



COVID-19 Survey Summary: June 10, 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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Four in 10 Americans in new survey data express at least moderate concern about the coronavirus, steady since early March, with more Black Americans, 55 percent, seeing it as a major threat to Black people specifically. Still, it's last on a list of the country's top issues.

Polls differ on Joe Biden's handling of the pandemic, although approval outpaces his approval ratings on other issues. Three-quarters say the coronavirus will be a factor in their midterm election vote, though just 2 percent call it the single most important factor.

Among other newly released results, majorities in one poll favor requiring vaccines for children to attend public schools; in another, six in 10 support employers offering hybrid work while the public divides on a fully remote work model.

International results from Canada and Chile also are included in this week's summary.

Concerns & Outlooks

New [cases](#) have stabilized in the last two weeks after tripling from late March. [Breakthrough cases](#) of vaccinated people accounted for 60 percent of cases in April, rising from just 3 percent a year earlier.

Forty-three percent of adults are at least moderately concerned about the coronavirus, relatively steady since early March while down from 55 percent in early January ([CDC](#)). In data from late April and early May, 55 percent of Black people said the coronavirus posed a major threat to Black people in America ([Washington Post-Ipsos 4/21-5/2](#)).

In newly released results from March, when cases were at a low, 57 percent said that the spread of infectious diseases (not explicitly the coronavirus) posed a major threat to the United States,

down 19 percentage points from three-quarters at the onset of the pandemic two years earlier. Seven in 10 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents said infectious diseases posed a major threat, compared with four in 10 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents ([Pew 3/21-3/27](#)).

Government Response

The public divides on Biden’s handling of the coronavirus in two polls, 47-46 percent in one and 51-47 percent in another (conducted in April-May). ([Quinnipiac 6/3-6/6](#), [Washington Post-Ipsos 4/21-5/2](#)). In a third, more approve than disapprove, 56-43 percent ([ABC-Ipsos 6/3-6/4](#)). It’s his best issue among those tested.

Three-quarters say the pandemic will be at least somewhat important in determining their vote for Congress. Two percent say it’s the top issue ([ABC-Ipsos 6/3-6/4](#)). Similarly, 1 percent call the coronavirus the most urgent issue facing the country, last of 11 items ([Quinnipiac 6/3-6/6](#)).

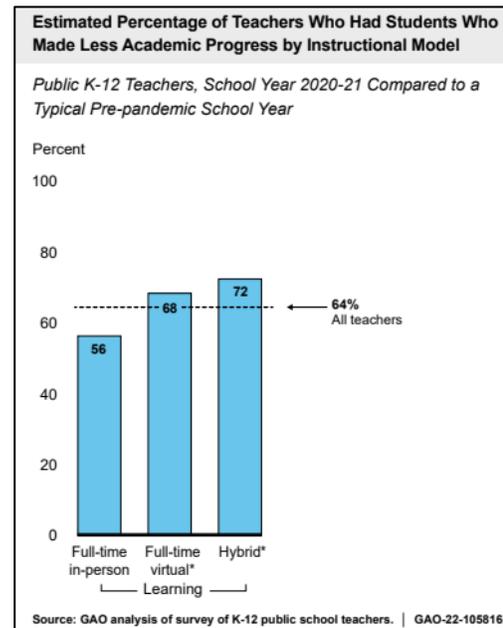
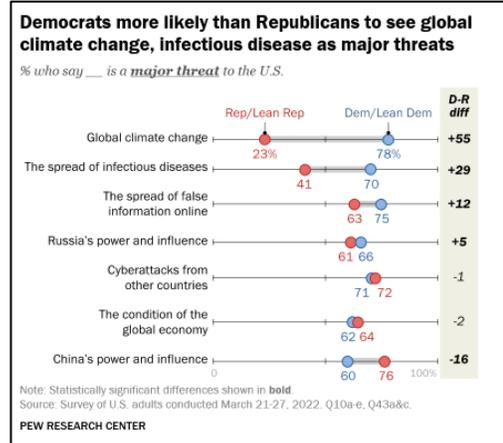
K-12 Education

In newly released data from a summer 2021 survey of K-12 public school teachers, half had more students start the 2020-21 school year behind academically than in a typical pre-pandemic year and about two-thirds had more students make less academic progress during the 2020-21 school year than normal. Among grade levels, 9th to 12th grade teachers had more students making less progress than did K to 8th grade teachers. Teachers who taught in a hybrid model (72 percent) and remotely full-time (68 percent) were more apt to say they had students who made less progress than did teachers who instructed in-person (56 percent) ([GAO 6/19-7/9 2021](#)).

In a mid-May poll, 54 percent at least somewhat favored requiring vaccines for students to attend public school, including four in 10 strongly in favor. Fewer, 27 percent, were opposed, with two in 10 neutral ([WSJ-NORC 5/7-5/19](#)).

Remote Work

Nearly two-thirds of paid employees in a May survey were working fully in person, with the rest split evenly between working remotely or in a hybrid model.



Six in 10 overall said it would be at least somewhat good for U.S. companies to institute a hybrid work model; 9 percent said this would be bad. Just two in 10 said it would be good to require fully in-office work; 36 percent said this would be bad, four in 10, neither good nor bad. The public split, 33-30 percent, on transitioning to fully remote work with 36 percent neutral ([WSJ-NORC 5/7-5/19](#)).

International Results

Just 2 percent in Canada name the coronavirus as the top issue of national concern, steady in past weeks ([Nanos 6/3](#)).

In Chile, 32 percent are worried about getting infected with the coronavirus, up from 24 percent in early May ([Cadem 6/2-6/3](#)).

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

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