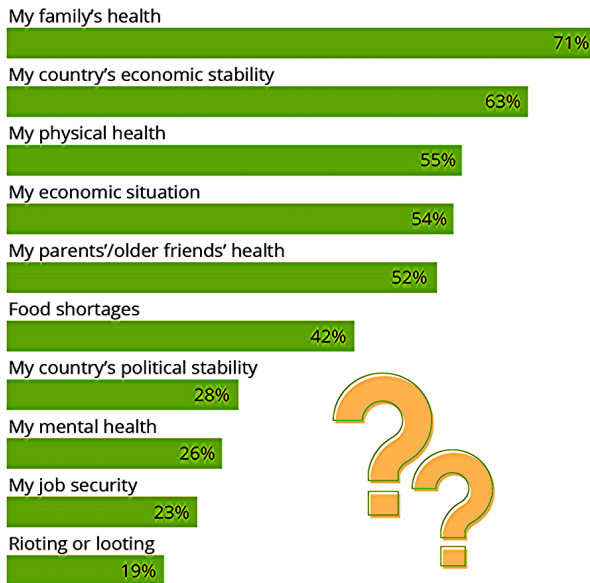


What's Worrying Americans The Most About The Coronavirus?

"What are your main worries or concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic?"



n=692 (23.03.2020 - 30.03.2020) – excluding other/don't know responses
Source: Statista Covid-19 Barometer 2020



statista

CONTRASTING Epidemics

One helpful outcome of the coronavirus pandemic is that more people now understand how infections spread. But it has also drawn attention to the “disease double standard” that’s applied to according to WHO gets the disease and HOW. Let me explain.

As of this writing, there have been 1.5 million cases of COVID-19 in the United States. But approximately 14 million people will get infected with Human Papillomavirus by the end of the year. Both COVID-19 and HPV are frequently asymptomatic. Both viruses are easily transmitted to other people — COVID-19 through respiratory droplets and HPV through contact with infected skin. In the vast majority of people, their immune system will clear the virus. Both COVID-19 and HPV can also lead to death. Both impact some segments of the population more than others: HPV is common among men-who-have-sex-with-men and people who have multiple

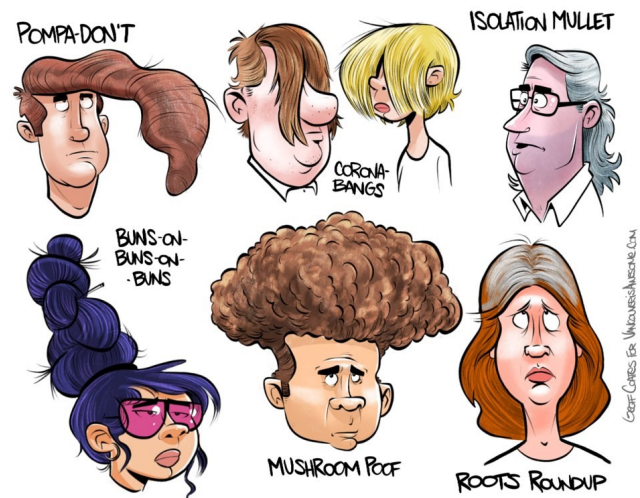
sexual partners, but it’s less common among lesbians. COVID-19 is more deadly for the elderly, the obese, diabetics and those with respiratory problems, and is less deadly for young, active, healthy people. Preventing the spread of both viruses is dependent on **changing behavior**.

Now consider how *different* the medical and social reactions are to these two pandemics. For instance, to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

- Federal and local governments enforced a global economic shutdown.
- Medical experts promoted social distancing, masks, and gloves.
- Healthcare apparatus and personnel were rushed into “hot spots.”
- For the safety of others, people have sacrificed their life-savings, their small businesses and dreams, once-in-a-lifetime social experiences such as births, deaths, weddings, and funerals; have taken on enormous debt; and accepted rising suicides, addiction and abuse.

It’s been frustrating, inconvenient, and come with a very high *personal* cost. All to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, from which 99% will recover.

HOW'S YOUR QUARANTINE HAIRDO LOOKIN'?



(Combating Epidemics, cont.)

Now consider the reaction to the ongoing epidemic of Human Papillomavirus.

- There are approximately 79 **million people infected with HPV** in the United States.
- The most vulnerable population, young adults, are ***taught to assume*** that they will get infected with HPV, and to expect that most people will clear it in a few months. (Although it can live in the body for up to 3 years, infecting each subsequent sexual partner.)
- They are encouraged to use condoms as the primary means to avoid infection — although the data is unclear about *how effective* they actually are.
- The secondary prevention strategy is a two or three-dose vaccine. So far, the best one works on 9 HPV strains, which sounds pretty good, except that there are **35 strains** which can live in the genital tract.
- There is little or no effort made to inform the 14 million people who will get HPV this year that they could literally **eliminate their risk** by simply not having sex with infected partners.
- However even *suggesting* that people sexual contact until they commit to one uninfected lifetime partner is seen as ***asking for too big a sacrifice***.

One wonders if months of coronavirus quarantine will have an impact on that self-centered perspective...

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COACH'S CORNER

"There are 3 kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics." ~ Mark Twain.

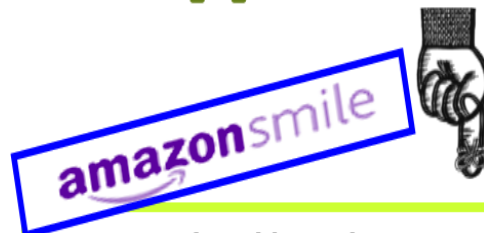
In the last few months, there have been a lot of statistical data models and predictions about risk. In hindsight, we now know some of them were wrong. For instance, on March 13th, the CDC projected that between **160-214 million** Americans would become infected with COVID-19. Twenty-one million would need to be hospitalized, overwhelming our 925,000 hospital-bed capacity. They projected 2.2 million Americans would die. That projection produced a panic. It was shortly revised downward (based on "prevention" behaviors) to 1 million deaths. Then, 500,000. Then, 240,000. Now, their best projection is about 130,000 Americans will die from the novel coronavirus (a number of deaths similar to the number who die each year from the flu, but far fewer than heart disease, cancer and traffic accidents.)

Raising children who are not paralyzed with fear, but who also don't give in to the adolescent predisposition toward invincibility, is a challenge. Even the best-intentioned parents can stumble over this one.

Adopting the "better-safe-than-sorry" approach *does* make Mom and Dad feel better, but it often produces children who are terrified to fail. In job opportunities, athletics, and relationships, **failure is necessary to grow and learn.**

We hope you will keep that in mind as you help your child adapt to post-quarantine life.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!



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