

Latino Center of the Midlands COVID-19 SURVEY RESULTS

September 2020

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Overview

The Latino Center of the Midlands (LCM) conducted a survey to assess how the current COVID-19 pandemic had affected various aspects of client and community members' lives. Besides the demographic information, the survey captured information about the impact that the pandemic has had on survey participants' well-being, including their physical and mental health, and economic challenges related to the pandemic.

Methods

The survey was completed by LCM staff with clients and shared online through the LCM social media and reshared by community partners and clients between September 1-12, 2020.

Results

There were a total of 311 responses. LCM clients represented 77.6% of the total responses, and client respondents were almost evenly split between Family and Community Wellbeing (FCW), Pathways to Success (P2S), and Adult Basic Education (ABE).

Of the total respondents, most were female (73.4%) and had a median age of 36 years old (SD 14.1). Most respondents spoke Spanish as their primary language (82.6%), and a smaller percentage noted English was their primary language (17.4%) (See table 1). Another 4% of respondents spoke languages such as Qanjob'al, French, Garifuna, and Portuguese.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of participants

	Description	n (%)
Gender (n=306)	Male	80 (26.6)
	Female	221 (73.4)
Age (n=291)	<25	73 (25.1)
	26-40	106 (36.4)
	41-55	90 (30.9)
	>56	22 (7.6)
Primary language (n=304)	Spanish	251 (82.6)
	English	53 (17.4)
LCM client (n=304)	Yes	236 (77.6)
	Family and Community Wellbeing (FCW)	85 (36.5)
	Pathways to Success (P2S)	76 (32.6)
	Adult Basic Education	72 (30.9)
	No	68 (22.4)

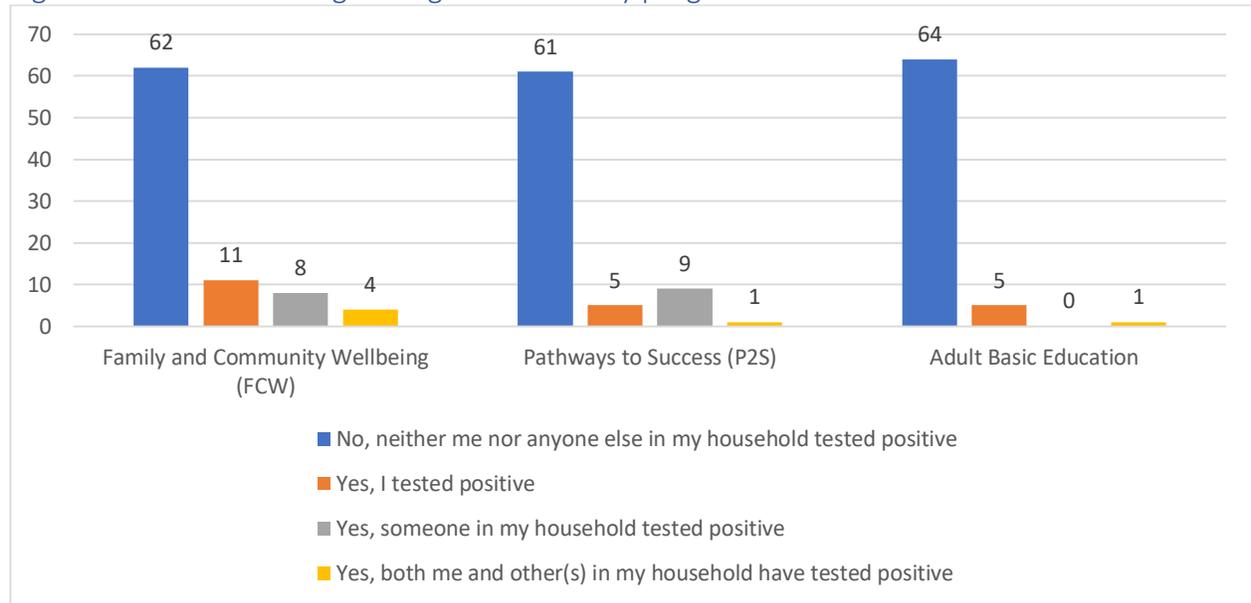
Less than half of respondents had personally been tested for COVID-19 (38.7%). From those that had been tested for COVID-19, 19.7% of them tested positive, 16.2% indicated that someone in their household tested positive, and 10.3% reported that they and someone else in their household had tested positive for COVID-19 (See Table 2).

Table 2. COVID-19 testing among participants

Description	n (%)
Personally tested for COVID-19 (n=305)	
Yes	118 (38.7)
I tested positive.	23 (19.7)
Someone in my household tested positive.	19 (16.2)
Both me and other(s) in my household have tested positive.	12 (10.3)
No	187 (61.3)
COVID-19 test experience (n=305)	
I tested positive.	25 (8.2)
Someone in my household tested positive.	26 (8.5)
Both me and other(s) in my household have tested positive.	13 (4.3)
Neither me nor anyone else in my household tested positive.	241 (79.0)

Most LCM clients had not tested positive for COVID-19. However, of those that had tested positive, 11 were part of the FCW program, and both P2S and ABE had 5 participants reporting testing positive (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. COVID-19 testing among LCM clients by program



Participants were asked if they were worried about specific circumstances associated with COVID-19 and were provided with five response options: “not at all worried,” “a little worried,” “somewhat worried,” “worried,” or “extremely worried.” Table 3 highlights respondents who had any concerns related to getting sick with COVID-19, a family member becoming sick from COVID-19, losing their jobs, arranging childcare, understanding COVID-19 safety precautions in their child’s school, and their children’s virtual/remote learning program at school. Figure 2 shows in detail to what extent participants felt worried about each of those items. The vast majority of participants were worried about having a family member get sick from COVID-19.

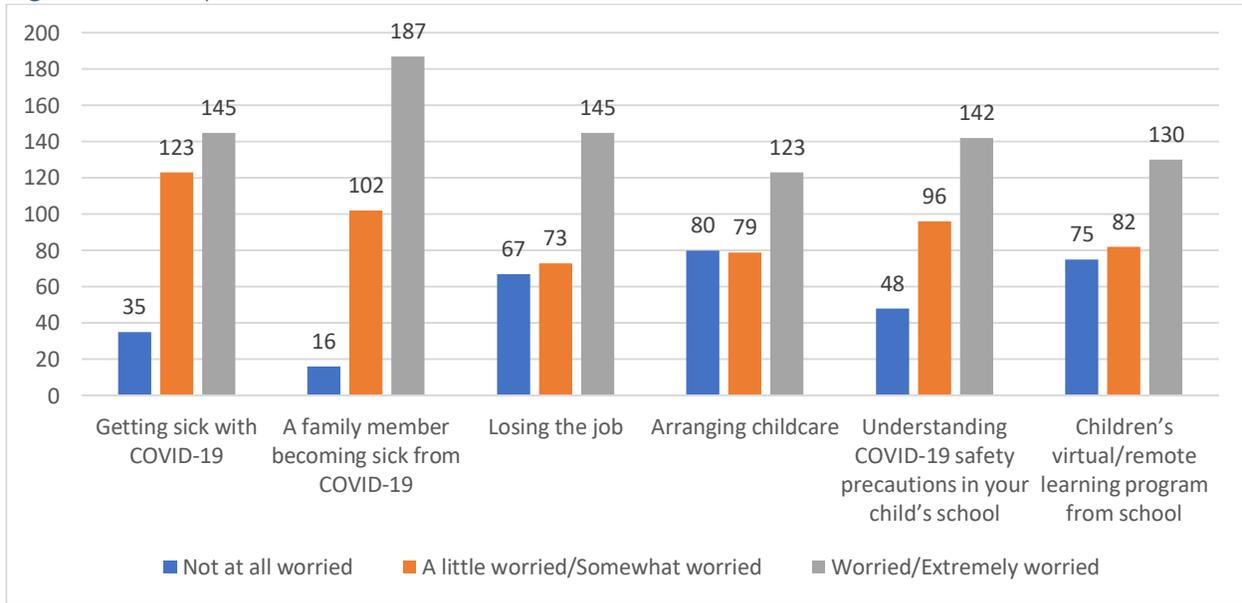
Table 3. Participants' concerns and challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Description	n (%)
Any worries about...	
Getting sick with COVID-19 (n=303)	268 (88.4)
A family member becoming sick from COVID-19 (n=305)	289 (94.8)
Losing current job (n=285)	218 (76.5)
Arranging childcare (n=282)	202 (71.6)
Understanding COVID-19 safety precautions in child's school (n=286)	238 (83.2)
Children's virtual/remote learning program at school (n=287)	212 (73.9)
Financial hardships due COVID-19 (n=287)	
Not able to pay the rent or utilities	75 (24.1)
Not enough money to purchase food	47 (15.1)
Had to apply for public benefits	50 (16.1)
Filed for unemployment	28 (9.0)
No financial hardships	136 (43.7)
Change in access to food due to COVID-19 (n=299)	
Have had enough food, but difficulty getting to the store or finding items	70 (23.4)
Have occasionally been without enough food or good quality foods	57 (19.1)
Have frequently been without enough food	24 (8.0)
No change in access to food	148 (49.5)
Employment status changes due to COVID-19 (n=289)	
Hours have been cut	73 (25.3)
Lost job	32 (11.1)
Had to quit job to take care of people who depend on me	17 (5.9)
Had to reduce my hours to take care of people who depend on me	16 (5.5)
Got a new job	17 (5.9)
Other	51 (17.6)
It has not changed	83 (28.7)

The pandemic has created economic hardships for some families. Over a quarter of respondents (25.3%) indicated that their hours at work had been cut and 11.1% reported that they had lost their jobs. Nearly a quarter of respondents (24.1%) noted that they were not able to pay their rent or utilities, and 16.1% had to apply for public benefits such as SNAP and WIC.

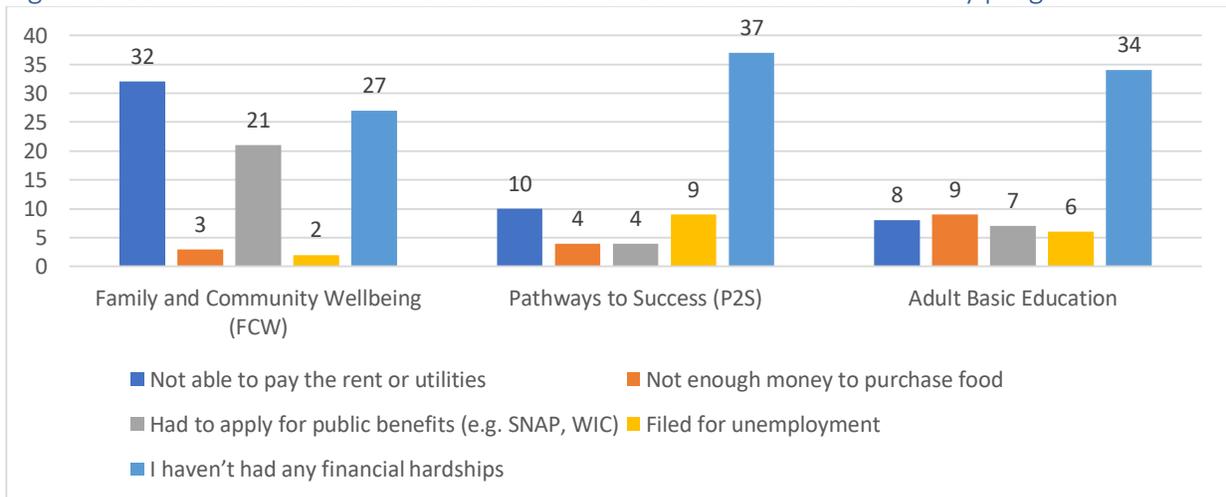
Although almost half of respondents indicated that their access to food had not changed because COVID-19, 23.4% noted that they had enough food but had difficulty getting to the store or finding items. Additionally, 19.1% of respondents indicated that they had occasionally been without enough food or good quality foods, and 8% reported to have frequently been without enough food.

Figure 2. Participants' concerns related to COVID-19's effect on their lives



In Figure 3, information about LCM clients' concerns about events related to the pandemic are displayed by program area. Noticeably, the main struggles for those participating in the FCW program was not being able to pay the rent (32) followed by having to apply for public benefits (21). More P2S and ABE clients had not faced any financial hardships.

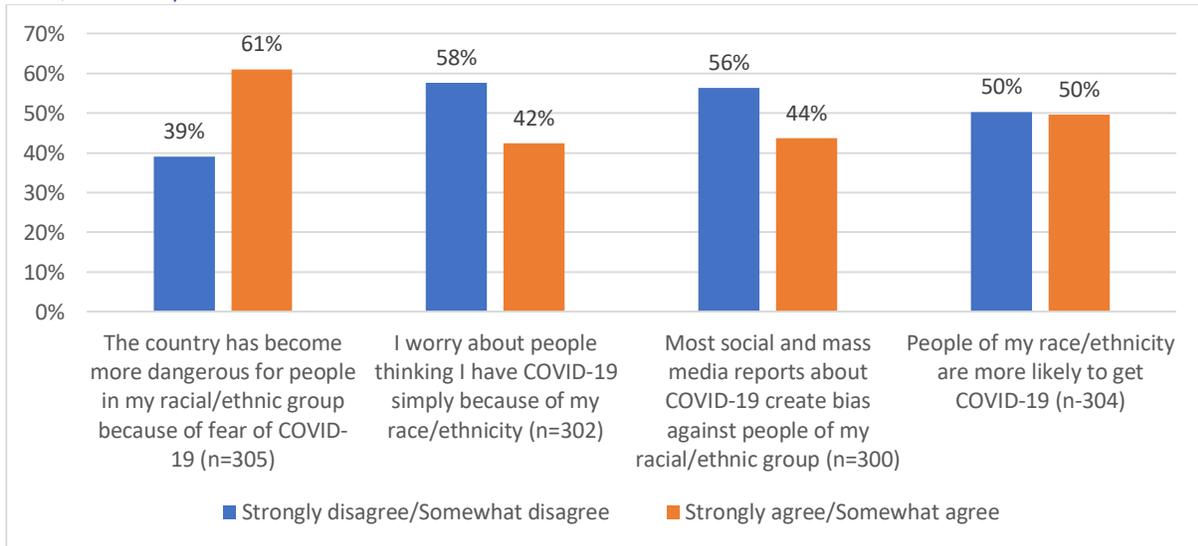
Figure 3. LCM clients' concerns related to COVID-19's effect on their lives by program



Participants were asked about their beliefs regarding how COVID-19 had affected people of their race/ethnicity. More than half of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that the country had become more dangerous for people of their racial/ethnic group because of fear of COVID-19. Half of respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that people of their race/ethnicity were more likely to

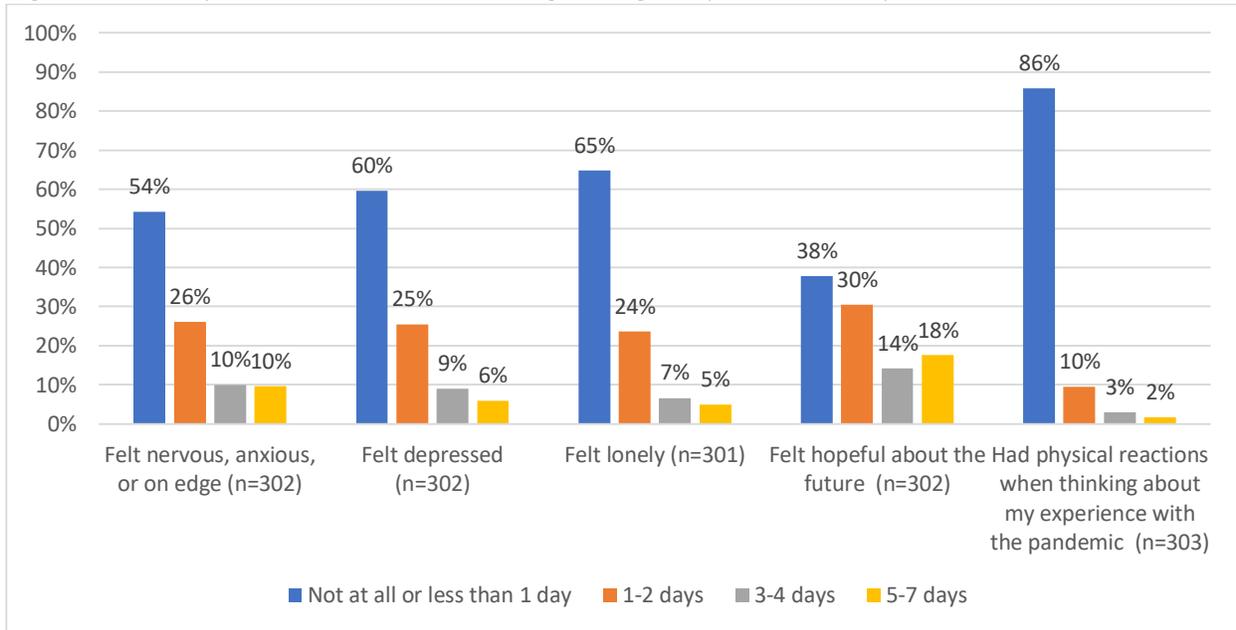
get the COVID-19. However, most respondents were not concerned about people thinking they had the virus simply because of their race/ethnicity (58%) and did not believe that most social and mass media reports about COVID-19 had created a bias against people of their racial/ethnic group (56%) (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. Participants' beliefs about how COVID-19 had affected people because of their race/ethnicity



Finally, participants were asked how they felt during the past seven days. As shown in Figure 5, more than half of respondents did not experience feelings such as anxiety, depression, loneliness, or experienced those feelings less than one day. Most participants did not experience physical reactions, such as sweating, trouble breathing, nausea, or a pounding heart, when thinking about their experience with the current pandemic, or experienced those reactions less than one day. Interestingly, more than half of the participants felt hopeful about the future.

Figure 5. Participants' emotional well-being during the past seven days



In exploring emotional well-being among LCM clients who reported having some reactions at least one day during the past seven days by program, there were some differences. Most FCW participants felt hopeful about the future; however, about half felt depressed or nervous, anxious, or on the edge at least one day during the past seven days. Among P2S participants, about half reported feeling lonely, depressed, and nervous, anxious, or on the edge at least one day during the past seven days (see Figure 6).

Figure 6. Emotional well-being among LCM clients reporting reactions at least 1 day during the past week by program

