# Lasting Transformation

How the Pandemic is Changing Americans' Priorities

SPECIAL SEGMENTATION REPORT





STUDY OVERVIEW:

## A Holistic Approach

Changes wrought by the COVID pandemic have affected the lives of most Americans in a multitude of ways.

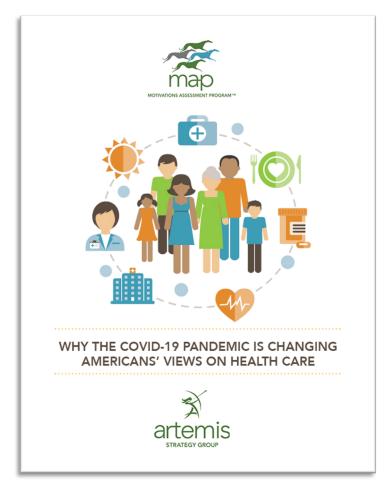
We use our primary motivation research to assess how the pandemic has changed us.

THE 2021

# Lasting Transformation Map Study

Artemis Strategy Group conducted a national study in August 2021 with over 1,500 Americans to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic changed their priorities and how they approach their relationships, work, financial and health decisions.

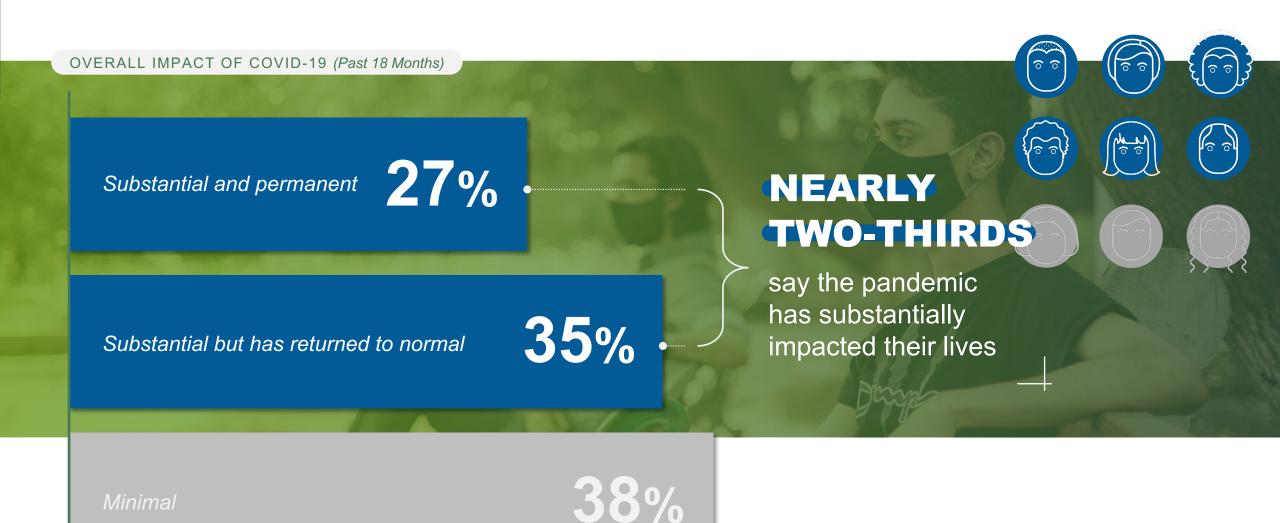




This study is the 5<sup>th</sup> in a series of MAP studies (2013, 2016, 2019, 2020 and 2021) that Artemis has conducted to probe deeply into people's goals, actions, barriers and motivations.



## Comprehensive Impact





To better identify and understand this range of experience, we conducted a segmentation analysis.



THE INPUT INCLUDED QUESTIONS ACROSS FOUR DIMENSIONS



#### **WORK**

Changes in work status, type of work, amount of work due to Pandemic



#### LIFESTYLE

Changes in lifestyle, perspective, and ability to pursue personal goals due to the Pandemic



#### HEALTH

Changes to physical and mental health due to the Pandemic



#### **FINANCIAL**

Changes to financial situation due to the Pandemic

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## The Four Experience Segments

35%

### **SURVIVED**

The pandemic was a major blow to financial stability, physical and mental health, and they are **much worse off than before.** 



29%

## UNAFFECTED

Largely insulated from the negative impact of the pandemic despite the inconveniences, **not much changed for this group** of mainly retired Americans.



All aspects of life up-ended by the pandemic and they made sweeping professional and personal changes. Their lives are better for it across all dimensions.



20%

### **ADAPTED**

**THRIVED** 

Not directly negatively impacted by the pandemic; they changed priorities and made some lifestyle changes. Are doing just as well or better than before.





### **SURVIVED**

The pandemic hit one in three Americans hard and while they survived, they are still struggling to recover from a confluence of financial, mental and physical stressors.



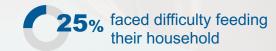
"Worked for a school that was shut down. Went back but hours were reduced. Staffing had shortages so I was put in a position that was not my job field. So, I quit because it wasn't worth what I was paid."

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC: Substantial

#### **Challenges Faced**







23% lost a friend or loved one due to the pandemic

## Outcome

Survivors feel more:

Grateful

Anxious

✓ Uncertain

✓ Weary

Vulnerable

Overwhelmed

## Worse

Compared to pre-pandemic, doing worse:

emotional or mental well-being

**56**% savings goals

**50%** physically

**35**% work/professional goals

#### Response to Pandemic

#### CHANGES TO WORK



35% reduced hours worked



changed employers

#### CHANGES TO LIFESTYLE



**47**% became less active physically



**32**% describe it as a time of personal decline

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## UNAFFECTED

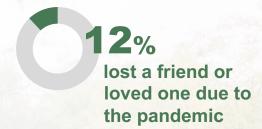
The pandemic had a minimal impact on the lives of the unaffected, the majority of whom are tired of hearing about COVID and just want to live their lives.



"I have nothing else to do but just wait out until things get back to normal." IMPACT OF PANDEMIC: Minimal

#### Challenges Faced







✓ Grateful

#### Response to Pandemic

#### CHANGES TO WORK



**15**%

shifted to working from home

#### CHANGES TO LIFESTYLE



40%

more likely to appreciate simple pleasures



38%

had more time to themselves

## Outcome



Portion doing same versus pre-pandemic:

**89**% work/professional goals

79% physically

**72%** financially



**32**% spent less money



## ADAPTED

The pandemic turned the lives of many working families upside-down. The Adapted segment was affected across all aspects of their lives and responded by making major changes. The shift seems to have worked: the adapted are happier and feel they have a better worklife balance than before.



"I don't want anxiety to take valuable years of my life. I resist and try to live a meaningful life."

#### IMPACT OF PANDEMIC: Substantial

#### **Challenges Faced**







#### Response to Pandemic

#### CHANGES TO WORK



67%
left traditional workforce to start business, freelance, or shift to gig economy



41% changed type of work



**40**% became a full-time caregiver

#### CHANGES TO LIFESTYLE



81% view pandemic as a reset



78%
pandemic led
them to seek
better working
conditions



47% moved ahead on something they planned for a long time

## The Adapted feel more:

- ✓ Adaptable
- Nurturing
- ✓ Grateful
- ✓ Resilient
- ✓ Focused
- ✓ Driven

## Outcome



72% say it is more important to balance demands of work and family now

**64%** are doing better on work/professional goals





### **THRIVED**

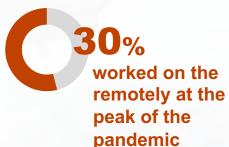
The financial and health impact of the pandemic on the Thrived segment was minimal. The big impact was on lifestyle adjustments which ultimately seem to have improved their lives.

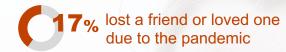


"Covid makes me feel that we can't take a day for granted. Need to be healthy and enjoy best we can."

#### IMPACT OF PANDEMIC: Minimal

#### Challenges Faced







## Thrivers feel more:

- Focused
- ✓ Grateful
- Resilient
- ✓ Adaptable
- Nurturing
- ✓ Patient

#### Response to Pandemic

#### CHANGES TO WORK



29% increased hours worked



changed employers or the type of work they do



20%

left traditional workforce to start business, freelance, or shift to gig economy

## Outcome



Portion doing better versus pre-pandemic:

79% pursuing their personal goals or aspirations

**64%** meeting their savings goals

**55%** work/professional goals

#### CHANGES TO LIFESTYLE



**81**% feel in control of health situation



45% became more active physically



**55%** describe as time of personal growth



40%

spent more time caring for others



### **Observations**

ABOUT THE SEGMENTS



We are struck by the significant size of the groups who have dealt with serious setbacks during this time period.



The serendipity
by which people
were impacted by the
pandemic is important
to understand;
the Adapted and Survivor
groups each are
demographically diverse.





The size and diversity of the Adapted group is encouraging; the transformation has been a decidedly positive one for many.



WHICH OF THE FOUR EXPERIENCE SEGMENTS

# are you most likely to be in?



artemissg.com/pandemic-experience-quiz

