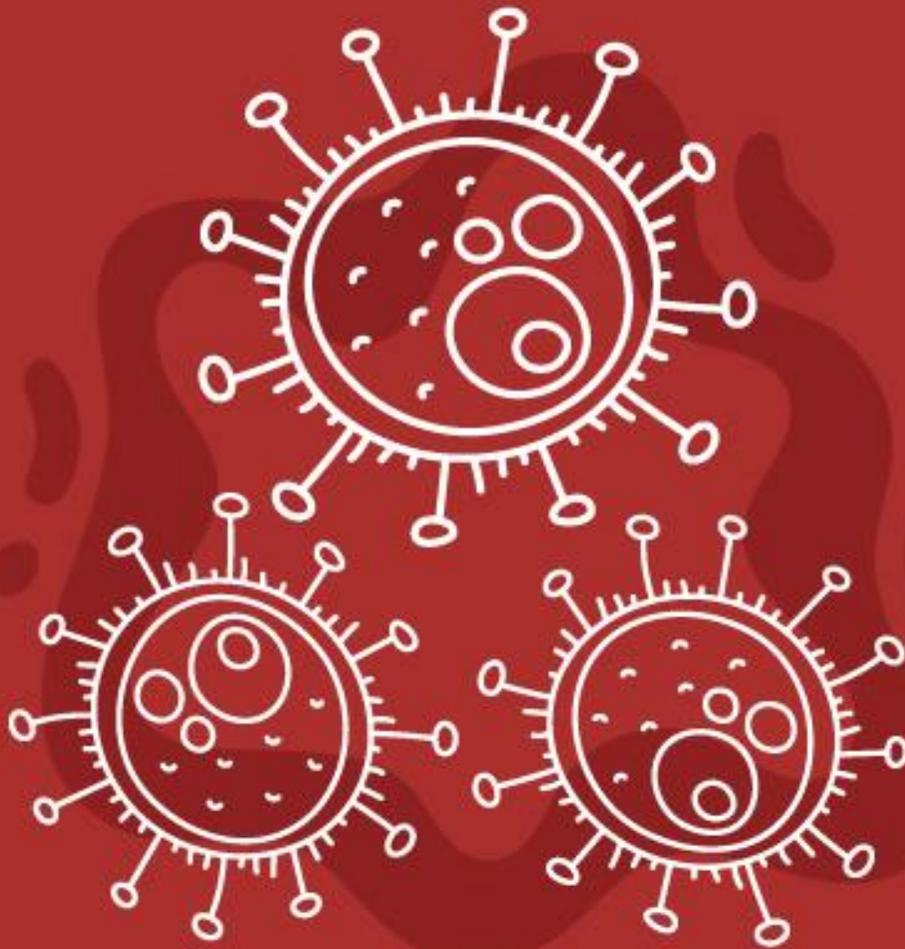


COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT



APRIL 2020

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1.0 Executive Summary

Since the first case of corona virus disease (COVID-19) was confirmed in Wuhan, China late last year, the virus has exploded into a global pandemic as it has spread to 210 countries and territories. According to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University on 13th April 2020, the disease has killed about 115,244 people and infected 1,866,460 people worldwide¹. The pandemic has sent shockwaves throughout the global economy and billions of people into lockdown as health services struggle to manage cases and contain further spread of the virus.

Nigeria recorded its first case of COVID-19 on the 25th of February 2020 however, as at April 12th 2020, Nigeria has recorded 323 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across 19 states with 85 recovered and 10 deaths². Against this background, NOIPolls conducted its second public opinion poll on COVID-19 to gauge the perception of Nigerians regarding awareness, lockdown order as well as ascertain the level of concern in the country. The first poll was conducted in the week commencing March 3rd, 2020 when Nigeria had only 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19 while this poll was conducted in the week of April 1st 2020 when Nigeria had 174 confirmed cases.

The poll result revealed that almost all adult Nigerians (99 percent) are aware of the outbreak of corona virus disease in the country. Trend analysis shows a significant 15 percent increase in the proportion of Nigerians who are aware of the outbreak when current results are compared with figures obtained in March. This is not surprising given that President Buhari, had on the 29th of March 2020, made a national broadcast on the country's steps to contain the virus which included a lockdown of 3 states (FCT, Lagos and Ogun) for 14 days and some other states have independently issued lockdowns and restricted movements.. Also, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) regularly sends text messages to alert the citizens on the need to stay safe by adopting safety measures provided by health advisories.

It is shocking to know at this stage that some Nigerians (6 percent) consider the COVID-19 outbreak in Nigeria to be fake. During the survey, respondents in this category disclosed that they believe the outbreak is real in other countries but not in Nigeria, while some mentioned that they don't believe it is real because they have not seen anybody infected by the virus in their states, others specified that it is a propaganda and a means for government to embezzle funds.

Similarly, it is outrageous to note that the poll revealed that 28 percent of adult Nigerians maintained that they are immune to the virus. Further probing of respondents who held this belief established that 42 percent of them held this belief mainly because they believe in God, while 32 percent believed they were immune because they observe proper hygiene which prevents them from contracting the virus amongst other reasons.

87 percent of Nigerians divulged that they are concerned that they may contract the virus. This signifies a substantial 24 percent increase in the proportion of adult Nigerians who are concerned that they might contract the virus when current results are compared to the figures obtained in early March, 2020. In addition, out of the 13 percent who claimed that they are not concerned, 41 percent of them disclosed that they are not concerned because they have trust in God to protect them from the virus, while 39 percent said that they are not concerned because they have been observing preventive measures amongst other reasons.

¹ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

² <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/04/12/breaking-nigeria-records-five-new-covid-19-cases-total-infections-now-323/>

With regards to perception on the lockdown orders, 77 percent of Nigerians stated that the decision of the Federal Government is appropriate. Most respondents think it is appropriate because they believe it is the best way to control the spread of the virus in the country. However, 18 percent consider the lockdown to be too extreme. While 65 percent of the respondents opined that the lockdown should be extended to other states, 35 percent did not think it should be extended to other states. Majority of the respondents in the South West (76 percent) are of the opinion that it should be extended to other states and this is understandable as many of the confirmed cases in Nigeria were in Lagos state.

With regards to concerns with the lockdown, 72 percent of respondents specified that they have concerns about the lockdown. These concerns included lack of food for the poor (40 percent), that people will die of hunger (21 percent), of economic hardship (13 percent) and the survival of those whose livelihood depends on daily hustling (9 percent) amongst other concerns mentioned.

Further findings showed that Nigerians rated the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) 6.97 out of a score of 10 in providing information or updates on COVID-19 and 6.36 in providing testing to those that need to be tested in the country. Similarly, the Federal Government was rated slightly above average (5.47 out of 10) in providing directives on how it plans to control the spread of the virus but was rated poorly in providing palliative measures to ensure that Nigerians follow its directives. It is therefore important for government and well-meaning Nigerians to assist more citizens, especially the poor and those whose livelihood depends on daily income as mentioned in this survey, with more palliatives. This will ensure that Nigerians follow the stay at home directive, and help control the spread of the virus in the country.

2.0 Survey Background and Objectives

The COVID-19 pandemic is a major global health crisis and the greatest challenge faced since World War II. The virus has spread to every continent with cases rising daily globally. Nations are battling to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travels and movement, quarantining citizens, and cancelling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, and schools. The pandemic moves like a wave, one that may crash on any country that is not able to contain the spread as it has the potential to create devastating social, economic and political crises that will leave deep scars.

As at April 13th, 2020, the rate of infection globally has crossed the 1 million mark. According to data from Johns Hopkins University, there are 1,866,460 people infected across the world with 115,244 death and remarkably, 433,915 recoveries³. Currently, the USA is the country with the highest number of confirmed cases which stand at 560,433⁴.

In Africa, 52 out of 54 countries have confirmed cases of COVID-19. The infection rate is about 15,209 confirmed cases, 794 deaths and 2,961 recoveries⁵. In Nigeria as at 12th April 2020, a total of 323 confirmed cases has been recorded across 19 states with 10 deaths and 85 recoveries⁶. Lagos states remains highest with 176 confirmed cases while Abuja has 56 confirmed cases⁷. Against this background, NOIPolls conducted its second public opinion poll on COVID-19 to gauge the perception of Nigerians regarding awareness, lockdown order as well as ascertain the level of concern in the country.

³ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

⁴ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

⁵ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

⁶ <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/04/12/breaking-nigeria-records-five-new-covid-19-cases-total-infections-now-323/>

⁷ <https://www.channelstv.com/2020/04/12/breaking-nigeria-records-five-new-covid-19-cases-total-infections-now-323/>

3.0 Methodology

The survey was conducted through telephone interviews in the week of **April 1st, 2020**. A proportionate random nationwide selected sample of 1,000 phone-owning Nigerians, 18 years and above, were interviewed across the six geopolitical zones in the country using a well-structured questionnaire. This sample size provides a 95 percent confidence interval that the results obtained are within a range of plus or minus 4.65 percent of the opinions of population. The interviews were conducted in English, Pidgin, Hausa, Igbo or Yoruba. The use of several Nigerian languages reduces the likelihood of a non-response bias.

4.0 Demographic Distribution

The demographic distribution of the respondents was analysed by the following groups: gender, age-group, geo-political zones, and occupation as illustrated in Figure 1 below. The gender and the geo-political zone demographic distribution of the respondents were in the same proportion with the 2016 National Population Census.

Gender: The proportion of male and female respondents was almost equal with 51 percent and 49 percent respectively.

Age-Group: The age-group with the highest frequency in the survey was 36-60 (57 percent) and the lowest age-group represented was 60+ (6 percent).

Geo-Political Zone: All geo-political zones were adequately represented in the survey, the highest represented zone being the North-West zone (24 percent) and the lowest being the South-East zone (12 percent).

Occupation: The highest proportion of respondents surveyed were self-employed traders (34 percent) followed by government worker/civil servant (23 percent). The lowest represented occupation in the survey are religious leaders/missionary and youth corpsers each with 1 percent.

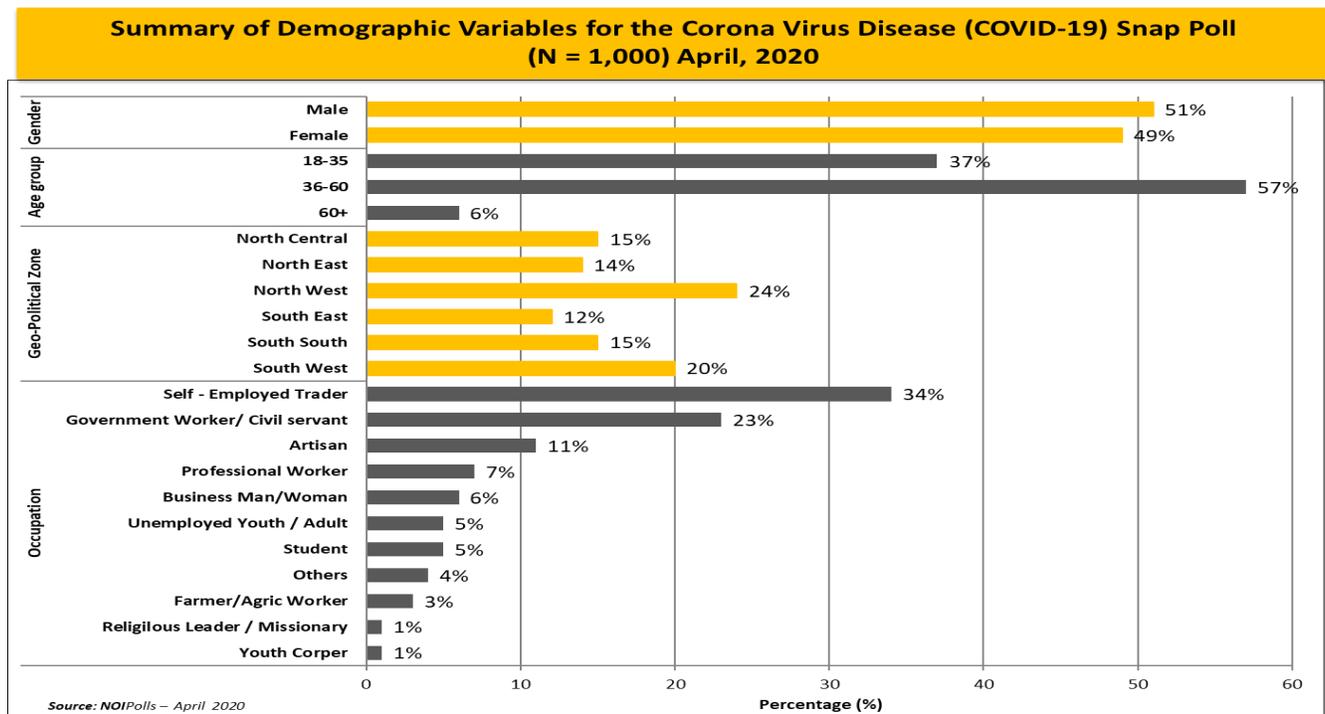


Figure 1: Demographic distribution

5.0 Survey Results

Respondents to the poll were asked twelve specific questions. This section of the report presents findings from each question.

5.1 Awareness On COVID-19 Outbreak

The first question assessed awareness of Nigerians on the outbreak of COVID-19 and the poll revealed that almost all adult Nigerians (99 percent) are aware of the outbreak of the virus disease. However, 1 percent of the respondents claimed not to be aware of this global pandemic. During the course of this survey, respondents who claimed not to be aware of COVID-19 are Nigerians who live in villages and they were mostly local subsistence farmers.

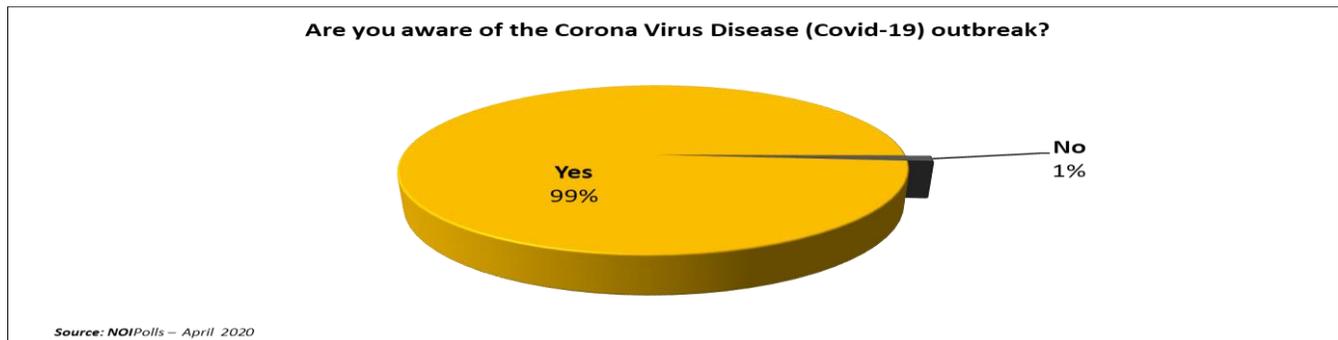


Figure 2: Awareness on COVID-19 outbreak

Trend analysis shows a significant 15 percent increase in awareness when current results are compared to figures obtained in early March, 2020 when Nigeria had only 2 confirmed case of the virus disease.

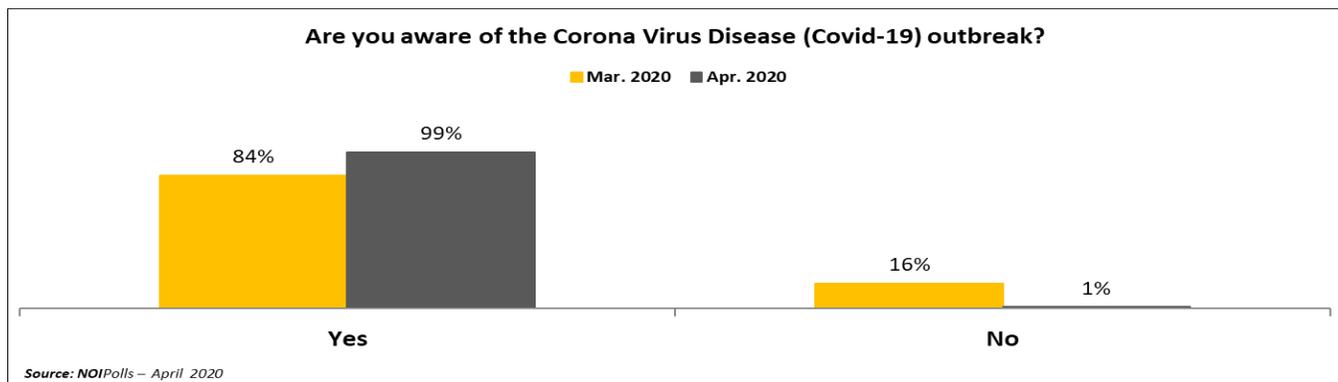


Figure 3: Awareness on COVID-19 outbreak (Trended)

5.2 Perception On The Reality Of COVID-19 Outbreak

Although awareness increased significantly, the survey result further revealed that 94 percent of those surveyed admitted that the outbreak of the virus disease is real. This cuts across gender, geographical location and age-group with at least 88 percent representation.

However, it is worrisome to note at this stage that some Nigerians refuse to accept that COVID-19 outbreak is real as 6 percent consider the outbreak in Nigeria to be fake. During the course of the survey, Nigerians in this category disclosed that it is real in other countries but not in Nigeria. While some mentioned that they have not seen

anybody infested by the virus in their states, others specified that it is a propaganda and a means for government to embezzle funds.

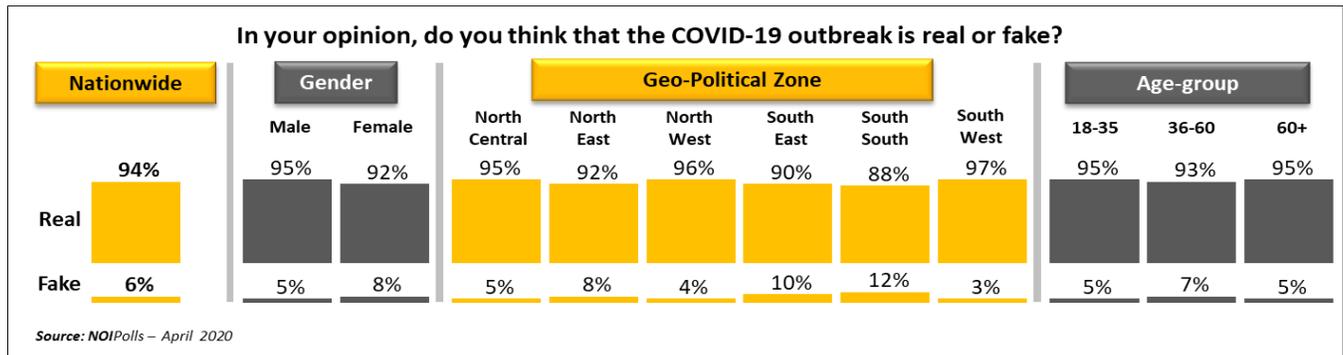


Figure 4: Perception On The Reality Of COVID-19 Outbreak

5.3 Perception On Immunity

With regards to perceptions on being immune to COVID-19, it is shocking to know that 28 percent of adult Nigerians claimed that they are immune to the coronavirus disease given the numbers of confirmed cases in the country has risen to over 323 and that there is no scientific evidence to back this belief. The South-East (45 percent) and South-South (39 percent) zones had more respondents who believe they are immune to the virus

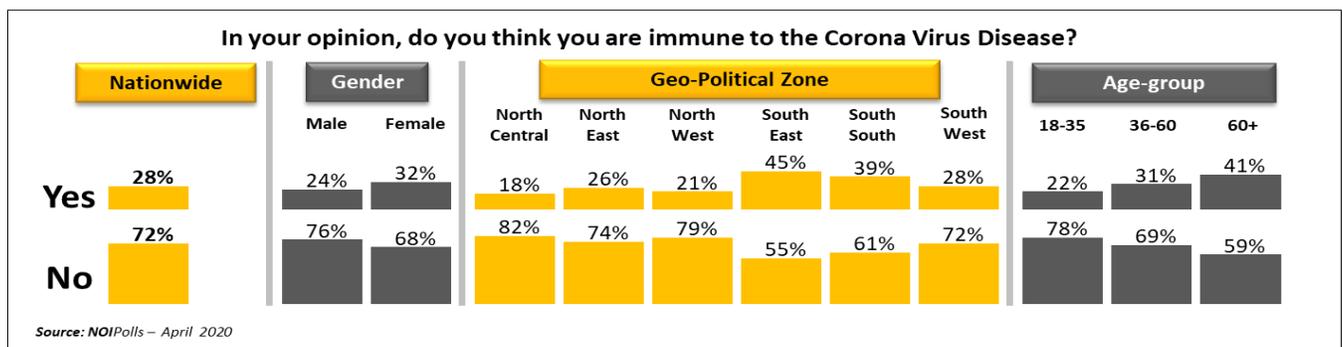


Figure 5: Perception on immunity

Trend analysis of result reveals a 2 percent increase in the number of Nigerians who believe that they are immune to the virus when current figures are compared with findings obtained in early March, 2020 when Nigeria had only 2 confirmed case of the virus disease.

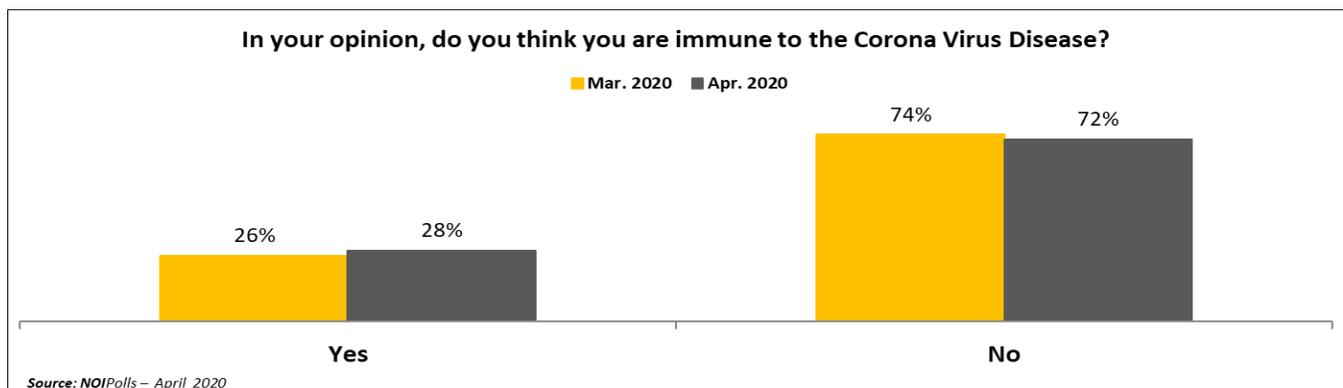


Figure 6: Perception on immunity (Trended)

5.4 Reasons For Being Immune

Out of the 28 percent who indicated that they are immune to COVID-19, 42 percent disclosed that they are immune because they believe in God. However, 32 percent specified that they believe they are immune because they observe proper hygiene which can prevent infection from the virus. 11 percent mentioned that they are immune to COVID-19 mainly because a are Africans amongst other reasons cited.

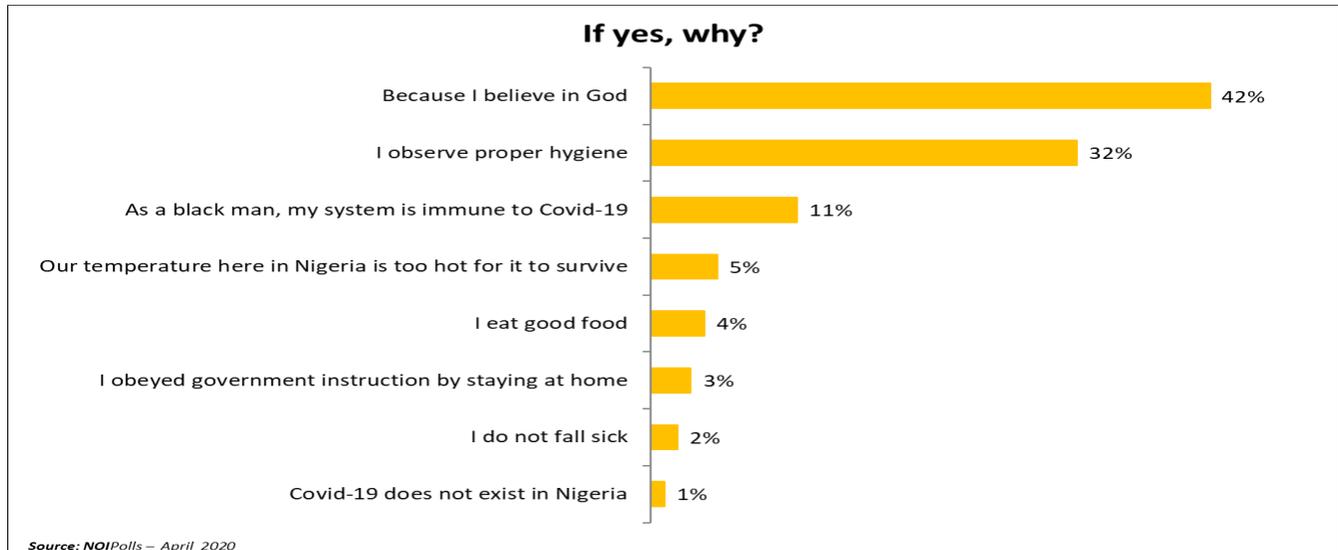


Figure 7: Reasons for being immune

5.5 Perception On Level Of Concern

Consequently, when asked: how concerned are you that you might get the Corona Virus Disease? The poll result revealed that majority of adult Nigerians (87 percent) are concerned that they might get infected by the virus. This view cuts across all demographics (gender, geo-political zones and age-group). On the contrary, 13 percent of the respondents claimed that they are not concerned about contracting the virus disease.

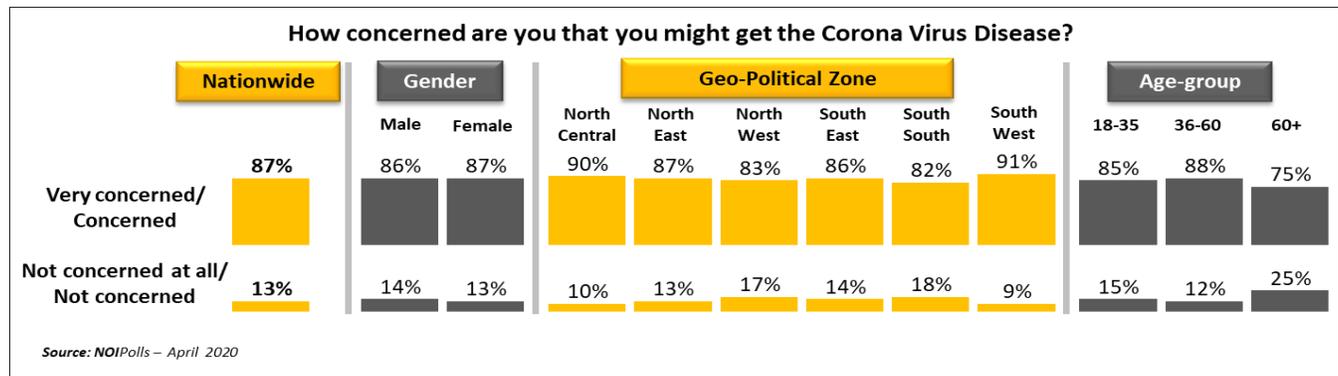


Figure 8: Perception on panic

Trend analysis indicates an increase in the level of concern amongst Nigerians. Current findings show a substantial 24 percent increase in the number of who are concerned that they might contract the virus when compared to the result obtained in early March, 2020 when Nigeria had only 2 confirmed case of the virus disease.

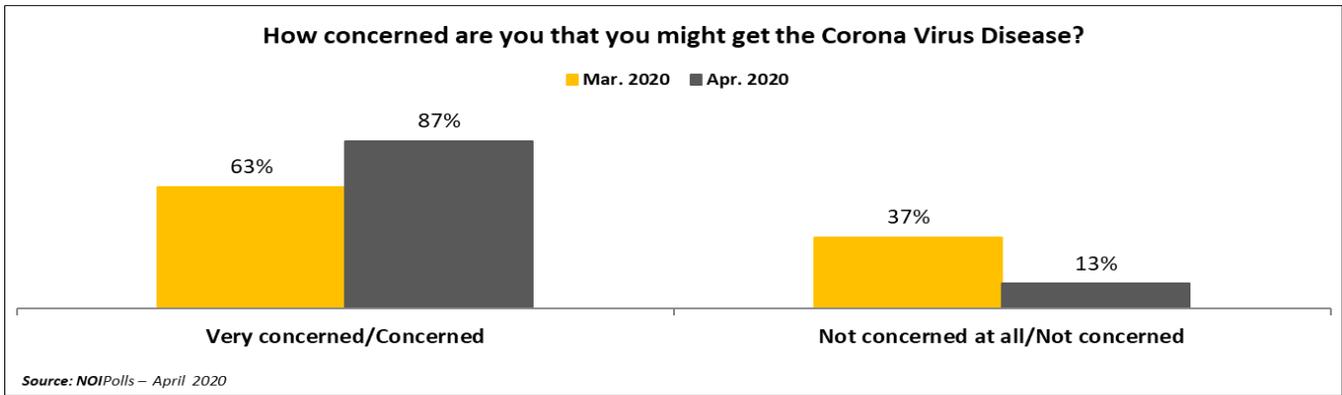


Figure 9: Perception on panic (Trended)

5.6 Reasons For Not Being Concerned

Out of the 13 percent who claimed that they are not concerned of getting the virus, 41 percent cited that they are not concerned of contracting COVID-19 mainly because they trust God to protect them from the virus. This is followed by 35 percent who stated that they have been taking preventive measures hence they are not concerned about contracting the virus amongst other reasons mentioned.

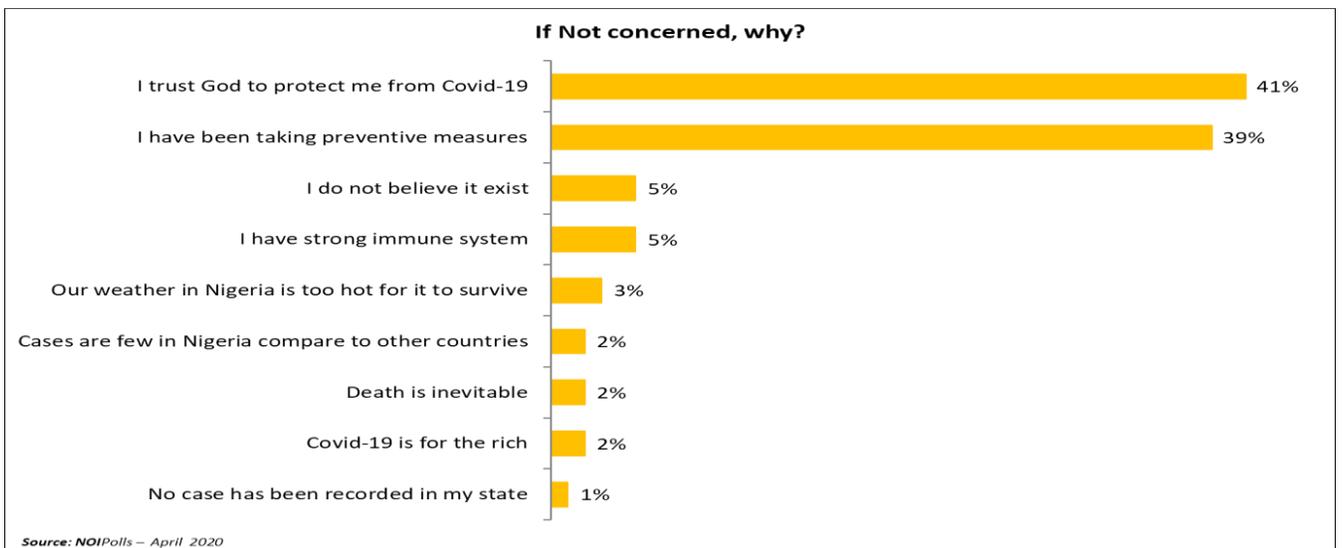


Figure 10: Reasons for not panicking

5.7 Perception On Lockdown

With regards to perception on the lockdown order in FCT, Lagos and Ogun for 14 days due to COVID-19, majority of adult Nigerians (77 percent) stated that the decision of the Federal Government is appropriate. The south-West zone (85 percent) had more Nigerians who consider the action of the Federal Government as appropriate. During this survey, most Nigerians think it is appropriate because they believe it is the best way to control the spread of the virus disease in the country.

In addition, 18 percent consider the lockdown to be too extreme and the South-East zone had more respondents who made this assertion. Nigerians in this category informed our analysts during this survey that it is too extreme because some Nigerians who depend on daily income may likely suffer from starvation while others are of the view that the lockdown was too sudden.

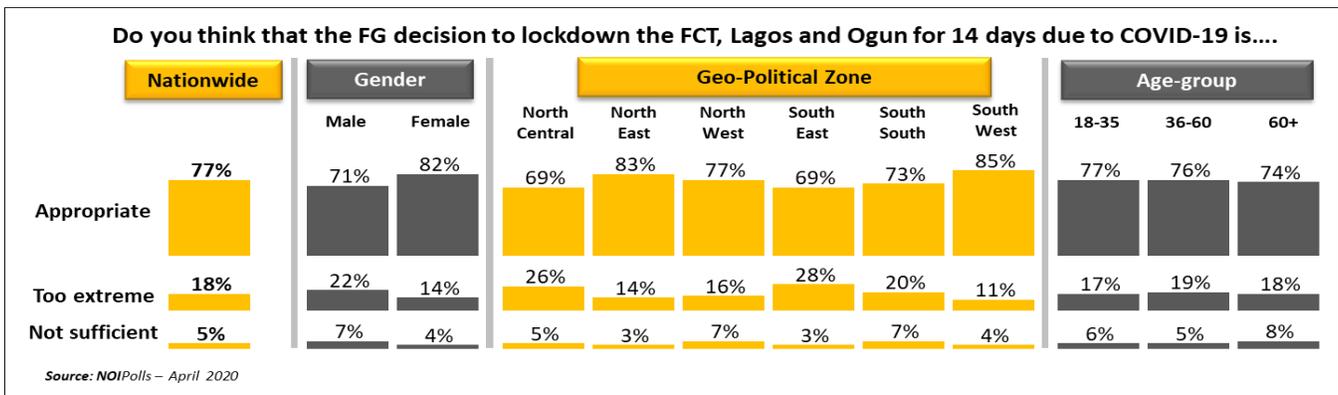


Figure 11: Perception on lockdown

5.8 Perception On Extension Of Lockdown In Other States

Further finding showed that 65 percent of Nigerians opined that the lockdown order should be extended to other states of the country and the South-West zone (76 percent) had more respondents who mentioned this. Respondents further informed our analyst during data collection that it is pertinent for it to be extended to other states because it will help in controlling the spread of the disease.

On the other hand, 35 percent are of the view that the lockdown should not be extended to other states and the South-East zone (45 percent) had the highest number of respondents do not want the lockdown to be extended to other states. Respondents in this category inform our analysts that the government does not have any palliative for people hence it should not be extended.

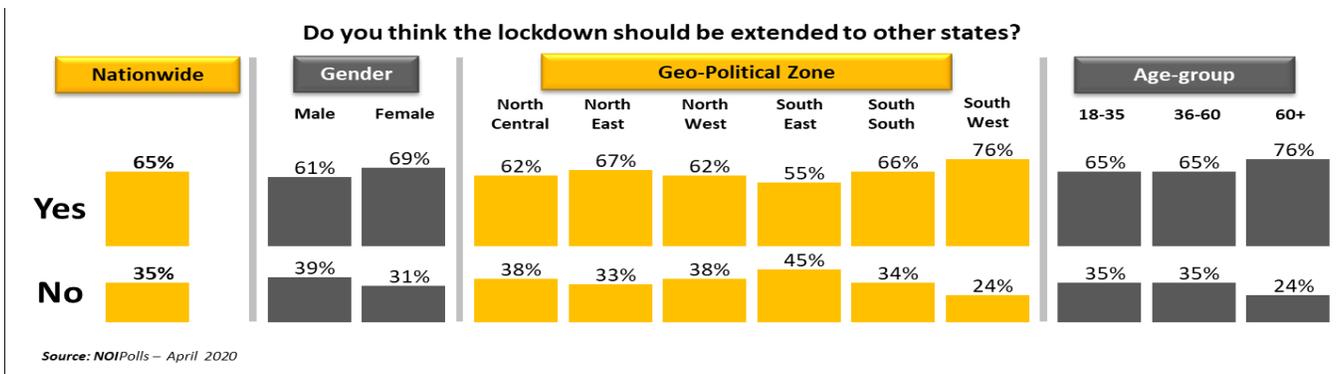


Figure 12: Possible extension of lockdown in other states

5.9 Respondents Concern About The Lockdown In Some States

When respondents were asked: Do you have any concern about the lockdown order in some states? The result indicated that 72 percent of Nigerians acknowledged that they have one concern or the other about the lockdown in some states. The North-East zone (87 percent) had more respondents who stated that they have concern about the lockdown order in some states. However, 28 percent of Nigerians said that they do not have any concern about the lockdown in some states. The South-West zone (40 percent) had more respondents who stated that they do not have any concern about the lockdown.

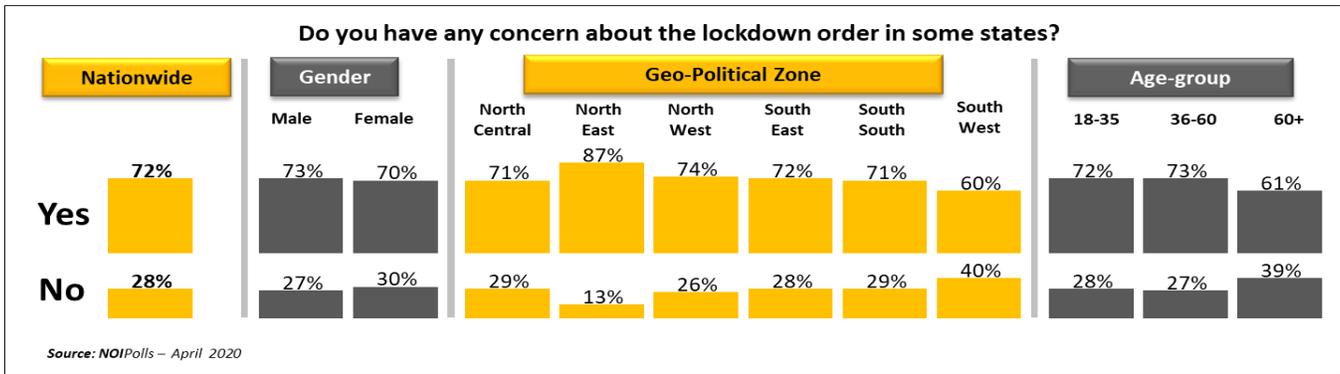


Figure 13: Respondents concerned the lockdown in other states

5.10 Reasons For Concern About The Lockdown

Nigerians who indicated that they have concern about the lockdown in some states were further probed and the result showed that lack of food for the poor was cited as their main concern about the lockdown as indicated by 40 percent of Nigerians. This followed by 21 percent who mentioned that they were concerned that people will die of hunger. Also, 13 percent said that they are concerned about the economic hardship during the lockdown.

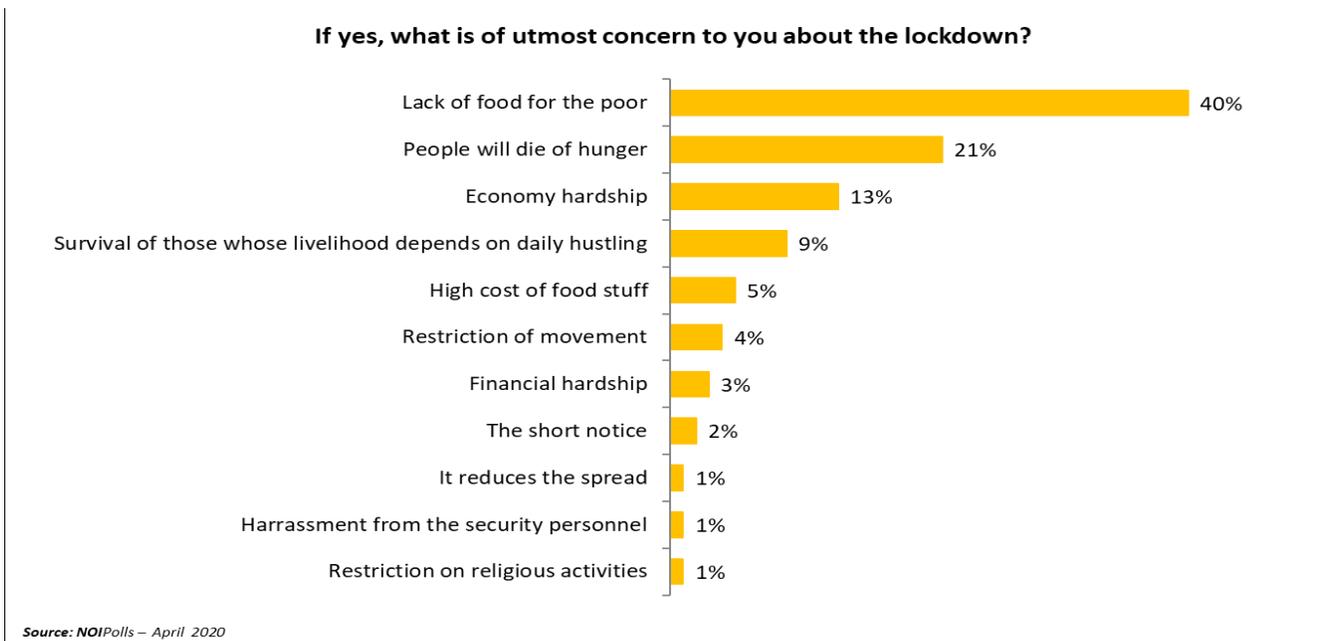


Figure 14: Reasons why concerned

5.11 Rating Of NCDC And Federal Government

Subsequently, while Nigerians rated Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) 6.97 out of a score of 10 in providing information or updates on COVID-19, they were also rated 6.36 in terms of providing testing to those that need to be tested in the country. On the other hand, the Federal Government was rated slightly above average (5.47 out of 10) in providing directives on how it plans to control the spread of the virus in the country. However, in terms of providing palliative measures to ensure that Nigerians follow its directives, the Federal Government was rate below average (4.55 out of 10).

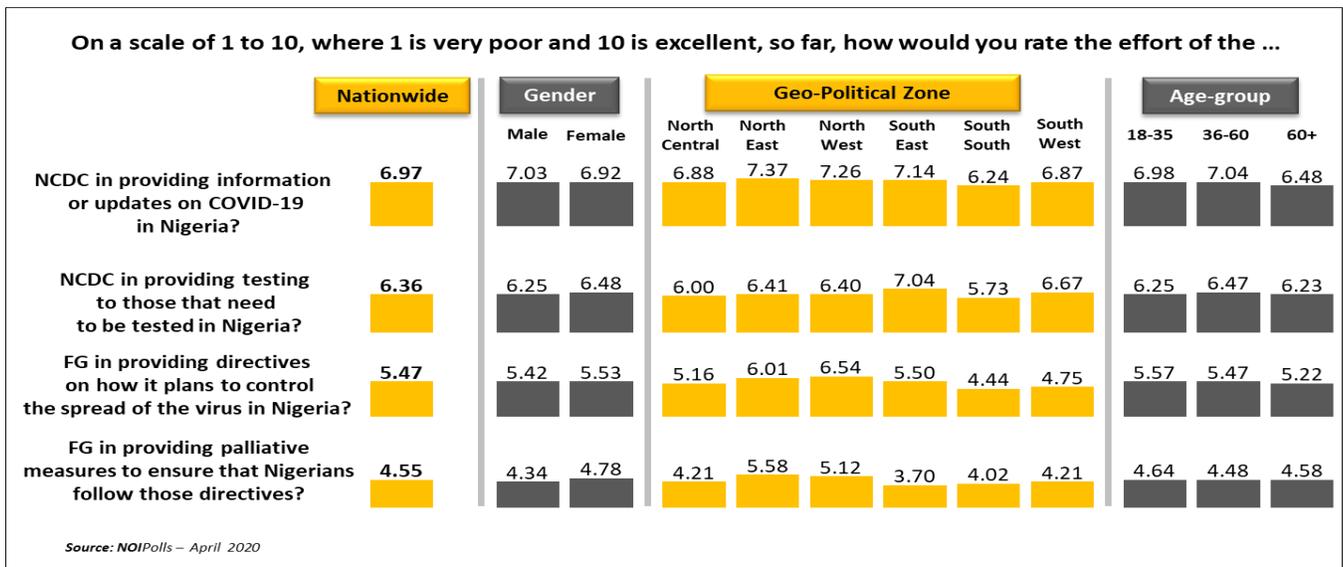


Figure 15: Rating on NCDC and FG

5.12 Level Of Confidence That Nigerians Would Be Tested

The survey findings revealed that 77 percent of Nigerians are confident that they will be tested if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 and this assertion is highest in the South-West zone (84 percent). Contrarily, 23 percent stated that they are not confident that they will be tested if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 and respondents from the South-South zone had the highest number of Nigerians who stated this.

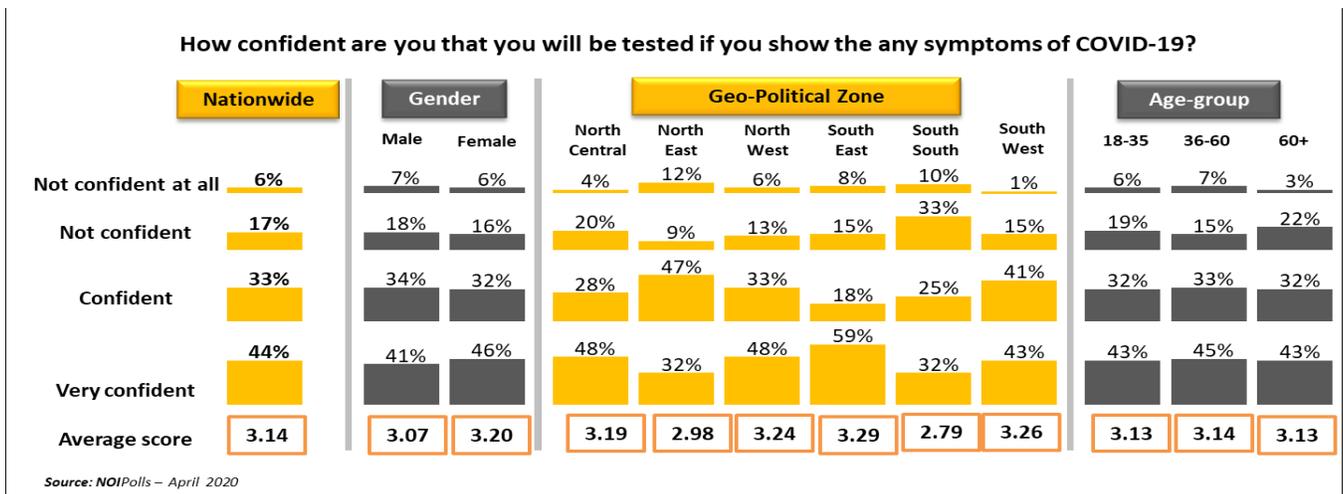


Figure 16: Level of confidence that Nigerians would be tested

5.13 Level Confidence That Nigerians Would Access Care

Similarly, 72 percent of Nigerians interviewed are confident that they can access healthcare if they developed any symptoms of COVID-19. The North-East zone (84 percent) had more respondents who are confident they can access healthcare if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19.

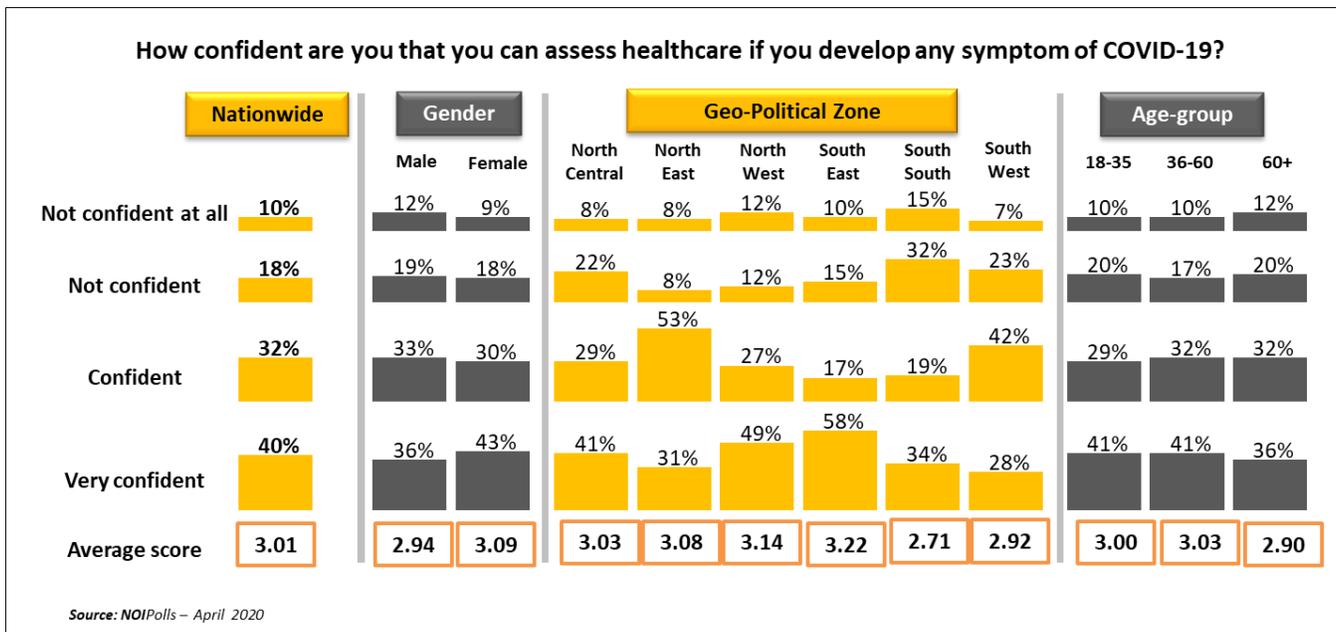


Figure 17: Level of confidence that Nigerians would access healthcare

6.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the survey has shown that the level of awareness of COVID-19 is very high (99 percent) and this cuts across all demographic variables. This increase represents a substantial 15 percent increase in the proportion of Nigerians who are aware of the outbreak of COVID-19 when current results are compared with findings obtained in early March, 2020. This could be the impact created by the President Buhari’s national broadcast on COVID-19 as well as other awareness messages created by NCDC, other government agencies, organizations and individuals.

It is appalling to know at this stage that some Nigerians (6 percent) do not believe that the outbreak of the virus is real in Nigeria. Similarly, it is worrisome to know that 28 percent of Nigerians think they are immune to the virus though it is comforting to know that 35 percent of this group believe they are immune because they are observing preventive measures. Of concern include the 42 percent that believe they are immune because of their belief in God. There is an urgent need to address this belief of immunity to the COVID-19 because of belief in God and to completely erase the illusions about being immune to COVID-19.

There is need for health advisories and other stakeholders to keep a pulse on the level of concern and panic among citizens as 87 percent of Nigerians disclosed that they are concerned they might contract the virus. This increase signifies a 24 percent increase when current results are compared with figures obtained in March 2020. It is encouraging to know that a substantial proportion of Nigerians believe that lockdown will help in controlling the spread of the disease. However, it is critical to address the concerns citizens have about the lockdown which include lack of food for the poor (40 percent), that people will die of hunger (21 percent), of economic hardship (13 percent) and the survival of those whose livelihood depends on daily hustling (9 percent) amongst other concerns mentioned. Government and well meaningful Nigerians should assist more citizens, especially the poor and those whose livelihood depends on daily income as pointed out in this survey, with more palliatives. This will not only ensure that Nigerians follow the stay at home directive, but will help control the spread of the virus in the country.

We therefore advise government at all levels, organizations and health workers to use this survey as reference for effective planning and implementation of activities to effectively prevent Nigerians from COVID-19. It will provide opportunity to prioritize actions and messaging to build and sustain trust between government and citizens, as well as fully take measures to further restrict the spread of COVID-19.

Finally, social distancing, good hygienic practices like hand washing remain the most effective ways in protecting oneself from the virus. Detection, containment and contact tracing should be a high priority of the approach adopted and must be backed with high commitment by the different health agencies of the government and as well as the general public.



COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT



99%

of Nigerians say they are aware of COVID-19?



6%

of Nigerians say COVID-19 is not real

NW=4% SW=3%
NE=8% SE=10%
NC=5% SS=12%



28%

of Nigerians say they are immune to COVID-19

REASONS

I believe in God	████████████████████	42%
I follow preventive measures	██████████████████	35%
I am a black person	██████	11%
Hot weather	██	5%
I eat good food	█	4%

Do you think that the FG's decision to lockdown FCT, LAGOS, OGUN is...



Too Extreme

18%

Appropriate

77%

Not Sufficient

5%



87%

of Nigerians say they are concerned about the lockdown

REASONS

Lack of Food for the poor	████████████████████	40%
People will die of hunger	██████████	21%
Economic hardship	██████	13%
Survival of daily hustlers	███	9%
High cost of food	█	5%

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 = poor and 10 = excellent, so far, how would you rate the effort of the...

NCDC In providing updates on COVID-19

6.97

NCDC In providing testing

6.36

FG in plans to control the spread of COVID-19

5.47

FG in providing palliative measures

4.55

Source: NOIPolls - March 2020

NOIPolls is the No.1 for credible country-specific polling service in the west African region. This poll was conducted by NOIPolls Limited, for more detailed information on the poll and methodology used, please visit www.noi-polls.com