

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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



Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 8,714 National respondents on May 22-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week's research.

National Highlights

Education Highlights

Nationally, 44.9% of parents with children in high school report that their children's postsecondary plans have changed as a result of coronavirus. Of those students whose plans have changed, 47.3% postponed their plans, 30.6% switched to a less expensive option, and 31.8% switched to an option closer to home.

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%

Asked to all respondents with children in high school

% of parents whose children's 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%

Asked to all parents who reported that children's postsecondary plans changed

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

Nationally, 83.0% of parents of K-12 students believe that their children will be prepared for the next school year. This belief has been steady over time, starting at 81.2% of K-12 parents on April 2. 58.2%

of parents in the US believe their childrens' workloads at home have been appropriate, while 30.2% believe it is too much and 13.3% 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%

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, 59.8% of US parents believe that their childrens' teachers are expecting the right amount of their students, while 30.7% believe that teachers are expecting too much and 9.5% 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%

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

In order to cope with the effects of coronavirus, Americans are making efforts take care of themselves and connect with those around them. On average, Americans are exercising 3.13 days out of the week, making time to relax 4.41 days/week, connecting with friends and family 4.1 days/week, and posting on or browsing social media 4.24 days/week.

Within the last 7 days, 46.3% of respondents drank alcohol, 22.3% used marijuana, 16.2% used drugs other than marijuana, 27.6% smoked cigarettes, and 18.6% smoked e-cigarettes or vaped. Of those

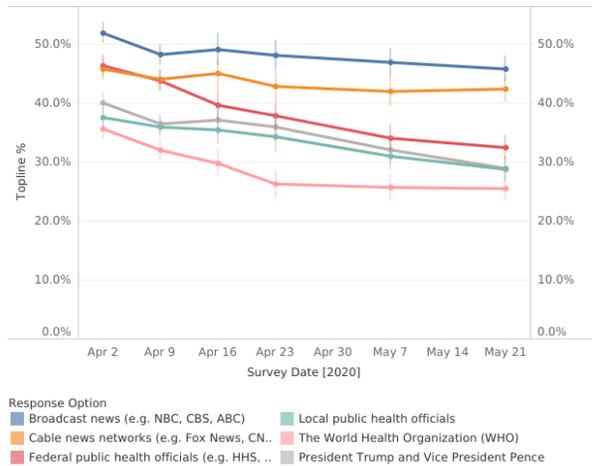
who reported drinking, 25.2% report drinking four or more drinks on a typical day when they drank. Men were more likely to drink in a manner that constitutes binge drinking, with 54.7% of men who drank at all consuming five or more drinks at least once, compared to 36.2% of women who drank at all consuming four or more drinks.

Which of the following information sources have you used to learn about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 7 days? Please select all that apply.

Compared to early April, Americans are accessing fewer sources of information to learn about coronavirus, with the portion of respondents accessing any individual news source dropping across all options.

Information Use in US

Question Text: "Which of the following information sources have you used to learn about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 7 days? Please select all that apply."



The portion of Americans using broadcast news (the most popular source of news) to learn about coronavirus dropped to 45.8%, compared to 51.9% in early April. Cable news networks have seen a less dramatic drop over time, with 42.4% of Americans now reporting watching cable news compared to 45.8% in early April. The number of Americans depending on government officials for coronavirus information has had a steeper decline. The portion of Americans referencing federal public health officials for information has dropped from 46.3% in early April to 32.4% this week, and the portion of Americans referencing President Trump and Vice President Pence for information has dropped from 40.0% in early April to 28.9% this week.

Local sources of information were added to this week's survey, like radio broadcasts, church communications, and local newspapers. While around half Americans strongly trust each one of these sources for coronavirus information (58.5% strongly or slightly trust local newspapers, 49.1% trust radio broadcasts, and 47.8% trust church communications), fewer Americans are using them in practice. 24.8% of Americans read local newspapers, 15.9% listen to radio broadcasts, and 7.9% use church communications to learn about coronavirus.

Looking ahead towards formal restrictions being lifted, more Americans are now planning on continuing social/physical distancing and wearing masks compared to mid-April. 49.8% of American now strongly agree that they're planning on continuing social/physical distancing compared to 45.9%

in mid-April, while 47.5% now strongly agree that everybody should wear a mask in public, compared to 41.1% in mid-April.

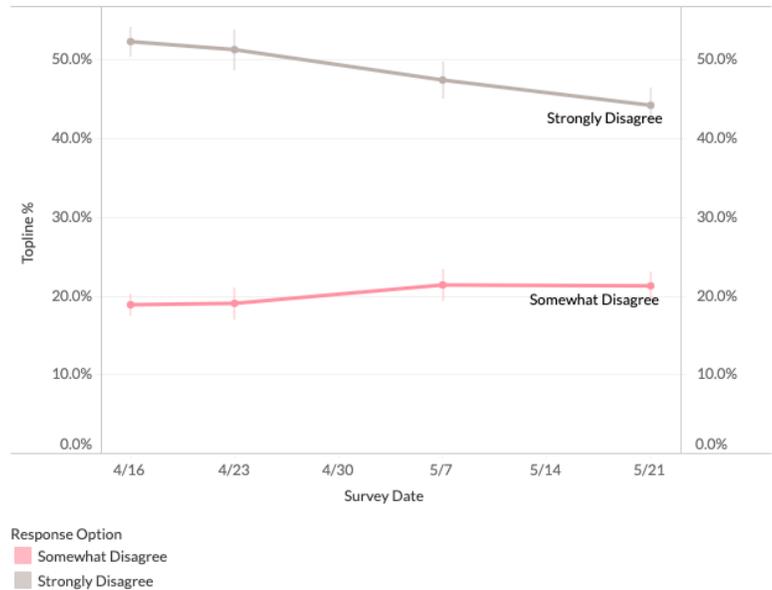
Overall concern level for the coronavirus continued to drop this week, with 41.7% of American reporting that they are very concerned, compared to 56.5% in early April.

“It’s ok to ignore the social/physical distancing guidelines every once in a while.”

Adherence to strict social/physical distancing guidelines is declining, as the number of Americans who strongly disagree that it’s acceptable to ignore social/physical distancing guidelines every once in a while has decreased. While 52.3% strongly disagreed that it’s ok to ignore guidelines occasionally in mid-April, this overall portion dropped to 44.2% this week.

Agree Ignore Distancing in US

Question Text: "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It's ok to ignore the social/physical distancing guidelines every once in a while."



However, most Americans still agree that the COVID-19 outbreak will get worse and come back if we don’t continue social/physical distancing, with 77.8% now strongly or somewhat agreeing with this point, compared to 80.7% in mid-April.

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult U.S. population. Questions were fielded May 22-26, 2020 (8,714 respondents).