

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 750 Texas respondents on June 25-28, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

Texas Highlights

Attitudes toward Coronavirus

Almost two thirds of Texans (65.6% 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). 54.9% of Texans believe that people not following guidance around social distancing and wearing a mask is one of the most important factors contributing toward some states experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, followed by 51.6% believing that state governments choosing to reopen too quickly is one of the most important factors, and 38.7% believing that the federal government has not set appropriate guidelines for all states to follow.

Overall concern for coronavirus is up in Texas, with 46.0% of respondents reporting they’re very concerned, compared to 43.0% in the US. This is an increase from the prior wave of Texas responses on May 21, in which 38.5% of respondents reported they were very concerned about coronavirus.

In response to the actions that Texas has taken to slow the spread of coronavirus, 42.2% of Texans wish that their state would do even more to slow the spread of coronavirus, compared to 33.1% of the US responding to their own state governments’ actions. This is a notable increase from the previous survey wave in Texas on May 21, when only 29.1% of Texans wanted the state to do even more.

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

US Margin of Error = 1.3%, TX 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%

55.9% of Texans report that they've consumed a lot of news on the coronavirus over the last week, compared to 54.8% of the US overall. Following coronavirus, racial justice demonstrations and protests is the next most frequently consumed topic of news, with 52.4% of Texans saying they've heard/seen a lot of news on the topic.

Protective Measures Highlights

Compared to the US overall, Texans are about equally likely to wear a mask in public, with 67.0% of Texans reporting always wearing a mask in public compared to 65.8% of the US overall. 88.0% of Texans report always or sometimes staying at home/limiting trips (88.4% US overall), 92.8% 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).

How often do you do each of the following?

US MOE = 1.3%
 TX MOE = 4.7%
 TX N size = 750

Action	Always		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
	US	TX	US	TX	US	TX	US	TX
Wear a cloth face covering or face mask while in public	65.8%	67.0%	21.8%	20.9%	6.6%	6.8%	5.8%	5.2%
Stay home and limiting trips to only essentials	57.9%	59.0%	30.5%	29.0%	7.3%	7.9%	4.3%	4.0%
Stay 6 feet apart from others	64.1%	67.3%	28.3%	25.5%	5.3%	5.7%	2.4%	1.4%
Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds	69.6%	71.9%	23.3%	22.8%	4.9%	3.7%	2.3%	1.7%

Of Texans who report rarely or never wearing a mask in public, 44.1% report not wearing one because it's uncomfortable, compared to 40.4% of the US overall. 21.8% of Texans report not wearing a mask because they don't think they are required to.

Only about half of Texans (51.0% vs. 61.6% US overall) have heard about contact tracing as a way of helping slow the spread of COVID-19. For Texans, the most compelling reason to take part in such a program is that contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19, with 44.9% of Texans 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 (38.4% Texans selected) and that information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to slow the spread of the virus (35.8% of Texans selected).

Donating and Volunteering Behavior

In Texas, 19.5% of respondents report donating and 12.5% 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%
TX MOE = 4.7%
TX N size = 750

Action	US	TX
Donated	22.2%	19.5%
Volunteered	12.1%	12.5%
Neither donated nor volunteered	67.9%	69.7%

Of those in Texas who donated, hunger relief was the most common recipient (42.0%), followed by health care or medical services (23.0%) and neighborhood or community funds (22.2%). Around a quarter of Texans who donated gave money to a racial justice cause (24.6%). Texans donated \$250 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 Texas who volunteered, making face masks was the most common option with 36.4% reporting they had done so, compared to 37.4% of the overall US population. The next most common volunteer actions in Texas are food or grocery supply and delivery (35.5%) and volunteering at a homeless shelter (27.6%).

Of Texans who did not donate, the largest portion of respondents report not having enough money as the reason they have not donated (39.7% in TX, compared to 46.4% in US). 20.8% of Texans reported that they weren't interested in donating, compared to 19.2% of the overall US. Of Texans who did not volunteer, over a third reported not being able to volunteer while staying at home as the reason they have not volunteered (37.9% in TX, compared to 36.1% in US), which was the most selected response.

As for informal acts of generosity, the most common action that Texans have taken is calling family or friends more often than they did before (50.2% in TX vs. 47.8% in US overall). The next most common actions are engaging more on social media than they had before (36.4% in TX vs. 36.2% in US) and connecting with a vulnerable family member or friend who is self isolating (32.2% in TX, 30.5% in US).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Texas. Questions were fielded June 25-28, 2020 (750 respondents).