



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

As pandemic drags on, relationships are getting more serious COVID-19 deepening some relationships, widespread “pandemic separations” unlikely

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, August 4, 2020 – A new Ipsos poll shows that most unmarried, but partnered, people say their relationship has gotten more serious since the coronavirus pandemic began. This number has risen nearly 30 percentage points from late May. At the same time, very few married or partnered people say they are likely to separate at least in part because of issues brought on by the pandemic.

Detailed Findings

1. Seven in ten (71%) people in relationships (not married) say their relationship has gotten more serious since the pandemic began. In late May, just 43% said the same.
2. At the same time, married or partnered people are no more likely to be annoyed, or fighting, with their partner than they were in May.
 - Thirty percent say they feel annoyed with their partner/spouse more than normal, statistically unchanged from late May (27%).
 - One in five (22%) are fighting more than normal with their partner/spouse (20% in May).
3. Few say they are likely to split from their partner because of the pandemic. However, among all Americans, more than a quarter know a couple who is likely to break up when the pandemic ends.
 - Twenty-seven percent report knowing someone likely to break up, separate, or divorce when the coronavirus pandemic ends. This is up from 18% in May.
 - Nearly one in ten (9%) married or partnered people say they are personally likely to separate from their partner/spouse at least in part because of issues related to the pandemic.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 30-31, 2020. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire.



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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. **[If single, widowed, or divorced/separated]** Are you currently in a relationship?
%

	July 30-31,2020 (N=447)
Yes	29%
No	71%

2. **[If unmarried but in a relationship (Q1=Yes)]** Do you and your partner live together?

	July 30-31,2020 (N=105)
Yes	32%
No	68%

3. **[If in a relationship (Q1=Yes), married, or in a domestic partnership]** How long have you and your partner/spouse been together?

	July 30-31,2020 (N=663)
Less than six months	3%
6 months - under a year	4%
1 year - under 3 years	11%
3 years - under 5 years	8%
5 years - under 10 years	16%
10 years - under 20 years	20%
20+ years	39%



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4. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following.

Total Agree Summary

	July 30-31, 2020	May 26-27, 2020
[If unmarried but in a relationship] My relationship has gotten more serious since the coronavirus pandemic began	71%	43%
I know a couple who is likely to break up, separate, or divorce when the coronavirus pandemic ends	27%	18%

a. **[If unmarried but in a relationship (Q1=Yes)]** My relationship has gotten more serious since the coronavirus pandemic began

	July 30-31,2020 (N=105)	May 26-27, 2020 (N=109)
Strongly agree	28%	11%
Somewhat agree	43%	32%
Somewhat disagree	17%	23%
Strongly disagree	6%	16%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	6%	17%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	71%	43%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	23%	40%

b. I know a couple who is likely to break up, separate, or divorce when the coronavirus pandemic ends

	July 30-31,2020 (N=1,005)	May 26-27, 2020 (N=1,004)
Strongly agree	9%	7%
Somewhat agree	17%	11%
Somewhat disagree	15%	15%
Strongly disagree	40%	39%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	18%	28%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	27%	18%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	55%	54%





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5. **[If in a relationship (Q1=Yes), married, or in a domestic partnership]** Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Total Agree Summary

	July 30-31,2020 (N=663)	May 26-27, 2020 (N=648)
I feel annoyed with my partner/spouse more than normal.	30%	27%
My partner/spouse and I are fighting more than we normally do.	22%	20%

- a. My partner/spouse and I are fighting more than we normally do.

	July 30-31, 2020	May 26-27, 2020
Strongly agree	7%	4%
Somewhat agree	15%	16%
Somewhat disagree	25%	21%
Strongly disagree	51%	54%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	2%	5%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	22%	20%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	76%	76%

- b. I feel annoyed with my partner/spouse more than normal.

	July 30-31, 2020	May 26-27, 2020
Strongly agree	7%	6%
Somewhat agree	23%	21%
Somewhat disagree	25%	28%
Strongly disagree	42%	40%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	2%	5%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	30%	27%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	67%	68%

6. **[If in a relationship (Q1=Yes), married, or in a domestic partnership]** How likely are you and your partner/spouse to separate at least in part because of issues related to the coronavirus pandemic?

	July 30-31,2020 (N=663)
Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	4%
Not very likely	14%
Not at all likely	74%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	2%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	9%
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	88%



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7. Generally speaking, how concerned, if at all, are you about the coronavirus pandemic?

	July 30-31, 2020
Very concerned	44%
Somewhat concerned	35%
Not very concerned	11%
Not at all concerned	8%
Don't know/Prefer not to say	1%
<i>Concerned (Net)</i>	80%
<i>Not concerned (Net)</i>	19%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 30-31, 2020. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. This poll is trended against a BuzzFeed/Ipsos poll conducted between May 26-27, 2020, with a sample of 1,004 U.S. adults.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ($n=1,005$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 5.0 percentage points).

The poll fielded from May 26-27, 2020, has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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