

Findings from the CUNY SPH Survey of the Harlem Community June 5 – 8, 2020

Two out of three Harlem residents (67%) are optimistic about the future of Harlem

This is a testament to the resilience of the Harlem community, particularly in the face of the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 epidemic.

The economic impact of the pandemic is very substantial

- 49% of households report worrying about running out of food.
- Fully 36% report not having enough money to get more food.
- One in three (33%) households report someone in that household lost their job as a result of coronavirus.
- 15% of residents report losing their health insurance since the epidemic started.
- 82% said more resources were needed to help small businesses and 85% report more resources are needed for those whose jobs were affected by COVID-19.

On an individual level, this is what respondents reported needing help with

	Need more help	Getting help	Not an issue
Afford permanent housing	48%	17%	35%
Navigating Govt help systems	48%	19%	33%
Having food to eat	41%	23%	36%
Improving at-home internet	37%	22%	41%
Finding a job	35%	14%	51%
Needed medical care	29%	32%	38%
Mental healthcare	24%	22%	54%

Despite a relative degree of optimism, many are unsure of the preparedness to meet similar future challenges

- 43% think Harlem is prepared to deal with an epidemic in the future, 39% think Harlem is not too prepared while 18% think Harlem is not prepared at all.

Perception of health risk in the community

- 46% of residents report a high or very high risk of getting sick, 38% said a low chance, and 16% said very low.
- Just 4% of Harlem residents report being tested for the coronavirus, of which 69% report being tested positive, an indication that only the sickest residents were getting tested.
- 14% report having someone in their household sick with fever or symptoms of coronavirus.
- 37% report having other health care appointments for unrelated problems canceled due to the epidemic.
- 65% of residents plan to be vaccinated for COVID-19 when available.

Mental health

- About one in four (24%) report rarely or never feeling hopeful about the future in the last week, 32% reporting feeling hopeful some of the time, 27% said a moderate amount of time, and 17% report most of the time.
- 18% report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge most of the time, 29% report never feeling this way.
- 8% report feeling down, depressed, or hopeless most of the time, 40% report never feeling this way.
- 55% report that the current climate of social unrest has contributed to their anxiety or depression. Of which 43% reported a little impact while 35% reported a lot of impact.
- Only 16% of residents report experiencing harassment or violence because of their race.

How this was poll conducted

The CUNY Harlem survey was conducted June 5-7, 2020. The sample consisted of residents living in zip codes 10026, 10027, 10030, 10031, 10034, 10035, 10037, n=536, with a Credibility Interval (CI) similar to a poll's margin of error (MOE) of +/- 4.2 percentage points. The data was weighted based on 2018 American community surveys by gender, education, ethnicity, age and zip code to represent the universe of 231,770 residents above the age of 18. It is important to remember that subsets based on gender, age, ethnicity, and region carry with them higher margins of error, as the sample size is reduced. Data was collected using both an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines (n=259) and SMS-to-online (n=277).