

ECONOMIC STABILITY: EMPLOYMENT & INCOME LOSS

Among Henry County Ohio Adults

BY Krista Westrick Payne, PhD



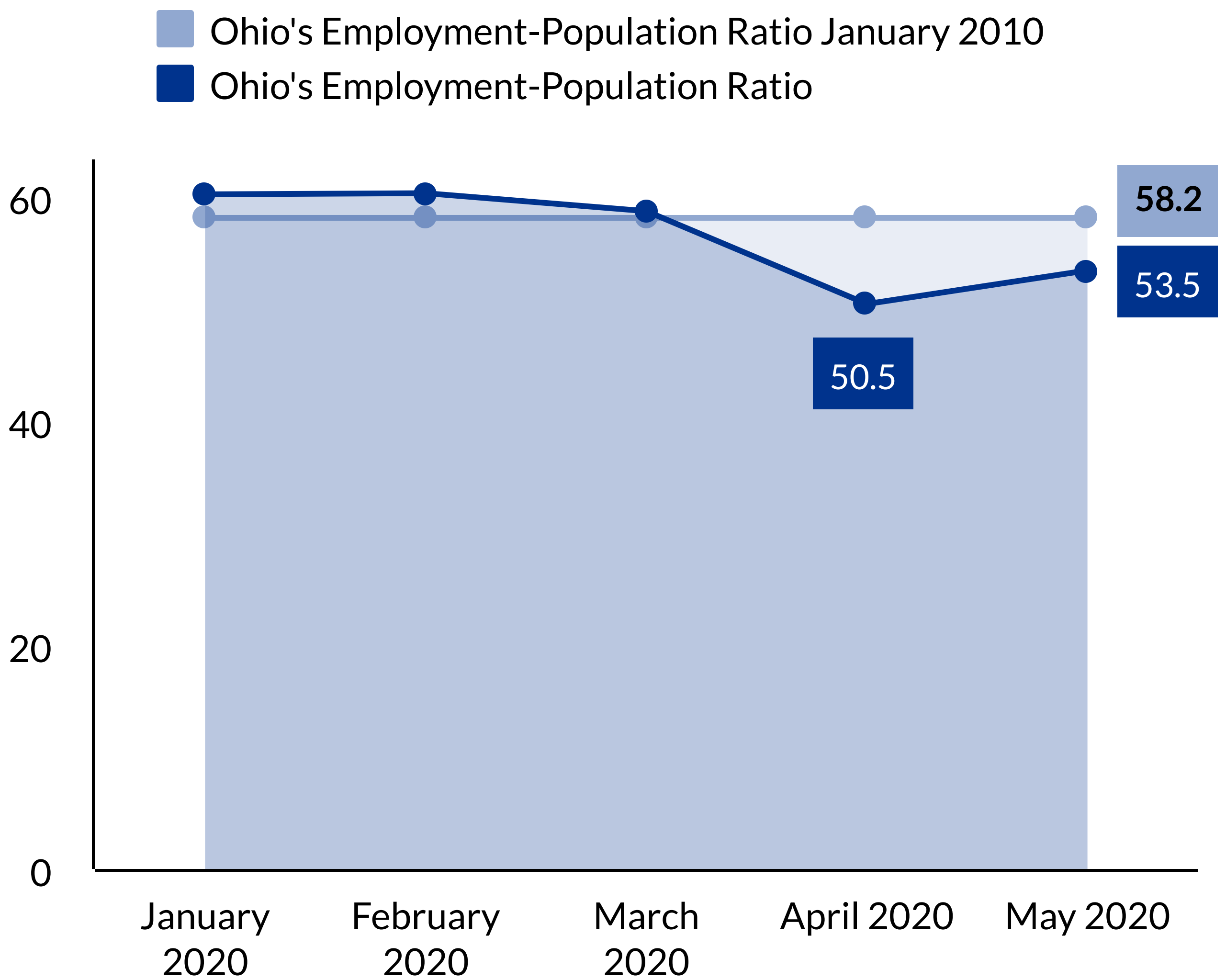
Trends in Employment

Ohio's Employment – Population Ratio

This ratio is an indicator of the share of our population of workers “supporting” those who are not working. Those not working include—but are not limited to—minor children, the disabled, those who are retired, the “idle,” and homemakers.

- In Ohio, the effects of the Great Recession (which began in December of 2007) persisted beyond its official end in June of 2009. Since it began, the lowest employment-population ratio observed in the state was 58.2 in January of 2010 (denoted by the light blue shaded area in Figure 1).
- In January of 2020 60% of our total population was employed. By April this had dropped over 9 percentage points to 50.5%.
- May provides evidence of a rebound with 53.5% of the total population employed.

Figure 1 Employment-Population Ratio for Ohio, January 2020-April 2020



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics

*** The percentage of Ohio's total population working dropped from 60% in January of 2020 to less than 50% in April.**

Henry County Pulse Survey

The Henry County Pulse Survey was designed to measure the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on employment status, food security, housing security, education disruptions, childcare, dimensions of physical and mental well-being, access to health care. The goal of collecting and analyzing data from this survey is to aid local agencies identify coronavirus (COVID-19) related issues in the Henry County. The survey was implemented by the Henry County Health Department and the Henry County Health Partners and administered on-line via Survey Monkey. Request for completion was made via social media and among those the Henry County Health Partners serve. This survey is NOT representative of the entire county. Instead, it represents a convenience sample of 675 county residents between the ages of 18 and 87.

Links

- [Henry County Health Department](#)
- [Henry County Ohio Community Health Assessments](#)
- [Health Factor 4: Economic Stability](#)

Unemployment Rate

An important caveat to the unemployment rate is that it is based on those who are actively looking for work.

- As was evident in the figure for the employment-population ratio, the effects of the Great Recession persisted beyond 2007 with the highest unemployment rate observed in the state in January of 2010 at 11.1 (denoted by the light blue shaded area in Figure 2).
- Since August of 2018, the unemployment rate in Ohio has been below 4.5%—a low not experienced since the early 2000s—before the 9/11 attacks.
- In April 2020 the unemployment rate shot up to 17.6 in Ohio. In Henry County, the rate was even higher at 21.0.
- Reports from the month of May indicate a reduction to 13.7 for Ohio and 14.3 for Henry County, Ohio.

Figure 2 Unemployment Rate for Ohio, January 2020-May 2020

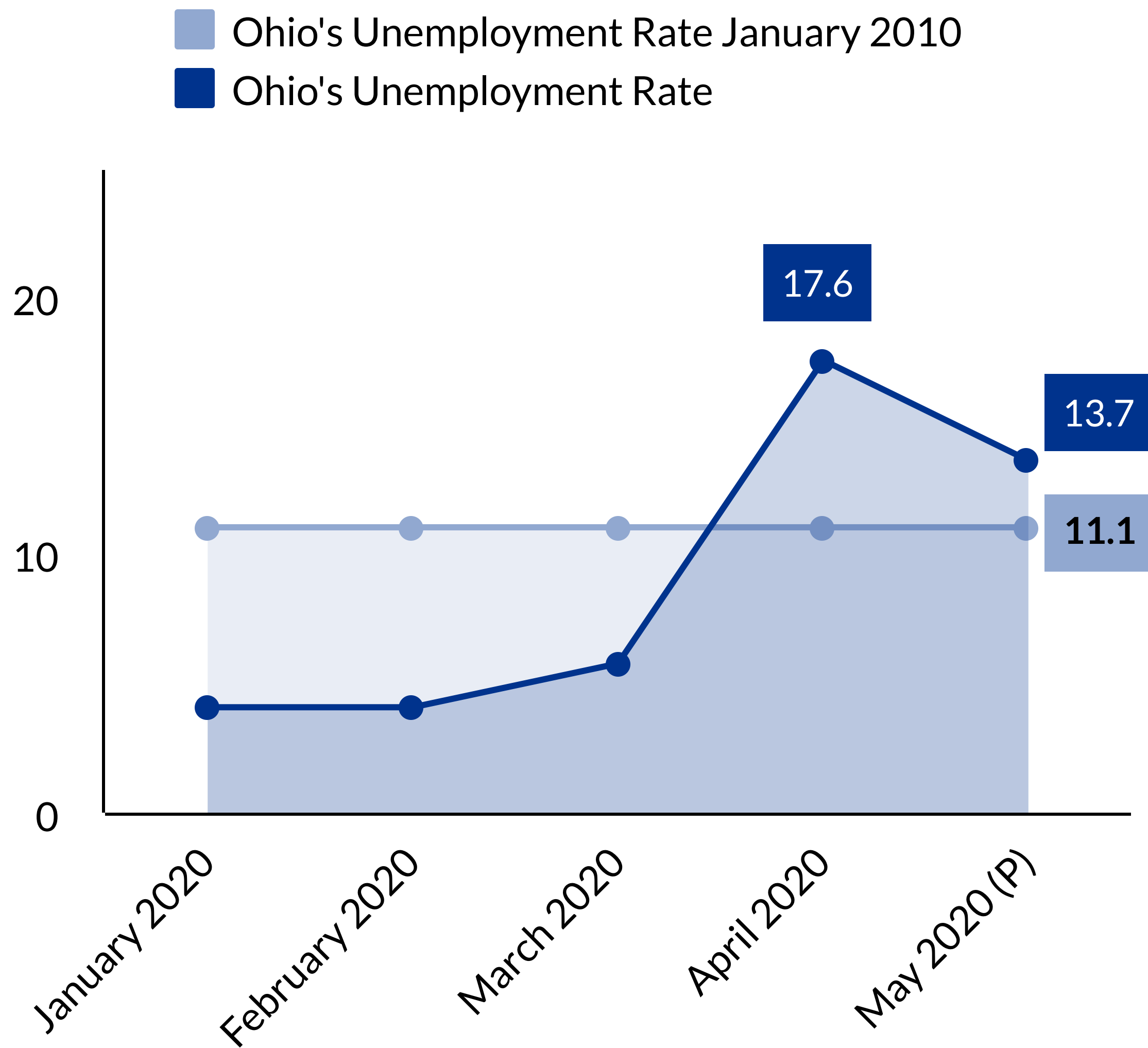
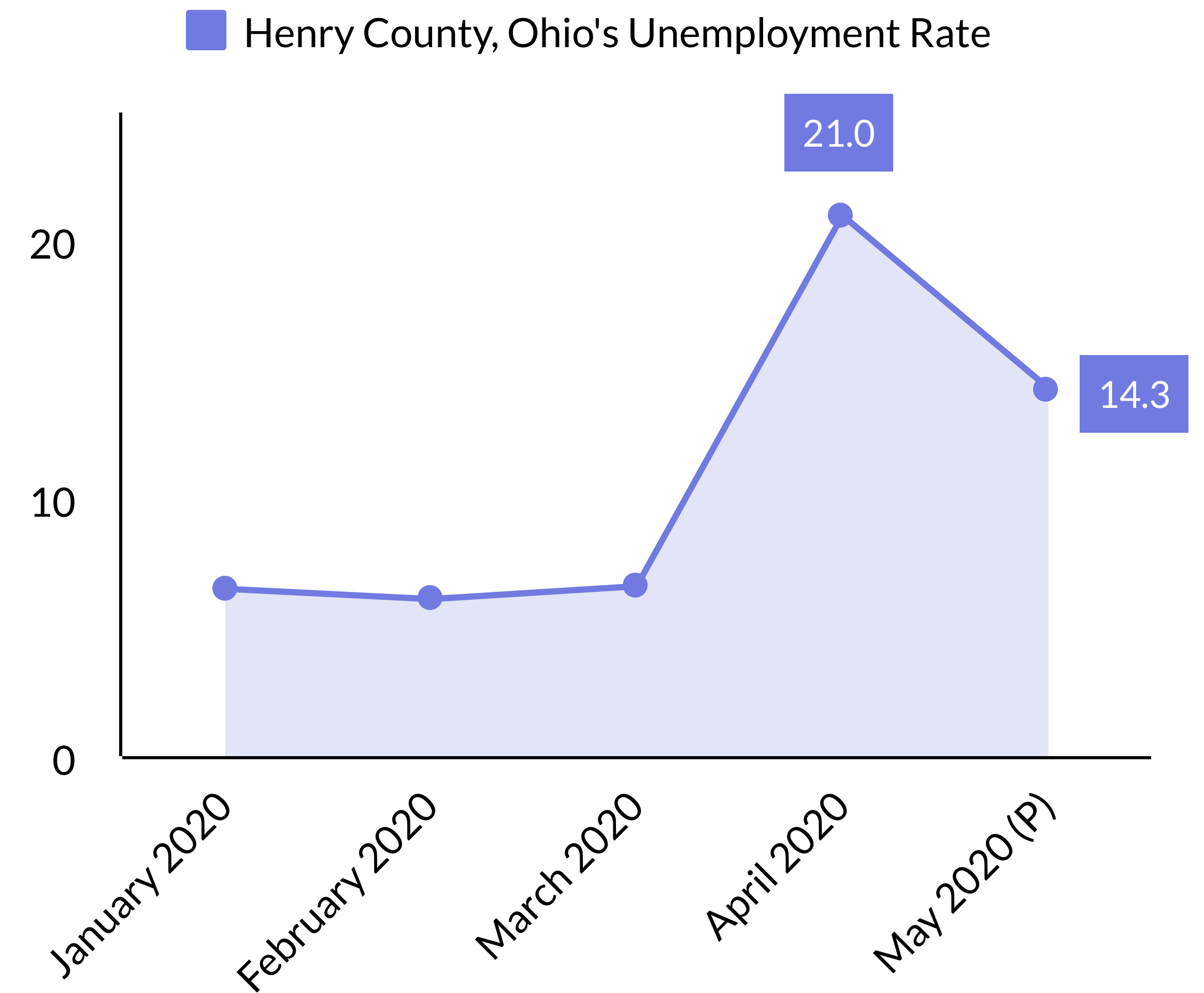


Figure 3 Unemployment Rate for Henry County Ohio, January 2020-May 2020



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics; P denotes preliminary data

Percentage Not Working and Reasons

Respondents were asked:

| If you are currently NOT working, what is your main reason for not working for pay or profit? Select only one answer.

- Most Henry County residents were currently working – 61%.
- Among the 39% of Henry County residents **not** working...
 - Over one-third (35%) indicated they were not working because they were currently retired.
 - The other reasons given had something to do with the pandemic with the largest share reporting their employment was temporarily closed due to the coronavirus pandemic (15%).

Figure 4 Work Status of Henry County Adults, April 2020

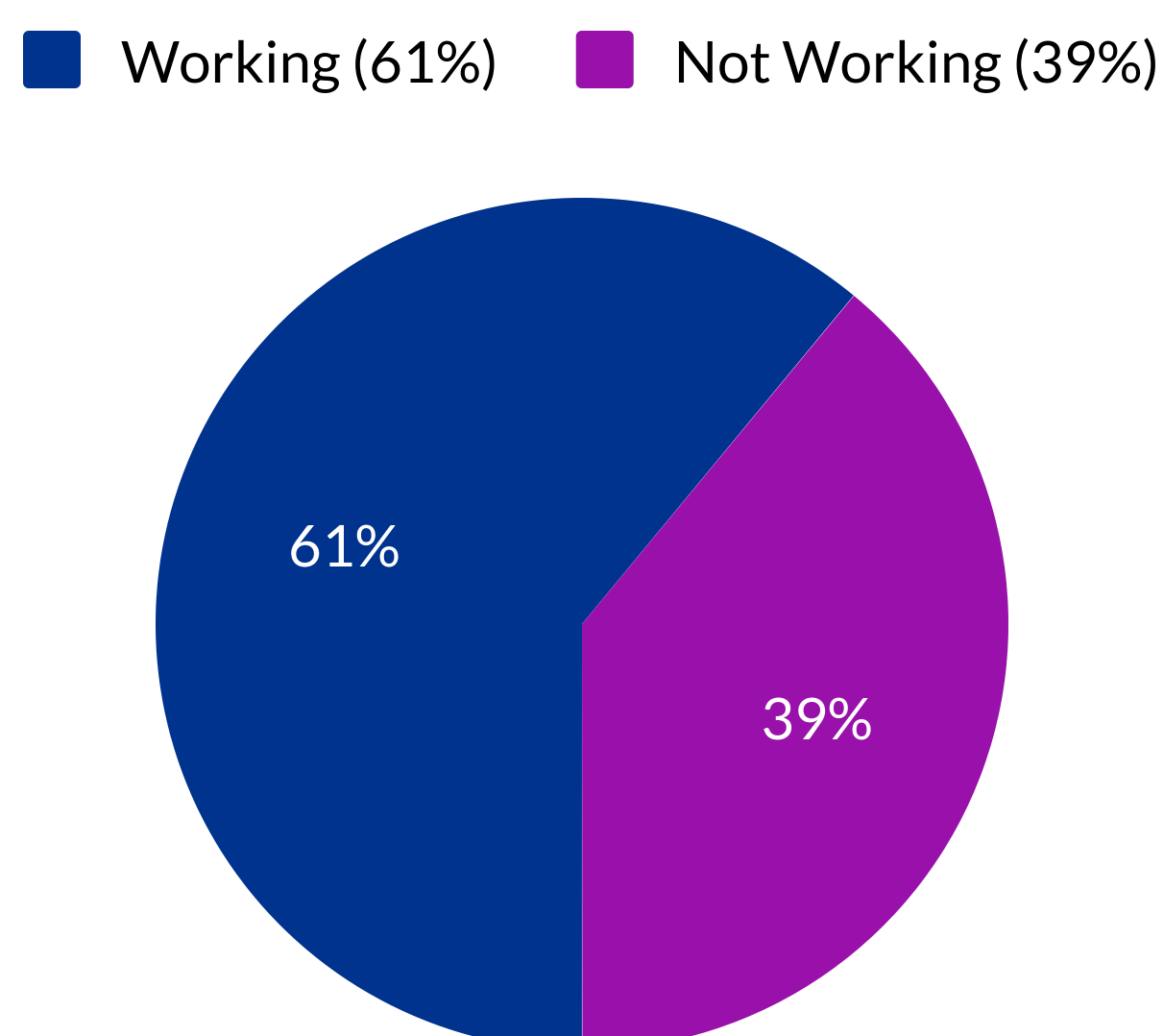
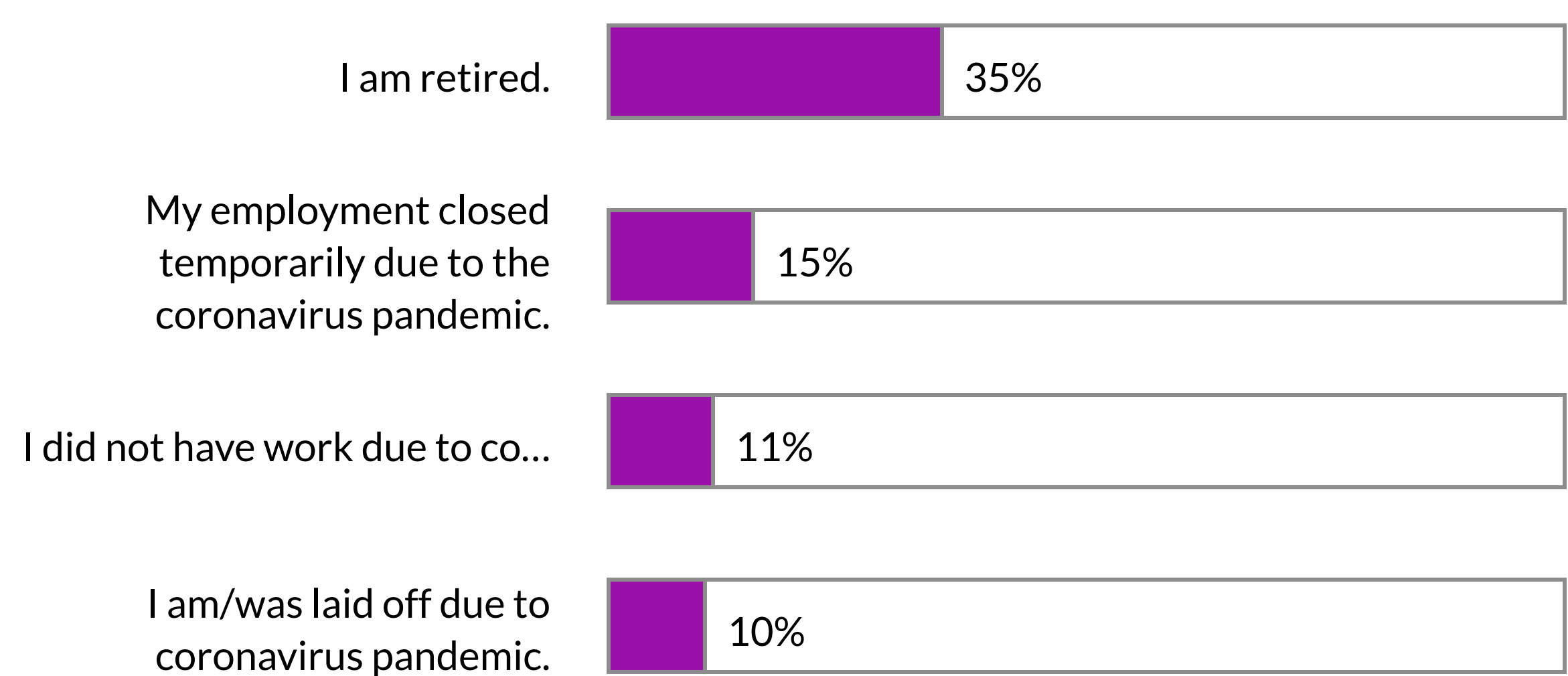


Figure 5 Reasons for Not Currently Working Among Henry County Residents Currently Not Working



Data Source: Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020

Loss of Household Income

Respondents were asked the following question:

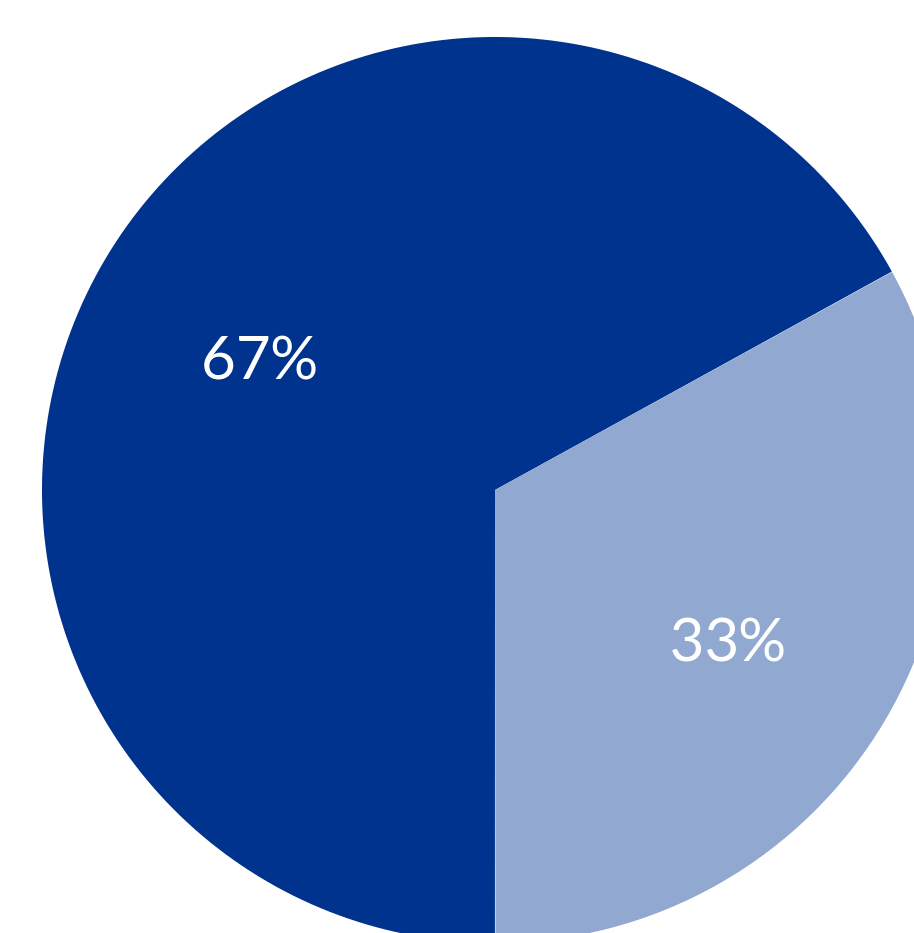
| Have you, or has anyone in your household experienced a loss of employment income since the coronavirus pandemic began?

- One-third (33%) of respondents reported a loss of household income since the coronavirus pandemic began.

*** The loss of household income was not experienced by all Henry County residents equally.**

Figure 6 Percentage of Henry County Adults Reporting Loss of Household Income, April 2020

■ No (67%) ■ Yes (33%)



Data Source: Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020

Loss of Household Income by Pre-Pandemic Household Income

The loss of household income was not experienced by all income groups equally—income loss was disproportionately experienced among those with lower household incomes.

- Among those with household incomes under \$35,000 in 2019, 45% reported income loss since the pandemic began.
- Conversely, 29% reported a loss of income among those in households with greater than \$100,000.
- Also, of note, those in the lowest income bracket have the youngest average age of all income brackets.

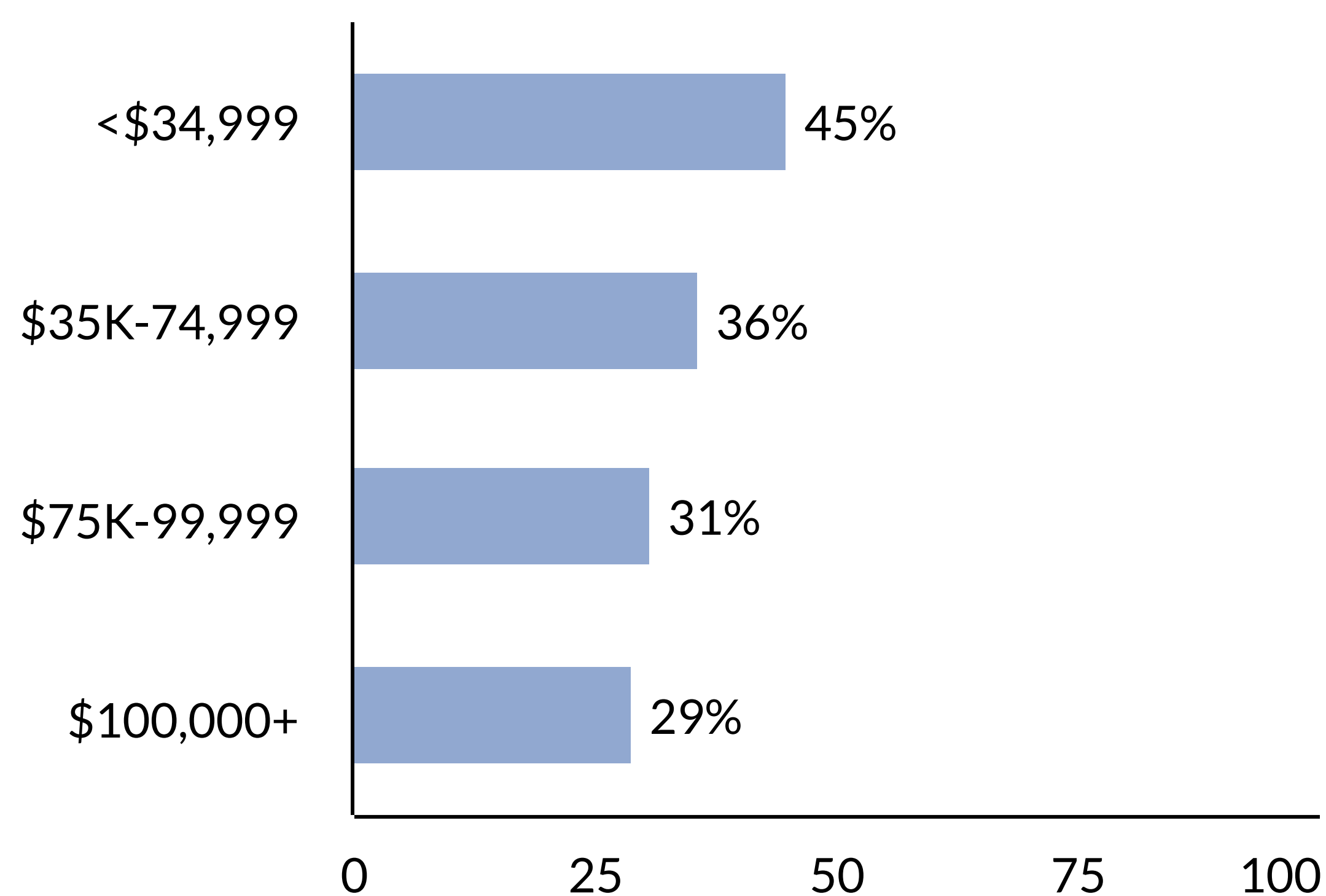
Loss of Household Income by Age Group

The loss of household income was not experienced by all age groups equally—income loss was disproportionately experienced among young adults.

- Among those aged 18-29 (i.e. young adults), 50% reported income loss since the pandemic began.
- Conversely, among those aged 65 and older (e.g. retirement aged individuals), 18% reported a loss of income. Those in this age group may be less susceptible to income loss because of retirement incomes/social security benefits.

Figure 7 Percentage of Henry County Adults Reporting Loss of Household Income by Pre-Pandemic Household Income

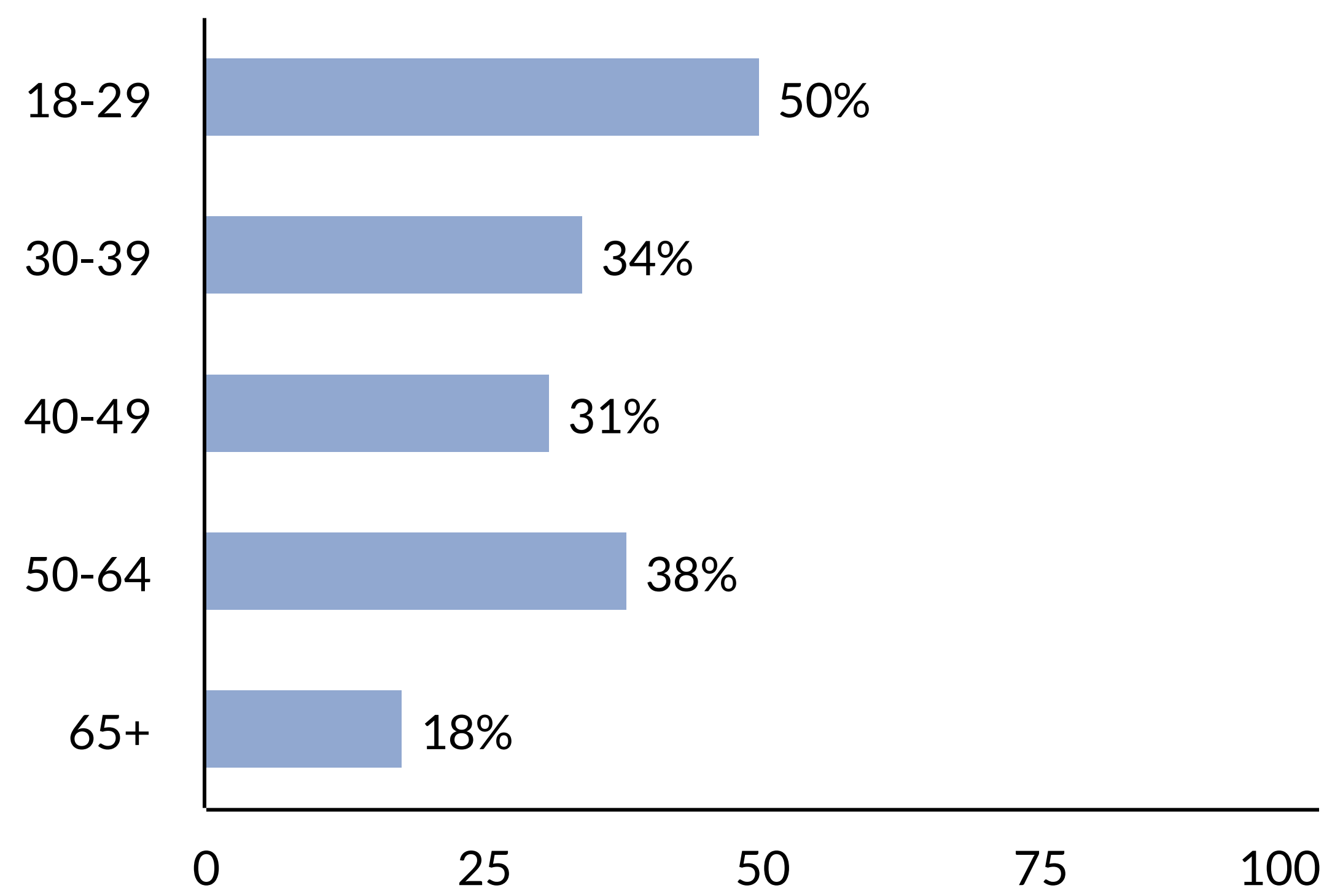
■ % Experienced Income Loss



Data Source: Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020

Figure 8 Percentage of Henry County Adults Reporting Loss of Household Income by Age Group

■ % Experienced Income Loss



Data Source: Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020

Loss of Household Income & Mental Health

Respondents were asked the following question:

| Over the last 7 days, how often have you been bothered by the following problems ...

- *Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge?*
- *Not being able to stop or control worrying?*
- *Having little interest or pleasure in doing things?*
- *Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless?*

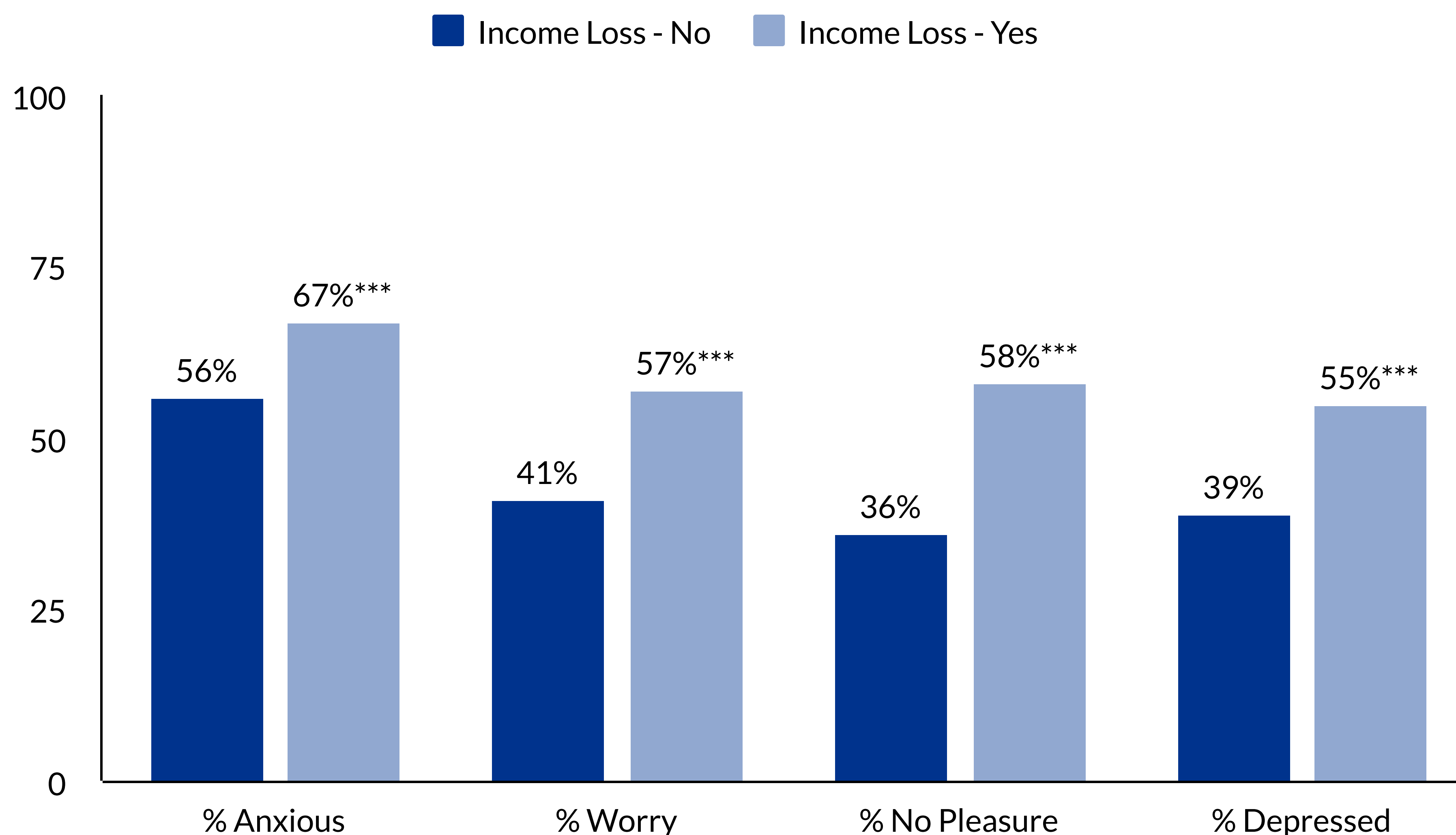
Would you say not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day?

This information was used to create four separate indicators measuring whether in the last seven days respondents ever felt:

1. Anxious
2. Unable to stop/control worrying
3. Little interest/pleasure in doing things
4. Down/depressed/hopeless

*** Having a loss of household income was a significant predictor of all four indicators of mental health ($P > .001$).**

Figure 9 Percentage of Respondents Experiencing Anxiety, Worry, Lack of Pleasure, and/or Depression by Whether they Experienced a Household Loss of Employment Income Since the Coronavirus Pandemic Began Among Henry County Residents.



Data Source: Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020
Note: *** $P > .001$

Data Sources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Employment Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>

Henry County Health Department . Henry County Pulse Survey, April 2020. <http://henrycohd.org/>