
THE ECONOMIC 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. That brief found that LGBTQ people are at both heightened health and economic risk of the virus, as they are **(1) more likely to work jobs in highly affected industries, often with more exposure and/or higher economic sensitivity to the COVID-19 crisis; (2) are less likely to have health coverage; and (3) are more likely to smoke and have chronic illnesses like asthma that can significantly increase complications during infection.**

New data, released in partnership with [PSB Research](#), demonstrates the real economic impact of COVID-19 on the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ people are more likely to have experienced a cut in work hours, 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.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

LGBTQ people in the United States are more likely than the general population to have experienced a cut in work hours, while both LGBTQ people and the general population have reported becoming unemployed.

- + 30% of LGBTQ respondents have had their work hours reduced, compared to 22% of the general population
- + Both LGBTQ people and the general population report becoming unemployed: 14% of the general population and 12% of the LGBTQ population

LGBTQ people are more likely to feel that their personal finances are currently worse than they were a year ago. While some see a light at the end of the financial tunnel in the next year, others are more pessimistic.

- + 20% of LGBTQ people say their personal finances are “much worse off” than they were a year ago, compared to only 11% of the general population
- + LGBTQ people are twice as likely as the general population to think their finances will be much worse off a year from now, 10% to 5%



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LGBTQ people are likely to be spending less, and many have changed their household budgets; they are more likely than the general public to have made some changes to financially conserve.

- + 59% of LGBTQ people have spent less as a result of COVID-19, compared to 53% of the general population
- + 42% of LGBTQ people have adjusted their household budgets, compared to 30% of the general population
- + 14% of LGBTQ people have checked if their bank account has an overdraft, compared to 10% of the general population
- + Many have asked for rent delays: 11% of LGBTQ people and 8% of the general population have done so

LGBTQ people are more likely to take steps to actively learn about and prepare for the pandemic; they are paying more attention to news, doing research, and avoiding gathering.

- + 74% of LGBTQ people say they are paying more attention to the news, compared to 68% of the general population
- + 60% of LGBTQ people have conducted their own research on the virus, compared to 45% of the general population
- + 54% of LGBTQ people are avoiding public transportation and 53% have purchased masks, compared to 44% and 43% of the general population respectively
- + 27% of LGBTQ people have spoken with a doctor or other medical professional about the virus, compared to 14% of the general population

LGBTQ people are more likely to trust public health and medical authorities like their own doctors, the WHO, and the CDC, and less likely to trust President Trump.

- + 56% of LGBTQ people trust the World Health Organization (WHO) compared to 35% of the general population and 55% trust the CDC, compared to 46% of the general population
- + Only 14% trust President Trump as a source of information, compared to 22% of the general population
 - A plurality (48%) feel that too little has been done by state and local governments in response to the virus, and almost half (47%) say current actions are “too little too late,” compared to 36% of the general population for both statements
 - Strong majorities of LGBTQ people agree that we should expect more of both the federal government (93%) and employers (83%) during this time compared to 85% and 81% of the general population respectively

METHODOLOGY

PSB conducted an online poll of 1000 adults in the United States between April 15-16, 2020.

Data is weighted to U.S. Census demographic targets and HRC-advised targets for SOGI statistics.