



COVID-19 Survey Summary: May 27, 2022

The following is a summary of social, behavioral and economic survey research on COVID-19 released in the past week, as compiled for the Societal Experts Action Network ([SEAN](#)). Most surveys cited in this report are available in the [SEAN COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

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Eight in 10 Americans in new polling say they have at least partially returned to their normal pre-pandemic life, yet three-quarters think coronavirus-caused disruptions will continue at least through the end of 2022.

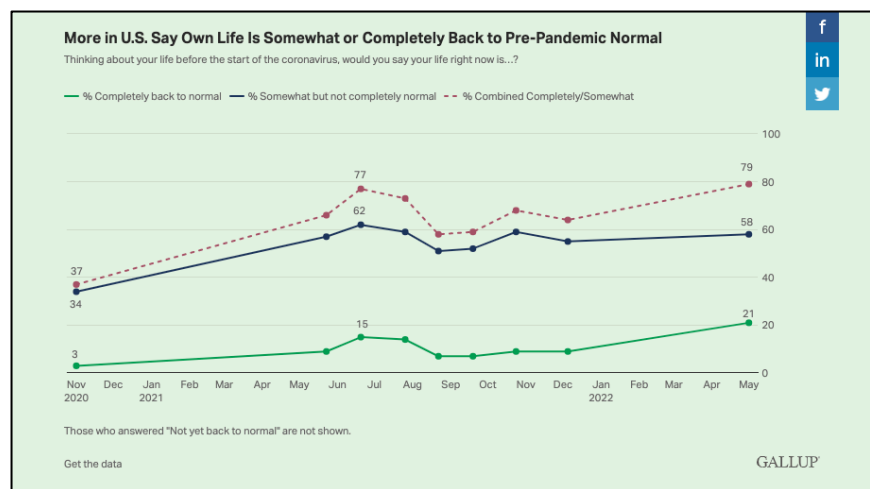
On pandemic policy, a majority opposes lifting existing restrictions on border crossings that aim to prevent the spread of disease across the U.S-Mexico border. And more than half say it's important for the government to continue to fund coronavirus vaccination, treatment and testing for those without adequate health insurance, even as about six in 10 think continued federal spending to combat the coronavirus will lead to increased inflation.

Other newly released pandemic-related polls this week cover topics from job losses to summer vacation plans. State polls in California and Connecticut and international polls in Chile and Japan also are included in this week's summary.

Concerns & Outlooks

Four in 10 adults are at least moderately concerned about the coronavirus, steady since early March while down from a high of 55 percent in January during the Omicron surge ([CDC](#)).

Eight in 10 say their life has returned at least somewhat back to normal – two in 10 completely and six in 10 somewhat. A third say the pandemic is over, a high in data since June 2021, ranging from two-thirds of Republicans to one in 10 Democrats. Still, two-thirds overall say it's not over; more,



three-quarters, think disruptions to travel, school, work and public events will continue through the end of 2022 or longer ([Gallup 4/25-5/2](#)).

In newly released results from February, 16 percent said they or someone they know had a severe coronavirus infection. ([Ipsos 2/11-2/13](#)).

Immigration

Americans by 55-45 percent prefer continuation of Title 42, a policy allowing Border Patrol agents to expel migrants, including those seeking asylum, to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. A federal court has blocked CDC efforts to discontinue Title 42. The policy is backed by eight in 10 Republicans, half of independents and 36 percent of Democrats ([Politico-Harvard 5/6-5/9](#)).

Government Response & Pandemic Policy

The public divides 53-47 percent, approve-disapprove, on Joe Biden's handling of the pandemic, steady since February ([AP-NORC 5/16-5/19](#)).

About six in 10 think continuing "substantial" federal spending to address the pandemic will lead to increased inflation. Nonetheless, 57 percent say it's extremely or very important to provide such funding for the uninsured or underinsured to receive coronavirus vaccinations, treatment and testing. (An additional 22 percent call this somewhat important.) Fewer, 48 percent, say it's highly important for the United States to continue substantial funding for coronavirus vaccination and testing in developing countries, with 26 percent calling this somewhat important.

On both items, eight in 10 or more Democrats call continued funding extremely or very important. Among Republicans, it's 31 percent for domestic support, 20 percent for assistance to developing countries ([Politico-Harvard 5/6-5/9](#)).

Daily Life & Mental Health

In newly release data from February, nearly three in 10 Americans reported spending more time with a pet during the pandemic and about a quarter apiece reported spending more time eating healthily, enjoying nature outdoors or exercising alone. Pluralities said the time they spent on each of these activities has not changed because of the pandemic.

More agreed than disagreed with the statement "the pandemic has not impacted my mental health or well-being," 54 vs. 45 percent. Half reported being "really up and down" over the course of the pandemic. Still, three-quarters agreed that they have developed effective coping mechanisms to get through the pandemic ([Ipsos 2/11-2/13](#)).

Summer Activities

Nearly three-quarters plan to take a vacation this summer, with 38 percent saying they'll spend more days or money on vacation than in a usual pre-pandemic summer. About a quarter say

concerns about the coronavirus are a major factor in their summer travel plans, sixth in a list of eight items ([Washington Post-Schar School 4/21-5/12](#)).

Among parents of children age 3-18 who are considering summer camp for their child, few said camp policies related to vaccination (13 percent) or masks (10 percent) were important factors in their camp decision. Among those for whom these were important, three-quarters preferred mask and vaccine requirements for campers and staff ([C.S. Mott Children's Hospital April 2022](#)).

Employment

Perceptions of the job market remained positive in newly released results from mid-April. Seven in 10 said now is a good time to find a quality job, essentially matching pre-pandemic levels and up from 43 percent in April 2021 ([Gallup 4/1-4/18](#)).

In February, two in 10 said they or a household member had temporarily lost a job as a consequence of the pandemic since the start of 2020. An additional 12 percent reported a permanent job loss but did not attribute it to the pandemic ([Ipsos 2/11-2/13](#)).

State Results

In California, just 2 percent in an open-ended question cite the coronavirus or coronavirus mandates as the top issue facing the state. That compares with 27 percent selecting economic issues including inflation ([PPIC 5/12-5/22](#)).

In Connecticut, 3 percent of registered voters say the coronavirus is the most important issue in deciding their vote in the upcoming gubernatorial election, tied for last of nine items. Seven in 10 approve of the way Gov. Ned Lamont is handling the coronavirus response; it was nearly eight in 10 in May 2020 ([Quinnipiac 5/19-5/23](#)).

International Results

In Chile, three in 10 are concerned about contracting the coronavirus, steady from last week while down from 61 percent in January ([Cadem 5/18-5/20](#)).

In Japan, 62 percent approve of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's handling of the pandemic, up 9 percentage points from April to a pandemic high ([Asahi Shimbun 5/21-5/22](#)). Majorities approve of recent [actions](#) to lift restrictions on international travel (66 percent) and relax outdoor mask rules (54 percent). Fifty-four percent also say the government should prioritize economic activity over coronavirus precautions; 45 percent disagree ([Mainichi 5/23](#)).

Additional U.S. and international poll results are available at the [COVID-19 Survey Archive](#).

Summary for SEAN by [Langer Research Associates](#).