Labor Market in New England and Covid-19 Implications

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The views expressed are my own and not those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, the Federal Reserve System, or its Board of Governors.
Before Covid-19--Low Unemployment, but Dramatic Inequality: Many Jobs were Insufficient

Covid-19 Exacerbates Existing Inequalities Within Labor Market

**Most Affected Occupations**
- Personal Care Jobs
- Food Service Workers

**Most Affected People**
- Younger Workers
- 65+ Workers
- Women
- Hispanic Workers

**Least Affected Occupations**
- Legal, Business & Financial
- Protective Services
- Computer & Math

Public Service That Makes a Difference®
1 in 5 workers in New England are Service Workers, and Pre-Covid-19, Disproportionately Experienced Poverty

- 19% of NE Labor Force are Service Workers
- 15% of Hispanic workers are Service Workers
- 35% of workers with Family Income <200% FPL are Service Workers
- 15% of those receiving SNAP are Service Workers
- 66% of workers working full-time are Service Workers
- 29% of workers with children are Service Workers

Note: Includes the following occupation groups: food service, cleaning and building maintenance, retail and other hospitality jobs

Covid-19 Job Losses in New England

- Higher in New England than nation
- A quarter of the insured workforce filed UI claims
- Accommodation and food service industries hit hardest

Unemployment Insurance Cushioning Impacts

- CARES Act expanded eligibility and increased benefits ($600)
- Expires July 31st
- Financial uncertainty
- Impacts on SNAP, Evictions, Other Areas
For Many, The Road to Returning to Work Filled With Uncertainty

- Business closures
- Decreased demand
- Looser labor market

- Childcare closures
- CDC guidelines
- Teacher availability

Uncertainty around school re-openings
Covid-19 and Community Development Research at the Boston Fed

- Work more important than ever
- Several pivots in light of Covid and Police Brutality
- Our Covid response research
  - Published
    - Service Workers
    - Health Insurance
  - In Progress
    - SNAP
    - UI
    - Health Insurance 2
    - Paid Sick Leave
    - EITC
    - Child Care Workers


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Thank You!
Responses, Comments, Questions.
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