

CGTN Think Tank

Online Survey

**How is the U.S. government responding to the
COVID-19 crisis?**

August 13

2021

Report of Online Survey

According to the latest statistics from the *New York Times*, on August 11, the United States reported nearly 160,000 new COVID-19 cases in a single day. The average number of daily cases in the past week exceeded 120,000 cases, and the average number of deaths in a single day was 552. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 has a "high transmission rate" or is "spreading widely" in over 90 percent of U.S. states.

The United States is a global leader in medical technology. What are the reasons for the worsening pandemic situation? Are the rights and interests of minorities in the United States protected? Is the U.S. government's policy of deporting illegal immigrants exacerbating the pandemic situation in relevant countries?

The CGTN Think Tank launched a 48-hour online poll in 5 languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian) on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and VK on August 10.

The focus was to analyze overseas internet users' evaluations of the U.S. government's epidemic prevention and control measures, so data from Chinese social media platforms are not included.

Key points (among all global netizens who participated in the poll) :

- **81.7% of netizens believe the "U.S. government has failed in its obligations in the fight against the pandemic".**
- **84% of Arabic-speaking respondents on YouTube and 81% on Twitter agree with the question "are racial minorities in the United States treated unequally?", the highest among the five language groups surveyed.**

- 77.7% of netizens surveyed believe "the United States failed to take effective exit control measures in a timely manner and the government's policy of deporting immigrants has directly exacerbated the epidemic in Latin America".

"The United States is a global leader in medical technology. Yet since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, there have been nearly 36 million confirmed cases and more than 610,000 deaths in the United States, the largest number of confirmed cases and deaths in the world."

Q1: Do you think the U.S. government has failed in its obligation in the fight against the pandemic?

YouTube received the most responses to this poll. 82 percent of English-speaking respondents and 80 percent of Arabic-speaking respondents on YouTube believe "the U.S. government has failed in its obligation in the fight against the pandemic".

Q1: Do you think the U.S. government has failed in its obligation in the fight against the pandemic?	Yes	No
cgtnofficial	82%	18%
cgtn en español	74%	26%
CGTN Français	74%	26%
cgtnarabic	80%	20%
CGTN на русском	70%	30%

Table 1: YouTube Q1 Data

Q1: Do you think the U.S. government has failed in its obligation in the	Yes	No
@CGTNOfficial	66.6%	33.4%
@cgtnenespanol	60%	40%
@CGTNFrancais	75%	25%
@cgtnarabic	76%	24%

fight against the pandemic?		
	@CGTN на русском	76%
		24%

Table 2: Twitter Q1 Data

Analysis of Survey Participant Comments

Keywords: Focus on politics, stockpiling vaccines, health insurance, fail to fight the pandemic, money and the rich

By analyzing comments from netizens in 5 languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian), **we found a netizen commenting:** "The U.S. is focusing too much on politics and too little on human rights. This attitude affected the citizens from inside the U.S.' regime borders but also neighbor countries in North, Latin America".

Comments on other platforms:

An English-speaking netizen commented that "a dysfunctional government and society, and a low sense of personal and social responsibility have contributed to the failure of the United States to respond to COVID-19".

A Spanish-speaking netizen said: "I think the U.S. is so worried about losing its leadership in the world that it can't see what really matters to its country: "its people"; Its people are being forgotten and getting sick little by little. There's nothing worse than not being able to wake up a person who pretends to be asleep".

A French-speaking netizen stated that "when the health system is privately-owned and multinational companies make a lot of money in this kind of crisis, we end up seeing what happened in the United States, which perfectly explains some behaviors of U.S. leaders".

An Arabic-speaking netizen commented that "the U.S. only cares about its own interests and uses pragmatism as a means of its political move".

A Russian-speaking netizen believes "the U.S. government is pushing anti-people policies and spreading false information about the epidemic. Fortunately, there are still sensible people who do not believe such nonsense".

"The National Urban League, an American civil rights advocacy organization, released a report saying that according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black individuals are two times more likely to die from COVID-19 than people who are white, and Hispanics are 2.3 times more likely to die."

Q2: Do you think racial minorities in the United States are treated unequally?

Among the survey participants, 84 percent of Arabic-speaking respondents on YouTube and 81 percent on Twitter agree with the question "do you think racial minorities in the United States are treated unequally?", the highest among the five language groups surveyed.

Q2: Do you think racial minorities in the United States are treated unequally?	Yes	No
cgtnofficial	77%	23%
cgtn en español	82%	18%
CGTN Français	82%	18%
cgtnarabic	84%	16%
CGTN на русском	55%	45%

Table 3: YouTube Q2 Data

Analysis of YouTube data: 84 percent of Arabic-speaking netizens believe racial minorities in the U.S. are treated unequally. Except for Russian-speaking netizens, 77-82 percent of the other language groups (English, Spanish and French) said racial minorities in the U.S. are treated unequally.

Q2: Do you think racial minorities in the United States are treated unequally?	Yes	No
@CGTNOfficial	70.5%	29.5%
@cgtnenespanol	78%	22%
@CGTNFrancais	75%	25%
@cgtnarabic	81%	19%
@CGTN на русском	51%	49%

Table 4: Twitter Q2 Data

Analysis of Twitter data: Similar to YouTube, 81 percent of Arabic-speaking participants responded "yes" to this question.

Analysis of Survey Participant Comments Keywords: Unauthorized Latino immigrants, social class differences, racial superiority

In this survey, through the analysis of the comments in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian, **we found** one comment saying that "Minorities in the U.S. are treated unfairly because of structural racism because White Americans with a sense of superiority think everyone else is inferior. Such phenomenon exists in all American social structures".

Messages from various platforms include:

An English-speaking netizen said that "the United States has emphasized racial superiority from the very beginning. Whenever a minority group (Blacks in most cases) finds their way to success, they are defeated by the white majority. The problem of racism is far more serious in the United States than anywhere else".

A Spanish-speaking netizen commented that "even those who claim that America is an affluent and prosperous society understand that such society is built on deep social class differences. For some people, they can get whatever they want, while for others, their basic living needs even cannot be met".

A French-speaking netizen stated that "in the past two decades, too many vulnerabilities have been seen in the U.S. For example, its healthcare system has not given any help to its citizens. It has failed to respond to the immigration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border. It has been unable to protect itself from cyberattacks, and the Americans have never been so divided (I am referring to its elections). In short, this country is no longer like what we imagined it to be."

A Russian-speaking netizen commented that "Yes, and the same is true for "the Majority". If you look back on history, such as the history of Native Americans, you will get it."

"After the outbreak of the pandemic, the United States failed to take effective exit control measures in a timely manner, and sped up sending tens of thousands of deportees infected with COVID-19 back to their countries, resulting in spreading the virus from the United States to many other countries and directly exacerbating the pandemic situation in many Latin American countries."

Q3: The New York Times comments that the U.S.' action is tantamount to "exporting coronavirus". Do you agree with that?

Among netizens who participated in the survey, 77.7 percent believed that "the U.S. failed to take effective exit control measures in a timely manner, and its move of deporting immigrants has directly exacerbated the pandemic situation in Latin American countries."

Q3: Do you think that the U.S. failed to take effective exit control measures in a timely manner?	Yes	No
cgtnofficial	79%	21%
cgtn en español	85%	15%
CGTN Français	74%	26%
cgtnarabic	80%	20%
CGTN на русском	77%	23%

Table 5: YouTube Q3 Data

Analysis of YouTube data: 85 percent of Spanish-speaking respondents responded "yes" to this question, the highest among the five language groups.

Q3: Do you think that the U.S. failed to take effective exit control measures in a timely manner?	Yes	No
@CGTNOfficial	70.2%	29.8%
@cgtnenespanol	72%	28%
@CGTNFrancais	69%	31%
@cgtnarabic	69%	31%
@CGTN на русском	68%	32%

Table 6: Twitter Q3 Data

Analysis of Twitter data: The respondents across the five major languages all responded to this question in a similar way, with 68-72 percent answering "yes".

Analysis of Survey Participant Comments Keywords: Not to care whether people live or die, people live or die, chauvinism, immigration, vaccination

In this survey, by analyzing the comments made by respondents in 5 key languages, namely English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian, **we found one comment stating that** "it would be difficult to imagine a worse COVID-19 response than the U.S. Not only did they prioritize trying to save the economy over people, they hoarded vaccines so the rest of the world would suffer along with them".

Comments from various platforms include:

An English-speaking netizen said that "the U.S. is too liberal a society to have implemented stricter measures to manage the crisis unlike several other societies in Asia, Africa and other regions".

A Spanish-speaking netizen commented that "In chauvinism, freedom and democracy are sacred to their own people. But for people in other countries, the U.S. imposes this notion on them when needed, and in some cases, the U.S. directly arranges for them a dictator friend".