



Worthington Community Coronavirus Recovery Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | OCTOBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

The first cases of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, emerged in Wuhan, China in late 2019. In January 2020, cases were documented in the western United States and in March, the virus reached Ohio, necessitating Governor Mike DeWine to declare a state of emergency and to issue a stay-at-home order for residents and the closure of all but the state's essential services. These measures were undertaken to slow the rate of infection—or, “flatten the curve”—and prevent possibly overwhelming emergency rooms and hospital ICUs. Although initially expected to last weeks, the governor's executive orders extended for months. Schools remained closed and most businesses, including general retail, government agencies and offices, were shuttered.

While many people were able to shift their work from office to home, others were furloughed or laid off, and unemployment claims soared nationwide. In May, Gallup (2020) reported that nearly one in three Americans had experienced job or income disruption, with 10% temporarily laid off, and 2% suffering permanent job loss as a result of COVID-19. In Ohio, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment reached a high of 17.6% in April (2020a) and, according the most recent data available for August 2020, unemployment stands at 8.9% statewide (2020c), 9.1% in Franklin County (2020d) and 8.3% in the Columbus metropolitan area (2020b).

High unemployment and financial precarity have impacted people in a variety of ways. More than 6 million Americans lost their employer healthcare benefits (Bivens & Zipperer, 2020). More than half of adults who describe their financial situation as poor have experienced high levels of distress (Keeter, 2020, May 7). During lockdowns in the U.S. and around the world, reports of domestic violence against women and children increased (Bettinger-Lopez, 2020; National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2020).

Financial difficulties are affecting families the hardest. More than 60% of households with children in major U.S. cities reported serious financial concerns during the coronavirus pandemic (NPR et al., 2020). Black and Latino households with children bore the brunt of these hardships. While just 50% of white households reported financial concerns, the number of Black households was 66% and the number of Latino households was 86%.

In Ohio, too, there are racial disparities highlighted by the pandemic. According to Ohio Department of Health (2020) statistics, Black people represent 14% of the state population but account for 18% of COVID-19 cases, 27% of hospitalizations and 17% of deaths.

But what about Worthington? While we know a great deal about the impact of the pandemic so far on a national, state and county level, it's harder to know how a specific community has been impacted without additional research. Just as the City of Worthington embarked on a REBOOT initiative in partnership with local businesses to address the economic fallout of the pandemic as relates to local retail, restaurants and other enterprises, city leadership convened a group of community representatives to learn more about larger societal repercussions of the pandemic.

Led by Lisa Fuller, director of community engagement at Worthington Libraries, this group included representation from Worthington Schools, Griswold Senior Center, Worthington United Methodist Church, McConnell Arts Center, Worthington Resource Pantry, I am Boundless and Northwest

Counseling Services. The group met several times to discuss issues and concerns to be addressed. A Community Coronavirus Survey was then developed, with the invaluable assistance of Kara Reuter, digital library manager at Worthington Libraries. Most survey questions were related to one asked on a national scale by Gallup, Pew Research Center or Ipsos, among others, so we could learn how Worthington responses compared. What follows is an explanation of the methodology employed when developing the survey and a summary of initial findings.

Community Coronavirus Task Force

Erin Blue, McConnell Arts Center

Lisa Fuller, Worthington Libraries

Reverend Cyndy Garn, Worthington United Methodist Church

Vicki Gnezda, Worthington Schools

Victoria Larsen, Northwest Counseling Services

Colleen Light, Worthington Parks and Recreation/Griswold Senior Center

Nick Linkenhoker, Worthington Resource Pantry

Lori Sontag, I am Boundless

METHODOLOGY

Data collection

Survey questions

The survey consisted of two series of questions. The first set of core questions asked respondents about their employment, personal finances, health and wellness, social and emotional wellbeing, technology access, family life and support network. The core questions included some branching logic for those who are currently employed and those who are self-employed, as well as for respondents who reporting having children in their households.

The second set of questions asked respondents to share their habits and attitudes when it comes to the pandemic response, including safety precautions, risk assessment, news sources and trust. Because the survey is fairly lengthy, respondents were able to opt out of the second set of questions if they no longer wished to continue.

Because prior research has found that different groups are faring differently during the pandemic (e.g., Horowitz, 2020; Keeter, 2020a; Lopez, Rainie & Budiman, 2020; NPR et al., 2020; Parker, Minkin & Bennett, 2020; Vogels, 2020b), we gathered detailed demographic data on respondents to identify subgroups that may be facing particular challenges or have greater need.

The survey began with a series of demographic questions about connection to Worthington, age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, level of education, household size, languages spoken and income.

The demographic questions used categories developed by the U.S. Census Bureau (e.g., 2020a; 2020b) to permit direct comparison of survey results to overall population data. Nearly all survey questions were adapted from prior research conducted by Gallup (2020), IPSOS (2020), NORC (2020) and Pew Research Center (Daniller, 2020; Horowitz, 2020; Keeter, 2020; Lopez, Rainie & Budiman, 2020; Rainie & Perrin, 2020; Shearer, 2020; Vogels, 2020; Vogels et al., 2020), allowing us to benchmark our findings in Worthington against national findings to see where we align and differ.

Finally, because we are considering conducting follow-up surveys to check in on how the situation might be changing, we asked people to opt in with an email address to participate in future research.

Survey procedures

The survey was made available online using SurveyMonkey for 38 days, from August 14 through September 20, 2020. Links to the survey were shared on social media (Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter) by the City of Worthington, Worthington Libraries and Worthington Schools. The City of Worthington, Worthington Libraries, McConnell Arts Center and Worthington Schools also emailed a link to the survey to their subscribers. Worthington Libraries also distributed fliers advertising the survey as part of their curbside pickup service.

Survey respondents

In all, there were 2,359 responses to the survey.

We were interested in only adults with a direct connection to Worthington. The first two questions asked age and whether respondents lived, worked or spent time in Worthington. Respondents who were under 18 or who had no connection to Worthington were immediately disqualified. In total, 50 respondents were disqualified: 16 who were under 18 and 34 who had no connection to Worthington.

Of the remaining responses, 1,717 completed the core set of questions and 1,463 completed the optional pandemic response questions. The results of this report will be based on these completed responses.

As a result of branching logic, some questions had smaller numbers of respondents, including: 1,126 who are currently employed; 94 who are self-employed; 1,623 who work for an employer; 936 with children of any age; 789 with children age 6-17; and, 835 with children enrolled in school.

Finally, 858 respondents provided an email address to sign up to participate in follow-up surveys.

Worthington connection

Although the City of Worthington makes up less than one-quarter (23%) of the overall population of the Worthington school district (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018a, 2019a), the number of City residents completing the survey exceeds the number of non-City school district residents. The survey responses over-represent residents of the City of Worthington.

Worthington connection	Survey responses
City of Worthington residents	44%
Non-City, Worthington school district residents	39%
City of Worthington workers only	6%
Non-City Worthington school district workers only	1%
Visitors only	10%

Age

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019a), the survey responses over-represent middle-aged people, age 35-54; those under age 35 are under-represented and there are very few responses from those under age 25.

Age	2019 ACS	Survey responses
18-24	8%	1%
25-34	25%	10%
35-44	18%	30%
45-54	14%	23%
55-64	12%	14%
65+	22%	21%

Gender

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019a), the survey responses over-represent women; men are under-represented.

Gender	2019 ACS	Survey responses
Female	55%	80%
Male	45%	20%
Prefer to self-describe	-	<1%

Race

Compared to 2018 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018b, 2018c, 2018d, 2018f, 2018g, 2018h, 2018i), the survey responses over-represent white people; Black and Asian people are under-represented.

Race	2018 ACS	Survey responses
White only	82%	92%
Black only	7%	1%
American Indian only	0%	0%
Asian only	7%	2%
Pacific Islander only	0%	<1%
Some other race only	1%	2%
Two or more races	3%	2%

Hispanic origin

Compared to 2018 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018e), survey responses do not fully represent those of Hispanic origin.

Hispanic origin	2018 ACS	Survey responses
Hispanic or Latino	4%	2%

Educational attainment

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019b), the survey responses over-represent those with degrees beyond a bachelor's degree; those without college degrees are under-represented.

Educational attainment	2019 ACS	Survey responses
Less than high school graduate	3%	<1%
High school diploma, GED or alternative credential	15%	3%
Some college credit, no degree	18%	8%
Associate's degree	6%	5%
Bachelor's degree	36%	38%
Master's, doctorate or other professional degree beyond bachelor's degree	22%	46%

Household size and makeup

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019c), the survey over-represents households with children under age 18, especially those households with school-age children, age 6-17. Likewise, the average household size of survey respondents is larger than reported by Census data.

Household size and makeup	2019 ACS	Survey responses
Average household size	2.68	3.07
Households with children under 18	37%	55%
Households with children 5 and under only	8%	9%
Households with children 5 and under and age 6-17	11%	11%
Households with children age 6-17 only	16%	35%
Households with adults age 60+	33%	34%

Languages spoken in household

Compared to 2015 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015), the survey responses over-represent households that speak only English.

Language spoken in household	2015 ACS	Survey responses
English only	86%	91%
Spanish	4%	4%
Arabic	0%	1%
Chinese	2%	<1%
Portuguese	0%	<1%
Somali	-	<1%
Telugu	-	1%
Hindi	1%	1%
Tamil	-	<1%
Japanese	1%	<1%
Some other language	6%	4%

Household income

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019e), the survey responses over-represent households with incomes higher than \$100,000; households with incomes lower than \$50,000 are under-represented.

Household income	2019 ACS	Survey responses
Less than \$10,000	1%	1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3%	1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2%	2%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6%	3%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	8%	6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21%	13%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15%	15%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	22%	30%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	12%	16%
\$200,000 or more	10%	14%

Household type

Compared to 2019 Census data (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019d), the survey responses over-represent two-parent families; couples without children and people living alone are under-represented.

Household type	2019 ACS	Survey responses
Two-parent families	29%	48%
Single-parent families	7%	5%
Couples	32%	23%
Singles	24%	11%

Data analysis

Immediately upon conclusion of the survey, we exported the complete survey results from SurveyMonkey in XLS format for further analysis.

Worthington connection

Using responses to the question about Worthington connection, respondents were designated as either residents or workers in either the City of Worthington or the Worthington school district, or as visitors. Residents are defined as respondents who indicated they live in the City of Worthington or in the

Worthington school district. Workers are people who indicated they work for an employer located in the City of Worthington or in the Worthington school district and excludes those who indicated that they live in the City of Worthington or in the Worthington school district. Visitors are people who indicated that they spend time in Worthington but neither live nor work in the City of Worthington or in the Worthington school district.

Although the response options for living and working in the City of Worthington or the Worthington school district were mutually exclusive—i.e., “I live in the City of Worthington, Ohio” and “I live in the Worthington, Ohio school district (but NOT within the City of Worthington)” —several respondents answered “Yes” to both options. In these cases, respondents were designated as City of Worthington residents or City of Worthington workers.

Household income categories

Using responses to the question about annual household income, respondents were assigned to an income category. We used Keeter’s (2020, March 30) definition: “Middle income is defined here as two-thirds to double the median annual income for all panelists. Lower income is below that range; upper income falls above it.” The median household annual income in the Worthington school district in 2019 was \$89,689 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019e). Middle income for the Worthington school district would therefore range from \$60,091 to \$179,378; the lower bound aligns most closely to the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income range and the upper bound aligns most closely to the \$100,000 to \$149,999 income range. Therefore, in this report, “middle income” is defined as \$50,000 to \$149,999; “lower income” is below \$50,000 and “upper income” is \$150,000 and above.

Distress levels

Using responses to the question about mental health, we calculated a distress level for each respondent. Excluding the “Feeling hopeful” answer, the remaining five answers were scored according to this scale: 1 for “rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day)”; 2 for “some or a little of the time (1-2 days)”; 3 for “occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days)”; 4 for “most or all of the time (5-7 days).” When added together, score totals for each respondent could therefore range from 5-20. Following Keeter (2020, March 30), a total score of 5-8, or approximately 50% of the sample, was designated low distress; a total score of 9-11, or approximately 25% of the sample, was designated medium distress; and, a total score above 12, or approximately 25% of the sample, was designated high distress.

Household type

Using responses to the question about number of people of various ages living in their household, we designated several household types. Two-parent families are households with any number of children and exactly two adults, age 18-59. Single-parent families are defined as households with any number of children and just one adult, age 18-59. Couples are defined as households with no children and exactly two adults. Singles are defined as households with no children and exactly one adult. We acknowledge that these definitions may not capture the actual household circumstances perfectly.

For each question, library staff used Microsoft Excel to calculate the percentage of respondents who responded with each answer. Next, we will calculate the percentages of respondents who responded with each answer by Worthington connection, age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, educational attainment, language spoken, household income, household type and distress level. We will produce

100% stacked bar charts color-coded by response to visualize differences in responses across the different subgroups.

Limitations

As noted above, residents of the City of Worthington as well as middle-aged, female, white, non-Hispanic, college-educated, English-speaking, upper-income, two-parent families are over-represented among survey respondents. Because the survey respondents do not represent the population of the Worthington school district in some key aspects—namely age, gender, race, educational attainment level, language, income and household type—the overall findings may not accurately represent the overall population.

Breaking down the responses by demographic subgroup may offer more reliable insights. However, low response rates among some demographic subgroups mean the margin of error is higher and the findings for those subgroups may not be as reliable; any subgroup with a margin of error higher than $\pm 7\%$ is of particular concern. Therefore, findings reported for these subgroups are suggestive only: 18-24-year-olds; people who are Black, Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander or some other race; multiracial people; people of Hispanic origin; speakers of languages other than English; and single-parent families.

Margins or error by subgroup

Subgroup	Population	Survey responses	Margin of error (Confidence level = 95%)
Worthington connection			
Worthington school district residents (age 18+)	48,322	1,427	$\pm 3\%$
City of Worthington residents (age 18+)	10,933	761	$\pm 3\%$
Age			
18-24	3,674	16	$\pm 24\%$
25-34	12,210	173	$\pm 7\%$
35-44	8,918	520	$\pm 4\%$
45-54	7,000	397	$\pm 5\%$
55-64	6,024	247	$\pm 6\%$
65+	10,496	364	$\pm 5\%$
Gender			
Female (age 18+)	26,410	1,368	$\pm 3\%$
Male (age 18+)	21,912	343	$\pm 5\%$
Race			
White only	40,520	1,586	$\pm 2\%$
Black only	3,508	25	$\pm 20\%$
Asian only	3,531	37	$\pm 16\%$
American Indian, Pacific Islander or some other race only	536	41	$\pm 15\%$
Two or more races	1,270	28	$\pm 18\%$
Hispanic origin			
Hispanic or Latino	2,147	34	$\pm 17\%$

Subgroup	Population	Survey responses	Margin of error (Confidence level = 95%)
Educational attainment			
High school graduate or less	8,551	46	±14%
Some college or associate's degree	11,685	229	±6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	28,086	1,442	±3%
Language spoken in household			
English only	51,030	1,568	±2%
Spanish	2,442	61	±12%
Some other language	5,681	88	±10%
Household income			
Low income (<\$50K)	4,988	212	±7%
Middle income (\$50-150K)	14,417	995	±3%
Upper income (>\$150K)	5,409	510	±4%
Household type			
Two-parent families	7,187	831	±3%
Single-parent families	1,707	81	±11%
Couples	7,832	400	±5%
Singles	6,031	197	±7%

Statistical power analysis has not been done as part of this research, nor have the sample data been weighted.

FINDINGS

For each survey question, we will summarize the overall result compared with a national benchmark. Notable demographic differences will be highlighted in the future report.

Technology

Computer/equipment access

100% of respondents have access to a computer. This includes 98% who have access to a smartphone, desktop and/or laptop. These findings are on par with data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2019h) reported for the City of Worthington and Worthington School District. The majority of people surveyed also have access to a printer (88%), scanner (74%) and/or copier (67%), while only 22% report having access to a fax machine.

Internet access and importance

Household internet access is available to 100% of respondents, with 97% having access to broadband (high-speed) internet. By comparison, according to the Pew Research Center, 73% of U.S. households have access to broadband internet (Anderson, 2019).

When asked how important the internet has been, personally, during the coronavirus outbreak 92% of people rated it as essential while 8% said it was important, but not essential. Nationwide, according to research from the Pew Research Center (Vogels et al., 2020), 53% of people rated the internet as essential, and 34% as important, but not essential.

Employment

Employment status

29% of survey respondents are not employed (including those who are retired or in school). Of those who are employed, 54% are employed full-time, 11% are employed part-time and 5% are self-employed. According to the Pew Research Center (Keeter, 2020, May 7) and Ipsos (2020), these numbers are above the national averages of 42% employed full-time and 45% unemployed. Part-time employment compares to national data.

Workplace

Of those who are currently employed, 62% are currently working at home or somewhere other than their regular workplace, and 53% are working at their regular workplace, outside the home. These numbers suggest some people are not exclusively working from home, but moving from home, to office, to other locations during the pandemic, as needed. According to Ipsos (2020), 22% of the American workforce transitioned to working from home during the pandemic. Employed persons in our survey appear to have even greater flexibility in where they work.

Business impact

When asked how the coronavirus has impacted their business, 67% report a loss of revenue, 24% report they have seriously considered closing their business, and 11% have been forced to close a business. These statistics are significantly higher than those reported by Ipsos (2020), which found small business revenue loss of 6% and a small business closure of 3%.

Employment change

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, many people have seen a change in employment with 24% of Worthington respondents reporting a loss of income, 16% experiencing a reduction in hours, and 14% returning to work after not being employed for a period of time. 7% percent have been furloughed without pay, and 4% have been permanently let go or laid off. This is statistically on par with nationwide findings by Ipsos (2020) except for the number of people who report working having done work from home: 56% in our survey, compared to 22% nationally.

Career planning

When asked about career planning activities, 29% said they had seriously considered learning new skills to improve job prospects, and 20% considered changing their occupation or field of work. The latter is slightly above national findings by Gallup (2020) which found 15% of people considering a career change. 19% of people in our survey also said they had learned a new, job-related skill or considered enrolling in school or classes.

Finances

Personal finances

We asked how people's personal finances changed since the start of the pandemic and learned the vast majority, 81%, have the same ability to pay bills, purchase food and cover utilities. 75% responded that their ability to pay their rent or mortgage had not changed. By contrast, 9-11% (depending on the type of expense) of respondents report their ability to cover expenses has gotten worse.

Most Worthington respondents appear to be financially stable when compared to national data collected by Ipsos (2020), which found 18% of people to be concerned about paying for food and household goods and 46% worried about utility bills.

Financial reserves

When asked how long their household could carry on without income or additional financial assistance, 37% said they could last more than six months; 26% could last 3-6 months; 18% 1-2 months; 4% 2-3 weeks; and 4% less than two weeks.

Nationally, 27% of people could last six months without income; 19% could last 3-6 months; 21% 1-2 months; 9% 2-3 weeks; and 11% less than two weeks (Ipsos, 2020).

Families and children

Emotional state of children

We asked specifically about the well-being of children in the household and asked respondents to note how their children felt the previous day. They noted high levels of boredom (76%), happiness (91%) and enjoyment (91%). They also noted significant levels of stress (57%), worry (53%), sadness (47%), loneliness (46%) and anger (46%).

When compared to a Gallup (2020) poll conducted in March, Worthington respondents report significantly higher levels of worry (26% compared with 53% in our survey), anger (24% compared with 46% in our survey), stress (24% compared with 57% in our survey), loneliness (20% compared with 46% in our survey) and sadness (20% compared with 47% in our survey) in their children.

Family life

We asked parents how they were coping with balancing the needs of their children and their own work during the pandemic. Many (19% strongly agree; 44% somewhat agree) feel they are not doing enough activities with their children, but 62% also note they are enjoying the opportunity to spend more time together as family. A little more than 50% agreed (21% strongly agree; 32% somewhat agree) that children were impacting their ability to work. Parents are almost evenly split in their confidence to support their children right now, with a combined 49% saying they agree or somewhat agree with the statement they are unsure how to support their children right now, while a combined 46% somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement. These numbers correspond with national findings.

School

We asked how children would do their homework remotely during the coronavirus outbreak. Overwhelmingly, respondents replied it was not at all likely their children would have to do their schoolwork on a cellphone (72% not likely), using public Wi-Fi (76% not likely), or would not be able complete their work due to a lack of computer access at home (84% not likely).

While this is not surprising given the ubiquity of broadband access cited earlier, just 6% responded it would be somewhat likely their children would have to use a cellphone to do homework and 3% would be somewhat likely to use public Wi-Fi. In a Pew Research Center poll (Vogels et al., 2020), it was found that 29% of children would have to use a cellphone for homework, 22% would have to use public Wi-Fi, 21% had no computer to use for homework. These numbers are even higher for lower income households.

When asked in our survey about the amount of help they or an adult in their household would be able to provide children beyond what is provided by the school, 38% responded they could provide a lot of assistance, 46% some, 13% not much and 2% none at all. Nationally, Pew Research Center (Horowitz, 2020) found that 25% of parents could provide a lot of assistance, while 44% could provide some, 22% not much and 8% none at all.

Social and emotional wellbeing

Relationships

We asked how the coronavirus has impacted personal relationships and learned that 27% of respondents experienced an increase in the amount and intensity of disagreements with family and friends (higher than the national average of 18% [Ipsos, 2020]), while 54% noted that this stayed the same and 8% said there was a decrease. The level of connection people felt to their family and friends also declined, with 43% reporting a decrease. The amount of time spent talking to family, however, increased for 46% of respondents.

Entertainment activities

We asked people, since the coronavirus outbreak started, if they had partaken in some activities more or less often. 62% report spending more time outside, 56% report watching more TV, 48% reported spending more time reading and 17% spent more time playing video games than before the pandemic. Pew Research Center (2020, August 7) found 84% were coping with the pandemic by watching TV/movies, 84% were going outdoors more often, and 64% were exercising to cope. Ipsos (2020) found 29% of people were reading more often and 20% were playing more video games.

Online activities

We also asked how the coronavirus pandemic influenced online activities. Since the outbreak started, 86% reported they had spent time video chatting with friends and family, and 67% had attended a virtual party or social gathering online with friends and family. 65% of people have attended a webinar or lecture that was streamed online, and 51% used telehealth to meet with a healthcare provider online. 44% watched a concert or play online while 41% attended a religious service online. That same number (41%) participated in a fitness class or did an online workout. At the lower end of the spectrum, only 20% had attended a class online.

In total, survey respondents in Worthington participated in more online activities than national averages, where, according to Pew Research Center (Vogels, 2020, April 30), only 33% report attending a virtual party, 25% an online religious service, 21% an online concert or play and 19% a fitness class.

Health and wellness

Physical health

We asked people about the impact of the pandemic on their physical health, with 28% saying their overall physical health has gotten worse. Thirty-six percent of people also report getting less exercise and a worsening diet. By contrast, 28% also reported that they were getting more exercise and 15% reported an improvement in their overall health. These findings don't differ greatly from national survey results.

Mental health

When asked to rate how they, personally, felt in the last seven days, 15% reported feeling anxious most or all of the time and 24% a moderate amount (3-4 days) of time. Although the majority of respondents reported low (47%) or medium (27%) levels of distress, 26% report a high level of distress. When asked if

they felt hopeful about the future in the last seven days, 20% said rarely and 35% said some or a little of the time.

Overall, Worthington respondents report lower levels of depression and loneliness by comparison to national polls/surveys, but it still should be noted they are still experiencing significant anxiety, distress and feelings of hopelessness about the future.

Support network

Respondents were asked if they had someone to talk to or a place to go for support, if needed. In terms of physical health and access to healthcare, more than 90% of people felt they had the proper support. While 10% said they lacked support or someone to help with exercise routines, mental health (their own and that of their family), emotional health (their own and that of their family), and their home and home life, the vast majority felt they had such support.

Optional pandemic response questions

Participants in the survey could opt in to series of questions addressing attitudes toward the pandemic. 1,463 people chose to continue with this portion of the survey.

Restrictions

When asked about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus in our community, 44% of people said there should be more restrictions right now, 39% said there should be about the same number of restrictions and 17% said there should be fewer restrictions.

These numbers differ from a national survey conducted by Pew Research Center (Daniller, 2020) which found 27% of people want more restrictions, 48% want the same amount of restrictions, and 24% want fewer restrictions.

Safety precautions

We asked what safety measures, if any, people had taken since the start of the pandemic and found that 98% of respondents are following medical advice and wearing a mask outside the home. People are also following guidelines for social distancing (94%), washing their hands frequently (97%) and avoiding large events or gatherings (95%). Although 61% of people said they have avoided small gatherings with family and friends, 39% have not. And, while 26% have not avoided going to public places like stores or restaurants, 74% have avoided these activities.

According to national data from Gallup (2020), 78% have avoided large crowds, 52% have avoided small gatherings and 61% have avoided public places. Worthington respondents are proceeding with more caution around many activities involving contact with others.

Risk assessment

Given the current situation in the community, we asked people if they were willing or unwilling to take part in a list of common activities. While 94% of respondents are willing to visit a local park, 82% said they are not willing to attend an indoor concert or sporting event. Only 31% of respondents are willing to dine in at a restaurant or bar, stay in a hotel or visit a museum or art gallery. Only 18 percent are

willing to attend an indoor program or fitness class and just 20% are willing to use a fitness center or gym. While 48% of people are willing to visit the public library, 35% are unwilling and 15% are unsure. People are also willing to go inside grocery stores (88%) and visit doctor/dentist offices (90%). Only 9% are willing to use public transportation. These findings are not markedly different from national polling.

The data around safety precautions and risk assessment affirms that people who responded to the survey are taking the coronavirus seriously and have made significant changes in their daily lives to help mitigate the spread of the diseases. It also suggests places like eat-in restaurants, gyms, museums and other businesses that offer in-person services will have a more difficult time overcoming the economic fallout as people will remain hesitant to frequent these establishments in-person while the disease is still a widespread public health threat.

News sources

We asked people to tell us where they are getting their news about the coronavirus outbreak, and 67% cited national news outlets as the major source (compared with 56% nationally [Shearer, 2020]) followed by public health organizations (64% in our survey compared with 51% nationally [Shearer, 2020]), local news outlets (57% in our survey compared with 46% nationally [Shearer, 2020]) and state and local officials (56% in our survey compared with 36% nationally [Shearer, 2020]). 17% cite social media as a major source of information (10% nationally [Shearer, 2020]) while 42% acknowledge it as a minor source.

Trust

We asked respondents to assess how they feel different people, organizations and groups are reacting to the virus. Overwhelmingly (92%), people feel those in their household are reacting about right to the pandemic. Local government scored relatively high with 63% of respondents saying the reaction was about right, compared with only 14% who said the federal government was acting about right (77% of respondents said the federal government was not taking the outbreak seriously enough).

In looking at organizations/groups thought to be overreacting, the local library scored highest with 17% saying it was overreacting. Following the federal government, 52% of respondents don't feel ordinary people in our community are taking the virus seriously enough (compared with 63% nationally). 22% feel both the local school district and the state government are not taking the virus seriously enough. These findings are on par with national polls.

CONCLUSION

The majority of survey respondents appear to be weathering the coronavirus pandemic fairly well. People are able to work from home, if needed, are financially stable and able to provide their children with the emotional support and schoolwork help they need. They have access to computers, high-speed internet service and trusted sources of information. In addition, they are taking the virus spread seriously and following guidelines regarding masks, social distancing and hand washing. They seem ready and willing to cope with more restrictions, too, if they are deemed necessary in the future.

However, as noted in the methodology section, residents of the City of Worthington as well as middle-aged, female, white, non-Hispanic, college-educated, English-speaking, upper-income, two-parent families are over-represented among survey respondents. Because the survey respondents do not represent the population of the Worthington school district in some key aspects—namely age, gender, race, educational attainment level, language, income and household type—the overall findings may not accurately represent the overall population.

We know that, on average, minorities and people of lower income have suffered more during the coronavirus pandemic. Further analysis may reveal differences among demographic groups, but our findings may not be reliable because we failed to reach those populations with our survey. Therefore, what's not represented here is also a key takeaway: our relied-upon communication channels (social media, e-mail, fliers) are not reaching everyone in our community; community organizations, especially those with the widest reach (City of Worthington, Worthington Schools, Worthington Libraries) must work to increase levels of engagement with all segments of our community.

Areas of particular concern identified in the overall survey data include:

- Personal financial losses

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, many people in our survey saw a change in employment, with 24% of Worthington respondents reporting a loss of income, 16% experiencing a reduction in hours, and 14% returning to work after not being employed for a period of time. 7% percent have been furloughed without pay, and 4% have been permanently let go or laid off.

Although many individuals (56% in our survey compared to 22% nationally) were fortunate in being able to make the shift to working from home, nearly 25% of respondents and 67% of businesses have experienced some loss of income or revenue.

While most of our respondents appear able to weather another mandatory shutdown or a total loss of income for a period of time, roughly 10% of respondents are in a financially precarious position when it comes to covering expenses. For these people, their ability to afford food and household goods, pay bills, including utilities, and make rent/mortgage payments, has gotten worse since the start of the pandemic. They will struggle to stay afloat if forced to suffer additional loss of income.

- Small business impact

When asked how the coronavirus has impacted their business, 67% report a loss of revenue, 24% report they have seriously considered closing their business, and 11% have been forced to close a business. These statistics are significantly higher than those reported by Ipsos (2020), which found small business revenue loss of 6% and a small business closure of 3%, although it should be noted we are working with a smaller sample size of just 94 people.

The community's small businesses and organizations are being impacted by both the mandatory shutdowns in spring and now by a community that is largely unwilling to resume normal levels of activity even as businesses open with safety measures in place. More than 60% of respondents were unwilling to dine in at restaurants and bars, use fitness centers, attend indoor group programs, use a taxi or ridesharing service, or visit entertainment centers like bowling alleys and movie theaters. More than 50% of respondents are unwilling to go inside a coffee shop or visit a museum or art gallery.

As the pandemic continues, with warnings there could be a resurgence of the virus in fall and winter, it will be even more difficult for the businesses in our community to rebuild their brick-and-mortar customer base and rebound financially.

- Mental health

When asked to rate how they, personally, felt in the last seven days, 39% of respondents reported feeling anxious at least a moderate amount (3-4 days) of time. Although the majority of respondents reported low (47%) or medium (27%) levels of distress, one-quarter (26%) report a high level of distress. When asked if they felt hopeful about the future in the last seven days, more than half (55%) said some or only a little of the time or rarely.

Children are also being negatively impacted by the pandemic. Asked to reflect on how their children felt in the last day, parents noted high levels of boredom (76%), stress (57%), worry (53%), sadness (47%), loneliness (46%) and anger (46%). When compared to a Gallup (2020) poll conducted in March, Worthington respondents report significantly higher levels of worry, anger, stress, loneliness and sadness in their children.

Our survey found that 39% of parents somewhat agree and 10% strongly agree with the statement: *I'm unsure how to give my children the support they need right now.* 10% of respondents also said they do not have someone to talk to or somewhere they can go for support when it comes to the mental health of others in the household or immediate family.

Now that schools have opened, originally in the remote model on August 31 and now in the hybrid model as of September 29, it will be interesting to see in further surveys how this impacts the mental health of both children and their parents.

This is a broad overview of collected data. The next steps include determining how best to address key findings and further parsing data to reveal differences by income level, race, and age to determine the impact on specific populations (with the limitations noted above).

REFERENCES

- Anderson, Monica. (2019, June 13.) "Mobile Technology and Home Broadband 2019." *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/06/13/mobile-technology-and-home-broadband-2019/>
- Bettinger-Lopez, Caroline. (2020, May 13). "A Double Pandemic: Domestic Violence in the Age of COVID-19." *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/double-pandemic-domestic-violence-age-covid-19>
- Bivens, Josh & Zipperer, Ben. (2020, August 26). Health insurance and the COVID-19 shock: What we know so far about health insurance losses and what it means for policy. *Economic Policy Institute*. Retrieved from <https://www.epi.org/publication/health-insurance-and-the-covid-19-shock/>
- Bowers, T. (2020, March 3). State of the Schools – Boundaries, Students and Growth. *Absolute Excellence: Stories from Worthington Schools*. Retrieved from <https://wcsdistrict.wordpress.com/2020/03/03/state-of-the-schools-boundaries-students-and-growth/>
- Daniller, Andrew. (2020, May 7). Americans remain concerned that states will lift restrictions too quickly, but partisan differences widen. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/05/07/americans-remain-concerned-that-states-will-lift-restrictions-too-quickly-but-partisan-differences-widen/>
- Gallup. (2020). *Coronavirus Pandemic*. Retrieved from <https://news.gallup.com/poll/308222/coronavirus-pandemic.aspx>
- Horowitz, Juliana Menasce. (2020, April 15). Lower-income parents most concerned about their children falling behind amid COVID-19 school closures. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/15/lower-income-parents-most-concerned-about-their-children-falling-behind-amid-covid-19-school-closures/>
- Ipsos. (2020, June 23). *Ipsos US COVID-19 Aggregated Topline Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ipsos-coronavirus-us-aggregate-topline-062320.pdf>
- Keeter, Scott. (2020, March 30). People financially affected by COVID-19 outbreak are experiencing more psychological distress than others. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/30/people-financially-affected-by-covid-19-outbreak-are-experiencing-more-psychological-distress-than-others/>
- Keeter, Scott. (2020, May 7). A third of Americans experienced high levels of psychological distress during the coronavirus outbreak. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/05/07/a-third-of-americans-experienced-high-levels-of-psychological-distress-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>
- Lopez, Mark Hugo, Rainie, Lee & Budiman, Abby. (2020, May 5). Financial and health impacts of COVID-19 vary widely by race and ethnicity. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/05/05/financial-and-health-impacts-of-covid-19-vary-widely-by-race-and-ethnicity/>

- National Domestic Violence Hotline. (2020). *COVID-19 Special Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/media/2020/09/The-Hotline-COVID-19-60-Day-Report.pdf>
- NORC. (2020). *COVID Impact Survey*. Retrieved from <https://apnorc.org/projects/covid-impact-survey/>
- NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. (2020). *The Impact of Coronavirus on Households in Major U.S. Cities*. Retrieved from <https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2020/09/08/cities-report-090920-final.pdf>
- Ohio Department of Health. (2020). "Case Demographics." *COVID-19 Dashboard*. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/demographics/case-demographics>
- Parker, Kim, Minkin, Rachel & Bennett, Jesse. (2020, September 24). Economic Fallout From COVID-19 Continues To Hit Lower-Income Americans the Hardest. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/09/24/economic-fallout-from-covid-19-continues-to-hit-lower-income-americans-the-hardest/>
- Pew Research Center. (2020, August 7). Americans Oppose Religious Exemptions From Coronavirus-Related Restrictions. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewforum.org/2020/08/07/americans-oppose-religious-exemptions-from-coronavirus-related-restrictions/>
- Pew Research Center. (2020, March 30). Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/03/30/most-americans-say-coronavirus-outbreak-has-impacted-their-lives/>
- Rainie, Lee & Perrin, Andrew. (2020, April 6). The state of Americans' trust in each other amid the COVID-19 pandemic. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/06/the-state-of-americans-trust-in-each-other-amid-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Shearer, Elisa. (2020, July 2). Local news is playing an important role for Americans during COVID-19 outbreak. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/02/local-news-is-playing-an-important-role-for-americans-during-covid-19-outbreak/>
- SurveyMonkey. (2020). *Margin of error calculator*. Retrieved from <https://www.surveymonkey.com/mp/margin-of-error-calculator/>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020a). "Current Unemployment Rates for States and Historical Highs/Lows." *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/lauhsthl.htm>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020b). *Economy at a Glance: Columbus, OH*. Retrieved from https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.oh_columbus_msa.htm
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020c). *Economy at a Glance: Ohio*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.oh.htm>

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020d). "Labor force data by county, not seasonally adjusted, July 2019-August 2020." *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)*. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/web/metro/laucntycur14.txt>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2015). Language spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5 years and over, Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2015: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B16001*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018a). Demographic and housing estimates, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table DP05*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018b). Sex by age (American Indian and Alaska Native alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001C*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018c). Sex by age (Asian alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001D*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018d). Sex by age (Black alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001B*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018e). Sex by age (Hispanic or Latino), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001I*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018f). Sex by age (Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001E*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018g). Sex by age (Some other race alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001F*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018h). Sex by age (Two or more races), Worthington City School District, Ohio and Worthington city, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001G*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018i). Sex by age (White alone), Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B01001A*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019a). Demographic and housing estimates, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.

- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019b). Educational attainment, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table S1501*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019c). Households and families, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table S1101*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019d). Households by type, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table B11012*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019e). Income in the past 12 months (in 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars), Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table S1901*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019f). Presence and types of internet subscriptions in household, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table B28002*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2019g). Selected social characteristics in the United States, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP02*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2018h). Types of computers in household, Worthington City School District, Ohio. *American Community Survey, 2019: ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table B28001*. Generated September 17, 2020 by Kara Reuter using data.census.gov.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2020a, April 21). *About the Hispanic Population and its Origin*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/hispanic-origin/about.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2020b, April 21). *About Race*. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>
- Vogels, Emily A. (2020, April 30). From virtual parties to ordering food, how Americans are using the internet during COVID-19. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/04/30/from-virtual-parties-to-ordering-food-how-americans-are-using-the-internet-during-covid-19/>
- Vogels, Emily A. (2020, September 10). 59% of U.S. parents with lower incomes say their child may face digital obstacles in schoolwork. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/09/10/59-of-u-s-parents-with-lower-incomes-say-their-child-may-face-digital-obstacles-in-schoolwork/>
- Vogels, Emily A., Perrin, Andrew, Rainie, Lee & Anderson, Monica. (2020, April 30). 53% of Americans Say the Internet Has Been Essential During the COVID-19 Outbreak. *Pew Research Center*. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/04/30/53-of-americans-say-the-internet-has-been-essential-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Survey instrument

Appendix B. Data tables and charts – All responses

Appendix C. Data tables and charts – Demographic differences