

# Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

Wave #6 (May 22-26, 2020) - Florida Quick-takes

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 734 Florida respondents on May 22-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week's research.

## Florida State Highlights

### Education Highlights

42.4% of Floridians with children in high school report that their children's future postsecondary have changed, compared to 44.9% nationally. Of those students whose plans have changed, the largest portion is choosing to defer (42.1%), while around a third are switching to a less expensive option (35.5%) or switching to an option closer to home (34.2%).

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

US Margin of Error = 3.1%, FL Margin of Error = 12.9%

Asked to all respondents with children in high school

% of parents whose childrens' postsecondary plans have changed					
US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
44.9%	42.4%	55.8%	39.5%	44.9%	34.5%

### How have your high school child(ren)'s plans changed? Select all that apply.

US Margin of Error = 4.5%, FL Margin of Error = 18.3%

Asked to all parents who reported that childrens' postsecondary plans changed

Change (% response)	US	FL
Postponed plans	47.3%	42.1%
Switched to a less expensive option	30.6%	35.5%
Switched to an option closer to home	31.8%	34.2%
Other	3.6%	4.0%

In Florida, 88.0% of parents of K-12 students believe that their children will be prepared for the next school year, compared to 83.0% of US parents (given small sample size, however, this difference is not

considered significant). Just over half (52.3%) of parents in Florida believe their childrens' workloads at home have been appropriate, while 40.2% believe it is too much and 7.5% believe it is not enough.

**How would you describe the amount of work that teachers or schools are requiring your children to complete at home?**

US Margin of Error = 2.8%, FL Margin of Error = 10.7%

Workload (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Too much work	30.2%	40.2%	35.0%	27.5%	29.7%	28.8%
The right amount of work	58.2%	52.3%	58.7%	62.0%	58.6%	56.2%
Not enough work	13.3%	7.5%	6.3%	10.5%	11.7%	15.0%

Similarly, 57.1% of parents in Florida believe that their childrens' teachers are expecting the right amount out of students, while 40.4% believe that teachers are expecting too much and only 2.5% believe that they're not expecting enough.

**How would you describe the expectations your child(ren)'s teachers or school have for the work they are completing at home?**

US Margin of Error = 2.8%, FL Margin of Error = 10.7%

Expectation (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Expecting too much	30.7%	40.4%	34.1%	23.3%	28.2%	36.1%
Expecting the right amount	59.8%	57.1%	58.6%	69.8%	66.2%	52.8%
Not expecting enough	9.5%	2.5%	7.3%	6.8%	5.7%	11.1%

**Overall Highlights**

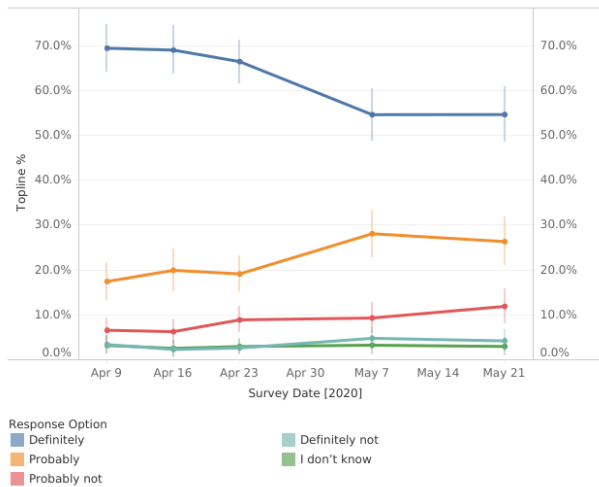
Floridians continue to be more concerned about COVID-19 relative to the overall US, with 47.2% of Floridians vs. 41.7% of US respondents saying they're very concerned. Overall concern is down from its peak on April 9, when 58.1% of Floridians reported that they're very concerned.

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

80.9% of Floridians report “definitely” or “probably” intending to social/physical distance, similar to the US overall (78.8%). This is a decrease from a peak of 88.9% of Floridians on April 16.

### Attitudes Intent Social Distancing in FL

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



Looking ahead, most Floridians plan to continue sanitizing regularly and social/physical distancing even after formal restrictions are lifted. 92.0% plan on washing their hands and disinfecting surfaces regularly (compared to 89.7% US), and 86.1% plan on social/physical distancing (compared to 83.1% US). Most Floridians also believe that everybody should wear a mask in public (77.4% in Florida, compared to 73.0% in the US). Floridians' intent to take these preventative measures in the long term has remained steady over time.

Most Floridians believe that COVID-19 outbreak will get worse and come back if we don't continue social/physical distancing measures. 80.4% strongly or somewhat agree with that belief, on par with 77.8% of the overall US. They also believe that social/physical distancing and shelter-in-place orders have also been successful, with 78.6% of the Floridians strongly or somewhat agreeing with this belief compared to 81.3% of the US overall. Floridians' beliefs on both of these points have remained consistent over time.

Compared to the US overall, Floridians place higher trust in both cable and broadcast news sources. 26.6% of Floridians strongly trust cable news networks (e.g. FOX, CNN) and 26.4% strongly trust broadcast news (e.g. NBC, CBS, ABC), compared to 18.1% of the US strongly trusting cable news and 21.5% strongly trusting broadcast news.

When looking for information about COVID-19, the largest portions of Floridians are using broadcast news (47.5%) and cable news (45.1%). Fewer Floridians are using local news sources like radio broadcasts (13.1%) and church communications (8.1%). More Floridians are using local newspapers (20.2%) than national newspapers (15.3%) for information.

Within the last 7 days, 47.0% of Floridians report drinking alcohol, 22.9% report smoking marijuana, and 29.5% report smoking cigarettes. Of Floridians who consumed alcohol, 26.0% report normally drinking 4 or more drinks on a typical day, on par with 25.3% nationally. 55.0% of men who consumed alcohol in Florida reported drinking five or more drinks at least once in the past week, compared to 38.0% of women reporting drinking four or more drinks at least once.

Almost half (45.2%) of Floridians report that they made time to relax 6 to 7 days in the last week, and a little more than a third (37.2%) connected with family or friends 6 to 7 days in the last week. Floridians are also staying connected online, as 44.5% report going social media 6 to 7 days in the last week.

**Methodology:** Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Florida. Questions were fielded May 22-26, 2020 (734 respondents).