

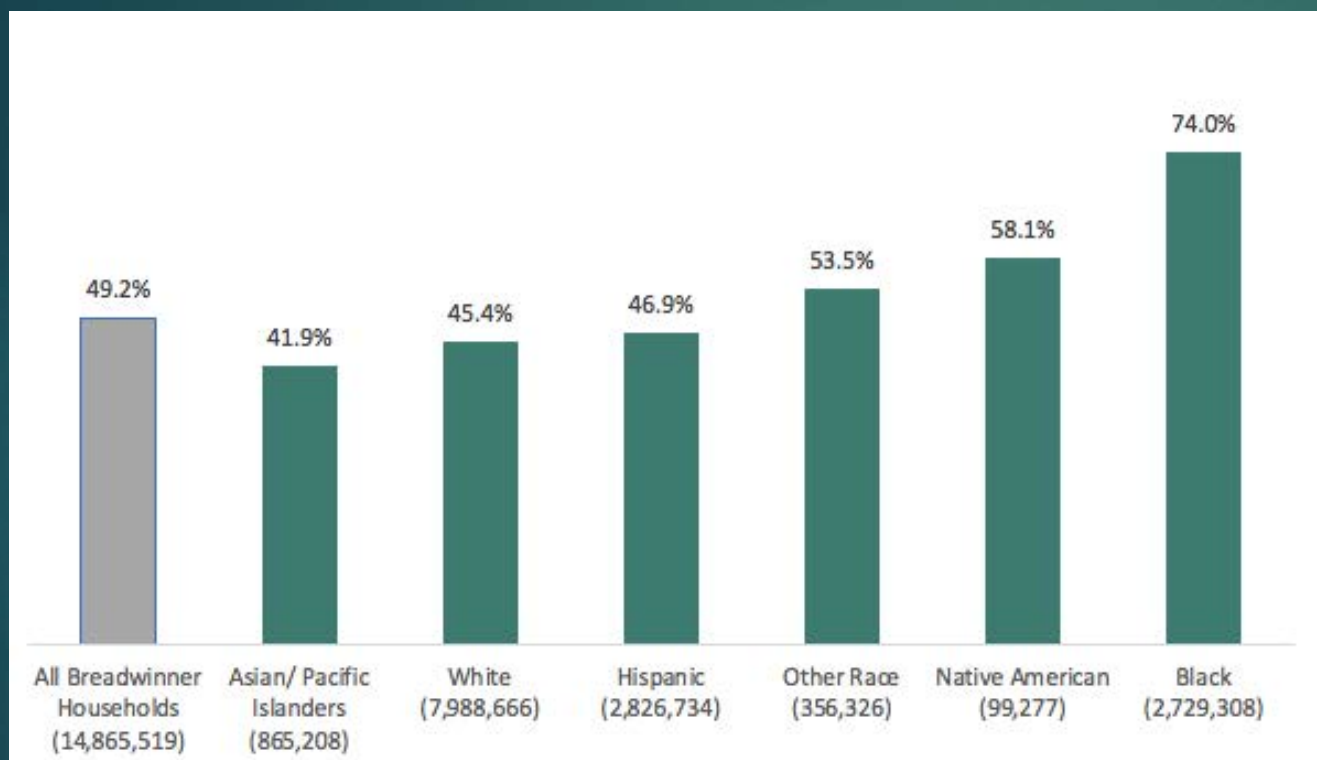
RICE UNIVERSITY'S
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Long-term Impact of Covid-19 on Low-income Women with Young Children

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Women in the Labor Market

Households with a breadwinner mother as percent of all households with children younger than 18 years, by race/ethnicity, 2018



- ▶ A breadwinner mother is defined as a single mother who heads a household (irrespective of earnings) or as a married mother who earns at least 40 percent of the couple's joint earnings.
- ▶ In brackets are the number of households with children under 18 for each category.

Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research analysis of American Community Survey microdata.

Covid-19's Impact on Low-Income Women

- ▶ Essential employees: Grocery store employees and low-wage healthcare workers such as medical assistants, and licensed vocational nurses will continue to earn wages.
 - ▶ Challenges: child care for young children and distance learning for school-age children
 - ▶ Increased food expenses
 - ▶ Increased risk of contracting Covid-19
- ▶ Non-essential employees: Retail shops, housekeeping, restaurants, temp work
 - ▶ Challenges: Significant reduction in income as breadwinner, increased stress and anxiety from social isolation (single parents) (Hall, 1985)
 - ▶ Loss of health insurance

Risk to brain development during Covid-19 pandemic

- ▶ Parental or caregiver interactions drive brain development—either positively or negatively.
- ▶ Parental stress increases risk of adverse parent-child interactions
 - ▶ Parents are more likely to perceive child behavior as negative (Miragoli, 2018)
 - ▶ Less likely to be able to cope with parenting-related difficulties
 - ▶ Increased parental depression, esp. in low income single mothers (Hall, 1985)
 - ▶ Natural disasters increase risk of abuse potential
 - ▶ Research has found increased inflicted traumatic brain injury in young children after natural disasters. (Keenan, 2004)

Covid-19's Impact on School-age Children

- ▶ Schools on the front-line for recognizing:
 - ▶ Early signs of abuse, neglect or maltreatment
 - ▶ Food insecurity or other social needs
 - ▶ Behavioral and learning problems
- ▶ The brain is still maturing, and certain parts of the brain, such as the hippocampus, is always forming new connections.
 - ▶ Don't use it, lose it
 - ▶ Research demonstrates loss of reading and math gains during summers
 - ▶ Education is the major avenue for breaking generational poverty and upward economic mobility

How does the recent coronavirus legislation help (or does it)?

- ▶ Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R.6201) signed into law on March 18th, went into effect on April 2nd and ends Dec. 31, 2020.
- ▶ Three provisions most relevant:
 - ▶ Emergency Paid Sick Leave
 - ▶ Expanded the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
 - ▶ Additional funds for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- ▶ Businesses with 500 or more employees exempt, and businesses with 50 employees or less can request exemption.
- ▶ Healthcare industry excluded, but not mandatory