

“Yet despite this yearning for normalcy, [our polling](#) has shown that New Jerseyans do not expect things to be fully back to normal anytime soon and are still worried about what the future of the pandemic may bring.”

Unsurprisingly, New Jerseyans express immense gratitude when asked what they would like to say to healthcare workers, first responders, and essential workers in the Garden State. Fifty-six percent of residents express some form of thanks, another 16% praise the job these workers are doing, and 9% offer their thoughts and prayers. “You are true heroes,” one resident said. Another noted, “We owe them everything.” Some respondents expressed pride, the need for hazard pay for essential workers, and advocated wearing masks and staying home in their honor. A respondent who is an essential worker returned the gratitude, wanting to “thank everyone.”

Most New Jerseys are doing well during this pandemic. When asked to describe in one word how they feel, 29% claim they are “doing great”; another 22% are “all right,” and 8% say they are “okay.” Another one in five feel more negative – scared or anxious (5%), tired (5%), annoyed or angry (4%), awful (4%), or stressed (4%).



Results are from a statewide poll of 1,502 adults contacted by live callers on landlines and cell phones from April 22 – May 2. The full sample has a margin of error of +/-2.9 percentage points; the subsamples of 747 and 755 adults each have a margin of error of +/-4.1 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish.



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Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality TV and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Neal Buccino neal.buccino@echo.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS—NEW BRUNSWICK

Rutgers University—New Brunswick is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists, and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.

ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING (ECPIP)

Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, ECPIP was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based state survey research centers in the United States. Now in its 48th year and with the publication of over 200 polls, ECPIP’s mission is to provide scientifically sound, non-partisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases, published research, and data archive, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are of New Jersey adults; all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with extreme caution.

Q. To start, please tell me how you are feeling right now in one word.

Good, great, amazing	29%
All right, content, fine	22%
Okay	8%
Scared, anxious	5%
Tired	5%
Annoyed, angry	4%
Awful, terrible, bad	4%
Stressed	4%
Other	20%
Unwght N=	1501

	Party ID			Gender		Race/ethnicity				Age				Income			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100k	<\$100k- \$150k	\$150k+
Good, great, amazing	25%	30%	33%	34%	24%	27%	23%	45%	20%	30%	32%	23%	31%	35%	27%	26%	27%
All right, content, fine	24%	21%	20%	21%	23%	25%	25%	11%	20%	16%	17%	28%	27%	17%	25%	22%	22%
Okay	8%	8%	7%	8%	7%	7%	16%	5%	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	11%	7%
Scared, anxious	6%	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%	4%	8%	3%	6%	6%	4%	3%	6%	6%	5%
Tired	5%	6%	6%	4%	7%	6%	2%	2%	12%	6%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Annoyed, angry	1%	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	2%	3%	5%	4%	0%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Awful, terrible, bad	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	1%	3%	4%	6%	7%	4%	1%	1%
Stressed	7%	2%	2%	2%	6%	3%	6%	5%	4%	4%	6%	3%	1%	5%	3%	6%	4%
Other	20%	22%	17%	21%	20%	20%	15%	22%	23%	29%	17%	20%	18%	20%	19%	18%	23%
Unwght N=	586	556	303	726	775	1009	175	198	98	186	474	543	288	301	429	270	355

**NJ Normalcy and Thanks June 2020
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Education				Region				
	High school or less	Some college	College grad	Graduate work	Urban	Suburban	Exurban	Phil/ South Shore	
Good, great, amazing	37%	25%	23%	28%	23%	34%	26%	23%	30%
All right, content, fine	20%	22%	21%	26%	20%	20%	24%	26%	22%
Okay	7%	7%	10%	9%	9%	8%	9%	6%	7%
Scared, anxious	2%	6%	8%	4%	8%	5%	3%	4%	4%
Tired	5%	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%	9%	5%
Annoyed, angry	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	6%	3%
Awful, terrible, bad	4%	4%	3%	3%	6%	3%	4%	3%	1%
Stressed	3%	6%	4%	4%	7%	4%	2%	3%	5%
Other	19%	21%	22%	18%	19%	18%	24%	20%	23%
Unwght N=	262	365	477	393	251	539	199	268	244

Q. And in just a word or two, what is the first thing you want to do when life in New Jersey returns to normal?

See/interact normally with friends and family	20%
Go to a different place	17%
Do a different activity	16%
Eat out	12%
Get back to work	7%
Go on vacation	6%
Go to the shore	6%
Get haircut/get hair done	3%
Get back to normal	3%
Other	10%
Unwght N=	738

**NJ Normalcy and Thanks June 2020
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Party ID			Gender		Race/ethnicity		Age				Income			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100k	\$100k- <150k	\$150k+
Interact normally w friends/family	21%	19%	16%	13%	26%	18%	22%	24%	18%	21%	16%	13%	22%	25%	20%
Go to a different place	17%	15%	20%	19%	16%	17%	19%	19%	20%	12%	20%	19%	17%	15%	16%
Do a different activity	16%	16%	14%	15%	16%	17%	13%	17%	13%	14%	21%	18%	14%	13%	15%
Eat out	11%	15%	11%	15%	9%	14%	10%	10%	11%	13%	15%	10%	10%	13%	16%
Get back to work	9%	7%	4%	9%	6%	5%	11%	10%	8%	8%	1%	15%	4%	6%	6%
Go on vacation	6%	5%	9%	7%	5%	5%	7%	4%	5%	7%	7%	4%	8%	6%	7%
Go to the beach	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%	7%	4%	7%	6%	6%	3%	3%	7%	6%	7%
Get haircut/get hair done	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	4%	6%	2%	3%	5%	5%
Get back to normal	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%	0%	5%	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%
Other	7%	12%	13%	11%	9%	11%	8%	7%	12%	10%	10%	11%	12%	9%	5%
Unwght N=	285	271	156	362	376	508	220	95	231	265	142	149	214	133	169

	Education				Region				
	High school or less	Some college	College grad	Graduate work	Urban	Suburban	Exurban	Phil/ South Shore	
Interact normally with friends/family	13%	20%	22%	25%	22%	21%	19%	14%	20%
Go to a different place	20%	20%	14%	14%	19%	17%	14%	17%	18%
Do a different activity	19%	16%	13%	12%	17%	13%	16%	24%	9%
Eat out	10%	13%	11%	16%	8%	10%	17%	14%	16%
Get back to work	9%	8%	5%	5%	7%	10%	3%	4%	9%
Go on vacation	6%	5%	6%	7%	9%	5%	7%	5%	5%
Go to the beach	3%	4%	10%	7%	4%	4%	8%	4%	9%
Get haircut/get hair done	1%	4%	4%	5%	2%	5%	1%	3%	2%
Get back to normal	4%	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%
Other	14%	6%	13%	7%	7%	9%	13%	13%	9%
Unwght N=	120	190	231	196	133	246	97	140	122

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Q. And in just a word or two, is there anything you would you like to say to healthcare workers, first responders, and essential workers in New Jersey?

Thank you, grateful, appreciation, applaud	56%
Amazing, great, awesome job	16%
Thoughts and prayers, God bless	9%
Other	19%
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Unwght N=	750

	Party ID			Gender		Race/Ethnicity		Age				Income			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-white	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50k- <\$100k	\$100k- <150k	\$150k+
Thank you	57%	54%	58%	53%	58%	59%	51%	68%	57%	58%	42%	56%	51%	58%	65%
Amazing, great, awesome job	18%	12%	19%	17%	16%	16%	17%	13%	13%	17%	23%	17%	19%	15%	13%
Thoughts and prayers, God bless	7%	11%	6%	8%	9%	8%	10%	1%	8%	8%	17%	10%	9%	5%	8%
Other	18%	22%	17%	22%	17%	17%	22%	18%	22%	17%	17%	18%	21%	22%	14%
Unwght N=	297	278	145	357	393	494	245	92	241	268	144	147	212	136	183

	Education				Region			
	High school or less	Some college	College grad	Graduate work	Urban	Suburban	Exurban	Phil/ Shore
Thank you	47%	51%	66%	66%	51%	55%	63%	56% 56%
Amazing, great, awesome job	19%	18%	13%	12%	11%	17%	19%	14% 19%
Thoughts and prayers, God bless	12%	11%	5%	4%	6%	12%	5%	8% 8%
Other	22%	20%	16%	17%	32%	17%	13%	23% 17%
Unwght N=	137	173	242	195	114	289	100	126 121

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers April 22 to May 2, 2020, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,502 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. The poll was available in Spanish for respondents who requested it. This telephone poll included 452 adults reached on a landline phone and 1050 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only:	43%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	27%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	29%
Landline Only:	1%

The data were weighted to be representative of the non-institutionalized adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balanced sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity and region parameters were derived from 2018 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.¹²³ Weighting was done in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample. This first stage weight was applied to the entire sample which included all adults. The second stage of the weighting balanced sample demographics to match target population benchmarks. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,502 New Jersey adults is +/-2.5 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect⁴ is 1.31, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 2.9

¹ NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2014-2018; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016; and infoUSA.com consumer database, 2013-2018.

² Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January-June 2018. National Center for Health Statistics. December 2018.

³ Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July-December 2018. National Center for Health Statistics. June 2019.

⁴ Post-data collection statistical adjustments require analysis procedures that reflect departures from simple random sampling. We calculate the effects of these design features so that an appropriate adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. The so-called "design effect" or *deff* represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from a disproportionate sample design and systematic non-response.

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percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 47.1 and 52.9 percent (50 +/- 2.9) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error does not consider other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc. with sample from Dynata. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Dr. William Young assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request, and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. For more information, please contact poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu.

**Weighted Sample Characteristics
1,502 New Jersey Adults**

Male	48%	Democrat	40%	18-34	26%	HS or Less	31%	White	59%
Female	52%	Independent	39%	35-49	24%	Some College	29%	Black	12%
		Republican	21%	50-64	30%	College Grad	22%	Hispanic	19%
				65+	21%	Grad Work	18%	Other	10%