The Emotional and Economical Distress Caused by COVID-19 in a Diverse South Seattle Community

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Living through the midst of a pandemic, our everyday lives as we knew them have changed. Throughout the last 12 months, every community has experienced unfathomable losses. While every single age group and race has in some way been affected by COVID-19, this presentation will solely be on a small South Seattle community. As one of King County’s most diverse populations, South Seattle is home to hundreds of small businesses and many different community centers. The purpose of this project was to shed light on communities who are often underrepresented. In order to understand the economical and emotional impact of COVID-19 on this community, we visited businesses and outreach centers within the 98118 zip-code and asked them to voice their concerns via surveys. 68% of businesses experienced a loss of revenue since the pandemic, and as much as 50% of these small businesses had to lay off some of their employees. 46% of the youth that answered the questionnaire didn’t feel acknowledged for their achievements and almost 85% felt unmotivated to do anything. Our findings suggest that businesses are experiencing a drastic decrease in revenue which could lead to an increased unemployment rate.