

EXPERIENCES OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN DURING THE DELTA VARIANT OUTBREAK

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HARVARD
T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 outbreak, the recent spread of the highly transmissible delta variant in the United States has extended problems for many households over the past few months. Even though many experts predicted the COVID-19 outbreak would already be subsiding, the delta variant is continuing to cause problems in the lives of most households across the nation, including severe financial and health impacts on a share of households who are in crisis.

This report examines the most serious problems facing U.S. households with children under 18 years old during the delta variant outbreak, with an aim to identify vulnerable populations in urgent need of government help or charitable aid. NPR, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health conducted a survey August 2 – September 7, 2021, to examine the most serious problems facing households across America in the past few months when it comes to their finances, children’s education, caregiving, and well-being.

Despite billions of dollars appropriated by federal and state governments during the COVID-19 outbreak to protect vulnerable Americans, as well as recent reports that the poverty rate has declined, results from this survey show that a substantial share of households with children across the U.S. have not been adequately protected from financial problems. Many report serious impacts across different areas of their lives in the past few months alone. Of note, this poll measured experiences just before federal pandemic unemployment benefits ended and at the time housing eviction protections expired, so estimates do not include the potential impact of these events.

These findings raise important concerns about the limited financial resources of many U.S. households with children to weather the economic and educational effects of the delta variant outbreak. Large shares of households report they have lost all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and are having major problems paying for basic costs of living, as well as serious problems with education and childcare.

Main findings from this report include:

- Forty-four percent (44%) of households with children under 18 years old report facing serious financial problems in the past few months. This includes 63% of Black households with children, 59% of Latino households with children, 33% of Asian households with children, and 31% of white households with children reporting serious financial problems.
- There is a sharp income divide in serious financial problems faced by households with children, as 70% of those with annual incomes below \$50,000 report facing serious financial problems in the past few months, compared with 20% of households with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.
- These serious financial problems are cited despite 73% of households with children reporting that in the past few months, they have received financial assistance from the government.

- Another significant problem for many U.S. households is losing their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak. Twenty-six percent (26%) of U.S. households with children report losing all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and not currently having any savings to fall back on, including 41% of Latino households with children, 36% of Black households with children, 28% of Asian households with children, and 16% of white households with children.
- At the time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) eviction ban expired, 36% of households with children who are renters reported serious problems paying their rent in the past few months.
- When it comes to their children's education, 69% of households with children in K-12 last school year say their children fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, including 36% of all households with children in K-12 reporting their children fell behind *a lot*.
- Thinking about the upcoming school year, 70% of households whose children fell behind last school year believe it will be difficult for children in their household to catch up on education losses from last school year.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) of adults in households with children say they experienced serious problems meeting both their work and family responsibilities in the past few months.
- Among households with young children (4 and under), 34% report they have experienced serious problems getting childcare in the past few months when adults needed to work.
- In addition, 32% of households with young children (4 and under) report they have experienced serious problems finding daycare or preschool programs for children in their household in the past few months.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) of households with children report their children have experienced serious problems with depression, anxiety, stress, or serious problems sleeping in the past few months.
- When it comes to internet connectivity, despite significant efforts since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak to expand Americans' internet access, 23% of households with children still report either having serious problems with their internet connection to do schoolwork or their jobs, or that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home.

ABOUT THIS POLL

This report, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, is based on a survey conducted in 2021 for NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It details the experiences of households with children under 18 years old during the delta variant outbreak in different areas of their lives, including serious problems with finances, children’s education, childcare, and well-being. Other reports in this series include *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, a national summary report; *Household Experiences in America During the Delta Variant Outbreak, by Race/Ethnicity*; *Household Experiences in Major U.S. Cities During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, a report on the four largest U.S. cities (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston); and *Household Experiences in Rural America During the Delta Variant Outbreak*.

The COVID-19 outbreak has created unusual problems for many individuals in responding to requests for surveys. Because of this situation, this survey offered adults three choices to complete the survey: online, landline, and telephone. The survey design allowed greater capture of the general population and several hard-to-reach populations beyond standard telephone polling methods. It was also designed to overcome internet connectivity issues by a substantial share of households, as well as web-based preferences among those with internet.

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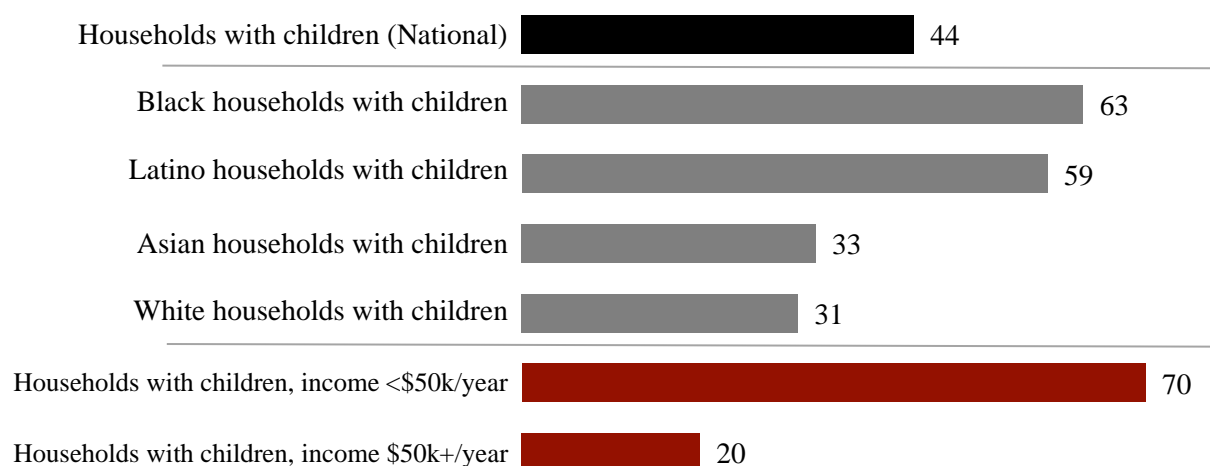
This poll was conducted August 2 – September 7, 2021, among a probability-based, address-based, nationally representative sample of 3,616 U.S. adults ages 18 or older, including 1,013 adults in households with children under 18 years old. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese according to respondents’ preferences. Adults were asked to report on serious problems facing both themselves and others living in their households, thus for questions asked about the household, measures are reported as a percentage of households. Household race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic white, Hispanic/Latino, African American/Black, and Asian) is reported according to the respondent’s racial/ethnic identity. Of note, most survey questions asked about experiences “in the past few months,” which may change over time in the continuing development of the COVID-19 outbreak. Reported experiences may not have been directly caused by the outbreak. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval is the 95% confidence interval for households with children under 18 is ± 6.0 percentage points.

I. Serious Financial Problems for Households with Children

44% of households with children report facing serious financial problems in the past few months

In the past few months alone, 44% of households with children under 18 years old report facing serious financial problems. This includes 63% of Black households with children, 59% of Latino households with children, 33% of Asian households with children, and 31% of non-Hispanic white households with children. It also includes 70% of those with annual incomes below \$50,000 reporting serious financial problems, compared with 20% of those with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more (see Figure 1). These problems are cited despite 73% of all households with children reporting that in the past few months, they have received financial assistance from the government.

Figure 1. Serious Financial Problems among U.S. Households with Children in the Past Few Months (in Percent)

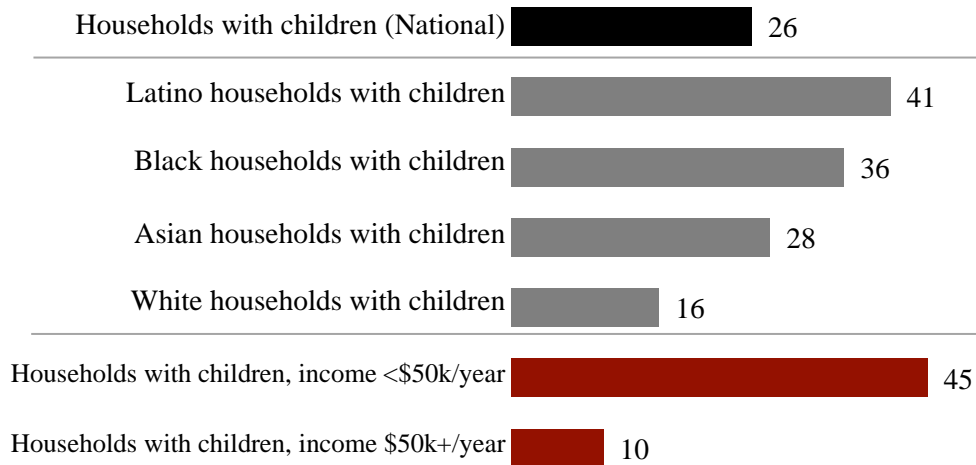


NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=1,013 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in households with children under 18. Respondent's racial/ethnic identity categorized as Latino, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian, and non-Hispanic white. Income defined as reported 2020 household income. Q7. *In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having serious problems... a) paying the mortgage/rent, b) paying for utilities, c) making car payments, d) affording medical care, e) paying credit cards/loans/other debt, f) affording food, g) other serious financial problems?*

26% of households with children lost all savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and have no savings to fall back on

Another significant problem for many U.S. households is losing their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak (see Figure 2). Twenty-six percent (26%) of households with children report losing all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and not currently having any savings to fall back on, including 41% of Latino households with children, 36% of Black households with children, 28% of Asian households with children, and 16% of white households with children. It also includes 45% of those with annual incomes below \$50,000, and 10% of those with annual incomes of \$50,000 or more.

Figure 2. U.S. Households with Children Who Lost Their Savings During the COVID-19 Outbreak and Have No Savings to Fall Back On (in Percent)



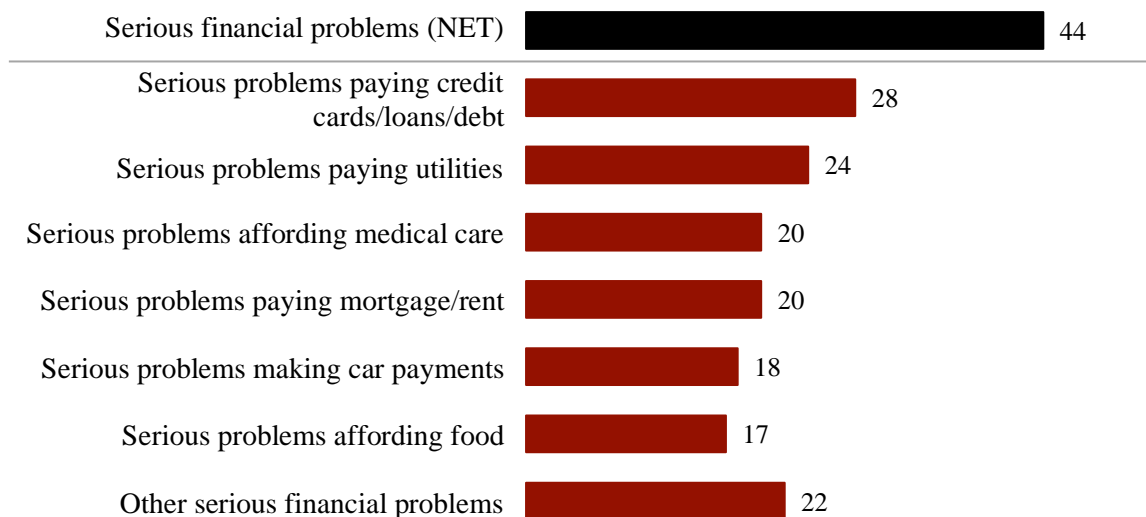
NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=1,013 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in households with children under 18. Respondent’s racial/ethnic identity categorized as Latino, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian, and non-Hispanic white. Income defined as reported 2020 household income. *Lost savings during COVID-19 and have no current savings* includes responses to Q8/Q8a – No to Q8. *Currently, does your household have any savings to fall back on, or not?* Yes to Q8a. *And before the COVID-19 outbreak began, did your household have any savings to fall back on, or not?*

Serious financial problems reported across several areas

Notable shares of households with children under 18 report facing serious financial problems in several areas (see Figure 3), including 28% who report facing serious problems with paying credit cards, loans, or other debt, 24% who report serious problems paying utilities, like gas or electricity, 20% who report serious problems affording medical care, and 20% who report serious problems paying their mortgage or rent. In addition, 18% report serious problems making car payments, 17% report serious problems affording food, and 22% report facing other serious financial problems.

Figure 3. Serious Financial Problems Among U.S. Households with Children in the Past Few Months (in Percent)

Q7. In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having _____?



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21*. N=1,013 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in households with children under 18. *Q7*.

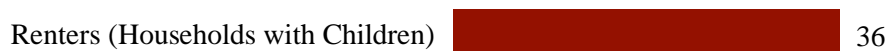
38% of households with children report having a worse financial situation now than before the COVID-19 outbreak

In addition, 38% of U.S. households with children describe their own financial situation as worse now compared to before the COVID-19 outbreak, while 16% say it is better and 45% say it is about the same.

Among renters, 36% of them report serious problems paying rent in the past few months

At the time the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) eviction ban expired, 36% of households with children who are renters reported serious problems paying their rent in the past few months (see Figure 4). Among households with children who are homeowners, 8% reported serious problems paying their mortgage during this time.

Figure 4. Among U.S. Households with Children who are Renters, Serious Problems Paying Rent in the Past Few Months (in Percent)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21*. N=461 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in a rented home with children <18. *Q7a. In the past few months, have you or anyone living in your household been having serious problems paying the mortgage/rent?*

II. Serious Problems with Education

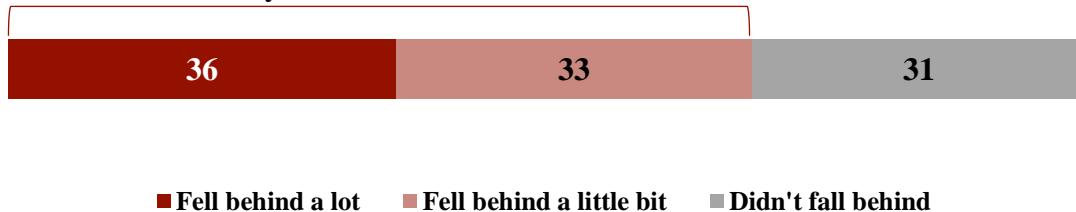
69% of households with children in K-12 report their children fell behind last school year because of the COVID-19 outbreak

Sixty-nine percent (69%) of households with children in K-12 last school year report their children fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, including 36% of all households with children in K-12 reporting their children fell behind *a lot* (see Figure 5). Thinking about the upcoming school year, 70% of households whose children fell behind last school year believe it will be difficult for children in their household to catch up on education losses from last school year.

Figure 5. U.S. School Children Falling Behind Because of the COVID-19 Outbreak (in Percent)

Q39-39a. Last school year, do you think any children in your household fell behind in their learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, or not? (If yes): Do you think they fell behind a lot or a little bit?

69% of households with children in K-12 last year say their children fell behind



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=701 U.S. adults ages 18+ with children living in their household, who had children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year.

23% of households with children report serious problems with internet connectivity

When it comes to internet connectivity, despite significant efforts since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak to expand Americans' internet access, 23% of households with children still report either having serious problems with their internet connection to do schoolwork or their jobs, or that they do not have a high-speed internet connection at home.

36% of households with children report children experiencing depression, anxiety, stress, or sleep issues

In addition, 36% of households with children report their children have experienced serious problems with depression, anxiety, stress, or serious problems sleeping in the past few months.

III. Serious Problems Finding Preschool and Childcare

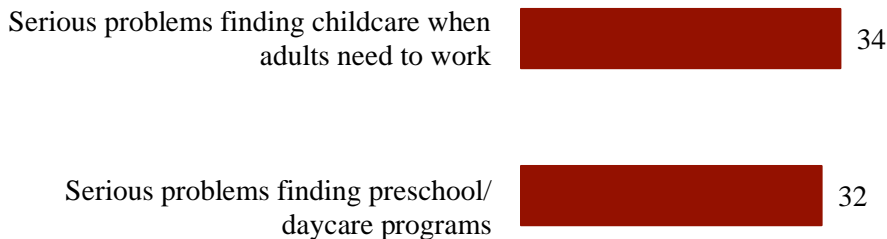
34% of households with young children report serious problems getting childcare when adults need to work

When it comes to childcare, among households with young children (4 and under), 34% report they have experienced serious problems getting childcare in the past few months when adults needed to work (Figure 6).

32% of households with young children report serious problems finding daycare or preschool programs

Also among households with young children (4 and under), 32% report they have experienced serious problems finding daycare or preschool programs for children in their household in the past few months (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Serious Problems Finding Preschool and Childcare among Households with Young Children (4 and under) in the Past Few Months (in Percent)



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Experiences of U.S. Households with Children During the Delta Variant Outbreak*, 8/2/21 – 9/7/21. N=336 U.S. adults ages 18+ living in households with children ages 4 years old and under. Q46-47.

Serious problems meeting both work and family responsibilities

In addition, 36% of adults in households with children under 18 years old say that in the past few months, they have experienced serious problems meeting both their work and family responsibilities.

IV. Serious Problems for Households with Young Children Ages 8 and Under

Experiences in early childhood can set a foundation for lifetime health outcomes, and households with young children are facing distinct challenges during the COVID-19 outbreak. This survey included a sample of 528 adults living in households with children 8 years old and under. Highlights of major household problems reported by these households with young children are included below.

- Forty-eight percent (48%) of households with young children (8 and under) report facing serious financial problems in the past few months.
- Serious financial problems for households with young children (8 and under) include 30% who report facing serious problems with paying credit cards, loans, or other debt, 27% who report serious problems paying utilities, like gas or electricity, 22% who report serious problems paying their mortgage or rent, and 22% who report serious problems making car payments. In addition, 20% report serious problems affording medical care, 18% report serious problems affording food, and 24% report facing other serious financial problems.
- Another significant problem for many U.S. households is losing their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak. Among households with young children (8 and under), 30% report losing all of their savings during the COVID-19 outbreak and not currently having any savings to fall back on.
- Forty percent (40%) of adults in households with young children (8 and under) say they have experienced serious problems meeting both their work and family responsibilities in the past few months.

V. Methodology

The poll in this study is part of an on-going series of surveys developed by researchers at the Harvard Opinion Research Program (HORP) at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and NPR. The research team consists of the following members at each institution.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health: Robert J. Blendon, Emeritus Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis and Executive Director of HORP; John M. Benson, Senior Research Scientist and Managing Director of HORP; Mary G. Findling, Assistant Director of HORP; Chelsea Whitton Pearsall, Research Coordinator.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Research-Evaluation-Learning; Jordan Reese, Director of Media Relations; Martina Todaro, Research Associate, Research-Evaluation-Learning.

NPR: Andrea Kissack, Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, Science Desk; Vickie Walton-James, Senior Supervising Editor, National Desk; Marcia Davis, Supervising Editor, Race and Identity, National Desk.

Interviews were conducted online and via telephone (cellphone and landline), **August 2 – September 7, 2021**, among a nationally representative, probability-based sample of 3,616 adults age 18 or older in the U.S., including 1,013 adults in households who are living with children under 18 years old. Data collection was conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese by SSRS (Glen Mills, PA), an independent research company. The survey examined experiences of households in the U.S. as a whole, in the four largest U.S. cities (New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston), on households by race/ethnicity (including Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native Americans) nationally, on households with children, and on households in rural America. The margin of sampling error, including the design effect, ± 6.0 percentage points for households with children at the 95% confidence level.

The core of the sample was address-based, with respondents sampled from the United States Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS) file. Sampled households were sent an invitation letter including a link to complete the survey online and a toll-free number that respondents could call to complete the survey with a telephone interviewer. All respondents were sent a reminder postcard, which also included a QR code they could scan to be linked to the survey via a smart device. Households that could be matched to telephone numbers and that had not yet completed the survey were called to attempt to complete an interview. In order to represent the hardest-to-reach populations, the address-based sample (ABS) was supplemented by telephone interviews with respondents who had previously completed interviews on the weekly random-digit dialing (RDD) SSRS Omnibus poll and online using the SSRS Opinion Panel, a probability-based panel.

A total of 3,177 respondents completed the questionnaire online, 83 by calling in to complete, and 356 were completed as outbound interviews.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, the samples were weighted to match the distribution of the population based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2020 Current Population Survey (CPS). Weighting parameters included: gender, age, education level, race/ethnicity, region, and party identification.

Characteristics of Population Subgroups: Households with Children Under 18

| | Number of interviews (unweighted) |
|---|--|
| HH w children | 1013 |
| By race/ethnicity | |
| HH w child <18/Latino | 299 |
| HH w child <18/Black | 164 |
| HH w child <18/Asian | 120 |
| HH w child <18/white | 364 |
| By household income (2020) | |
| HH w child <18/<\$50,000/year | 587 |
| HH w child <18/<\$50,000+/year | 513 |
| Households with children in k-12 last school year | 701 |
| Households with children ages 0 – 4 | 336 |
| Households with children ages 0 – 8 | 528 |
| By homeownership | |
| Home is rented | 461 |
| Home is owned | 549 |

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**EXPERIENCES OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN
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The survey was conducted for National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, online and via telephone (cellphone and landline) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese, **August 2 – September 7, 2021**, among a nationally representative, probability-based sample of 3,616 adults age 18 or older in the U.S., including 1,013 adults living with children under 18 years old. The margin of sampling error is ± 3.4 percentage points (national) and ± 6.0 percentage points (households with children) at the 95% confidence level.

The main part of the sample was address-based, with respondents sampled from the United States Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence (CDS) file. Sampled households were sent an invitation letter including a link to complete the survey online and a toll-free number that respondents could call to complete the survey with a telephone interviewer. In order to represent the hardest-to-reach populations, the address-based sample (ABS) was supplemented by telephone interviews with respondents who had previously completed interviews on the weekly random-digit dialing (RDD) SSRS Omnibus poll and online using the probability-based SSRS Opinion Panel. A total of 3,177 respondents completed the questionnaire online, 83 by calling in by telephone, and 356 were completed by outbound interviews.

Complete results from the national poll are [available online here](#).

Respondents who were the only person living in a household were asked about their own experiences. Respondents who had anyone else also living in their household were asked about the experiences of anyone living in the household. Together these responses represent the experience of the household.

| | Number of interviews (unweighted) | Margin of sampling error at the 95% confidence level (percentage points) |
|--|--|---|
| National total | 3,616 | ± 3.4 |
| Households with children under 18 | 1,013 | ± 6.0 |

In this survey, we'll be asking you about recent experiences and serious problems which may be facing you and people living with you. Most questions are about anyone living in your household, meaning you and anyone else currently living with you, whether or not they are a permanent resident at your address. By "serious problem," we mean something that creates great difficulty for you and people living in your household.

Q6. How would you describe your (own personal/household's) financial situation now compared to before the Covid-19 outbreak? Is your financial situation now better, worse, or about the same as it was before the Covid-19 outbreak?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Better (NET) | 19 | 16 |
| A lot better | 4 | 4 |
| A little better | 15 | 12 |
| Stay about the same | 49 | 45 |
| Worse (NET) | 32 | 38 |
| A little worse | 23 | 28 |
| A lot worse | 9 | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web Blank | * | * |

Q7. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) been having (INSERT ITEM), or not?

a. serious problems paying (your/the) rent or mortgage

| | Yes | No | Don't know/Refused/Web blank |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| National | 14 | 86 | * |
| Households with children <18 | 20 | 80 | * |

b. serious problems paying for utilities, like gas or electricity

| | Yes | No | Don't know/Refused/Web blank |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| National | 16 | 84 | * |
| Households with children <18 | 24 | 76 | * |

c. serious problems making car payments

| | Yes | No | Don't know/Refused/Web blank |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| National | 11 | 88 | 1 |
| Households with children <18 | 18 | 82 | * |

d. serious problems affording medical care

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refused/Web blank |
|--|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| National | 17 | 82 | 1 |
| Households with children <18 | 20 | 80 | * |

e. serious problems paying credit card bills, loans, or other debt

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refused/Web blank |
|--|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| National | 22 | 77 | 1 |
| Households with children <18 | 28 | 70 | 2 |

f. serious problems affording food

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refused/Web blank |
|--|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| National | 14 | 86 | * |
| Households with children <18 | 17 | 83 | 1 |

g. other serious financial problems

| | Yes | No | Don't know/ Refused/Web blank |
|--|-----|----|----------------------------------|
| National | 18 | 81 | 1 |
| Households with children <18 | 22 | 78 | * |

**Yes Summary Table
Based on total respondents**

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|--|----------|---------------------------------|
| Serious problems paying rent or mortgage | 14 | 20 |
| Serious problems paying for utilities, like gas or electricity | 16 | 24 |
| Serious problems making car payments | 11 | 18 |
| Serious problems affording medical care | 17 | 20 |
| Serious problems paying credit card bills, loans, or other debt | 22 | 28 |
| Serious problems affording food | 14 | 17 |
| Other serious financial problems | 18 | 22 |

Q7 Serious Financial Problems Summary Table
Based on total respondents

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|--|-----------------|--|
| One or more serious problem (NET) | 38 | 44 |
| None | 62 | 56 |

Q8. Currently, (do you/does your household) have any savings to fall back on, or not?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | 62 | 51 |
| No | 38 | 48 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * | 1 |

(Asked of respondents who do not currently have any savings to fall back on; national n=1275, households with children <18 n=480)

Q8a. And before the Covid-19 outbreak began, did (you/your household) have any savings to fall back on, or not?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | 50 | 55 |
| No | 50 | 45 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * | * |

Q8/Q8a Combo Table
Based on total respondents

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Yes, currently have savings to fall back on | 62 | 51 |
| No, currently does not have savings to fall back on | 38 | 48 |
| Had savings to fall back on before the COVID-19 outbreak | 19 | 26 |
| Did not have savings to fall back on before the COVID-19 outbreak | 19 | 22 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * | * |

Q9. In the past few months, federal and state governments have enacted programs to provide financial assistance to families across the country, including stimulus payments, expanded unemployment benefits, grants, loans, and other types of financial assistance. (Have you/Have you or anyone living in your household) been helped by any of these programs in the past few months, or not?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| Yes | 67 | 73 |
| No | 33 | 27 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * | * |

(Asked of respondents who have been helped by the federal or state government's financial aid programs; n=2365)

Q9a. (Have you/Have you or they) been helped a lot or a little by these programs?

Q9/Q9a Combo Table
Based on total respondents

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|--|----------|------------------------------|
| Have been helped by federal and state government programs enacted to provide financial assistance to families across the country (NET) | 67 | 73 |
| Been helped a lot by these programs | 23 | 27 |
| Been helped a little by these programs | 44 | 46 |
| Have not been helped by federal and state government programs enacted to provide financial assistance to families across the country | 33 | 27 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * | * |

Q23. (In/Now thinking about just yourself,) the past few months, have you been having serious problems meeting both your work and family responsibilities, or not?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | 24 | 36 |
| No | 75 | 64 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 1 | * |

Q38. Were any children living in your household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year, meaning 2020-2021?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | 27 | 71 |
| No | 72 | 28 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 1 | * |

(Asked of respondents who had any children living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=769)

Q38a. Did all children living in your household who were enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year attend school in-person for most of last school year?

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 40 |
| No | 60 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

(Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=701)

Q39. Last school year, do you think any children in your household fell behind in their learning because of the Covid-19 outbreak, or not?

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 69 |
| No | 31 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

(Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year and felt any children fell behind in learning; n=462)

Q39a. Do you think they fell behind a lot or a little bit?

Q39/Q39a Combo Table

Based on respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year (n=701)

| | National |
|---|-----------------|
| Think any children in the household fell behind in their learning because of the Covid-19 outbreak | 69 |
| Fell behind a lot | 36 |
| Fell behind a little | 33 |
| Do not think any children in the household fell behind in their learning because of the Covid-19 outbreak | 31 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

(Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year, will have any children enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade this fall, and felt any children fell behind in learning last school year; n=491)

Q40. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how difficult do you think it will be, if at all, for children in your household to catch up on education losses from last school year?

| | National |
|--|-----------------|
| Very/Somewhat difficult (NET) | 70 |
| Very difficult | 14 |
| Somewhat difficult | 56 |
| Not too/Not at all difficulty (NET) | 29 |
| Not too difficult | 27 |
| Not at all difficult | 3 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

(Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household; n=1,013)

Q41. In the past few months, have any children in your household experienced serious problems with depression, anxiety, or stress, or serious problems sleeping [PHONE ONLY, SHOW: “, or have no children living in your household experienced this?”]

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 36 |
| No | 64 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

(Asked of respondents who had any children currently living in their household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade last school year; n=701)

Q42. Thinking about last school year, how would you rate the quality of the education that children in your household received? Would you rate it as:

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Excellent/Good (NET) | 47 |
| Excellent | 13 |
| Good | 34 |
| Only fair/Poor (NET) | 52 |
| Only fair | 42 |
| Poor | 10 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web Blank | 1 |

(Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household who will be in K-12 this fall; n=838)

Q43. Thinking about the upcoming school year, do you plan to send any children in your household enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade to school in person this fall, or not?

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 88 |
| No | 10 |
| Don't Know/Refused/Web Blank | 2 |

(Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household who are planning not to send children in their household to school in person this fall; n=81)

Q43a. Are you planning not to send children in your household to school in person this fall because of concerns about Covid-19 at school, because you think the quality of their education would be better at home, or for some other reason?

| | National |
|--|-----------------|
| Concerned about Covid-19 at school | 35 |
| Think the quality of their education would be better at home | 48 |
| Other | 13 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 4 |

(Asked of Respondents who plan to send any children in their household to K-12 in-person next school year; n=747)

Q44. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how safe do you feel children in your household will be from getting Covid-19 at school? Would you say you feel they will be:

| | National |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Very/Somewhat safe (NET) | 67 |
| Very safe | 15 |
| Somewhat safe | 52 |
| Not too/Not at all safe (NET) | 33 |
| Not too safe | 25 |
| Not at all safe | 8 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web Blank | * |

(Asked of respondents who did not send all children to K-12 school in-person last school year and plan to send any children in their household to K-12 in-person next school year; n=429)

Q45. Thinking about the upcoming school year, how difficult do you think it will be, if at all, for children in your household to cope with going back to in-person schooling?

| | National |
|---|-----------------|
| Very/Somewhat difficult (NET) | 43 |
| Very difficult | 4 |
| Somewhat difficult | 39 |
| Not too/Not at all difficult (NET) | 55 |
| Not too difficult | 39 |
| Not at all difficult | 16 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web Blank | 2 |

(Asked of respondents with at least one child in the household; n=1,013)

Q46. In the past few months, (have you/have you or anyone living in your household) been having serious problems getting childcare when (you/adults) need to work, or not?

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 20 |
| No | 79 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 1 |

(Asked of respondents with a with a child ages 0-4 in their household; n=336)

Q47. In the past few months, (have you/have you or other adults in your household) been having serious problems finding daycare or preschool programs for children in your household, or not?

| | National |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Yes | 32 |
| No | 68 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | * |

Q58. Does your home have high-speed internet access, or not?

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Yes | 82 | 82 |
| No | 17 | 18 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 1 | * |

Q22. Currently, (are you/are you or anyone living in your household) having serious problems with your internet connection at home to do work or schoolwork, or not?

Q58. Does your home have high-speed internet access, or not?

Q22/Q58 Combo Table

Based on total respondents

| | National | Households with children <18 |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Having serious problems with internet connection at home OR don't have high-speed internet at home | 22 | 23 |
| No serious internet connection problem | 77 | 76 |
| Don't know/Refused/Web blank | 1 | * |

D5. Is the home where you are currently living owned or rented?

| | Owned | Rented | Don't know/ Refused/Web blank |
|--|--------------|---------------|--|
| National | 65 | 35 | * |
| Households with children <18 | 59 | 41 | * |