

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

Wave #13 (December 9-15, 2020) - Florida Quicktakes

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 799 Florida respondents on December 9-15, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Florida Highlights

Holiday Plans

As the December holidays approach, 50.7% of Florida adults are 'Very' concerned that the upcoming holidays will cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in their state, followed by 25.8% 'somewhat' concerned, 12.5% 'slightly' concerned, and 10.9% 'not at all' concerned. 15.0% of Florida adults plan to travel, while 79.3% do not plan to travel, and 5.7% are not sure yet. 41.1% of Florida adults are planning to celebrate with friends or family members who live outside of their home, while 49.2% do not plan to do so, and 9.7% are not sure yet. 62.9% of Florida adults say their holiday gatherings will be smaller than last year, while 33.7% say they will be the same size, and 3.5% say they will be larger.

COVID-19 Vaccine

61.1% of Florida adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 27.9% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 11.1% are not sure. Compared to late October, vaccination intent is up slightly among Florida adults (56.6% vs. 61.1% saying 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated).

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 44.0% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 40.8% said that they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, 33.7% said they're concerned the vaccine hasn't been tested enough on people like them. 41.9% of Florida adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if they knew it would help protect themselves from getting COVID-19, 35.9% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA, and 34.9% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed clinical trials. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 40.1% of Florida adults say being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 37.6% selected being able to resume all the activities they can't do now, and 34.7% selected helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic back on their feet sooner (respondents were asked to select all that apply).

Which of the following would make you more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been proven safe and tested to be effective? Select all that apply.

US Margin of Error = 1.5%, FL Margin of Error = 4.5%

Motivator (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
If it was recommended by my local health department	19.9%	17.6%	22.7%	20.3%	16.3%	24.7%
If it was recommended by local government officials	11.4%	9.4%	13.6%	11.9%	10.9%	14.3%
If it was recommended by federal government officials	13.9%	14.1%	17.2%	12.8%	14.3%	16.8%
If it has been out for a few months and seems okay	32.2%	28.2%	33.2%	32.8%	30.2%	33.2%
If it has been approved by the FDA (Food & Drug Administration)	38.8%	35.9%	33.5%	38.4%	35.9%	41.2%
If it has passed clinical trials	37.6%	34.9%	35.5%	35.7%	34.0%	41.4%
If it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review	35.8%	31.9%	35.4%	33.7%	34.2%	42.5%
If I knew it would help protect me from getting COVID-19	39.0%	41.9%	40.5%	41.7%	35.2%	40.2%
If I knew that it was part of helping end the pandemic	32.3%	29.4%	30.1%	33.6%	27.5%	37.5%

Government Priorities

When asked about government budget priorities, 62.3% of Florida adults said they would increase federal spending for health care, 56.4% would increase federal spending for Medicare, and 55.4% would increase federal spending for coronavirus. For state budgets, 60.7% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for health care, 59.6% would increase spending for coronavirus and 51.4% would increase spending for public welfare.

46.8% of Florida adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 26.9% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 50.8% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 33.0% of Florida adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

43.5% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 44.9% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 11.5% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 96.3% of Florida K-12 parents said their children's school has been 'very' or 'somewhat' successful in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, followed by 96.2% reported success in providing masks and hand sanitizer to each student and 93.5% reported success in enforcing social distancing in classrooms and hallways.

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 70.3% of Florida adults said it is 'extremely' or 'very important' that students with special needs or learning disabilities are prioritized highest for a return to in-person instruction, followed by middle and high school students (64.9%) and low income students (64.4%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 54.7% of Florida adults saying it is 'extremely' or 'very important.'

Some people think states and school districts should prioritize certain groups of students for in-person instruction as schools reopen. For each group of students, please indicate how important you think it is for states and districts to prioritize them highest for a return to in-person instruction. (% of adults who responded “Extremely important” or “Very important”)

US Margin of Error = 1.4%, FL Margin of Error = 4.7%

Student Group (% “Important for in-person”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Pre-K and kindergarten students	58.6%	58.7%	66.8%	56.2%	58.5%	58.5%
Elementary school students	62.3%	64.0%	68.6%	59.9%	60.0%	63.2%
Middle and high school students	60.9%	64.9%	64.8%	58.3%	60.7%	58.7%
College and university students	50.5%	54.7%	58.2%	44.8%	53.2%	43.8%
Students with special needs or learning disabilities	68.7%	70.3%	72.2%	67.7%	70.7%	68.7%
Students who are learning to speak English	54.6%	55.0%	62.3%	51.8%	55.4%	54.6%
Low income students (or students experiencing poverty)	65.3%	64.4%	70.2%	62.9%	65.1%	66.9%
Students who are close to graduating	58.4%	59.7%	68.4%	55.5%	59.0%	54.9%
Students who are in their first year at a school	55.0%	55.3%	59.5%	54.0%	55.5%	53.3%

COVID-19 Protective Measures

79.4% of Florida adults report 'always' wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 58.4% 'always' staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 64.8% 'always' staying 6 feet apart from others, 33.0% 'always' gathering with small groups only when socializing, and 37.1% 'always' gathering with small groups only when socializing, continuing to wear masks and remain six feet apart during group activities.

Of those who report only 'sometimes,' 'rarely,' or 'never' wearing a face mask, 30.4% say they don't do so because it's not necessary if they are social distancing and/or outside, followed by 23.1% who say they don't do so because it's uncomfortable and 19.9% who say they don't do so because they forget to bring it with them. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 48.5% say they don't do so because some of the places they go don't have enough room to stay 6 feet apart, followed by 32.5% who say they don't do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don't and 24.4% who say they don't do so because if they're outside and/or wearing a mask, it's not necessary to stay physically distanced. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 39.1% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 26.2% who say they don't do so because if they are wearing masks and standing six feet apart and/or are outside, it's not necessary to gather in small groups and 23.8% who say they don't do so because gatherings are spontaneous, so it's not easy to control the number of people.

When asked what would make them more likely to follow recommended COVID-19 behaviors, 53.7% of Florida adults selected if they believed it would help to end the pandemic as soon as possible, 24.1% of Florida adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in their community and 18.3% of Florida adults selected if the recommendations were required or mandated everywhere they went.

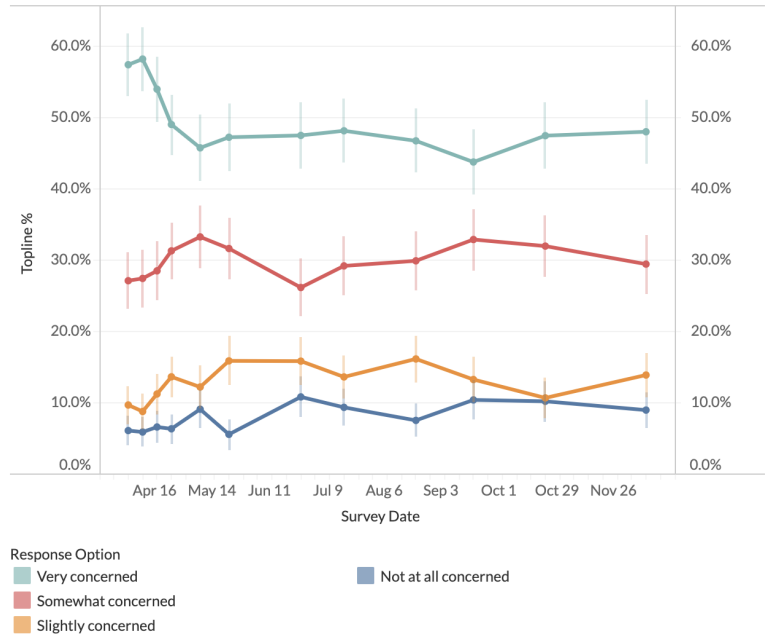
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 47.9% of Florida adults say that they are ‘Very concerned’ about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 47.4% from our last wave of research at the end of October. Concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Florida since early May.

Attitudes Concern Level in FL

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



When it comes to information sources about COVID-19, their physician is the most ‘strongly’ trusted among Florida adults (44.8%), followed by federal public health officials (35.1%), and the World Health Organization (34.5%). The most frequently used information sources by Florida adults are cable news networks (49.2% used in the last 7 days), Broadcast news (42.8%), and Social media (38.5%). 25.7% of Florida adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 38.8% believe there is misinformation and it’s hard to know what’s real, 21.3% believe there is some misinformation but it’s easy to know what’s fake, and 14.3% say they can’t trust all or most of the information available about COVID-19.

Thinking about the information you learn about COVID-19 and the pandemic, which of the following most closely describes how you feel?

US Margin of Error = 1.4%, FL Margin of Error = 4.7%

Statement (% selected)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
All or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy.	26.0%	25.7%	37.9%	23.0%	24.5%	24.8%
There is misinformation about COVID-19, and it's hard for me to know what's real.	36.6%	38.8%	33.3%	40.2%	37.4%	35.1%
There is some misinformation about COVID-19, but it's easy to know what's fake.	21.6%	21.3%	17.5%	18.8%	21.5%	26.6%
I can't trust all or most of the information available about COVID-19.	15.7%	14.3%	11.3%	18.0%	16.6%	13.5%

Methodology: Responses were gathered through online web panels, quality screened, and weighted to accurately reflect the entire adult population of Florida. Questions were fielded December 9-15, 2020 (799 respondents).