

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 808 New York respondents on August 20-23, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

New York Highlights

School Reopenings

42.5% of parents of K-12 students in New York say that they have disenrolled their children from the school they were originally supposed to attend this year, in response to school reopening plans, compared to 39.7% of parents in the US overall. Of those that disenrolled their children, 58.4% enrolled in an online program, 24.5% enrolled in a public school, and 19.8% enrolled in a charter school. 89.4% 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.

33.8% of parents of K-12 students report that their children will be attending all in-person classes, 36.0% report that their children will be attending all remote classes, and 30.2% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. 75.2% of K-12 parents said that their children's school provided the option to choose between in-person, remote, or hybrid classes. 69.2% of K-12 parents reported that their children's school has provided information about mental and physical health, 51.3% reported receiving information about racial justice, and 72.9% reported receiving information about food services.

When asked about the various safety measures that schools could implement for in-person classes, about 60-70% (depending on which measure) of K-12 parents in New York 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 (70.5% would be more willing to send their children to school), followed by increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, requiring sick students and staff to stay home, and dismissing in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus (all 62.9%). Reducing the hours per day that a student is at school was least effective in convincing parents; 60.0% of parents in New York reported being more willing to send their children to school.

K-12 parents in New York think schools can successfully implement these safety measures at higher rates than parents in the US overall. Parents in New York are most confident in schools' abilities to provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student (78.7% of parent in NY say schools will likely be successful in implementing, compared to 71.9% of parents in the US overall), and least confident in the schools' abilities to reduce the hours per day that a student is at school, but still more confident than parents in the US overall (71.8% of NY parents compared to 65.7% in the US overall).

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%, NY Margin of Error = 7.9%

| 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

74.8% of New York parents of high school seniors report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall; of those, 71.9% say they and their child feel “Very prepared” to navigate the college financial aid process, compared to 0.0% who feel “Not at all prepared.” 61.3% of New York parents of high school students report that their child has already taken the SAT or ACT, and another 19.8% of New York parents said that their child will take the SAT or ACT by December 31, 2020. 74.7% of New York 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, 84.0% of New York parents of recent high school graduates report that their child changed his or her postsecondary plans between March 2020 and now compared to 75.4% in the US overall. Of those who changed plans, 45.9% switched to an option closer to home, 35.3% switched to a less expensive option, and 15.6% postponed their plans.

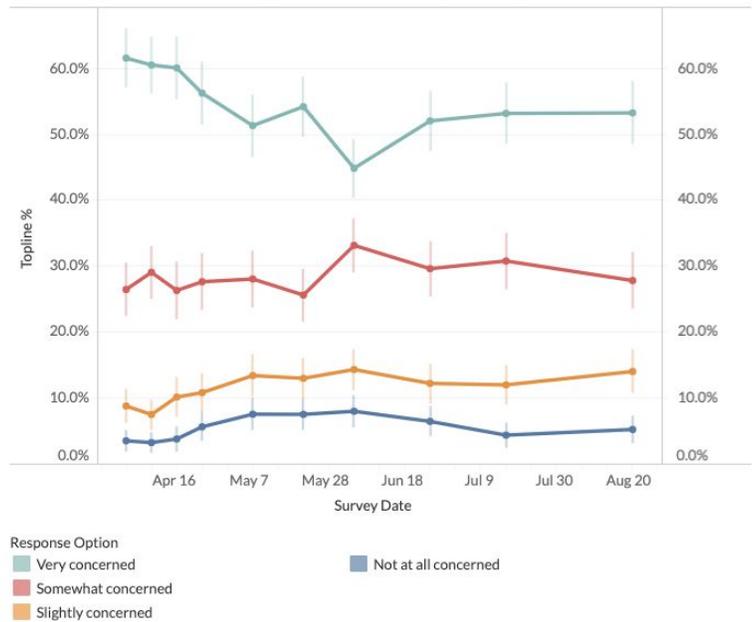
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

53.1% of New Yorkers say that they are “Very concerned” about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 53.1% from our last wave of research in July. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in New York since late June.

Attitudes Concern Level in NY

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



When asked about specific concerns in relations to COVID-19, 67.3% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about the immediate illness, 65.1% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about transmitting COVID-19 to others, 54.2% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about losing work or income, and 69.5% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about long-term health impacts.

In the most recent wave (August 20-23), more New Yorkers think that some of the state’s actions are important, but overall they go too far (15.5% compared to 10.7% in mid July). Less New Yorkers think that the state’s steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis in the most recent wave (46.5% compared to 50.9% in mid July).

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?

* Each respondent was asked about their home state
 US Margin of Error = 1.3%, NY Margin of Error = 4.8%

| 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% |

Overall, New Yorkers have maintained their use of protective measures. The proportion of New Yorkers who always maintain social/physical distance has remained steady at 66.9%, as have those who wash their hands frequently (68.7%) and those who wear a face mask or covering in public (74.5%). However, fewer New Yorkers are staying home and limiting trips to essentials (56.3%, compared to 62.2% in June).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of New York. Questions were fielded August 20-23, 2020 (808 respondents).