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= ± 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)...

		<u>Feb '20</u>	<u> Apr '20</u>	<u>May '20</u>	<u>Jul '20</u>	Nov '20	<u>Feb '21</u>
	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?

	<u>Feb '20</u>	<u> Apr '20</u>	<u>May '20</u>	<u>Jul '20</u>	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?

<u>Jul '20</u>	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
Serious problem	72%	60%
Not a serious problem28%	25%	38%
Unsure	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		Total good	Total not good	Net good	Excellent	Pretty good	Not too good	Pretty bad	Unsure	Never heard of
4) Dr. Anne Zink	Feb '21 .	57%	11%	+46%	28%	29% .	7%	4%.	6% .	26%
	Nov '20	60%	13%	+47%	25%	35%	8%	5% .	4%	23%
	July '20	61%	10%	+51%	27%	34%	7%	3% .	5%	24%
5) State government			38%							
6) Dr. Anthony Fauci	Nov '20	57%	34% 30% 24%	+27%	25%	32%	14%	16% .	5%	8%



			Total good	Total not good	Net good	Excellent	Pretty good	Not too good	Pretty bad	Unsure	Never heard of
7)	Governor Mike Dunleavy			40%							
	•			34%							
8)	Anchorage city govt. (asked in Muni only)			44% 45%							
9)	President Joe Biden	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)...*

and concentration in the year (retacear)	<u>Mar '20</u>	<u> Apr '20</u>	<u>May '20</u>	<u>Jul '20</u>	<u>Nov '20</u>	Feb '21
Total concerned	69%	67%	55%	70%	69%	52%
Total not concerned	30%	33%	45%	30%	30%	47%
Very concerned	26%	21%	17%	40%	40%	24%
Somewhat concerned	43%	46%	38%	30%	29%	28%
Not too concerned	23%	24%	27%	19%	19%	29%
-or- Not concerned at all	7%	9%	18%	11%	11%	18%
Unsure	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%

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?**

<u>Mar</u>	<u>'20 </u>	<u>May '20</u>	<u>Jul '20</u>	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
The worst is behind us39	% 12%	24%	10%	14%	78%
The worst is yet to come809	62%	38%	61%	60%	17%
Not likely to be that major of a problem 139	% 19%	28%	23%	20%	N/A
Unsure49	% 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?

<u>Jul</u>	<u>′20</u>	<u>Nov ′20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
Not gone far enough43	3%	46%	29%
Appropriate38	8%	35%	48%
Gone too far16	5%	17%	21%
Unsure3	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?***

	<u>Mar '20</u>	<u> Apr '20</u>	<u>May '20</u>	<u>Jul '20</u>	<u>Nov '20</u>	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%

^{*} 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".

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

	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
Yes	62%	41%
No	37%	58%
Unsure	1%	1%

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

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?

	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
Significantly	65%	50%
Somewhat	16%	22%
Not much at all	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?

	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
Yes, me personally Yes, both Yes, someone I know	1% [,,,,]	4% [150]
Yes, both	7% \int \cdot \cd	11% \(\int \) 80%
Yes, someone I know	74%	65%
No	17%	19%
Unsure	1%	1%

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)...?

	<u>Nov '20</u>	<u>Feb '21</u>
A great deal	28%]	23%]
A great deal A good amount	39% } 67%	44% 567%
		22% 9% }31%
Not too muchor- Not at all	10% 531%	9% \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Unsure	2%	2%

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	<u>Feb '21</u>
Definitely get itProbably get it	35%] 64%	17% 11% 28%
Probably get it	29%	11%
Probably not get it Definitely not get it	18%]	13% 17% - 30%
Definitely not get it	16%	17%
-or- Have you already received it	NA	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)

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	
No effect	
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)...

	A lot	.51%] 020/
	A lot	.31%	F82%
	Not too much	.12%] 470/
-or-	Not too much	5% .	1/%
	Unsure		

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

^{*} 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...

271	Dov	you think	the State	of Alaska's	distribution	of the Co	OVID-19 v	vaccine so	far has he	en ?
~ //	יטט	you tillik	tile State	UI Alaska s	uistribution	or the C	OAID-TO	vaccine so	iai iias be	C11:

Very successful	42%] 000/
Very successfulSomewhat successful	44% 586%
Somewhat unsuccessful	4%]
Somewhat unsuccessfulor- Very unsuccessful	2%
Unsure	

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%]
	A lot	.33%	64%
-or-	Not too much	.13%	<u> </u> 34%
	Unsure		_

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 confidence	45%]
A lot confidence	44% 89%
Not too much confidenceor- No confidence	2% } 10%
Unsure	

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 long-term 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%]
Strongly agree	27% \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Somewhat disagreeStrongly disagree	4% \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Unsure	

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?*

I strongly or just somewhat about that?*	Nov '20 Parents with kids	Feb '21 Total sample	Feb '21 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?

Anchorage	41%
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	
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	2%
Female48	3%

36) How closely would you say you follow local news in Alaska...

Very closely	33%
Somewhat closely	49%
-or- Not closely	

^{*} 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.

	Democrat	15%
	Republican	25%
	Non-Partisan	15%
	Undeclared	38%
	Other party	4%
	Not registered/Not provided	3%
3) Do	you consider yourself (rotated)	
	Very conservative	14%
	Somewhat conservative	24%
	Moderate	33%
	Somewhat liberal	15%
-or-	Very liberal	8%
	Not provided	6%
9) Reg	garding your employment status, are you currently	
	Employed full-time	55%
	Employed part-time	
	Unemployed	
	Retired	
	Other	9%
	ase tell me, what industry do you work in/did you i ked if employed/unemployed) Coded responses to be pro	•
1) Wh	at was the last level of schooling you completed?	
	High school graduate/GED	19%
	Some college or technical school	28%
	College graduate	
	Graduate school	18%
	Not provided	1%
2) In v	which of the following ranges does your total annua	al household income fall?
	Less than \$40,000	17%
	\$41,000 to \$60,000	12%
	\$61,000 to \$80,000	
	\$81,000 to \$99,000	12%
-or-	\$100,000 or more	34%
	Not provided	9%
3) Are	you a parent of a school-age child or children?	
	V	27%
	Yes	



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 personal complications from the coronavirus?	on who may be at higher risk of serious
	Yes	47%
	No	52%
	Not provided	

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.

