COVID-19 in New York City: Considerations for NYC Essential Workers

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene | COVID-19 Response
COVID-19 cases and deaths are not evenly distributed in NYC

Rate per 100,000 residents of reported COVID-19 cases in NYC
Data through December 4, 2020

Rate per 100,000 residents of reported COVID-19 deaths in NYC
Data through December 4, 2020

Black, Latino/a and high poverty communities experience higher rates of death from COVID-19

Age-adjusted rate (per 100,000 people) of COVID-19 deaths by poverty level

- Low poverty: 122.6
- Medium poverty: 200.15
- High poverty: 236.56
- Very high poverty: 289.84

Age-adjusted rate (per 100,000 people) of COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity

- Asian/Pacific-Islander: 109.64
- Black/African-American: 247.68
- Hispanic/Latino: 264.98
- White: 126.78

1Neighborhood poverty is the percent of a ZIP code’s population living below the Federal Poverty Level, per the 2014-2018 American Community Survey. Low poverty: under 10%; Medium poverty: 10% to 19.9%; High poverty: 20% to 29.9%; Very high poverty: 30% and over.

Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as of November 26, 2020
COVID-19 case, death, and hospitalization rates increase with age

Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as of November 26, 2020
Frontline Workers
Occupation sectors of focus

Community and Social Services
- Includes social workers

Construction and Extraction
- Includes construction workers

Essential Retail Workers
- Includes grocery store workers

Transportation and Material Moving
- Includes sanitation workers
- Includes bus drivers

Education, Training, and Library
- Includes elementary school teachers
Proportion of labor force ages 16 and over by occupation sector and race and ethnicity, NYC, 2014–2018

Proportion of the labor force who are 65 and older by work sector, NYC, 2014–2018

- Total: 4%
- Community and Social Services: 6%
- Education, Training, and Library: 6%
- Transportation and Material Moving: 3%
- Construction and Extraction: 2%
- Essential Retail: 2%

Proportion of the labor force ages 16+ without health insurance by sector, NYC, 2014–2018

The week of April 11, every subway station saw MetroCard swipe declines of at least 70% compared with week of January 4th

The Bronx, eastern Brooklyn and the Rockaways still showed a relatively high number of riders compared with the week of January 4th

A high proportion of frontline workers live in the Bronx, eastern Brooklyn and the Rockaways

Data sources: MTA Fare Data http://web.mta.info/developers/fare.html, American Community Survey 2014-2018
Produced using analysis by NYC Department of City Planning
Obesity in Essential Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percent Obese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Worker</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery Store Worker</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Driver</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teacher</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation Worker</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data is from external sources. See citations at the end of this presentation.
Experiences with COVID-19 Among Essential Workers

**Construction Workers**
23 separate clusters or outbreaks across the country, each involving 6 to 116 people

**Grocery Store Workers**
Among 104 workers tested, 21 (20%) had positive viral assays. Seventy-six per cent positive cases were asymptomatic.

**Bus Drivers**
A survey of New York City’s bus and subway workers found that 24% reported having contracted COVID-19.

**Elementary School Teachers**
Among more than 200,000 students and 63,000 staff who had returned to school, there were infection rates of 0.13% (students) and 0.24% (staff).

**Sanitation Workers**
9.1% were exposed more than once a month.

**Social Workers**
32.4% were exposed more than once a month.

Data is from external sources. See citations at the end of this presentation.
Risk scores are determined by:

- **Contact With Others**: How much does this job require the worker to be in contact with others in order to perform it?

- **Physical Proximity**: To what extent does this job require the worker to perform tasks in close physical proximity to others?

- **Exposure to Disease and Infection**: How often does this job require exposure to hazardous conditions?

100 represents the highest possible risk

Risk Score for Essential Workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Risk Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Worker</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier (Grocery Store Worker)</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Driver</td>
<td>47.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary School Teacher</td>
<td>53.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation Worker</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td>58.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citations


Appendix
COVID-19 case rate versus occupation sectors

Source: American Community Survey 2014-2018*

COVID-19 case rate versus occupation sectors


Source: American Community Survey 2014_2018*