The Impact of COVID-19 in Massachusetts:

Immigrant Community Survey



Immigrant & Refugee **Advocacy Coalition**

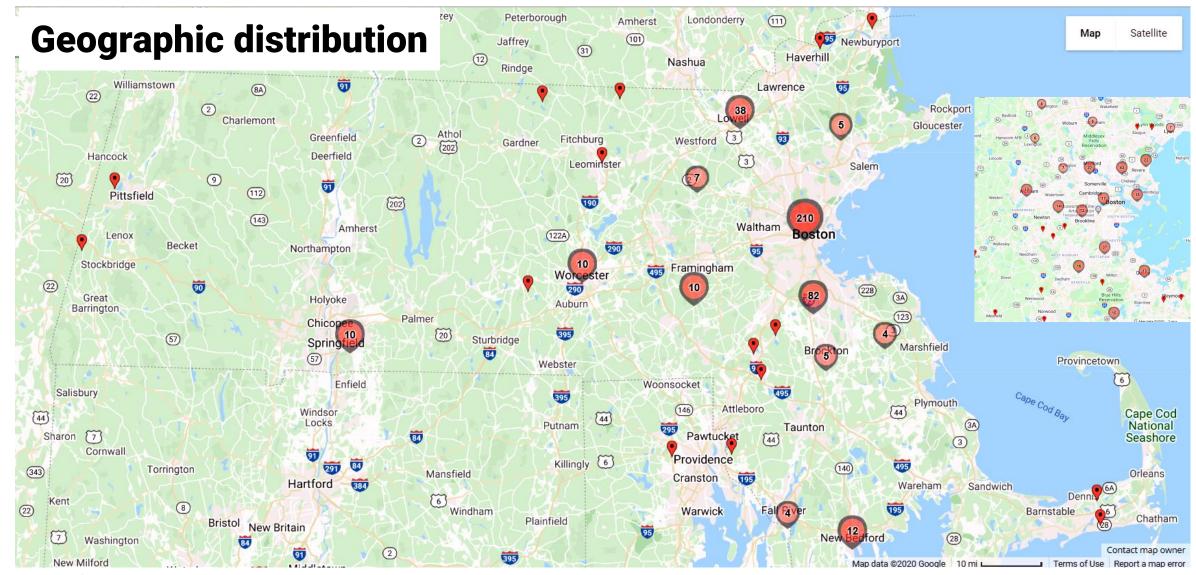
s, yo soy un sobreviviente del CV 19 me enferme hace 3 meses y cuando William es, yo soy un sobreviviente del CV 19 me enferme hace 3 meses y euando regre se a mi cuarte ya me habían botado todo , pensaron que me iba a morir pero gracias a DIOS condicuna segunda oportunidad. para mi fue muv tristo que va no tenía pada regre se a mi cuarto ya me napian potado todo , pensaron que me iba a morir pero graci a DIOS me dio una segunda oportunidad. para mi fue muy triste que ya no tenía nada ni donde una segunda que me rentaba se adueñó de mi eccent i beta eni a DIOS me dio una segunda oporturnidad. Para mi fue muy triste que ya no tenía nada donde vivir porque la persona que me rentaba se adueñó de mi cama y boto mi ropa y pertenencia Tuve que buscar un lugar de emergencia y comenza d donde vivir porque la persona que me remana se aquieno de mi cama y boto mi ropa y pertenencias. Tuve que buscar un lugar de emergencia y comenzar de nuevo, no estoy pertenencias. Tuve que buscar un lugar de entergencia y comenzar de nuevo, no estoy trabajando y paso solo en el hospital porque me hacen diálisis y la verdad no tengo como trabajando y paso solo en el hospital porque me macen gialisis y la verdad no tengo pagar mi cuarto. Estoy muy enfermo y me siento agotado pero quería compartir mi pagar mi cuarto. Estoy muy entermo y me siento agotado pero quería compartir mi testimonio con ustedes y que sepan lo que pasa aquí en nuestra comunidad. Estamos en *testimonio con ustedes y que separato que pasa aqui en nuestra comunidad. Estamos en crisis ahora, necesitamos que tomen cecisiones hoy que nos ayuden en Octubre cuando ins la Moratoria.*

William Flores, I am a survivor of COVID 19 I got sick 3 months ago and when I came back The source of the second secon

Survey overview:

- Online survey in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, French, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese + 9 other Asian languages.
- 433 respondents from across Mass., including 149 households with undocumented members.
- Reached via MIRA members, especially Agencia ALPHA, ATASK, Brazilian Worker Center, IFSI-USA and REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, as well as broader community networks, and social media.
- Roughly 70% of respondents answered online; the rest responded to calls, and some in person. Supplemented by 21 in-depth interviews.

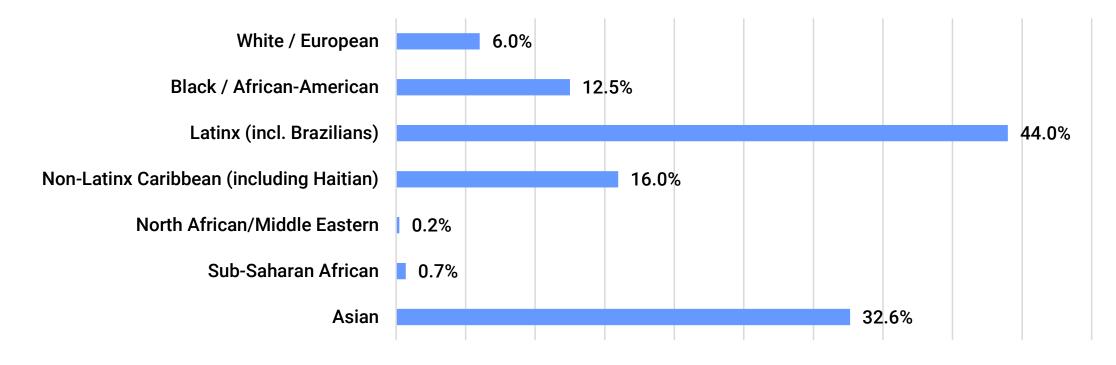




Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Respondent demographics

Race/Ethnicity

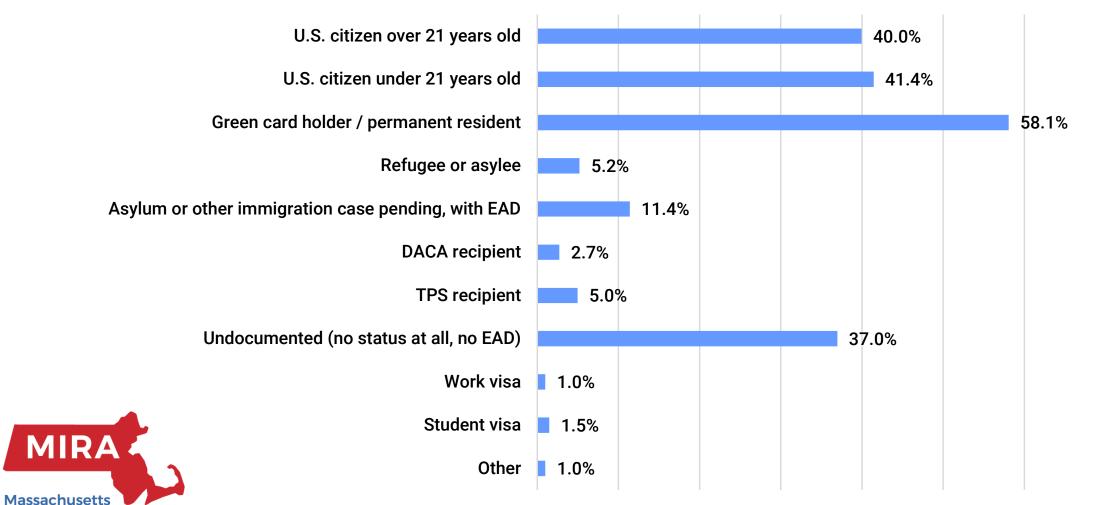




Age range: 18–76; average 40

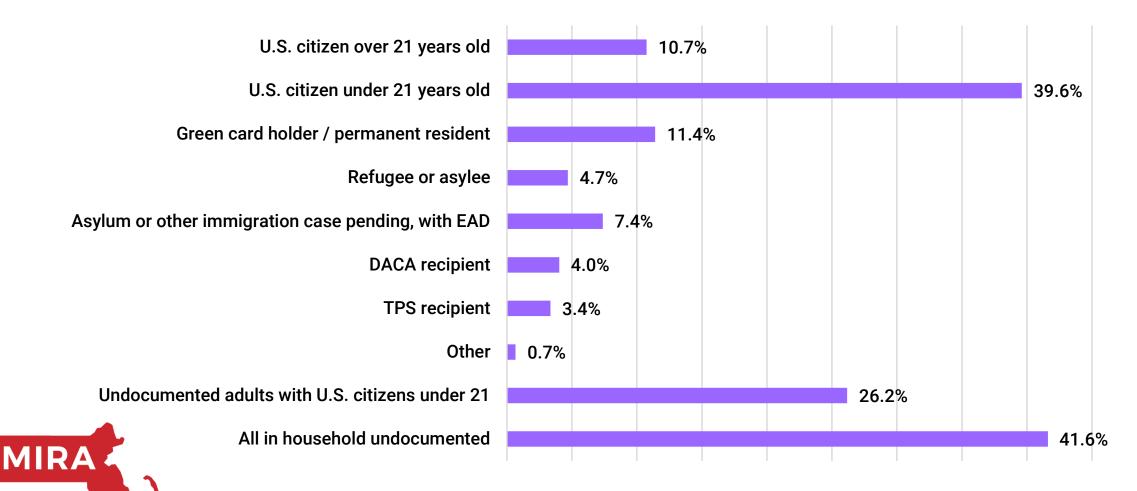
Total people: 1,087 adults, average 2.5 per household; 536 children, average 1.2 per household

Which of the following citizenship and immigration statuses do you have in your household? (Optional; check all that apply)



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Which of the following citizenship and immigration statuses do you have in your household? (undocumented and mixed-status)

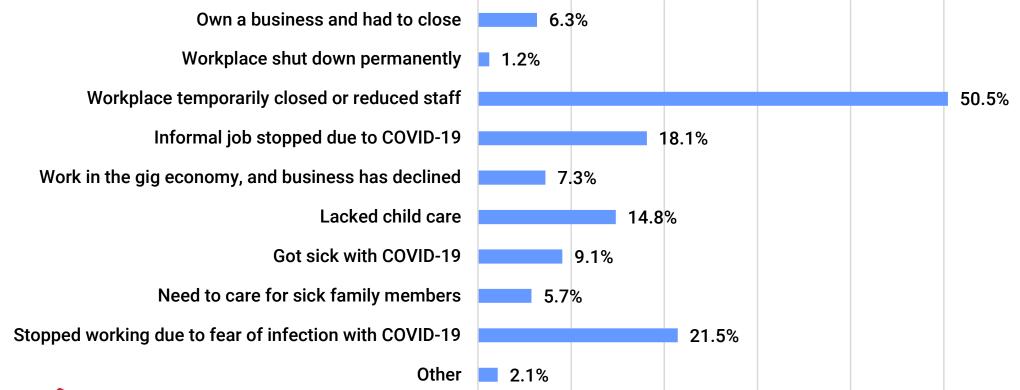


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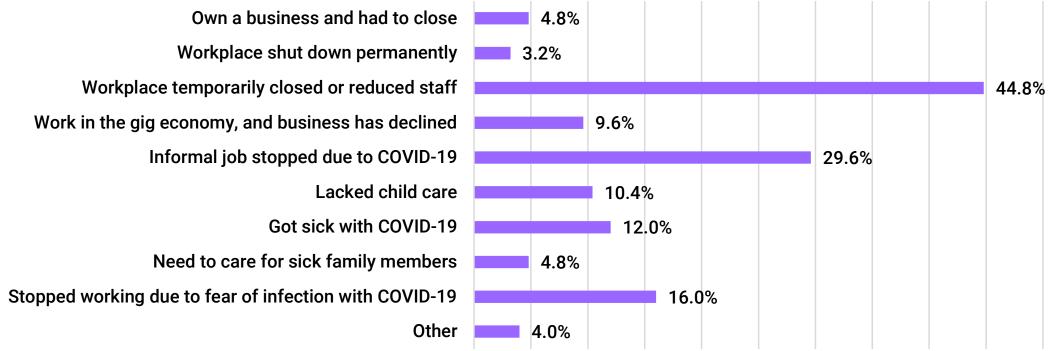
If one or more members of your household lost their job or have reduced hours, what factors caused this? (Choose all that apply)





N=331; this means 76.4% of respondents reported at least one job loss in their household.

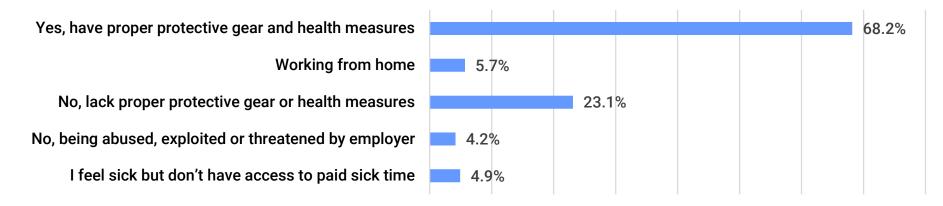
If one or more members of your household lost their job or have reduced hours, what factors caused this? (undocumented and mixed-status)



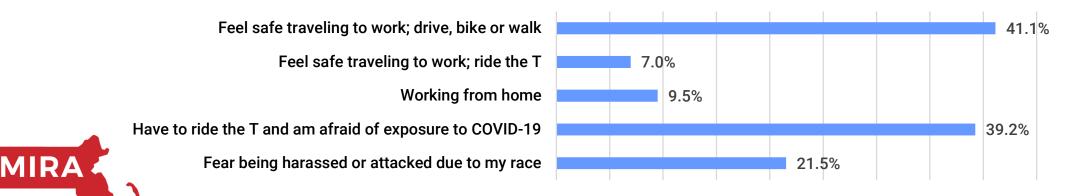


N=125; this means 83.9% of respondents reported at least one job loss in their household.

If you and family members are still working, do you feel safe at your job? (Check all that apply)



If you and family members are still working, do you feel safe traveling to work? (Check all that apply)

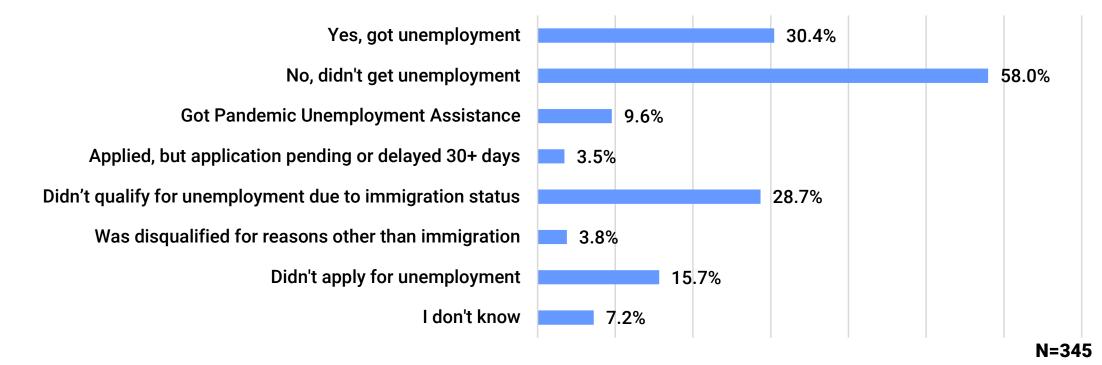


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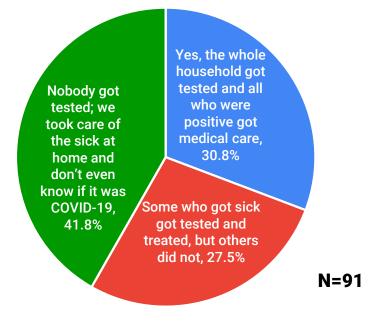
If one or more members of your household were laid off or furloughed, or had your hours cut, did you collect unemployment? (Check all that apply)



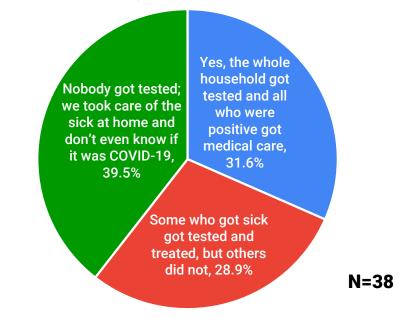


Among households with undocumented residents: 82% didn't get unemployment, 64.8% said at least one worker was disqualified due to immigration status. Only 10.2% got unemployment, but 25.8% got PUA.

If someone in your household got sick, did you seek COVID-19 testing and treatment? (all)



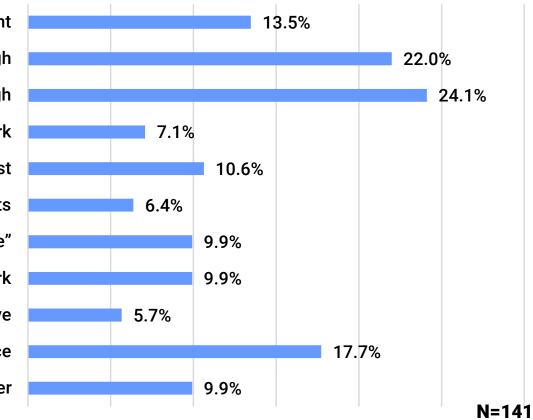
If someone in your household got sick, did you seek COVID-19 testing and treatment? (undocumented and mixed-status)





Total reported cases: 181 (but not all confirmed by test!), including 87 in households with undocumented residents; average cases per reporting household: 2.1.

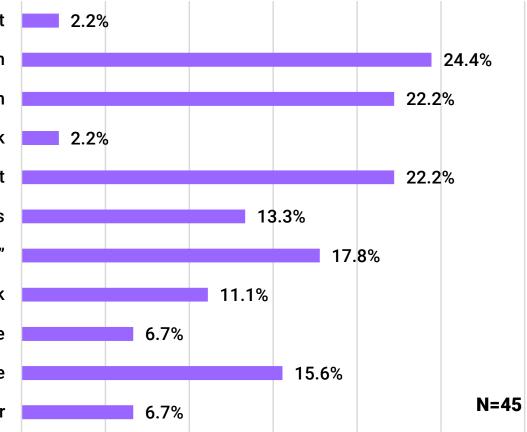
If you felt sick but didn't get tested, why was that? (Check all that apply)



Didn't know where to go for testing or treatment Tried to get tested but was told I wasn't sick enough Assumed I'd be turned away because I wasn't sick enough Don't have access to paid sick leave at work Didn't have health insurance and was afraid of the cost Feared that my info would be shared with immigration agents Feared getting labeled as a "public charge" Feared testing positive would mean not being able to work Feared getting kicked out of apartment if positive Feared that I would be blamed or attacked due to my race Other



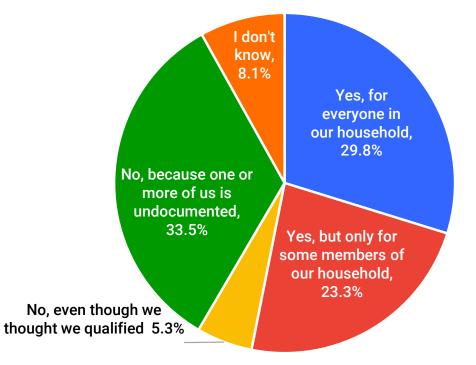
If you felt sick but didn't get tested, why was that? (Check all that apply; undocumented and mixed-status)



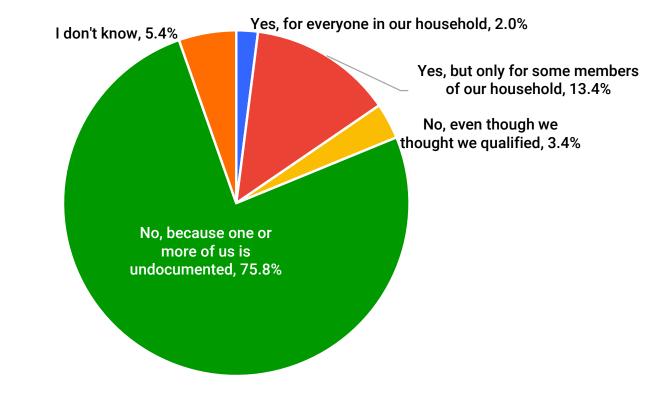
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Did you get federal stimulus funds? (\$1,200 per adult and \$500 per dependent child)

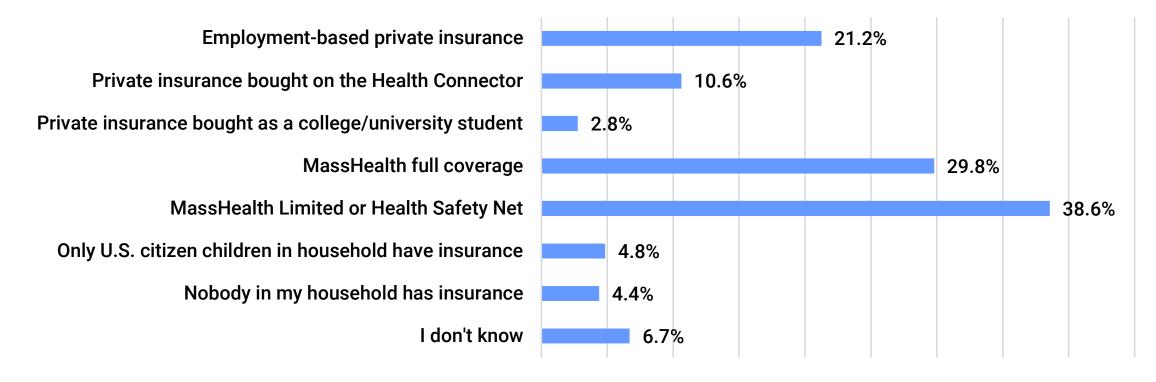


Did you get federal stimulus funds? (undocumented and mixed-status)



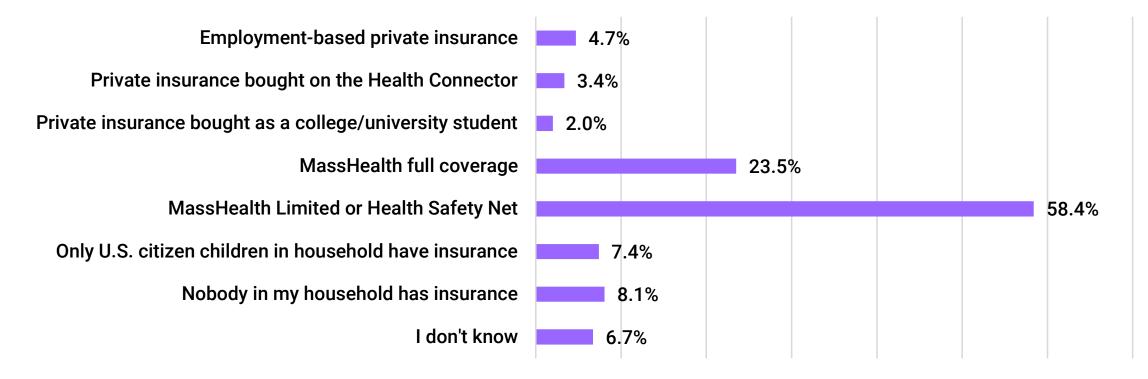


Does your family have health insurance? What kind(s)? (Check all that apply)



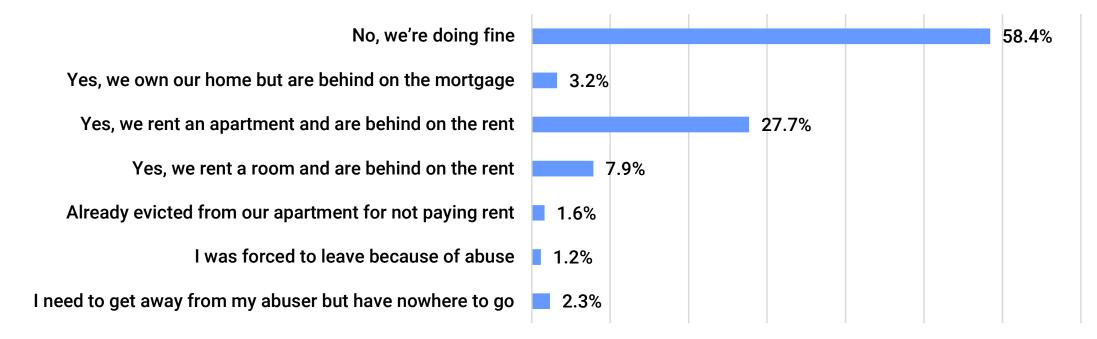


Does your family have health insurance? What kind(s)? (Check all that apply; undocumented and mixed-status)



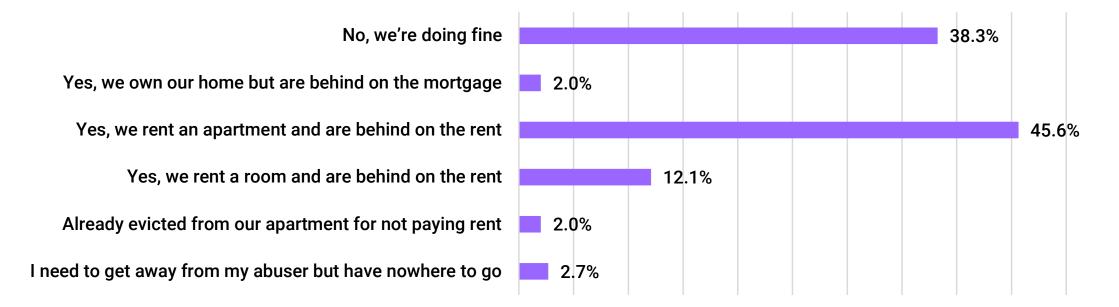


Are you worried about losing your housing, or have you lost it already? (Check all that apply)



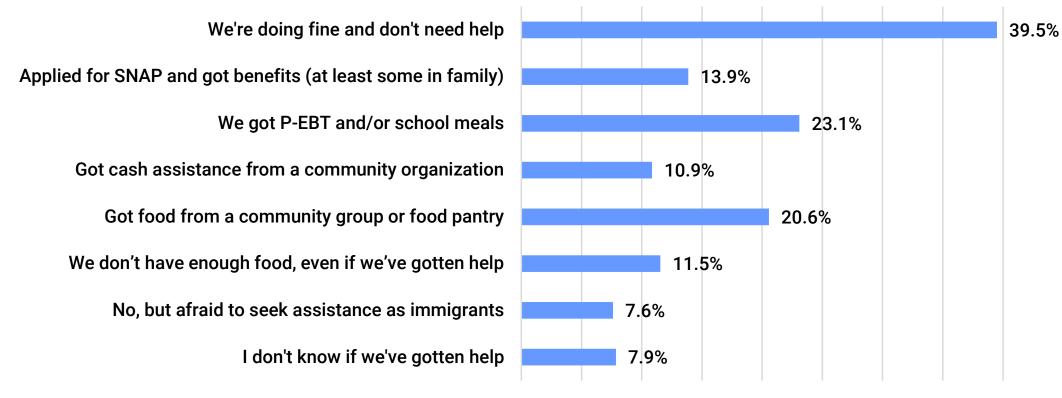


Are you worried about losing your housing, or have you lost it already? (undocumented and mixed-status)





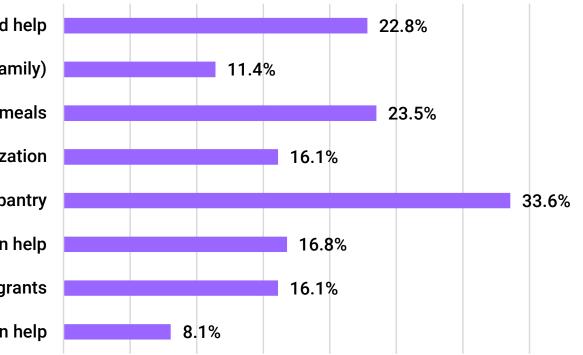
Does your household have enough to eat? Have you gotten any help? (Check all that apply)





Note: 257 (59.3%), including 25 of 'We're doing fine,' also listed at least one source of food assistance or reported food insecurity.

Does your household have enough to eat? Have you gotten any help? (undocumented and mixed-status)



 We're doing fine and don't need help

 Applied for SNAP and got benefits (at least some in family)

 We got P-EBT and/or school meals

 Got cash assistance from a community organization

 Got food from a community group or food pantry

 We don't have enough food, even if we've gotten help

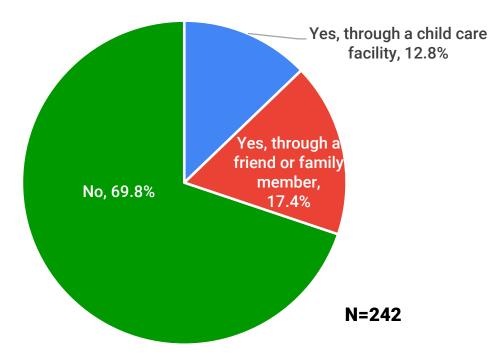
 No, but afraid to seek assistance as immigrants

 I don't know if we've gotten help



Note: 116 (77.8%), including 10 of 'We're doing fine,' also listed at least one source of food assistance or reported food insecurity.

If you have small children, do you have access to child care right now?

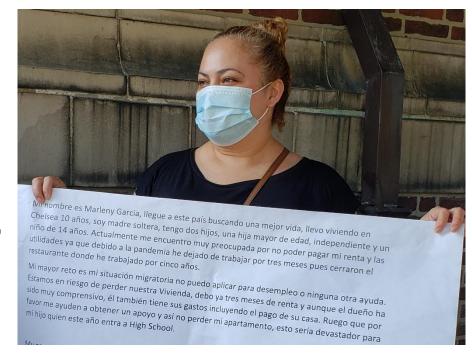




55.9% of respondents had at least one small child, and 14.8% of respondents said lack of child care had forced them to stop working. In interviews, several moms directly linked their ability to work to their children returning to school.

Key take-away:

Immigrant families face the same distress as all working-class Americans, BUT it is exacerbated by their exclusion from crucial safety-net programs and stimulus payments, and for the undocumented, by limited work opportunities and pervasive fear.



We need federal and state COVID-19 response to be **truly equitable and inclusive, without discriminating against immigrant households.** Philanthropy has an enormous role to play as well, filling critical gaps and supplementing public funds.



Policy priorities:

 Pass the HEROES Act or similar to extend crucial federal safetynet programs, provide more inclusive stimulus, suspend the 'public charge' rule, and protect DACA and TPS recipients.



 Invest in multilingual public outreach across Massachusetts to address fear and confusion caused by the 'public charge' rule and ensure immigrants know they can safely seek help.



Policy priorities:

- Boost RAFT program to \$50 million to provide urgent housing assistance, and extend moratorium on evictions and foreclosures.
- Support community-based organizations to provide food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable families. We need tens of millions of dollars more!
- Expand paid sick leave and enforce existing law.
- Pass the Safe Communities Act and Work and Family Mobility Act.



A note of appreciation to our funder and amazing partners...















