Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Statewide Public Opinion Survey
Live Interviewer Telephone Survey
Fielded: February 23-28, 2021

Topline Results \& Tracking
n=807 Alaskan Residents Age 18+
Margin of error= $\pm 3.5 \%$
51\% Cell, 49\% Landline

Tracking data is provided where available from the following surveys: Mar 27-29, 2020, $n=400$ likely voters, 50\% cell phones; Apr 10-11, 2020, n=400 AK residents, $70 \%$ cell phones; May 20-23, 2020, n=400 AK residents, $65 \%$ cell phones; Jul 10-15, 2020, n=688 AK residents, 77\% cell phones; Nov 24-25, 2020, n=406 AK residents, $50 \%$ cell phones; Results are from the Feb 2021 survey unless noted otherwise.

1) Generally speaking, how would you rate Alaska's current economy? It is (rotated)...

|  | Feb '20 | Apr '20 | May ${ }^{\prime 20}$ | Jul '20 | Nov '20 | Feb '21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very good.............................6\% | 2\% | 1\% | 3\% | 2\% | 2\% |
|  | Good..................................45\% | 25\% | 25\% | 26\% | 29\% | 31\% |
|  | Not too good.......................42\% | 41\% | 45\% | 47\% | 49\% | 47\% |
| -or- | Pretty bad.............................6\% | 29\% | 24\% | 20\% | 19\% | 19\% |
|  | Unsure.................................1\% | 3\% | 5\% | 4\% | 1\% | 1\% |

2) Thinking about Alaska right now, do you think things are headed in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

|  | Feb '20 | Apr '20 | May '20 | Jul '20 | Nov '20 | Feb '21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Right direction. | 33\% | 27\% | 37\% | 30\% | 26\% | 27\% |
| Wrong track | .61\% | 66\% | 54\% | 59\% | 65\% | 66\% |
| Unsure. | ... 6\% | 7\% | 9\% | 11\% | 9\% | 7\% |

Now I have a series of questions about the current coronavirus situation...
3) Do you think the coronavirus situation in Alaska is a serious problem, or not a serious problem?

|  | Jul '20 | Nov '20 | Feb '21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Serious problem. | 68\% | 72\% | 60\% |
| Not a serious problem | 28\% | 25\% | 38\% |
| Unsure.. | .... 4\% | 3\% | 2\% |

I'm going to read a list of names. For each, please tell me how you would rate their handling of the response to the coronavirus. If you have never heard the name just let me know. First... ...would you say (their/his/her) handling of the response to the coronavirus has been (rotated) excellent, pretty good, not too good, or pretty bad?

Asked in random order Sorted by Net good
4) Dr. Anne Zink
5) State government
6) Dr. Anthony Fauci

7) Governor Mike Dunleavy
8) Anchorage city govt. (asked in Muni only)
9) President Joe Biden

| Total Total not good good | Net good | Excellent | Pretty good | Not too good | Pretty bad | Unsure | Never heard of |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Feb '21 ... 57\% .......40\% | +17\% . | 8\% | 49\% | 23\% | 17\%. | . $2 \%$ | ....1\% |
| Nov '20...... 52\% .........46\% | ...6\%.. | .. 8\%. | 44\% | . 25\% .. | 21\% | ....2\%. | ..... $0 \%$ |
| July '20...... 57\% ..........34\% | +23\%.. | 11\% | 46\% | . $20 \%$ | .14\% | ....5\% | .... 4\% |
| Feb '21 ... 52\% ...... $44 \%$ | .. $+8 \%$. | .9\% | 43\% | 22\% | 22\% | . $4 \%$ | ...0\% |
| Nov '20...... 53\% .........45\% | ... $+8 \%$.. | . $7 \%$. | 46\% | 26\% .. | .19\% | ....2\%. | .... 0\% |
| Feb '21 ... 50\% ......43\% | +7\% . | .16\% .. | .34\% | .15\% .. | . $28 \%$. | .....6\% | ......1\% |

10) How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus? Are you (rotated)...*

11) Which comes closer to your view about where Alaska stands in the coronavirus outbreak:
(randomized) the worst is behind us or the worst is yet to come?**

| Mar '20 | Apr '20 | May '20 | Jul'20 | Nov'20 | Feb '21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The worst is behind us .............................. 3\% | 12\% | 24\% | 10\% | 14\% | 78\% |
| The worst is yet to come.......................... $80 \%$ | 62\% | 38\% | 61\% | 60\% | 17\% |
| Not likely to be that major of a problem .... $13 \%$ | 19\% | 28\% | 23\% | 20\% | N/A |
| Unsure.................................................. 4\% | 7\% | 10\% | 6\% | 6\% | 5\% |

12) Have the measures taken by state government officials to slow the spread of the virus been (randomized) appropriate, have they gone too far, or have they not gone far enough?

|  | Jul '20 | Nov '20 | Feb '21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Not gone far enough | 43\% | 46\% | 29\% |
| Appropriate. | 38\% | 35\% | 48\% |
| Gone too far | 16\% | 17\% | 21\% |
| Unsure. | . $3 \%$ | 2\% | 2\% |

13) And going forward, which worries you more about responding to the coronavirus (randomized) that state government officials will not go far enough in limiting the activities and movement of Alaskans, or that they will go too far in limiting the activities and movement of Alaskans?***

|  | Mar '20 | Apr '20 | May '20 | Jul'20 | Nov '20 | Feb'21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Will go too far | . $29 \%$ | 38\% | 35\% | 38\% | 41\% | 48\% |
| Will not go far enough | . $54 \%$ | 49\% | 48\% | 53\% | 52\% | 45\% |
| Unsure. | 17\% | 13\% | 17\% | 9\% | 7\% | 7\% |

[^0]14) Do you believe Alaska is currently facing a healthcare emergency due to COVID-19?

15) As far as you know, are COVID-19 cases in Alaska (randomized) on the rise, declining, or holding steady?


#### Abstract

Declining. 62\%


Holding steady ..... 27\%
On the rise ..... 8\%
Unsure ..... 3\%
16) And what about hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Alaska? Are they (randomized) on the rise, declining, or holding steady?
Declining ..... 64\%
Holding steady ..... 24\%
On the rise ..... 3\%
Unsure ..... 9\%
17) How would you describe your own social interactions lately? Would you say you have reduced your social interactions significantly, somewhat, or not much at all?

|  | Nov'20 | Feb'21 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Significantly .. | .65\% | 50\% |
| Somewhat | ..16\% | 22\% |
| Not much at | 19\% | 28\% |

18) Based on what you know right now about the coronavirus outbreak in the area where you live, would you feel comfortable or not comfortable returning to your regular routine today?

Comfortable ..................................................................................60\%
Not comfortable............................................................................39\%
Unsure............................................................................................. $1 \%$
19) Have you, or anyone you know personally, been infected by COVID-19? (if yes) And was it you or someone you know who was infected?

Nov'20


No............................................................... 17\%
Unsure 1\%

Feb '21

20) In your own words, please tell me what actions, if any, you would like to see from the state to help slow the spread of the virus over the next month.

Verbatim comments to be provided
21) How much do you trust the advice given by state health officials regarding COVID-19? Do you trust it (rotated)...?

22) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved vaccines for the prevention of COVID-19. When the vaccine becomes available to you, and if it's available for free, will you...*

|  |  | Nov'20 |  | Feb'21 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Definitely get it. | 35\% |  | 17\% |  |
|  | Probably get it. | 29\% |  | 11\% | -28\% |
|  | Probably not get it .. | .18\% |  | 13\% |  |
|  | Definitely not get it | .16\% |  | 17\% |  |
| -or- | Have you already received it. |  |  | 41\% |  |
|  | Unsure... | ..... 2\% |  | 1\% |  |

## 23) And what is the main reason you would likely not get the vaccine? (asked if Q22=probably/definitely not get vaccine) <br> Verbatim comments to be provided

24) Alaska elected officials, including Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Congressman Don Young and Governor Mike Dunleavy have either received the COVID-19 vaccine or stated they will take the vaccine when it first becomes available to them. Does this information make you more likely or less likely to take the vaccine, or does it not have an effect on your decision? (asked if Q22=probably/definitely not get vaccine)

More likely ..................................................................................... 4\%
Less likely ........................................................................................2\%
No effect ........................................................................................ $93 \%$
Unsure.............................................................................................1\%
25) How much have you seen, read, or heard about the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccinations taking place in Alaska? Would say (rotated)...

26) Could you please tell me specifically what you have seen, read or heard?
(among those who heard something on Q25)
Verbatim comments to be provided

[^1]27) Do you think the State of Alaska's distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine so far has been...?

28) How much have you seen, read, or heard about the State of Alaska's phased plan for distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to residents? Would say (rotated)...
A lot. ..... 31\%
Some ..... 33\%
Not too much ..... 21\%
-or- Nothing at all. ..... 13\%
Unsure ..... 2\%
29) How much confidence do you have in the State of Alaska to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine in a fast and fair manner? Do you have (rotated)...
A lot confidence45\%
Some confidence ..... 44\%
Not too much confidence ..... 8\%
-or- No confidence ..... 2\% ${ }^{-10 \%}$
Unsure ..... 1\%
30) The State of Alaska is taking a phased approach to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine which prioritizes high risk individuals. The vaccine is first going to frontline healthcare workers and residents of longterm care facilities, followed by Alaskans age 65 and older, then to essential workers and high-risk individuals over age 50. As these populations are vaccinated, additional groups of increasingly lower risk individuals will become eligible for the vaccine.

In general, do you agree or disagree with the approach the State of Alaska has taken to vaccinate residents? ...and do you strongly (agree/disagree) or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

Strongly agree ...............................................................................62\%
Somewhat agree ............................................................................27\%
Somewhat disagree.........................................................................6\%
Strongly disagree.............................................................................4\%
-89\%

Unsure.............................................................................................1\%
31) A public health disaster declaration provides the state with the authority and resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is necessary to facilitate things such as mandatory virus testing at the airport and vaccine distribution around Alaska. The state was operating under disaster declarations throughout 2020, but the latest declaration expired on February 15th when the state legislature failed to extend it. Do you think the state legislature should or should not issue another disaster declaration?
Should issue ..... 55\%
Should not issue ..... 41\%
Unsure ..... 4\%

| 32) | Regardless of the school policies in your area, do you believe children should return to the classroom, or should they continue to learn from home over the internet? ...and do you |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | feel strongly or just somewhat about that?* | Nov '20 <br> Parents with kids | Feb '21 <br> Total sample | Feb '21 <br> Parents with kids |
|  | Total return to classroom.. | ....... $58 \%$ | 69\% | 75\% |
|  | Total continue from home. | .......37\% | 24\% | 19\% |
|  | Strongly return to classroom .............. | ........42\% | 50\% | 56\% |
|  | Somewhat return to classroom ........... | .......16\% | 19\% | 19\% |
|  | Somewhat continue from home .......... | .......10\% | 11\% | 7\% |
|  | Strongly continue from home... | ......27\% | 13\% | 12\% |
|  | Unsure. | ....5\% | 7\% | 6\% |

And finally, I have a few short questions just to make sure we have a representative sample...
33) Could you please tell me the zip code where you live?
$\qquad$
Southcentral................................................................................................ $24 \%$
Interior ........................................................................................ 14\%
Southeast .................................................................................... 13\%
Rural ............................................................................................. 8\%
34) Could you please tell me in what year you were born? (screener asked at beginning of survey)
18-34 years old.............................................................................. 24\%
$35-44$ years old. ..... 21\%
45-54 years old. ..... 17\%
55-64 years old. ..... 18\%
$65+$ years old ..... 19\%
Not provided ..... 1\%
35) Gender (screener asked at beginning of survey)
Male ..... 52\%
Female ..... 48\%
36) How closely would you say you follow local news in Alaska...
Very closely ..... 33\%
Somewhat closely ..... 49\%
-or- Not closely ..... 18\%

[^2]37) If you are registered to vote, did you register as a (randomized) Democrat, Republican, Non-Partisan, Undeclared or something else?
Democrat ..... 15\%
Republican. ..... 25\%
Non-Partisan ..... 15\%
Undeclared ..... 38\%
Other party ..... 4\%
Not registered/Not provided ..... 3\%
38) Do you consider yourself (rotated)...
Very conservative ..... 14\%
Somewhat conservative ..... 24\%
Moderate ..... 33\%
Somewhat liberal ..... 15\%
-or- Very liberal ..... 8\%
Not provided ..... 6\%
39) Regarding your employment status, are you currently...Employed full-time55\%
Employed part-time ..... 12\%
Unemployed ..... 6\%
Retired ..... 18\%
Other ..... 9\%
40) Please tell me, what industry do you work in/did you most recently work in?(asked if employed/unemployed)
Coded responses to be provided
41) What was the last level of schooling you completed?
High school graduate/GED ..... 19\%
Some college or technical school ..... 28\%
College graduate ..... 34\%
Graduate school ..... 18\%
Not provided ..... 1\%
42) In which of the following ranges does your total annual household income fall?
Less than \$40,000 ..... 17\%
$\$ 41,000$ to $\$ 60,000$ ..... 12\%
\$61,000 to \$80,000 ..... 16\%
\$81,000 to \$99,000 ..... 12\%
-or- $\$ 100,000$ or more ..... 34\%
Not provided ..... 9\%
43) Are you a parent of a school-age child or children?
Yes ..... 32\%
No. ..... 68\%
44) Has the coronavirus outbreak caused any financial hardship for you or your household?
Yes. 41\%
No. 59\%
45) Are you, or is anyone in your household, a person who may be at higher risk of serious complications from the coronavirus?
\[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Yes .............................................................................................. 47\% } \\
& \text { No............................................................................................... 52\% } \\
& \text { Not provided ................................................................................. 1\% }
\end{aligned}
$$
\]

## Methodology

This research was conducted by Dittman Research for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. During the period February 23-28, 2021, we interviewed 807 Alaskan residents, age 18 and older, via live interviewer telephone survey. Just over half of respondents ( $51 \%$ ) were interviewed on their cell phone. The survey featured a probability sample and has a margin of error of $+/-3.5 \%$ at a $95 \%$ confidence interval. Interviews were fielded based on the geographic distribution of Alaskans. Region-level interview quotas by age and gender were used to ensure a representative sample of Alaskans was achieved. The data required minimal weighting to match the demographic characteristics of Alaskans with respect to age, political party and gender.


[^0]:    * Prior to Jul'20 answer options read "worried" instead of "concerned".
    ** On Feb '21 survey, the answer option "Not likely to be that major of a problem" was removed.
    *** Prior to July '20 question asked if "Alaska" will go too far/not far enough instead of "state government officials".

[^1]:    * Previously read: As you may have seen, it is anticipated that within the next few weeks, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will approve a vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. If a vaccine is approved, and it is available for free to everyone who wants it, would you...

[^2]:    * In Nov 2020 this question was asked only of parents with kids at home. In Feb 2021 the question was asked of everyone. Feb 2021 results among parents with kids at home have been provided as a comparison to Nov 2020.

