State by State: How are families in the U.S. using their Child Tax Credit payments?

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible families making less than $150,000 a year report using their payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families' bank account. These fact sheets include key data on CTC receipt, payment usage, and changes in families’ food security after the payments went out.

This report is currently composed of one national overview brief, 50 state briefs and a Washington D.C. brief. Puerto Rico and other territories are not included because while they are eligible for the expanded CTC, there is no provision for them to file for or receive advance payments. Additionally, the territories are not included in the Household Pulse Surveys so updated data about household impacts are not available for analysis.

To access these briefs as separate pages you can find the full list of states here. For more information and any media requests you can email us at socialpolicyinstitute@wustl.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How are American families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible American families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible U.S. families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of U.S. families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 30% mostly spent their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** Families’ most common uses of the CTC payments were purchasing food for their family (51%), followed by paying essential bills (36%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (30%).

**Key Finding 4:** The rate of severe food insecurity among eligible families dropped by almost 30% after the CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Over 60% of Asian/other, Black, and white families received the CTC, while 56% of Hispanic families did.

**Key Finding 6:** Usage of the CTC was similar across different racial/ethnic groups in the U.S., though Asian/other families were somewhat more likely to mostly spend the CTC while Black and Hispanic families were somewhat more likely to mostly use it to pay down debt.
How are Alabama families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

*Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD*

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Alabama families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 69% of eligible AL families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 49% of AL families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 26% mostly saved their CTC, and 25% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among AL families were purchasing food for their family (47%), school expenses (35%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (34%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible AL families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Families in the middle income category in AL were most likely to receive the CTC (71%) followed by families in the highest income category (69%).

Key Finding 6: Families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report saving their CTC payments.
How are Alaska families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Alaska families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 63% of eligible AK families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 47% of AK families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 23% mostly saved their CTC, and 30% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among AK families were purchasing food for their family (63%), managing bills (42%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (35%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible AK families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Families of all income categories in AK were similarly likely to receive the CTC (between 54% and 62%).

![CTC receipt (AK), by income](image)

**Key Finding 6:** Families in the middle income category were slightly more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the lowest income category were more likely to report spending their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (AK), by income](image)
How are Arizona families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Arizona families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 68% of eligible AZ families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of AZ families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 27% mostly saved their CTC, and 31% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among AZ families were purchasing food for their family (52%), managing bills (39%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (35%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible AZ families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Families of different races/ethnicities in AZ were similarly likely to receive the CTC (between 64% and 68%).

![CTC receipt (AZ), by race/ethnicity](image)

**Key Finding 6:** Black AZ families were more likely to mostly spend their CTC funds relative to other groups, while Hispanic families were more likely to report using their CTC payments to mostly pay down debt.

![CTC and balance sheets (AZ), by race/ethnicity](image)
How are Arkansas families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Arkansas families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 65% of eligible AR families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 41% of AR families reported mostly spending their CTC payment, 39% used their CTC to pay down debt, and 20% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among AR families were purchasing food for their family (54%), managing bills (50%), and housing costs (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible AR families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Families in the highest income category in AR were most likely to receive the CTC (79%) followed by families in the middle income category (65%).

![CTC receipt (AR), by income](chart)

Key Finding 6: Families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (AR), by income](chart)
How are California families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of California families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 59% of eligible CA families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 48% of CA families reported using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly spent it, and 24% mostly saved it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among CA families were purchasing food for their family (62%), managing bills (36%), and clothing costs (36%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible CA families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity were most likely to receive CTC payments (60%), followed by white (54%), Hispanic (52%), and Black (50%) families.

![CTC receipt by race/ethnicity chart]

**Key Finding 6:** Hispanic families were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while Black families were more likely to report spending their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets by race/ethnicity chart]
How are Colorado families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Colorado families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: Almost two-thirds of eligible CO families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 40% of CO families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly saved their CTC, and 32% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: CO families’ most common uses of the CTC payments were purchasing food for their family (51%), followed by paying for school expenses (30%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (29%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible CO families experienced slightly lower rates of food insecurity following the introduction of the CTC.
**Key Finding 5:** Almost 70% of higher-income CO families received the CTC, compared to around 60% of middle- and lower-income families.

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt by income](chart1.png)

**Sample size:** 572

**Key Finding 6:** Lower-income CO families were more likely to report mostly spending the CTC or mostly using it to pay down debt, while higher-income families were more likely to report mostly saving the CTC.

![Bar chart showing CTC and balance sheets by income](chart2.png)

**Sample size:** 364
How are Connecticut families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Connecticut families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 61% of eligible CT families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 48% of CT families reported using their CTC to mostly pay down debt, 27% mostly spent it, and 25% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among CT families were purchasing food for their family (50%), managing bills (39%), and housing costs (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible CT families experienced lower rates of moderate food insecurity after CTC payments went out, although rates of severe food insecurity increased.
**Key Finding 5:** Black CT families were most likely to receive CTC payments (81%), followed by Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity (74%).

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt by race/ethnicity]

**Key Finding 6:** Black families were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC payments.

![Bar chart showing CTC and balance sheets by race/ethnicity]
How are Delaware families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Delaware families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 65% of eligible DE families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 47% of DE families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 23% mostly saved their CTC, and 30% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among DE families were purchasing food for their family (69%), managing bills (32%), and paying for housing (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Food insecurity rates were roughly flat among DE families after the CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Around 70% of families in the middle and high income categories in DE received the CTC, while only 56% of those in the low income category did.

Key Finding 6: Over half of families in the low and high income categories mostly used the CTC to pay down debt, while those in the middle income category were more likely to mostly spend it.
How are Florida families using their Child Tax Credit payments?
Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Florida families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 60% of eligible FL families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 47% of FL families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 21% mostly saved their CTC, and 32% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among FL families were purchasing food for their family (56%), managing bills (37%), and paying the rent or mortgage (36%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible FL families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after the introduction of the CTC, as families moved from severe to moderate food insecurity.
**Key Finding 5:** White and Hispanic FL families were most likely to receive CTC payments (62%), followed Black (57%) families.

**CTC receipt (FL), by race/ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>61.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>61.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Other</td>
<td>48.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sample size: 839*

**Key Finding 6:** Black FL families were much more likely to use their CTC funds to mostly pay off debt relative to other groups, while Hispanic and white families were more likely than other groups to mostly save the CTC.

**CTC and balance sheets (FL), by race/ethnicity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Mostly spend it</th>
<th>Mostly pay off debt</th>
<th>Mostly save it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>68.3</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Other</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sample size: 514*
How are Georgia families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Georgia families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: Two-thirds of eligible GA families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 36% of GA families reported mostly spending their CTC payments, 35% mostly paid down debt, and 29% mostly saved it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among GA families were purchasing food for their family (53%), paying for school expenses (38%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (37%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible GA families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Asian GA families or those of some other race/ethnicity were most likely to receive CTC payments (81%), followed by white (70%) and Hispanic (64%) families.

![CTC receipt (GA), by race/ethnicity](chart)

Sample size: 626

Key Finding 6: Asian/other GA families were much more likely to spend their CTC payments compared to other groups, while Hispanic families were much more likely to report using their CTC payments to mostly pay down debt. Black and white GA families were fairly evenly split on the primary uses of the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets (GA), by race/ethnicity](chart)

Sample size: 411
How are Hawaii families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Hawaii families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 61% of eligible HI families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 35% of HI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 34% mostly saved their CTC, and 31% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among HI families were purchasing food for their family (63%), school expenses (38%), and managing bills (29%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible HI families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Families in the highest income category in HI were most likely to receive the CTC (74%), followed by families in the lowest income category (63%).

**Key Finding 6:** Families in the middle and high income category reported using their CTC for similar purposes (around 75% reported mostly paying down debt or mostly saving it), while those in the lowest income category were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC.
How are Idaho families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

*Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD*

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Idaho families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 67% of eligible ID families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 39% of ID families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt or save their CTC, and 22% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among ID families were purchasing food for their family (46%), paying down debt (29%), and covering clothing expenses (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible ID families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Families in the highest income category in ID were most likely to receive the CTC (83%), followed by families in the middle income category (70%).

![CTC receipt (ID), by income](chart.png)

**Key Finding 6:** Families in the lowest income category were slightly more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (ID), by income](chart2.png)
How are Indiana families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Indiana families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 70% of eligible IN families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of IN families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly saved their CTC, and 30% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among IN families were purchasing food for their family (43%), paying for school expenses (36%), and managing bills (36%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible IN families experienced slightly lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, though moderate food insecurity also increased slightly.
**Key Finding 5:** IN families in the highest income category were most likely to receive the CTC (78%), followed by those in the middle income category (70%).

![CTC receipt (IN), by income](chart)

**Key Finding 6:** Families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (IN), by income](chart)
How are Illinois families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Illinois families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Over two-thirds of eligible IL families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 44% of IL families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 34% mostly saved their CTC, and 23% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among IL families were purchasing food for their family (46%), managing bills (35%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (28%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible IL families experienced higher rates of food security coupled with lower rates of severe food insecurity after the CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Eligible Black and white IL families were the most likely to receive CTC payments (71-72%), followed by Asian families and those of some other race/ethnicity (63%). Only 53% of Hispanic families received the CTC.

![CTC receipt (IL), by race/ethnicity](chart)

Key Finding 6: Black IL families were more likely to save their CTC funds relative to other groups, while Hispanic families were much more likely to report using their CTC payments to mostly pay down debt and Asian/other families were more likely to mostly spend it.

![CTC and balance sheets (IL), by race/ethnicity](chart)
How are Iowa families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Iowa families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1**: Almost two-thirds of eligible IA families received the CTC.

![CTC receipt (IA)](image)

**Key Finding 2**: 39% of IA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

![CTC and balance sheets (IA)](image)

**Key Finding 3**: The most common uses of the CTC payments among IA families were purchasing food for their family (44%), managing bills (37%), and paying the rent/mortgage (27%).

![CTC usage (IA)](image)

**Key Finding 4**: Eligible IA families experienced higher rates of overall food security after CTC payments went out.

![Food insecurity experiences (IA)](image)
**Key Finding 5:** Middle-income IA families were most likely to receive CTC payments (71%), followed by high-income (65%) and low-income (54%) families.

**Key Finding 6:** Low-income IA families were much more likely to use their CTC to mostly pay off debt, while middle-income families were more likely to mostly spend the CTC and high-income families were most likely to save it.
How are Kansas families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Kansas families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 60% of eligible KS families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 42% of KS families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 34% mostly saved their CTC, and 25% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among KS families were purchasing food for their family (45%), managing bills (32%), and paying for their children’s school expenses (27%).

**Key Finding 4:** Food security was largely stable in KS families after CTC payments went out, with overall food security increasing slightly.
Key Finding 5: Receipt of the CTC was relatively similar regardless of household income, with 57% of lower-income and 63% of higher-income KS households receiving the CTC.

Key Finding 6: Lower-income KS families were much more likely than other groups to use the CTC mostly to pay off debt, while middle- and higher-income families were much more likely to mostly save the CTC.
How are Kentucky families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Kentucky families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 67% of eligible KY families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 38% of KY families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 25% mostly saved their CTC, and 37% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among KY families were purchasing food for their family (56%), managing bills (38%), and covering clothing costs (28%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible KY families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: KY families in the highest income category were most likely to receive the CTC (75%), followed by those in the middle income category (73%).

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt by income category](chart1.png)

Key Finding 6: Families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC payments.

![Bar chart showing CTC and balance sheets by income category](chart2.png)
How are Louisiana families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Louisiana families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 66% of eligible LA families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 38% of LA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly saved their CTC, and 34% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among LA families were purchasing food for their family (48%), school expenses (37%), and managing bills (34%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible LA families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** LA families in the highest income category were most likely to receive the CTC (76%), followed by those in the middle income category (69%).

**Key Finding 6:** Families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Maine families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Maine families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 65% of eligible ME families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 45% of ME families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among ME families were purchasing food for their family (46%), managing bills (38%), and making their rent/mortgage payments (32%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible ME families experienced higher rates of food security and much lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Roughly 60% of lower- and middle-income eligible ME families received the CTC, while almost 80% of higher-income families received it.

Key Finding 6: Lower-income ME families were more likely to report using the CTC to primarily pay down debt, while middle-income families were more likely to mostly save it and higher-income families were more likely to mostly spend it.
How are Maryland families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Maryland families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 65% of eligible MD families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 42% of MD families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 22% mostly saved their CTC, and 36% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among MD families were purchasing food for their family (51%), managing bills (46%), and paying for housing expenses (25%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible MD families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Black and white MD families had the highest rate of CTC receipt (67%), followed by Hispanic families (56%) and Asian families or those of other race/ethnicity (51%).

![CTC receipt by race/ethnicity chart]

**Key Finding 6:** Black MD families were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC payments. Hispanic families were more likely to mostly save it.

![CTC and balance sheets by race/ethnicity chart]
How are Massachusetts families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Massachusetts families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 65% of eligible MA families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 48% of MA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 26% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC among eligible MA families were purchasing food for their family (51%), housing costs (37%), and managing bills (34%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible MA families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Black, Hispanic, and white MA families received the CTC at similar rates (67%-68%), while 33% of Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity received the CTC.

Key Finding 6: Hispanic MA families were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC payments.
How are Michigan families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Michigan families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 61% of eligible MI families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of MI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 34% mostly saved their CTC, and 23% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among MI families were purchasing food for their family (46%), managing bills (34%), and paying the rent/mortgage (26%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible MI families experienced slightly lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: White MI families were most likely to receive CTC payments (62%), followed by Asian families or those of other races/ethnicities (53%) and Black (50%) families. Only 46% of Hispanic families received the CTC.

Key Finding 6: Black and Hispanic MI families were more likely to mostly use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while white families were more likely to save the CTC funds and Asian/other families were more likely to spend it.
How are Minnesota families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Minnesota families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible MN families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 36% of MN families reported mostly saving their CTC, 35% mostly spent their CTC, and 29% mostly paid down debt.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among MN families were purchasing food for their family (52%), managing bills (31%), and paying the rent/mortgage (24%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible MN families experienced somewhat higher rates of overall food security after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Between 71% and 76% of Asian/Other, Black, and Hispanic MN families received the CTC, as compared to 63% of white families.

![CTC receipt (MN), by race/ethnicity](chart1.png)

**Key Finding 6:** Black and Asian/Other MN families were more likely to report mostly spending their CTC payments, while Hispanic families were more likely to report mostly saving it. White families were relatively evenly split in how they used the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets (MN), by race/ethnicity](chart2.png)
How are Mississippi families using their Child Tax Credit payments?
Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Mississippi families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 63% of eligible MS families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 52% of MS families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 17% mostly saved their CTC, and 31% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among MS families were school expenses (48%) purchasing food for their family (47%), and managing bills (38%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible MS families experienced slightly higher rates of overall food security after CTC payments went out, though severe food insecurity increased as well.
**Key Finding 5:** MS families in the middle income category received the CTC at the highest rate (69%), followed by families in the highest income category (65%).

**Key Finding 6:** Majorities of MS families in the low and middle income categories used the CTC to mostly pay down debt, while a majority of those in the highest income category were mostly saved their CTC payments.
How are Missouri families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Missouri families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 66% of eligible MO families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 40% of MO families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 32% mostly saved their CTC, and 27% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among MO families were purchasing food for their family (45%), managing bills (32%), and covering clothing costs (28%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible MO families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: All income categories of MO families received the CTC at similar rates (63%-66%).

Key Finding 6: MO families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Montana families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

*Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD*

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Montana families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 63% of eligible MT families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 36% of MT families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 30% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments were purchasing food for their family (51%), managing bills (28%), and saving for the future (26%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible MT families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity following the introduction of the CTC.
**Key Finding 5:** Almost 80% of higher-income eligible MT families received the CTC, while 71% of middle-income and 44% of lower-income families received the CTC.

![CTC receipt, by income](chart)

**Sample size:** 306

**Key Finding 6:** Lower-income MT families were much more likely to mostly spend the CTC or mostly use it to pay down debt, while higher-income MT families were much more likely to mostly save the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets, by income](chart)

**Sample size:** 197
How are Nebraska families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Nebraska families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 63% of eligible NE families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 42% of NE families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 30% mostly saved their CTC, and 29% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among NE families were purchasing food for their family (48%), managing bills (31%), and covering clothing costs (28%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible NE families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** NE families in the highest income category received the CTC at the highest rate (75%), followed by families in the middle income category (66%).

**Key Finding 6:** NE families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Nevada families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Nevada families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: Almost 61% of eligible NV families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: Over half of NV families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 30% mostly spent their CTC, and 20% mostly saved it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among NV families were purchasing food for their family (62%), managing bills (50%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (42%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible NV families experienced slightly higher rates of food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Eligible NV Asian families and those of some other race/ethnicity were most likely to receive CTC payments (66%), followed by white (64%) and Hispanic (58%) families.

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt (NV), by race/ethnicity](chart)

**Key Finding 6:** Black NV families were much more likely to mostly spend their CTC funds relative to other groups, while Hispanic families were much more likely to report using their CTC payments to mostly pay down debt. White families were the most likely to mostly save the CTC.

![Bar chart showing CTC and balance sheets (NV), by race/ethnicity](chart)
How are New Hampshire families using their Child Tax Credit payments?
Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use the Census Household Pulse to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible New Hampshire families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period when the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 71% of eligible NH families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 41% of NH families reported mostly saving their CTC, 31% mostly used it to pay down debt, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among NH families were purchasing food for their family (31%), saving for the future (29%), and paying essential bills (24%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible NH families experienced higher rates of overall food security and much lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Eligible middle-income NH families were most likely to receive the CTC (83%), followed by higher-income (70%) and lower-income (62%) families.

Key Finding 6: Lower-income NH families were more likely to report mostly paying off debt with their CTC, while middle-income families were more likely to report saving the CTC. Higher-income NH families were almost as likely to mostly spend their CTC as mostly save it or mostly pay down debt.
How are New Jersey families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible New Jersey families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 60% of eligible NJ families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** Almost half of NJ families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly saved their CTC, and 24% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among NJ families were purchasing food for their family (50%), managing bills (32%), and paying down debt (30%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible NJ families experienced higher rates of food security and lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: Black NJ families were most likely to receive CTC payments (76%), followed by white (63%) and Hispanic (54%) families. Only 44% of Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity received the CTC.

![CTC receipt (NJ), by race/ethnicity](chart)

Sample size: 331

Key Finding 6: Black and Hispanic NJ families were much more likely to use their CTC funds mostly on paying down debt relative to other groups, while white families were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments and Asian/other families were more likely to report mostly spending the payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (NJ), by race/ethnicity](chart)

Sample size: 202
How are New Mexico families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of New Mexico families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 63% of eligible NM families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 37% of NM families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 31% mostly saved their CTC, and 32% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among NM families were purchasing food for their family (46%), clothing costs (43%), and school expenses (38%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible NM families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** NM families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (72%), followed by families in the lowest income category (63%).

![CTC receipt (NM), by income](chart)

**Key Finding 6:** NM families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (NM), by income](chart)
How are New York families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible New York families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: Almost 60% of eligible NY families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 39% of NY families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 31% mostly spent their CTC, and 30% mostly saved it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among NY families were purchasing food for their family (48%), managing bills (38%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (34%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible NY families much higher rates of overall food security and lower rates of severe food insecurity after the CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** White NY families were most likely to receive CTC payments (60%), followed by Black (54%) and Hispanic (52%) families. Only a third of Asian families or families of some other race/ethnicity received the CTC.

![CTC receipt (NY), by race/ethnicity](image)

**Key Finding 6:** Black, Asian, and families of some other race/ethnicity were more likely to mostly use their CTC funds to pay down debt, while Hispanic families were more likely to mostly spend or save their CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets (NY), by race/ethnicity](image)
How are North Carolina families using their Child Tax Credit payments?  
Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of North Carolina families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 62% of eligible NC families received the CTC.  
**Key Finding 2:** 43% of NC families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 30% mostly saved their CTC, and 27% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among NC families were purchasing food for their family (50%), managing bills (38%), and clothing costs (34%).  
**Key Finding 4:** Eligible NC families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.

---

**CTC receipt (NC)**

- Not received: 61.5%
- Received: 38.5%

Sample size: 459

**CTC and balance sheets (NC)**

- Mostly spend it: 26.5%
- Mostly pay off debt: 43.1%
- Mostly save it: 30.4%

Sample size: 301

**CTC usage (NC)**

- Food: 49.8%
- Essential bills: 37.5%
- Clothing: 33.5%
- School expenses: 28.1%
- Rent/mortgage: 23.3%
- Pay down debt: 21.4%
- Savings/investment: 14.3%
- Child care: 14.3%
- Other: 5.3%
- Gifts/travel/recreation: 4.4%
- Tutoring/after-school programs: 3.3%
- Charity/family support: 1.5%

Sample size: 304

**Food insecurity experiences (NC)**

- Secure: 65.4%
- Insecure, moderate: 25.0%
- Insecure, severe: 7.3%

Sample size (Pre-CTC, week 30-33): 833; Sample size (Post-CTC, week 34-33): 459

---

Social Policy Institute
Child Tax Credit Usage | September, 2021
**Key Finding 5:** NC families in the highest income category received the CTC at the highest rate (70%), followed by families in the middle income category (68%).

![CTC receipt (NC), by income](chart1)

**Key Finding 6:** NC families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the middle and high income categories were roughly evenly split in their main uses of the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets (NC), by income](chart2)
How are North Dakota families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of North Dakota families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 69% of eligible ND families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 52% of ND families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 21% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among ND families were purchasing food for their family (55%), managing bills (29%), and paying down debt (28%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible ND families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out. Overall food security increased substantially.
Key Finding 5: ND families in the middle income category received the CTC at the highest rate (72%), followed by families in the lowest income category (69%).

Key Finding 6: ND families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Ohio families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Ohio families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 67% of eligible OH families received the CTC.  
Key Finding 2: 43% of OH families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 31% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among OH families were purchasing food for their family (47%), managing bills (40%), and clothing costs (32%).  
Key Finding 4: Eligible OH families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** OH families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (83%), followed by families in the middle income category (70%).

**Key Finding 6:** OH families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Oklahoma families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Oklahoma families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 63% of eligible OK families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 42% of OK families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly saved their CTC, and 29% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among OK families were purchasing food for their family (57%), managing bills (43%), and clothing costs (42%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible OK families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** OK families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (68%), followed by families in the lowest income category (61%).

![CTC receipt (OK), by income graph]

**Key Finding 6:** OK families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the middle and highest income categories were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (OK), by income graph]
How are Oregon families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Oregon families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 61% of eligible OR families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of OR families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 28% mostly saved their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among OR families were purchasing food for their family (56%), managing bills (36%), and paying for housing costs (34%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible OR families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** OR families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (74%), followed by families in the middle income category (68%). However, less than 50% in the lowest income category received it.

![CTC receipt (OR), by income](chart)

**Key Finding 6:** OR families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (OR), by income](chart)
How are Pennsylvania families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Pennsylvania families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible PA families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of PA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly spent their CTC, and 28% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among PA families were purchasing food for their family (41%), managing bills (37%), and paying down debt (26%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible PA families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity, as more families moved from severe insecurity to moderate insecurity.
Key Finding 5: Black PA families were most likely to receive CTC payments (73%), followed by Hispanic (64%) and Asian/Other (60%) families.

Key Finding 6: Black PA families were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt than other groups, while Hispanic and white families were much more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Rhode Island families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Rhode Island families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 72% of eligible RI families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of RI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly saved their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among RI families were purchasing food for their family (47%), managing bills (42%), and clothing expenses (41%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible RI families experienced lower rates of moderate food insecurity after CTC payments, though severe food insecurity increased as well.
**Key Finding 5:** RI families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (88%), followed by families in the middle income category (68%).

![CTC receipt (RI), by income](image)

**Key Finding 6:** RI families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (RI), by income](image)

Sample size: 205

Sample size: 137
How are South Carolina families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of South Carolina families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 67% of eligible SC families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 41% of SC families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 23% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among SC families were purchasing food for their family (44%), school expenses (33%), and managing bills (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible SC families experienced slightly lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.

---

Social Policy Institute
Child Tax Credit Usage | September, 2021
**Key Finding 5:** SC families in the middle and upper income categories received the CTC at a similar rate (71%), while 62% of those in the lowest income category received the CTC.

**Key Finding 6:** SC families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are South Dakota families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
*Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD*

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of South Dakota families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 73% of eligible SD families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 40% of SD families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 32% mostly saved their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among SD families were purchasing food for their family (52%), managing bills (36%), and clothing costs (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible SD families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: SD families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (88%), followed by families in the lowest income category (70%).

![CTC receipt (SD), by income]

**Sample size:** 288

Key Finding 6: SD families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

![CTC and balance sheets (SD), by income]

**Sample size:** 224
How are Tennessee families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Tennessee families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible TN families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 48% of TN families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly spent their CTC, and 24% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among TN families were purchasing food for their family (52%), managing bills (37%), and paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (33%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible TN families experienced less moderate food insecurity after CTC payments went out, while rates of severe food insecurity remained the same.
**Key Finding 5:** 79% of TN Asian families or families of a different race/ethnicity received the CTC, as did 72% of Hispanic families and almost 60% of white and Black families.

**Key Finding 6:** Asian/other families were more likely to mostly spend the CTC than other groups, while Hispanic families were more likely to mostly use it for debt and white families were more likely to mostly save it.

---

**CTC receipt (TN), by race/ethnicity**

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt by race/ethnicity](chart.png)

Sample size: 420

---

**CTC and balance sheets (TN), by race/ethnicity**

![Bar chart showing CTC usage by race/ethnicity](chart2.png)

Sample size: 268
How are Texas families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Texas families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible TX families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of TX families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly spent their CTC, and 22% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among TX families were purchasing food for their family (50%), managing bills (39%), and paying for school expenses (37%) or clothing/other essentials for their children (35%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible TX families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, as many families went from severe to moderate food insecurity.
**Key Finding 5:** Regardless of race/ethnicity, eligible TX families received the CTC at similar rates.

![Bar chart showing CTC receipt by race/ethnicity]

**Key Finding 6:** Black and white TX families reported using the CTC in similar ways, while Hispanic families were least likely to report mostly saving the CTC and Asian/other families were the most likely to report mostly saving it.

![Bar chart showing CTC and balance sheets by race/ethnicity]

Sample size: 1440

Sample size: 950
How are Utah families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Utah families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 70% of eligible UT families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 37% of UT families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 39% mostly saved their CTC, and 25% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among UT families were purchasing food for their family (45%), contributing to savings or investments (29%), and paying down debt (28%).

**Key Finding 4:** Food insecurity rates were largely flat among eligible UT families after the CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** UT families in the middle income category received the CTC at the highest rate (71%), followed by families in the highest income category (69%).

**Key Finding 6:** UT families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the middle and highest income categories were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.
How are Vermont families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Vermont families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 77% of eligible VT families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 45% of VT families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 30% mostly saved their CTC, and 25% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among VT families were purchasing food for their family (44%), paying for housing costs (25%), and managing bills (22%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible VT families experienced much lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, as well as a large increase in overall food security.
**Key Finding 5:** VT families in all income categories received the CTC at similar rates (71%-79%).

![CTC receipt (VT), by income](chart)

**Key Finding 6:** Roughly half of VT families in the low and middle income categories used their CTC to mostly pay down debt, while those in the high income category were more fairly evenly split in their usage of the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets (VT), by income](chart)
How are Virginia families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 70% of eligible VA families received the CTC.

![CTC receipt (VA)](image)

Sample size: 570

**Key Finding 2:** 37% of VA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 32% mostly spent their CTC, and 31% mostly saved it.

![CTC and balance sheets (VA)](image)

Sample size: 396

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among VA families were purchasing food for their family (51%), managing bills (34%), and paying their rent/mortgage (29%).

![CTC usage (VA)](image)

Sample size: 396

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible VA families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, as families shifted from severe to moderate food insecurity.

![Food insecurity experiences (VA)](image)

Sample size (Pre-CTC, week 30-33): 1143; Sample size (Post-CTC, week 34-35): 570
**Key Finding 5:** Black VA families were most likely to receive CTC payments (74%), followed by Asian families and those of other races/ethnicities (72%) and white (70%) families. Fewer than half of Hispanic VA families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 6:** Black and white VA families reported using CTC funds in similar ways, while Hispanic families were much more likely to report using their CTC payments to mostly pay down debt and Asian/other families were more likely to report mostly spending the CTC.
How are Washington families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Washington families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 60% of eligible WA families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 42% of WA families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 31% mostly saved their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among WA families were purchasing food for their family (53%), managing bills (36%), and housing costs (35%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible WA families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
Key Finding 5: WA Asian families or those of some other race/ethnicity and white families received the CTC at similar rates (63%-64%), followed by 55% of Black families. Fewer than half of Hispanic families received the CTC.

Key Finding 6: Usage of the CTC was similar across different racial/ethnic groups in WA, though Hispanic families were slightly more likely to mostly save or mostly pay down debt with the CTC.
How are Washington, D.C. families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Washington, D.C. families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 50.4% of eligible DC families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 59% of DC families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 25% mostly saved their CTC, and 15% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among DC families were managing bills (51%), clothing costs (49%), and purchasing food for their family (47%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible DC families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out. Overall food security increased substantially.
How are West Virginia families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this brief, we use the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible West Virginia families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** Almost 70% of eligible WV families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of WV families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 37% mostly spent their CTC, and 20% mostly saved it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments were purchasing food for their family (52%), paying for clothing and other essentials for their children (39%), and managing bills (38%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible WV families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, as families moved from severe to moderate food insecurity.
**Key Finding 5:** Middle-income WV families were most likely to receive CTC payments (78%), followed by higher-income (69%) and lower-income (67%) families.

![CTC receipt, by income](image)

**Key Finding 6:** Lower-income WV families were more likely to use the CTC to mostly pay down debt, while middle- and higher-income families were more likely to mostly spend or mostly save the CTC.

![CTC and balance sheets, by income](image)
How are Wisconsin families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Wisconsin families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

**Key Finding 1:** 70% of eligible WI families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 39% of WI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among WI families were purchasing food for their family (49%), housing costs (32%), and managing bills (29%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible WI families experienced a lower rate of moderate food insecurity and a higher rate of overall food security after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Those in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (75%) followed by those in the middle income category (71%).

**Key Finding 6:** WI families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving CTC funds.
How are Wyoming families using their Child Tax Credit payments?
Evidence from Census Data
Stephen Roll, PhD; Yung Chun, PhD; Laura Brugger, MA; Leah Hamilton, PhD

The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with $3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and $3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Wyoming families making less than $150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families’ bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 67% of eligible WY families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 39% of WY families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 27% mostly saved their CTC, and 35% mostly spent it.

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among WY families were purchasing food for their family (63%), managing bills (33%), and covering clothing costs (29%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible WY families experienced higher rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out.
**Key Finding 5:** Those in the highest income category received the CTC at the highest rate (83%) followed by those in the middle income category (57%).

![CTC receipt (WY), by income chart]

**Key Finding 6:** WY families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving CTC funds.

![CTC and balance sheets (WY), by income chart]