

New York City COVID-19 Survey week 2

March 24 2020

29% OF NYC HOUSEHOLDS REPORT AT LEAST ONE PERSON LOST THEIR JOB

The demographic sectors hit the hardest by job loss:

41%

of the **Latinx/Hispanic** community

34%

of those making <\$50,000 in **annual income**

32%

of those who do not have a **college degree**

CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy Tracking Survey March 20-22, 2020, MM, n=1000, +/-3%

The demographic sectors hit hardest by job loss. Credit: CUNY SPH

Nearly three in ten New York City residents (29%) report that either they or someone in their household has lost their job as a result of coronavirus over the last two weeks. In addition, 80% of NYC residents said they experienced reduced ability to get the food they need, and two-thirds (66%) reported a loss of social connection in the past week,

suggesting that compelled isolation is taking a toll on residents. The findings are part of the second week of data from a city and statewide CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy (CUNY SPH) tracking survey conducted March 20-22.

Key sub-group findings on job loss in New York City include:

The city's Latinx/Hispanic community appeared to be hit hardest, with two in five [respondents](#) (41%) saying either they or a household member lost their job in the last two weeks. In comparison, less than a quarter (24%) of Caucasian and Asian respondents, and 15% of African American respondents reported household job loss.

Just over a quarter (26%) of English-speaking respondents who took the survey reported household job loss while two in five (39%) of Spanish-speaking respondents reported household job loss.

New York City households with earnings under \$50,000 say they were hardest hit, with 34% reporting losing a job, compared to 28% of respondents with earnings between \$50,000-\$100,000 and 16% of those who reported they earned over \$100,000.

42% of people with families of two or more children reported household job losses compared to 27% of those with one child or less.

Middle-age respondents appear to have been hit hardest, with one-third (34%) of 30-59 year-old respondents reporting job loss compared to less than a quarter (24%) of 18-29 year-olds and 23% of those over 60.

Male respondents in New York City reported job loss slightly more frequently (30%) than females (27%).

Additional key findings:

It appears that most New Yorkers are doing their part to cut down on sharing inaccurate information about [coronavirus](#) on social media. In our earlier survey (March 13-15) 31% of all respondents reported sharing information on social media without knowing if it was accurate. This week (March 20-22) that number was reduced by half to 15%. The sharpest improvement was among those over 60 (only 7% of whom reported posting unreliable information compared to 29% the previous week). Among respondents age 30-59 the numbers dropped from 33% to 15% between weeks one and two. Among 18-29 year-old respondents the trend was much less pronounced compared to other age groups, with a drop from 28% to 25%.

80% of NYC residents reported diminished ability to obtain the food they need, and almost a quarter (22%) say the impact has been "a lot."

Respondents over age 60 have largely adopted [preventive measures](#), even though two-thirds (68%) of them perceive their risk of illness from coronavirus as low or very low. This is significantly different from the rest of the population where 60% think their risk is low or very low.

Two-thirds of New York City residents over the age of 60 (67%) said they stayed home instead of going to work in the last week, while four in five (82%) avoided interacting with people outside of their households, and more than half (53%) avoided hugging or shaking hands. However, younger respondents adopted preventive behaviors to an even greater degree, especially with regard to staying home from work and avoiding physical contact. These findings suggest that increased risk communication about [physical contact](#) should be targeted at older New Yorkers, while younger residents should be more widely informed about the risks of interacting with people outside their homes.

When asked where they get their information on coronavirus, over half (56%) of respondents over age 60 cited [television news](#), and half of them (52%) cited traditional broadcast television news (ABC, NBC, CBS) as their preferred source, suggesting that news messages and public service advertising about coronavirus prevention should use these traditional channels to reach older citizens. Younger residents say they go directly to CDC (30%), and WHO (24%) sites, but also rely on television news (18%) more than social media (10%) as their most trusted sources of coronavirus information.

Provided by CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy

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