

M DATA DISPATCH 7: HEALTH CARE

The 2020 Los Angeles Artist Census was conducted in the months leading into the COVID-19 pandemic. "COVID-19 hit Los Angeles particularly hard. Through August 2020, Los Angeles County experienced an infection rate about a third higher than the state as a whole and a COVID-19 death rate 75% higher than statewide." This Data Dispatch gives us the opportunity to look at what Los Angeles County artists' health care situations were like going into this global health crisis.

Data Dispatch 7: Health Care reveals local artists' access to health insurance coverage, the quality of this coverage, as well as their mental health care needs.

As always artists, send us your feedback, questions, experiences, and comments.

DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN?



ARE YOU ABLE TO ADEQUATELY COVER YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS?



ARE DENTAL SERVICES INCLUDED IN YOUR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE?



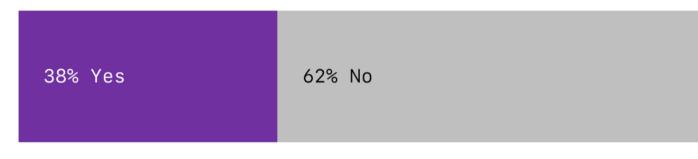
HEALTH CARE ACCESS

In alignment with the sharp increase of health coverage across the country with the passing of the Affordable Care Act,² 89% of respondents to the Los Angeles Artist Census had either health insurance or a health coverage plan.

That being said, even with health coverage, 31% of respondents had difficulty accessing and/or affording healthcare. This is consistent with our earlier report, Data Dispatch 1: Basic Necessities, which found that healthcare or medicine was the most common basic necessity that Los Angeles artists went without.

The LAAC survey also included questions about the inclusion of dental services in order to gauge the quality of respondents' healthcare.³ According to our survey 39% of respondents have dental services included in their healthcare coverage plan.

DO YOU USE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?



ARE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDED IN YOUR COVERAGE?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BUT CANNOT AFFORD TO?



MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS

38% of all respondents reported using mental health services (whether insured or not), suggesting that mental health services are commonly used among artists.

Nearly half of respondents with health insurance (42%) reported that mental health services were not included in their coverage.

Furthermore, of the respondents who reported not using mental health services, nearly half (43%) indicated they would like to have such access, but could not afford it.

To see previous reports about artists income, expenses, studio space, and other topics, visit the Reports section of our website.

¹ Jill Yegian, "Los Angeles: Vast and Varied Health Care Market Inches Toward Consolidation" (California Health Care Foundation, January 2021).

² Ibid.

³ Mertz, Elizabeth A. "<u>The Dental–Medical Divide</u>." Health Affairs Journal. Oral Health Overview, December 1, 2016.

LA ARTISTS! — We would love to hear your reflections, insights, and feelings as we share our dispatches. Let us know what you think.

GET IN TOUCH!

LAAC is completely volunteer run and unfunded. We invite individuals who value our mission to invest in our longevity and future by supporting our work through our first membership offering. Become an "Early Adopter" by donating \$5, \$15, \$25, or \$50 a month. All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

BECOME AN "EARLY ADOPTER"

Help us effect change by sharing this information on social media and by forwarding this email to visual artists and organizers in the Los Angeles art community.

SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL

The Los Angeles Artist Census (LAAC) is an artist-run research initiative that gathers and publishes data about the lives and practices of LA County visual artists. For more information <u>visit our website</u> and <u>follow us</u>.

