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THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON 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. [Previous reports](#) have demonstrated the disproportionate impact the virus is having 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.

Public data has shown that the virus is disproportionately impacting marginalized communities, particularly communities of color. For example, while only making up **12%** of the population, Black people [account](#) for **22%** of COVID-19 deaths in the United States. In places like [New York City](#), Latinx people are among the hardest hit by the virus: they make up nearly **34%** of all deaths related to coronavirus, despite being **29%** of the city's population. And in [New Mexico](#), while only representing **11%** of the total population, Native Americans comprise **half** of all COVID-19 deaths.

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New York City Health
Department, April 6, 2020

In the United States, Black people and LGBTQ people are employed in industries highly impacted by the pandemic. Black people, for example, [comprise](#) **20%** of food service workers, janitors, cashiers and stockers and **15%** of LGBTQ adults [work](#) in food service or restaurants. Poor data collection, however, has limited our understanding of the impact of this epidemic on Black LGBTQ Americans. The failure of federal officials to consistently collect and report data on sexual orientation and gender identity makes it impossible to know the health and economic toll on the LGBTQ community and LGBTQ people of color.

It is distressing, but not unsurprising, to see how the pandemic is impacting vulnerable populations. New research from HRC and PSB now demonstrates the devastating economic impact COVID-19 has had on LGBTQ communities of color in particular.

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[CDC as of May 20, 2020](#)



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KEY TAKEAWAYS

LGBTQ people of color are more likely than their white counterparts to have lost work hours or become unemployed. LGBTQ people generally were far more likely to have had to take unpaid leave.

- + **38%** of LGBTQ people of color have had their work hours reduced, compared to **29%** of white LGBTQ people, and **24%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **33%** of LGBTQ people
- **29%** of people of color
- **21%** of white people

- + **22%** of LGBTQ people of color became unemployed, compared to **14%** of white LGBTQ people and **13%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **17%** of LGBTQ people
- **18%** of people of color
- **10%** of white people

- + **14%** of LGBTQ people took unpaid leave, compared to **7%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **10%** of LGBTQ people of color
- **17%** of white LGBTQ people
- **7%** of white people
- **7%** of people of color

LGBTQ people of color are more likely to have asked for delays in paying bills, and are twice as likely as the general population to have asked for delays in paying their rent.

- + **19%** of LGBTQ people of color have asked for delays in payments on bills, compared to **14%** of white LGBTQ people and **12%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **16%** of LGBTQ people
- **12%** of people of color
- **10%** of white people

- + **14%** of LGBTQ people of color have asked for delays in rent payment, compared to **8%** of white LGBTQ people and **7%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **11%** of LGBTQ people
- **10%** of people of color
- **6%** of white people



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- + **23%** of LGBTQ people of color have checked if their account has overdrafted, compared to **13%** of white LGBTQ people and **10%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **10%** of LGBTQ people
- **13%** of people of color
- **8%** of white people

Across the board, people feel that they are worse off financially than they were a year ago, and have taken measures to spend less and change their budgets.

- + **38%** of LGBTQ people of color say they are somewhat or much worse off financially than a year ago, compared to **45%** of white LGBTQ people and **36%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **42%** of LGBTQ people
- **38%** of people of color
- **34%** of white people

- + **53%** of LGBTQ people of color have spent less money, compared to **50%** of white LGBTQ people and **49%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **51%** of LGBTQ people
- **50%** of people of color
- **49%** of white people

- + **33%** of LGBTQ people of color have changed their household budget, compared to **29%** of white LGBTQ people and **27%** of the general population

This applies to:

- **31%** of LGBTQ people
- **31%** of people of color
- **26%** of white people

METHODOLOGY

- PSB conducted a series of four online nonprobability polls between April 16 and May 6, 2020 for a sample of 4,000 adults in the United States.
- Data are weighted to 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.