

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

## Texas Highlights

### School Reopenings

As schools reopened around the country, we continued polling about parent and school actions. 27.8% 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 39.0% of Texas parents in mid-August. This is also greater than the 38.1% of parents across the US who say that they have disenrolled their children. Of those Texas parents that disenrolled their children, 63.1% enrolled their child or children in an online program, 29.6% made plans to homeschool, and 28.3% enrolled in a public school. 67.6% of Texas 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, down from the 83.3% of Texas parents who said in mid-August that they would re-enroll their children into the original school.

22.1% of Texas parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 55.9% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 22.0% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

The majority of Texas parents of K-12 students would be more willing to send their children to school if safety measures are taken (between 56.4% - 65.2% for each measure), and even more think that their children's schools have been able to implement those measures at least somewhat successfully (between 68.0% - 84.3% for each measure). The safety measures that Texas parents believe their children's schools have been the most successful in implementing are increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities (84.3%), providing masks and hand sanitizer (83.2%), and requiring sick students and staff to stay home (81.3%). Those same safety measures that Texas 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.

Also of interest, 9.2% of Texas 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%, TX Margin of Error = 8.5%

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. 72.3% of Texas parents of high school seniors report that their child is planning to apply to four-year colleges this fall, compared to 76.1% of parents of high school seniors in mid-August; of those, 57.3% say they and their child feel ‘Very prepared’ to navigate the college financial aid process, while to none say they feel ‘Not at all prepared.’ 75.4% of Texas 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 83.9% 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.

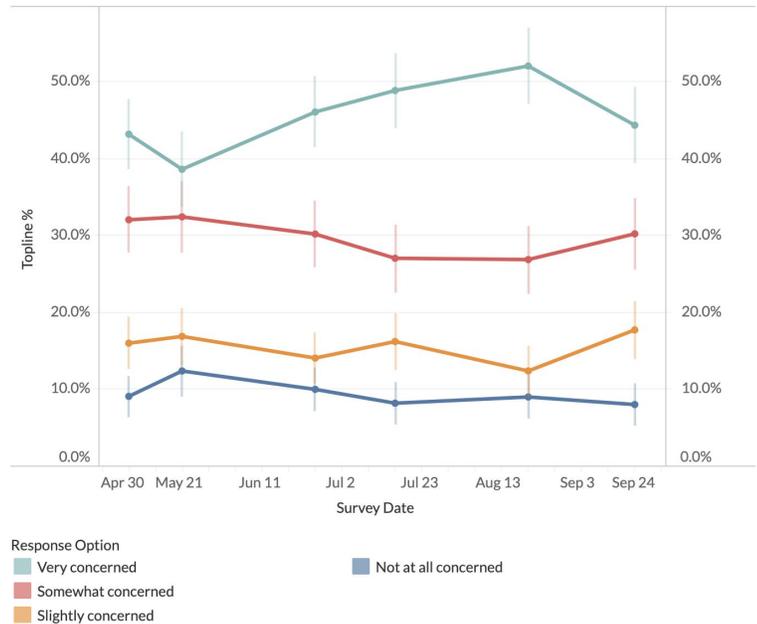
## Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 44.3% of Texas adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), slightly down from 52.0% reported in our last wave of research in August. More Texans reported being 'Somewhat' or 'Slightly' concerned about Coronavirus (COVID-19) while Texans being 'Not at all' concerned has remained fairly steady since early May.

#### Attitudes Concern Level in TX

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



54.8% of Texas adults are more concerned than before due to COVID-19 cases increasing in some areas, particularly around college campuses, compared to 40.1% who have maintained the same concern level and 4.8% who are less concerned than before. 40.6% of Texas 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 the spread of COVID-19 has been unpredictable (16.5%) and college universities not putting into place necessary precautions for students to return to campus (13.7%).

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

In this wave, 38.4% of Texas adults report feeling that the steps their state has taken to slow the spread of the virus are appropriate, slightly more than Texans who wish their state would do more (37.0%). This is a change from the last wave in which the the most popular option was wishing their state would do more to slow the spread of the virus.

**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%, TX Margin of Error = 5.0%

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, Texas adults continue to be largely in favor of preventative measures. 82.5% agree that social/physical distancing and shelter-in-place orders have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19 and 84.5% agree that social/physical distancing is difficult by worth it, while only 40.1% say they want to get back to normal, even if it means risking another outbreak.

In terms of coping behaviors, Texas adults have, on average, spent time on social media on 4.0 days in the last week, made time to relax on 3.8 days in the last week, and connected with family friends on 3.7 days in the last week. 79.3% of Texas adults have shopped for groceries at least once a week, whereas 6.7% have not left their home for grocery shopping in at least two weeks. This level of activity is higher than activity in early-May (69.9% of Texas adults buying groceries outside at least once a week). 57.0% of Texas adults have gone out for take-out at least once a week, whereas 22.6% have not left their home for take-out in at least two weeks. This level of activity is on par with from activity in early-May (53.7% of Texas 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 Texas. Questions were fielded September 17-21, 2020 (750 respondents).