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# HAS 2020 BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE? HALF OF CANADIANS SAY SO AND HERE'S WHY.

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# INTRODUCTION

Half of Canadians surveyed said yes when asked whether 2020 was the worst year of their lives thus far. This was the case for more Americans (58%) than it was for Canadians (50%) and as we'll observe the degree of anxiety about COVID-19 is a contributing factor. That which follows will also list the reasons that were given by Canadians and Americans as to why they feel that 2020 was the worst year of their lives thus far. The findings are based on surveys conducted by Leger Marketing in partnership with the Association for Canadian Studies over the period August 7 to August 9, 2020 with some 1513 Canadians and 1003 Americans.

AMERICANS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY WERE MOST LIKELY TO FEEL THAT 2020 WAS THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES THUS FAR WHILE BC AND QUEBECERS WERE LEAST LIKELY TO FEEL THAT WAY; WOMEN IN THE USA MOST LIKELY TO FEEL THIS WAY AS ARE YOUNGER PEOPLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES

Up until now, is 2020 the worst year you've ever lived?												
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Man	Woma n	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Canada</b>	50%	53%	46%	54%	53%	50%	46%	49%	51%	56%	49%	47%

Up until now, is 2020 the worst year you've ever lived?												
	Total	NE	MW	South	West	Male	Femal e	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
<b>United States</b>	58%	56%	56%	62%	55%	54%	62%	67%	65%	63%	50%	46%

# CANADIANS AND AMERICANS SAY DEATH OF A LOVED ONE AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN THE MAIN REASONS 2020 HAS BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES SO FAR

Which of the following event(s) characterizes the worst year you've ever lived?	Canada	United States
Death of a loved one	41%	46%
Personal problems (stress, anxiety, uncertainty about the future, etc.)	41%	41%
Depression	26%	31%
Separation, breakup, divorce	24%	20%
Illness of a relative or loved one	22%	22%
Illness on oneself	18%	17%
Family problems (fertility problems, bickering, etc.)	18%	20%
Job loss	15%	15%
Serious Accident to self	9%	9%
Other, please specify:	7%	10%
Serious accident of a relative or loved one	5%	7%
Natural disaster (e.g. loss of home due to flooding or landslide)	3%	7%

**YOUNGER CANADIANS MORE LIKELY TO CITE PERSONAL PROBLEMS WHILE OLDER COHORT MORE LIKELY TO SAY DEATH OF A LOVED ONE IS THE MAIN REASONS 2020 HAS BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES SO FAR**

<b>Which of the following event(s) characterizes the worst year you've ever lived?</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<b>35-54</b>	<b>55+</b>
<b>Death of a loved one</b>	41%	<b>29%</b>	44%	<b>45%</b>
<b>Personal problems (stress, anxiety, uncertainty about the future, etc.)</b>	41%	<b>64%</b>	40%	<b>28%</b>
<b>Depression</b>	26%	<b>46%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Separation, breakup, divorce</b>	24%	21%	27%	24%
<b>Illness of a relative or loved one</b>	22%	<b>16%</b>	18%	<b>29%</b>
<b>Illness on oneself</b>	18%	17%	20%	18%
<b>Family problems (fertility problems, bickering, etc.)</b>	18%	<b>29%</b>	20%	<b>10%</b>
<b>Job loss</b>	15%	15%	14%	14%
<b>Serious Accident to self</b>	9%	6%	11%	9%
<b>Other, please specify:</b>	7%	<b>10%</b>	<b>4%</b>	7%
<b>Serious accident of a relative or loved one</b>	5%	6%	7%	4%
<b>Natural disaster (e.g. loss of home due to flooding or landslide)</b>	3%	2%	4%	4%

LOWER INCOME AMERICANS WERE MOST LIKELY TO SAY 2020 WAS THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES AND IN CANADA IT WAS MIDDLE INCOME CANADIANS THAT WERE SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY TO SAY

Up until now, is 2020 the worst year you've ever lived?				
	-35K	35K-50K	50K-100K	100K+
United States	67%	53%	56%	52%

Up until now, is 2020 the worst year you've ever lived?						
	-20k	20k-40k	40k-60k	60k-80k	80k-100k	100k +
Canada	50%	47%	53%	52%	48%	46%

**THOSE CANADIANS THAT ARE MORE AFRAID OF CONTRACTING COVID-19 ARE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT 2020 HAS BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES.**

Up until now, 2020 is the worst year you've ever lived	Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?			
	Very afraid	Somewhat afraid	Not very afraid	Not afraid at all
Canada	66.5%	53.7%	41.2%	45.1%

IN CANADA AND THE US VISIBLE MINORITIES/RACIALIZED GROUPS ARE MORE LIKELY THAN THE WHITE POPULATION TO SAY THAT 2020 HAS BEEN THE WORST YEAR OF THEIR LIVES THUS FAR.

Up until now, 2020 is the worst year you've ever lived	White	Other
Canada	48	60
United States	55	66



## METHODOLOGY

Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.

From August 7 to August 9, 2020

Canadians 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from the 2016 Census, results were weighted according to gender, age, mother tongue, region, education level and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.

No margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample (Web panel in this case). However for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1513 respondents would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.19\%$ , 19 times out of 20,

The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements.

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