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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BLACK LGBTQ PEOPLE

In partnership with [PSB Insights](#), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has been tracking the economic impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ community. While previous data spoke to the impact of COVID-19 on people of color, new data, released once again in partnership with [PSB Insights](#) demonstrates the unique economic impact of COVID-19 specifically on Black LGBTQ communities.

Black LGBTQ people are employed in some of the industries most highly affected by the pandemic. Many are frontline workers. **20%** of food service workers, janitors, cashiers and stockers are Black and nearly **20%** of LGBTQ adults work in food service, restaurants or retail. Black communities have also experienced some of the worst losses since the onset of the virus. As of July 22, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported that nearly a quarter (**23%**) of COVID-19 deaths have been Black individuals, despite Black individuals making up only 13% of the United States population. In other words, the percent of deaths from COVID-19 that are Black individuals is **77%** greater than the percent of Black people in the United States. This underscores how Black communities are being disproportionately affected by this pandemic.

These findings build on previous research. In March, the Human Rights Campaign released a [research brief](#) highlighting how the lives and livelihoods of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community are at particular risk due to COVID-19. On an economic level, LGBTQ people are more likely to work in highly affected industries such as restaurants or retail, they rarely have access to paid medical leave, they experience high rates of poverty and they are more likely to lack health insurance coverage. LGBTQ people are also at greater health risk, as they are more likely to have compromised respiratory systems because of greater rates of asthma and smoking.

A follow-up [report](#) in April confirmed the disproportionate impact the virus was having, and continues to have, on LGBTQ people in the United States: they were more likely to have become unemployed, more likely to have their work hours cut, are more likely to feel that their personal finances are in worse shape and are more likely to be taking steps to actively prepare for the virus.

Within the LGBTQ community, many at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities are at some of the greatest risk of facing the economic fallout from COVID-19. HRC again [released data](#) in May documenting the disproportionate impact of both the virus and its economic consequences on LGBTQ people of color, who are more likely than their white LGBTQ counterparts to have become unemployed or reduced their work hours. A June [report](#) from [PSB Insights](#) and HRC also demonstrated the real, devastating economic impact of COVID-19 on the transgender community, especially transgender people of color. Below are key findings from the latest polling on Black LGBTQ people.

23%
of COVID-19
deaths have been
Black individuals,
despite Black
individuals
making up only

13%
of the U.S.
population

[CDC](#)



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

Black LGBTQ people are more likely to have had their employment affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Black LGBTQ people are more likely to have had their work hours reduced, had a pay cut or become unemployed.

- + **31%** of Black LGBTQ respondents had their work hours reduced due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **23%** of Black respondents
 - **28%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **22%** of the general sample population

- + **18%** of Black LGBTQ respondents became unemployed due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **16%** of Black respondents
 - **16%** of LGBTQ people
 - **12%** of the general sample population

Black LGBTQ people are also having to make adjustments to their household budgets and are experiencing financial stress. They are not only more likely to make changes to their budgets, but also are more likely to have taken out more cash from the bank and to have checked their accounts for overdrafts.

- + **36%** of Black LGBTQ respondents have made changes to their household budgets, compared to:
 - **27%** of Black respondents
 - **30%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **26%** of the general sample population

- + **28%** of Black LGBTQ respondents have taken out more cash from the bank, compared to:
 - **15%** of Black respondents
 - **18%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **13%** of the general sample population

- + **20%** of Black LGBTQ respondents have checked to see if their bank account has overdrafted, compared to:
 - **14%** of Black respondents
 - **14%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **10%** of the general sample population



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Amidst economic fallout, Black LGBTQ people are also more likely to ask for delays in various expenses for necessities they have. Black LGBTQ people are more likely to ask for delays in paying their bills and rent.

- + **21%** of Black LGBTQ respondents have asked for delays in paying their bills, compared to:
 - **17%** of Black respondents
 - **14%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **12%** of the general sample population
- + **23%** of Black LGBTQ respondents have asked for delays in paying their rent, compared to:
 - **12%** of Black respondents
 - **11%** of LGBTQ respondents
 - **7%** of the general sample population

METHODOLOGY

- PSB conducted a series of ten online nonprobability polls between April 16 and July 8.
- Data are weighted to U.S. Census demographic targets and HRC-advised targets for SOGI statistics to be nationally representative.
- Sample sizes for Black transgender and non-binary respondents were too small to produce reliable estimates, but their experiences should be taken into consideration when considering experiences of Black LGBTQ people broadly.