

Data Collection on Poverty During the Pandemic

Trudi Renwick

U.S. Census Bureau

December 3, 2020

trudi.j.renwick@census.gov

The views expressed in this research, including those related to statistical, methodological, technical, or operational issues, are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official positions or policies of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Presentations

- EU-SILC - Eurostat
- Data collection in Latin America during the pandemic: ECLAC
- Study on practices of national statistical offices in adapting their household surveys to the COVID-19 crisis situation with respect to poverty

EU-SILC

- Survey to document changes in data collection.
 - Postponed or extended field work
 - For most countries no change in response rates – 1st wave most affected
 - Ad hoc measures including using register data, historical data
- New questions on change in income compared to previous year and its main reason
- Harmonize the collection of data on new COVID-19 benefits – comparability
- Small voluntary module on the impact of COVID-19 in 2021 EU-SILC data
 - Benefits
 - Work arrangements
 - Ability of children in school age to participate in lessons online
 - Health

Latin America - ECLAC

- Change interviewing mode from face-to-face to telephone
 - Use a sample of household from previous periods, for which contact information is available
 - Apply design-based adjustments for the correction of selection and coverage bias
- Recommendations and technical assistance from ECLAC. Encourage continued use of telephone interviewing post-pandemic
- Nowcasting the impact of COVID-19 on poverty
 - ECLAC used existing modeling techniques to nowcast the impact of COVID-19 on poverty

Practices of national statistical offices in adapting their household surveys to the COVID-19 crisis situation

- Really congratulate the UNECE for getting this going so quickly to provide real time information during the pandemic
- Several key points in the survey
 - Type of survey used to measure poverty
 - Adaption of survey-taking to physical contact restrictions
 - Special surveys designed for pandemic crisis context
 - Survey coverage of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups
 - Monitoring poverty and vulnerability to poverty in shorter than annual intervals

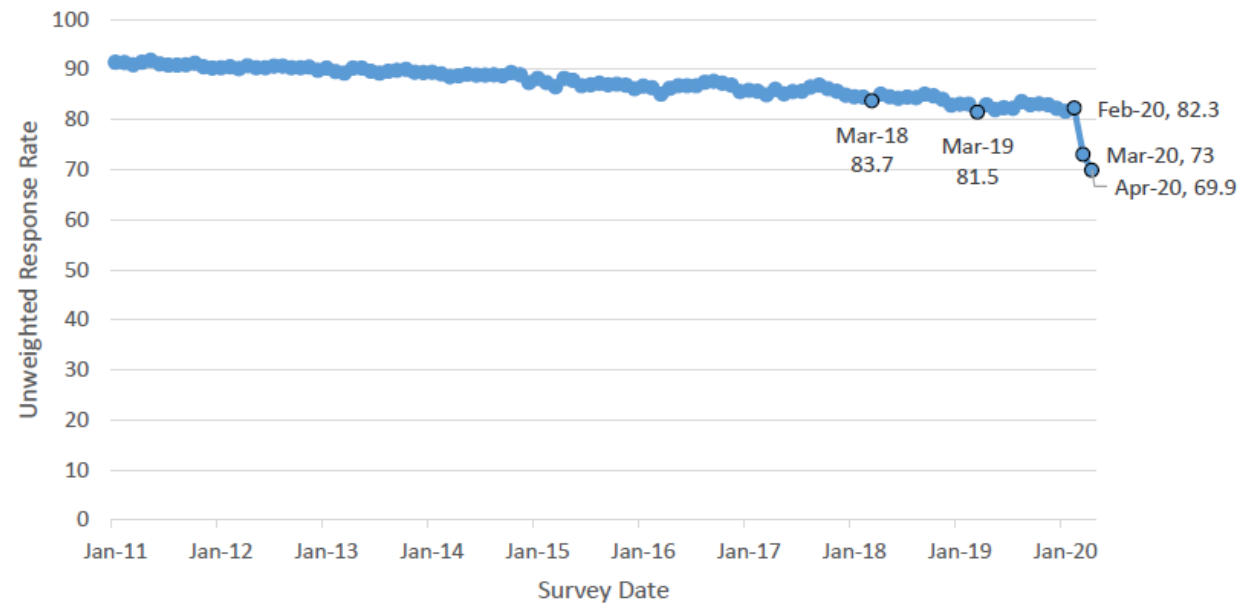
Experience in the United States

- Type of survey used to measure poverty:
 - Official estimates from our labor force survey with a special annual social and economic supplement – 100,000 households CPS ASEC
 - Also the American Community Survey (ACS) 3.5 million households
- Impact of the pandemic on surveys
 - CPS ASEC suspended face-to-face interviewing in March
 - Purchased telephone numbers for addresses not previously interviewed (first month in sample)
 - ACS – suspended operations in March, April, May and June. Back to full operations in October. 50% internet response but not able to mail out the materials inviting respondents to participate in the survey; suspended reminder postcards, final reminder. Impact on response rates.

Impact of pandemic on poverty and income estimates for the U.S.

- Lower response rates

Figure 1: Basic CPS Monthly Unweighted Response Rates



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics,
<https://www.bls.gov/osmr/response-rates/household-survey-response-rates.htm>

Coronavirus Infects Surveys, Too: Nonresponse Bias During the Pandemic in the CPS ASEC. SEPTEMBER 15, 2020. WORKING PAPER NUMBER SEHSD WP2020-10. JONATHAN ROTHBAUM AND ADAM BEE

Nonresponse bias?

- Rothbaum and Bee matched address frame to administrative records, decennial census and other surveys to analyze nonresponse bias
 - Stronger association between nonresponse and income than in previous years
 - Response patterns changed by education, Hispanic origin, and citizenship and nativity
 - Use inverse probability weights to correct for nonresponse bias
- Income growth 2.8 percent lower than survey estimate
- Poverty 11.1 percent rather than 10.5 percent

Source: Coronavirus Infects Surveys, Too: Nonresponse Bias During the Pandemic in the CPS ASEC. SEPTEMBER 15, 2020. WORKING PAPER NUMBER SEHSD WP2020-10. JONATHAN ROTHBAUM AND ADAM BEE

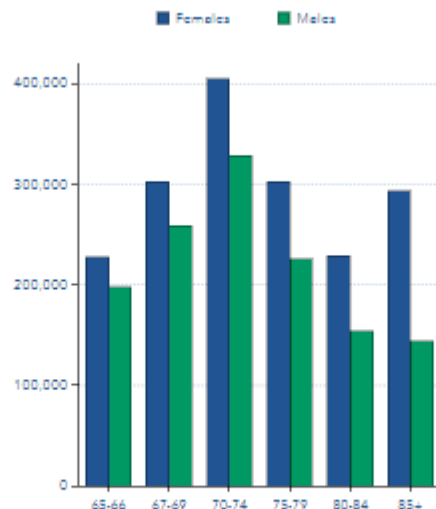


STATE COVID-19 IMPACT PLANNING REPORT

New York (FIPS 36)



POPULATION 65 AND OLDER



KEY FACTS

19,618,453	7,316,537	2.60	38.7	81.2%
Total Population	Total Households	Average Household Size	Median Age	Internet At Home

BUSINESSES



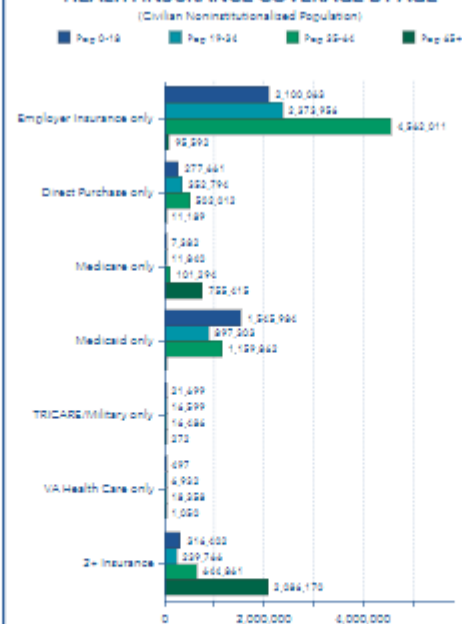
POVERTY



AT-RISK POPULATION



HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE BY AGE

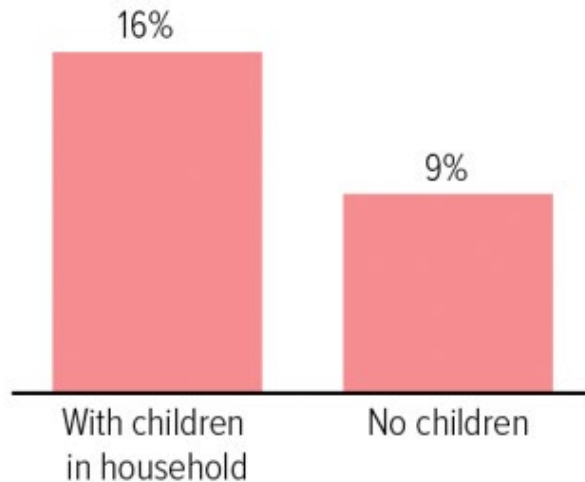


Source: 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year and County Business Patterns (CBP) 2017

Household Pulse Survey

For 1 in 6 Adults With Children, Household Lacked Sufficient Food in Last 7 Days

Share of adults reporting that their household sometimes or often did not have enough to eat

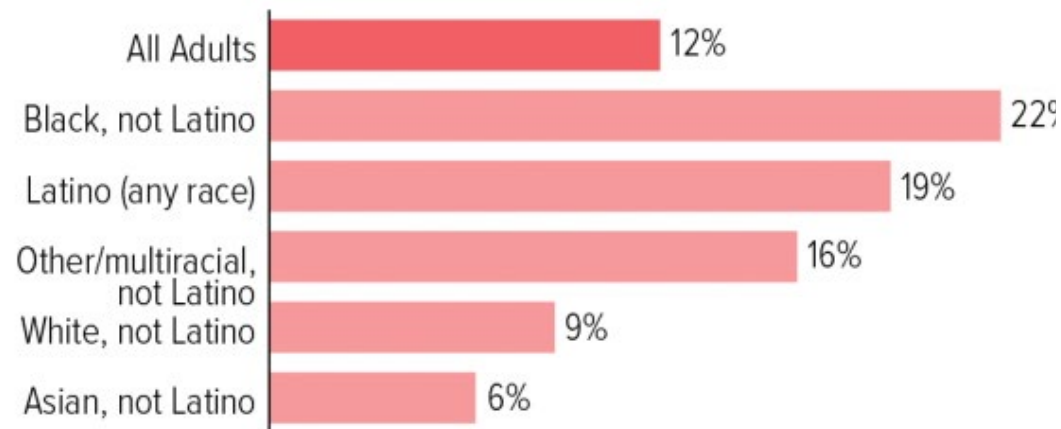


Note: Chart excludes individuals who did not respond to the question.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey tables for October 28 - November 9, 2020

Black and Latino Households Likelier to Experience Food Insecurity During Pandemic

Share of adults saying that their household sometimes or often did not have enough to eat in the last 7 days

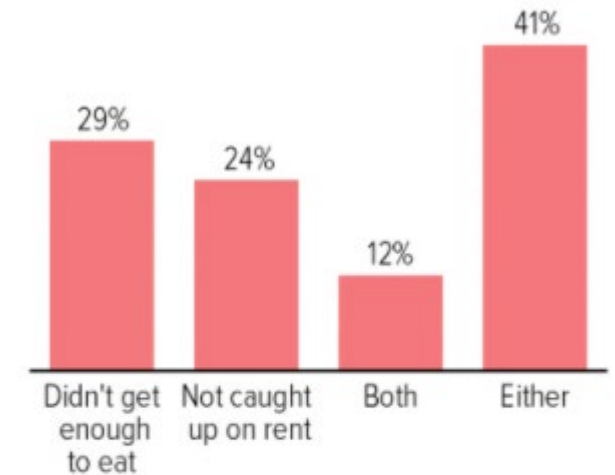


Note: Other/Multiracial not Latino = people identifying as American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or more than one race. Percentages are based on reporting distributions and do not include the populations that did not respond to the question.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey tables for October 28 - November 9, 2020

For 4 in 10 Children in Renter Households, Household Faces Food and/or Housing Hardship

Percent of children in households that:



Note: Didn't get enough to eat = household had "not enough to eat" sometimes or often in last 7 days. Figures omit children in households that do not pay cash rent, such as those in employer-provided housing, as well as those who did not respond to one or both hardship questions. Survey does not collect data on children directly; figures for children are estimated based on number of children in each household.

Source: CBPP analysis of Census' Household Pulse Survey public use file, data collected October 14-26, 2020

Small Business PULSE Survey

- Small business operations and finances, requests and receipt of assistance, and measures of overall well-being and expectations for recovery

- Weekly data products

<https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/>

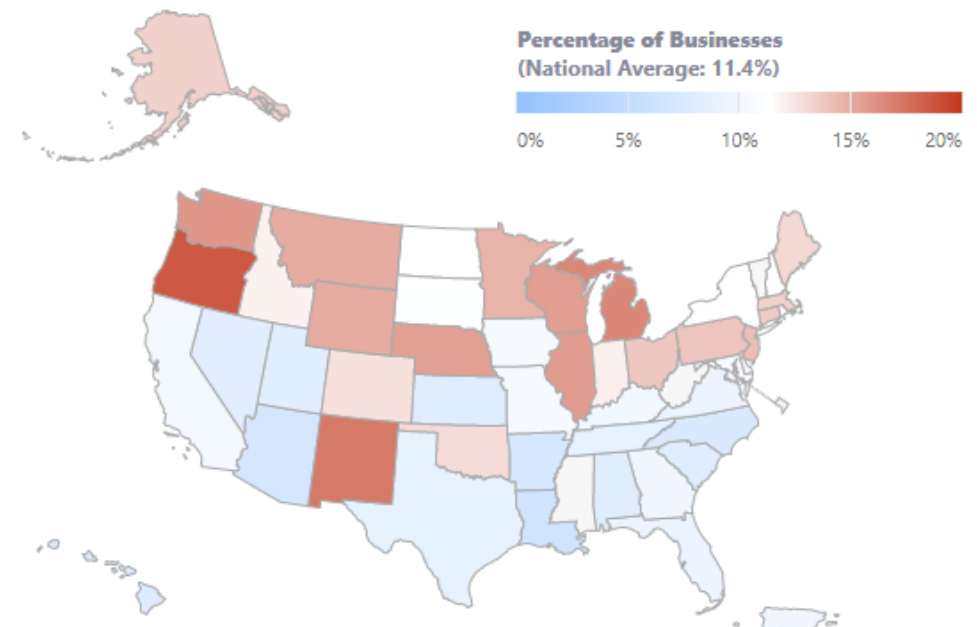
Collection Dates: 11/16 to 11/22 ▾

Survey Question: Change in employees ▾

Survey Answer: Yes, decreased ▾

In the last week, did this business have a change in the number of paid employees?

Data Collected 11/16 to 11/22



Community Resilience Estimates

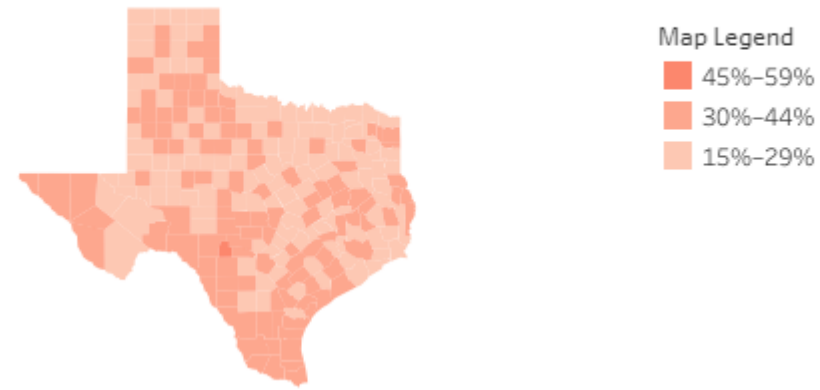
Community resilience is the capacity of individuals and households within a community to absorb, endure, and recover from the impacts of a disaster.

- Individual and household characteristics from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) were modeled, in combination with publicly-available data from the 2018 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), to provide tract and county level estimates
- These experimental estimates, in their current form, are specific to the current pandemic but could be modified to fit other disease outbreaks or weather-related disasters with differing risk factors.
- Local planners, policy makers, public health officials, and community stakeholders can use the estimates as one tool to help assess the potential resiliency of communities and plan mitigation strategies.

<https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/community-resilience-estimates.html>

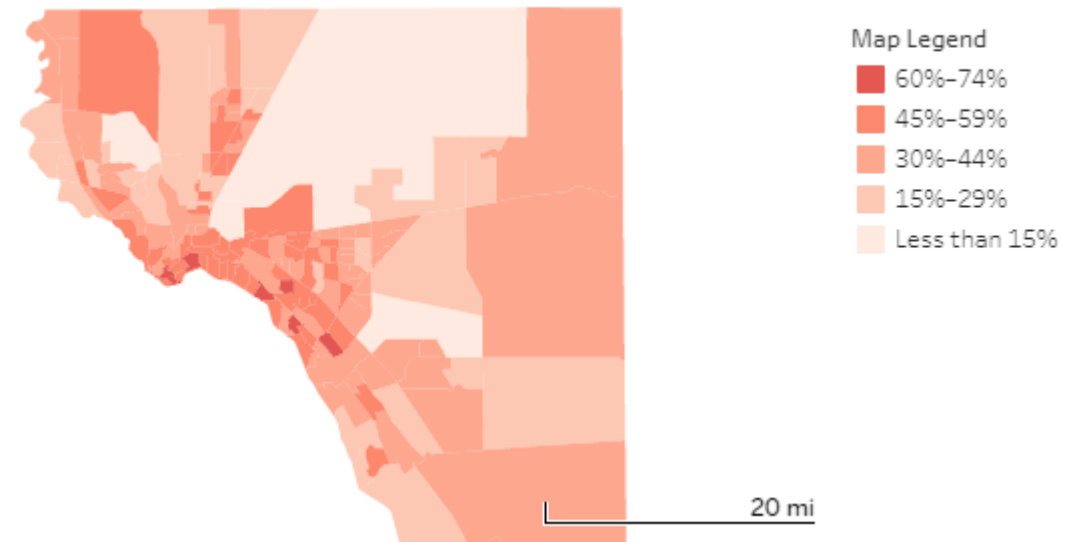
Texas

Map of Percentage of Residents in County with 3+ Risk Factors



El Paso County, TX

Map of Percentage of Residents in Tract with 3+ Risk Factors



Risk factors (11)

ACS-defined Risk Factors (RF) for Households (HH) and Individuals (I)

- Income-to-Poverty Ratio (IPR) < 130 (HH).
- Single or zero caregiver household –only one or no individuals living in the household who are 18-64 (HH).
- Unit-level crowding - persons per room over 0.75 (HH)
- Communications barrier –linguistically isolated or no one in the household with a high school diploma (HH)
- No employed persons (HH)
- Disability posing constraint to significant life activity (I)
- No health insurance coverage (I)

Domain defined Risk Factors

- Age >= 65 (I)
- Persons per room = 1 or more persons reside within high-density tract (HH)

Health Condition Risk Factors

- Serious heart condition (I)
- Diabetes (I)
- Emphysema or current asthma (I)

Work done outside the federal statistical system

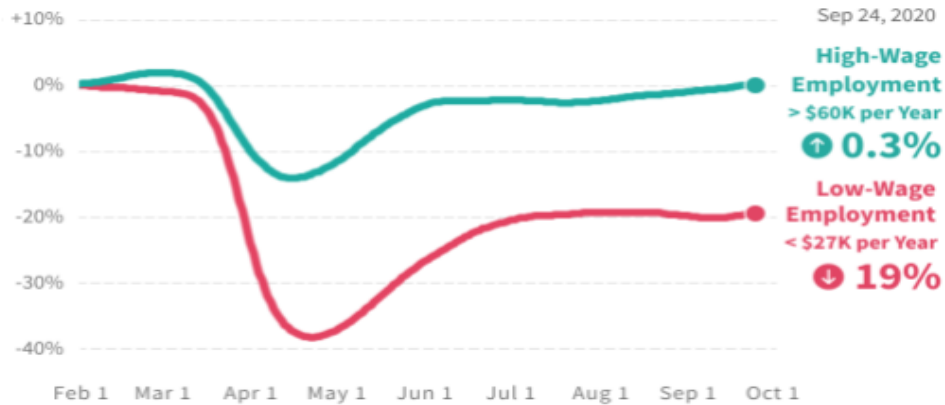
- Projections of Poverty and Program Eligibility during the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/poverty-program-eligibility-covid>
 - TRIM model – microsimulation of projected poverty rates and program eligibility for the remainder of 2020
- Simulating Post-COVID-19 Poverty With the California Poverty Measure
 - Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, Public Policy Institute of California and Columbia University
- Columbia University – poverty projections/monthly poverty rates
- Robin Hood Poverty Tracker – New York City
 - <https://www.robinhood.org/programs/special-initiatives/poverty-tracker/index.html>
- The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built Using Private Sector Data.

Raj Chetty, John Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, Michael Stepner, The Opportunity Insights Team
NBER WORKING PAPER NO. 27431
NOVEMBER 2020

Track the economic impacts of COVID-19 on people, businesses, and communities across the United States in real time.

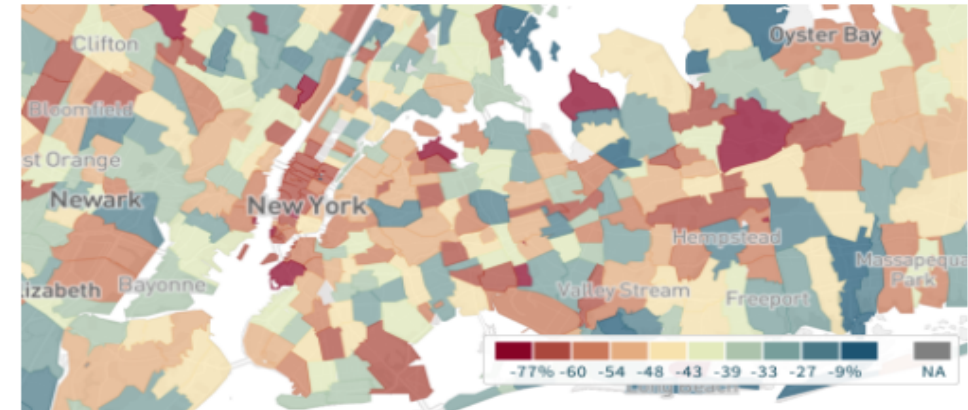
Recession has Nearly Ended for High-Wage Workers, but Job Losses Persist for Low-Wage Workers

While employment rates have rebounded to pre-COVID-19 levels for high-wage workers, they remain significantly lower for low-wage workers.



Low-Income Employment Down in Affluent Areas

Declines in high-income spending led to significant employment losses among low-income individuals working in the most affluent ZIP codes in the country, as shown in the map below of employment declines in early June in New York City.



How has COVID-19 impacted your community?

EXPLORE THE DATA



Chetty, Friedman, Hendren, Stepner, and the OI Team (2020) >

SOURCES

Giannarelli, Linda, Laura Wheaton, and Gregory Acs. 2020. "2020 Poverty Projections." Washington, DC: Urban Institute. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/102521/2020-povertyprojections_1_0.pdf

Giannarelli, Linda, Laura Wheaton, Kevin Werner, Ilham Dehry, and Gregory Acs. 2020. "2020 Poverty Projections: Assessing Three Pandemic –Aid Policies." Washington, DC: Urban Institute. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/102605/2020-poverty-projectionsassessing-three-pandemic-aid-policies-projections-of-heroes-act-policies-by-race-and-by-stateaugust-through-december_1.pdf

Han, Jeehoon, Bruce Meyer, and James Sullivan. 2020. "Income and Poverty in the COVID-19 Pandemic." Conference draft paper prepared for the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity conference June 25, 2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Han-et-al-conferencedraft.pdf>

Parolin, Zachary and Christopher Wimer. 2020. "Forecasting Estimates of Poverty During the COVID-19 Crisis." Poverty and Social Policy Brief. Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University. Vol. 4, no. 6. <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/s/Forecasting-Poverty-EstimatesCOVID19-CPSP-2020.pdf>

Parolin, Zachary, Megan A. Curran and Christopher Wimer. 2020. "The CARES Act and Poverty in the COVID-19 Crisis: Promises and Pitfalls of the Recovery Rebates and Expanded Unemployment Benefits." Poverty and Social Policy Brief. Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University. Vol. 4, no. 8. <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/coronaviruscares-act-forecastingpoverty-estimates> 13

Parolin, Zachary, Megan A. Curran, Jordan Matsudaira, Jane Waldfogel and Christopher Wimer. 2020. "Monthly Poverty Rates in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Poverty and Social Policy Discussion Paper. New York, NY: Center on Poverty and Social Policy. <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/s/COVID-Projecting-Poverty-Monthly-CPSP-2020.pdf>

Chetty, Raj, John Friedman, Nathaniel Hendren, Michael Stepner, The Opportunity Insights Team. November 2020. The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built Using Private Sector Data. NBER Working Paper # 27431.