
CANADA VERSUS THE UNITED STATES: WHICH COUNTRY HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 CRISIS BETTER ?

JACK JEDWAB,

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION: CANADIAN NEAR UNANIMOUS IN AGREEMENT WE'VE HANDLED CRISIS BETTER THAN AMERICANS; NOT SO SURE SAY AMERICANS.

- At the start of the week of August 24th the United States has over 180 000 deaths (a total of 550 per one million population) from Covid 19 and Canada just over 9000 (a total of 240 per one million population). As regards total confirmed cases the United States has nearly six million (about 18 000 per one million) while Canada had over 125 000 (3333 per one million). As regards the numbers of tests the United States has done 235 000 per one million while Canada has done over 137 000 per one million. Overall the positivity rate in the US (determined by the ratio of confirmed cases to tests) is 7.7% while overall positivity in Canada is at 4.1% (though over the one week period last week it was closer to 1%).

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

- Despite the comparative rates of contagion Americans are divided over whether their country has handled the COVID-19 crisis better than Canada. For their part, Canadians are near unanimous in the belief that Canada has handled the crisis better than the USA. Partisan and gender divisions in the United States are quite important in analyzing the difference of opinion with Republicans and Democrats on the one hand and men and women on the other disagreeing over whether the United States has handled the crisis better than Canada.

CANADIANS THINK THEY HAVE HANDLED THE CRISIS MUCH BETTER THAN THE USA, UK AND FRANCE AND SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN GERMANY AND SWEDEN.

Do you think that Canada has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than the following countries?

	United States	Sweden	France	United Kingdom	Germany
TOTAL BETTER	87%	46%	60%	67%	44%
Much better	75%	21%	23%	31%	15%
Somewhat better	12%	26%	37%	36%	29%
TOTAL WORSE	11%	19%	11%	10%	21%
Somewhat worse	3%	15%	9%	8%	17%
Much worse	8%	4%	2%	3%	4%
I don't know	2%	35%	29%	23%	35%

NEARLY NINE IN TEN CANADIANS AGREE THAT CANADA HAS HANDLED THE COVID-19 CRISIS MUCH BETTER THAN THE UNITED STATES.

Do you think that Canada has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than the United States ?

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +
TOTAL BETTER	87%	84%	80%	85%	89%	89%	92%
Much better	75%	63%	69%	72%	79%	79%	81%
Somewhat better	12%	21%	11%	13%	10%	10%	10%
TOTAL WORSE	11%	15%	16%	13%	9%	8%	7%
Somewhat worse	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%
Much worse	8%	12%	11%	9%	6%	5%	5%
I don't know	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	3%	1%

AMERICANS DIVIDED OVER WHETHER CANADA HAS HANDLED THE COVID 19 CRISIS BETTER THAN THE UNITED STATES

Do you think that the United States has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than Canada?

	Total	NE	MW	South	West
TOTAL BETTER	37%	40%	32%	39%	36%
Much better	20%	23%	22%	18%	17%
Somewhat better	17%	17%	10%	22%	18%
TOTAL WORSE	38%	40%	38%	34%	42%
Somewhat worse	13%	12%	14%	15%	12%
Much worse	24%	29%	24%	19%	30%
I don't know	25%	19%	29%	27%	22%

AMERICANS FAR LESS ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION THAN CANADIANS AROUND WHO HAS BETTER HANDLED THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Do you think that **Canada/USA** has handled the **COVID-19** crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than the **United States/Canada** ?

	Canadians on USA handling of the crisis	Americans on Canadian handling of the crisis
TOTAL BETTER	87%	37%
Much better	75%	20%
Somewhat better	12%	17%
TOTAL WORSE	11%	38%
Somewhat worse	3%	13%
Much worse	8%	24%
I don't know	2%	25%

AMERICANS FAR LESS ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION THAN CANADIANS AROUND WHO HAS BETTER HANDLED THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Do you think that the United States has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than Canada?							
Americans	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64
TOTAL BETTER	37%	47%	28%	47%	46%	42%	24%
Much better	20%	26%	14%	29%	27%	20%	11%
Somewhat better	17%	21%	14%	17%	19%	22%	14%
TOTAL WORSE	38%	36%	39%	33%	30%	31%	45%
Somewhat worse	13%	15%	12%	14%	13%	13%	14%
Much worse	24%	22%	27%	19%	17%	18%	31%
I don't know	25%	17%	33%	20%	24%	27%	31%

AMERICAN MEN FAR MORE SO THAN WOMEN THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS HANDLED CRISIS BETTER THAN CANADA AND AMERICAN UNDER 55 ARE MORE LIKELY TO FEEL THAT WAY THAN THOSE 55 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

Do you think that the United States has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than Canada?								
Americans	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65 plus
TOTAL BETTER	37%	47%	28%	47%	46%	42%	24%	29%
Much better	20%	26%	14%	29%	27%	20%	11%	12%
Somewhat better	17%	21%	14%	17%	19%	22%	14%	17%
TOTAL WORSE	38%	36%	39%	33%	30%	31%	45%	50%
Somewhat worse	13%	15%	12%	14%	13%	13%	14%	14%
Much worse	24%	22%	27%	19%	17%	18%	31%	36%
I don't know	25%	17%	33%	20%	24%	27%	31%	22%

REPUBLICANS FAR MORE LIKELY THAN DEMOCRATS TO THINK THAT THE US HAS DONE A BETTER JOB OF HANDLING THE COVID-19 CRISIS THAN CANADA.

Canada - Do you think that the United States has handled the COVID-19 crisis much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse or much worse than Canada	Generally speaking, do you consider yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent or other?		
	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Total Better	44.5	36.1	34.1
Much better	19.7%	22.8%	18.9%
Somewhat better	24.8%	13.3%	15.2%
Total Worse	27.2	48.7	36.7
Somewhat worse	17.7%	9.5%	13.9%
Much worse	9.5%	39.2%	22.8%
I don't know	28.2%	15.3%	29.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

METHODOLOGY

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

From August 21 to August 23rd 2020.

1516 Canadians and 1001 Americans 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.

Using data from 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 1516 respondents and 1001 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$, and $\pm 3.5\%$ respectively 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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Author: Jack Jedwab.

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