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Battered by the crisis

By MANUEL E. AVENDAÑO

NEW YORK - The levels of unemployment for Latinos in New York are approaching those recorded during the Great Depression, and have been hardest hit by the economic recession in the last year, compared to any other racial group, according to a poll released yesterday by the Community Service Society (CSS).

The survey, which included interviews of 1,200 New Yorkers during the past summer found that more than one in four low-income Latinos lost their jobs and more than three in ten reported the loss of wages, hours and / or tips in the last 12 months.

According to CSS, 26% of low-income Latinos reported having lost their jobs in the last year, 31% had their wages reduced and 70% had less than \$ 500 and total savings.

The survey - under the name 'The Third-Desatendido' performed for the eighth consecutive year, but is the first time publishing a detailed analysis of the Latino experience in New York City.

"Latinos with low incomes in the current recession are living what many of our parents spent in the Great Depression," said David Jones, president of CSS.

The result, according to the expert, is that it could produce a flood of homeless and other difficult situations that threaten the quality of life of Latinos in New York City.

"We're not saying that other communities not suffering, but Latinos have borne the brunt," he told El Diario / La Prensa, Juan Cartagena, senior advisor CSS. "The union jobs provide better career opportunity and some degree of economic stability," Cartagena said.

For his part, Jeremy Reiss, one of the authors of the report and Director of Economic Security Initiatives and Workforce CSS, noted that Latinos receive fewer benefits from their employers, such as sick leave, health insurance and drug coverage prescription.

Reacting to the content of this report, mayoral spokesman Andrew Brent said "New York City has not been immune to the national economic downturn and many New Yorkers-including some of the Latino population of the city are struggling to make enough money. "

Brent added that "the loss of jobs is always problematic, especially during a recession.

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