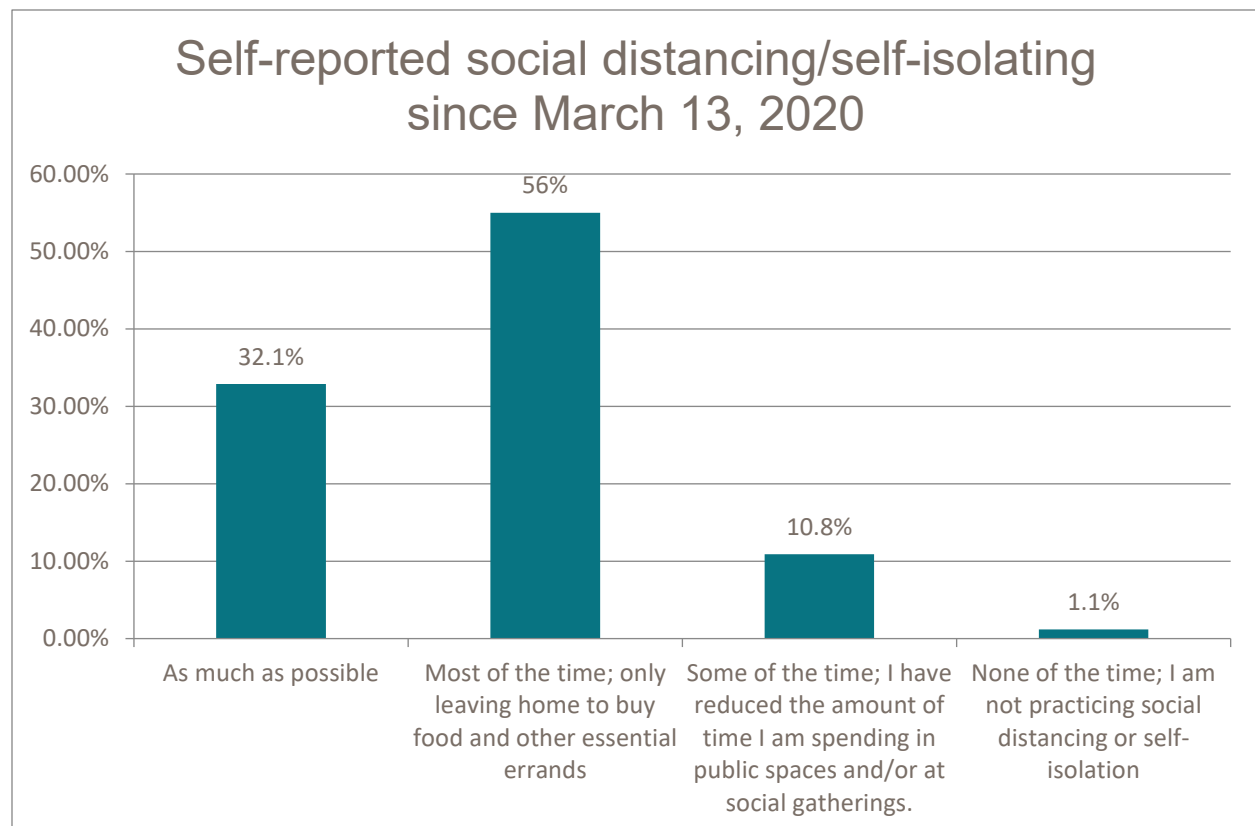


## Responding to the needs of North Dakota communities

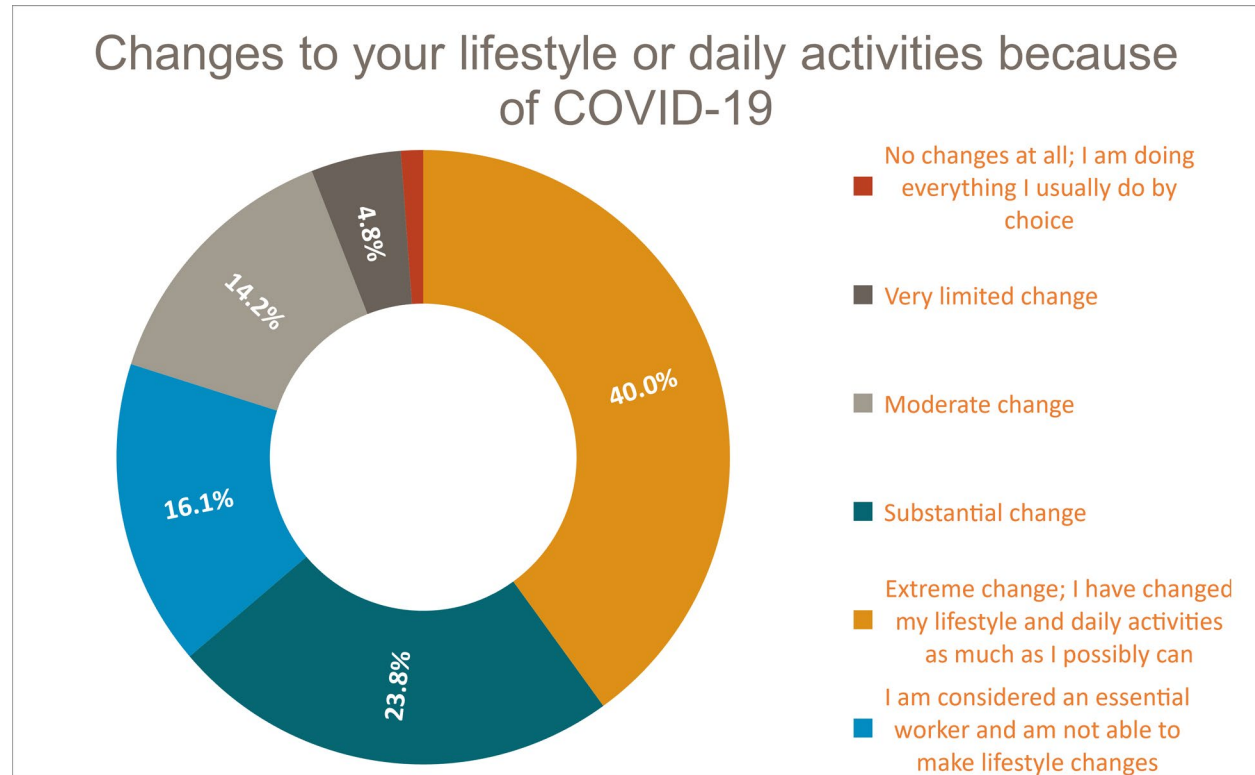
To understand how the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted communities and individuals, the North Dakota Department of Commerce, in conjunction with partner agencies, issued a statewide survey that received over 11,300 responses from North Dakotans all around the state. Information gleaned from responses will inform state agency and partner organizations' efforts to support North Dakotans during this challenging time.

Survey response data is available at a zip code level; to request data for your community please email [erbrown@nd.gov](mailto:erbrown@nd.gov). For more information about resources and assistance for North Dakota communities, visit the [Main Street ND webpage](#).

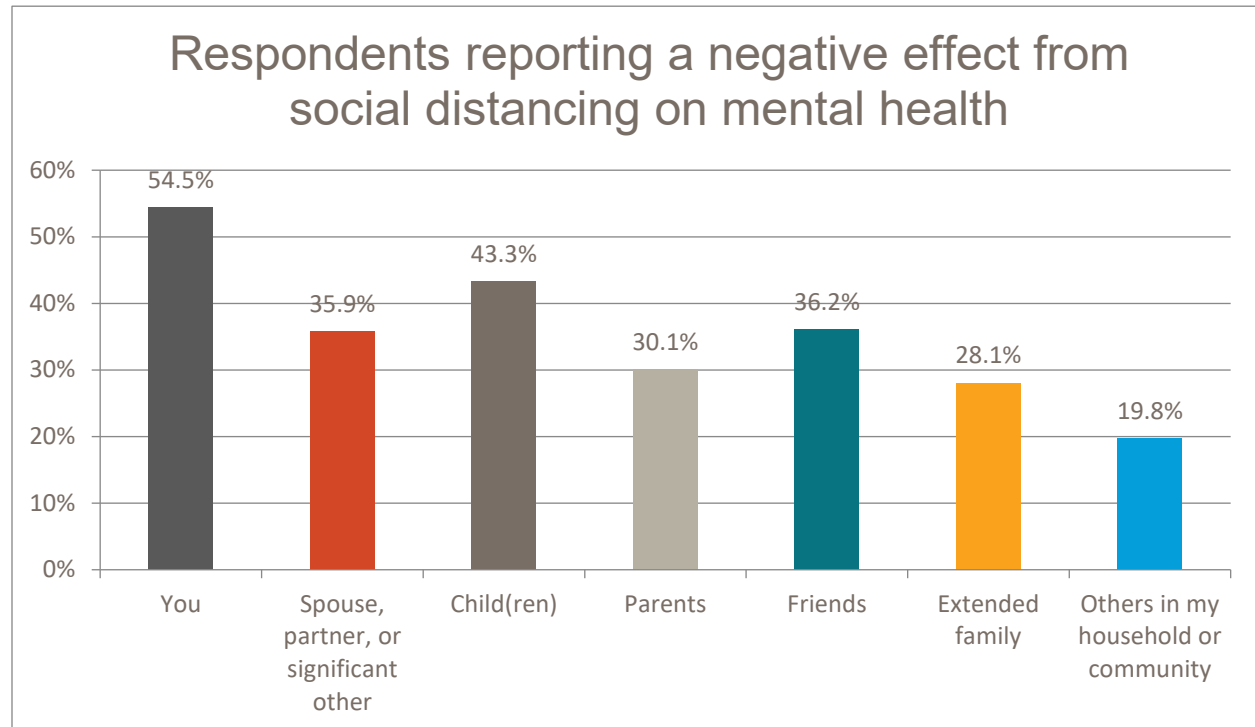
**99% of respondents report they are social distancing due to the pandemic.** Social distancing is essential to stopping the spread of the Coronavirus and saving lives.



**North Dakotans have made major changes to their lifestyles to accommodate the health and safety considerations of the Coronavirus pandemic.** Only 1% of respondents say they have not made changes to their daily lifestyle.



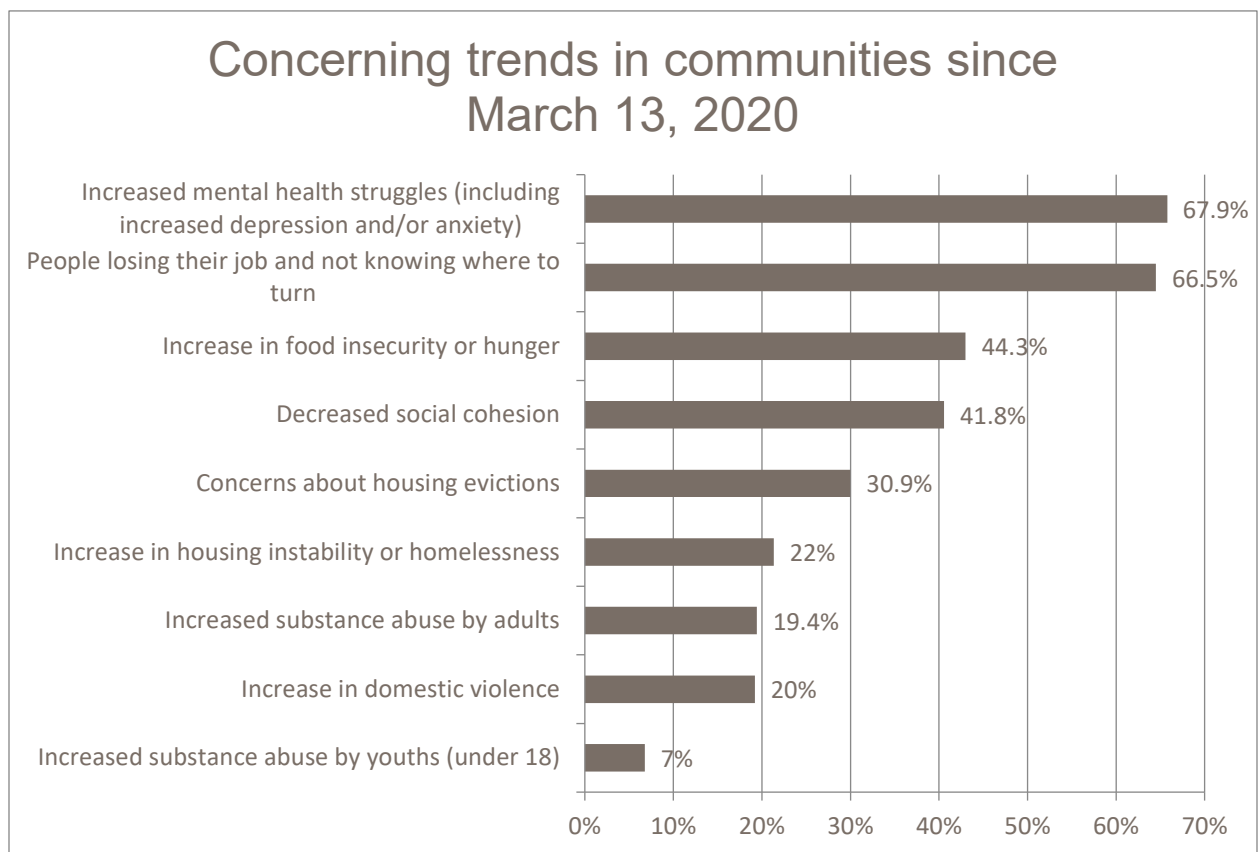
**Over half of respondents report that high rates of social distancing are impacting the mental health of those in their household and others in the community.** The Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division has compiled a list of [behavioral health resources on their website](#). DHS has also expanded access to telehealth services to provide behavioral health services to vulnerable North Dakotans. More information is available here: [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/regionalhsc/).



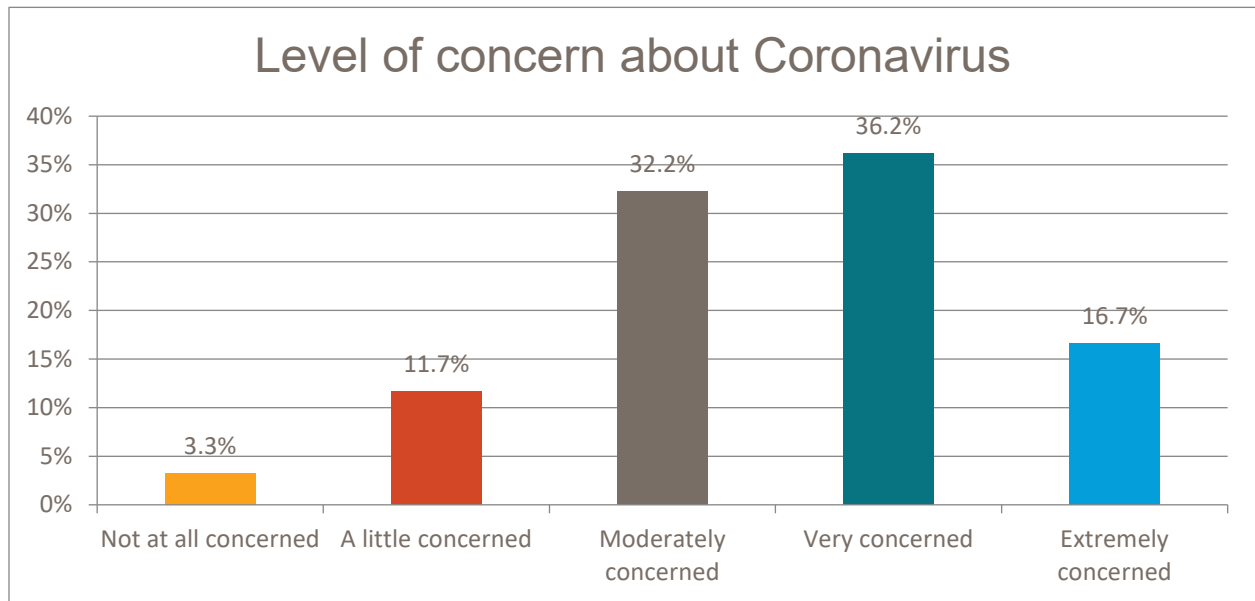
**Survey respondents reported a number of concerning trends in their communities since March 13. The top four concerning situations include: increased mental health struggles, people losing their job and not knowing where to turn, increased food insecurity and hunger, and decreased social cohesion.**

- 44% of respondents reported they have seen an increase in food insecurity or hunger in their community. [The Great Plains Food Bank](#) has been tracking hunger in North Dakota throughout the course of the Coronavirus pandemic and also reports drastic increases in food insecurity statewide. There are ways that North Dakotans can help:
- Individuals can [donate](#) directly to the Great Plains Food Bank, who supports the network of over 200 local food pantries in the state.
- Individuals can also contribute to the North Dakota Community Foundation COVID-19 community and nonprofit response grant fund: <https://ndresponse.gov/covid-19-resources/get-involved-how-you-can-help>
- Finally, anyone can hold a virtual food drive through social media. Learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1104307289952502/>

These trends, and other takeaways from the survey, will inform programming that the Department of Commerce implements through the Main Street Initiative, including at the [2020 Main Street Summit](#), through regional Main Street convenings, and other resources.

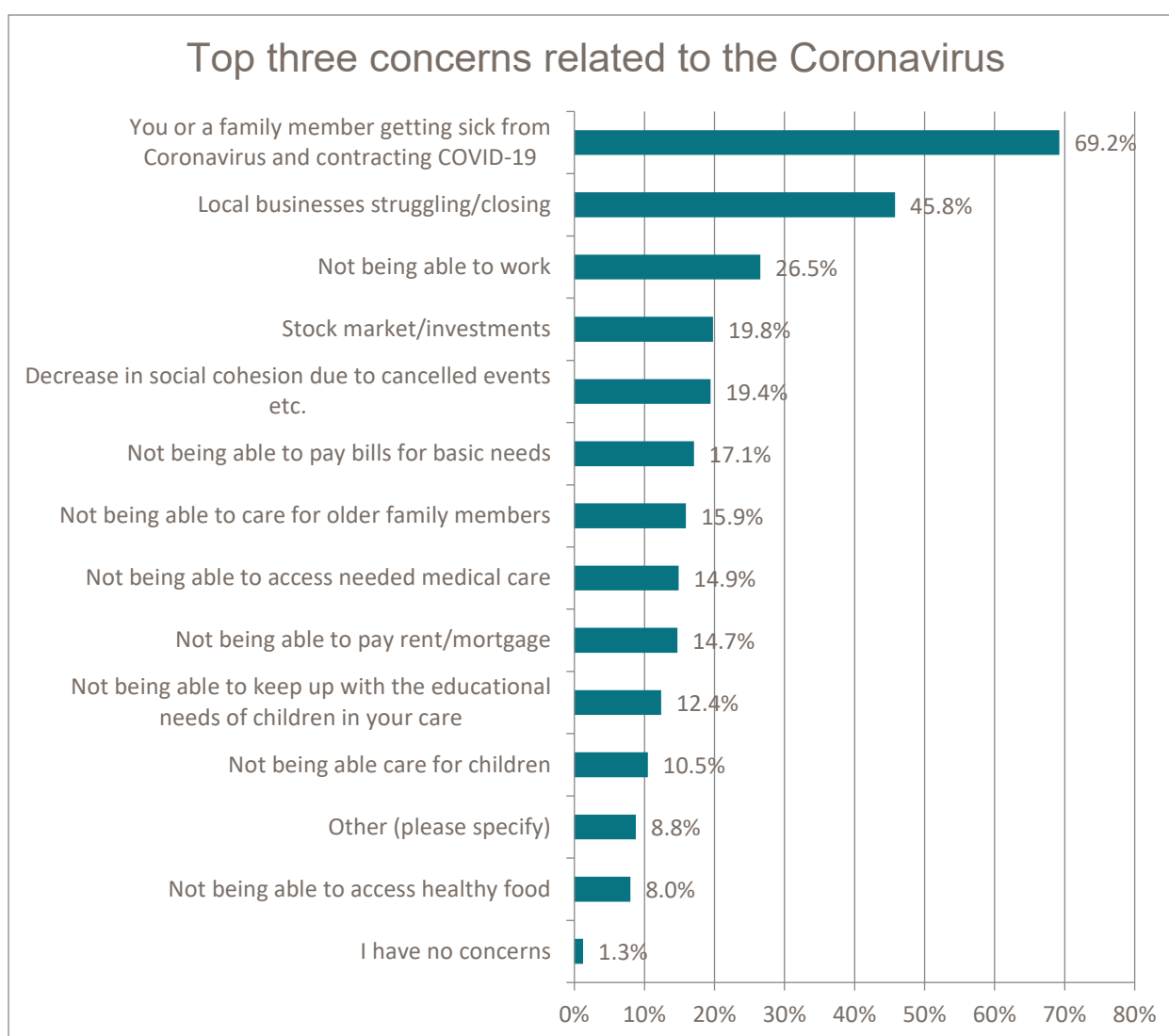


Survey respondents reported high levels of concern about the Coronavirus pandemic: **85% of respondents reported feeling moderately to extremely concerned.**

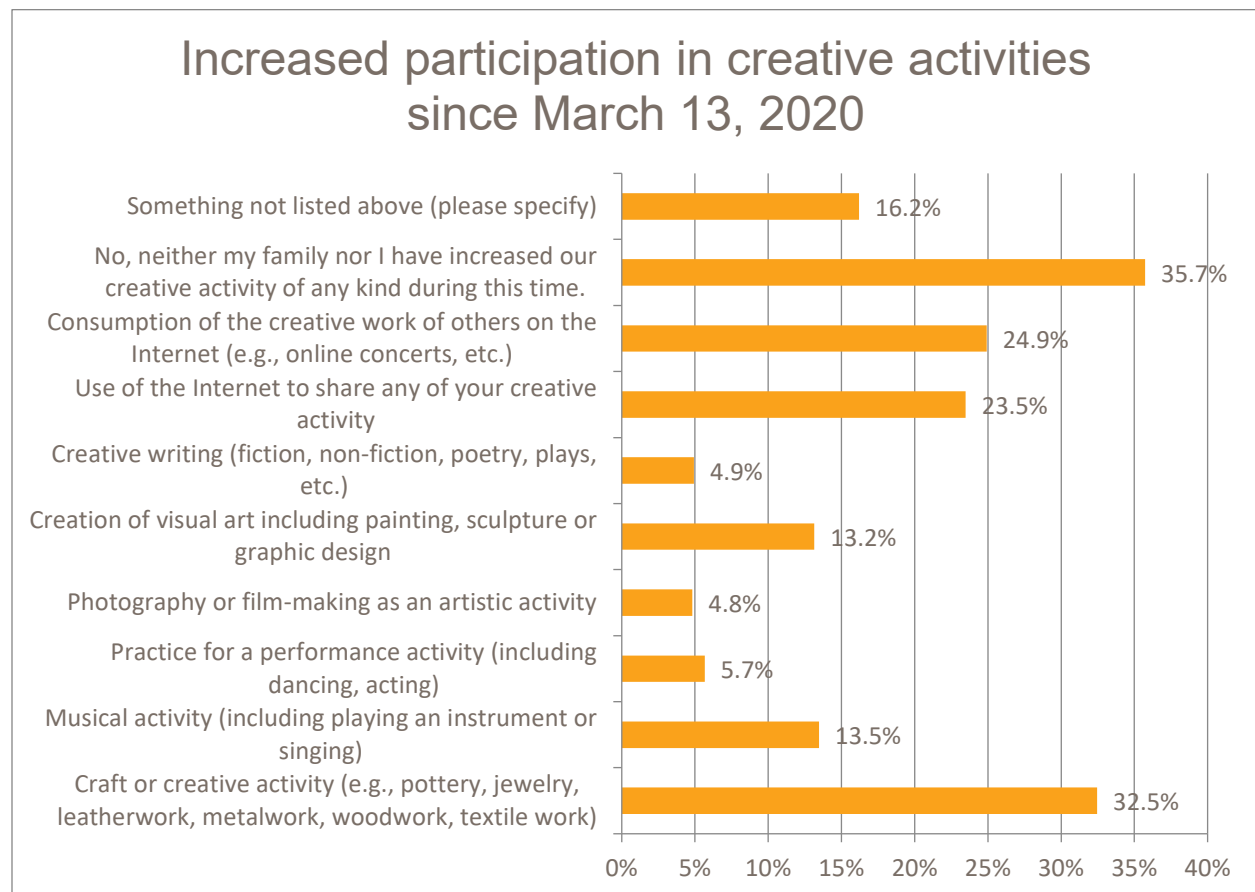


**The top three reported concerns include getting sick from the Coronavirus, local businesses struggling and closing, and not being able to work.**

- This finding underscores the importance of local businesses to the economy and identity of North Dakota. The Department of Commerce will continue working with partners like the [Small Business Development Centers](#) to support small businesses with adapting operations to meet social distancing guidelines. Information for businesses can be found [on the ND Smart Restart website](#).
- These trends and other takeaways from the survey will inform programming that the Department of Commerce implements through the Main Street Initiative, including at the [2020 Main Street Summit](#), through regional Main Street convenings, and other resources.
- Finally, while many businesses are now open for operation, Commerce encourages all North Dakotans to continue to adhere to CDC guidelines for their safety and the safety of others as they support their local businesses. All North Dakotans can now [download the Care19 app](#), which allows for increased contact tracing – essential to slowing the spread of COVID-19.



**North Dakotans have increased creative activity since March 13.** The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) has compiled a [collection of at-home creative opportunities](#) for everyone to increase access to creative activities while social distancing.



**Participating in creative activities has helped North Dakotans manage the negative impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, including social distancing and increased isolation.**

