

## Topline questionnaire

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 88 APRIL 2021  
FINAL TOPLINE  
APRIL 12-18, 2021  
N=4,623**

**THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL. OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

**NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (\*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.**

U.S. adults	<b>Sample size</b> 4,623	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b> +/- 2.2 percentage points
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**DISPLAY TO ALL:**

First, we have some questions about your life in general these days.

**ASK ALL:**

COVINTESS How important, if at all, has the internet been for YOU PERSONALLY during the coronavirus outbreak?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u>
58	Essential	53
33	Important, but not essential	34
7	Not too important	10
2	Not at all important	3
*	No answer	*

**ASK ALL:**

E\_COVIDMOD Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Jan 19-24, <u>2021</u>
45	Employed full-time	44
12	Employed part-time	12
23	Retired	18
3	Furloughed or temporarily laid off	3
18	Not employed	22
*	No answer	1

**ASK IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED (E\_COVIDMOD=1,2) [N=2,855]:**WFHCURR Are you currently working from home...<sup>14</sup>

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>	
22	All of the time
7	Most of the time
10	Some of the time
11	Rarely
49	Never
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDCHG As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, has your own personal life...

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Feb 16-21, <u>2021</u>	Mar 19-24, <u>2020</u>
36	Changed in a major way	41	44
47	Changed, but only a little bit	43	44
16	Stayed about the same as it was before the outbreak	15	12
*	No answer	*	*

**ASK ALL:**CLOSENESS Compared with before the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, how close do you now generally feel to... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS] [RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

	<u>More close than before</u>	<u>Less close than before</u>	<u>About as close as before</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Close family members Apr 12-18, 2021	22	25	53	*
b. Friends you know well Apr 12-18, 2021	14	38	47	*
c. Casual acquaintances Apr 12-18, 2021	6	53	41	*

<sup>14</sup> WFHCURR was also asked in Wave 77, but in that wave was only asked of those who were currently employed full- or part-time, had only one job or considered one of their multiple jobs their primary job, and said that for the most part, the responsibilities of their job could be done from home.

**ASK IF INTERNET USER (XTABLET=2) [N=4,475]:**

BBHOME1 Do you subscribe to dial-up internet service at home or do you subscribe to a higher-speed broadband service such as DSL, cable, or fiber optic service?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u>
3	Dial-up access	4
91	Higher-speed broadband service	87
5	I do not have home internet service	7
1	No answer	1

**BBHOME1 BASED ON ALL RESPONDENTS:**

BBHOME1 Do you subscribe to dial-up internet service at home or do you subscribe to a higher-speed broadband service such as DSL, cable, or fiber optic service?<sup>15</sup>

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u>
3	Dial-up access	4
86	Higher-speed broadband service	85
10	I do not have home internet service	10
*	No answer	1

**ASK ALL:**

SMARTPHONE Do you have a smartphone?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u>	Jun 3-17, <u>2019</u>
91	Yes, I have a smartphone	90	87
9	No, I do not have a smartphone	10	12
*	No answer	*	*

**ASK ALL:**

COVDIGGOV Do you think the federal government has a responsibility to ensure that all Americans have each of the following during the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Yes, the federal government has <u>this responsibility</u>	No, the federal government does not have this <u>responsibility</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. High-speed internet connection at home			
Apr 12-18, 2021	37	62	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	37	62	1
b. Cellphone services			
Apr 12-18, 2021	30	70	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	34	65	1

<sup>15</sup> All non-internet users (XTABLET=1) are coded as "I do not have home internet service" for the purposes of this table.

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDSCHL1 Do you think K-12 schools have a responsibility to provide students with laptop or tablet computers in order to help them complete their schoolwork at home during the coronavirus outbreak?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u>
49	Yes, schools have this responsibility to all students	37
37	Yes, schools have this responsibility, but only for students whose families cannot afford it	43
13	No, schools do not have this responsibility	19
1	No answer	1

**ASK ALL:**

DIGCONF Overall, how confident, if at all, do you feel using computers, smartphones, or other electronic devices to do the things you need to do online?<sup>16</sup>

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>		Oct 29-Nov 10, <u>2019</u>
57	Very confident	58
33	Somewhat confident	31
7	Only a little confident	7
2	Not at all confident	3
1	No answer	*

**DISPLAY TO ALL:**

Thinking more about your experiences during the coronavirus outbreak...

**ASK ALL:**

TECHCHG Compared with before the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, have you used digital technology or the internet in any new or different ways?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>	
40	Yes, have done this
59	No, have not done this
1	No answer

<sup>16</sup> In W57, the question was as follows: "Overall, how confident do you feel using computers, smartphones, or other electronic devices to do the things you need to do online?"

**ASK IF HAS USED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY OR THE INTERNET IN ANY NEW OR DIFFERENT WAYS (TECHCHG=1) [N=2,204]:**

TECHCHG2 Please explain how you have used digital technology or the internet in new or different ways compared with before the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak. [OPEN-END RESPONSE, CODED ANSWERS SHOWN BELOW]

Apr 12-18,

2021

26	Video calls/conferencing: Generic mentions
16	Obtaining groceries, food or products or using essential services
13	Remote work and employment, aside from explicit mentions of video calls/conferencing
8	Video calls/conferencing: Remote work and employment
8	Video calls/conferencing: Friends and family, holidays and events
7	Entertainment, streaming, video platforms, hobbies
7	Online learning, aside from explicit mentions of video calls/conferencing
5	Video calls/conferencing: Online learning
5	Social media and social interaction
4	As a way to find and search for information
4	Video calls/conferencing: Telehealth
3	Religious services/activities
5	Other
18	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

TECHHELP

Which of the following best describes you, even if neither is exactly right?

When I get a new computer, smartphone, or other electronic device, I usually...

**[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Apr 12-18,

2021

26	Need someone else to set it up or show me how to use it
73	Am able to set it up and learn how to use it on my own
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

VIDEOCALL Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, how often, if at all, have you talked with others via VIDEO calls?

Apr 12-18,

2021

12	Several times a day
7	About once a day
18	A few times a week
12	About once a week
16	Every few weeks
15	Less often
19	Never
*	No answer

**ASK IF HAS USED VIDEO CALLING (VIDEOCALL=1-6) [N=3,947]:**

CALLFATIG How often, if at all, do you feel worn out or fatigued from spending time on video calls?

Apr 12-18,

2021

13	Often
27	Sometimes
28	Rarely
31	Never
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

LIMITTECH Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, have you at any point tried to cut back on the amount of time you spend on the internet or your smartphone?

Apr 12-18,

2021

33	Yes, have done this
66	No, have not done this
1	No answer

**ASK IF BROADBAND USER (BBHOME1=2) [N=3,998]:**

CONNECT How often, if at all, do you experience problems with the speed, reliability or quality of your high-speed internet connection at home in a way that makes it hard to do the things you need to do online?

Apr 12-18,  
2021

12	Often
37	Sometimes
42	Rarely
10	Never
*	No answer

**ASK IF BROADBAND USER (BBHOME1=2) [N=3,998]:**

UPGRADE Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, have you done anything to improve the speed, reliability or quality of your high-speed internet connection at home?

Apr 12-18,  
2021

29	Yes, have done this
70	No, have not done this
1	No answer

**ASK IF BROADBAND USER (BBHOME1=2) OR HAS A SMARTPHONE (SMARTPHONE=1):**

COVPAYTECH How much, if at all, do you worry about being able to pay for each of the following over the next few months? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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**ASK IF BROADBAND USER (BBHOME1=2) [N=4,151]:**

a. High-speed internet connection at home

Apr 12-18, 2021	8	18	25	49	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	9	19	28	44	*

**ASK IF HAS A SMARTPHONE (SMARTPHONE=1) [N=4,325]:**

b. Your cellphone bill

Apr 12-18, 2021	9	15	26	50	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	11	18	27	43	*

**ASK ALL:**

VAXTRY1 Have you tried to register or sign yourself up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18,  
2021

57	Yes, I have done this
42	No, I have not done this
1	No answer

**ASK IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP (VAXTRY1=1) [N=2,908]:**

VAXTRY2 Have you tried to register or sign yourself up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18,

2021

78

Yes, I tried to do so online

21

No, I tried to do so in another way

1

No answer



**VAXNOTTRY BASED ON DID NOT TRY TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP AT ALL (VAXTRY1=2)**  
**[N=1,689]:**

VAXNOTTRY Please indicate if any of the following is a reason you have not tried to register or sign yourself up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A major reason</u>	<u>A minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. I don't have access to a computer, smartphone, or the internet Apr 12-18, 2021	2	4	93	1
b. I'm not comfortable using computers, smartphones, or the internet Apr 12-18, 2021	3	7	89	1
c. Someone else is going to help me do so or has done so already Apr 12-18, 2021	5	6	88	2
d. I need help, but don't have anyone to help me do so Apr 12-18, 2021	4	5	90	1
e. I'm not yet eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19 Apr 12-18, 2021	8	8	83	1
f. I'm not planning to get vaccinated for COVID-19 Apr 12-18, 2021	51	16	32	1

**VAXNOTTRY BASED ON TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP IN ANOTHER WAY (VAXTRY2=2)  
[N=538]:**

VAXNOTTRY Please indicate if any of the following is a reason you have not tried to register or sign yourself up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine ONLINE. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A major reason</u>	<u>A minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. I don't have access to a computer, smartphone, or the internet Apr 12-18, 2021	5	6	88	1
b. I'm not comfortable using computers, smartphones, or the internet Apr 12-18, 2021	8	9	81	2
c. Someone else is going to help me do so or has done so already Apr 12-18, 2021	23	3	73	1
d. I need help, but don't have anyone to help me do so Apr 12-18, 2021	4	8	87	1

**NO ITEMS e-f**

g. I was able to sign up in another way Apr 12-18, 2021	77	7	15	1
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**ASK IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP ONLINE (VAXTRY2=1) [N=2,349]:**

VAXDIFF1 How easy or difficult was it to try to register or sign yourself up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18, <u>2021</u>	
42	Very easy
29	Somewhat easy
18	Somewhat difficult
11	Very difficult
*	No answer

**ASK IF VERY OR SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP ONLINE (VAXDIFF1=3,4)  
[N=649]:**

VAXDIFF2 Please indicate if any of the following is a reason why you had difficulty trying to register or sign yourself up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		A major <u>reason</u>	A minor <u>reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	I had trouble using my computer, smartphone or the internet Apr 12-18, 2021	7	9	83	1
b.	I'm not yet eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19 Apr 12-18, 2021	8	12	78	1
c.	I had problems knowing where to look to register or sign up online Apr 12-18, 2021	33	29	36	2
d.	I had problems with the website or system crashing Apr 12-18, 2021	29	22	48	1
e.	I had problems finding an available appointment Apr 12-18, 2021	78	10	11	1

**ASK IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN UP ONLINE (VAXTRY2=1) [N=2,349]:**

VAXNEEDHELP At any point in trying to register or sign yourself up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, did you need help from someone else?

Apr 12-18,	
<u>2021</u>	
18	Yes, I needed help
82	No, I did not need help
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

VAXTRY3 Have you tried to register or sign SOMEONE ELSE up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18,	
<u>2021</u>	
25	Yes, I have done this
74	No, I have not done this
1	No answer

**ASK IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN SOMEONE ELSE UP (VAXTRY3=1) [N=1,265]:**

VAXTRY4 Have you tried to register or sign SOMEONE ELSE up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18,

2021

87	Yes, I tried to do so online
13	No, I tried to do so in another way
*	No answer

**DISPLAY IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN SOMEONE ELSE UP ONLINE (VAXTRY4=1) [N=1,124]:**

Thinking about the person you've done this for MOST RECENTLY...

**ASK IF TRIED TO REGISTER OR SIGN SOMEONE ELSE UP ONLINE (VAXTRY4=1) [N=1,124]:**

VAXDIFF3 How easy or difficult was it to try to register or sign this person up ONLINE to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Apr 12-18,

2021

36	Very easy
35	Somewhat easy
18	Somewhat difficult
11	Very difficult
*	No answer

**DISPLAY TO ALL:**

On a different topic...

**ASK ALL:**

TECHREPLACE Thinking about the limits on social contact that experts have recommended during the coronavirus outbreak, have the everyday interactions that you would have had in person, and instead had online or by telephone, generally been...

Apr 12-18,

2021

17	Just as good as in-person contact
68	Useful but not a replacement for in-person contact
15	Not of much use
1	No answer

**ASK IF INTERNET USER (XTABLET=2) [N=4,475]:**

SNSUSE Do you ever use social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram?

Apr 12-18,

2021

76	Yes, I use social media sites
24	No, I do not use social media sites
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

TECHVALUE

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, how much has each of the following helped you, personally, stay connected with your family and friends?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Helped a <u>lot</u>	Helped a <u>little</u>	Hasn't made much <u>difference</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>ASK IF USES SOCIAL MEDIA (SNSUSE=1) [N=3,488]:</b>					
a.	Social media sites				
	Apr 12-18, 2021	27	32	40	*
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
b.	Text messages or group messaging apps				
	Apr 12-18, 2021	44	27	29	1
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
c.	Video calls				
	Apr 12-18, 2021	30	29	40	1
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
d.	Voice calls				
	Apr 12-18, 2021	38	26	35	*
<b>ASK IF INTERNET USER (XTABLET=2) [N=4,475]:</b>					
e.	Email				
	Apr 12-18, 2021	20	26	53	*

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to...<sup>17</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
24	31	30	14	1	19	21

<sup>17</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.