



TO: Emily Lockwood, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
FROM: Amy Simon and Naser Javaid, Goodwin Simon Strategic Research
DATE: October 2, 2020
RE: Key Research Findings on COVID Youth Survey Wave1

This memo summarizes key findings from a nationwide online survey of 1,305 Black, Hispanic, and lower-income white youth, ages 15 to 21-years old, conducted by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research (GSSR) from August 8 to 16, 2020. The memo compares these survey findings to results from a similar survey that GSSR conducted among 2,638 young people ages 15 to 21-years-old from September 16th to September 22nd, 2019. A detailed description of the methodology is at the end of this memo.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- **Respondents have less clarity around their goals and ideas for their future jobs or careers now than pre-COVID in 2019.** Across all race and gender subgroups there are declines in the proportion of respondents who report feeling *very clear* about their goals and ideas for their future job or career. The largest declines are among Black and Hispanic female respondents.
- **There is less confidence among respondents that they know both what they want to do for their future career *and* the steps they need to take in order to achieve it.** However, respondents who have more clarity about their future goals are more likely to feel they know what they want to do and how to get there—even after accounting for other factors.
- **Working full-time impacts the clarity with which those respondents see their future and their pathways towards that future.** Respondents who are currently working full-time are more likely to report feeling that they know where to look for information as well as guidance about their future careers. These respondents are also more likely to report they know what they want to do in their future careers, and also the steps they need to take to get there.
- **Fewer respondents in 2020 feel they know where to look for information or guidance about their future career goals compared to 2019.** However, respondents who know where to look for information are more likely to report having clear goals about their future, even after accounting for characteristics such as race, gender, and income.
- **Most respondents believe college is worth it.** However, there are substantial decreases across race and gender subgroups when compared to 2019. The decline among female respondents is especially notable.
- **Many respondents have different feelings about whether college is *worth it* for them personally now than they did before the coronavirus outbreak.** Notably, this change has been in both directions, with some who used to feel college was worth it no longer believing that is the case, as well as some who used to think college was not worth it now believing it is worth it.

**As you read analysis of differences by income level, note that high income white youth were excluded from this survey, whereas there are high income Black and Hispanic respondents.*

- **Many respondents are changing their future education plans.** In addition to perceptions around the value of college, concerns about college debt, the availability of comparable but cheaper options, and family responsibilities are important considerations for many youth.
- **Many respondents are helping to provide care for someone other than themselves at home.** In addition to impacting future education plans, these responsibilities are also influencing some respondents' decisions about their work.
- **More respondents are working multiple jobs in 2020 compared to 2019—but fewer respondents overall are working for pay.** These trends are especially prominent among female respondents generally, and Black female respondents in particular.
- **Many respondents report feeling the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. The outbreak may also be taking away opportunities related to career pathways.** In addition to the immediate economic effects of the coronavirus outbreak, some respondents have lost out on important opportunities around career explorations—including hands-on learning experiences such as internships.
- **A majority of respondents feel the worst is still yet to come with respect to the coronavirus in the United States.** Nonetheless, most feel the country will eventually return to the way it was before the coronavirus outbreak, although there are different perceptions of how long this will take.

DETAILED KEY FINDINGS

Compared to 2019, respondents report less clarity regarding their goals and ideas for their future job or career. There are declines across all race and gender subgroups in the proportion of respondents who report feeling *very clear* about their goals and ideas for their future job or career. The largest declines are among Black and Hispanic female respondents.

In 2020, slightly more than one-quarter (27%) of respondents feel *very clear* about their future job or career goals compared to 43 percent of respondents in 2019. While there is at least a nine-percentage point decline across all race and gender subgroups, the largest drops are among Black female respondents (28% compared to 50% in 2019) and Hispanic female respondents (26% compared to 44% in 2019).

Female respondents are also less likely to report feeling *very clear* about their goals and ideas for the future than are their male peers—25 percent and 29 percent, respectively. In 2019, female respondents (44%) were slightly more likely to report feeling *very clear* about their future goals and ideas than were male respondents (42%).

Similarly, within racial subgroups, female respondents are no more likely—and generally are less likely—to report having *very clear* goals and ideas for the future than their male peers:

- Black female respondents are slightly less likely (28%) to feel *very clear* about these goals than are Black male respondents (31%). This is a slight change from 2019, when Black female respondents (50%) were more likely to feel *very clear* about these goals than were Black male respondents (45%).
- Among Hispanic respondents, 26 percent of both males and females report feeling *very clear* about their future goals in 2020, compared to 42 percent and 44 percent, respectively, in 2019.

- Among white respondents, female respondents (22%) are significantly less likely to feel *very clear* about their goals than and male respondents (30%). This is the same pattern as 2019, when 35 percent of white female respondents and 39 percent of white male respondents reported feeling *very clear* about their future goals.

There is less confidence among respondents that they know both what they want to do for their future career *and* the steps they need to take in order to achieve it. However, respondents who have more clarity about their future goals are more likely to feel they know what they want to do and how to get there—even after accounting for other factors. Currently working full-time also helps mitigate uncertainty about future career paths for many respondents.

In 2020, 33 percent of respondents feel *I know what I want to do for my work or career, and I also know most of the specific steps I need to take to get there*, compared to 46 percent in 2019. Thirty-three percent (33%) of both female and male respondents report feeling this way, a 12-percentage point drop for females (45%) and a 15-percentage point drop for males (48%) from 2019.

Among race and gender subgroups, the largest drop from 2019 is among Black females (19-percentage points lower in 2020, 31% compared to 50%), followed closely by Hispanic male respondents (18-percentage points lower, 30% compared to 48%). There are also double-digit drops among white male respondents (15-percentage points lower, 34% compared to 49%) and Black males (a 12-percentage point decrease, 35% compared to 47%).

It is perhaps not surprising that respondents who have greater clarity about their future career goals are significantly more likely to report *I know what I want to do for my work or career, and I also know most of the specific steps I need to take to get there*: fully 75 percent of respondents who are *very clear* about their future job goals feel this way, compared to 28 percent of respondents who are *somewhat clear* about their future job goals. Importantly, this positive relationship still exists when other demographic and situational characteristics—such as race, gender, and income—are accounted for. Put differently, respondents who have very clear career goals are also more likely to feel they know how to achieve those goals compared to their peers who have less clarity about their future career goals.

Being employed full-time is also an important experience that positively contributes to respondents' feelings around the clarity of their future pathways. Almost half (47%) of respondents who are currently working full-time report they feel they know what they want to do for their career and the steps they need to take to get there. By comparison, 34 percent of respondents who are working part-time, and 32 percent of respondents who are not working, feel this way. The differences between respondents working full-time and their peers are larger in 2020, but the proportions are still lower for each group compared to 2019 (58% for respondents working full time, 48% for respondents working part-time, and 39% for respondents who were not working).

Relatedly, although fewer respondents feel they have an *extremely good idea* where to look for information or guidance about how to achieve their future career goals, those who are working full-time are substantially more likely than their peers to report they know where to turn. Respondents who know where to look for information are more likely to report having clear goals about their future, even after accounting for demographic and situational characteristics.

Just 29 percent of respondents report feeling they have an extremely good idea of where to look for information about their future job, work, or career. In 2019, this figure was 37 percent. The largest decline by race and gender subgroups are among Black female respondents (25% in 2020 compared

to 42% in 2019) and Black male respondents (32% in 2020 compared to 41% in 2019). Female respondents (28%) are slightly less likely to feel like they have an extremely good idea where to look for information than are male respondents (31%), which is similar to 2019 when 36 percent of female respondents and 38 percent of male respondents reported feeling like they have an extremely good idea where to look for information.

As was the case with goal clarity, working full-time has a noticeable impact on whether or not respondents feel like they know where to turn for career information. Forty-three percent (43%) of respondents who are working full-time feel like they have an extremely good idea where to look for this kind of information, compared with 30 percent of their peers who are working part-time and 29 percent of their peers who are not working.

Knowing where to look for information about how to achieve future career goals is highly correlated with the clarity with which respondents see their goals: respondents who do not feel they know where to find information are much more likely to have lower levels of goal clarity, even after controlling for other demographic and situational characteristics.

From 2019 to 2020, there are also declines in the proportion of respondents who report they have an extremely good idea where to seek guidance about their future job, work, or career goals. Overall, 26 percent of respondents in 2020 report feeling this way, compared to 33 percent in 2019. The largest decline is once again among Black female respondents (28% in 2020 compared to 39% in 2019). Female respondents (25%) in general are slightly less likely to report they have an extremely good idea where to look for guidance than male respondents (27%). This is a change from 2019, when female respondents were slightly more likely to have an extremely good idea where to look for guidance (34% compared to 32% of male respondents).

Again, respondents who are working full-time are more likely to feel they have an extremely good idea where to look for guidance (39%) than are their peers who are not working (27%) or those who are working part-time (22%).

Interestingly, respondents who are in high school are more likely to report they have an extremely good idea where to find information (34%) and guidance (31%) related to achieving their future career goals than are those who are attending a two-year (25% and 23%, respectively) or four-year college or university (26% and 23%, respectively).

A majority of respondents feel college is or would be worth it for them personally.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents overall—and a majority of respondents across all race and gender subgroups—report feeling college is or would be worth it for them personally. However, this is nine percentage points lower than in 2019 (71% overall), and there are especially large declines among Black female respondents (57% in 2020 compared to 78% in 2019) and white female respondents (61% in 2020 compared to 75% in 2019).

Female respondents are slightly more likely to report thinking college is or would be worth it (64%) than male respondents (60%). However, there is a substantially larger decline of 13 percentage points among female respondents from 2019—when 77 percent reported college is or would be worth it—than among male respondents (64%).

Additionally, strong majorities of respondents currently in school—70 percent of high school respondents, 75 percent of respondents attending a 2-year college, and 70 percent of respondents attending a four-year college or university—report feeling college is or would be worth it.

Nonetheless, more than half (52%) of respondents also report their perceptions about the value of college has changed since the coronavirus outbreak.

Perceptions around whether or not college is worth it have changed in both directions: 28 percent of respondents report they used to think college was worth it, but now think it would not be worth it, while 24 percent of respondents report they used to think college was not worth it, but now feel college would be worth it.

Interestingly, respondents from higher-income households are the most likely to report their perception about the value of college has changed: 34 percent report no longer thinking college is worth it, while 30 percent now think college would be worth it. Respondents who self-identify as growing up in *very low income* households are much more likely to no longer think college is worth it (26%) than they are to have changed in the other direction—thinking college is now worth it (14%). Respondents who grew up in *low income* households are just about as likely to no longer think college is worth it (24%) and they are to now think college is worth it (26%).

The differences by gender are small: 30 percent of male respondents report no longer thinking college is worth it, while 27 percent of female report feeling this way. By contrast, 25 percent of male respondents report they now think college is worth it, compared to 23 percent of female respondents.

For respondents who are currently attending a four-year college or university, changing feelings about the value of college are tied to their work status: 55 percent of respondents who are attending a four-year college or university *and* are working full-time report the coronavirus has changed their perception and they no longer think college is worth it. This figure is 40 percent for respondents who working part-time—and 36 percent for those who are not working—while attending a four-year college or university.

Many respondents are changing their future education plans.

A majority (57%) of respondents overall report their future education plans have definitely changed (29%) or are likely to change (28%) because of the coronavirus outbreak. These changes in education plans are closely related to how, if at all, a respondent's perception about the value of college has changed. Seventy-six percent (76%) of respondents who used to think college was not worth it but now think it is worth it report their future education plans have definitely changed (47%) or are likely to change (29%). Similarly, 71 percent of respondents who used to think college was worth it but now think college is not worth it report their future education plans have definitely changed (29%) or are likely to change (42%).

There are no significant differences by gender—30% of male respondents and 29% of female respondents overall report their plans have definitely changed. However there are differences by race: Hispanic and Black respondents are more likely to report their plans have definitely changed (33% and 29%, respectively) than are white respondents (26%).

There are also notable differences by income: respondents from very low-income households are the most likely (37%) to say their future education plans have definitely changed while respondents from higher-income households are significantly more likely (38%) than their peers to report their future education plans are likely to change.

What is driving these youth to change, or consider changing, their future education plans? When asked in an open-ended question, survey respondents voice concerns about college debt, the ability to find comparable but cheaper options (especially if school is being taught online), and concerns about future job markets as important factors:

"Going thousands of dollars into debt for a piece of paper that many employers will pay minimum wage is no(t) worth it anymore when you can learn skills online for free to get jobs now and even worse with the virus completely upending the economy and job market."

- Hispanic female survey respondent, age 21, lower income

"It wouldn't be worth it during this pandemic if [we are] not doing in person learning."

-Black male survey respondent, age 20, higher income

"I can barely pay attention in an in person class I wouldn't be able to handle an online class especially if [I] have to pay the entire in person tuition for it, I could just find the stuff on YouTube for free."

- White survey respondent who identifies differently, age 21, lower income

In addition, concerns about their safety if they were to attend school during the coronavirus outbreak and needing to be closer to home to help their family are also important considerations for many respondents who are changing their education plans. Among respondents who report their future education plans have definitely changed:

- 33 percent report *even with precautions such as social distancing/masks, I am not comfortable about in-person learning because of the coronavirus* is an extremely compelling reason to change their education plans;
- 30 percent report *I want or need to be closer to home to help out my family* is an extremely compelling reason to change their education plans.

Many respondents are helping to provide care for someone other than themselves at home, and there are notable differences across race and by age—but not across gender or gender by race.

Forty-one percent (41%) of respondents report they are providing care for someone older (11%) or younger (33%) - or both (3%) - at home. Hispanic (45%) and Black (43%) respondents are significantly more likely to report caring for someone else than are white respondents (36%).

Age is also a significant factor, and older youth are more likely to report engaging in caregiving at home—even controlling for other factors such as race and gender. Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents ages 19 to 21-years old report caring for someone other than themselves at home, compared to 39 percent of respondents 17 to 18-years old and 38 percent of respondents 15 to 16-years old.

To put this caregiving into context, it is worth noting that nine percent of respondents have one or more children. Seven percent (7%) are married, five percent are separated or divorced, and nine percent report living with partner.

Notably, there are only small differences in caregiving rates by gender. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of female respondents are caring for someone else in the home, compared to 42 percent of male respondents. Among Black respondents, 43 percent of males and 41 percent of females report caring for someone other else at home. Among Hispanic respondents, 47 percent of males and 44 percent of females report caring for someone else at home. Among white respondents, 35 percent of males and 34 percent of females report caring for someone else at home.

Respondents who are providing care for someone else at home are significantly more likely to report their future education plans have changed, or are likely to change, than are their peers who are not providing care at home.

While the data do not provide insight on how long these youth have had these responsibilities—or if they are something new during the coronavirus outbreak—it is clear that these responsibilities are affecting the way some respondents are thinking about their future education plans. Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents providing care report their future education plans have definitely changed, and 32 percent report those future plans are likely to change. By contrast, 25 percent of respondents who are not providing care report their future education plans have definitely changed and 26 percent report their education plans are likely to change.

Having to provide more help at home—including with household responsibilities and providing care for others—is an important factor for many respondents who have left their jobs due to coronavirus-related issue.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of respondents who left their jobs due to coronavirus-related issues report having to help more with household responsibilities at home—such as housekeeping, cooking, or other responsibilities around the home—is a *very important* (33%) or *somewhat important* (29%) factor in their decision to leave their jobs. More female respondents (36%) than male respondents (27%) cite household responsibilities as a *very important* factor, but it is important to note this difference is not statistically significant.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of these respondents also report having to help more with childcare responsibilities at home—such as helping to provide care for a younger sibling, cousin, or other child—as a *very important* (33%) or *somewhat important* (24%) factor in their decision. More female respondents (38%) than male respondents (27%) cite providing help with childcare responsibilities as a *very important* factor, but again this difference is not statistically significant.

Similarly, 50 percent of respondents who left their jobs due to coronavirus-related issue report having to provide more care for an older family member—such as a parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent—as a *very important* (32%) or *somewhat important* (18%) factor. Thirty-two percent (32%) of both female and male respondents say providing more care for an older family member is a *very important* factor.

More respondents are working multiple jobs, and almost half are considered “essential workers” during the coronavirus outbreak.

There is a ten-percentage point increase in the proportion of respondents who are working more than one job—33 percent in 2020 compared to 23 percent in 2019.

Among Black respondents, who are the most likely to report working more than one job in *both* 2020 and 2019, there is a 12-percentage point increase (38% in 2020 compared to 26% in 2019). There is also a 12-percentage point increase among white respondents (29% in 2020 compared to 17% in 2019) and a nine-percentage point increase among Hispanic respondents (33% in 2020 compared to 24% in 2019).

There are also large increases across gender, including an 11-percentage point increase among female respondents (32% in 2020 compared to 21% in 2019) and a nine-percentage point increase among male respondents (34% in 2020 compared to 25% in 2019).

Looking at subgroups by race and gender, the most pronounced increases are among white male respondents (34% in 2020 compared to 17% in 2019), Black female respondents (36% in 2020 compared to 24% in 2019), and Hispanic female respondents (38% in 2020 compared to 22% in 2019).

Nearly half (48%) of respondents who are employed report they are being considered “essential workers” during the coronavirus outbreak. Of respondents who are currently working, 36 percent report working in a grocery store, restaurant, or similar food service job, 27 percent report working in retail, 15 percent report working in construction, plumbing, electrical, HVAC or a similar field, nine percent report working in childcare, 13 percent report having a job in office work, and ten percent report they are doing health care work.

Similar proportions of male (48%) and female (47%) respondents who are currently working report being considered “essential workers,” while 53 percent of Hispanic respondents, 50 percent of white respondents, and 42 percent of Black respondents who are working are classified as working in “essential” roles.

While more respondents in 2020 are working more than one job, fewer respondents are working for pay overall, and the decline is steeper among female respondents compared to male respondents.

There is a dip in the proportion of respondents who are working for pay. In 2020, 48 percent of respondents overall report that they are currently working full time, part time, or taking part in a paid internship, compared to 54 percent in 2019. (Note: the 2019 question and data did not specifically ask about paid internships.)

There are steeper declines in the proportion of female respondents that report working for pay than there are among male respondents. In 2020, 16 percent of female respondents report working a full-time job compared to 22 percent in 2019; those figures are 24 percent and 33 percent, respectively, for a part-time job. By contrast, 21 percent of male respondents report working a full-time job and 24 percent report working a part-time job in 2020—compared to 25 percent and 30 percent, respectively, in 2019.

In addition, fewer respondents are working either a full-time or part-time job across subgroups by race and gender. The biggest drops are among Black female respondents who work full-time (14% in 2020 and 24% in 2019) and white male respondents who work part-time (26% in 2020 and 38% in 2019).

The coronavirus has impacted the current work and financial situation of respondents individually as well as their families—and it may already be impacting their future career pathways.

Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents overall report having lost income due to a decrease in work hours or less business; 11 percent report they have been temporarily laid off or temporarily lost a job; nine percent report they have permanently lost a job; and eight percent report they have lost an internship, apprenticeship or similar learning/training opportunity because of COVID-19. There are minimal differences by gender, but older respondents—those ages 19 to 21-years old—are more likely to report these impacts, likely because they were more likely to be working before the coronavirus outbreak than were younger respondents.

When asked about the financial impact of COVID-19 on their immediate families, 20 percent of respondents report that a family member has lost income due to a decrease in work hours or less

business; 15 percent report that a family member has been temporarily laid off or temporarily lost a job; ten percent report that a family member has permanently lost their job; and 11 percent report that a family member has had difficulty finding a job.

In addition to the immediate effects of the coronavirus outbreak, some respondents may be missing out on opportunities to help their pathways to their future jobs and careers. This loss of an internship or similar opportunity is especially pronounced among Black respondents generally and Black female respondents in particular: 12 percent of Black respondents—and 16 percent of Black female respondents—report they have lost this type of opportunity compared to eight percent of Hispanic respondents and six percent of white respondents.

Respondents who are currently attending a four-year college or university are the most likely (18%) to report they have lost an internship, followed next by respondents who are in a technical, vocational, trade, or career school (15%). Notably, respondents who grew up in higher-income households are significantly more likely (15%) to report they have lost an internship than are respondents who grew up in very low (8%), low (7%), or middle income (8%) households. This is also true across gender: 16 percent of male respondents and 17 percent of female respondents from higher income households report having lost an internship, compared to just six percent of male respondents and nine percent of female respondents from lower-income households. The data related to income may be capturing the effects of race, however, as the only respondents who are allowed to complete the survey if they grew up in a higher-income household are Black or Hispanic youth.

Most respondents feel the country will eventually return to the way it was before the coronavirus outbreak, but there are different perceptions of how long this will take. There are also significant differences by gender and by income, even after accounting for other factors.

Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents overall feel the country will be different for a few months but eventually it will go back to normal. A somewhat smaller percentage (27%) believes the recovery will take longer: they feel the country will be different for a few years before it returns to normal. A small minority (9%) feels the country will soon be or already is back to normal. A meaningful percentage of respondents (22%) feels the country will be different permanently and it will have a new normal.

Female respondents are less optimistic about the timeline for the country to return to the way it was before the coronavirus. Fully one-quarter (25%) of female respondents feel things will be different permanently, while 18 percent of male respondents feel this way. Only six percent of female respondents think the country will soon be or already is back to normal (compared to 12% of male respondents), while 30 percent (35% of male respondents) feel things will be different for a few months, and 30 percent (25% of male respondents) feel things will be different for a few years.

There are also notable differences by income. Respondents from higher income households (16%) are the most likely to report feeling things soon will be or already are back to normal. By contrast, respondents from very low-income households (31%) are the most likely to report feeling things will be different permanently.

A majority of respondents feel the worst is yet to come with respect to the coronavirus in the United States.

Fifty-two percent (52%) of respondents feel the worst is yet to come. By contrast, about one quarter (23%) of respondents feel the worst of the coronavirus is behind us while another ten percent feel the coronavirus is not that big of a problem.

Female respondents (57%) are significantly more likely to think the worst is yet to come than are male respondents (46%), and there are also marked differences between males and females of the same race. Sixty-two percent (62%) of Hispanic female respondents feel the worst is yet to come, compared to 48 percent of Hispanic male respondents. There is also a similar gap between Black female (60%) and Black male (48%) respondents. Although the gap is smaller, more white female respondents (49%) than white male respondents (43%) feel the worst is yet to come.

There are also large differences by income. For example, 63 percent of respondents from households with *low income* report feeling the worst is yet to come, compared to 53 percent of respondents from middle income households and 43 percent of respondents from higher income households. Interestingly, 48 percent of respondents from *very low income* households feel the worst is yet to come, but 19 percent—by far the largest proportion of respondents in any income level—report they are *unsure* about the way they feel.

Based on our qualitative research, the large differences between respondents of different income levels reflects their lived experiences. Lower-income respondents are less likely to be able to afford to shelter in place and are more likely to have jobs that require them to work outside their homes. The notable uncertainty respondents from *very low* income households feel may be indicative of a broader lack of certainty they feel about various aspects of their current and future lives.

CONCLUSION

This survey is the first of four surveys GSSR is conducting this fall to track how Black, Hispanic, and lower-income white youth—especially their attitudes and feelings around their future career and life goals—are being affected. Future survey findings will help provide further insight into how these young people are adapting to an unprecedented global phenomenon few could imagine having to navigate.

APPENDIX: ONLINE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

GSSR conducted two separate nationwide online surveys among young people ages 15 to 21-years-old, with the first survey conducted in September 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the second survey conducted during the pandemic in August 2020. Parents or guardians of youth under age 18-years-old provided written consent prior to minors participating in the surveys.

In both surveys, Black and Hispanic respondents of all income levels were eligible to complete the survey. By contrast, white respondents were eligible to complete the survey if they self-identify as growing up in a household with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes. White respondents unsure of their annual household income were eligible to complete the survey if they report growing up in a *very low income*, *low income*, or *middle income* household.

Pre-COVID-19 Survey (September 2019)

GSSR conducted a nationwide online survey among 2,638 young people ages 15 to 21-years-old from September 16th to September 22nd, 2019. Respondents include:

- 370 white females, 386 white males
- 486 Black females, 451 Black males
- 499 Hispanic females, 398 Hispanic males
- 528 youth ages 15-16
- 676 youth ages 17-18
- 1,434 youth ages 19-21

Among Black respondents, eight percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 24 percent report growing up in *low income* households, 50 percent report growing up in *middle income* households, and 15 percent report growing up in *high income* (11%) or *very high income* (4%) households. Seventy-five percent (75%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes and 18 percent report growing up in household with an annual income of \$75,000 or more before taxes (7% are unsure).

Among Hispanic respondents, seven percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 25 percent report growing up in *low income* households, 52 percent report growing up in *middle income* households, and 14 percent report growing up in *high income* (12%) or *very high income* (2%) households. Seventy-seven percent (77%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes and 15 percent report growing up in household with an annual income of \$75,000 or more before taxes (8% are unsure).

Among white respondents, ten percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 28 percent report growing up in *low income* households, and 56 percent report growing up in *middle income* households. Ninety percent (90%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes. The remaining ten percent of white respondents are unsure of their specific annual household income, but nevertheless report growing up in *very low income*, *low income*, or *middle income* households.

The margin of error for n=2,638 respondents is +/- 1.9 percentage points and is higher for subgroups. Please note that due to rounding, a sum may appear to be one point more or less than its parts.

COVID-19 Survey (August 2020)

GSSR conducted a nationwide online survey among 1,305 young people ages 15 to 21-years-old from August 8th to August 16th, 2020. Respondents include:

- 209 white females and 204 white males

- 203 Black females, 205 Black males
- 204 Hispanic females, 220 Hispanic males
- 272 youth ages 15-16
- 390 youth ages 17-18
- 643 youth ages 19-21

Among Black respondents, seven percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 16 percent report growing up in *low income* households, 54 percent report growing up in *middle income* households, and 15 percent report growing up in *high income* (12%) or *very high income* (3%) households. Seventy percent (70%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes and 18 percent report growing up in household with an annual income of \$75,000 or more before taxes (12% are unsure).

Among Hispanic respondents, six percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 20 percent report growing up in *low income* households, 59 percent report growing up in *middle income* households, and ten percent report growing up in *high income* (7%) or *very high income* (3%) households. Sixty-six percent (66%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes and 23 percent report growing up in household with an annual income of \$75,000 or more before taxes (11% are unsure).

Among white respondents, ten percent report growing up in *very low income* households, 24 percent report growing up in *low income* households, and 53 percent report growing up in *middle income* households. Eighty-six percent (86%) report growing up in households with an annual income of less than \$75,000 before taxes. The remaining 14 percent of white respondents are unsure of their specific annual household income, but nevertheless report growing up in *very low income*, *low income*, or *middle income* households.

The margin of error for n=1,305 respondents is +/- 2.7 percentage points and is higher for subgroups. Please note that due to rounding, a sum may appear to be one point more or less than its parts.