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Special New York State Coronavirus Crisis Poll

Coronavirus Crisis Changing Life in NY; 95% either Quarantining or Practicing Social Distancing; Only 4% Going about Life as Usual
Over ¾'s Concerned about Serious Financial Problems; 51% Worried about Monthly Bills; Nearly Half of NY'ers under 50 Worry about being Laid off
82% Worried about their Health; 68% say Anxiety Level Up; 62% 'Starting to Feel Like This will Never End'; Still, ¾'s Appreciate Time with Family & Enjoying Small Things

Loudonville, NY – Eighty-seven percent of New Yorkers say that the coronavirus crisis is having either a somewhat or very significant impact on their daily life according to a new statewide survey of consumers released today by the Siena College Research Institute (SCRI). Fourteen percent of New Yorkers say that they are under mandatory quarantine, 42 percent are self-quarantining, 39 percent are practicing social distancing while only 4 percent are going about life as usual. Seventy-seven percent are either somewhat (32 percent) or very concerned (45 percent) that the coronavirus and its impacts will cause them serious financial problems.

Just over half of New Yorkers, 51 percent, are concerned with being able to meet their monthly financial obligations and 37 percent of all New Yorkers, 46 percent of those 18-34 years of age and 48 percent of those 35-49 years of age, are concerned with being laid off. Nearly 60 percent are concerned with their retirement savings or investments losing value, 49 percent are concerned about having to financially help other family members and 41 percent of all New Yorkers, and over half of young people and those making under \$50,000 a year, are concerned with being able to afford food.

“The coronavirus crisis has turned life upside down for nearly all New Yorkers. Ninety-five percent are either quarantining or cutting back on going out, not being around others and practicing social distancing,” according to SCRI Director, Don Levy. “Almost as many, 82 percent, are worried about their health.”

“And as the crisis continues, the emotional toll is starting to mount. Two-thirds of New Yorkers say that their anxiety level is up, 66 percent say they feel powerless and wish there was something more they could do and 62 percent say that ‘it’s starting to feel like this will never end,’” Levy said.

Siena College Special Coronavirus Poll – April 6, 2020 – Page 2

“With so many quarantining or keeping their distance from others, 53 percent of New Yorkers, over 60 percent of younger residents, say that ‘not being with other people is making them lonely’ and 60 percent of all New Yorkers, 66 percent of NYC residents, say that ‘if it wasn’t for the ability to see and talk to others via the internet, they think they’d be going crazy,” Levy said.

A Small Silver Lining

Seventy-six percent of all New Yorkers say that they feel like they are enjoying the small things even more now and 75 percent say that they are appreciating the extra time that they are having with those that are close to them.

“Despite being forced to change the way we live, being worried about our health and the health of everyone we care about, concerned about our financial well-being, and having to live with the uncertainty as to when this will ever end, an overwhelming number of New Yorkers say that they are getting a chance to appreciate – whether by watching old movies, playing games or just being together – having extra time with those that they are close to. And, with all the things to worry about – health, money, food and bills – most of us say that we feel like we are enjoying the small things even more now than before,” Levy said

The SCRI special Coronavirus Poll was conducted March 30 – April 2, 2020 by random telephone calls to 402 New York adults via landline and cell phones and 400 responses drawn from a proprietary panel (Lucid) of New Yorkers. Telephone sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest person in the household. Telephone sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers (both from ASDE Survey Sampler) from within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data from the telephone and web samples were blended and statistically adjusted by age, race/ethnicity and gender to ensure representativeness. SCRI reports this data at a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of ± 3.6 points including the design effects resulting from weighting. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Dr. Don Levy, Director Siena College Research Institute, at 518-783-2901. For survey cross-tabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/research.