2020 COVID-19 Poll of African American Voters

Polling By

African American Research Collaborative
Understanding and Communicating Black Political Action

In Collaboration With

Equity Research and Innovation Center
Yale School of Medicine

NAACP

Slides by: Ray Block Jr.

May 19, 2020

www.AfricanAmericanResearch.us
About the AARC COVID-19 Poll

- n=604, national sample, all African American
- 75% online, 25% live phones (to ensure that people without internet access were interviewed)
- Field Dates: May 1 to May 7, 2020
- Margin of Error: +/- 3.9
Experts Who Developed Questions

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Overview

- Prevalence/Importance of COVID-19
- Economic Impacts
- Perception of Government/Institutions/Politician Response
- COVID-19, Trust & Race
- Medical/Wellness
- Implications for Education
- Voting/Elections
Prevalence/Importance of COVID-19
How closely have you been following the news about Coronavirus, also called COVID-19, an infectious virus that is affecting the U.S. and other countries around the world?

Following very closely, 62%
Following somewhat closely, 30%
Not following that closely, 5%
Not really following at all, 3%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
When you think about Coronavirus/COVID-19, what one or two words come to mind?

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Economic Impacts
COVID-19 Era Economic Circumstances

For each of the following, please indicate whether any of the circumstances apply to you or someone in your household because of the recent COVID-19 outbreak:

- Is working from home: 41%
- Wants to stay home to work but can't: 39%
- Lost job or had a cut in hours: 36%
- Did not have enough food or grocery money: 31%
- Required to leave your home to work: 30%
- Have trouble paying rent / mortgage: 28%
- Applied for unemployment but haven't got it yet: 24%
- Additional family members have moved into home: 19%
- Works in a "gig economy" job (Uber, Lyft, etc.): 17%
- Lost health insurance through an employer: 15%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Some people say that, "It is time to end the shutdown and reopen businesses now so people can get back to work," while others say, "We should hold off on reopening businesses until we can assure safety." Which is closer to your opinion?

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Perceptions of Government/Institutions/Politician Response
Perceived Responsiveness to the Outbreak

How would you rate the job that each of the following have done in responding to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 crisis:

[Positive rating = excellent + good]

[Negative rating = fair + poor]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Perceived Responsiveness to the Outbreak - Governor Ratings

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
COVID-19, Trust & Race
**Trusted Messengers**

[On a 10-point scale], how much do you trust different spokespeople and groups to provide honest and factual information about the COVID-19 pandemic to the African American community?

[Bars = average trust ratings]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
There have been protest(s) calling for governors to reopen businesses immediately. The people at these rallies have often not stayed 6 feet apart from each other and have not worn masks. Despite this, they have not been arrested. Do you believe these protesters have been allowed to break the rules because most of the protesters are White people? Or, is race not a factor in how protestors are treated by law enforcement.

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Do you trust police to fairly and equally enforce rules about social distancing and wearing masks?

- **Yes**: 40%
- **No**: 58%
- **Don't know**: 2%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Do you believe that Donald Trump pushed for reopening businesses once he learned that Black people were dying at a higher rate than White people?

- Yes: 59%
- No: 51%
- Don’t Know: 7%

Has a friend or family member who died of COVID-19

- Yes: 52%
- No: 43%
- All: 6%

Does not have a friend or family member who died

- Yes: 42%
- No: 43%
- All: 6%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Because of his failure to protect the country from Coronavirus/COVID-19 and his lack of concern with how the virus is affecting African American people, Donald Trump is the single most dangerous threat to African American people.

[Total Agree = strongly + mostly agree]

[Total Disagree = strongly + mostly disagree]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
When thinking about President Donald Trump’s handling of Coronavirus/COVID-19, what one or two words come to mind?

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Experiences with COVID-19

Do you have friends or family members who have:
Gotten sick with Coronavirus/COVID-19?
Yes, 23%
No, 77%

Do you have friends or family members who have:
Died because of Coronavirus/COVID-19?
Yes, 15%
No, 85%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Taking Safety Precautions

How often do you follow these recommendations regarding protecting yourself and others from COVID-19:

- Frequently wash your hands for at least 20 seconds: 72% Always, 21% Most of the time, 4% Not very often, 4% Never, 9% Don't know
- Stay at least six feet away from others when in public: 67% Always, 23% Most of the time, 5% Not very often, 10% Never, 8% Don't know
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands: 55% Always, 31% Most of the time, 4% Not very often, 4% Never, 4% Don't know
- Wear a mask when outside and could come into contact with others: 65% Always, 18% Most of the time, 4% Not very often, 10% Never, 8% Don't know

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Do you feel safe wearing a mask in public for instance in a store, or are you concerned that Black people wearing masks may be misinterpreted as a threat, putting you at risk?

[Bars sorted by age group]

Yes, I feel safe wearing a mask in public
- Age 18 thru 34: 76%
- Ages 35 thru 49: 84%
- Ages 50 thru 64: 84%
- 65 and Older: 74%

No, I do not feel safe wearing a mask in public
- Age 18 thru 34: 24%
- Ages 35 thru 49: 26%
- Ages 50 thru 64: 15%
- 65 and Older: 12%

Don't know
- Age 18 thru 34: 0%
- Ages 35 thru 49: 1%
- Ages 50 thru 64: 1%
- 65 and Older: 4%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Confidence in Managing COVID-19

For each of the following, are you very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident or not at all confident that you know...

- The symptoms of Coronavirus/COVID-19
  - Very: 45%
  - Somewhat: 39%
  - Not Very: 10%
  - Not At All: 5%
  - Don't Know: 1%

- How to keep yourself and your family safe from Coronavirus/COVID-19
  - Very: 56%
  - Somewhat: 35%
  - Not Very: 6%
  - Not At All: 2%
  - Don't Know: 1%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Do you believe that you are experiencing anxiety, depression or have any other mental health concerns as a result of fear of catching COVID-19 or from changes in your life due to COVID-19?

Yes, 38%

No, 62%

Don’t Know, 1%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
For each of the following statements, indicate whether you [agree]...

[Total agree = somewhat + strongly agree]
[Total disagree = somewhat + strongly agree]

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Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Implications for Education
When it comes to dealing with working from home and/or kids schooling from home, which of the following are true for you and/or the people in your household:

- We have high speed internet access in our home: 69% Yes, 15% No, 16% Does Not Apply
- We don't have enough laptops/computers for everyone: 23% Yes, 30% No, 47% Does Not Apply
- Online school makes it hard to communicate with teachers: 24% Yes, 27% No, 49% Does Not Apply
- It is difficult to help kids in my household with online schooling: 20% Yes, 28% No, 52% Does Not Apply
- I worry that my children are not learning enough and that they might fall behind: 26% Yes, 22% No, 52% Does Not Apply

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Voting/Elections
Enthusiasm about Voting

Are you MORE enthusiastic about voting in 2016, or were you more enthusiastic about voting in 2012? (From our October 25 to November 2, 2016 poll) - Registered Voters

- More Enthusiastic Now: 54%
- More Enthusiastic Back Then: 20%

Are you MORE enthusiastic about voting in 2020, or were you more enthusiastic about voting in 2016? - Registered Voters

- More Enthusiastic Now: 48%
- More Enthusiastic Back Then: 19%

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Certainty of Voting

Thinking ahead to the November 2020 Presidential election, what would you say the chances are that you will vote in the presidential election and for Congress?

[Results for registered voters only]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you vote for...

[Results also include “leaning” vote choices]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
Thinking about COVID-19, it is possible that some people may feel they are less likely to vote because of concerns about staying safe when going to their polling place, while other people may feel that they are more likely to vote to ensure people are elected who will effectively address COVID-19. Does COVID-19 make it...
Thinking about COVID-19, it is possible that some people may feel they are less likely to vote because of concerns about staying safe when going to their polling place, while other people may feel that they are more likely to vote to ensure people are elected who will effectively address COVID-19. Does COVID-19 make it...

[Note: Vertical Axis runs from 0% to 70%]

Source: AARC COVID-19 Poll, n=604 (all African Americans), in field 5/1/20 to 5/7/20
When considering the impact of COVID-19 on people's ability to vote, which of the following government policies would you support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Yes, Support</th>
<th>No, Don't Support</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vote by mail</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absentee ballots for registered voters</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same day voter registration</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making election day a holiday</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Presenters

- **Derrick Johnson**, President & CEO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- **Marcella Nunez-Smith**, Director, Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) & Associate Professor, Yale School of Medicine
- **Tracey Meares**, Founding Director, The Justice Collaboratory & Walton Hale Hamilton Professor, Yale Law School
- **Henry Fernandez**, Principal, African American Research Collaborative (AARC)
- **Ray Block Jr.**, Senior Advisor, AARC & Associate Professor, Political Science & African American Studies, Penn State University