

Center for Economic and Social Research

Understanding America Study Survey Topline

This document serves as an addendum of the “UAS 230 Early Release Methodology and Topline (March 10, 2020 – March 16, 2020)” published at <https://uasdata.usc.edu/page/COVID-19+Corona+Virus>. The purpose of the document is to describe relevant methodology and topline report that are related to the analysis of racial and ethnic discrimination and mistreatment amid COVID-19 pandemic based on data collected through March 21, 2020.

Sample information

A total of 6,408 adult U.S. residents participated in the ongoing survey from March 10 to March 21, 2020. Participants are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research’s Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The sample includes 83 respondents who started but did not yet complete the survey. As 8,502 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate for this partial sample is 75%.

Sample Characteristics

This note provides the sample characteristics, and brief summaries of the responses to the main questions asked in the survey. We list the questions in the survey that is associated with perceived discrimination and unfair treatment.

The table below summarizes select characteristics of the sample (N=6,408), with and without survey weights.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	41%	48%
Age (18-34)	20%	30%
Age (35-54)	37%	33%
Age (55-64)	20%	17%
Age (65+)	22%	21%
Low education (GED)	22%	25%
Medium education (Some College)	37%	42%
High education (College and above)	41%	33%
HH income (\$ 0-24,999)	20%	21%
HH income (\$ 25,000-49,999)	21%	21%
HH income (\$50,000-74,999)	19%	19%
HH income (\$75,000 and above)	40%	39%
Hispanic / Latino	16%	16%
Non-Hispanic White	66%	63%
Non-Hispanic Black	8%	12%
Asian	5%	5%

Perceived Discrimination and Unfair Treatment

The number of people overall who have experienced unpleasant encounters is limited at this point.

cr016: Have any of the following things happened to you due to people thinking you might have the coronavirus?

	Percent		
	Yes	No	Unsure
You were treated with less courtesy and respect than others	3	95	3
You received poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores	2	95	3
People acted as if they were afraid of you	3	94	3
You were threatened or harassed	1	97	2

Symptoms of Potential Ill Health

Few respondents reported experiencing any these symptoms in the past week. Roughly one in four reported having a runny or stuffy nose and/or sneezing, and roughly one in five reported feeling fatigue or tiredness. A low percentage of people reported having typical symptoms suggestive of the disease: 3% reported having fever or chills and 6% having shortness of breath.

cr002: Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 7 days?

	Percent		
	Yes	No	Unsure
Fever or chills	3	96	1
Runny or stuffy nose	24	75	1
Chest congestion	7	93	1
Skin rash	2	97	1
Cough	16	83	1
Sore throat	9	90	1
Sneezing	21	78	1
Muscle or body aches	12	88	1
Headaches	17	83	1
Fatigue or tiredness	20	79	1
Shortness of breath	6	93	1
Abdominal discomfort	7	93	1

Additional Information on UAS 166

In our analysis on perceived discrimination and mistreatment due to perceived coronavirus infection, we refer to an existing survey UAS 166. The methodology and the data of this survey can be found at <https://uasdata.usc.edu/survey/UAS+166>. Here we provide some sample information and topline report that are relevant to our analysis.

Sample information

A total of 5,605 adult U.S. residents participated in the survey titled “UAS 166: 2018 End of Year Survey”, from December 21, 2018 to February 28, 2019. Participants are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research’s Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The sample includes 36 respondents who started but did not yet complete the survey. As 6,708 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate for this partial sample is 84%.

The overall margin of sampling error is +/-2 percentage points for all residents. Factors other than sampling error may affect results of any survey, including question wording, question order, mode, sample type, population coverage, and impact of current events. Sampling error calculations are at the 98% confidence level.

Sample Characteristics

This note provides the sample characteristics, and brief summaries of the responses to the main questions asked in the survey. We list the questions in the survey that is associated with perceived discrimination and unfair treatment.

The table below summarizes select characteristics of the sample, with and without survey weights.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	43%	48%
Age (18-34)	18%	24%
Age (35-54)	38%	38%
Age (55-64)	23%	20%
Age (65+)	21%	18%
Low education (GED)	24%	40%
Medium education (Some College)	38%	28%
High education (College and above)	38%	32%
HH income (\$ 0-24,999)	21%	20%
HH income (\$ 25,000-49,999)	22%	21%
HH income (\$50,000-74,999)	19%	19%
HH income (\$75,000 and above)	37%	40%
Hispanic / Latino	13%	16%
Non-Hispanic White	70%	63%
Non-Hispanic Black	8%	12%
Asian	3%	5%

Perceived Discrimination and Mistreatment

About one in three (29%) reported to have experienced discrimination and unfair treatment.

dis01: Have you ever been treated unfairly or been hassled or made to feel inferior because of your or your parents' education, income, job, or possessions (e.g., clothes, car, etc.)?

	Percent
Yes	29
No	71