## Study Methodology

The COVID Response Tracking Study is an effort to examine the social, psychological, and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on American society. This is the first wave of the longitudinal study, which will include re-interviewing respondents at various points following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago and with funding from the National Science Foundation.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak® Panel, NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for the first wave of this study were conducted between May 21 and 29, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 2,279 completed the survey—2,047 via the web and 232 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 68.3%, the weighted household panel response rate is 23.6%, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 84.8%, for a cumulative response rate of 13.7%. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-2.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2020 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

The analysis was supplemented by data from the General Social Survey (GSS). The GSS is administered by NORC at the University of Chicago, primarily using in-person interviewing. The GSS started in 1972 and completed its 32nd round in 2018. For the last five decades, the GSS has been monitoring societal change and the growing complexity of American society. The GSS is the largest project funded by the Sociology Program of the National Science Foundation. The typical sample size was 1,500 prior to 1994, but increased to 2,700-3,000 until 2008 and decreased to 2,000-2,500 for the most recent surveys. Resulting margins of error are between +/- 3.1 for the smaller sample sizes and +/- 2.2 percentage points for the larger sample sizes at the 95% confidence level. The GSS 1972-2018 Cumulative File was utilized to produce the statistics presented. Information about the GSS can be found at [gss.norc.org](https://gss.norc.org/).

The analysis also used data from the National Tragedy Study. The first round of the National Tragedy Study was conducted between September 13 and 27, 2001, by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. It was a telephone interview of adults (18+) living in households with telephones in the United States. The survey had a total national sample size of 1,013. The response rate was 56%. The second round of the National Tragedy Study was conducted between January 10 and March 4, 2002. This follow-up survey was also conducted by telephone. Study information for the National Tragedy studied can be found at [norc.org](https://www.norc.org/PDFs/publications/RasinskiK_America_Recovers_2002.pdf).

The study additionally used data from the Kennedy Assassination Study. The Kennedy Assassination Study was conducted between November 26 and December 3, 1963, by the National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago. It was an in-person interview of adults (21+) living in households in the United States and had 1,384 respondents. It used a modified probability sample. Study information for the Kennedy Assassination Study can be found on [Roper iPoll](https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/ipoll/study/31095176).

All differences reported between subgroups of the U.S. population are at the 95% level of statistical significance, meaning that there is only a 5% (or lower) probability that the observed differences could be attributed to chance variation in sampling.

A topline with full question wordings is available at [norc.org](mailto:norc.org). For more information, email [info@norc.org](file:///C:\Users\sterrett-david\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\9NHETG0P\info@norc.org).