

Impact of COVID-19 on North Carolina Poverty, Housing & Food Insecurity

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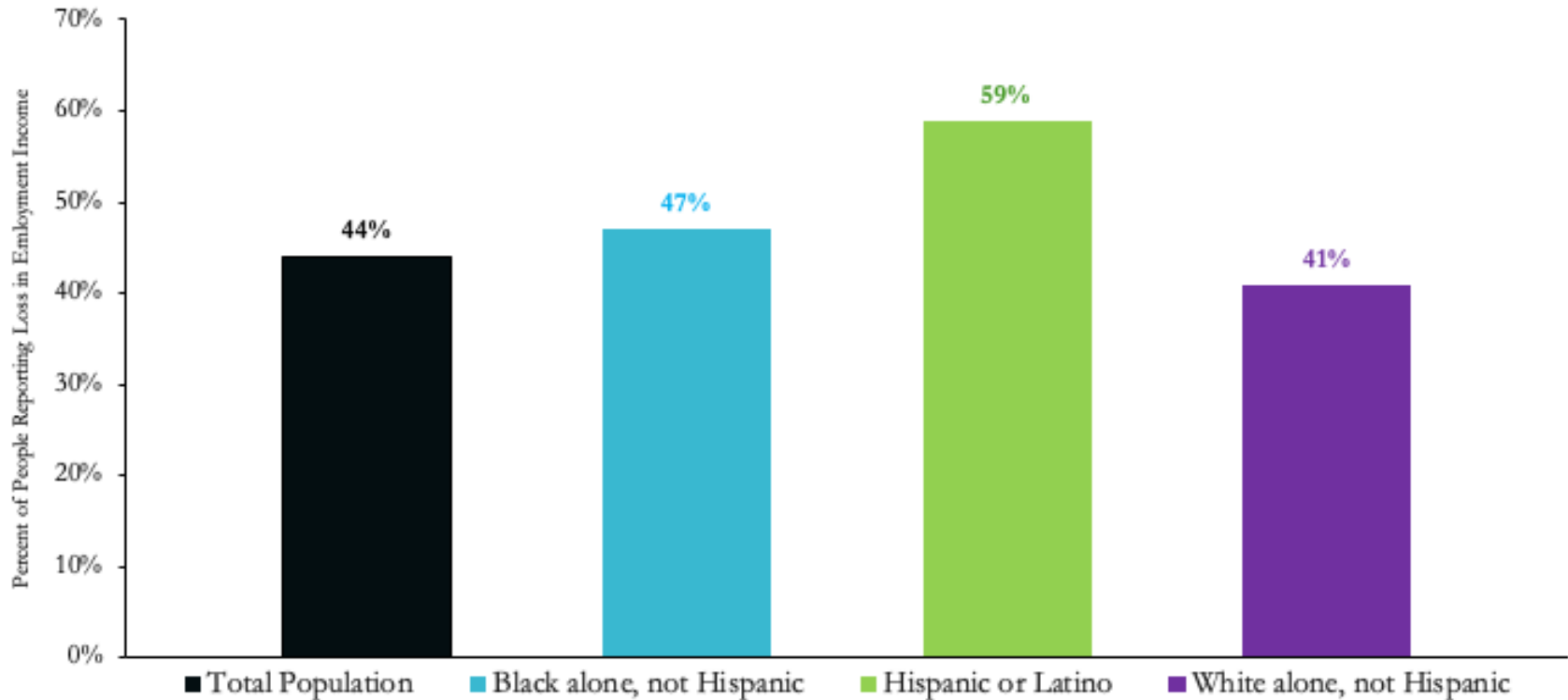
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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Public Policy

Poverty

Figure 1: Employment Income Loss By Race and Ethnicity, April-July 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

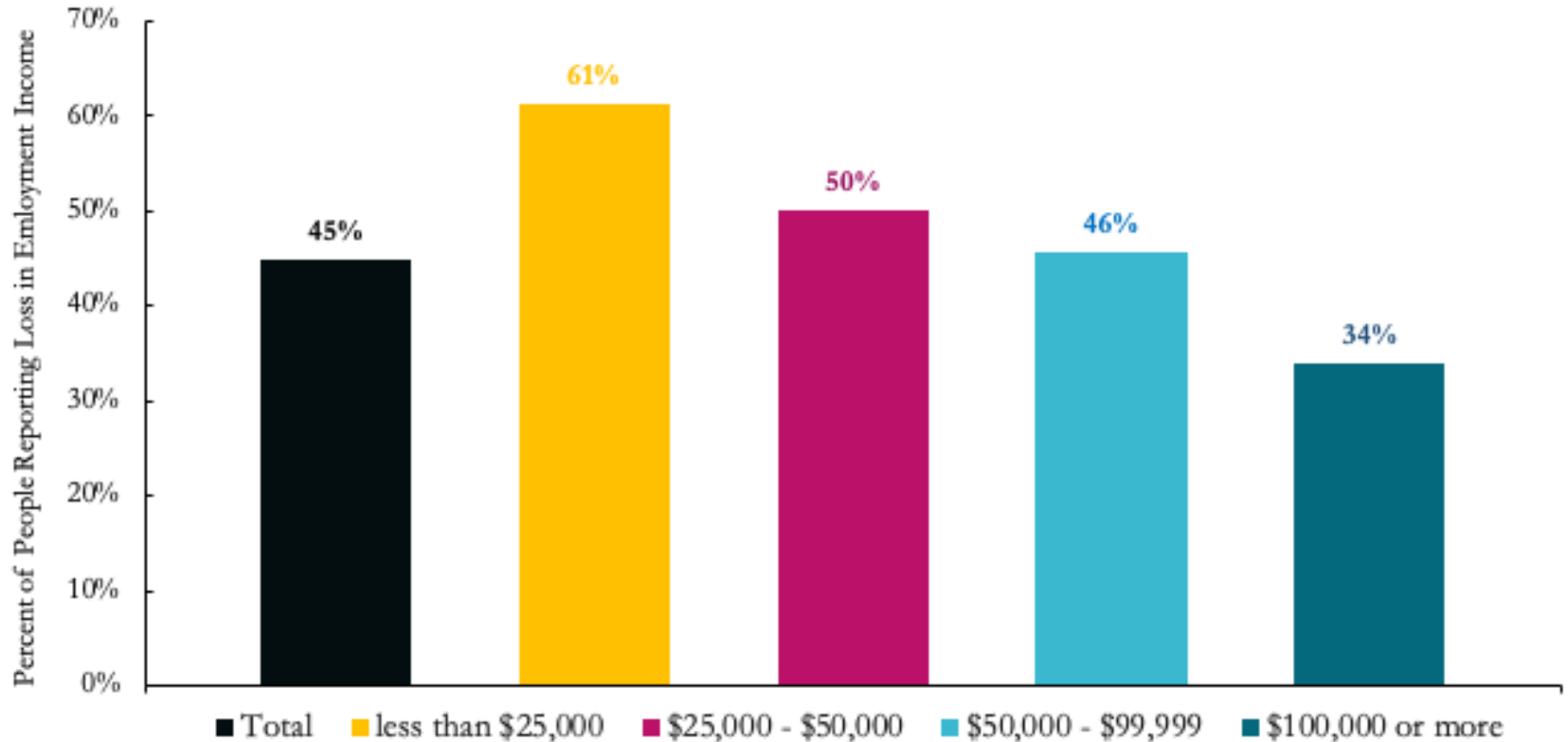
Note: Respondents were asked if they experienced any loss of employment income since March 13th, 2020. Bars indicate averages taken across different samples over a period of eight weeks.

Author: Sarah Mackenzie

Employment Income Loss by Race and Ethnicity

- A higher percentage of the Hispanic or Latino population experienced a loss of employment income than any other racial or ethnic sub-group in NC.
 - An average of 10-20% higher than any other sub-group
- A higher percentage of North Carolina's Black population experienced a loss of employment income than North Carolina's white population.
- Income loss from employment is different than unemployment and may be a result of fewer hours in service industry work or loss of contract work.

Figure 2: Employment Income Loss By Income Group, April-July 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

Note: Respondents were asked if they experienced any loss of employment income since March 13th, 2020. Bars indicate averages taken across different samples over a period of eight weeks.

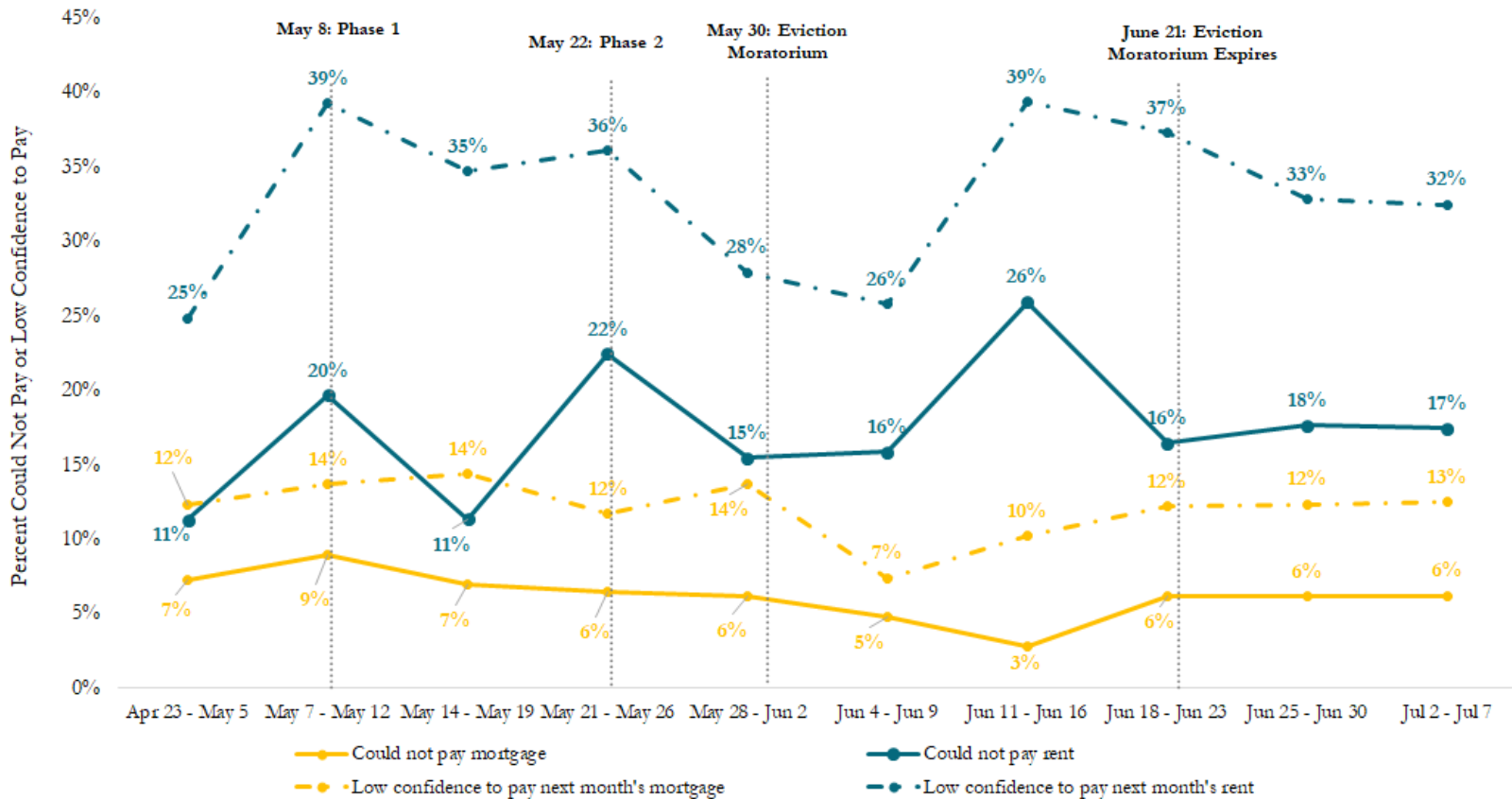
Author: Sarah Mackenzie

Employment Income Loss by Socio-economic subgroup

- Those in lower-income socio-economic brackets are more likely to have experienced loss of employment income than those in higher income brackets
 - This is true despite the relatively high number of lower-income people working in “essential” roles
- Those in higher-income brackets may have been able to transition more easily into remote work.
 - This may also be due to furloughs or loss of work in the hospitality and restaurant industries.

Housing Insecurity

Figure 3: Housing Insecurity in North Carolina, April-June 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020 and EvictionLab, 2020.

Note: Low confidence includes survey respondents who chose "no confidence" or "slight confidence." Sample excludes households who occupy their residence without rent and households who own their homes free and clear.

Author: Abby Cooper

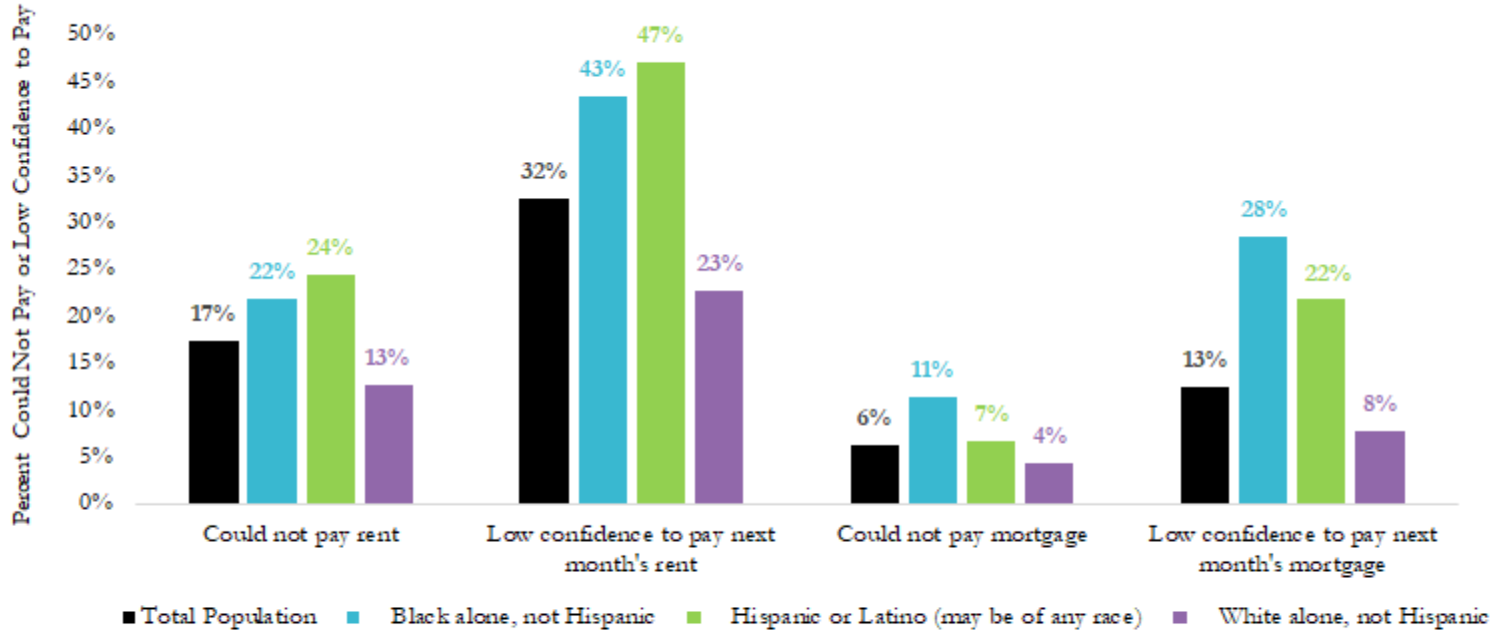
Housing Insecurity in NC

- Renters in North Carolina are more likely than homeowners to not make last month's housing payment.
- Renters in North Carolina are more likely than homeowners to have low confidence in their ability to make next month's housing payment.

Note: The CARES Act includes a moratorium on foreclosures for all federally-backed mortgages and moratorium on filings for evictions for renters in homes covered by a federally-backed mortgage. You can find more information here:

https://www.ncsl.org/documents/statefed/Housing-Funding_4-14-20.pdf

Figure 4: Housing Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity, April-July 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020.

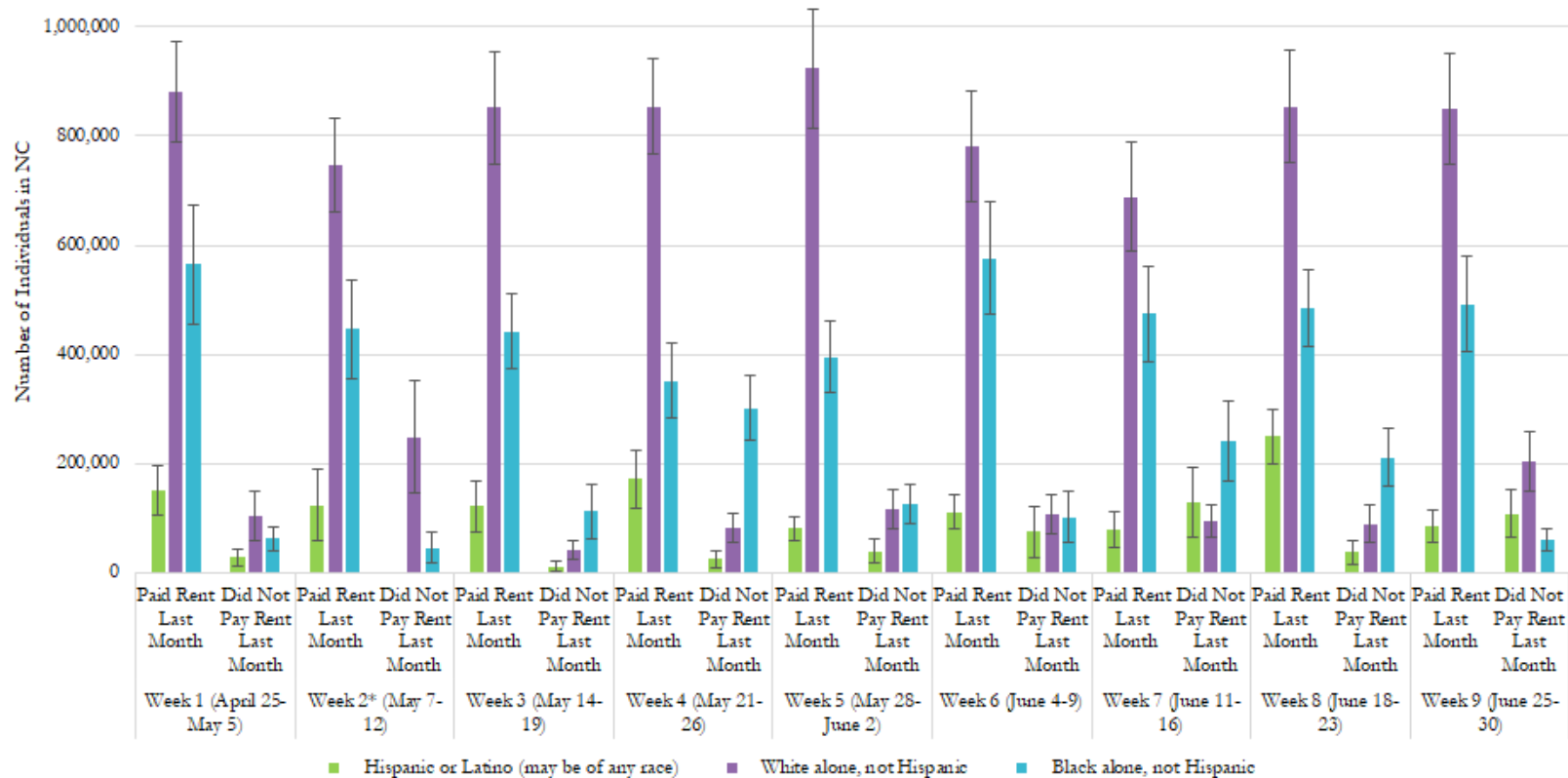
Notes: Low confidence includes survey respondents who chose "no confidence" or "slight confidence." Sample excludes households who occupy their residence without rent and households who own their homes free and clear.

Author: Abby Cooper

Housing Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity in NC

- On average, Black and Hispanic or Latino North Carolinians are more likely than white North Carolinians to:
 - a. Miss their previous month's rent or mortgage payment.
 - b. Have low confidence in making their next month's rent or mortgage payment.
- The COVID-19 crisis has revealed, and possibly worsened, structural racial inequities in housing.

Figure 6: Ability to Pay Last Month's Rent by Race and Ethnicity, April-July 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020.

*Week 2 had exceptionally low response rate

Author: Ali Huber

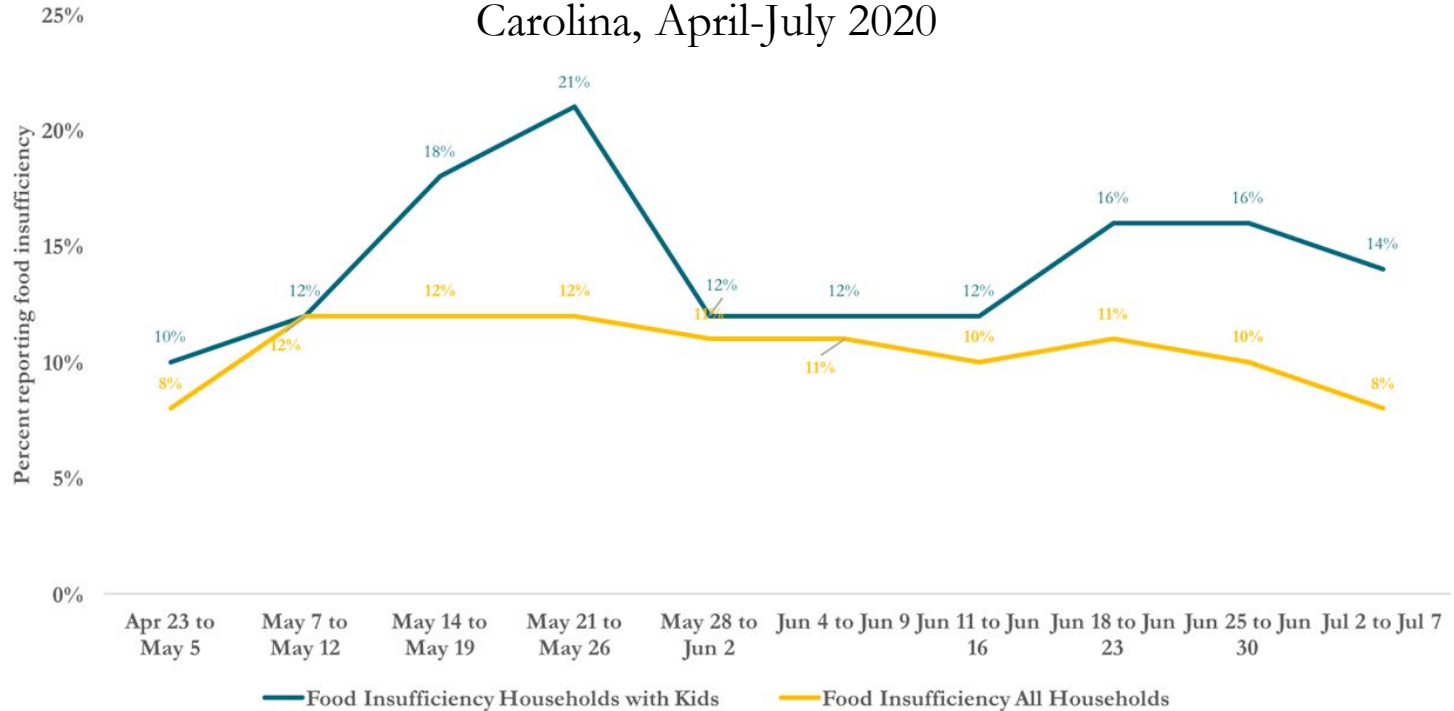
Renter Housing Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity

- Among the renter population, Black and Hispanic or Latino North Carolinians are less likely to make their rent payments than white renters.*
- Black and Hispanic or Latino renters are more likely to have low confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent compared to white renters.
- Black and Hispanic or Latino renters' confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent fluctuates more than white renters from week to week.

*There is an exception for May 7-12 , which has a small sample size and therefore a large margin of error.

Food Insecurity

Figure 7: Food Insecurity in North Carolina, April-July 2020

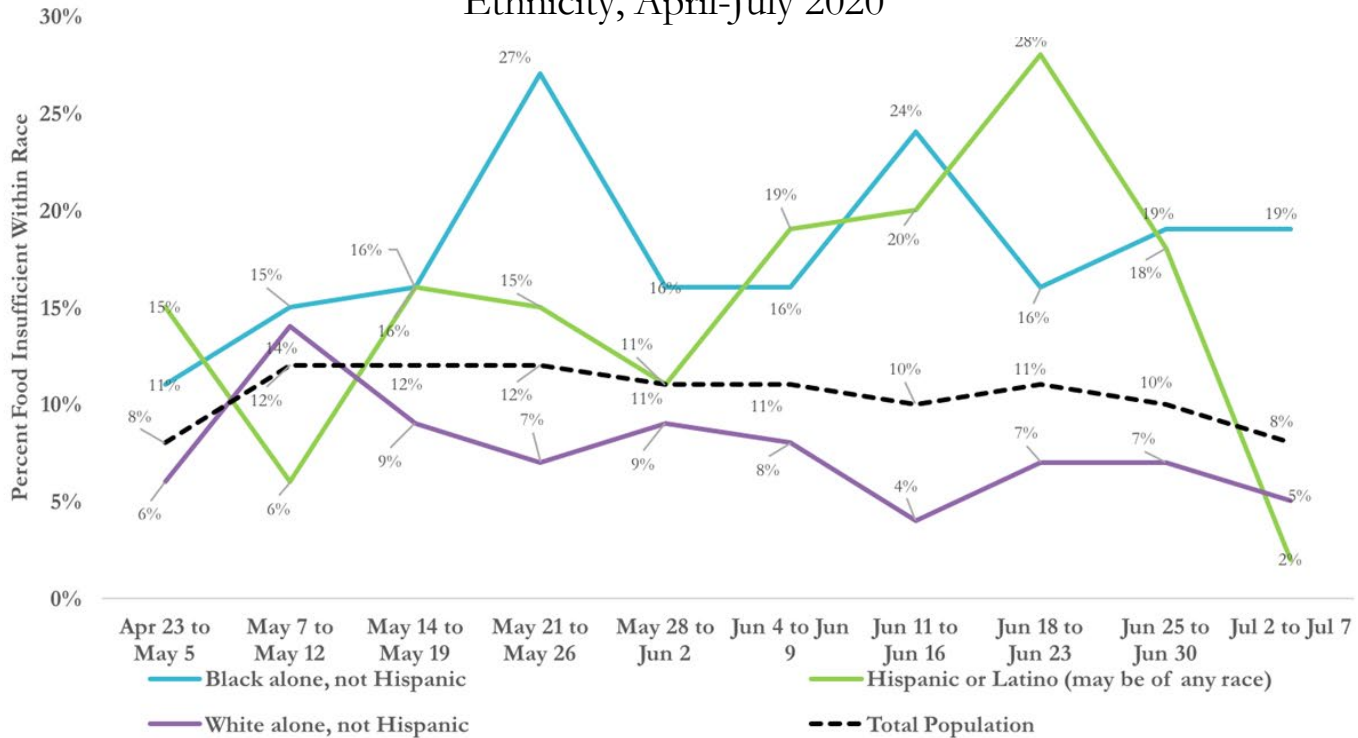


Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

Note: Food insufficient includes survey respondents who chose “sometimes not enough to eat” or “often not enough to eat”

Author: Lauren Talley

Figure 8: Reported Food Insecurity by Race and Ethnicity, April-July 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

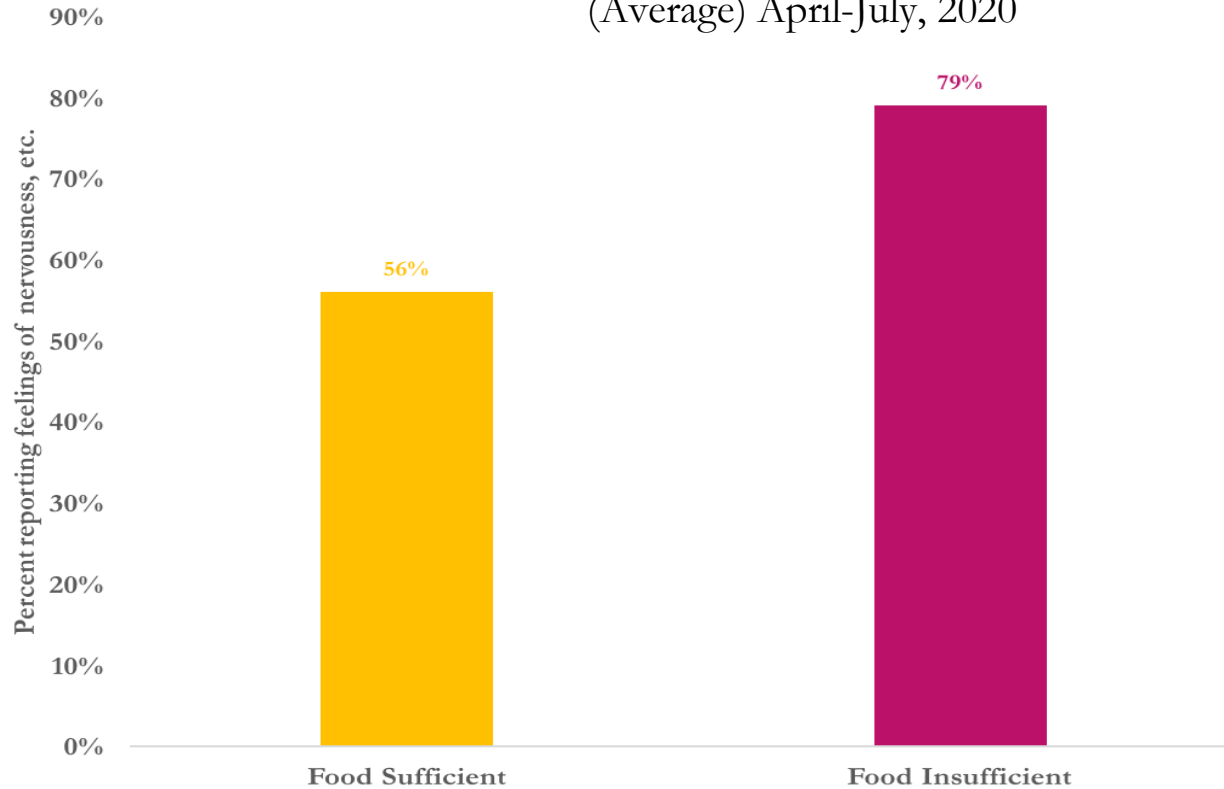
Note: Food insufficient includes survey respondents who chose “sometimes not enough to eat” or “often not enough to eat”

Author: Lauren Talley

Food Insufficiency

- Around 11% of North Carolinians are food insufficient.
 - Black and Hispanic or Latino North Carolinians are facing higher rates of food insufficiency than the state average.
- Households with children are reporting a higher percentage of food insufficiency almost every week.

Figure 9: Reported Feelings of Anxiousness by Food Sufficiency Status,
(Average) April-July, 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

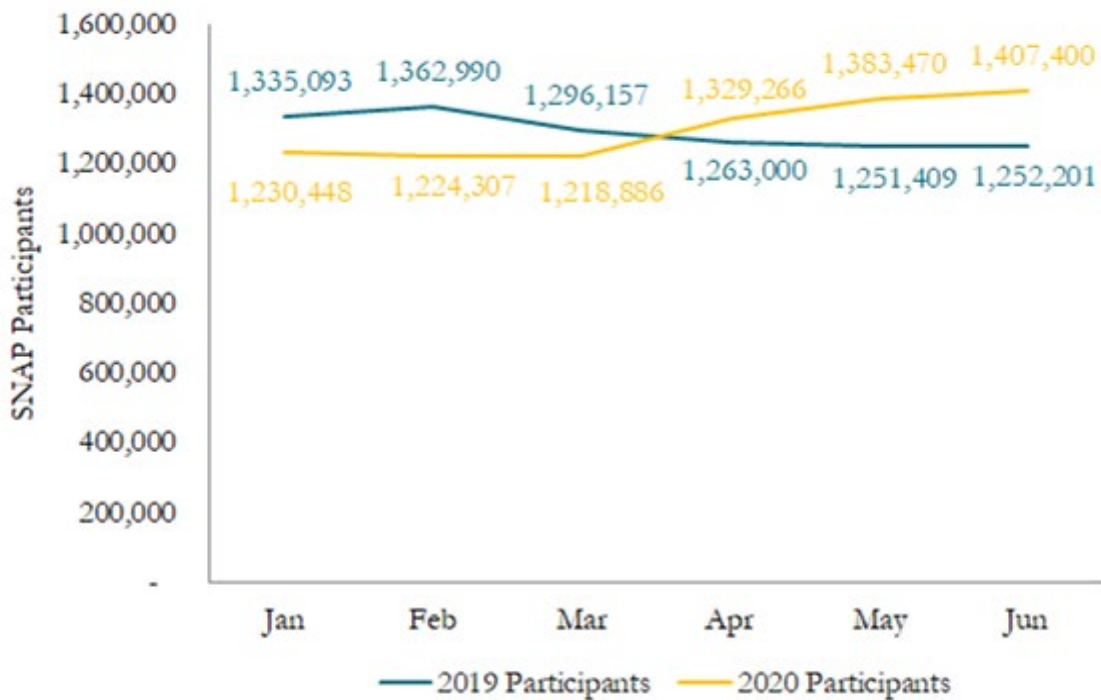
Note: Respondents were recorded if they felt nervous, anxious, or being on edge “several days,” “more than half the days,” or “nearly every day” in the last seven days

Author: Lauren Talley

Feelings of nervousness, anxiousness, or being on edge

- Households experiencing food insufficiency are reporting a higher rate of feeling “nervous, anxious, or on edge” in the last seven days than households who report being food sufficient.
- The difference is, on average, over 20 percentage points.

Figure 10: NC SNAP Participants, 2019 and 2020



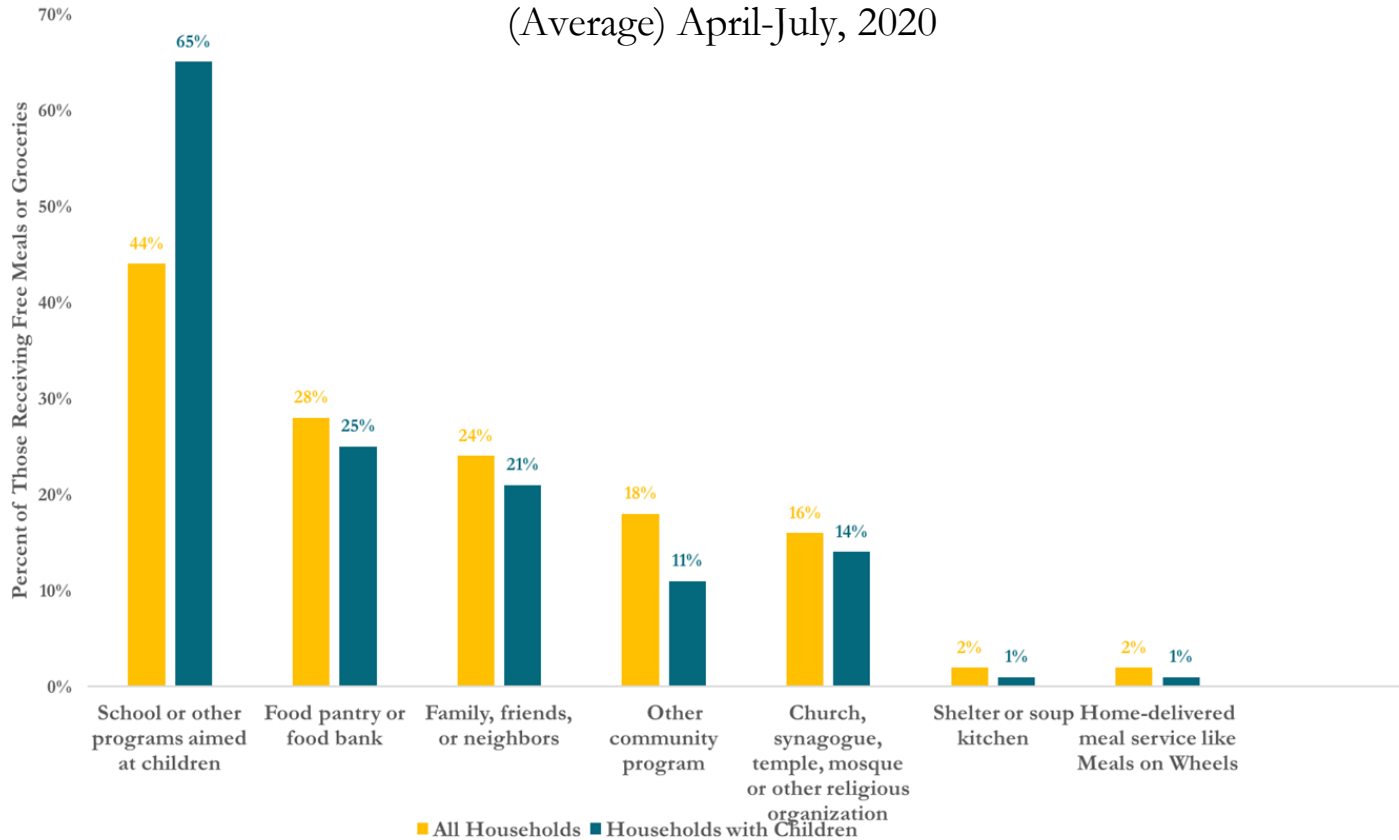
Source: NC DHHS FNS Caseload Statistics Reports, July 2020

Author: Alexandria Huber

SNAP Enrollment

- In March of 2020, the USDA and NC DHHS passed a number of temporary waivers to increase access and support from SNAP including:
 - Removal of the intake interview requirement
 - Suspension of claims collection on overpayments
 - Increasing in benefits allocated to families to the maximum available benefits
- Since April 2020, there has been an increase in SNAP participation across the North Carolina
- From January to June of 2020 there has been a 14% increase in SNAP enrollment in NC compared to a 6% decrease in enrollment from January to June of 2019
- The decrease in participants seen in March 2020 is likely due to the delay that occurs in processing new participants, as a qualitative survey conducted in the same month shows an overall increase in food insecurity.

Figure 11: Source of Free Meals or Groceries,
(Average) April-July, 2020



Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020

Note: Data represents the percent of those who indicated they received free meals or groceries

Author: Lauren Talley

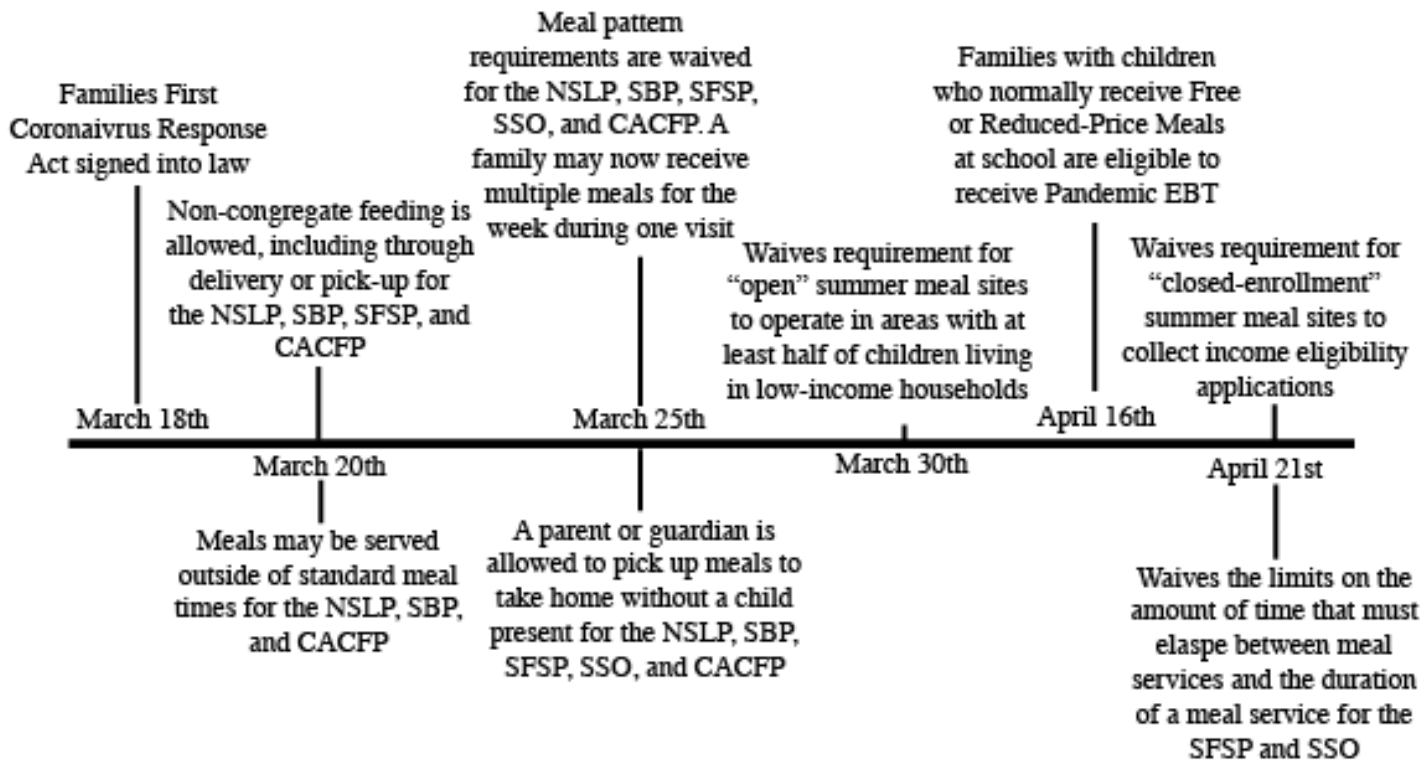
Source of Food Aid

- School meal programs are the most common source of free food for almost all weeks recorded, a trend most likely due to the efforts of N.C. school districts to provide free meals for all children.
 - This effect is especially pronounced for households with children.
- Food pantry distribution consistently grew throughout the weeks recorded, potentially due to pantries having time to rework policies, volunteer efforts, and distribution processes in light of COVID-19.
- Family, friends, or neighbors are also a common source of food aid.

School Lunch Programs

- From March 16 (two days following the closure of K-12 schools) to May 21 (the beginning of Phase 2), 23.9 million meals were served by NC K-12 public schools. Nearly 1,000 pick up/drive-thru meal sites were established and 2,100 yellow school buses delivered meals.
- Compared to the summer meal programs, there has been an increase in meals delivered. However, compared to normal school meals provided during the school year, we are not able to determine how much of the need has been met.

Figure 12: USDA Food Insecurity Policy Responses to COVID-19



Note: NSLP: National School Lunch Program, SBP: School Breakfast Program, CACFP: Child and Adult Care Food Program, SFSP: Summer Food Service Program, SSO: Seamless Summer Option

USDA Food Insecurity Policy Responses to COVID-19

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act directed the USDA to begin allowing nationwide and state-selected waivers and flexibilities for federal food assistance programs.
- These waivers are designed to address heightened food insecurity throughout the pandemic and mitigate public health concerns associated with the operation of federal food assistance programs.
- The waivers were initially implemented as short-term regulatory changes but many have been extended as late as September 30. North Carolina has elected to use 3 nationwide waivers and has applied for 28 state-selected waivers across the USDA's 15 nutrition assistance programs operating in North Carolina.

Sources

National Conference Of State Legislatures. (2020, April 14). Cares Act Analysis: Housing Funding. Retrieved from https://www.ncsl.org/documents/statefed/Housing-Funding_4-14-20.pdf.

US Census Bureau. (2020). Household pulse survey data tables. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>.