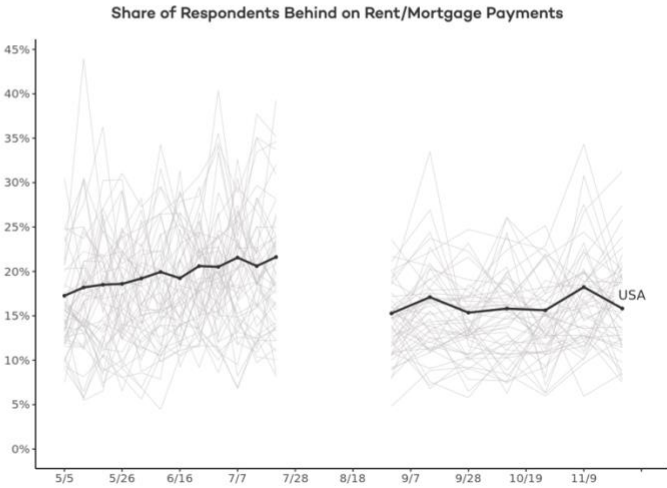
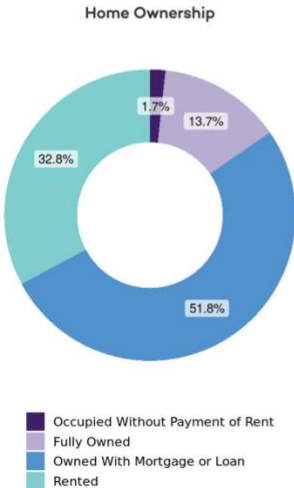


# Household Pulse Survey

Using the App | Notes on the Data

Housing in USA for Respondents With Children



## Household Pulse Survey Results: Exploring Seven Key Topics

**Diane Schanzenbach**, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

**Natalie Tomeh**, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

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Graphic: Snapshot of housing data from the application, 21 December 2020

## “Household Pulse Survey Results: Exploring Seven Key Topics”

by Diane Schanzenbach and Natalie Tomeh

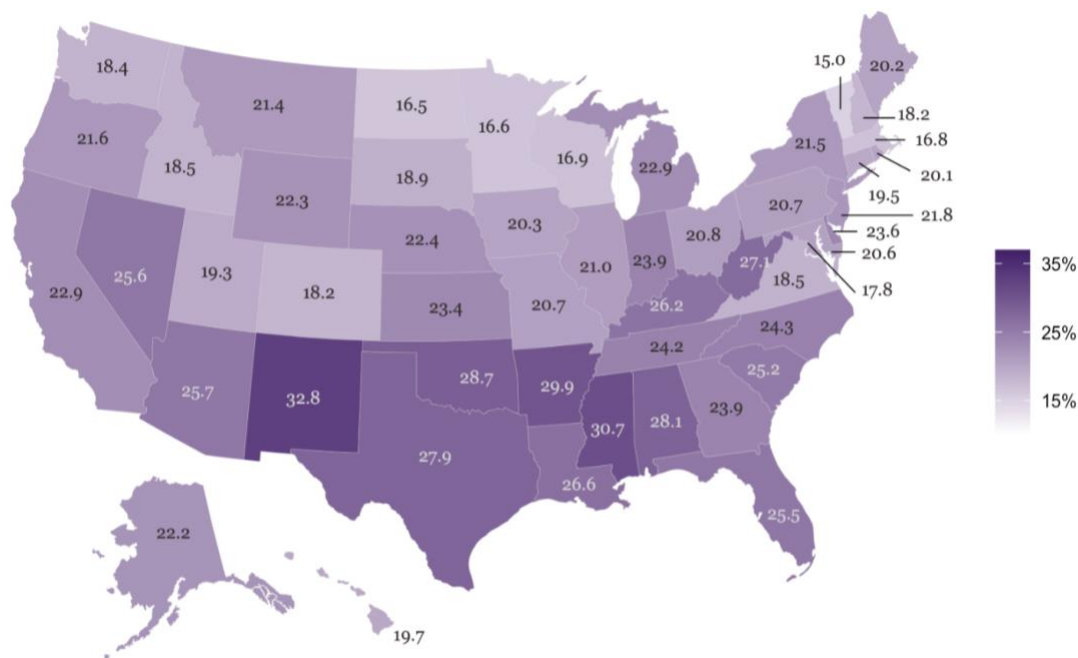
### Introduction

During the COVID-19 crisis, rates of food insecurity, employment income loss, and housing non-payments have been high. People have been reporting difficulty in paying for usual household expenses, and feelings of anxiety and worry increased. According to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey from April 23–November 23, on average nearly 54% of respondents and more than 60% of those with children reported losing employment income. We estimate that 22.1% of all respondents and 28.9% of respondents with children experienced food insecurity.

### Food Insecurity and Housing Payment Rates Vary Widely

The Census Household Pulse Survey asks respondents to characterize food availability in their households, which we use to estimate rates of food insecurity as described in earlier work. As shown in the map in Figure 1 below, estimated rates of food insecurity from October 28 – November 23 vary widely across states, ranging from a low of 15% in Vermont to a high of 32.8% in New Mexico.

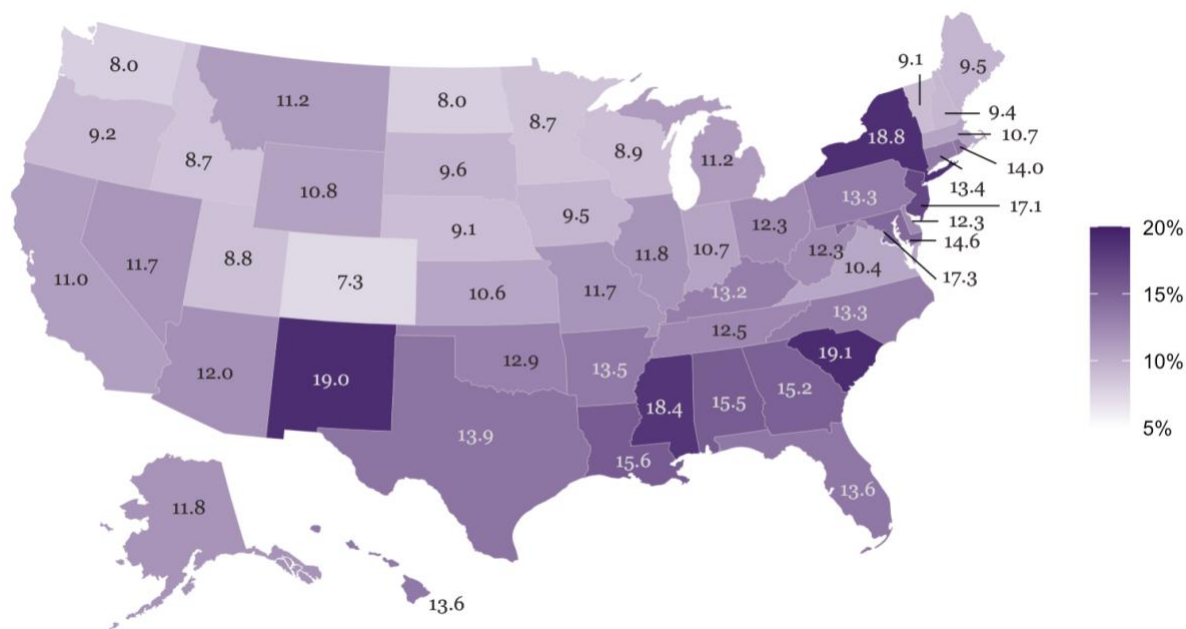
Figure 1: Average Rates of Food Insecurity October 28–November 23 by State, All Respondents



Food insecurity also differs across racial and ethnic groups, with an average food insecurity rate from April 23–November 23 of 31.3% among Black respondents, 30.2% among Hispanic or Latino respondents, 18.3% among White respondents and 18.8% among Asian respondents. Among respondents with children, food insecurity is uniformly higher.

The Census Household Pulse also asks respondents if they are currently caught up on their rent or mortgage payments. The share of respondents reporting they are behind on their rent or mortgage payments in surveys spanning October 28–November 23 is 12.7% nationwide. As seen in Figure 2, rates vary by state as well. In eight states—Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and South Carolina—as well as Washington, D.C., more than 15% of respondents report being behind on housing payments.

**Figure 2: Average Rates of Rent/Mortgage Delay or Non-Payment from October 28–November 23, All Respondents**



**New App Allows Users to Visually Explore Results by State on Seven Key Topics**

We have created an [application](#) to allow users to explore visualizations of the results of the Household Pulse Survey over time for each state and among different racial and ethnic groups for seven key topics:

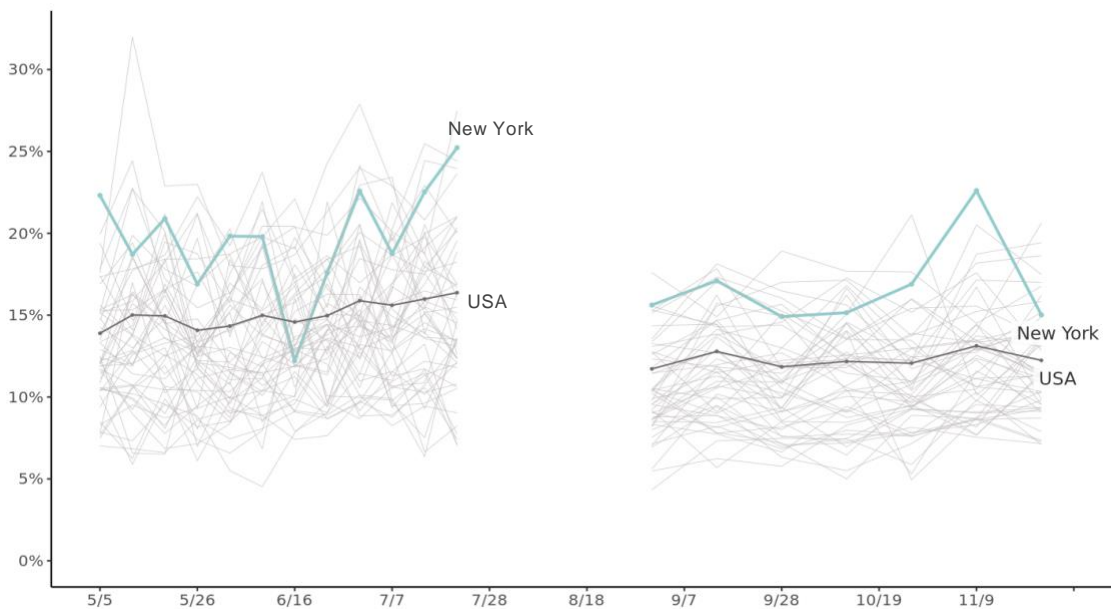
- food insecurity,
- employment,
- housing,
- expectations,

- mental health,
- finances, and
- children’s education.

The app allows users to display estimates of variables over time for individual states. Note that from April 23–July 21, the Census Household Pulse reported data weekly. In late August, the Census Household Pulse was relaunched with a two-week survey period that allowed for more opportunities for follow-up with potential respondents and substantially increased the response rate.

Figure 3 provides an example of the data available for visualization in the app. Here, it shows rates of respondents who indicate that they are behind on their rent or mortgage payments in New York (in blue) and the United States (in black). The thin gray lines on the graph represent the data for the other 49 states and Washington, D.C. The app displays the estimated rate in each survey period, but users should note that there is substantial sampling variation and not all across-week changes are statistically meaningful.

**Figure 3: Rates of Rent/Mortgage Delay or Non-Payment from April 23–November 23, All Respondents in New York and the U.S.**



Note that we transform the Census Household Pulse Survey’s question on food sufficiency in the household to the more-familiar rate of food insecurity, as described in the “Notes on the Data” button on the app. The data are weighted at the respondent level and represent respondents’ reports about their household’s food security status.

Also, note that “employment” is measured as the percentage of all respondents who reported having completed work for pay or profit in the past seven days, and is not limited to those who report being in the labor force.

*Read a [summary](#) of this report. Additional IPR Rapid Research Reports and their food insecurity app can be found [here](#).*

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