

## **Executive Summary Memo**

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On behalf of Somos Healthcare, Latino Decisions implemented a nationwide poll of Latino households, April 7-12, 2020 to gauge impact and reactions to COVID19. It is the largest, and most comprehensive survey of Latinos conducted on the health and economic crisis our country faces.

Latinos are focused on the crisis. Nationally, 94% of Latinos report following the details of the crisis somewhat or very closely. And the pandemic is, unquestionably, the number one issue for Latino adults, with 62% stating responding to COVID19 is a top issue they want the Federal Government to address, followed by lowering the cost of health care and addressing wages and unemployment.

### **I. Health implications**

Nationwide, 22% of all Latino adults KNOW someone who is ill due to coronavirus, and in the New York/New Jersey area, almost 50% report a friend or family member has become ill. What's more, over a quarter (26%) know someone who is ill and wants to be tested but cannot, including 35% of Latinos in NY/NJ. Looking ahead, 59% report they are very concerned that someone in their family will become seriously ill from coronavirus.

- 66% have had difficulty finding necessities such as medicine, food and household supplies
- 57% had to cancel or delay medical appointments
- 20% have lost their employer-provided health insurance
- 63% are worried someone in their household will lose their health insurance
- 86% are somewhat or very concerned local hospitals will not have enough supplies to treat the pandemic

Latinos are at extraordinary risk, with 36% of Latinos still working outside the home, many in critical or “essential” jobs in produce, food and restaurant, or health care sectors. More than a third of those working outside the home report feeling “unsafe” in their work environment because they not been given proper masks, gloves or other PPE.

### **II. Economic implications**

When asked what their number one concern was about the coronavirus, the top answer given was help with wages and income. The economic impact on Latinos is severe: with 35% reporting having lost a job and 46% having hours/wages reduced, and 29% reporting that a small business they own has either substantially reduced revenue or gone out of business altogether. Combined, it is a whopping 65% of Latino households who have faced at least one of these: job loss, hours/wages cut, or lost their self-employment.

Further, the economic impacts is already having significant ramifications on housing:  
43% of Latino adults report that they will have trouble making rent

And while many Latinos, like all Americans are now doing their best to work from home, between 70%-80% say that their job is NOT helping pay for internet access or for extra technology like computers or tablets needed to do their job from home.

Looking ahead, Latinos are extremely worried about economic hardships  
70% are concerned someone in their household will lose their job  
76% fear that they won't be able to pay for rent or other basic expenses as the crisis continues  
73% are concerned they will lose their savings and retirement money

The economic crisis has exposed that millions of Latino households are one emergency away from financial despair. One-third report they have already lost a significant portion of their savings and retirement. When asked how much money they had in a savings account or saved for emergencies, fully half of all Latino households said they had less than \$500 saved away.

Despite the hardships, Latinos do NOT support rushing back to work. Only 19% of Latino adults favor accelerating the nation's return to work, whereas 81% favor remaining doing "whatever we can" to prevent the spread "even if it means more weeks of staying at home."

### III. Schooling and Education Impacts

Schooling from home presents a unique challenge for a predominantly working-class Latinos. Among Latino adults, 46% nationally have school-aged children in the house (52% in hard hit NY/NJ), and half of those have **more than one child** attempting schooling from home. This challenge is complicated by the ongoing digital divide—37% of Latino households have either no broadband internet connectivity or connect only through their phone. Among Latino families now home-schooling, 32% don't have enough computers for their children to use, 35% have faced technical problems connecting. Worse, the burden is now on parents to assist and serve as instructor, yet 50% of Latino parents report having difficulty helping their kids with unfamiliar material and 58% are having problems communicating with teachers.

When asked if schools are providing free technology or loaning computers or tablets for home use, just 11% of Latino households said their child's school is providing technology

**Poll details:** On behalf of Somos Healthcare Latino Decisions implemented a national survey of Latino adults from April 7-12, 2020. Overall 1,200 Latinos were interviewed for a margin of error of +/- 2.8%. The survey was available in English or Spanish, at the discretion of each respondent and 41% completed in Spanish and 59% in English. Respondents were randomly chosen from household lists and screened to people who self-reported they are Hispanic or Latino. Data was collected by a blend of cell phone or landline phone with live caller, and through the Internet for self-administered surveys. Final data were compared to the 2018 Census ACS demographic profile of Latino adults and post-stratification weights were included to balance gender, age, education, and geography so the resulting data matched the national demographic profile of Latino adults.