

## Research findings presented at Council Meeting (MAY 27, 2020)

COVID-19 crisis has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, thus worsening the existing inequities. The current COVID-19 crisis is shedding light on stark realities in education and the challenges faced by institutions, students, and families.

Current research is building a body of evidence that COVID-19 is having an impact on racial inequities.

### Educational Impact

- **Many students and families are changing their plans for life after high school. More parents (almost 50%) are reporting a change in their child's post-high school plan.<sup>1</sup>**
  - About 43% of white parents of high school students reported that their children's plans have changed, compared to 59% of Black parents, and 61% of Hispanic/Latinx parents.<sup>2</sup>
- **Current high school seniors are questioning their decisions.**
  - A survey conducted in the month of April found that 10 percent of seniors who had planned to enroll at a four-year college before the COVID-19 outbreak said they have already made alternative plans.<sup>3</sup>
- **High school students are altering their decision to pursue post-secondary education.**
  - 41% of minority high school seniors said in a recent survey that they likely would not go to college at all in the fall or "it's too soon to say." That compares to 24 percent of white high school seniors.<sup>4</sup>
- **Minority students in college are also feeling the impact of COVID-19 and related matters more than white students.**
  - 32% percent of minority students and 22% of white college students said it was unlikely they will return to their college this fall or "it's too soon to say."<sup>5</sup>
  - Nearly two-thirds of minority students (64%) said their plans were being affected by COVID-19, compared to 44% of white students.<sup>6</sup>

### Economic and Health Impact

Even though the decline in the economy is not a financial-induced crisis like the last great depression, we know that racial minorities are hit the hardest when the economy declines. The ongoing-health crisis has compounded the economic impact and worsen inequities in educational opportunities.

- Even though unemployment rates rose sharply among all major race and ethnicity groups, in the month of April, the rate was high for blacks 17% and Hispanics 19% compared to Whites 14%.<sup>7</sup>
- **COVID-19 is changing perceptions of employed Americans.**

- Job security continues to be a pressing issue; 35% of employed Americans think it is likely that they will lose their job in the next three months.<sup>8</sup>
- 32% of employed white Americans think it is likely that they will lose their job, compared to 45% of employed Black Americans and 40% of employed Hispanic/Latinx Americans.<sup>9</sup>
- **There is a correlation between median household income and the COVID-19 infection rate.**
  - In the poorest neighborhoods, where median household income is less than \$35,000, the COVID-19 infection rate was twice as high as in the nation's wealthiest ZIP codes.<sup>10</sup>
- **There is a correlation between minority regional areas and the COVID-19 infection rate.**
  - Infection rates were five times higher in majority-minority ZIP codes than in ZIP codes with less than 10% nonwhite population.<sup>11</sup>
- **In Washington State, Communities of color now account for a larger share of positive tests.**
  - Even though white people makeup 68% of the population, since mid-April, confirmed cases among white people in Washington have dropped from 52% to 41%.<sup>12</sup>
  - While Hispanic or Latino people make up 13% of the population, their confirmed cases jumped since mid-April from 27% to 37%.<sup>13</sup>
- **This disparity is evident at a county level as well.**
  - In Pierce County, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander residents, who make up nearly 2% of the county's population, have seen more than double (5.8%) the number of confirmed cases.<sup>14</sup>
  - Hispanic and black residents account for 11 percent and 7 percent of Pierce County's population, but they make up 23% and 11% of confirmed cases, respectively.<sup>15</sup>

## OTHER DATA POINTS FOR WASHINGTON

- 54.8% of Washingtonians think the steps that the state has taken to address coronavirus are appropriate, while only 18.1% wish it would do more. Comparatively, slightly fewer national respondents (48.8%) think the steps their state has taken to address coronavirus are appropriate, while 25.3% wish it would do more.<sup>18</sup>
- Most Washingtonians (83.1%) still definitely or probably intend to stay at home and avoid all non-essential contact. Most Washingtonians (84.6%) also strongly or somewhat agree that even after restrictions are lifted, they will continue to practice social and physical distancing, limiting trips to public places like grocery stores and parks, limiting in-person interactions, and staying 6 feet apart from others.<sup>19</sup>

- Washingtonians are slightly less concerned about coronavirus than the overall U.S. population, with 38.1% of respondents from Washington saying that they are very concerned, compared to 45.8% nationally.<sup>20</sup>

For additional research findings for Washington, see [COVID-19 Impact Research](#).

## End Notes

1. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; America (Washington, Florida, Texas, New York); sample of 7,922 adults
2. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; America (Washington, Florida, Texas, New York); sample of 7,922 adults
3. National survey by [SimpsonScarborough](#); March 26-30, 2020; 573 students who planned to go to a 4-year and 513 students that are currently freshman, sophomores or juniors in college
4. National survey by [SimpsonScarborough](#); March 26-30, 2020; 573 students who planned to go to a 4-year and 513 students that are currently freshman, sophomores or juniors in college
5. National survey by [SimpsonScarborough](#); March 26-30, 2020; 573 students who planned to go to a 4-year and 513 students that are currently freshman, sophomores or juniors in college
6. National survey by [SimpsonScarborough](#); March 26-30, 2020; 573 students who planned to go to a 4-year and 513 students that are currently freshman, sophomores or juniors in college
7. National survey by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; April 2020; Household Survey Data Sample
8. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; America (Washington, Florida, Texas, New York); sample of 7,922 adults
9. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; America (Washington, Florida, Texas, New York); sample of 7,922 adults
10. Administrative data analysis by [USA Today](#); State and county health departments' ZIP code-level COVID-19 case data through April 20,2020 **AND** U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey (5-year averages) demographic data
11. Administrative data analysis by [USA Today](#); State and county health departments' ZIP code-level COVID-19 case data through April 20,2020 **AND** U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey (5-year averages) demographic data
12. Administrative data analysis by [Washington State Department of Health](#); Data as of May 24, 2020; Washington State; 330,598 total tests completed
13. Administrative data analysis by [Washington State Department of Health](#); Data as of May 24, 2020; Washington State; 330,598 total tests completed
14. Administrative data analysis by [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#); Data as of May 20, 2020; Pierce county; sample of 23,829 total tests completed
15. Administrative data analysis by [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#); Data as of May 20, 2020; Pierce county; sample of 23,829 total tests completed
16. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; Survey; Washington State; 745 adults

17. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; Survey; Washington State; 745 adults
18. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; Survey; Washington State; 745 adults
19. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; Survey; Washington State; 745 adults
20. Survey by [Civis Analytics](#); Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; May 8-10, 2020; Survey; Washington State; 745 adults