

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 7,922 US respondents on May 8-10, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week’s research.

National highlights

Education

Looking towards the next school year, Americans are most supportive of determining students’ grade placements based on their performance as of March. 57.4% support this measure, compared to 40.7% support promoting all students to the next grade regardless of performance and only 18.3% support having all students repeat their current grade.

As for changes to the current school year, the most popular option was cancelling all standardized tests for the remainder of the year, with 60.0% support. Following close behind, 57.9% of Americans support providing summer school once it’s safe to do so. Support for these policies has remained steady since the questions were first asked in mid-April.

88.9% of parents with children in kindergarten through 12th grade report that their children’s school has been suspended or canceled as a result of coronavirus. Of parents with children who were affected by school closures, 93.5% report that their children are completing educational activities at home.

Overall, 56.4% of parents report that the school or teachers typically plan their children’s educational activity, while 26.7% report this planning is done by a parent or guardian. However, parents with household incomes between \$50k and \$75k report teachers playing a larger role, with 64.8% reporting teachers as the primary planners. On the flip side, parents earning more than \$150k appear to be playing a larger role in their childrens’ learning, with 33.5% reporting that a parent plays the primary role in planning.

Who typically plans the educational activities that your children complete at home during closure?

Margin of error = 3%;
N = 1701

Income	Total Count	The School Or Teachers	Parent Or Guardian	The Children Themselves	Other Household Members	None Of The Above
Under \$25,000	187	53.8%	25.0%	11.7%	4.7%	4.8%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	290	60.4%	23.0%	8.9%	7.4%	0.4%
\$50,001 - \$75,000	292	64.8%	19.3%	10.8%	3.1%	1.9%
\$75,001 - \$100,000	242	62.4%	25.5%	7.1%	4.8%	0.2%
\$100,001 - \$150,000	343	54.4%	31.1%	8.7%	4.5%	1.3%
More than \$150,000	346	45.3%	33.6%	12.9%	6.2%	1.9%

92% of parents report that their children have a dedicated device for at-home educational activities. 74% report that their children have access to a laptop or desktop for learning, 46% to a tablet or iPad, and 42% to a smartphone. Looking at surveys fielded April 24-26 and May 8-10 (for a larger sample size):

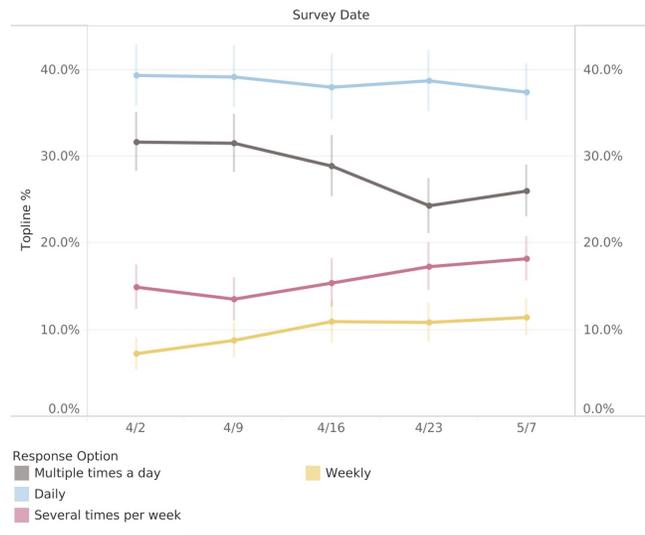
- 72% of parents with a household income less than \$50,000 report that their children have access to a laptop or desktop for learning, compared to 79% of parents with a household income of more than \$100,000.
- Children in households with an income above \$100,000 are also more likely to have access to a tablet or iPad (49%), compared to 40% of children in households with an income of less than \$50,000.

Over time, parents have been spending less time accessing information to support their children’s learning. The portion of parents accessing materials multiple times a day has steadily declined, down to 26.1% in early May compared to 31.7% in early April. Additionally, slightly more parents are accessing information at a weekly cadence, up to 11.5% in early May compared to 7.3% in early April.

Social media, blogs, and forums remain important resources for parents – about 20% rely on them to support their children’s learning.

Children K12 Frequency in US

Question Text: "How frequently do you access information to support your children's learning?"



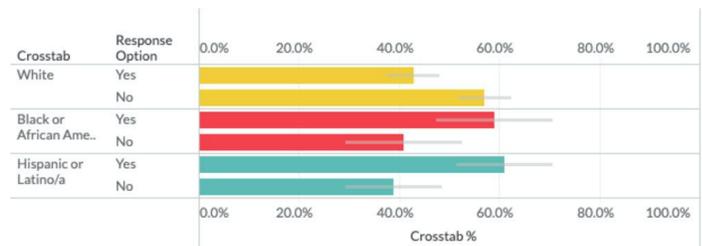
15% of parents don’t think their children will be prepared for school next year. This is more pronounced among middle class families (roughly a fifth of parents in the \$75k – \$100k range feel this way).

43% of parents are reporting a change in their child’s post high school plan. 44% of parents also report that their high school children plan to go to a 4-year school, down about 8% from April 2-4.

43% of white parents of high school students report that their children’s plans have changed, compared to 59% of Black parents, and 61% of Hispanic/Latinx parents.

Children High School Postsecondary Change by Race in US, Week: 5/7

Question Text: "Have your high school child(ren)'s plans for after high school changed because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic or school closures?"



Disease Tracking

Based on the latest [CDC guidance](#), 35.1% of Americans have experienced symptoms that are linked to COVID-19 in the last month. This could include any one or a combination of: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. 28.0% of Americans have had one or more those symptoms in the last week.

Donating and Volunteering Behavior

23.1% of respondents nationally report donating in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and 11.4% report volunteering.

Of those who donated, hunger relief funds were the most common option (35.9%), followed by previously supported organizations (27.6%), and health care or medical services (26.9%), and people are donating an average of \$264. Compared to the previous wave, we do see an uptick in donations, particularly for previously supported organizations (27.6%, up from 20.7% two weeks ago). This may be driven by Giving Tuesday Now activity on May 4, so it will be interesting to see if donations continue to increase at a similar rate moving forward.

Of those who volunteered, 40.0% reported volunteering for food or grocery supply or delivery, 29.7% reported making face masks, and 26.1% reported assisting elderly or at-risk individuals.

Of those who have not donated nor volunteered, 48.1% say they haven't because they don't have the money, and 19.3% said they don't have the time. 24.9% also cite not being asked as a reason why they haven't donated or volunteered.

Have you donated or volunteered in response to the Coronavirus pandemic? Select all that apply.

Margin of error = 1.4%; N = 7922

Action	Selected
Donated	23.1%
Volunteered	11.4%
Neither donated nor volunteered	67.6%

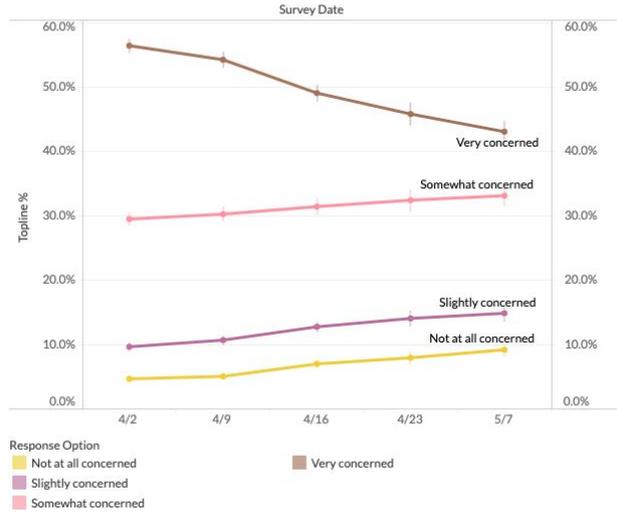
When asked if they agree or disagree with the statement “I feel confident that when I donate money now, it is being put to good use,” 53.6% strongly or somewhat agree, compared to 27.0% who strongly or somewhat disagree. We see similar numbers when they are asked about the statement “I think I can make a meaningful difference by donating money or volunteering my time right now” (53.5% agree, 27.9% disagree).

Concern about Coronavirus

We continue to see that concern levels are decreasing over time, from 56.4% very concerned at the beginning of April (April 2-4) to 43.0% very concerned now in early May (May 8-10).

Attitudes Concern Level in US

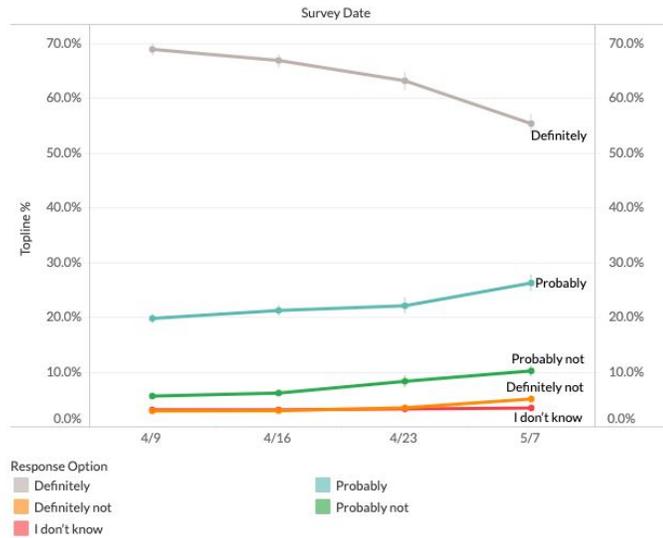
Question Text: "How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?"



There is also a downward trend in those who "definitely" intend to stay at home and avoid all non-essential contact with others (55.3% nationally this week, compared to 68.9% in early April).

Attitudes Intent Social Distancing in US

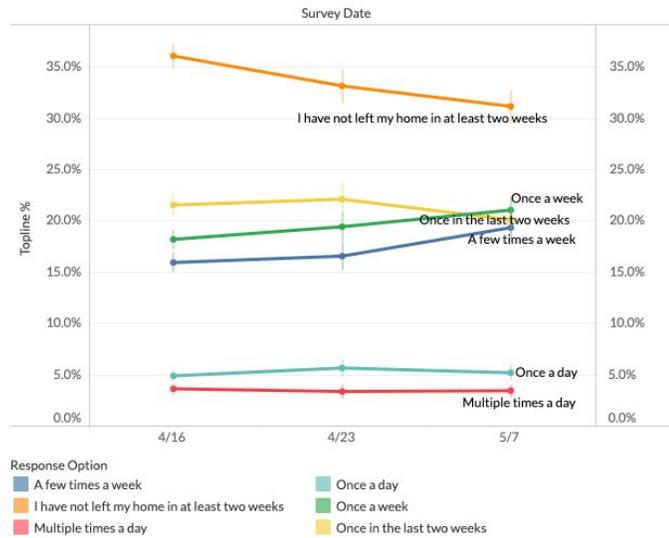
Question Text: "Do you intend to stay at home and avoid all non-essential contact with others to reduce the spread of COVID-19?"



We are also continuing to see more people leave their home for essential activities. 5% more of Americans have left their home at least once in the last two weeks to pick up a take-out food order (68.9%, up from 64.0% in mid-April [April 17-19]).

Days Out Takeout in US

Question Text: "Thinking about the last two weeks, how frequently have you gone to a restaurant or cafe to pick up a take-out order?"

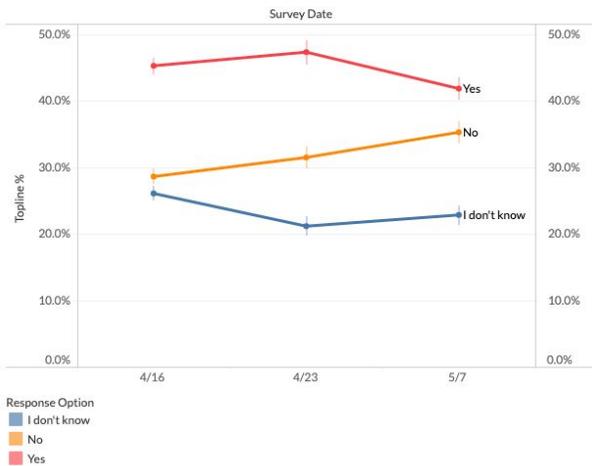


Contact Tracing

Americans are also slightly less willing to sign up for a contact tracing phone app or share personal contact information of people they've been near if they test positive for COVID-19, compared to two weeks ago (April 23). We'll keep an eye on this in future waves to confirm if this develops into a consistent trend.

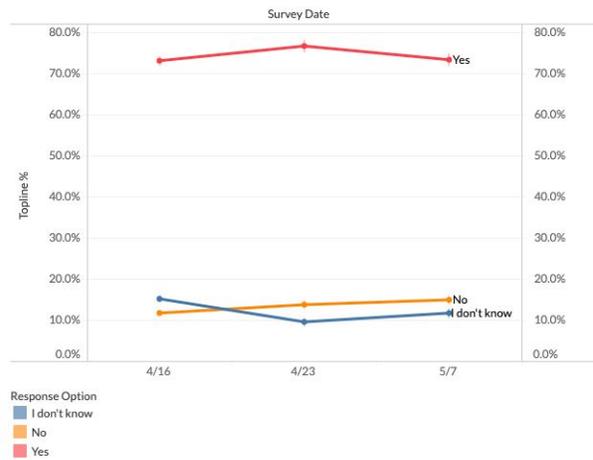
Contact Tracing Voluntary App in US

Question Text: "Would you sign up for a phone app that would use Bluetooth technology in order to alert you if someone you came into contact tested positive for COVID-19?"



Contact Tracing Voluntary Share in US

Question Text: "If you tested positive for COVID-19, would you share the personal contact information of people you've been near, with local public health authorities, in order to let them know that they've been exposed?"



Government Priorities

As we noticed in the last wave, though Coronavirus is still a clear priority (60% of Americans label it a “critical priority”), there continues to be a trend of opinions shifting from considering Coronavirus and immediate related topics as a “critical priority” to a “high priority” (that same metric was 73% of Americans in the beginning of April). One shift upwards that we see this week is that diplomatic tension between the US and China seems to be picking up slightly higher prioritization, which we’ll keep an eye on in future weeks to see if the trend continues. However, US-China tension is not top of mind for most Americans; only 22% consider it a critical priority, and 44% consider it a high priority.

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult U.S. population. Questions were fielded May 8-10, 2020 (7,922 respondents).