

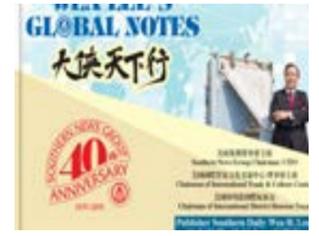


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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Sunday November 01, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

More than 90 million vote early as Trump, Biden make late campaign push



Trump, 74, won both Pennsylvania and Michigan by narrow margins in his surprise 2016 victory. Reuters/Ipsos opinion polls show Biden leading Trump by 5 percentage points in Pennsylvania and 9 points in Michigan.

NEWTOWN, Pa. (Reuters) - A record 90 million Americans have voted early in the presidential election, data on Saturday showed, as President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden campaigned across the nation to try to sway the few remaining undecided voters.

The high number of early voters, about 65% of the total turnout in 2016, reflects intense interest in the contest, with three days of campaigning left.

Concerns about exposure to the coronavirus at busy Election Day voting places on Tuesday have also pushed up the numbers of people voting by mail or at early in-person polling sites.

Trump, a Republican, is spending the closing days of his re-election campaign criticizing public officials and medical professionals who are trying to combat the coronavirus pandemic even as it surges back across the United States.

Opinion polls show Trump trailing former Vice President Biden nationally, but with a closer contest in the most competitive states that will decide the election. Voters say the coronavirus is their top concern.

At a small, in-person rally in Newtown, Pennsylvania, Trump mocked his opponent on Saturday for his criticism of the administration's record of fighting COVID-19, which has killed more people in the United States than in any other country.

"I watched Joe Biden speak yesterday. All he talks about is COVID, COVID. He's got nothing else to say. COVID, COVID," Trump told the crowd, some of whom did not wear masks.

He said the United States was "just weeks away" from mass distribution of a safe vaccine against COVID-19, which is pushing hospitals to capacity and killing up to 1,000 people in the United States each day. Trump gave no details to back up his remarks about an imminent vaccine.

Campaigning in the Midwest on Friday, Trump falsely said doctors earn more money when their patients die of the disease, building on his past criticism of medical experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci, the country's top infectious diseases expert.

RELATED COVERAGE

Brash and pugnacious, Trump has presided over a tumultuous presidency. A longtime fixture in U.S. politics, Biden seeks to win elusive prize. Biden has accused Trump of giving up in the fight against the disease, which has killed almost 229,000 Americans, and on Saturday slammed him for his comments about doctors.

"What in the hell is wrong with this man? Excuse my language. But think about it. He may believe it because he doesn't do anything other than for money," Biden told a drive-in rally in Flint, Michigan, with former President Barack Obama.

In his closing arguments, Biden has accused Trump of being a bully and criticized his lack of a strategy to control the pandemic, his efforts to repeal the Obamacare healthcare law and his disregard for science on climate change.

He has offered his own made-in-America economic platform, a contrast with Trump's "America First" approach, saying he will get the wealthy to pay their fair share and make sure earnings are distributed more equitably.

STANFORD REPORT

Stanford University economists on Saturday released an estimate that Trump rallies held from June to September led to more than 30,000 additional COVID-19 infections and possibly as many as 700 deaths. The study was based on a statistical model and not actual investigations of coronavirus cases. The paper, which did not cite disease experts among its authors, has not been peer-reviewed.

Public health officials have repeatedly warned that Trump campaign events could hasten the spread of the virus, particularly those held in places where infection rates were already on the rise. Determining the actual impact of those rallies on infection rates has been difficult due to the lack of robust contact tracing in many U.S. states.

Amesh Adalja, an infectious diseases expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, described the report as "suggestive."



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Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

The Coronavirus Is Surging Again



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Coronavirus infections jumped by almost 17% over the past week as the number of new cases increased in 38 states and Washington, D.C.

Why it matters: The U.S. is headed solidly in the wrong direction — and at a dangerous time, as experts say the fall and winter will likely make the pandemic worse. They had hoped we could get cases under control before then, but that seems unrealistic.

By the numbers: The U.S. racked up an average of up 51,000 new cases per day over the past week.

- The number of new infections rose in 38 states, spanning every region of the country.

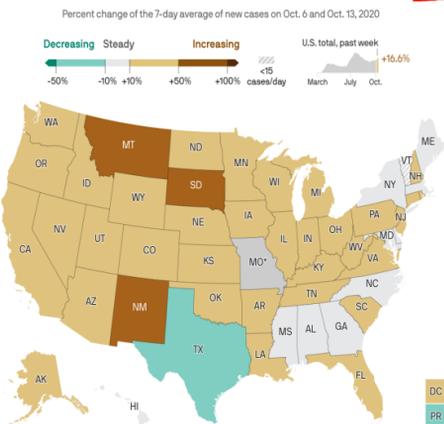
- Three states — Montana, New Mexico and South Dakota — saw their case counts rise by over 50%.

- The pace of new infections slowed down in only one state: Texas.

- The U.S. is now conducting roughly 1 million tests per day, up about 6% from the week before.

- But the increase in cases is bigger than the increase in testing, which is a sign of an actual worsening outbreak.

Change in new COVID-19 cases in the past v



Data: The COVID Tracking Project, state health departments; **Note:** Missouri has not reported cases since Oct. 10; (Map: Andrew Witherspoon, Sara Wise/Axios)

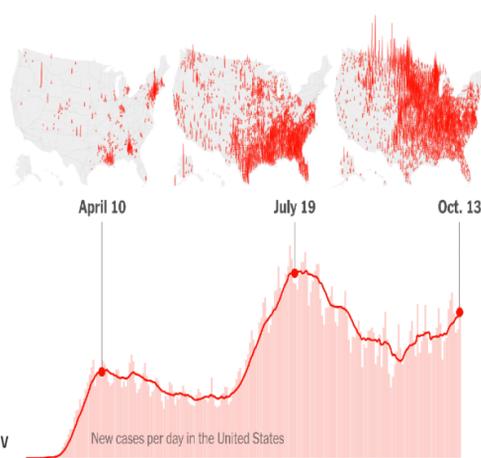
The big picture: The U.S. has consistently failed to control the virus, and we are failing to control it now.

- Experts say the fall and winter will likely make things worse, as colder weather causes people to move their socializing indoors, where the virus can spread more easily. If those assumptions bear out, those increases will come on top of a caseload that's already too high.

- Americans believe the federal government's handling of the pandemic has gotten significantly worse over time, according to the latest

installment of the Axios/Ipsos Coronavirus Index.

Poll Says: Federal Response Has Only Grown Worse



Data: Axios/Ipsos poll; **Note ±3.3% margin of error for the total sample size; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios**

Why it matters: Every other institution measured in Week 29 of our national poll — from state and local governments to people's own employers and area businesses — won positive marks for improving their responses since those panicked early days in March and April.

- The findings suggests people see President Trump and his political team as one of the biggest impediments to turning things around.

- With one week left in the presidential election, as the U.S. hits all-time daily highs for new cases, four in five Americans say they're worried about COVID-19 outbreaks.

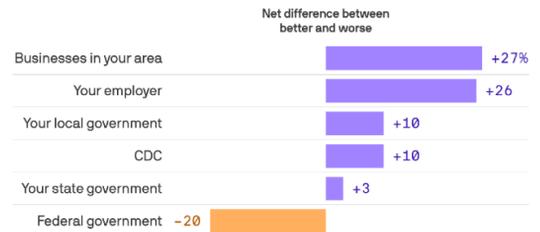
By the numbers: 26% of Americans said the federal government's handling of the virus is better than it was at the beginning, but 46% say it's actually gotten worse (and another 27% saw no change), for a net deficit of 20 percentage points.

- Barely half of Republicans said the federal government's handling has improved while one in five said it has gotten worse. Only one in 10 Democrats and one in four independents said it improved.

- Those sentiments fit with other measures in the survey: 62% said the federal government is making the country's recovery worse, an assessment essentially unchanged since the summer. And just one-third of respondents trust the federal government to provide them with accurate information about the virus.

How are the following handling the COVID-19 pandemic now, compared to the beginning?

Survey of 1,079 U.S. adults, Oct. 23-26, 2020



Data: Axios/Ipsos poll; **Note ±3.3% margin of error for the total sample size; Chart: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios**

Between the lines: Concerns are directed more at the political arm of the federal government than at scientists.

- On its own, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention won net positive ratings (+10) — 33% said it improved it's handling, while 23% said it declined and the rest saw no change.

What they're saying: The coronavirus "is the issue of this election," said Cliff Young, president of Ipsos U.S. Public Affairs.

- "People are just looking around at the facts on the ground and at the end of the day there's been no coordinated response to the coronavirus at the national level."

- At the local level, by contrast, people see "specific, concrete things" like stickers on the ground for social distancing at stores where they shop, or modifications to schooling.

- "When they think of the federal government, they're just thinking of the overall mess. There's no end in sight. The number of cases are only increasing."

Methodology: This Axios/Ipsos Poll was conducted Oct. 23-26, 2020, by Ipsos' KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,079 general population adults age 18 or older.



WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/31/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

We Will Televisive Live On Election Day

More than 9 million people have voted early in the state of Texas surpassing the state's total turnout from the 2016 general election. Texas cast a total of 8.96 million ballots in the 2016 presidential election according to the Secretary of State.

Mail-in ballots continued to flow in from all over the state. Early voting in Texas started on October 13th with thousands of voters facing long lines and waiting hours to cast their ballots at some locations.

Our news team will televisive the Tuesday, November 3rd election results and many scholars and community leaders have been invited to join us on the TV show.

For many people in our community this was the first time they have ever been so excited about an election.

Sadly, the U.S. has now surpassed 9 million coronavirus cases. The country reported 89,521 COVID-19 cases on Thursday — the highest single day total in the country yet. Europe has once again become the epicenter of the globe. France now will begin a four-week lockdown and Germany will put new restrictions into effect beginning next week.

Since early this year, our colleagues have stood by their positions to report the news of any coronavirus improvement, decline or recovery. Up until today, almost nine months have passed and we still don't see any recovery signs to report. In fact, the number of new cases being reported are on the rise.

This presidential election is touching so many and its outcome is directly related to the future of millions of people. We will again be on the front line to let you know the news every step of the way through our television station election coverage.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Editor's Choice



A drone image shows decommissioned cruise ships being dismantled at Aliaga ship-breaking yard in the Aegean port city of Izmir, western Turkey, October 2, 2020. Business is booming at the sea dock, where five hulking cruise ships are being dismantled...MORE



Dana Clark and her 18-month-old son Mason wait in line at city hall as early voting begins for the upcoming presidential election in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16, 2020. Clark said she donned this protective cover because she didn't know how many people would be wearing masks in line, and her child doesn't have a mask. She said she works as a teacher, and wanted to take precautions for her students' sakes. REUTERS/Kathleen Flynn



A patient suffering from COVID-19 is seen in an intensive care unit of a hospital, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina October 16, 2020. REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian



Anurak Jeantawanich, 52, pushes against police officers during an anti-government protest in Bangkok, Thailand October 16, 2020. "I could sense danger coming," he told Reuters. Having witnessed a bloody crackdown on "red shirt" anti-establishment protests a decade ago, he had more experience than many of the youth protesters as he crouched beside them facing riot police and water cannon behind a barricade of colorful umbrellas. REUTERS/Jorge Silva



Activists and students take part in a torch procession demanding women's safety and justice for rape victims in Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 14, 2020. Earlier this month, the government changed the law to make rape committed by a single person...



Timur Xaligov carries his 10-month-old daughter, Narin, who was killed with five other relatives including her mother Sevil, when a rocket hit their home during fighting over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh, in the city of Ganja, Azerbaijan.



A riot police officer stands with a red smoothie splashed on him during clashes at a rally after the death of Walter Wallace Jr., a Black man who was shot by police in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 27, 2020. Wallace, 27, was gunned down on October 26 by two police officers responding to what his relatives say was a call for assistance with a mental health crisis. REUTERS/Yuki Iwamura



Voters wait in a long line of cars during early voting at the Oklahoma Election Board in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. REUTERS/Nick Oxford

The pandemic has come storming back to Europe, and hope of a return to normality is being replaced by a much more ominous prospect: the return to lockdown.

The big picture: Case counts in countries like France and Spain have skyrocketed past the numbers seen during the spring peak. While that's partially due to more widespread testing, it's now clear that deaths are climbing too.

Breaking it down In the first two weeks of August, a total of 668 people died of coronavirus across Spain, France, the U.K., Italy and Germany — remarkably low given the U.S., which has a similar population, was averaging roughly twice as many per day during that time.

Fast forward two months, to the first two weeks of October, and those countries have combined for 4,316 deaths — 6.5 times higher.

Spain (1,622 deaths), France (1,081) and the U.K. (1,012) have been hit hardest, but even Italy (401) and Germany (200) are recording more than three times as many deaths as they were two months ago.

Flash back to the first two weeks of April, though, and the five countries' combined death total was 44,771 — ten times what they're recording now.

The looming disaster Sky-high case counts and a reluctance to impose full lockdowns mean the question is less whether these countries can quickly return to the relative calm of August, than whether they can avoid a return to April's brutal reality.

The European Coronavirus Crisis in Photos

Italy



Peaceful demonstrators in Naples, Oct. 26.

Europe Braces For Monster 2nd Coronavirus Wave

Poland



UNESCO Main Square in Krakow, Poland.

(Photos Courtesy Getty Images)

The looming disaster (continued)

"We're probably just seeing the beginning part of the increase in hospitalizations and deaths," which tend to lag three or four weeks behind a spike in cases, says Stephen Kessler, a researcher at Harvard who models the spread of diseases including COVID-19.

But that doesn't mean the unprecedented spike in cases across Europe will necessarily translate to unprecedented death tolls, Kessler says, both because of increased testing and improved treatments. The outlook is nonetheless grim. Hans Kluge, the WHO's director for Europe, said today that if the current trajectory holds, death rates will be four or five times higher in January than they were in April.

It's time to step up. The message to governments is: don't hold back with relatively small actions to avoid the painful damaging actions we saw in the first round," Kluge said.

But with weary populations and wounded economies, governments are highly reluctant to impose the sorts of strict lockdowns that snapped into place across Europe last March.

"The only thing that we know works and works very effectively is pretty strict lockdown," Kessler says. "That said, I do think that there's a lot we can do in the middle ground to mitigate the spread of the virus."

It will be particularly important to prevent large gatherings that could become super-spreader events, he says. (Courtesy axios.com)



Czech Republic

Coronavirus Civil Unrest In France.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Mass at Town Square, Prague, Oct. 26, 2020.



Bar in Manchester, nor'west England.



Open Bavaria inn before curfew measures.



Bar owner closes before the citywide curfew.



1st night of a nationwide curfew Madrid, Spain.



Pub in Dublin under 6-week lockdown.



Quiet street in Cardiff, Wales capital.



Outdoor seating area of a cafe in Belgium.

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