The COVID recession has put domestic workers under a double pressure. Already underpaid, many have lost their jobs, or lost hours on the job, putting them under added financial stress. Even when on the job, however, domestic workers find themselves under added physical and psychological stress, acting as “essential workers” during a pandemic at some risk to their own health as they protect the health of others.

Domestic workers include house cleaners, nannies, and home care aides who care for people with disabilities or who are elderly or infirm.

- Women account for 93 percent of domestic workers in New York State. By comparison, women make up just under half, 47 percent, of the overall work force in the state.
- Men are a very small portion of domestic workers. Mid-Hudson Valley has the highest share of men doing domestic work in the state, 15 percent.
- These are growing occupations. Over the next 10 years the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the number of jobs for domestic workers will increase three times as fast as employment in other occupations.

The Vast Majority of Domestic Workers in New York State are Women

FIG. 1 Source: EPI analysis of IPUMS USA 5-year 2018 American Community Survey microdata. Preliminary data from a forthcoming report by the Fiscal Policy Institute.