



September 2020 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire

Total N=2,006 adults. | Interview dates: September 11–September 21, 2020.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk () replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.*

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Which of the following best describes your feelings about the coronavirus outbreak in the United States?

- 41 The worst is behind us
- 49 The worst is yet to come
- 9 The coronavirus is not and has never been a major problem in the U.S.
- 1 Refused

Q.2 How closely do you follow political and election news?

- 27 Very closely
- 40 Somewhat closely
- 23 Not too closely
- 10 Not at all closely
- * Refused

Q.3 Do you think most news outlets that report on politics and current events provide a fair and accurate account of each side of an issue or do they favor one side over the other?

- 24 Provide a fair and accurate account
- 75 Favor one side over another
- 1 Refused

Q.4 If the (2020) election for president were being held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden the Democrat and Donald Trump the Republican, for whom would you vote?

- 47 Joe Biden
- 37 Donald Trump
- 4 Someone else [SPECIFY]
- 11 Would not vote
- 2 Refused

Q.5 Regardless of whether or not you plan on voting this year, do you think the U.S. election this November will be run and administered...

14	Very well
46	Somewhat well
28	Not too well
11	Not at all well
1	Refused

Q.6 Based on what you have read or heard... Do you believe the following statements are accurate or are they NOT accurate? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

A. Childhood vaccines have been shown to cause autism

3	Completely accurate
7	Mostly accurate
22	Mostly NOT accurate
45	Completely NOT accurate
23	Not sure
1	Refused

B. There is evidence that shows Barack Obama was born outside the U.S.

7	Completely accurate
8	Mostly accurate
9	Mostly NOT accurate
48	Completely NOT accurate
27	Not sure
1	Refused

C. Corporations are promoting genetically modified foods (also known as GMOs) that have been shown to be harmful to human health

13	Completely accurate
23	Mostly accurate
21	Mostly NOT accurate
10	Completely NOT accurate
31	Not sure
1	Refused

D. The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was part of a large coordinated effort by those who opposed Civil Rights

14	Completely accurate
23	Mostly accurate
14	Mostly NOT accurate
15	Completely NOT accurate
33	Not sure
1	Refused

E. There is near universal agreement among scientists that the earth is warming due to human activity

35 Completely accurate
28 Mostly accurate
12 Mostly NOT accurate
8 Completely NOT accurate
16 Not sure
1 Refused

F. A group of unelected government officials in Washington D.C., referred to as the 'Deep State' have been working together to undermine the current administration

15 Completely accurate
14 Mostly accurate
10 Mostly NOT accurate
23 Completely NOT accurate
37 Not sure
1 Refused

G. Vladimir Putin has damaging information about Donald Trump

15 Completely accurate
19 Mostly accurate
11 Mostly NOT accurate
17 Completely NOT accurate
37 Not sure
1 Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,002]:

H. There was widespread voter fraud in the 2016 election

9 Completely accurate
16 Mostly accurate
20 Mostly NOT accurate
29 Completely NOT accurate
25 Not sure
1 Refused

ASK ALL:

I. Chloroquine (Hydroxychloroquine) is a safe and effective way to treat COVID-19

6 Completely accurate
13 Mostly accurate
14 Mostly NOT accurate
35 Completely NOT accurate
30 Not sure
1 Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,004]

J. COVID-19 was intentionally planned by China as part of a biological weapons program

7	Completely accurate
15	Mostly accurate
16	Mostly NOT accurate
33	Completely NOT accurate
28	Not sure
1	Refused

ASK ALL:

K. Senior officials in the Bush administration had advance notice of Sept. 11th attacks, but refused to stop them because of their desire to launch a war in Iraq

5	Completely accurate
12	Mostly accurate
18	Mostly NOT accurate
33	Completely NOT accurate
32	Not sure
1	Refused

L. COVID-19 is no more serious than the common flu

16	Completely accurate
17	Mostly accurate
16	Mostly NOT accurate
42	Completely NOT accurate
8	Not sure
1	Refused

Q.7 Do you believe that more people have died of COVID-19 than is being reported by the news, fewer people have died than is being reported or do you think news reports of COVID-19 deaths are generally accurate?

38	More people have died than is being reported
35	Fewer people have died than is being reported
26	Reports on the number of deaths are generally accurate
1	Refused

Q.8 If an FDA (Food and Drug Administration)-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus/COVID-19 was available right now at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated?

44	Yes
54	No
1	Refused

ASK IF WOULD NOT AGREE TO BE VACCINATED [N=1,054]:

Q.9 What is the most important reason you would not take a vaccine to prevent coronavirus? Is it because you...

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 65 | Have concerns about safety |
| 13 | Have concerns about effectiveness |
| 13 | Do not believe vaccine is necessary |
| 8 | Some other reason [SPECIFY] |
| 1 | Refused |

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Now, read each statement and please say whether you agree or disagree with each one. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

A. I often feel that the people I know don't really understand me

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 7 | Completely agree |
| 29 | Somewhat agree |
| 35 | Somewhat disagree |
| 27 | Completely disagree |
| 2 | Refused |

B. You can learn more about what is going on in the world by ignoring the mainstream news and doing your own research

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 26 | Completely agree |
| 41 | Somewhat agree |
| 21 | Somewhat disagree |
| 10 | Completely disagree |
| 1 | Refused |

C. The economic and political systems in the country are stacked against people like me

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 17 | Completely agree |
| 36 | Somewhat agree |
| 29 | Somewhat disagree |
| 16 | Completely disagree |
| 2 | Refused |

D. The best way to get an accurate picture about what is going on in the country is to rely on several different media sources

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 37 | Completely agree |
| 44 | Somewhat agree |
| 11 | Somewhat disagree |
| 7 | Completely disagree |
| 1 | Refused |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,002]:

E. Most journalists who cover politics and politicians are too friendly with the people they cover

11 Completely agree
36 Somewhat agree
41 Somewhat disagree
9 Completely disagree
2 Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,004]:

F. An increase in voting by mail in 2020 will lead to widespread fraud

19 Completely agree
26 Somewhat agree
20 Somewhat disagree
33 Completely disagree
2 Refused

ASK ALL:

G. Voter fraud across the US has undermined the results of our elections

15 Completely agree
33 Somewhat agree
24 Somewhat disagree
26 Completely disagree
2 Refused

Q.11 How often do you get the feeling that your life is beyond your control?

11 Often
36 Sometimes
36 Rarely
16 Never
1 Refused

Q.12 How often, if at all, do you believe any of the following groups purposefully withhold information that is relevant to public health or public welfare? . **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

A. Drug companies

47 Often
39 Sometimes
10 Rarely
3 Never
1 Refused

B. Companies that produce coal, oil, and natural gas

39	Often
43	Sometimes
13	Rarely
3	Never
1	Refused

C. Technology companies, such as Facebook, Google and Amazon

40	Often
43	Sometimes
12	Rarely
4	Never
1	Refused

D. The federal Government

48	Often
39	Sometimes
9	Rarely
2	Never
2	Refused

E. Major news organization

39	Often
38	Sometimes
19	Rarely
3	Never
1	Refused

Q.13 Of the sources you have heard of, click on all that you would generally TRUST for political and election news? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

A. ABC, CBS or NBC News

58	Trust
36	Distrust
3	Have not heard of
3	Refused

B. NPR

39	Trust
22	Distrust
36	Have not heard of
3	Refused

C.	Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)
22	Trust
52	Distrust
23	Have not heard of
3	Refused
D.	Washington Post
50	Trust
39	Distrust
7	Have not heard of
4	Refused
E.	The New York Times
54	Trust
38	Distrust
4	Have not heard of
3	Refused
F.	HuffPost
29	Trust
36	Distrust
31	Have not heard of
4	Refused
G.	Breitbart
9	Trust
34	Distrust
54	Have not heard of
3	Refused
H.	One America News Network (OANN)
9	Trust
22	Distrust
66	Have not heard of
2	Refused
I.	Infowars
3	Trust
27	Distrust
67	Have not heard of
3	Refused

J.	Daily Caller
3	Trust
17	Distrust
77	Have not heard of
3	Refused
K.	Fox News
40	Trust
54	Distrust
3	Have not heard of
3	Refused
L.	MSNBC
46	Trust
41	Distrust
10	Have not heard of
3	Refused
M.	CNN
50	Trust
44	Distrust
3	Have not heard of
3	Refused
N.	The Wall Street Journal
59	Trust
30	Distrust
7	Have not heard of
4	Refused
O.	USA Today
54	Trust
35	Distrust
8	Have not heard of
4	Refused
P.	The Atlantic
26	Trust
22	Distrust
49	Have not heard of
3	Refused

Q.	Vox
11	Trust
16	Distrust
70	Have not heard of
3	Refused

R.	Daily Kos
5	Trust
13	Distrust
78	Have not heard of
4	Refused

S.	FiveThirtyEight
10	Trust
8	Distrust
79	Have not heard of
3	Refused

Q.14 How often, if at all, do you get politics and election news from social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)?

14	Often
28	Sometimes
24	Hardly ever
34	Never
1	Refused

Q.15 How much do you trust the accuracy of the news and information on social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)?

2	A great deal
22	Some
42	Not much
34	Not at all
1	Refused

Q.16 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about QAnon

7	A lot
32	A little
61	Nothing at all
1	Refused

ASK IF A LOT OR A LITTLE [N=849]:

Q.17 Do you think the information shared by QAnon has generally been shown to be accurate or would you say has been generally shown to be inaccurate?

16	Accurate
80	Not accurate
4	Refused

ASK ALL:

RELIG What is your present religion, if any?

32	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
22	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
*	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
1	Hindu
5	Atheist (do not believe in God)
5	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
11	Nothing in particular
15	Just Christian
2	Something else [Specify]
2	Refused

ASK IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN, OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=976]:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

51	Yes
49	No
1	Refused

ASK ALL:

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals and not counting the last few months, how often do you attend religious services?

8	More than once a week
22	Once a week
6	Once or twice a month
13	A few times a year
21	Seldom
29	Never
1	Refused

Q.19 Thinking about your close friends, how many are...

A. Democrats

29	A lot
39	Some
21	Just a few
9	None of them
2	Refused

B. Republicans

23	A lot
40	Some
22	Just a few
13	None of them
2	Refused

Q.20 How would you describe your current political views? Would you say you are...

6	Very liberal
15	Liberal
8	Slightly liberal
33	Mix of liberal and conservative views
12	Slightly conservative
17	Conservative
7	Very conservative
3	Refused

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by the Survey Center on American Life in partnership with the Center for American Progress. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,006 adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted among participants of the web-enabled KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviewing was conducted between September 11 and September 21, 2020. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and internet service provider connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race, education, Census region by metropolitan status, and household income. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of error for the qualified survey sample is ± 2.4 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.2.