

How Are Our Children? Updates and Policy Implications from the RAPID-EC Surveys

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Alliance for Early Success

National Issues ► State Action

Welcome.

Albert Wat, Senior Policy Director
Alliance for Early Success

- Housekeeping and Plan for Q&A
- Pivoting from Rescue to Rebuilding
- Introduction of Today's Guests

We are having issues making sure bills are paid. We have had to choose between food, vehicle, or internet for my job.

We need reliable childcare! This should be built into the infrastructure of America

The cost of food is insane.

Parents shouldn't have to decide between their kids safety and having enough money to put food on the table. If we knew we were supported financially people would be making less riskier choices around sending their kids back to school.

How can I react to my child in a calm and loving way when I'm stretched so thin?

We need to know there is help if/when someone gets sick, not getting paid is not an option for a COVID policy and I had to endure that and it's a huge burden when it's the primary earner!!

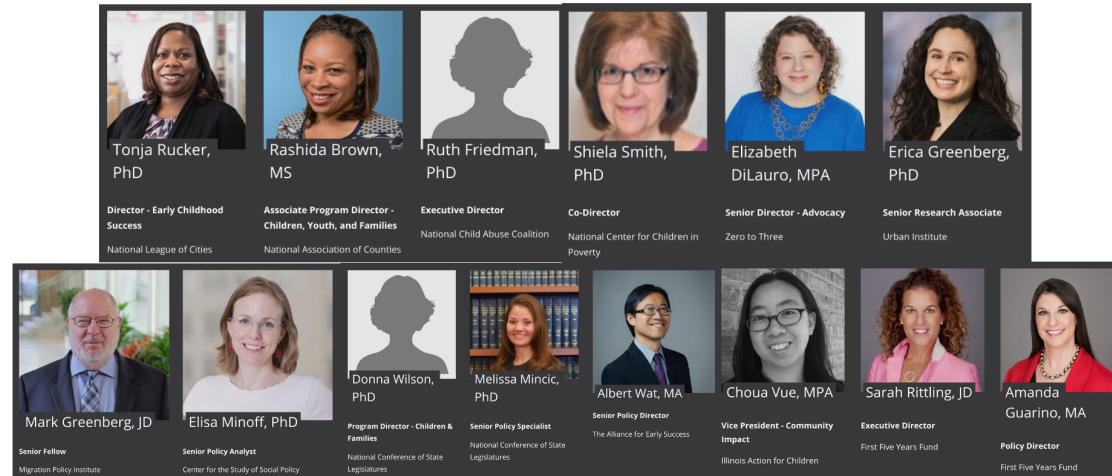
Please STOP politicizing a healthcare crisis. This is not a joke of an illness it never was. Encourage the population to take measures and recognize standard precautions so that economies can remain open without overwhelming our medical system. Also, I would like them to know how disenfranchised we all are with the bullshit party politics they are playing while actual people are suffering.



**Bearing Witness: Family Voices
That We Can't Ignore**



Policy Working Group



RAPID ASSESSMENT OF PANDEMIC IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDER SURVEY

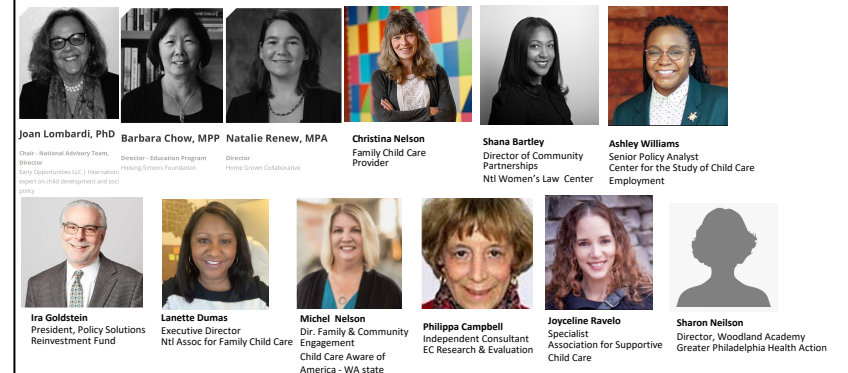


RAPID-EC

RAPID Household Survey National Advisory



RAPID Provider Survey National Advisory



RAPID-EC

Partnerships

RAPID-EC Funders



PRITZKER
Children's Initiative



**RAPID ASSESSMENT
OF PANDEMIC IMPACT
ON DEVELOPMENT
EARLY CHILDHOOD
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY**



RAPID-EC

- Ongoing survey of over households with at least one child age 5 and under; national sample in terms of geography, income, race & ethnicity
- 15 minute paid questionnaire completed via computer or smartphone in English or Spanish
- Weekly surveys April-July, 2x monthly surveys August-present; over 1000 households per survey; total # of participating families to date = 9,000+ caregivers in all 50 states
- Mixed methods via quantitative questions and open-ended questions (>120,000 responses so far)
- Results posted on Medium.com (<https://medium.com/rapid-ec-project>); also extensive media coverage (<https://www.uorapidresponse.com/coverage>)

**RAPID ASSESSMENT
OF PANDEMIC IMPACT
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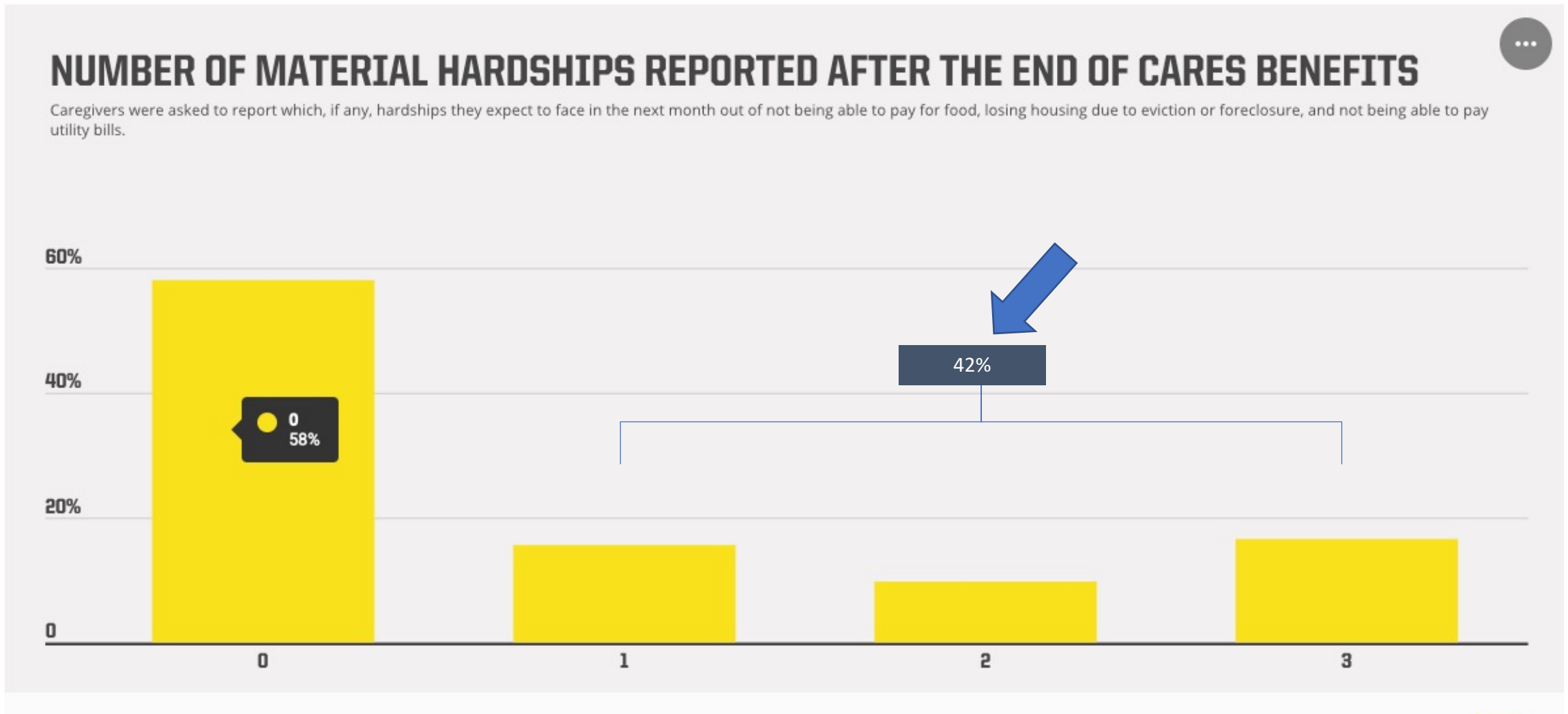


RAPID-EC

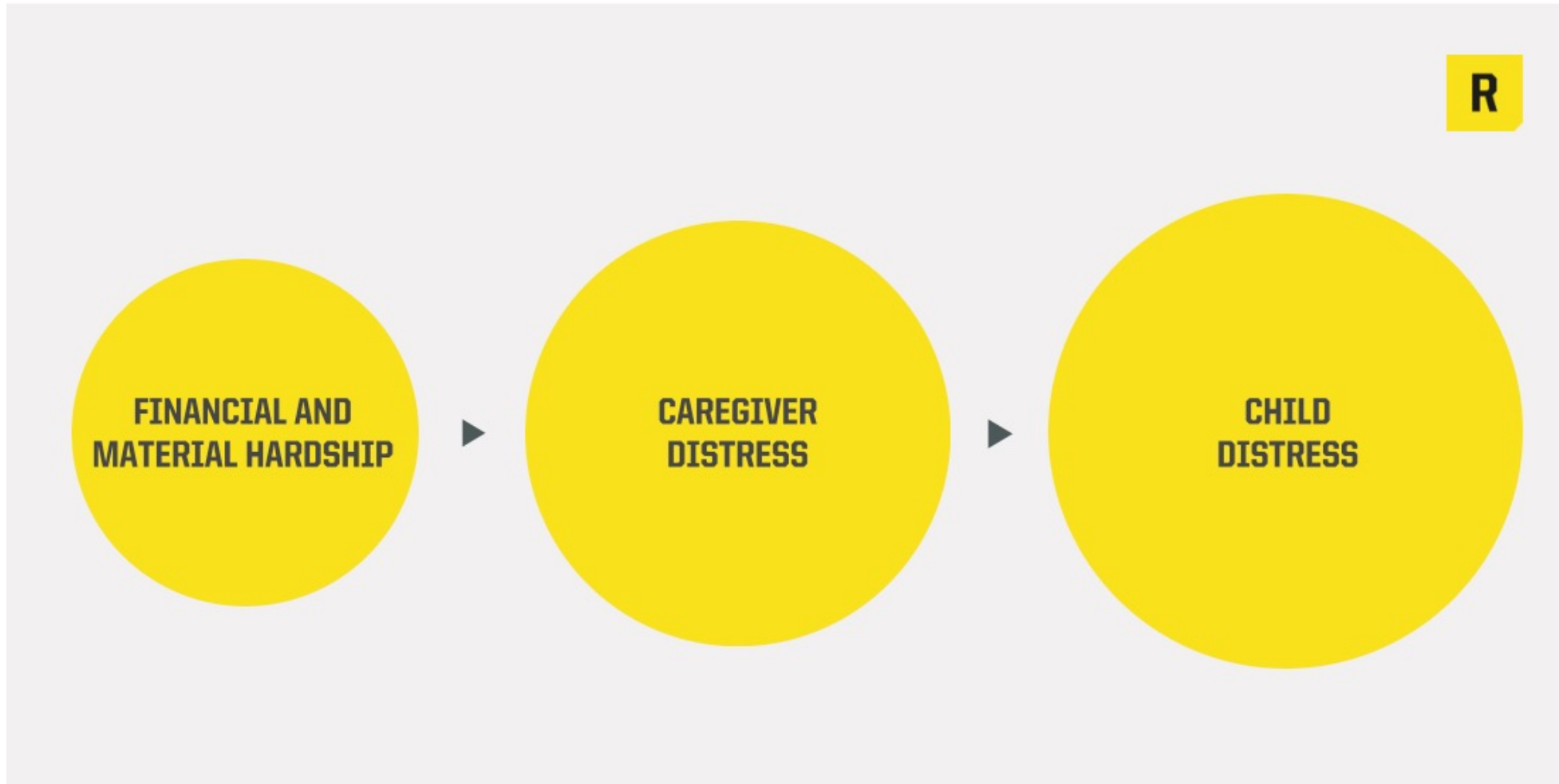
RAPID-EC Survey: Five Key Topics

1. Four areas of **parent emotional well-being** (stress, depression, anxiety, loneliness)
2. Two areas of **child emotional well-being** (fussy/upset; fearful/anxious)
3. Economic situation/ability to pay for basic needs, i.e. **material hardship**, in terms of food, housing, and utilities
4. Issues related to **childcare**: availability, perceptions of safety, barriers to access, preference for type of care, role of childcare provider
5. Issues related to **pediatric healthcare**: well-baby/well child visit adherence, routine vaccinations, barriers to access, plans for COVID vaccination

1. Difficulty paying for basic needs (i.e., material hardship) is at the root of difficulties: **Pervasiveness of material hardship**



...Leading to a Chain Reaction of Hardship



SPOTLIGHT ON HUNGER

- *Hunger has increased significantly during the pandemic — 28% of parents in our survey report being food insecure.*
- Rates of hunger are much higher for lower income families – 49% of these families are experiencing hunger.
- Hunger has also increased significantly for families that were middle/upper income before the pandemic, from 13% to 20%.

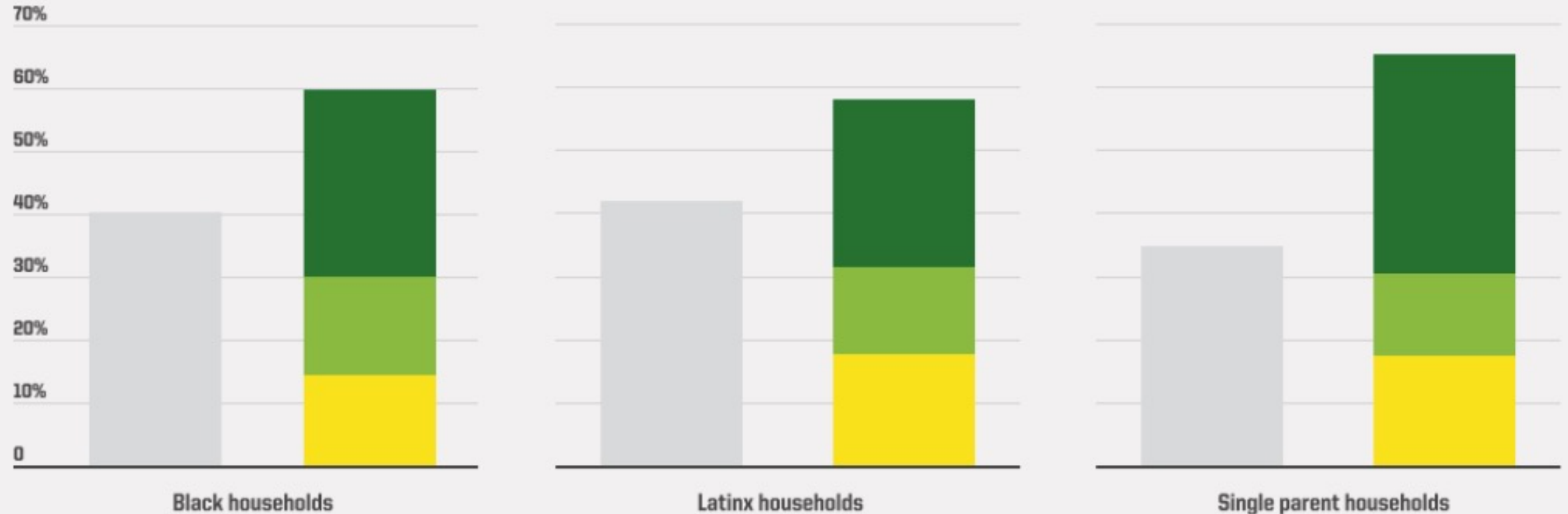


2. COVID-19 is widening **inequality gaps based on income and race/ethnicity**:
~60% of Black, Latinx, and single parent households report difficulty paying for rent, utilities, and/or food

NUMBER OF MATERIAL HARDSHIPS REPORTED

Caregivers were asked to report which, if any, hardships they expect to face in the next month out of not being able to pay for food, losing housing due to eviction or foreclosure, and not being able to pay utility bills.

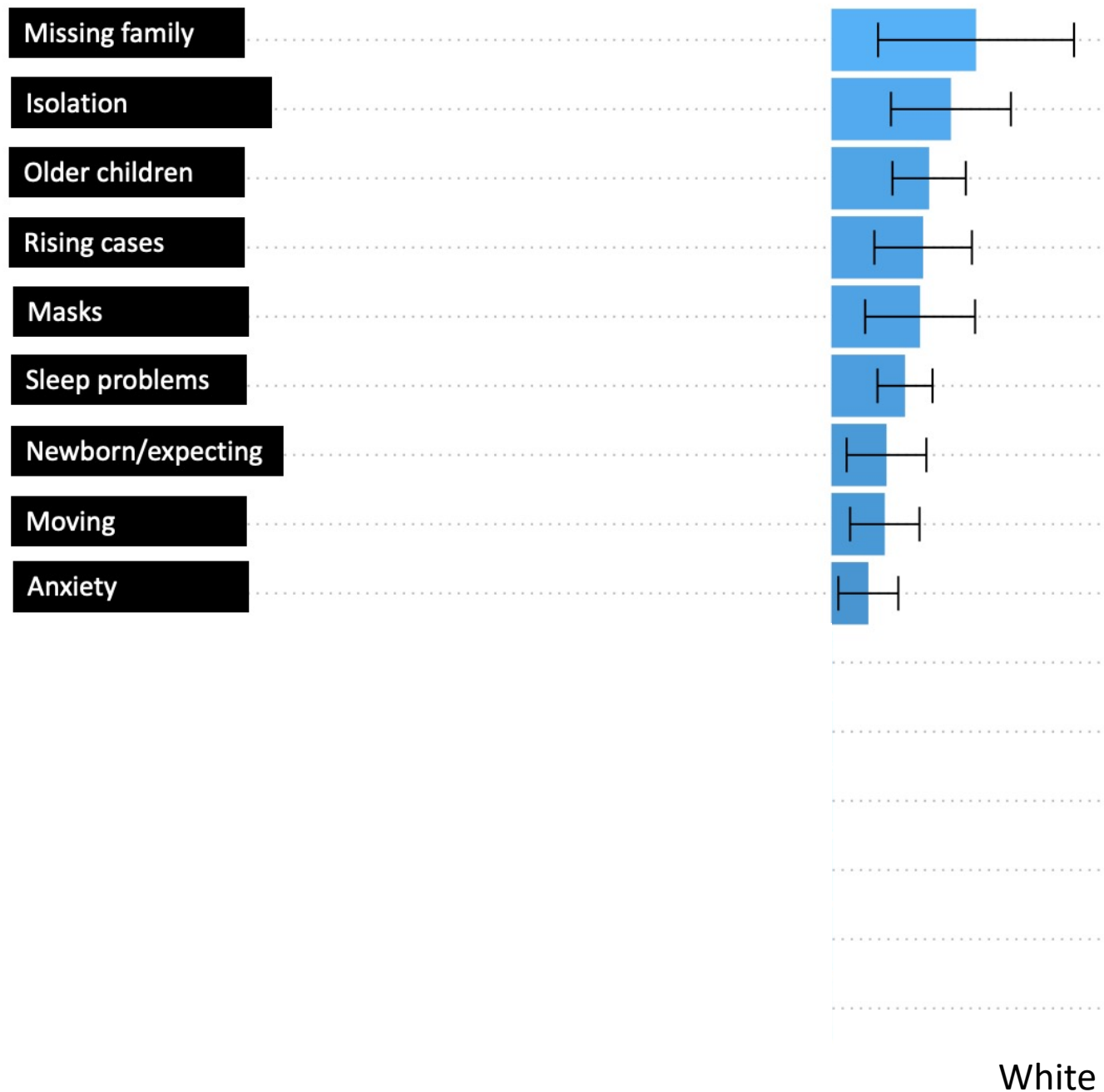
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Two pandemics: Concerns by race

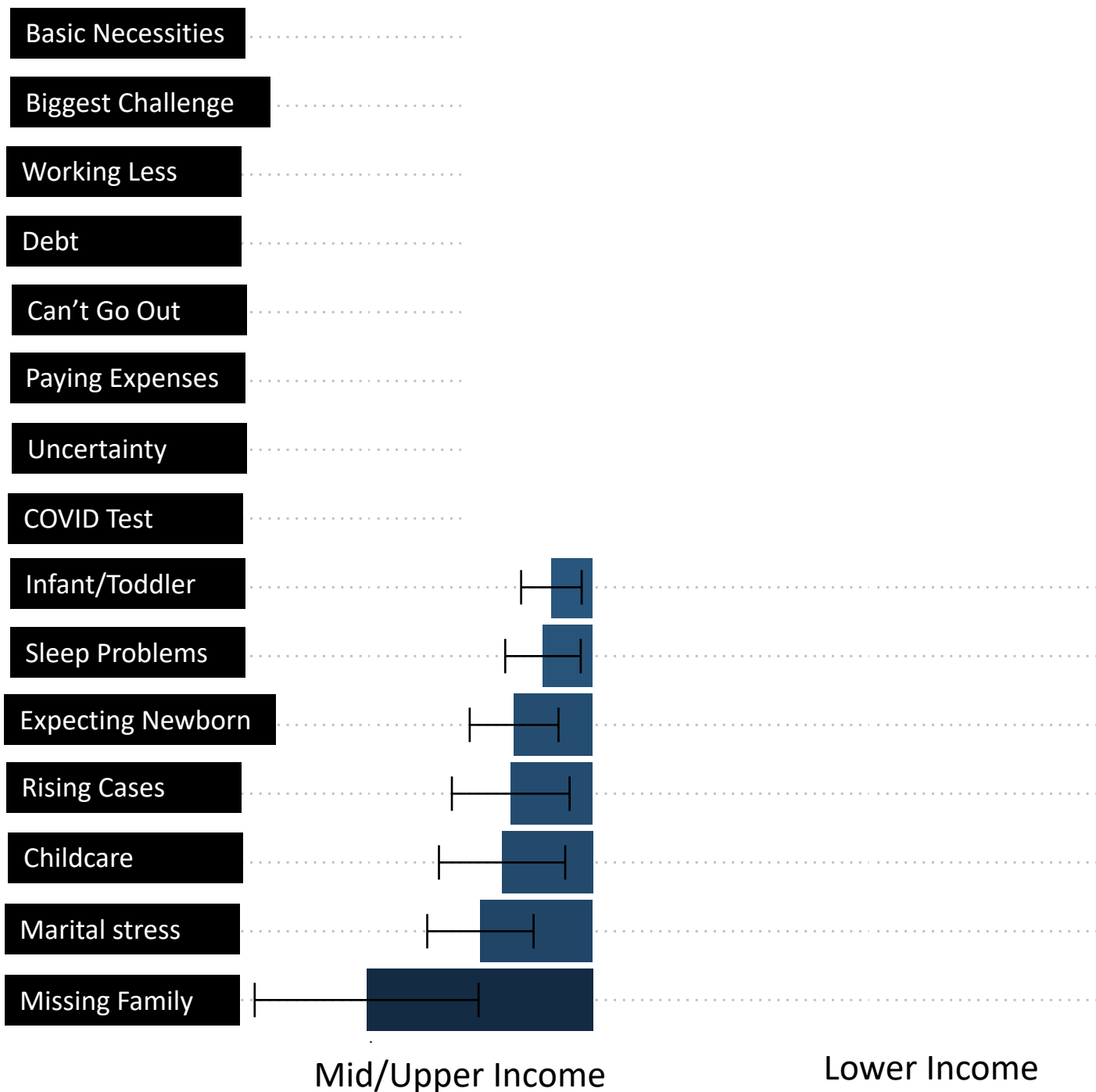
- Controlling for financial status
- Income alone does not account for the challenges that Black caregivers face during the pandemic.



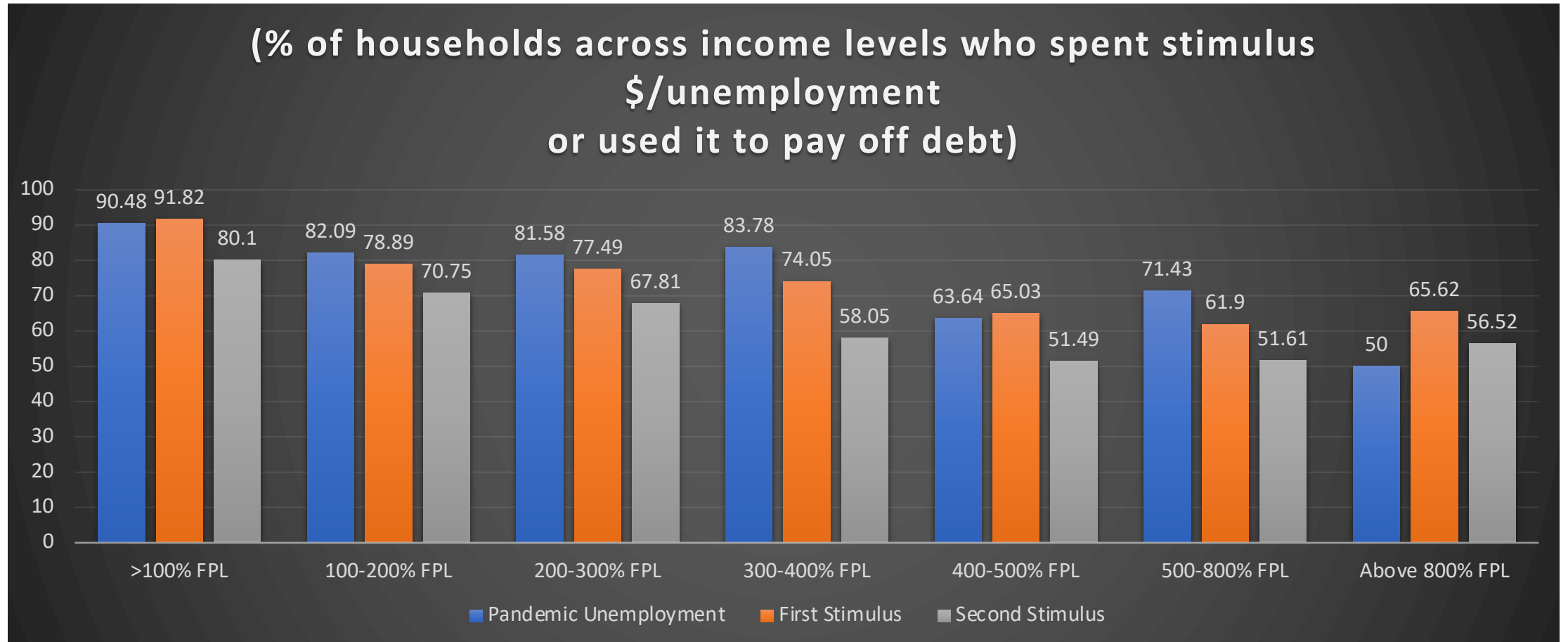


Two pandemics: Concerns by financial status

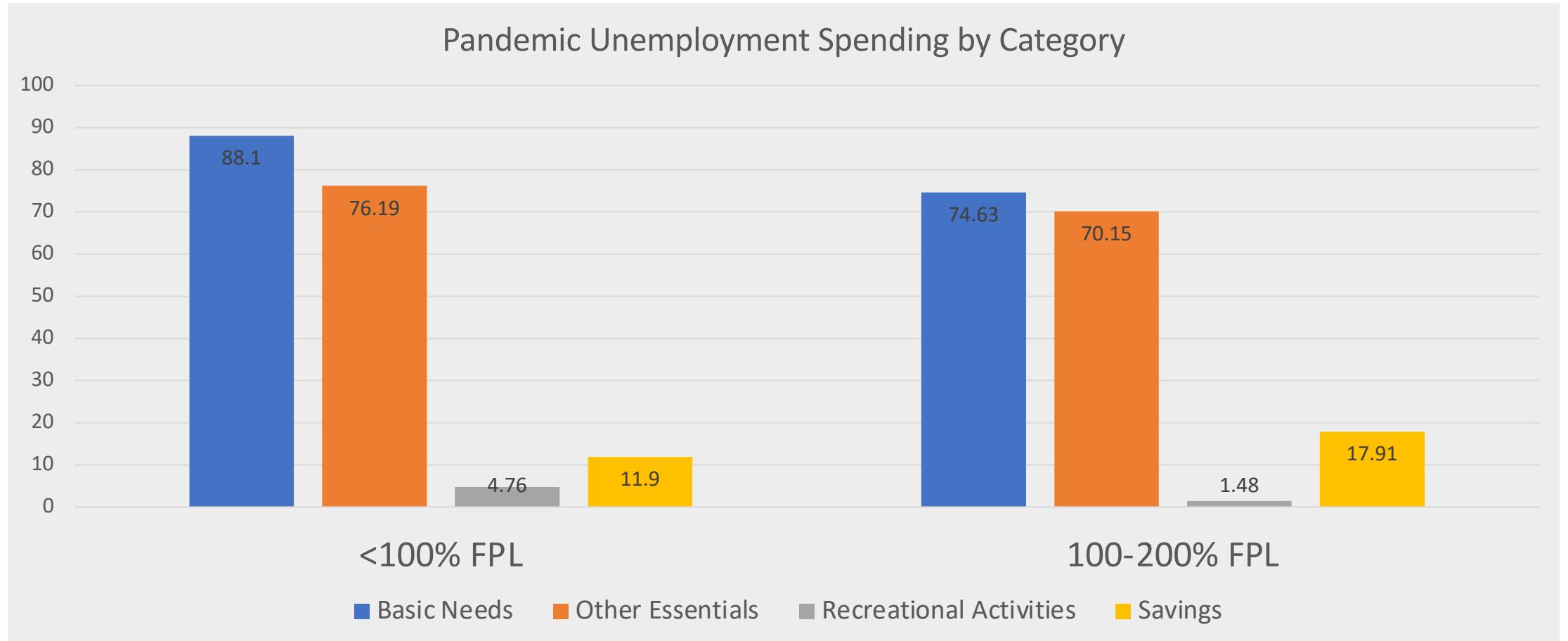
- Families living below the poverty line (FPL) talk about paying for expenses, and losing employment
- Families above the FPL talk about missing family, marital stress, and childcare



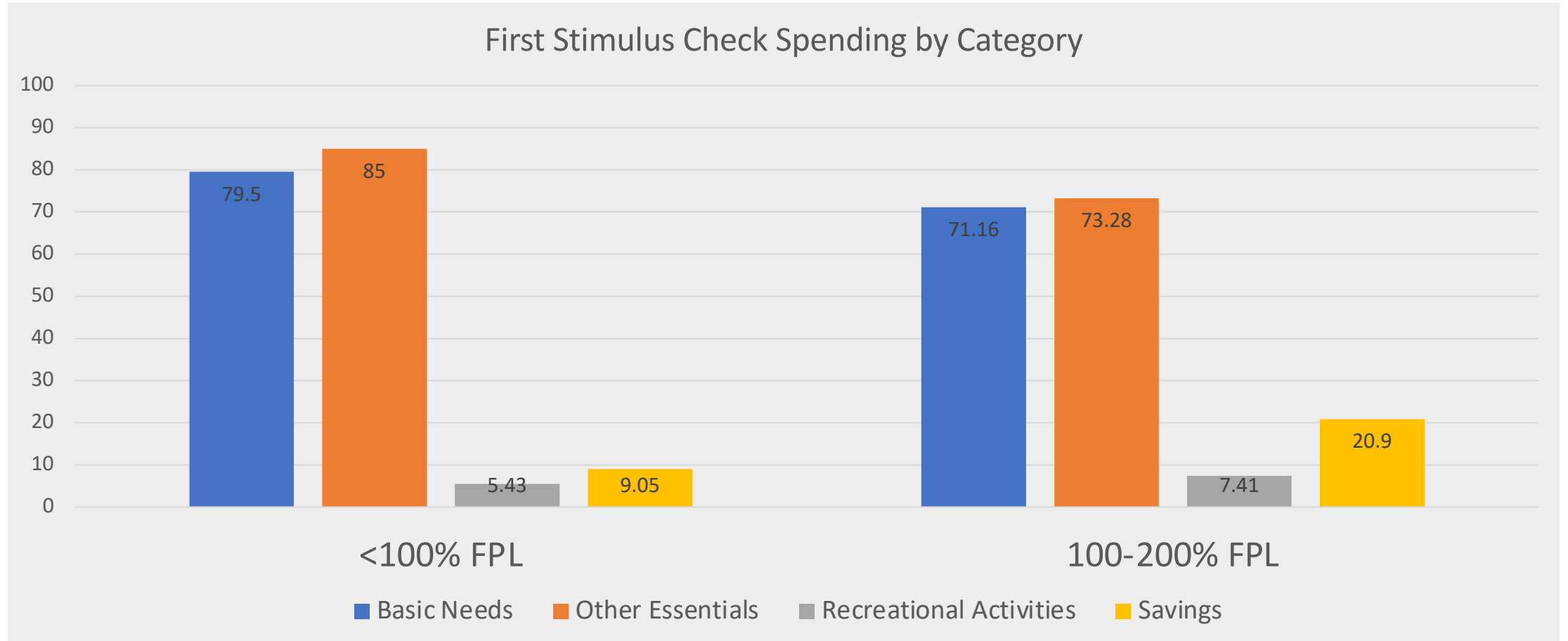
Across all income levels, most families spent 2020 pandemic relief \$, or used it to pay off debt



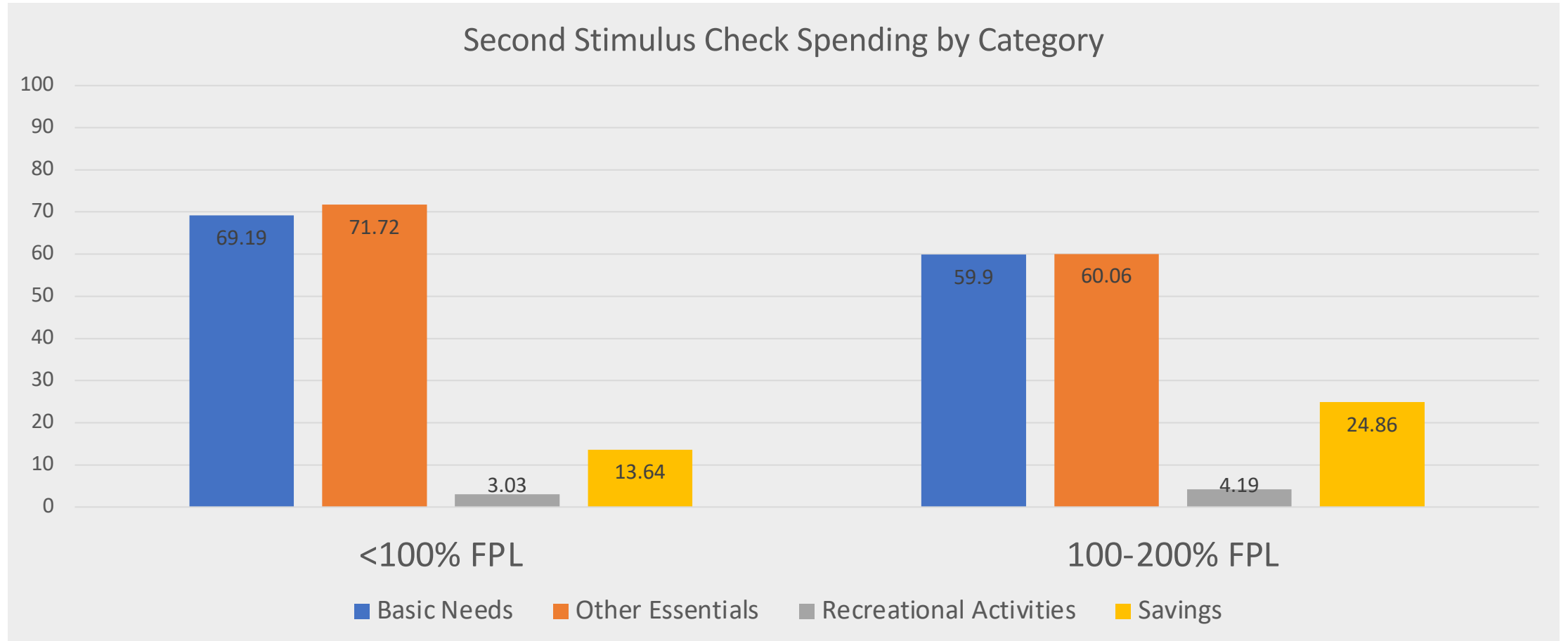
Stimulus \$ was critical to help lower income families pay for basic needs



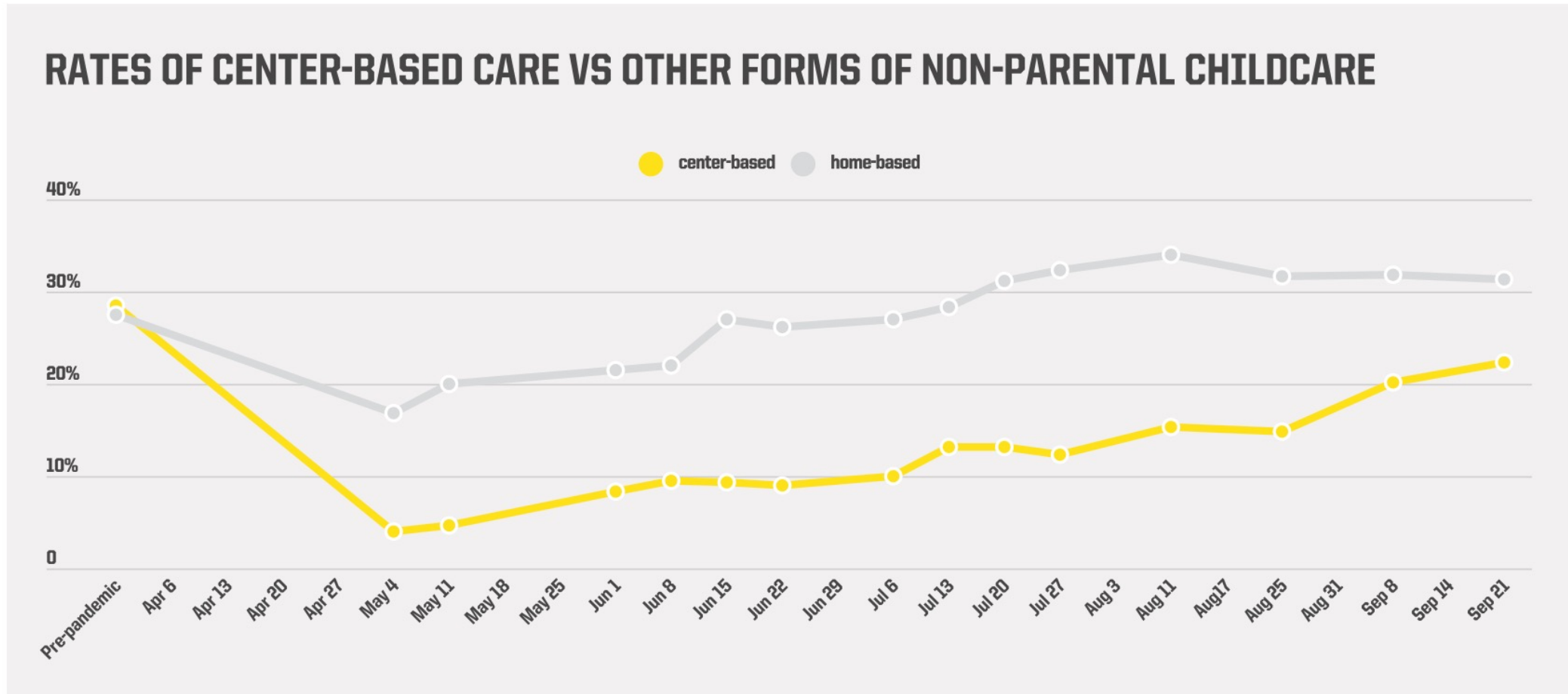
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Childcare is an essential need in the lives of households with young children



Our friends take care of our daughter 2 days a week at their house so I can focus on working at home. They are the most crucial part of our lives right now. Not only can we trust them completely with our daughter, but they are my only social outlet. I would be completely lost without them.

Our provider plays an immense role in helping my kindergartner keep on track during distance learning (it is a structured day there with other kids in learning pod). At home, he refuses to pay attention and is easily distracted

My childcare providers are invaluable people that I wouldn't be able to work without. In addition, they are close members of my family and I not only trust them, but I know it is important for them to bond with my kids.

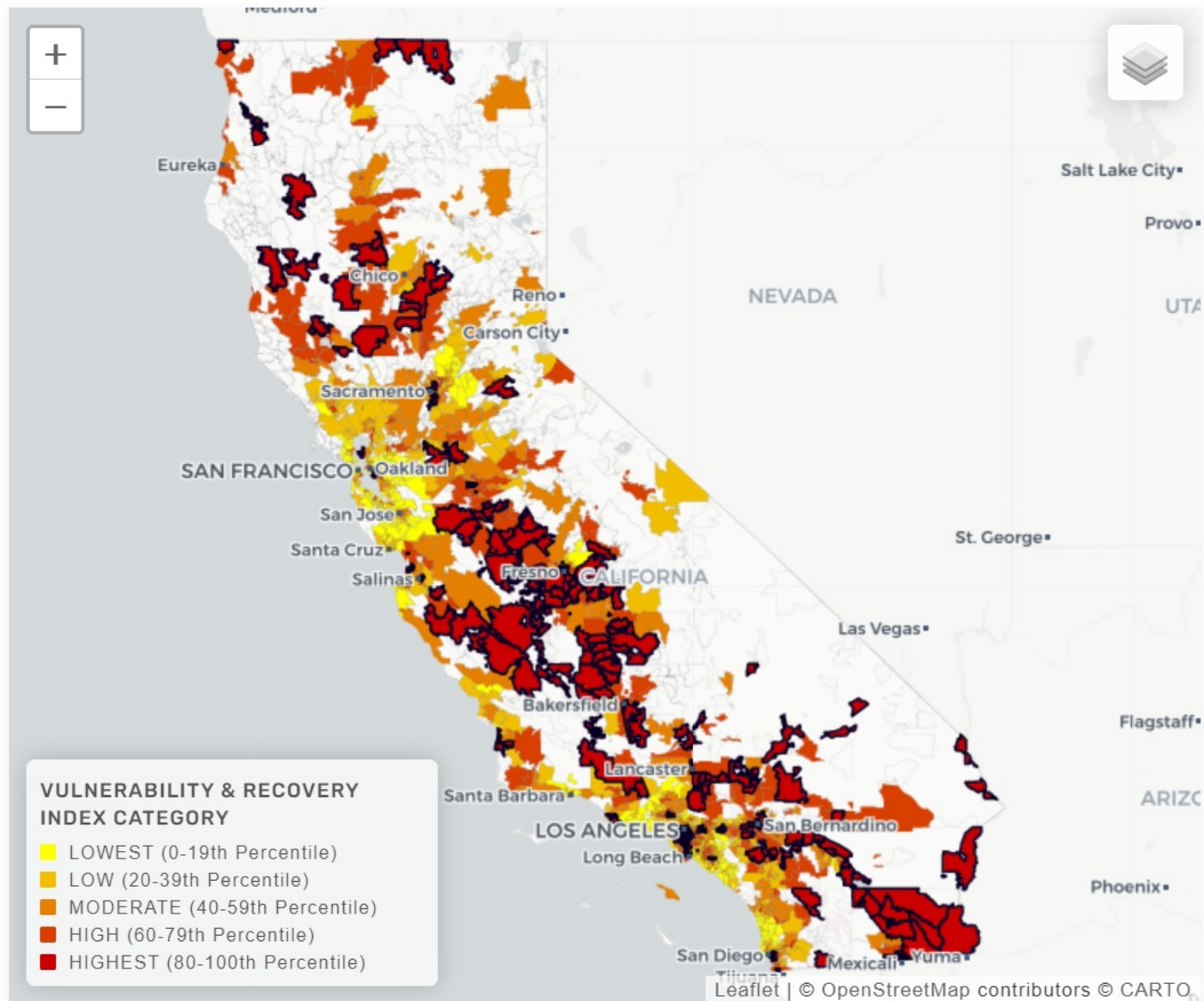
I currently pay a sitter to visit with my children one afternoon each week (roughly three to four hours). As much as I value our sitter's work, and as much as my kids cherish her, that three to four hours each week barely puts a dent in my family's childcare needs. But I am not sure that our sitter could provide different hours or that we could afford to pay for more than halftime care.

Overall policy recommendations

- Continue to provide financial support to families
- Address racial inequalities
- Support a range of child care options (including FFN)
- Child care, family support, and income supports are not a zero sum game

Other reflections

- Listen to families and providers
- Employ rapid cycle research methods as conditions are changing;
- Make the data accessible
- Build community capacity



Mouseover or click the map for more info

"When the pandemic started, my mom lost her job as a waitress in a coffee shop. Shortly after that, she started working for Instacart and Amazon delivering groceries. To support her, I look after my younger brother Tiger and go to work with her from time to time. Her job is grueling--picking up all the packages and then delivering them up flights of stairs to people's homes is not an easy job."

"I worry about the exposure she gets, but she has no choice because she is undocumented. We have received little support from the government. My family has actually received more financial assistance from InnerCity Struggle than from the government."

"The way distance learning is being done now is leaving students behind. If it was challenging to teach and engage 30+ students in a classroom, it's nearly impossible to do that through Zoom. There is a huge disconnect happening between students and teachers."

"My younger brother Tiger has been struggling, he misses the classroom and his friends. He is having a hard time finding the motivation to complete his assignments, and he is not the only one. I do my best to help him out--even using Youtube to teach myself his math assignments in order to be able to tutor him."

Isis Mejia



LA County Launches the Community Equity Fund with Community-based Organizations in Regions and for Communities Most Impacted by COVID-19





Legislative Briefing on Racial Justice and COVID-19 *Recovery*

ENSURING EQUITABLE AND IMMEDIATE
PANDEMIC RELIEF FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 | 10 AM – 11:30 AM



Thank You!



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