

Black, non-Hispanic Women and Latinas Use Advance Child Tax Credit to Cover Necessities and Pay Down Debt in the Last Month of Payments

By Brooke LePage and Sarah Javaid

Exacerbating existing racial and gender inequities in the U.S. economy, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit women, especially women of color, the hardest and they continue to suffer the brunt of the pandemic and its slow economic recovery. For example, women lost most of the net jobs lost since the pandemic began: over 2.1 million jobs have been lost by women compared to the more than 1.4 million jobs lost by men.¹ Unemployment rates for Black women and Latinas, at 6.2% and 4.9%, respectively, were higher than the rate for women overall (3.6%), white women (3.1%), and white men (3.0%).² The data in this factsheet comes from early December and does not account for the full impact of the Omicron variant, which was just emerging when the data was collected, on women and their families. It does, however, underscore the need to make public investments in policies like the expanded Child Tax Credit (whose advance payments ended in December 2021), that help women, especially women of color, cover necessities like food, rent, and child care.

This factsheet provides an analysis of week 40 (December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021) of the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey measuring the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on households.³ It shows:

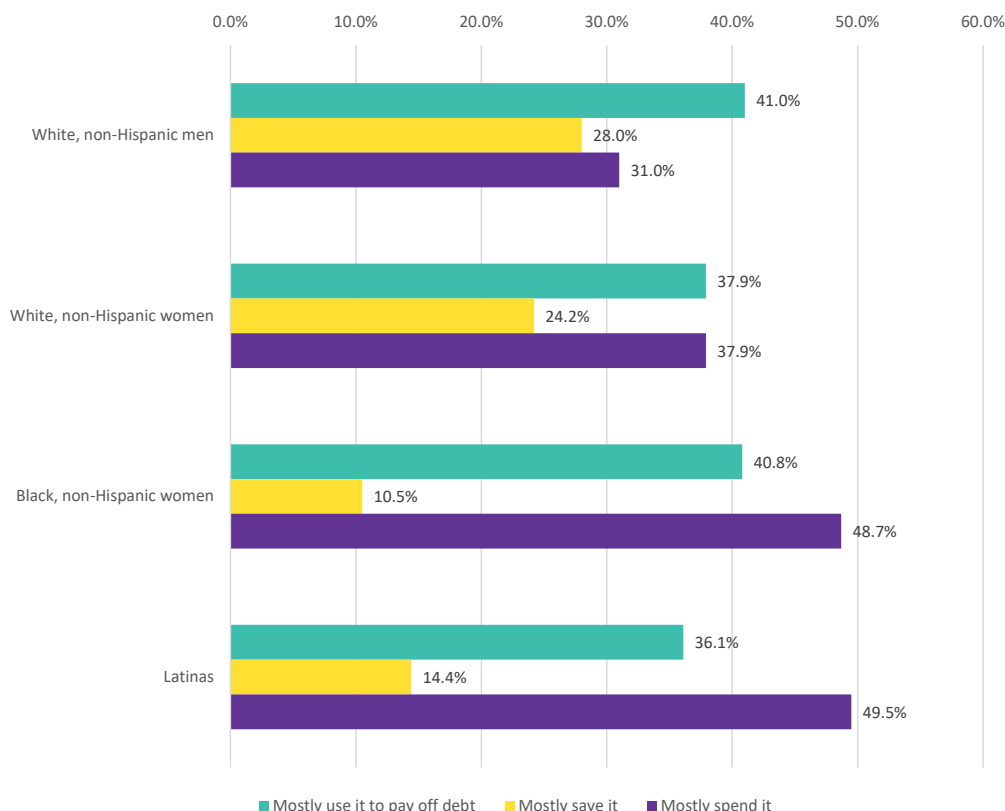
- Black, non-Hispanic women, Latinas, and white, non-Hispanic women were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men to be in households that received an advance Child Tax Credit payment.⁴
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and women to have lost employment income in the last four weeks.⁵
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and women to not have enough food to eat.⁶
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and women to be behind on their rent.⁷
- Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and women to be behind on their mortgage payments.⁸

Over two in five Black, non-Hispanic women and over one in three Latinas used their advance Child Tax Credit payment to pay down debt.

The expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) enacted by the American Rescue Plan Act has been issued to eligible families on a monthly basis, starting in July of 2021. Because no legislative action has been taken, these payments concluded in December 2021. Women (24.4%) were more likely than men (18.6%) to report being in households that received advance payments of the Child Tax Credit in the last four weeks. More than one in three Black, non-Hispanic women (33.4%) and Latinas (35.1%) and one in five Asian, non-Hispanic women (20.6%) reported that their household received an advance payment. Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (16.6%) and women (19.8%) to receive an advance payment.

Of those who were in households that received advance CTC payments, 39.2% spent most of the payment, 22.6% saved most of their payment, and 38.1% used the payment to mostly pay down debt. However, there are stark disparities in how groups by race and gender used their payments. Of those who received advance payments, nearly half of Black, non-Hispanic women (48.7%) and Latinas (49.5%) used their payments to pay off debt. Meanwhile, most white, non-Hispanic men spent most of the payment (41.0%).

Share Who Mostly Spent, Saved, or Used on Debt Their Advance Child Tax Credit by Selected Demographics (December 1 - December 13)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 40 (collected December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021). Survey respondents self-identified as male, female, transgender, or none and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Calculations for Asian, non-Hispanic women are not included due to insufficient sample sizes.⁹

Nearly two in three Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas, and nearly six in ten Asian, non-Hispanic women used some of their Advance Child Tax Credit to buy food.

Nearly two in three Black, non-Hispanic women (65.9%) and Latinas (64.8%), and nearly six in ten Asian, non-Hispanic women (59.8%) used some of their advance Child Tax Credit payment to purchase food, compared to 54.8% of white, non-Hispanic men and 58.1% of white, non-Hispanic women. Nearly two in five Latinas (38.6%) and more than one in three Black, non-Hispanic women (36.6%) used their advance Child Tax Credit to pay rent, compared to white, non-Hispanic men (10.2%) or women (17.2%).

How Those Who Received a Child Tax Credit Their Payment by Selected Demographics and Selected Options (December 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)

	FOOD	CHILD CARE	RENT	MORTGAGE
White, non-Hispanic Men	54.8%	12.8%	10.2%	17.1%
White, non-Hispanic Women	58.1%	12.6%	17.2%	17.0%
Black non-Hispanic Women	65.9%	13.1%	36.6%	-
Asian, non-Hispanic Women	59.8%	-	-	-
Latinas	64.8%	10.7%	38.6%	9.5%

Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 40 (collected December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021). Survey respondents self-identified as male, female, transgender, or none and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. A dash indicates insufficient data due to small sample sizes.

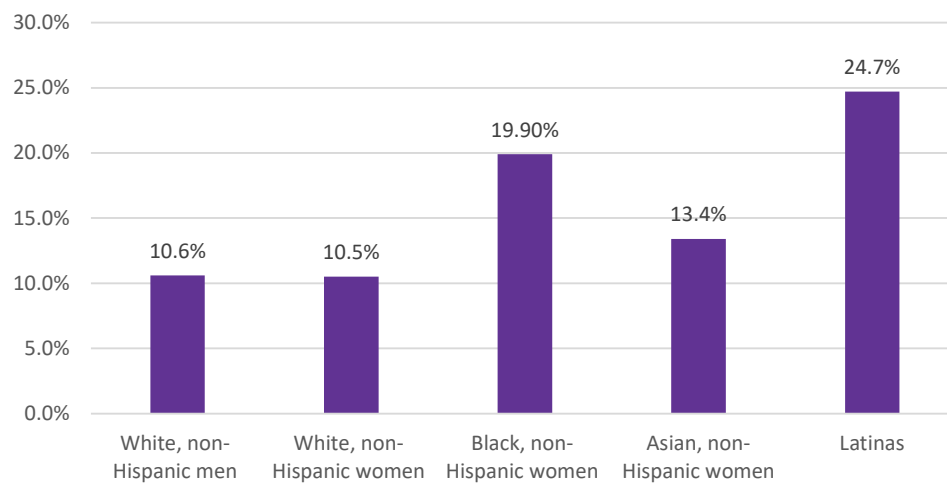
More than one in four Black, non-Hispanic women and one in five Latinas reported being in households that did not have child care for children under 12.

One continuing challenge for parents of young children in the pandemic has been, and will likely continue to be, the lack of predictable child care—which makes it difficult for parents to work, look for work, or participate in education or training that would help them gain employment, so they can support themselves and their families. More than one in five (22.4%) women in households with children under 12 years old reported that, at some point in the last four weeks, children in their household were unable to attend child care because of the pandemic.¹⁰ More than one in four Black, non-Hispanic women (26.9%) and one in five Latinas (20.3%) reported not having child care in the past month due to the pandemic.

Nearly one in five Black, non-Hispanic women and nearly one in four Latinas were in households that lost employment income in the last month.

Over 17.6 million women (14.5% of women overall) reported that their household had lost employment income in the last four weeks. Nearly one in four Latinas (24.7%) and nearly one in five Black, non-Hispanic women (19.9%) were in households that lost employment income. Latinas were more than two times more likely and Black, non-Hispanic women were nearly two times more likely to have lost income compared to white, non-Hispanic men (10.6%) and women (10.5%).

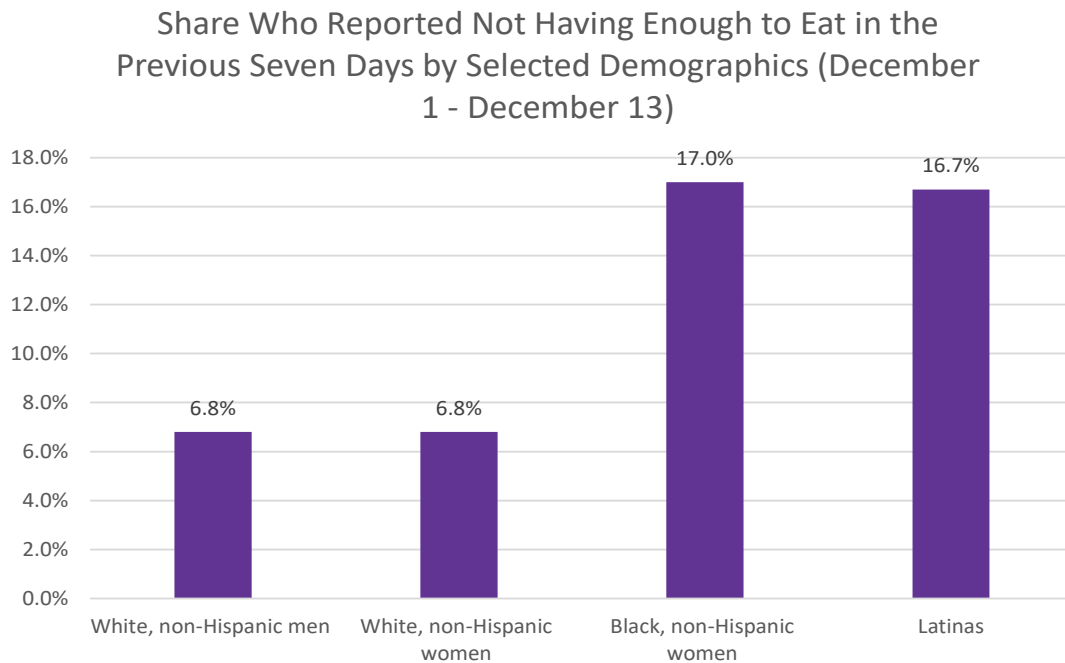
Share Who Reported Loss of Employment Income in the Last Four Weeks by Selected Demographics (December 1- December 13)



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 40 (collected December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021). Survey respondents self-identify as male, female, transgender, or none 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.

Over 10.8 million women (9.9% of women overall) did not have enough to eat in the beginning of December. More than one in six Black, non-Hispanic women (17.0%) and Latinas (16.7%) reported sometimes or often not having enough to food to eat in the prior seven days. Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were more than two times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (6.8%) and women (6.8%) to not have enough food to eat.



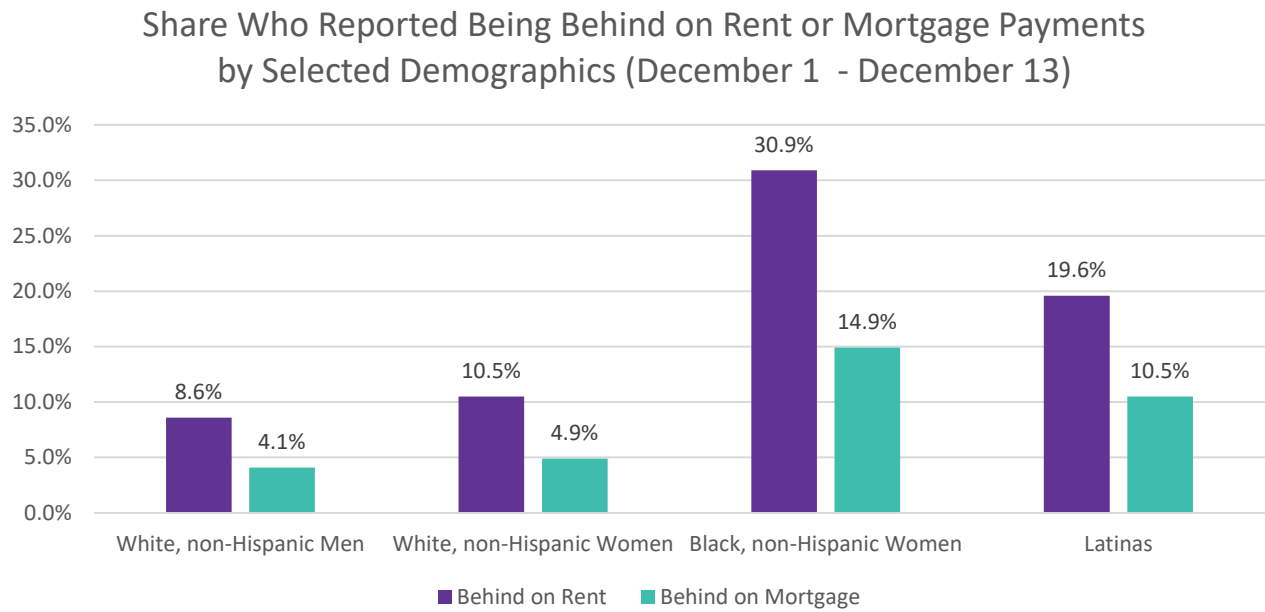
Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 40 (collected December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021). Survey respondents self-identify as male, female, transgender, or none and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Calculations for Asian, non-Hispanic women are not included due to insufficient sample sizes.

Over three in ten Black, non-Hispanic women and nearly one in five Latinas were behind on rent.

Over 5 million women (16.8% of women who rent) reported being behind on their rent payments. Among renters, over three in ten Black, non-Hispanic women (30.9%) and nearly one in five Latinas (19.6%) were behind on their rent. Black, non-Hispanic women were more than three times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (8.6%) and nearly three times more likely than white, non-Hispanic women (10.5%) to be behind on their rent. Latinas were more than two times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and nearly two times more likely than white, non-Hispanic women to be behind on their rent.

The December 2020 and March 2021 COVID relief laws provided over \$46 billion for states and localities to administer Emergency Rental Assistance Programs (ERAP). Unfortunately, some ERA programs have stopped or paused accepting applications, despite the persistent need for assistance to renters behind on rent. Among those who reported being behind on their rent, nearly three in ten Black, non-Hispanic women (29.4%) and nearly one in five Latinas (19.4%) reported applying for ERAP. Black, non-Hispanic women were nearly four times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (6.1%) and more than three times more likely than white, non-Hispanic women (9.2%) to report applying for ERAP. Latinas were more than three times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and more than two times more likely than white, non-Hispanic women to report applying for ERAP.

More than 3 million women (7.1% of women with mortgages) reported being behind on their mortgage payments. Among homeowners with mortgages, more than one in seven Black, non-Hispanic women (14.9%) and one in ten Latinas (10.5%) reported being behind on their mortgage payments.¹¹ Black, non-Hispanic women were more than three times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men (4.1%) and white, non-Hispanic women (4.9%) to report being behind on their mortgage. Latinas were more than two times more likely than white, non-Hispanic men and women to report being behind on their mortgage.



Source: NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Household Pulse Survey, using data from week 40 (collected December 1, 2021 – December 13, 2021). Survey Respondents self-identified as male, female, transgender, or none and self-identified their race and whether they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Calculations for Asian, non-Hispanic women are not included due to insufficient sample sizes.¹²

Data shows the necessity of Build Back Better for women and their families.

As Congress continues to deliberate a path forward for the Build Back Better Act, this data shows women, in particular Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas, as well as their families, continue to not have enough to eat, remain behind on their rent and mortgage, and use their advance Child Tax Credit payments to cover essential purchases, such as food and rent. The Build Back Better Act is a once in a generation opportunity to invest in people and communities. Among other things, the bill would extend the Child Tax Credit improvements, could help make child care more affordable and accessible for families, and could further invest in accessible and affordable housing programs to help reduce housing insecurity. The data demonstrates how the Child Tax Credit helped women and their families put food on their tables, pay off debts, and remain in their homes. As millions of women face economic insecurity, food scarcity, or housing instability, enacting the policies in the Build Back Better Act passed by the House of Representatives would provide critical support to them and their families.

- 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/cesbtab1.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/cesbtab5.htm>.
- 2** NWLC calculations using Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Table A-1: Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted, available at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t01.htm>, Table A-2: Employment status of civilian population by race, sex, and age, seasonally adjusted, available at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t02.htm>, and Table A-3: Employment status of the Hispanic or Latino population by sex and age, seasonally adjusted, available at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t03.htm>.
- 3** U.S. Census Bureau, "Measuring Household Experiences During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey," Census.gov, accessed January 14, 2022, <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. Phase 3.2 began on July 21 and concluded on October 11, 2021. Phase 3.3 began on December 1, 2021 and will conclude February 7, 2022. However, the questionnaire in phases 2, 3, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 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, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 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.
- 4** 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 received an advance Child Tax Credit payment.
- 5** Due to overlapping margins of error, Asian, non-Hispanic women were not necessarily more likely than white, non-Hispanic women and men to be in a household that has lost employment income.
- 6** Calculations could not be completed for Asian, non-Hispanic women due to insufficient sample size.
- 7** Calculations could not be completed for Asian, non-Hispanic women due to insufficient sample size.
- 8** Calculations could not be completed for Asian, non-Hispanic women due to insufficient sample size. Note sample sizes for Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were between 85 and 99.
- 9** Note sample sizes for Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were between 85 and 99.
- 10** The Household Pulse Survey asked respondents with children under 12 whether children in the household were not attending child care due to child care being closed, unavailable, unaffordable, or because parents were concerned about the child's safety.
- 11** Calculations could not be completed for Asian, non-Hispanic women due to insufficient sample size. Note sampling sizes for Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were between 85 and 99.
- 12** Note sample sizes for Black, non-Hispanic women and Latinas were between 85 and 99.