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COVID-19 IMPACTS ON THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted many underserved and vulnerable communities. To our knowledge, there hasn't been a specific, targeted effort to look at how COVID-19 has affected LGBTQ+ community members in San Mateo County.

The San Mateo County Pride Center conducted a survey to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on financial stability, housing stability, safety and/or access to supportive resources, mental and/or emotional health, and physical health. 532 community members responded to the survey and the results indicate significant impacts of COVID-19 across all survey dimensions. In particular, 85% of respondents reported negative impacts on mental and/or emotional health and 17% of respondents reported negative impacts on safety and/or access to supportive resources.

Stratifying these impacts across different demographic and identity categories also revealed disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on transgender, non-binary, non-heterosexual, non-white, and disabled respondents. More than 100 respondents left detailed comments highlighting their specific experiences that the survey alone could not capture.

Taken as a whole, these results provide a high-level way to describe the impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTQ+ community members in San Mateo County, and they also underscore the importance of community-based resources, programming, and support for community members who may not benefit from specific axes of privilege.

The San Mateo County Pride Center aims to use the survey results to target programs and services towards the identified areas of need by strengthening county resources as well as the Center's capacity to support LGBTQ+ community members who have been the most impacted by the pandemic.

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