

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 753 Washington respondents on August 20-23, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Washington Highlights

School Reopenings

32.8% of parents of K-12 students in Washington 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, 45.6% are enrolling in an online program, 27.1% are making plans to homeschool, and 24.9% are enrolling in private school. 84.0% of Washingtonian 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.

22.5% of parents of K-12 students in Washington report that their children will be attending all in-person classes, 59.3% report that their children will be attending all remote classes, and 18.2% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote. 58.3% of K-12 parents said that their children's school provided the option to choose between in-person, remote, or hybrid classes. 45.9% of K-12 Washingtonian parents reported that their children's school has provided information about mental and physical health, 35.5% reported receiving information about racial justice, and 49.5% reported receiving information about food services.

Most parents of K-12 students in Washington would be more willing to send their children to school if safety measures were taken, and a similar proportion think that their children's schools will be able to successfully implement those measures. For example, 62.2% of parents said they would be more willing to send their children to school if the school required sick students and staff to stay home, and 62.1% of parents think it is very likely that the school can implement this safety measure. Washingtonian parents and US parents alike were also more likely to send their children to school if the school provide mask and hand sanitizer to each student (58.1% in WA, 59.9% in US), increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (58.7% in WA, 55.6% in US), and enforce social distancing (57.7% in WA, 57.8% in US).

Most K-12 parents in Washington think schools can successfully implement safety measures, but at lower rates than parents in the US overall. Washingtonian parents are most confident in schools' abilities to increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (69.7% of parents in WA say schools will likely be successful in implementing, compared to 74.6% of parents in the US overall), and least confident in schools' abilities enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways (56.2%, compared to 64.0% 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%, WA Margin of Error = 8.2%

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

Postsecondary Education Transitions

71.7% of parents of high school seniors in Washington report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall; of those, 50.4% say they and their child feel “Very prepared” to navigate the college financial aid process, compared to 2.5% who feel “Not at all prepared.” 60.9% of parents of high school students report that their child has already taken the SAT or ACT, and another 16.6% of parents said that their child will take the SAT or ACT by December 31, 2020. 75.5% of 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, 75.7% of parents of recent high school graduates in Washington report that their child changed his or her postsecondary plans between March 2020 and now. Of those who changed plans, 41.1% switched to an option closer to home, 33.2% switched to a less expensive option, and 25.7% postponed their plans.

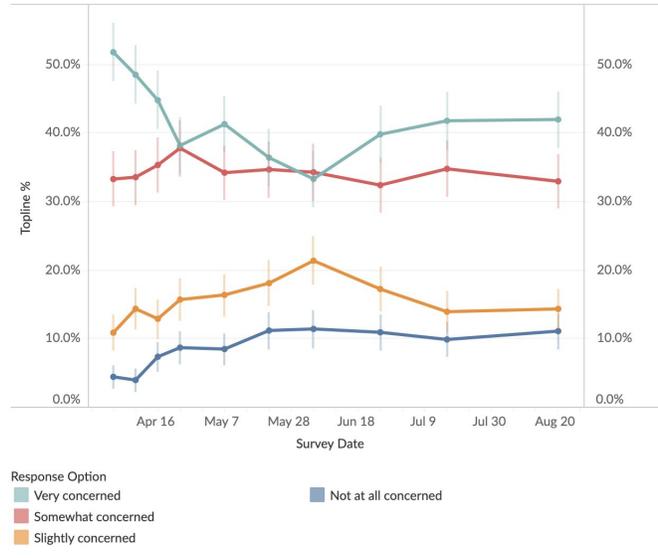
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Concern among Washingtonians has remained level in the past month; 41.9% of adults in Washington say that they are “Very concerned” about Coronavirus (COVID-19), compared to 41.7% from our last wave of research in July.

Attitudes Concern Level in WA

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



When asked about specific concerns in relations to COVID-19, 62.4% of Washingtonians are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about long-term health effects, 59.9% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about transmitting COVID-19 to others, 56.6% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about immediate illness and symptoms of COVID-19, and 49% are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about losing work or income while sick.

After an increase in the proportion of Washingtonians who thought their state’s actions were insufficient over the month of June and into July, reactions to the closures, restrictions and other steps that the state of Washington has taken have remained steady since mid July. In this most recent wave (August 20-23), 32.6% of Washingtonians report that they wish their state would do even more, 40.4% say the steps have been appropriate, 14.0% say that some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far, and 9.2% believe everyone is overreacting.

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?

* Each respondent was asked about their home state
 US Margin of Error = 1.3%, WA Margin of Error = 4.2%

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

There have been some shifts in protective measures among Washingtonians over time. 82.1% of Washingtonians report “always” wearing a face mask or covering while in public, up from 77.8% in July. However, fewer Washingtonians are staying home and limiting trips to essentials (54.1%, compared to 59.9% in July). The proportion of Washingtonians who always maintain social/physical distance has decreased slightly (64.8%, compared to 66.7% in July).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Washington. Questions were fielded August 20-23, 2020 (753 respondents).