

COVID-19 AND THE LATINO COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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STUDY OVERVIEW

This study draws on data from **USC's Understanding Coronavirus in America tracking survey** that monitored COVID-19 related outcomes amongst a representative sample of approximately 1,800 adult residents of L.A. County. We also drew upon **qualitative data** collected by our research team through community meetings and public townhalls held with Latino residents and community stakeholders in East L.A. from September 2020 to January 2021.

KEY FINDINGS

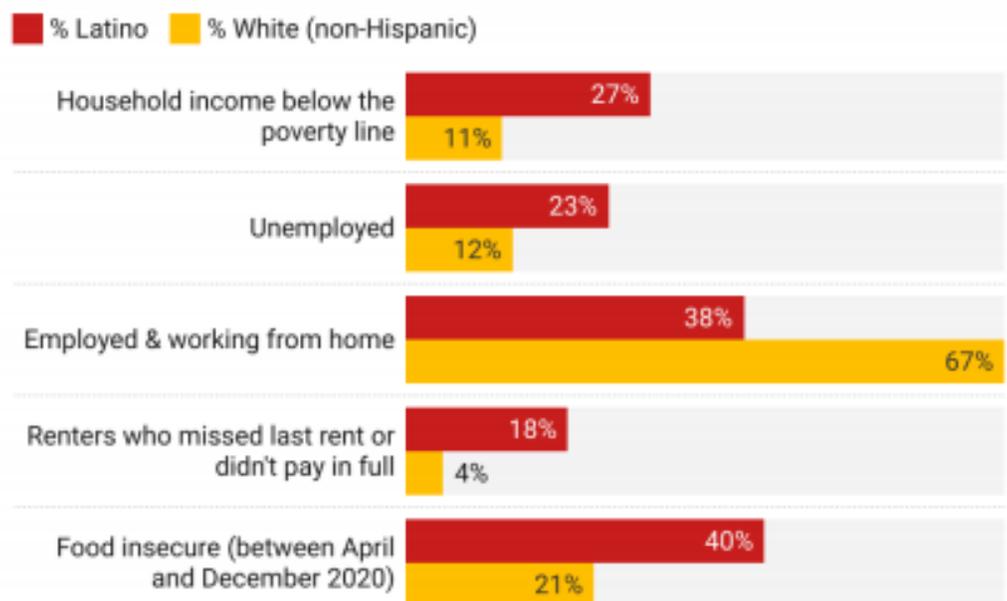
Latinos in L.A. County have been **more likely** to get a COVID-19 infection and to suffer many of the negative secondary consequences of the pandemic. Although there is enthusiasm for getting the COVID-19 vaccine, **much work remains** to improve vaccine access and equity among Latinos, and to support their pandemic recovery.

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IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON THE LATINO COMMUNITY IN L.A. COUNTY

Latinos in L.A. County have been nearly **twice as likely** to get a COVID-19 infection, compared to other residents (Los Angeles Times, 2020). Additionally, Latinos are more likely to experience many negative secondary consequences of the pandemic, like unemployment, missing rent payments, and experiencing food insecurity.

Disparities in COVID-19 impacts for L.A. County Latinos



Income, employment, and rent data was measured from February 3 to March 2, 2021. Food insecurity was measured from April 1 to December 23, 2020.

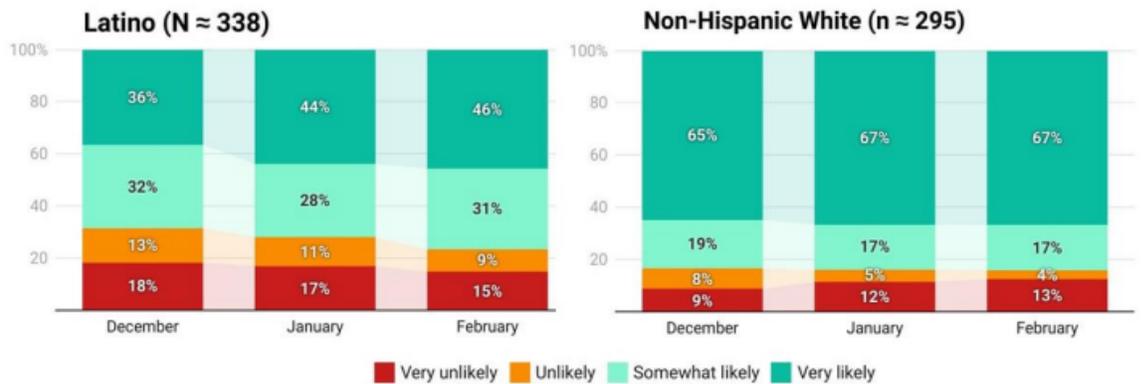
Source: USC Understanding Coronavirus in America tracking survey •

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GETTING THE VACCINE: WHAT LATINOS ARE THINKING AND DOING

At the time of writing this, there are 'service deserts' and significant structural and access barriers to vaccination that impact Latinos, especially older adults (Los Angeles Times, 2021). Reasons include lack of access to **transportation** to a vaccine site, lack of access to **smart devices** to book a vaccine appointment, and lack of information on how **immigrants and undocumented individuals** can access vaccines.

Likelihood of getting the coronavirus vaccine, when available



Vaccination likelihood from December 9, 2020 to March 3, 2021 among L.A. County Latino and non-Hispanic White residents (Source: USC Understanding Coronavirus in America tracking survey).

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LATINOS IN L.A. COUNTY ARE TAKING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS BUT CONTINUE TO FACE COVID-19 RISKS

Latinos in L.A. County are wearing masks, social distancing, and washing their hands frequently during the pandemic. However, **challenges remain** for families adopting behaviors that lessen the risk of COVID-19 exposure (Los Angeles Times, 2020).

Quotes from discussions with Latino residents at our townhalls:

"The guards come down at home -- family members follow safety behaviors out of the home, but relax when they are around family."

"Kisses and hugs, physical contact -- these are part of our culture."

KEY TAKEAWAY

“ *The county's Latino community is clearly in need of ongoing support and resources that will help their physical, emotional, economic, and social recovery.* ”

FUTURE STEPS

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- **Increase** ease of access to the vaccine
 - **Encourage** vaccine uptake
 - **Continue** to encourage safety behaviors, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and handwashing