

## **Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project**

Participant 578

Written Interview collected March 30, 2021

Translated June 7, 2021

**Interview Question (written):** How has your life changed since March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

***Participant (written):** Situation worsened due to the lack of work and the stress from the lockdown/ staying inside.*

**I:** What were the main or most trusted sources you received information about COVID-19 from? How did you act upon the information you received? Have you developed any new sources of information?

***P:** Relied on the news for information and it was very stressful to hear the impacts of COVID-19.*

**I:** With many aspects of daily life going virtual, what types of technology, or digital resources, have you relied on?

***P:** Relied on the cellphone and computer.*

**I:** Please describe any challenges you faced in accessing technology or digital resources during the pandemic.

***P:** Faced challenges of using up the small savings to buy a computer and install the internet.*

**I:** Have you experienced any difficulty navigating resources or information related to a language barrier? If so, please explain.

***P:** I've had some difficulties with the language barrier, since I speak Spanish.*

**I:** What was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family during/amidst COVID-19?

***P:** Biggest challenge is staying without a job, and little by little my savings were being depleted, and there was a scarcity of meals.*

**I:** In what ways did you address the challenges of COVID-19? What challenges do you expect will remain post-COVID-19?

***P:** Addressed the challenges by limiting the frequency of foods, only buying what was most necessary.*

**I:** Who were your allies? Who were you able to lean on?

***P:** Allies were the community assistance, friends, and the church.*

**I:** What were your greatest sources of strength? Where/when did you feel less strong?

***P:** Greatest sources of strength were the faith in God, the support of my children and friends.*

**I:** What brought you/Where did you find happiness?

*P: Seeking happiness through the abuse.*

**I:** What brought you/Where did you find sadness?

*P: My relationship brought me sadness.*

**I:** What were your greatest disappointments as a result of the pandemic?

*P: Greatest disappointments were staying alone with my kids and being without food.*

**I:** What surprised you about the pandemic?

*P: The lockdown was surprising.*

**I:** What are your greatest fears moving forward?

*P: Biggest fears moving forward is not being able to adapt to this new life with all these difficulties, scared to develop depression.*

**I:** Please describe one act of kindness that was done for you.

*P: Act of kindness was when my neighbor gave us food.*

**I:** Please describe one act of kindness that you did for someone else.

*P: I shared some of my meals with other people from what I received.*

**I:** Did you have any conversations with healthcare or other service providers about COVID-19? What did this conversation look like? Who said what?

*P: Had conversation with a nurse and told me the precautions I should take to protect me from the virus, the steps to take to clean the house and going out, disinfection and always cleaning.*

**I:** What COVID-19 resources are you aware of, or have you benefited from?

*P: Have benefitted only from the food I received.*

**I:** Do you know where you can get tested for COVID-19?

*P: Yes.*

**I:** What have you learned, or where have you received information about COVID-19 vaccine development?

*P: No.*

**I:** When a vaccine for COVID-19 is made available to the public, would you choose to receive it? Why or why not?

*P: Yes, because I need to protect myself and family.*

**I:** Do you think that all communities have been treated equally during COVID? Were there populations who were favored over others?

*P: I think so.*

**I:** Who do you think was left out of NJ's emergency COVID response? Why were they left out?

*P: I don't know.*

**I:** What do you think NJ could have done better?

*P: The state could have established mandatory distancing.*

**I:** If there was one thing that you or someone else could have done differently, what would it be?

*P: (Translator note: remain silent).*

**I:** Is there anything else you would like to share that was not asked?

*P: No.*