

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LGBTQ AMERICANS

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The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has the potential to uniquely harm those who are economically and socially vulnerable. LGBTQ Americans are at heightened risk of negative health outcomes as a result of the virus due to the higher prevalence of underlying conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and HIV.<sup>1-4</sup> LGBTQ Americans are also at increased risk of negative economic impacts.<sup>5</sup> A recent issue brief by the Human Rights Campaign finds that LGBTQ Americans are more likely to work in jobs in highly affected industries, meaning more exposure and more economic risk.<sup>6</sup> LGBTQ Americans are also less likely to have health insurance, increasing the likelihood of negative economic impacts if they do get sick.<sup>7</sup>

New data, collected in partnership by researchers at Vanderbilt University and [The Henne Group, Inc.](#), track the impact of COVID-19 on LGBTQ Americans. LGBTQ Americans report high rates of job loss and wage reduction several percentage points higher than general population surveys conducted at the same time. Additionally, a substantial proportion of LGBTQ Americans report difficulties getting food, accessing medical care, and missing regular medical appointments. LGBTQ Americans are concerned about how HIV may affect coronavirus risk. Although most LGBTQ Americans are staying home, one in five live in households where one or more adults is not or cannot stay home.

## **LGBTQ Americans are experiencing high rates of job loss and wage reduction as a result of the pandemic.**

- 17.9% report losing their job as a result of the pandemic.
- 30.2% report reduced wages as a result of the pandemic.

## **LGBTQ Americans are experiencing high rates of food insecurity.**

- 33.1% report difficulties getting food due to the pandemic.

**LGBTQ Americans are experiencing difficulties accessing medical care, avoiding routine medical care, and having difficulties accessing routine medications.**

- 14.2% report difficulties getting routine medications.
- 24.1% report difficulties accessing healthcare.
- 58.7% report avoiding going to the doctor or dentist for routine care.

**LGBTQ Americans are concerned about how HIV may affect coronavirus risk.**

- 51.3% are concerned about how HIV may affect coronavirus risk for themselves or someone else.
- 52.8% are concerned about how HIV may affect coronavirus treatment or recovery for themselves or someone else.
- Among gay and bisexual men, concerns about how HIV may affect coronavirus risk and coronavirus treatment or recovery are even higher, at 62.8% and 63.7% respectively.

**Most LGBTQ Americans are staying home; however, one in five live in households where one or more adults is not or cannot stay home.**

- 91.6% report staying home or sheltering in place.
- 23.1% of those who live in a household with another adult say that at least one of the other adults is not staying home.

**Methodology**

From April 10 to April 30, 2020, 581 LGBTQ Americans residing in 47 US states completed the online survey.

**Contact**

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