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Release is effective immediately

Hawkeye Poll: *Half of Iowans have heard of QAnon and they think it is bad for the country*

According to a recent Hawkeye Poll — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between March 23 and April 12 — slightly over half of Iowans have heard of QAnon and those that are familiar with it think it is bad for the country. When asked how much they had heard or read about QAnon, 11.9% of respondents indicated that they had heard a lot, 43.0% had heard a little, while 36.3% knew nothing at all about it. Among those that knew a little or a lot about QAnon, 59.6% of them said they thought it was a “very bad thing for the country” and 14.2% said it was a somewhat bad thing. Less than ten percent of respondents thought it was either a very good thing (4.5%) or a somewhat good thing (4.0%) for the country.

QAnon is said to be a right-wing conspiracy theory that started on online message boards and amassed many followers during the Trump presidency. QAnon believers state that there are satan-worshipping elites that aligned themselves with the Democratic party in order to take down Trump and start a New World Order. Many political pundits believe that QAnon posts led to the events that took place at the U.S. Capitol building on January 6th. QAnon supporters believed that Trump was supposed to win a second term as President, but lost due to voter fraud.

Awareness of and concern about QAnon was highest among Democrats. 60.1% of self-reported Democrats had heard a lot or a little about QAnon compared to 48.9% of Republicans. Independents fell between, with 50.2% having heard a lot or a little about QAnon. Among those that had heard of it, 76.1% of Democrats and 60.6% of Independents thought it was a very bad thing. This dropped to 36.5% among Republicans. 16.6% of Republicans thought it was a somewhat good or very good thing for the country, compared to 6.4% among Democrats and 4.1% among Independents.

Respondents who have earned a college or advanced degree were more aware of QAnon than those who did not have a college degree. 66.7% of those with at least a college degree had heard a lot or a little compared to 47.1% among those that did not have one. But belief that QAnon was bad for the country was similar by education among those that had heard of it: 72.2% of those without a college degree and 75.7% of those with a college degree thought it was a very bad or somewhat bad thing for the country.

The University of Iowa Department of Political Science has conducted the Hawkeye Poll since 2007. A series of national and state public opinion polls, this experience serves as an important learning opportunity for students. Over 1000 students have had the opportunity to directly participate in the research and survey process and to acquire valuable career-related knowledge about survey research and public polling in general. This year 17 students collaborated to design and implement a poll of Iowans. Learn more about the course at <https://now.uiowa.edu/2019/11/taking-iowas-pulse-hawkeye-poll>.

Respondent Identification: The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) assisted with data collection. Responses were gathered by phone (89) and by web (902). For the phone portion, the ISRC obtained a random sample of Iowans consisting of 40% household landline numbers and 60% mobile phone numbers. All respondents who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey

were included. After training, students in the class used the ISRC's computer-assisted interviewing resources to complete the calling and interviews. No quotas were set for the phone component. For the web portion, the ISRC contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 902 web respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and party identification.

Sample: 991 voting-age resident in Iowa (902 by web and 89 by phone), margin of error +/-3.2%

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and party identification.

About the Hawkeye Poll

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Political Science departments. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, which uses the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and faculty advisor for the poll. The Department of Political Science, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the University of Iowa Public Policy Center support the poll; financial support was provided through a Student Technology Fee award (#1290-91).

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