



This Washington Post-University of Maryland poll was conducted online March 12-18, 2021, among a random national sample of 1,500 adults. The sample was drawn through SSRS's Opinion Panel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points, including design effects due to weighting. Sampling, data collection and tabulation was conducted by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa. The survey was conducted in partnership with the University of Maryland's Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism.

(Full methodological details and sampling error margins for subgroups appended at the end.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. In general, would you describe yourself as an avid sports fan, a regular fan, a casual fan, or not a fan at all?

	----- Sports fan -----				Not a fan	No
	NET	Avid	Regular	Casual	at all	opinion
3/18/21	78	14	27	37	22	*
8/20/17*	81	20	26	35	19	*
1/20/13**	76	20	21	35	23	*
1/6/13	76	20	19	37	24	*
10/16/11	75	19	19	37	25	*

*Post-UMass Lowell telephone survey

**2013 and prior Washington Post telephone survey

2. Are you a fan of each of the following sports, or not?

3/18/21 -- Summary table among all adults

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Football	65	33	2
b. Baseball	45	49	7
c. Basketball	43	51	6
d. Ice hockey	25	67	8
e. Soccer	27	67	6
f. E-sports or competitive video gaming	17	75	8

3/18/21 -- Summary table among sports fans

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Football	81	18	2
b. Baseball	54	38	8
c. Basketball	53	40	6
d. Ice hockey	30	60	10
e. Soccer	32	61	7
f. E-sports or			

competitive
 video gaming 18 73 9

3. What is your favorite sport to watch?

	3/18/21	8/20/17*	8/26/12**
Football	34	37	35
Basketball	11	11	9
Baseball	11	10	12
Soccer	7	8	9
Auto racing	5	4	6
Ice hockey	4	4	3
Tennis	3	2	2
Golf	2	2	1
Something else	7	9	14
None/Don't watch sports (vol.)	15	12	3
No opinion	*	2	6

*Post-UMass Lowell telephone survey

**Washington Post telephone survey

4. Compared to before the covid-19 pandemic began, have you been more interested in following sports, less interested in following sports, or has your interest not changed?

	More interested	Less interested	Interest has not changed	No opinion
3/18/21	11	27	62	*

5. How often do you watch sports on TV or streaming services these days?

	----- Weekly or more ----- Several times			----- Monthly or less ----- Less				No opinion
	NET	a week	Weekly	NET	Monthly	often	Never	
3/18/21	40	17	23	59	13	26	21	*

6. Since the beginning of 2018, have you attended a live sporting event that required a ticket, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/18/21	40	60	*

7. (IF ATTENDED A SPORTING EVENT SINCE 2018) In a typical year before the covid-19 pandemic, roughly how many ticketed sporting events did you attend? Your best guess is fine.

	None	1-2	3-5	6-9	10 or more	No opinion
3/18/21	4	49	31	9	8	*

6/7 Net table

	--- Attended sporting event since 2018 ----						Did not	No	
	NET	None	1-2	3-5	6-9	10+	No op.	attend	opinion
3/18/21	40	1	19	12	4	3	*	60	*

8. At this time, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable attending a ticketed sporting event in person?

	Comfortable	Uncomfortable	Not sure	No opinion
3/18/21 All	42	40	18	*
3/18/21 Fans	45	37	18	*
3/18/21 Past attendees*	51	33	16	*

*Attended ticketed sporting event since 2018

9. Under each of the following circumstances, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable attending a ticketed sporting event at this time?

3/18/21 -- Summary table among all adults

	Comfortable	Uncomfortable	Not sure	No opinion
a. An indoor sporting event, like basketball	32	49	19	*
b. An outdoor sporting event, like baseball	66	17	17	1
c. A stadium at 50% attendance capacity	50	31	18	1
d. A stadium at 20% attendance capacity	69	16	14	1
e. Attendees are required to wear masks	64	21	14	*
f. Attendees are not required to wear masks	22	66	11	*
g. You have received the covid-19 vaccine	64	16	20	1
h. All attendees have received the covid-19 vaccine	69	13	17	*
i. Covid-19 case levels are low in the event's region	54	24	22	*
j. Attendees are screened for fever	56	26	17	*
k. Attendees provide a negative covid-19 test	56	20	23	*

3/18/21 -- Summary table among sports fans

	Comfortable	Uncomfortable	Not sure	No opinion
a. An indoor sporting event, like basketball	34	48	18	*
b. An outdoor sporting event, like baseball	71	14	15	*
c. A stadium at 50% attendance capacity	52	29	18	1
d. A stadium at 20% attendance capacity	74	13	12	1
e. Attendees are required				

to wear masks	68	19	13	*
f. Attendees are not required to wear masks	24	65	11	*
g. You have received the covid-19 vaccine	67	14	18	*
h. All attendees have received the covid-19 vaccine	73	12	15	*
i. Covid-19 case levels are low in the event's region	57	21	22	*
j. Attendees are screened for fever	60	23	17	1
k. Attendees provide a negative covid-19 test	59	18	23	*

3/18/21 -- Summary table among those who attended ticketed sporting event since 2018

	Comfortable	Uncomfortable	Not sure	No opinion
a. An indoor sporting event, like basketball	37	43	20	*
b. An outdoor sporting event, like baseball	77	9	14	*
c. A stadium at 50% attendance capacity	57	26	17	*
d. A stadium at 20% attendance capacity	79	9	11	*
e. Attendees are required to wear masks	72	16	12	*
f. Attendees are not required to wear masks	25	65	10	*
g. You have received the covid-19 vaccine	75	10	15	*
h. All attendees have received the covid-19 vaccine	78	9	13	*
i. Covid-19 case levels are low in the event's region	61	18	20	*
j. Attendees are screened for fever	65	20	15	*
k. Attendees provide a negative covid-19 test	63	16	20	*

10. If U.S. sports leagues allow fans to attend sporting events this spring, do you think they should or should not require attendees to wear masks?

	Should require attendees to wear masks	Should not require attendees to wear masks	No opinion
3/18/21	76	23	*
3/18/21 Fans	76	24	*

11. When do you expect the covid-19 outbreak in the U.S. to be controlled enough that live sporting events can safely return to full fan attendance?

	Now	By mid-summer	By mid-fall	By early 2022	By late 2022	Later than that	No opinion
3/18/21	13	18	21	31	12	6	*

3/18/21 Fans 13 20 22 30 12 4 *

12. (IF ATTENDED A SPORTING EVENT SINCE 2018) How much have you missed attending live sporting events, if at all?

	A lot	A little	Not at all	No opinion
3/18/21	40	47	14	*

13. (IF SPORTS FAN WHO ATTENDED A SPORTING EVENT SINCE 2018) How much would you like to attend a live sporting event if it was held in a way that you felt safe attending?

	A lot	A little	Not at all	No opinion
3/18/21	62	34	3	1

14. Have you personally received at least one dose of a covid-19 vaccine?

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/18/21	28	71	1

15. How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus?

	----- Worried -----			----- Not worried -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
3/18/21	60	22	38	40	28	12	*

Compare to:

	----- Worried -----			----- Not worried -----			Already caught	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	it (vol.)	op
1/13/21*	60	30	31	30	14	16	10	*
10/9/20 RV	65	29	36	27	15	12	8	1
9/24/20	62	29	33	33	18	15	5	*
8/15/20	65	31	34	29	15	14	5	*
7/15/20	66	33	33	29	17	12	5	1
5/28/20	63	30	33	35	22	13	2	*
3/25/20	69	30	39	30	20	10	1	*
3/13/20** RV	53	15	38	47	31	16	*	*

*Jan. 2021 and prior, Post-ABC telephone surveys

**NBC/Wall Street Journal

16. How much of a risk to your health and well-being do you think attending a sporting event is right now?

	----- Risky -----			--- Less risky ---			No opinion
	NET	Large risk	Moderate risk	NET	Small risk	No risk	
3/18/21	63	26	37	36	27	9	1
9/21/20*	79	54	25	21	13	8	1
5/18/20	84	65	19	16	10	6	1

*September and previous Axios-Ipsos

17. How much of a risk to stadium employee's health and well-being do you think working at a sporting event is right now?

	----- Risky -----			--- Less risky ---			
	Large	Moderate		Small	No	No	
	NET	risk	risk	NET	risk	risk	opinion
3/18/21	75	41	34	23	17	6	2

18. Are you the parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 living in your household?

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/18/21	39	61	*

19. (IF PARENT) Before the covid-19 pandemic, did (your child/any of your children) participate in any kind of organized sports or athletic activities, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/18/21	50	50	*

20. (IF PARENT OF CHILD WHO PARTIPATED IN SPORTS) Since the pandemic started, (has your child/have any of your children) [ITEM]?

3/18/21 -- Summary table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. had a sports team or league cancel a season because of covid-19	82	17	1
b. had multiple games or practices canceled because of covid-19	85	15	1

21. (IF PARENT) Given the covid-19 situation, how would you feel about (your child/any of your children) participating in organized sports this spring?

	---- Comfortable ----			--- Uncomfortable ---			Child is	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	too young	opinion
3/18/21	51	23	27	39	19	20	10	*

Compare to:

Given the coronavirus situation, how would you feel about your children doing each of the following this fall: Participating in a school sports team?

	---- Comfortable ----			--- Uncomfortable ---			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
7/31/20*	36	14	23	63	23	40	*

*Post/Schar School

22. (IF PARENT AND CHILD IS OLD ENOUGH TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS) At this time, (is your child/are any of your children) participating in any organized youth sports, such as activities on a team or in a league?

	Yes	No	No opinion
3/18/21	23	77	*
3/18/21 Child played sports pre-pandemic	38	62	*

23. (IF PARENTS OF CHILD WHO PLAYED SPORTS BEFORE COVID-19) Have disruptions or cancellations of organized youth sports during the covid-19 pandemic had a negative impact on your (child's/children's) [ITEM]?

3/18/21 -- Summary table

	Yes, had a negative impact	No, did not have a negative impact	No opinion
a. Physical health	46	53	1
b. Happiness	65	35	*
c. Friendships	63	36	1
d. Performance in school	46	53	1
e. Emotional well-being	60	39	*
f. Athletic development	64	35	1

24. (IF PARENT OF CHILD WHO HAD A TEAM, LEAGUE, GAMES OR PRACTICES CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19) How much would you say (your child has/any of your children have) missed playing in the sports that were canceled due to covid-19?

	----- Misses -----		Not at all	No opinion
	NET	A lot	A little	
3/18/21	94	61	33	6

Questions 25-30 held for release.

31. In a few words, what does the U.S. national anthem represent to you when it is played or sung at sporting events? (Open-end)

	3/18/21
NET Pride/Patriotism/Freedom	31
Pride	19
Freedom/Specific freedoms	16
Patriotism	14
NET Respect/Honor for country	19
Respect/Honor for country/flag	10
Respect/Honor for military	8
Unity	12
NET Negative views of anthem	9
Generally negative views	5
Hurtful or not representative	4
Disenchanted	1
Apathy/Indifference	9
Tradition/Ritual	7

Mixed feelings 2
 God/Religious references 1
 OK to kneel/Support racial justice 1
 Other 7
 No opinion 6

32. When the national anthem is played or sung at sporting events, does it make you feel...?

	----- Postive -----			Neither positive	----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	nor negative	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
3/18/21	71	55	17	22	6	4	2	*

33. Do you support or oppose the national anthem being played or sung before professional sporting events in the U.S.?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/18/21	84	60	24	16	11	5	1

Compare to:

Do you think the National Anthem should or should not be played at sporting events?

	Should	Should not	Unsure
11/9/17*	82	13	5

*HBO Real Sports/Marist poll

Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose professional sports teams playing the national anthem before sporting events begin?

	----- Favor -----			Neither favor	----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Smwht	nor oppose	NET	Smwht	Strongly	opin.
10/2/17*	62	51	11	29	9	5	4	*

*Associated Press-NORC

34. (IF SUPPORT NATIONAL ANTHEM BEING PLAYED) If U.S. professional sports leagues stopped playing or signing the national anthem before games, would you feel...?

	----- Upset -----			----- Not upset -----			No
	NET	Very upset	Somewhat upset	NET	Not too upset	Not upset at all	opinion
3/18/21	69	44	25	31	16	14	1

NET 33/34

	----- Support -----							No
	NET	Very upset	Somewhat upset	Not too upset	Not upset at all	No op.	Oppose	opinion
3/18/21	84	37	21	14	12	1	16	1

35. How much, if at all, do professional athletes who kneel during the U.S. national anthem to protest racial inequality represent your beliefs?

	- Represent beliefs --			- Don't represent -			
	NET	A great deal	A good amount	NET	Not much	Not at all	No opinion
3/18/21	48	26	22	51	17	34	1

36. When it comes to giving Black people equal rights with Whites, do you think our country has...?

	Gone too far	Not gone far enough	Been about right	No opinion
3/18/21	12	56	31	1
9/13/20*	15	49	34	2
9/15/19	14	43	43	1
2/5/19	15	45	39	1

*2020 and previous Pew Research Center

37. Do you support or oppose the Black Lives Matter movement?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/18/21	65	35	30	34	11	24	1

Compare to:

Given what you've heard or read about it, do you support or oppose the Black Lives Matter movement? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/15/20*	63	46	17	32	8	25	5

*Post-ABC telephone surveys

38. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other	No opinion
3/18/21	31	25	34	10	*

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the University of Maryland, including the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement and the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism. The poll is a random sample of U.S. adults living in the United States. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the

group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

SSRS conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey. The survey was conducted online among a sample from the SSRS Opinion Panel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households through both address-based sampling and random digit dialing of cell/landline phones.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for differential probability of selection based on phone type or geographic strata. The sample was also weighted to match the demographic makeup U.S. adults age 18 or older by age, race/ethnicity, gender, education, region, population density, civic engagement, covid-19 vaccination status and party affiliation.

Sources of weighting benchmarks are listed below:

- U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey: Age by gender, education by age, education by gender, race/ethnicity, region, and population density
- U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 Current Population Survey: Civic engagement (volunteering and talking to neighbors)
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control data: Received 1+ dose of covid-19 vaccine
- Washington Post-ABC News polls: Party affiliation

The margin of sampling error for the overall sample including the design effect is plus or minus three percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.6. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
All adults	1,500	+/- 3 points
Sports fans	1,212	3.5
Attended ticketed event since 2018	667	5
Parents of children <18	618	5
Parents of children who played youth sports before the pandemic	341	6.5

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

