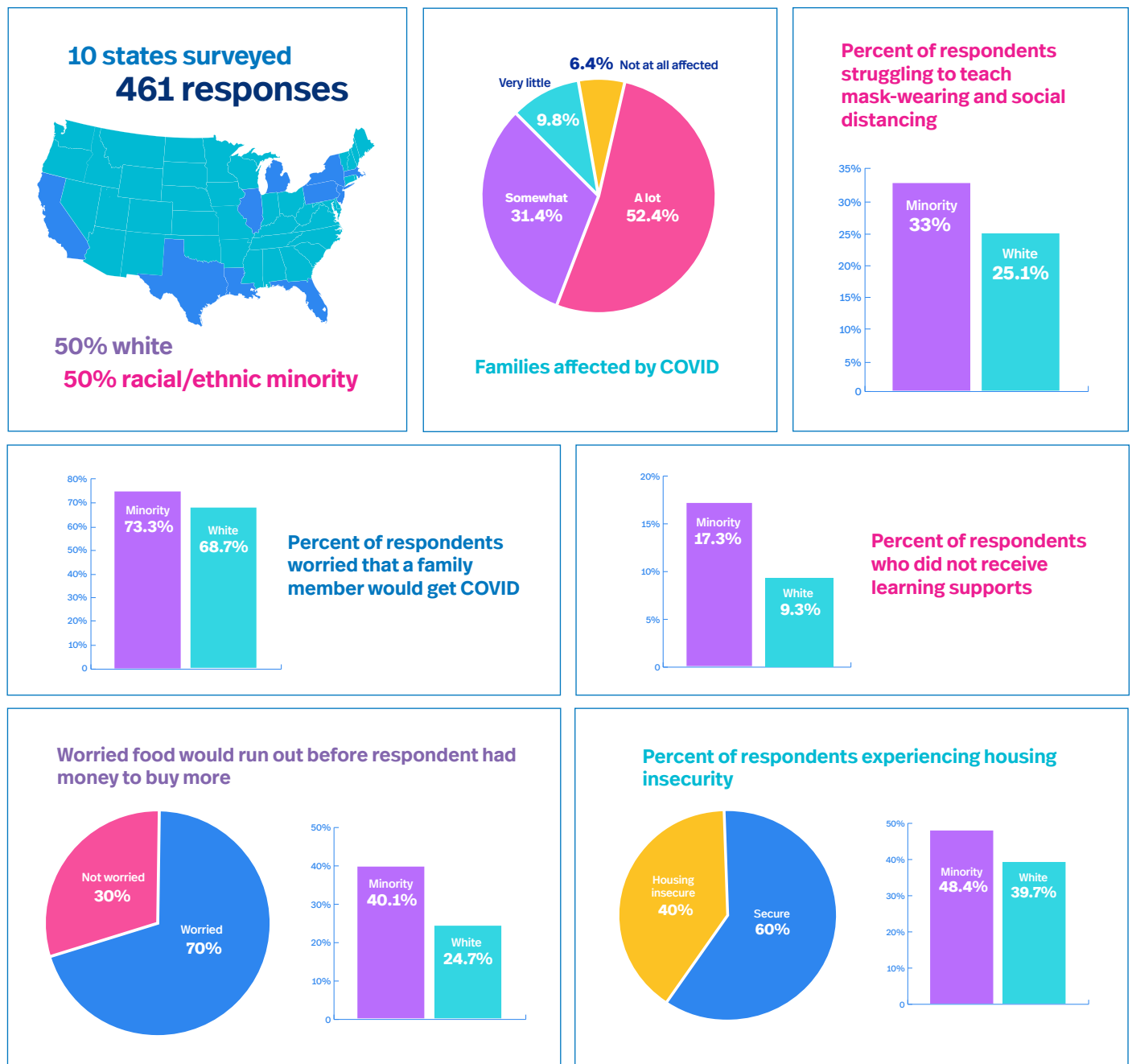




# COVID-19 and Autism

## Assessing the needs of families and individuals with autism spectrum disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic

The outbreak of coronavirus has touched people in every corner of the country and around the globe, but for people with autism and their families, its impact has been profound. Autism Speaks is committed to serving our community through these challenging times. In May 2020, we surveyed people with autism and their families to find out how the pandemic is affecting them, in the first autism-specific COVID survey to include a broad minority population.





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### What did we learn?

Concerns for people with autism and their families...

### What's next?

Autism Speaks works to...

Teaching their autistic child or family member to wear a mask and social distance	<i>Increase access to and funding for personal protective equipment and develop resources for training people with autism to socially distance and wear masks.</i>
Not receiving any distance learning supports from their school	<i>Increase access to and funding for distance learning supports for children with autism learning virtually.</i>
Basic needs like food and housing	<i>Connect families to local food and housing resources and programs, including free and reduced-price lunch programs during virtual learning.</i>
Worry that someone in their family would contract COVID	<i>Support public health guidance and resources around preventing the spread of COVID-19, testing guidance and increased risks for people with autism.</i>

For COVID-19 resources and supports specifically for the autism community, visit [autismspeaks.org/coronavirus](https://autismspeaks.org/coronavirus).