

## Coronavirus October 2020 DC Survey Summary

The DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority and the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce commissioned the Coronavirus 2020 Survey. This report presents the findings of an Online CARAVAN® survey conducted by ENGINE INSIGHTS among a sample of 502 residents of Washington, D.C. aged 18 and older, comprised of 235 men and 267 women. The survey was live on October 1-11, 2020. Respondents were members of an online panel and had agreed to participate in online surveys and polls.

Throughout this report, results are analyzed in total as well as by gender, generation, and race/ethnicity where statistically significant differences exist at a 95% confidence level. Generations are defined as Gen Z, ages 18-23 (N=69); Millennials, ages 24-39 (N=211); Gen X, ages 40-55 (N=134); and Baby Boomers, ages 56-74 (N=75). To analyze results by race/ethnicity, respondents are classified as White Only, Non-Hispanic (N=213); Black Only, Non-Hispanic (N=191); and Hispanic, Any Race (N=58).

### Vast Majority Concerned About Coronavirus

Over nine in ten respondents (92%) express concern about the Coronavirus, with 70% stating they are very concerned and 22% feeling somewhat concerned.

Overall concern levels are higher among White and Black respondents (both 93%) compared to their Hispanic counterparts (81%). Over seven in ten White (72%) and Black (73%) D.C. residents are very concerned about the virus, significantly higher than the 59% of Hispanic respondents who feel the same.

Among D.C. residents, Gen Xers (77%) are the most likely – and members of Gen Z (62%) the least likely – to say they are very concerned about the Coronavirus.

### Contracting Coronavirus Tops List of Current Concerns

Over four in five respondents are at least somewhat concerned that a member of their family will contract the Coronavirus (84%) or that they themselves will contract it (83%). Three in four (75%) expressed concern about their mental wellbeing due to the Coronavirus, while nearly as many are worried about personal finances as a result of the pandemic (71%).

Although they rank lower on the list, losing their health insurance (57%) and feeding their family (55%) are concerns for over half of D.C. residents.

Losing health insurance is of greater concern for Hispanic (74%) and Black (59%) respondents than for White (51%) respondents. Hispanic (71%) and Black residents (62%) are much more likely than White (46%) respondents to express concern about feeding their family. And job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic has affected twice as many Hispanic (21%) and Black (20%) residents compared to their White counterparts (11%).

While all generations equally share in their concern for family members contracting the Coronavirus, D.C. Gen Xers (87%) are significantly more inclined than members of Gen Z (75%)

to express concern about catching the virus themselves. When it comes to the virus's effect on their mental wellbeing, Millennials (81%) and Gen Xers (79%) express a much higher level of concern than do Baby Boomers (57%). In addition, all three younger generations are significantly more likely than Boomers to say they are at least somewhat concerned about their personal finances due to the Coronavirus, losing their health insurance, and feeding their families. Loss of health insurance is of greatest concern to Gen X (72%), followed by Gen Z (65%). Furthermore, members of Gen X (66%) and Gen Z (67%) are over twice as likely as Baby Boomers (31%) to worry about feeding their family.

### **Two in Three Are Confident Vaccine Will Bring More Normalcy**

Most residents of D.C. (67%) are confident that life will "return close to normal" once an effective vaccine is available for COVID-19. One in five (21%) are extremely confident, while 15% are very confident and another 31% are somewhat confident.

White respondents (43%) are significantly more likely than their Black counterparts (31%) to be extremely or very confident that life will return close to normal with an effective vaccine. However, Hispanics are by far the most inclined to express they are not confident at all (17%, vs. 7% Black and 5% White).

Men in D.C. (77%) are significantly more likely than women (59%) to feel confident that life will normalize with an effective vaccine, and they are twice as likely as women (49% vs. 25%, respectively) to feel extremely or very confident about this.

While Gen Xers express the highest levels of concern about the Coronavirus, they are also the most likely to express confidence that a vaccine will bring back some normalcy. Three-quarters (74%) of Gen Xers are at least somewhat confident, significantly higher than the 64% of Millennials and 57% of Baby Boomers who feel the same. In addition, nearly half (47%) of Gen Xers are extremely or very confident, compared to just one-third of Gen Z and Millennials (both 33%) and a mere 27% of Boomers.

### **Dr. Fauci Most Trusted Source of Vaccine Updates**

Topping the list of trusted sources to provide accurate updates on the status of a COVID-19 vaccine is Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), who was cited by over half (54%) of D.C. residents. Locally Mayor Muriel Bowser/Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt is cited as a trusted voice by 21% of respondents, similar to one's personal physician (24%).

### **Majority Still Hesitant to Dine Indoors at Restaurants**

Nearly three in five D.C. residents (58%) are hesitant to dine indoors at restaurants, exceeding hesitancy to visit a dentist's office (40%), an ER or hospital (39%), or doctors' offices (36%) by a considerable margin.

Nearly half of Hispanics are hesitant to visit a dentist's office (48%) or doctors' offices (47%). Additionally, White residents of D.C. are significantly more inclined than Black residents to be hesitant to dine indoors at restaurants (64% vs. 48%, respectively).

Women are more hesitant than men to dine indoors at restaurants (62% vs. 53%, respectively) and to visit an ER or hospital (45% vs. 33%, respectively).

Millennials are by far the most likely of all generations – particularly compared to Baby Boomers -- to express hesitancy when it comes to visiting a dentist's office (49%), an ER/hospital (46%), or doctors' offices (45%).

## **Importance of Health Insurance Recognized by Most, But Less So by Gen Z**

The vast majority (96%) of D.C. residents consider health insurance important in this pandemic, with four in five (81%) saying it is very important and 15% feeling it is somewhat important to them.

The importance of health insurance is recognized by significantly more Baby Boomers (99%), Gen Xers (98%), and Millennials (97%) compared to the younger members of Gen Z (87%). Baby Boomers (91%) and Millennials (82%) are also much more inclined than Gen Z (70%) to believe health insurance is very important during the pandemic.

Nearly all White respondents (98%) regard health insurance as important, slightly more than their Black (94%) and Hispanic (93%) counterparts.

## **Two-thirds of Residents Aware of Enrollment Anytime Through D.C. Health Link**

Two in three D.C. residents (67%) are aware that they can enroll in health insurance anytime through D.C. Health Link.

Awareness is considerably higher among Gen X (75%) and Millennials (72%) compared to Baby Boomers (60%) and especially Gen Z (48%).

## **COVID-19 Testing and Treatment Considered Very Important Part of Coverage**

Just as health insurance in this pandemic is considered important by nearly all D.C. residents, so too is coverage of COVID-19 testing and treatment through their health insurance plan – rated at least somewhat important by 96% of respondents, including 81% who consider it very important.

At least nine in ten members of all generations rate coverage of COVID-19 testing and treatment important. However, Baby Boomers (92%) and Millennials (83%) are far more likely than Gen Z (67%) to view this coverage as a very important part of their health insurance plan.

Almost all White respondents (99%) rate coverage of COVID-19 testing and treatment important, compared to 93% of both Black and Hispanic respondents. White residents of D.C. are also significantly more inclined than Hispanic residents to consider this coverage very important (85% vs. 74%, respectively).

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