

Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas are Facing Severe COVID-19 Impact

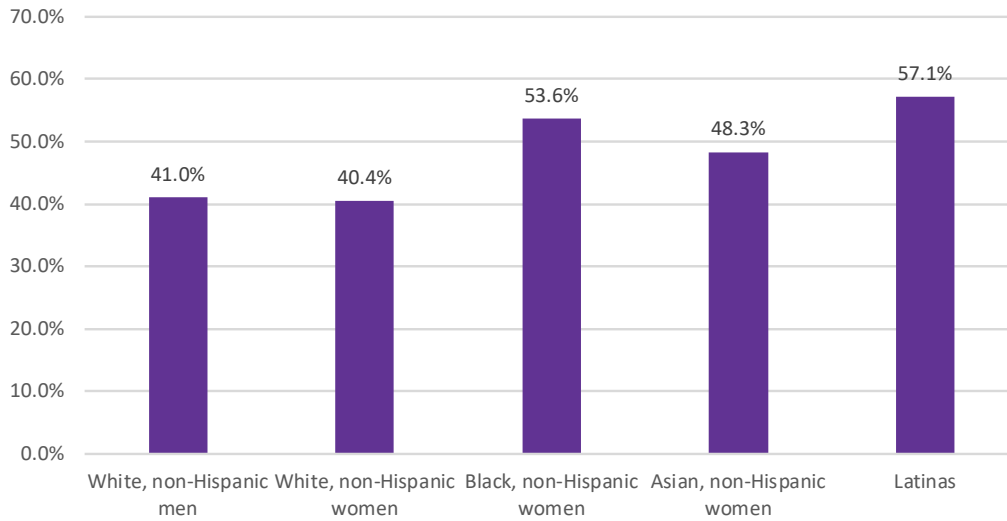
BY JASMINE TUCKER AND CLAIRE EWING-NELSON

COVID-19 has exposed how the work performed primarily by women has long been and continues to be undervalued, even as the rest of the country is depending on it as never before. Women are the majority of workers risking their lives to provide health care, child care, and other essential services while simultaneously being overrepresented in many of the occupations feeling the brunt of COVID-related job losses. This reality combined with the already high rates of economic security women were experiencing before this crisis began¹ and lost earnings due to the gender wage gap² mean that women have no financial cushion to weather the current crisis.

This factsheet provides an analysis of the first week in phase 2 of the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey measuring the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on households.³ The data shows that compared to their white, non-Hispanic male or female peers, Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas are more likely to be in households that have lost employment income, are more likely to be facing food insufficiency, and are more likely to be behind on their rent or mortgage payment.⁴

- More than half of Latinas (57.1%) and Black, non-Hispanic women (53.6%) reported a loss of income since March, compared to 41.0% of white, non-Hispanic men and 40.4% of white, non-Hispanic women.

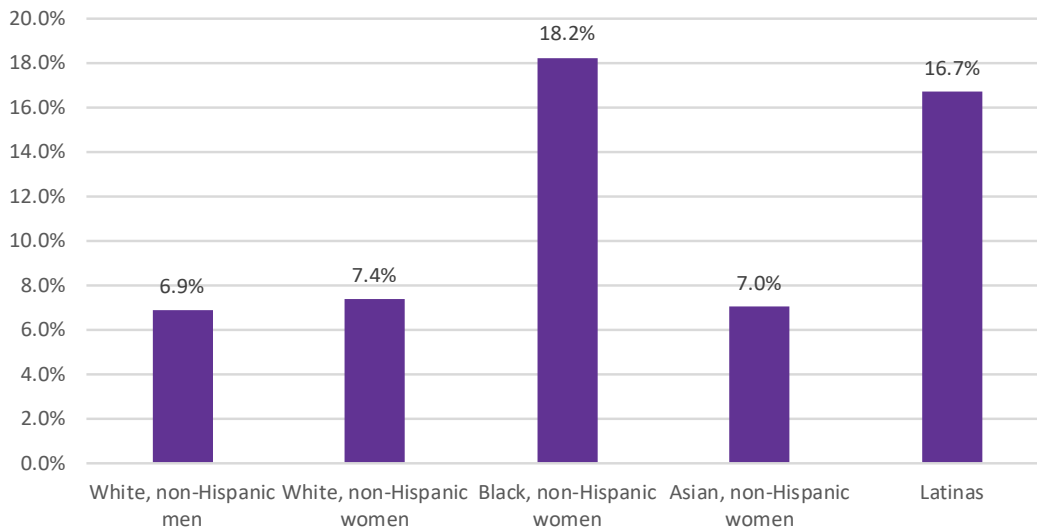
Share Who Reported Loss of Employment Income in Household Since March by Selected Demographics (August 19 -31)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 13 (August 19-31). Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.

- More than 1 in 6 Black, non-Hispanic women (18.2%) and Latinas (16.7%) reported not having enough food in the past week, making them more than twice as likely to report experiencing food scarcity compared to white, non-Hispanic men (6.9%).

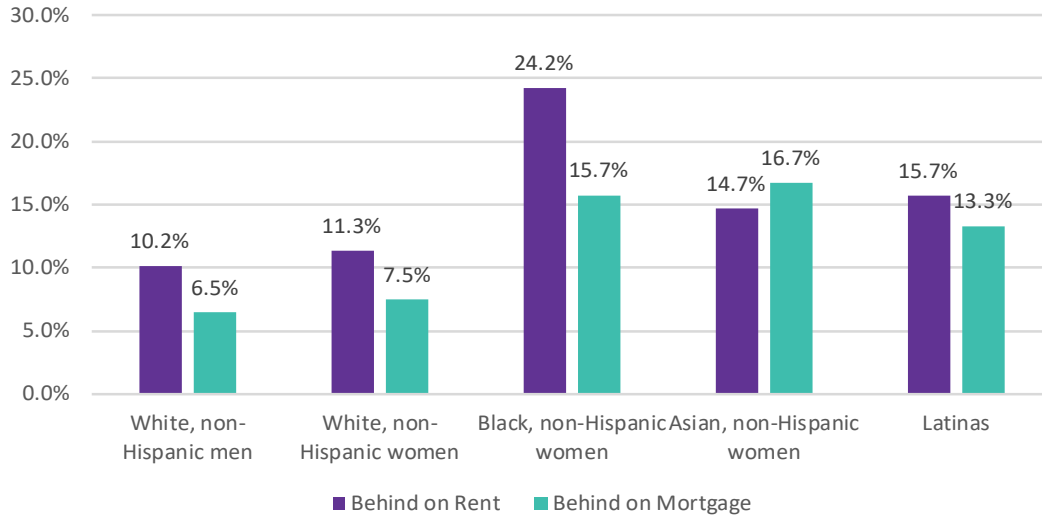
Share Who Reported Experiencing Food Insufficiency in the Previous Week by Selected Demographics (Aug 19-31)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 13 (August 19-31). Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin. Food insufficiency is defined as often or sometimes not having enough food in the prior 7 days.

- Among renters, Black, non-Hispanic women (24.2%), Latinas (15.7%), and Asian, non-Hispanic women (14.7%) were all more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (10.2%) or white, non-Hispanic women (11.3%) to report not being current on rent payments.
- Similarly, among homeowners with mortgages, Asian, non-Hispanic women (16.7%), Black, non-Hispanic women (15.7%), and Latinas (13.3%) were all more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (6.5%) or women (7.5%) to report being behind on payments.

Share Who Reported Being Behind on Rent or Mortgage Payments by Selected Demographics (August 19-31)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 13 (August 19-31). Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the economy; millions of jobs have been lost in recent months with many permanently lost and others at risk all over again if coronavirus cases surge and states are forced to shut back down. Women – especially Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas – are struggling to make ends meet, with no relief in sight; it’s time to act before things get worse.

- 1 Jasmine Tucker and Julie Vogtman, NWLC, When Hard Work is Not Enough: Women in Low-Paid Jobs (Apr. 2020), available at <https://nwlc.org/resources/when-hard-work-is-not-enough-women-in-low-paid-jobs/>.
- 2 Maya Raghu and Jasmine Tucker, NWLC, The Wage Gap Has Made Things Worse for Women on the Front Lines of COVID-19 (Mar. 2020), available at <https://nwlc.org/blog/the-wage-gap-has-made-things-worse-for-women-on-the-front-lines-of-covid-19/>.
- 3 The U.S. Census Bureau completed phase 1 of the Household Pulse Survey on July 31. NWLC analysis of phase 1 data is available at <https://nwlc.org/resources/covid-19-is-making-womens-economic-situation-even-worse/>. Phase 2 of the Household Pulse Survey began on August 19. However, the questionnaire in phase 2 is longer than in phase 1, some questions are phrased differently compared to phase 1, and questions have been asked in a different order. There are also higher nonresponse rates to questions in phase 2 compared to phase 1.
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, 2020 Household Pulse Survey, available at <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>. Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin.