

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 744 Washington respondents on May 22-26, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week's research.

Washington Highlights

Education Highlights

34.5% of Washingtonians with children in high school report that their children's future postsecondary plans have changed, slightly less than the 44.9% nationally. Of those students whose plans have changed, the largest portion is choosing to defer (63.4%), while others indicated switching to an option closer to home (27.4%) or switching to a less expensive option (21.1%).

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%, WA Margin of Error = 12.1%

Asked to all respondents with children in high school

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

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

US Margin of Error = 4.5%, WA Margin of Error = 19%

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

Change (% response)	US	WA
Postponed plans	47.3%	63.4%
Switched to an option closer to home	31.8%	27.4%
Switched to a less expensive option	30.6%	21.1%
Other	3.6%	3.1%

In Washington, 80.4% of parents of K-12 students believe that their children will be prepared for the next school year, on par with 83.0% of US parents. Over half (56.2%) of parents in Washington believe their childrens' workloads at home have been appropriate, while 28.8% believe it is too much and 15.0% 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%, WA Margin of Error = 9.4%

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

Similarly, 52.8% of parents in Washington believe that their childrens’ teachers are expecting the right amount out of students, while 36.1% believe that teachers are expecting too much and 11.1% 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%, WA Margin of Error = 9.4%

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

Overall Highlights

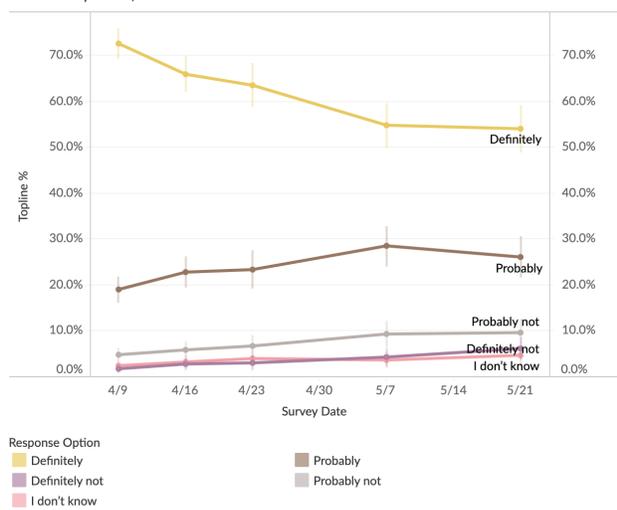
Washingtonians are slightly less concerned about COVID-19 relative to the overall US, with 36.3% of Washingtonians vs. 41.7% of US respondents saying they’re very concerned. Overall concern is down from its peak on April 9, when 48.4% of Washingtonians reported that they were very concerned.

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

79.9% of Washingtonians report “definitely” or “probably” intending to social/physical distance, similar to the US overall (78.8%). This is a decrease from a peak of 91.4% of Washingtonians on April 9.

Attitudes Intent Social Distancing in WA

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 Washingtonians plan to continue sanitizing regularly and social/physical distancing even after formal restrictions are lifted. 91.0% plan on washing their hands and disinfecting surfaces regularly (compared to 89.7% US), and 81.5% plan on social/physical distancing (compared to 83.1% US). Most Washingtonians also believe that everybody should wear a mask in public (68.3% in Washington, compared to 73.0% in the US). Washingtonians’ intent to take these preventative measures in the long term has remained steady over time.

Most Washingtonians believe that COVID-19 outbreak will get worse and come back if we don't continue social/physical distancing measures. 73.6% 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 Washingtonians strongly or somewhat agreeing with this belief compared to 81.3% of the US overall.

Compared to the US overall, Washingtonians place slightly lower trust in cable and broadcast news sources. Just 13.7% of Washingtonians strongly trust cable news networks (e.g. FOX, CNN) and 16.4% 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 Washingtonians are using broadcast news (44.5%) and cable news (38.0%). Fewer Washingtonians are using local news sources like radio broadcasts (14.9%) and church communications (6.0%). More Washingtonians are using local newspapers (24.3%) than national newspapers (15.6%) for information.

Within the last 7 days, 45.7% of Washingtonians report drinking alcohol, 27.1% report using marijuana, and 24.0% report smoking cigarettes. Of Washingtonians who consumed alcohol, 24.3%

report normally drinking 4 or more drinks on a typical day, close to the 25.3% nationally. 46.6% of men who consumed alcohol in Washington reported drinking five or more drinks at least once in the past week, compared to 28.4% of women reporting drinking four or more drinks at least once.

Almost half (44.4%) of Washingtonians report that they made time to relax 6 to 7 days in the last week, and a little more than a third (31.9%) connected with family or friends 6 to 7 days in the last week. Washingtonians are also staying connected online, as 47.5% 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 Washington. Questions were fielded May 22-26, 2020 (744 respondents).