

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 8,511 respondents across the U.S., including 4,652 responses nationally and oversamples in the states of Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington (772, 808, 751, 775, and 753 responses, respectively), on August 20-23, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

National Highlights

School Reopenings

39.7% of parents of K-12 students across the US say that they have disenrolled their children from the school they were originally supposed to attend this year, in response to school reopening plans. Of those that disenrolled their children, 57.8% have enrolled their child or children in an online program, 26.8% have enrolled their child or children in a public school, and 20.5% have enrolled their child or children in a private school. 83.3% of parents who disenrolled their children say that they will re-enroll their children back into the original school once it is safe to do so.

34.1% of US parents of K-12 students report that their children will be attending all in-person classes, 46.3% report that their children will be attending all remote classes, and 19.6% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. 71.9% of K-12 parents in the US said that their children's school provided the option to choose between in-person, remote, or hybrid classes. 54.8% of K-12 parents in the US reported that their children's school has provided information about mental and physical health, 39.1% reported receiving information about racial justice, and 63.9% reported receiving information about food services.

When asked about various safety measures that schools could implement for in-person classes, the majority of K-12 parents in the US said they would be more willing to send their children to school if those measures were implemented. Providing masks and hand sanitizer to each student is most effective at increasing parental confidence in in-person classes (59.9% would be more willing to send their children to school), followed by enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways (57.8%). Reducing the hours per day that a student is at school was the least effective in convincing parents; 52.3% of K-12 parents reported being more willing to send their children to school.

K-12 parents in the US do generally think schools can successfully implement these safety measures. 74.6% of parents in the US overall say schools will likely be successful in implementing increased cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, compared to 64.0% who think schools can successfully enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways.

How likely do you think it is that your children’s school will be able to successfully implement each of the following safety measures? (% of K-12 parents who responded “Very likely” or “Somewhat likely”)

US Margin of Error = 2.5%

Safety Measure Feasibility (% “Likely”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student	71.9%	66.0%	78.7%	66.9%	70.2%	61.9%
Increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities	74.6%	70.0%	78.3%	67.5%	71.7%	69.7%
Require sick students and staff to stay home	70.1%	62.2%	75.1%	67.7%	70.4%	62.1%
Avoid large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies)	67.4%	63.9%	74.4%	63.5%	67.6%	63.8%
Reduce the hours per day that a student is at school	65.7%	59.1%	71.8%	58.5%	66.4%	62.3%
Dismiss in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus	66.0%	56.4%	73.8%	57.0%	65.9%	60.3%
Enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways	64.0%	64.2%	74.2%	57.2%	67.9%	56.2%

Postsecondary Education Transitions

73.2% of US parents of high school seniors report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall; of those, 61.1% say they and their child feel “Very prepared” to navigate the college financial aid process, compared to 2.1% who feel “Not at all prepared.” 62.4% of US parents of high school seniors report that their child has already taken the SAT or ACT, and another 17.8% of parents said that their child will take the SAT or ACT by December 31, 2020. 75.3% of US parents of high school seniors say that their child has been in touch with a school guidance counselor to make plans for after graduation.

Following up with students who graduated from high school in the spring, 75.4% of US parents of recent high school graduates report that their child changed his or her postsecondary plans between March 2020 and now. Of those who changed plans, 50.4% switched to an option closer to home, 30.0% switched to a less expensive option, and 17.9% postponed their plans.

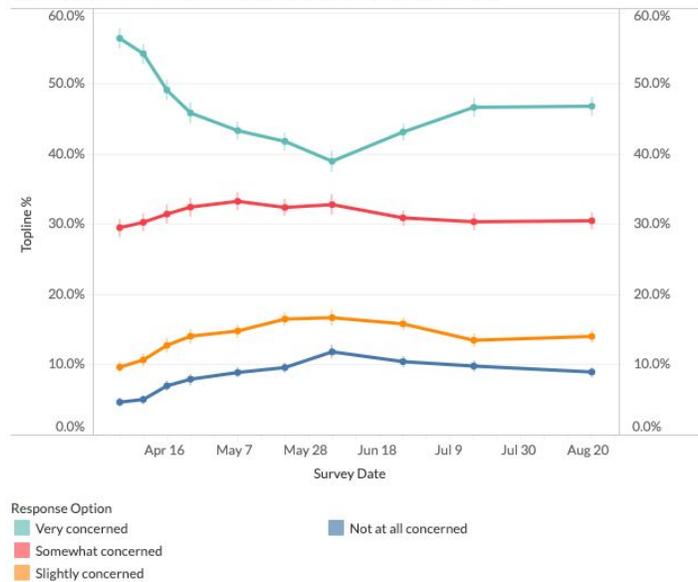
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

46.7% of US adults say that they are “Very concerned” about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 46.6% from our last wave of research in July. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady over the last month, following an increase in concern in the US overall over June and July.

Attitudes Concern Level in US

Question Text: “How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?”



When asked about specific concerns in relations to COVID-19, 59.4% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about the immediate illness, 60.3% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about transmitting COVID-19 to others, 47.8% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about losing work or income, and 62.5% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about long-term health impacts.

After an increase in the proportion of US adults who thought their state’s actions were insufficient over the month of June into July, reactions to the closures, restrictions and other steps that their home states have taken have remained steady since the middle of July. In this most recent wave (August 20-23), 37.1% of US adults report that they wish their state would do even more, 37.9% say the steps have been appropriate, 13.8% say that some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far, and 7.1% believe everyone is overreacting.

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

* Each respondent was asked about their home state

US Margin of Error

State Order Reaction (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
I wish they would do even more	37.1%	43.7%	30.5%	30.0%	40.9%	32.6%
I think the steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis	37.9%	33.2%	46.5%	38.8%	36.9%	40.4%
I think some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far	13.8%	13.5%	15.5%	17.9%	10.9%	14.0%
I think everyone is overreacting	7.1%	5.4%	3.9%	10.0%	7.2%	9.2%

There have been some shifts in protective measures among US adults over time. 76.8% of US adults report “always” wearing a face mask or covering while in public, up from 61.1% in early June. We also see a slight increase in the proportion who always socially/physically distance (66.3% now compared to 61.1% in early June). The proportion of US adults who “always” stay home and limit trips to essentials has remained steady since June, currently at 56.3%, as have those who wash their hands frequently (currently 69.7%).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of the United States. Questions were fielded August 20-23, 2020 (8,511 respondents).