# 2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL WAVE 73 PATHWAYS/SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 7, 2020 N=9,220

## **ASK ALL:**

NEWSPLAT How often do you get news from... [RANDOMIZE]

|  | <u>Often</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely</u> | <u>Never</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| a. Television<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 40           | 28               | 20            | 11           | *                   |
| b. Radio   |              |                  |               |              |                     |
| Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 16           | 34               | 28            | 21           | *                   |
| c. Print publications<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 10           | 22               | 39            | 29           | *                   |
| DISPLAY IF INTERNET USER (XTABLET=2) [N=9,080] BASED ON TOTAL: d. A smartphone, computer or tablet | 60           | 26               | 7             | 7            | *                   |
| Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 60           | 26               | /             | /            | •                   |

# ASK IF GETS NEWS FROM DIGITAL DEVICES AT LEAST RARELY (NEWSPLAT\_d=2-4) [N=8,846]:

NEWSPLAT\_DIG Now thinking about the news you get on a smartphone, computer, or tablet, how often do you get news from... [RANDOMIZE]

# **BASED ON TOTAL:**

|    |   | <u>Often</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely</u> | <u>Never</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|---|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| a. | News websites or apps<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                   | 34           | 35               | 16            | 15           | *                   |
| b. | Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or<br>Instagram<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 23           | 30               | 18            | 29           | *                   |
| C. | Search through Google or other search<br>engines<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020        | 23           | 41               | 20            | 15           | *                   |
| d. | Podcasts<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 6            | 16               | 24            | 53           | *                   |

ASK IF GETS NEWS FROM MORE THAN ONE PLATFORM (AT LEAST TWO OF NEWSPLAT\_a-c=2-4 AND NEWSPLAT\_DIG\_a-d=2-4) [N=9,135]:

PLATFORM\_PREFER

Which do you prefer for getting news? [RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS FOR NEWSPLAT AND NEWSPLAT\_DIG; SHOW ONLY THOSE USED AT LEAST RARELY IN NEWSPLAT\_a-c=2-4 OR NEWSPLAT\_DIG\_a-d=2-4; AUTOPUNCH IF ONLY USES ONE SOURCE]

#### **BASED ON TOTAL:**

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |  |
|--------------|--|
| <u>2020</u>  |  |
| 35           | Television   |
| 7            | Radio  |
| 5            | Print publications                                   |
| 26           | News websites or apps                                |
| 11           | Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram |
| 12           | Search through Google or other search engines        |
| 3            | Podcasts   |
| 1            | No answer  |
| 1            | Did not get news on any platform                     |
|              |  |

# ASK ALL WITH INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=2) [N=9,080]:

WEB1 Do you use any of the following social media sites? [RANDOMIZE]

| BASED ON TOTAL  | Yes, use this        | No, do not<br>use this <sup>1</sup> | No<br>answer     |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| a. Twitter<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>Jan 6-Jan 21, 2020<br>July 8-July 21, 2019<br>Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019  | 25<br>22<br>23<br>23 | 74<br>76<br>76<br>75                | 1<br>2<br>1<br>2 |
| <ul> <li>Instagram</li> <li>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020</li> <li>Jan 6-Jan 21, 2020</li> <li>July 8-July 21, 2019</li> <li>Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019</li> </ul> | 40<br>37<br>38<br>37 | 59<br>62<br>61<br>62                | 1<br>1<br>1      |
| c. Facebook<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>Jan 6-Jan 21, 2020<br>July 8–July 21, 2019<br>Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019   | 68<br>67<br>71<br>72 | 32<br>32<br>29<br>28                | 1<br>1<br>*<br>1 |
| c. Snapchat<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8-July 21, 2019<br>Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019   | 22<br>23<br>24       | 77<br>76<br>75                      | 1<br>1<br>2      |
| e. YouTube<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>Jan 6-Jan 21, 2020<br>July 8–July 21, 2019<br>Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019  | 74<br>71<br>74<br>81 | 26<br>28<br>25<br>19                | 1<br>1<br>*<br>1 |

<sup>1</sup> In Jan 22-Feb 5, 2019, the 3% of respondents who do not have internet access at home were asked this question and their responses were included. In later surveys, the respondents who do not have internet access at home were excluded from the question; they are included here with those who said "Never."

| WEB1 CONTINUED |  | Voc. uso this       | No, do not                  | No               |
|----------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| f.             | LinkedIn<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8–July 21, 2019 | Yes, use this 25 27 | <u>use this</u><br>74<br>72 | answer<br>1<br>1 |
| g.             | Reddit<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8-July 21, 2019   | 15<br>13            | 83<br>86                    | 1<br>1           |
| h.             | Tumblr<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8–July 21, 2019   | 4<br>4              | 95<br>94                    | 1<br>1           |
| i.             | WhatsApp<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8-July 21, 2019 | 19<br>18            | 80<br>81                    | 1<br>1           |
| j.             | TikTok<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8-July 21, 2019   | 12<br>3             | 87<br>95                    | 1<br>2           |
| k.             | Twitch<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020<br>July 8–July 21, 2019   | 6<br>5              | 92<br>93                    | 1<br>1           |

# ASK IF USES ANY SOCIAL MEDIAL SITES:

SOCIALNEWS

Do you REGULARLY get news or news headlines on any of the following social media sites or apps? By news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends or family. [ONLY SHOW ITEMS USED IN WEB1 (WEB1a-k=1); RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS WEB1]

| ВА | SED ON TOTAL                    | Yes,<br>regularly get<br>news on this | No, don't<br>regularly get<br>news on this | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| a. | Twitter<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 15                                    | 85   | *                   |
| b. | Instagram<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 11                                    | 88   | *                   |
| c. | Facebook<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 36                                    | 63   | *                   |
| d. | Snapchat<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 4                                     | 96   | *                   |
| e. | YouTube<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 23                                    | 76   | *                   |
| f. | LinkedIn<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 4                                     | 96   | *                   |
| g. | Reddit<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020    | 6                                     | 94   | *                   |
| h. | Tumblr<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020    | 1                                     | 99   | 0                   |

| SC | OCIALNEWS CONTINUED            | Yes,<br>regularly get<br>news on this | No, don't<br>regularly get<br>news on this | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| i. | WhatsApp<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 3                                     | 97   | *                   |
| j. | TikTok<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 3                                     | 97   | *                   |
| k. | Twitch<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 1                                     | 99   | *                   |

# ASK SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS CONSUMER (NEWSPLAT\_DIG\_b=2,3,4) [N=6,396]:

SNSSKEP Which of the following best describes how you approach news stories from social media sites, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]** 

I expect the news I see on social media will...

| TREND | FOR | COMP | ARISON:2 |
|-------|-----|------|----------|
|-------|-----|------|----------|

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                       | July 8–July 21 | July 30-Aug 12 |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                       | <u>2019</u>    | <u>2018</u>    |
| 39           | Largely be accurate   | 40             | 42             |
| 59           | Largely be inaccurate | 59             | 57             |
| 1            | No answer             | 1              | 1              |

# ASK SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS CONSUMER (NEWSPLAT\_DIG\_b=2,3,4) [N=6,396]:

SNSINFORM Overall, would you say news on social media has... [RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO RESPONSES]

# TREND FOR COMPARISON:1

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |   | Jul 8–July 21 | Jul 30-Aug 12 |
|--------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |   | <u>2019</u>   | <u>2018</u>   |
| 29           | Helped you better understand current events | 35            | 36            |
| 23           | Made you more confused about current events | 15            | 15            |
| 47           | Not made much of a difference               | 49            | 48            |
| 1            | No answer                                   | *             | 1             |

<sup>2</sup> July 2019 and August 2018 questions were filtered on a different measurement of social media news use. Respondents had to "get news from a social media site (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)" either "often," "sometimes" or "hardly ever."

**NEWSHEARD** 

Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following? [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; PLEASE ADD A LINE OF SPACE BETWEEN THE QUESTION STEM AND FIRST SUB-ITEM; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]

## **NO ITEMS a-o**

|    |   | A lot | <u>A little</u> | Nothing<br><u>at all</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|---|-------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| p. | How increased mail-in voting could affect the 2020 presidential election                            |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 64    | 30              | 6                        | *                   |
| q. | The Trump administration considering banning<br>the social media app TikTok<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 40    | 49              | 11                       | *                   |
| r. | Reports that Russia paid bounties to Afghan   |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | militants for killing U.S. troops Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 19    | 43              | 37                       | *                   |
| s. | The debate over whether professional and college sports should be played in the current environment |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 30    | 51              | 19                       | *                   |
| t. | Donald Trump's criticism of and his administration's actions towards the U.S. postal service        |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 49    | 39              | 12                       | *                   |
| u. | Attempts in Congress to pass another federal relief and stimulus bill                               |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 40    | 51              | 9                        | *                   |
| ٧. | On-going confrontations between law enforcement and protestors in cities around the country         |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 78    | 18              | 4                        | *                   |
| w. | Discussions of the extent of child abuse and trafficking in the U.S.                                |       |                 |                          |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 22    | 49              | 29                       | *                   |

**NEWSATTN** 

Thinking about some major events in the news, how much attention do you think news organizations are giving each of the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]

|    |  | Too much<br>attention | Too little | Right<br>amount of<br><u>attention</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--|-----------------------|------------|--|---------------------|
| a. | The 2020 presidential election<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 25                    | 17         | 58                                     | 1                   |
| b. | The coronavirus outbreak<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020       | 35                    | 18         | 46                                     | 1                   |
| c. | The protests over racial inequality and other issues |                       |            |  |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                   | 41                    | 23         | 36                                     | 1                   |

## ASK ALL:

COVIDFOL

How closely have you been following news about the outbreak of the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                    | Jun 4-10    | Apr 20-26   | Mar 19-24   | Mar 10-16   |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                    | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 35           | Very closely       | 39          | 46          | 57          | 51          |
| 46           | Fairly closely     | 46          | 42          | 35          | 38          |
| 14           | Not too closely    | 11          | 10          | 7           | 9           |
| 4            | Not at all closely | 3           | 2           | 1           | 2           |
| *            | No answer          | *           | *           | *           | *           |

## ASK ALL:

COVIDTRUMPFOL

How closely, if at all, have you been following what Donald Trump has been saying about the coronavirus outbreak?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                    | Jun 4-10    |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                    | <u>2020</u> |
| 22           | Very closely       | 29          |
| 35           | Fairly closely     | 41          |
| 31           | Not too closely    | 23          |
| 10           | Not at all closely | 6           |
| 3            | No answer          | 1           |

#### **ASK ALL:**

COVIDCOVER1 How well do you think the news media have covered the coronavirus outbreak?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                 | Jun 4-10    | Apr 20-26   | Mar 10-16   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                 | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 20           | Very well       | 28          | 27          | 30          |
| 44           | Somewhat well   | 43          | 42          | 40          |
| 22           | Not too well    | 17          | 18          | 17          |
| 12           | Not at all well | 10          | 11          | 11          |
| 2            | No answer       | 1           | 2           | 1           |

ASK ALL:

COVIDFACTS How often, if ever, do you think each of the following get the facts right when it comes to the coronavirus outbreak? [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]

|    |  | Almost all of the time | Most of the time | Some of the time | Hardly<br><u>ever</u> | Not<br><u>sure</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| a. | Donald Trump and his administration  | C                      | 21               | 20               | 20                    | 7                  | *                   |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 6                      | 21               | 28               | 38                    | 7                  | *                   |
|    | Jun 4-10, 2020   | 8                      | 21               | 29               | 36                    | 5                  | 4                   |
| b. | The news media in general  |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 8                      | 32               | 37               | 16                    | 6                  | *                   |
|    | Jun 4-10, 2020   | 9                      | 35               | 36               | 16                    | 5                  | *                   |
|    |  | _                      |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
| c. | The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and other public health organizations |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 18                     | 39               | 29               | 8                     | 6                  | *                   |
|    | Jun 4-10, 2020   | 22                     | 42               | 24               | 7                     | 5                  | *                   |
|    |  |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
| d. | Your governor and state government   |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 11                     | 35               | 33               | 15                    | 6                  | *                   |
|    | Jun 4-10, 2020   | 14                     | 39               | 30               | 11                    | 6                  | *                   |
|    |  |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
| e. | The local news media in your area  |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 10                     | 37               | 34               | 10                    | 9                  | *                   |
|    | Jun 4-10, 2020   | 10                     | 40               | 33               | 9                     | 7                  | *                   |
| f. | Friends, family and acquaintances  |                        |                  |                  |                       |                    |                     |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 4                      | 24               | 53               | 11                    | 8                  | *                   |

# **ASK ALL:**

COVIDTRUMPMSSG

From what you've seen or heard, do you generally think Donald Trump has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak? [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1]

Aug 31-Sep 7

| OT OCP ,    |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| <u>2020</u> |                          |
| 10          | Completely RIGHT message |
| 32          | Mostly RIGHT message     |
| 23          | Mostly WRONG message     |
| 34          | Completely WRONG message |
| 2           | No answer                |

ASK ALL:

COVIDTOPICA How closely are you following news and information about each of these topics related to the coronavirus outbreak? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]

| a. | The economic impact of the outbreak  | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Somewhat <u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br>closely | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 37                     | 44                      | 15                        | 4                     | *                   |
| No | item b   |                        |                         |                           |                       |                     |
| C. | The number of confirmed cases and deaths in the U.S. Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                        | 29                     | 39                      | 24                        | 8                     | *                   |
| No | items d-g  |                        |                         |                           |                       |                     |
| h. | Public health guidelines, such as social<br>distancing and wearing masks<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 45                     | 38                      | 12                        | 4                     | *                   |
| i. | The impact it may have on the presidential election Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                         | 27                     | 42                      | 23                        | 8                     | 1                   |
| j. | The quality and availability of testing and testing results Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                 | 21                     | 43                      | 28                        | 8                     | *                   |
| k. | Effects on different parts of the country<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                | 20                     | 45                      | 26                        | 8                     | *                   |
| 1. | The development of vaccines and treatments Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                  | 26                     | 42                      | 24                        | 7                     | *                   |
| m. | The impact on schools<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 41                     | 40                      | 15                        | 4                     | *                   |

COVIDNEWSCHNG

Thinking about how you get news now compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak in the U.S. around the middle of March...

Compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak, are you... [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER; SHOW EACH ITEM ON SEPARATE SCREEN; SHOW INTRO TEXT ON FIRST SCREEN, REPEAT STEM ON EACH FOLLOWING SCREEN]

## No items a-b

| Finding it HARDER to | Finding it EASIER to                                       |   |  |
|----------------------|--|---|--|
| understand what is   | understand what is   |   |  |
| happening with       | happening with   | No  | No   |
| the outbreak         | the outbreak   | <u>change</u>   | <u>answer</u>  |
| 29                   | 39   | 31  | 1  |
| 31                   | 35   | 33  | 1  |
|                      | understand what is<br>happening with<br>the outbreak<br>29 | understand what is happening with the outbreak 29 understand what is happening with the outbreak 39 | understand what is happening with happening with the outbreak 29 39 31 |

#### No item d

| e.                 | Finding it HARDER to    | Finding it EASIER to    |               |               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                    | identify what is true   | identify what is true   |               |               |
|                    | and what is false about | and what is false about | No            | No            |
|                    | the outbreak            | the outbreak            | <u>change</u> | <u>answer</u> |
| Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 38                      | 36                      | 26            | *             |
| Jun 4-10, 2020     | 38                      | 30                      | 31            | 1             |

# **ASK ALL:**

COVIDAVOID Which of the following statements best describes you? [RANDOMIZE]

| Aug | 31-Sep | 7 |
|-----|--------|---|
|     | 2020   |   |

31 I try to tune out news about the coronavirus outbreak
68 I try to stay tuned in to news about the coronavirus outbreak

1 No answer

## **ASK ALL:**

COVIDDEAL All in all, do you think that the coronavirus outbreak has been... [RANDOMIZE ANSWER CHOICE 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK ANSWER CHOICE 3 LAST]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                                       | Jun 4-10    | Apr 20-26   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                                       | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 39           | Made a BIGGER deal than it really is  | 38          | 29          |
| 26           | Made a SMALLER deal than it really is | 21          | 27          |
| 33           | Approached about right                | 40          | 42          |
| 2            | No answer                             | 1           | 1           |

COVIDCONTROL Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |  |
|--------------|--|
| <u>2020</u>  |  |
| 37           | The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as  |
|              | much as it could have                    |
|              | The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak |
| 61           | as much as it could have                 |
| 2            | No answer                                |

## **ASK ALL:**

KNOWCOVIDELECT

Regardless of whether you think it should be done or not, does the president have the authority to delay the elections this November because of the coronavirus outbreak?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                                       |
| 10           | Yes, the president has this authority |
|              | No, the president does not have this  |
| 66           | authority (correct)                   |
| 24           | Not sure                              |
| 1            | No answer                             |

#### ASK ALL:

KNOWCOVIDYOUNG

From what you've seen and heard in the news, overall, how susceptible do you think people under 18 are to becoming infected with the coronavirus? [RANDOMIZE 1-3 AND 3-1]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                                  |
| 9            | Far more susceptible than adults |
| 50           | About as susceptible as adults   |
| 29           | Far less susceptible than adults |
| 11           | Not sure                         |
| *            | No answer                        |

On a different topic...

## **ASK ALL:**

On a different topic...

CAMPNII How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

|                                 | Very           | Fairly         | Not too | Not at all     | No            |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------------|
|                                 | <u>closely</u> | <u>closely</u> | closely | <u>closely</u> | <u>answer</u> |
| 2020 election                   |                |                |         |                |               |
| Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020              | 30             | 35             | 23      | 11             | *             |
| Jun 4-10, 2020                  | 21             | 23             | 29      | 17             | 1             |
| Apr 20-26, 2020                 | 19             | 33             | 31      | 16             | *             |
| Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020              | 23             | 37             | 29      | 12             | *             |
| July 22-Aug 4, 2019             | 15             | 37             | 34      | 14             | *             |
| 2016 election                   |                |                |         |                |               |
| Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016 <sup>3</sup> | 41             | 37             | 16      | 6              | *             |
| Sept 27-Oct 10, 2016            | 35             | 40             | 18      | 7              | *             |
| June 7-July 5, 2016             | 35             | 43             | 18      | 4              | *             |

#### **ASK ALL:**

CAMPCOVER1 How well do you think the news media have covered the 2020 presidential election?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                 |
| 12           | Very well       |
| 46           | Somewhat well   |
| 27           | Not too well    |
| 14           | Not at all well |
| 2            | No answer       |

# ASK ALL:

CAMP20MISINFO

How much, if any, news and information have you seen or heard about the 2020 presidential election that seemed completely made up?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |             |
| 25           | A lot       |
| 44           | Some        |
| 22           | Not much    |
| 7            | None at all |
| 2            | No answer   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In surveys conducted in 2016, question asked about 2016 presidential election.

INFOCREATE2 How much, if any, made-up news and information about the 2020 presidential election do you think is created by each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]** 

|    |  | <u>A lot</u> | <u>Some</u> | Not<br><u>much</u> | <u>None</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| a. | Journalists<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                        | 29           | 36          | 26                 | 7           | 2                   |
| b. | Political leaders and their staff<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020  | 45           | 41          | 8                  | 4           | 2                   |
| c. | Members of the public<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020              | 25           | 49          | 19                 | 5           | 2                   |
| d. | Foreign governments or individuals<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 21           | 45          | 25                 | 7           | 2                   |
| e. | Activist groups<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                    | 44           | 37          | 13                 | 5           | 2                   |

## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM

## **ASK ALL:**

CAMP20CONVENREP How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the REPUBLICAN national convention?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                    |
| 12           | Very closely       |
| 24           | Fairly closely     |
| 33           | Not too closely    |
| 30           | Not at all closely |

No answer

## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM

# **ASK ALL:**

\*

CAMP20CONVENDEM How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the DEMOCRATIC national convention?

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                    |
| 13           | Very closely       |
| 24           | Fairly closely     |
| 32           | Not too closely    |
| 30           | Not at all closely |
| *            | No answer          |

DEMVPIDEO Please indicate how you would describe Kamala Harris' political views. [ROTATE DISPLAY OF OPTIONS 1-7 AND 7-1; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 8 LAST]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                       |
| 25           | Very liberal          |
| 18           | Mostly liberal        |
| 11           | Slightly liberal      |
| 13           | Moderate              |
| 3            | Slightly conservative |
| 2            | Mostly conservative   |
| 1            | Very conservative     |
| 25           | Not sure              |
| *            | No answer             |

#### **ASK ALL:**

KNOWHARRIS1 Do you happen to know what position Kamala Harris held in California before she was a senator? [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 5 LAST]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                            |
| 1            | Lieutenant Governor        |
| 52           | Attorney General (correct) |
| 5            | U.S. House Representative  |
| 2            | Mayor of San Francisco     |
| 39           | Not sure                   |
| 1            | No answer                  |

# **ASK ALL:**

KNOWBIDENPOL As far as you know, has Joe Biden publicly voiced his support for defunding police departments?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020
27 Yes, has voiced support
35 No, has not voiced support (correct)
37 Not sure
1 No answer

KNOWMAILELECT As far as you know, have any U.S. states ever conducted voting in a presidential election entirely by mail?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020
24 Yes, states have done this (correct)
34 No, states have not done this
41 Not sure
1 No answer

#### **ASK ALL:**

KNOWMAILFRAUD As far as you know, how big of a problem has voter fraud been when it comes to voting by mail in U.S. presidential elections?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020
25 Major problem
27 Minor problem
27 Not a problem at all
20 Not sure
1 No answer

#### **ASK ALL:**

NEWS\_MOST What is the most common way you get political and election news? [RANDOMIZE; OMIT RESPONSE OPTIONS 6 AND 7 FOR RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=1)]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                              | Oct 29-Nov 11 |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                              | <u>2019</u>   |
| 3            | Print newspaper or magazines | 3             |
| 6            | Radio                        | 8             |
| 15           | Local television             | 16            |
| 14           | National network television  | 13            |
| 15           | Cable television             | 16            |
| 17           | Social media                 | 18            |
| 28           | News website or app          | 25            |
| 2            | No answer                    | 14            |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In Nov. 2019, 10 respondents were shown and selected options that they should not have received due to a programming error. For this question, those 10 responses are coded as "No answer".

ASK ALL:

CAMP20NEWS Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]

|    |  | Major<br><u>source</u> | Minor<br><u>source</u> | Not a<br><u>source</u> | No<br><u>answer</u> |
|----|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| a. | Fox News Cable Channel<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020               | 21                     | 28                     | 50                     | 1                   |
| b. | CNN<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                  | 20                     | 34                     | 46                     | 1                   |
| c. | MSNBC<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                | 13                     | 28                     | 58                     | 1                   |
| d. | ABC, CBS, or NBC national network TV<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 32                     | 37                     | 31                     | 1                   |
| e. | NPR<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                                  | 15                     | 22                     | 62                     | 2                   |
| f. | The New York Times Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                      | 14                     | 28                     | 57                     | 1                   |
| g. | Washington Post<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020                      | 11                     | 28                     | 60                     | 1                   |
| h. | Talk radio, such as Sean Hannity or<br>Rush Limbaugh       | 10                     | 17                     | 72                     | 1                   |
|    | Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020   | 10                     | 1/                     | 12                     | T                   |

CAMPAIGNNEWS Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]** 

|    |   | Major         | Minor         | Not a         | No            |
|----|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|    |   | <u>source</u> | <u>source</u> | <u>source</u> | <u>answer</u> |
| a. | The Donald Trump campaign<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020 | 15            | 24            | 60            | 1             |
| b. | The Joe Biden campaign<br>Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020    | 13            | 27            | 59            | 1             |

On a different topic...

#### **ASK ALL:**

QAHRD How much, if anything, have you heard or read about QAnon? 5

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                | Feb 18-Mar 2 |  |  |  |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| <u>2020</u>  |                | <u>2020</u>  |  |  |  |
| 9            | A lot          | 3            |  |  |  |
| 38           | A little       | 20           |  |  |  |
| 53           | Nothing at all | 76           |  |  |  |
| *            | No answer      | 2            |  |  |  |

## **ASK IF HEARD (QAHRD=1,2) [N=5,408]:**

QAOE In your own words, what is QAnon?

## [OPEN-END RESPONSES NOT SHOWN]

# ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2) [N=5,408]:

QATHREAT Do you think QAnon is a... [RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-4 OR 4-1]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                                     |
| 57           | Very bad thing for the country      |
| 17           | Somewhat bad thing for the country  |
| 16           | Somewhat good thing for the country |
| 4            | Very good thing for the country     |
| 6            | No answer                           |
|              |                                     |

## ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2) [N=5,408]:

QATRUMP From what you've heard or read, to what extent, if at all, does Donald Trump support people who promote the QAnon theories? [RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO ITEMS]

| Aug 31-Sep 7 |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| <u>2020</u>  |                       |
| 60           | Seems to support them |
| 7            | Seems to oppose them  |
| 11           | Neither               |
| 21           | Not sure              |
| 1            | No answer             |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The same American Trends Panel members were sampled for the March survey and the current survey. This raises the possibility that some of the increase in QAnon awareness is attributable to re-asking the same people. Several studies have found significant effects from this measurement issue (known as panel conditioning) on knowledge questions. While this study provides strong support for a real increase in Americans' awareness of QAnon, these data offer only a rough approximation for the exact size of that increase due to this limitation. Studies have found little to no conditioning effects on survey questions unrelated to knowledge about particular topics.

Before we finish the survey, we're interested in getting a deeper understanding of how people have been experiencing the coronavirus outbreak, and how it might have impacted them in both negative and positive ways. Please take a moment to reflect on how the outbreak has affected your own life, and then answer the next two questions in as much detail as you can.

# RANDOMIZE ORDER OF COVIDDIFF\_OE AND COVIDPOS\_OE

COVIDDIFF\_OE Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, in what ways, if any, have things been difficult or challenging for you personally?

#### **OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

COVIDPOS\_OE Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, what, if anything, have been some positive aspects of the situation for you personally?

## **OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

## **ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

# ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>6</sup>

|            |                 |                    | Something   | No            | Lean       | Lean       |  |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|--|
| Republican | <b>Democrat</b> | <u>Independent</u> | <u>else</u> | <u>answer</u> | <u>Rep</u> | <u>Dem</u> |  |
| 27         | 30              | 28                 | 13          | 1             | 17         | 21         |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.