

The health and fitness industry has been disproportionately affected by state and local government closures. Gyms were among the first businesses mandated to close, the last businesses allowed to open in many states, and among the first ordered to reclose during the new winter wave of COVID cases. Despite consistently being tied to restaurants, bars, theaters and live events venues for state closures, gyms have not received the same consideration as these industries when it comes to economic relief. The health and fitness industry continues to face a significant loss of revenue – both in direct membership and ancillary fees – and will do so for the foreseeable future.

The Fitness Industry Supports Communities Across the Country

- The United States has over 40,000 health and fitness clubs that generate over \$35 billion in annual revenue.
- Small businesses comprise more than 80 percent of the industry.
- The industry employs more than 3.2 million people.
- 64.2 million Americans have membership to a health and fitness club (another 10 million use facilities as non-members)
- Gyms and fitness studios are a critical anchor tenant for retail centers.

COVID-19 has Devastated the Fitness Industry

- \$20.4 billion in lost revenue through December 2020.
 - 58% decline from 2019.
- 17% of clubs permanently closed as of December 2020.
- According to a January survey, [fewer than 50 percent](#) of small gyms and fitness studios expect to survive through 2021 without federal support.
- According to [data released by Yelp](#), gyms and fitness facilities currently face higher closure rates than nearly any other industry, including restaurants and bars.
- 1.4 million jobs lost.
 - 44% of jobs in the industry.

Fitness Facilities Are Essential to America's Health

- In March 2020, the CDC issued a [preliminary report](#) which concluded that people with diabetes and obesity were at higher risk of mortality from COVID-19.
 - This has only been bolstered by more [supporting evidence](#): the CDC now considers type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease as diseases with the strongest and most consistent evidence of impact on COVID-19 severity.
- Rates of these chronic diseases remain high in the US. More than [4 in 10 adults are obese](#), and more than [1 in 8 adults has type 2 diabetes](#). These tens of millions of Americans are at increased risk for general mortality, including COVID-related mortality.
- Physical activity is proven to help prevent, manage, and treat a number of chronic diseases. Fitness facilities are essential in stemming the rise of chronic disease and strengthening the public's health and well being.