Before COVID-19, many households in Greater Cincinnati had difficulty meeting their basic needs for housing, utilities and food. This has only worsened during the pandemic. Beyond the health effects caused by COVID-19, safety precautions such as stay-at-home orders and the closure of non-essential businesses—while critical to slow the spread of the virus and save lives—resulted in job or income loss. These financial hardships will continue to affect people’s health and well-being into the future. The Greater Cincinnati COVID-19 Health Issues Survey asked Greater Cincinnati adults how the pandemic has affected their ability to meet basic needs.1

Nearly 1 in 4 Greater Cincinnati adults report their household experienced financial hardship during the pandemic.

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS WHO HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS ...

16% ... paying mortgage or rent.

16% ... paying utilities.

13% .... affording food.

22% ... experienced any of these.

8% ... experienced all of these.

SOME ADULTS MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS TO REPORT HAVING EXPERIENCED ANY OF THESE DIFFICULTIES.

LESS LIKELY | MORE LIKELY
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BY GEOGRAPHY
- Butler/Clermont/Warren counties: 20% | Cincinnati: 31%
- Hamilton County suburbs: 17% | Rural counties: 27%

BY RACE
- White: 20% | African American: 35%

BY AGE
- 65 and older: 6% | 30-45: 29%
- 30-45: 28% | 46-64: 30%

BY INCOME
- Living in poverty: 72%
- Higher income: 8% | Living just above poverty: 33%

1 Respondents were able to select all financial difficulties they had experienced in the past year.
2 Adams, Brown, Clinton, and Highland counties in Ohio, Bracken, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Pendleton, and Owen counties in Kentucky, Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland counties in Indiana.
3 In 2019, household income for a family of four living in poverty: $25,750 or less; for a family of four living just above the poverty level: $25,751-$31,500; for a family of four with higher income: greater than $31,500.