

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 750 Ohio respondents on September 17-21, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Ohio Highlights

School Reopenings

As schools reopened around the country, we continued polling about parent and school actions. 39.1% of parents of K-12 students in Ohio say that they have disenrolled their children from the school they were originally supposed to attend this year in response to school reopening plans, on par with 40.4% of Ohio parents in mid-August. This is also on par with the 38.1% of parents across the US who say that they have disenrolled their children. Of those Ohio parents that disenrolled their children, 62.6% enrolled their children in an online program, 25.4% enrolled in a public school, and 25.3% made plans to homeschool. 75.6% of Ohio 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, slightly down from the 77.7% of Ohio parents who said in mid-August that they would re-enroll their children into the original school.

33.7% of Ohio parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 48.9% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 17.4% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

The majority of Ohio parents of K-12 students would be more willing to send their children to school if safety measures are taken (between 54.3% - 68.9% for each measure below), and slightly more think that their children's schools have been able to implement those measures at least somewhat successfully (between 62.6% - 79.5% for each measure). The safety measures that Ohio parents believe their children's schools have been the most successful in implementing are increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (79.5%), providing masks and hand sanitizer, requiring sick students and staff to stay home (77.2%) and enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways (74.7%). Those same safety measures that Ohio parents report as being successful align with those that they thought would be the most likely to be successful when asked in the last wave; though the enforcement of social distancing stands out in its relative success compared to parent's expectations.

Also of interest, 10.1% of Ohio parents say that they would be *less willing* to send their children to school if a measure to reduce the hours per day that a student is at school is implemented.

How successful has your children’s school been in implementing each of the following safety measures? (% of K-12 parents who responded “Very successful” or “Somewhat successful”)

US Margin of Error = 2.6%, OH Margin of Error = 7.9%

Safety Measure Implementation (% “Successful”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Provide masks and hand sanitizer to each student	78.9%	78.8%	91.5%	74.1%	83.2%	68.1%
Increase cleaning and disinfecting of facilities	80.5%	79.2%	89.0%	79.5%	84.3%	69.3%
Require sick students and staff to stay home	78.5%	79.2%	84.9%	77.2%	81.3%	67.3%
Avoid large gatherings (e.g. cafeteria lunch, assemblies)	77.5%	77.1%	87.7%	73.1%	78.6%	67.5%
Reduce the hours per day that a student is at school	70.0%	64.6%	85.2%	62.6%	68.0%	66.5%
Dismiss in-person class for 2-5 days if a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus	71.9%	70.7%	85.9%	66.5%	72.7%	63.5%
Enforce social distancing in classrooms and hallways	78.1%	77.0%	92.5%	74.7%	78.0%	67.1%

Postsecondary Education Transitions

We have also continued polling about postsecondary plans of high school seniors as they returned to school. 66.9% of Ohio parents of high school seniors report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall, compared to 65.6% of parents of high school seniors in mid-August; of those, 62.0% say they and their child feel ‘Very prepared’ to navigate the college financial aid process, while none say they feel ‘Not at all prepared.’ 85.2% of Ohio parents of high school seniors say that their child has been in touch with a school guidance counselor to make plans for after graduation, on par with 85.0% of parents of high school seniors in mid-August. This is slightly less than 78.8% of parents of high school seniors across the US.

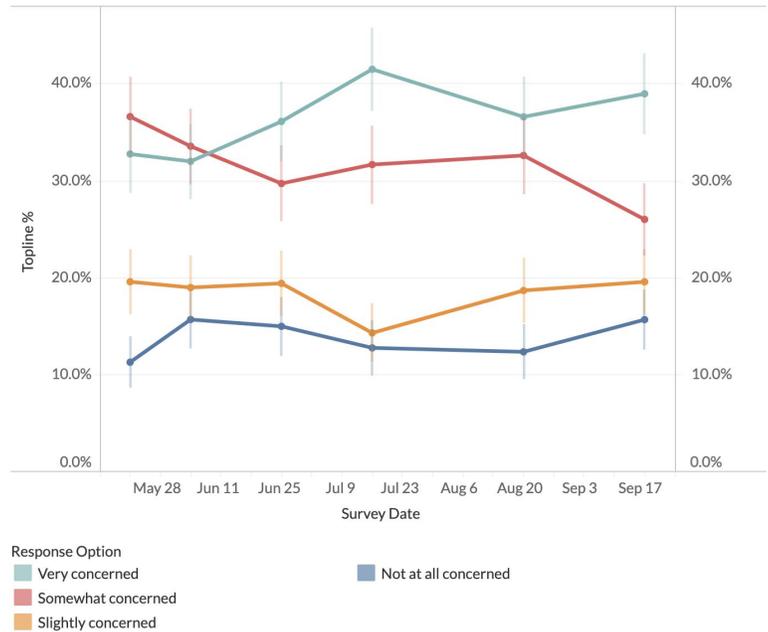
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 38.9% of Ohio adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), up slightly from 36.5% reported in our last wave of research in August. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ohio peaked in mid July, although fewer adults are reporting being 'Somewhat' concerned and more 'Not at all' concerned in the last wave.

Attitudes Concern Level in OH

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



45.5% of Ohio adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 48.0% who have maintained the same concern level and 6.2% who are less concerned than before. 43.9% of Ohio adults believe students being irresponsible and not following guidelines set by their college or university is the most important factor contributing toward the increase in COVID-19 cases around college campuses, followed by not knowing why college campuses are currently hotspots due to the spread of COVID-19 being unpredictable (13.9%), and the increased numbers are only because of more testing (13.7%).

These reactions differ somewhat from the reactions to surges in certain states last month, when Ohio adults most commonly said the most important factor is people living in those states not following guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks in public followed by state governments choosing to reopen too quickly.

In this wave, 38.9% of Ohio adults report feeling that the steps their state has taken to slow the spread of the virus are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis. However, more Ohio adults reported feeling like "everyone is overreacting" (14.3%) compared to mid-August (10.0%).

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 = 1.4%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

State Order Reaction (% response)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
I wish they would do even more	32.3%	41.5%	31.5%	28.1%	37.0%	26.1%
I think the steps are appropriate given the serious nature of the crisis	39.4%	35.2%	42.5%	38.9%	38.4%	46.4%
I think some of the steps are important, but overall they go too far	15.3%	12.9%	14.6%	14.3%	13.3%	16.1%
I think everyone is overreacting	9.0%	6.8%	6.5%	13.3%	7.2%	8.0%

Overall, Ohio adults continue to be largely in favor of preventative measures, although slightly less in favor than national levels. 73.8% agree that social/physical distancing and shelter-in-place orders have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and 79.8% agree that social/physical distancing is difficult by worth it, while only 40.5% say they want to get back to normal, even if it means risking another outbreak.

In terms of coping behaviors, Ohio adults have, on average, made time to relax on 4.2 days in the last week, spent time on social media on 4.1 days in the last week, and connected with family friends on 3.9 days in the last week. 80.8% of Ohio adults have shopped for groceries at least once a week, whereas just 5.1% have not left their home for grocery shopping in at least two weeks. This level of activity is up from activity in mid-May (74.7% of Ohio adults buying groceries outside at least once a week). 56.6% of Ohio adults have gone out for take-out at least once a week, whereas 18.8% have not left their home for take-out in at least two weeks. This level of activity is up from activity in mid-May (53.7% of Ohio adults leaving their home at least once a week for take-out).

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Ohio. Questions were fielded September 17-21, 2020 (750 respondents).