

# A SPOTLIGHT ON LATINA/O/X HARDSHIPS

## From the Unheard Third 2022 Survey

Almost a year into the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Latina/o/x community in New York City continues to struggle with a high unemployment rate (9% relative to the citywide average of 6.6%<sup>[1]</sup>), increasingly unaffordable housing, and staggeringly high rates of food insecurity.



### HOUSING

- The city's Latina/o/x population overwhelmingly responded that affordable housing is what they believe would help them get ahead economically.
- 52% of low-income Latina/o/x respondents were worried that they wouldn't be able to make the rent in the coming months.
- 40% of low-income Latina/o/x/ renters experienced rent hikes, and 20% reported eviction attempts.



### FOOD INSECURITY

- Latina/o/x New Yorkers suffer acute rates of hardship—45% reported either having to receive free food from charities or relatives and friends or skipping meals and enduring hunger. The rate was significantly higher than the citywide rate of food hardship (31%).
- Food hardship and food insecurity were worse for Latina/x women—52% reported being forced to seek out free meals and 42% reported enduring hunger.



### FINANCIAL PRECARITY

- 54% of Latina/o/x households worried about making ends meet "all or most of the time."
- Latina/o/x households were much more likely than others to cut back on buying school supplies (31%), experience income loss (31%) or receive assistance from charities (25%).
- Almost a third (32%) of Latina/o/x households had no rainy-day savings, including 8% of Latina/o/x respondents who had college degrees.



## PRECARIOUS WORK SITUATION

- 29% of the city's Latina/o/x residents said that they were engaged in 'gig work.' Latina/x women had the highest participation rate of 31% compared with other races and ethnicities.
- Gig work was the primary source of income for almost half (50%) of all Latina/o/x households.
- These workers had much lower rates of access to benefits like paid vacation, paid sick leave, health insurance, or retirement savings.



## TRANSIT HARDSHIP

- 41% surveyed said that they 'often lacked money to pay for subway or bus fare.'
- The rate of transit hardship was the highest for Latina/x women, 45% of whom reported struggling to pay bus or subway fares.
- 59% of the eligible Latina/o/x New Yorkers have not applied for the Fair Fares transit relief program. Of these, 15% said they did not even know about the program.



## HEALTH HARDSHIP

- 38% reported that they experienced at least one of the following:
  - (1) postponed getting medical care,
  - (2) did not fill a prescription, and
  - (3) did not have health insurance—much higher rates than the city average and higher than other people of other races and ethnicities surveyed.

### ABOUT THE UNHEARD THIRD SURVEY

The 2022 Unheard Third is a scientific telephone survey of 1,968 New York City adult residents reached by cell phones and landlines from July 12th through August 18th, 2022. It was designed by Community Service Society in collaboration with Lake Research Partners, who administered it using Random Digit Dialing and professional interviewers. The sample included 1,234 low-income residents (up to 200% of federal poverty standards, or FPL), and 734 moderate and higher-income residents (above 200% FPL). Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, and Chinese. The margin of error for the entire survey is +/- 2.2 percent, for the low-income component is +/- 2.8 percent, and for the higher-income component is +/- 3.6 percent, all at the 95% confidence interval. For further information on the survey please reach out to Emerita Torres at [etorres@cssny.org](mailto:etorres@cssny.org)