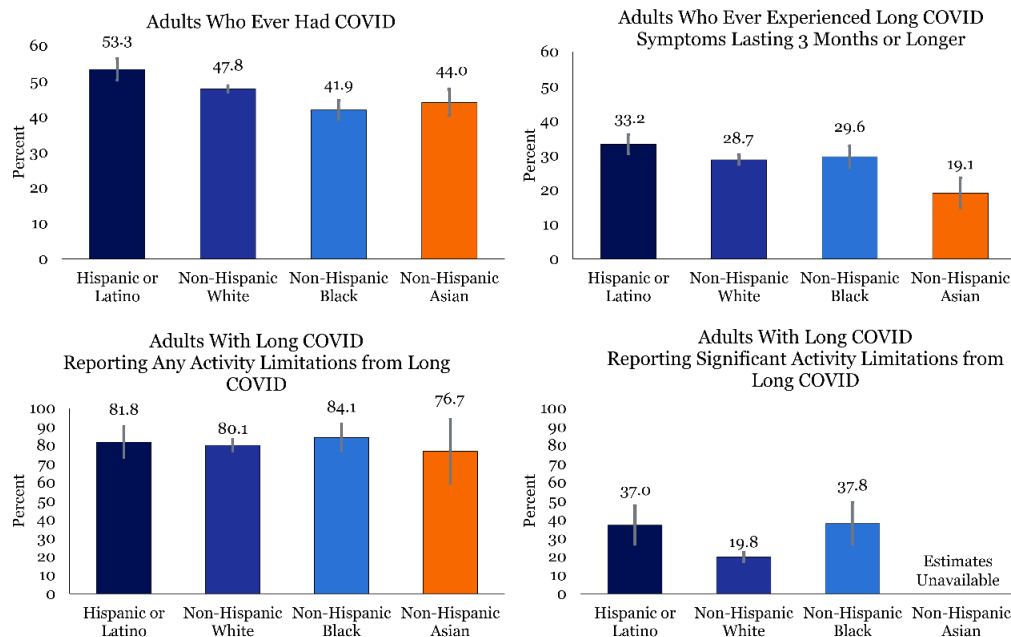


DATA SLICE #57 | November 15, 2022

The Unequal Burden of Long COVID

Marc A. Garcia, Catherine García, and Erin Bisesti

Racial/ethnic disparities in U.S. COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths have been well documented. However, less research has focused on racial/ethnic disparities in long COVID symptoms, defined as post-COVID health difficulties (e.g., fatigue, difficulty breathing, heart palpitations, dizziness, cognitive issues) lasting three months or longer. Data from the U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey for Sept. 14-26, 2022, indicate that 48.2 percent of U.S. adults aged 18 and older report having tested positive for COVID. Among adults who ever had COVID, 29.6% report experiencing long COVID symptoms. Notably, although there are no significant racial/ethnic differences in reporting overall activity limitations from long COVID, a higher percentage of Black and Hispanic/Latino adults report experiencing “significant” activity limitations compared to Whites. Governments and healthcare systems should continue to monitor the long-term effects of COVID to address the healthcare needs of individuals from communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.



Percentage of U.S. Adults aged 18 and Older Reporting COVID Infection and Long COVID Symptoms

Data Source: [Household Pulse Survey: September 14- September 26](#), N=50,248

Note: Estimates are weighted. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Activity limitations refer to the ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

About the Authors. **Marc A. Garcia** (mgarci49@syr.edu) is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Syracuse University (SU). **Catherine García** (cgarci24@syr.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at SU. **Erin Bisesti** (embisest@syr.edu) is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at SU. All three authors are affiliates of the Lerner Center, Center for Aging and Policy Studies, and Aging Studies Institute at SU.