

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 853 Ohio respondents on December 9-15, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Ohio Highlights

Holiday Plans

As the December holidays approach, 46.3% of Ohio adults are 'Very' concerned that the upcoming holidays will cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in their state, followed by 25.6% 'somewhat' concerned, 13.9% 'slightly' concerned, and 14.3% 'not at all' concerned. 12.9% of Ohio adults plan to travel, while 82.7% do not plan to travel, and 4.4% are not sure yet. 37.3% of Ohio adults are planning to celebrate with friends or family members who live outside of their home, while 53.2% do not plan to do so, and 9.5% are not sure yet. 72.7% of Ohio adults say their holiday gatherings will be smaller than last year, while 24.5% say they will be the same size, and 2.8% say they will be larger.

COVID-19 Vaccine

59.3% of Ohio adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 31.5% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 9.1% are not sure. Vaccination intent is up slightly among Ohio adults compared to late October (54.5% vs. 59.3% saying 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated).

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 47.5% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 38.7% said that it is because they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, and 28.0% said because they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 41.7% of Ohio 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, 38.4% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA, and 35.7% 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, 37.0% of Ohio adults say being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 36.6% selected helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic back on their feet sooner, and 33.8% selected that they would be able to resume all the activities they can't do now. (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%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

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, 59.4% of Ohio adults said they would increase federal spending for health care, 57.3% would increase federal spending for Veterans benefits, and 56.5% would increase federal spending for coronavirus. For state budgets, 58.9% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for health care, 58.8% would increase spending for coronavirus, and 47.6% would increase spending for K-12 education.

45.7% of Ohio adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 29.9% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 47.6% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 30.5% of Ohio adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

20.1% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 61.6% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 18.3% report a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 92.8% of Ohio K-12 parents said their children's school has been 'very' or 'somewhat' successful in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities and requiring sick students and staff to stay home, followed by 91.4% reported success in avoiding large gatherings.

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 58.4% of Ohio 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 low income students (55.2%) and students who are in their first year at a school (54.8%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 43.7% of Ohio 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%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

Student Group (% “Important for in-person”)	US	FL	NY	OH	TX	WA
Pre-K and kindergarten students	60.3%	60.5%	64.9%	54.6%	61.9%	58.8%
Elementary school students	60.9%	62.2%	62.7%	54.7%	60.7%	59.8%
Middle and high school students	57.5%	59.9%	61.0%	49.9%	58.0%	55.6%
College and university students	48.4%	51.4%	53.8%	43.7%	50.7%	43.0%
Students with special needs or learning disabilities	65.1%	67.0%	65.8%	58.4%	61.6%	68.0%
Students who are learning to speak English	52.7%	55.8%	55.0%	46.5%	54.9%	53.1%
Low income students (or students experiencing poverty)	61.9%	65.5%	62.1%	55.2%	63.2%	63.0%
Students who are close to graduating	55.8%	58.9%	58.2%	51.3%	55.2%	54.1%
Students who are in their first year at a school	54.2%	54.6%	56.5%	54.8%	52.0%	51.4%

COVID-19 Protective Measures

81.5% of Ohio adults report 'always' wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 51.7% 'always' staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 66.8% 'always' staying 6 feet apart from others, 29.1% 'always' gathering with small groups only, and 34.3% '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' wear a face mask, 31.5% say they don't do so because it's not necessary if they're social distancing and/or outside, followed by 24.6% who say they don't do so because they don't really trust the people who are telling us it is necessary to wear a mask and 18.9% who say they don't do so because they forgot to bring it with them. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 34.3% say they don't do so because others don't stay socially distant, followed by 31.0% who say they don't do so because some of the places they go don't have enough room to stay 6 feet apart and 17.2% who say they don't do so because they don't trust the people who are telling us it is necessary. Of those who report not always gathering with small groups only when socializing, 29.8% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 20.8% who say they don't do so because of another reason not listed and 19.8% who say they don't do so because it's not necessary to gather in small groups if they are wearing masks, standing six feet apart, and/or are outside.

When asked what would make them more likely to follow recommended COVID-19 behaviors, 61.4% of Ohio adults selected if they believed it would help end the pandemic as soon as possible, 27.7% of Ohio adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in their community, and 25.1% of Ohio adults selected if they believed it would mean they were not responsible for getting someone else sick.

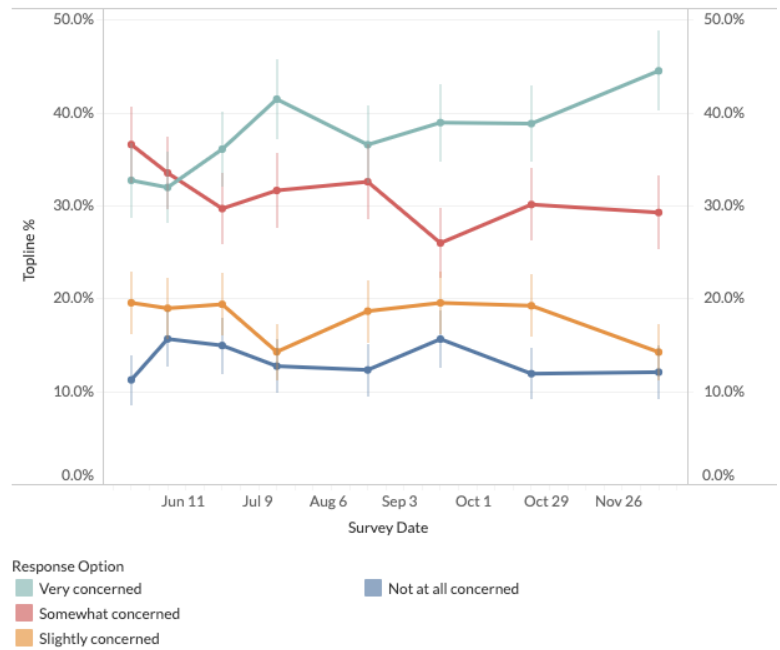
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 44.5% of Ohio adults say that they are 'Very concerned' about Coronavirus (COVID-19), up from 38.8% from our last wave of research in October. Concern for Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been steadily rising since May.

Attitudes Concern Level in OH

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



When it comes to information sources about COVID-19, their physicians are the most 'strongly' trusted among Ohio adults (55.1%), followed by federal public health officials (34.5%), and the World Health Organization (27.0%). The most frequently used information sources by Ohio adults are broadcast news (42.7% used in the last 7 days), social media (36.7%), and cable news networks (36.7%). 23.0% of Ohio adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 40.2% believe there is misinformation and it's hard to know what's real, 18.8% believe there is some misinformation but it's easy to know what's fake, and 18.0% 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%, OH Margin of Error = 4.3%

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 Ohio. Questions were fielded December 9-15, 2020 (853 respondents).