Public Opinion Tracking Research: 01/02/21
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 (01/02/21): n=1,900
Behavioural Change
Face Masks
Do you wear a face mask when in public places? All Adults: % Yes

Face Mask Demographics
Do you wear a face mask when in public places? % Yes

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Face Mask Frequency

Do you wear a face covering when you are…?

*Base: shoppers/users of public transport*

% ‘Every Time’

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Following Recommendations - I
To what extent do you follow the recommendations from the Department of Health and HSE to prevent spread of coronavirus? Scale of 1 - 7

Following Recommendations - II
Demographics: % 7 – very much so

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Following Recommendations – III

To what extent do you follow the recommendations from the Department of Health and HSE to prevent spread of coronavirus? Scale of 1-7: Mean Scores

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Safe Behaviours – I
Which of the following are you doing more often as a result of the Coronavirus?

- Washing hands
- Social distancing when in a queue
- Using sanitizer
- Coughing into elbow

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Safe Behaviours – II
Which of the following are you doing more often as a result of the Coronavirus?

- Staying at home rather than going out
- Contacting older relatives and friends to see they are okay
- Disposing of used tissues immediately
- Sitting further apart from others

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Future Behaviours – I
Which of the following will you continue after Coronavirus?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Future Behaviours – II

Which of the following will you continue after Coronavirus?

- Contacting older relatives and friends to see they are okay
- Social distancing when in a queue
- Sitting further apart from others when outside house or on public transport
- Staying at home rather than going out
- Wearing a face covering in public

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Socially Distanced
Which of the following best describes the extent to which you think people in general are following the social distancing guidelines?

- Almost everybody is following the guidelines
- Most people are following the guidelines
- It's about 50/50 in terms of people following the guidelines
- Most people are not following the guidelines
- Almost nobody is following the guidelines

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Emotional Wellbeing
Emotional Wellbeing – I
Did you experience any of these feelings a lot of the day yesterday? Select all that apply:

- Enjoyment
- Worry
- Anxiety
- Boredom

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Emotional Wellbeing – II
Did you experience any of these feelings a lot of the day yesterday? Select all that apply:

- Happiness
- Stress
- Frustration
- Sadness

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Emotional Wellbeing – III
Did you experience any of these feelings a lot of the day yesterday? Select all that apply:

Graph showing trends in emotional wellbeing from March 2020 to January 2021.

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Risk Perceptions
Worry Index

How worried are you personally about the Coronavirus?
On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is not at all worried and 10 is extremely worried:

Average Score

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Sources of Worry – I
Please indicate the extent to which any of the following is a current source of worry?
On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not at all and 5 is a great deal: Average Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Health of Family &amp; Friends</th>
<th>Personal Health</th>
<th>Prolonged Restrictions</th>
<th>Reduced Social Contact</th>
<th>Health system being overloaded</th>
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<td>March 2020</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<td>3.6</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
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<td>January 2021</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Sources of Worry – II
Please indicate the extent to which any of the following is a current source of worry?
On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is not at all and 5 is a great deal: Average Score

March 2020 | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | January 2021 | 01/02
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
The Economy | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
Personal Finance | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
Employment Status | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
Becoming Unemployed | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 |

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Pandemic Stage
Do you feel that the worst of the Coronavirus crisis in Ireland is:

- Behind us
- Happening now
- Ahead of us

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Policy Preferences
Going Too Far?

Do you think the reaction of the government to the current coronavirus outbreak is appropriate too extreme or not sufficient?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Social Distancing

Do you think the current government measures on social distancing are:

- Too weak
- About right
- Too strong

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Go Further?
Do you think there should be more restrictions?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Returning to Normal
On balance, do you think that Ireland is trying to return to normal:

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health

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June 2020: 7% Much too quickly, 10% A bit too quickly, 31% At about the right pace, 13% A bit too slowly, 5% Much too slowly
July: 6% Much too quickly, 10% A bit too quickly, 12% At about the right pace, 9% A bit too slowly, 5% Much too slowly
August: 7% Much too quickly, 10% A bit too quickly, 10% At about the right pace, 10% A bit too slowly, 5% Much too slowly
September: 6% Much too quickly, 5% A bit too quickly, 4% At about the right pace, 12% A bit too slowly, 5% Much too slowly
October: 3% Much too quickly, 9% A bit too quickly, 5% At about the right pace, 12% A bit too slowly, 5% Much too slowly
November: 2% Much too quickly, 2% A bit too quickly, 5% At about the right pace, 14% A bit too slowly, 6% Much too slowly
December: 2% Much too quickly, 2% A bit too quickly, 3% At about the right pace, 16% A bit too slowly, 4% Much too slowly
January 2021: 2% Much too quickly, 2% A bit too quickly, 4% At about the right pace, 21% A bit too slowly, 9% Much too slowly
01/02: 2% Much too quickly, 2% A bit too quickly, 4% At about the right pace, 26% A bit too slowly, 16% Much too slowly
Information & Communications
Covid-19 Information Sources
Where are you currently getting trusted information on Covid-19 from?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
Media Consumption
How often are you checking the news about Coronavirus (on TV, radio the internet apps etc)?

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
News Sources – I
What are the main media sources through which you access information on the Coronavirus: % Any Mentions (in top 3)

March 2020: RTE 24%, Virgin Media 22%, Irish Times 17%
April: RTE 36%, Virgin Media 22%, Irish Times 24%
May: RTE 39%, Virgin Media 24%, Irish Times 23%
June: RTE 39%, Virgin Media 24%, Irish Times 23%
July: RTE 40%, Virgin Media 25%, Irish Times 26%
August: RTE 40%, Virgin Media 26%, Irish Times 27%
September: RTE 40%, Virgin Media 27%, Irish Times 27%
October: RTE 42%, Virgin Media 27%, Irish Times 27%
November: RTE 40%, Virgin Media 26%, Irish Times 24%
December: RTE 40%, Virgin Media 26%
January 2021: RTE 44%, Virgin Media 24%
01/02: RTE 90%

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
News Sources – II

What are the main media sources through which you access information on the Coronavirus: % Any Mentions (in top 3)

March 2020 | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | January 2021 | 01/02
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
BBC | Sky News | Family and friends | Colleagues at work

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health
News Sources – III
What are the main media sources through which you access information on the Coronavirus: % Any Mentions (in top 3)

Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health