

**Census Pulse Household Survey
New York Families Overview
December 2020**



**Council on Children
and Families**

This brief was funded in part by the NY KIDS COUNT grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Grant Number 90TP001901-01 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, Office of Child Care. We thank them for their support and acknowledge that the information presented here does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the funders.

The **Census Pulse Household Survey** was designed to gather data quickly and efficiently on the impact of the coronavirus on people's lives and livelihoods. For the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau partnered with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, Housing and Urban Development, National Center for Education Statistics, Office of Management and Budget, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Services to administer a weekly survey.



This survey is a new tool that policy makers, advocates and program managers can use to guide their efforts in the coming months.

Phase 1 (April 23-July 21, 2020): The survey explored five main content areas: employment, food security, health, housing and education.

Phase 2 (August 19-October 26, 2020): The same set of initial questions from Phase 1 were asked with 15 additional questions related to the application and receipt of benefits, spending patterns and availability of financial resources, post-secondary education disruptions, capacity to telework and travel practices.

Phase 3 (October 28, 2020-March 29, 2021): The same larger set of questions from Phase 2 were asked.

**3 out of 5 households with
children in NY state lost
employment income since
March 13, 2020.**

Data Source: Phase 1 Census Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

The New York State Council on Children and Families analyzed the Census Pulse Household Survey data for New York households with children younger than 18. The first and second phase data points are highlighted here.

Phase 1 (April 23-July 21, 2020)

- More than 50% of the households with children in New York State have lost employment income since March 13, 2020.
- During Phase 1, an increasing number of households indicated that their main reason for not working was due to caring for children not in school or daycare. This disproportionately affected women. By the final week (July 16) of Phase 1 data collection, three times as many women than men in New York families with children cited this as their main reason for not working.
- More than one in 10 families "sometimes" or "often" did not have enough food to eat. Free meals through schools and other programs aimed at children were the most common way families in need were able to access food.
- Almost half of households with children delayed medical care because of the coronavirus pandemic.

- Only one in three families stated that they had “high confidence” that they would be able to afford to pay next month’s rent or mortgage.
- 100% of children in kindergarten through 12th grade in New York experienced changes in their education because of the coronavirus pandemic. More than one third of families were able to get a computer or digital device from their child’s school to be used for educational purposes.

School meal pick up sites were the top answer to how families received food assistance.
 Data Source: Phase 1 Census Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

Phase 2 (August 19-October 26, 2020)

6X more women than men in NY families cited caring for children not in school or daycare as their main reason for not working.
 Data Source: Phase 2 Census Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

- During Phase 2, the number of women citing caring for children not in school or daycare as their main reason for not working was six times the number of men citing this reason.
- In the fall of 2020, more than 55% of families were able to get a computer or digital device from their child’s school to be used for educational purposes.

Lifestyle changes during coronavirus pandemic in NY households with children, 2020.		
95% cancelled overnight trips since the start of pandemic	42% have decreased use of rail, bus or ride-share since the start of pandemic	65% have taken fewer trips to the store than usual since the start of pandemic
During Phase 2		
45% shopped online rather than in person	35% used a credit card or online account rather than cash	54% stopped eating in restaurants
Data Source: Phase 2 Census Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.		

23%
 During September and October 2020, almost 1 in 4 adults living in NY households with children reported that they felt down, depressed or hopeless for more than half of the days or nearly every day for the past 7 days.
 Data Source: Phase 2 Census Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.