, have you watched religious services online or on TV?

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>		Nov 16- Nov 27, <u>2022</u>	Mar 7- Mar 13, <u>2022</u>	Sep 20- Sep 26, <u>2021</u>	Mar 1- Mar 7, <u>2021</u> ¹³	July 13- July 19, <u>2020</u> ¹⁴
27	Yes, have watched religious services online or on TV in the last month	24	30	28	33	36
72	No, have not watched religious services online or on TV in the last month	75	69	71	66	63
1	No answer	1	2	1	1	<1

¹¹ Estimates based on respondents who participated in both the Mar 1-7, 2021 survey and the July 13-19, 2020 survey.

¹² Estimates based on respondents who participated in both the Mar 1-7, 2021 survey and the July 13-19, 2020 survey.

¹³ Estimates based on respondents who participated in both the Mar 1-7, 2021 survey and the July 13-19, 2020 survey.

¹⁴ Estimates based on respondents who participated in both the Mar 1-7, 2021 survey and the July 13-19, 2020 survey.

[PN: SHOW MORELESSPER AND MORELESSVIR ON SAME SCREEN; DO NOT RANDOMIZE ORDER]

**MORELESSPER
ASK ALL:**

In general, do you attend religious services in person...

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>		Nov 16-27, <u>2022</u>
7	More often than before the COVID-19 pandemic began	7
13	Less often than before the COVID-19 pandemic began	20
31	About as often as before the COVID-19 pandemic began	31
48	I did not attend religious services in person before the COVID-19 pandemic and do not attend them now	42
1	No answer	1

**MORELESSVIR
ASK ALL:**

In general, do you watch religious services online or on TV...

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>		Nov 16-27, <u>2022</u>
13	More often than before the COVID-19 pandemic began	15
6	Less often than before the COVID-19 pandemic began	5
18	About as often as before the COVID-19 pandemic began	20
62	I did not watch religious services online or on TV before the COVID-19 pandemic and do not watch them now	59
1	No answer	1

**COVIDRELIMPACT
ASK ALL:**

For you personally, how much impact, if any, did the COVID-19 pandemic have on your religious or spiritual life?

Oct 21-27, <u>2024</u>	
10	A lot
20	A little
69	None at all
<1	No answer

COVIDFACT

**ASK IF SAYS COVID HAD AT LEAST A LITTLE IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL LIFE
(COVIDRELIMPACT=1,2) [N=2,853]:**

[PN: ROTATE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING WITH 3, 98, AND 99 LAST, INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE]

In general, was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your religious or spiritual life...

RESULTS BASED ON TOTAL

Oct 21-27,
2024

10	Mostly positive
9	Mostly negative
11	Neither positive nor negative
<1	No answer
70	Said "none at all" or did not answer in COVIDRELIMPACT

FPANDEAL

ASK ALL:

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1]

How do you think each of the following would do dealing with a future health emergency?

		Very good <u>job</u>	Somewhat <u>good job</u>	Somewhat <u>bad job</u>	Very bad <u>job</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	The public health system in the U.S. Oct 21-27, 2024	12	49	24	14	1
b.	People in your local community Oct 21-27, 2024	13	56	22	8	1

FPANDUS

ASK ALL:

As a country, do you think we would do better, worse or about the same in responding to a future health emergency compared with the COVID-19 pandemic?

Oct 21-27,
2024

40	Better
16	Worse
43	About the same
1	No answer

COVINFOCONF**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1, HOLDING 5 LAST]**

How confident are you that you would be able to find accurate information in the event of a new health emergency like a pandemic?

Oct 21-27,
2024

18	Very confident
42	Somewhat confident
20	Not too confident
11	Not at all confident
8	Not sure
<1	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE