

## **Mississippi Statewide COVID-19 Impact Survey Results Summary Report**

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## Executive Summary

The Mississippi Association of United Ways (MUWA) coordinated a statewide survey to assess the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on households across the state of Mississippi. The survey was developed from the Louisiana Association of United Ways COVID-19 Impact Survey and launched at 5AM, July 6, 2020. The survey was available online in English and Spanish. Paper surveys were provided at local food pantries and distributed by United Ways throughout the state in both English and Spanish. The survey closed at 11:59PM on July 20, 2020.

2,087 individuals accessed the English version of the survey and 5 individuals accessed the Spanish version. These numbers include paper formatted surveys as United Way employees uploaded all written responses to the online survey prior to the closing of the survey. 2,068 (99%) of those who responded lived within the state of Mississippi and responded meaningfully to the first four questions, directly relating to how COVID-19 has impacted their household and what would make an important difference to their household's finances. Overall, the survey had an 80% completion rate yielding 1,670 responses to the survey in its entirety.

Counties of Mississippi with over 50 responses included the following:

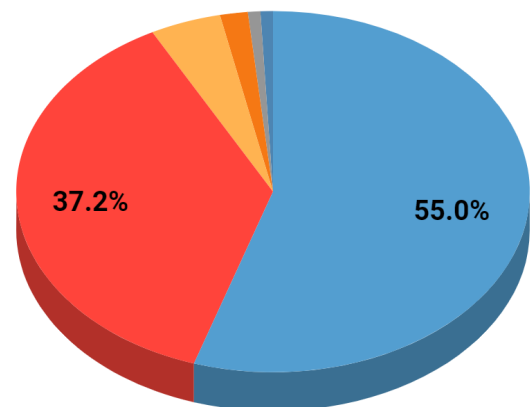
- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lowndes (271)  | 5. Lauderdale (99) |
| 2. Forrest (190)  | 6. Hinds (95)      |
| 3. Harrison (173) | 7. Hancock (53)    |
| 4. Lamar (139)    |                    |

The diversity of responses relating to race and economic status is as follows. More detailed information can be found within the summary (Q7. Socioeconomic Status; Q23. Race and Ethnicity).

**Table 1. Race and Ethnicity of Respondents**

Race/Ethnicity (N=1,614)	Percentage	Count
White/Caucasian	56.4%	911
Black/African American	38.2%	617
Other	1.8%	29
American Indian/Alaskan Native	.81%	13
Asian or Pacific Islander	.81%	13

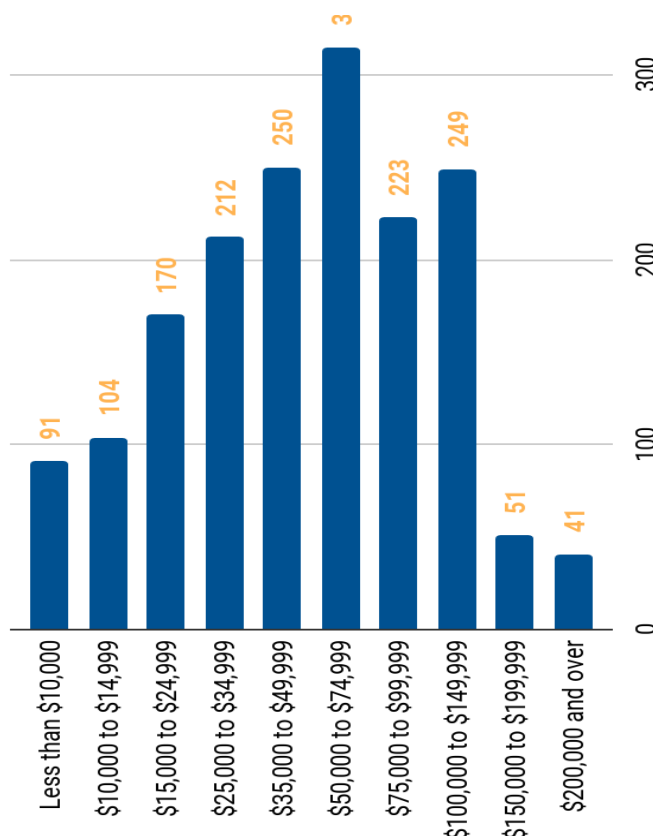
Note: 4.58% (74) selected prefer not to answer; 454 individuals left this response empty.



**Table 2. Socioeconomic Status of Respondents.**

Income Level (N=1,860)	Percentage	Count
Less than \$10,000	4.89%	91
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.59%	104
\$15,000 to \$24,999	9.14%	170
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11.40%	212
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.44%	250
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16.94%	315
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.99%	223
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.39%	249
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2.74%	51
\$200,000 and over	2.20%	41

Note: 8.28% (154) selected prefer not to answer; 208 individuals left this response empty



The purpose of the following results is to shape decision-making within the Mississippi Association of United Ways, its local entities, and partnering agencies and organizations. All information was collected with a commitment to the protection and confidentiality of all participants. MUWA encourages other entities to utilize this information as they respond to the needs of Mississippi residents. Any questions concerning the information within can be directed to Tracie Fowler ([tracie@unitedwaysems.org](mailto:tracie@unitedwaysems.org)) or Michele Connelly ([michele@unitedwayvicksburg.org](mailto:michele@unitedwayvicksburg.org)). To view the paper survey, see **Appendix A**.

### Key Take-Aways

- Mississippians are primarily concerned about contracting COVID-19 or a loved one getting the virus. This concern was expressed in not only the direct questioning in **Q1 and Q2**, but also when being asked about returning to work and children returning to school.
- As the school-year approaches, 55% indicated a concern for the well-being of children and remote learning. Further understanding is needed whether this concern is tied primarily to returning to school or staying at home.
- 61% indicated that assistance paying rent, mortgage and utility bills would make an important difference to the household's financial well-being.
- 53% indicated that their savings prior to February 1, 2020 would cover basic bills for one month or less.
- 30% indicated that at least one person in their household became unemployed or had a reduction in hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 41% indicated that they made ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing a balance on a credit card, borrowing from friends or family, and/or taking out a loan.
- 24% of respondents needed a form of technology to work from home or for virtual learning but were unable to purchase it due to financial constraints.
- 31% indicated that they had to reduce the number of hours working or stop working altogether due to lacking access to child care.
- 10% of households did not/will not receive a stimulus check.
- 57% of respondents indicated that the stimulus check covered less than one month of average expenses.
- 54% of respondents used stimulus check funds to purchase food.

## Concerns & Needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

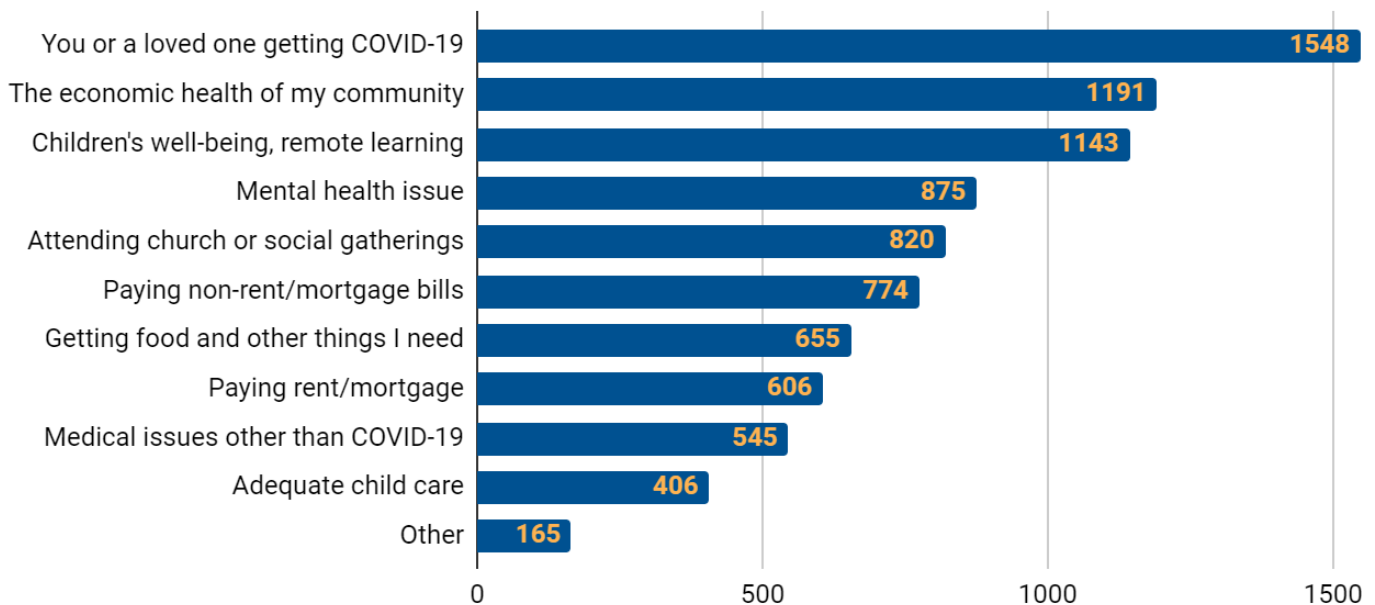
### Q1. What are you concerned about in the weeks and months ahead? (Check all the apply)

Total Responses: 2,068

Skipped: 0

Graph 1. What are you concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

**What are you concerned about in the weeks and months ahead? Select multiple.**



Overwhelmingly (75%), Mississippians are concerned about themselves or a loved one contracting COVID-19. The economic health of the community, the impact on children and their education are also primary concerns for more than 50% of respondents. Respondents who selected "other" had the opportunity to "write-in" a response. "Other" responses to note include:

- Employment, keeping it and finding it
- The state of the country, divisiveness, and government control
- Others' responses to COVID-19 being too lax
- A desire to go back to college/school safely and financially
- Pregnancy/new baby health concerns

**Q2. What are you MOST concerned about in the weeks and months ahead? (From the list above or other).**

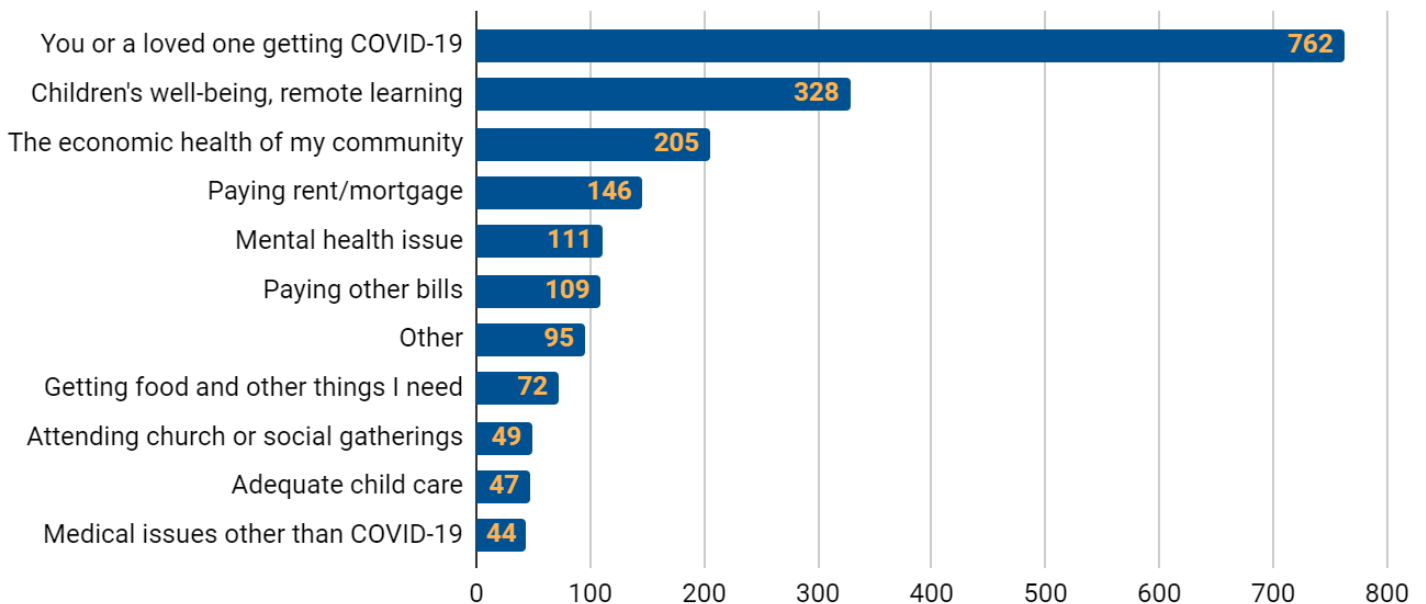
Total Responses: 1,968

Skipped: 100

Self or a loved one contracting COVID-19 remained a top issue while children's well-being and remote learning moved up to second rank. Other increases in rank include: paying rent/mortgage, "other," and getting food and other necessities. "Other" included the same responses as noted for Q1.

Graph 2. What are you MOST concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?

**What are you MOST concerned about in the weeks and months ahead?**



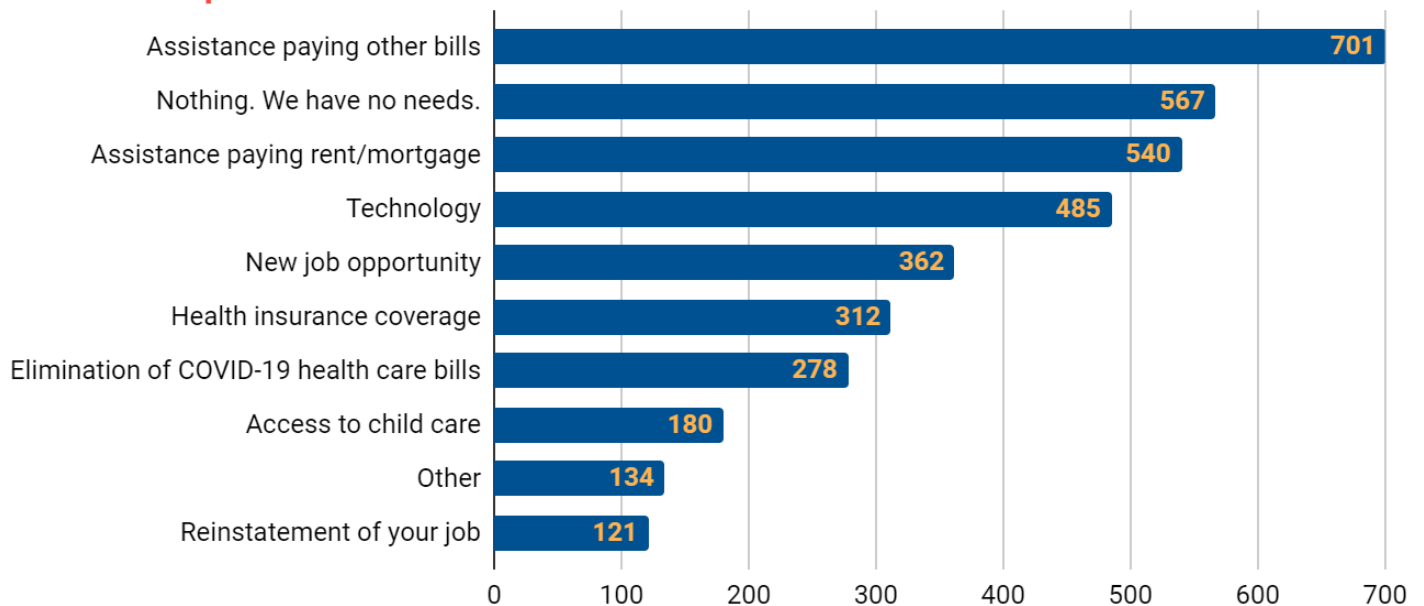
**Q3. What would make an important difference to your household's finances at this time? (Select all that apply)**

Total Responses: 2,038

Skipped: 30

Graph 3. What would make an important difference to your household's finances at this time? Select multiple.

**What would make an important difference to your household's finances at this time? Select multiple.**



Roughly more than one-third of respondents noted that assistance paying bills that were not tied to rent or mortgage would make an important difference to their household's finances. It should be noted that roughly the same percentage of respondents had an annual household income in 2019 of \$35,000 or less. Similarly, a little more than one-quarter of respondents answered that they have no needs, aligning with the percentage of respondents making at least \$75,000 annually. "Other" responses to note include:

- Mask mandates
- Food assistance
- Access to cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- An extension of bill/rent moratoriums and/or stimulus checks and unemployment

**Q4. What is MOST important to your household's finances at this time? (From the list above or other)**

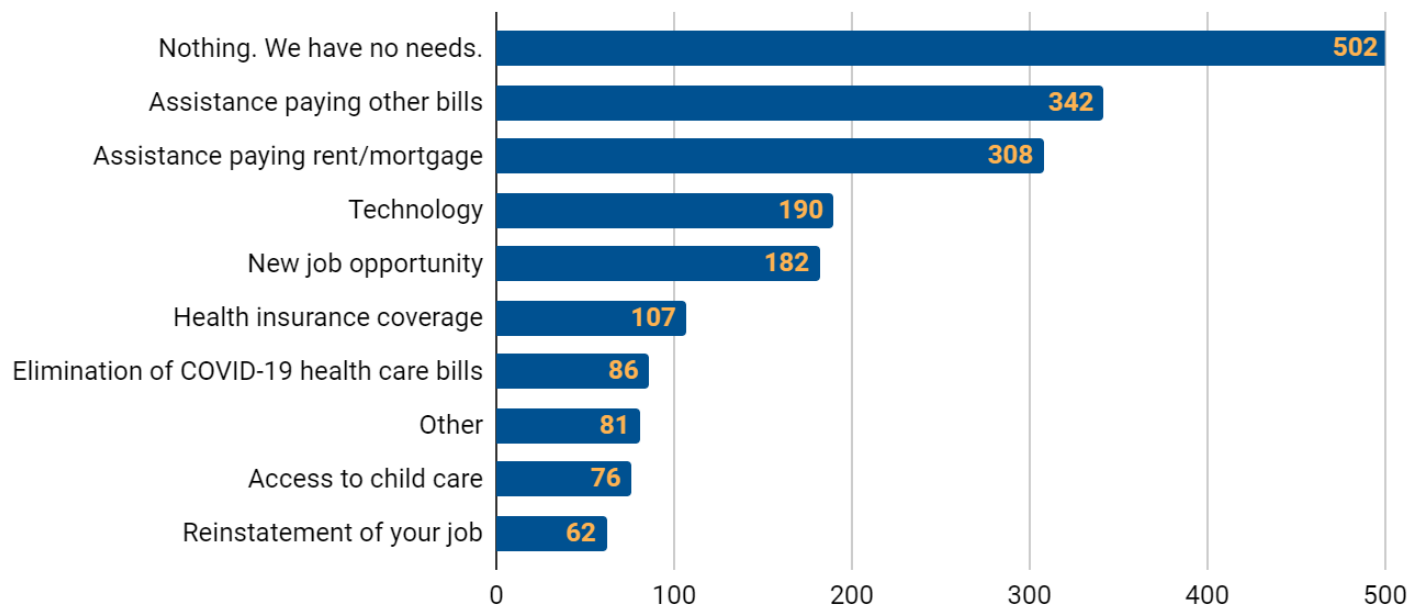
Total Responses: 1,936

Skipped: 132

"Nothing. We have no needs." moved up in ranking due to the other options diversifying. Assistance paying bills (utilities and rent) were of most need respectively. "Other" responses became more important than access to child care.

Graph 4. What is MOST important to your household's finances at this time?

**What is MOST important to your household's finances at this time?**





## Employment & Income.

The following questions give insight into the financial stability and status of the households prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and how they responded financially to meet their needs.

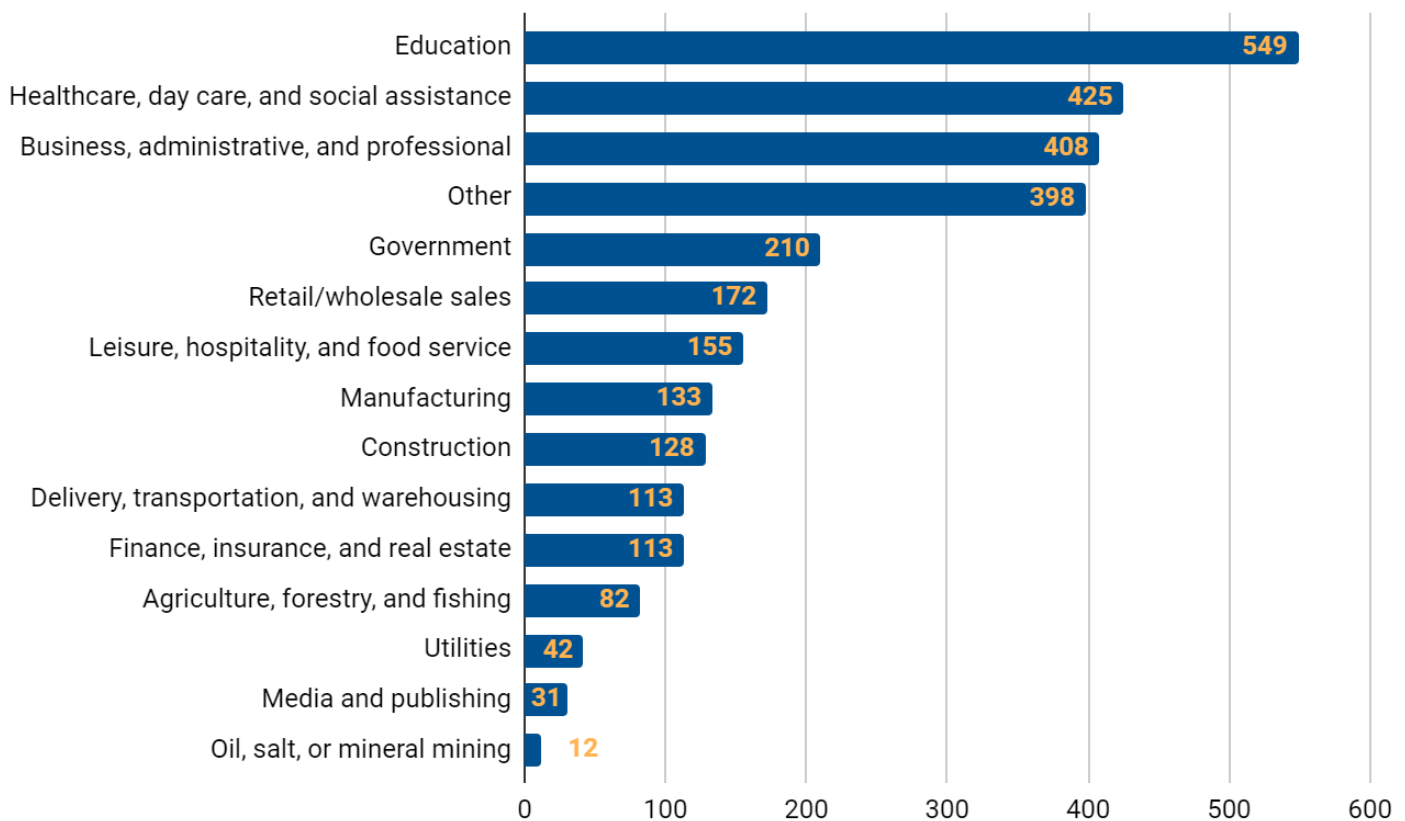
### Q5. What types of jobs did people in your household do prior to the pandemic? (Check all that apply)

Total Responses: 1,862

Skipped: 206

Graph 5. What types of jobs did people in your household do prior to the pandemic? Select multiple.

**What types of jobs did people in your household do prior to the pandemic? Select multiple.**



The majority (29%) of respondents work in the education sector, followed by health care and social services, then business and professional sector. "Other" responses to note include:

- Retired
- On disability
- Student
- Clergy or church office
- Legal sector
- Cosmetology/barbering
- Non-profit sector

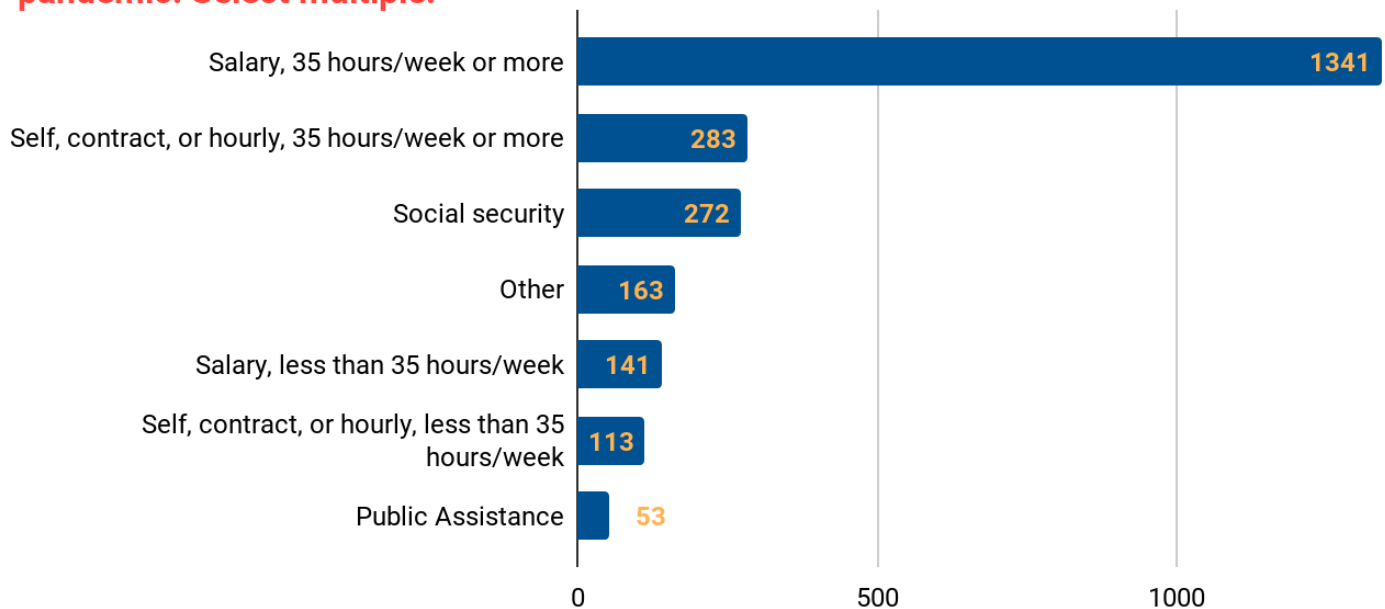
**6. The primary source(s) of income to meet your household expenses before the pandemic: (check all that apply)**

Total responses: 1,867

Skipped: 201

Graph 6. The primary source(s) of income to meet your household expenses before the pandemic.

**The primary source(s) of income to meet your household expenses before the pandemic. Select multiple.**



Prior to the pandemic, nearly 87% of respondents were working more than 35 hours per week in some format.

"Other" responses of note include:

- Retired, including military veterans
- Students
- Commission work
- Working 40+ hours each week

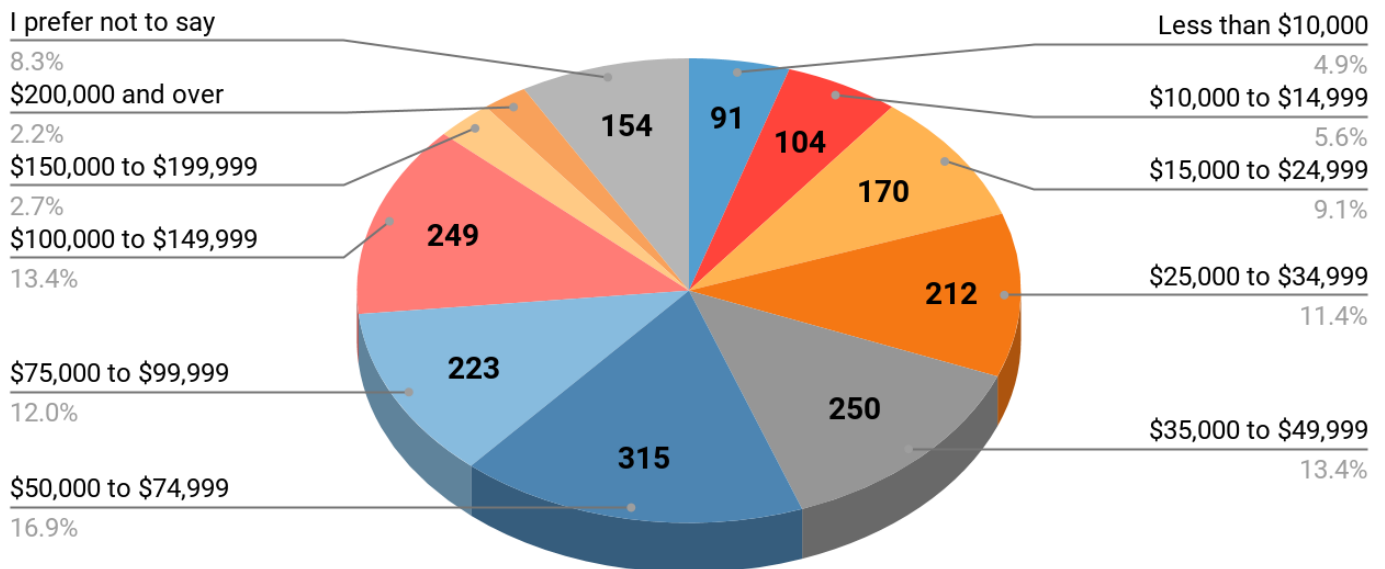
### Q7. What was your annual household income in 2019?

Total responses: 1,860

Skipped: 208

Graph 7. What was your annual household income in 2019?

### What was your annual household income in 2019?



This survey represents a cross-sector of financial situations in the state of Mississippi. It should be noted that this does not necessarily represent the population of the state proportionally but a diverse array of perspectives represent the information provided.

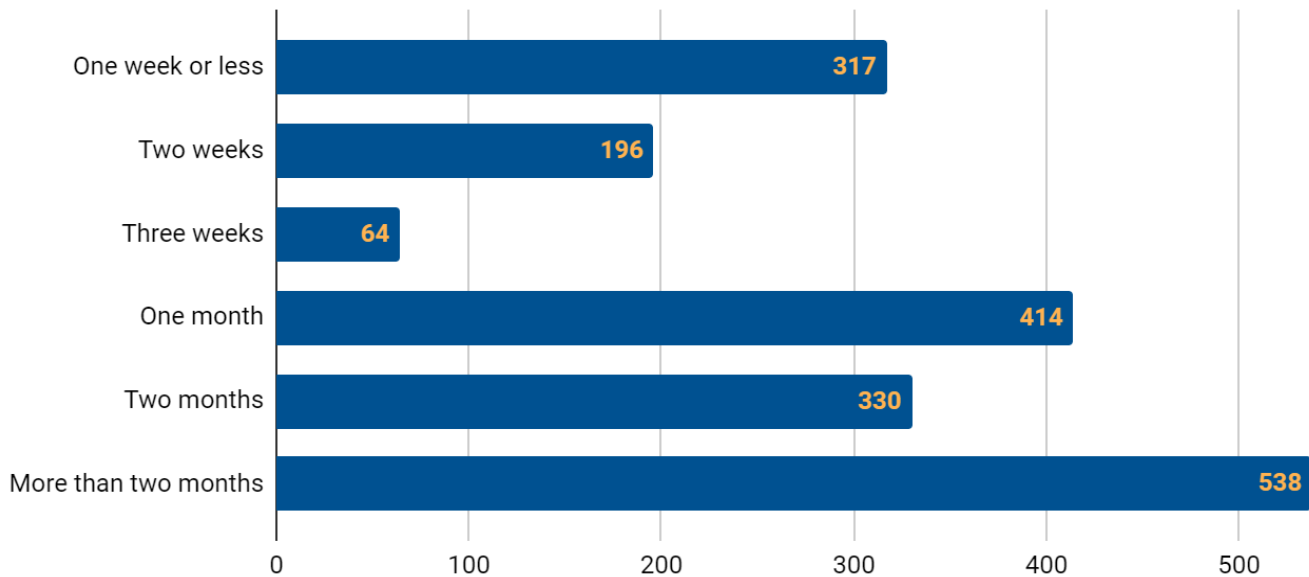
**Q8. Prior to February 1, 2020, how long could you cover basic bills from your savings?**

Total responses: 1,859

Skipped: 209

Graph 8. Prior to February 1, 2020, how long could you cover the basic bills from your savings?

**Prior to February 1, 2020, how long could you cover the basic bills from your savings?**



29% of respondents had more than 2 months of basic bills in their savings while 53% had one month or less.

**Q9. How has the Coronavirus Pandemic impacted the working arrangements for your household?**

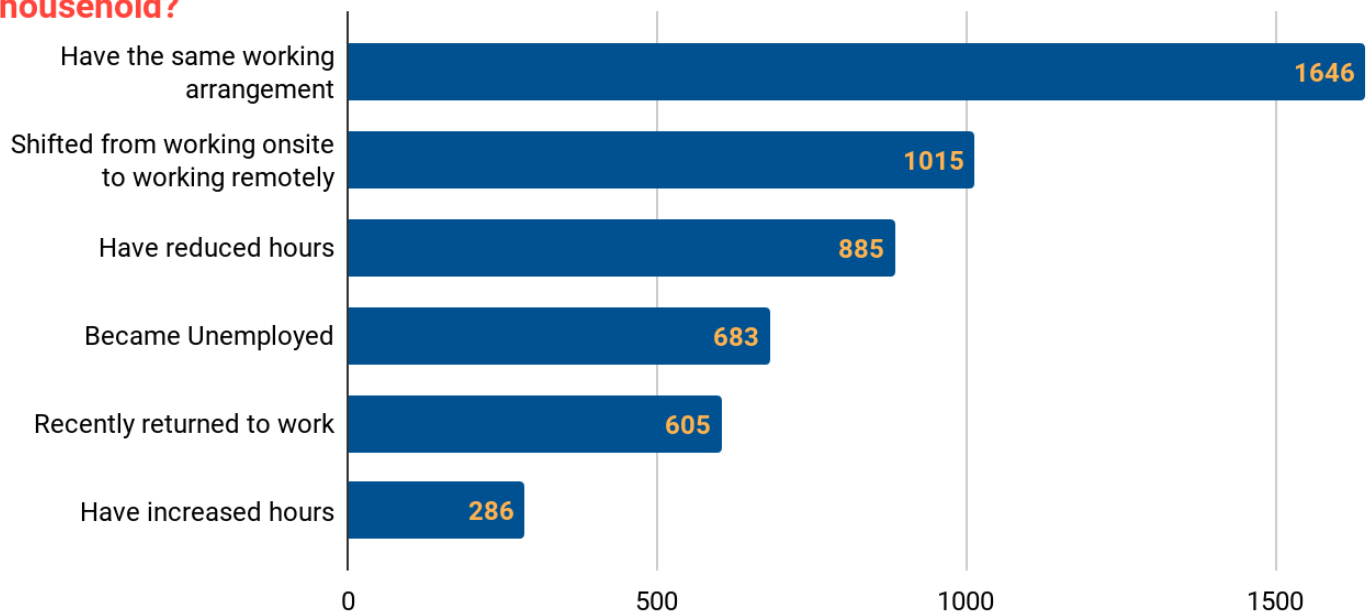
Total Responses: 1,601

Skipped: 467

This question requested respondents to list the number of individuals in their household in the following employment categories. The total number of individuals (including duplicates) was 5,120.

Graph 9. How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted the working arrangements for your household?

**How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted the working arrangements for your household?**



One-third of individuals described have the same working arrangements including number of hours and their location. Roughly one-fifth of individuals shifted to working remotely while slightly more than one-half of that population had recently returned to work at the time of this survey. 31% saw a loss in income due to a reduction in hours or becoming unemployed while 6% of individuals actually saw an increase in hours.

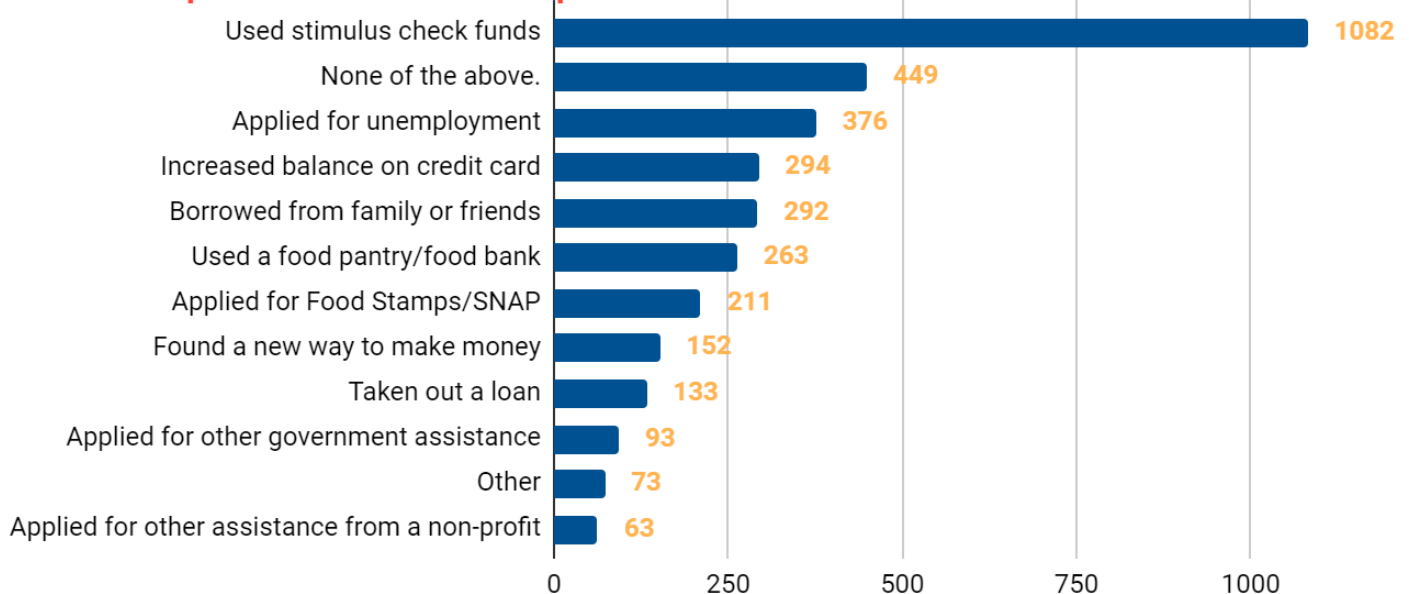
**Q10. Which of the following have you used to meet household needs as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic?  
(Select all that apply)**

Total Responses: 1,769

Skipped: 299

Graph 10. Which of the following have you used to meet household needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select multiple.

**Which of the following have you used to meet household needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? Select multiple.**



Over 60% of individuals shared that they had used stimulus check funds to meet household needs while one-quarter listed that they had done none of the above to make ends meet (again, this is representative of the socioeconomic status of respondents). Roughly one-fifth applied for unemployment and borrowed from family and friends. "Other" responses to note include:

- Drawing from retirement, early or otherwise
- Drawing from savings
- Reducing discretionary spending
- Refinancing mortgages
- Utilizing tax refunds

## Unemployment.

The following two questions were presented to the 376 individuals who selected that they had “Applied for unemployment” in Q10.

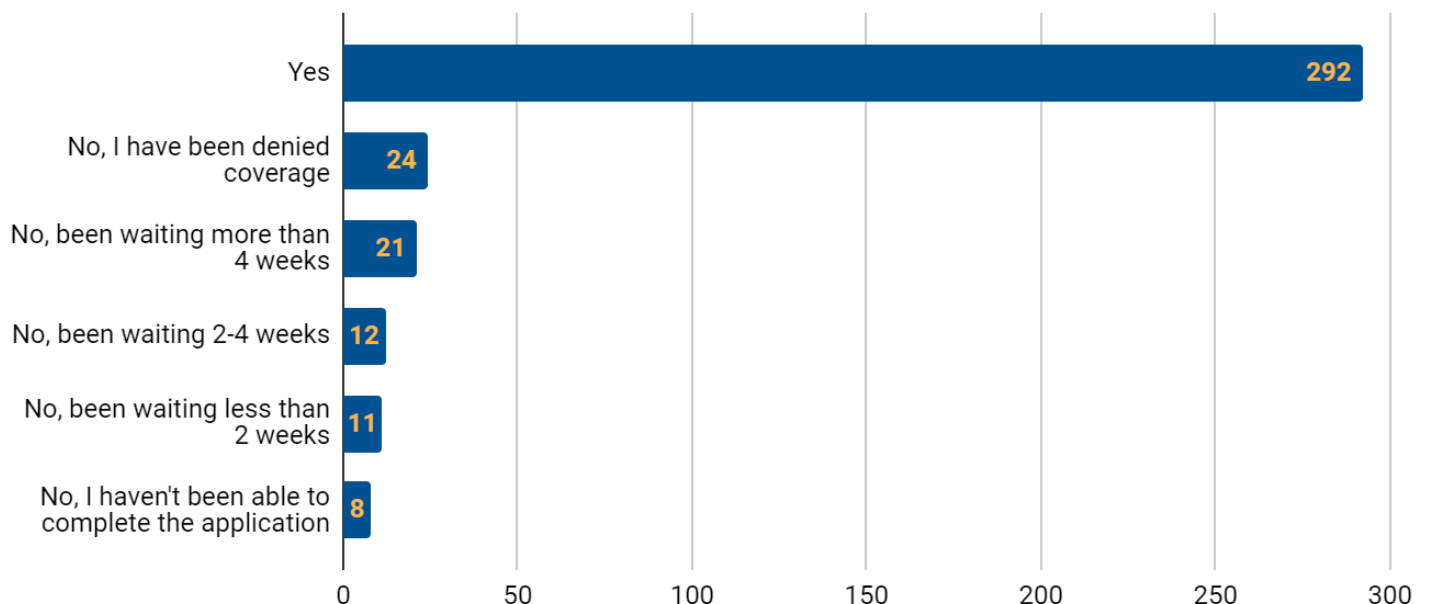
### Q11. Since applying for unemployment, have you started receiving payments?)

Total Responses: 368

Skipped: 8

Graph 11. Since applying for unemployment, have you started receiving payments?

### Since applying for unemployment, have you started receiving payments?



Nearly 80% of respondents who had applied for unemployment had started receiving payments by submitting this survey. Another 12% had been approved but were waiting on payments, 6% of which had been waiting for more than 4 weeks.

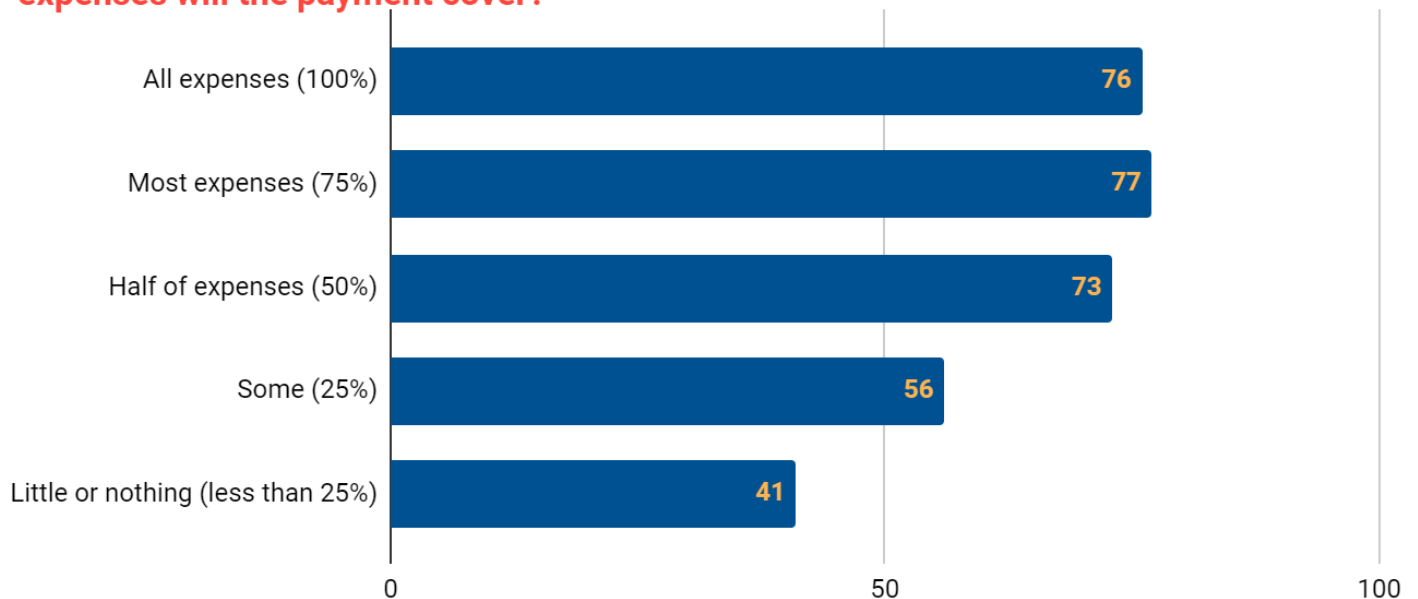
**Q12. If you have received unemployment insurance, what percentage of your monthly expenses will this payment cover?**

Total responses: 323

Skipped: 52

Graph 12. If you have received unemployment insurance, what percentage of your monthly expenses will this payment cover?

**If you have received unemployment insurance, what percentage of your monthly expenses will the payment cover?**



70% of respondents could cover half or more of their monthly expenses with the unemployment insurance they received, 24% indicating that unemployment would cover all of their monthly expenses.



## Household Demographics.

The following questions asked respondents to describe their households.

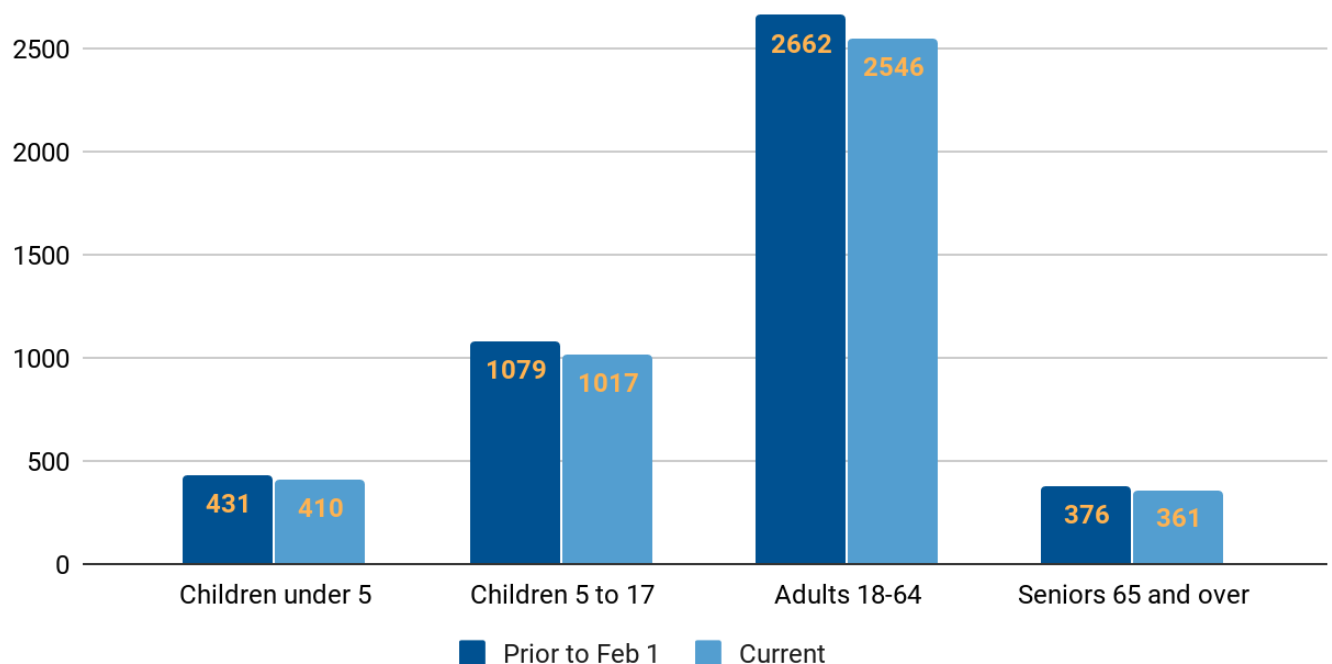
### Q13. Select the number of household members prior to February 1, 2020 and then currently.

Total Responses: 1,654

Skipped: 414

Graph 13. Select the number of household members.

### Select the number of household members. Feb 1, 2020 vs. Current



The number of household members decreased overall from prior to the pandemic to at the time of this survey. It should be noted that this could be due to a lack of response/an incomplete response where household members were listed for the first part of the question and not for the second. However, individuals did note that family members had passed away (no indication due to COVID-19) or family members had moved in due to financial constraints.

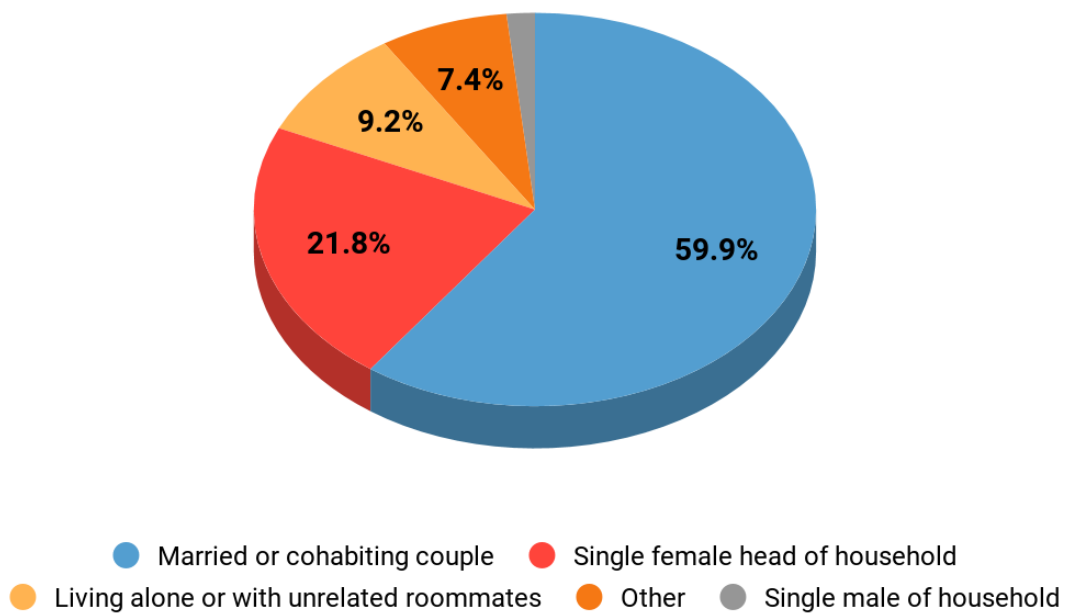
**Q14. How would you describe your household?**

Total Responses: 1,789

Skipped: 279

Graph 14. How would you describe your household?

**How would you describe your household?**



The majority of responses were from households that had a married or cohabiting couple as the heads of household. This may be with or without children. This was followed by slightly more than one-fifth indicating a single female head of household. "Other" responses were varied or duplicates of one of the other four options.

## Working from Home and Virtual Learning.

The following question informs how Mississippians adapted to working from home and virtual learning with technology upgrades and purchases.

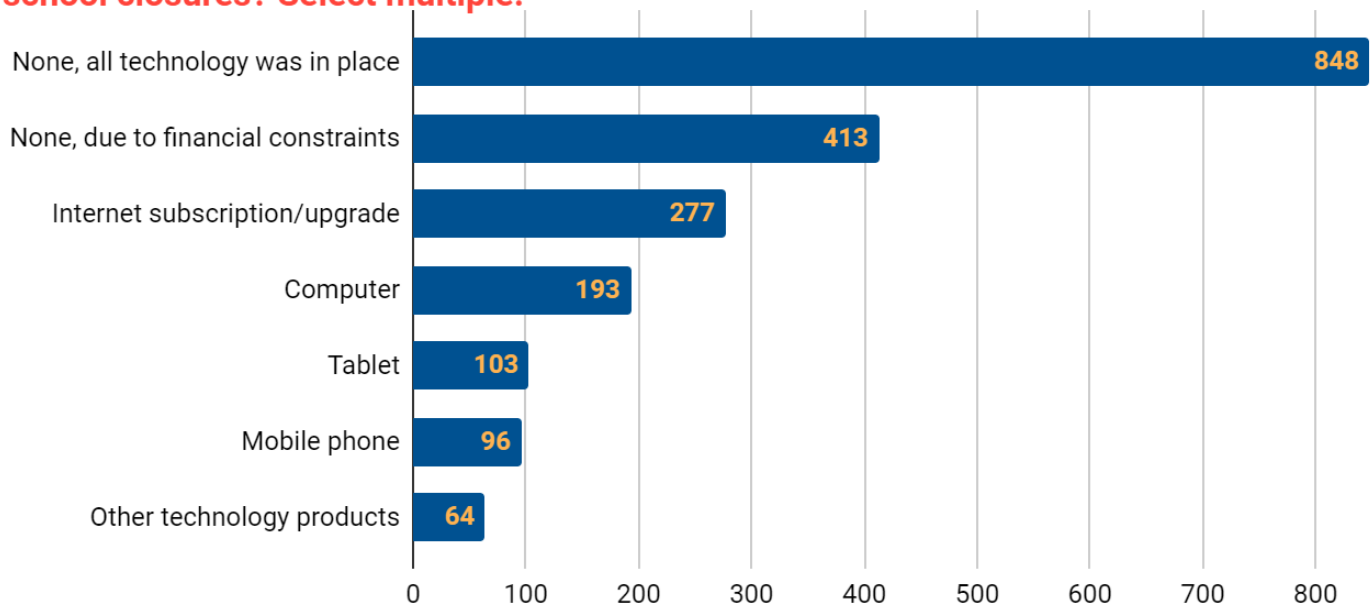
### Q15. Have you purchased any of the following to adapt to a stay-at-home order and/or school closures? (Select all that apply)

Total Responses: 1,696

Skipped: 372

Graph 15. Have you purchased any of the following to adapt to a stay-at-home order and/or school closures? Select multiple.

**Have you purchased any of the following to adapt to a stay-at-home order and/or school closures? Select multiple.**



50% indicated that no technology was added due to all technology already being in place. It is unknown how many of these responses are due to all individuals continuing to work at their place of employment and having no school-aged children vs. having access to all technology needed for those circumstances. One-quarter of individuals indicated that technology was needed but could not access it due to financial constraints. Those that did make a purchase, primarily indicated internet followed by a computer. "Other" responses to note include:

- Printers and ink
- Scanners
- Webcams
- Software
- Headphones/headsets

## Child Care.

The following questions were presented to better understand how households have adjusted their child care and its impact on their employment/income.

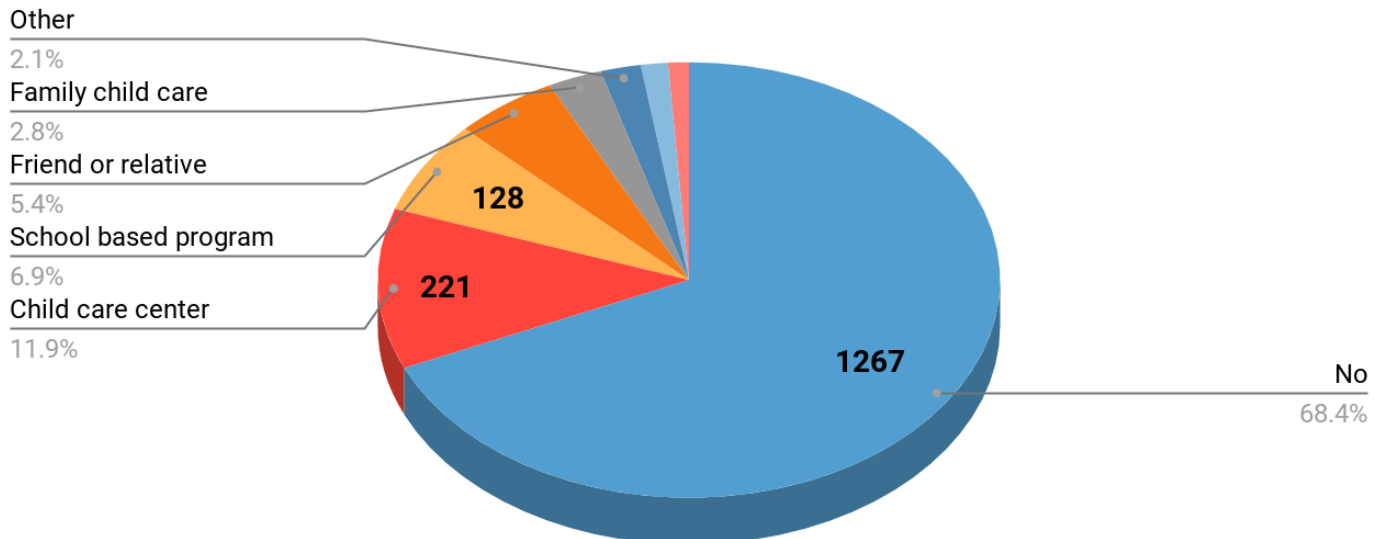
### Q16. Prior to February 1, 2020, did you usually need child care when you worked? (Check all that apply)

Total Responses: 1,701

Skipped: 367

Graph 16. Prior to February 1, 2020, did you usually need child care when you worked? Select multiple.

### Prior to February 1, 2020, did you usually need child care when you worked? Select multiple.



75% of respondents indicated no need for child care. Of those that did, the majority used a child care center followed by a school-based program. Only 1% used child care in their home. "Other" responses to note include:

- Children are in school
- Children participate in care services for individuals with disabilities (i.e. the Arc)
- Care is needed not for children, but parents living in the home

The following question was presented to the 586 individuals who selected an answer that was NOT “No.” to Q16.

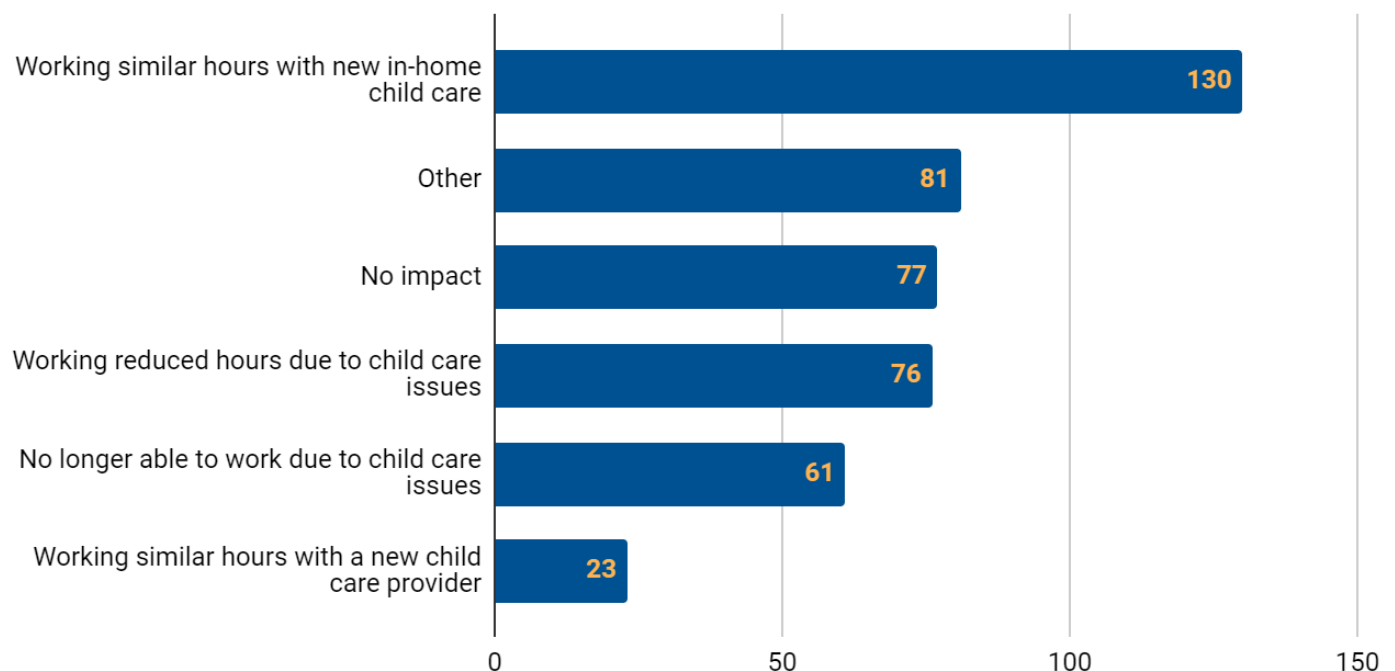
**Q17. Since February 1, 2020, how has your child care arrangement impacted your income?**

Total Responses: 448

Skipped: 138

Graph 17. Since February 1, 2020, how has your child care arrangement impacted your income?

**Since February 1, 2020, how has your child care arrangement impacted your income?**



29% of respondents indicated that they were working similar hours with new in-home child care, whether that was now themselves while working from home, another family member now at home, or a licensed child care provider in the home. 17% saw no impact while 5% found a new child care provider but able to work similar hours. 31% saw some kind of reduction in income due to having no access to child care (whether due to availability or financial reasons), 17% seeing a reduction in hours while 14% could no longer work at all. “Other” responses were very specific situations without duplication across the populations.

## Stimulus Checks.

The following questions relate to the stimulus checks distributed by the federal government and how those checks were used by Mississippians during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

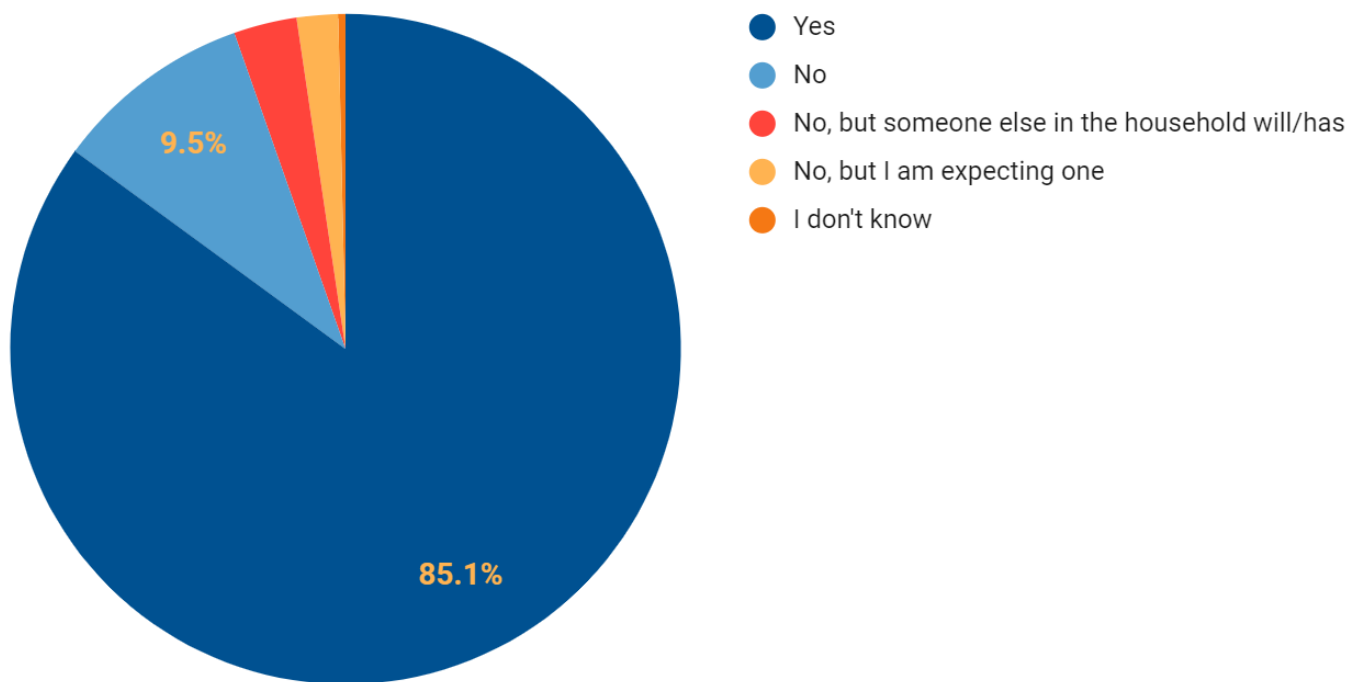
### Q18. Did you receive a stimulus check from the government?

Total Responses: 1,707

Skipped: 361

Graph 18. Did you receive a stimulus check from the government?

#### Did you receive a stimulus check from the government?



85% of respondents had received a stimulus check while another 5% indicated that at least one person in their household had received a stimulus check. The other 10% indicated that they had not received a stimulus check or that they didn't know if they had or would.

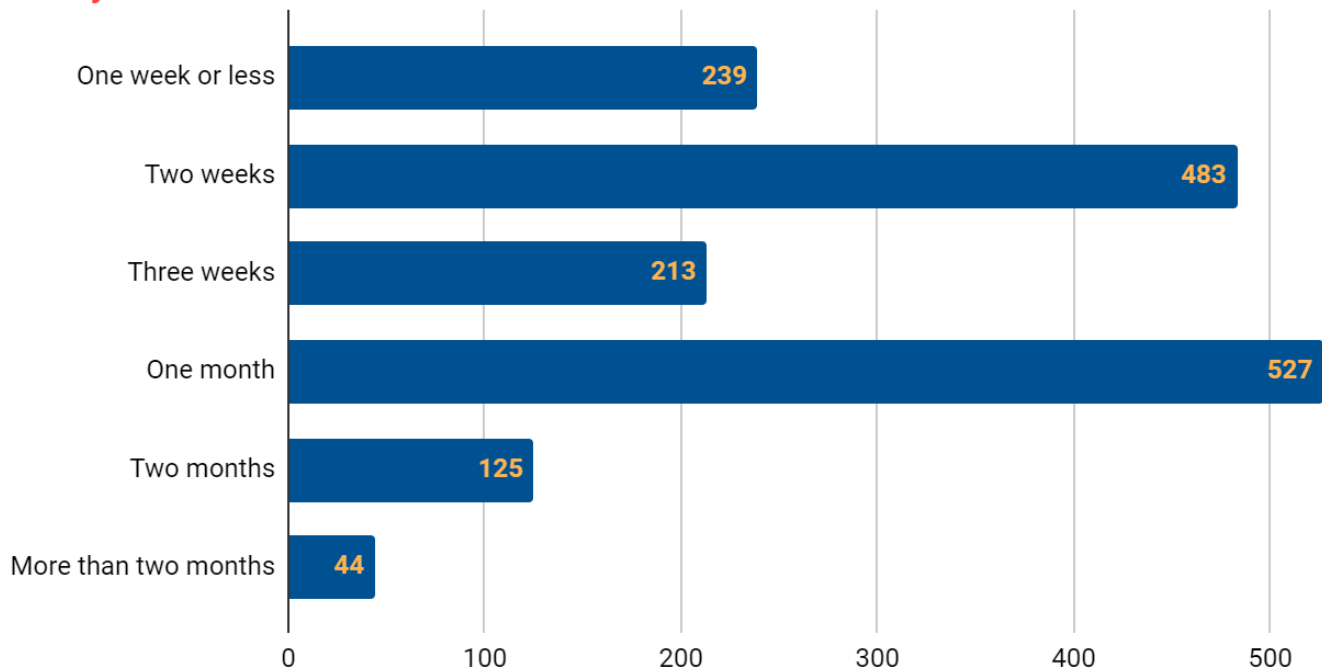
**Q19. How many weeks of expenses, on average, would this check cover for your family/household?**

Total Responses: 1,631

Skipped: 437

Graph 19. How many weeks of expenses, on average, would this check cover for your family/household?

**How many weeks of expenses, on average, would this check cover for your family/household?**



A stimulus check would cover one month of expenses for one-third of respondents while 44% indicated it would cover two weeks or less. 10% of respondents indicated that it would cover two months or more.

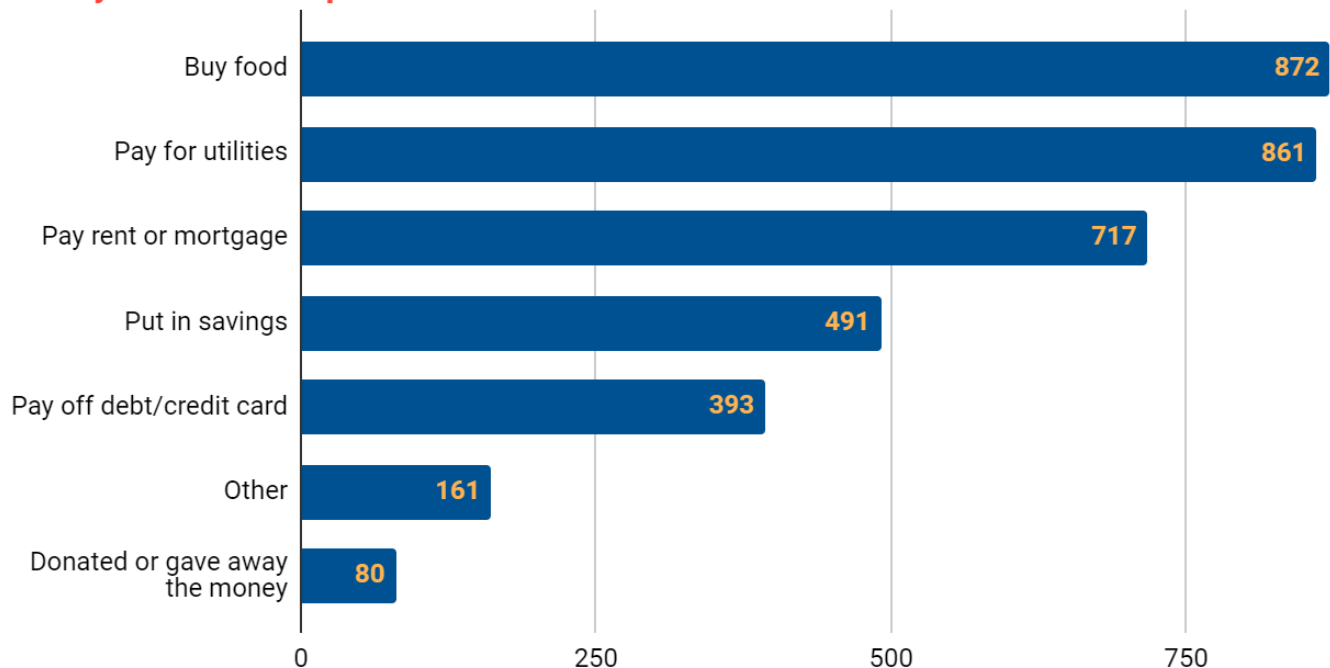
**Q20. If you received a check from the government, how did you/do you plan to spend the money? (Check all that apply)**

Total Responses: 1,609

Skipped: 459

Graph 20. If you received a check from the government, how did you/do you plan to spend the money? Select multiple.

**If you received a check from the government, how did you/do you plan to spend the money? Select multiple.**



54% of respondents indicated that stimulus check funds contributed to buying food and 45% used the funds to pay utility bills. 30% put at least a portion of the money in savings while 5% donated or gave away at least a portion. 24% paid off debt and/or credit cards. "Other" responses to note include:

- Replacing or repairing appliances or furniture
- Repairing a home or car
- Child care expenses
- Medical bills
- Tuition
- Technology as indicated in **Q15**.
- Paying taxes



## Additional Demographics.

These last questions asked respondents to tell a little bit about themselves and their location.

### Q21A. Where do you currently live? - County

Total Responses: 1,640

Skipped: 428

Table 3. Where do you currently live; County; Alphabetical

County	Count	Percent	County	Count	Percent	County	Count	Percent
Adams	6	0.37%	Itawamba	3	0.18%	Pike	3	0.18%
Alcorn	8	0.49%	Jackson	47	2.87%	Pontotoc	3	0.18%
Amite	1	0.06%	Jasper	2	0.12%	Prentiss	1	0.06%
Attala	2	0.12%	Jefferson	1	0.06%	Quitman	1	0.06%
Benton	0	0.00%	Jefferson Davis	4	0.24%	Rankin	19	1.16%
Bolivar	18	1.10%	Jones	25	1.52%	Scott	2	0.12%
Calhoun	1	0.06%	Kemper	4	0.24%	Sharkey	3	0.18%
Carroll	1	0.06%	Lafayette	27	1.65%	Simpson	3	0.18%
Chickasaw	8	0.49%	Lamar	139	8.48%	Smith	3	0.18%
Choctaw	3	0.18%	Lauderdale	99	6.04%	Stone	4	0.24%
Claiborne	0	0.00%	Lawrence	1	0.06%	Sunflower	18	1.10%
Clarke	9	0.55%	Leake	3	0.18%	Tallahatchie	3	0.18%
Clay	12	0.73%	Lee	35	2.13%	Tate	2	0.12%
Coahoma	2	0.12%	Leflore	10	0.61%	Tippah	1	0.06%
Copiah	3	0.18%	Lincoln	3	0.18%	Tishomingo	4	0.24%
Covington	7	0.43%	Lowndes	271	16.52%	Tunica	1	0.06%
DeSoto	12	0.73%	Madison	22	1.34%	Union	0	0.00%
Forrest	190	11.59%	Marion	12	0.73%	Walthall	4	0.24%
Franklin	1	0.06%	Marshall	0	0.00%	Warren	46	2.80%
George	2	0.12%	Monroe	13	0.79%	Washington	24	1.46%
Greene	5	0.30%	Montgomery	2	0.12%	Wayne	5	0.30%
Grenada	2	0.12%	Neshoba	8	0.49%	Webster	0	0.00%
Hancock	53	3.23%	Newton	6	0.37%	Wilkinson	2	0.12%
Harrison	173	10.55%	Noxubee	43	2.62%	Winston	4	0.24%
Hinds	95	5.79%	Oktibbeha	27	1.65%	Yalobusha	3	0.18%
Holmes	2	0.12%	Panola	6	0.37%	Yazoo	3	0.18%
Humphreys	3	0.18%	Pearl River	39	2.38%			
Issaquena	1	0.06%	Perry	6	0.37%			

Table 4. Where do you currently live; County; Participant Density

County	Count	Percent
Lowndes	271	16.52%
Forrest	190	11.59%
Harrison	173	10.55%
Lamar	139	8.48%
Lauderdale	99	6.04%
Hinds	95	5.79%
Hancock	53	3.23%
Jackson	47	2.87%
Warren	46	2.80%
Noxubee	43	2.62%
Pearl River	39	2.38%
Lee	35	2.13%
Lafayette	27	1.65%
Oktibbeha	27	1.65%
Jones	25	1.52%
Washington	24	1.46%
Madison	22	1.34%
Rankin	19	1.16%
Bolivar	18	1.10%
Sunflower	18	1.10%
Monroe	13	0.79%
Clay	12	0.73%
DeSoto	12	0.73%
Marion	12	0.73%
Leflore	10	0.61%
Clarke	9	0.55%
Alcorn	8	0.49%
Chickasaw	8	0.49%

County	Count	Percent
Neshoba	8	0.49%
Covington	7	0.43%
Adams	6	0.37%
Newton	6	0.37%
Panola	6	0.37%
Perry	6	0.37%
Greene	5	0.30%
Wayne	5	0.30%
Jefferson Davis	4	0.24%
Kemper	4	0.24%
Stone	4	0.24%
Tishomingo	4	0.24%
Walthall	4	0.24%
Winston	4	0.24%
Choctaw	3	0.18%
Copiah	3	0.18%
Humphreys	3	0.18%
Itawamba	3	0.18%
Leake	3	0.18%
Lincoln	3	0.18%
Pike	3	0.18%
Pontotoc	3	0.18%
Sharkey	3	0.18%
Simpson	3	0.18%
Smith	3	0.18%
Tallahatchie	3	0.18%
Yalobusha	3	0.18%
Yazoo	3	0.18%

County	Count	Percent
Attala	2	0.12%
Coahoma	2	0.12%
George	2	0.12%
Grenada	2	0.12%
Holmes	2	0.12%
Jasper	2	0.12%
Montgomery	2	0.12%
Scott	2	0.12%
Tate	2	0.12%
Wilkinson	2	0.12%
Amite	1	0.06%
Calhoun	1	0.06%
Carroll	1	0.06%
Franklin	1	0.06%
Issaquena	1	0.06%
Jefferson	1	0.06%
Lawrence	1	0.06%
Prentiss	1	0.06%
Quitman	1	0.06%
Tippah	1	0.06%
Tunica	1	0.06%
Benton	0	0.00%
Claiborne	0	0.00%
Marshall	0	0.00%
Union	0	0.00%
Webster	0	0.00%

Counties with at least 50 participants include Lowndes, Forrest, Harrison, Lamar, Lauderdale, and Hinds. Counties with zero participation based on responses include Benton, Claiborne, Marshall, Union and Webster.

## Q21B. Where do you currently live? - Zip Code

Total Responses: 1,635

Skipped: 433

The following represents counties that had at least .9% of respondents (15 respondents).

Table 5. Where do you currently live; Zip code; At least 15 respondents

Zip Code	Count	Percent
39402	134	8.20%
39702	125	7.65%
39401	116	7.09%
39701	81	4.95%
39503	44	2.69%
39705	39	2.39%
39301	34	2.08%
39305	34	2.08%
39465	34	2.08%
39532	32	1.96%
39180	31	1.90%
39759	26	1.59%
39475	25	1.53%
38655	24	1.47%
39466	22	1.35%
39525	22	1.35%
39564	22	1.35%
39341	19	1.16%
39520	17	1.04%
39531	17	1.04%
38801	16	0.98%
39211	16	0.98%
39501	16	0.98%
38701	15	0.92%
39183	15	0.92%

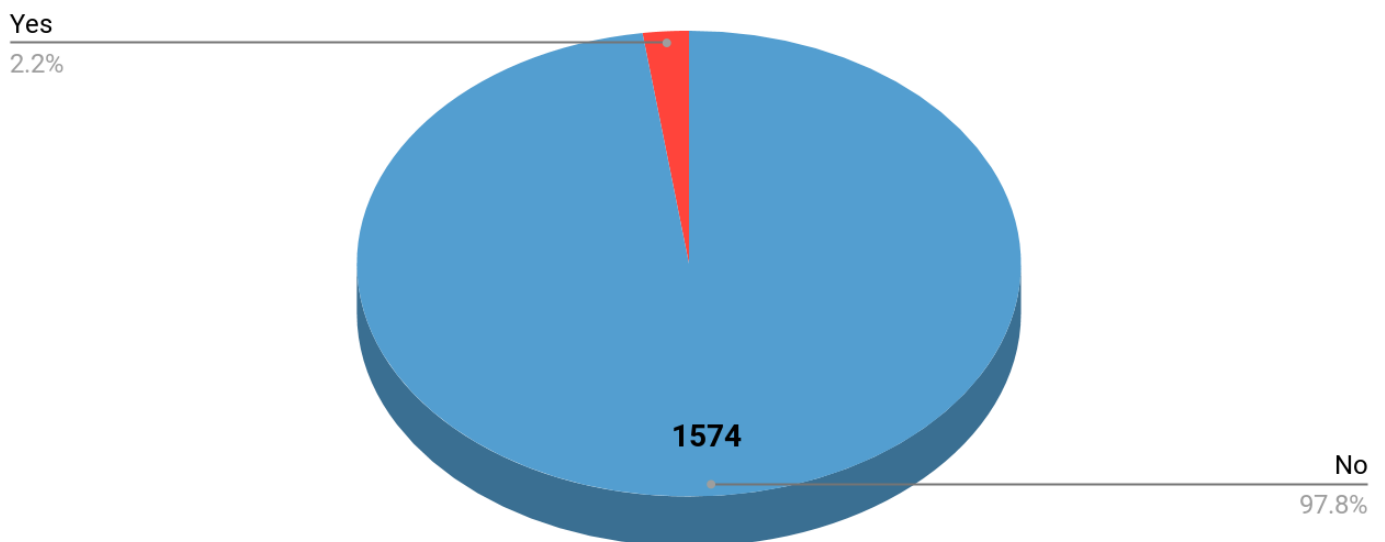
**Q22. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?**

Total Responses: 1,610

Skipped: 458

Graph 21. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

**Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?**



98% of respondents did NOT identify as Hispanic or Latino. 2% or 36 respondents did indicate that they identified as Hispanic or Latino.

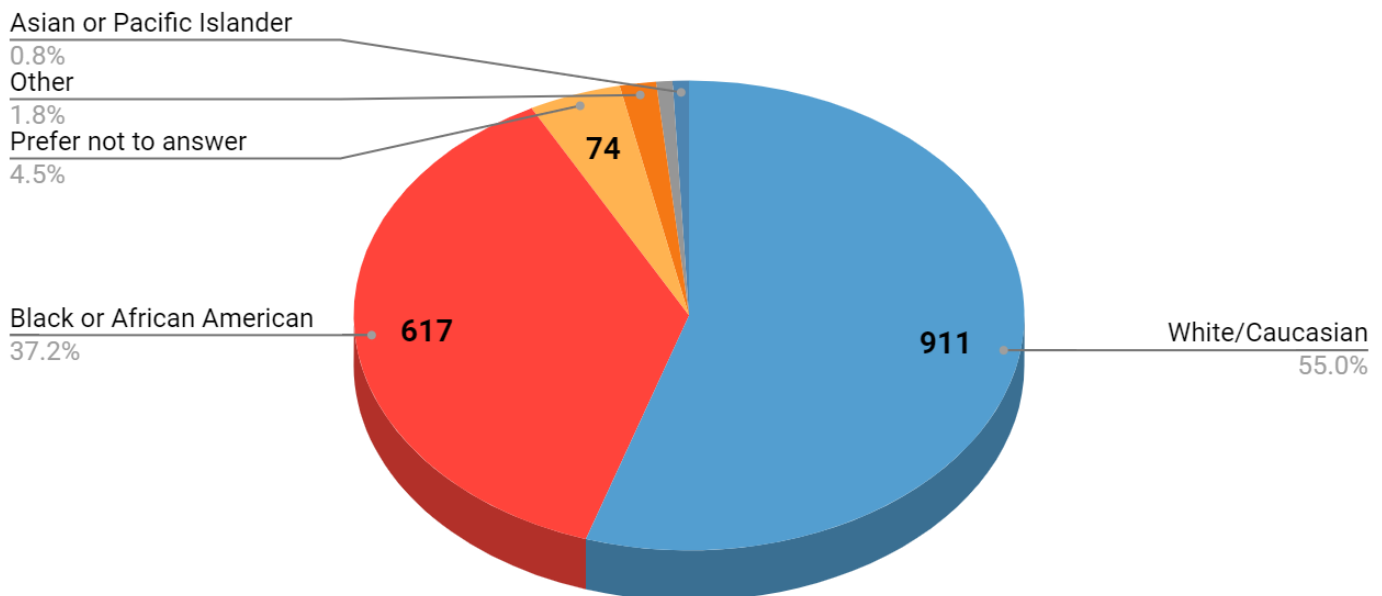
**Q23. What best describes your ethnicity? (Select all that apply)**

Total Responses: 1,614

Skipped: 454

Graph 22. What best describes your ethnicity? Select multiple.

**What best describes your ethnicity? Select multiple.**



55% of respondents identified as White/Caucasian. 37% identified as Black or African American. .81% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander and another .81% identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native. The 1.8% "other" responses majority identified as "mixed" or Latino/Hispanic.

**Q24. Finally, we would like to understand how the COVID-19 Pandemic is affecting people who live in Mississippi over time. May we contact you again in a few months?**

Total Responses: 1,620

Skipped: 448

Half of participants (803) provided contact information to contact them again while 817 indicated "No."

**Q25. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

Total Responses: 272

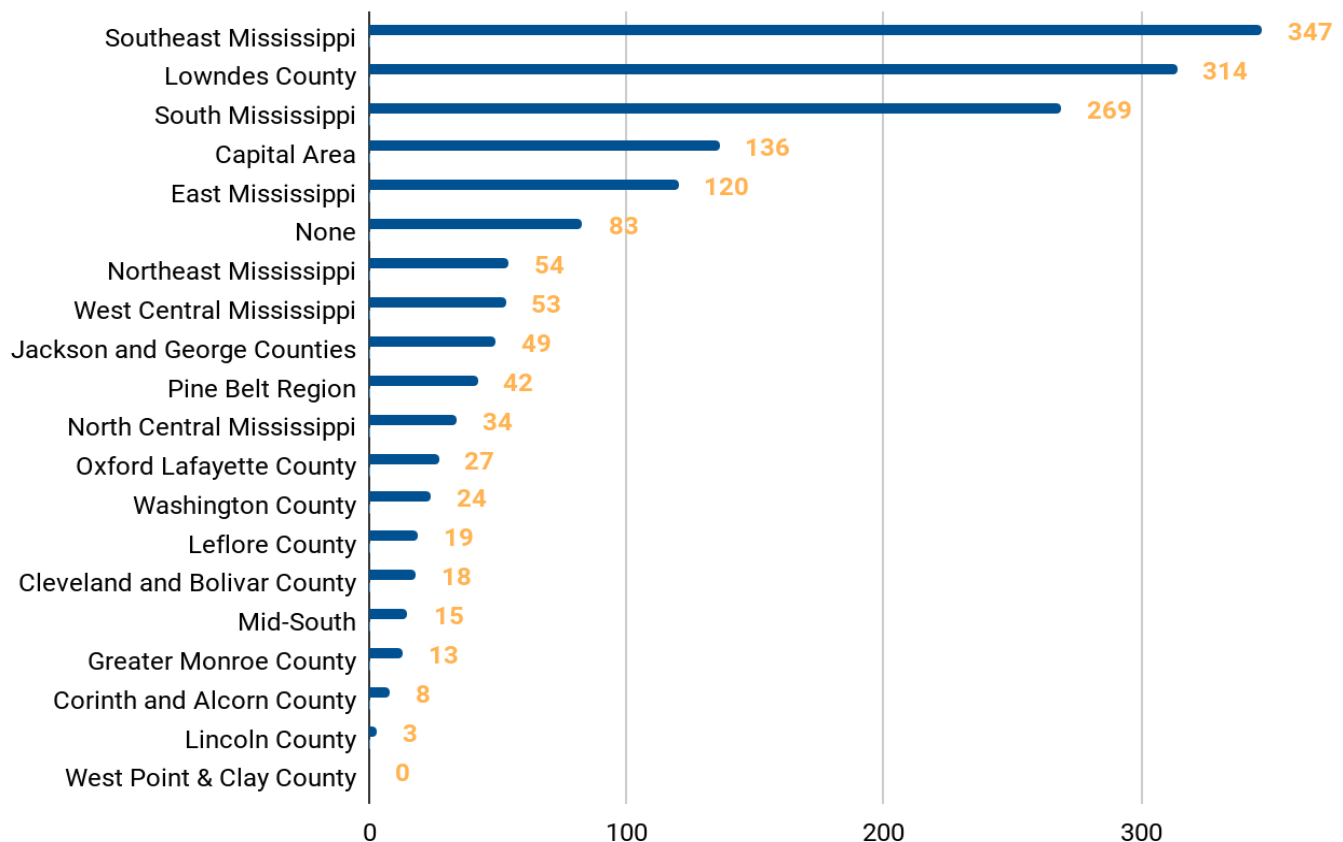
Responses to this question ranged from elaboration on a question above, how COVID-19 has impacted their household specifically, their role in society as it relates to COVID-19 (i.e. essential worker, teacher, etc.), general thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns for the community, gratitude and requests for help.

## Breakdown by Mississippi United Way.

18 of the 19 United Way organizations in Mississippi had at least one response to the survey that also indicated the respondent's location. 1,628 respondents provided their county of residence, 83 of which live in a county not currently being served by a United Way. 440 individuals did not provide their location.

Graph 23. United Way Coverage.

### United Way Coverage



The following pages provide responses to each survey question by United Way. This information will be used to inform that specific United Way's most critical needs in the response to COVID-19. It should be noted that this breakdown is only provided for United Ways with responses of 2% or higher of the total responses (32).

Southeast Mississippi  
Lowndes County  
South Mississippi  
Capital Area  
East Mississippi

Northeast Mississippi  
West Central Mississippi  
Jackson & George Counties  
Pine Belt Region  
North Central Mississippi

## Appendix A. Survey

**Completing this survey should take less than 10 minutes. Your responses are confidential. The results of this survey will not be shared with identifying information.**

Mississippi United Ways seek to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic on people living in Mississippi by conducting a survey that will be used to inform how to best support Mississippi families throughout long-term recovery and beyond.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact your local United Way or email Tracie Fowler (tracie@unitedwaysems.org) or Michele Connelly (michele@unitedwayvicksburg.org). Thank you for your time and participation.

1. What are you concerned about in the weeks and months ahead? (Check all that apply)
  - ☐ Adequate child care
  - ☐ Paying other bills
  - ☐ Mental health issue (e.g., depression, addiction, anxiety)
  - ☐ Children's well-being, remote learning
  - ☐ The economic health of my community
  - ☐ Getting food and other things I need
  - ☐ You or a loved one getting COVID-19
  - ☐ Paying rent/mortgage
  - ☐ Medical issues other than COVID-19
  - ☐ Attending church or other social gatherings
  - ☐ Other. Please specify.
2. What are you MOST concerned about in the weeks and months ahead? (Select one from the list above or other)
  - ☐ Adequate child care
  - ☐ Paying other bills
  - ☐ Mental health issue (e.g., depression, addiction, anxiety)
  - ☐ Children's well-being, remote learning
  - ☐ The economic health of my community
  - ☐ Getting food and other things I need
  - ☐ You or a loved one getting COVID-19
  - ☐ Paying rent/mortgage
  - ☐ Medical issues other than COVID-19
  - ☐ Attending church or other social gatherings
  - ☐ Other as noted above.

4. What would make an important difference to your household's finances at this time? (Please check all that apply)
- ☐ Elimination of health care bills relating to COVID-19
  - ☐ Reinstatement of your job
  - ☐ Assistance paying rent/mortgage
  - ☐ Assistance paying other bills
  - ☐ Access to child care
  - ☐ New job opportunity for you or another adult in the household
  - ☐ Technology to assist with remote working and learning
  - ☐ Health insurance coverage
  - ☐ Nothing. We have no needs.
  - ☐ Other. Please specify.
5. What is the MOST Important to your household's finances at this time? (Select one from the list above or other)
- ☐ Elimination of health care bills relating to COVID-19
  - ☐ Reinstatement of your job
  - ☐ Assistance paying rent/mortgage
  - ☐ Assistance paying other bills
  - ☐ Access to child care
  - ☐ New job opportunity for you or another adult in the household
  - ☐ Technology to assist with remote working and learning
  - ☐ Health insurance coverage
  - ☐ Nothing. We have no needs.
  - ☐ Other as noted above.



## Household Income

The following questions ask about your household's sources of income and work **before** the pandemic (prior to February 1, 2020)

6. What types of jobs did people in your household do prior to the pandemic? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing
  - ☐ Business management, administrative, & professional services
  - ☐ Manufacturing (including oil and Chemical)
  - ☐ Delivery, transportation, and warehousing
  - ☐ Education
  - ☐ Finance, insurance, and real estate
  - ☐ Health care, day care, and social assistance
  - ☐ Government
  - ☐ Construction
  - ☐ Leisure, hospitality, and food service
  - ☐ Media and publishing
  - ☐ Oil, salt, or mineral mining
  - ☐ Retail/wholesale sales
  - ☐ Utilities
  - ☐ Other (please specify)
7. The primary source(s) of income to meet your household expenses before the pandemic (check all that apply) included:
- ☐ Salary paid job for 35 hours/week or more
  - ☐ Self-employed, contract/project, or hourly paid job working 35 hours/week or more
  - ☐ Salary paid job for less than 35 hours/week
  - ☐ Self-employed, contract/project or hourly paid job less than 35 hours/week
  - ☐ Social security
  - ☐ Public Assistance
  - ☐ Other (please specify)

8. What was your annual household income in 2019?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$10,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 to \$99,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 to \$14,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 to \$149,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 to \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 to \$199,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 to \$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200,000 and over     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 to \$74,999 |   |

9. Prior to February 1, 2020, how long could you cover your basic bills from your savings?

- ☐ One week or less
- ☐ Two weeks
- ☐ Three weeks
- ☐ One month
- ☐ Two months
- ☐ More than two months

#### Changes in Employment

These next questions ask about the impact of the pandemic on your household's financial situation.

10. List the number of individuals in your household who:

- \_\_\_Have the same working arrangement
- \_\_\_Became unemployed
- \_\_\_Have reduced hours
- \_\_\_Have increased hours
- \_\_\_Shifted from working onsite to working remotely
- \_\_\_Recently returned to work

11. Which of the following have you used to meet household needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, if any? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ Applied for unemployment
  - ☐ Found a new way to make money (new job, gig, contract work)
  - ☐ Borrowed from family or friends
  - ☐ Used a food pantry/food bank Applied for Food Stamps/SNAP
  - ☐ Applied for other government assistance
  - ☐ Taken out a loan
  - ☐ Increased balance on credit card
  - ☐ Applied for other assistance from a community organization/non-profit
  - ☐ None of the above.
  - ☐ Other (please specify)

Unemployment Insurance – Answer the following ONLY if you check yes for “Applied for unemployment on Question 10.)

12. Since applying for unemployment, have you started receiving payments?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No, been waiting less than 2 weeks
  - ☐ No, been waiting 2-4 weeks
  - ☐ No, been waiting more than 4 weeks
  - ☐ No, I have been denied coverage
  - ☐ No, I haven't been able to complete the application
13. If you have received unemployment insurance, what percentage of your monthly expenses will this payment cover?
- ☐ All expenses (100%)
  - ☐ Most expenses (75%)
  - ☐ Half of expenses (50%)
  - ☐ Some (25%)
  - ☐ Little or nothing (less than 25%)



Mississippi Association  
of United Ways

### Impact on Your Household

*Last Updated: 08.14.2020*

Next, we have some questions about the impact of the Pandemic on you/your household.

14. List the number of household members in the following age groups PRIOR to February 1, 2020:

\_\_\_Children under 5

\_\_\_Children 5 to 17

\_\_\_Adults 18 to 64

\_\_\_Seniors 65 and over

15. List the number of current household members in the following age groups:

\_\_\_Children under 5

\_\_\_Children 5 to 17

\_\_\_Adults 18 to 64

\_\_\_Seniors 65 and over

16. How would you describe your household?

- ☐ Living alone or with unrelated roommates
- ☐ Married or living together/cohabiting couple
- ☐ Single female head of household
- ☐ Single male head of household
- ☐ Other (please specify)

17. Have you purchased any of the following to adapt to a stay-at-home order and/or school closures? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ Internet subscription/upgrade
  - ☐ Computer
  - ☐ Tablet
  - ☐ Mobile phone
  - ☐ No, nothing was added due to financial constraints
  - ☐ No, nothing was added, as all technology support was in place prior to COVID-19
  - ☐ Other technology products
18. Prior to February 1, 2020, did you usually need child care when you worked? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ No.
  - ☐ Yes. I paid for a child care center.
  - ☐ Yes. I paid for family child care.
  - ☐ Yes, I paid for child care in my home.
  - ☐ Yes, I sent my child(ren) to Head Start or Early Head Start.
  - ☐ Yes, I sent my child to a school based program.
  - ☐ Yes, I left my child with a friend or relative.
  - ☐ Other (please specify)
19. Since February 1, 2020, how has your child care arrangement impacted your income?
- ☐ Not applicable. I don't usually need child care.
  - ☐ No impact (working similar hours with the same child care arrangement)
  - ☐ No longer able to work due to child care issues (like access or affordability)
  - ☐ Working reduced hours due to child care issues (like access or affordability)
  - ☐ Working similar hours with new in-home child care (self, household member)
  - ☐ Working similar hours with a new child care provider
  - ☐ Other (please specify)

### Federal Stimulus Check

The Federal Government recently passed a COVID-19 stimulus bill. It provided a stimulus check for many Americans. This check is \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child. The questions on this page are about that check.

20. Did you receive a stimulus check from the government?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
  - ☐ No, but I am expecting one
  - ☐ No, but someone else in my household will/has
  - ☐ I don't know
21. How many weeks of expenses, on average, would this check cover for your family/household?
- ☐ One week or less
  - ☐ Two weeks
  - ☐ Three weeks
  - ☐ One month
  - ☐ Two months
  - ☐ More than two months
22. If you received a check from the government, how did you/do you plan to spend the money (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Pay rent or mortgage
  - ☐ Buy food
  - ☐ Pay for utilities
  - ☐ Pay off debt/credit card
  - ☐ Put in savings
  - ☐ Donated or gave away the money
  - ☐ Other (please specify)

### Final Questions

Just a few questions about you and your household.

23. Where do you currently live?

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

24. Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic/Latino?
- ☐ Yes
  - ☐ No
25. What best describes your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
  - ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
  - ☐ Black or African American
  - ☐ White/Caucasian
  - ☐ Prefer not to answer
  - ☐ Other (Please specify)
26. Finally, we would like to understand how COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people who live in Mississippi over time. May we contact you again in a few months?
- ☐ No.
  - ☐ Yes. Here is my phone number/email: \_\_\_\_\_
27. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? (use the space below.)

**Thank you for your time and participation!**

Reminder: Your responses are confidential. The results of this survey will not be shared along with identifying information. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact your local United Way of email Tracie Fowler ([tracie@unitedwaysems.org](mailto:tracie@unitedwaysems.org)) or Michele Connelly ([michele@unitedwayvicksburg.org](mailto:michele@unitedwayvicksburg.org)).