

# Technical report

## COVID-19 impact assessment poll: Second Wave

[26 July, 2021]

### 1. Poll Objective:

Public opinion data was obtained through a nationally representative CATI survey of Armenia that was designed to obtain the most accurate possible information about: Employment dynamics; Assets and access to internet; Vulnerability and food security; Income; Wellbeing; Covid-19 and Children.

### 2. Poll Technical Overview:

Poll Quick Facts	Data	Remarks
Name of fieldwork firm	CRRC Armenia	
Fieldwork Dates	30 June 2021 – 12 July 2021	
Sampling Frame Data	Full list of mobile numbers	
Sample size	n=2007	
Target population	Residents of the Republic of Armenia, aged 18+	Mobile phone users <sup>1</sup>
Total target population	2,256,538	
Survey type	National	
Sampling Method	Automatized Random Digit Dialing approach	
Margin of error	+/- 2.2	95% confidence interval
Interview method (mode)	CATI	
Response Rate	31%	
Interview language(s)	Armenian	
Weight factors	Gender, age, settlement type, HH size, children in the HH	Individual and household-level weights calculated

### 3. Sampling Plan:

#### A. Sample Allocation:

- A nationally representative sample of 2007 mobile phone users above 18 years old was achieved through CATI;
- A full list of possible mobile numbers (starting with the following codes: +374 041/ 043/ 055/ 077/ 091/ 093/ 094/ 095/ 096/ 098/ 099) was generated and used as a sampling frame;
- Automatized Random Digit Dialing approach was used with stratification by mobile operators according to their market shares (see Table 1);

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<sup>1</sup> According to the 2019-2020 wave of the Caucasus Barometer, over 90 percent of the Armenian population has a cell phone.

**Table 1: Number of active mobile numbers by operator**

<i><b>Operator</b></i>	<i><b>Total number of users</b></i>	<i><b>Share in RDD</b></i>
Viva Cell	2,146,888	56%
Veon Armenia/ Beeline	904,689	23%
Ucom Armenia	824,127	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,875,704</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: Operator quarterly reports (2020 quarter 4).*

The distributions of respondents across the given demographic groups versus the distributions<sup>2</sup> of 18+ citizens of Armenia across those groups is presented in the below tables.

**Table 2: Gender distribution (predicted vs. actual sample)**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Survey distribution</b>	<b>Predicted distribution</b>
<b>Male</b>	41%	44%
<b>Female</b>	59%	56%

**Table 3: Age distribution (predicted vs. actual sample)**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Survey distribution</b>	<b>Predicted distribution</b>
<b>18-35</b>	35%	35%
<b>36-55</b>	34%	33%
<b>56+</b>	31%	32%

**Table 4: Settlement type (predicted vs. actual sample)**

<b>Settlement type</b>	<b>Survey distribution</b>	<b>Predicted distribution</b>
<b>Yerevan</b>	37%	37%
<b>Urban</b>	33%	27%
<b>Rural</b>	30%	36%

<sup>2</sup> De facto population distributions across demographic groups come from NSS (as of January 2021) and are calculated using scientifically grounded methodology, however there have been no official statistics regarding de facto population of Armenia since 2011 census of population.

**Table 5: Marz distribution (predicted vs. actual sample)**

<b>Marz</b>	<b>Survey distribution</b>	<b>Predicted distribution</b>
Yerevan	37%	37%
Aragatsotn	4%	4%
Ararat	8%	9%
Armavir	9%	9%
Gegharkunik	5%	8%
Lori	9%	8%
Kotayk	8%	7%
Shirak	8%	8%
Syunik	5%	5%
Vayots Dzor	2%	2%
Tavush	4%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **B. Respondent Selection and Callbacks:**

The method of Random Digit Dialing was used to select respondents and there was no possibility for replacement of respondents with another member of the HH. Whenever the respondent didn't not respond to an acting mobile number, a second call was made. In cases when the mobile phone belonged to a person aged less than 18, the interviewer marked the non-response sheet accordingly and ended the interview.

#### **4. Weighting:**

The data was weighted to ensure it is representative of the national population aged 18 older and HH distribution to correct for distortions in demographics due to non-response. The dataset contains two sets of weights.

Individual weight (fweightind): Post stratification weights by settlement type (capital/urban/rural), gender and age (18-35, 36-55, 56 and above) were applied based on the latest data provided by the [Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia](#) (as of January 2021).

HH weight (fweighthh): The weight was calculated to correct for the number of HHs with children in the database. The last wave (2019) of the [Labour Force Survey database](#) provided by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia was used as a reference for the correction (50% in the sample versus 57% in the Labour Force Survey data) through the following steps:

Step 1: The individual-level LFS data was restructured into a household level data taking into account and the HHs with children were identified.

Step 2: The frequency weight was calculated based on the proportions of HHs with children in the LFS restructured data (unweighted) adjusted by the total number of HHs in the country (based on data provided by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia and [2011 Census data<sup>3</sup>](#)) and settlement type. The proportions were stratified by HH size (1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7 and more members) and settlement type and the frequency weights were calculated based on these proportions.

Both weights have also been trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles.

## 5. Questionnaire:

The draft questionnaire in English was provided by WB. The questionnaire in Armenian was reviewed in two rounds and pretested by CRRC-Armenia. Simultaneously, all the changes were transferred into the English version of the questionnaire. No back-translation was performed in the frames of the project. The final questionnaire in English was approved by the client.

### A. Pretest

The questionnaire was pre-tested on June 15-17 by 4 trained interviewers. In total 31 respondents were interviewed through RDD method among three operators.

**Table 1: Number of interviews by operator**

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Number of interviews</i>
Viva Cell	19
Veon Armenia/ Beeline	8
Ucom Armenia	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

The average length of the interviews was 20 minutes. 13 respondents (42%) mentioned that they have household members aged 6-17, and 7 respondents (23%) had a child aged 0-5.

**Table 2: Number of calls**

Total number of calls	Number of unsuccessful calls*	Refusal	Interrupted interviews	Agreement	Response reachout rate*	Response rate***
<b>307</b>	229	44	3	31	25%	40%

\*Including the following instances: contact number can't be reached or number not responding.

\*\* Percent of successful calls from the total number of call attempts.

\*\*\* Percent of successful calls from the total number of successful call attempts.

<sup>3</sup> The number of households was calculated using the total population by settlement type (Yerevan, Urban, Rural) and the average size of the households as per the Census (3.7 in rural and 4 in urban areas).

## General comments from enumerators

- Too many questions about household members. During wave one the enumerators mentioned that many respondents refused to answer to personal questions. In this wave we have even more personal questions. This will affect the fieldwork duration.

Question	Problem	Suggested modification	Client response
Q34	Q34 makes respondents feel confused listening statements about a Household member who doesn't exist. For example, "Our school-aged children were engaged in education in some form", half of the respondents don't have children, but they have to listen questions about them	Add a filter for Q34 in questionnaire and tablet form	Accepted
Q56, Q56a	Seems these 2 questions are the same.	Paraphrase Q56a	Accepted
Q41	Would you be more likely to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if any of the following individual/authorities receive or recommend the vaccine?	Add option "No"	Accepted
Q39, technical	Are you planning to get vaccine against COVID-19?	Add "DK" option in tablet form	Accepted
Q35	Option 5 "Beat (him/her) up, continually hitting the face, head, ears, legs, hands or elbows over and over as hard as one could" makes respondents angry. After this question many respondents said that they want to interrupt the interview.	Remove or paraphrase	
Q35	If respondents don't have a child, should they answer to the questions? It will be clearer if this question is asked respondents who have children.	Check skip logic	Accepted
Q35		Check options in tablet form	Accepted
Q14		Add "unfinished higher" option	Accepted
Q 39 (41)	Skip logic problem	Ask Q41 if Q39=No	Accepted
Q39		Check options	Accepted
Q 9,10, 11,	These questions make respondents	Sum and ask only about	

<b>12</b>	annoyed.	household.	
<b>Q16a</b>		Add “Artsakh” option	
<b>Q37, Q38</b>	If Q37=3, should we ask Q38?	Clarify	Accepted

## 6. Fieldwork:

The fieldwork was conducted from June 30 to July 12, 2021. The fieldwork personnel consisted of 34 individuals. The average length of the interviews was 16 minutes.

### A. Environment:

The general interviewing climate in Armenia was worse compared to the Wave one (34% response rate). During this survey it was decided to extend the allowed period of phone calls by half an hour and interviewers are dialing up random numbers until 8:30 p.m. with last interviews ending at about 9:30 p.m.

### B. Actual Response Rate:

Only 31% of the successful calls ended with an interview, while 203 interviews were interrupted (see table below).

**Table 8: Interview attempts**

Total number of calls	Number of unsuccessful calls*	Refusal	Interrupted surveys	Agreement	Respondent reachout rate**	Response rate***
32544	25970	4364	203	2007	20%	31%

\* Including the following instances: number can't be reached, number doesn't exist, number not responding.

\*\* Percent of successful calls from the total number of call attempts.

\*\*\* Percent of successful calls from the total number of successful call attempts.

## 7. Data Processing:

Initial Interview data was captured in CATI mode through SurveyCTO software. The software automated all skip patterns and prevented moving on without completing a question, hence there were no skip errors or missing fields. The software allows for a direct download of SPSS database, therefore eliminating data entry errors. A coder and one manager coded all the open-ended questions. They translated the verbatim responses into English and coded them.

## 8. Lessons for future polls:

In addition to the issues identified in the pre-test, interviewers noted the following problematic areas:

- Interviewers mentioned that many respondents stated that they were asking so many personal questions, and that's why we have many RA answers in database.
- Interviewers mentioned that the respondents were frustrated while answering the questions regarding the number of HH members by each age group (q9-q12a).
- Q35 regarding the violence in the family was also frustrating, causing interrupted interviews.