

# FEEDING NEW YORK CITY FAMILIES

Keeping Track of Food Insecurity in 2021

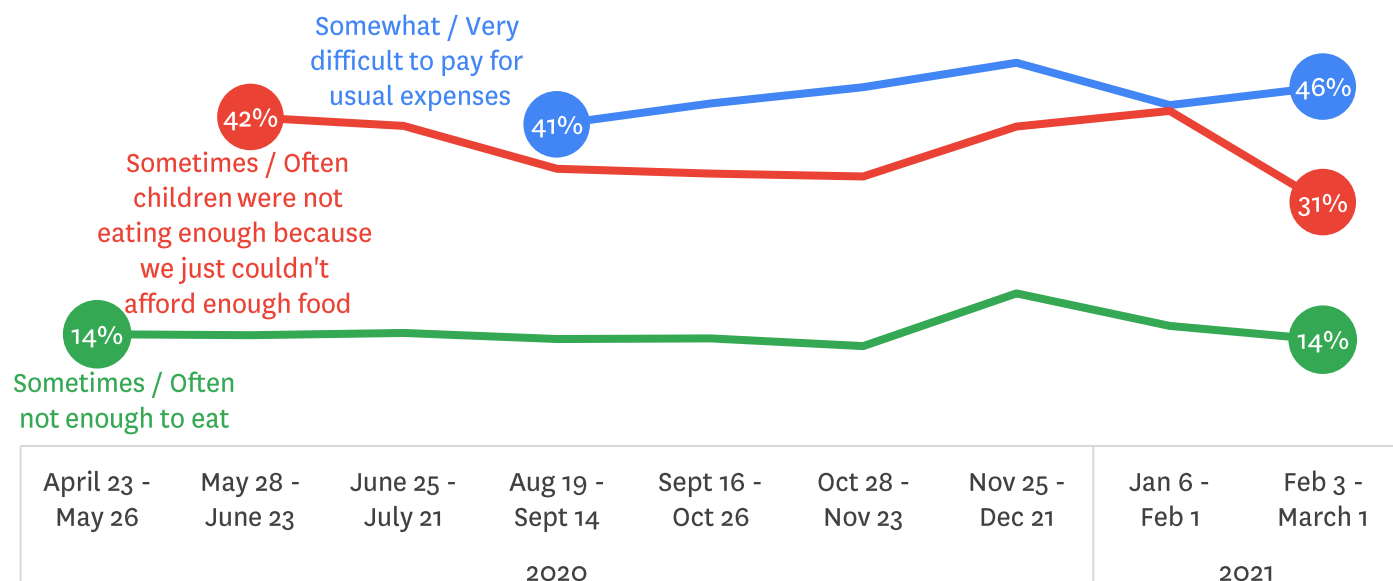


Even prior to COVID-19, 1.9 million New Yorkers were experiencing food insecurity, including one in five children. Data from the Census Bureau show that the pandemic has only exacerbated the city's hunger crisis, particularly for families of color. City leaders must act now to strengthen anti-hunger supports for the most marginalized New Yorkers.

## Material hardship and food insecurity are widespread among New York's families with children

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested the capacity of the U.S. safety net to meet the urgent needs of families with children. Recent Federal stimulus money – distributed in late December, and more recently in March – staved off growing food insufficiency and hardship for households with children. Still, in the New York Metro Area, **close to half of households with children (46%)** report difficulties in paying for their usual household expenses, such as food, transportation, and housing.

### Share of NY Metro Area households with children reporting...

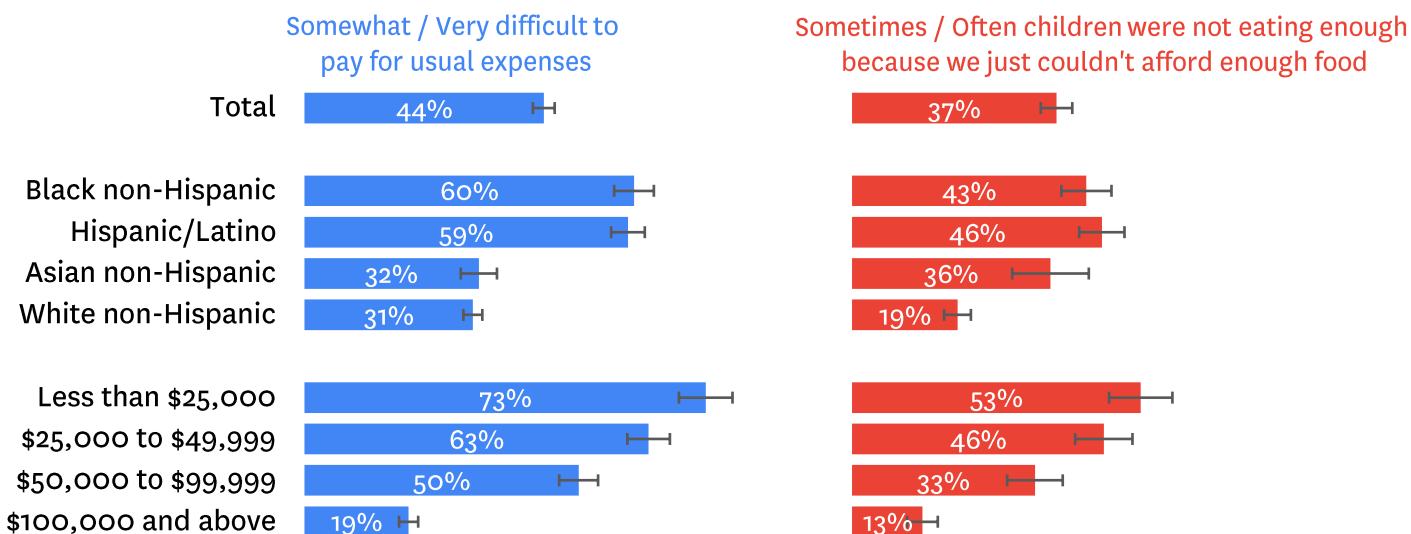


Source: US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey Public Use Files, April 23, 2020 – March 1, 2021.

## Difficulties in paying expenses and food insecurity are greatest among low-income families of color

Over the last year, inequitable outcomes in food security have been reinforced by the acute toll of the pandemic and labor market losses for low-income, Black and Hispanic/Latino households. Rates of material hardship and children's food insecurity are much higher among households with children making below \$100,000, and Black and Hispanic/Latino families.

### Average share of NY Metro Area households with children reporting...



Source: US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey Public Use Files, June 4, 2020 – March 1, 2021.

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## Food insecure children and their families are receiving support through Food Stamps, school-based meals, and other community-based sources

Among households with children that are currently reporting food insecurity, many are relying on both formal and informal sources of support to access adequate meals and groceries. More than one third report receiving SNAP (Food Stamps) benefits in recent months, and one in five report receiving free meals or groceries – likely coming from schools, food pantries, neighbors, and other community sources.

### Among households with children who report child food insecurity in the NY Metro Area...

**21%**

Share of NY Metro Area households experiencing child food insecurity report receiving free meals or groceries.

**35%**

Share of NY Metro Area households experiencing child food insecurity report receiving SNAP (food stamps) benefits.

### Source of free meals/groceries received by households with children, NY Metro Area

School/programs aimed at children	32%
Food pantry/food bank	27%
Family/friends/neighbors	27%
Other community program	22%
Religious organization	20%
Home-delivered meal service	14%
Shelter/soup kitchen	2%

Source: US Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey Public Use Files, April 23, 2020 – March 1, 2021.

Note: Data on SNAP reciprocity were introduced later in the survey, from August 19, 2020 – March 1, 2021.

The sum of sources for free groceries/meals exceeds 100% due to households reporting multiple sources.

## Act Now: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Recommendations for City Leaders

### Emergency Feeding and Benefits Access

- Increase baseline funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) by \$10 million and enable funding to be used for administrative, rental, and operational costs.
- Support City Council's proposal to add \$20 million to support emergency food programs operated by community-based organizations.
- Add \$16.6 million to fully fund DFTA's Home Delivered Meals program for older adults
- Support City Council's proposal to add \$37 million to Human Resource Administration towards nutrition benefit program enrollment and outreach.
- Increase data sharing and transparency around GetFoodNYC
- Support the Administration's request for an additional \$32 million towards emergency food relief in NYC

### School Food

- Add \$3.5 million for additional school food managers in the Office of Food and Nutrition Services
- Commit an additional \$30 million per year in the DOE's 5-Year Capita Plan to Expand Food Court Style ("enhanced") cafeterias

### Community-Based Anti-Hunger Efforts

- Restore cuts and enhance funding for City Council discretionary initiatives that combat hunger
- Allocate \$1 million to establish a new Food Justice Grant Program housed within the Mayor's Office of Food Policy that supports community-led projects to grow food justice.
- Fully restore \$32.6 million for NYC Composting program.

Learn about more ways to take action and discover additional data on NYC children at [www.cccnewyork.org](http://www.cccnewyork.org)