

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 775 Texas respondents on August 20-23, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Texas Highlights

School Reopenings

39.0% of parents of K-12 students in Texas 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, 59.8% have enrolled their child or children in an online program, 36.2% have enrolled their child or children in a public school, and 22.5% have enrolled their child or children in a private school. 83.3% of Texan 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.

38.1% of parents of K-12 students report that their children will be attending all in-person classes, 46.0% report that their children will be attending all remote classes, and 15.9% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. 78.4% of K-12 parents said that their children's school provided the option to choose between in-person, remote, or hybrid classes, compared to 71.9% of K-12 parents in the US overall. 57.9% of K-12 parents reported that their children's school has provided information about mental and physical health, 33.7% reported receiving information about racial justice, and 71.3% reported receiving information about food services.

When asked about various safety measures that schools could implement for in-person classes, around half of Texan K-12 parents 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 (62.6% would be more willing to send their children to school), followed by enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways (57.6%). Reducing the hours per day that a student is at school was the least effective in convincing parents; 49.0% of Texan parents reported being more willing to send their children to school.

K-12 parents in Texas do generally think schools can successfully implement these safety measures, at similar rates to parents in the US overall. Texan parents are most confident in schools' abilities to increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (71.7% of parents in TX say schools will likely be successful in implementing, compared to 74.6% of parents in the US overall), and least confident in schools' abilities to dismissing class if a student or teacher tests positive (65.9%, compared to 66.0% 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%, TX Margin of Error = 9.0%

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

76.1% of Texan parents of high school seniors report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall, compared to 73.2% of parents of high school seniors in the US overall; of those, 55.1% 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.” 64.9% of Texan parents of high school students report that their child has already taken the SAT or ACT, and another 23.4% of Texan parents said that their child will take the SAT or ACT by December 31, 2020, compared to 62.4% of parents in the US overall who report their child has already taken the SAT or ACT and another 17.8% who will take the tests by December 31. 83.9% of Texan parents of high school seniors say that their child has been in touch with a school guidance counselor to make plans for after graduation, compared to 75.3% of parents of high school seniors in the US.

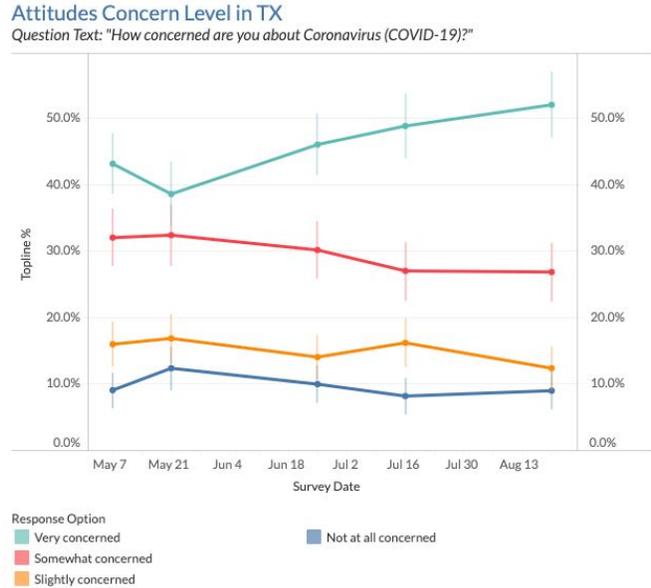
Following up with students who graduated from high school in the spring, 73.4% of Texan parents of recent high school graduates report that their child changed his or her postsecondary plans between

March 2020 and now, compared to 75.4% of parents of recent high school graduates in the US overall. Of those who changed plans, 53.5% switched to an option closer to home, 23.6% switched to a less expensive option, and 21.2% postponed their plans.

Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

52.0% of Texas adults say that they are “Very concerned” about Coronavirus (COVID-19), slightly up from 48.8% from our last wave of research in July. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has grown steadily since we began tracking in May.



When asked about specific concerns in relations to COVID-19, 63.0% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about the immediate illness, 61.7% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about transmitting COVID-19 to others, 54.3% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about losing work or income, and 66.5% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about long-term health impacts.

After an increase in the proportion of Texans who thought their state’s actions were insufficient over the month of June, reactions to the closures, restrictions and other steps that the state of Texas has taken have remained steady since late June. In this most recent wave (August 20-23), 40.9% of Texans report that they wish their state would do even more, 36.9% say the steps have been appropriate, 10.9% say that some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far, and 7.2% believe everyone is overreacting.

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?

* Each respondent was asked about their home state
 US Margin of Error = 1.3%, TX Margin of Error = 5.0%

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 Texans over time. 78.6% of Texans report “always” wearing a face mask or covering while in public, up from 67.0% in June. The proportion of Texans who always maintain social/physical distance has remained steady at 65.0%, as have those who stay home and limit trips to essentials (58.0%). There is a slight decrease in the proportion of Texans who report washing their hands frequently (68.3%, down from 71.9% in late June).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Texas. Questions were fielded August 20-23, 2020 (775 respondents).