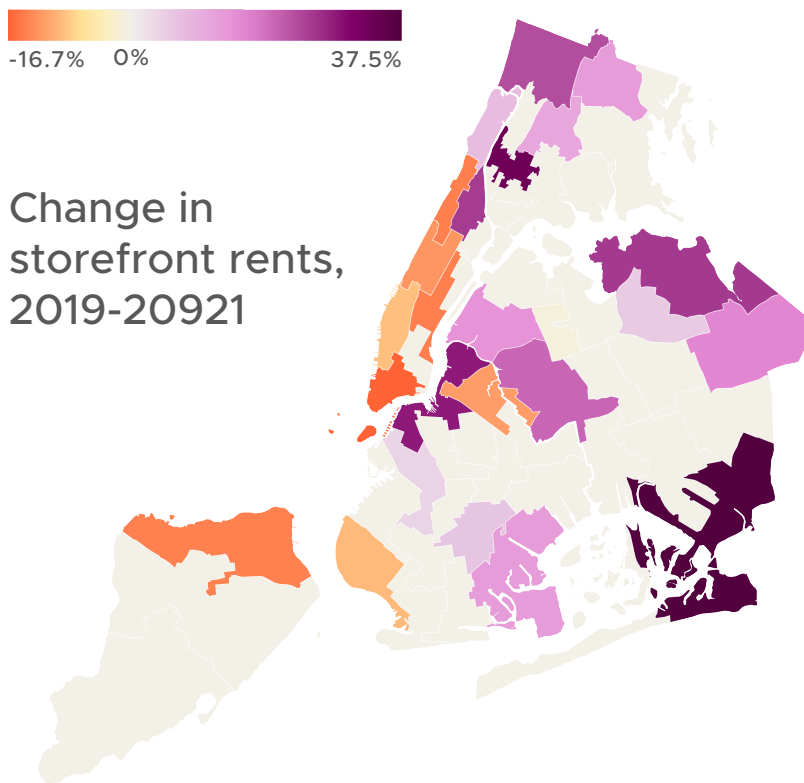


SUMMARY

While economic development programs over the last three years have focused on COVID-related recovery, for many of New York City’s small businesses in communities of color and immigrant neighborhoods, a recovery to pre-pandemic conditions has not happened. Furthermore, a return to a pre-pandemic baseline would be insufficient to ensure the survival and success of the small businesses that constitute the cultural fabric of our neighborhoods: especially in our immigrant communities and communities of color, residents rely on their local businesses for essential, culturally relevant goods and services, as well as jobs.

ANHD’s new analysis of both citywide reporting and a survey of 121 merchants who own storefront businesses shows that threats to small businesses are consistently higher both in communities of color and to small business owners who are people of color and immigrants themselves.

Citywide data showed that:



In council districts where rents **decreased**, 47% of residents are people of color.

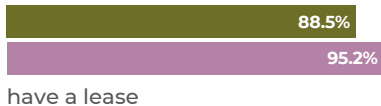
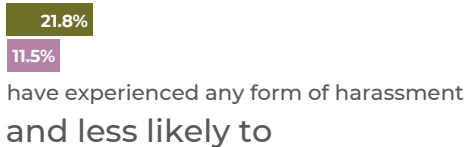
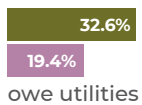
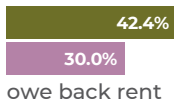
In council districts where rents **increased**, 72% of residents are people of color.

In response to our CMOP survey,

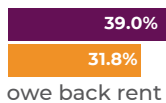
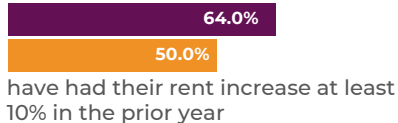
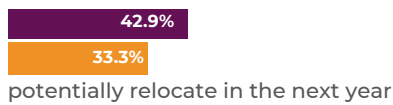
1 in 4 small businesses reported they plan to or may **close** in the next year

37% reported they plan to or may **relocate** in the next year

Merchants of color were more likely than **white** merchants to



Immigrant merchants were more likely than **non-immigrant** merchants to



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Keeping a storefront business alive means not only running a successful operation, but combating speculation, harassment, and displacement threats on multiple fronts. Without adequate protections and resources, the commercial tenants who provide essential goods and services to their communities face just as much displacement risk as residential tenants.

Programs like Commercial Lease Assistance work, but need more resources and need to be strengthened. We must also organize merchants to shift power to our small businesses so that they can fight for more proactive tenant rights, legal resources, and policies that stabilize and support them. ANHD and our partners have begun this work and will continue to fight for the rights of commercial tenants and all of New York City's smallest businesses.