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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 INTENSIFIES FOR TRANSGENDER AND LGBTQ COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

In partnership with [PSB Research](#), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has been tracking the impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ community. 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. 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 are 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 even higher risk of facing the economic fallout from COVID-19. HRC [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. New data, released in partnership with PSB Research, now demonstrates the real, devastating economic impact of COVID-19 on the transgender community, especially transgender people of color.

Public data has shown that the virus is disproportionately impacting marginalized communities. For the transgender community, preexisting barriers and ongoing discrimination can compound the challenges of this public health crisis. For example, an HRC Foundation analysis of the most recent CDC [data](#) found that **22%** of transgender people and **32%** of transgender people of color have no health insurance coverage. Poor data collection, however, has limited our understanding of the impact of this pandemic on transgender people across the United States. The failure of federal officials to consistently collect and report data on gender identity and sexual orientation makes it impossible to know the full health and economic toll on the transgender community or the LGBTQ community as a whole.

22%

**transgender
people have
no health
coverage**

[CDC](#)

34%

**transgender
people of
color have
no health
coverage**

[CDC](#)



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

More than half of transgender and transgender people of color lost work hours, while one in five become unemployed. Transgender and transgender people of color are also more likely to have taken unpaid leave or a pay cut.

- + **54%** of transgender people and **58%** of transgender people of color have **had their work hours reduced** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **35%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **30%** of LGBTQ people
 - **27%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **23%** of the general population
- + **19%** of transgender people and **26%** of transgender people of color have **become unemployed** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **22%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **17%** of LGBTQ people
 - **13%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **12%** of the general population
- + **29%** of transgender people and **31%** of transgender people of color have **had to take unpaid leave** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **14%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **15%** of LGBTQ people
 - **15%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **7%** of the general population
- + **27%** of transgender people and **37%** of transgender people of color have **had a pay cut** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **13%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **10%** of LGBTQ people
 - **8%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **7%** of the general population

Transgender and transgender people of color are also more likely to have been switched to part-time work, more likely to have made changes to their household budget and are more likely to fear they will not be able to continue making payments on debt they have.

- + **27%** of transgender people and **30%** of transgender people of color have **been forced to switch part-time** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **9%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **8%** of LGBTQ people
 - **7%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **5%** of the general population



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- + **32%** of transgender people and **51%** of transgender people of color have **had to change their household budget** due to COVID-19, compared to:
 - **36%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **30%** of LGBTQ people
 - **26%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **26%** of the general population
- + **59%** of transgender people and **67%** of transgender people of color are very **concerned they cannot pay their bills on debt** (other than mortgages), compared to:
 - **37%** of LGBTQ people of color
 - **20%** of LGBTQ people
 - **13%** of white LGBTQ people
 - **15%** of the general population

METHODOLOGY

- PSB conducted a series of online nonprobability polls between April 16 and May 6, 2020 for a sample of 7,000 adults between April 16 and May 26.
- Data are weighted to the U.S. Census demographic targets and HRC-advised targets for SOGI statistics to be nationally representative.
- Data for race are combined because sample sizes would be too small for each individual identity. It is important to recognize that the term “people of color” does not begin to articulate the differences in experiences among individuals. For example, data have shown that Black people have been far more negatively impacted by COVID-19 on a health and economic level.