



Household Pulse Survey: Child Care Disruptions

HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA MCHB) and CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (CDC NCHS) partner with the Census Bureau on the [Household Pulse Survey](#) to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Content sponsored by HRSA MCHB—including children's telemedicine appointments, missed/delayed preventive visits, and disruptions in child care—was included on Phase 3.1 of the survey (April 14-July 5, 2021). During Phase 3.1, between 66,000 and 79,000 adults responded to the survey each week. Sponsored content will also be included on Phase 3.2 (July 21-October 11, 2021). Recent analysis by HRSA MCHB of the Phase 3.1 data regarding recent **child care disruptions** during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown:

- Between June 7, 2021 and July 5, 2021, 16,804 surveyed households (representing 1.5 million U.S. households) reported they typically rely on child care. Of those households, 17.8% reported they were unable to use their regular child care due to COVID-19.
- The prevalence of disrupted child care was high among households experiencing some form of financial hardship. Specifically, child care closures in the 4 weeks preceding the survey affected 29.5% of households not caught up on rent/mortgage; 40.9% of households at risk of eviction/foreclosure in the next two months; 26.7% of households struggling to pay usual household expenses; and 32.3% of households with children who were not eating enough due to lack of affordability.
- As a result of these child care closures, 27.2% of caregivers in households with children supervised one or more children while working; 26.9% cut work hours; 22.4% took paid leave (such as vacation or sick leave); and 23.5% took unpaid leave in order to care for children. In addition, 15.9% of caregivers left a job and 16.2% did not look for a job in order to care for children.

This ongoing data collection and analysis will provide a better understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted families to inform policies and programs aimed at families and children.

Detailed information can be found about the Household Pulse Survey on the [Census Bureau website](#) or visit [HRSA MCHB](#).

IN BRIEF

HRSA's MCHB and CDC's NCHS partner with the Census Bureau on the Household Pulse Survey to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

From June 7 to July 5, 2021, 17.8% of families that normally have children in child care reported they were unable to attend child care due to COVID-19.

Recent data have shown a large proportion of families that are struggling financially have also lost child care during the COVID-19 pandemic, including many families that are at risk of eviction or foreclosure.

Recent data have also shown a large number of families are struggling to balance work and child care demands due to child care closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. A smaller but significant percentage of families also report that caregivers have left the workforce because of child care closures.