Public Opinion Tracking Research: 09/11/20
ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The research findings in this report are based on surveys by Amárach Research on behalf of the Department of Health.

The polls are conducted and reported on the same day using Amárach’s SmartPoll panel and weighted to the demographics of the 18+ adult population.

Sample size (09/11/20): n=1,700
Module: Christmas
Christmas Outlook – I
What do you think Christmas will be like this year?

Christmas Outlook – II
Demographics: % Worse/Better

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Christmas Worries
Which of the following are you worried about personally over Christmas? %

- Reduced social contact: 64%
- The health of family or friends: 63%
- Health system being overloaded: 47%
- Prolonged restrictions: 45%
- Economy: 32%
- Personal finances: 32%
- Personal health: 31%
- Employment status: 16%

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Christmas Restrictions – I
Special consideration should be given to easing restrictions during the Christmas period

Christmas Restrictions – II
Demographics: % Disagree/Agree

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Christmas Behaviours – I
Thinking specifically of the Christmas period, I will follow the government recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19: Scale of 1-7

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Christmas Behaviours – III

Thinking specifically of the Christmas period, other people will follow government recommendations to prevent the spread of Covid-19: Scale of 1-7

1. not at all likely
2. very unlikely
3. unlikely
4. somewhat unlikely
5. somewhat likely
6. likely
7. very likely

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Special Consideration

At present we are at Level 5 restrictions on the Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19. Do you think that there should be special consideration given to easing restrictions at Christmas?

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
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<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;35</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
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<td>58%</td>
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<td>45-54</td>
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<td>55+</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Easing Restrictions

Do you think we should ease restrictions on a) 1st December or b) Mid-December, knowing that having tighter restrictions in place for longer in December may reduce the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – I

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- See a lot of friends and family, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Spend quality time with close friends and family only, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – II

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- On Christmas day itself, have a big day with extended family and friends, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021  
- On Christmas day itself, have a quiet Christmas, just close family, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – III

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Go for a night out with friends over Christmas, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021 OR
- Stay in and have a few close friends over, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – IV

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- See a lot of friends and family on New Years Eve / New Years Day, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021 OR
- Spend quality time with close friends and family on New Years Eve / New Years Day, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – V

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Ease restrictions on the 1st of December, so we can enjoy the build-up to Christmas, and the festive season, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021 OR
- Ease restrictions for one week of Christmas only, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – VI

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Allow pubs and restaurants to open without social distancing restrictions for the Christmas period, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Allow pubs and restaurants to open with restrictions in place for the Christmas period, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – VII

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Pubs and restaurants open with restrictions in place for the Christmas period, with the possibility of introducing tighter restrictions in early 2021 OR
- Pubs and restaurants remain closed.

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – VIII

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Open up all shops on the 1st of December, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Open up all shops mid-December, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – IX

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- No guidance to older people to avoid visiting other households and receiving visitors, knowing that this poses some risk to them getting Covid
- Recommend that older people continue to restrict their movements, reducing their risk of getting Covid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>&lt;35</th>
<th>35-44</th>
<th>45-54</th>
<th>55+</th>
<th>Dublin</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Percentage</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – X

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- No guidance to vulnerable people to avoid taking part in seasonal festivities, knowing that this poses some risk to them getting Covid
- Recommend that vulnerable people continue to restrict their movements reducing their risk of getting Covid

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – XI

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Allow friends and family to come home from abroad, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Do not allow friends and family to come home, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – XII

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Allow workplace parties, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Do not allow workplace parties, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – XIII

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Permit mass/religious services, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021
- Continue restrictions on mass/religious service, reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Trade Offs – XIV

Thinking about this Christmas period, the more we socialise, the more likely it is that tighter restrictions will be needed again in January. Given this, please select your preference from the following:

- Let children have a normal Christmas, visit Santa, have parties, etc, knowing restrictions may be tightened again in early 2021  OR
- Continued restriction during Christmas on childhood activities (visiting Santa, having parties, etc), reducing the possibility of tighter restrictions again in early 2021

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Santa’s List
Looking back on 2020 and thinking of how closely you followed the public health guidelines on Covid-19, where do you think you are on Santa’s List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Naughty</th>
<th>Nice</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<td>Female</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>55+</td>
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<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health