

## Quick Facts

Spring 2020 -- COVID-19 Survey #3 (5/27 -6/11)

---

In Spring 2020, DMACS invited 1,880 panelists to participate in a rapid response survey about how Detroiters are being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The first rapid response survey was completed between March 31 and April 9, 2020 and captured responses from 1,040 panelists. The second wave of the survey was conducted between April 23 and May 7, 2020 and captured responses from 1,102 panelists. The most recent rapid response survey was completed between May 27 and June 11, 2020 and captured responses from 1,173 panelists. Results have been weighted to reflect the population of the City of Detroit. [Full results from the survey are available here.](#)

---

### Perceptions of the Pandemic

Detroiters' sense of the seriousness of the pandemic fell between Waves 8 and 9 of the survey, though some groups – such as those who have temporarily or permanently lost their jobs – continue to feel the weight of the ongoing health and economic crisis.

- Though the majority of Detroiters (**69%**) still believe the pandemic to be very serious for their communities, perceptions that the pandemic is very serious dropped by nearly **12 percentage points** from previous waves
- Compared to perceptions of safe and unsafe behavior at Wave 8, Detroiters were less likely to view behaviors--like grocery shopping, visiting friends in their homes, and going to the doctor--- as somewhat or very unsafe at Wave 9
- **56%** of Detroiters say that restrictions on public activities are being lifted too soon, while only **12%** say they are not being lifted soon enough
- More than half (**51%**) of Detroiters who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic say restrictions on public activities are being lifted too soon
- **46%** of employed Detroiters currently working from home some or most of the time say that they would prefer to continue to work from home until they feel more safe being in close proximity to others

### Job Loss

Survey results show that the unemployment rate in Detroit has remained steady at roughly **45%** over the last month. This is **twice** the state unemployment rate and **three times** the US unemployment rate according to CPS data. **41%** of Detroiters working before the pandemic have since lost their jobs, either on a temporary or permanent basis. Job loss is disproportionately hitting the people who were most vulnerable before the pandemic.

- **21%** of white Detroiters report being unemployed as compared to **45%** of Black Detroiters and **32%** of Hispanic Detroiters
- Low income Detroiters and those with less than a college degree are **twice** as likely as wealthier or more highly educated Detroiters to report being laid off
- **Half** of Detroiters who lost their jobs due to the pandemic say they think it is likely they will return to work in the next month
- Among those Detroiters still working, **34%** say they are working from home all or most of the time while **51%** say they are working outside their home all or more of the time. Detroiters who are white,

higher educated, and higher earning are much more likely to be able to work from home than other Detroiters

### **Access to Stimulus Checks and Unemployment Benefits**

**71%** of Detroiters report having received a stimulus check from the federal government, while **12%** say they are still waiting for a check, and **12%** say they do not expect a stimulus check. Detroiters are also increasingly relying on unemployment benefits as the pandemic persists.

- More than **87%** of elderly Detroiters report receiving a stimulus compared to **56%** of Detroiters under 30
- Black residents are nearly **three times** as likely as white residents to say they are still awaiting their check. Only **45%** of Hispanic residents say they have received a stimulus check, while **a quarter** believe they are not eligible
- The proportion of Detroiters who say they received unemployment benefits rose significantly between survey waves, from **13%** to **22%**
- Of those who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, **67%** say they have applied for unemployment benefits

### **Financial Precarity**

Job loss and continued economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have made it harder for Detroiters to stay ahead on their bills meaning many are at increased risk of hardships like foreclosure and utility shutoffs.

- **One-in-five** Detroiters say they have skipped one or more bills in the past month
- **44%** of Detroiters say they are concerned about facing one or more hardships in the coming months, such as being evicted, having their utilities shut off, or going bankrupt.
- Nearly **29%** of Detroiters say they skipped, paid late, or made a partial payment on their rent or housing costs in the last month. **52%** of those who did not pay their housing bills on time say they are concerned about being foreclosed on or evicted in the next few months
- More than half (**55%**) of Detroiters say they are uncertain they will be able to afford sufficient food next month

### **Direct Effects of COVID-19**

Testing has continued to ramp up, and the most recent data suggest a dramatic increase in the number of Detroiters who have been tested for COVID over time, with the number tested more than doubling at each successive survey wave. As of Wave 9, nearly **20%** of Detroiters say they have had a COVID test. The virus has continued to disproportionately impact communities of color.

- **3%** of Detroiters say they have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- **8%** of say they have sought medical care for COVID-19
- **More than half** of Detroiters have friends or family who have become ill with coronavirus, and **35%** have friends or family who have died from COVID-19
- **Nearly 60%** of Black Detroiters say they know someone who has gotten ill from COVID-19 compared to **34%** of white Detroiters
- Black Detroiters are **four times** as likely to know someone who has died from COVID-19 as white Detroiters