

Women of Color Would Be Hardest Hit if Eviction Protections End

By Jasmine Tucker and Claire Ewing-Nelson

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and compounded structural racial and gender inequities in the U.S. economy. Women have borne the brunt of pandemic-related job losses, accounting for 54.7% of net job loss between February 2020 and May 2021.¹ As of May 2021, more than 2 in 5 (41.9%) unemployed women ages 16 and over had been out of work for 6 months or longer and more than 3 in 10 (30.7%) had been out of work for a year or longer.²

Due to already high rates of pre-pandemic economic insecurity³ and lost earnings due to racial and gender wage gaps,⁴ women entered the COVID-19 crisis with little or no financial cushion to sustain them – and the impact of the recession on women's economic security was and continues to be devastating. Compared to previous weeks of the Census Household Pulse Survey data collection, rates of housing insecurity, food insufficiency, and expected loss of income have declined, likely due in part to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan on March 11, 2021. However, this data shows that the country is still facing a major crisis, with Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas continuing to face higher rates of income loss, housing insecurity, and food insufficiency as compared to white, non-Hispanic men or women. What is more, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has extended its temporary halt on many evictions through July 30, emergency rental assistance programs are still slow to send relief to landlords and tenants, and big landlords continue to challenge the CDC eviction order in court. This threatens economic catastrophe for millions and would especially harm women of color.

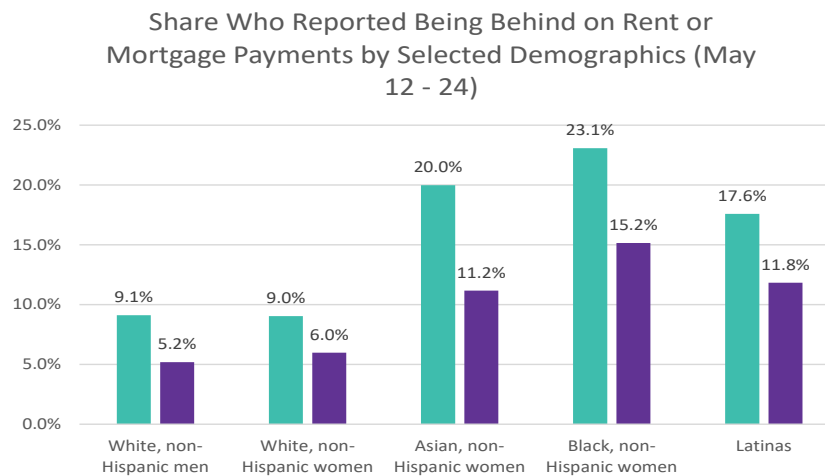
This factsheet provides an analysis of week 30 (May 12, 2021 – May 24, 2021) of the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey measuring the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on households.⁵ It shows that compared to white, non-Hispanic men and women:⁶

- Asian, non-Hispanic women, Black, non-Hispanic women, and Latinas were more likely to be behind on their rent payments.
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely to be behind on their mortgage payments.
- Asian, non-Hispanic women, Black, non-Hispanic women, and Latinas were more likely to be in households that have lost employment income in the last four weeks.
- Asian, non-Hispanic women, Black, non-Hispanic women, and Latinas were more likely to report that they expected their household to lose employment income in the next four weeks.
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely to be in households facing food insufficiency.

More than one in five Black, non-Hispanic women and more than one in six Latinas were behind on rent or mortgage payments.

Nearly 4.0 million women (14.6% of women who rent) reported being behind on their rent payment in May 2021. Among renters, nearly one in four Black, non-Hispanic women (23.1%), one in five Asian, non-Hispanic women (20.0%), and more than one in six Latinas (17.6%) reported being behind on their rent. By comparison, only 9.1% of white, non-Hispanic men and 9.0% of white, non-Hispanic women reported being behind on rent payments.

Nearly 3.3 million women (7.8% of women with mortgages) reported being behind on their mortgage payment in May 2021. Among homeowners with mortgages, more than one in seven Black, non-Hispanic women (15.2%), and more than one in nine Latinas (11.8%) and Asian, non-Hispanic women (11.2%) reported being behind on mortgage payments. By comparison, about one in nineteen white, non-Hispanic men (5.2%) and a little over one in seventeen white, non-Hispanic women (6.0%) reported being behind on their mortgages.



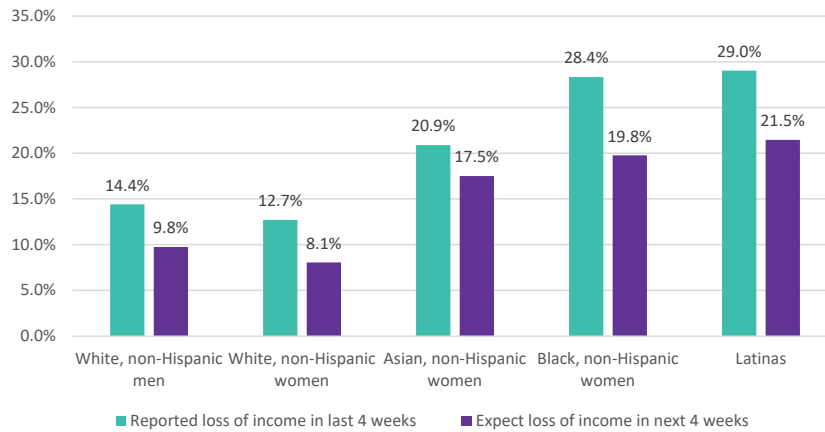
Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 30 (May 12 - 24). Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

Nearly three in ten Latinas and Black, non-Hispanic women were in households that had lost employment income in the last month.

Nearly 23.4 million women (18.2% of women overall) reported that their household had lost employment income in the last four weeks. Nearly three in ten Latinas (29.0%), nearly three in ten Black, non-Hispanic women (28.4%), and over one in five Asian, non-Hispanic women (20.9%) reported lost household income in the past month, compared to 14.4% of white, non-Hispanic men and 12.7% of white, non-Hispanic women. And while local restrictions are being lifted and more people get vaccinated, the data shows that people are still suffering: Nearly one in seven people overall (13.5%) expected their household to lose employment income in the next four weeks because of the pandemic.

More than one in five Latinas (21.5%), nearly one in five Black, non-Hispanic women (19.8%), and nearly one in six Asian, non-Hispanic women (17.5%) expected their households to lose employment income in the next month, compared to 9.8% of white, non-Hispanic men and 8.1% of white, non-Hispanic women. As more jobs become available and parents attempt to return to work, one continuing challenge is a lack of predictable child care. One in ten (10.2%) people in households with children reported that, at some point in the last four weeks, children in their household were unable to attend child care because of the pandemic.

Share Who Reported Loss of Employment Income in Last Four Weeks and Share Who Expect Income Loss in Next Four Weeks by Selected Demographics (May 12 - 24)

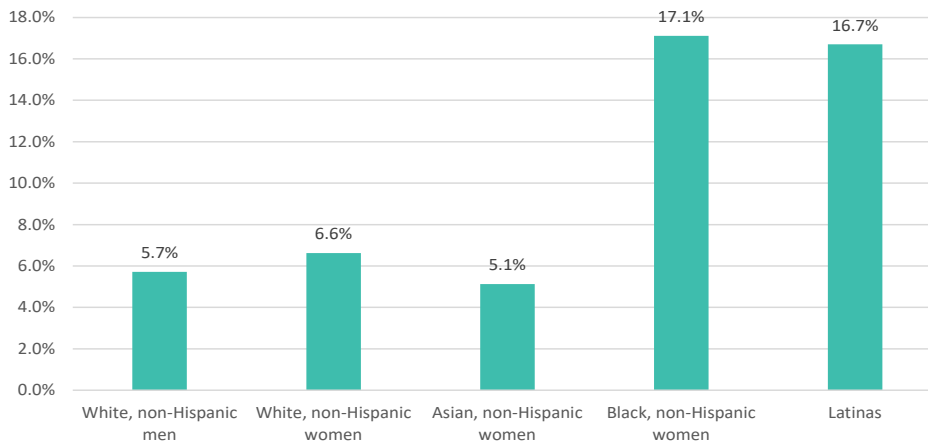


Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 26 (May 12 - 24). Survey respondents self-identified their sex as either male or female and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

More than one in six Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas did not have enough to eat.

In May 2021, nearly 10.5 million women (9.6% of women overall) reported sometimes or often not having enough food to eat in the prior seven days. More than one in six Black, non-Hispanic women (17.1%) and Latinas (16.7%) reported not having enough food in the past week, compared to 5.7% of white, non-Hispanic men and 6.6% of white, non-Hispanic women.

Share Who Reported Experiencing Food Insufficiency in the Previous Seven Days by Selected Demographics (May 12 - 24)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 26 (May 12 - 24). 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.

Over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of workers are still without a job and many have been looking for work since businesses first shut down last spring. Despite recent signs of economic recovery, and the welcome respite provided by the American Rescue Plan Act enacted in March 2021, many women and their families are still struggling. It is clear that much more needs to be done to ensure an equitable recovery, since Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas continue to face higher rates of income loss, housing insecurity, and food insufficiency as compared to white, non-Hispanic men or women. We will continue tracking this data as agencies implement COVID-19 relief to make sure the recovery works for everyone – including the millions of women facing economic, housing, and food insecurity.

- 1 NWLC calculations using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), historical data for Establishment Data Table B-1: Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector and selected industry detail, available at <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesbtabs1.htm> and historical data for Establishment data Table B-5: Employment of women on nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted, <https://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesbtabs5.htm>.
- 2 Claire Ewing-Nelson and Jasmine Tucker, "Only About One Third of the 916,000 Jobs Gained Last Month Went to Women," (National Women's Law Center, Jun. 2021), <https://nwlc.org/resources/women-gained-314000-jobs-in-may-but-still-need-13-straight-months-of-similar-growth-to-recover-pandemic-losses/>.
- 3 Jasmine Tucker and Julie Vogtman, "When Hard Work is Not Enough: Women in Low Paid Jobs" (National Women's Law Center, April 2020), https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Women-in-Low-Paid-Jobs-report_pp04-FINAL-4.2.pdf.
- 4 Jasmine Tucker, "The Wage Gap Has Robbed Women of Their Ability to Weather COVID-19" (National Women's Law Center, March 2021), <https://nwlc.org/resources/the-wage-gap-has-robbed-women-of-their-ability-to-weather-covid-19/>.
- 5 U.S. Census Bureau, "Measuring Household Experiences During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey," Census.gov, accessed June 21, 2021, <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/household-pulse-survey.html>. The U.S. Census Bureau completed phase 1 of the Household Pulse Survey on July 31, 2020. Phase 2 of the Household Pulse Survey began on August 19. Phase 3 began on October 28. Phase 3.1 began on April 14. However, the questionnaire in phases 2, 3, and 3.1 are different and longer than in phase 1. Some questions are phrased differently compared to previous phases, and questions have been asked in different orders. There are also higher nonresponse rates to questions in phase 2, 3, and 3.1 compared to phase 1. Previous NWLC analyses of the Pulse Survey are available at <https://nwlc.org/resources/nwlc-analysis-of-u-s-census-bureau-covid-19-household-pulse-surveys/>. "Weeks" is the term used by the Census Bureau to define separate data collections in all phases, but "weeks" may be shorter or longer than a 7-day period. Refer to each data collection for more information.
- 6 Due to overlapping margins of error, Asian, non-Hispanic women were not necessarily more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and/or white, non-Hispanic women to be in households that are behind on mortgage payments or in households experiencing food insufficiency.