The Educational Experiences of American Families in the Time of COVID: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Panel

Presented by: Shira Korn Haderlein
In collaboration with: Dan Silver, Anna Saavedra, Morgan Polikoff, Amie Rapaport, and Marshall Garland

Preliminary results. Please do not tweet or share.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support for this research from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This material is also based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No.2037179. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.
The education sample

- We rely on a subset of the UAS data that consists of approximately 1,400 households with at least one preK-12th grade child in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.
We use 5 waves of survey administration data:

- UAS 235 Apr 1-29
- UAS 240 Apr 15-May 12
- UAS 242 Apr 29-May 26
- UAS 250 Jun 24-Jul 21
- UAS 264 Sep 30-Current
At the beginning of the pandemic, we found large disparities in educational experiences.
In April 2020, More than one-third of low-income families lacked access to computers and internet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $25K</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25K–$49K</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50K–$74K</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K–$149K</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than $150K</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children have access to internet and laptop/desktop for learning
Disparities in educational activities and concerns

- Less than $25K: 57.0
- $25K-$49K: 67.5
- $50K-$74K: 77.3
- $75K-$149K: 81.4
- Greater than $150K: 88.5

Child has interacted with teacher through online meeting
Drops in school services, especially drastic for meals
Parents report improvements since Spring 2020, but we still have a long way to go
Schools are delivering more services than in April, but not at pre-COVID levels

- Free or reduced-price meals
- English language learners
- Gifted and Talented programs
- Mental health supports
- Struggling learner support
- 504 plan accommodation
- Special education services

Graph: Percentage of respondents receiving services over time (February, April, October)

USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research
University of Southern California
Parent grades of schools dropped in the spring but partially recovered in the fall.
We are finding many other interesting trends in our most recent data

- In October, only **4 percent** of respondents report having no computer/device for children to participate in distance learning, and only **3 percent** report having no internet for distance learning.
- Support for requiring students to wear face coverings all day in school increased **45 percent** over the summer to **69 percent** in October.
- Support for canceling all standardized tests increased from **43 percent** in the spring, to **60 percent** over the summer to **63 percent** in October.
This is part of ongoing work

• In addition to the work presented here, we are also tracking:
  – Educational access and supports for learning
  – Parents’ experiences and concerns about of education during the pandemic
  – Parents’ experiences talking to their children about racism
  – Parents’ support for policy proposals, including school re-openings and mask wearing
  – Impacts on higher education

• We are able to link these variables across the UAS dataset and examine differences by race, parental education, income, political party, urbanity, health data, and many more

• Stay tuned for future work as we continue to explore this rich dataset!