

TEXANS' VIEWS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In early March 2020, The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reported the first case of COVID-19 in the state. Shortly after, local county judges began issuing stay-at-home orders to curb the spread of the disease. As Texas continues to grapple with the repercussions of the pandemic on the healthcare system and economy, Texans continue to worry about the effects of COVID-19 on their own health and finances. We undertook this study to learn from Texans the impact of the pandemic on their lives, including their health, financial condition, and concerns for the future. This report contains our findings for the Texas population as a whole and notes where there are statistically significant differences among demographic groups.

When it comes to health care, over a third of Texans report that they or someone in their household skipped or postponed medical care because of the pandemic (36%). Additionally, almost one in three Texans under age 65 are currently without health insurance coverage (29%)¹. Hispanic Texans are more likely to be uninsured than White Texans as are those with lower incomes.

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, 22 percent of Texans 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. Older Texans and those in rural areas, and those with lower incomes are more likely to face challenges accessing telemedicine resources.

COVID-19 has impacted the mental health of Texans with 46 percent saying that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has negatively impacted their mental health. More than one in ten report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day in past two weeks (13%). Similar numbers report not being able to stop worrying (11%) or having little interest or pleasure in doing things nearly every day (13%).

Many Texans have experienced financial hardship as a result of the pandemic (50%). More than a third (37%) say they or someone in their household have lost their job, their business, been furloughed, had their wages or hours reduced, or taken mandatory unpaid leave. Black and Hispanic Texans as well as those with lower incomes are more likely to have faced financial hardship from the pandemic than their counterparts.

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.

An important issue for the 31 percent of Texans who have a child between 5 and 17 years old is schooling this year. One out of five parents say their child would not have the support or supervision needed to successfully participate in online classes if required this school year (21%).

Finally, looking towards the future of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Texans are concerned about another wave and the preparedness of local, state, and federal governments. Almost half of Texans are very concerned about the outbreak of another wave of COVID-19 in Texas (46%; another 27% say they are somewhat concerned). At the same time, most say they and their household are very prepared for another wave (52%). However, fewer believe the local, state, and federal government are very prepared for another wave. Less than a quarter say their local government is very prepared (24%; 49% say the local government is somewhat prepared). Only 21 percent have confidence that the state government is very prepared (47% say the state government is somewhat prepared).

IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE FROM THE PANDEMIC

Texans are Skipping Medical Care Due to the Pandemic

More than a third of Texans (36%) 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 Texans skipped or postponed regular checkups or preventative care (91%) including dental and medical checkups, preventative screening like mammograms, colonoscopies, as well as child immunizations and child wellness visits. The other types of care that Texans have skipped or postponed include cancer treatments (2%), surgeries (6%), physical therapy or rehabilitation care (6%), visits for symptoms they were experiencing (14%), visits for chronic conditions such as diabetes (10%), mental health care (7%), and reproductive health care visits (7%). Moreover, those who say that the pandemic has caused them and their family financial hardship are more likely to have skipped or postponed medical care (43% v. 30%).

Surprisingly, Texans with household incomes over \$75K per year (44%) and those with a high school education or more (40%) are more likely to say they have skipped or postponed care due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is likely due to differences in access to health care and health insurance coverage that preceded the pandemic. Those with higher incomes, and those with higher levels of education are more likely to receive regular medical care than their counterparts with lower household incomes or lower levels of education (Table 1).

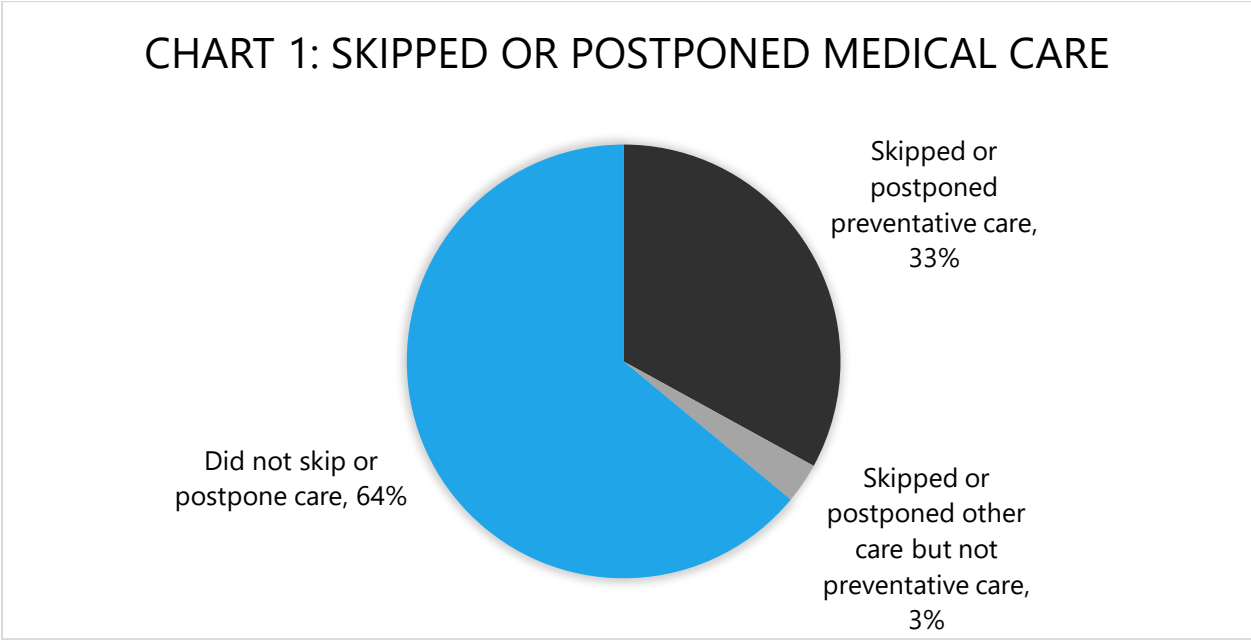


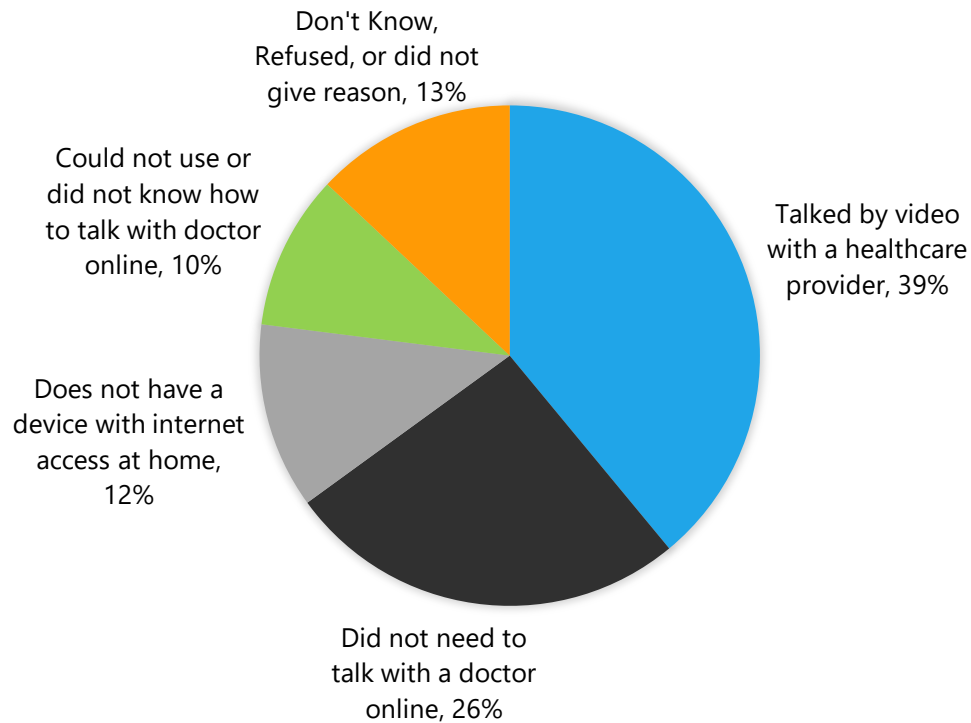
Table 1. Skipping or Postponing Medical Care by Key Demographics

	Total	HOUSEHOLD INCOME		EDUCATION	
		Less than \$75K	\$75K+	Less than HS	HS or more
Skipped or postponed preventative care	33%	29%	40%	13%	36%
Skipped or postponed other care	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%
Did not skip or postpone care	64%	69%	55%	84%	61%

Many Do Not Have Ability to Use Virtual Health Care Resources

With public health officials encouraging Texans to stay home as much as possible and use telemedicine for their non-urgent healthcare needs, access to these online resources has become vital. Two in five Texans (39%) have used a computer, smartphone, or tablet to talk with a doctor or healthcare provider by video. However, 12 percent do not have a computer, smartphone, or tablet with internet access at home. In addition, ten percent of Texans 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, 22 percent of Texas 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).

CHART 2: ACCESS TO AND USE OF TELEMEDICINE RESOURCES



Those who do not have a device with internet access or have not used the internet to speak with a healthcare provider are more likely to be older, have lower incomes, and have lower levels of education. While 92 percent of those under age 65 have a computer, tablet or smart phone with internet access, only 71 percent of those 65 or older have such a device. Those with household incomes under \$20K are less likely to have a computer, smartphone or tablet with internet access compared to those with household incomes over \$20K per year (66% v. 93%). While only 58 percent of those with a high school diploma or less have a device with internet access at home, 92 percent of those with a high school diploma or more do. Additionally, those in rural areas of the state are less likely to have a device with internet access (20%) than those residing in non-rural areas (11%). (Table 2).

Table 2. Access and Use of Telemedicine by Key Demographics

	Total	HOUSEHOLD INCOME		EDUCATION		AGE		RURAL STATUS	
		Less than \$20K	\$20K+	HS diploma or less	HS diploma or more	Under 65	65 or older	Rural	Non-Rural
Have talked with a doctor online	39%	28%	40%	27%	48%	40%	36%	31%	40%
Did not need to talk with a doctor online	26%	17%	23%	21%	29%	29%	12%	27%	26%
Does not have a device with internet access	12%	34%	8%	22%	5%	8%	29%	11%	20%
Could not use device or did not know how to use	10%	11%	10%	15%	7%	10%	8%	11%	9%

Looking Towards Flu Season and a Potential COVID-19 Vaccine

Only four in ten Texans say they are very likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available (37%; another 22 percent say they are somewhat likely). This means that only six out of ten Texans are at least somewhat likely to get a potential COVID-19 vaccine (59%). There are also differences in likelihood to get a COVID-19 vaccine by race and ethnicity. White (59%) and Hispanic (64%) Texans are more likely to say they are very or somewhat likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine in comparison to Black Texans (49%). Additionally, Democrats are more likely to say they will get a COVID-19 vaccine than Republicans (72% v. 46%) (Table 3).

Regularly getting a flu vaccine is strongly associated with likelihood to get a potential COVID-19 vaccine. More than half of Texans regularly get a flu vaccine (55%). Those who regularly get a flu vaccine are even more likely to say they will get a COVID-19 vaccine (72% v 42%). Those 65 or older are also more likely to get a flu vaccine than those under age 65 (69% v. 53%).

The COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted how likely Texas residents say they are to get a flu vaccine this year. More than half (55%) say they are more likely to get a flu vaccine this year with 35 percent saying they are much more likely and 20 percent saying they are somewhat more likely. As to be expected, more Texans who regularly get a flu vaccine say they are more likely to get a flu vaccine this year than those do not get a regular flu vaccine (75% v. 29%).

Table 3. Likelihood to get a Flu Vaccine and Potential COVID-19 Vaccine by Key Demographics

	TOTAL	RACE			POLITICAL PARTY		AGE	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Democrat	Republican	Less than 65	65+
Much/Somewhat more likely to get a flu vaccine	55%	52%	47%	64%	74%	44%	53%	69%
Very/Somewhat likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine	59%	59%	49%	64%	72%	46%	57%	69%

Health Insurance Coverage Remains a Major Issues for Texans

Federal and state governments providing assistance with healthcare costs is a very important issue for almost half of Texans (46%). Those without insurance are more likely to rate this assistance as very important (85%) as are those who lost their insurance due to COVID-19 (85%). Overall, almost one in three Texans under age 65 are currently uninsured (29%) (Chart 3). Hispanic Texans under 65 are more likely to lack insurance coverage (43%) than White (20%) and Black (27%) Texans. Those with lower incomes are also more likely to be lacking health insurance coverage. Additionally, eight percent of all Texans under 65 lost their coverage at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic. (Table 4).

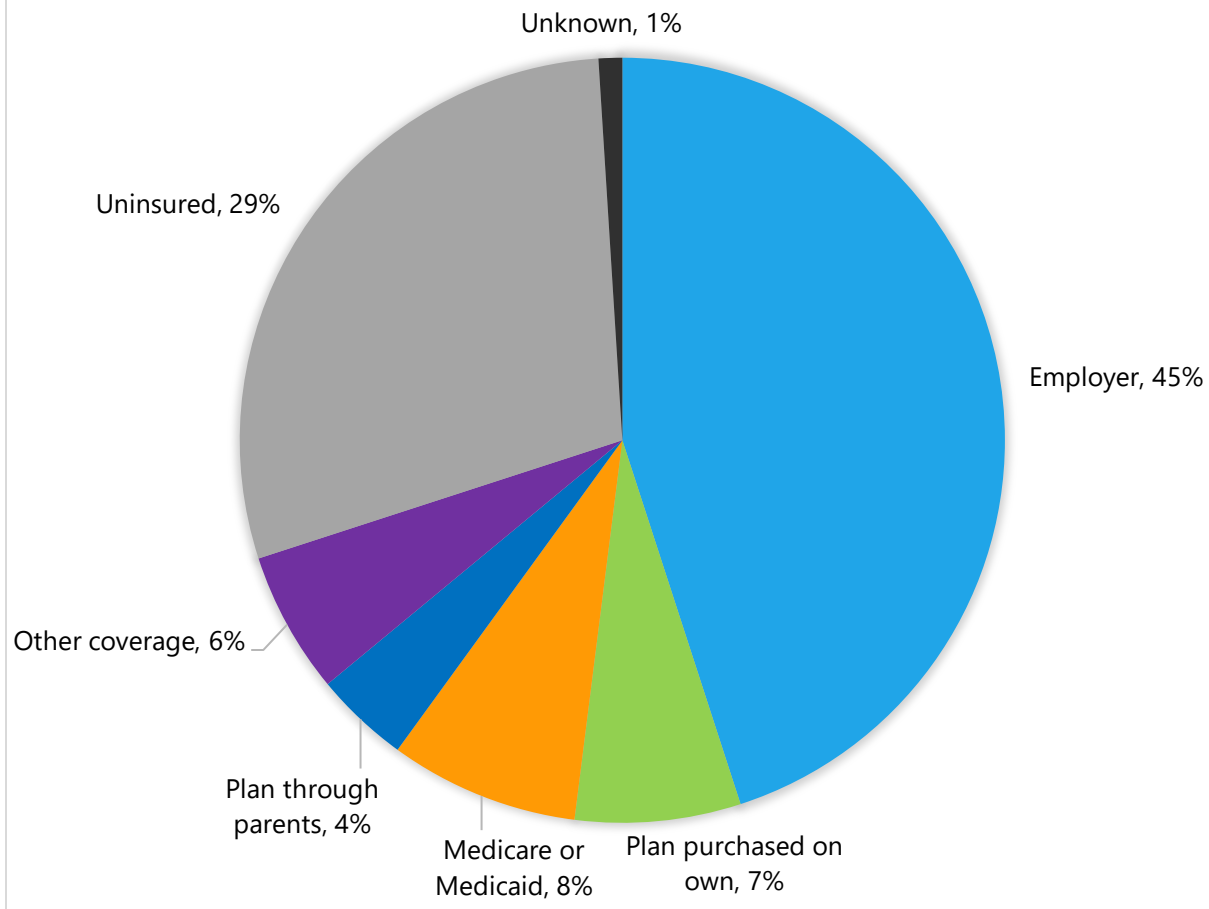
Table 4. Health Insurance Coverage for Texans Under 65 by Key Demographics

	TOTAL	RACE			HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Under \$75K	\$75K+
Covered by Health Insurance	70%	79%	73%	56%	58%	89%
Not covered by Health Insurance	29%	20%	27%	43%	41%	11%
Lost insurance some point during pandemic	8%	5%	16%	9%	10%	6%

Some residents turned to the state’s Medicaid program, STAR Medicaid, for insurance coverage during the pandemic. Almost two in ten (17%) 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 45 percent of Texans under 65 getting their insurance through their or their spouse’s employer. Moreover, two thirds of those who lost insurance at some point during the pandemic say their insurance was through their or their spouse’s employer (67%).

CHART 3: INSURANCE COVERAGE AMONG TEXANS UNDER 65



Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A large majority of Texans say they are in at least good physical health (79%). Similarly, the majority of Texans also describe their mental health as at least good (83%). Three in ten say their mental health is excellent (29%), or very good (29%). About a quarter say their mental health is good (25%).

Although the large majority say their mental health is at least good, 46 percent of Texans say that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their mental health with 17 percent saying the pandemic has had a major impact and 29 percent saying it has had a minor impact (Chart 4). Losing work due to COVID-19 or having a lower income is strongly related to stress: Those whose household has experienced the loss of a job or wages due to COVID-19 are more likely than others to say that worry or stress related to the pandemic has negatively impacted their mental health (Table 5).

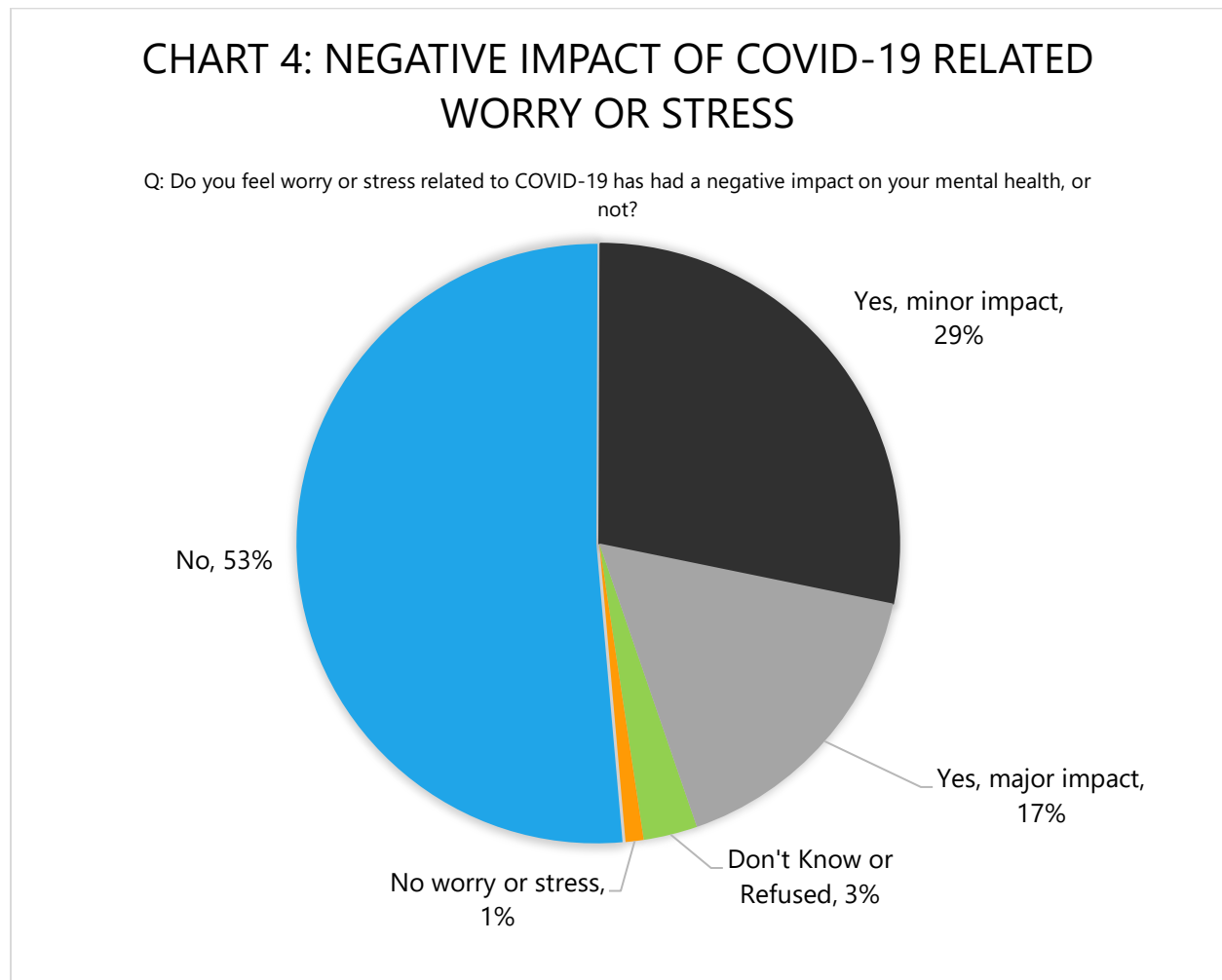


Table 5. Negative Impact of COVID-19 Related Stress or Worry by Key Demographics

	Total	INCOME		LOST JOB, BUSINESS OR WAGES	
		Less than \$75K	\$75K+	Lost Job/Wages	Did not Lose Job/Wages
Major negative impact	17%	19%	15%	25%	12%
Minor negative Impact	29%	27%	34%	34%	26%
No negative impact	53%	54%	50%	41%	61%
Don't have worry/stress	1%	1%	1%	*	1%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	*	1%	*	*

* Denotes a value less than 0.5%.

The study also asked about negative feelings Texans may have experienced in the previous 14 days. A quarter report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge about half the time or more (25%). Those who have lost their job, business or had a reduction in wages are more likely to say they have felt nervous, anxious, or on edge about half the time or more (33% v. 19%).

When asked about not being able to stop or control worrying, 25 percent report feeling this way almost half the time or more. Finally, 27 percent report having little interest or pleasure in doing things almost half the time or more. Those with household incomes under \$75K and those who have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19 are more likely to say they had little interest or pleasure in doing almost half the time or more (Table 6).

Table 6. Negative Feelings Reported About Half the Time or More Over Past 14 days by Key Demographics

	Total	HOUSEHOLD INCOME		LOST JOB, BUSINESS OR WAGES		RACE		
		Less than \$75K	\$75K +	Lost Job/Wages	Did not Lose Job/Wages	White	Hispanic	Black
Felt nervous, anxious, or on edge	25%	19%	21%	33%	19%	27%	25%	20%
Not been able to stop or control worrying	25%	21%	17%	35%	18%	21%	31%	28%
Felt down, depressed, or hopeless	18%	16%	11%	24%	14%	17%	21%	19%
Had little interest or pleasure in doing things	27%	23%	19%	34%	23%	22%	33%	30%

TEXANS ARE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

Half of Texans (50%) say the pandemic has caused financial hardship for them and their household with 22 percent saying the pandemic has caused severe financial hardship. Those with household incomes under \$50K per year are more likely to say they have experienced financial hardship in comparison to those with incomes over \$50K (61% v. 40%). Similarly, those under 65 who do not have health insurance are more likely to report that they have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 (74%) compared with those with health insurance (45%). Hispanic Texans (62%) are also more likely to report experiencing financial hardships in comparison to White (41%) and Black Texans (47%). Table 7 shows differences in the degree of financial hardship reported by race, household income, and insurance status.

Table 7. Financial Hardship Due to the COVID-19 Outbreak by Key Demographics

	Total	RACE			INSURANCE STATUS <65		HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Insured	Uninsured	Less than \$50K	\$50K or more
Severe hardship	22%	16%	26%	28%	18%	37%	30%	14%
Moderate hardship	28%	25%	21%	34%	27%	37%	31%	26%
No hardship	49%	58%	52%	37%	54%	25%	37%	59%
Don't Know/Refused†	1%	1%	-	1%	1%	1%	*	*

* Denotes a value less than 0.5%.

Employment During the Pandemic

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, 37 percent of Texans 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 (50%) and another half say their household member has gotten a new job or received their wages or hours back (53%).

Loss of a job, business, or wages was more common among those with lower levels of education. While only 27 percent of those with a college degree or more lost income, 42 percent of those with less than a college degree lost income. Insurance coverage is also associated with household income loss. While 57 percent of those under 65 without health insurance coverage experienced household income loss, only 37 percent of those under 65 with health insurance experienced household income loss (Table 8).

Table 8. Household Income Loss by Key Demographics

	TOTAL	RACE			EDUCATION		INSURANCE STATUS UNDER 65	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Less than college	College degree+	Insured	Uninsured
Household lost income due to COVID-19	37%	33%	39%	43%	42%	27%	37%	57%
Household did not lose income due to COVID-19	61%	66%	61%	55%	57%	73%	63%	41%
Not applicable	1%	2%	-	1%	*	*	*	-
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%	*	1%	*	-	*	*

* Denotes a value less than 0.5%.

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 large majority of Texans say they received financial assistance from the federal government in response to COVID-19 (72%).

In addition to these new forms of assistance introduced in response to COVID-19, Texans 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). About one quarter of Texans have received benefits from one of these programs since the outbreak began in March 2020 (25%). Moreover, seven percent of Texans started receiving these benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Black (29%) and Hispanic (37%) Texans are more likely to have used these benefits than White Texans (14%). Those under age 65 who are uninsured are more likely to have received these benefits than those with insurance (40% v. 20%). Women are more likely to report using these benefits than men (28% v. 20%). Table 9 provides further explanation on the differences in use of government assistance programs.

Table 9. Use of Government Benefit Programs by Key Demographics

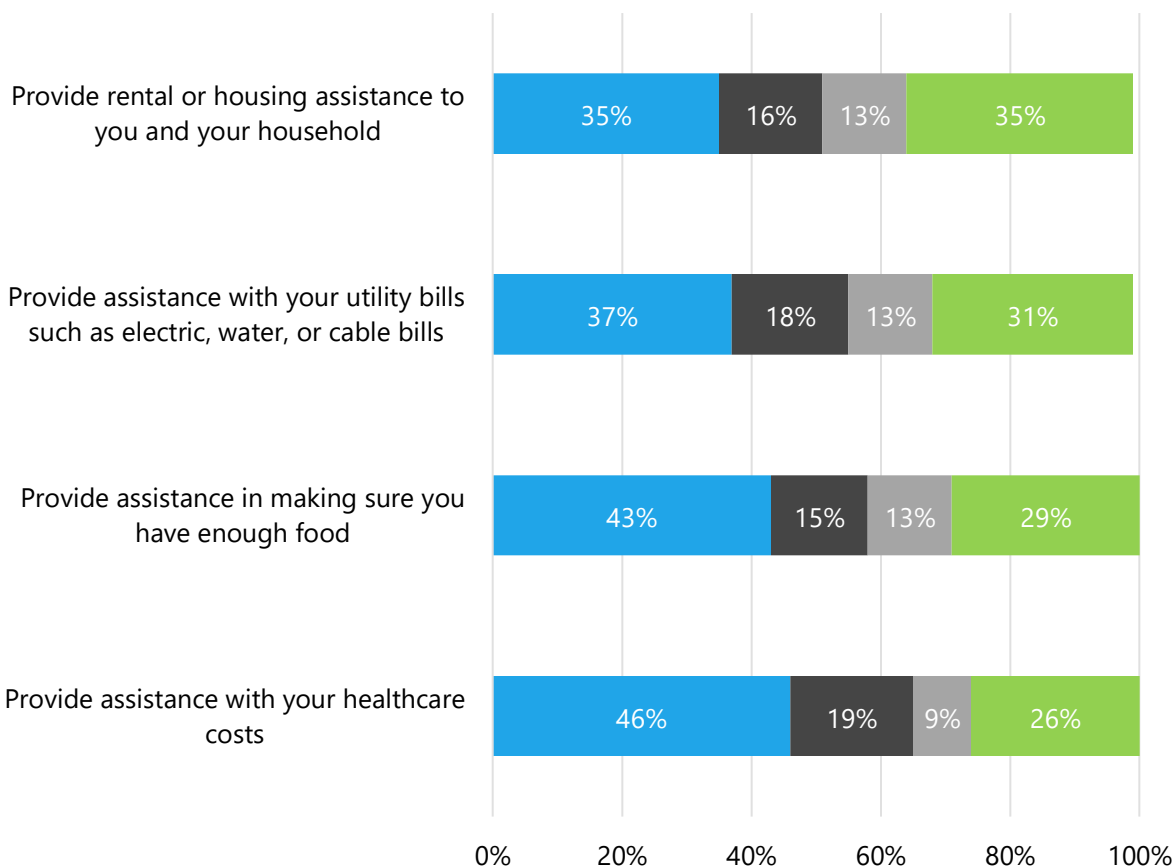
	TOTAL	INSURANCE STATUS <65		RACE/ETHNICITY		
		Insured	Not Insured	White	Black	Hispanic
Receiving any Government Assistance Program	25%	20%	40%	14%	29%	37%
Started using benefits during pandemic	7%	5%	16%	4%	9%	13%

Texas residents report that many forms of assistance provided by the state and federal governments are important to them and their household. Almost half of Texas residents (46%) 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 19 percent saying this is somewhat important. A similar share say it is very important for the federal or state governments to provide assistance in making sure they have enough food (43%) and another 15 percent say it is somewhat important. Almost two in five say help with their utility bills (37%) is very important (Chart 5). Another 18 percent say help with utilities is somewhat important. Black and Hispanic Texans, as well as those with lower incomes are more likely to say these types of assistance are at least somewhat important in comparison to their counterparts.

CHART 5: GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IMPORTANT TO MOST TEXAN HOUSEHOLDS

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

■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not too important ■ Not at all important



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 Texans may be receiving from non-governmental sources such as non-profit organizations as well as family, friends, and neighbors. One in ten Texans say they have received food from a non-profit organization or food bank since the COVID-19 outbreak began (18%). More Black (19%) and Hispanic (29%) Texans have received this type of assistance than White Texans (9%).

A smaller number of Texans say they have received help with rent payments (3%), assistance with utility bills (4%) or other monetary assistance (4%) through these organizations.

Additionally, 13 percent say they have received financial assistance from family, friends, neighbors, or other individuals during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those who have lost a job, had their wages reduced, or lost their business are more likely to say they have received financial assistance from family, friends, or other individuals (21% v. 8%). Younger Texans (those under 50) are also more likely to say they have received financial assistance from friends, family, or other individuals (16% v. 9%) (Table 10).

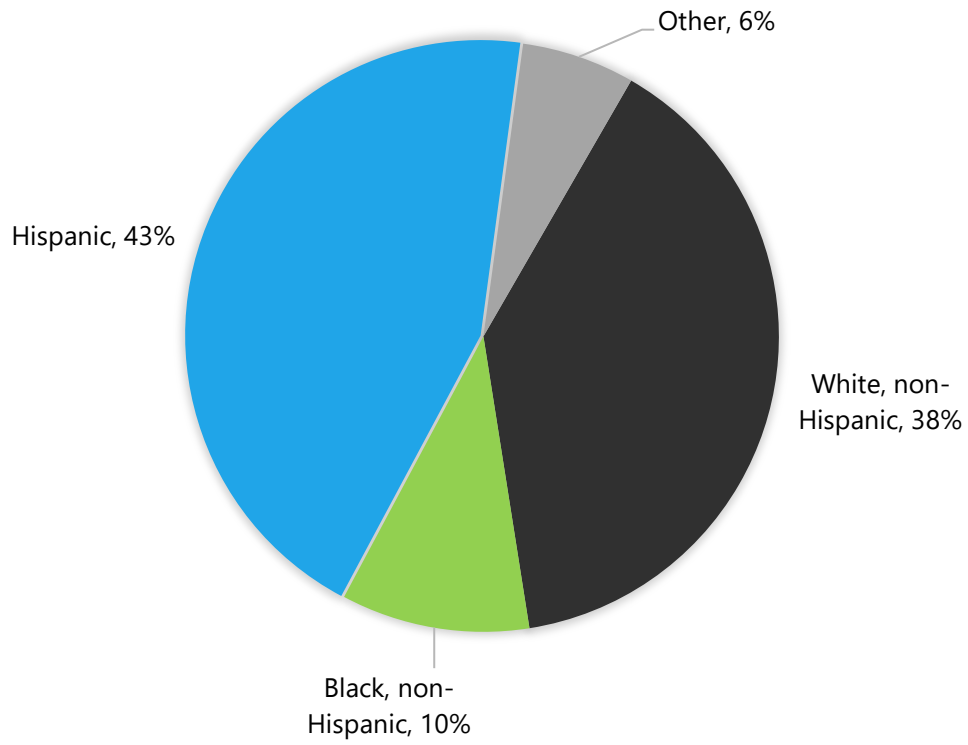
Table 10. Assistance from Nonprofits, Family, Friends and Other Individuals by Key Demographics

	TOTAL	RACE			AGE		INSURANCE STATUS < 65		HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Under 50	50 or older	Insured	Uninsured	Under \$75K	Over \$75K
Received assistance from nonprofits	18%	9%	19%	29%	18%	18%	15%	27%	26%	5%
Received assistance from friends, family, and other individuals	13%	12%	14%	15%	16%	9%	12%	19%	17%	9%

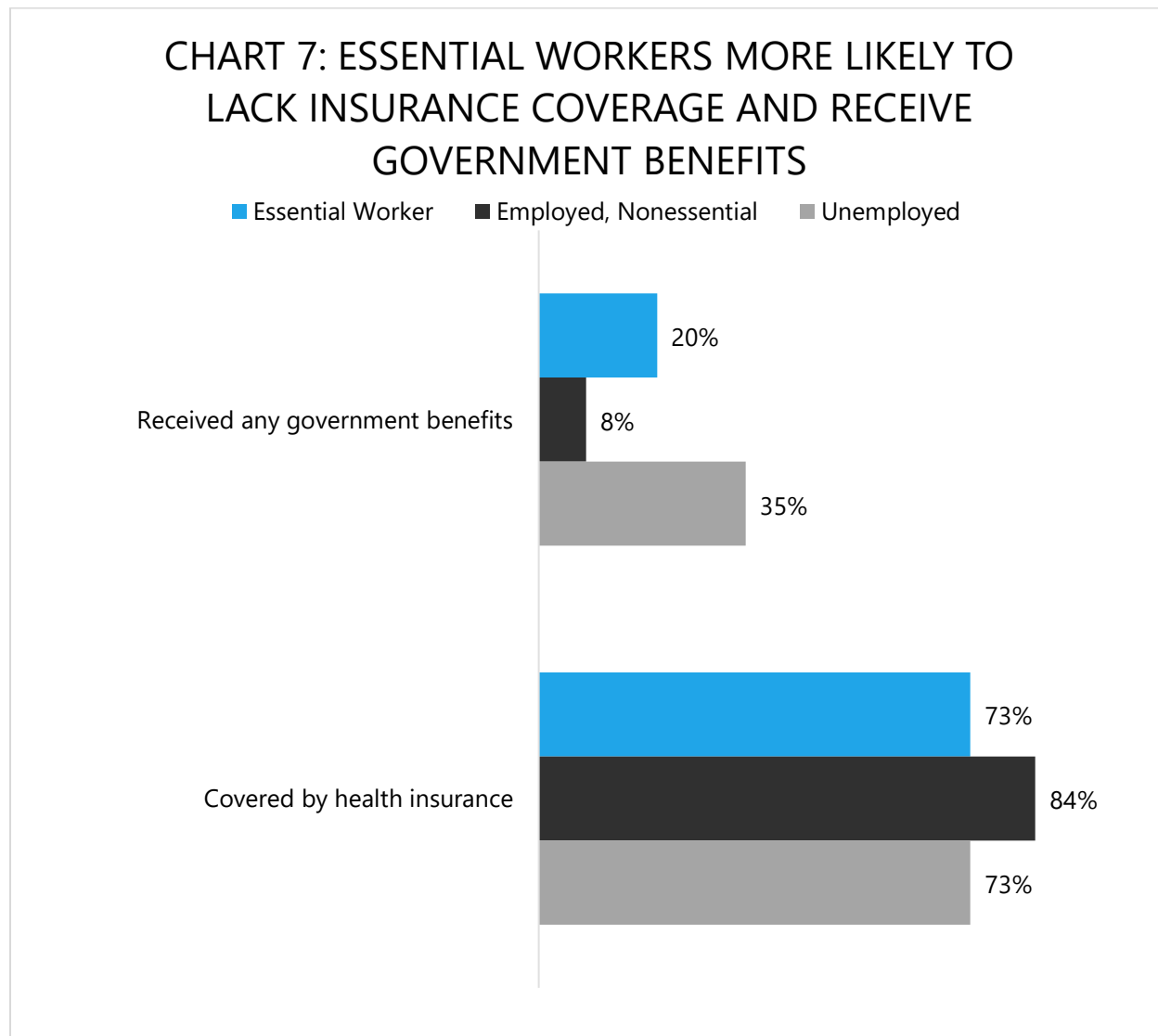
Experiences of Essential Workers

This study also focused on the experiences 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, about a third of Texans are considered essential workers (34%). Almost half of men (47%) reported being essential works compared to 22 percent of women. The majority of essential workers are non-White. Four in ten essential works are Hispanic (43%), ten percent are Black and six percent are of another race or ethnicity (Chart 6).

CHART 6: MAJORITY OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS ARE NON-WHITE

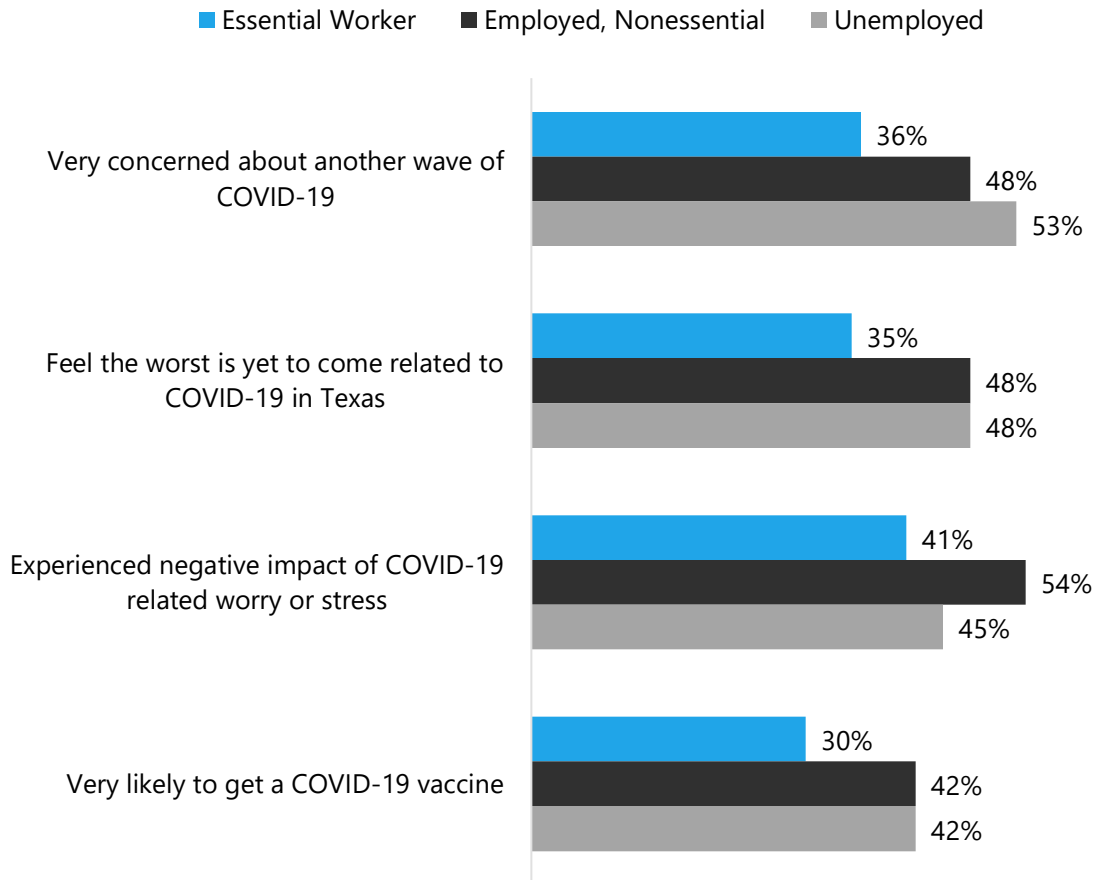


Those who hold jobs that are also considered essential are more likely to receive benefits from government assistant programs like SNAP, WIC, TANF or STAR Medicaid than those employed in non-essential roles (20% v. 8%). These workers are also less likely to be covered by health insurance (73% v. 84%) (Chart 7).



However, these workers do seem to have a more positive view on the future of the COVID-19 outbreak. These workers tend to be less concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic than workers who are not deemed essential. Almost half (48%) of non-essential workers are very concerned about another wave of COVID-19 in Texas compared to just 36 percent of essential workers. They are also less likely to say that the worst is yet to come in terms of the pandemic (36%) compared to those unemployed (48%) or those employed in nonessential jobs (52%). They are also less likely to say that worry or stress related to COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their mental health in comparison to workers who do not hold essential jobs (41% v. 54%). However, essential workers are less likely to say they will get a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available compared to those who work non-essential jobs (30% v. 42%) (Chart 8).

CHART 8: ESSENTIAL WORKERS TEND TO BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PANDEMIC



CURRENT CONCERNS REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The outbreak of COVID-19 is a major concern for Texans with about half reporting that they feel the worst is yet to come in terms of the pandemic within the state of Texas (44%) Black Texans are more likely to say they think the worst is yet to come for the state in terms of COVID-19 (72%) in comparison to White (19%) and Hispanic (43%) Texans. (Table 11).

Table 11. Feelings about the COVID-19 Outbreak in Texas by Key Demographics

	Total	RACE			HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
		White	Black	Hispanic	Less than \$75K	\$75K or more
The worst is behind us	29%	37%	12%	24%	25%	34%
The worst is yet to come	44%	19%	72%	43%	48%	42%
COVID-19 not a major problem	21%	58%	13%	28%	23%	18%
Don't Know/Refused	7%	8%	4%	5%	7%	6%

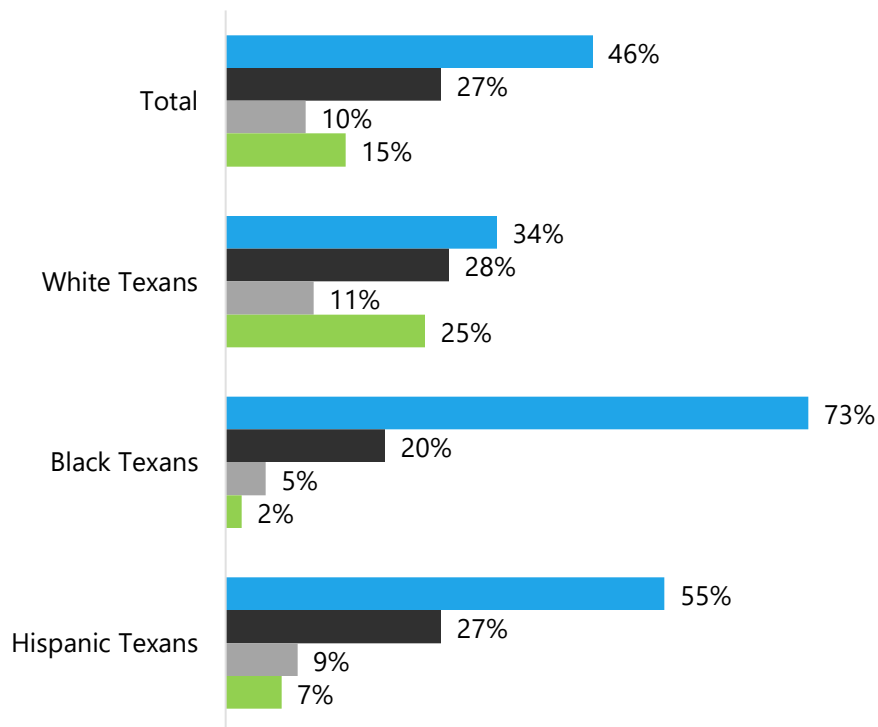
* Denotes a value less than 0.5%.

In the survey, Texans were asked about their biggest concern regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Texas. Many residents voiced concerns over themselves, their loved ones, and those most vulnerable to the disease getting sick with COVID-19 (24%). Similarly, almost half of Texans are very concerned about another wave of COVID-19 (46%; another 27% say they are somewhat concerned). Black Texans are more likely to report being very concerned (73%; another 20% say they are somewhat concerned) than Texans of other races or ethnicities (27%; 28% say they are somewhat concerned) (Chart 9).

CHART 9: MANY TEXANS ARE VERY 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?

■ Very Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Not Very Concerned ■ Not Concerned at all

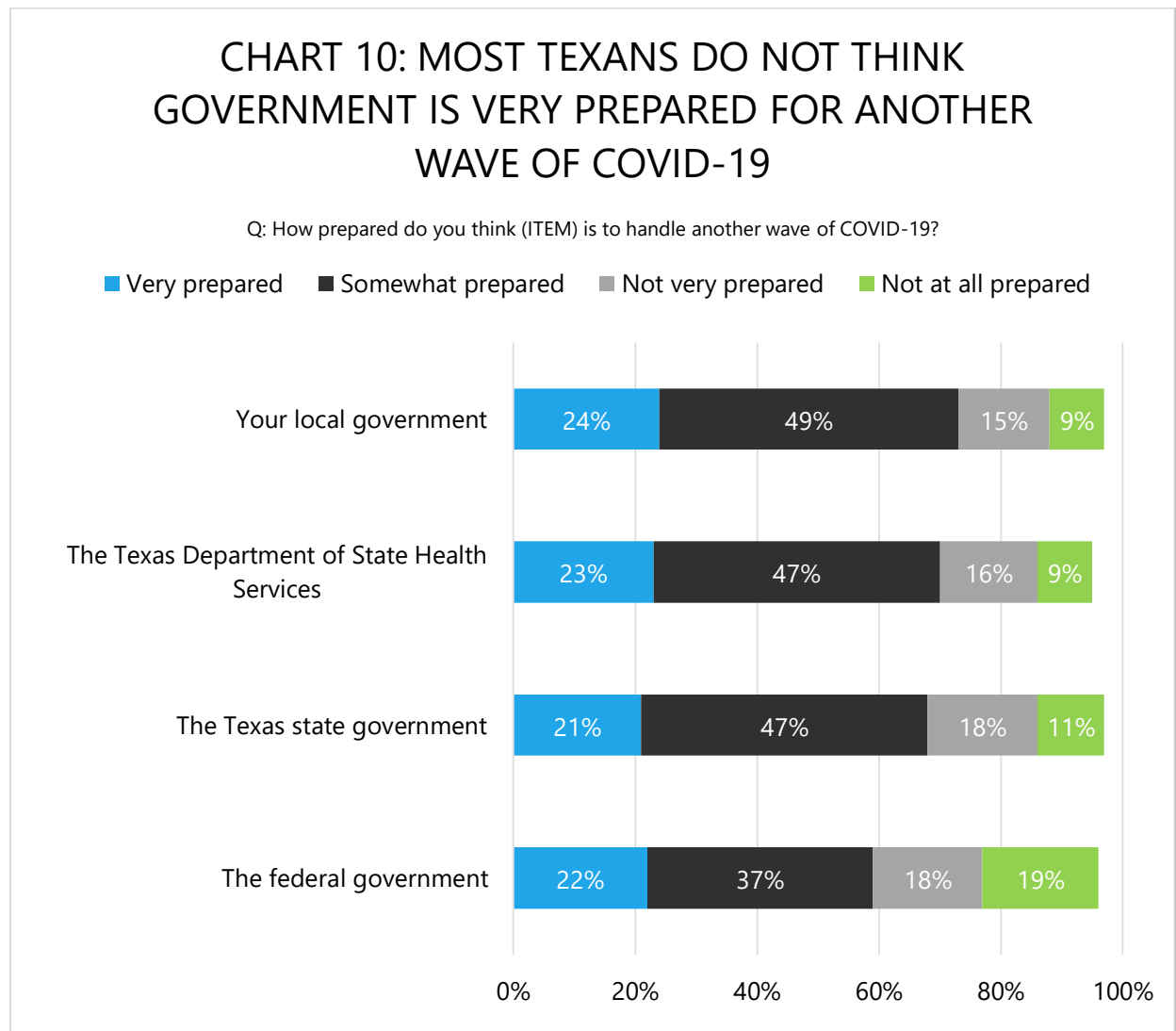


State and Local Government Preparedness for Another Wave

As Texas prepares for a possible new wave of the COVID-19 outbreak, few residents view their local, state and federal governments as very prepared to handle a new outbreak (Chart 10). The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is viewed as very prepared by only 23 percent of Texans (47% say the DSHS is somewhat prepared). Nearly one quarter of Texans view their local government as very prepared to handle another wave (24%; 49% say somewhat prepared). Texans across race and ethnicity tend to view the preparedness of their local government similarly.

Positive ratings on the preparedness of the Texas state and federal governments fall slightly lower with 21 percent of Texans saying they think the state government is very prepared for another wave (another 47% say the state government is somewhat prepared). A similar amount say they think the federal government is very prepared (22%; 37% say the federal government is somewhat prepared). Thoughts on preparedness of the state government tend to differ between racial groups with White Texans more likely to think the

state is very prepared (28%) compared to Black Texans (11%). Similarly, White Texans are more likely to think the federal government is at least somewhat prepared (29%) compared to Black Texans (11%).

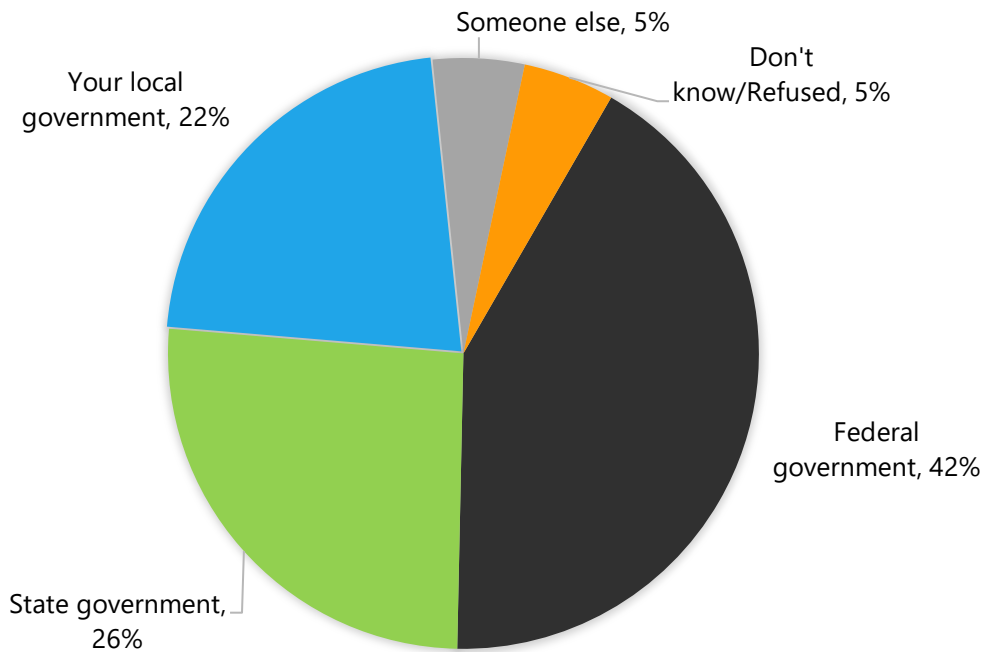


Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

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 more likely to be seen as primarily responsible for the healthcare response to COVID-19. More than four in ten Texans say the federal government should be responsible (42%), while 26 percent say the state government should be primarily responsible for the health care response, and only 22 percent say their local government should be primarily responsible (Chart 11).

CHART 11: RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

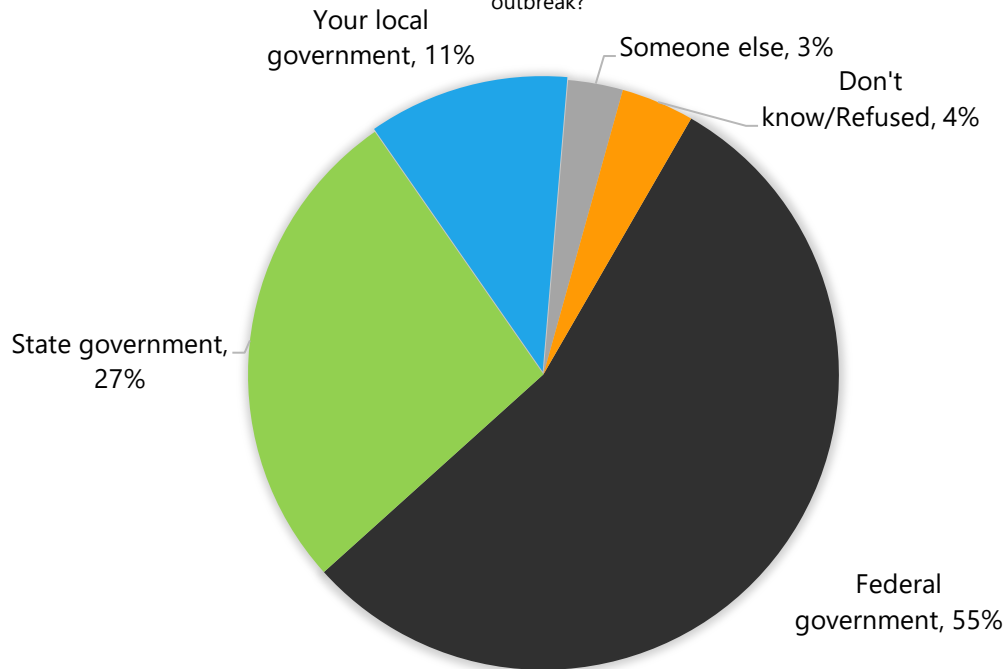
Q: Who do you think should be primarily responsible for the healthcare response to the COVID-19 outbreak?



Texans have similar thoughts on responsibility for the economic recovery from the pandemic. The majority (55%) 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 11 percent say local governments should be responsible for the economic recovery (Chart 12).

CHART 12: RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

Q: Who do you think should be primarily responsible for the economic recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak?



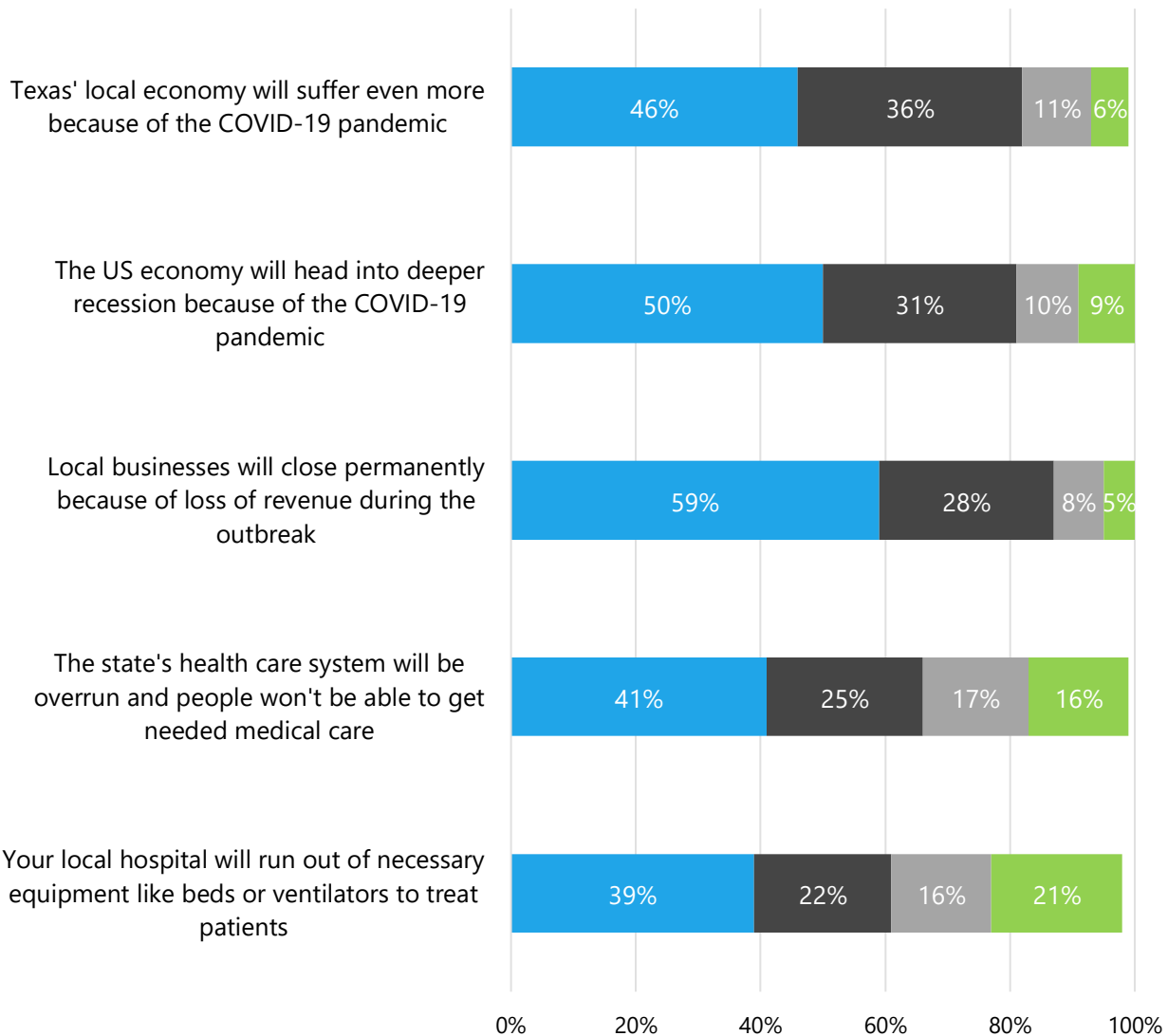
Even though the majority of Texans believe their local government as well as the state and federal governments are at least somewhat prepared for another wave of COVID-19, Texans are still worried about how the healthcare system and economy will fare as the COVID-19 outbreak continues. A large majority have economic concerns with 87 percent being at least somewhat worried that local businesses will close permanently because of loss of revenue during the outbreak (59% very worried; 28% somewhat worried). Eight out of ten are at least somewhat worried that the U.S. economy will head into a deeper recession because of the pandemic (81%; 50% very worried; 31% somewhat worried). Eight out of ten are also at least somewhat worried that the state's local economy will suffer even more because of the pandemic (82%; 46% very worried; 36% somewhat worried).

Texans also have concerns about the healthcare system's ability to handle an increase in COVID-19 cases. About two-thirds are at least somewhat worried that the state's health care system will be overrun, and people won't be able to get needed medical care (66%; 41% very worried; 25% somewhat worried) and 61 percent (39% very worried; 22% somewhat worried) are worried that their local hospital will run out of necessary equipment like beds or ventilators (Chart 13).

CHART 13: TEXANS ARE CONCERNED HOW THE ECONOMY AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL WEATHER THE PANDEMIC

Q: How worried, if at all, are you that...?

■ Very worried ■ Somewhat worried ■ Not too worried ■ Not at all worried

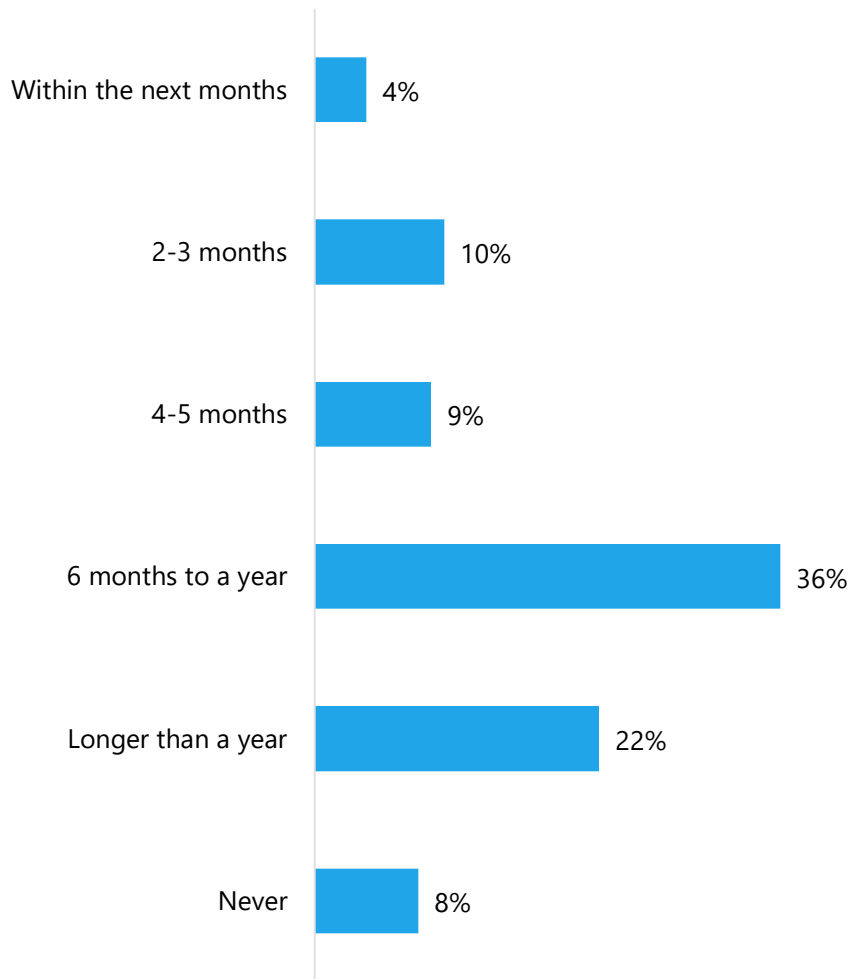


Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Furthermore, six in ten say they don't expect their daily life to return to a sense of normal until six months or more from now (66%) (Chart 14).

CHART 14: MOST TEXANS DON'T EXPECT LIFE TO RETURN TO NORMAL FOR 6 MONTHS OR MORE

Q: When do you expect your daily like will return to a sense of normalcy?



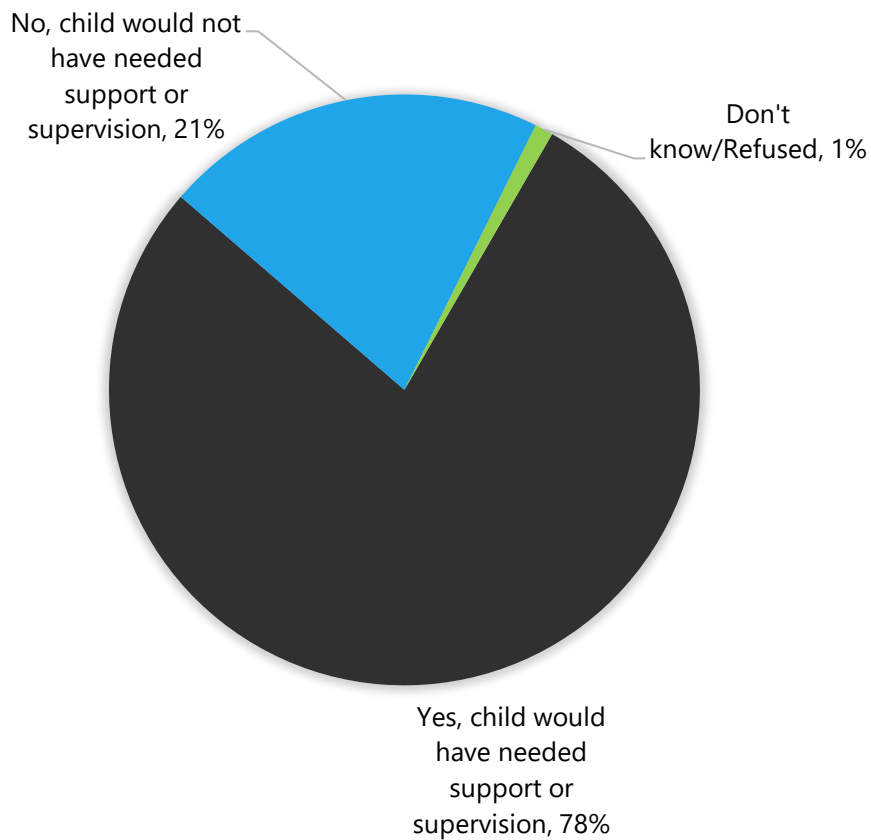
Note: Don't know/Refused responses are not shown. Question wording abbreviated.

Access to Virtual Education

For the 30 percent of Texans 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, two out of ten parents say their child would not have the support or supervision needed to successfully participate in online classes if it was required (21%) (Chart 15). Parents of all education levels, income levels, race groups, and employment status reported this difficulty at similar rates.

CHART 15: ONE IN FIVE PARENTS SAY THEIR CHILD WOULD NOT HAVE SUPPORT FOR ONLINE CLASSES

Q: If your child needed to attend school online this year, would they have the support or supervision needed to successfully participate in online classes?



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 (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process).

Interviews were administered in English and Spanish, combining random samples of both landline (367) and cellular telephones (1,522, including 1,224 who had no landline telephone).

Research has found that some populations are typically underrepresented in survey research. To increase the likelihood of reaching low-income respondents, the main sample was disproportionately stratified by oversampling counties with higher shares of Medicaid recipients.² To reach respondents with lower-education and people of color reach who are likelier to be reached by dialing phone numbers identified as prepaid, or pay-as-you-go, the cell phones samples included an oversample of prepaid number (~25% of the sample; compared with their actual share in the frame of about 15%).

The study also included oversamples of respondents in three areas: Bexar County area (n=265), Harris County area (n=535), and Travis County area (n=325). The Harris County area sample was also designed to complete interviews with respondents who were likely to be undocumented operationally defined as: (1) having been born outside of the U.S.; (2) not having a green card when moving to the U.S.; and (3) not having adjusted their status since moving to the U.S. To reach this population, three additional sample types were included for Harris County: (1) an additional oversample of prepaid cell phone numbers; (2) callbacks to respondents who had previously completed interviews on SSRS's RDD Omnibus survey and identified as Hispanics born outside of the U.S; and (3) callbacks to respondents who previously interviewed in other SSRS studies and indicated they were potentially undocumented. In total, 113 respondents from Harris County were considered potentially undocumented.

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 Texas adult population. A multi-stage weighting design was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the Texas adult population.

The margin of sampling error for this study is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on the total sample. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher.

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**

² The Low-Income stratum included nine counties with 5.9% or more of their residence being adults under the age of 65 who are covered by Medicaid, based on the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS). These counties were: Grundy, Harris, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Nueces, Smith, Taylor, Tom Green, and Webb.

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.