# HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA DURING THE DELTA VARIANT OUTBREAK

### October 2021







#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 outbreak, the recent spread of the highly transmissible delta variant in the United States has extended problems for many households over the past few months. Even though many experts predicted the COVID-19 outbreak would already be subsiding, the delta variant is continuing to cause problems in the lives of most households across the nation, including severe financial and health impacts on a share of households who are in crisis.

This report examines the most serious problems facing U.S. households during the delta variant outbreak, with an aim to identify vulnerable populations in urgent need of government help or charitable aid. NPR, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health conducted a survey August 2 – September 7, 2021, to examine the most serious problems facing households across America in the past few months when it comes to their finances, healthcare, racial/ethnic discrimination, education, caregiving, work, and well-being.

Despite billions of dollars appropriated by federal and state governments during the COVID-19 outbreak to protect vulnerable Americans, as well as recent reports that the poverty rate has declined, results from this survey show that a substantial share of households across the U.S. have not been adequately protected from financial problems. Many report serious impacts across different areas of their lives in the past few months alone. Of note, this poll measured experiences just before federal pandemic unemployment benefits ended and at the time housing eviction protections expired, so estimates do not include the potential impact of these events.

These findings raise important concerns about the limited financial resources of many U.S. households to weather the economic effects of the delta variant outbreak, as a significant share have lost their household savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and are facing major problems paying for basic costs of living, including rent, utilities, and medical care.

Main findings from this report include:

- Thirty-eight percent (38%) of households across the nation report facing serious financial problems in the past few months.
- There is a sharp income divide in serious financial problems, as 59% of those with annual incomes below \$50,000 report facing serious financial problems in the past few months, compared with 18% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.
- These serious financial problems are cited despite 67% of households reporting that in the past few months, they have received financial assistance from the government.
- Another significant problem for many U.S. households is losing their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak. Nineteen percent (19%) of U.S. households report losing all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and not currently having any savings to fall back on.
- At the time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) eviction ban expired, 27% of renters nationally reported serious problems paying their rent in the past few months.

- When it comes to their children's education, 69% of households with children in K-12 last school year say their children fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, including 36% of all households with children in K-12 reporting their children fell behind *a lot*.
- Thinking about the upcoming school year, 70% of households whose children fell behind last school year believe it will be difficult for children in their household to catch up on education losses from last school year.
- One in five households with children (20%) report they have experienced serious problems getting childcare in the past few months when adults needed to work.
- When it comes to internet connectivity, despite significant efforts since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak to expand Americans' internet access, 23% of households with children still report either having serious problems with their internet connection to do schoolwork or their jobs, or that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home.
- In a period when the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has found that reported hate crimes in the U.S. have increased, an examination of different racial and ethnic minority households' personal experiences in the past few months shows stark fears of being threatened or attacked. One in four Asian households in the U.S. (25%) report fearing someone might threaten or physically attack them because of their race/ethnicity in the past few months, while 22% of Native American households, 21% of Black households, 8% of Latino households, and 7% of white households also report this.
- In healthcare, 18% of households report anyone in their household has been unable to get medical care for a serious problem in the past few months when they needed it, with 76% of those unable to get care reporting negative health consequences as a result. Among households unable to get care when they needed it, 78% report having health insurance, while 22% report not having health insurance.
- Forty-two percent of households (42%) report using telehealth in the past few months, with wide reported satisfaction (82% satisfied). Despite this, 64% of households using telehealth say they would have preferred an in-person visit over telehealth in their last visit.
- Half of households (50%) report anyone has experienced serious problems with depression, anxiety, stress, or serious problems sleeping in the past few months.
- Among employed adults, 24% report having a worse job situation now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak began, while 21% report having a better job situation, and 55% rate their job situation as about the same as it was before the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### ABOUT THIS POLL

This summary national report, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, is based on a survey conducted in 2021 for NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It details the experiences of households across the nation during the delta variant outbreak in different areas of their lives, including serious problems with finances, healthcare, racial/ethnic discrimination, education, caregiving, work, and well-being. Other reports in this series include *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak; Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, by *Race/Ethnicity; Household Experiences in Major U.S. Cities During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, a report on the four largest U.S. cities (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston); and *Household Experiences in Rural America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*.

The COVID-19 outbreak has created unusual problems for many individuals in responding to requests for surveys. Because of this situation, this survey offered adults three choices to complete the survey: online, landline, and telephone. The survey design allowed greater capture of the general population and several hard-to-reach populations beyond standard telephone polling methods. It was also designed to overcome internet connectivity issues by a substantial share of households, as well as web-based preferences among those with internet.

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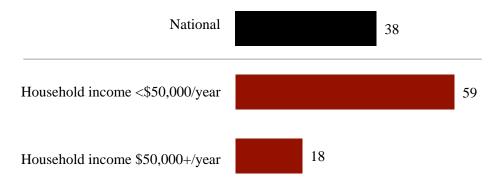
This poll was conducted August 2 – September 7, 2021, among a probability-based, address-based, nationally representative sample of 3,616 U.S. adults ages 18 or older. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese according to respondents' preferences. Adults were asked to report on serious problems facing both themselves and others living in their households, thus for questions asked about the household, measures are reported as a percentage of households. Household race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic white, Hispanic/Latino, African American/Black, Asian, Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native) is reported according to the respondent's racial/ethnic identity. Of note, most survey questions asked about experiences "in the past few months," which may change over time in the continuing development of the COVID-19 outbreak. Reported experiences may not have been directly caused by the outbreak. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval is ± 3.4 percentage points for national results, with subgroup sizes available in the Methodology section.

#### I. Serious Financial Problems

#### 38% of households report facing serious financial problems in the past few months

In the past few months alone, 38% of U.S. households report facing serious financial problems. This includes 59% of households with annual incomes below \$50,000 reporting serious financial problems, compared with 18% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more (see Figure 1). These problems are cited despite 67% of households reporting that in the past few months, they have received financial assistance from the government.

Figure 1. Serious Financial Problems among U.S. Households in the Past Few Months (in Percent)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=3,616 U.S. adults ages 18+. Income defined as reported 2020 household income. *Q7. In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having serious problems... a) paying the mortgage/rent, b) paying for utilities, c) making car payments, d) affording medical care, e) paying credit cards/loans/other debt, f) affording food, g) other serious financial problems?* 

# 19% of households lost all savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and have no savings to fall back on

Another significant problem for many U.S. households is losing their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak (see Figure 2). Nineteen percent (19%) of U.S. households report losing all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and not currently having any savings to fall back on. This includes 30% of households with annual incomes below \$50,000, and 9% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.

Figure 2. U.S. Households Who Lost Their Savings During the COVID-19 Outbreak and Have No Savings to Fall Back On (in Percent)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in Major U.S. Cities During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=3,616 U.S. adults ages 18+. Income defined as reported 2020 household income. *Lost savings during COVID-19 and have no current savings includes responses to Q8/Q8a – No to Q8. Currently, does your household have any savings to fall back on, or not? Yes to Q8a. And before the COVID-19 outbreak began, did your household have any savings to fall back on, or not?* 

# 32% of households say they have a worse financial situation now than before the COVID-19 outbreak

In addition, 32% of U.S. households describe their own financial situation as worse now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak, while 19% say it is better and 49% say it is about the same.

# Among renters, 27% of them report serious problems paying rent in the past few months

At the time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) eviction ban expired, 27% of renters nationally reported serious problems paying their rent in the past few months (see Figure 3). Among homeowners, only 7% reported serious problems paying their mortgage during this time.

Figure 3. Among Renters in the U.S., Serious Problems Paying Rent in the Past Few Months (in Percent)

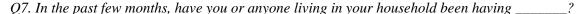


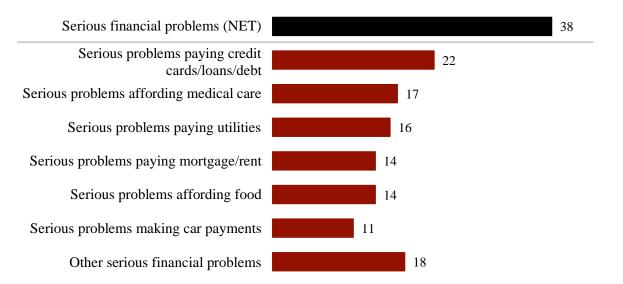
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 - 9/7/21. N=1,564 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in a rented home. *Q7a. In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having serious problems paying the mortgage/rent?* 

#### Serious financial problems in different areas

When it comes to serious financial problems in specific areas (see Figure 4), notable shares of households report problems in several areas, including 22% who report facing serious problems with paying credit cards, loans, or other debt, 17% who report serious problems affording medical care, and 16% who report serious problems paying utilities, like gas or electricity. In addition, 14% of households report serious problems affording food, 14% report serious problems paying their mortgage or rent, and 11% report serious problems making car payments, while 18% report facing other serious financial problems.

Figure 4. Serious Financial Problems Among U.S. Households in the Past Few Months (in Percent)





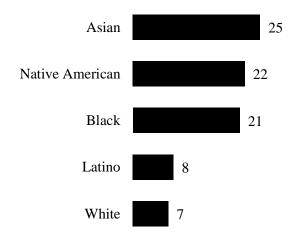
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 - 9/7/21. N=3,616 U.S. adults ages 18+. Q7.

# II. Fear of Being Threatened or Attacked Because of Race/Ethnicity

# 25% of Asian households report fearing physical attacks or threats in the past few months

In a period when the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has found that reported hate crimes in the U.S. have increased, an examination of different racial and ethnic minority households' personal experiences in the past few months shows stark fears of being threatened or attacked among Asian, Native American, and Black households in particular. One in four Asian households in the U.S. (25%) report fearing someone might threaten or physically attack them because of their race/ethnicity in the past few months (see Figure 5), while 22% of Native American households and 21% of Black households also report this.

Figure 5. Fear of Being Threatened or Physically Attacked among U.S. Households in the Past Few Months (in Percent)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=3,616 U.S. adults ages 18+, including 1,726 non-Hispanic white adults, 634 Black adults, 669 Latino adults, 388 Asian adults, and 112 Native American adults. *Q53. In the past few months, was there ever a time when you feared that someone might threaten or physically attack you or anyone living in your household because of their race or ethnicity?* 

#### Racial/ethnic minority households widely report facing racial discrimination in the past few months

In the past few months alone, 31% of Native American households, 29% of Black households, 26% of Asian households, and 20% of Latino households report facing discrimination or unfair treatment because of their race or ethnicity (white households: 8%).

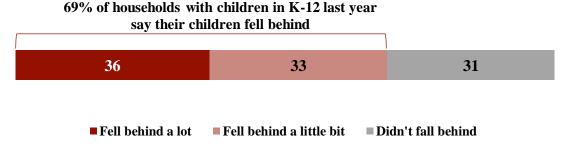
#### III. Serious Problems with Education and Childcare

# 69% of households with children in K-12 report their children fell behind last school year because of the COVID-19 outbreak

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of households with children in K-12 last school year report their children fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, including 36% of all households with children in K-12 reporting their children fell behind *a lot* (see Figure 6). Thinking about the upcoming school year, 70% of households whose children fell behind last school year believe it will be difficult for children in their household to catch up on education losses from last school year.

# Figure 6. U.S. School Children Falling Behind Because of the COVID-19 Outbreak (in Percent)

Q39-39a. Last school year, do you think any children in your household fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, or not? (If yes): Do you think they fell behind a lot or a little bit?



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=701 U.S. adults ages 18+ with children living in their household, who had children enrolled in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade last school year.

#### 23% of households with children report serious problems with internet connectivity

When it comes to internet connectivity, despite significant efforts since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak to expand Americans' internet access, 23% of households with children still report either having serious problems with their internet connection to do schoolwork or their jobs, or that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home.

# 20% of households with children report serious problems getting childcare when adults need to work

In addition, one in five households with children (20%) report they have experienced serious problems getting childcare in the past few months when adults needed to work. This includes 27% of households with annual incomes below \$50,000, and 14% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.

#### IV. Serious Problems with Health and Healthcare

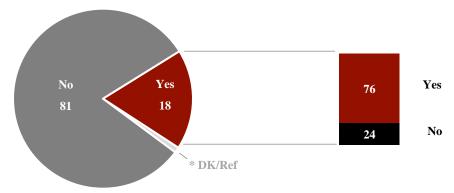
# Among households unable to get care when they needed it, 76% report negative health consequences

In healthcare, 18% of households report anyone in their household has been unable to get medical care for a serious problem in the past few months when they needed it, with 76% of those unable to get care reporting negative health consequences as a result (see Figure 7). Among households unable to get care when they needed it, 78% report having health insurance, while 22% report not having health insurance.

Figure 7. Negative Health Consequences Among U.S. Households Unable to Get Medical Care for Serious Problems in the Past Few Months (in Percent)

Q27. In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been unable to get medical care or delayed getting medical care for serious problems when you or they needed it, or not?

Among the 18% of households where anyone has been unable to get medical care for serious problems when needed: Q28. And overall, do you think delays or being unable to get medical care had any negative health consequences for you or them, or not?



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=3,616 U.S. adults ages 18+ reporting on behalf of their households.

\* <1% DK/Ref – Don't know/refused/web blank.

#### 64% of telehealth users would prefer in-person visits

Forty-two percent (42%) of households report using telehealth in the past few months, (i.e., receiving advice or treatment from a doctor or other healthcare professional over the phone or through a smartphone, tablet, or computer because they could not see one in person). Households reporting telehealth use express wide satisfaction with telehealth visits, as 82% report being satisfied with the advice or treatment they received during their most recent experience doing this. However, an important implication for the future is that despite this, 64% of households using telehealth report they would have preferred and in-person visit over telehealth in their last visit.

#### 17% of households report serious problems affording medical care

In the past few months alone, 17% of households report serious problems affording medical care. This includes 28% of households with annual incomes below \$50,000, and 8% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more. In addition, 50% of households without health insurance report serious problems affording medical care, while 13% of households with health insurance report this.

#### Half of households experiencing depression, anxiety, stress, or sleep issues

In addition, half of households (50%) say anyone has experienced serious problems with depression, anxiety, stress, or serious problems sleeping in the past few months.

#### V. Serious Problems with Employment and Work

# 24% of workers in the U.S. report having a worse job situation now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak began

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in new work and employment situations for many households across the nation. Among employed adults, 24% report having a worse job situation now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak began, while 21% report having a better job situation, and 55% rate their job situation as about the same as it was before the COVID-19 outbreak (Figure 8).

# Figure 8. U.S. Workers Rate Their Job Situation Now Compared to Before the COVID-19 Outbreak (in Percent)

Q16. How would you describe your job situation now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak? Is your job situation now better, worse, or about the same as it was before the COVID-19 outbreak?



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=2,123 U.S. adults ages 18+ who are currently employed.

#### Serious problems meeting both work and family responsibilities

In addition, 24% of adults in the U.S. say that in the past few months, they have been having serious problems meeting both their work and family responsibilities. This includes 32% of households with annual incomes below \$50,000, and 18% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.

#### 21% of workers have changed employers since the COVID-19 outbreak began

Among employed adults in the U.S., 21% report working for a different employer now than before the COVID-19 outbreak began, and 76% work for the same employer. And while 63% of employed adults do all of their work in-person at a workplace outside of their homes, 37% do not. One in five employed adults (20%) report hybrid work arrangements, where they work sometimes at home and sometimes at a workplace outside of their home, while 17% say they currently do all of their work from home. Twenty-six percent (26%) of employed adults would rather have a different work situation than their current situation of working in-person, hybrid, or remote. Among employed adults who prefer a different work situation, 8% would prefer to work fully in-person, 62% would prefer a hybrid working situation, and 28% would prefer to do all of their work from home.

#### Wide reported job satisfaction

Regardless of work situation, most employed adults (85%) report currently being satisfied with their job, which corresponds with high job satisfaction reported in other recent national polls. Among adults working fully remotely, 92% report being satisfied with their jobs, while 88% of hybrid workers and 83% of fully in-person workers also report being satisfied with their jobs. And among employed adults with either hybrid or fully remote working situations, 14% report being worried that working from home will hurt their future job prospects or careers.

#### 22% of households report serious problems with internet connectivity

When it comes to internet connectivity, 22% of households report either having serious problems with their internet connection to do schoolwork or their jobs, or that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Gallup 2021 and The Economist/YouGov 2021.

#### VI. Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NPR. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**: Robert J. Blendon, Emeritus Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Mary G. Findling, Assistant Director of HORP; Chelsea Whitton Pearsall, Research Coordinator.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**: Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research-Evaluation-Learning; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; Martina Todaro, Research Associate, Research-Evaluation-Learning.

**NPR**: Andrea Kissack, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Marcia Davis, Supervising Editor, Race and Identity, National Desk.

Interviews were conducted online and via telephone (cellphone and landline), **August 2** – **September 7, 2021,** among a nationally representative, probability-based sample of 3,616 adults age 18 or older in the U.S. Data collection was conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese by SSRS (Glen Mills, PA), an independent research company. The survey examined experiences of households in the U.S. as a whole, in the four largest U.S. cities (New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston), on households by race/ethnicity (including Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native Americans) nationally, on households with children, and on households in rural America. The margin of sampling error, including the design effect, was ±3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for national data.

The core of the sample was address-based, with respondents sampled from the United States Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS) file. Sampled households were sent an invitation letter including a link to complete the survey online and a toll-free number that respondents could call to complete the survey with a telephone interviewer. All respondents were sent a reminder postcard, which also included a QR code they could scan to be linked to the survey via a smart device. Households that could be matched to telephone numbers and that had not yet completed the survey were called to attempt to complete an interview. In order to represent the hardest-to-reach populations, the address-based sample (ABS) was supplemented by telephone interviews with respondents who had previously completed interviews on the weekly random-digit dialing (RDD) SSRS Omnibus poll and online using the SSRS Opinion Panel, a probability-based panel.

A total of 3,177 respondents completed the questionnaire online, 83 by calling in to complete, and 356 were completed as outbound interviews.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, the samples were weighted to match the distribution of the population based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS). Weighting parameters included: gender, age, education level, race/ethnicity, region, and party identification.

Respondents who were the only person living in a household were asked about their own experiences. Respondents who had anyone else also living in their household were asked about the experiences of anyone living in the household. Together these responses represent the experience of the household.

#### **Characteristics of National Population Subgroups**

	Number of interviews (unweighted)
Total national adults	3616
By Race/ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic white	1726
Black	634
Hispanic/Latino	669
Asian	388
Native American	112
By household income (2020)	
<\$50,000/year	1670
\$50,000 or more/year	1882
Employed respondents who	2123
Do all of their work at a workplace outside of their home	1059
Work sometimes at home, sometimes at a workplace outside of their home	531
Do all of their work from home	530
Household member unable to get or delayed getting medical care for a serious problem	622
Household member used telehealth	1672
Children under age 18 in household	1013
Children living in household and enrolled in K-12 last school year	701

#### NPR

# ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA DURING THE DELTA VARIANT OUTBREAK

The survey was conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, online and via telephone (cellphone and landline) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese, **August 2 – September 7, 2021,** among a nationally representative, probability-based sample of 3,616 adults age 18 or older in the U.S. The margin of sampling error for the total national sample is ±3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The main part of the sample was address-based, with respondents sampled from the United States Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS) file. Sampled households were sent an invitation letter including a link to complete the survey online and a toll-free number that respondents could call to complete the survey with a telephone interviewer. In order to represent the hardest-to-reach populations, the address-based sample (ABS) was supplemented by telephone interviews with respondents who had previously completed interviews on the weekly random-digit dialing (RDD) SSRS Omnibus poll and online using the probability-based SSRS Opinion Panel. A total of 3,177 respondents completed the questionnaire online, 83 by calling in by telephone, and 356 were completed by outbound interviews.

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In this survey, we'll be asking you about recent experiences and serious problems which may be facing you and people living with you. Most questions are about anyone living in your household, meaning you and anyone else currently living with you, whether or not they are a permanent resident at your address. By "serious problem," we mean something that creates great difficulty for you and people living in your household.

#### I. GENERAL EXPERIENCES

Q4. In general, thinking about your (life/the lives of you and other people in your household) over the next year, do you expect your (life/your lives) to be better, worse, or stay about the same as (it is now/they are now)?

	National
Better (NET)	48
A lot better	16
A little better	32
Stay about the same	39
Worse (NET)	13
A little worse	9
A lot worse	4
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

#### II. FINANCIAL EXPERIENCES

Q5. Currently, how would you rate your (own personal/household's) financial situation?

	National
Excellent/Good (NET)	62
Excellent	12
Good	50
Only fair/Poor (NET)	38
Only fair	29
Poor	9
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

Q6. How would you describe your (own personal/household's) financial situation now compared to before the Covid-19 outbreak? Is your financial situation now better, worse, or about the same as it was before the Covid-19 outbreak?

	National
Better (NET)	19
A lot better	4
A little better	15
Stay about the same	49
Worse (NET)	32
A little worse	23
A lot worse	9
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

# Q7. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) been having (INSERT ITEM), or not?

a. serious problems paying (your/the) rent or mortgage

			Don't know/
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank
National	14	86	*

b. serious problems paying for utilities, like gas or electricity

			Don't know/
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank
National	16	84	*

c. serious problems making car payments

			Don't know/
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank
National	11	88	1

d. serious problems affording medical care

			Don't know/
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank
National	17	82	1

e. serious problems paying credit card bills, loans, or other debt

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused/Web blank
National	22	77	1

#### f. serious problems affording food

			Don't know/
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank
National	14	86	*

#### g. other serious financial problems

	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refused/Web blank
National	18	81	1

#### Yes Summary Table Based on total respondents

	National
Serious problems paying rent or mortgage	14
Serious problems paying for utilities, like	
gas or electricity	16
Serious problems making car payments	11
Serious problems affording medical care	17
Serious problems paying credit card bills,	
loans, or other debt	22
Serious problems affording food	14
Other serious financial problems	18

# **Q7 Serious Financial Problems Summary Table Based on total respondents**

	National
One or more serious problem (NET)	38
None	62

Q8. Currently, (do you/does your household) have any savings to fall back on, or not?

	National
Yes	62
No	38
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

(Asked of respondents who do not currently have any savings to fall back on; n=1275)

Q8a. And before the Covid-19 outbreak began, did (you/your household) have any savings to fall back on, or not?

	National
Yes	50
No	50
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### Q8/Q8a Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Yes, currently have savings to fall back on	62
No, currently does not have savings to fall back on	38
Had savings to fall back on before the COVID-19 outbreak	19
Did not have savings to fall back on before the COVID-19 outbreak	19
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q9. In the past few months, federal and state governments have enacted programs to provide <u>financial assistance</u> to families across the country, including stimulus payments, expanded unemployment benefits, grants, loans, and other types of <u>financial assistance</u>. (Have you/Have you or anyone living in your household) been helped by any of these programs in the past few months, or not?

	National
Yes	67
No	33
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who have been helped by the federal or state government's financial aid programs; n=2365)

Q9a. (Have you/Have you or they) been helped a lot or a little by these programs?

#### Q9/Q9a Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Have been helped by federal and	
state government programs enacted	67
to provide financial assistance to	07
families across the country (NET)	
Been helped a lot by these	23
programs	23
Been helped a little by these	44
programs	77
Have not been helped by federal and	
state government programs enacted	33
to provide financial assistance to	33
families across the country	
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q10. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) applied for any type of federal or state financial aid that (you/you or they) thought (you/you or they) were eligible for?

	National
Yes	18
No	82
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who applied for federal or state financial aid in the past few months; n=719)

Q10a. And in the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) ever been denied any type of federal or state financial aid after applying?

	National
Yes	34
No	64
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	2

#### III. EXPERIENCES WITH WORK

Q11. Thinking about just yourself, are you currently:

	National
Employed (NET)	59
Employed full-time	46
Employed part-time	13
Not employed at this time	41
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents who are not currently employed; n=1489)

Q12a. Is this the employment situation that you prefer, or would you rather be employed at this time?

	National
Situation that you prefer	58
Would rather be employed	40
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	2

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed part-time; n=440)

Q12b. Is this the employment situation that you prefer, or would you rather be employed full-time at this time?

	National
Situation that you prefer	65
Would rather be employed	35
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n=2123)

Q12C. Do you work for the same employer now as you did before the Covid-19 outbreak began, do you work for a different employer now, or were you not employed before the Covid-19 outbreak began?

	National
Work for the same employer	76
Work for a different employer	21
Not employed before the Covid-19 outbreak began	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n=2123)

Q13. Currently, which of the following best describes your employment situation? Do you:

	National
Do all of your work at a workplace	63
outside of your home	03
Work sometimes at home, and	
sometimes at a workplace outside of	20
your home	
Do all of your work from home	17
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n=2123)

Q14. Is this the work situation that you prefer, or would you rather have a different work situation?

	National
Situation that you prefer	73
Would rather have a different work situation	26
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

(Asked of respondents who are currently employed and would rather a different work situation than their current work from home/away from home situation; n=606) Q14a. Would you rather:

	National
Do all of your work at a workplace	0
outside of your home	O
Work sometimes at home, and	
sometimes at a workplace outside of	62
your home	
Do all of your work from home	28
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	2

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n= 2123)

Q15. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your job? Would you say you are:

	National
Satisfied (NET)	85
Completely satisfied	36
Somewhat satisfied	49
Dissatisfied (NET)	14
Somewhat dissatisfied	11
Completely dissatisfied	3
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	1

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n=2123)

Q16. And how would you describe your job situation now compared to before the Covid-19 outbreak? Is your job situation now:

	National
Better	21
Worse	24
About the same as it was before the Covid-19 outbreak	55
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who are currently employed, do all of their work from home, and were employed before the pandemic; n=519)

Q17. And before the Covid-19 outbreak began, did you do all of your work from home, or did you work at least sometimes at a workplace outside of your home before the Covid-19 outbreak began?

	National
All work from home	29
At least sometimes at a workplace outside of your home	69
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	2

# (Asked of respondents who are currently employed and do at least some of their work from home; n=1,061)

Q18. Are you personally worried that working from home will hurt your future job prospects or career, or are you not worried about this?

	National
Yes	14
No	86
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who are currently employed and do at least some of their work outside their home; n=1,590)

Q19. How safe do you feel from getting Covid-19 at your workplace? Would you say you feel:

	National
Very/Somewhat safe (NET)	72
Very safe	26
Somewhat worried	46
Not too/Not at all safe (NET)	27
Not too safe	21
Not at all safe	6
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed; n=2,123)

Q20. Are you currently self-employed, or not?

	National
Yes	11
No	89
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents who are currently employed, but not self employed; n=1,834)

Q21. Does your employer require people employed at your workplace to be vaccinated against Covid-19, or not?

	National
Yes	16
No	84
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q23. (In/Now thinking about just yourself,) the past few months, have you been having serious problems meeting both your work and family responsibilities, or not?

	National
Yes	24
No	75
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q24. Since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) lost or had to quit any jobs, or had (your/your household's) income reduced, even if temporarily, or has this not happened?

	National
Yes, this has happened	42
No, this has not happened	58
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents with more than one adult in their household; n=2,359)

Q26. Besides yourself, is anyone else age 18 or older living in your household currently employed full-time or part time, or is no one else in your household age 18 or older living in your household employed at this time?

	National
Yes, another adult currently employed	65
No other adult currently employed	35
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### Q11/Q26 Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Someone in HH is employed	77
No one in HH is employed	23
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### IV. EXPERIENCES WITH HEALTH CARE

Q27. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) been unable to get medical care or delayed getting medical care for serious problems when (you/you or they) needed it, or not?

	National
Yes, been unable to get medical care or delayed getting medical care	18
No	81
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

(Asked of respondents who said they or someone else in their household has been unable to get medical care or delayed getting medical care for a serious problem when they needed it in the past few months; n=622)

Q28. And overall, do you think delays or being unable to get medical care had any negative health consequences for (you/you or them), or not?

	National
Yes	76
No	24
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### Q27/Q28 Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Unable to get medical care or delayed getting medical care for serious problems when someone in the household needed it	18
Yes, delays or being unable to get medical care had any negative health consequences for someone in the household	14
No, delays or being unable to get medical care did not have any negative health consequences for someone in the household	4
Was able to get medical care for serious problems when they needed it	81
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q28a. Now I'd like to ask you about opioid addiction in your local community. When we ask about opioids, we mean strong painkillers, such as Percocet, OxyContin, Vicodin, or fentanyl. Is people being addicted to opioids a problem in your local community, or not?

# (Asked of respondents who say that opioid addiction is a problem in their local community; n=1,260)

Q28b. How serious a problem for your local community is people being addicted to opioids? Is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious, or not too serious?

#### Q28a/Q28b Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
People being addicted to opioids is a	37
problem in your local community	37
Very serious problem	15
Somewhat serious problem	18
Not too serious	4
People being addicted to opioids is	
not a problem in your local	59
community	
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	4

#### **Telehealth**

Q30. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) received advice or treatment from a doctor or other health care professional via <u>telehealth</u>—that is, over the phone or through a smartphone, tablet, or computer because (you/they) could not see a doctor or other health care professional in person?

	National
Yes	42
No	58
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of telehealth users; n=1,672)

Q31. Thinking about (your/their) most recent time doing this, how satisfied or dissatisfied were (they) with the advice or treatment (you/they) received? Would you say (you/they) were:

	National
Satisfied (NET)	82
Completely satisfied	38
Somewhat satisfied	44
Dissatisfied (NET)	17
Somewhat dissatisfied	13
Completely dissatisfied	4
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	1

#### (Asked of telehealth users; n=1,672)

Q32. Thinking about (your/their) most recent time receiving advice or treatment from a doctor or other health care professional via telehealth, would (you/they) have preferred an in-person visit with a doctor or other healthcare professional, or did (you/they) prefer using telehealth?

	National
Would have preferred an in-person visit	64
Prefer using telehealth	35
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q33. To the best of your knowledge, does health insurance cover all or most of the cost of telehealth services for (you/everyone living in your household), or not?

	National
Yes	75
No	17
Do not have health insurance	5
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	3

Q34. Do you think that health insurance companies should be required by federal or state governments to pay for telehealth visits in the future, or not?

	National
Yes	84
No	15
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

# (Asked of respondents who think that health insurance companies should be required by federal or state governments to pay for telehealth visits in the future; n=3,210)

Q35. And do you think that health insurance companies should be required by federal or state governments to pay for telehealth visits in the future, even if it would involve your premiums being higher to cover these services, or not?

	National
Yes	49
No	50
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

#### Q34/Q35 Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Should be required even if it would	41
involve your premiums being higher	
Should not be required in general or	
if would involve your premiums	56
being higher	
Should not be required (in	15
general)	15
Should be required, but not if it	
would involve your premiums	41
being higher	
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	3

#### (Asked of telehealth users; n=1,672)

Q36. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) had a telehealth visit rejected for payment by your health insurance policy, or has this not happened to (you/anyone in your household)?

	National
Yes	4
No	93
Do not have health insurance	3
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### V. EXPERIENCES OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Q38. Were any children living in your household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year, meaning 2020-2021?

	National
Yes	27
No	72
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

# (Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=701)

Q38a. Did <u>all</u> children living in your household who were enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year <u>attend school in-person for most of last school year?</u>

	National
Yes	39
No	61
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=701)

Q39. Last school year, do you think any children in your household fell behind in their learning because of the Covid-19 outbreak, or not?

	National
Yes	69
No	31
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year and felt any children fell behind in learning; n=462)

Q39a. Do you think they fell behind a lot or a little bit?

#### Q39/Q39a Combo Table

Based on respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year (n=701)

	National
Think any children in the household	
fell behind in their learning because	69
of the Covid-19 outbreak	
Fell behind a lot	36
Fell behind a little	33
Do not think any children in the	
household fell behind in their	31
learning because of the Covid-19	31
outbreak	
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

(Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year, will have any children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade this fall, and felt any children fell behind in learning last school year; n=460)

Q40. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how difficult do you think it will be, if at all, for children in your household to catch up on education losses from last school year?

	National
Very/Somewhat difficult (NET)	70
Very difficult	14
Somewhat difficult	56
Not too/Not at all difficulty (NET)	30
Not too difficult	27
Not at all difficult	3
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### Q41. Results held for future release.

# (Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=701)

Q42. Thinking about last school year, how would you rate the quality of the education that children in your household received? Would you rate it as:

	National
Excellent/Good (NET)	47
Excellent	13
Good	34
Only fair/Poor (NET)	52
Only fair	42
Poor	10
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	1

# (Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household who will be in K-12 this fall; n=838)

Q43. Thinking about the upcoming school year, do you plan to send any children in your household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade to school in person this fall, or not?

	National
Yes	88
No	10
Don't Know/Refused/Web Blank	2

# (Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household who are planning not to send children in their household to school in person this fall; n=81)

Q43a. Are you planning not to send children in your household to school in person this fall because of concerns about Covid-19 at school, because you think the quality of their education would be better at home, or for some other reason?

	National
Concerned about Covid-19 at school	35
Think the quality of their education would be better at home	48
Other	13
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	4

# (Asked of respondents who plan to send any children in their household to K-12 in-person next school year; n=747)

Q44. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how safe do you feel children in your household will be from getting Covid-19 at school? Would you say you feel they will be:

	National
Very/Somewhat safe (NET)	67
Very safe	15
Somewhat safe	52
Not too/Not at all safe (NET)	33
Not too safe	25
Not at all safe	8
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

# (Asked of respondents who did not send all children to K-12 school in-person last school year and plan to send any children in their household to K-12 in-person next school year; n=429)

Q45. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how difficult do you think it will be, if at all, for children in your household to cope with going back to in-person schooling?

	National
Very/Somewhat difficult (NET)	43
Very difficult	4
Somewhat difficult	39
Not too/Not at all difficult (NET)	55
Not too difficult	39
Not at all difficult	16
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	2

#### (Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household; n=1,013)

Q46. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) been having serious problems getting childcare when (you/adults) need to work, or not?

	National
Yes	20
No	79
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q47. Results held for future release

#### VI. EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION

Q51. In the past few months, was there ever a time when (you were/you or anyone living in your household was) subject to racial or ethnic slurs or insults?

	National
Yes	14
No	86
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q52. In the past few months, was there ever a time when (you/you or anyone living in your household) faced discrimination or unfair treatment because of (your/their) race or ethnicity?

	National
Yes	14
No	85
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q53. In the past few months, was there ever a time when you feared that someone might threaten or physically attack (you/you or anyone living in your household) because of (your/their) race or ethnicity?

	National
Yes (NET)	10
Yes	9
Yes, this already happened	1
No	90
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### VII. HEALTH DEMOGRAPHICS

Q54. (Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told you that you have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or hasn't that happened?/To the best of your knowledge, has a doctor or other health care professional ever told anyone living in your household that they have a chronic illness, such as heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma or a mental health condition, or hasn't that happened?)

	National
Yes	55
No	45
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q55. (Do you/Does anyone living in your household) have any disability that keeps (you/them) from participating fully in work, school, housework, or other activities?

	National
Yes	22
No	78
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q56. (Now thinking about the past few months, have you been having serious problems with depression, anxiety, or stress, or serious problems sleeping, or not?/Now thinking about the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having serious problems with depression, anxiety, or stress, or serious problems sleeping, or has no one living in your household had serious problems with any of these?)

	National
Yes	50
No	49
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q57. (Are you/Are you or anyone living in your household) currently receiving any government assistance from SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or WIC, the Women, Infants, and Children Program, or not?

	National
Yes	15
No	85
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q22. Currently, (are you/are you or anyone living in your household) having serious problems with your internet connection at home to do work or schoolwork, or not?

Q58. Does your home have high-speed internet access, or not?

#### Q22/Q58 Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Having serious problems with	
internet connection at home OR don't	22
have high-speed internet at home	
No serious internet connection	77
problem	//
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1

Q59. Are you, yourself, currently covered by any form of health insurance or health plan, or do you not have health insurance at this time?

	National
Yes	89
No	11
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### (Asked of respondents who are covered by health insurance)

Q60. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage?

#### (Asked of respondents who are covered by Medicaid or Medicare)

Q61. Do you also have coverage from Medicare/Medicaid or [INSERT STATE SPECIFIC NAME], or not?

#### (Asked of respondents who have purchased their own health insurance)

Q62. Did you purchase it from a government exchange or agency, or not?

# Q59/Q60/Q61/Q62 Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Yes, covered by health insurance	89
A plan through your or your spouse's employer or union	41
A plan you purchased yourself	7
Purchased it from a government exchange or agency	4
Did not purchase it from a government exchange or agency	3
Don't know	-
Refused	1
Medicare (total)	24
Medicaid (total)	14
Medicare and not Medicaid	17
Medicaid and not Medicare	7
Medicare + Medicaid	7
The VA or Tricare	4
Indian Health Service	*
Plan through your parent/mother/father	5
Some other form of insurance	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*
No, not covered by health insurance	11
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

Q63. Has a doctor or other health care professional ever told anyone living in your household that they have coronavirus or COVID-19, or hasn't that happened?

	National
Yes	18
No	82
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### **VIII. OTHER DEMOGRAPHICS**

Q1. How many adults 18 or older are currently living in your household? Please include yourself and all the adults who live with you.

	National
One	19
Multiple adults in household (NET)	81
Two	57
Three	16
Four	6
Five or more	2
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

Q2. How many children under 18 are currently living in your household?

	National
None	65
Any children in household (NET)	35
One	15
Two	13
Three	5
Four	1
Five or more	1
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

Q1/Q2 Summary Table: Total number of people in household Based on total respondents

	National
One	16
Two	38
Three	17
Four	17
Five or more	12
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*

#### AGE OF RESPONDENT Based on total respondents

	18 to 29	30 to 49	50 to 64	65+	
National	18	34	26	22	

# RACE/ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENT Based on total respondents

Are you, yourself, of Latino or Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Latin American background?

What is your race? Are you white, black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander?

# (Ask those who identify as both Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native) With which do you identify more?

	National
Hispanic	17
Non-Hispanic white	63
Non-Hispanic Black	11
Non-Hispanic Asian	6
American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Pacific	*
Islander	
Non-Hispanic else	1

#### D2. What is the last grade or class that you completed in school?

	National
High school or less (NET)	37
Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no	3
formal schooling)	3
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11	5
or Grade 12 with no diploma)	3
High school graduate (Grade 12 with	23
diploma or GED certificate)	23
Vocational, business, technical, or	
training courses after high school that	
did not count toward an associate	6
degree from a college, community	Ü
college or university (e.g., training for a	
certificate or an apprenticeship)	
Some college (NET)	29
Some college, no degree (includes	19
some community college)	17
Two-year associate degree from a	10
college or university	10
College or post-graduate	34
Four-year college or university	
degree/Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA,	18
AB)	
Some postgraduate or professional	3
school, no postgraduate degree	3
Post-graduate or professional degree,	
including master's, doctorate, medical,	14
or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, MD,	14
JD)	
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### D5. Is the home where you are currently living owned or rented?

			Don't know/
	Owned	Rented	Refused/Web blank
National	65	35	*

#### D6. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

			Don't know/	
	Yes	No	Refused/Web blank	
National	79	20	1	

PARTY. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an independent, or what?

						Don't know/
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Other	None	Refused/ Web blank
National	26	32	18	4	19	1

# D10/D10a/D10b Combo Table Based on total respondents

	National
Less than \$50,000 (NET)	48
Under \$15,000	12
\$15,000 to under \$20,000	6
\$20,000 to under \$25,000	5
\$25,000 to under \$30,000	5
Less than \$30,000 unspecified	*
\$30,000 to under \$35,000	7
\$35,000 to under \$50,000	13
\$30,000 but less than \$100,000	1
unspecified	1
\$50,000 and over (NET)	51
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 to under \$200,000	5
\$200,000 to under \$250,000	2
\$250,000 or more	2
Over \$100,000 unspecified	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*

#### RSEX. Are you male or female?

	Male	Female	Other	Don't know/ Refused/Web blank
National	47	51	2	*

D11. Which of the following do you consider yourself to be? You can select as many as apply. Heterosexual or straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, gender non-conforming, non-binary, or a different identity.

#### LGBTQ Identity Based on total respondents

	National
LGBTQ	8
Cis and Straight	90
Don't know/Refused/	າ
Web blank	۷