

City University of New York
Dominican Studies Institute
COVID 19 Survey

Barreto Segura Partners (BSP Research) completed a survey of self-identified Dominicans in the United States in New York, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. In this memo we outline key findings.

CRITICAL TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Share of Dominicans who contracted COVID-19 in New York (24%) and New Jersey (30%) surpassed the share for the overall Hispanic/Latino population in both states, 19% and 21%, respectively.**
- 2. Most Dominicans report being vaccinated, though the numbers are lower in Florida compared to New York. Dominicans reported protecting themselves and social responsibility as the two primary reasons to get vaccinated.**
- 3. At the height of COVID-19 and presently, most Dominicans continue to adhere to mask wearing.**

TOP FINDINGS

Most Dominicans (54%) self-identify as strong Democrats or lean Democratic, while 23% identify as Independent, and 11% as strong Republicans/lean Republican.

- By state, 60% of New York Dominicans identify as string Democrats or lean Democratic, while 19% identify as independent
- 45% of New Jersey Dominicans identify as string Democrats or lean Democratic, while 35% identify ad Independent
- 55% of Dominicans in Florida identify as strong democrats or lean Democratic, while 20% identify as Independent
- Compared to New York (6%) and New Jersey (9%), Florida has the highest rate of Republican/lean Republican Dominicans at 16%

Impact of COVID-19

A sizeable percentage of Dominicans held jobs that put them at greater risk during the pandemic.

- 45% of Dominicans were exposed to COVID-19 due to the nature of their job compared to 31%.
- Of those whose work exposed them to COVID-19, men (50%), Dominicans aged 30-39 (63%), and US born Dominicans (54%) were hardest hit.

A majority of Dominicans surveyed either lost their job, saw their job hours reduced, or were furloughed due to COVID-19.

- 17% of Dominicans lost their job since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak
 - Of the 17%, those most impacted are Dominicans in the 30-39 age range
- 31% of Dominicans saw their work hours reduced since March 2020
 - Of the 31%, men (35%), Dominicans 30-39 (40%), and US born Dominicans (39%) were most affected
- 8% of Dominicans were furloughed since March 2020
 - Dominicans between 18-29 were most affected by furloughs (11%)

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, most Dominicans (58%) have not applied for unemployment benefits, while 29% have applied and received unemployment benefits, and only 8% applied and were denied benefits.

Of Dominicans who own or operate their own business, COVID-19 has positively affected their business with 67% of Dominican business owners saying their businesses have done much better or somewhat better.

- 46% of Dominican business owners requested PPP for financial assistance
 - Of these 46%, US born Dominicans requested PPP at a higher rate (50%) than DR born Dominicans (30%)
- 30% of Dominican business owners requested financial assistance from a government program other than PPP
- 31% requested financial assistance from the bank
- 25% requested financial assistance from family and friends

Of Dominicans who requested financial assistance, 90% received assistance. In New York, 97% of Dominicans received assistance, in New Jersey, 91% of Dominicans received assistance. In Florida, the number of Dominicans who received assistance was less at 83%.

A minority of Dominicans reported personally affected by COVID-19 or knowing someone who contracted COVID-19.

- 24% of Dominicans reported contracting COVID-19
 - Of these 11% reported being hospitalized
 - 90% isolated at home away from other family members
 - 30% of these were in New Jersey, 20% in Florida, and 24% in New York
- 20% reported that someone in their household contracted COVID-19
- 29% reported that a family member outside of their household contracted COVID-19
- 28% reported knowing someone who contracted COVID-19
- 26% reported not knowing anyone who contracted COVID-19

COVID-19 Mask Adherence

At the height of COVID-19, most Dominicans adhered to mask wearing during indoor activities, like grocery shopping, public transit, and church.

- 79% of Dominicans said they always or almost always wore a mask during indoor activities
 - Of those 79%, those over 50 years of age adhered at the highest rate (92%)
 - Of those 79%, predominate Spanish speakers adhered at higher rates (86%) compared to predominate English speakers (80%)
 - Of those 79%, DR born adhered at higher rates (85%) than US born Dominicans (71%).
- Mask adherence during indoor activities was highest in New Jersey (86%) and New York (82%), and slightly lower in Florida (75%)

Presently, most Dominicans (75%) continue to wear masks during indoor activities. Again, Dominicans 50 years of age or older, DR born, and Spanish-dominant adhere to mask wearing always or almost always at higher rates than their counterparts.

- 78% of New York Dominicans continue to always or almost always wear a mask during indoor activities, while 79% New Jersey Dominicans do so.
- 70% of Dominican in Florida continue to adhere to mask wearing indoors.

COVID-19 Vaccine and Information

Most Dominicans are vaccinated, though the numbers are lower in Florida compared to New York. Dominicans report protecting themselves and social responsibility as the primary reasons, respectively, to get vaccinated. Most Dominicans (73%) were able to receive the vaccine less than 30 minutes from their home.

- 77% of Dominicans are vaccinated
 - 83% in New York, 76% in New Jersey, and 70% in Florida.
- 95% have received both doses or plan to receive the second dose
- 93% of Dominicans received a vaccine in their home state

There is a lack of Latino and Dominican providers administering COVID-19 vaccines.

- 50% of Dominicans did not receive the vaccine from Latino/Dominican provider, while 31% reported receiving the vaccine from a Latino/Dominican provider

Most Dominicans received the Pfizer or Moderna Vaccines, while a smaller minority receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

- 47% of Dominicans received the Pfizer vaccine
- 32% of Dominicans received the Moderna vaccine
- 16% of Dominicans received the J&J vaccine

Among unvaccinated Dominicans, most Dominicans know how to get a vaccine or can figure it out (55%), while a minority (26%) do not know how to get a vaccine or tired but were unable to get a vaccine. An even smaller minority (18%) do not plan to get vaccinated.

Among Dominicans who send money to family in the Dominican Republic, COVID-19 has prevented 55% of them do so in 2020 or 2021.

Most Dominicans use social media (30%) or cable/local/network news (38%) as their primary source to obtain information about COVID-19.

- Younger Dominicans (ages 18-39) uses social media at higher rates than older Dominicans (50+)
- US born Dominicans (34%) use social media at higher rates than DR born Dominicans (28%)
- 45% DR born Dominicans get their COVID-19 information from cable/local/network news compared to 29% of US born Dominicans
- 60% of Dominicans 50 years of age or older get their information from cable/local/network news

Well-Being Among Dominicans

Overall, Dominican women report feelings of nervousness, anxiety, worry, little interest in activities, depression, and hopelessness compared to Dominican men. Furthermore, US born Dominican report these feelings at higher rates than DR born Dominicans.

Conclusion

It is clear that COVID-19 has impacted the Dominican community. Economically, about one-third of Dominicans surveyed saw their hours reduced at work, while another 25 percent lost their jobs or were furloughed. COVID-19 also prevented a majority of Dominicans who send money to family in the Dominican Republic during 2020 and 2021. However, Dominican business owners were positively impacted by COVID-19. Likely because most requested financial assistance and the overwhelmingly majority received financial assistance.

Personally, 24% of Dominicans were personally affected by COVID-19. Currently, all Latinos comprise 26.6% of COVID-19 cases in the United States. Dominicans who contracted COVID-19 in New York (24%) and New Jersey (30%) surpassed the total Hispanic/Latino population in both states, 19% and 21%, respectively.

This may be the case because an overwhelming majority of Dominicans surveyed are vaccinated. Contrary to US national rhetoric that painted a picture of people of color and nonwhite communities' hesitancy to get vaccinated, in the United States, the percentage of Dominicans vaccinated (77%) stands above the national average (57%) as of October 15, 2021. Furthermore, at the height of COVID-19, when things were at their worst, most Dominicans adhered to mask wearing while performing indoor activities, and most Dominicans continue to adhere to wearing masks during indoor activities.

Finally, Dominicans reported protecting themselves as the number one reason for vaccination, while the second most reported reason was social responsibility, signaling Dominicans' reverence to civic duties and responsibility.