



Dear Clarkston Community Partners,

In response to concerns from community organizations working together to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Clarkston, the Georgia State University Prevention Research Center (GSU PRC) conducted a needs assessment with the community to determine the impact of the virus on residents.

We developed a brief survey in collaboration with Ethne Health and the Clarkston Community Advisory Board, and collected information between April and May 2020 to understand the impact of COVID-19 on overall wellbeing, financial and food security, digital access, and awareness on available COVID-19 information within the Clarkston community. The survey collected responses from a total of 179 community member (128 refugees and 51 non-refugees).

Our findings in Clarkston indicate that there is a great deal of concern and struggle among refugee and non-refugee residents around financial insecurity, food insecurity, technology, and mental health:

- **Financial insecurity:** 71% of refugees and 57% of non-refugees reported loss of income due to COVID-19.
- **Food insecurity:** A little under 1/2 of refugees who responded to this question are worried about not being able to provide food this week and almost 3/4 of refugees are worried about not being able to provide food next week.
- **Technology:** 31% of refugees and 12% of non-refugees reported lacking access to digital devices (laptop, tablet, or computer).
- **Mental Health:** 61% of refugees and 57% non-refugees reported feeling scared, anxious, and worried in the past 7 days.
- **Regarding COVID-19:** More than 90% of all respondents reported that they were practicing social distancing. Many were familiar with protective strategies.

The attached presentation describes the findings in detail. It is under 5 minutes long, and can be shared with your community partners, contacts, and networks. While many of these problems existed in Clarkston before COVID-19, findings from the needs assessment clearly define areas of opportunity for community stakeholders to target disparities within this community. Our goal is to help identify community resources and assets, and we would love to hear from you with your ideas and thoughts. Please contact Erica Heath at ESheldon1@gsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael Eriksen
Co-Principal Investigator
Georgia State University Prevention Research Center