

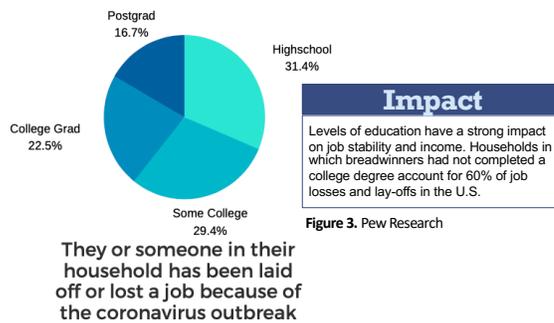
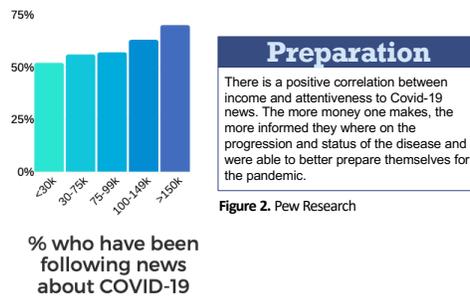
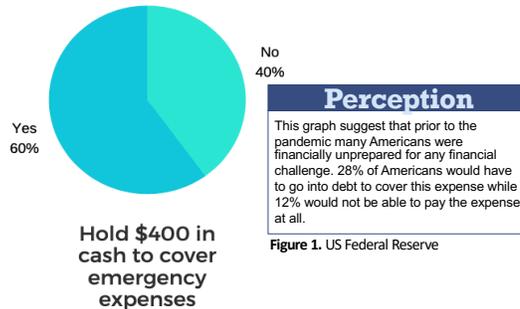
Introduction

Extensive research has been conducted regarding the impacts of manmade and natural disasters on economic well-being. Nonetheless, these preestablished crucial steps toward disaster mitigation and management have failed to reach the most socio-economically vulnerable in the United States. These shortcomings have a compounded impact on Americans with lower levels of education and income. This project identifies the variances in **perception, preparation, and impact** of the Covid-19 public health disaster across levels of income and education. Findings suggest a negative correlation between low income and disaster vulnerability as well as a positive correlation between levels of education and the ability to avoid risks associated with the 2020 Coronavirus.

Objectives

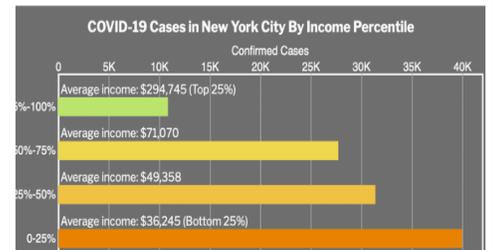
- Identify how education and income effect COVID-19 perception
- Evaluate how perception and economic vulnerability effect preparation for COVID-19
- Apply findings to explain the observed pattern of emphasized inequality

Results



Discussion

I grounded my research in past literature regarding the effects of mass-impact disasters on economically vulnerable populations. These writings informed my evaluation of economic detriments we would traditionally expect to see during such emergencies. I find that many are facing the same life-threatening challenges that have plagued Americans for centuries, yet policy has changed little to address these fiscal needs. Although this paper focuses mainly on education and income levels as signifiers of economic well-being, there are many other factors that have a compounding effect on levels of perception, preparation, and impact such as race, age and location.



Income and likelihood of Covid infection negatively correlated

Conclusions

Individuals with lower income and/or education are more likely to perceive hazards as risky; less likely to prepare for hazards or buy insurance; less likely to respond to warnings; more likely to die, suffer injuries, and have proportionately higher material losses as well as have more psychological trauma; and face more obstacles during the phases of response, recovery, and reconstruction.

Other important points that are crucial to this story but fell outside the bounds of my research include the long-term monetary effects of natural disasters on individual economic mobility.

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