



Summary of Key Findings
Kansas News Service – America Amplified
Covid-19 Survey May 28 – June 4, 2020

Kansas Residents Concerns About the Coronavirus

- The respondents expressed high levels of concern regarding the coronavirus, according to our statewide poll of 616 Kansas residents. 78% said they were either very concerned (36%) or concerned (42%) about it.
- Democrats (57%), non-whites (55%), residents of urban areas (48%), renters (44%), females (41%), and those with annual incomes under \$20,000 (41%) were among those most likely to say they were very concerned about the virus.
- 65% of the respondents said they were concerned about a family member, friend or getting the virus themselves.
- 63% expressed concern about the economic impacts from the virus.
- 57% were concerned about the extended period of time that the virus could impact their lives.
- 22% worried about being alone or the inability to socialize with others in-person.
- 58% said the virus was either very stressful (20%) or stressful (38%) for them and their families.
- Among the groups saying it has been very stressful most often were urban residents (29%), non-whites (29%), 26-39 year olds (28%), renters (27%), those with a graduate degree (26%), Democrats (25%), and those with incomes under \$20,000 (25%).

Impacts of the Coronavirus on Kansas Residents

- 41% said they've been impacted by the coronavirus a great deal (14%) or a good deal (27%). 35% said it had some impacts while 24% said they hadn't been impacted much (18%) or at all (6%).
- Non-whites (25%), those with graduate degrees (23%), urban residents (21%), 26 – 39 year olds (20%), and renters (18%) said it had impacted them a great deal.
- Having their hours cut (26%) was the financial impact mentioned most often followed by being laid off or losing their job (18%), having their wages or salary cut (15%), being furloughed (14%), losing business income (10%), losing health care benefits (4%), or closing their business (3%).
[More than one answer was allowed]
- Having their hours cut was mentioned most often by 18 – 25 year olds (39%), non-whites (35%), 26 – 39 year olds (33%), Democrats (32%), those with incomes between \$35,000 and \$50,000 (31%), no party affiliation (30%), some college or an AA degree (30%), urban residents (29%), and males (29%).
- Job losses were highest among 18 – 25 years of age (29%), urban residents (25%), non-whites (25%), those making less than \$20,000 annually (25%), renters (21%), Democrats (21%), those with incomes between \$35,000 and \$50,000 (21%) and high school graduates/GED (21%).
- Being furloughed was mentioned most often by non-whites (18%), suburban residents (18%), homeowners (17%), 40 – 54 year olds (17%), those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000 (17%), Democrats (16%), those with incomes between \$75,000 and \$150,000 (16%), those with a BA/BS (16%), a graduate degree (15%), and males (15%).
- Non-whites (27%) were among those most likely to say their wages or salary had been cut, followed by those with a BA/BS degree (21%), those under 40 years of age (20%), and residents of urban or suburban areas (17%) each.
- 23% said that someone they know had gotten the coronavirus. Non-whites (35%), 18 – 25 year olds (33%), Democrats (31%), and those with a BA/BS degree (31%) were among those most likely to say this.

Rating Government and the Efforts to Control the Virus

- Local government (58%) was most likely to receive very good (16%) or good (42%) ratings for dealing with the corona virus followed closely by Kansas state government (57%) which received either very good (18%) or good (39%) marks. Only 13% rated either groups' responses as very poor or poor.
- Ratings of the federal government's response were more divided. 40% said they did either a very good (14%) or good job (26%) while 29% said they did a very poor (16%) or poor job (13%).

- There was overwhelming support for the effectiveness of the stay-at-home and social distancing measures. 76% of all the respondents said they felt the orders had been effective compared with 14% who said they were not. 10% were uncertain about this.
- Opinions were somewhat divided over whether a good balance has been struck so far between combatting the virus and reopening the economy. 27% said there has been a good balance. 36% felt there was too much emphasis on reopening the economy while 24% felt there has been too much emphasis on combatting the virus. 13% were uncertain about this.
- Moving forward, 41% said that maintaining steps to combat the virus should have priority while 19% said that reopening the economy as soon as possible should have priority. 36% said they should have equal priorities. 4% were not certain about this.
- Scientists, by a considerable margin, were the group that respondents expressed faith most often in learning about the coronavirus. 76% said they either had a great deal (40%) or good deal (36%) of faith in their information.
- 55% expressed a great deal or good deal of faith in the information from both government health officials and the Governor of Kansas. 42% felt that way about local elected officials while 35% expressed that sentiment regarding information from the President or news organizations.

Your Community

- Dealing with the coronavirus has had a mixed impact on Kansans' connections to their community. 40% said it has made them feel less connected to their community. Another 40% said their connection with their community has not changed. 17% said they feel more connected now and 3% were not certain about this.
- 55% said they consider the city or area they live in to be their community compared with 36% who said they considered their neighborhood to be their community. 24% said Kansas was their community and 19% said that about the county where they live.
- In regard to the impacts from the virus on what they consider their community, 53% said they now have a greater appreciation for where they live. 40% said the virus has made them feel more isolated from their community. 22% said they now feel more connected while 15% said it has made them consider moving elsewhere. [*More than one answer was allowed*]

The Future

- Opinions were largely divided over when life can return to normal. The most common response (31%), was that it would take between six months and a year. 25% think it will take more than a year and another 25%, within the next two to six months. 6% said within the next month with another 6% saying never. 7% were not certain about this.
- Large majorities believe a variety of changes may occur in the future due to the virus. 73% said more people would work from home, 72%, shop more online, and 63%, be more reluctant to attend events with large crowds. 47% mentioned eating out less often and 40%, driving or traveling less.
- Overall, the impacts of the virus appear to have done relatively little so far in regard to voter preferences for the November Election. 52% said it has not changed their mind which candidates they are likely to support.
- 17% said they will be more likely to vote for Democratic candidates while a similar number (15%), say they'll be more likely to vote for Republicans. 4% said they would vote for more independent candidates. 12% were not certain about this or had other thoughts.
- There was considerable division over whether or not voting by mail is safe and should be encouraged or discouraged. A plurality (47%), feel that it is safe and should be encouraged while 31% feel it is not and should be discouraged. 22% are either not certain (19%) or have other thoughts about this (3%).
- There were substantial divisions over its safety by several demographic factors. Paramount were divisions by party where 79% of Democrats feel it is safe compared with only 38% of Republicans who share that view.
- 18 – 25 years old (36%) were less likely than average (47%) to feel it is safe and should be encouraged. Support for voting by mail increased among each succeeding education level, is more popular in urban (52%) and suburban areas (52%) compared with more rural ones (37%), and is preferred somewhat more by non-whites (54%) than whites (46%).



Survey Background Facts and Methodology

This survey was conducted for the Kansas News Service and our partner America Amplified. The results are based on 616 interviews conducted online across the state of Kansas by Hertz Research from May 28 to June 4, 2020.

Cint, a leading global provider of research tools and solutions, provided the sample of respondents. The survey was carefully monitored in progress to reach a representative sample. Statistical weighting was applied to multiple demographic factors to further ensure its representativeness.

All surveys, regardless of the methodology in which they are conducted, are potentially affected by a number of factors that may influence their accuracy. A common source for survey inaccuracy is sampling error.

The number of respondents largely determines sampling error. Statistical theory indicates that in the case of a poll with a sample this size (616 Total Interviews), the margin of sampling error would be approximately +/- 4% at a confidence level of 95 percent. The margin of sampling error for sub-groups is higher than that for the overall sample. This is not a probability sample.

Other sources of error also can impact the accuracy of poll results conducted online and with other techniques. These include but are not limited to the percentage of the population choosing to participate, the likelihood a possible respondent is at home or connected to the Internet, the wording, and ordering of questions, and the techniques used to determine possible survey participants and likely voters. The cumulative impact of all of these potential sources of error is impossible to assess precisely.