

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN ST. LOUIS

Results Snapshot: Community Survey

October 2021

Background and Methods. The Immigrant Service Providers Network (ISPN) and Washington University researchers at the Institute for Public Health co-designed a study to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted immigrant communities and immigrant service providers in the broader St. Louis region. Two surveys (community + provider) were administered electronically. ISPN members distributed the community survey to their clients, who then further distributed it to their own communities. The community survey was open from March to July 2021.

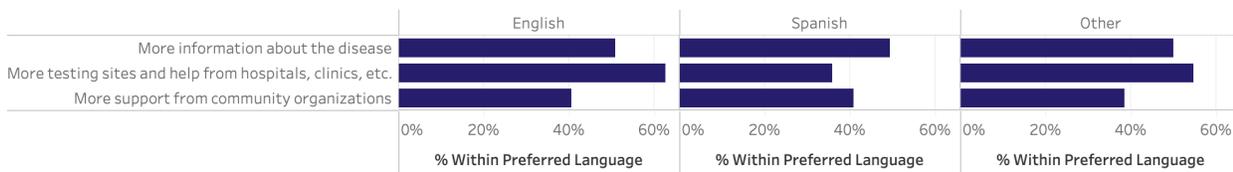
Community Survey Results. A total of 276 community responses were recorded. The sample of immigrants living in St. Louis were predominantly **female (70%), Spanish-speaking (69%)** and **originally from Mexico, Honduras, or Guatemala (65%)**. Additional key features of the sample include:

- Ten percent speak a language other than English or Spanish.
- Over half reported an annual income of less than \$25,000.
- Sixty percent were 30-49 years old.
- Just under 40% were employed in the housekeeping and cleaning industry.
- Over half of participants declined to share their immigration status, but of those who did 44% reported being undocumented.

Experiences and Impacts of the Pandemic. While one-third of participants reported being unemployed at the time of the survey, nearly double that number (57%) reported losing their job at some point due to the pandemic. The proportion who lost their job at some point was higher among just women (62%), and even higher for those who reported being Hispanic or Latinx (72%). The vast majority of those who were unemployed when they took the survey were female (90%).

Fifty-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that immigrants were at a higher risk for getting Covid-19, while only 11% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Thirty-nine percent of community respondents were usually able to shelter in place while 12% were rarely or never able to do so. For those who spoke languages other than English or Spanish, only 29% were usually able to shelter in place. Twenty-seven percent of all respondents said that they struggled to obtain enough information about Covid-19 because their preferred language was not English.

Top three pandemic supports by preferred language



When asked what they wished they had at the start of the pandemic, the top selection was “more information about the disease” followed by “more support from community organizations” and then “more testing sites and help from hospitals, clinics, etc.” Those who spoke English and those who spoke languages other than English or Spanish had slightly greater preferences for more testing sites than for more information about the disease.

COVID-19 Vaccines and Access to Care. Eighty percent (80%) of respondents knew where to access medical care if they or someone in their family developed Covid-19 symptoms or an infection, but when restricted to those who did not speak English or Spanish it was just 68%. Sixty-one percent of respondents had received the Covid-19 vaccine already, and 47% of those who were unvaccinated were likely or very likely to get one as soon as it was available to them. When limited to just those who speak a language other than English and Spanish, just 51% indicated they had already received a Covid-19 vaccine, and just 33% were likely or very likely to get one as soon as it was available. Twenty-eight percent of responses (n = 435) indicated they didn’t have any concerns about the Covid-19 vaccines, but worries about side effects and health impacts from the vaccine was the top selected concern (26%).