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ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Findings from the Maryland Commission for Women Survey on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Maryland Commission for Women wanted to learn about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in the state. Between early August and October 15, 2021, an online survey collected information about the health, family, work and financial situations that women faced during the pandemic and the period when businesses and schools began to reopen. A report summarizing statewide findings is available on the Maryland Commission for Women website (www.marylandwomen.org).

This profile analyzes the 331 responses from Anne Arundel County and follows key findings from the statewide report. Responses from this jurisdiction can thus be compared directly to statewide results.

Who Responded?

- **331 women** responded to the survey.
- **Race:** 77.7% of respondents were White, 13.2% were Black
- **Age:** Survey respondents ranged in age from 19 to 90.
- **Education, Occupation, Income.** 77.8% of respondents had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Their occupations and incomes reflected their higher education levels.

Women's Health

Physical health

- ✓ 38.7% of respondents delayed other medical care.
- ✓ 39.5% exercised less.
- ✓ 49.8% of the women reported unwanted weight gain.

Mental and emotional health

- ✓ 66.1% experienced more anxiety or felt anxious more often.
- ✓ 53.9% felt lonelier or more isolated.
- ✓ 42.4% felt more depressed or depressed more often.
- ✓ 37.6% had more difficulty sleeping.

The Pandemic and Work

A series of questions asked women to report their job situation and that of their spouse/partner. In all cases, women fared worse.

Lost job

- ✓ Respondent – 8.5%
- ✓ Spouse/partner – 4.8%

Employer reduced hours

- ✓ Respondent – 11.5%
- ✓ Spouse/partner – 4.4%

Quit job because of family needs

- ✓ Respondent – 0
- ✓ Spouse/partner – 0.4%

Quit for reasons not related to family

- ✓ Respondent – 2.0%
- ✓ Spouse/partner – .7%

- ✓ 2.5% of respondents had to take paid leave.
- ✓ 4.5% had to take unpaid leave.
- ✓ 17.0% of respondents did not feel safe at work, although only 4.5% indicated employers did not follow COVID safety guidelines.

Finances and the Pandemic

Survey respondents fell on both ends of the financial continuum.

- ✓ 13.6% increased their savings.
- ✓ 7.7% relied on savings or other retirement income.
- ✓ 6.3% received financial assistance from a state or federal program.

Relationships and Family

Relationships

- ✓ 22.5% of respondents reported increased tension with a spouse/partner.
- ✓ 3.7% experienced divorce, separation or a breakup during the pandemic.

Extended family

- ✓ 49.8% were not able to attend a family event in person.
- ✓ 33.9% were unable to visit parents.
- ✓ 12.5% were unable to visit children or grandchildren.

Concerns with children under 18

- ✓ 41.4% were concerned their children were getting behind in school.
- ✓ 41.4% had difficulty juggling children's care and schooling with work.
- ✓ 27.6% noted increased anxiety in their children due to COVID.

Concerns Going Forward

Being in public

- ✓ 66.8% of respondents were concerned about being around unvaccinated people.
- ✓ 48.3% were concerned about attending social gatherings or religious services.
- ✓ 38.7% were reluctant to use public transportation.

Employment and finances

- ✓ 22.1% were worried about money.
- ✓ 11.0% were concerned that their employers would not provide the flexibility needed to juggle their children's schedules and work.

Mothers with children

- ✓ 31.0% were concerned about their children returning to school.