

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 755 New York respondents on June 25-28, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

New York Highlights

Attitudes toward Coronavirus

Almost two-thirds of New Yorkers (63.3% vs. 59.7% nationally) have become more concerned about coronavirus in response to the news about increasing coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in some states (e.g. Arizona, Florida, Texas, California). 61.8% of New Yorkers believe that people not following guidance around social distancing and masks is one of the most important factors contributing toward some states experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, followed by 53.3% believing that state governments choosing to reopen too quickly, and 37.0% believing that the federal government has not set appropriate guidelines for all states to follow.

After overall concern for coronavirus in NY dipped to its lowest point (44.7% reported “very concerned”) last wave (early June) since this tracker began in early April, concern increased slightly this wave, with 51.9% of New Yorkers reporting they’re very concerned about coronavirus.

In response to the actions that New York state has taken to slow the spread of coronavirus, a majority of New Yorkers (52.9%) believe that the steps have been appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis, compared to 41.7% of the US responding to their own state governments’ actions. Only about a quarter of New Yorkers (27.4%) wish that their state has done more in response to the virus, compared to about a third (33.1%) of the US population overall.

Which statement best reflects your feelings about closures, restrictions, and other steps that the state of New York has taken to slow the spread of the virus?

US Margin of Error = 1.3%, NY Margin of Error = 4.7%

State Order Reaction (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
I wish they would do even more	33.1%	42.8%	27.4%	29.7%	42.2%	24.2%
I think the steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis	41.7%	33.7%	52.9%	41.7%	35.4%	46.1%
I think some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far	13.9%	12.1%	11.1%	15.4%	13.2%	17.9%
I think everyone is overreacting	6.7%	6.2%	5.3%	8.0%	5.7%	8.5%

The amount of coverage on coronavirus that New Yorkers have seen, read, or heard has remained about level since last wave, with 56.3% of New Yorkers reporting they had heard a lot of information about it. This is about the same as the US overall, with 54.8% of respondents reporting they had heard/seen a lot about it. Following coronavirus, racial justice demonstrations was the next most frequently consumed topic of news, with 51.1% of New Yorkers saying they've heard/seen a lot of info on the topic.

Protective Measures Highlights

Compared to the US overall, New Yorkers are significantly more likely to always wear a mask in public, with 77.8% of New Yorkers report always wearing a mask in public compared to 65.8% of the US overall. 91.6% of New Yorkers report always or sometimes staying at home/limiting trips (88.4% US overall), 93.5% report always or sometimes staying 6 feet apart from others (92.4% US overall), and 94.7% report always or sometimes washing hands frequently for at least 20 seconds (92.9% US overall). Only 4.0% of New Yorkers report rarely or never wearing a face mask while in public.

How often do you do each of the following?

US MOE = 1.3%
 NY MOE = 4.7%
 NY N size = 755

Action	Always		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
	US	NY	US	NY	US	NY	US	NY
Wear a cloth face covering or face mask while in public	65.8%	77.8%	21.8%	18.2%	6.6%	3.0%	5.8%	1.0%
Stay home and limiting trips to only essentials	57.9%	64.9%	30.5%	26.7%	7.3%	6.1%	4.3%	2.3%
Stay 6 feet apart from others	64.1%	69.3%	28.3%	24.2%	5.3%	5.3%	2.4%	1.1%
Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds	69.6%	74.0%	23.3%	20.7%	4.9%	3.9%	2.3%	1.4%

A majority of New Yorkers (67.3% vs. 61.6% US overall) have heard about contact tracing as a way of helping slow the spread of COVID-19. For New Yorkers, the most compelling reason to take part in such a program is that contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19, with 44.8% of New Yorkers citing this reason compared to 45.4% of respondents nationally. The next most compelling reasons are that contact tracing finds and isolates new infections before they spread (37.8% of New Yorkers selected) and that information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to slow the spread of the virus (36.4% of New Yorkers selected).

Donating and Volunteering Behavior

In New York, 30.6% of respondents report donating and 14.9% report volunteering in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, compared to 22.2% donating and 12.1% volunteering nationally.

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

US MOE = 1.3%
NY MOE = 4.7%
NY N size = 755

Action	US	NY
Donated	22.2%	30.6%
Volunteered	12.1%	14.9%
Neither donated nor volunteered	67.9%	57.9%

Of those in New York who donated, hunger relief was the most common recipient (32.7%), followed by health care or medical services (30.4%), and first responder and healthcare worker support (30.3%), and neighborhood or community funds (29.5%). Around a fifth of New Yorkers who donated gave money to a racial justice cause. New Yorkers donated \$301 on average, compared to an average donation amount of \$244 nationally (these averages were calculated after limiting to self-reported donations under \$2,000).

Of those in New York who volunteered, food or grocery supply and delivery was the most common option with 43.2% reporting they had done so, compared to 36.7% of the overall US population. The next most common volunteer actions in New York are making face masks (37.2%) and collecting medical supplies (29.6%).

Of New Yorkers who did not donate, the largest portion of respondents report not having enough money as the reason they have not donated (42.3% in NY, compared to 46.4% in US). 18.6% of New Yorkers reported that they weren't interested in donating, on par with 19.2% of the overall US. Of New Yorkers who did not volunteer, over a third reported not being able to volunteer while staying at home as the reason they have not volunteered (35.7% in NY, compared to 36.1% in US), which was the most selected response.

As for informal acts of generosity, the most common action that New Yorkers have taken is calling family or friends more often than they did before (51.0% in NY vs. 47.8% in US overall). The next most common actions are engaging more on social media than they had before (37.0% in NY vs. 36.2% in US) and connecting with a vulnerable family member or friend who is self isolating (33.3% in NY, 30.5% in US).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of New York. Questions were fielded June 25-28, 2020 (755 respondents).