



# **The Pandemic's Impact on Planning: Foresight Into the Future**

**October 19, 2020**

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**American Planning Association**

## **Poll 1.3:**

# **What do you feel when you think about the future?**

- I'm motivated and energized because I see lots of good things on the horizon.
- I think I'm prepared for what's to come.
- I don't have specific feelings about the future.
- I'm apprehensive and feel challenged by uncertainty.
- I'm pessimistic about the future.

# The future is more unknowable than ever before

- The only constant is change
- COVID-19 has turned cities and communities up-side-down
- COVID-19 has changed the way planners do their work
- **Temporary fix vs. permanent solution?**
- Is COVID-19 a rehearsal for what's to come?





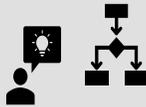
"Planners compose and offer advice on preparing for an uncertain future."

*Hoch, C. (1994): What planners do. Power, Politics, and Persuasion*

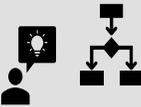
"Planners help communities navigate change."

*Tim Keane, Planning Director, City of Atlanta  
(Big City Planning Directors Institute, 2019)*

# The APA Foresight Approach in times of COVID-19

	<b>Act = Emergency Response</b>	<b>Prepare = interim transition phase until we have vaccine</b>	<b>Watch &amp; Learn = the future new normal</b>
<b>Cities &amp; Communities</b> 	<p>IDed current planning-related pain points in communities (e.g., public space issue, ...) and acted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formed COVID-19 Solutions Team</li> <li>- Shared knowledge and solutions with members on a weekly basis</li> </ul>	<p>ID how COVID-19 will change communities and how people live, work, play, learn, and move around over the next months and prepare planners</p> <p><b>Temporary fix versus permanent change?</b></p>	<p>ID how COVID-19 will impact communities long-term and share knowledge with planners</p>
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# Emergency Response



## **Poll 2.1: What changes have impacted you the most over the last several months?**

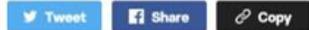
- Changes to role and responsibilities and environment
- Health and safety concerns
- Restrictions to in-person contact
- Consistent uncertainty
- Other

# Uber And Lyft Have Suspended Uber Pool And Shared Rides Due To The Coronavirus

Other features like UberX and Uber Eats are still running.



Posted on March 17, 2020, at 11:10 a.m. ET



03-24-20

## For California's homeless dealing with COVID-19, there's no sheltering in place

After a week of private negotiations, the state is no closer to filling empty hotel rooms with at-risk homeless people.



## U.S. Schools Trying to Teach Online Highlight a Digital Divide

The children who lack internet and computers now also lack access to education.

By [Suzanne Woolley](#), [Nikitha Sattiraju](#), and [Scott Moritz](#)  
March 26, 2020, 6:00 AM CDT



A bus driver in Ohio wears a protective mask as a passenger boards on March 17. Several transit agencies in the state are stopping fare collection. // Kyle Gillis/Bloomberg

PERSPECTIVE

## Is Free Transit Safer? As Ridership Drops Some Agencies Cut Fares.

In Ohio and elsewhere, buses are going fare-free as the Covid-19 crisis spreads. Here's why that can make both riders and drivers safer.

MARCH 19, 2020

## The New Normal: Communities Adjust to Conducting Business Remotely While Maintaining Citizen Input

Key questions to answer and other factors to consider.

By Patricia Vinchesi, ICMA Northeast Regional Director | Mar 24, 2020 | BLOG POST



CITYLAB

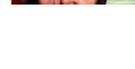
## Are Suburbs Safer From Coronavirus? Probably Not.

Urban density does play a role in disease transmission. But rural areas and suburban sprawl aren't necessarily safer spaces to ride out the Covid-19 crisis.

By [Laura Bliss](#) and [Kriston Capps](#)  
March 13, 2020, 10:40 AM CDT



# Challenges



# Inputs



MEMBER CHALLENGES



CONDITIONS UPDATES



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

# COVID-19 Resources

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The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is having a significant impact on communities, and planners are on the front lines of response and recovery. APA is committed to providing resources, information, and tools to address your immediate needs and help you prepare for what is to come.

Learn more about how [we are using the practice of foresight](#) to "learn with the future," prepare for uncertainty, and help planners navigate this disruptive change.

Turn to APA for trusted, timely, and useful resources, updated weekly.



## COVID-19 Resources Page

<https://planning.org/resources/covid-19/>

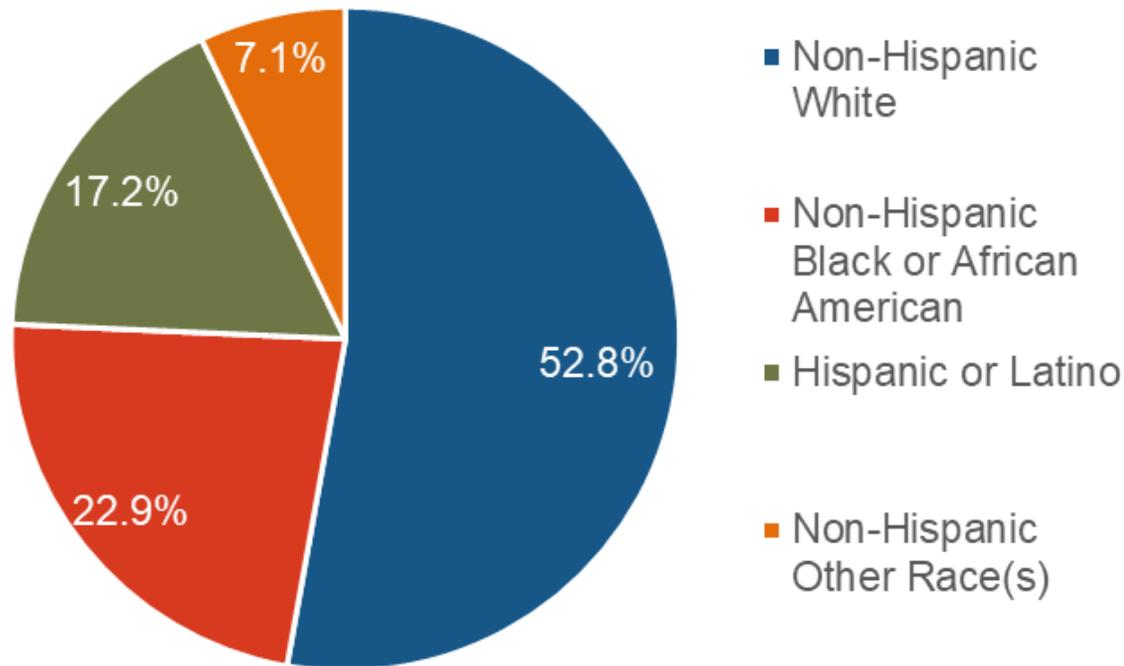
# Social Equity



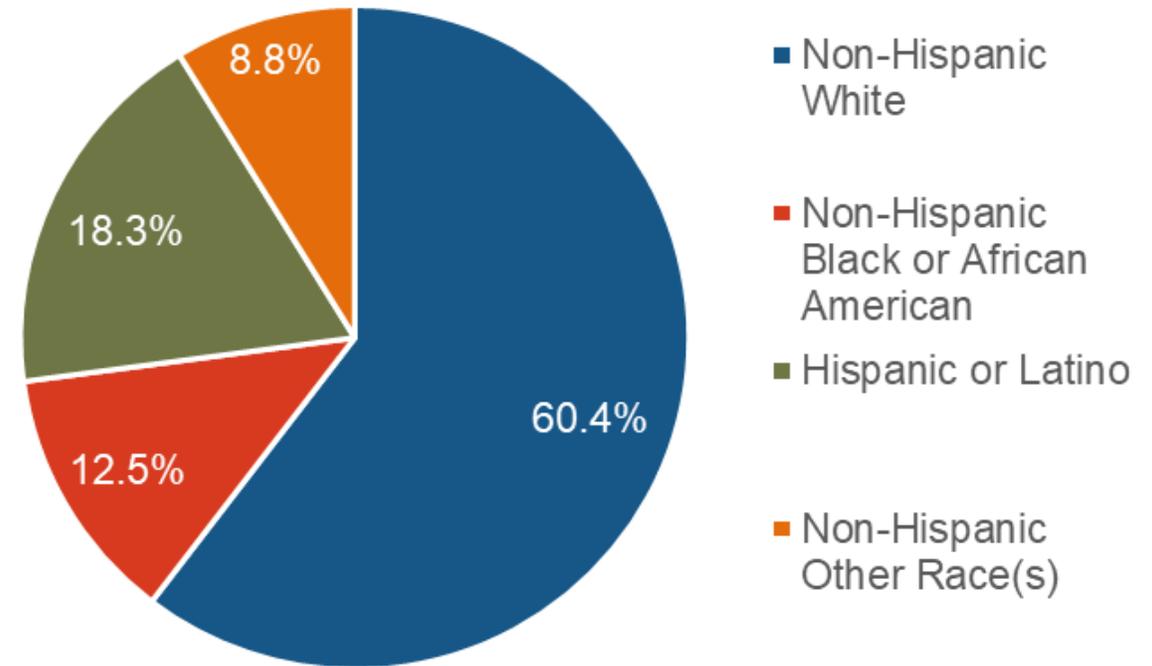
- National conversation on racial equity, disproportionate impacts of COVID-19
  - Planners' commitment to equitable communities
  - Gather information on response, planner's role in addressing needs
  - Develop content demonstrating action
- 

# Distribution of Population vs. COVID-19 Deaths by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin\*

## Distribution of COVID-19 Deaths



## Distribution of Population



\* As reported by counties with at least 100 COVID-19 deaths through July 15, 2020

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control, [Provisional COVID-19 Deaths by County and Race](#)

# Preparing for COVID-19 Recovery in Seattle



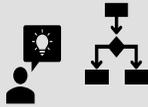
COVID-19's first known arrival in the U.S. was in Seattle, making it an early epicenter of the pandemic, and the city's planners have played an essential role in assisting with the COVID-19 response

Connect  
with  
Leaders

Prepare

Watch & Learn

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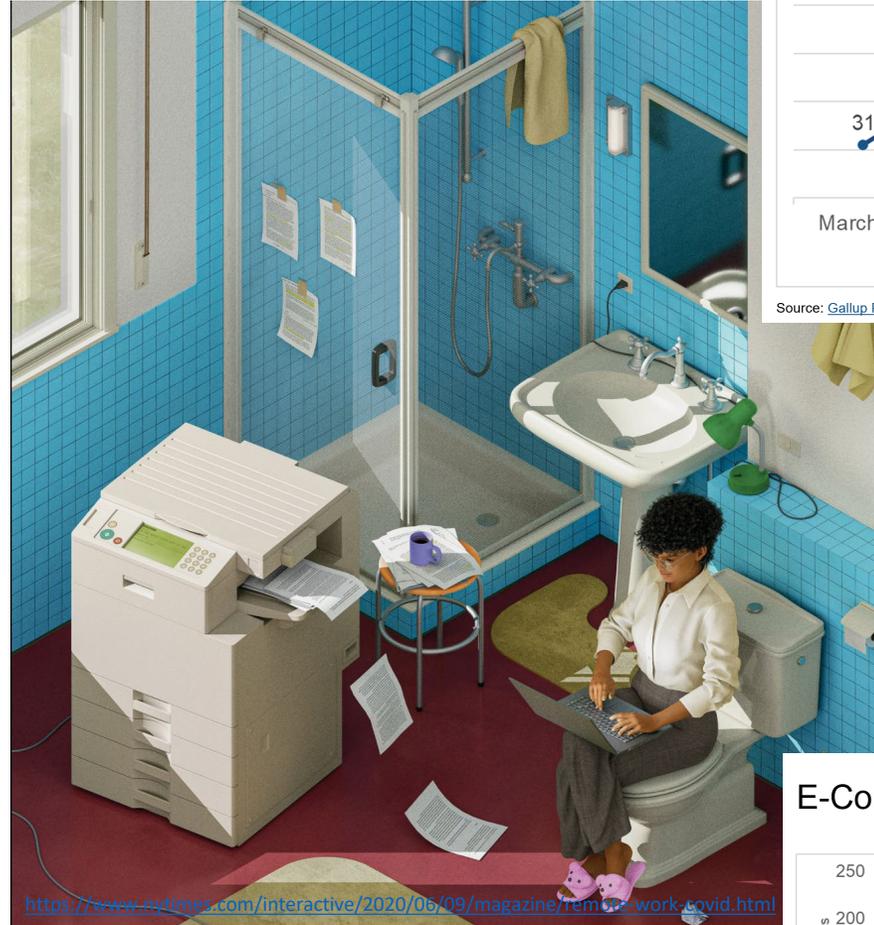
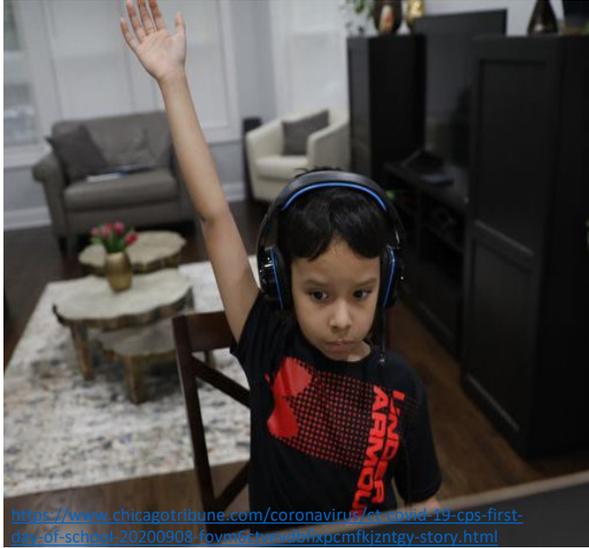
# 5 Trend Categories



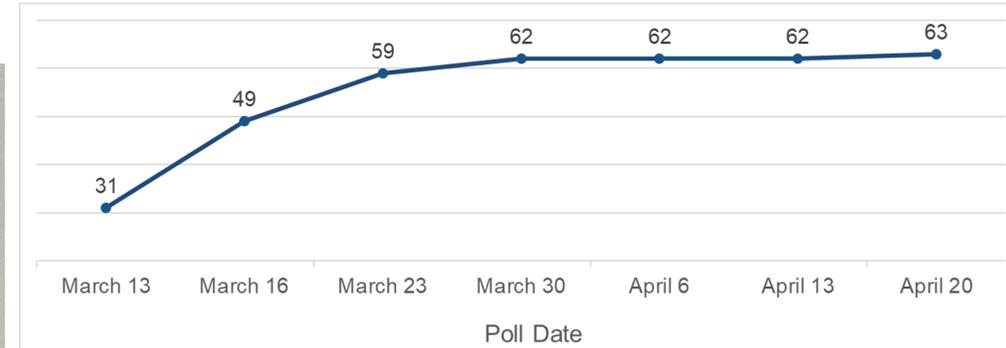
# Trends & Disruptors

- Existing trends that will continue and may get to a point of disruption in the future (e.g., aging population, growing diversity in U.S. population)
- **Existing trends that got disrupted or accelerated by covid-19**
- New trends where we (or others) see potential impacts or disruption in the future (e.g., AI and the use of digital twins in planning, autonomous vehicles)
- **Potential new trends resulting from current disruptor covid-19**

# The Digitalization of Life



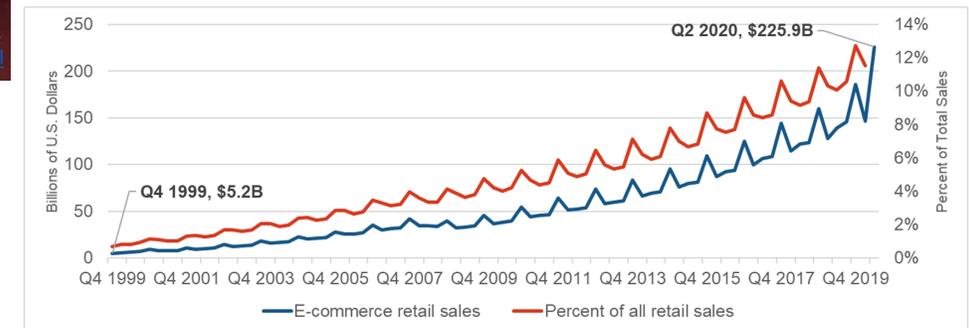
Percentage of Employed Americans Who Have Worked at Home Because of the Coronavirus



Source: [Gallup Panel, 2020](#). [For polls conducted after March 30, Gallup asked if respondents had worked from home within the past seven days.]



E-Commerce Retail Sales By Quarter Q4 1999 – Q2 2020\*



\* All figures through Q1 2020 are from the [U.S. Census Bureau Quarterly E-Commerce Reports](#); Q2 2020 sales figure is from [Adobe Digital Economy Index](#).

## For artists, the show must go on—and Zoom is their venue

Stuck at home amid the pandemic, creative people are finding new ways to use videoconferencing software that once was confined to the home office.



“Tens of millions of Americans do not have access to or cannot afford quality internet service.”

Brookings, 2020

# Live-Work-Play in One Place

**Over 50% of department stores in malls predicted to close by 2021, real estate services firm says**

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/29/50percent-of-all-these-malls-forecast-to-close-by-2021-green-street-advisors-says.html>

**“75%** of adults who can **work remotely** say they would like to do so at least 1-2 days a week once the pandemic is under control.”

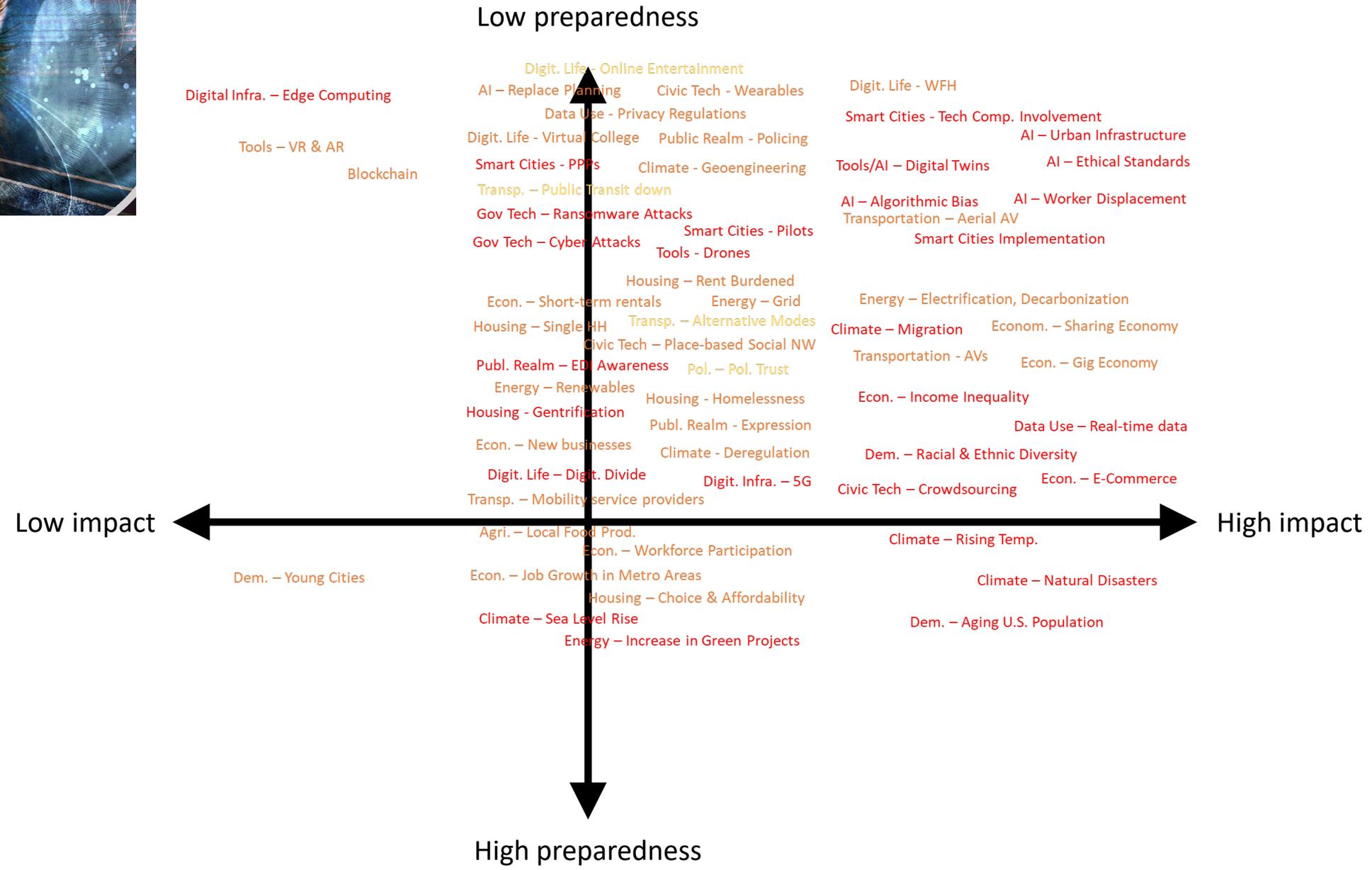
Morning Consult



**“28%** of adults who can work remotely would be likely to **move to a new place** if their work became remote indefinitely.”

Morning Consult





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# How to flatten the curve(s)?

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- Social inequalities
- Climate change
- Economic downturn





# Planning for Recovery

- Elevating the voice of planners – essential workers
- Prioritize Equity – Hindsight | Insight | Foresight
- Upskilling Planners – Strategically develop guidance to navigate the future

There is no “normal” anymore.

Equitable, sustainable, and resilient cities and communities should be the “new normal”.

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# The Future of Planning

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Future Literacy  
and Strategic  
Foresight

Design Thinking  
and Agility

People-centric and  
technologically-  
advanced

Diverse Teams

Fact-based and  
Inclusive

Systems Thinking  
and Scenario  
Planning

# Questions?

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Stay up to date with APA:

[planning.org](http://planning.org)

[planning.org/resources/covid-19/](http://planning.org/resources/covid-19/)



**American Planning Association**

*Creating Great Communities for All*