

Most Americans support single, national strategy to combat COVID-19

New NPR/Ipsos poll: Majority see the U.S. doing worse than the rest of the world, support stronger government role

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, August 4, 2020 – As the death toll around COVID-19 continues to climb, a new NPR/Ipsos poll shows that a strong majority of Americans favor a single, national strategy to combat the virus. Most Americans also support bold government action to slow the spread of the virus, from a topdown strategy on when to reopen businesses and schools, to laws requiring masks in public, and expanding COVID-19 testing, free of charge. Furthermore, nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the federal government should take on more debt to provide Americans with another economic stimulus check and extend federal unemployment benefits.

Detailed Findings

- 1. Americans want the federal government to take widespread action on COVID-19. There is broad, bipartisan support for a number of proposals aimed to limit the spread of COVID-19.
 - Two-thirds of Americans believe our country is handling the pandemic worse than other countries (65%) and favor a single, national strategy for combatting the virus' spread (67%).
 - Strong majorities are in favor of government funding to expand COVID-19 testing and make it free of charge (85%), federal funding to manufacture protective equipment and make a COVID-19 vaccine available to all Americans (83% each), enacting state laws to require mask wearing in public at all times (76%), and a single, national strategy for when businesses (62%) and schools (60%) can reopen. All of these proposals are supported by half or more of both Republicans and Democrats.
 - Most Americans support a mandatory, nationwide two-week shelter-at-home order (59%), and the same number believe the government should take on more debt to provide Americans with a stipend so they can do this.
- 2. As Congress debates the next stimulus package, most support action continue these programs.
 - Two-thirds (65%) say the federal government should take on more debt to pass another economic stimulus bill that provides a payment for all Americans. A similar number (63%) want federal unemployment benefits extended, even if it means more government debt.
 - Though support for these proposals is higher among Democrats, a majority of Republicans (52%) are in favor of passing another economic stimulus bill. Republicans are evenly divided on the extension of federal unemployment benefits, if it results in more debt.
- 3. Most Americans want to see immigration to the U.S. restricted during the coronavirus pandemic. However, there are significant partisan differences here.
 - During the pandemic, most want the government to prevent legal immigrants from bringing their family here (60%), and to ban the entry of both foreign guest workers and asylum seekers (58% each).
 - Support for these proposals is primarily driven by members on one side of the aisle. These three proposals are all supported by around three-quarters, or more, of Republicans (73-75%), compared to fewer than half of Democrats (47-48%).

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- The one proposal which garners bipartisan support is temporarily closing the U.S. border, except for essential travel. Seventy-eight percent say the federal government should do this, including 83% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats.
- Overall, though, there remains fundamental support for some immigration-friendly policies, including giving legal status to undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children (59%) and providing a federal stimulus check to undocumented immigrants who pay U.S. taxes (49%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 30-31,2020 on behalf of NPR. For this survey, a sample of 1,115 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 3.3 percentage points for all respondents.

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





Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying? (Select up to three)

	July 30-31, 2020 (N=1,115)	June 19-20, 2018 (N=1,071)
COVID-19/coronavirus	46%	-
Healthcare	25%	37%
Political extremism or polarization	24%	22%
Racial injustice	22%	-
Crime or gun violence	21%	33%
Climate change	18%	18%
Unemployment	17%	12%
Government budget and debt	17%	16%
Terrorism	14%	29%
Social inequality	13%	16%
Taxes	12%	16%
Immigration	11%	25%
Education	11%	12%
Opioid or drug addiction	7%	-
Natural disasters	6%	11%
Foreign conflicts	5%	8%
Nuclear conflict	4%	12%
Other	4%	5%
None of these	3%	3%





2. In your opinion, how much responsibility should each of the following have in containing COVID-19 across the country?

Total A lot/Some Summary

	July 30-31, 2020
Individuals	88%
Your state government	85%
Public health organizations (CDC, WHO, etc.)	85%
The federal government	83%

a. Individuals

	July 30-31, 2020
A lot	68%
Some	20%
A little	8%
None at all	1%
Don't know	2%
A lot/Some (Net)	88%
A little/None at all (Net)	10%

b. Your state government

	July 30-31, 2020
A lot	56%
Some	29%
A little	9%
None at all	3%
Don't know	3%
A lot/Some (Net)	85%
A little/None at all (Net)	12%

c. The federal government

	July 30-31, 2020
A lot	58%
Some	25%
A little	11%
None at all	4%
Don't know	2%
A lot/Some (Net)	83%
A little/None at all (Net)	15%





	July 30-31, 2020
A lot	60%
Some	26%
A little	8%
None at all	4%
Don't know	3%
A lot/Some (Net)	85%
A little/None at all (Net)	12%

d. Public health organizations (CDC, WHO, etc.)

3. As best you know, is the United States managing the COVID-19 pandemic better or worse than other countries?

	July 30-31, 2020
Much better	7%
Somewhat better	18%
Somewhat worse	25%
Much worse	41%
Don't know	9%
Better (Net)	25%
Worse (Net)	65%

4. To what extent do you support or oppose having a single, national strategy for combatting the spread of COVID-19?

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	37%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	11%
Support (Net)	67%
Oppose (Net)	22%





5. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of the following proposals to limit the spread of COVID-19

	July 30-31, 2020
Government funding to expand COVID-19 testing and make it free of charge	85%
Federal funding for the manufacture of protective equipment and testing supplies	83%
Once a vaccine is available, federal funding to make it available to all Americans	83%
State law to require mask wearing in public at all times	76%
A single, national strategy for when businesses can reopen	62%
A single, national strategy for when schools can reopen	60%
A mandatory, nationwide 2-week shelter-at-home order	59%
Your state temporarily closing down all restaurants and non-essential businesses	59%
A temporary ban on all travel between states	55%

Total Support Summary

a. A single, national strategy for when businesses can reopen

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't know	5%
Support (Net)	62%
Oppose (Net)	33%

b. A single, national strategy for when schools can reopen

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	35%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	13%
Don't know	7%
Support (Net)	60%
Oppose (Net)	33%

c. A mandatory, nationwide 2-week shelter-at-home order

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	16%
Don't know	5%
Support (Net)	59%
Oppose (Net)	36%





d. Federal funding for the manufacture of protective equipment and testing supplies

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	33%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	4%
Don't know	5%
Support (Net)	83%
Oppose (Net)	12%

e. Once a vaccine is available, federal funding to make it available to all Americans

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	65%
Somewhat support	18%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	5%
Don't know	5%
Support (Net)	83%
Oppose (Net)	12%

f. Government funding to expand COVID-19 testing and make it free of charge

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	59%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	4%
Don't know	5%
Support (Net)	85%
Oppose (Net)	10%

g. Your state temporarily closing down all restaurants and non-essential businesses

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	34%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	17%
Don't know	4%
Support (Net)	59%
Oppose (Net)	37%





	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	24%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don't know	6%
Support (Net)	55%
Oppose (Net)	39%

h. A temporary ban on all travel between states

i. State law to require mask wearing in public at all times

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	54%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't know	3%
Support (Net)	76%
Oppose (Net)	21%

6. Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? Given everything we know now, would you prefer that fall classes for schools in your area be...

	July 30-31, 2020
Primarily remote, distance learning	66%
Primarily in person, in the classroom	34%

7. Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

	July 30-31, 2020
Whenever possible, people should be allowed to work from home until there's an available coronavirus vaccine	69%
People should return to offices and workplaces now, with safety precautions in place for employees	31%





8. Should the federal government take on more debt to do each of the following?

Total Yes Summary

	July 30-31, 2020
Provide overtime reimbursements for healthcare workers and other essential workers	75%
Provide emergency paid leave for workers affected by the outbreak	71%
Pass another economic stimulus bill that provides a stimulus check for all Americans	65%
Extend federal unemployment benefits	63%
Provide Americans with a stipend that allows them to completely quarantine for two weeks	59%
Provide federal funding to schools that are able to reopen for in-person instruction	57%

a. Provide emergency paid leave for workers affected by the outbreak

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	71%
No	16%
Don't know	13%

b. Extend federal unemployment benefits

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	63%
No	26%
Don't know	11%

c. Provide Americans with a stipend that allows them to completely quarantine for two weeks

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	59%
No	25%
Don't know	16%

d. Provide overtime reimbursements for healthcare workers and other essential workers

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	75%
No	15%
Don't know	9%

e. Pass another economic stimulus bill that provides a stimulus check for all Americans

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	65%
No	22%
Don't know	13%





f. Provide federal funding to schools that are able to reopen for in-person instruction

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	57%
No	26%
Don't know	17%

9. Should the federal government restrict immigration to the U.S. during the coronavirus pandemic by doing each of the following?

Total Yes Summary

	July 30-31, 2020
Temporarily closing the U.S. border, except for essential travel	78%
Preventing legal immigrants from bringing their extended family members to the U.S.	60%
Banning the entry of foreign guest workers and seasonal workers into the U.S.	58%
Banning the entry of asylum seekers and refugees into the U.S.	58%

a. Preventing legal immigrants from bringing their extended family members to the U.S.

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	60%
No	25%
Don't know	15%

b. Banning the entry of foreign guest workers and seasonal workers into the U.S.

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	58%
No	27%
Don't know	15%

c. Banning the entry of asylum seekers and refugees into the U.S.

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	58%
No	27%
Don't know	14%

d. Temporarily closing the U.S. border, except for essential travel

	July 30-31, 2020
Yes	78%
No	14%
Don't know	9%





10. Do you support or oppose each of the following immigration-related proposals?

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Giving legal status to undocumented or illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children	59%	60%
Providing a federal stimulus check to undocumented immigrants who pay U.S. taxes	49%	-
Ending the ability of legal immigrants to bring their extended family members to the U.S.	45%	42%
Building a wall or fence along the entire U.S./Mexico border	43%	40%
Ending the Diversity Visa Lottery system, which is aimed at bringing in immigrants from nations that are under-represented here	36%	39%
Denying asylum to most victims of domestic abuse or gang violence	28%	25%

Total Support Summarv

a. Giving legal status to undocumented or illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly support	32%	33%
Somewhat support	27%	27%
Somewhat oppose	14%	15%
Strongly oppose	17%	18%
Don't know	10%	7%
Support (Net)	59%	60%
Oppose (Net)	31%	33%

b. Building a wall or fence along the entire U.S./Mexico border

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly support	27%	24%
Somewhat support	16%	16%
Somewhat oppose	12%	13%
Strongly oppose	39%	40%
Don't know	6%	7%
Support (Net)	43%	40%
Oppose (Net)	50%	53%





c. Ending the Diversity Visa Lottery system, which is aimed at bringing in immigrants from nations that are under-represented here

	huby 20.24, 2020	June 19-20,
	July 30-31, 2020	2018
Strongly support	21%	22%
Somewhat support	16%	17%
Somewhat oppose	23%	22%
Strongly oppose	18%	22%
Don't know	23%	16%
Support (Net)	36%	39%
Oppose (Net)	41%	45%

d. Ending the ability of legal immigrants to bring their extended family members to the U.S.

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly support	23%	20%
Somewhat support	22%	21%
Somewhat oppose	22%	25%
Strongly oppose	20%	27%
Don't know	13%	7%
Support (Net)	45%	42%
Oppose (Net)	42%	52%

e. Denying asylum to most victims of domestic abuse or gang violence

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly support	15%	12%
Somewhat support	13%	13%
Somewhat oppose	24%	26%
Strongly oppose	33%	38%
Don't know	15%	11%
Support (Net)	28%	25%
Oppose (Net)	57%	64%

f.	Providing a federa	I stimulus check to undocume	nted immigrants who pay U.S. taxes
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	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	29%
Don't know	8%
Support (Net)	49%
Oppose (Net)	43%

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11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Immigrants are an important part of our American identity	71%	69%
When jobs are scarce, employers should prioritize hiring people of this country over immigrants	52%	57%
America has a moral obligation to accept refugees facing persecution	49%	46%
There are enough immigrants in America already, and our government needs to pause further immigration	37%	-
Most immigrants to the United States do not easily assimilate into American society	36%	33%
The U.S. should give priority to immigrants who speak English	34%	37%

Total Agree Summary

a. Immigrants are an important part of our American identity

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly agree	37%	42%
Somewhat agree	34%	27%
Neither agree nor disagree	17%	16%
Somewhat disagree	4%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%
Don't know	3%	3%
Agree (Net)	71%	69%
Disagree (Net)	9%	12%

b. When jobs are scarce, employers should prioritize hiring people of this country over immigrants

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly agree	31%	34%
Somewhat agree	21%	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	27%
Somewhat disagree	9%	7%
Strongly disagree	11%	6%
Don't know	5%	4%
Agree (Net)	52%	57%
Disagree (Net)	20%	13%





c. America has a moral obligation to accept refugees facing persecution	c.	America	has a mora	lobligation	to accept	refugees	facing pers	secution
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	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly agree	20%	20%
Somewhat agree	28%	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	21%	23%
Somewhat disagree	12%	13%
Strongly disagree	14%	13%
Don't know	5%	5%
Agree (Net)	49%	46%
Disagree (Net)	25%	26%

d. The U.S. should give priority to immigrants who speak English

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly agree	12%	11%
Somewhat agree	21%	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	29%	35%
Somewhat disagree	15%	12%
Strongly disagree	16%	11%
Don't know	7%	6%
Agree (Net)	34%	37%
Disagree (Net)	31%	22%

e. Most immigrants to the United States do not easily assimilate into American society

	July 30-31, 2020	June 19-20, 2018
Strongly agree	13%	11%
Somewhat agree	23%	22%
Neither agree nor disagree	23%	29%
Somewhat disagree	20%	21%
Strongly disagree	14%	11%
Don't know	8%	6%
Agree (Net)	36%	33%
Disagree (Net)	34%	31%

f. There are enough immigrants in America already, and our government needs to pause further immigration

	July 30-31, 2020
Strongly agree	18%
Somewhat agree	19%
Neither agree nor disagree	21%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	20%
Don't know	5%
Agree (Net)	37%
Disagree (Net)	37%

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12. When thinking about which presidential candidate to support in November, how big of a factor in your decision are each of the following?

	July 30-31, 2020
Each candidate's plan for economic recovery	88%
Each candidate's plan to help the nation recover from coronavirus	85%
Each candidate's plan to unite the country	81%
Each candidate's stance on funding for law enforcement	80%
Each candidate's stance on immigration	79%
Each candidate's stance on racial issues	76%
The candidate's political party	59%
Whether the candidate wears a face mask in public	54%

Total Very/Somewhat important factor Summary

a. Each candidate's stance on immigration

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	42%
Somewhat important factor	37%
Minor factor	12%
Not a factor at all in my decision	4%
Don't know	6%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	79%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	16%

b. Whether the candidate wears a face mask in public

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	30%
Somewhat important factor	24%
Minor factor	16%
Not a factor at all in my decision	24%
Don't know	6%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	54%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	41%

c. Each candidate's plan to help the nation recover from coronavirus

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	60%
Somewhat important factor	25%
Minor factor	7%
Not a factor at all in my decision	3%
Don't know	5%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	85%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	10%





d. Each candidate's plan for economic recovery

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	66%
Somewhat important factor	22%
Minor factor	6%
Not a factor at all in my decision	2%
Don't know	5%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	88%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	7%

e. The candidate's political party

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	33%
Somewhat important factor	27%
Minor factor	20%
Not a factor at all in my decision	14%
Don't know	6%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	59%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	35%

f. Each candidate's stance on racial issues

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	50%
Somewhat important factor	27%
Minor factor	12%
Not a factor at all in my decision	6%
Don't know	6%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	76%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	18%

g. Each candidate's stance on funding for law enforcement

	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	47%
Somewhat important factor	32%
Minor factor	10%
Not a factor at all in my decision	3%
Don't know	7%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	80%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	14%





	July 30-31, 2020
Very important factor in my decision	56%
Somewhat important factor	26%
Minor factor	9%
Not a factor at all in my decision	4%
Don't know	6%
Very/Somewhat important factor (Net)	81%
Minor/Not a factor (Net)	13%

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h. Each candidate's plan to unite the country

13. Which of the following is your main source of news?

	July 30-31, 2020
ABC / CBS / NBC News	24%
FOX News	14%
Digital or online news	12%
Social media	10%
CNN	8%
Public television or radio	6%
Your local newspaper	5%
New York Times or Washington Post	4%
MSNBC	3%
Friends and Family	2%
Univision / Telemundo	1%
Other	6%
None of these	6%





About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 30-31, 2020, on behalf of NPR. For this survey, a sample of 1,115 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. This poll is trended against an NPR/Ipsos polls conducted between June 19-20, 2018, with a sample of 1,071 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 3.3 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=+/-4.8 percentage points).

The poll fielded from June 19-20, 2018, has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

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