



## **BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION**

# **Key Insights into the experiences of Latinx Californians from a Statewide Survey about COVID-19, Equity, and Domestic Violence**

April 2021

Blue Shield of California Foundation sponsored a statewide survey of 1,918 California adults 18 and older to understand experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, equity, and domestic violence. The non-partisan research firm PerryUndem developed and analyzed the survey and Ipsos fielded the survey online January 6 – 22, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

The survey found that many Californians are experiencing serious impacts from the pandemic, and provides insights to their experiences with race, health, finances, and a growth in the conditions that cause domestic violence. The pandemic has exacerbated many of the disparities that Latinx Californians face, and the survey data offer insights into these experiences among Latinx Californians during this time. Following are some key insights from the 401 Latinx Californians who participated in our survey:

### **COVID-19 IMPACTS**

Like other Californians of color in the survey, Latinx adults are experiencing serious impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic including economic security and experiencing illness from COVID-19 directly. Key findings include:

- 89% of Latinx respondents say the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major (38%) or minor (51%) effect on them and their families.
- Since the pandemic started, 53% of Latinx Californians say they have felt unsafe and 55% say they have felt trapped in their homes.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey of 1,918 California adults included: 428 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults; 423 Black adults; 401 Latinx adults; and 293 LGBTQ adults. The survey was offered in English, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Tagalog, and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for total results is + 3.2 percentage points.

- The economic impacts have been steepest among Latinx Californians. 36% report their incomes have gone down. More than a quarter say they have had to go to work even though they felt unsafe (27%), and nearly one in five say they have lost a job (19%).
- The health impacts of COVID-19 have also hit Latinx communities hardest. One in three say they or a family member have had COVID-19 (31%). This is more than 10 points higher than any other racial demographic group in the survey.

## **RACISM**

Latinx Californians also report feeling and experiencing the effects of racism in their lives. Key findings include:

- 92% of Latinx adults believe racism has increased (69%) or stayed the same (23%) in recent years.
- Half of Latinx adults feel it is a “bad time” to be a Latino man (52%) or Latina woman (49%) in America.
- 1 in 5 (22%) say they do not feel personally accepted as an equal and valuable member of society.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

One purpose of the survey was to better understand feelings about and experiences with domestic violence. The results show that the vast majority of Latinx adults see this as a serious issue and provide insights into solutions to address the issue. Key findings include:

- 90% of Latinx adults say domestic violence is a serious problem in society right now.
- 62% say it is a public issue that should be addressed by all of us, just 17% say it is a private issue that should stay within families.
- 89% of Latinx adults think the pandemic and the stay-at home orders in California have made domestic violence incidents more likely to occur.
- 68% of Latinx adults believe the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders have made it harder for people experiencing domestic violence to reach out for help.
- 81% of Latinx adults support alternatives to jail for people who cause domestic violence. This could be counseling, including substance abuse counseling, supervision by a social worker, or restitution to the person who experienced the violence.