

Palmetto Poll Finds Broad Concern and Major Partisan, Racial/Ethnic Differences in South Carolina About COVID-19

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South Carolinians are expressing broad concern about the COVID-19 outbreak in a Palmetto Poll taken from April 21-29, 2020. Simulations from an MRP model of 1,030 residents across the Palmetto State suggest just over 75% of South Carolinians are at least moderately concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak in their area and almost half of South Carolinians are at least somewhat worried about themselves getting sick with the virus. However, major partisan and racial/ethnic differences exist among South Carolinians regarding how the state and federal government has responded to the viral outbreak in addition to what America should prioritize regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

South Carolinians are on the balance concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak. An estimated 35% of South Carolinians are extremely concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak in their area and an additional estimated 39% are moderately concerned. An estimated 11.6% of South Carolinians are extremely worried that they themselves will become sick with the virus while an additional 38% of respondents are somewhat worried that they will become sick with the virus. There is some slight variation across different sociodemographic groups on the level of concern, but black South Carolinians are particularly concerned about COVID-19 relative to white respondents. For example, an estimated 67% of black residents of South Carolina are somewhat or extremely worried about getting sick with COVID-19 compared to 45% of white residents.

The biggest differences in attitudes in our analysis concern the state and federal government's individual responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and what the government should prioritize regarding the outbreak. South Carolinians, on the balance, are dissatisfied with the U.S. government's response (52% to 40%) and the state government's response (51% to 43%) even as the intervals overlap from the MRP model's simulations. South Carolinians are effectively split on how Donald Trump handled the early response to the COVID-19 outbreak, though South Carolinians do think Trump acted too slowly in responding to the outbreak (55%). South Carolinians are split on what has been the biggest effect of the COVID-19 outbreak (on public health or the economy), but South Carolinians are overwhelmingly in favor of prioritizing public health over the economy (63% to 26%) in dealing with the viral pandemic. However, there is major partisan variation on these topics. Republicans are more satisfied than Democrats regarding the U.S. government's response (68% to 6%), are more likely to approve of Trump's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak (86% to 3%), and are less likely to think Trump acted too slowly (18% to 97%). In addition, Republicans in South Carolina put more weight on prioritizing the economy over public health (44% to 39%) than South Carolina Democrats, who almost unanimously prioritize public health in the government's response over the economy.

The estimates reported here are the results from the posterior distributions of MRP (multilevel regressions with poststratification) with uncertainty reported as 80% intervals around the mean. Simulations from a posterior distribution are why the familiar measures of poll uncertainty—

the standard error, or the margin of error—are unnecessary. The percentages are simply scaled proportions of predicted responses from multinomial regressions, given the categorical nature of most of these responses.

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Methodology

Data Collection

The Palmetto Poll recruited a sample of 1,339 respondents through a poll advertised on Facebook and Instagram through Clemson University's Social Media Listening Center. The advertisement led to a poll hosted on Qualtrics. The number of respondents were later whittled to 1,030 after some case exclusions. These case exclusions were respondents who clicked the advertisement but did not consent to the survey, respondents who failed one of two retention checks in the survey, and respondents who were residing or registered to vote in another state.

Model

The statistical models are Bayesian categorical mixed effects (i.e. "multilevel") models implemented in the Stan probabilistic programming language. Herein, an individual response is modeled as a function of multiple random effects. These random effects are the respondent's age group (18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-64, 65+), gender (male, female), education level (did not graduate HS, high school graduate, some college but no four-year degree, bachelor's degree or higher), the respondent's race/ethnicity (white, black, Hispanic, other), the respondent's ideology (liberal, conservative, moderate), the respondent's partisanship (Democrat, Republican, Independent/Other), and the respondent's vote choice in 2016 (Clinton voter, Trump voter, Other voter, Non-voter). Each model included a fixed effect for the average income of a South Carolina respondent matching the respondent's combination of age group, education-level, gender, and race-ethnicity. This is a group-level effect estimated from data provided by the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the most recent year on record (2018). Importantly, weights are for the non-institutionalized, civilian, adult population and not the entire population. The models themselves were run on a Docker image with 8 chains running 2,000 iterations (with 1,000 iterations for warm-up).

Estimates

The estimates are the results of the posterior distribution of these models. The MRP technique is designed to take sources of non-representativeness in the sample and extract a more reasonable estimate that is representative of the target population (here: South Carolina). This is especially important in a case of responses solicited via online advertisement on Facebook. Simply put, the technique weights predictions for all possible categories of the various random effects (e.g. white, male, 18-29 year old South Carolinians who are conservative, Republicans, voted for Trump, and graduated from college) by the estimated proportion of the population fitting this category. The sociodemographic data come from the CPS, which was also the source for the income estimate used in the modeling procedure. The political weights are provided by the two most recent waves of the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES), which itself is stratified on key attributes of each state in the data (like South Carolina). The technique summarizes the weighted proportions for each subgroup to produce a point estimate of responses in a given category. Weights were recalibrated to produce subgroup estimates as well. Overall, the modeling approach and the estimation approach closely mirror what Wang et al. (2015) did in forecasting the 2012 presidential election from a sample of Xbox users.¹ There are, however, a few differences to reiterate. Namely,

¹Wang, Wei, David Rothschild, Sharad Goel, and Andrew Gelman. 2015. "Forecasting Elections with Non-Representative Polls." *International Journal of Forecasting*. 31(3): 980-991.

the data are not as powered, the model is a full Bayesian approach at the expense of computational convenience, the models are categorical logit rather than binomial logit, and the sample is just South Carolinians. Further, Wang et al.'s (2015) political weights come from exit polls prior to the 2012 presidential election whereas the political weights in this analysis come from the CCES, a public opinion poll.²

Uncertainty

The main estimate of interest is the mean proportion of responses in a given category, rescaled to a percentage for ease of the reader. Importantly, though, the mean is from 1,000 predictive draws from the posterior distribution of the particular Bayesian categorical mixed effects model. This creates not only an average, but uncertainty around that average. We choose to report this uncertainty as 80% intervals around the mean in lieu of a more analytic estimate of uncertainty like a standard error.

We do offer two cautions regarding the uncertainty estimates. First, 1,030 responses is typically large enough for smaller estimates of uncertainty in conventional polls, especially those of binary responses. However, MRP estimates for categorical responses with just 1,030 observations will be more diffuse. We mention this to be humble regarding the information we report and to encourage the reader to consider the upper and lower bounds around the means when making comparisons. Second, it should not be surprising that some of the subgroup estimates are more diffuse than others. For example, non-white Hispanics are approximately 1.9% of the adult population of South Carolina, per the CPS in 2018. Adult South Carolinians who are not white, Black, or Hispanic of any kind are about 3.6% of the population. Estimates for these smaller groups are inevitably going to be more diffuse in the absence of more information.

²One interpretation from these differing sources of political weights is the reader should be reticent to make strong connections between the information from these analyses and potential election implications. The estimates we report are ultimately estimates of the non-institutionalized, civilian, adult population of the state and not necessarily the adult population of the state that votes.

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak

The first COVID-19 specific question our poll raised asked the respondent to state how concerned they were about the COVID-19 outbreak in their area. Responses include “extremely concerned”, “moderately concerned”, “a little concerned”, “not concerned at all”, and “unsure.” None of the 1,030 responses were “unsure” on this prompt and we exclude those potential responses from the estimation procedure.

Overall, the results of the MRP estimation procedure and simulations from the posterior distribution of weighted/summarized responses suggest South Carolinians are mostly moderately concerned or extremely concerned about the COVID-19 outbreak, on the balance. There is little variation by age, education level, and gender. Black South Carolinians express greater concern than white respondents and Democrats express more concern than Republicans.

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Table 1: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Extremely concerned	35.05%	29.45%	40.42%
Moderately concerned	39.66%	34.14%	44.94%
A little concerned	17.2%	12.64%	21.59%
Not concerned at all	8.09%	4.94%	11.46%

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Table 2: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Extremely concerned	35.68%	25.62%	45.45%
18 to 29	Moderately concerned	37.78%	28.1%	47.19%
18 to 29	A little concerned	17.45%	9.92%	24.79%
18 to 29	Not concerned at all	9.09%	3.31%	14.88%
30 to 39	Extremely concerned	35.27%	25%	44.77%
30 to 39	Moderately concerned	39.27%	29.65%	49.42%
30 to 39	A little concerned	17.01%	9.88%	24.42%
30 to 39	Not concerned at all	8.45%	3.49%	13.95%
40 to 49	Extremely concerned	33.18%	24.59%	42.08%
40 to 49	Moderately concerned	38.4%	27.87%	49.18%
40 to 49	A little concerned	18.7%	10.38%	27.87%
40 to 49	Not concerned at all	9.72%	3.28%	17.49%
50 to 64	Extremely concerned	35.25%	27.71%	43.35%
50 to 64	Moderately concerned	38.98%	29.95%	47.86%
50 to 64	A little concerned	17.61%	9.32%	25.94%
50 to 64	Not concerned at all	8.16%	2.52%	14.61%
65 to 80+	Extremely concerned	35.51%	25.47%	45.96%
65 to 80+	Moderately concerned	42.14%	30.12%	53.73%
65 to 80+	A little concerned	15.84%	6.21%	25.78%
65 to 80+	Not concerned at all	6.51%	0.93%	13.66%

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Table 3: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Extremely concerned	37.77%	26.32%	52.63%
No high school diploma	Moderately concerned	35.83%	21.05%	52.63%
No high school diploma	A little concerned	17.75%	5.26%	31.58%
No high school diploma	Not concerned at all	8.65%	0%	21.05%
High school or equivalent	Extremely concerned	31.01%	21.53%	40.97%
High school or equivalent	Moderately concerned	40.12%	30.21%	50%
High school or equivalent	A little concerned	19.29%	10.76%	28.82%
High school or equivalent	Not concerned at all	9.58%	3.47%	17.36%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Extremely concerned	34.5%	26.51%	42.75%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Moderately concerned	39.85%	30.96%	48.65%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	A little concerned	17.47%	10.32%	24.82%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Not concerned at all	8.19%	3.19%	13.76%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Extremely concerned	37.83%	30.56%	45.53%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Moderately concerned	39.39%	31.39%	47.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	A little concerned	15.69%	9.36%	22.04%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Not concerned at all	7.1%	2.7%	12.08%

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Table 4: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Extremely concerned	37.47%	30.95%	43.94%
Female	Moderately concerned	39.11%	32.12%	46.13%
Female	A little concerned	16.16%	10.66%	22.04%
Female	Not concerned at all	7.26%	3.36%	11.97%
Male	Extremely concerned	31.8%	25.1%	39.02%
Male	Moderately concerned	40.41%	32.75%	47.65%
Male	A little concerned	18.58%	12.55%	25.1%
Male	Not concerned at all	9.21%	4.69%	14.31%

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 5: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Extremely concerned	68.44%	50.88%	85%
Black	Moderately concerned	25.43%	12.79%	38.94%
Black	A little concerned	4.67%	0.88%	9.29%
Black	Not concerned at all	1.46%	0%	3.54%
Hispanic	Extremely concerned	29.21%	8.7%	52.17%
Hispanic	Moderately concerned	40.84%	26.09%	56.52%
Hispanic	A little concerned	19.16%	4.35%	34.78%
Hispanic	Not concerned at all	10.78%	0%	21.74%
Other	Extremely concerned	19.29%	6.98%	32.56%
Other	Moderately concerned	40.84%	27.91%	53.49%
Other	A little concerned	24.03%	13.95%	34.88%
Other	Not concerned at all	15.84%	6.98%	27.91%
White	Extremely concerned	27.59%	22.26%	32.78%
White	Moderately concerned	43.14%	36.99%	49.72%
White	A little concerned	19.95%	14.29%	25.47%
White	Not concerned at all	9.31%	5.2%	13.74%

Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Table 6: Concern for the COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Extremely concerned	62.47%	51.8%	72.46%
Democrat	Moderately concerned	30.12%	21.56%	38.92%
Democrat	A little concerned	5.67%	2.66%	9.58%
Democrat	Not concerned at all	1.74%	0.3%	3.59%
Independent/Other	Extremely concerned	32.97%	26.03%	40.18%
Independent/Other	Moderately concerned	43.27%	36.3%	50.46%
Independent/Other	A little concerned	16.57%	10.96%	23.06%
Independent/Other	Not concerned at all	7.2%	3.42%	11.42%
Republican	Extremely concerned	15.55%	8.04%	23.88%
Republican	Moderately concerned	43.47%	32.86%	54.61%
Republican	A little concerned	26.94%	17.26%	36.88%
Republican	Not concerned at all	14.04%	6.38%	22.7%

How Satisfied are South Carolinians with the U.S. Government's Response?

We asked South Carolinians how satisfied they were with the U.S. government's current response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The original prompt ranged from "extremely satisfied" to "extremely dissatisfied" on a seven-point ordinal scale. The summary condensed the responses to "satisfied", "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied", and "dissatisfied" prior to modeling.

Overall, South Carolinians seem to be more dissatisfied than satisfied with the U.S. government's response. On average, the posterior predictions suggest 40.9% of South Carolinians are satisfied with the U.S. government's response and 52.36% are dissatisfied. The 80% intervals around those estimates do not overlap though a reader is free to note that more conservative uncertainty estimates (e.g. 90% or 95%) would seem to overlap. The simulations also suggest major differences between younger South Carolinians and the oldest South Carolinians on how satisfied they are with the U.S. government's response. We also observe major racial/ethnic differences between black South Carolinians and white South Carolinians. Further, and unsurprisingly, there are major partisan differences as well. We estimate about 68% of South Carolina Republicans are satisfied with the U.S. government's response. Only about 6.82% of South Carolina Democrats are satisfied with the U.S. government's response.

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, Overall

Table 7: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Satisfied	40.9%	35.47%	46.28%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.74%	3.6%	10.46%
Dissatisfied	52.36%	47.45%	57.24%

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Age Group

Table 8: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Satisfied	31.06%	23.14%	38.84%
18 to 29	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.94%	2.48%	12.4%
18 to 29	Dissatisfied	62%	53.72%	70.25%
30 to 39	Satisfied	26.73%	19.19%	34.3%
30 to 39	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.3%	1.74%	11.63%
30 to 39	Dissatisfied	66.97%	59.3%	74.42%
40 to 49	Satisfied	38.36%	28.96%	47.54%
40 to 49	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.81%	1.64%	13.11%
40 to 49	Dissatisfied	54.84%	46.45%	63.93%
50 to 64	Satisfied	42.64%	34.01%	50.63%
50 to 64	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.61%	2.27%	12.34%
50 to 64	Dissatisfied	50.74%	43.3%	58.69%
65 to 80+	Satisfied	51.45%	40.37%	62.73%
65 to 80+	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.03%	1.86%	13.66%
65 to 80+	Dissatisfied	41.51%	31.99%	51.55%

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Education

Table 9: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Satisfied	34.61%	21.05%	47.37%
No high school diploma	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.63%	0%	16.32%
No high school diploma	Dissatisfied	57.76%	42.11%	73.68%
High school or equivalent	Satisfied	41.63%	29.51%	52.78%
High school or equivalent	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	10.17%	2.78%	19.83%
High school or equivalent	Dissatisfied	48.2%	37.5%	59.72%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Satisfied	42.64%	34.4%	50.86%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.09%	2.7%	12.78%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Dissatisfied	50.27%	42.51%	57.99%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Satisfied	39.23%	32.83%	45.74%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.36%	1.66%	7.69%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Dissatisfied	56.4%	50.08%	62.58%

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Gender

Table 10: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Satisfied	37.61%	31.24%	43.94%
Female	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.36%	2.77%	10.66%
Female	Dissatisfied	56.03%	50.22%	62.19%
Male	Satisfied	45.31%	37.25%	52.94%
Male	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.26%	2.94%	12.16%
Male	Dissatisfied	47.43%	40.39%	54.73%

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 11: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Satisfied	13.1%	6.19%	21.68%
Black	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.61%	0.44%	9.73%
Black	Dissatisfied	82.28%	73.01%	89.82%
Hispanic	Satisfied	33.27%	13.04%	52.17%
Hispanic	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	10.97%	0%	26.09%
Hispanic	Dissatisfied	55.76%	39.13%	73.91%
Other	Satisfied	28.48%	13.95%	44.19%
Other	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	12.44%	2.33%	25.58%
Other	Dissatisfied	59.08%	44.19%	74.42%
White	Satisfied	48.64%	42.41%	54.82%
White	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.9%	3.32%	11.52%
White	Dissatisfied	44.46%	39.09%	49.94%

Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Partisanship

Table 12: Satisfaction with U.S. Government's Response to COVID-19, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Satisfied	6.82%	2.99%	11.38%
Democrat	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	2.24%	0.3%	4.79%
Democrat	Dissatisfied	90.94%	85.33%	95.51%
Independent/Other	Satisfied	40.61%	32.63%	48.63%
Independent/Other	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	9.37%	4.11%	15.75%
Independent/Other	Dissatisfied	50.01%	42.01%	57.99%
Republican	Satisfied	68.1%	57.92%	77.78%
Republican	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.58%	2.36%	14.18%
Republican	Dissatisfied	24.32%	15.37%	33.57%

How Satisfied with the State Government's Response?

We asked South Carolinians how satisfied they were with the state government's current response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The original prompt ranged from "extremely satisfied" to "extremely dissatisfied" on a seven-point ordinal scale. The summary condensed the responses to "satisfied", "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied", and "dissatisfied" prior to modeling.

The breakdown is similar to the attitudes about the U.S. government's response. On average, South Carolinians are more dissatisfied with the state government's response, though the 80% intervals do overlap in the simulations on this question. The same age group, racial/ethnic, and partisan variation emerges as well, but the differences are not as strong.

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, Overall

Table 13: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Satisfied	43.5%	37.23%	49.72%
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	5.28%	2.26%	8.62%
Dissatisfied	51.22%	45.1%	56.99%

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Age Group

Table 14: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Satisfied	27.62%	16.53%	38.02%
18 to 29	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	5.04%	0.83%	10.74%
18 to 29	Dissatisfied	67.34%	56.2%	78.51%
30 to 39	Satisfied	27.8%	18.6%	37.79%
30 to 39	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.75%	1.16%	9.88%
30 to 39	Dissatisfied	67.45%	57.56%	76.74%
40 to 49	Satisfied	37.75%	27.32%	48.09%
40 to 49	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.65%	1.64%	13.66%
40 to 49	Dissatisfied	55.6%	45.36%	66.12%
50 to 64	Satisfied	47.38%	38.04%	56.45%
50 to 64	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	5.38%	1.01%	10.86%
50 to 64	Dissatisfied	47.24%	38.29%	56.68%
65 to 80+	Satisfied	56.34%	43.79%	68.63%
65 to 80+	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.74%	0.62%	11.18%
65 to 80+	Dissatisfied	38.92%	27.95%	50.62%

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Education

Table 15: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Satisfied	39.74%	21.05%	57.89%
No high school diploma	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.22%	0%	15.79%
No high school diploma	Dissatisfied	54.05%	36.84%	68.42%
High school or equivalent	Satisfied	41.33%	27.78%	53.47%
High school or equivalent	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	9.33%	2.08%	19.1%
High school or equivalent	Dissatisfied	49.34%	37.5%	61.81%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Satisfied	45.39%	36.36%	54.55%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.67%	0.98%	9.58%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Dissatisfied	49.94%	41.28%	58.75%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Satisfied	43.36%	35.74%	50.73%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	3.33%	0.83%	6.86%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Dissatisfied	53.31%	45.95%	60.71%

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Gender

Table 16: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Satisfied	39.66%	32.25%	46.86%
Female	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	6.28%	2.19%	10.66%
Female	Dissatisfied	54.06%	47.15%	61.04%
Male	Satisfied	48.66%	40.2%	56.67%
Male	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	3.94%	0.98%	7.84%
Male	Dissatisfied	47.4%	39.41%	55.69%

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 17: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Satisfied	26.67%	16.37%	38.94%
Black	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	3.34%	0%	9.29%
Black	Dissatisfied	69.98%	57.04%	80.97%
Hispanic	Satisfied	29.89%	4.35%	52.17%
Hispanic	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	16.02%	0%	39.13%
Hispanic	Dissatisfied	54.09%	34.35%	78.26%
Other	Satisfied	39.13%	23.26%	55.81%
Other	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	2.5%	0%	6.98%
Other	Dissatisfied	58.38%	41.86%	74.42%
White	Satisfied	48.27%	41.42%	55.05%
White	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	5.62%	2.21%	9.52%
White	Dissatisfied	46.11%	39.31%	52.72%

Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Partisanship

Table 18: Satisfaction with State Government's Response to COVID-19, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Satisfied	17.04%	9.88%	24.85%
Democrat	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	4.29%	1.2%	8.68%
Democrat	Dissatisfied	78.67%	70.06%	86.53%
Independent/Other	Satisfied	45.13%	35.84%	53.88%
Independent/Other	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	3.56%	0.46%	7.31%
Independent/Other	Dissatisfied	51.31%	43.13%	60.05%
Republican	Satisfied	62.7%	51.3%	72.81%
Republican	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	7.84%	1.89%	15.13%
Republican	Dissatisfied	29.45%	19.86%	39.48%

Do South Carolinians Approve of How Donald Trump Handled the COVID-19 Outbreak?

We asked our respondents to assess how much they approve of Donald Trump's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak on a four-part scale of "strongly approve", "somewhat approve", "somewhat disapprove", and "strongly disapprove." We condensed these responses to binary indicators of "approve" and "disapprove."

South Carolinians are split on whether they approve of how Donald Trump handled the COVID-19 outbreak. The variation that emerges will cluster on known predictors of Donald Trump's overall approval rating. In other words, younger South Carolinians are less likely to approve of Donald Trump's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak than older South Carolinians. South Carolinians with higher levels of education were less likely to say they approved of Donald Trump's handling of the COVID-19 outbreak than South Carolinians with lower levels of education. White South Carolinians were more likely to say they approve than Black South Carolinians. There are also the familiar partisan differences as well. Unsurprisingly, Republicans are more supportive of a Republican president's handling of the outbreak.

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Table 19: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Approve	49.92%	46.03%	53.64%
Disapprove	50.08%	46.36%	53.97%

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Table 20: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Approve	37.08%	29.75%	43.8%
18 to 29	Disapprove	62.92%	56.2%	70.25%
30 to 39	Approve	33.61%	28.43%	38.95%
30 to 39	Disapprove	66.39%	61.05%	71.57%
40 to 49	Approve	48.56%	42.08%	54.1%
40 to 49	Disapprove	51.44%	45.9%	57.92%
50 to 64	Approve	50.49%	44.58%	55.44%
50 to 64	Disapprove	49.51%	44.56%	55.42%
65 to 80+	Approve	63.55%	55.59%	70.19%
65 to 80+	Disapprove	36.45%	29.81%	44.41%

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Table 21: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Approve	49.08%	42.11%	57.89%
No high school diploma	Disapprove	50.92%	42.11%	57.89%
High school or equivalent	Approve	59.76%	51.7%	67.71%
High school or equivalent	Disapprove	40.24%	32.29%	48.3%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Approve	51.54%	46.19%	56.78%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Disapprove	48.46%	43.22%	53.81%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Approve	42.7%	37.63%	47.19%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Disapprove	57.3%	52.81%	62.37%

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Table 22: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Approve	46.8%	42.63%	50.66%
Female	Disapprove	53.2%	49.34%	57.37%
Male	Approve	54.12%	48.04%	59.41%
Male	Disapprove	45.88%	40.59%	51.96%

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 23: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Approve	11.97%	6.19%	19.03%
Black	Disapprove	88.03%	80.97%	93.81%
Hispanic	Approve	45.9%	17.39%	65.22%
Hispanic	Disapprove	54.1%	34.78%	82.61%
Other	Approve	44.88%	30.23%	58.14%
Other	Disapprove	55.12%	41.86%	69.77%
White	Approve	59.77%	55.59%	63.68%
White	Disapprove	40.23%	36.32%	44.41%

Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Table 24: Approval of Trump's Handling of COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Approve	2.97%	0.9%	5.99%
Democrat	Disapprove	97.03%	94.01%	99.1%
Independent/Other	Approve	50.13%	43.15%	56.85%
Independent/Other	Disapprove	49.87%	43.15%	56.85%
Republican	Approve	86.79%	80.85%	91.96%
Republican	Disapprove	13.21%	8.04%	19.15%

Did Donald Trump Act Too Slowly or Even Overreact to the COVID-19 Outbreak?

We asked South Carolinians to say which of the following statements comes closest to their view about how Donald Trump responded to the COVID-19 outbreak. These responses included that Trump “acted too slowly in responding to the outbreak”, that Trump “acted in a timely and responsible way”, or that Trump “is overreacting to the outbreak.” Respondents could say they were unsure.

Overall, our simulations suggest a clear majority of South Carolinians think Trump acted too slowly. Younger South Carolinians were much more likely than older South Carolinians to think Trump acted too slowly. Black South Carolinians and South Carolina Democrats almost unanimously think Trump acted too slowly. An estimated 62.37% of South Carolina Republicans think Donald Trump acted in a timely and responsible way.

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Table 25: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Overreacting to the Outbreak	7.32%	3.77%	11.46%
Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	32.29%	27.36%	37.32%
Acted Too Slowly	55.28%	50.96%	59.75%
Unsure	5.11%	2.43%	8.28%

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Table 26: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Overreacting to the Outbreak	4.64%	0.83%	9.17%
18 to 29	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	24.42%	17.36%	31.4%
18 to 29	Acted Too Slowly	66.82%	60.33%	73.55%
18 to 29	Unsure	4.12%	0.83%	8.26%
30 to 39	Overreacting to the Outbreak	4.75%	1.16%	9.3%
30 to 39	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	21.76%	15.12%	27.91%
30 to 39	Acted Too Slowly	69.34%	63.95%	74.42%
30 to 39	Unsure	4.16%	0.58%	8.2%
40 to 49	Overreacting to the Outbreak	7.05%	1.64%	13.17%
40 to 49	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	31.68%	22.95%	39.89%
40 to 49	Acted Too Slowly	55.83%	49.73%	62.84%
40 to 49	Unsure	5.43%	1.09%	11.53%
50 to 64	Overreacting to the Outbreak	8.33%	2.27%	14.61%
50 to 64	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	32.34%	23.68%	40.3%
50 to 64	Acted Too Slowly	54.5%	48.61%	60.73%
50 to 64	Unsure	4.83%	1.01%	10.33%
65 to 80+	Overreacting to the Outbreak	8.61%	0.93%	16.46%
65 to 80+	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	41.15%	29.81%	52.17%
65 to 80+	Acted Too Slowly	44.1%	34.78%	53.73%
65 to 80+	Unsure	6.14%	0.93%	13.39%

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Table 27: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Overreacting to the Outbreak	5.26%	0%	10.53%
No high school diploma	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	34.56%	21.05%	47.37%
No high school diploma	Acted Too Slowly	54.69%	47.37%	63.16%
No high school diploma	Unsure	5.48%	0%	15.79%
High school or equivalent	Overreacting to the Outbreak	7.51%	1.04%	16.35%
High school or equivalent	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	37.57%	26.04%	48.26%
High school or equivalent	Acted Too Slowly	46.5%	37.85%	56.25%
High school or equivalent	Unsure	8.42%	2.08%	17.01%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Overreacting to the Outbreak	9.42%	3.19%	16.46%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	30.51%	22.11%	38.57%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Acted Too Slowly	56%	49.88%	62.92%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Unsure	4.07%	0.74%	8.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Overreacting to the Outbreak	5.51%	1.25%	10.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	30.54%	23.91%	37.21%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Acted Too Slowly	59.96%	54.68%	65.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Unsure	3.98%	0.83%	8.11%

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Table 28: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Overreacting to the Outbreak	3.87%	0.88%	7.45%
Female	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	32.7%	26.99%	38.25%
Female	Acted Too Slowly	57.97%	53.87%	62.77%
Female	Unsure	5.47%	2.04%	9.36%
Male	Overreacting to the Outbreak	11.95%	5.47%	19.22%
Male	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	31.74%	24.12%	39.61%
Male	Acted Too Slowly	51.68%	45.1%	58.63%
Male	Unsure	4.63%	1.18%	8.82%

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 29: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Overreacting to the Outbreak	1.13%	0%	3.54%
Black	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	3.62%	0%	7.96%
Black	Acted Too Slowly	94.24%	88.05%	100%
Black	Unsure	1.01%	0%	2.7%
Hispanic	Overreacting to the Outbreak	8.9%	0%	30.43%
Hispanic	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	22.41%	0%	43.48%
Hispanic	Acted Too Slowly	63.27%	34.78%	100%
Hispanic	Unsure	5.42%	0%	13.04%
Other	Overreacting to the Outbreak	3.93%	0%	11.63%
Other	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	27.99%	13.95%	41.86%
Other	Acted Too Slowly	60.36%	44.19%	79.07%
Other	Unsure	7.71%	0%	16.28%
White	Overreacting to the Outbreak	8.99%	4.54%	14.17%
White	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	39.92%	33.65%	46.29%
White	Acted Too Slowly	45.09%	40.2%	50.72%
White	Unsure	6%	2.44%	9.97%

How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Table 30: How Trump Responded to COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Overreacting to the Outbreak	0.39%	0%	1.2%
Democrat	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	1.27%	0.3%	2.69%
Democrat	Acted Too Slowly	97.91%	95.81%	99.4%
Democrat	Unsure	0.42%	0%	1.2%
Independent/Other	Overreacting to the Outbreak	9.97%	3.42%	17.35%
Independent/Other	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	26.89%	18.95%	34.93%
Independent/Other	Acted Too Slowly	58.24%	50.23%	66.44%
Independent/Other	Unsure	4.9%	1.83%	8.9%
Republican	Overreacting to the Outbreak	10.04%	3.29%	17.49%
Republican	Acted in a Timely and Responsible Way	62.37%	51.96%	72.58%
Republican	Acted Too Slowly	18.56%	11.82%	26.24%
Republican	Unsure	9.02%	3.07%	16.31%

Are South Carolinians Worried They Will Get Sick with COVID-19?

We asked South Carolinians how worried they are about getting sick with COVID-19. Responses included “extremely worried”, “somewhat worried”, “not too worried”, “not worried at all”, and “unsure.”

Overall, South Carolinians are split on the level of worry. About half are either extremely worried or somewhat worried. The other half are either not too worried or not worried at all. The biggest variation is again observed separating black South Carolinians from white South Carolinians and South Carolina Democrats from South Carolina Republicans. Black South Carolinians and South Carolina Democrats are more worried about personally contracting COVID-19 than white South Carolinians and South Carolina Republicans.

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, Overall

Table 31: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Extremely worried	11.6%	7.87%	15.49%
Somewhat worried	38.06%	31.63%	44.44%
Not too worried	33.17%	26.86%	39.75%
Not worried at all	15.77%	10.79%	21%
Unsure	1.4%	0.33%	2.76%

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Age Group

Table 32: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Extremely worried	14.42%	6.61%	22.31%
18 to 29	Somewhat worried	36.13%	24.79%	47.11%
18 to 29	Not too worried	33.87%	23.14%	45.45%
18 to 29	Not worried at all	13.64%	6.61%	21.49%
18 to 29	Unsure	1.94%	0%	4.96%
30 to 39	Extremely worried	13.08%	5.81%	20.93%
30 to 39	Somewhat worried	44.59%	33.14%	55.29%
30 to 39	Not too worried	28.11%	18.6%	38.95%
30 to 39	Not worried at all	12.77%	6.4%	19.77%
30 to 39	Unsure	1.46%	0%	3.55%
40 to 49	Extremely worried	12.31%	6.01%	19.13%
40 to 49	Somewhat worried	38.78%	28.42%	49.73%
40 to 49	Not too worried	32.2%	20.77%	43.72%
40 to 49	Not worried at all	15.23%	7.1%	24.04%
40 to 49	Unsure	1.48%	0%	3.33%
50 to 64	Extremely worried	11.86%	6.3%	18.14%
50 to 64	Somewhat worried	37.09%	27.46%	46.85%
50 to 64	Not too worried	33.86%	23.68%	43.58%
50 to 64	Not worried at all	15.77%	8.31%	23.93%
50 to 64	Unsure	1.43%	0%	3.53%
65 to 80+	Extremely worried	9.04%	3.73%	15.53%
65 to 80+	Somewhat worried	36.09%	24.22%	48.17%
65 to 80+	Not too worried	35.31%	22.05%	48.76%
65 to 80+	Not worried at all	18.47%	8.07%	29.81%
65 to 80+	Unsure	1.08%	0%	2.48%

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Education

Table 33: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Extremely worried	12.95%	0%	26.32%
No high school diploma	Somewhat worried	36.85%	21.05%	57.89%
No high school diploma	Not too worried	33.78%	15.79%	52.63%
No high school diploma	Not worried at all	14.91%	5.26%	26.32%
No high school diploma	Unsure	1.51%	0%	5.26%
High school or equivalent	Extremely worried	10.54%	4.86%	17.4%
High school or equivalent	Somewhat worried	30.95%	18.06%	44.48%
High school or equivalent	Not too worried	40.31%	25.66%	55.21%
High school or equivalent	Not worried at all	16.72%	6.91%	28.47%
High school or equivalent	Unsure	1.49%	0%	3.47%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Extremely worried	12.75%	7.13%	19.41%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Somewhat worried	37.51%	28.48%	47.17%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Not too worried	30.52%	21.35%	40.29%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Not worried at all	17.56%	9.34%	26.04%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Unsure	1.66%	0.25%	3.69%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Extremely worried	11.22%	6.44%	16.63%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Somewhat worried	42.83%	34.28%	51.14%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Not too worried	31.12%	22.25%	39.29%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Not worried at all	13.71%	7.28%	20.19%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Unsure	1.12%	0%	2.7%

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Gender

Table 34: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Extremely worried	14.86%	9.78%	20.44%
Female	Somewhat worried	38.9%	31.53%	46.57%
Female	Not too worried	32.63%	24.82%	40.58%
Female	Not worried at all	12.03%	6.57%	17.82%
Female	Unsure	1.59%	0.15%	3.36%
Male	Extremely worried	7.24%	3.31%	11.78%
Male	Somewhat worried	36.93%	28.24%	45.88%
Male	Not too worried	33.9%	25.08%	42.94%
Male	Not worried at all	20.79%	12.75%	29.8%
Male	Unsure	1.14%	0%	2.55%

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 35: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Extremely worried	26.34%	12.83%	42.04%
Black	Somewhat worried	40.82%	23.45%	59.29%
Black	Not too worried	24.91%	11.06%	40.71%
Black	Not worried at all	3.68%	0%	9.73%
Black	Unsure	4.25%	0.44%	9.29%
Hispanic	Extremely worried	5.3%	0%	13.04%
Hispanic	Somewhat worried	70.48%	34.78%	100%
Hispanic	Not too worried	10.24%	0%	30.43%
Hispanic	Not worried at all	12.63%	0%	39.13%
Hispanic	Unsure	1.35%	0%	4.35%
Other	Extremely worried	6.65%	0%	13.95%
Other	Somewhat worried	34.62%	18.6%	53.49%
Other	Not too worried	26.73%	9.3%	44.19%
Other	Not worried at all	30.55%	11.63%	51.16%
Other	Unsure	1.44%	0%	4.65%
White	Extremely worried	8.31%	4.87%	12.18%
White	Somewhat worried	36.71%	30.23%	43.64%
White	Not too worried	36.13%	28.9%	43.85%
White	Not worried at all	18.17%	12.07%	24.47%
White	Unsure	0.68%	0%	1.77%

How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Partisanship

Table 36: How Worried About Getting Sick with COVID-19, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Extremely worried	20.02%	11.65%	29.64%
Democrat	Somewhat worried	51.66%	40.72%	63.2%
Democrat	Not too worried	24.16%	15.27%	33.83%
Democrat	Not worried at all	1.84%	0.3%	4.19%
Democrat	Unsure	2.33%	0%	5.39%
Independent/Other	Extremely worried	10.72%	5.94%	15.75%
Independent/Other	Somewhat worried	34.28%	25.57%	43.38%
Independent/Other	Not too worried	32.59%	23.74%	41.1%
Independent/Other	Not worried at all	21.02%	12.56%	29.91%
Independent/Other	Unsure	1.4%	0.23%	2.97%
Republican	Extremely worried	5.88%	1.42%	11.35%
Republican	Somewhat worried	31.23%	20.8%	41.61%
Republican	Not too worried	40.89%	29.29%	52.96%
Republican	Not worried at all	21.33%	11.82%	31.44%
Republican	Unsure	0.67%	0%	1.65%

Are South Carolinians More Worried About COVID-19's Effect on Health or the Economy?

We asked South Carolinians about the various effects of the COVID-19 outbreak, probing whether South Carolinians were more concerned about the effects on public health or the economy. The responses to this prompt included whether South Carolinians were more concerned about COVID-19's "impact on health, safety, and the medical system" or COVID-19's "impact on jobs, income, and the economy." Respondents could also say "Neither" or that they were unsure.

Overall, South Carolinians are split on whether they are most concerned about the effect on public health or the economy. Older South Carolinians were more likely to be concerned about the effect on the economy whereas younger South Carolinians were more concerned about the effect on public health. The biggest sources of variation are again race and partisanship. Black South Carolinians and South Carolina Democrats are more concerned about the effect on public health. White South Carolinians and especially South Carolina Republicans are more concerned about the effect on the economy.

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, Overall

Table 37: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Impact on health/safety/medical system	49.56%	44.27%	55.15%
Impact on jobs/income/economy	44.69%	39.41%	50.13%
Neither	2.85%	0.75%	5.61%
Unsure	2.9%	1.17%	4.85%

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Age Group

Table 38: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Impact on health/safety/medical system	60.69%	51.24%	71.07%
18 to 29	Impact on jobs/income/economy	34.22%	24.79%	42.98%
18 to 29	Neither	3.11%	0%	7.44%
18 to 29	Unsure	1.99%	0%	5.79%
30 to 39	Impact on health/safety/medical system	58.56%	50%	67.5%
30 to 39	Impact on jobs/income/economy	34.98%	26.74%	42.44%
30 to 39	Neither	2.71%	0%	6.4%
30 to 39	Unsure	3.75%	0.58%	8.14%
40 to 49	Impact on health/safety/medical system	50.9%	42.08%	60.11%
40 to 49	Impact on jobs/income/economy	42.56%	33.33%	51.37%
40 to 49	Neither	3.15%	0%	7.65%
40 to 49	Unsure	3.38%	0.55%	8.2%
50 to 64	Impact on health/safety/medical system	48.36%	40.3%	56.7%
50 to 64	Impact on jobs/income/economy	45.91%	37.28%	53.65%
50 to 64	Neither	2.9%	0.25%	6.8%
50 to 64	Unsure	2.83%	0.25%	6.8%
65 to 80+	Impact on health/safety/medical system	41.29%	31.06%	52.8%
65 to 80+	Impact on jobs/income/economy	53.52%	40.99%	64.6%
65 to 80+	Neither	2.61%	0%	7.45%
65 to 80+	Unsure	2.58%	0%	7.45%

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Education

Table 39: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Impact on health/safety/medical system	52.22%	15.79%	89.47%
No high school diploma	Impact on jobs/income/economy	39.72%	4.74%	73.68%
No high school diploma	Neither	4.02%	0%	10.53%
No high school diploma	Unsure	4.04%	0%	10.53%
High school or equivalent	Impact on health/safety/medical system	38.9%	27.08%	51.74%
High school or equivalent	Impact on jobs/income/economy	56%	43.02%	67.71%
High school or equivalent	Neither	4.93%	0.35%	11.81%
High school or equivalent	Unsure	0.17%	0%	0%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Impact on health/safety/medical system	52.96%	44.47%	61.92%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Impact on jobs/income/economy	41.56%	32.92%	50.12%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Neither	2.69%	0.25%	6.17%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Unsure	2.78%	0.25%	6.14%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Impact on health/safety/medical system	52.95%	46.15%	60.29%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Impact on jobs/income/economy	40.76%	33.47%	47.82%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Neither	1.7%	0.21%	3.95%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Unsure	4.58%	1.46%	8.32%

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Gender

Table 40: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Impact on health/safety/medical system	53.86%	47.15%	60.73%
Female	Impact on jobs/income/economy	38.95%	32.26%	45.26%
Female	Neither	3.99%	1.02%	7.88%
Female	Unsure	3.2%	1.02%	5.84%
Male	Impact on health/safety/medical system	43.79%	36.67%	51.57%
Male	Impact on jobs/income/economy	52.4%	44.9%	59.8%
Male	Neither	1.33%	0%	3.53%
Male	Unsure	2.49%	0.39%	5.51%

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 41: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Impact on health/safety/medical system	80.93%	65.49%	93.36%
Black	Impact on jobs/income/economy	10.81%	1.77%	22.57%
Black	Neither	8.26%	0.88%	18.14%
Black	Unsure	0%	0%	0%
Hispanic	Impact on health/safety/medical system	38.96%	13.04%	65.22%
Hispanic	Impact on jobs/income/economy	59.4%	30.43%	82.61%
Hispanic	Neither	1.6%	0%	4.35%
Hispanic	Unsure	0.03%	0%	0%
Other	Impact on health/safety/medical system	49.26%	32.56%	67.44%
Other	Impact on jobs/income/economy	48.2%	30.23%	65.12%
Other	Neither	2.54%	0%	6.98%
Other	Unsure	0%	0%	0%
White	Impact on health/safety/medical system	41.99%	36.09%	48.5%
White	Impact on jobs/income/economy	52.63%	46.07%	58.91%
White	Neither	1.55%	0.11%	3.65%
White	Unsure	3.83%	1.55%	6.42%

Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Partisanship

Table 42: Most Worried About COVID-19 Effect, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Impact on health/safety/medical system	84.87%	76.65%	91.92%
Democrat	Impact on jobs/income/economy	9.06%	4.19%	14.67%
Democrat	Neither	4.43%	0.57%	9.88%
Democrat	Unsure	1.64%	0%	3.89%
Independent/Other	Impact on health/safety/medical system	48.46%	40.18%	56.39%
Independent/Other	Impact on jobs/income/economy	45.55%	37.21%	53.88%
Independent/Other	Neither	2.41%	0.46%	4.79%
Independent/Other	Unsure	3.58%	1.14%	6.85%
Republican	Impact on health/safety/medical system	22.81%	13.95%	32.39%
Republican	Impact on jobs/income/economy	71.94%	61.94%	81.35%
Republican	Neither	2.07%	0%	6.38%
Republican	Unsure	3.18%	0.24%	7.57%

Should the Government Prioritize Public Health or the Economy re: COVID-19?

We asked South Carolinians what the government should prioritize in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The respondent could select “Public health (i.e. the health and well-being of Americans)”, “The economy (i.e. jobs, income, and overall economic productivity)”, or that they were unsure. A government’s response need not elevate one over the other; indeed the relationship is fundamentally symbiotic. However, public discourse is increasingly treating the government’s response as an either/or.

Overall, South Carolinians believe it is more important to prioritize public health over the economy rather than the economy over public health. We again observe the same variation by age group, race/ethnicity, and partisanship. However, only the variation by partisanship is large enough to change the overall assessment that South Carolinians generally prioritize public health over the economy. Over 90% of South Carolina Democrats prioritize public health over the economy and only an estimated 1.98% of South Carolina Democrats would prioritize the economy over public health. An estimated 44.53% of South Carolina Republicans would prioritize the economy over public health, the estimated modal response among South Carolina Republicans. However, an estimated 16% of South Carolina Republicans were unsure about which of the two priorities would be more important.

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, Overall

Table 43: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
The economy	26.65%	20.91%	32.72%
Public health	63.5%	57.91%	68.62%
Unsure	9.85%	6.19%	13.81%

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Age Group

Table 44: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	The economy	19.65%	11.57%	28.1%
18 to 29	Public health	70.57%	61.98%	79.34%
18 to 29	Unsure	9.78%	3.31%	16.53%
30 to 39	The economy	18.39%	11.05%	26.16%
30 to 39	Public health	71.09%	62.79%	79.65%
30 to 39	Unsure	10.51%	4.65%	16.86%
40 to 49	The economy	26.76%	16.94%	36.07%
40 to 49	Public health	62.87%	53.55%	72.68%
40 to 49	Unsure	10.37%	3.28%	18.58%
50 to 64	The economy	28.41%	18.89%	38.04%
50 to 64	Public health	62.46%	53.15%	71.03%
50 to 64	Unsure	9.13%	3.53%	15.89%
65 to 80+	The economy	31.48%	18.91%	44.72%
65 to 80+	Public health	58.42%	45.65%	70.5%
65 to 80+	Unsure	10.1%	2.48%	19.57%

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Education

Table 45: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	The economy	27.58%	10.53%	42.11%
No high school diploma	Public health	63.58%	47.37%	78.95%
No high school diploma	Unsure	8.84%	0%	21.05%
High school or equivalent	The economy	31.89%	19.79%	45.14%
High school or equivalent	Public health	58.1%	46.88%	69.79%
High school or equivalent	Unsure	10.01%	3.47%	18.06%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	The economy	27.94%	18.67%	36.86%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Public health	62.59%	54.05%	71.77%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Unsure	9.47%	3.93%	16%
Bachelor's degree or higher	The economy	22.39%	14.55%	29.94%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Public health	67.49%	60.06%	75.05%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Unsure	10.12%	5.2%	15.59%

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Gender

Table 46: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	The economy	22.91%	15.91%	29.64%
Female	Public health	66.62%	60%	73.28%
Female	Unsure	10.48%	5.84%	15.62%
Male	The economy	31.69%	22.75%	41.18%
Male	Public health	59.3%	51.18%	67.84%
Male	Unsure	9%	4.12%	14.31%

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 47: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	The economy	4.12%	0%	10.22%
Black	Public health	88.44%	81.42%	95.13%
Black	Unsure	7.44%	3.05%	13.27%
Hispanic	The economy	26.63%	0%	60.87%
Hispanic	Public health	62.61%	34.78%	86.96%
Hispanic	Unsure	10.76%	0%	21.74%
Other	The economy	47.69%	27.67%	67.44%
Other	Public health	47.01%	30.23%	65.12%
Other	Unsure	5.29%	0%	11.63%
White	The economy	31.29%	24.36%	38.44%
White	Public health	58.06%	51.16%	64.57%
White	Unsure	10.65%	6.31%	15.61%

What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Partisanship

Table 48: What the Government Should Prioritize re: COVID-19, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	The economy	1.98%	0.3%	4.19%
Democrat	Public health	92.96%	88.62%	96.71%
Democrat	Unsure	5.06%	1.8%	8.98%
Independent/Other	The economy	28.21%	18.93%	37.44%
Independent/Other	Public health	64.25%	55.02%	73.52%
Independent/Other	Unsure	7.54%	3.42%	12.1%
Republican	The economy	44.53%	32.84%	56.5%
Republican	Public health	39.45%	28.37%	50.12%
Republican	Unsure	16.02%	7.8%	24.85%

Is COVID-19 a Real Threat or Is It Blown out of Proportion?

We asked our sample of South Carolinians whether they believed COVID-19 is a real threat or if COVID-19 is “blown out of proportion.” Respondents could also say they were unsure.

There is an overall consensus among South Carolinians that COVID-19 is a real threat. We estimate only about 22% of South Carolinians think COVID-19 is blown out of proportion. The biggest sources of variation within this overall consensus are again by race/ethnicity and partisanship. White South Carolinians are less likely than black South Carolinians to say COVID-19 is a real threat even though an estimated 63% of white South Carolinians think COVID-19 is a real threat. White South Carolinians are also more likely than black South Carolinians to think COVID-19 is blown out of proportion. There is bigger variation by partisanship. Almost 95% of South Carolina Democrats think COVID-19 is a real threat and only about 2% of South Carolina Democrats think COVID-19 is blown out of proportion. By contrast, an estimated 48% of South Carolina Republicans think COVID-19 is a real threat and an estimated 39% think COVID-19 is blown out of proportion.

Threat Perception of COVID-19, Overall

Table 49: Threat Perception of COVID-19, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
A real threat	68.33%	62.51%	74.15%
Blown out of proportion	22.84%	17.49%	28.62%
Unsure	8.83%	5.52%	12.38%

Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Age Group

Table 50: Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	A real threat	73.41%	64.46%	81.82%
18 to 29	Blown out of proportion	17.05%	9.09%	24.79%
18 to 29	Unsure	9.53%	3.31%	16.53%
30 to 39	A real threat	74.52%	66.28%	82.56%
30 to 39	Blown out of proportion	16.48%	9.3%	23.84%
30 to 39	Unsure	9%	3.49%	15.12%
40 to 49	A real threat	67.49%	57.38%	77.65%
40 to 49	Blown out of proportion	23.09%	13.66%	33.33%
40 to 49	Unsure	9.42%	3.83%	16.39%
50 to 64	A real threat	68.32%	59.19%	78.09%
50 to 64	Blown out of proportion	23.41%	14.86%	32.49%
50 to 64	Unsure	8.26%	3.02%	14.36%
65 to 80+	A real threat	63.58%	50.59%	76.4%
65 to 80+	Blown out of proportion	27.57%	14.91%	40.68%
65 to 80+	Unsure	8.85%	2.48%	17.42%

Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Education

Table 51: Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	A real threat	69.35%	57.89%	84.21%
No high school diploma	Blown out of proportion	22.19%	10.53%	36.84%
No high school diploma	Unsure	8.46%	0%	15.79%
High school or equivalent	A real threat	66.16%	54.13%	78.12%
High school or equivalent	Blown out of proportion	24.06%	11.81%	36.46%
High school or equivalent	Unsure	9.78%	3.82%	17.36%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	A real threat	66.48%	57.47%	75.68%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Blown out of proportion	25.33%	16.44%	34.89%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Unsure	8.19%	3.19%	13.51%
Bachelor's degree or higher	A real threat	71.14%	63.41%	79%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Blown out of proportion	20.03%	12.68%	27.44%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Unsure	8.82%	4.14%	14.35%

Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Gender

Table 52: Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	A real threat	71.87%	64.82%	78.98%
Female	Blown out of proportion	19.55%	12.98%	26.13%
Female	Unsure	8.59%	4.53%	13.14%
Male	A real threat	63.57%	54.69%	72.55%
Male	Blown out of proportion	27.27%	18.43%	36.27%
Male	Unsure	9.16%	4.51%	14.51%

Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 53: Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	A real threat	88.38%	80.97%	95.13%
Black	Blown out of proportion	3.75%	0%	8.89%
Black	Unsure	7.87%	2.65%	14.6%
Hispanic	A real threat	63.98%	39.13%	86.96%
Hispanic	Blown out of proportion	21.59%	0%	48.26%
Hispanic	Unsure	14.43%	0%	30.43%
Other	A real threat	57.13%	39.53%	74.42%
Other	Blown out of proportion	34.35%	16.28%	55.81%
Other	Unsure	8.52%	2.33%	18.6%
White	A real threat	63.95%	56.92%	71.1%
White	Blown out of proportion	27.1%	20.27%	34.12%
White	Unsure	8.94%	4.98%	13.18%

Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Partisanship

Table 54: Threat Perception of COVID-19, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	A real threat	94.24%	90.12%	97.6%
Democrat	Blown out of proportion	1.98%	0.3%	4.19%
Democrat	Unsure	3.78%	1.2%	7.49%
Independent/Other	A real threat	67.5%	58.68%	76.48%
Independent/Other	Blown out of proportion	22.72%	14.38%	31.51%
Independent/Other	Unsure	9.78%	4.79%	15.55%
Republican	A real threat	48.72%	37.12%	60.52%
Republican	Blown out of proportion	39.44%	27.19%	50.85%
Republican	Unsure	11.84%	5.2%	19.15%

The Financial Effect of COVID-19

We asked South Carolinians to say how their household was affected financially by the COVID-19 outbreak. Responses to the prompt ranged from “I’ve had my household income reduced a lot” to “I’ve had my household income increase a lot” on a five-point ordinal scale. The summary condensed the responses to “Income reduced”, “My household has not had a change in income”, and “Income increased” prior to modeling.

Our simulations suggest an estimated 42% of South Carolinians have seen a decline in their household income as a function of the COVID-19 outbreak. It should be unsurprising that older South Carolinians in the 65+ bracket were less likely to have their incomes decreased the extent to which they are less likely to be working than respondents in the 18-29 bracket. White South Carolinians are more likely than Black South Carolinians to report that their income decreased as a function of the COVID-19 outbreak even though the 80% intervals overlap. There is no major variation by partisanship.

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Table 55: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, Overall

Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Income increased	4.18%	2.17%	6.45%
No change	53.06%	45.86%	59.83%
Income decreased	42.75%	35.82%	49.63%

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Table 56: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Age Group

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
18 to 29	Income increased	5.13%	0.83%	9.92%
18 to 29	No change	44.6%	32.23%	57.02%
18 to 29	Income decreased	50.27%	37.19%	62.81%
30 to 39	Income increased	6.77%	1.74%	12.79%
30 to 39	No change	49.95%	38.37%	61.63%
30 to 39	Income decreased	43.29%	31.98%	54.65%
40 to 49	Income increased	4.72%	0.55%	9.84%
40 to 49	No change	55.78%	43.72%	67.76%
40 to 49	Income decreased	39.5%	27.87%	51.37%
50 to 64	Income increased	3.34%	0.5%	7.05%
50 to 64	No change	47.24%	35.77%	58.46%
50 to 64	Income decreased	49.41%	38.29%	60.45%
65 to 80+	Income increased	3.17%	0.31%	8.11%
65 to 80+	No change	63.54%	50.62%	76.12%
65 to 80+	Income decreased	33.29%	20.81%	46.27%

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Table 57: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Education

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
No high school diploma	Income increased	3.99%	0%	10.53%
No high school diploma	No change	55.54%	36.84%	73.68%
No high school diploma	Income decreased	40.47%	21.05%	57.89%
High school or equivalent	Income increased	4.05%	1.04%	8.33%
High school or equivalent	No change	51.47%	36.46%	66.32%
High school or equivalent	Income decreased	44.48%	30.56%	59.38%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Income increased	4.3%	1.23%	7.86%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	No change	48.43%	36.86%	58.97%
Some college, less than 4-yr degree	Income decreased	47.27%	37.08%	58.48%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Income increased	4.17%	1.46%	7.69%
Bachelor's degree or higher	No change	57.84%	48.86%	66.53%
Bachelor's degree or higher	Income decreased	37.99%	29.31%	46.99%

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Table 58: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Gender

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Female	Income increased	4.92%	2.19%	8.18%
Female	No change	52.65%	43.93%	61.46%
Female	Income decreased	42.43%	33.87%	50.95%
Male	Income increased	3.19%	0.78%	6.27%
Male	No change	53.62%	44.12%	62.76%
Male	Income decreased	43.19%	34.12%	52.35%

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Table 59: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Black	Income increased	5.77%	0.88%	11.95%
Black	No change	61.28%	45.13%	76.55%
Black	Income decreased	32.95%	18.14%	50%
Hispanic	Income increased	6.63%	0%	17.39%
Hispanic	No change	70.14%	43.48%	95.65%
Hispanic	Income decreased	23.23%	0%	52.17%
Other	Income increased	3.83%	0%	9.3%
Other	No change	64.15%	46.51%	83.72%
Other	Income decreased	32.02%	13.95%	51.16%
White	Income increased	3.74%	1.66%	6.21%
White	No change	50.04%	42.51%	57.81%
White	Income decreased	46.22%	38.54%	53.93%

Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Table 60: Financially Affected by COVID-19 Outbreak, by Partisanship

Group	Response	Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Democrat	Income increased	5.55%	1.8%	10.18%
Democrat	No change	57.3%	46.41%	67.96%
Democrat	Income decreased	37.15%	26.65%	47.31%
Independent/Other	Income increased	4.01%	1.37%	7.08%
Independent/Other	No change	51.56%	42.24%	61.19%
Independent/Other	Income decreased	44.43%	34.93%	53.88%
Republican	Income increased	3.28%	0.47%	7.35%
Republican	No change	51.28%	39.93%	62.41%
Republican	Income decreased	45.45%	33.81%	56.74%