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Understanding The Impact of COVID-19 in Diverse Populations

Georgia-data analysis by LCF Georgia based on a national initiative led by New American Economy.

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About the National Study

New American Economy (NAE), wanted to better understand why COVID-19 caused the most unequal recession in modern history, why the pandemic had such disproportionately severe economic and health impacts on BIPOC and immigrant communities, and how municipalities and their partners are adapting to meet the needs of their most vulnerable residents. NAE with funding from the Walmart Foundation, worked directly with local officials and community partners in five cities (Atlanta, Tulsa, Denver, Louisville and Austin) to: (i) conduct quantitative and qualitative survey of more than 2,100 predominantly BIPOC and immigrant residents about the impact of COVID-19 on their well-being and sense of belonging; (ii) document best practices at the intersection of inclusion and emergency management, as cities adapted to the realities of COVID-19; and (iii) survey cities across the country about their approaches to meeting the needs of vulnerable communities, including BIPOC, immigrant, and limited English proficient (LEP) residents.

City governments worked with community organizations to collect paper and online surveys using various mechanisms that included social media, in-person, texting and phone banking outreach.

You can access the national report [HERE](#).

About the Georgia-Specific Report

LCF Georgia and the Atlanta Mayor's Office of Immigrants Affairs expanded the scope of the data collection from a city to a state-wide effort. Additionally, intentional efforts were made to include translations and outreach to communities that spoke languages other than English and Spanish with particular emphasis on Portuguese and Mayan languages.

While the national reports focused on providing lessons and guidance for how cities can equitably respond to COVID-19 and future crises, the Georgia-specific analysis centers on comparing different ways in which the crisis was experienced by immigrants, children of immigrants, non-immigrants and Metro vs. Outside Metro Atlanta.

Data Collection & Methodology

An anonymous survey was used to collect observations. No personal information was collected that might be used to personally identify participants. In some efforts, gift cards were used as incentives for participants.

Over 900 surveys were collected across Georgia from January to May 2021 from individuals 18 years old and older. Data was structured for analysis and zip codes were used to determine Metro or outside Metro locations for the answers.

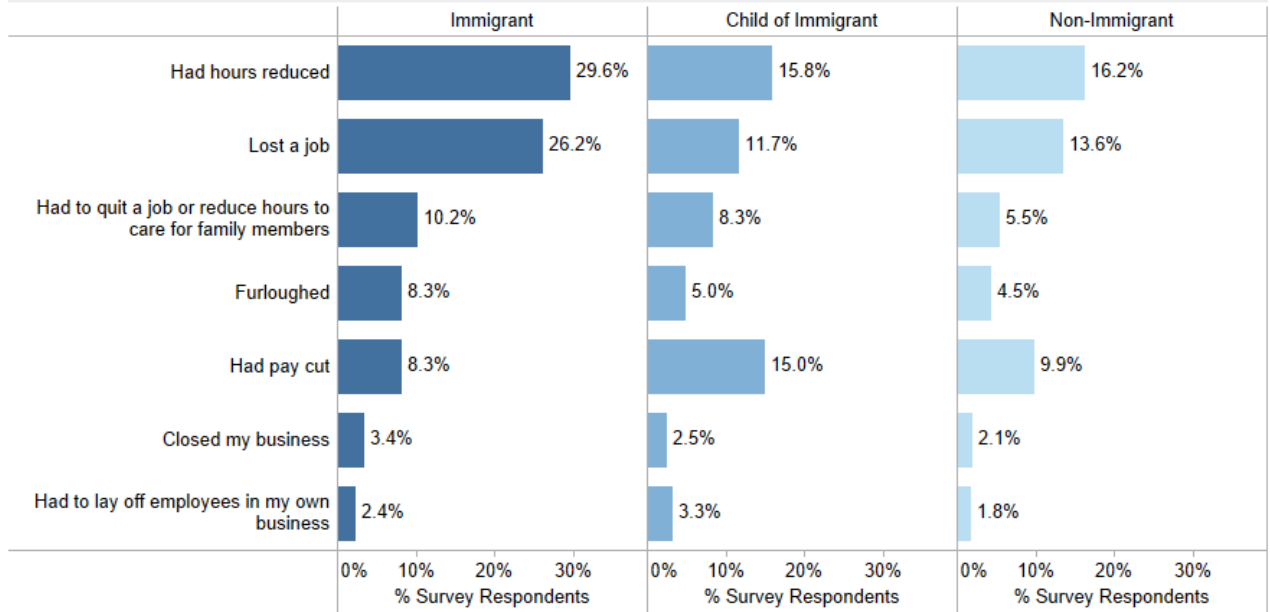
Metro Atlanta zip codes are those belonging to the 10-count area as determined by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC).

Key Findings

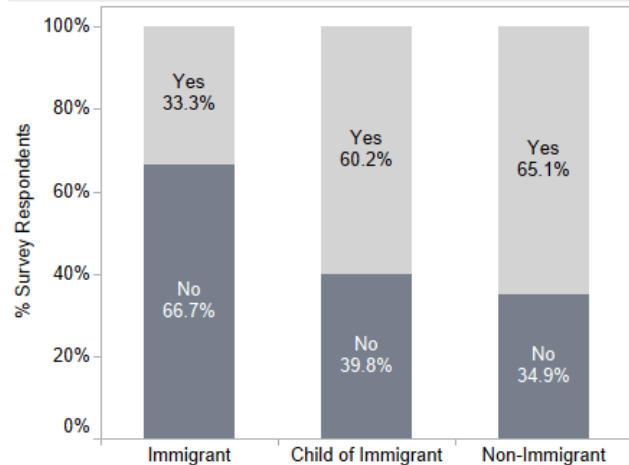
- Immigrants were disproportionately affected as being laid off, having hours reduced in their jobs or closing businesses.
- 56.2% of respondents living outside Metro Atlanta either lost a job or had their hours reduced.
- Two-thirds of immigrants who answered the survey do not have access to work remotely and do not have access to sick leave (66.7% and 72.1% respectively).
- The vast majority of people living outside of Metro Atlanta do not have access to work remotely or paid sick leave (79.5% and 88.9% respectively).
- Both immigrants and non-immigrants report financial concerns as the overwhelming reason behind their decision to not get health care when needed (60% and 57.1%). The numbers do not vary much when comparing Metro and outside Metro Atlanta (60%).
- Over 1/4 of immigrants worry their children are behind academically. 16.1% for non-immigrants.
- Only a third of immigrants report having paid rent or mortgage on time compared to 69% of children of immigrants or non-immigrants (68.4% and 69.1% respectively).
- Over half of all individuals report having concerns about paying utilities and bills (immigrants) and debt (children of immigrants and non-immigrants) in the next month.
- 41% of immigrants report having concerns about getting enough food for the next month.
- Over 60% of respondents from outside of Metro Atlanta report reducing expenses to be able to meet housing expenses.
- Over 40% of all outside of Metro residents (immigrants and non-immigrants) report having concerns about paying bills, rent or mortgage, debts and healthcare expenses in the next month.

Employment Effects by Immigration Type

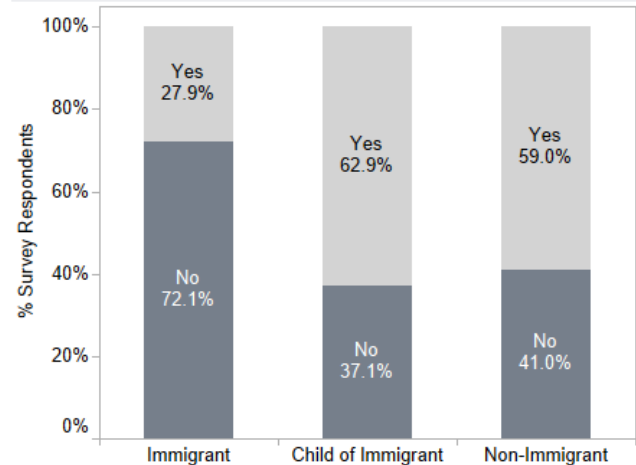
Q. How has the pandemic affected your employment? / (n=810)



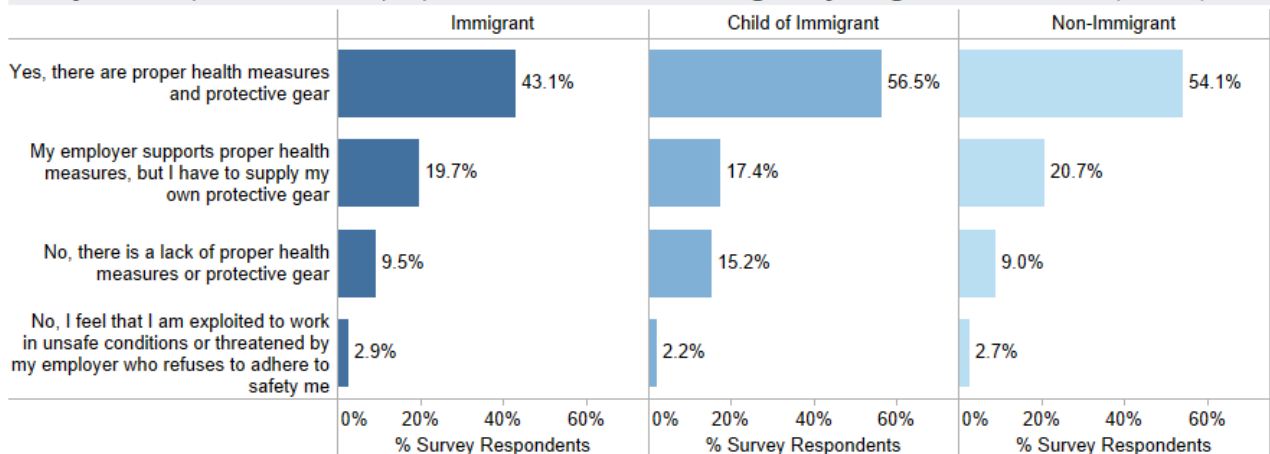
Q. Are you allowed to work remotely? / (n=679)



Q. Do you have access to paid sick leave? (n=759)

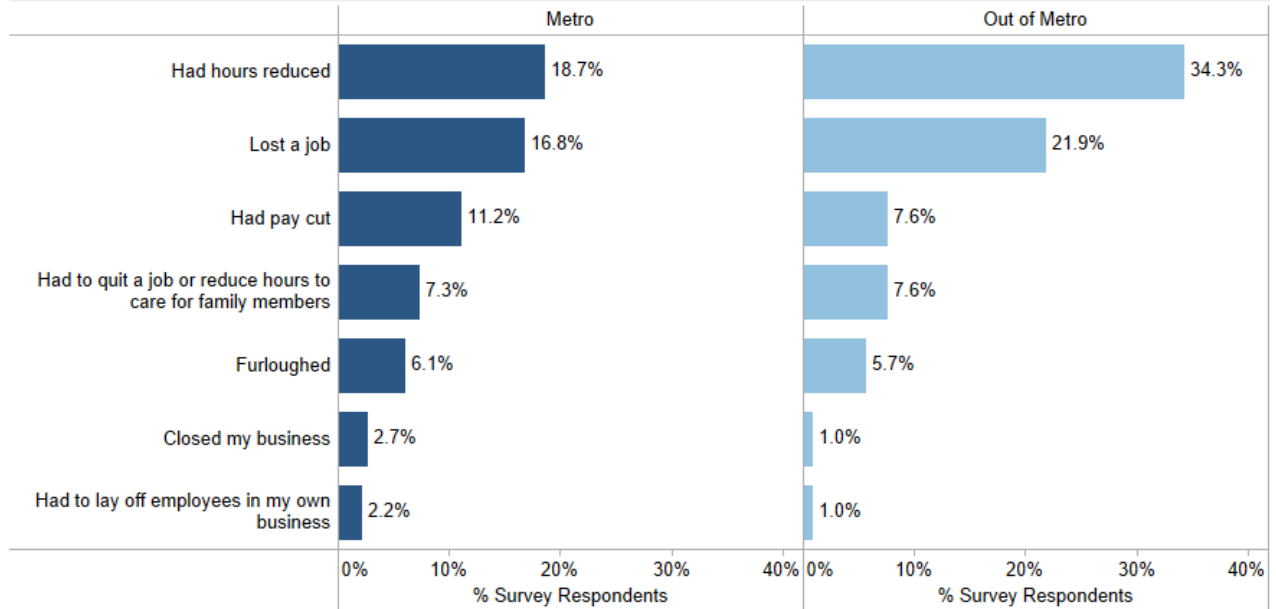


Q. At your workplace, are there proper health measures to safeguard you against COVID-19? (n=350)

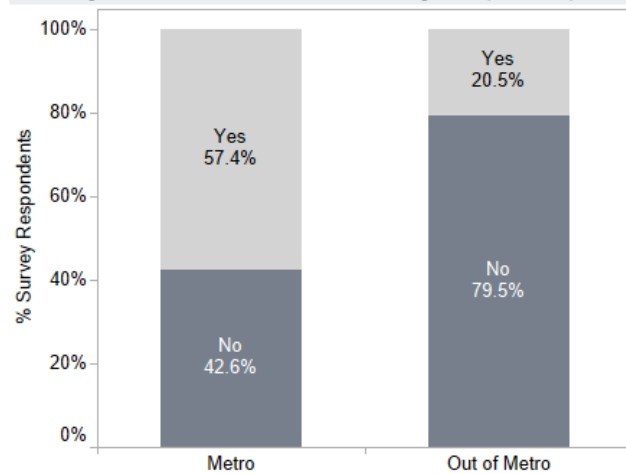


Employment Effects by Region

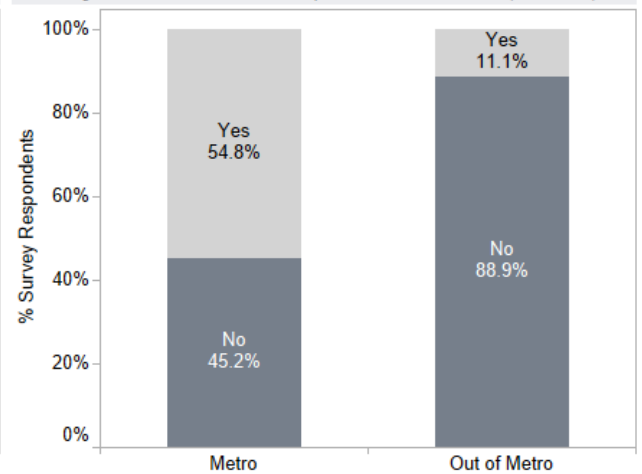
Q. How has the pandemic affected your employment or business? / (n=810)



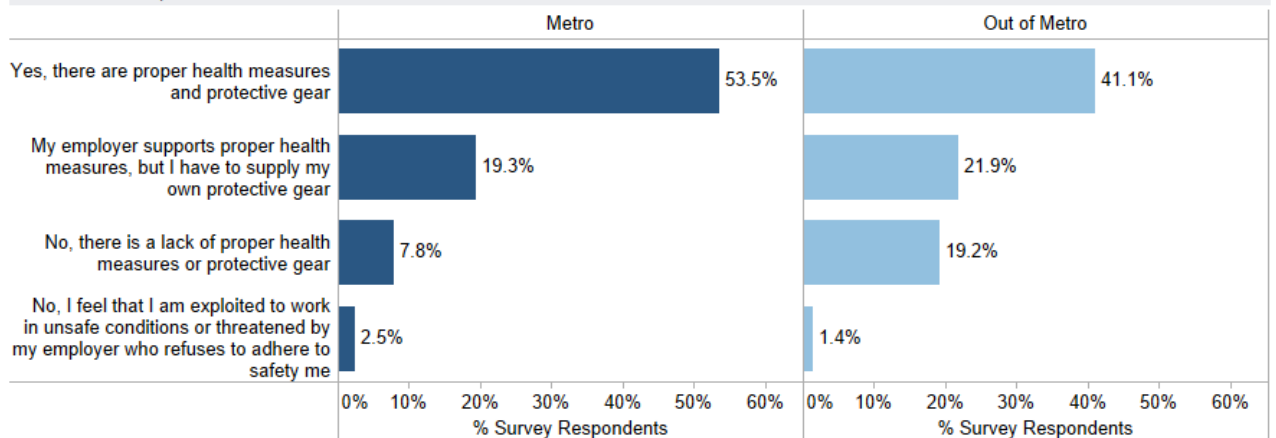
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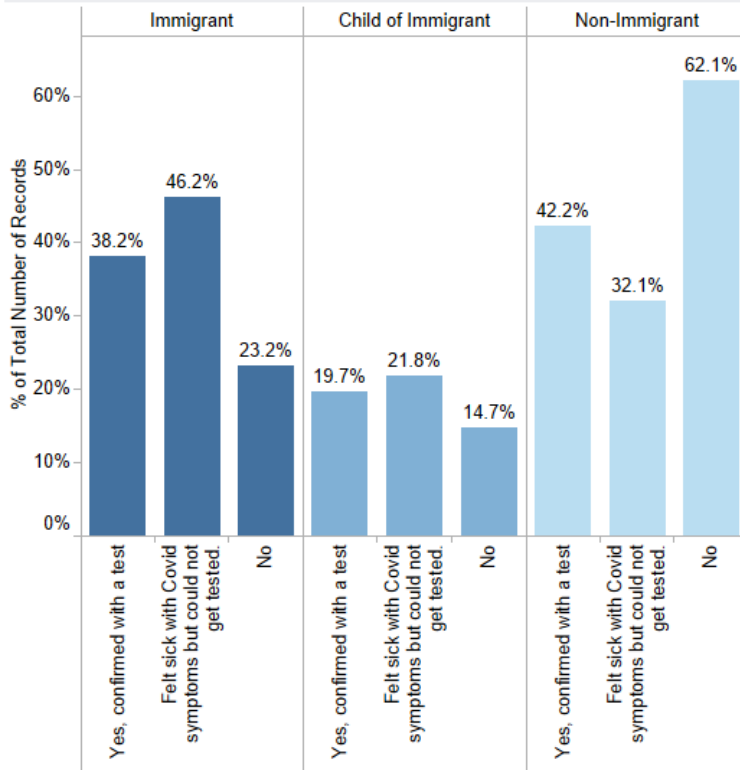


Q. Are there proper health measures to safeguard you against COVID-19 at work? (Metro n=243 / Out of Metro n = 73)

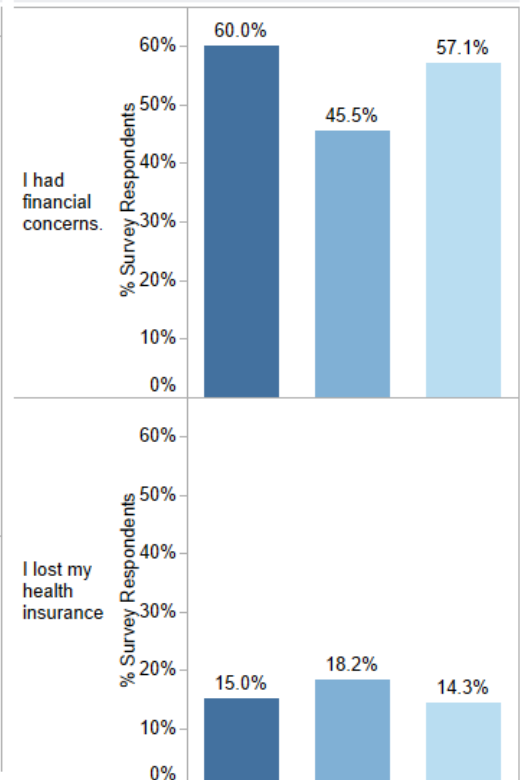


Health Effects by Immigration Type

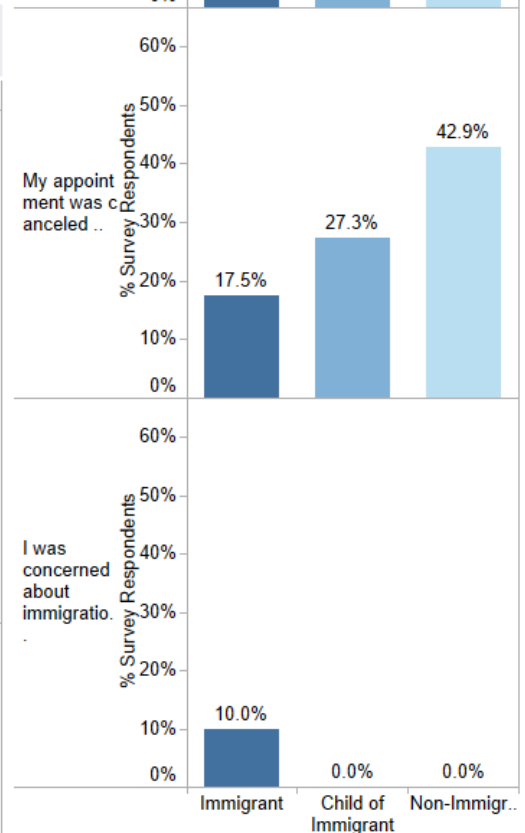
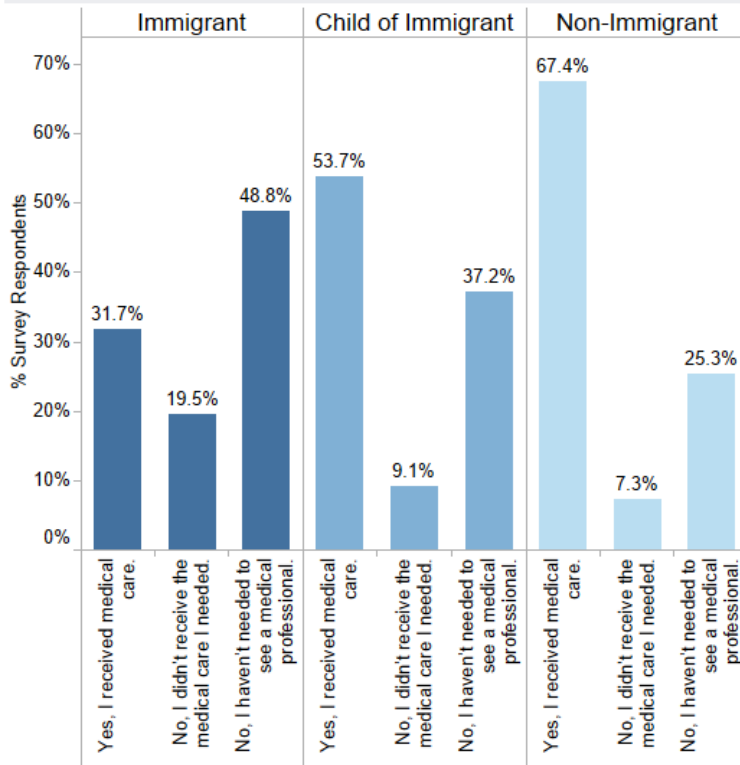
Q. Have you or someone in your household had COVID-19? (n=805)



Q. If you didn't get the care, what was the reason? (n=93)

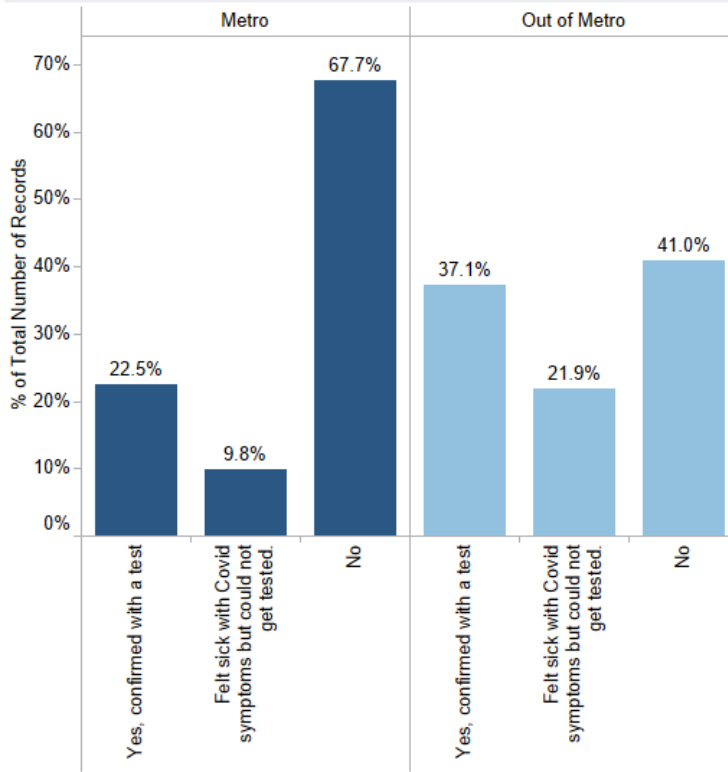


Q. Have you been able to get medical care during the pandemic? (n=800)

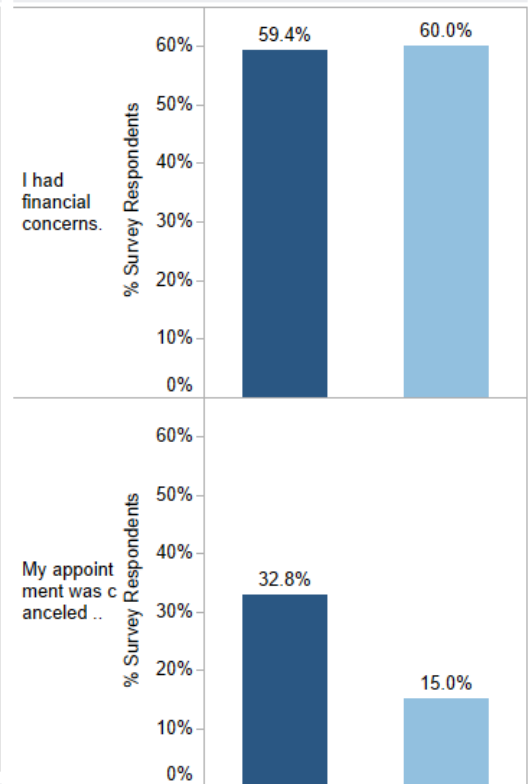


Health Effects by Region

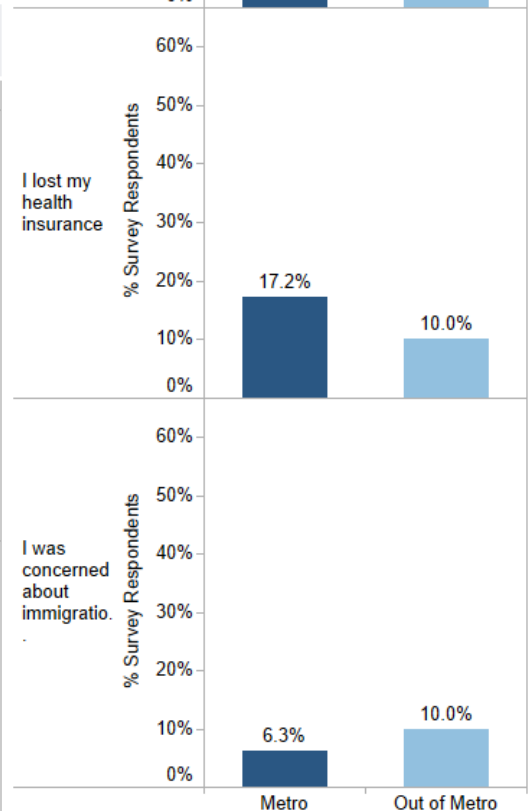
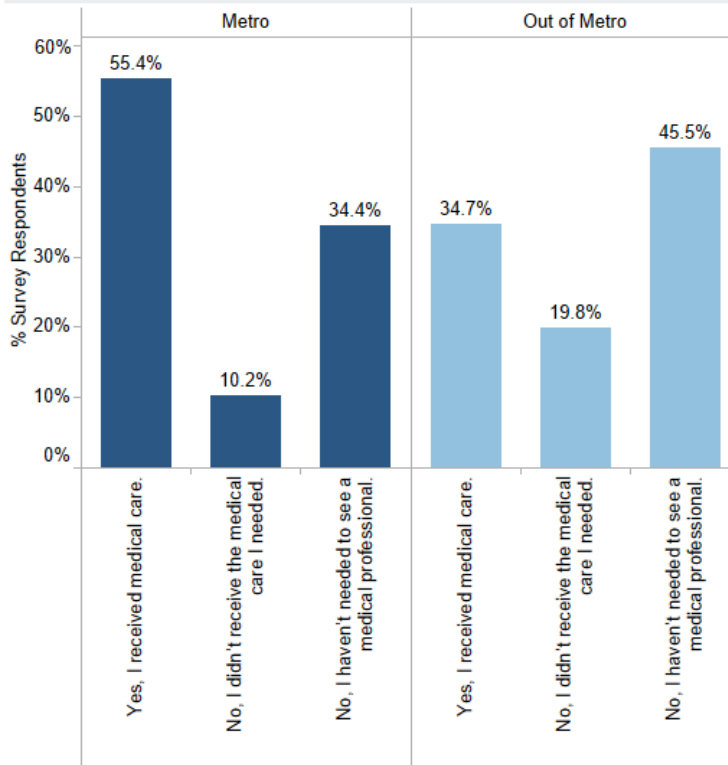
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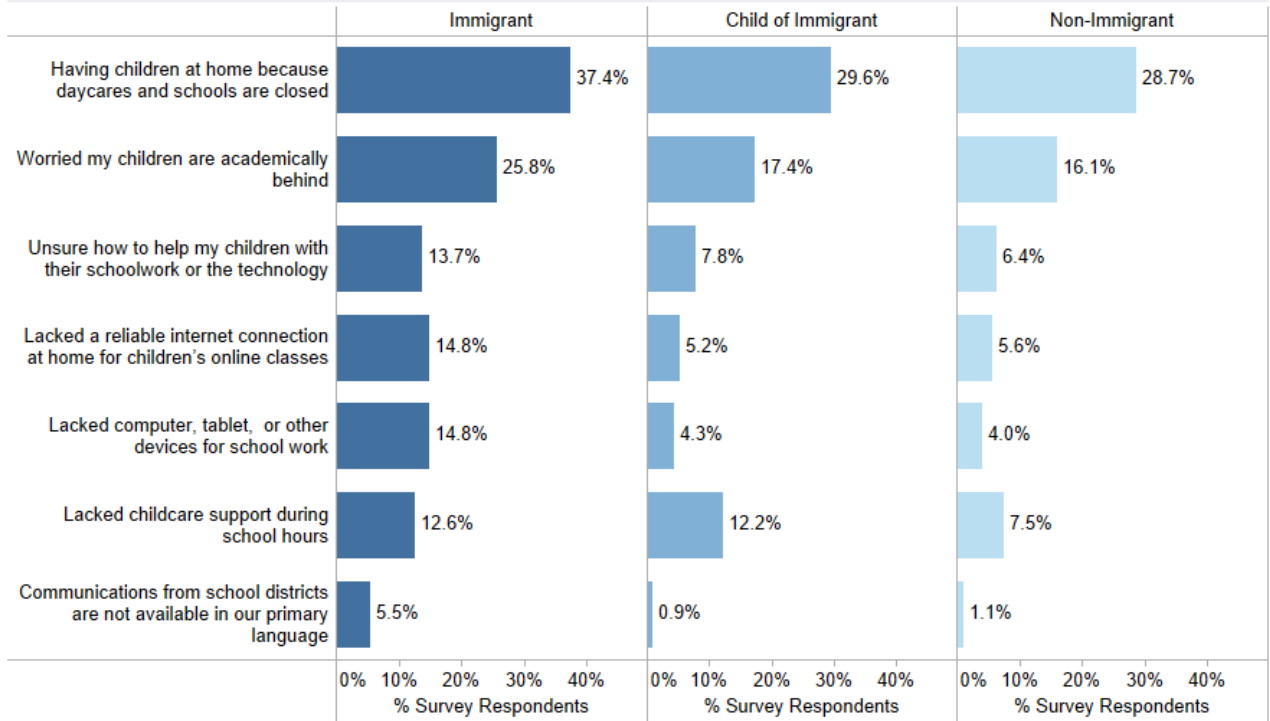


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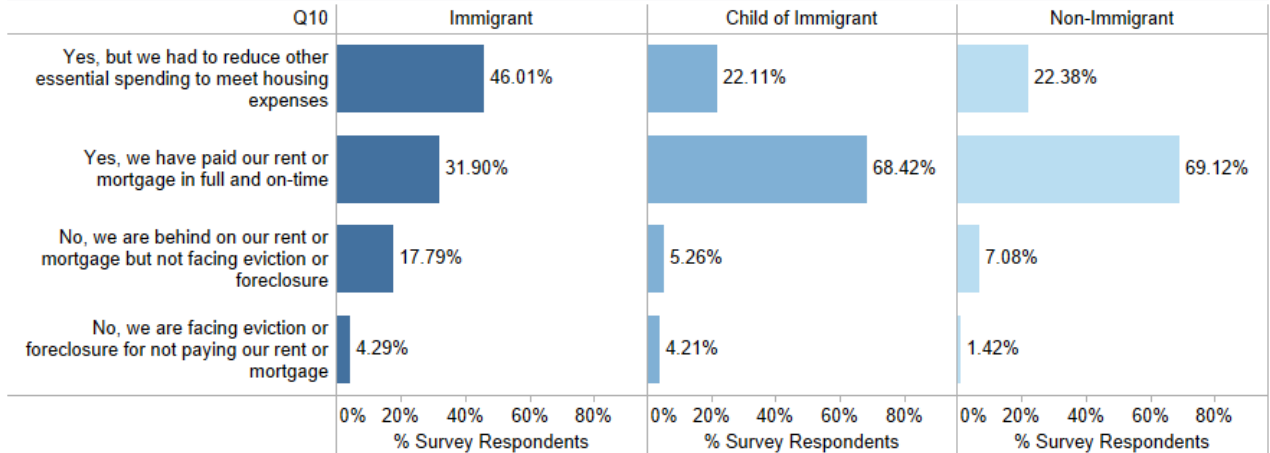


Wellbeing Effects by Immigration Type

Q. What has been your family's experience with education and childcare during the pandemic? (n=748)



Q. Have you been able to afford your rent or mortgage throughout the pandemic? (n=755)

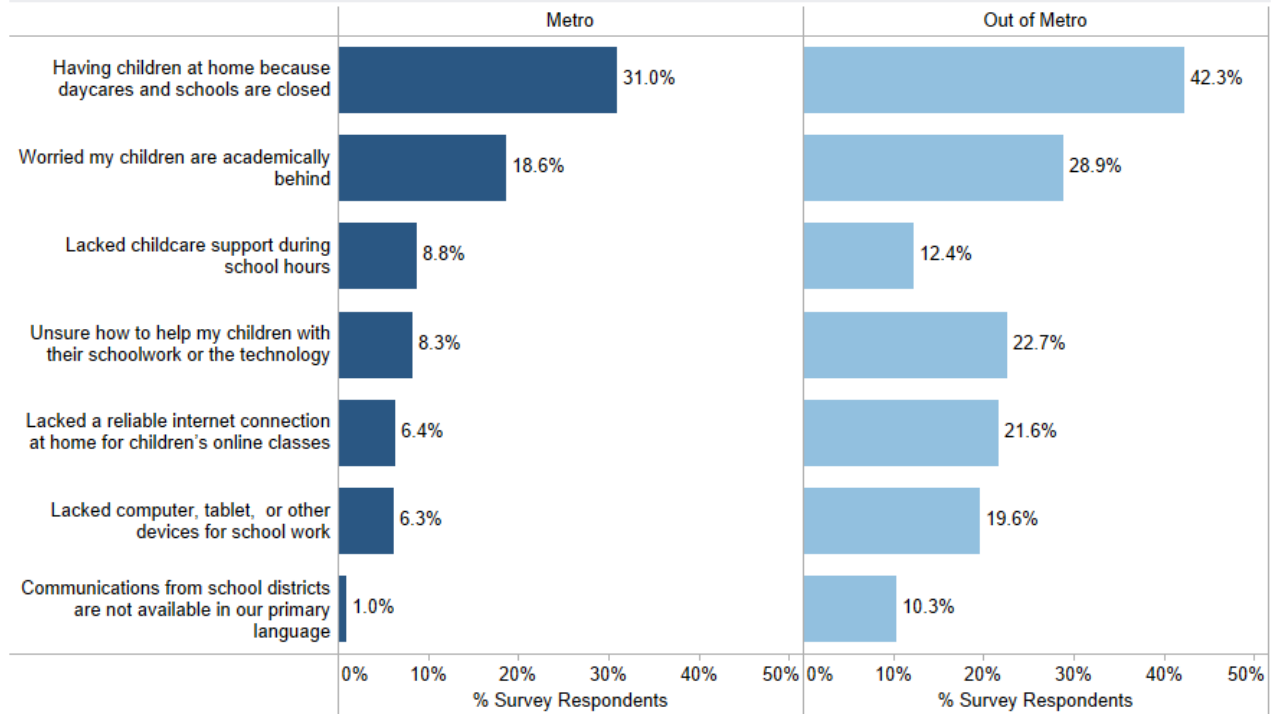


Q. In the next month, are you worried about being able to...? (% Survey Respondents / n=536)

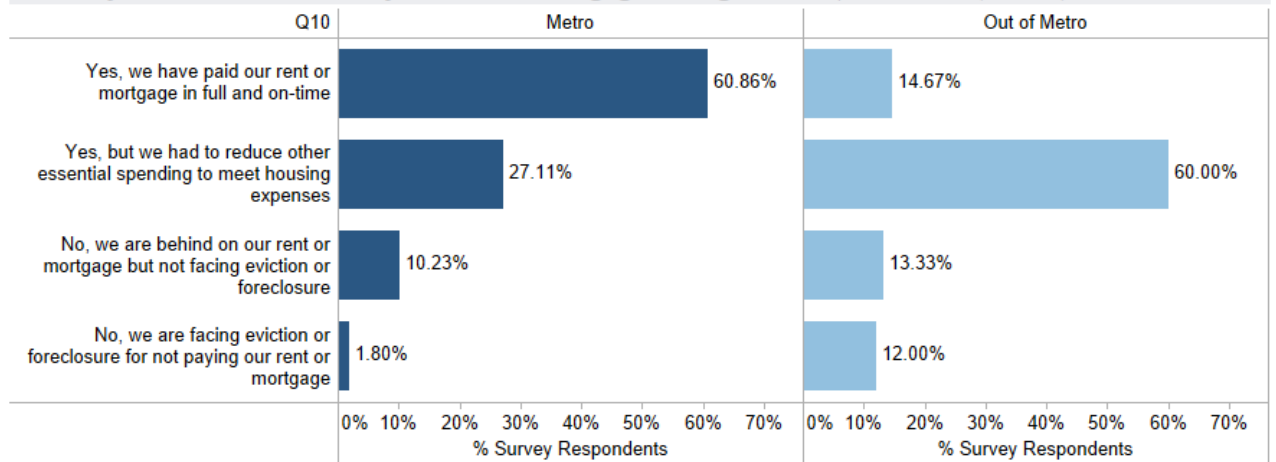
Immigration Type	Pay utilities or other bills	Get enough food for your family	Pay down debt	Pay for emergency expenses	Pay for healthcare and medicines for your family	Receive assistance for immigration issues	Access shelter for your family	Contracting COVID-19	Pay lawyer for a case impacting my children	Receive assistance escaping an abusive environment	Rent	No problems
Immigrant	55.6%	41.1%	40.0%	38.9%	31.7%	12.2%	6.7%	0.6%	0.6%	3.3%	1.7%	5.0%
Child of Immigrant	20.0%	16.0%	54.7%	44.0%	16.0%	2.7%	4.0%	5.3%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	4.0%
Non-Immigrant	43.3%	24.4%	56.7%	46.3%	30.8%	1.0%	1.5%	3.5%	0.0%	1.0%	1.5%	4.5%

Wellbeing Effects by Region

Q. What has been your family's experience with education and childcare during the pandemic? (n=748)



Q. Have you been able to afford your rent or mortgage throughout the pandemic? (n=755)

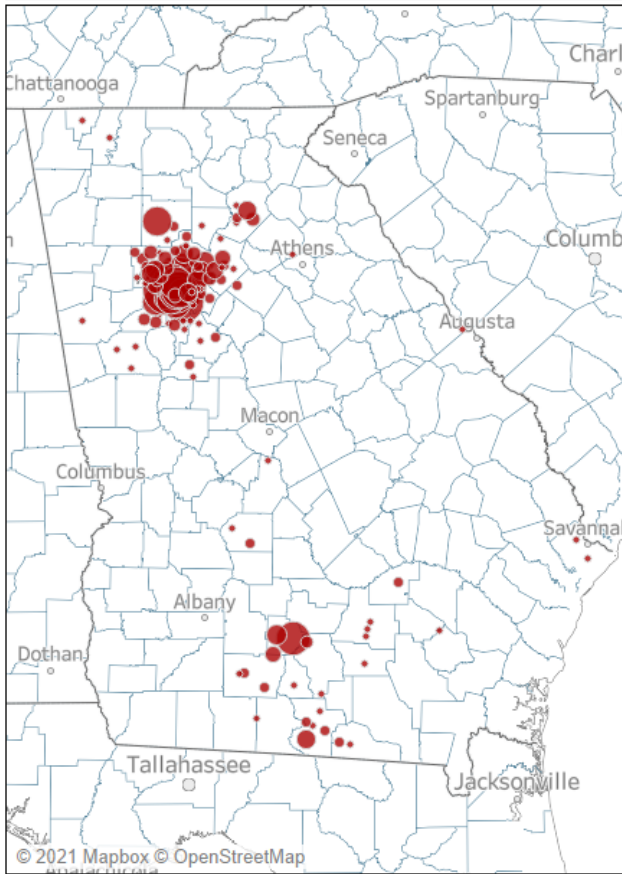


Q. In the next month, are you worried about being able to...? (% Survey Respondents/n=536)

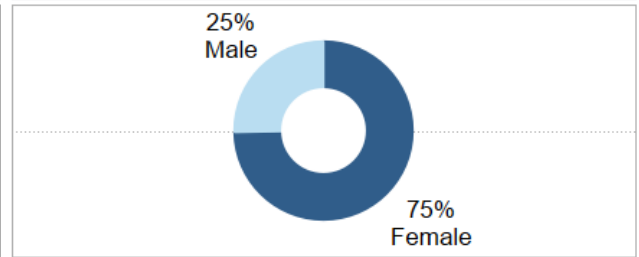
Region	Pay utilities or other bills	Get enough food for your family	Pay down debt	Pay for emergency expenses	Pay for healthcare and medicines for your family	Receive assistance for immigration issues	Access shelter for your family	Contracting COVID-19	Pay lawyer for a case impacting my children	Receive assistance escaping an abusive environment	Rent	No problems
Metro	45.8%	27.4%	51.7%	43.0%	25.6%	5.4%	4.6%	3.1%	0.0%	2.6%	0.8%	5.1%
Out of Metro	47.3%	40.9%	40.9%	36.6%	43.0%	7.5%	4.3%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	2.2%	3.2%

Sample Description (Total n = 810)

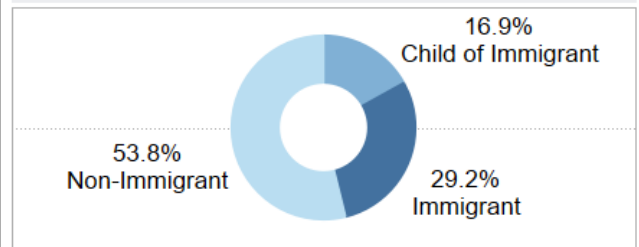
Survey Respondents by County (n=737)



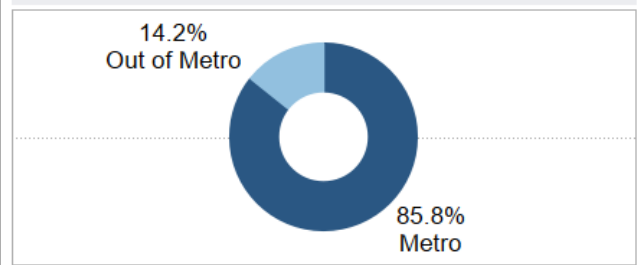
Gender (n=791)



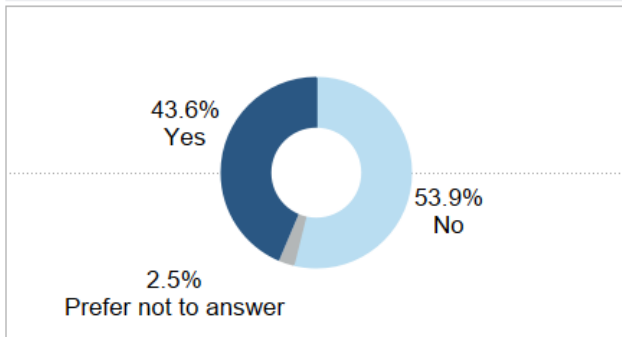
Immigration Status (n=715)



Region (n=737)



Q. Do you identify as Hispanic or Latinx? (n=798)



Age (n=801)

18-24	10.4%
25-39	36.2%
40-64	45.4%
65+	8.0%
Grand Total	100.0%

Place of Birth (n=746)

USA	63.0%
Mexico	20.4%
South America	6.4%
Central America	6.2%
Caribbean	0.9%
Other (Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle East)	3.1%
Grand Total	100.0%

Race (n=772)

White	50.6%
Prefer not to answer	15.9%
Black or African American	13.9%
Some other race	10.1%
Two or more races	5.1%
Native American or Alaska Native	1.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.4%
Indigenous from Latin America	1.0%
Grand Total	100.0%

2010-2020 Latinx Population Change



% Change Hispanic Population

