



COVID-19

IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS



ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a nonprofit social research firm dedicated to helping people build better communities by collecting meaningful data, facilitating information-based planning, and developing custom strategies. The firm was founded on the principle that community improvement, initiative sustainability, and program success are closely tied to assessment needs, evaluation of community goals, and development of appropriate responses.

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Kim Carpenter, Ph.D.
Manya Jyotishi, Ph.D.
Chandrika Rao, M.S.
Javier Salcedo
Jamie Norton

LOCATIONS

Bay Area:
1871 The Alameda, Suite 180
San Jose, CA 95126
tel 408-247-8319

Sacramento:
2351 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 170-187
Rocklin, CA 95765
tel (916) 827-2811

Central Coast:
55 Penny Lane, Suite 101
Watsonville, CA 95076
tel 831-728-1356

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FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA: COVID-19 IMPACT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

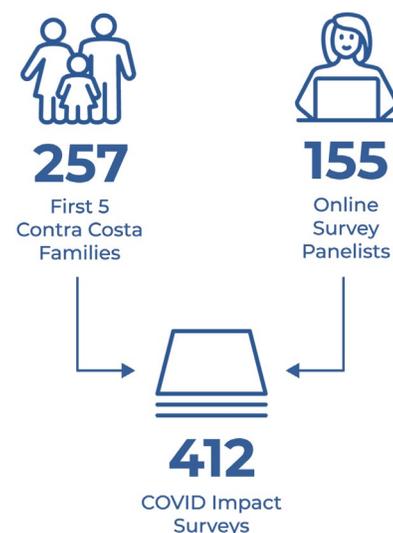
First 5 Contra Costa is invested in supporting the early development and wellbeing of children zero to five and their families with the aim of fostering every child's optimal development. In staying committed to their mission, First 5 Contra Costa wanted to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on families in the county and to provide solutions to address family needs during the county-wide shelter-in-place (SIP) order through direct service and advocacy.

Thus, the COVID-19 Impact Survey aimed to gather information on how COVID-19 has affected living situations, employment, childcare needs, and the general wellbeing of families with children zero to five in the county, as well as to identify what parents need to help support children and families through this public health pandemic.

SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGY

Applied Survey Research (ASR) administered the online COVID-19 Impact Survey to 412 respondents in English (81%) and in Spanish (19%) from June 15, 2020 to July 22, 2020. ASR invited two different sets of parents to complete the survey: 1) parents who had accessed First 5 Contra Costa services and provided consent to be contacted via email or text message (i.e., the First 5 sample, 62% of the full sample), and 2) a broader county-wide sample of parents not connected to First 5 Contra Costa (i.e., the Panel sample, 38% of the full sample). The survey consisted of 34 questions, which averaged eight minutes for respondents to complete. Respondents received a cash or a gift card incentive ranging from eight to 15 dollars.

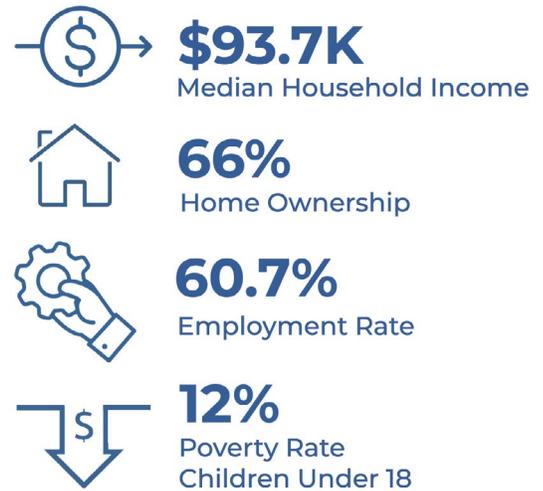
The survey results need to be interpreted with consideration of the online method and selection process. First 5 participants were limited to those who provided consent to be contacted, had a valid email or text number on file, and had a Wi-Fi or internet connection via phone, tablet, or computer to complete the survey. Thus, limited access of the most vulnerable families to the survey may underestimate the full impact of the SIP order on families. As described in the next section, oversampling occurred of the specific demographic groups that First 5 serves (parents who identify as Hispanic/Latinx, with Spanish as their primary language, with an annual family income under \$50,000, and renting their home). To aid interpretation of the results, ASR reported significant differences among groups as proportional differences (e.g., percent of the First 5 respondents who lost employment compared to the percent of Panel respondents who lost employment).



DEMOGRAPHICS

County Estimates

The 2018 US Census population estimates¹ for the county place the median household income at \$93,712, the home ownership rate at sixty six percent, the employment rate at sixty-one percent, and the poverty rate for children under 18 at twelve percent. The county Hispanic/Latinx population is estimated at twenty-five percent, and the population's racial demographics are reported as: fifty-seven percent White, sixteen percent Asian, nine percent Black or African American, ten percent other race, and seven percent two or more races.

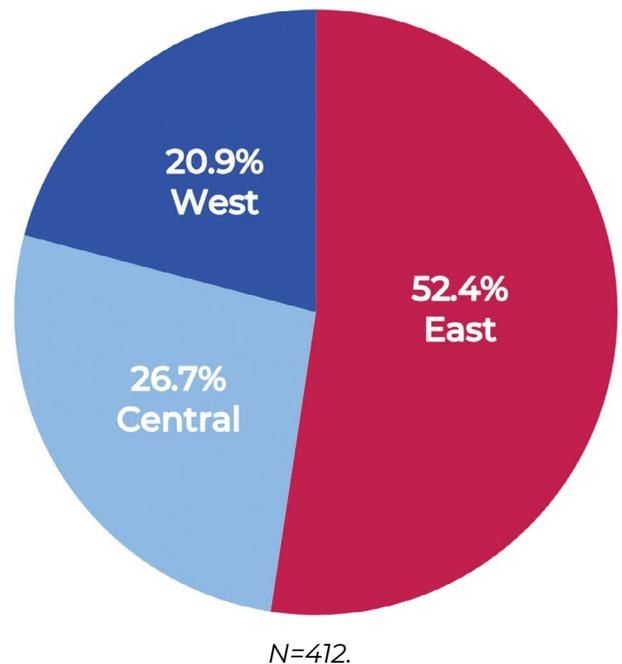


Where demographic comparisons of the county estimates and online survey sample were possible, those who took the survey represented a higher proportion of people in the county who reported Spanish as their primary language, identified as Hispanic/Latinx, reported low income (below \$50,000 annually), and reported being renters (see Appendix A for a demographic comparison table). The Panel sample is similar to the county estimate for percent with an annual income below \$50,000 (36% Panel vs. 33% County) and includes a higher percentage of non-Hispanic parents who identified English as their primary language. Major family demographics are summarized below with sample and regional breakouts included in Appendix A.

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

Region of County

Approximately half (52%) of the survey respondents resided in the East region of the county including the areas from Bay Point to Brentwood. Just over a quarter (27%) resided in the Central region including the areas from Concord to San Ramon, while a fifth (21%) resided in the West region including the areas from Richmond to Hercules. The following heat map of Contra Costa County shows the number of survey respondents from each zip code, with the highest concentration of respondents near Pittsburg/Bay Point (n=82) and near Antioch (n=75) in the East region. Additionally, a majority of First 5 respondents resided in the East region (60%), which was significantly more than that of the Panel respondents (39%).



¹<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=Contra%20Costa%20County,%20California&g=05000000US06013>

EXHIBIT 1. COVID IMPACT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS BY ZIP CODE

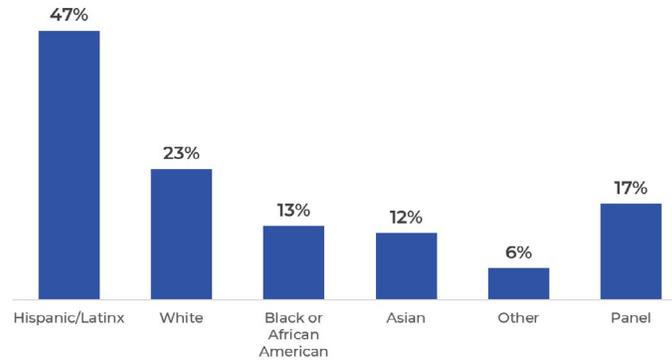


Note. Numbers on the map represent the number of survey respondents from each city and zip code.

EXHIBIT 2. RACE AND ETHNICITY

Race and Ethnicity

Nearly half (47%) of all survey respondents identified as Hispanic/Latinx, with a majority (65%) of First 5 respondents identifying as Hispanic/Latinx and half (55%) of the in the East region respondents. Nearly a quarter (23%) of all respondents identified as White with an additional twelve percent identifying as Asian.

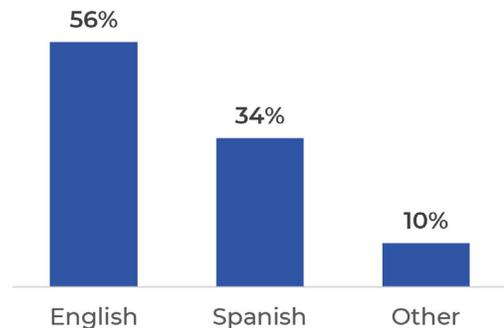


Notes: N=411. 'Other' race/ethnicity categories included American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Lebanese, Middle Eastern, North African, and multiracial.

EXHIBIT 3. PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Primary Language

Over half (56%) of respondents selected English as their family's primary language while a third (34%) selected Spanish. Larger proportions of survey respondents living in the East (38%) and West (42%) regions selected Spanish compared to respondents in the Central Region (19%). Families who indicated Spanish as their primary language accounted for half of the First 5 respondents (51%).

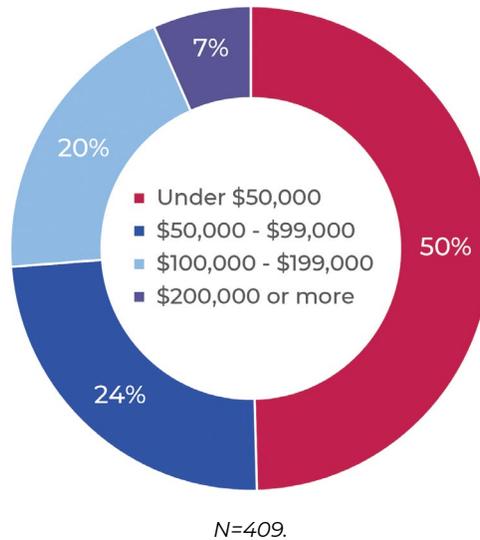


Notes: N=412. 'Other' language included Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Arabic, Hindi, Bulgarian, Berber, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian and Kinyarwanda.

Family Annual Income Before COVID-19

Half (50%) of all respondents reported a family annual income under \$50,000, with an even higher proportion of First 5 families (58%) earning under \$50,000 compared to that of the Panel (36%). Higher proportions of respondents earning \$200,000 or more were found in the Central region (12%) compared to the East region (3%). There were also important differences by ethnicity/race in the percent of respondents reporting income under \$50,000; specifically, Hispanic/Latinx (66%) and Black/African American (53%) respondents reported the highest percentage while White (31%) and Asian (21%) respondents reported the lowest percentage in the survey sample.

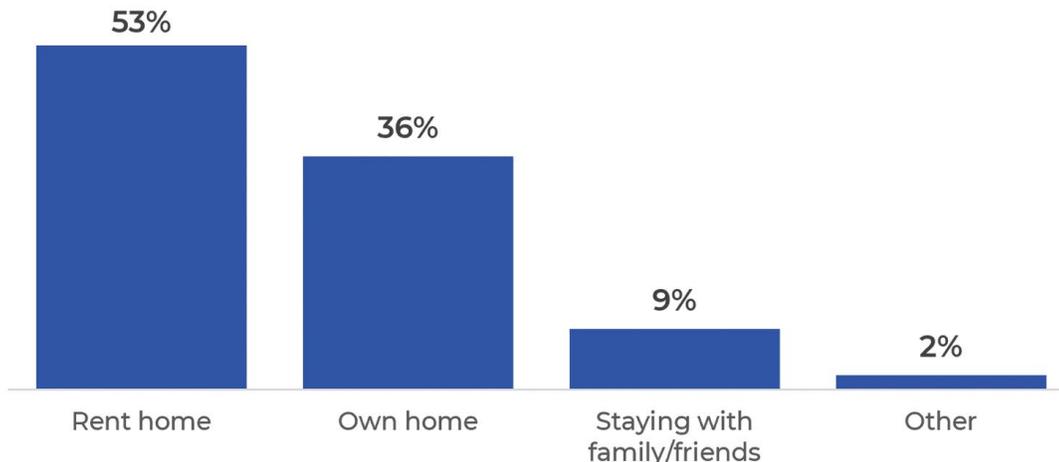
EXHIBIT 4. FAMILY ANNUAL INCOME



Living Situation

Just over half (53%) of all respondents reported renting their residence, contrasted with one-third (36%) who reported owning their own home. A higher proportion of First 5 respondents paid rent compared to that of the Panel (58% vs. 44%, respectively). Living situation did not differ by region of the county.

EXHIBIT 5. LIVING SITUATION



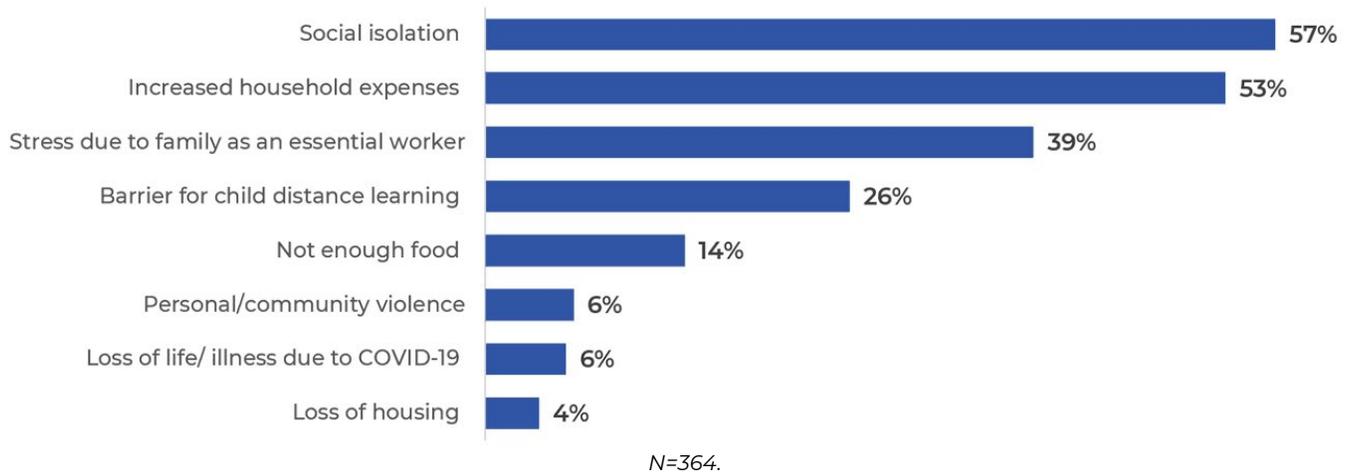
Notes: N=411. 'In a shelter' was an option that was not selected by any respondent.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILIES

GENERAL DIFFICULTIES

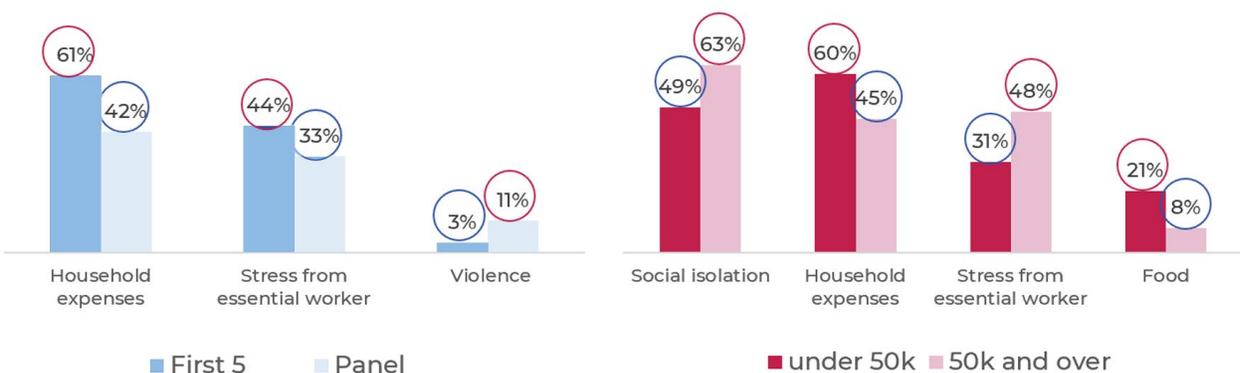
Over half of the respondents reported experiencing social isolation (57%) and higher household expenses (53%) during the shelter-in-place order. Four out of 10 respondents also reported stress related to a family member being an essential worker. One out of four (26%) respondents indicated facing barriers to providing their child with distance learning, such as having a poor internet connection.

EXHIBIT 6. DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO COVID-19 REPORTED BY FAMILIES



Three out of five First 5 respondents reported increased household expenses (61%), and over two out of five reported stress associated with a family member being an essential worker (44%). Both concerns were more often raised by First 5 respondents than respondents in the Panel (42% for expenses and 33% for stress). Conversely, a higher proportion of Panel respondents reported instances of personal and community violence (11%), compared to those of the First 5 sample (3%). Finally, respondents from the West region were more likely to report not having enough food compared to respondents residing in the Central region (23% vs. 10%, respectively).

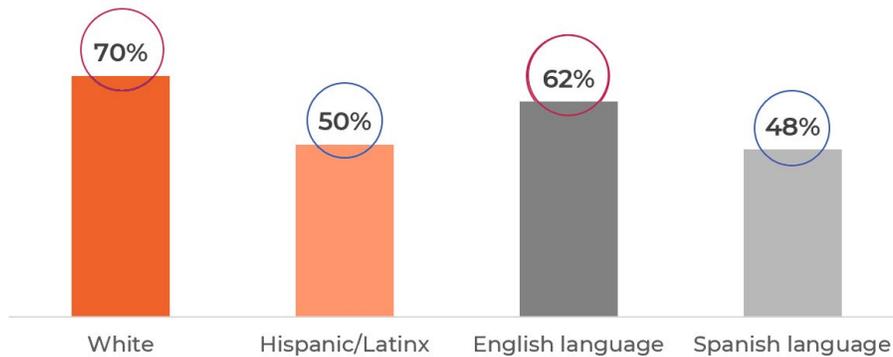
EXHIBIT 7. DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO COVID-19 BY SAMPLE AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS



Notes: First 5 n=215; Panel n=149; Under 50k n=179; 50k and over n=183. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

The relative frequency of difficulties reported differed markedly by family annual income. Three out of five (60%) respondents with a family income under \$50,000 experienced an increase in household expenses as a result of the SIP order while one out of five (21%) reported not having enough food. Both difficulties were more likely reported by a respondent with a family annual income under \$50,000 compared to those earning \$50,000 or more. Respondents who earned \$50,000 or more were more likely to indicate difficulty with social isolation (63%) and stress associated with a family member being an essential worker (48%). Social isolation also differed by race/ethnicity and primary language groups. Seven out of 10 (70%) White respondents and three out of five (62%) respondents who indicated English as a primary language reported it as a problem compared to half of the respondents identifying as Hispanic/Latinx (50%) or who indicated Spanish as a primary language (48%).

EXHIBIT 8. PROBLEMS WITH SOCIAL ISOLATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE

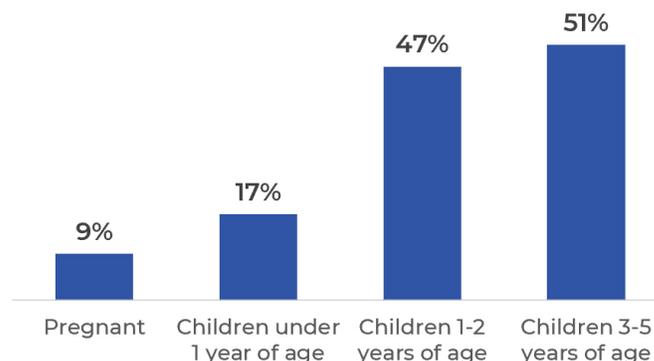


Note: White n=82; Hispanic/Latinx n=165; English n=208; Spanish n=118. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

Household Size

At the time of survey completion, the average number of adults and children per household was 2.9 adults (range=1 to 10) and 2.1 children (range=0 to 9). There were no differences in family size by sample or by region. Approximately half (52%) of respondents had children in their household between three to five years of age, half (47%) had children between 12 months and two years of age, and a quarter (27%) were pregnant or had children under a year of age.

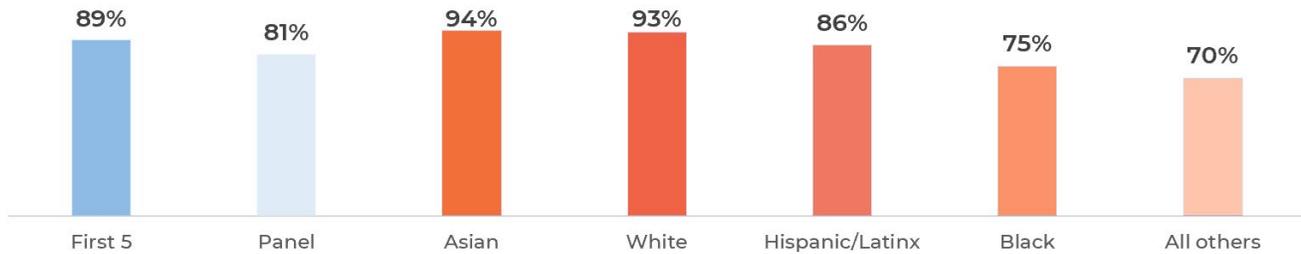
EXHIBIT 9. AGE GROUPS OF CHILDREN REPRESENTED



Notes: N=412. Twenty-five First 5 respondents reported children over the age of five (n=23) or no children (n=2).

A vast majority of respondents (86%, n= 412) reported that the number of people in their household had not changed since the SIP order while 11% reported an increase in the number of individuals, with 10% reporting an increase of one or two people. First 5 respondents were slightly more likely to keep their same household size compared to Panel respondents (89% vs. 81%, respectively). Comparisons of race/ethnicity found many differences among groups, with Asian respondents reporting the highest stability and all other races most likely to experience a change in household size.

EXHIBIT 10: PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT STAYED THE SAME SIZE SINCE SIP ORDER BY SAMPLE AND RACE/ETHNICITY



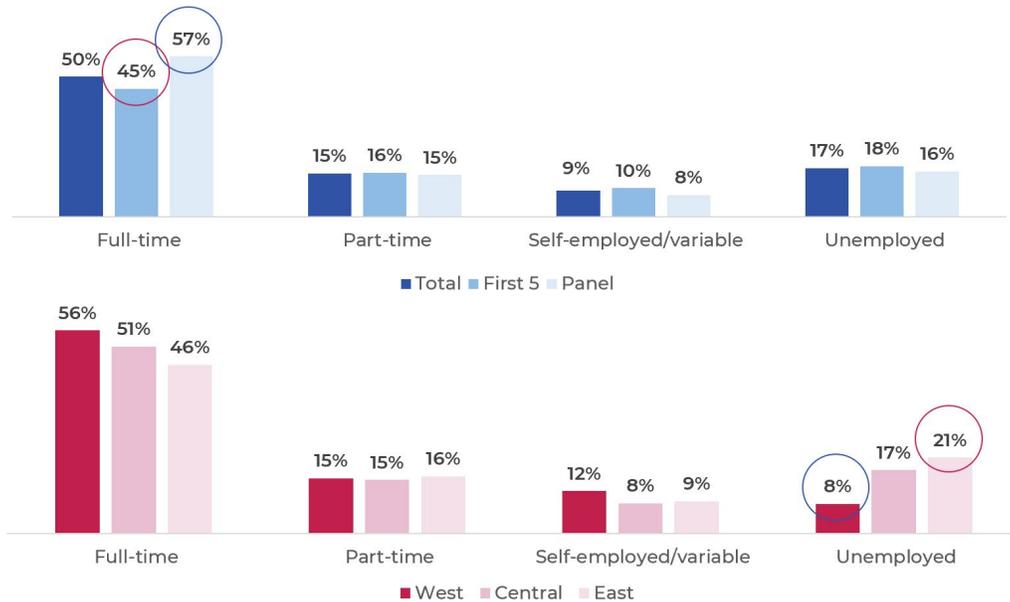
Notes: First 5 n=257; Panel n=155; Asian n=48; White n=94; Hispanic/Latinx n=193; Black or African American n= 53; All others n=23. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

FINANCIAL WELLBEING

Employment

Before the SIP order, half (50%) of the respondents had a full-time job; a quarter (24%) reported being part-time, variable, or self-employed; and seventeen percent were unemployed. Panel respondents were more likely to have full-time employment than First 5 respondents (57% vs. 45%, respectively), and greater unemployment was reported by respondents in East county (21%) compared to those in West county (8%).

EXHIBIT 11: EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE SIP ORDER, BY SAMPLE AND REGION

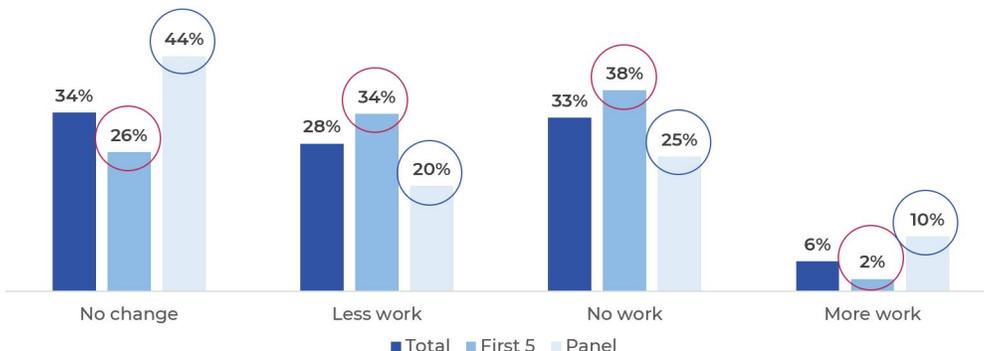


Notes: Total N=411; First 5 n=256; Panel n=155; West n=86; Central n=109; East n=216. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison. The response options 'Retired' and 'Other' are not displayed.

For those employed prior to the SIP order (full-time, part-time, or self-employed/variable), respondents reported that at the time of the survey, the order had not impacted work hours for over one-third (34%), while another third (33%) lost their employment, and just over a quarter (28%) experienced a decrease in available work hours.

A larger proportion of First 5 respondents experienced negative impacts resulting from the SIP order including a higher likelihood of reduced hours (34%) and loss of employment (38%) compared to Panel respondents (20% and 25%, respectively). Panel respondents were also more likely to increase work hours (10%) compared to First 5 respondents (2%).

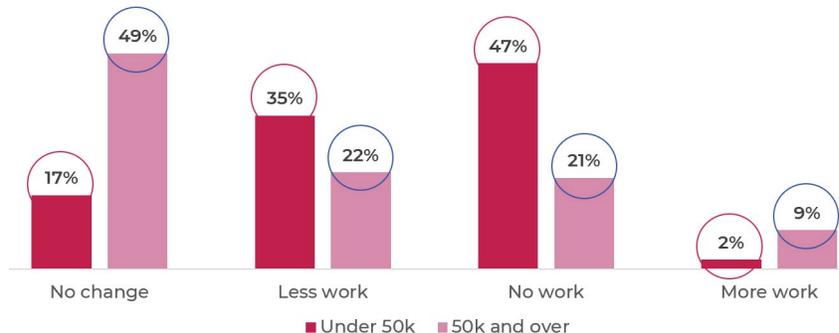
EXHIBIT 12. CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS DURING SIP ORDER, BY SAMPLE



Notes: Total N=305; First 5 n=179; Panel n=126. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

Moreover, employment status of those with paid work differed by race/ethnicity, income, and language. Individuals identifying as White (44%), those indicating English as their primary language (43%), and families earning \$50,000 or more (49%) were more likely to experience no change in their work hours compared to respondents identifying as Hispanic/Latinx (25%), those indicating Spanish as their primary language (17%), and families earning less than \$50,000 (17%). Low-income families were also more likely to lose employment or experience a decrease in work hours. . Specifically, almost half (47%) of families earning under \$50,000 lost their employment and thirty-five percent noted a decrease in their work hours compared to about one-fifth (21%) of families earning \$50,000 or more. Families earning \$50,000 or more in fact reported an increase in work hours (9%). In addition, a larger proportion of respondents identifying Spanish as their primary language experienced a decline in work hours without cessation of employment, compared to respondents identifying English as their primary language (42% vs. 22%, respectively), suggesting a higher occurrence of partial or total loss of income for this particular group of respondents.

EXHIBIT 13. CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS DURING SIP ORDER BY INCOME

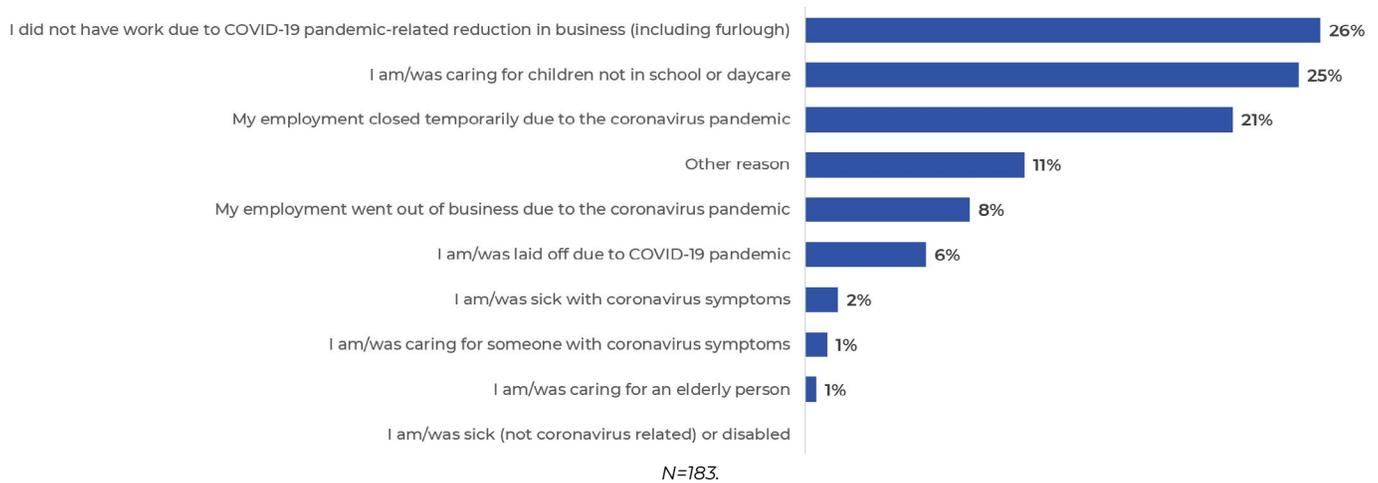


Notes: Under 50k n=144; 50k and over n=160. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison

Respondents who were not working or had reduced hours provided reasons why and noted barriers that they currently faced. Approximately a quarter of respondents did not have work due to pandemic-related reductions in business (26%), another quarter of respondents were caring for children not in school or daycare (25%), and lastly, another fifth (21%) of respondents reported that their place of employment temporarily closed due to the pandemic. The reasons for not working did not differ by sample or region.

However, reasons for not being currently employed showed some differences by income and language. For example, a larger proportion of families earning under \$50,000 (12%) and respondents who identified Spanish as their primary language (15%) reported that their employer went out of business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to families earning \$50,000 or more (2%) and those selecting English as their primary language (4%). Families earning \$50,000 or more reported caring for children not in school or daycare (35%).

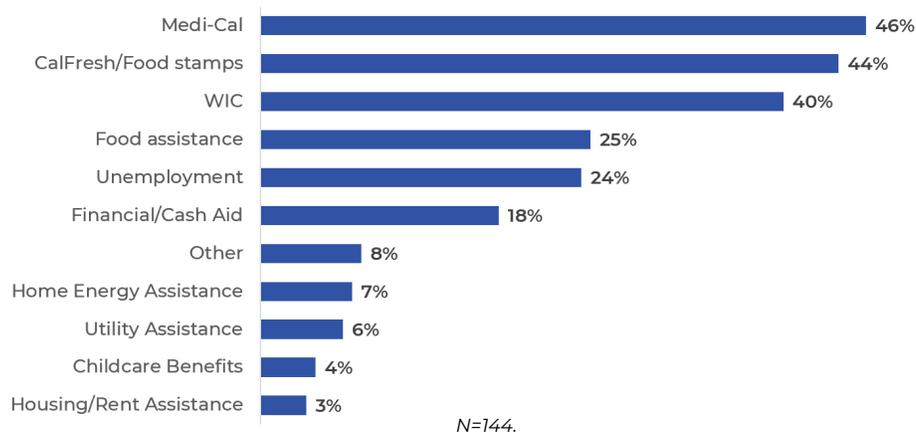
EXHIBIT 14. REASONS NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED



Public Assistance

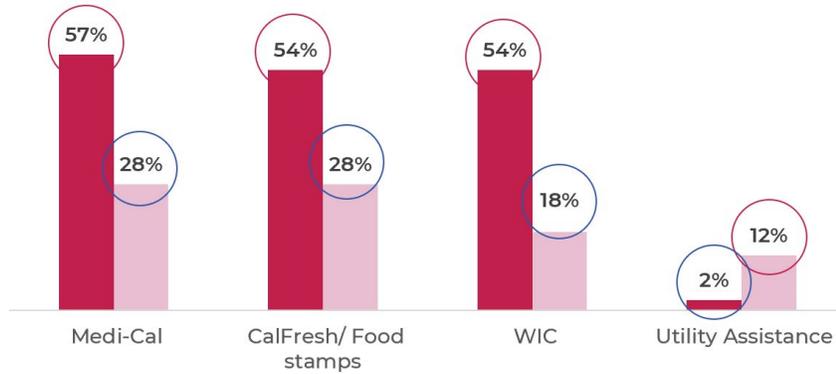
Approximately two out of five (38%) respondents received public assistance or public benefits to help their family during the SIP order. Of those accessing these supports, the three most frequent benefits included Medi-Cal (46%), CalFresh/Food Stamps (44%), and WIC (40%). Half (48%) of First 5 respondents accessed WIC which was proportionally higher than that of Panel respondents (28%). Last, every one out of four respondents that accessed benefits utilized food assistance (25%) and/or unemployment benefits (24%).

EXHIBIT 15. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS USED DURING THE SIP ORDER



As expected, use of public benefits differed by income as well as minor differences by primary language and race. Over half of all families earning under \$50,000 had accessed Medi-Cal (57%), CalFresh/Food stamps (54%), and WIC (54%). Families earning \$50,000 or more selected utility assistance (12%) more often than families earning under \$50,000 (2%).

EXHIBIT 16. PUBLIC BENEFITS ACCESSED BY INCOME

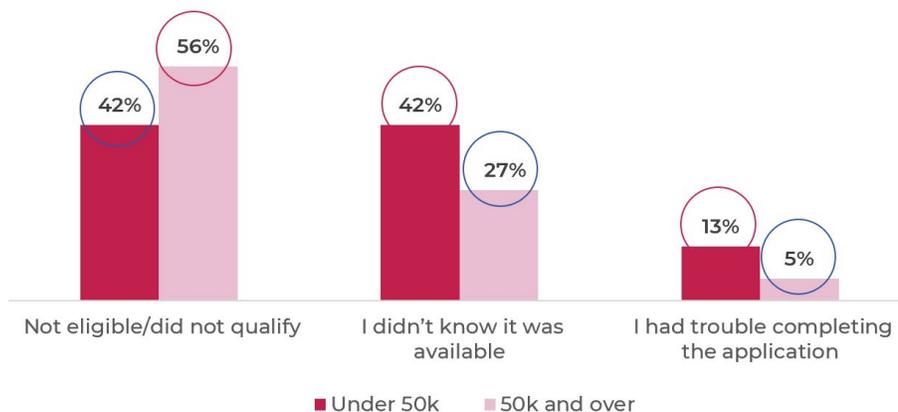


Notes: Under 50k n=86; 50k and over n=57. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

White respondents (43%) and those selecting English as their primary language (32%) more often indicated accessing unemployment benefits compared to those identifying as Hispanic (15%) and those selecting Spanish as their primary language (11%). Moreover, Black respondents (72%) more often selected CalFresh/Food stamps compared to Asian respondents (21%).²

Of those who did not receive public benefits, half (50%) noted that they were not eligible or did not qualify, and a third (34%) did not know that public benefits were available. Families earning under \$50,000 were more likely to report trouble completing the application (13%) or not knowing it was available (42%) compared to families earning \$50,000 or more. Families earning \$50,000 or more noted that they did not qualify or were not eligible (56%).

EXHIBIT 17. REASONS FOR NOT ACCESSING PUBLIC BENEFITS BY INCOME



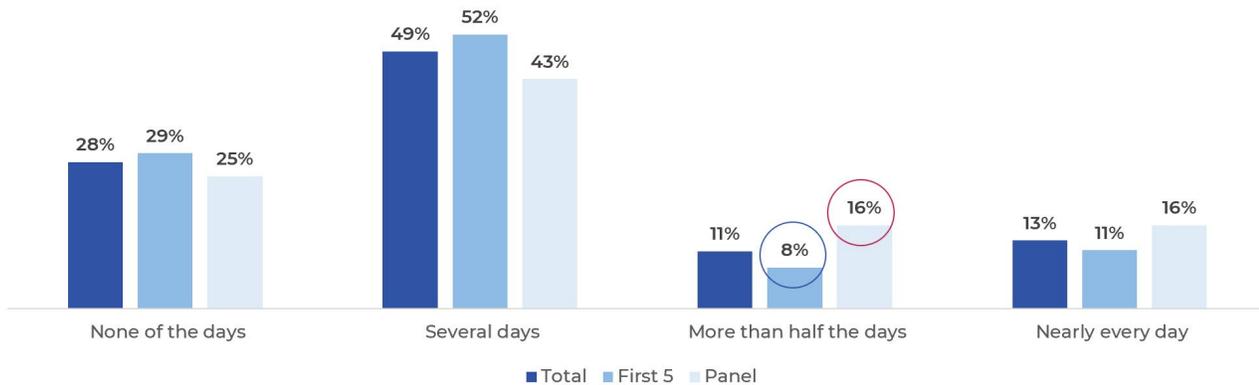
Notes: Under 50k n= 92; 50k and over n=131. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison. The response options 'Other' and 'My application was rejected' did not significantly differ and therefore are not displayed. than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

²Difference in the percent of low-income families by race/ethnicity likely contribute to these differences.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

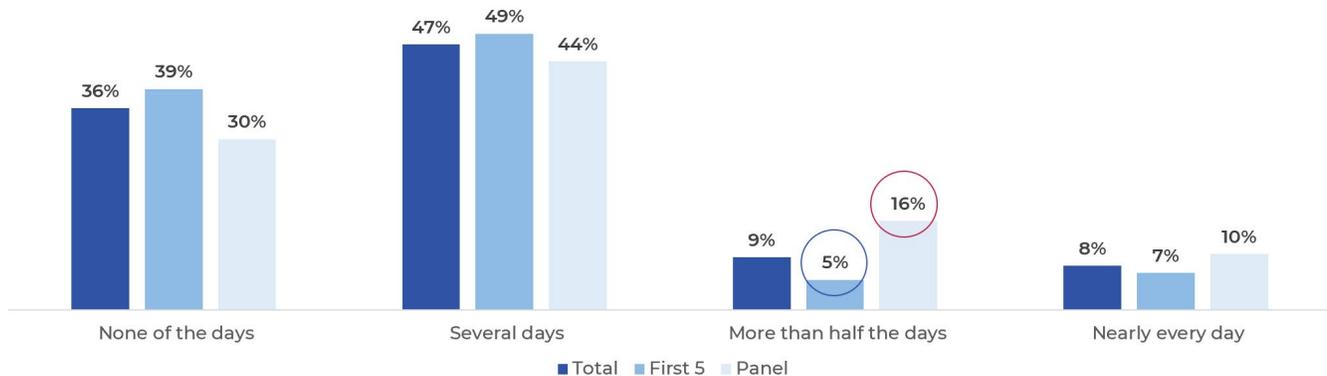
Over the last two weeks, half (49%) of the respondents reported feeling nervous, anxious, worried or on edge for several days while a quarter (24%) reported feeling like this more than half the days or nearly every one of the last 14 days. Similarly, half (47%) of the respondents reported feeling down, helpless, or overwhelmed for several days, and seventeen percent felt this way more than half of the days or nearly every day.

EXHIBIT 18. EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING (NERVOUS, ANXIOUS, WORRIED)



Notes: Total N=397; First 5 n=245; Panel n=152. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

EXHIBIT 19. EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING (DOWN, HELPLESS, OVERWHELMED)



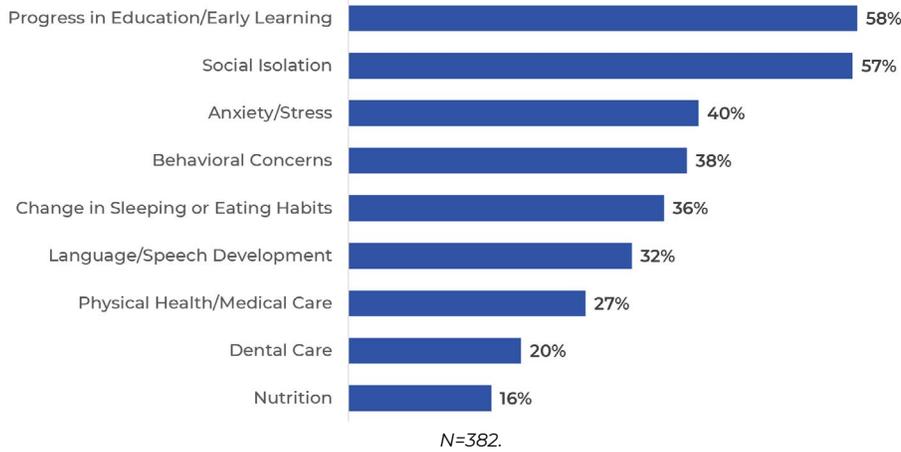
Notes: Total N=397; First 5 n=245; Panel n=152. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

Sample differences showed that the Panel respondents reported higher rates of feeling nervous and anxious (16%) as well as down and helpless (16%) more than half the days compared to First 5 respondents (8% and 5%, respectively). Emotional well-being differed by race/ethnicity as well, with a high proportion of Black or African Americans who reported feeling nervous and anxious over half the days (25%) compared to rates for Hispanic/Latinx (9%). Asian (59%) respondents reporting feeling nervous and anxious for several days compared to Black or African Americans (30%).

CHILD WELLBEING

Top concerns for children expressed by nearly three out of five respondents include making progress in their education or early learning (58%) and the effects of social isolation (57%). In addition, two out of five respondents indicated that child anxiety or stress (40%) and behavioral issues (38%) were significant concerns. Over a third (38%) of 404 parents indicated that their child will be entering Pre-K, Transitional Kindergarten, or Kindergarten in the Fall. These parents shared the same concerns of other parents in the full sample, including: progress in education or early learning (61%), social isolation (58%), anxiety/stress (44%), and behavioral concerns (43%).

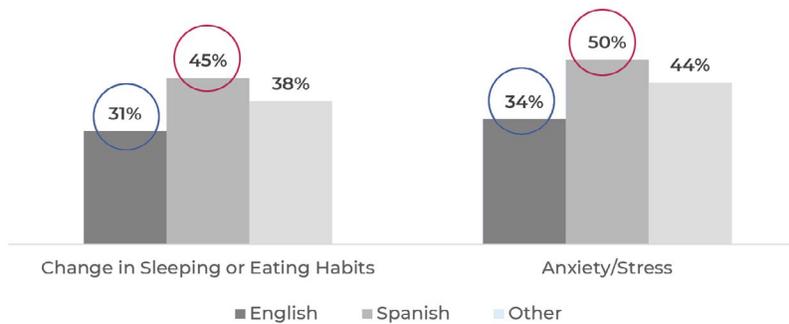
EXHIBIT 20. CONCERNS FOR CHILDREN



Three out of four (74%) White respondents and three out of five (62%) families earning \$50,000 or more expressed concern about the effects of social isolation on their children compared to half (51%) of Hispanic/Latinx respondents and half (52%) of families earning under \$50,000.

Every two out of five (42%) First 5 respondents expressed concerns about their child’s sleeping or eating habits, which was a higher rate than that reported by Panel respondents (27%). This finding was also reflected among nearly half (45%) of respondents with Spanish as a primary language compared to a third (31%) of respondents indicating English as a primary language. A similar result was found for concerns over child anxiety/stress (50% for those indicating Spanish and 34% for those indicating English as primary languages).

EXHIBIT 21. CONCERNS FOR CHILDREN BY LANGUAGE



Notes: English n=220; Spanish n=123; Other n=39. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

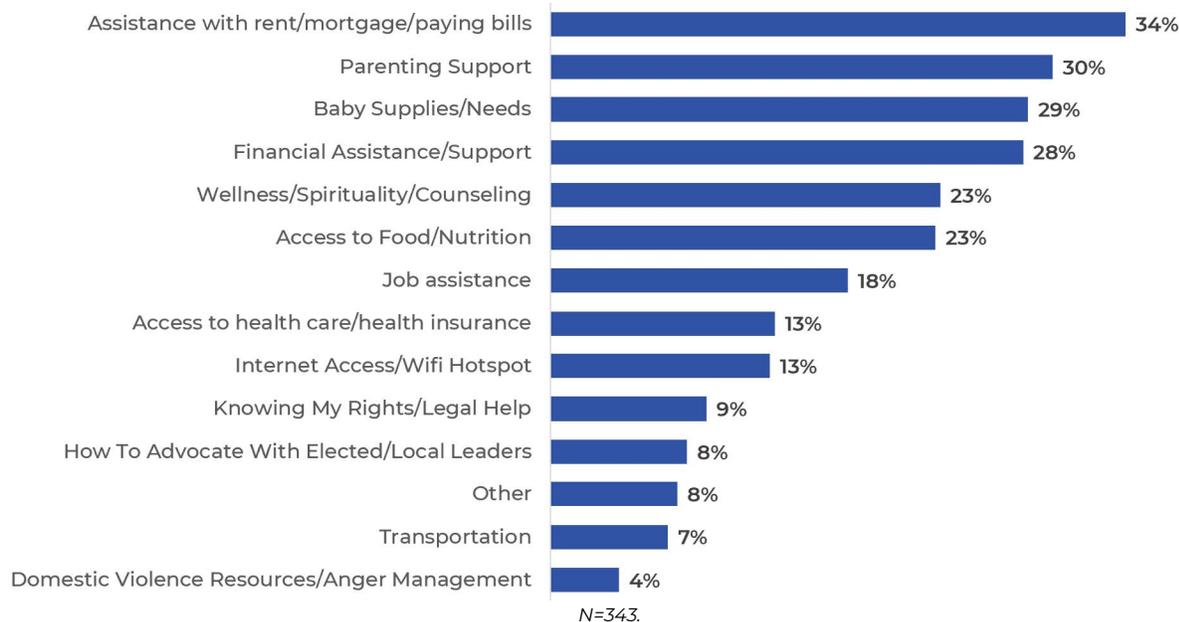
Last, a higher proportion of Central region respondents were concerned about dental care for their children (29%) compared to West region respondents (10%).

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILY NEEDS

NEED FOR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

The top needs identified by respondents during the SIP order included: assistance with rent, mortgage, or bills (34%), parenting support (30%), as well as baby supplies and baby needs (29%). Of families needing baby items, almost all needed diapers (90%), two-thirds needed books/toys/education resources (66%), and slightly under half (44%) needed baby or maternity clothes.

EXHIBIT 22. MOST NEEDED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

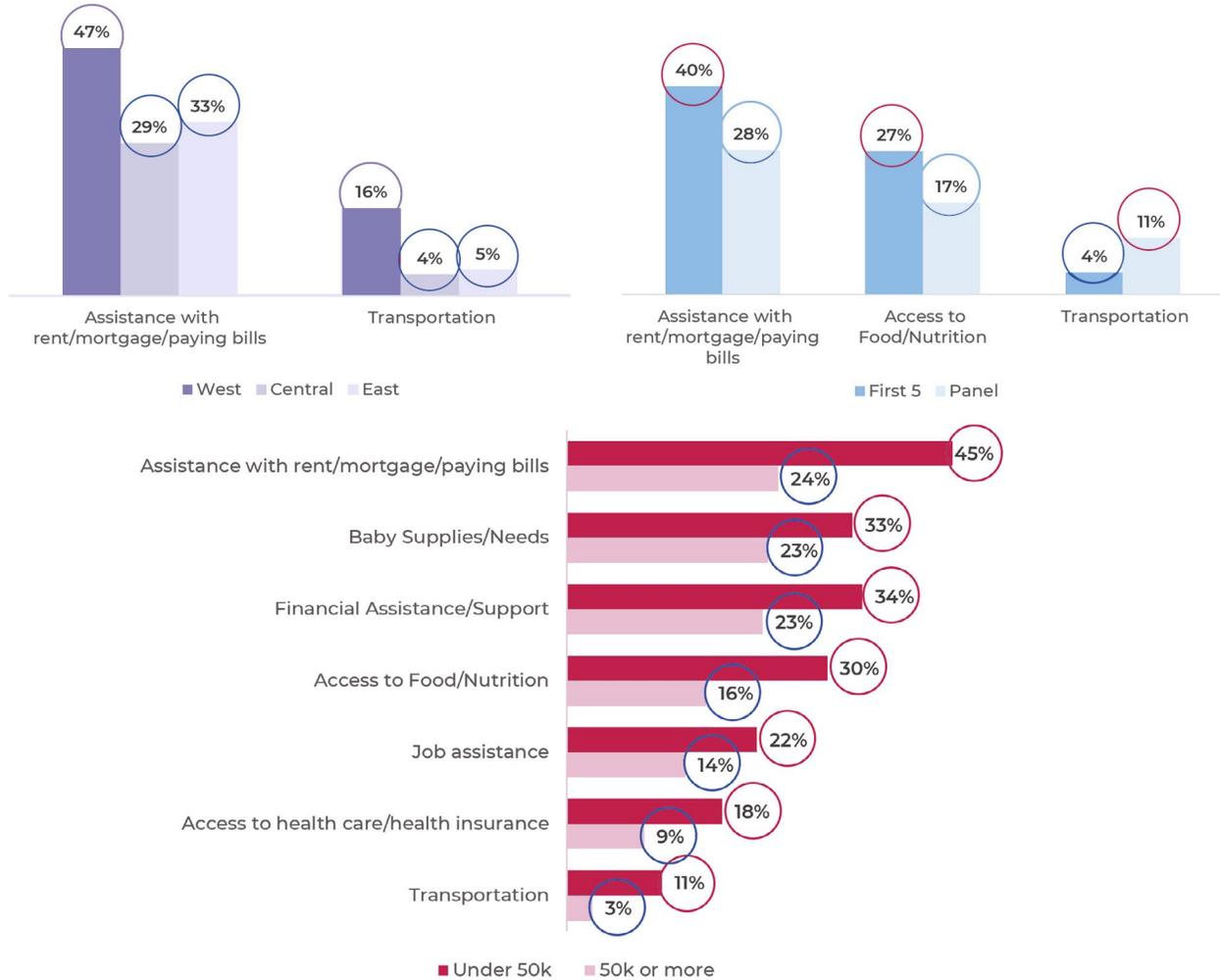


Differences by sample and region were identified for three needs:

- 1) Assistance with rent, mortgage, or bills:** A higher proportion of the West region (47%) and First 5 respondents (40%) selected assistance paying rent, mortgage, or bills, compared to the Central region (29%) and the Panel respondents (28%).
- 2) Transportation:** West region respondents (16%) selected transportation as a need more frequently than Central (4%) and East (5%) region respondents. Panel respondents (11%) selected this more frequently than First 5 respondents (4%).
- 3) Access to food/nutrition:** First 5 respondents more often selected access to food/nutrition needs (27%) compared to the Panel respondents (17%).

In addition, families earning under \$50,000 expressed more needs than families earning \$50,000 or more and included: assistance with rent, mortgage, or paying bills (45%), job assistance (22%), access to health care/health insurance (18%), access to food/nutrition (30%), financial assistance or support (34%), transportation (11%), and baby supplies/needs (33%). Families earning \$50,000 or more often expressed needs for how to advocate with elected/local leaders (13%) compared to families earning under \$50,000 (4%).

EXHIBIT 23. DIFFERENCES IN NEEDED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS BY SUBGROUP



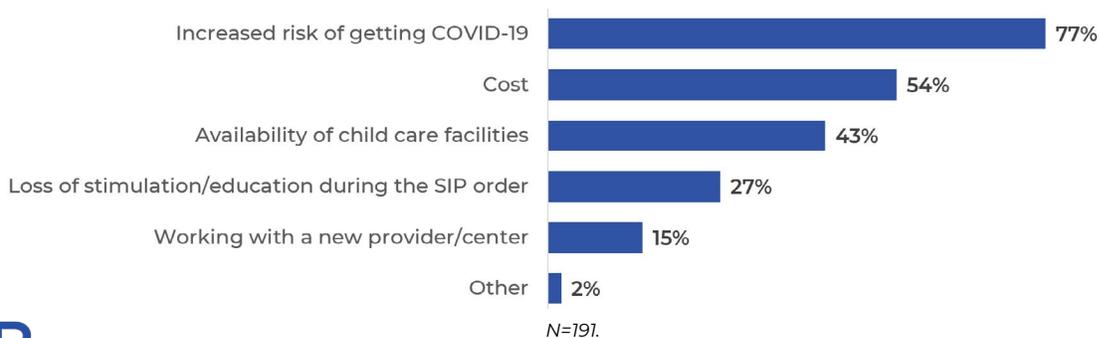
Notes: West n=73; Central n=10; East n=169; First 5 n=194; Panel n=149; Under 50k n=173; 50k or more n=168. Blue circles indicate a group significantly ($p < .05$) better off than the comparison and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

NEED FOR CHILDCARE

Three out of five (59%) of the 249 respondents who accessed professional childcare before the SIP order lost access after the SIP order. Of the 404 respondents reporting, sixteen percent reported an immediate need for childcare and a third (32%) reported a need once the SIP order lifts.

Of the respondents who reported a need for childcare, respondents most commonly indicated increased risk of getting COVID-19 as the biggest concern related to returning to childcare outside of the home (77%), followed by childcare costs (54%).

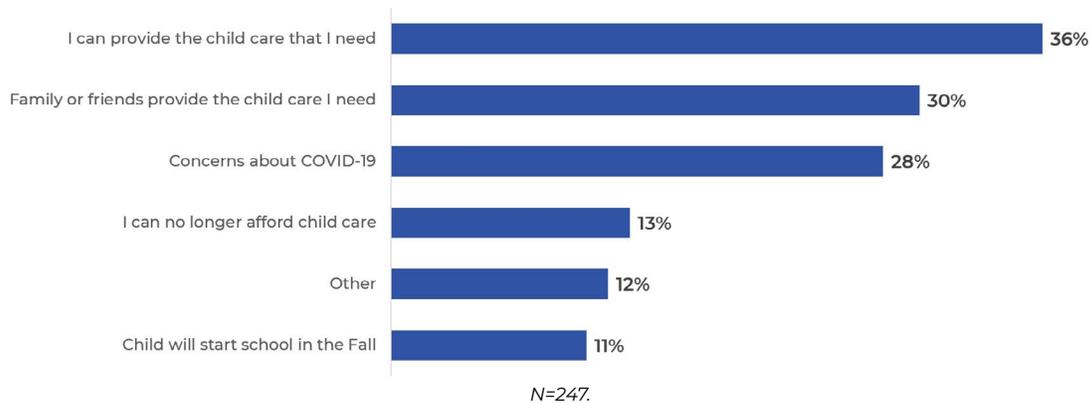
EXHIBIT 24. CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO CHILDCARE



One third (34%) of families earning \$50,000 or more worried about loss of stimulation/education for their children during the SIP order which was higher than that for families earning less than \$50,000 (18%). In addition, nearly two out of five (38%) Asian respondents were worried about working with a new provider/center compared to only one out of ten (10%) Hispanic/Latinx respondents.

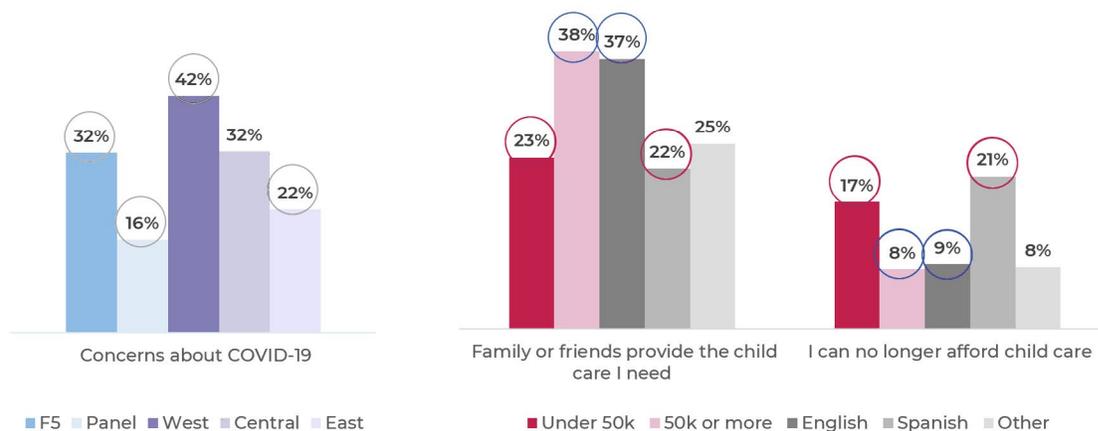
Of the respondents who reported not needing childcare, respondents most commonly indicated three primary reasons: they can provide the childcare themselves (36%), family or friends can provide childcare (30%), and concerns about COVID-19 (28%).

EXHIBIT 25. REASONS FOR NOT NEEDING CHILDCARE



Regional, sample, income, and language characteristics were associated with respondents reporting not needing childcare. Specifically, more West region (42%) and First 5 respondents (32%) expressed concerns about COVID-19 as a barrier to childcare than East region (22%) and Panel (16%) respondents. In addition, one out of five (21%) respondents with Spanish as a primary language and nearly one in six (17%) families earning under \$50,000 reported not being able to afford childcare compared to one of 10 (9%) respondents who indicated English as a primary language and nearly one out of 13 (8%) families earning \$50,000 or more. Families earning \$50,000 or more (38%) and respondents with English as a primary language (37%) often reported that family or friends provided needed childcare compared to families earning under \$50,000 (23%) and respondents with Spanish as primary language (22%), respectively.

EXHIBIT 26. REASONS FOR NOT NEEDING CHILDCARE BY SAMPLE AND REGION

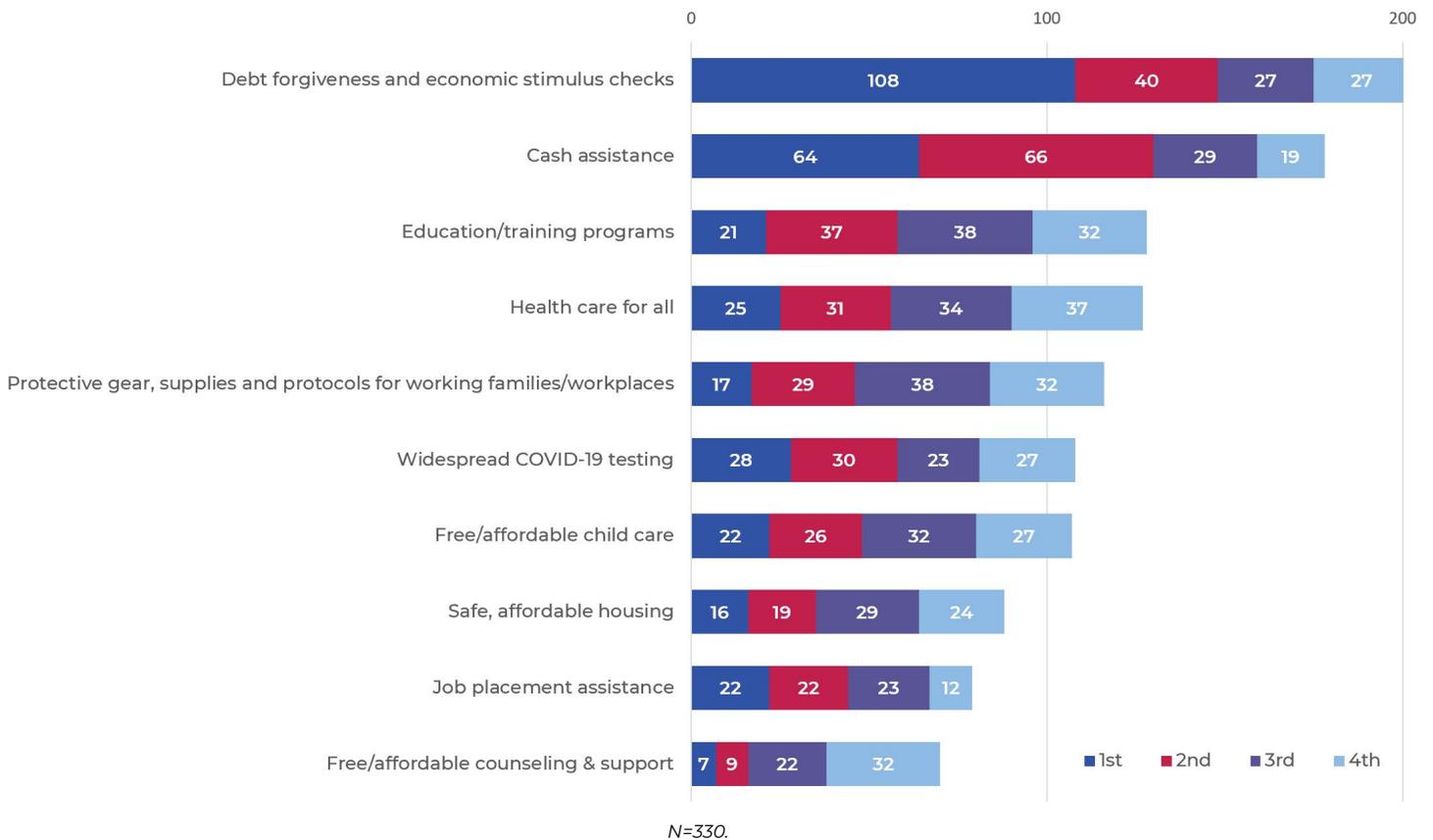


Notes: First 5 n=180; Panel n=67; West n=48; Central n=47; East n=152; Under 50k n=134; 50k or more n=112; English n=126; Spanish n=97; Other n=24. Grey circles indicate a group significantly different (p < .05) than the comparison, blue circles indicate a group significantly better off than the comparison, and red circles indicate a group significantly worse off than the comparison.

DESIRED ACTION STEPS

Respondents provided feedback on what they view as the four most beneficial actions that the county can take by order of importance (1= highest, 4= lowest). Three out of five (61%) respondents selected debt forgiveness and stimulus checks overall with 202 nominations. Half (54%) of the respondents nominated cash assistance with a total of 178 nominations. The remaining items received nominations from nearly two out of five respondents and included education/training programs (39%) and health care for all (38%).

EXHIBIT 27. DESIRED ACTION STEPS FOR COVID RELIEF



The desired action steps varied by race/ethnicity, sample, and region. For example, half (50%) of Black or African American respondents selected cash assistance as their highest priority compared to one-fifth (18%) of White respondents. In addition, Two out of five (41%) F5 respondents selected job placement assistance as their highest priority compared to only nineteen percent of Panel respondents. Lastly, a larger proportion of respondents in the Central region (34%) selected health care access for all as their highest priority compared to residents from East region (11%).

SNAPSHOT SUMMARY

The COVID-19 Impact Survey conducted on behalf of First 5 Contra Costa gathered important information on the needs of families with young children in the county and what parents identify as the supports that would be most beneficial in the COVID-19 era. The 412 survey respondents represented the full spectrum of county residents across the county, levels of income, race and ethnicities, and primary languages. The results indicate that the SIP order in effect for about four months at the time of the survey has financially hurt many families, as well as created concern over the negative effects of the SIP order on children and how to financially navigate these times.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILIES

GENERAL DIFFICULTIES

As a result of the SIP order, respondents most often reported experiencing social isolation, rising household expenses, and stress due to family as an essential worker.

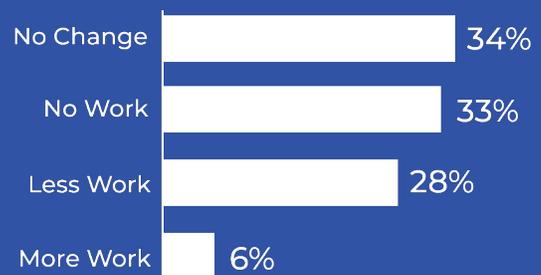


- Respondents with higher incomes more often reported concerns about social isolation (63%) and stress from having an essential worker in the family (48%). White (70%) respondents and those whose primary language was English (62%) also reported higher rates of social isolation than Hispanic/Latinx (50%) and those whose primary language was Spanish (48%).
- Three of every five (60%) low-income families had an increase in household expenses and one in five (21%) respondents reported not having enough food.
- A quarter (23%) of respondents in the West region reported not having enough food, which was a higher need than reported in the Central region (10%).

FINANCIAL WELLBEING

Of those working at the time of the SIP order, a third of respondents experienced no change in work hours, a third lost employment, and just over a quarter experienced a decrease in available work hours.

The impact of COVID-19 on employment was differentially felt.



- A third (34%) of First 5 respondents had their hours cut and nearly two out of five (38%) respondents lost their jobs.
- Half (47%) of families earning under \$50,000 lost their employment compared to one-fifth (21%) of families earning over \$50,000.
- Two of every five (42%) respondents identifying Spanish as their primary language experienced a decline in work hours (without job loss) compared to one of every five (22%) respondents identifying English as their primary language.

Reasons respondents were not working included: A reduction in business due to COVID-19 (including furlough, 26%), caring for a child no longer in daycare or school (25%), or a temporary closure of their workplace due to the pandemic (21%).

Approximately two out of five (39%) respondents received public assistance or public benefits to help their family during the SIP order. These benefits included Medi-Cal, CalFresh/Food Stamps, and WIC. In addition, one out of four respondents accessing benefits utilized food assistance (25%) and/or unemployment benefits (24%).

- Two out of five (43%) White respondents and a third (32%) of those with English as their primary language accessed unemployment benefits, which was at a higher rate than Hispanic (15%) respondents and those selecting Spanish as their primary language (11%).

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Many respondents reported an emotional impact of COVID-19 over the prior two weeks.

- Half (49%) of the respondents reported feeling nervous, anxious, worried or on edge (49%) and/or down, helpless, or overwhelmed (47%) for several days.
- First 5 respondents reported relatively low rates of feeling nervous and anxious (8%) or down and helpless (5%) for more than half the days.

CHILD WELLBEING

Nearly three out of five respondents expressed concerns about children making progress in their education or early learning and the effects of social isolation. Two out of five respondents indicated that child anxiety or stress and behavioral issues were significant concerns.



- Two out of five (42%) First 5 respondents and nearly half (45%) of respondents with Spanish as a primary language expressed concern about children's sleeping or eating habits, which was higher than the Panel respondents (27%) or those with English as their primary language (31%), respectively.
- Three out of four (74%) White respondents and three out of five (62%) families earning \$50,000 or more expressed concern about social isolation, which were higher rates than found for Hispanic/Latinx respondents (51%) and families earning under \$50,000 (52%).
- A higher rate of concern about child anxiety and stress was expressed by those with Spanish (50%) rather than English (34%) as their primary language.
- Nearly a third of Central region respondents expressed concern about dental care for their children (29%), which was a higher rate than West region respondents (10%).

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILY NEEDS

NEED FOR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

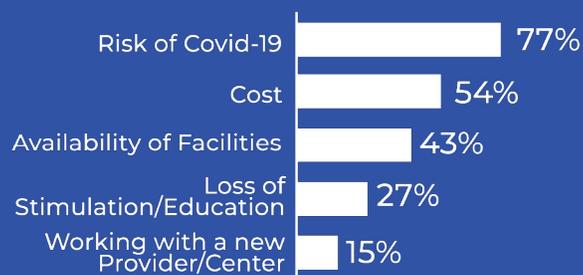
The top needs identified by respondents during the SIP order included: Assistance with rent, mortgage, or bills, parenting support, as well as baby supplies and baby needs. Almost all families needing baby items requested diapers (90%), two-thirds needed books/toys/education resources (66%), and slightly under half (44%) needed baby or maternity clothes.



- Half of the West region (47%) and two of five First 5 respondents (40%) needed rent, mortgage and bill assistance, which was a higher need than respondents in the Central region (29%) and in the Panel (28%), respectively.
- Families earning lower incomes had higher needs for: Assistance with rent, mortgage, or paying bills (45%), job assistance (22%), access to health care/health insurance (18%), access to food/nutrition (30%), financial assistance or support (34%), and baby supplies/needs (33%) compared to families with higher incomes.
- The West region (16%) and families with lower incomes (11%) had a higher need for transportation than other regions (Central=4%; East=5%) and families with higher incomes (3%), although transportation was a relatively low need among respondents.
- One in four First 5 respondents (27%) needed access to food/nutrition, which was a higher rate of need than that of the Panel respondents (17%).

NEED FOR CHILDCARE

Three out of five (59%) who had professional childcare lost it, just over one out of every six (16%) respondents needed childcare immediately, and one third (32%) of respondents need it once the SIP order is lifted. Risk of a COVID-19 infection was a concern shared by more than three out of four respondents, and half indicated affordability/cost as a major concern.



- Higher-income families were more likely to have a concern about loss of stimulation/education (34%) compared to that for lower-income families (18%)

Approximately one third of families that did not need childcare could provide needed childcare themselves (36%), another third had coverage from family or friends (30%), and just over a quarter (28%) had concerns about COVID-19 that kept them from accessing care.

- Two out of five parents in the West (42%) had fears of COVID-19, nearly twice the rate of the East region (22%). A third of First 5 respondents held this concern, nearly twice the rate of the Panel respondents (16%).
- Family and friends were twice as likely to be relied upon to fill the need for care among higher income families (38%) compared to lower income families (23%).
- Lower-income families (17%) and those with Spanish as their primary language (21%) were more likely to not be able to afford needed care.

DESIRED ACTION STEPS

Half of respondents, and by far the most popular action step for the county was to provide debt forgiveness and economic stimulus checks, followed by cash assistance. A third of respondents also backed education/training programs and health care for all.



- Half (50%) of Black or African American respondents selected cash assistance as their number one priority which was more than that for White respondents (18%).
- Two out of five (41%) F5 respondents selected job placement assistance as their highest priority which was more than Panel respondents (19%).
- A third of Central region (34%) respondents selected health care access for all as their highest priority which was more than respondents from the East region (11%).

APPENDIX A. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES AND COMPARISONS

EXHIBIT 28. COUNTY AND SURVEY SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

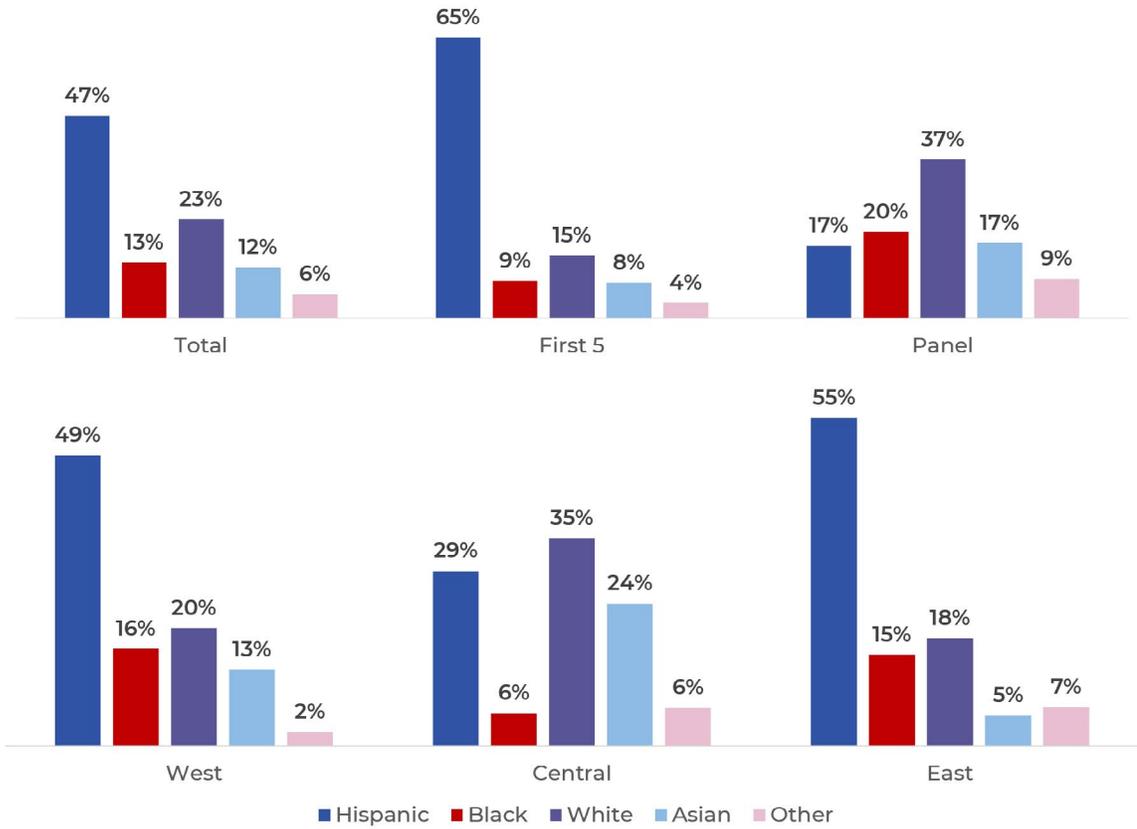
ITEM	COUNTY ³	OVERALL	BY SAMPLE		BY REGION		
			FIRST 5	PANEL	WEST	CENTRAL	EAST
N	282,085 ⁴	409 - 412	254 - 257	155	86	109 - 110	214 - 216
PRIMARY LANGUAGE	Spoken at home						
English	64.9%	55.6%	38.1%	84.5%	51.2%	60.9%	54.6%
Spanish	18%	34.0%	51.4%	5.2%	41.9%	19.1%	38.4%
Other	17.2%	10.5%	10.6%	10.3%	7.1%	20.0%	7.0%
RACE/ ETHNICITY							
Hispanic	25.4%	47.0%	65.2%	16.8%	48.8%	29.4%	55.1%
White	57.2%	22.9%	14.5%	36.8%	19.8%	34.9%	18.1%
Black	8.6%	12.9%	8.6%	20.0%	16.3%	5.5%	15.3%
Asian	16.3%	11.7%	8.2%	17.4%	12.8%	23.9%	5.1%
Other	17.9%	5.5%	3.5%	9.1%	2.3%	6.4%	6.5%
FAMILY INCOME							
% < 50k	33.4%	49.6%	58.3%	35.5%	54.7%	43.1%	50.9%
LIVING SITUATION							
% who rent		52.8%	58.2%	43.9%	53.5%	54.5%	51.6%
% who own	65.6%	35.8%	31.6%	42.6%	34.9%	36.4%	35.8%
% other		11.4%	10.2%	13.6%	11.6%	9.1%	12.6%

Notes: Some other languages included Arabic, Hindi, Bulgarian, Berber, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian and Kinyarwanda. Some other race/ethnicities included Lebanese, Middle Eastern, North African, and multiracial. Other living situation responses included being homeless and hotel sponsored by a homeless shelter.

³<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=Contra%20Costa%20County,%20California&g=0500000US06013>

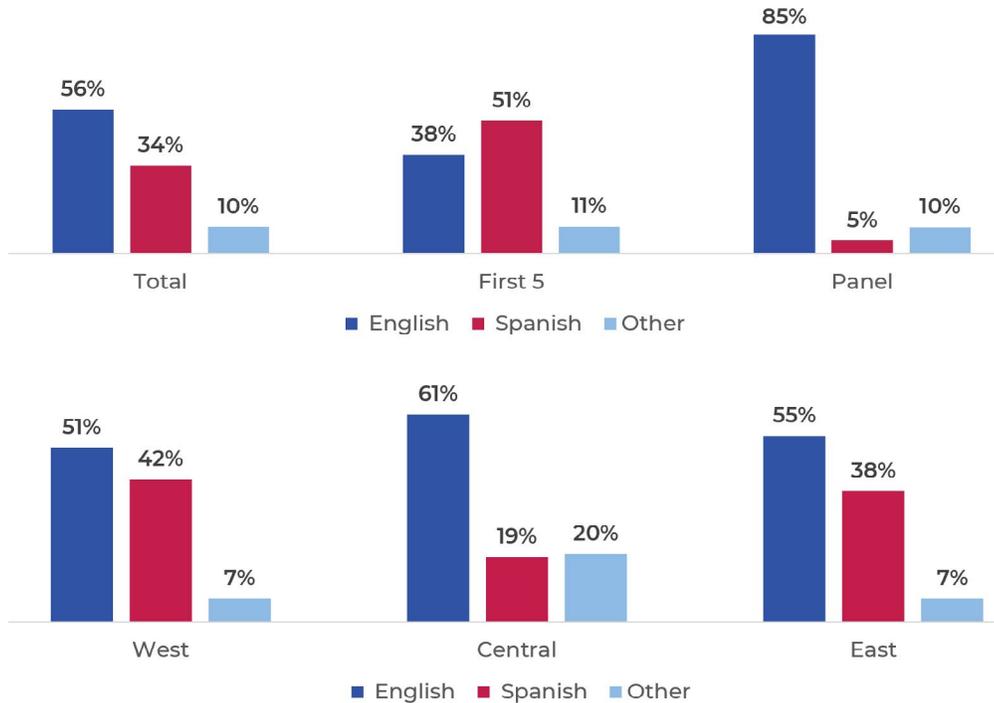
⁴Families

EXHIBIT 29. RACE AND ETHNICITY BY SAMPLE AND REGION



Notes: Total N=411; First 5 n=256; Panel n=155; West n=86; Central n=109; East n=216. 'Other' race/ethnicity included American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Lebanese, Middle Eastern, North African, and multiracial.

EXHIBIT 30. PRIMARY LANGUAGE, BY SAMPLE AND REGION



Notes: Total N=412; First 5 n=257; Panel n=155; West n=86; Central n=110; East n=216. 'Other' languages included Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Arabic, Hindi, Bulgarian, Berber, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian and Kinyarwanda.

EXHIBIT 31. ANNUAL INCOME BEFORE SIP BY SAMPLE AND REGION

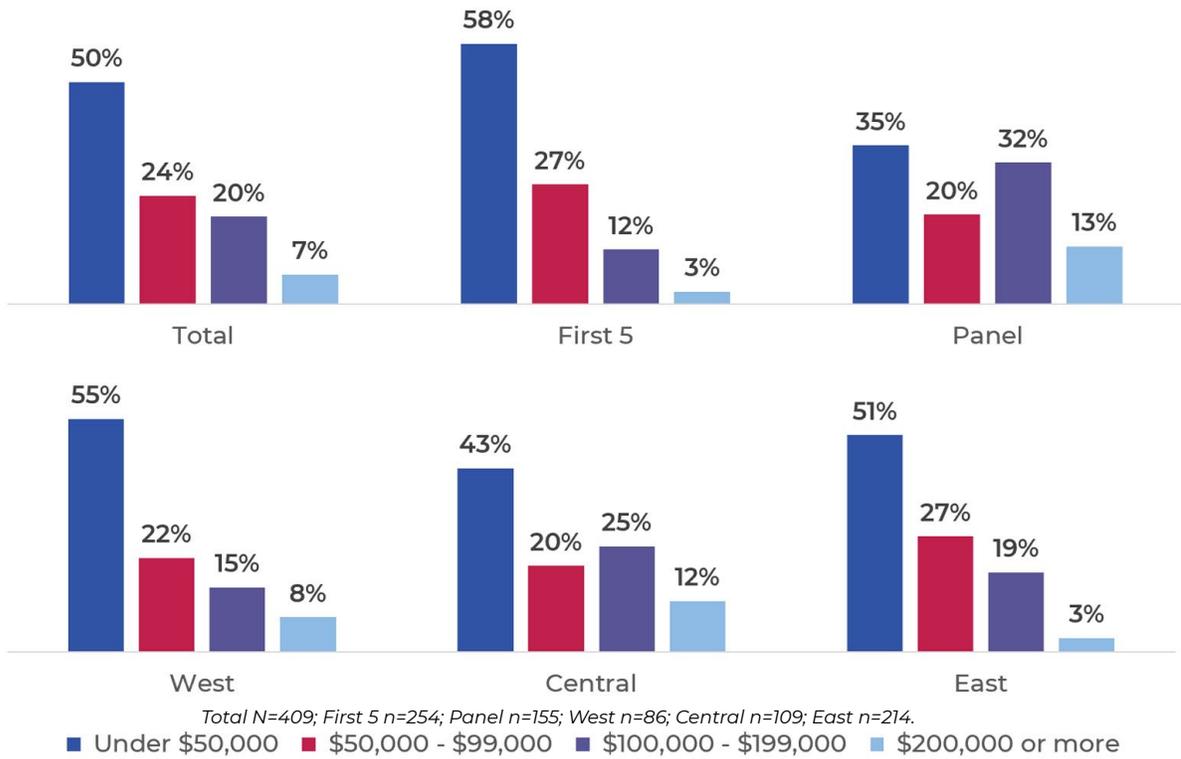
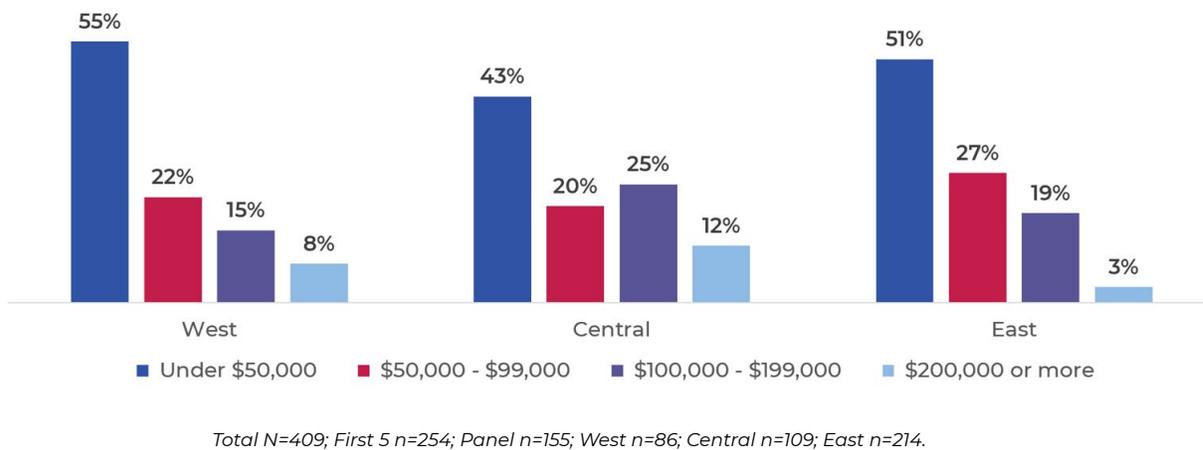


EXHIBIT 32. LIVING SITUATION BY SURVEY SAMPLE





 **FIRST 5**
CONTRA COSTA