

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 760 Texas respondents on May 22-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week's research.

Texas State Highlights

Education Highlights

42.4% of Texans with children in high school report that their children's future postsecondary plans have changed, argon par with 44.9% nationally. Of those students whose plans have changed, the largest portion is choosing to defer (58.5%), while around a third are switching to an option closer to home (32.7%) or switching to a less expensive option (30.6%).

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%, TX Margin of Error = 12.9%

Asked to all respondents with children in high school

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

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

US Margin of Error = 4.5%, TX Margin of Error = 18.5%

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

Change (% response)	US	TX
Postponed plans	47.3%	58.5%
Switched to an option closer to home	31.8%	32.7%
Switched to a less expensive option	30.6%	30.6%
Other	3.6%	1.3%

In Texas, 80.1% of parents of K-12 students believe that their children will be prepared for the next school year, similar to 83.0% of US parents. Over half (58.6%) of parents in Texas believe their childrens' workloads at home have been appropriate, while 29.7% believe it is too much and 11.7% 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%, TX Margin of Error = 10.3%

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

Similarly, 66.2% of parents in Texas believe that their childrens’ teachers are expecting the right amount out of students, while 28.2% believe that teachers are expecting too much and only 5.7% 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%, TX Margin of Error = 10.3%

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

Overall Highlights

38.5% of Texans report being very concerned about COVID-19, compared to 41.7% of US respondents. 29.1% of Texans report wanting their state to do more to address coronavirus, compared to 25.6% of the US overall. 77.7% of Texans report “definitely” or “probably” intending to social/physical distance, similar to the US overall (78.8%).

Looking ahead, most Texans plan to continue sanitizing regularly and social/physical distancing even after formal restrictions are lifted. 89.0% plan on washing their hands and disinfecting surfaces regularly (compared to 89.7% US), and 83.4% plan on social/physical distancing (compared to 83.1% US). Most Texans also believe that everybody should wear a mask in public (73.3% in Texas, compared to 73.0% in the US).

Most Texans believe that COVID-19 outbreak will get worse and come back if we don't continue social/physical distancing measures. 78.6% strongly or somewhat agree with that belief, on par with 77.8% of the overall US. 79.4% of the Texans strongly or somewhat agree that social/physical distancing and shelter-in-place orders have also been successful, compared to 81.3% of the US overall.

Compared to the US overall, Texans place slightly lower trust in cable news sources and slightly higher trust in broadcast news sources. 12.6% of Texans strongly trust cable news networks (e.g. FOX, CNN) and 24.0% 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 Texans are using broadcast news (44.8%) and cable news (37.7%). Fewer Texans are using local news sources like radio broadcasts (14.2%) and church communications (7.0%). More Texans are using local newspapers (22.7%) than national newspapers (19.1%) for information.

Within the last 7 days, 46.8% of Texans report drinking alcohol, 17.9% report smoking marijuana, and 26.6% report smoking cigarettes. Of Texans who consumed alcohol, 31.9% report normally drinking 4 or more drinks on a typical day, slightly higher than 25.3% nationally. 60.3% of men who consumed alcohol in Texan reported drinking five or more drinks at least once in the past week, compared to 41.8% of women reporting drinking four or more drinks at least once.

Almost half (44.6%) of Texans report that they made time to relax 6 to 7 days in the last week, and a little more than a third (33.3%) connected with family or friends 6 to 7 days in the last week. Texans are also staying connected online, as 46.6% 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 Texas. Questions were fielded May 22-26, 2020 (760 respondents).