

Gates Foundation COVID-19 Tracker Analysis

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

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 821 Texas respondents on December 9-15, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this wave's research.

Texas Highlights

Holiday Plans

As the December holidays approach, 46.0% of Texas adults are 'very' concerned that the upcoming holidays will cause an increase in COVID-19 cases in their state, followed by 31.5% 'somewhat' concerned, 11.6% 'slightly' concerned, and 10.9% 'not at all' concerned. 17.0% of Texas adults plan to travel, while 75.9% do not plan to travel, and 7.1% are not sure yet. 38.9% of Texas adults are planning to celebrate with friends or family members who live outside of their home, while 52.4% do not plan to do so, and 8.8% are not sure yet. 66.0% of Texas adults say their holiday gatherings will be smaller than last year, while 30.8% say they will be the same size, and 3.2% say they will be larger.

COVID-19 Vaccine

63.8% of Texas adults say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated for COVID-19 when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available, while 28.9% say they are 'very' or 'somewhat' unlikely, and 7.3% are not sure. Compared to late October, vaccination intent is up slightly among Texas adults (58.9% vs. 63.8% saying 'very' or 'somewhat' likely to get vaccinated).

Of those who are unlikely or unsure whether they will get vaccinated, 44.1% said it is because they don't trust that the vaccine will really be safe, 36.0% said it is because they are worried the vaccine will have side effects, and 31.2% said it is because they are concerned it has not been tested enough on people like them. 35.9% of Texas adults say they would be more likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine if it has been approved by the FDA, 35.2% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if they knew it would help protect themselves from getting COVID-19 and 34.2% said they would be more likely to get the vaccine if it has passed an independent, scientific safety and efficacy review. When it comes to reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine, 36.2% of Texas adults say being more comfortable leaving their home to do everyday errands is a compelling reason, while 36.0% selected helping to get businesses and people whose finances have been negatively impacted by the pandemic back on their feet sooner, and 32.7% 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%, TX Margin of Error = 4.8%

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, 54.0% of Texas adults said they would increase federal spending for coronavirus, 52.0% would increase federal spending for health care, and 46.7% would increase federal spending for assistance to the needy in the U.S. For state budgets, 62.3% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for health care, 54.9% would increase spending for coronavirus, and 52.9% would increase spending for K-12 education.

39.8% of Texas adults said that they would increase spending for K-12 education in the federal government budget, and 32.4% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the federal budget. Similarly, 54.9% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for K-12 education in their state's government budget, and 52.9% of Texas adults said they would increase spending for postsecondary education in the state budget.

School Reopenings

34.0% of parents of K-12 students report that their children are attending all in-person classes, 46.2% report that their children are attending all remote classes, and 19.8% reporting a hybrid of in-person and remote.

As for implementation of safety measures in K-12 schools, 95.5% of Texas K-12 parents said their children's school has been 'very' or 'somewhat successful in increasing cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, followed by 92.9% reported success in avoiding large gatherings and 89.9% reported success in both requiring sick students and staff to stay home and providing masks and hand sanitizer to each student.

In terms of prioritizing groups of students for in-person instruction, 70.7% of Texas 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 (65.1%) and middle and high school students (60.7%). College and university students were given the lowest priority in a return to in-person instruction, with 53.2% of Texas 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%, TX Margin of Error = 5.4%

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

82.0% of Texas adults report 'always' wearing a cloth face covering or face mask while in public, 56.4% 'always' staying home and limited trips to only essentials, 67.4% 'always' staying 6 feet apart from others, 31.2% 'always' gathering with small groups only, and 37.4% '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, 27.0% say they don't do so because it's uncomfortable, followed by 26.8% who say they don't do so because if they are social distancing and/or outside, it's not necessary and 20.5% who say they don't do so because they really trust the people who are telling them it is necessary to wear a mask. Of those who report not always staying 6 feet apart from others, 47.8% say they don't do so because some of the places they go don't enough room to stay 6 feet apart, followed by 30.7% who say they don't do so because when they try to stay socially distanced, others don't and 25.6% who say they don't do so because if they are 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, 35.4% say they don't do so because they trust that their friends and family have taken proper precautions, followed by 26.8% who say they don't do so because if they are wearing masks, standing six feet apart and/or outside, it's not necessary to gather in small groups, and 22.7% 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, 54.8% of Texas adults selected if they believed it would help to end the pandemic as soon as possible, 28.5% of Texas adults selected if they believed it was a way to protect the most vulnerable in their community and 20.3% of Texas adults selected if they believed it would mean they were not responsible for getting someone else sick.

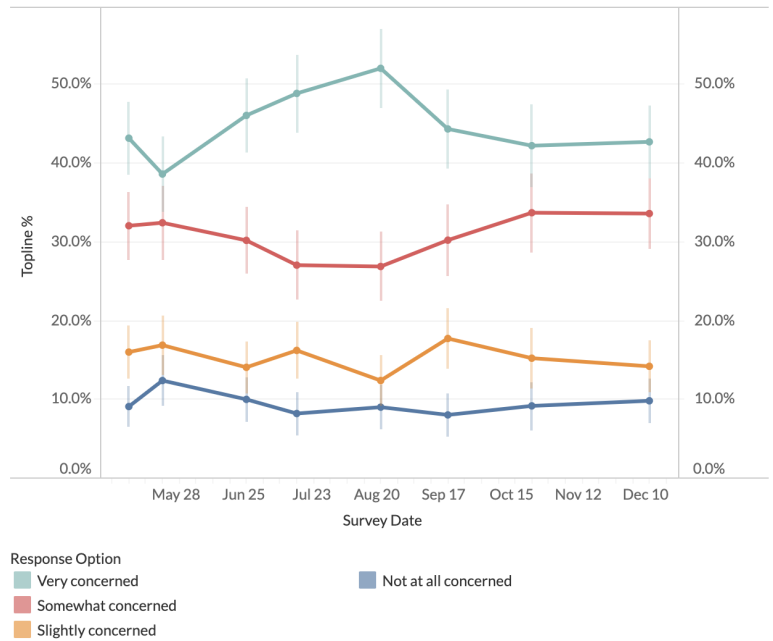
Attitudes toward Coronavirus

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

Overall, 42.6% of Texas adults say that they are ‘Very concerned’ about Coronavirus (COVID-19), on par with 42.1% from our last wave of research in late October. After a summer peak, concern about Coronavirus (COVID-19) has remained fairly steady in Texas.

Attitudes Concern Level in TX

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 Texas adults (47.0%), followed by the World Health Organization (29.9%), and federal public health officials (29.7%). The most frequently used information sources by Texas adults are social media (46.5% used in the last 7 days), cable news networks (38.2%), and broadcast news (37.4%). 24.5% of Texas adults believe that all or most of the information available about COVID-19 is trustworthy, while 37.4% believe there is misinformation and it’s hard to know what’s real, 21.5% believe there is some misinformation but it’s easy to know what’s fake, and 16.6% 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%, TX Margin of Error = 5.4%

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 Texas. Questions were fielded December 9-15, 2020 (821 respondents).