University of Texas / Texas Tribune Poll

Texas Statewide Survey

Field Dates: February 12 to 18, 2021

N=1200 Registered Voters

Margin of error: +/- 2.83% (3.5% adjusted for weighting) unless otherwise noted[1]

Policy Questions

Q35A. In general, do you think that vaccines are safe?

Q35_1	Percent
Yes	61
No	18
Don't know	21

Q35B. In general, do you think that vaccines are effective?

Q35_2	Percent
Yes	63
No	14
Don't know	23

Q36. What do you think is more important... **[RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

	Trying to help control the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy	Trying to help the economy, even if it hurts efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	47	43	10
Oct. 2020	50	39	11
June 2020	53	38	9

Q37. Would you say that the coronavirus/COVID-19 is...

	A significant crisis	A serious problem but not a crisis	A minor problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	53	32	9	4	2
Oct. 2020	53	29	11	6	1
June 2020	57	29	10	4	1
Apr. 2020	66	26	4	2	2

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Q38A. Do you approve or disapprove of how each of the following is handling the coronavirus/COVID-19?

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/No opinion
Federal government	14	31	15	16	20	4
Texas state government	13	35	13	17	18	4
Your local government	17	34	17	13	13	5
The news media	10	17	17	11	40	4
Health care professionals	46	27	13	4	6	4

October 2020 Results:

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/No opinion
Federal government	12	27	13	12	33	3
Texas state government	15	30	9	19	24	3
Your local government	17	34	16	15	15	3
The news media	10	16	18	13	41	3
Health care professionals	43	28	13	7	7	3

June 2020 Results:

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/No opinion
Federal government	16	24	10	12	35	3
Texas state government	20	27	7	15	29	2
Your local government	20	33	14	13	16	3
The news media	12	17	13	14	41	3
Insurnace Companies	6	14	32	10	14	24
Health care professionals	52	23	12	5	3	5

April 2020 Results:

Item	Approve strongly	Approve somewhat	Neither approve nor disapprove	Disapprove somewhat	Disapprove strongly	Don't know/No opinion
Federal government	22	27	10	11	27	3
Texas state government	26	31	12	14	15	3
Your local government	29	35	14	10	9	3
The news media	13	21	16	13	35	3
Insurance companies	9	18	29	10	14	20
Health care professionals	65	18	9	2	3	4

Q39. How concerned are you about the spread of the coronavirus in your community?

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	25	24	22	15	11	2
Oct. 2020	20	20	27	16	14	3
June 2020	27	20	26	17	9	1
Apr. 2020	28	26	29	12	5	1

Q40. How concerned are you about you or someone you know getting infected with the coronavirus?

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	Don't know/No opinion
Feb. 2021	27	23	21	15	11	2
Oct. 2020	23	21	22	16	16	2
June 2020	26	22	24	17	10	1
Apr. 2020	33	21	26	12	5	2

Note: Item Q40 was worded as follows in polling prior to February 2021: "As you may know, many Americans have been told to stay home if they can because of the coronavirus pandemic. Which of these best describes you these days?"

Q41. Overall, how would you say efforts to distribute the coronavirus/COVID-19 vaccine are going where you live?

Q41	Percent
Very well	12
Somewhat well	36
Somewhat badly	20
Very badly	12
Don't know/No opinion	20

Q42A. Are you going to try to get a COVID vaccine as soon as it becomes available to you? **[RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Q42A	Percent
Yes	36
No	28
Unsure	16
Already received a COVID vaccine	15
Don't know/No opinion	4

In prior polling, willingness to get a COVID vaccine was measured with the following question: "If a vaccine to prevent coronavirus infection were widely available at a low cost, would you try to get that vaccine, or not?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/No opinion
Oct. 2020	42	36	21
June 2020	59	21	20

Q42B. **[ASK IF Q42A !=4]** And to the best of your knowledge, are you currently eligible to receive a COVID vaccine?

Q42B	Percent
Yes	40
No	34
Don't know/Unsure	26

Q43. Thinking about how you and your family are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, which of these best describes you these days?

	Living normally, coming and going as usual	Still leaving my residence, but being careful when I do	Only leaving my residence when I absolutely have to	Not leaving home
Feb. 2021	24	42	31	3
Oct. 2020	27	40	32	2
June 2020	19	41	37	3
Apr. 2020	9	20	63	9

Q44. Which of the following measures, if any, are you taking in response to the coronavirus/COVID-19? **[RANDOMIZE A-E]**

Item	Feb. 2021	Oct. 2020	June 2020
Staying away from large groups	82	83	88
Avoiding other people as much as possible	72	74	80
Wearing a mask when in close contact with people outside your household	88	87	81

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Q45. Regardless of the current restrictions in your local area, do you think it would be safe or unsafe for you to...**[RANDOMIZE A-P]**

Item	Feb. 2021	Oct. 2020	June 2020
Go grocery shopping	78	80	72
Get a haircut	66	66	59
Go to work	65	64	55
Stay in a hotel	62	62	50
Eat at a restaurant	55	56	49
Send your child to school	55	45	35
Attend church	48	50	41
Go to a shopping mall	48	49	36
Fly on an airplane	40	39	27
Attend a sporting event or concert at an outdoor stadium	40	41	30
Go to a movie theater	38	37	27
Go to a gym or health club	37	35	29
Go to a bar or club	30	28	23
Attend a sporting event or concert in an indoor arena	29	29	21

Demographics

IMPORT. How important is religion in your life?

IMPORT	Percent
Extremely important	41
Somewhat important	27
Not very important	12
Not at all important	20

ATTEND. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services or participate in religious activities?

ATTEND	Percent
More than once a week	11
Once a week	18
A few times a month	10
Once or twice a year	25
Never	37

ATTENDCHANGE. **[ASK IF ATTEND<=3]** Have you changed your attendance habits as a result of the coronavirus/COVID-19?

ATTENDCHANGE	Percent
Yes	65
No	35

ATTENDONLINE. **[ASK IF ATTENDCHANGE=="1. Yes"]** How have your attendance habits changed?

ATTENDONLINE	Percent
I am no longer attending in-person religious services	37
I am attending in-person religious services less frequently than I was before	30
I am attending religious services online	27
I am attending religious services online, but less frequently than I was before	3
Other	4

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Sampling and Weighting Methodology for the February 2021 Texas Statewide Study

For the survey, YouGov interviewed 1535 Texas registered voters between February 12 and February 18, 2021, who were then matched down to a sample of 1200 to produce the final dataset. The respondents were matched on gender, age, race, and education. YouGov then weighted the matched set of survey respondents to known characteristics of registered voters of Texas from the 2018 Current Population survey and 2014 Pew Religious Landscape Survey.

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2018 Current Population Survey (CPS) voter registration supplement with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). For the main sample, the matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, and years of education. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. These weights were then post-stratified on baseline party identification, the 2020 and 2016 presidential vote, ideology, and a full stratification of four-category age, four-category race, gender, and four-category education. The weights were trimmed at 7 and normalized to sum to the sample size.

The margin of error of the weighted data for registered voters is 2.8% for registered voters (if adjusted for weighting, the margin of error for registered voters is 3.5%).

Survey Panel Data

The YouGov panel, a proprietary opt-in survey panel, is comprised of 1.5 million U.S. residents who have agreed to participate in YouGov Web surveys. At any given time, YouGov maintains a minimum of five recruitment campaigns based on salient current events.

Panel members are recruited by a number of methods and on a variety of topics to help ensure diversity in the panel population. Recruiting methods include Web advertising campaigns (public surveys), permission-based email campaigns, partner sponsored solicitations, telephone-to-Web recruitment (RDD based sampling), and mail-to-Web recruitment (Voter Registration Based Sampling).

The primary method of recruitment for the YouGov Panel is Web advertising campaigns that appear based on keyword searches. In practice, a search in Google may prompt an active YouGov advertisement soliciting opinion on the search topic. At the conclusion of the short survey respondents are invited to join the YouGov panel in order to receive and participate in additional surveys. After a double opt-in procedure, where respondents must confirm their consent by responding to an email, the database checks to ensure the newly recruited panelist is in fact new and that the address information provided is valid.

The YouGov panel currently has over 20,000 active panelists who are residents of Texas. These panelists cover a wide range of demographic characteristics.

Sampling and Sample Matching

Sample matching is a methodology for selection of “representative” samples from non-randomly selected pools of respondents. It is ideally suited for Web access panels, but could also be used for other types of surveys, such as phone surveys. Sample matching starts with an enumeration of the target population. For general population studies, the target population is all adults, and can be enumerated through the use of the decennial Census or a high-quality survey, such as the American Community Survey. In other contexts, this is known as the sampling frame, though,

unlike conventional sampling, the sample is not drawn from the frame. Traditional sampling, then, selects individuals from the sampling frame at random for participation in the study. This may not be feasible or economical as the contact information, especially email addresses, is not available for all individuals in the frame and refusals to participate increase the costs of sampling in this way.

Sample selection using the matching methodology is a two-stage process. First, a random sample is drawn from the target population. We call this sample the target sample. Details on how the target sample is drawn are provided below, but the essential idea is that this sample is a true probability sample and thus representative of the frame from which it was drawn.

Second, for each member of the target sample, we select one or more matching members from our pool of opt-in respondents. This is called the matched sample. Matching is accomplished using a large set of variables that are available in consumer and voter databases for both the target population and the opt-in panel.

The purpose of matching is to find an available respondent who is as similar as possible to the selected member of the target sample. The result is a sample of respondents who have the same measured characteristics as the target sample. Under certain conditions, described below, the matched sample will have similar properties to a true random sample. That is, the matched sample mimics the characteristics of the target sample.

When choosing the matched sample, it is necessary to find the closest matching respondent in the panel of opt-ins to each member of the target sample. YouGov employs the proximity matching method to find the closest matching respondent. For each variable used for matching, we define a distance function, d(x,y), which describes how “close” the values x and y are on a particular attribute. The overall distance between a member of the target sample and a member of the panel is a weighted sum of the individual distance functions on each attribute. The weights can be adjusted for each study based upon which variables are thought to be important for that study, though, for the most part, we have not found the matching procedure to be sensitive to small adjustments of the weights. A large weight, on the other hand, forces the algorithm toward an exact match on that dimension.