



# Mixed Methods Evaluation of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Immigrant Families

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## Introduction

- COVID-19 disparities were identified among immigrant and minority populations early in the pandemic.
- Disparities likely resulted from long standing structural inequities, but language and cultural barriers to COVID-19 information and health services may have also played a role
- Understanding the experiences of immigrant families with children during the COVID-19 pandemic is needed to inform future public health response in future pandemics to avoid exacerbating disparities

## Methods

We conducted a mixed method study using the following data sources:

### Survey:

- patients <18 years of age with SARS-CoV-2 via molecular test between March-December 2020 via existing CHCO repository of patients with SARS-CoV-2
- orally-administered by phone by a trained research assistant fluent in English and Spanish, 260 parents contacted with 78 completed surveys
- Analysis was done using Chi-square and Fisher's exact test for categorical variables and t-test for continuous variables

### Focus Group Discussions

- partnering community organizations recruited Latino immigrant participants from among members of organization programming
- 3 Spanish language focus group discussions, one via zoom and two in person, with a total of 16 participants
- Codebook was created utilizing an iterative consensus process by two coders, any discrepancies between coders was reconciled via discussion and consensus

## Conclusion

- ❖ Financial precarity likely led to immigrant parents being more likely to work outside the home than US born parents, contributing to the spread of COVID-19 in this community
- ❖ Trustworthy information in participants native language was highly valued, but often hard to come by, especially locally-specific information.
- ❖ Although internationally born parents were as likely to report a desire to get the vaccine, many barriers to vaccination were identified in this community, both financial and legal.
- ❖ There is a need to develop programs and policies to address longstanding inequities in health and opportunity for immigrant families which were exacerbated by the pandemic.

## Results

**Three Main Themes** were identified from qualitative data:

### 1) The interplay of COVID-19, work and financial stress

*“Even if you are sick, even if there is a danger in the community. So, that’s our mentality, you have to go out and work. I think that’s what impacted our community, that we had to go out and work to provide for expenses and everything. We couldn’t stay at home.”*

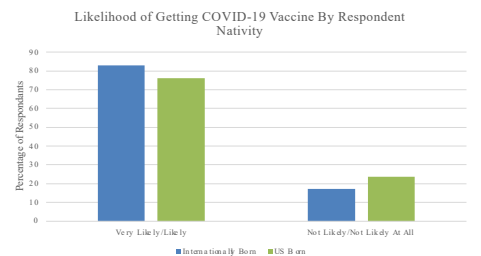
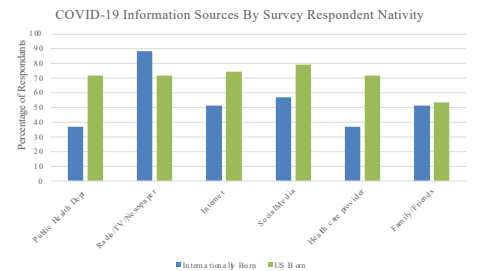
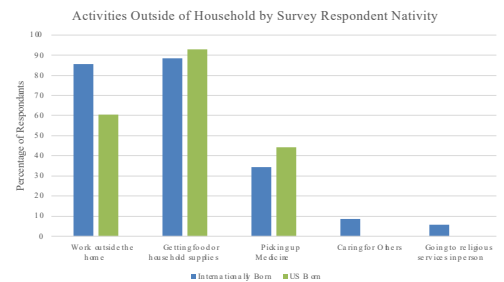
### 2) The challenge of information access and discerning misinformation

*“Yes, there is a lot of information, now it is being given, but I see certain multicultural problems in which there are certain communities that only trust an organization or an institution that speaks their language, that identifies itself culturally.”*

### 3) COVID-19 vaccine opinions and access

*“Or, for example, those people who work far away and to go, the time it takes them to get [vaccinated] they lose a whole day. So, they don’t get paid for that day.”*

## Quantitative Data



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our community partners, Aurora Community Connection and Amigos de Mexico for their assistance in coordinating focus group discussions