COVID-19, NHI and healthcare in South Africa

Findings from Afrobarometer 2021 survey in South Africa

Bhekisisa webinar
28 July 2021
Presented by Sibusiso Nkomo
Impacts of COVID-19 | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: Please tell me if you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic: Became ill with COVID-19? Temporarily or permanently lost a job, business, or primary source of income?

- 19% Became ill with COVID-19
- 34% Lost income due to COVID-19

AFROBAROMETER
Respondents were asked: How easy or difficult was it for you and your household to comply with the lockdown or curfew restrictions imposed by the government?
Limiting democratic rights during pandemic | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: When the country is facing a public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic, do you agree or disagree that it is justified for the government to temporarily limit democracy or democratic freedoms by taking the following measures: Censoring media reporting? Using the police and security forces to enforce public health mandates like lockdown orders, mask requirements, or restrictions on public gatherings? Postponing elections or limiting political campaigning?

- **Postpone elections/campaigning during pandemic**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 67%
  - Neither/Don't know/Refuse: 11%
  - Disagree/Strongly disagree: 22%

- **Use security forces to enforce health measures**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 78%
  - Neither/Don't know/Refuse: 8%
  - Disagree/Strongly disagree: 14%

- **Censor media reporting during pandemic**
  - Agree/Strongly agree: 56%
  - Neither/Don't know/Refuse: 11%
  - Disagree/Strongly disagree: 33%
Assessment of government response to COVID-19 | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has handled the following matters since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, or haven’t you heard enough to say?

Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has handled the following matters since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, or haven’t you heard enough to say?

Managing COVID-19 response
- 64% fairly well/very well
- 31% fairly badly/very badly

Keeping public informed about COVID-19
- 78% fairly well/very well
- 19% fairly badly/very badly
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Even if the lockdown or curfew has negative impacts on the economy and people’s livelihoods, it was necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19?
Trust government to ensure safety of COVID-19 vaccine | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered to South African citizens is safe before it is used in this country?
Respondents were asked: If a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available and the government says it is safe, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated? (% who say “somewhat likely” or “very likely”)
Respondents were asked: If no, there are many reasons that people do not have health insurance coverage. Would you say that you are currently uninsured because…

- **Available options are too expensive**: 45%
- **You cannot find a plan that meets your needs**: 8%
- **You do not need or want coverage**: 7%
- **None of the above**: 6%
- **You do not know how to sign up**: 5%
- **Don’t know**: 4%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree. The quality of healthcare should be based on what one can afford, even if this means people having different quality of services.
Investment in health emergencies
| South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our government needs to invest more of our health resources in special preparations to respond to health emergencies like COVID-19, even if it means fewer resources are available for other health services.
Respondents were asked: Are you currently covered by any kind of health insurance or some other kind of health care plan (% who said “yes” and “no”)? Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our government needs to invest more of our health resources in special preparations to respond to health emergencies like COVID-19, even if it means fewer resources are available for other health services (% “agree” or “agree strongly”).
Government justified levy taxes for NHI | South Africa | 2021

Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree. Government would be justified to levy additional taxes to fund the National Health Insurance, in order to provide better quality healthcare services for all.
Thank you

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica on Twitter and Facebook.

Do your own analysis of Afrobarometer data – on any question, for any country and survey round. It’s easy and free at www.afrobarometer.org/online-data-analysis.