

Oregonians' support for COVID-19 stay at home orders and conditions necessary to allow businesses, schools and other places to re-open

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From April 17–21, 2020, DHM Research conducted a survey of Oregonians. The purpose of the survey was to assess their attitudes and behaviors related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The survey included questions about the state's stay at home orders, conditions necessary to allow businesses, schools and other places to re-open.

This is the first of three data releases from this survey. The second release will share results about when Oregonians believe it will be safe to return to normal activities and the criteria they will use in making those decisions. The third release will share results about Oregonians opinions and experiences with the health system and support for releasing people from jails and prisons.

The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 900 Oregon residents ages 18+ and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups. To include more topics, some questions were randomly assigned to half the sample, referred to as Split A and Split B in the questionnaire.

Respondents were contacted by using a professionally maintained online panel. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by gender, age, race, education level, area of the state and political affiliation.

Statement of Limitations: Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. The margin of error is $\pm 3.3\%$ for the full sample and $\pm 4.4\%$ for the split samples.

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center: The research was completed as a community service by DHM Research in partnership with the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. Both organizations are independent and non-partisan. DHM is a Certified B Corporation and OVBC is an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

For media inquiries, please contact John Horvick, DHM Research Director of Client Relations and Political Research, at jhorvick@dhmresearch.com or 503.757.3051.

KEY FINDINGS

51% of Oregonians now say that the state is headed in the right direction, an 11-point increase in the last month.

Oregon has had few COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths than other states and as a result a majority of the state's residents now say that we are headed in the right direction. There is usually little difference in sentiment geography with 49% of those within the Portland metro area saying the state is headed in the right direction compared to 52% in the Willamette Valley and 52% in the rest of the state. However, by party there are expected differences with Democrats (70%) more positive than Republicans (28%) and non-affiliated or other party voters (48%)

Although they have leveled out, Oregonians continue to feel sharp economic pains.

56% of Oregonians now report that they are very or somewhat worried about their personal financial situation, which is actually a decline from late March when 63% said they were worried. While jobs losses have continued to increase, this survey was conducted at the same time people started to receive their federal stimulus payments.

An incredibly high number of households report job and income losses. 24% say that they or someone in their household has lost their job due to COVID-19, while 28% say that they or someone in their household has had their pay cut or hours reduced. Together, 40% of Oregonians say that their household has experienced these losses of income.

A clear majority of Oregonians, from across the state, are concerned about the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

Overall, 70% of Oregonians report that they are worried about the spread COVID-19 in their communities, with 27% saying they are "very worried." Worry is somewhat higher in the Portland metro area (74%), two-thirds or more are also worried in the Willamette Valley (68%) and the rest of the state (66%).

Oregonians overwhelmingly support the state's stay at home orders.

82% of Oregonians support the state's stay at home orders, including a whopping 60% who "strongly" support them. Support is wide and deep. It cuts across geography, political party, and among those most financially harmed by the lockdowns. By area, the orders are supported by 84% in the Portland metro, 85% in the Willamette Valley and 75% in the rest of the state. By party, the orders are supported by 95% of Democrats, 72% of Republicans, and 77% of NAV/others. And 83% of those with a job or income loss also support the orders.

Protests advocating against stay at home orders have popped up nationally and in Oregon. This data gives insight into how representative, or not, they are. The protests have a definite partisan make up, with Republicans and supporters of President Trump clearly visible. And recently, President Trump seemed to be encouraging the protests with a Tweet saying that some states should be "liberated." However, the views of the protestors are a distinctly minority view, not only of Oregonians generally, but Republicans specifically. As noted above, 72% of Republicans *support* the stay at home order. However, that does leave 28% of Republicans who oppose the orders (as do 20% of NAV/other voters) which is a sufficient number to organize protests.

Oregonians believe that the most important criteria for allowing business, schools and other places to re-open are widespread tests and declining positive cases, sufficient hospital capacity, and effective treatments.

We asked Oregonians if they would support or oppose allowing places to re-open if a number of conditions are met. Strong majorities said that they would support allowing places to re-open if:

- Widespread COVID-19 testing is available and the number of positive cases declines for 14 consecutive days (74% support)
- Oregon hospitals have enough beds, protective gear, and staff to manage the expected number of patients for all healthcare needs (67%)
- Effective COVID-19 treatments are available even if the virus continues to spread in Oregon (63%).

Most Oregonians do not think that testing alone is enough, they want to see a decline in new COVID-19 cases. Only 43% of Oregonians would support re-opening if widespread testing is available even if the virus continues to spread.

Oregonians do not support re-opening based on dates or unemployment rates.

We asked Oregonians if they would support or oppose allowing places to re-open by certain calendar dates or by an unemployment rate benchmark. Just 43% said that they would support re-opening by January 1, 2021, no matter what, and even fewer (33%) supported re-opening June 1, 2020, not matter what. Similarly, only 34% support re-opening if Oregon's unemployment rate is 15% or higher.

Oregon COVID-19 Survey 2
Dates fielded
Oregon Adults Ages 18+
Full sample N=900; ±3.3% margin of error
A/B split samples N=450; ±4.6%

DHM Research & Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

STATEWIDE BENCHMARKS

1. All things considered, do you think Oregon is headed in the right direction, or is it off on the wrong track?

Response category	n=900
Right direction	51%
Wrong track	34%
Don't know	16%

2. How worried are you about your personal financial situation?

Response category	n=900
Very worried	19%
Somewhat worried	37%
Not too worried	33%
Not at all worried	10%
Don't know	2%

(New page)

COVID-19: LEVEL OF CONCERN, BEHAVIORS, REPORTING

This survey will focus on the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

3. How worried are you about the spread of COVID-19 in your community?

Response category	n=900
Very worried	27%
Somewhat worried	43%
Not too worried	22%
Not at all worried	7%
Don't know	1%

How worried are you that the following people will become infected by COVID-19?

Response category	n=900	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Not too worried	Not worried at all	Not applicable	Don't know
4. You personally		15%	30%	40%	13%	1%	1%
5. A member of your household		24%	31%	28%	8%	8%	1%
6. Anyone else who does not live in your household but who would rely on your support for medical care		20%	28%	21%	8%	21%	2%

For each of the following, indicate whether or not it is something that happened to you or someone in your household because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

7. Been laid off or lost a job

Response category	n=900
Yes	24%
No	55%
Not applicable	21%

8. Had to take a pay cut due to reduced hours or demand for work

Response category	n=900
Yes	28%
No	45%
Not applicable	27%

COVID-19: RETURNING TO NORMAL

To manage the COVID-19 outbreak, Oregon has had “stay at home” orders in place since March 23rd.

The orders require Oregonians to stay a home as much as possible, and to only leave for essential trips such as medical care, groceries, and banking. When in public, people must keep at least six feet from each other.

The orders also prohibit social gatherings outside of homes and non-essential activities, including dine-in restaurants, theaters, sporting events, gyms, barbers and hair salons, and shopping malls.

20. Do you support or oppose Oregon’s stay at home orders?

Response category	n=900
Strongly support	60%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	6%
Don't know	2%

For these questions please consider what you think should be allowed in Oregon even if you personally choose not to return to normal activities. Questions later in the survey will ask about your personal behavior.

Would you support or oppose allowing Oregon businesses, schools and other places to open if the following conditions are met. **(Randomize)**

(Split A)

Response category n=450	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
38. Ten consecutive days with no deaths from COVID-19 in Oregon	18%	40%	22%	13%	7%
39. Widespread COVID-19 testing is available <u>and</u> the number of Oregonians who test positive declines for 14 consecutive days	30%	44%	14%	6%	6%
40. Widespread COVID-19 testing is available <u>even if</u> the virus continues to spread in Oregon	16%	27%	24%	28%	5%
41. By June 1, 2020, no matter what	15%	19%	19%	40%	8%

(Split B)

Response category n=450	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
42. Effective COVID-19 treatments are available <u>even if</u> the virus continues to spread in Oregon	26%	38%	19%	11%	7%
43. Oregon hospitals have enough beds, protective gear, and staff to manage the expected number of patients for all healthcare needs	27%	39%	16%	11%	6%
44. Only when an effective COVID-19 vaccine is widely available	36%	24%	16%	15%	10%
45. Oregon's unemployment rate is 15% or higher	15%	19%	21%	24%	21%
46. By January 1, 2021, no matter what	21%	22%	18%	25%	14%

The following are policies that some experts have suggested should be in place if Oregon allows businesses, schools and other places to open. Indicate if you would support or oppose each.

(Randomize)

Response category. n=900	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
57. Require that Oregonians who test positive for COVID-19 be monitored by GPS to ensure that they stay in self-isolation	20%	27%	21%	28%	5%
58. Fine people who violate stay at home orders	18%	31%	20%	26%	5%
59. Allow people who have recovered from COVID-19 to return to normal activities without restrictions	20%	27%	21%	28%	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS

(New page)

66. Would you say in general your health is:

Response category	n=900
Excellent	17%
Very good	38%
Good	28%
Fair	12%
Poor	4%
Don't know	1%

67. Do you have any medical conditions that make you more vulnerable to COVID-19?

Response category	n=900
Yes	33%
No	57%
Don't know	10%

68. In what year were you born? **(Autofill age as:)**

Response category	n=900
18–29	21%
30–44	26%
45–64	32%
65+	21%

69. I describe my gender as:

Response category	n=900
Male	49%
Female	49%
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	2%
Trans	n=4
Other	n=4

70. In what county do you live? (Dropdown box of all Oregon counties)
(Autofill area as:)

Response category	n=900
Tri-county	44%
Willamette Valley	27%
Rest of state	29%

71. What is your party registration?

Response category	n=900
Democrat	32%
Republican	22%
Another party	11%
Not affiliated with a political party	25%
Not registered to vote	9%

72. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Response category	n=900
Less than high school	3%
High school diploma/GED	30%
Some college/2-year degree	36%
College degree/4-year degree	16%
Graduate/professional school	15%

73. What was your total household income in 2019? Remember to include everyone and your best guess is okay.

Response category	n=900
Less than \$25,000	23%
\$25,000 to less than \$50,000	22%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	20%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	15%
\$150,000 or more	7%

74. With which of the following races and ethnicities do you identify? Check all that apply.

Response category	n=900
African	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Black/African American	2%
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	10%
Middle Eastern/North African	n=4
Native American/American Indian	6%
Slavic	2%
White or Caucasian	85%
Other	3%