



**North Carolina Residents on COVID-19:  
Views of the economy, healthcare, and safety  
during the coronavirus outbreak**

Produced in partnership with  
The Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun & The Raleigh News & Observer

Survey of N.C. Residents  
June 24-25th, 2020

**Table of Contents**

**About This Survey ..... 2**

**Topline Results ..... 3**

    ECONOMY ..... 3

    HEALTHCARE..... 4

    COVID-19..... 5

    DEMOGRAPHICS ..... 8

**Crosstabulations ..... 10**

    ECONOMY ..... 10

    HEALTHCARE..... 15

    COVID-19..... 18

**Methodological Information ..... 35**

**Weighting Information..... 36**

**Frequently Asked Questions ..... 37**

**About The Elon University Poll..... 38**

## About This Survey

The Elon University Poll conducted a representative online survey of 1,410 adult North Carolina residents from June 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The results have a credibility interval of +/- 2.8 percentage points.

This survey's questionnaire was developed with the goal of answering two questions. First, what do North Carolinians think about several important aspects of the COVID-19 response in the state? Second, what are North Carolinians thinking about healthcare and the economy, two major issues shaped by the pandemic? For highlights of key findings about this survey, see the press release associated with this report.

This survey repeated questions about the economy and health care that we asked in [a February 2020 survey](#) of North Carolina registered voters. The sample in this survey reflects the larger population of residents rather than the registered voters alone, making direct comparisons of change imperfect. However, some attitudinal changes are considerably larger than the differences typically found in resident versus voter samples. For example, this June 2020 survey found 38% of residents grading the national economy as a "D" or "F" compared to 15% of registered voters in February 2020. Similarly, the 55% of respondents in June 2020 perceived the economy as having gotten worse since 2017 compared to 22% in February. We did not find changes of similar magnitude in our health care questions.

We also repeated several COVID-19 questions from our [March 2020 survey](#) of North Carolina residents. Notably, responses in June suggest a decline in worries about COVID-19 from our March survey. Some changes in opinion for these questions include:

- "I'm worried about the impact of coronavirus on my personal financial situation."
  - (Agree %) March – 74%, June – 59%
- "I'm worried about developing severe illness from coronavirus."
  - (Agree %) March – 57%, June – 53%
- "I'm worried about spreading coronavirus to others."
  - (Agree %) March – 59%, June – 50%

Unless otherwise noted, results reported below are percentages (%) and sample sizes (N).

## Topline Results

### Economy

---

“What letter grade would you give the current national economy?”

	%	N
<b>A</b>	5	68
<b>B</b>	18	248
<b>C</b>	40	567
<b>D</b>	25	347
<b>F</b>	13	179
Total	100	1409

“Since 2017, would you say that the nation's economy has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?”

	%	N
<b>Better</b>	31	439
<b>Same</b>	15	207
<b>Worse</b>	54	762
Total	100	1409

“What about your own financial situation--since 2017, would you say it has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?”

	%	N
<b>Better</b>	34	480
<b>Same</b>	40	556
<b>Worse</b>	26	371
Total	100	1408

“Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States, has your personal financial situation gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?”

	%	N
<b>Better</b>	10	134
<b>Same</b>	55	771
<b>Worse</b>	36	504
<b>Total</b>	100	1409

“When it comes to the economy, are you generally closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?”

	%	N
<b>Democratic Party</b>	38	533
<b>Republican Party</b>	41	579
<b>Neither</b>	21	297
<b>Total</b>	100	1409

## **Healthcare**

---

“What letter grade would you give the U.S. healthcare system?”

	%	N
<b>A</b>	7	92
<b>B</b>	25	355
<b>C</b>	37	524
<b>D</b>	20	277
<b>F</b>	12	163
<b>Total</b>	100	1410

“When it comes to paying for healthcare in the United States, should the government be more involved, less involved or is the government involved about the right amount already?”

	%	N
<b>More involved</b>	52	733
<b>Less involved</b>	28	393
<b>About the right amount</b>	20	281
<b>Total</b>	100	1407

“When it comes to healthcare, are you generally closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?”

	%	N
<b>Democratic Party</b>	40	566
<b>Republican Party</b>	36	508
<b>Neither</b>	24	335
<b>Total</b>	100	1409

## COVID-19

---

“Have you personally known someone who contracted coronavirus?”

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	31	442
<b>No</b>	69	967
<b>Total</b>	100	1409

“When it comes to K-12 public schools, North Carolina leaders are considering several options for Fall 2020. Which of the following comes closest to what you think should happen in the fall?”

- Students returning to school full-time, with precautions in place
- Students staying home part-time, to space them out in classrooms and buildings
- Students staying home full-time, with online learning”

	%	N
<b>Returning to school full-time</b>	34	471
<b>Staying home part-time</b>	38	531
<b>Staying home full-time</b>	29	401
<b>Total</b>	100	1403

“Do you have a child or grandchild in North Carolina K-12 public schools?” <sup>1</sup>

	%	N
<b>Yes</b>	39	545
<b>No</b>	61	854
<b>Total</b>	100	1399

<sup>1</sup> This question was asked for the purposes of crosstabs in next section of the report.

 **ELON** POLL

“How often do you wear a mask when you go into public buildings, such as grocery stores and gas stations?”

	%	N
<b>Never</b>	11	158
<b>Sometimes</b>	16	218
<b>About half the time</b>	8	119
<b>Most of the time</b>	19	260
<b>Always</b>	46	653
Total	100	1408

“Would you support or oppose the North Carolina state government requiring people to wear masks in public?” <sup>2</sup>

	%	N
<b>Support</b>	74	1035
<b>Oppose</b>	27	372
Total	100	1407

“In your opinion, has social distancing helped to slow the spread of coronavirus in North Carolina?”

	%	N
<b>Has slowed the spread</b>	63	879
<b>Has not made much difference</b>	21	300
<b>Has not slowed the spread</b>	16	229
Total	100	1407

<sup>2</sup> During data collection, Governor Roy Cooper announced a statewide mask order.



# ELON POLL

“Overall, would you say the state of North Carolina’s rules and restrictions around coronavirus have been too restrictive, not restrictive enough or about right?”

	%	N
<b>Too restrictive</b>	21	290
<b>Not restrictive enough</b>	46	649
<b>About right</b>	33	470
<b>Total</b>	100	1409

“How should major sporting events like college or professional basketball and football be held for the rest of 2020? They should be held...”

	%	N
<b>As normal</b>	12	173
<b>With restrictions for fans, such as social distancing and masks</b>	37	524
<b>Without any fans in attendance</b>	29	401
<b>Not at all</b>	22	309
<b>Total</b>	100	1406

“What letter grade would you give Governor Roy Cooper for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in North Carolina?”

	%	N
<b>A</b>	18	257
<b>B</b>	33	459
<b>C</b>	25	349
<b>D</b>	12	162
<b>F</b>	13	182
<b>Total</b>	100	1408

“What letter grade would you give President Donald Trump for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?”

	%	N
<b>A</b>	16	230
<b>B</b>	20	280
<b>C</b>	13	182
<b>D</b>	12	166
<b>F</b>	39	548
<b>Total</b>	100	1407

“Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. It's okay if you're not sure. We are interested in people's quick reactions.”

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not sure</b>
“I’m worried about the impact of coronavirus on my personal financial situation.”	59 (829)	30 (415)	11 (160)
“I’m worried about developing severe illness from coronavirus.”	53 (742)	34 (478)	13 (179)
“I’m worried about spreading coronavirus to others.”	50 (693)	38 (536)	12 (172)
“I’m worried about a family member developing severe illness from coronavirus.”	69 (970)	22 (303)	9 (127)
“In the last two weeks, I’ve avoided going places and doing things I normally would because of my concerns about coronavirus.”	63 (887)	32 (453)	5 (65)
“I expect coronavirus cases to increase in the fall.”	61 (850)	16 (222)	24 (330)
“In the last two weeks, I’ve avoided spending time with people I care about because of my concerns about coronavirus.”	52 (727)	41 (580)	7 (101)
“I am less likely to go on vacation this summer because of coronavirus.”	67 (935)	24 (338)	10 (133)

### Demographics <sup>3</sup>

---

#### County Density <sup>4</sup>

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Rural	39	555
Suburban	25	354
Urban	36	501

<sup>3</sup> Some demographic response options were collapsed for reporting purposes.

<sup>4</sup> County type was determined according to classifications created by the [NC Rural Center](#).



 **ELON** POLL**Age**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
18 to 24	13	178
25 to 44	34	477
45 to 64	34	481
65+	20	275

**Gender**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Male	48	677
Female	52	733

**Race**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
White	67	945
Black	21	296
Other	12	169

**Ethnicity**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Non-hispanic	91	1283
Hispanic	9	127

**Education**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Less than Bachelors	70	987
Bachelors or Higher	30	423

**Party Identification**

	<u>%</u>	<u>N</u>
Republican	33	466
Neither	33	469
Democrat	34	473

## Crosstabulations 5

### Economy

What letter grade would you give the current national economy?

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	7	28	44	14	6
Neither	2	18	43	26	11
Democrat	5	7	34	34	21
Male	7	23	38	21	10
Female	2	12	42	28	15
18 to 24	12	22	45	14	7
25 to 44	7	15	40	24	14
45 to 64	2	16	41	28	13
65+	1	22	36	27	14
Rural	5	20	44	20	10
Suburban	5	15	36	31	14
Urban	5	17	39	25	14
White	3	21	42	25	10
Black	7	9	34	27	23
Other race	14	15	43	19	9
Total	5	18	40	25	13



5 Numbers reflect row percentages. Caution is encouraged when interpreting differences in the crosstabulations. Sub-group sample sizes are smaller, and therefore the credibility intervals for these estimates are wider. Due to weights and rounding, row percentages do not always sum to 100.

Since 2017, would you say that the nation's economy has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

	<b>Better</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worse</b>
Republican	54	14	32
Neither	30	16	54
Democrat	10	14	76
Male	38	16	46
Female	25	14	61
18 to 24	20	23	57
25 to 44	26	17	57
45 to 64	34	14	52
65+	41	7	52
Rural	34	14	52
Suburban	31	18	51
Urban	28	13	59
White	38	13	49
Black	10	19	71
Other race	31	18	51
Total	31	15	54



What about your own financial situation--since 2017, would you say it has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

	<b>Better</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worse</b>
Republican	48	36	16
Neither	32	40	28
Democrat	23	42	35
Male	40	37	23
Female	29	41	30
18 to 24	36	40	24
25 to 44	38	35	28
45 to 64	34	38	28
65+	26	50	23
Rural	36	39	26
Suburban	29	46	25
Urban	36	36	28
White	36	41	24
Black	27	36	37
Other race	38	39	23
Total	34	40	26



Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States, has your personal financial situation gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

	<b>Better</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>Worse</b>
Republican	10	63	27
Neither	10	48	42
Democrat	9	54	37
Male	11	55	34
Female	8	54	38
18 to 24	16	43	42
25 to 44	12	50	38
45 to 64	6	57	37
65+	7	67	26
Rural	9	56	35
Suburban	8	53	39
Urban	11	55	34
White	8	58	33
Black	12	47	41
Other race	14	48	39
Total	10	55	36



When it comes to the economy, are you generally closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?

	<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>	<b>Neither</b>
Republican	2	95	3
Neither	17	26	57
Democrat	93	3	4
Male	34	46	20
Female	41	36	22
18 to 24	45	27	29
25 to 44	38	35	26
45 to 64	37	46	17
65+	34	52	13
Rural	32	47	21
Suburban	36	42	22
Urban	46	33	20
White	27	53	20
Black	68	9	22
Other race	43	30	27
Total	38	41	21



## Healthcare

What letter grade would you give the U.S. healthcare system?

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	8	35	38	11	8
Neither	4	23	38	23	12
Democrat	7	17	36	25	15
Male	8	31	36	17	9
Female	6	20	39	22	13
18 to 24	8	25	32	19	17
25 to 44	9	21	37	20	12
45 to 64	4	24	39	21	12
65+	6	33	38	16	6
Rural	7	28	37	17	11
Suburban	7	22	37	20	13
Urban	5	24	37	23	12
Total	7	25	37	20	12
White	6	28	38	17	11
Black	6	18	39	28	10
Other race	11	22	32	18	17
Total	7	25	37	20	11



When it comes to paying for healthcare in the United States, should the government be more involved, less involved or is the government involved about the right amount already?

	<b>More involved</b>	<b>Less involved</b>	<b>About right</b>
Republican	30	44	26
Neither	51	29	20
Democrat	75	11	14
Male	51	31	18
Female	54	25	21
18 to 24	59	25	16
25 to 44	56	25	19
45 to 64	50	31	19
65+	45	30	25
Rural	48	30	22
Suburban	52	29	19
Urban	57	25	18
White	47	31	21
Black	65	19	15
Other race	57	24	19
Total	52	28	20





When it comes to healthcare, are you generally closer to the Democratic or Republican Party?

	<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>	<b>Neither</b>
Republican	6	87	7
Neither	24	18	58
Democrat	90	3	7
Male	37	41	22
Female	43	31	25
18 to 24	47	22	31
25 to 44	41	31	27
45 to 64	38	39	23
65+	38	49	14
Rural	33	40	27
Suburban	37	38	24
Urban	50	30	20
White	31	46	23
Black	67	9	24
Other race	45	28	27
Total	40	36	24



## COVID-19

Have you personally known someone who contracted coronavirus?

	Yes	No
Republican	29	71
Neither	30	70
Democrat	35	65
Male	29	71
Female	33	67
Total	31	69
18 to 24	38	62
25 to 44	32	68
45 to 64	34	66
65+	21	79
Rural	30	70
Suburban	29	71
Urban	35	65
White	29	71
Black	37	63
Other race	38	62
Total	31	39



When it comes to K-12 public schools, North Carolina leaders are considering several options for Fall 2020. Which of the following comes closest to what you think should happen in the fall:

- Students returning to school full-time, with precautions in place
- Students staying home part-time, to space them out in classrooms and buildings
- Students staying home full-time, with online learning”

	<b>Students return full- time</b>	<b>Students stay home part-time</b>	<b>Students stay home full-time</b>
Has child or grandchild in K-12	32	38	30
No child or grandchild in K-12	34	38	28
Republican	46	33	21
Neither	31	40	28
Democrat	23	40	36
Male	37	35	28
Female	30	41	29
18 to 24	31	35	34
25 to 44	30	38	32
45 to 64	34	39	27
65+	40	38	22
Rural	36	37	27
Suburban	36	36	28
Urban	30	40	30
White	37	38	25
Black	27	38	35
Other race	25	35	39
Total	34	38	29

How often do you wear a mask when you go into public buildings, such as grocery stores and gas stations?

	<b>Never</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>About half the time</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>Always</b>
Republican	18	18	9	19	36
Neither	12	17	9	20	42
Democrat	4	11	7	17	62
Male	13	16	9	23	39
Female	9	15	8	14	53
18 to 24	6	15	15	22	42
25 to 44	13	18	11	20	39
45 to 64	15	15	6	17	46
65+	5	13	4	16	63
Rural	13	20	9	18	40
Suburban	12	13	11	19	45
Urban	8	12	6	19	54
White	14	16	7	18	45
Black	5	12	11	20	52
Other race	6	18	12	19	45
Total	11	15	8	18	46



Would you support or oppose the North Carolina state government requiring people to wear masks in public?

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
Republican	57	43
Neither	73	27
Democrat	91	9
Male	68	32
Female	79	21
18 to 24	77	23
25 to 44	71	29
45 to 64	72	28
65+	78	22
Rural	71	29
Suburban	70	30
Urban	79	21
White	68	32
Black	85	15
Other race	84	16
Total	74	26



In your opinion, has social distancing helped to slow the spread of coronavirus in North Carolina?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Made no difference</b>	<b>No</b>
Republican	57	26	17
Neither	61	22	17
Democrat	69	16	15
Male	62	23	15
Female	63	20	18
18 to 24	53	27	21
25 to 44	57	25	17
45 to 64	68	17	16
65+	69	19	13
Rural	60	21	19
Suburban	60	24	17
Urban	67	20	13
White	63	22	15
Black	56	22	22
Other race	71	15	14
Total	62	21	16



Overall, would you say the state of North Carolina’s rules and restrictions around coronavirus have been too restrictive, not restrictive enough or about right?

	<b>Too restrictive</b>	<b>Not restrictive enough</b>	<b>About right</b>
Republican	35	35	30
Neither	21	43	36
Democrat	6	60	34
Male	26	42	32
Female	16	50	35
18 to 24	14	51	34
25 to 44	19	44	37
45 to 64	24	48	28
65+	21	43	36
Rural	22	41	36
Suburban	22	45	33
Urban	18	52	30
White	25	42	33
Black	9	55	36
Other race	14	53	33
Total	21	46	33



How should major sporting events like college or professional basketball and football be held for the rest of 2020?

	<b>As normal</b>	<b>With restrictions</b>	<b>No fans</b>	<b>Not at all</b>
Republican	22	39	24	15
Neither	10	41	27	21
Democrat	5	32	35	29
Male	16	37	27	20
Female	9	38	30	24
18 to 24	13	43	28	16
25 to 44	14	36	29	21
45 to 64	12	35	28	25
65+	9	40	29	22
Rural	13	39	27	21
Suburban	14	34	30	22
Urban	10	38	29	23
White	14	37	30	20
Black	7	42	23	29
Other race	11	33	32	23
Total	12	37	29	22





What letter grade would you give **Governor Roy Cooper** for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in North Carolina?

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	9	25	23	17	25
Neither	13	32	30	14	11
Democrat	32	41	20	4	3
Male	18	32	24	12	14
Female	19	33	26	11	11
18 to 24	17	35	32	12	3
25 to 44	14	34	31	9	12
45 to 64	19	33	22	13	14
65+	25	28	15	12	19
Rural	16	33	24	11	15
Suburban	20	30	24	13	13
Urban	19	34	26	10	11
White	15	31	23	14	17
Black	29	39	23	5	4
Other race	18	31	35	9	7
Total	18	33	25	11	13



What letter grade would you give **President Donald Trump** for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States?

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
Republican	37	36	14	7	7
Neither	11	19	18	17	36
Democrat	2	6	8	12	72
Male	18	23	14	12	34
Female	15	18	12	11	44
18 to 24	13	10	16	20	41
25 to 44	13	21	15	13	37
45 to 64	17	22	12	9	40
65+	23	23	9	8	38
Rural	20	25	13	12	30
Suburban	18	18	14	11	39
Urban	11	16	12	12	49
White	21	25	13	11	30
Black	5	5	13	13	64
Other race	10	19	12	13	46
Total	16	20	13	12	39



I'm worried about the impact of coronavirus on my personal financial situation.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	50	39	10
Neither	65	23	12
Democrat	62	26	12
Male	55	33	12
Female	63	27	11
18 to 24	61	28	11
25 to 44	64	25	11
45 to 64	63	27	9
65+	42	42	15
Rural	55	36	9
Suburban	62	25	13
Urban	61	26	13
White	57	31	12
Black	63	28	9
Other race	64	24	12
Total	59	30	11



I'm worried about developing severe illness from coronavirus.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	38	48	13
Neither	51	32	17
Democrat	70	22	8
Male	47	41	12
Female	58	28	13
18 to 24	51	38	11
25 to 44	55	33	13
45 to 64	52	35	13
65+	54	32	14
Rural	53	34	13
Suburban	52	34	14
Urban	54	35	12
White	50	37	13
Black	58	31	11
Other race	63	24	13
Total	53	34	13



I'm worried about spreading coronavirus to others.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	39	51	10
Neither	47	36	17
Democrat	62	28	10
Male	46	43	11
Female	53	34	13
18 to 24	56	34	10
25 to 44	53	36	12
45 to 64	48	40	12
65+	42	43	15
Rural	47	39	13
Suburban	45	41	13
Urban	55	35	10
White	48	39	13
Black	50	38	12
Other race	59	33	8
Total	49	38	12



I'm worried about a family member developing severe illness from coronavirus.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	58	34	8
Neither	69	20	11
Democrat	80	12	8
Male	64	27	9
Female	74	17	9
18 to 24	66	24	10
25 to 44	69	22	9
45 to 64	70	21	9
65+	71	21	8
Rural	70	22	8
Suburban	68	24	8
Urban	69	20	10
White	67	24	9
Black	71	17	11
Other race	76	16	7
Total	69	22	9



In the last two weeks, I've avoided going places and doing things I normally would because of my concerns about coronavirus.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	52	45	3
Neither	57	36	7
Democrat	80	15	5
Male	56	38	6
Female	70	27	4
18 to 24	57	32	10
25 to 44	61	33	6
45 to 64	65	33	2
65+	68	30	2
Rural	62	33	5
Suburban	63	32	5
Urban	64	32	4
White	59	37	4
Black	70	23	6
Other race	71	21	7
Total	63	32	5



I expect coronavirus cases to increase in the fall.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	54	21	25
Neither	61	14	25
Democrat	67	12	20
Male	58	18	24
Female	63	14	23
18 to 24	48	24	28
25 to 44	62	17	21
45 to 64	63	14	22
65+	61	12	27
Rural	61	15	24
Suburban	60	16	25
Urban	61	17	22
White	62	14	23
Black	54	20	26
Other race	62	16	22
Total	61	16	24





In the last two weeks, I've avoided spending time with people I care about because of my concerns about coronavirus.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	44	51	5
Neither	47	43	10
Democrat	64	30	6
Male	48	45	7
Female	55	37	7
18 to 24	47	38	15
25 to 44	49	41	9
45 to 64	54	42	4
65+	54	41	5
Rural	52	42	6
Suburban	51	40	8
Urban	51	41	8
White	48	45	7
Black	59	34	7
Other race	59	32	9
Total	52	41	7



I am less likely to go on vacation this summer because of coronavirus.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Republican	57	35	8
Neither	62	24	14
Democrat	79	14	7
Male	62	28	10
Female	70	20	9
18 to 24	62	24	14
25 to 44	63	26	11
45 to 64	68	24	8
65+	73	20	7
Rural	66	25	10
Suburban	63	26	10
Urban	70	22	9
White	64	26	10
Black	73	17	9
Other race	67	25	8
Total	66	24	9



## Methodological Information

Mode:	Online
Population:	N.C. Residents, ages 18+
Dates in the field:	June 24-25, 2020
Sample Size:	1,410
Credibility Interval	+/- 2.74 %
Weighting Variables (NC):	Age, Gender, Race, Hispanic, Education, County Density

### *Procedure*

The Elon University Poll used an online sample provided by Lucid, LLC. Respondents were recruited for this sample from many sample providers in the Lucid marketplace and received small amounts of compensation in exchange for their opinions. The survey was not an open-linked posted on social media, but rather was by direct invitation to a very large national pool of people who agree to take online surveys. More information about the Lucid marketplace and quality tests are available [here](#). Quotas on race, Hispanic ethnicity, sex, and age were applied prior to online survey commencement.

Online interviews were included in the final dataset if respondents spent a minimum length of time on the interview and particular sections, and if a respondent progressed through the entire survey. Open-ended online responses were individually inspected by the poll directors, who then deleted thirteen cases that were invalid. Respondents were recruited to the survey with a generic description about coronavirus.

### *Credibility Interval*

Unlike a traditional random digit-dial telephone survey, online surveys do not have traditional margin of errors. Nonprobability quota samples like these do not adhere to assumptions of random selection. To account for uncertainty inherent in any sample-based research design, we provide a credibility interval. More information about this technique can be found [here](#). The credibility interval was calculated by inflating traditional confidence intervals by a design effect calculated using the squared sum of weights. For this North Carolina sample, this means:  $(1.05 * 2.61 = 2.7)$ . We round these values up for presentation of results. As with all surveys, Total survey error often exceeds sampling error.

### *Support for Transparency*

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative, which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we release to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

### Weighting Information

Weights were generated in Stata using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. Population values were obtained from the U.S. Census. The weight variable was calculated based on the variables in the table below.

	<b>Population %</b>	<b>Unweighted %</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>
18-29	13	10	13
30-44	34	35	34
45-64	34	36	34
65+	20	19	20
Male	48	45	48
Female	52	55	52
White	67	67	67
Black	21	19	21
Other	12	14	12
Hispanic	9	7	9
Not Hispanic	91	93	91
< Bachelor's	70	60	70
Bachelor's or more	30	40	30
Rural County	39	38	39
Suburban	25	25	25
Urban	36	37	36

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith. The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Ledoux Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community. Because of this generous support, the Elon University Poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

### 2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey research organization. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

### 3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, we generated results using raking based on U.S. Census data. For more details, see the Weighting Information above.

### 4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online surveys over traditional random-digital dial surveys?

Traditional telephone surveys have a clear advantage over online surveys such as this in that assumptions of equal probability of selection are more appropriate. Furthermore, online surveys do not capture opinions of respondents who lack internet access.

However, our opinion is that [declining telephone response rates](#) and the growth in online sample pool sizes have narrowed quality differences between the two modes. In the case of this survey, we hoped to capture opinions related to a breaking news item. An online survey enabled us to quickly gather a large enough sample size to make inferences about the U.S. population. Additionally, like many college students, our student survey interviewers are not on campus at this time.

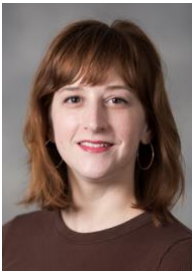
Additional information about opt-in surveys in general is available from AAPOR and the [Pew Research Center](#).

## About The Elon University Poll

The Elon University Poll conducts statewide, regional, and national surveys on issues of importance to North Carolinians as well as other states. Information from these polls is shared with media, citizens and public officials to facilitate informed public policy making through the better understanding of citizens' opinions and attitudes.



[Jason Husser](#) is Director of the Elon University Poll and Associate Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. Dr. Husser holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. He researches American political behavior and survey methodology.



[Kaye Usry](#) is Assistant Director of the Elon University Poll and Assistant Professor of Political Science & Policy Studies at Elon University. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests are in American politics and political psychology.



[Owen Covington](#) is Director of the Elon University News Bureau. A native North Carolinian, Owen Covington joined the staff of Elon University in 2016 after spending 17 years in the field of journalism as a reporter and editor for daily and weekly news outlets in North Carolina and Kentucky. As director of the Elon University News Bureau, Covington oversees the promotion of Elon and its students, faculty and staff both through stories told across Elon's media channels as well as through interactions with state, national and international media. He is involved in media relations, including responding to requests from print, digital and broadcast media outlets, and works to promote content generated by a variety of Elon news sources.

For more information on the Elon University Poll, visit [elon.edu/elonpoll](http://elon.edu/elonpoll)

If you have specific questions about this poll, you can reach the directors of the poll via email (jhusser at elon dot edu & kusry at elon dot edu).

Follow us on Twitter @elonpoll