

TEXANS' VIEWS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE BEXAR COUNTY AREA

Findings from the Episcopal Health Foundation
2020 Texas COVID-19 Survey

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August and September of 2020, a study was conducted on the views and experiences of Texas residents on the COVID-19 pandemic including the impact of the pandemic on the health, financial condition, and concerns for the future. The survey also paid special attention to Bexar County area including residents of Bexar, Guadalupe, and Medina counties. This report contains findings from the Bexar County region and compares these findings to those from the residents in other areas of the state where there are statistically significant differences.

In early March 2020, The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reported the first case of COVID-19 in the state. Later that month, the Bexar County judge issued a stay-at-home order to curb the spread of the disease. As the region continues to grapple with the repercussions of the pandemic on the healthcare system and economy, residents continue to worry about the effects of COVID-19 on their own health and finances.

When it comes to health care, four in ten area residents report that they or someone in their household skipped or postponed medical care because of the pandemic (39%). Additionally, one in three Bexar County residents under age 65 are currently without health insurance coverage (30%)¹.

Use of virtual resources to access health care are important as residents are encouraged to stay home to curb the spread of COVID-19. However, 27 percent of residents cannot access telemedicine resources because they either do not have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access, do not know how to talk with a doctor online, or cannot access the internet to talk with a doctor.

COVID-19 has impacted the mental health of residents with 45 percent saying that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has negatively impacted their mental health. Fifteen percent report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day in the past two weeks. Sixteen percent report having little interest or pleasure in doing things nearly every day (11%).

Overall, almost half of residents say they are very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available (46%). As for the seasonal flu vaccine, public health officials note that getting a flu vaccine this year will be more important than ever due to the similarities in symptoms between the viruses and with the COVID-19 pandemic already putting pressure on the state's healthcare system.² The majority of residents say they regularly get a flu vaccine (57%) and two-thirds say they are more likely to get a flu vaccine this year because of the COVID-19 outbreak (66%).

Most residents have experienced financial hardship as a result of the pandemic (57%). Nearly four in ten (37%) say they or someone in their household have lost their job, their business, been furloughed, had their

¹ Compared with estimates from the 2019 US Census Bureau's 2019 Current Populations Report: Health Insurance in the United States (<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-267.pdf>) place the uninsured rate in Texas at 18 percent.

² <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/flu/>

wages or hours reduced, or taken mandatory unpaid leave. Four in ten also say it is very important for the state government to provide assistance with making sure they have enough food (43%).

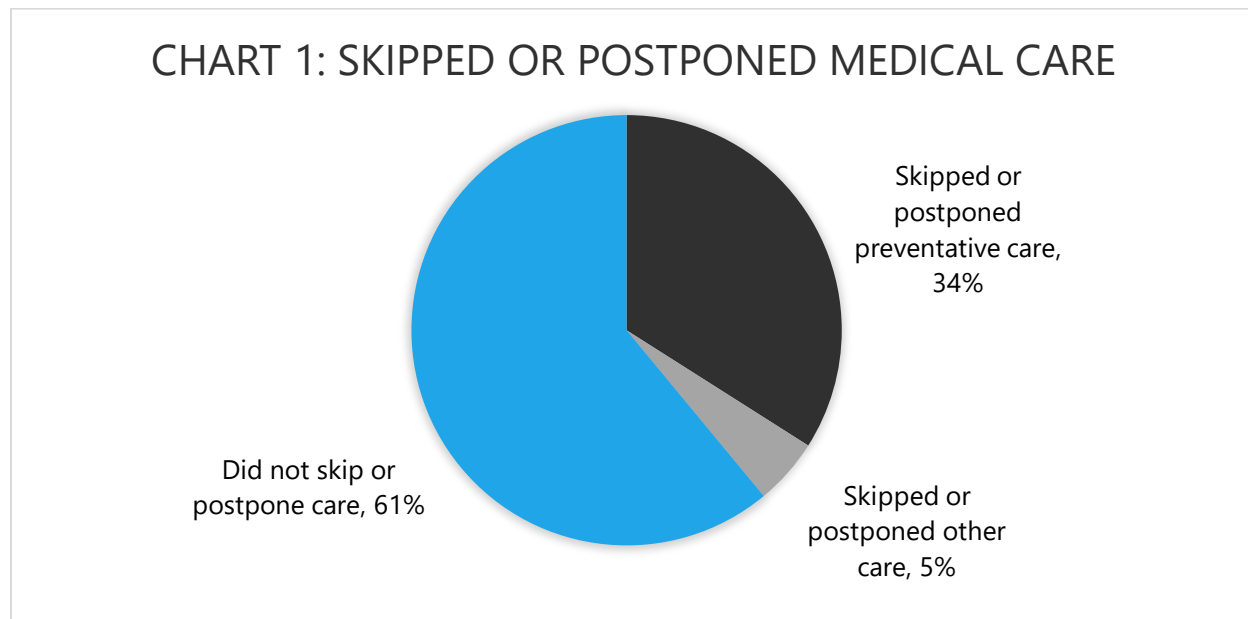
An important issue for the 29 percent of residents who are parents to children ages 5-17 is schooling this year. Twenty-one percent of parents of children ages 5-17 say their child would not have the support or supervision needed to successfully participate in online classes if required this school year.

Finally, looking towards the future of the pandemic, the majority of residents are very concerned about the outbreak of another wave of COVID-19 in Texas (57%; another 26% say they are somewhat concerned). At the same time, most say they and their household are very prepared for another wave (53%). However, fewer believe the local and state government are very prepared for another wave. Only 20 percent say the local government is very prepared (55% say the local government is somewhat prepared). Only 19 percent have confidence that the state government is very prepared (49% say the state government is somewhat prepared).

IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE FROM THE PANDEMIC

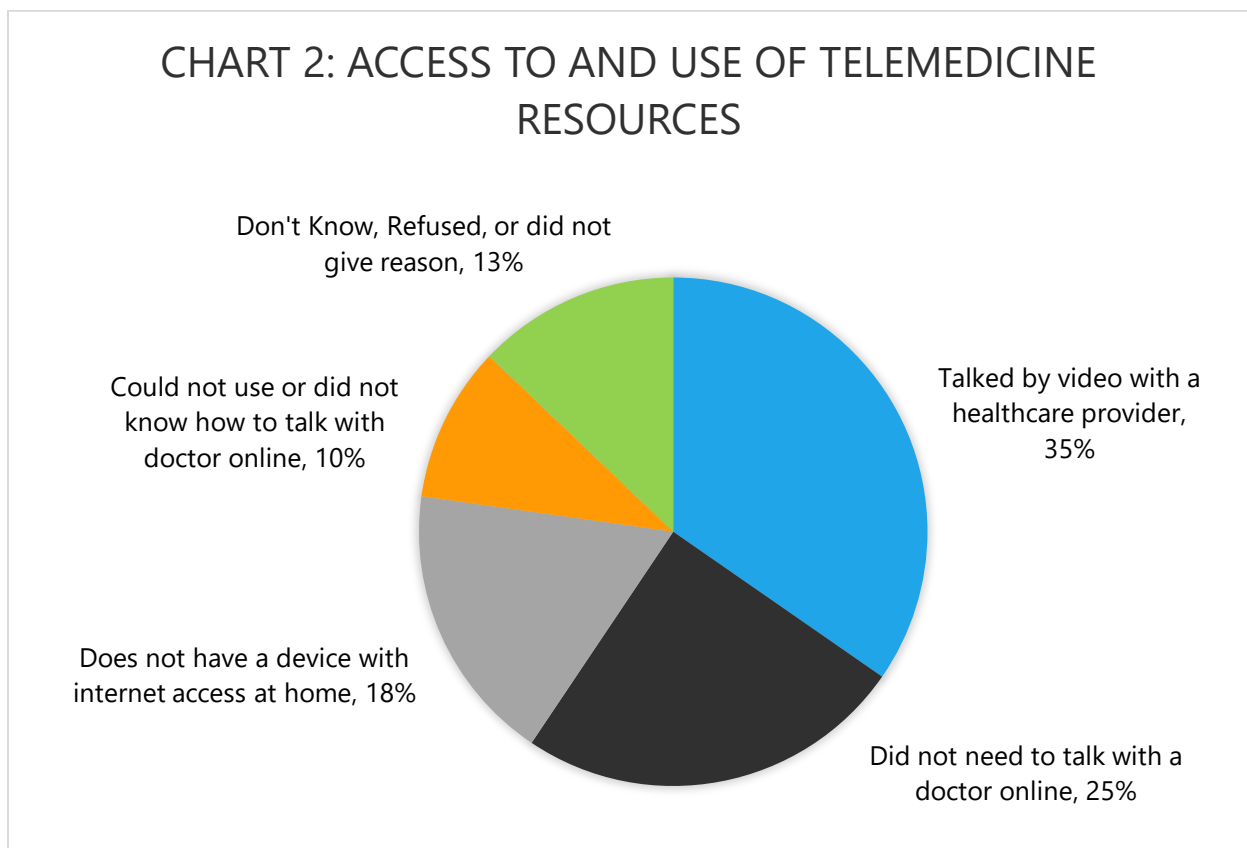
Residents are Skipping Medical Care Due to the Pandemic

Almost four in ten residents (39%) say they or someone in their household have skipped or postponed some type of medical care because of COVID-19 (Chart 1). Most of these residents skipped or postponed regular checkups or preventative care (88%) including dental and medical checkups, preventative screening like mammograms and colonoscopies, as well as child immunizations and child wellness visits. The other types of care that Texans have skipped or postponed include cancer treatments, surgeries, physical therapy or rehabilitation care, visits for symptoms they were experiencing, visits for chronic conditions such as diabetes, mental health care, and reproductive health care visits.



Many Do Not Have Ability to Use Virtual Health Care Resources

With public health officials encouraging residents to stay home as much as possible and use telemedicine for their non-urgent healthcare needs, access to these online resources has become vital. More than one third of residents (35%) have used a computer, smartphone, or tablet to talk with a doctor or healthcare provider by video. However, 18 percent do not have a computer, smartphone, or tablet with internet access at home. In addition, 10 percent of residents with internet access say they either do not know how to talk with a doctor online or cannot access the internet to talk with a doctor. This means that overall, 27 percent of Bexar County area residents either do not have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access, do not know how to talk with a doctor online, or cannot access the internet to talk with a doctor (Chart 2).



Looking Towards Flu Season and a Potential COVID-19 Vaccine

Almost half of Bexar County area residents say they are very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available (46%); another 17 percent say they are somewhat likely. This means that about two-thirds of residents are at least somewhat likely to get a potential COVID-19 vaccine (63%). However, more residents of the Bexar County area say they are very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine than those in the rest of Texas (36%).

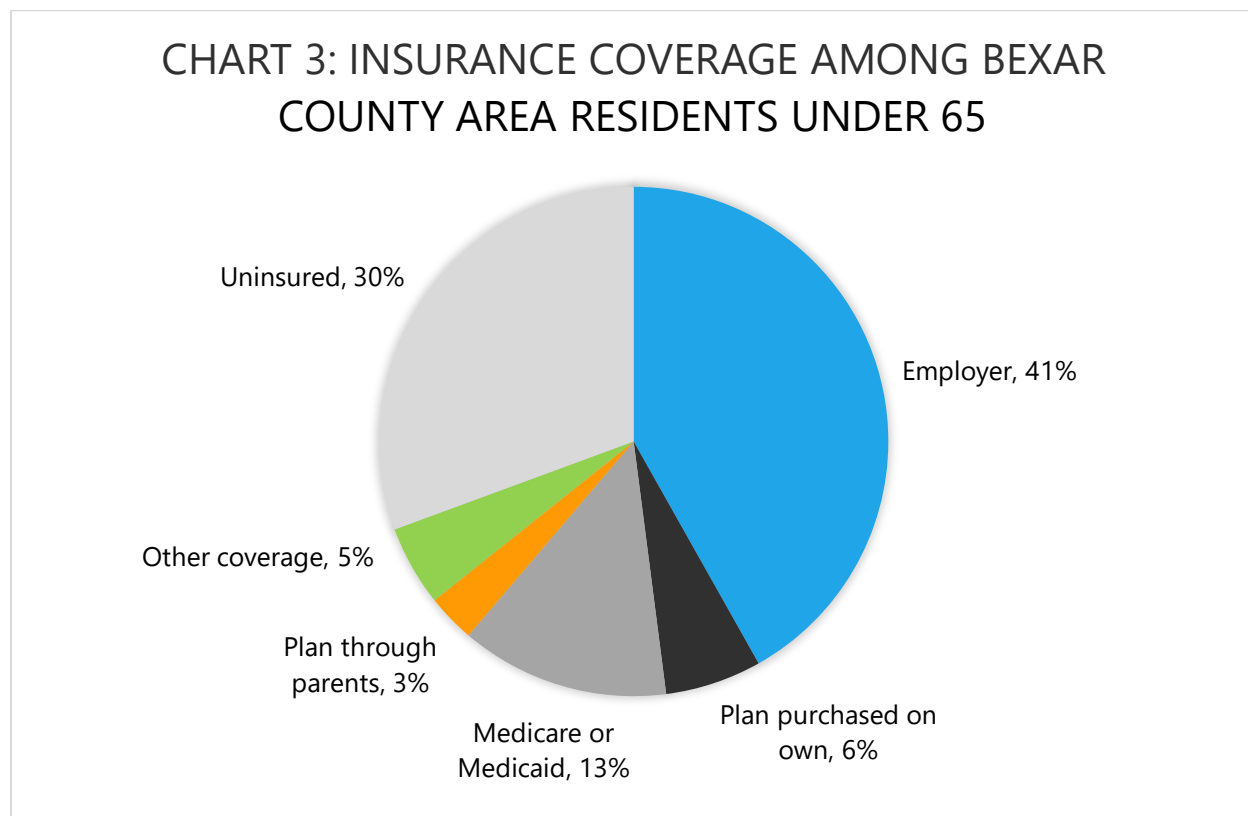
Regularly getting a flu vaccine is strongly associated with likelihood to get a potential COVID-19 vaccine. The majority of residents say they regularly get a flu vaccine (57%). Those who regularly get a flu vaccine are even more likely to say they will get a COVID-19 vaccine (56% v 34%).

The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted how likely Bexar County area residents say they are to get a flu vaccine this year. Two-thirds (66%) say they are more likely to get a flu vaccine this year with 43 percent saying they are much more likely and 24 percent saying they are somewhat more likely. Residents in the Bexar County area appear to be more likely to get a flu vaccine this year than residents in other parts of Texas (66% v. 54%).

Health Insurance Coverage During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The federal and state governments providing assistance with healthcare costs is a very important issue for nearly half of residents of the Bexar County area (49%). Overall, 26 percent of Bexar County area residents are currently uninsured.

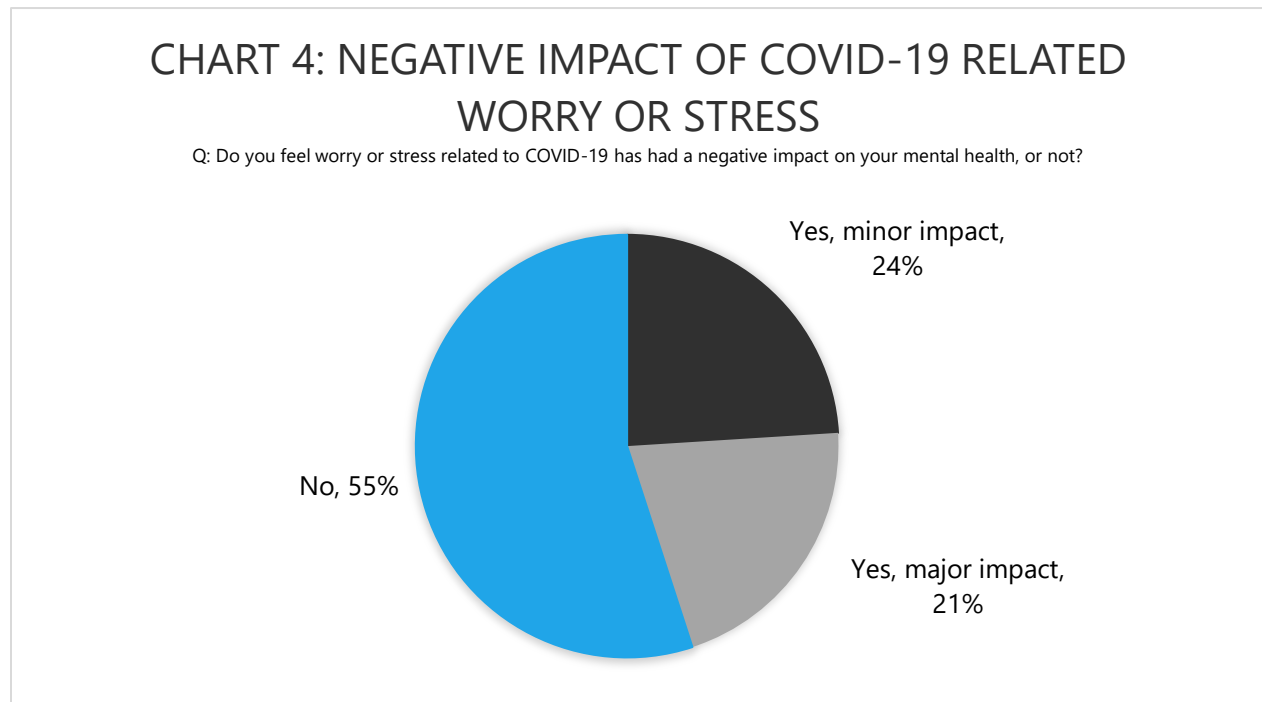
Five percent of Bexar County area residents (including those currently insured and uninsured) have lost their insurance coverage at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some residents turned to the state's Medicaid program, STAR Medicaid, for insurance coverage during the pandemic. Two in ten (21%) say they or someone in their household have received benefits from STAR Medicaid since March 2020. Insurance loss during the pandemic is likely due to about one in ten Bexar County area residents under 65 getting their insurance through their or their spouse's employer (41%).



Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A large majority of residents say they are in at least good physical health (75%). Similarly, the majority of residents also describe their mental health as at least good (78%). A quarter say their mental health is excellent (25%). Slightly more say their mental health is very good (27%) or good (26%).

Although the large majority say their mental health is at least good, 45 percent of residents say that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their mental health with 21 percent saying the pandemic has had a major impact and 24 percent saying it has had a minor impact (Chart 4).



The study also asked about negative feelings residents may have experienced in the previous 14 days. More than a quarter report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge about half the time or more (27%). When asked about not being able to stop or control worrying, 29 percent report feeling this way almost half the time or more. Twenty percent report feeling down, depressed, or hopeless at least half the time or more. Finally, 31 percent report having little interest or pleasure in doing things almost half the time or more.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Most residents (57%) say the pandemic has caused financial hardship for them and their household with 22 percent saying the pandemic has caused severe financial hardship. Residents of the Bexar County area report experiencing financial hardship at the same level as residents in the rest of the state.

Employment During the Pandemic

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, 37 percent of residents say they or someone in their household have lost their job, their business, had their wages reduced, or been furloughed. Within this group, about half say they have gotten a new job or received their hours or wages back (57%) and 62 percent say their household member has gotten a new job or received their wages or hours back.

This study also explored the characteristics of those that have been deemed essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are individuals employed full or part-time who must work outside their home even during stay-at-home orders and other local and state government restrictions on business reopening. By this definition, 36 percent of Bexar County area residents hold essential jobs.

Use of Government Assistance

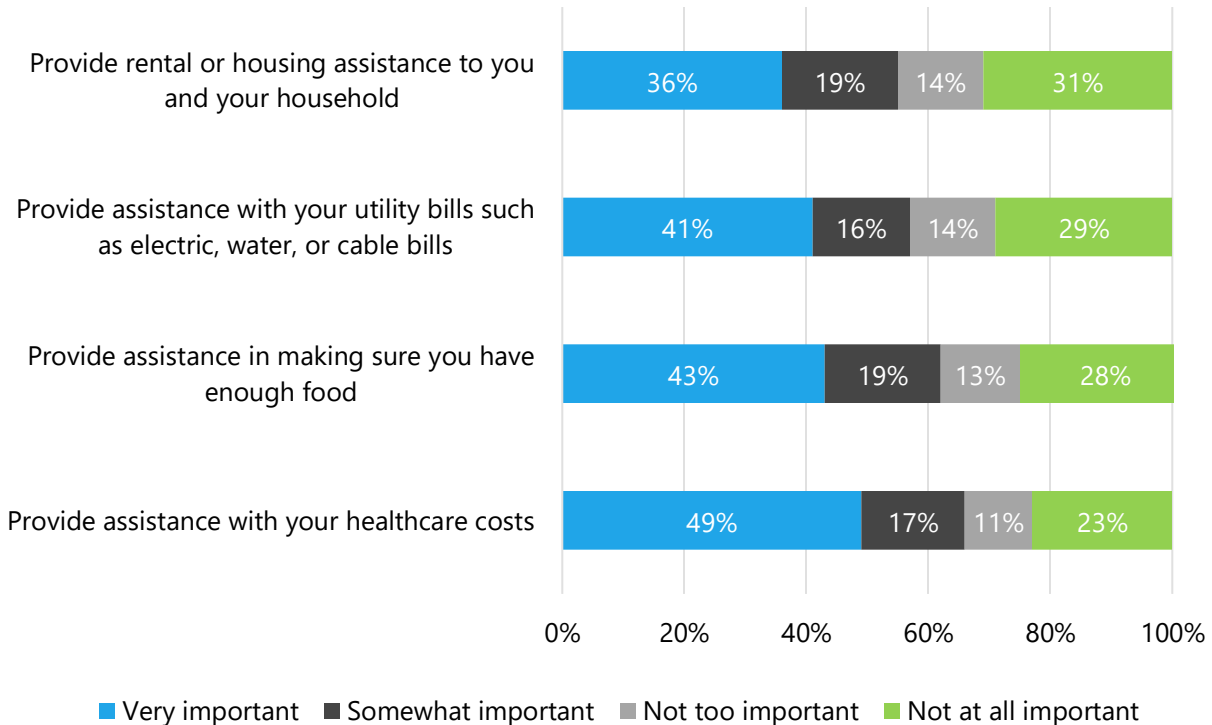
At the end of March 2020, the U.S. Congress passed the CARES Act which included numerous measures to provide financial assistance to Americans in response to COVID-19. This included additional unemployment benefits, small business loans, and direct stimulus payments to individuals. A majority of Bexar County area residents say they received financial assistance from the federal government in response to COVID-19 (76%).

In addition to these new forms of assistance introduced in response to COVID-19, residents are also receiving benefits from standard government programs such as STAR Medicaid, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), special supplemental assistance program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Nearly a third of residents have received benefits from one of these programs since the outbreak began in March 2020 (32%). Moreover, 11 percent of residents started receiving these benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. Bexar County area residents were more likely to receive these benefits than resident from other parts of the state of Texas (24%).

Residents report that many forms of assistance provided by state and federal governments are important to them and their household. Nearly half of residents (49%) say that it is very important for the federal or state government to provide assistance with health care costs for them and their household with another saying this is 17 percent somewhat important. Four in ten say it is very important for the federal or state government to provide assistance in making sure they have enough food (43%) and another 19 percent say it is somewhat important. Four in ten also say help with their utility bills (41%) is very important. Another 16 percent say help with utilities is somewhat important (Chart 5).

CHART 5: GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IMPORTANT TO MOST HOUSEHOLDS IN BEXAR COUNTY AREA

Q: How important is it for the federal or state government to (ITEM) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?



Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Support from Non-profits and Social Networks

Beyond formal assistance through government programs, this study also explored the types of assistance Bexar County area residents may be receiving from non-governmental sources such as non-profit organizations as well as family, friends, and neighbors. Two in ten residents say they have received food from a non-profit organization or food bank since the COVID-19 outbreak began (20%). A smaller number say they have received help with rent payments (8%), assistance with utility bills (7%), or other monetary assistance (5%) through these organizations. Additionally, 21 percent say they have received financial assistance from family, friends, neighbors, or other individuals during the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, 36 percent of Bexar County area residents have received support from a nonprofit organization, food bank, or individuals in their social network. Bexar County area residents are more likely to have received these types assistance from nonprofits and individuals than residents in the rest of the state (Table 1).

Table 1. Assistance from Non-Profit Organizations and Individuals

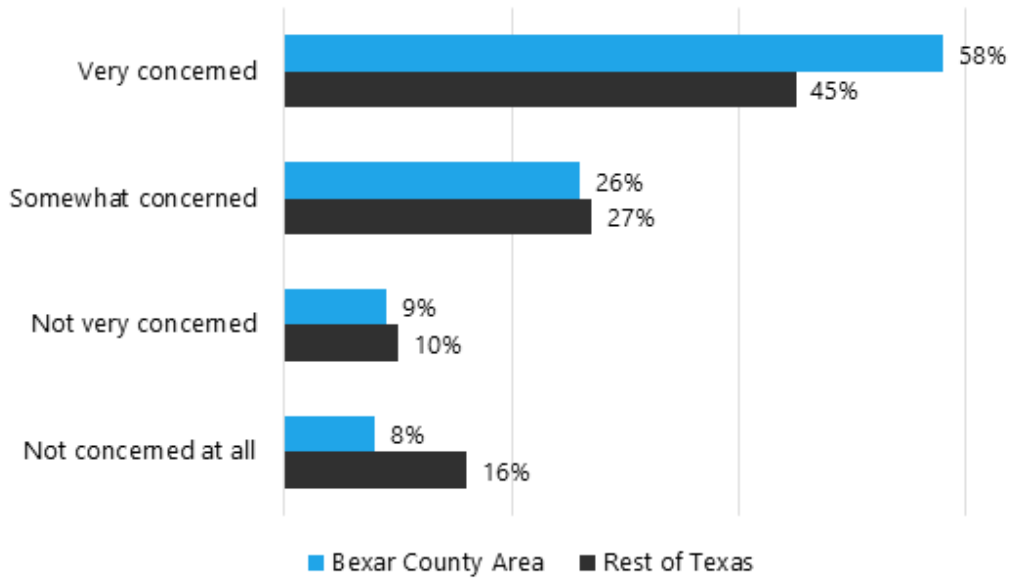
	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Food	20%	13%
Help with rent payment	8%	2%
Assistance with utility bills	7%	4%
Other monetary assistance	5%	4%
Family, friends, neighbor, and other	21%	13%

CURRENT CONCERNS REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a major concern for Bexar County area residents with half reporting that they feel the worst is yet to come in terms of the pandemic within the state of Texas (52%). Residents in the Bexar County area are more likely to feel this way than those in the rest of Texas (43%). In the survey, residents were asked about their biggest concern regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Texas. Many residents voiced concerns over them, loved ones, and those most vulnerable such as the elderly getting sick with COVID-19 (29%). Similarly, the majority of residents are very concerned about another wave of COVID-19 (58%; another 26% say they are somewhat concerned). More Bexar County area residents are very concerned about another wave of the pandemic than residents in the rest of the state (45%) (Chart 6).

CHART 6: BEXAR COUNTY AREA RESIDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER WAVE OF COVID-19

Q: Based on what you have experienced so far, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all about another wave of COVID-19 in Texas?

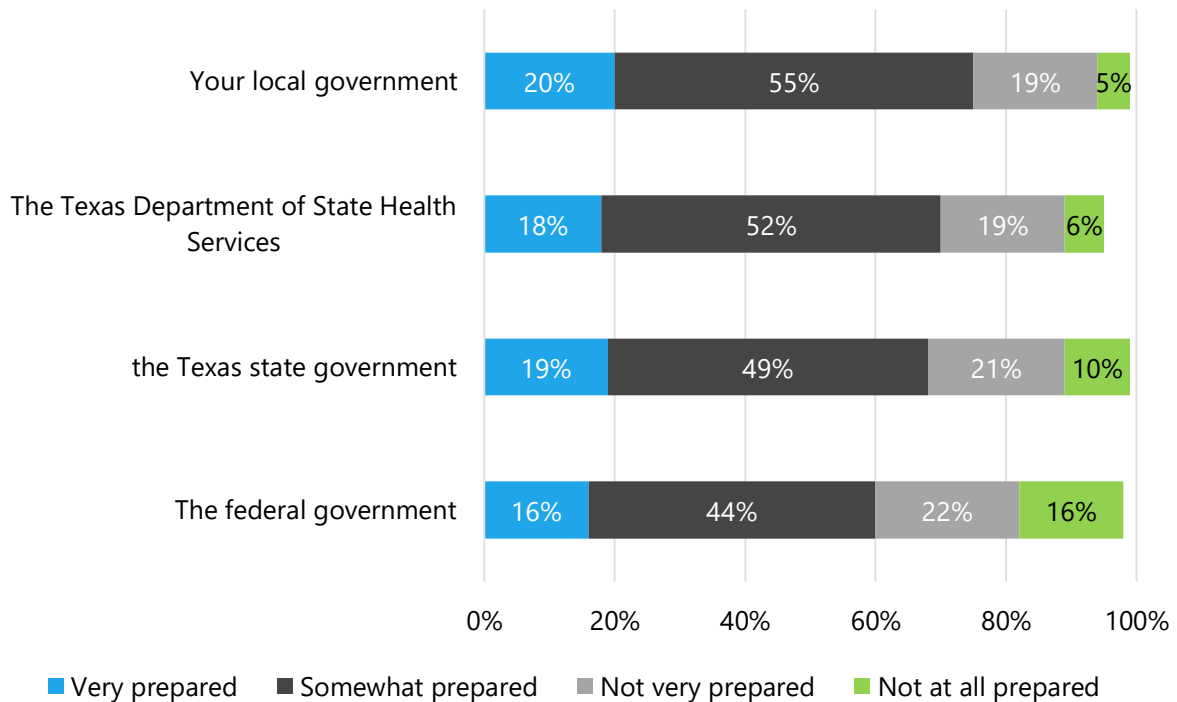


State and Local Government Preparedness for Another Wave

As Bexar County area residents prepare for a possible new wave of the COVID-19 outbreak, few view their local, state and federal governments as very prepared to handle a new outbreak. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is viewed as very prepared by only 18 percent of Bexar County area residents (52% say the DSHS is somewhat prepared). Similarly, 20 percent say that the local government is very prepared for another wave of COVID-19 with 55 percent saying their local government is somewhat prepared. Nineteen percent of residents say they think the state government is very prepared for another wave (another 49% say the state government is somewhat prepared). And slightly fewer say they think the federal government is very prepared (16%; 44% say the federal government is somewhat prepared). Texans both within the Bexar County area and the rest of the state tend to view the preparedness of the local and state governments similarly (Chart 7).

CHART 7: MOST RESIDENTS DO NOT THINK GOVERNMENT IS VERY PREPARED FOR ANOTHER WAVE OF COVID-19

Q: How prepared do you think (ITEM) is to handle another wave of COVID-19?



Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Even though positive ratings on the preparedness of the federal government for another wave of COVID-19 were lower in comparison to the state and local governments, the federal government was likeliest to be seen as primarily responsible for the healthcare response to COVID-19. More than four in ten Bexar County area residents say the federal government should be responsible (45%), while 23 percent say the state government should be primarily responsible for the health care response, and 24 percent say their local government should be primarily responsible.

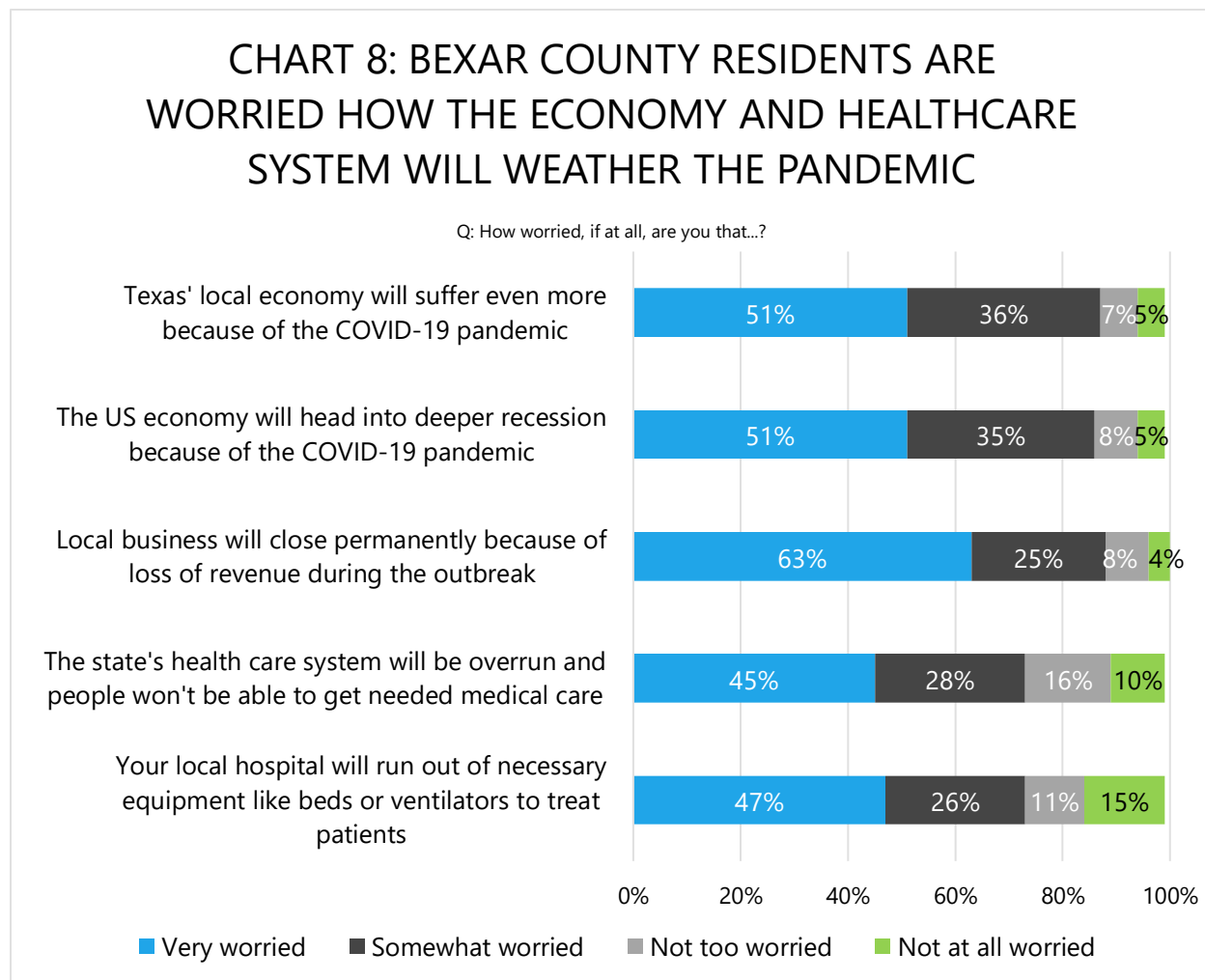
Residents have similar thoughts on responsibility for the economic recovery from the pandemic. The majority (54%) say the federal government should hold primary responsibility for the economic recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak while only 27 percent say the state and 12 percent say local governments should be responsible for the economic recovery.

Even though the majority of residents believe their local government as well as the state and federal governments are at least somewhat prepared for another wave of COVID-19, residents are still worried

about how the healthcare system and economy will fare as the COVID-19 outbreak continues. A large majority have economic concerns with 63 percent being very worried that local businesses will close permanently because of loss of revenue during the outbreak (25% are somewhat worried).

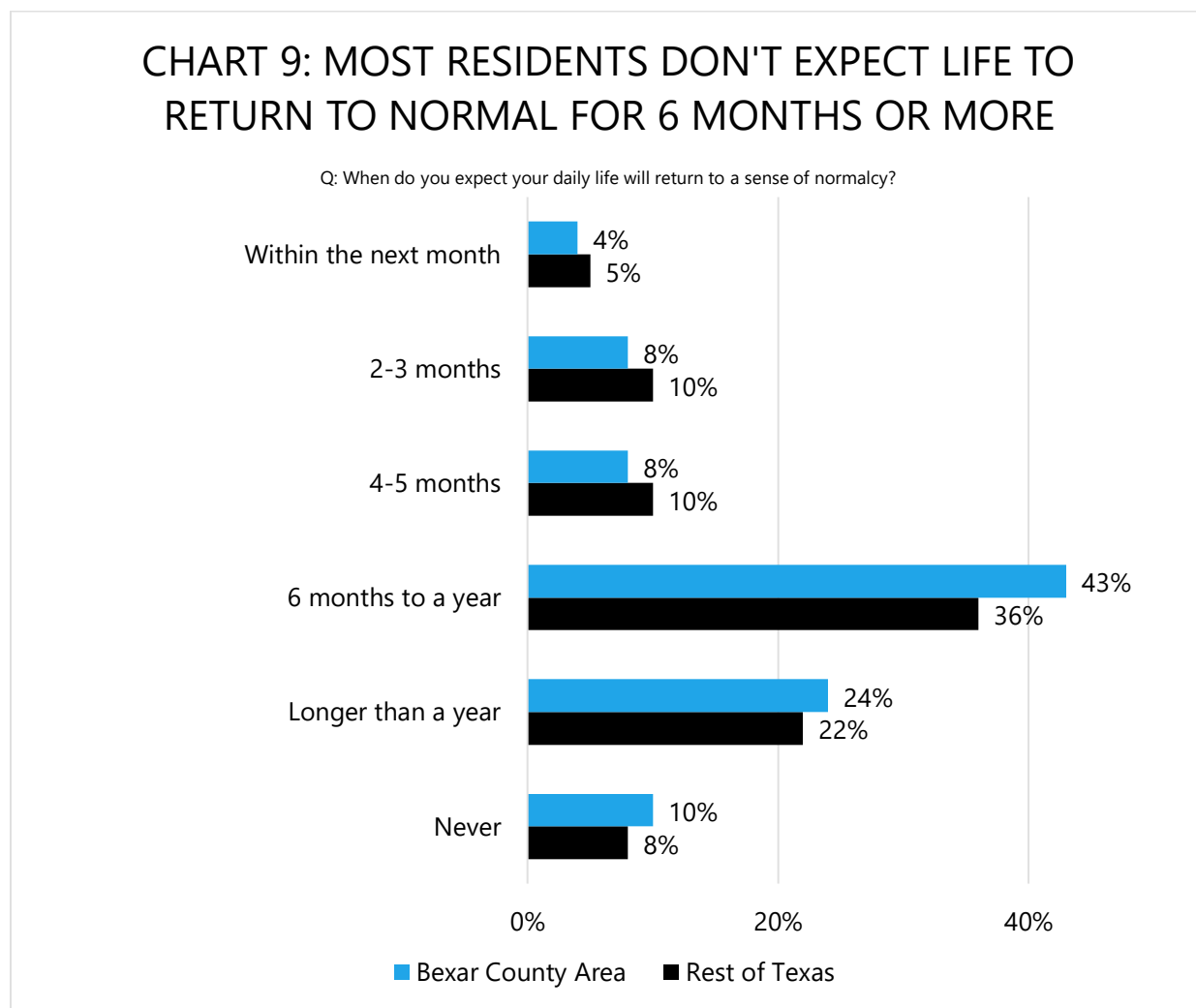
Half are also very worried that the state's local economy will suffer even more because of the pandemic (51%; 36% are somewhat worried). A similar amount are also very worried that the U.S. economy will head into a deeper recession because of the pandemic (51%; 35% are somewhat worried).

Bexar County area residents also have concerns about the healthcare system's ability to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases. More than four in ten are very worried that the state's health care system will be overrun, and people won't be able to get needed medical care (45%; 28% are somewhat worried). Additionally, 47 percent (26% somewhat worried) of Bexar County area residents are very worried that their local hospital will run out of necessary equipment like beds or ventilators. More Bexar County area residents are very worried about this than the amount who are worried about the same in the rest of the state (38%) (Chart 8).



Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Furthermore, seven in 10 say they don't expect their daily life to return to a sense of normal until six months or more from now (77%). This is more than the amount of residents in other parts of the state who say the same (66%) (Chart 9).



Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Access to Virtual Education

For the 29 percent of residents with school-age children (ages 5-17), another aspect of life impacted by the pandemic is education with many schools moving to online classes to reduce the spread of the disease. However, 21 percent of parents say their child would not have the support or supervision needed to successfully participate in online classes if it was required.

APPENDIX: COMPARISON OF THE BEXAR COUNTY AREA TO THE REST OF THE STATE

Health and Healthcare During the Pandemic

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, in March 2020, have you used a computer, smart phone, or tablet to talk by video with a doctor or healthcare provider?		
Talked by video with a doctor	35%	40%
Does not have computer, smart phone or tablet with internet access*	18%	12%
Did not need to talk with a doctor*	25%	26%
Could not access or did not know how to access	10%	10%
Don't know/Refused or did not give reason*	31%	24%
Since March 2020, have you or someone in your household skipped or postponed any type of medical care because of COVID-19, or not?		
Yes	39%	36%
No	61%	64%
Since March 2020, have you or someone in your household skipped or postponed any type of medical care because of COVID-19, or not?		
Skipped or postponed preventative care	34%	33%
Did not skip or postpone, or don't know or refused to skipping any preventative care	5%	3%
Did not skip or postpone any care	61%	64%
Do you regularly get a flu vaccine, either through a shot or nasal spray?		
Yes*	57%	56%
No*	42%	43%
Sometimes	1%	1%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Are you more or less likely to get a flu vaccine next flu season because of the COVID-19 pandemic?		
Much more likely*	43%	34%
Somewhat more likely	24%	20%
Somewhat less likely	8%	9%
Much less likely	17%	21%
No plan at all to get a flu vaccine*	5%	10%
If a vaccine against COVID-19 became available, how likely are you to get vaccinated?		
Very likely*	46%	36%
Somewhat likely	17%	22%
Somewhat unlikely	10%	10%
Very unlikely*	26%	28%
In general, how would you describe your own physical health?		
Excellent	18%	18%
Very good*	23%	32%
Good	34%	30%
Fair	21%	16%
Poor	4%	4%
In general, how would you describe your own mental health?		
Excellent	25%	29%
Very good	27%	30%
Good	26%	25%
Fair	18%	13%
Poor	4%	3%
Do you feel that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has had a negative impact on your mental health, or not?		
Yes – major impact	21%	17%
Yes – minor impact	24%	29%
No*	55%	53%
Don't have worry or stress related to COVID-19	-	1%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Over the past fourteen days, how often have you felt nervous, anxious or on edge?		
Not at all	49%	54%
A few days	24%	21%
About half the time	12%	11%
Nearly every day	15%	13%
Over the past fourteen days, how often have you not been able to stop or control worrying?		
Not at all	53%	57%
A few days	18%	17%
About half the time	12%	14%
Nearly every day*	17%	10%
Over the past fourteen days, how often have you felt down, depressed or hopeless?		
Not at all	58%	62%
A few days	22%	20%
About half the time	8%	10%
Nearly every day*	13%	7%
Over the past fourteen days, how often have you had little interest or pleasure in doing things?		
Not at all	49%	54%
A few days	19%	17%
About half the time*	16%	14%
Nearly every day	16%	12%
Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan, or do you not have health insurance at this time?		
Covered by health insurance	74%	75%
Not covered by health insurance*	26%	24%
Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in March, did you ever lose your health insurance coverage?		
Ever lost coverage due to COVID-19	4%	7%
Did not ever lose coverage due to COVID-19	96%	92%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

Financial Hardship During the Pandemic

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Has the COVID-19 outbreak caused any financial hardship for you or your household? Would you say this is a severe hardship that greatly affects your current standard of living or only a moderate hardship?		
Yes, hardship*	57%	50%
Severe hardship	22%	22%
Moderate hardship*	35%	28%
No, no hardship	43%	50%
Since March 2020, have you or anyone else in your household received any of the following government benefits. How about Medicaid or STAR Medicaid?		
Yes	21%	16%
No*	79%	83%
Received Government Assistance		
Yes, received any government assistance*	32%	24%
Started receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak	11%	7%
Received prior to COVID-19 outbreak	18%	15%
No, did not receive any government assistance*	68%	76%
Have you or anyone in your household received financial assistance such as stimulus checks, small business loans, or additional unemployment benefits from the federal government in response to COVID-19?		
Yes	76%	71%
No	23%	28%

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
How important is it for the federal or state government to provide rental or housing assistance to you and your household in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?		
Very important	36%	35%
Somewhat important	19%	16%
Not too important	14%	13%
Not important at all	31%	35%
How important is it for the federal or state government to provide assistance with your utility bills such as help with electric, water, or cable in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?		
Very important*	41%	36%
Somewhat important	16%	18%
Not too important	14%	13%
Not important at all*	29%	31%
How important is it for the federal or state government to provide assistance with your healthcare costs in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?		
Very important	49%	46%
Somewhat important	17%	19%
Not too important	11%	9%
Not important at all	23%	26%
How important is it for the federal or state government to provide assistance in making sure you have enough food in response to the COVID-19 outbreak?		
Very important	43%	43%
Somewhat important	19%	14%
Not too important	13%	13%
Not important at all*	23%	29%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in March, have you or anyone in your household received any of the following through local non-profit organizations or food-banks? First, how about food?		
Yes*	20%	13%
No*	79%	86%
How about help with rent payments?		
Yes*	8%	2%
No*	91%	97%
How about assistance with utility bills such as help with electric, water, or cable bills?		
Yes	7%	3%
No*	92%	96%
How about other monetary assistance such as cash, checks, or gift cards?		
Yes	5%	4%
No	94%	96%
Are you considered an essential worker who must work outside your home even during stay-at-home orders and other local and state government restrictions on business openings?		
Employed	54%	52%
Essential worker	36%	34%
Not essential worker*	17%	17%
Not employed*	46%	48%
Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, have you or anyone else in your household lost their job, their business, been furloughed, had their wages or hours reduced, or taken mandatory unpaid leave, or not?		
Yes, respondent*	9%	15%
Yes, household member	17%	17%
Yes both respondent and household member*	10%	6%
No	61%	61%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

Concerns About the Future of the Pandemic

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
Which of the following best describes your feelings about the COVID-19 outbreak in Texas?		
The worst is behind us	29%	29%
The worst is yet to come*	52%	43%
Do not think COVID-19 is or will be a major problem	15%	21%
Based on what you have experienced so far, are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all about another wave of COVID-19 in Texas?		
Very concerned*	57%	45%
Somewhat concerned	26%	27%
Not very concerned	9%	10%
Not concerned at all*	8%	16%
When do you expect your daily life will return to a sense of normalcy?		
Within the next month	3%	5%
In 2-3 months	8%	10%
In 4-5 months	8%	9%
In 6 months to a year*	43%	35%
Longer than a year	24%	22%
Never	10%	8%
Already has returned to normal	1%	2%
Life did not really change	1%	3%
Who do you think should be primarily responsible for the healthcare response to the COVID-19 outbreak? Is it the ...?		
Federal government	45%	42%
State government	23%	26%
Your local government	24%	22%
Someone else	5%	5%
Who do you think should be primarily responsible for the economic recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak? Is it the ...?		
Federal government	54%	56%
State government	27%	27%
Your local government	12%	11%
Someone else	2%	3%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
How prepared do you think the federal government is to handle another wave of COVID-19?		
Very prepared	16%	23%
Somewhat prepared	44%	37%
Not very prepared	22%	18%
Not at all prepared	16%	20%
How prepared do you think the Texas State government is to handle another wave of COVID-19?		
Very prepared	19%	22%
Somewhat prepared	49%	47%
Not very prepared	21%	18%
Not at all prepared*	10%	11%
How prepared do you think the Department of State Health Services is to handle another wave of COVID-19?		
Very prepared	18%	23%
Somewhat prepared	52%	47%
Not very prepared	19%	15%
Not at all prepared*	6%	9%
How prepared do you think you and your local government is to handle another wave of COVID-19?		
Very prepared	20%	24%
Somewhat prepared	55%	48%
Not very prepared	19%	15%
Not at all prepared*	5%	10%
How prepared do you think you and your household is to handle another wave of COVID-19?		
Very prepared*	53%	52%
Somewhat prepared	35%	36%
Not very prepared	8%	5%
Not at all prepared*	3%	6%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

	BEXAR COUNTY AREA	REST OF TEXAS
How worried, if at all, are you that your local hospital will run out of necessary equipment like beds or ventilators to treat patients?		
Very worried*	47%	38%
Somewhat worried	26%	22%
Not too worried	11%	16%
Not at all worried*	15%	22%
How worried, if at all, are you that the state's health care system will be overrun, and people won't be able to get needed medical care?		
Very worried	45%	41%
Somewhat worried	28%	24%
Not too worried	16%	17%
Not at all worried*	10%	16%
How worried, if at all, are you that local businesses will close permanently because of the loss of revenue during the outbreak?		
Very worried	63%	59%
Somewhat worried	25%	28%
Not too worried	8%	8%
Not at all worried	4%	5%
How worried, if at all, are you that the U.S economy will head into a deeper recession because of the COVID-19 pandemic?		
Very worried	51%	49%
Somewhat worried	35%	30%
Not too worried	8%	10%
Not at all worried	5%	9%
How worried, if at all, are you that Texas' local economy will suffer even more because of the COVID-19 pandemic?		
Very worried	51%	46%
Somewhat worried	36%	36%
Not too worried	7%	11%
Not at all worried	5%	6%

*Denotes statistically significant difference at $p < .05$

METHODOLOGY

The Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF) *Texas COVID-19 Survey* was conducted by telephone August 5 – September 18, 2020 among a random representative sample of 1,889 adults age 18 and older living in the state of Texas including 265 residents in Bexar, Guadalupe, and Medina counties (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Interviews in the Bexar County area were administered in English and Spanish, combining random samples of both landline (30) and cellular telephones (236, including 184 who had no landline telephone). Sampling, data collection, weighting and tabulation were managed by SSRS in close collaboration with Episcopal Health Foundation researchers.

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. The survey data are weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the Bexar County area adult population. A multi-stage weighting design was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the Bexar County area adult population. The margin of sampling error for this study is plus or minus 7 percentage points for results based on the total sample. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher.

This report focusing on the Bexar County area was commissioned by the Episcopal Health Foundation and Methodist Healthcare Ministries.

ABOUT EHF

The [Episcopal Health Foundation \(EHF\)](#) is committed to transforming the health of our communities by going beyond the doctor's office. By providing millions of dollars in grants, working with congregations and community partners, and providing important research, we're supporting solutions that address the underlying causes of poor health in Texas. EHF was established in 2013, is based in Houston, and has more than \$1.2 billion in estimated assets. **#HealthNotJustHealthcare**

ABOUT METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc. is a private, faith-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating access to health care for the uninsured through direct services, community partnerships and strategic grant-making in 74 counties across South Texas. Guided by its mission of "Serving Humanity to Honor God," Methodist Healthcare Ministries' vision is to be the leader for improving wellness of the least served. The mission also includes Methodist Healthcare Ministries' one-half ownership of the Methodist Healthcare System, the largest healthcare system in South Texas, which creates a unique avenue to ensure that it continues to be a benefit to the community by providing quality care to all and charitable care when needed. For more information, visit www.mhm.org.

ABOUT SSRS

SSRS is a full-service market and survey research firm managed by a core of dedicated professionals with advanced degrees in the social sciences. Service offerings include the Omnibus Survey, the SSRS Opinion Panel and other Online Solutions, as well as custom research programs – all driven by a central commitment to methodological rigor. The SSRS team is renowned for its multimodal approach, as well as its sophisticated and proprietary sample designs. Typical projects for the company include complex strategic, tactical and public opinion initiatives in the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide. SSRS is research, refined. Visit www.ssrs.com for more information.