

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 741 Washington respondents on June 25-28, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave’s research.

Washington Highlights

Attitudes toward Coronavirus

Compared to the US overall, Washingtonians are slightly less concerned (54.2% vs. 59.7% nationally) in response to news about increasing coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in some states (e.g. Arizona, Florida, Texas, California). 59.1% of Washingtonians believe that people not following guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks in public is one of the most important factors contributing toward some states experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases, followed by 52.3% believing State governments reopening too quickly is one of the most important factors, and 34.5% believing the federal government has not set appropriate guidelines for all states to follow.

39.7% of Washingtonians report they’re very concerned about coronavirus, slightly less than the national-wide 43.0%. This is a slight increase in concern from the last survey round (early June) where 33.2% of Washingtonians and 38.8% of national respondents reported being very concerned about coronavirus.

In response to the actions that Washington has taken to combat coronavirus, a majority of Washingtonians (46.1%) 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 Washingtonians (24.2%) wish that their state has done more in response to the virus, compared 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 Washington has taken to slow the spread of the virus?

US Margin of Error = 1.3%, WA Margin of Error = 4.3%

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

The amount of coverage on coronavirus that Washingtonians have seen, read, or heard has remained level since last wave, with 57.9% of Washingtonians reporting they had heard a lot of information about coronavirus. This is about the same as the US overall, with 54.8% of respondents reporting they had heard a lot about it. Following coronavirus, racial justice demonstrations and protests is the next most frequently consumed topic of news, with 56.7% of Washingtonians saying they've heard/seen a lot of news on the topic.

Protective Measures Highlights

Compared to the US overall, Washingtonians are slightly more likely to always wear a mask in public, with 66.0% of Washingtonians reporting always wearing a mask in public compared to 65.8% of the US overall. 89.7% of Washingtonians report always or sometimes staying at home/limiting trips (88.5% US overall), 94.7% report always or sometimes staying 6 feet apart from others (92.4% US overall), and 93.3% 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 = 1.5%

WA MOE = 4.3%

WA N size = 741

Action	Always		Sometimes		Rarely		Never	
	US	WA	US	WA	US	WA	US	WA
Wear a cloth face covering or face mask while in public	65.8%	66.0%	21.8%	20.6%	6.6%	8.3%	5.8%	5.2%
Stay home and limiting trips to only essentials	57.9%	56.7%	30.5%	33.0%	7.3%	7.3%	4.3%	3.0%
Stay 6 feet apart from others	64.1%	63.0%	28.3%	31.7%	5.3%	3.3%	2.4%	2.1%
Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds	69.6%	66.6%	23.3%	26.7%	4.9%	5.5%	2.3%	1.2%

Of Washingtonians who report rarely or never wearing a face mask, the most common reason for not doing so is that it's uncomfortable (43.2% in WA, compared to 40.4% US overall). 22.7% of Washingtonians report not wearing one because of a health issue or disability, compared to 14.2% of the US overall.

A majority (72.1%) of Washingtonians have heard about contact tracing as a way of helping slow the spread of COVID-19, compared to 61.6% nationally. For Washingtonians, the most compelling reason to take part in such a program is that contact tracing helps slow the spread of COVID-19, with 47.8% of Washingtonians 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 (41.5% Washingtonians selected) and that information from contact tracing is strictly confidential and used only to slow the spread of the virus (34.1% of Washingtonians selected).

Donating and Volunteering Behavior

In Washington, 27.5% of respondents report donating and 13.6% 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 = 1.4%, WA MOE = 4.3%
WA N size = 741

Action	US	WA
Donated	22.2%	27.5%
Volunteered	12.1%	13.6%
Neither donated nor volunteered	67.9%	61.5%

Of those in Washington who donated, hunger relief was the most common recipient (32.2%), followed by healthcare or medical services (31.5%), Direct funding of individuals in need (23.1%) and first responder and healthcare worker support (21.2%). Around a quarter of Washingtonians who donated gave money to a racial justice cause. Washingtonians donated \$309 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 Washington who volunteered, making face masks was the most common option with 35.5% reporting they had done so, compared to 37.4% of the overall US population. The next most common volunteer actions in Washington are food/grocery delivery (33.3%) and volunteering at a homeless shelter (27.8%).

Of Washingtonians who did not donate, the largest portion of respondents report not having enough money as the reason they have not donated (47.1% in WA, compared to 46.4% in US). 21.6% of Washingtonians reported that they weren't interested in donating, compared to 19.2% of the overall US. Of Washingtonians who did not volunteer, over a third reported not being able to volunteer while staying at home as the reason they have not volunteered (39.8% in WA, compared to 36.1% in US), which was the most selected response.

As for informal acts of generosity, the most common action that Washingtonians have taken is calling family or friends more often than they did before (36.8% in WA vs. 36.2% in US overall). The next most common actions are engaging more on social media than they had before (36.6% in WA vs. 35.6% in US) and connecting with a vulnerable family member or friend who is self isolating (28.3% in WA, 30.5% in US).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Washington. Questions were fielded June 25-28, 2020 (741 respondents).