

# COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT

2022



WHITE CENTER  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION



# Report Highlights

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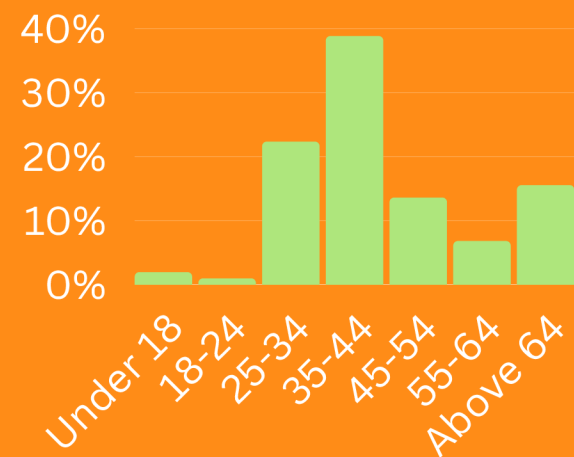
# Introduction

Like many other communities of color, COVID-19 deepens the disparities that have historically affected the lives of White Center residents. Thanks to our relationship with our community and partners, White Center CDA was able to quickly gather data and leverage our resources to provide immediate assistance to our families. In addition to directly supporting our families with about half a million in financial assistance, we also worked alongside other community-based organizations to enroll families with rent assistance, utility support, food resources, PPE and vaccination, diapers, and other basic needs. We hired a COVID-19 Navigator to support our community in accessing culturally and linguistically relevant health information, vaccination, and PPE (Personal protective equipment). In 2022, resources and pandemic restrictions began to subside. However, the negative impact of COVID-19 continues to affect our community in various ways. To better understand how COVID-19 has impacted our families more deeply and how the White Center CDA can continue to support our community, we reached out to our community and asked them to share their stories and experiences. This report provides a summary of those conversations and some highlights of our findings.

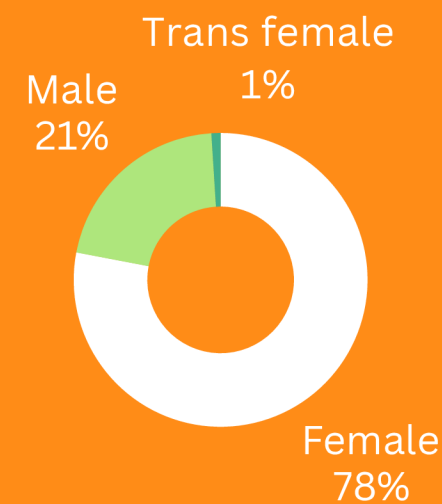
# Demographics

From February to June 2022, we spoke to 103 White Center community members from the ages of 16 to over 65. About 28% identified as belonging to a "health-vulnerable group," and 40% were living with someone from the "health-vulnerable group." Most of our community participants (78%) identified as female and were living within White Center's 3 zip codes of 98146, 98106, and 98168.

**Age of Participants**

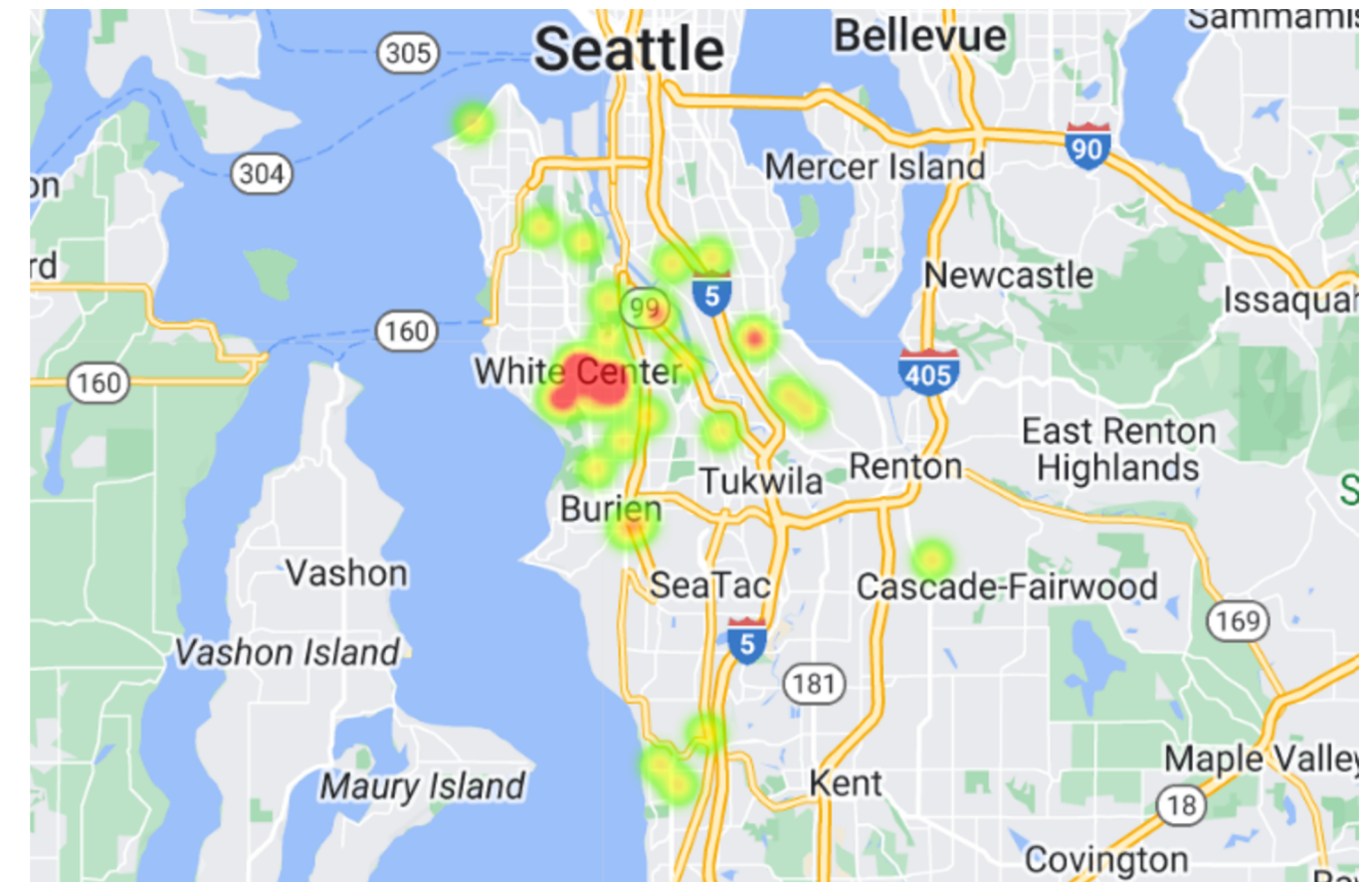
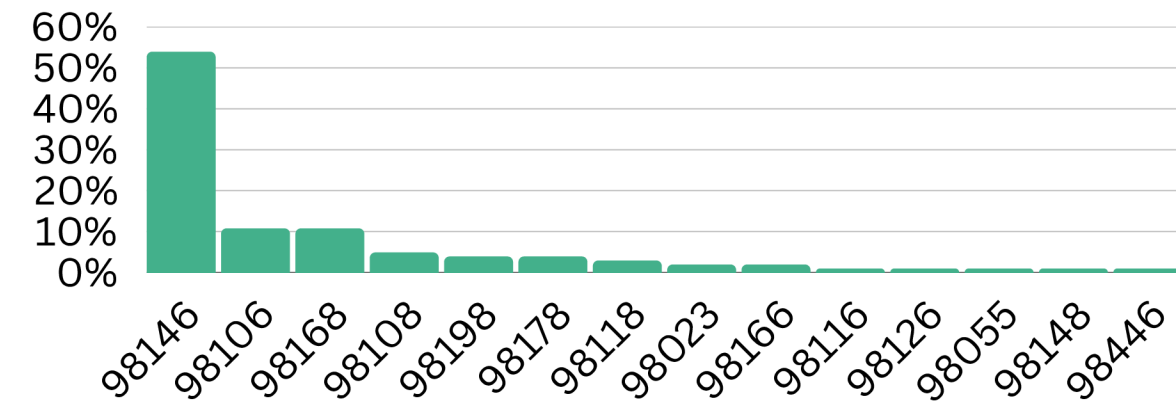


**Sex of Participants**



*\*health vulnerable group - over age 65, pregnant, diabetic, chronic cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory problems, cancer, immunosuppressant or obese*

**Location of Participants by Zip Code**

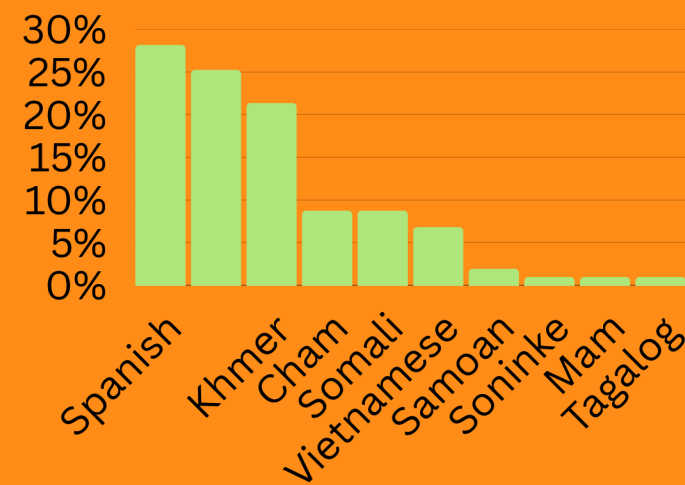




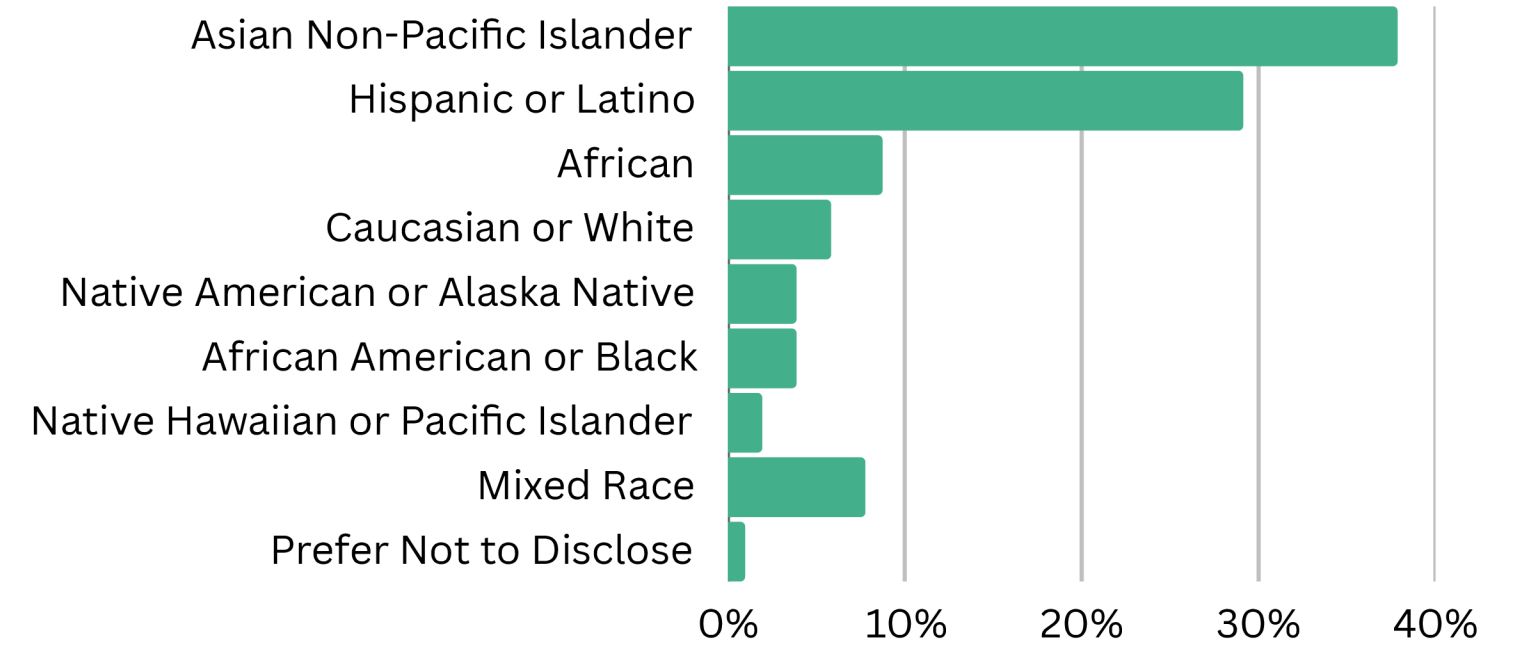
# Demographics

Community members who participated in our survey discussion are from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. About 84% identified as people of color and 75% spoke a different language other than English.

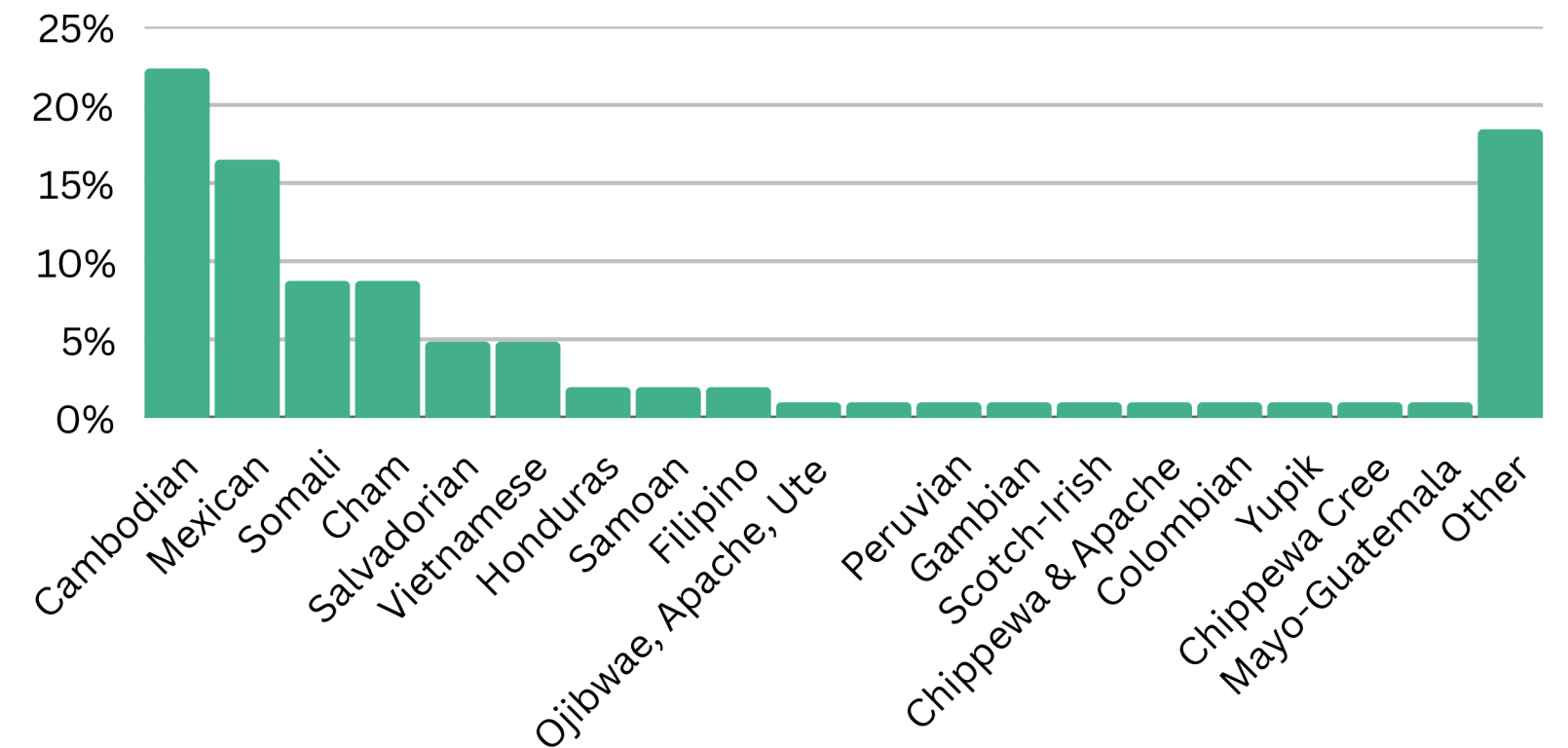
**Languages Spoken at Home**



**Race/Ethnicity**



**Cultural Subgroup or Tribal Identity**



Community participants were feeling...



# General Impact

During our conversations, more than half of the community participants had positive feelings toward their current situation. They were glad to be healthy, and most reported doing better than before. However, many also felt tired and stressed with uncertainties while still trying to cope with both individual and collective trauma left by the pandemic.

In the past 2 years, almost all community participants (98%) reported experiencing negative impacts of COVID-19 in various aspects of their lives. About 46% of community participants have had COVID-19 at least once. Though most had mild (34%) to moderate (47%) symptoms, some (15%) had severe symptoms and had to see a doctor or be hospitalized. Besides getting sick themselves and some still struggling with symptoms of long COVID-19, about half (46%) of community participants had experienced the loss of a family member, a close friend, or a loved one.

*"COVID has been traumatic for my family, but we are doing okay now and trying to move on. I lost my mom due to COVID and my dad was also really sick. My business had to close for a while, and I lost many of my clients. I am the main provider of the family, so it has been challenging. Since having COVID, I have had breathing problems and chest pain. I'm still trying to figure out what's wrong."*

# General Impact

More than half (62%) of community participants experienced disruption in employment and economic struggles. The financial impact left many families with increased food and housing insecurity.

In addition to the physical health and financial impacts of COVID-19, community participants also reported negative impacts COVID-19 had on their mental health, relationships, social interactions, and spiritual health. Elders were isolated from their families. Working adults were afraid and anxious about catching COVID-19 themselves and bringing it home to their family members. Kids had to adjust to learning remotely. Many families had to change their living arrangements, spent less time with loved ones, and experienced increased personal conflict.

*"Many members of my family got laid off. Some of us have gone back to work but some of us are still looking for work. Health-wise we have been okay, but we are constantly worried about parents and siblings who have autoimmune diseases."*

## Financial Instability

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**62%** experienced financial instability

## Mental Health

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**61%** experienced negative mental health impacts

## Social Isolation

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**54%** of our families felt they were negatively affected by social isolation

## Physical Health

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**47%** personally or had someone in their family experienced negative physical health impacts

## Child Care Burden

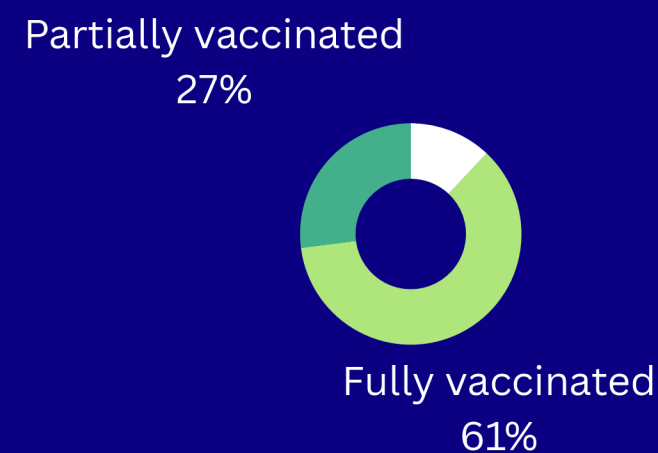
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**23%** of our families experienced an increased burden on child caregiving

# Vaccination

Though many participating community members were still concerned about the effectiveness and safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, most (88%) of our participants were vaccinated against COVID-19. Out of those who were vaccinated, 76% planned on getting their boosters. Those not planning to get their boosters had either experienced severe side effects, felt that the amount they had was enough to protect them, or just didn't see it as a priority.

## Participants' COVID-19 Vaccination Status



*"I really recommend for everyone be vaccinated. To me, it's a must so we can limit the spread of the virus."*

For community participants who were vaccinated, their top reasons for taking the COVID-19 vaccine were:

- **65%** Fear of transmitting it to loved ones/vulnerable population
- **64%** Fear for their life/ health
- **54%** Want to minimize the spread of the virus in their community
- **18%** Want to serve as an example for their loved ones and community
- **15%** Trust in the science behind the vaccines
- **12%** Had friends or families who encouraged them
- **11%** Recommended by their workplace
- **8%** Required by their workplace
- **8%** Someone they knew was severely sick with COVID or passed away due to COVID-19
- **2%** Required for travel
- **1%** Their doctor recommended it
- **1%** Their children's school recommended it
- **1%** To give themselves peace of mind

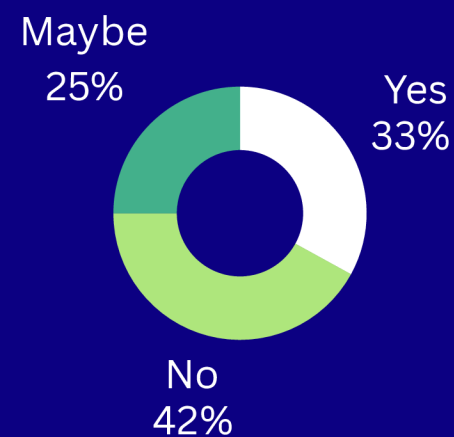
*"Based on the experiences of my friends and family, I think the vaccine will minimize the effect of COVID. Once vaccinated, I feel a lot safer and less stressed."*



# Vaccination

Of the 12 participating community members who were not vaccinated, 42% did not plan on getting the vaccine in the future. 58% planned on possibly getting the COVID-19 vaccine in the future and were waiting for more information regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Plans for Non-Vaccinated Participants



*"The government doesn't let people decide if they want the vaccine or not. I feel I have no voice.."*

*"Weighing the risk of the vaccine and getting COVID, it's not worth putting some unknown chemical into your body."*

About 46% of community participants have had COVID-19 in the past, some more than once. Most had mild (34%) to moderate (47%) symptoms. However, some (15%) had severe symptoms and had to go to the hospital. Of those who were vaccinated, about 85% felt that the vaccine did reduce the severity of their conditions. About 83% of community participants believe that most people in their community are vaccinated for COVID-19.

For community members who were not vaccinated, their reasons were:

- **83%** Concerned about the side effects
- **58%** Didn't trust the government
- **58%** Would like to learn more about long-term effects
- **42%** Not enough research went into the vaccine
- **33%** Didn't believe the vaccine works
- **2%** Don't think it would be serious if they get COVID-19 since they are healthy
- **1%** Ineligible because of a health condition
- **1%** Due to their religious beliefs
- **1%** People who are vaccinated still get sick

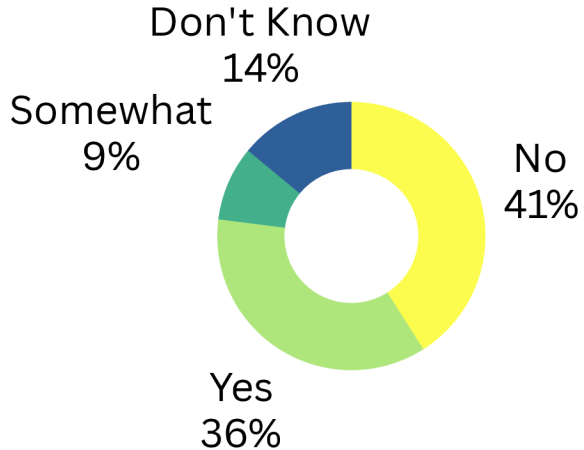
# Vaccination

Whether vaccinated or not, many participants indicated that they were concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines. Most were concerned about the long-term effects and some were concerned that the vaccines could cause death.

Participants' concerns typically came from the news, social media, personal experience, or the experiences of someone they know. Some of the specific health conditions participants mentioned they were concerned about were arthritis, blood clots, breathing issues, fatigue, allergies, heart issues, infertility, loss of balance, change of platelet count, and tachycardia.

A small number of community participants felt the vaccine mandate was necessary and were afraid of it being lifted, while others felt the government has no right to impose the mandate.

## Participants Concerned about COVID-19 Vaccines



33%

of community participants who were **not** vaccinated for COVID-19 felt that other recommended vaccines are typically safe and do get them

84%

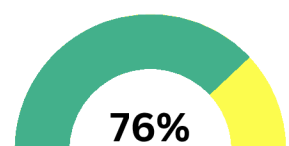
of community participants who were vaccinated for COVID-19 felt that other recommended vaccines are typically safe and do get them

*"The vaccine makes me feel safe, but I feel conflicted because I hear many different things and we don't know a lot about the vaccine in the long-term and side effects."*

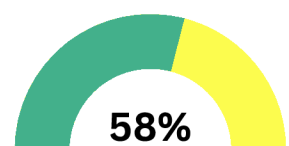


# Vaccination

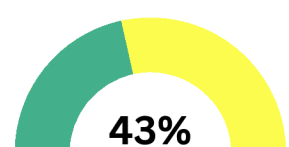
About 36% of our community participants have children ages 12-17 years, 46% have children ages 5-11 years, and 34% have children younger than 5 years of age. Parents' decision on whether to vaccinate their children for COVID-19 or not changes based on their children's ages. The younger the children are, the more concerned parents are about the safety of the vaccines for their children.



Children 12-17 years were vaccinated



Children 5-11 years were vaccinated



Parents said they will vaccinate their children younger than 5 years if it's available

For parents who chose not to vaccinate their children or have not fully vaccinated their children yet, their reasons were:

- **58%** Concerned about the side effects
- **45%** Planning on it but just haven't gotten to it
- **26%** Waiting for enough time for the booster
- **16%** Do not trust the government
- **16%** Don't believe the vaccine works
- **13%** Don't believe children are at high risk
- **10%** Waiting to learn more about how the vaccines affect children
- **10%** Believe 1 or 2 doses provides enough protection
- **6%** Experienced severed side effects after 1 or 2 doses
- **6%** Had COVID-19 recently so they have to wait for the next dose
- **3%** The vaccine is not available in the country where their children are living

*"We did not vaccinate my kids because I'm scared of the side effects for my kids. I'm not worried for myself but I want to do more research about the vaccine for kids under 11 years old before I give it to them. There is not enough information or the information was not good enough to convince me to get my children vaccinated."*

# Information Access

Community members relied on multiple sources for COVID-related information. The primary 3 sources reported were mass media, friends and family, and social media. Mass media included national and local news such as KOMO, K5, Kiro7, and Seattle Times.

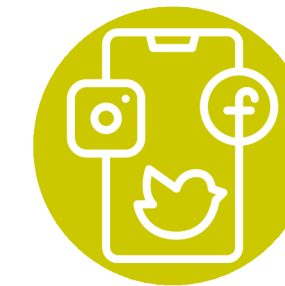
Of those who rely on social media for COVID-19 information, about 77% use Facebook solely or with other social media platforms like Youtube, Instagram, and Twitter. Of those who rely on official health organizations, about 73% find updated information and guidance from the Seattle & King County Health Departments and about 10% from the CDC. A few relied more on local health clinics such as SeaMar, Seattle Indian Health Board, and UW Medicine.



**69%**  
Mass Media



**58%**  
Friends & Family



**57%**  
Social Media



**48%**  
Official Health Organizations



**46%**  
Local Nonprofits



**11%**  
Workplace & Colleagues



**9%**  
Primary Care Doctor



**6%**  
School & Daycare Centers



**5%**  
Faith-based Organizations



**1%**  
Pharmacies



**1%**  
Libraries



**1%**  
Community Meetings

## Access COVID-19 Information through Culturally-specific News Media



*"I'm not actively looking for COVID information anymore. The news is very toxic. And we are always living in fear. But my mom is still very engaged because she works at the school. She gets and shares information with the community, especially through Facebook."*

# Information Access

In general, community participants did not feel any significant barriers to accessing COVID-19 information. For those of whom English is not their main spoken language, most relied on news and social media posts from culturally-specific sources such as news from Cambodian or Vietnamese channels. Whether these news channels are local or international, they are typically accessed through Facebook or YouTube. Some relied on their family and friends to translate and relay information to them or get information distributed by local non-profit organizations that work directly with their specific ethnic/cultural community such as the Khmer Community of Seattle King County, ACRS, Villa Comunitaria, Para Los Ninos, WCCDA, and the Duwamish Tribe. Community participants also reported receiving information from other non-profit organizations such as South Park Senior Center, White Center Food Bank, UTOPIA, the Salvation Army, etc.

Many community participants mentioned that they are no longer actively seeking out COVID-related information like they were at the beginning of the pandemic. The overwhelming amount of COVID-19 information causes them additional stress. A few participants chose not to access any COVID-related information because they feel they cannot trust the government or news media to provide them with facts.

# Resource Access

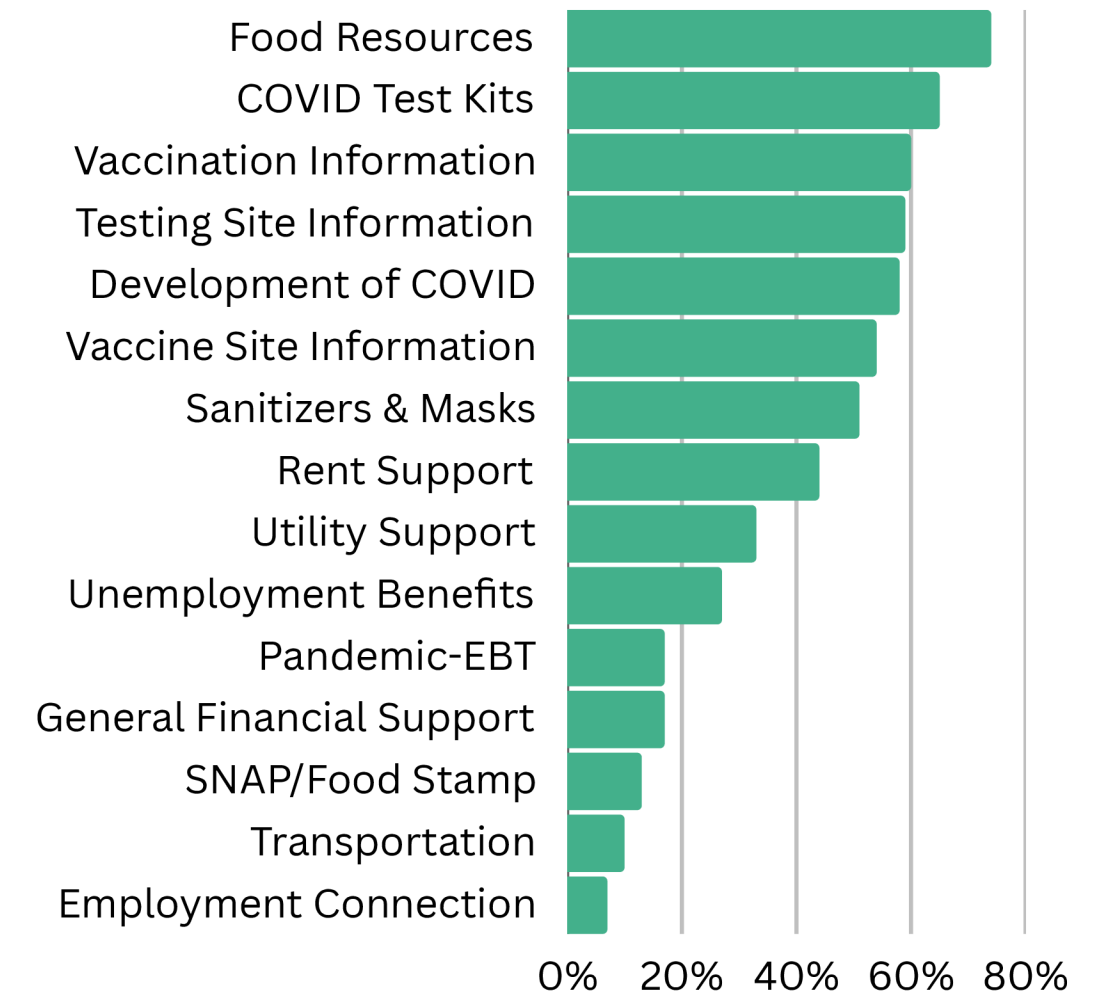
99% of community participants reported utilizing some governmental and community support.

Whether it's groceries delivered to their homes, food boxes picked up at a local non-profit or faith-based organization, meals for children from the schools, food vouchers, or increased cash benefits for food, support for food was the most accessed resource by community participants.

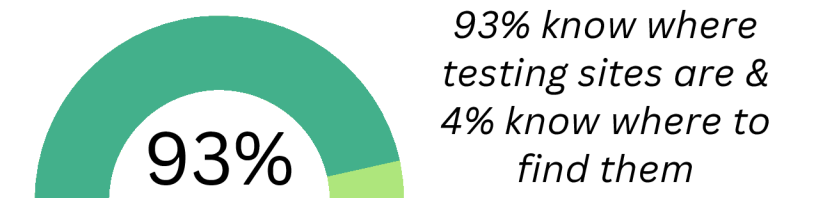
Many community participants had someone in their family who lost their job. Therefore, financial resources such as stimulus checks, unemployment benefits, or financial support for basic needs like rent and utility were most helpful to families. Other helpful resources included having a community to support their families when they were sick with COVID-19, paid sick leave, mental health counseling, diapers and children supplies, school scholarship, and access to spiritual/faith-based community gatherings.

*"My family is getting food vouchers and P-EBT, so we are doing fine. I'm back to working full-time at the hospital again, but when I was laid off, I was able to take unemployment benefits. That was the most helpful thing for the pandemic."*

## Resources Most Accessed



## Testing Locations Knowledge





# Resource Access

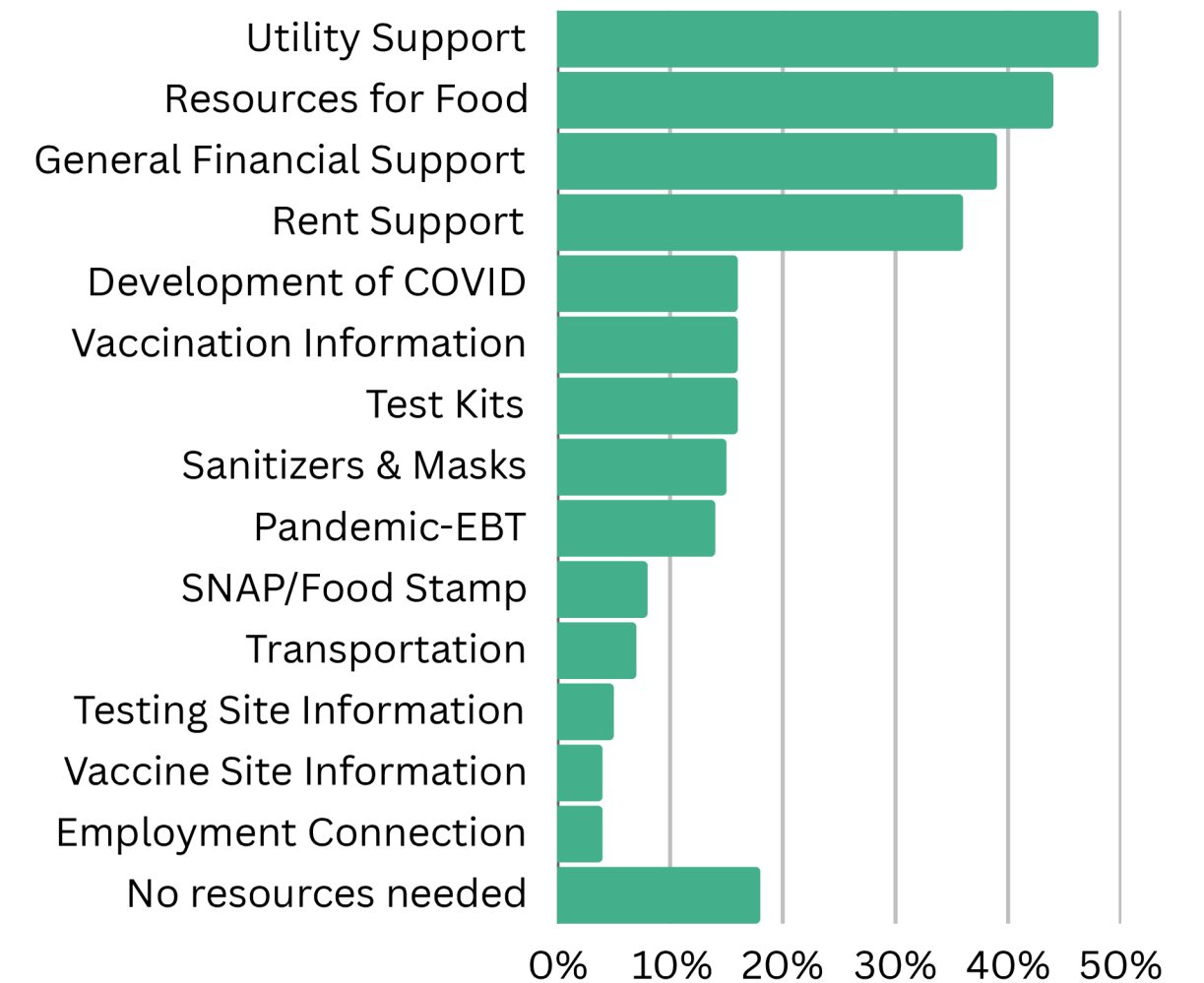
82% of community participants reported still needing support to recover from the pandemic.

For families who were financially impacted by the pandemic, general financial support or support for basic needs such as utility, food, and rent continues to be essential.

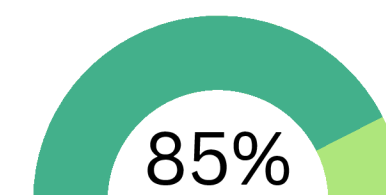
Though many community participants mentioned being tired of constantly hearing about COVID-19 and being stressed, many still wanted to be able to access information regarding the development of COVID-19 and updates on the effectiveness of vaccines. To keep their families safe, community participants felt continued support with test kits, sanitizers, and masks is also essential. Most community participants still wear masks in public (93%) and frequently wash their hands or use hand sanitizers more than prior to COVID-19 (90%). About 85% of community participants said they will test if they get sick and have COVID-like symptoms.

*"Right now everything costs a lot, so it's helpful to get food. The community here has been very helpful in sharing information with us."*

## Resources Still in Need



## Likelihood of Testing



85% will likely to test if they have COVID-like symptoms

# Summary & Next Steps

We want to thank our community members for sharing their stories. While this report does not include all the stories we heard nor is it representative of the experiences of our whole community, we are grateful for your continued trust in the WCCDA to hold your stories and guide our work.

Like many communities of color, White Center has been devastated by the pandemic. It has impacted our community's economy, health, emotional well-being, relationships, and many more ways that we haven't accounted for. As we are facing the uncertainties of the future, many of us are feeling lost and tired. But many of us are also feeling hopeful. As we are moving toward the "new normal," we are also yearning for ways to come back together safely, share our stories, learn from each other, support and care for one another, and recover and heal together as a community.