

# "It's not just about work and living conditions": The underestimation of the COVID-19 pandemic for Black Canadian women <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

## Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has increasingly been defined as the secession for its disproportionate debilitating impact on women. Despite this gendered analysis, a number of health activists have called on governments to account for the experiences of Black communities as they are disproportionately suffering the effects of this pandemic. In the media's address of the impact of the pandemic, we ask, what experiences are represented in news stories and are Black women present in these representations. Performing a content analysis of 108 news articles, a reading of media discourses through a racial lens reveals a homogenization of women's experiences and an absence of the Black experience. In the small number of news stories that do focus on Black women, we see that the health disparities are not simply the result of precarious work and living conditions, but also the struggle against anti-Black racism on multiple fronts. In critiquing, however, we also bring forth the small number of news stories on the Black experience that speak to the desire and hope that can thrive outside of white supremacist structures.

**Related link:** Future pandemics demand a response that's better focused on inequities <sup>[3]</sup>

**Region:** Ontario <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** COVID-19 <sup>[5]</sup>

intersectionality <sup>[6]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 5 Feb 2025):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/02/%E2%80%99s-not-just-about-work-and-living-conditions%E2%80%9D>

## Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/25/02/%E2%80%99s-not-just-about-work-and-living-conditions%E2%80%9D> [2] <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/10/6/210> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/23/08/future-pandemics-demand-response-s-better-focused> [4] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7856> [5] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/9040> [6] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/9346>