



Redwood City & North Fair Oaks  
Community Needs Assessment  
Survey Findings

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March 2021

create  
knowledge.

ignite  
change.

**john w. gardner**  
**center** for youth and their communities

@gardnercenter

# Thank You To Our Generous Funders!



FOR YOUR HEALTH

**Stanford** | Community Engagement  
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS



# About the Survey Tool



Digital & Online

Self-Administered &  
Anonymous

In English & Spanish

**TOPICS** include ...

- food
- housing
- employment
- medical care
- childcare
- education
- technology
- demographics



## HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

One respondent answers on behalf of everyone they live with

# Distribution Method

## SURVEY DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

- text messages
- newsletters
- email blasts
- periodicals
- social media
- word of mouth



## DATA COLLECTION

September & October  
2020

## RECRUITMENT CHANNELS

Boys & Girls Club  
Cañada College  
Caron Sheriff's Program  
Catholic Charities  
Dream Center  
Faith in Action  
Familia Cristiana Verbo  
Family Harvest  
Friends for Youth  
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area  
Innovate Public Schools  
Multicultural Institute  
NFO Community Council  
One Life Counseling Services  
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center  
Police Activities League  
City Office of Redwood City  
Redwood City Parks & Rec  
Redwood City Public Libraries  
Redwood City School District  
Siena Youth Center  
Socios for Success  
UndocuCollective  
United Through Education  
Upward Scholars



# Sample Characteristics



85K

PEOPLE IN REDWOOD CITY

4%

REPRESENTED IN SURVEY



TOTAL RESPONSES

RESPONSES WITH  
COMPLETE NEEDS DATA

1395

RESPONSES BEFORE  
DATA CLEANING



889

RESPONSES

1145

RESPONSES AFTER  
DATA CLEANING



3555

PEOPLE REPRESENTED



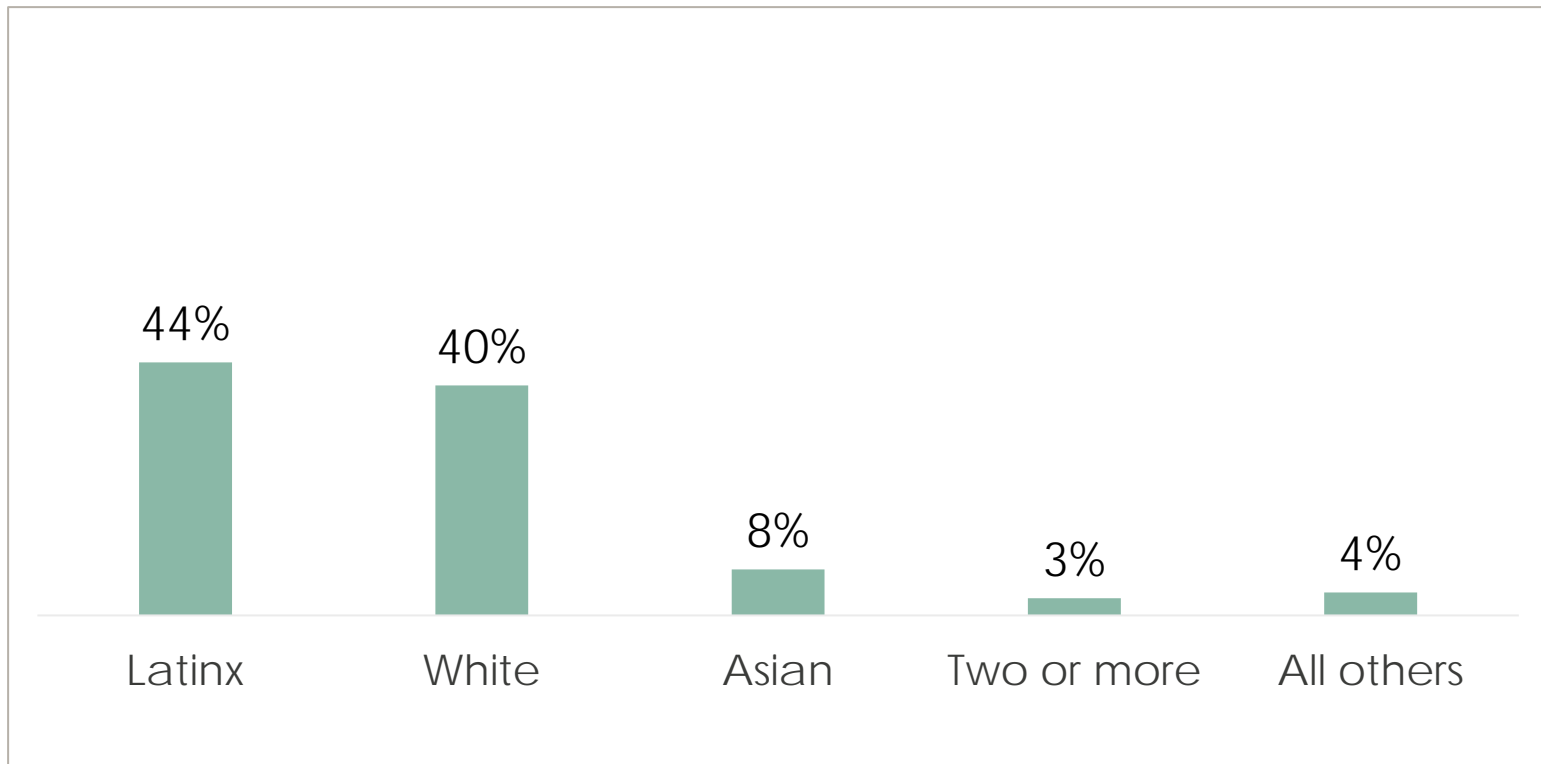
# Statistical Analysis

- We applied statistical weights to the data to account for...
  - Race and ethnicity
  - Housing type (rent/own)
  - Children's ages
  - Household Sizes
- Weighted findings suggest survey sample was representative of Redwood City population
- Findings compared to historical census data validated our rates of increased need

# *Demographics*

# Race / Ethnicity

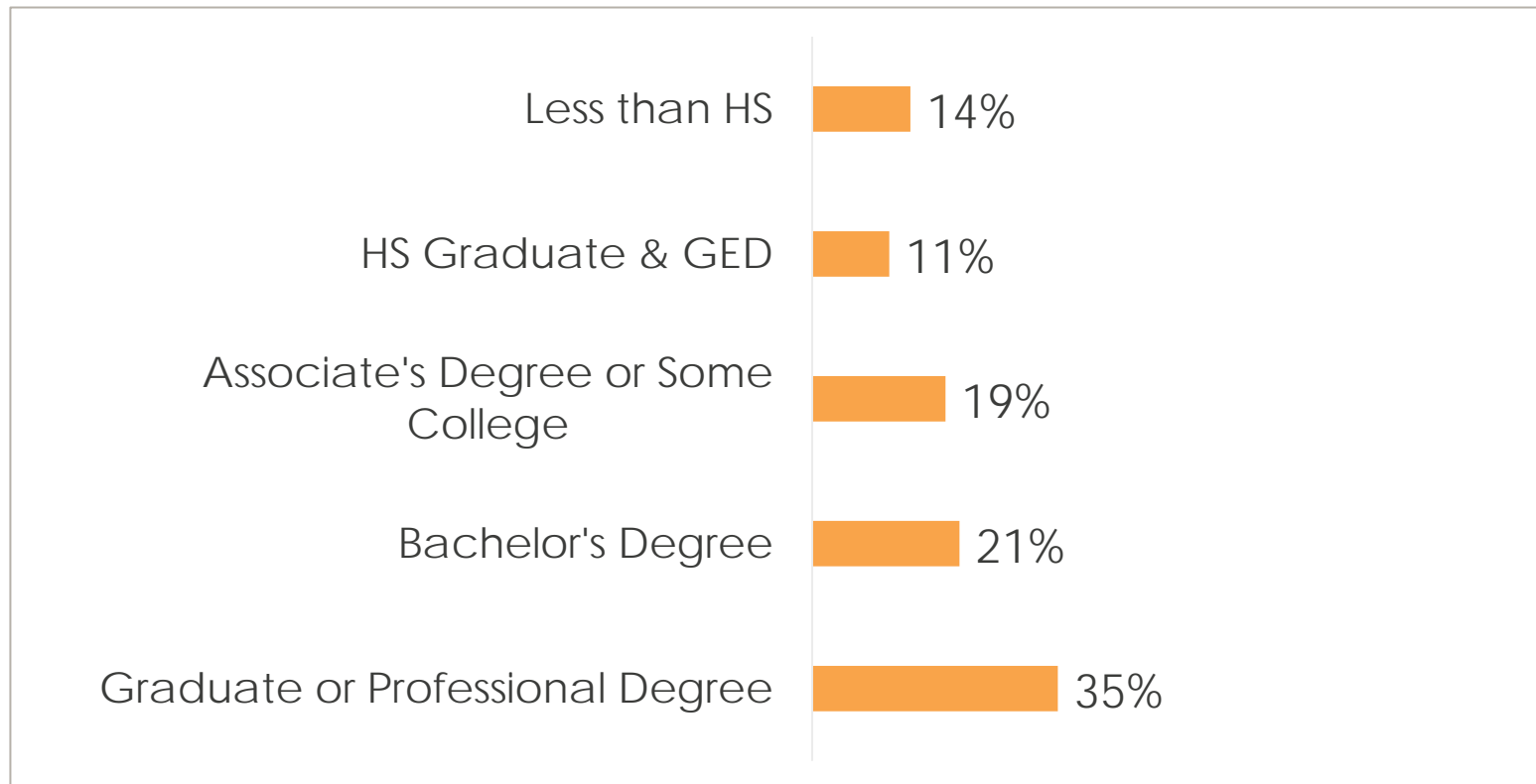
Mostly representative, slight overcount of Latinx people and undercount of Asian people.





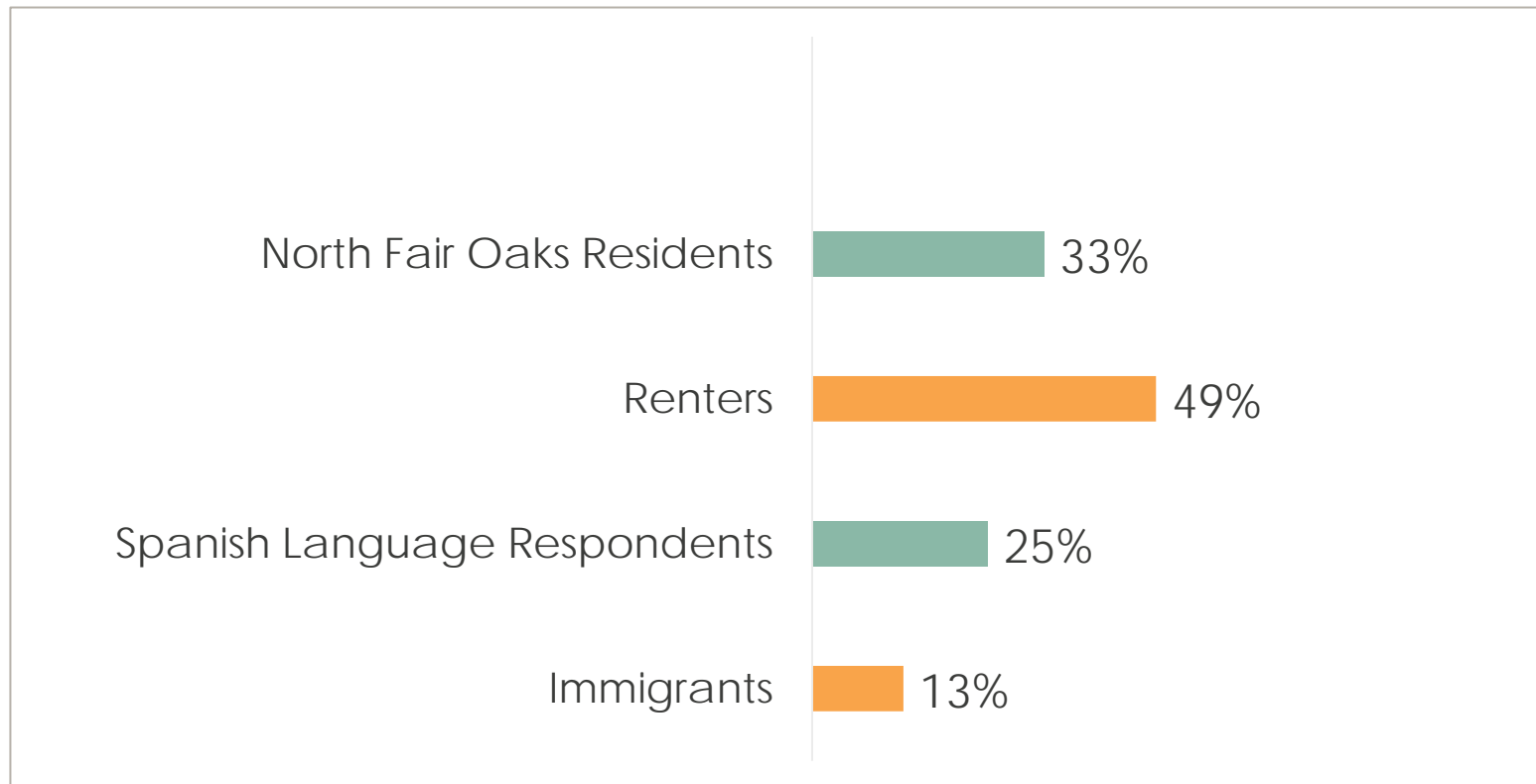
# Education Level

Mostly representative, with an overcount of grad degrees.



# Demographic Subgroups

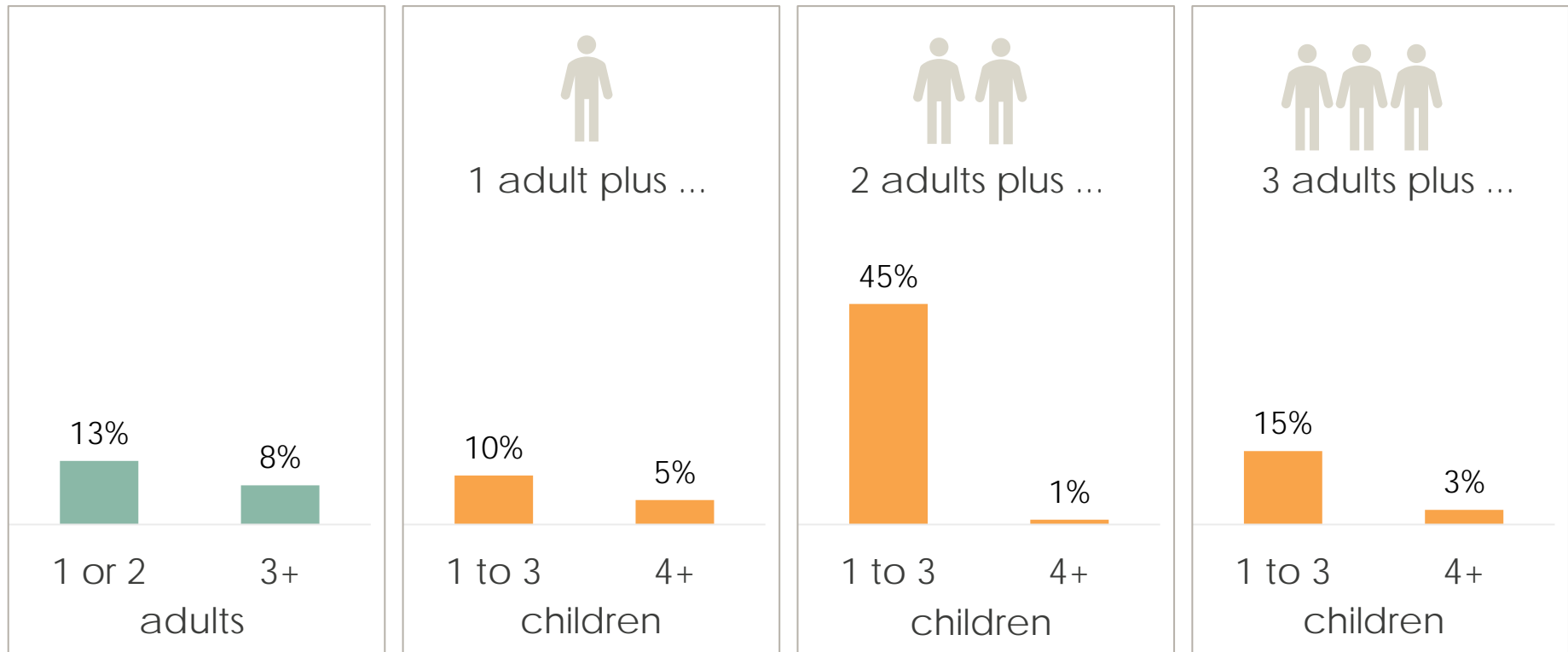
A diverse sample of key local communities.



# *Household Types*

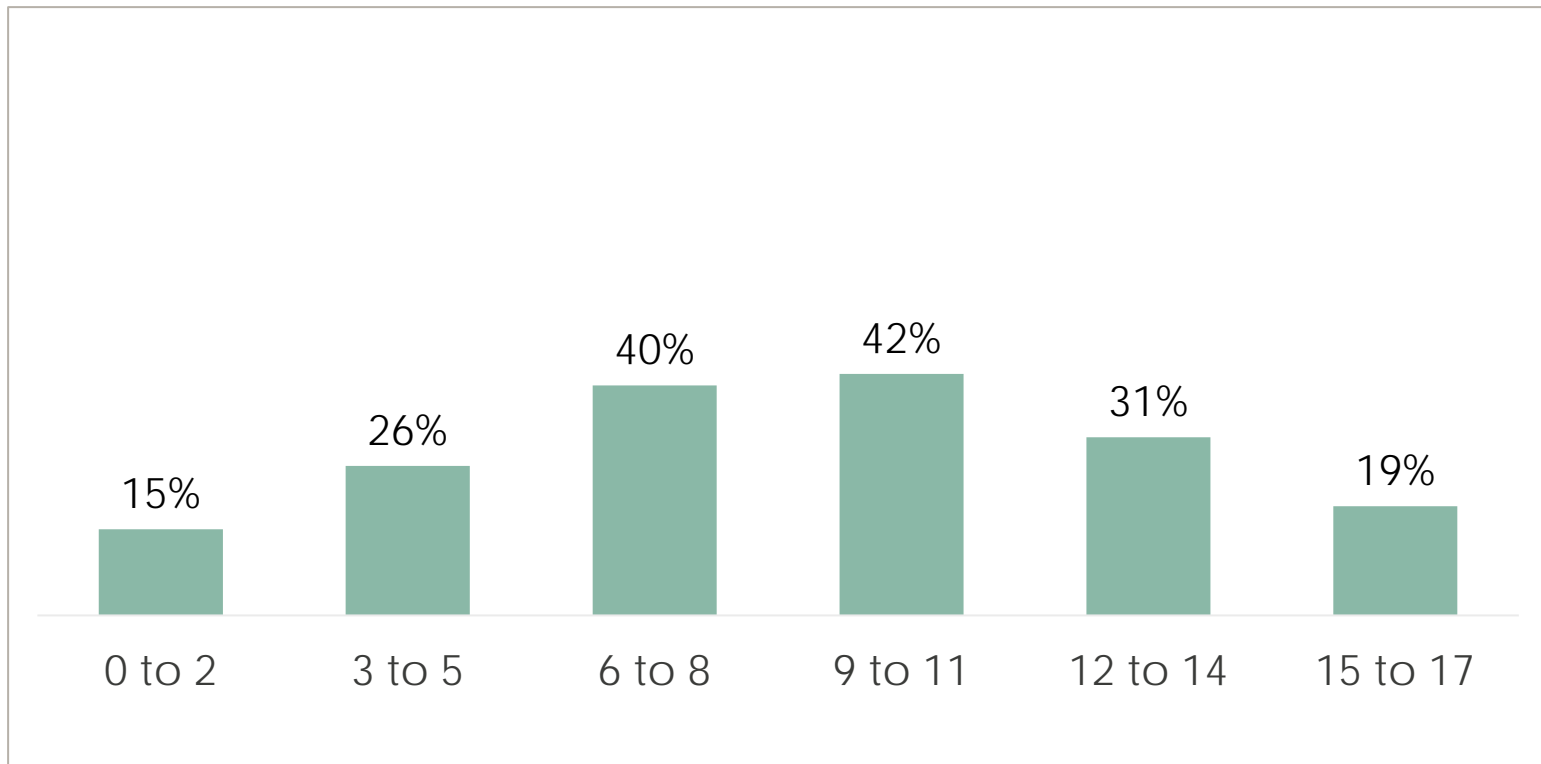
# Household Sizes

Most households (64%) had a combination of 2+ adults and children.



# Child Ages

Most children were elementary or middle school age.



## *Key Takeaways*

# Key Takeaways

## HEALTHCARE INSECURITY

- Always has been high (20-25%) but has not increased as much as other unmet needs since COVID.

## FOOD INSECURITY

- Increased dramatically and remains relatively high (15%), despite widespread awareness of multiple services.

## HOUSING INSECURITY

- Affects one-third of renters (30-35%), with a small but meaningful portion (7%) under eviction threat.



Spanish language respondents are six times as likely to be food insecure and twice as likely to be housing insecure

# Key Takeaways

## DIGITAL DIVIDE

Most pronounced for high-quality technology, for example:

- Lack of installed internet (15-30%)
- Lack of a home computer (20-40%)

## DISTANCE LEARNING

Top challenges include:

- Lack of private workspace (22%)
- Insufficient support from teachers or school staff (20%)

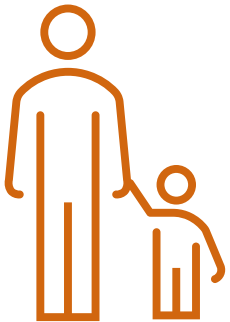




# Key Takeaways

## SECOND SHIFT

- Most full-time workers (55%) are caring for children more than 8 hours a day.



## INCOME

- Unemployment and furlough rates have doubled since COVID.



# *Food Insecurity*

# Youth & Food Insecurity

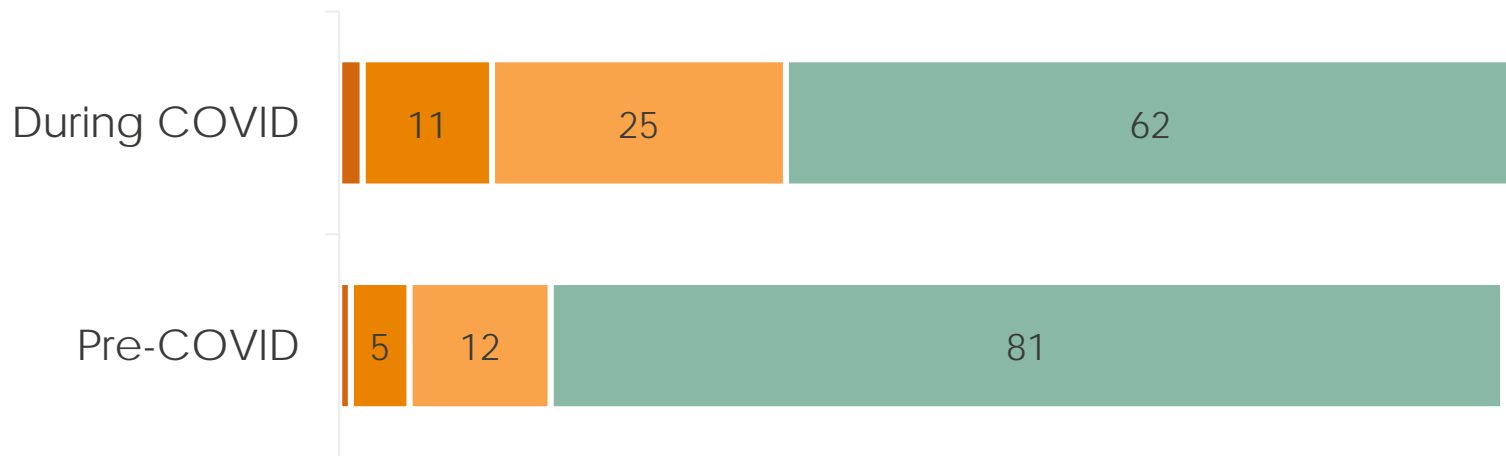
At least **255 youth**  
live in food insecure  
households.



At least **761 youth**  
live in households  
where adults worry  
food will run out.

# Food Insecurity

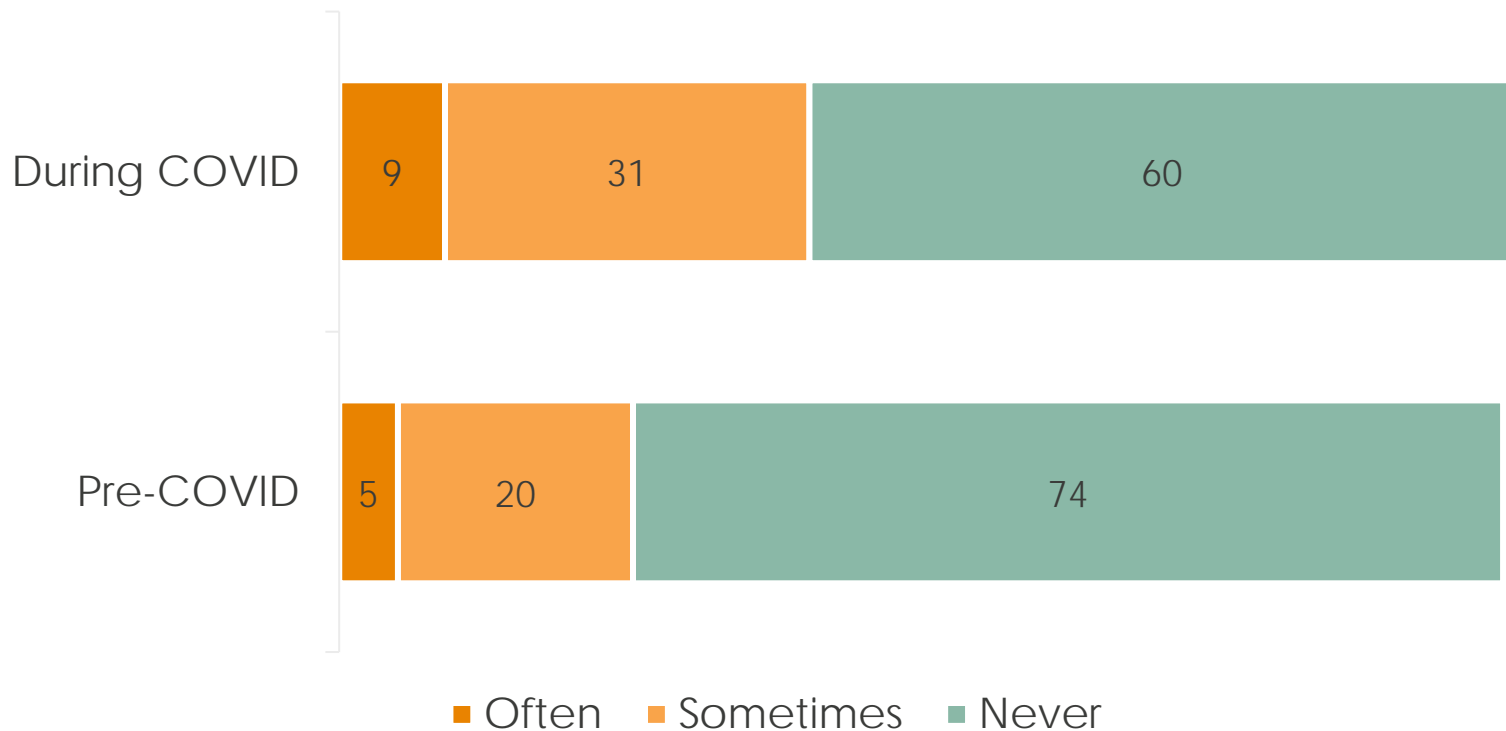
Moderate to severe food insecurity affects 15% of households, twice what they reported before COVID.



- Often not enough to eat
- Sometimes not enough to eat
- Enough, but not always the kind of food we want
- Enough of the kinds of foods we want to eat

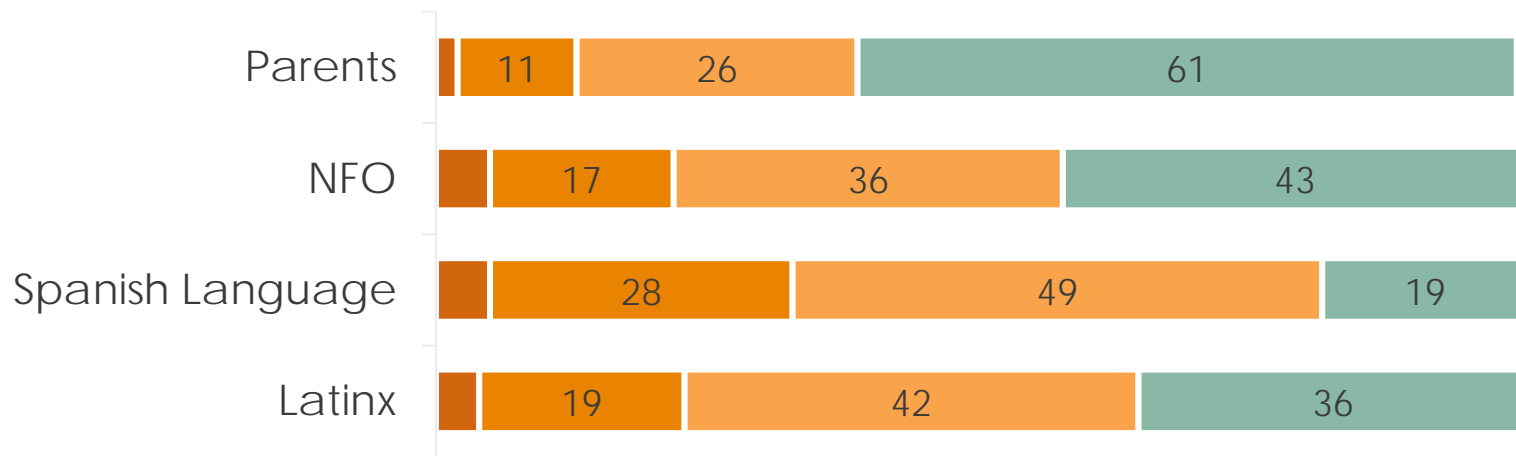
# Worry that Food Will Run Out

40% of households worry sometimes or often that food will run out, versus 25% before COVID.



# Food Insecurity Subgroups

Spanish language respondents (up to 35%) faced more food insecurity than any other subgroup.



- Often not enough to eat
- Sometimes not enough to eat
- Enough, but not always the kind of food we want
- Enough of the kinds of foods we want to eat

# *Housing Insecurity*

# Youth & Housing Insecurity

At least **314 youth** live in a household that has missed rent.

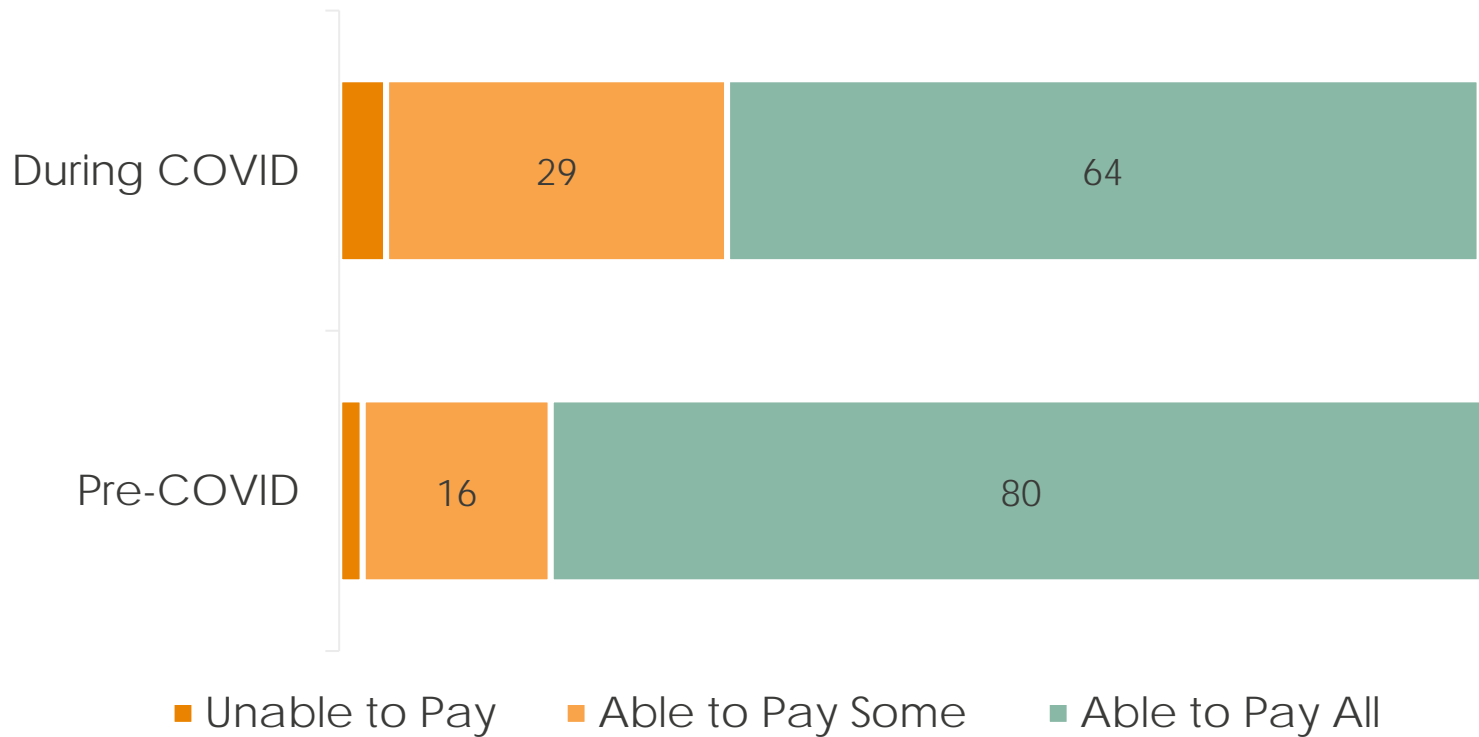


At least **176 youth** live in a household that has received a utility shut off notice.



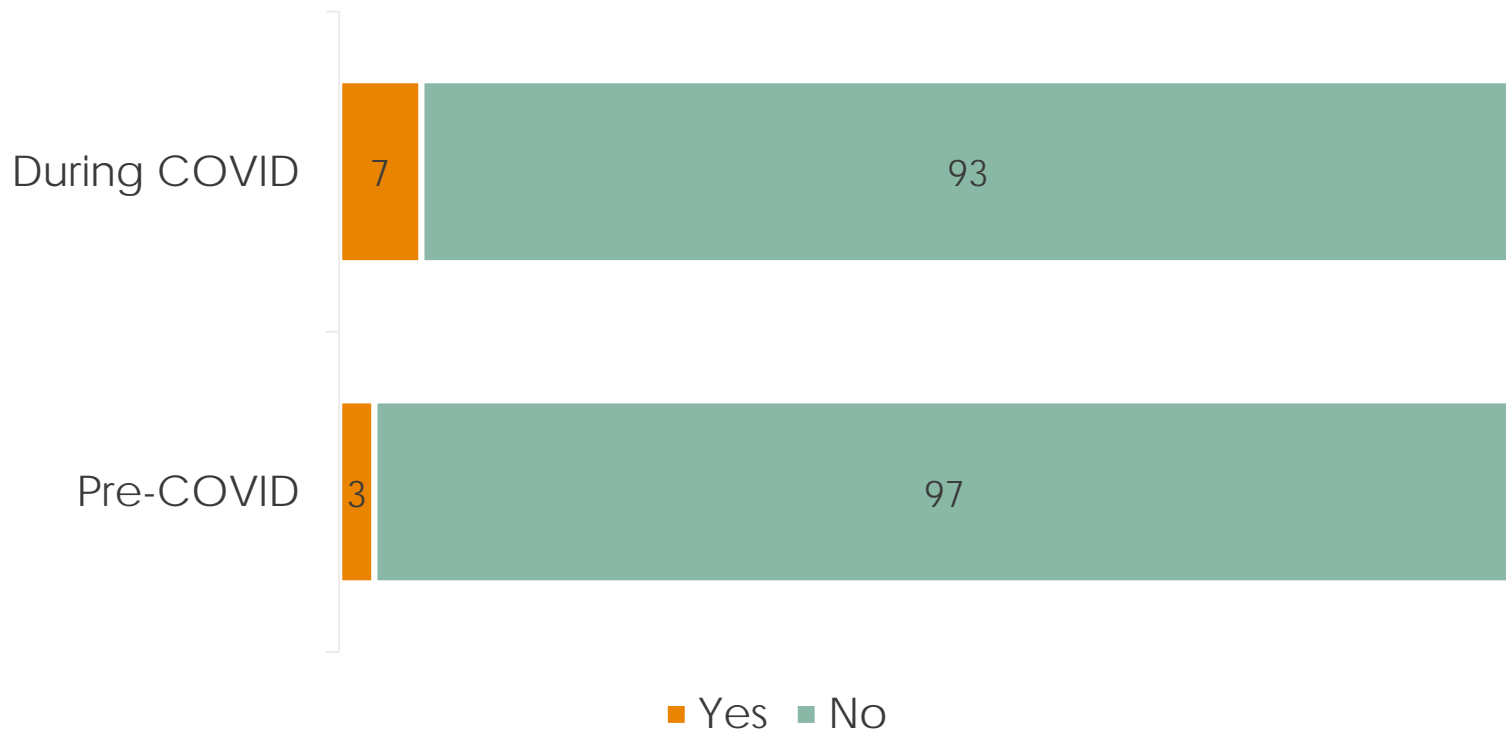
# Ability to Pay Rent

Over one-third of households did not pay all their rent, and of those, three-quarters do not know about rental assistance.



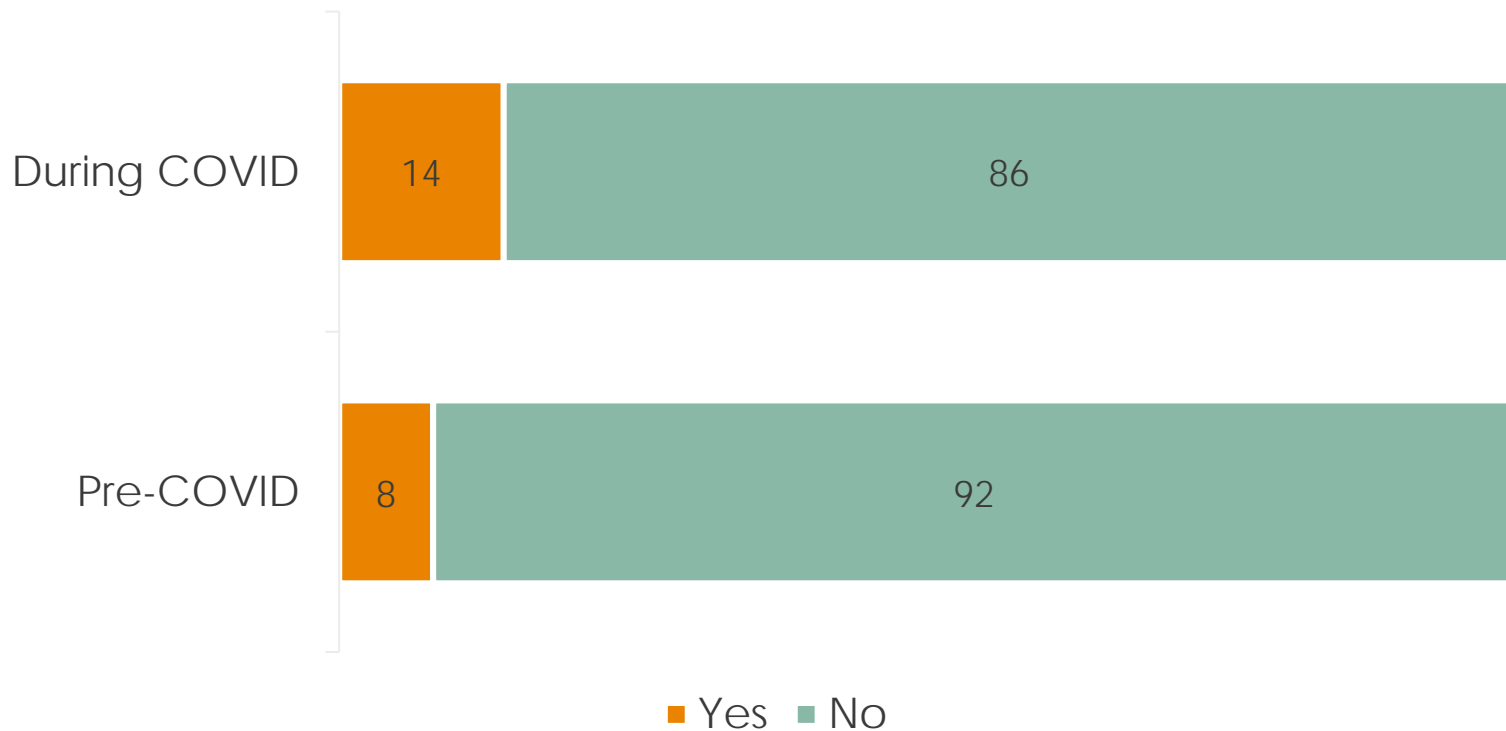
# Received Eviction Threat

Eviction threats have more than doubled despite a moratorium on them.



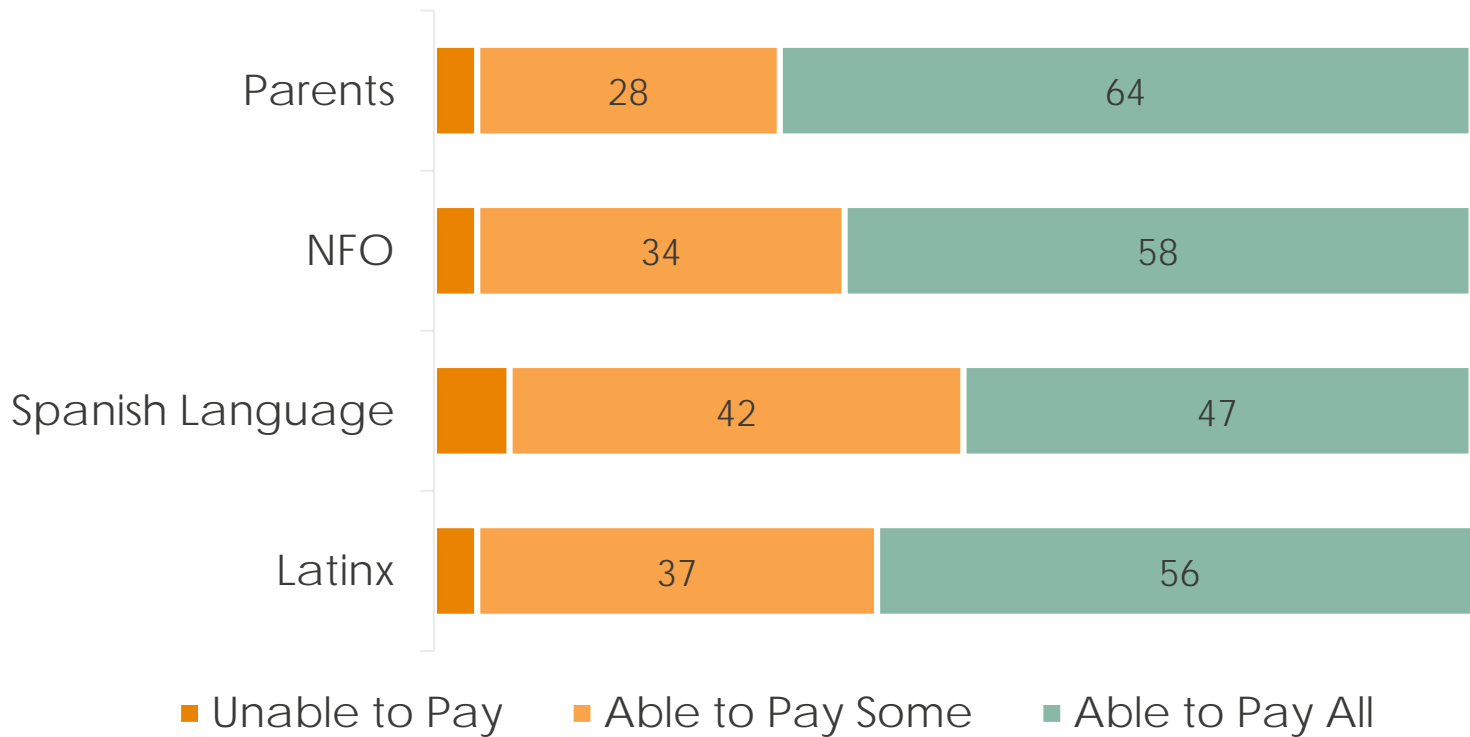
# Utility Shut-Off Notice

One in seven renter households have been informed that their utilities could be shut off due to lack of payment.



# Housing Insecurity Subgroups

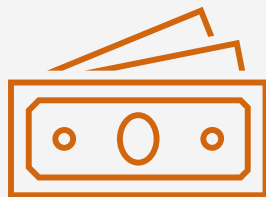
Spanish language respondents were about twice more likely to be housing insecure than English language respondents.



# *Healthcare Insecurity*

# Youth & Healthcare Insecurity

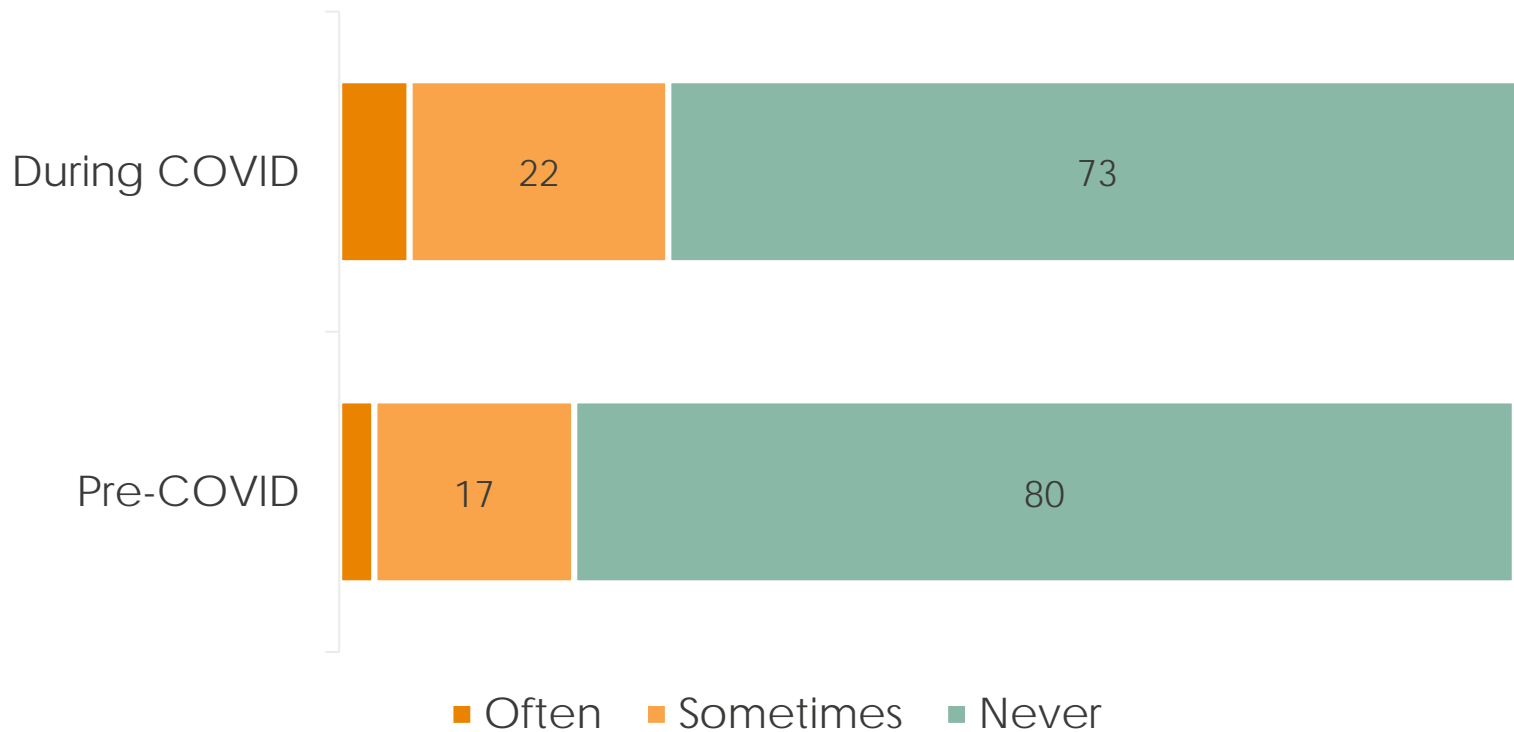
At least **621 youth** rely on public healthcare.



At least **355 youth** live in a household that forewent care.

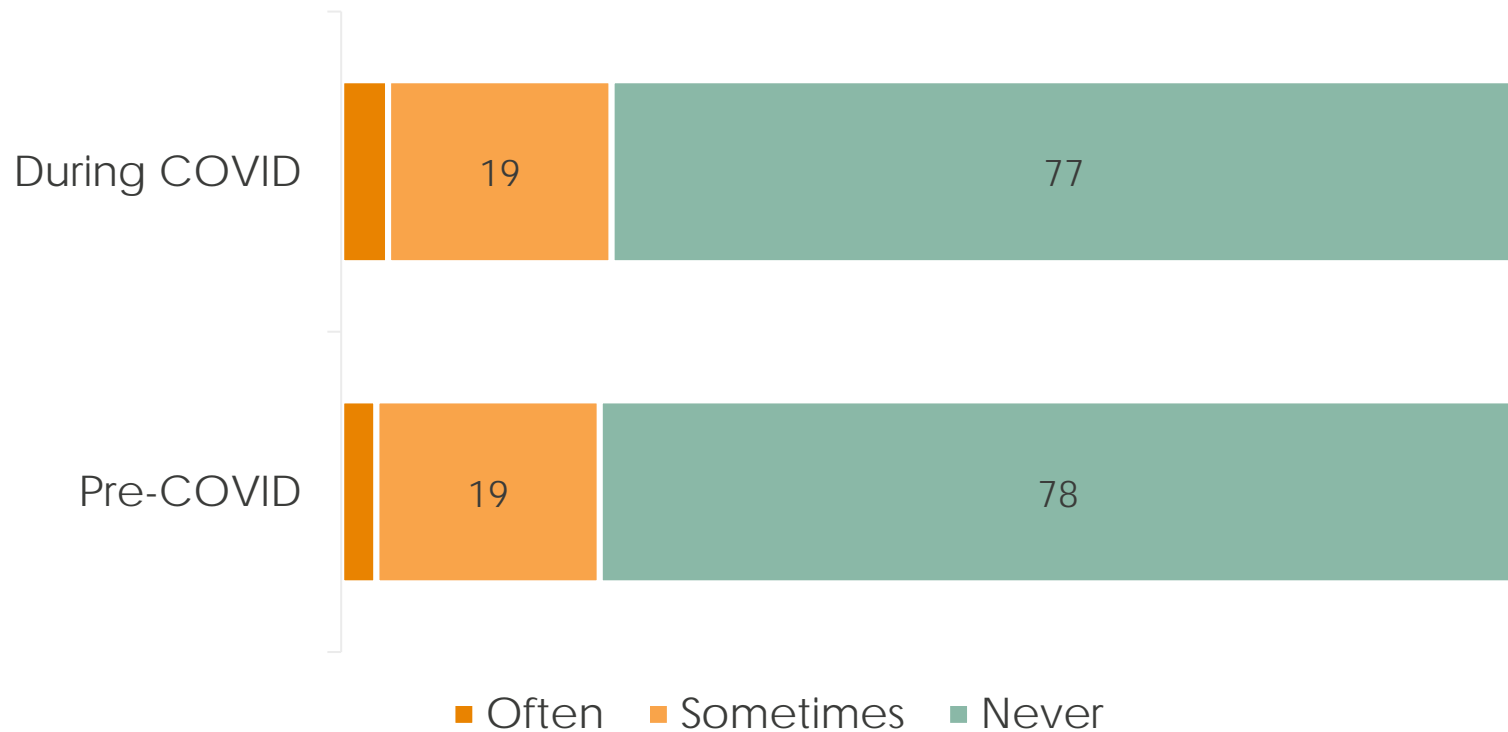
# Trouble Paying Healthcare Bills

Trouble paying bills has increased modestly during COVID.



# Foregoing Physical Care

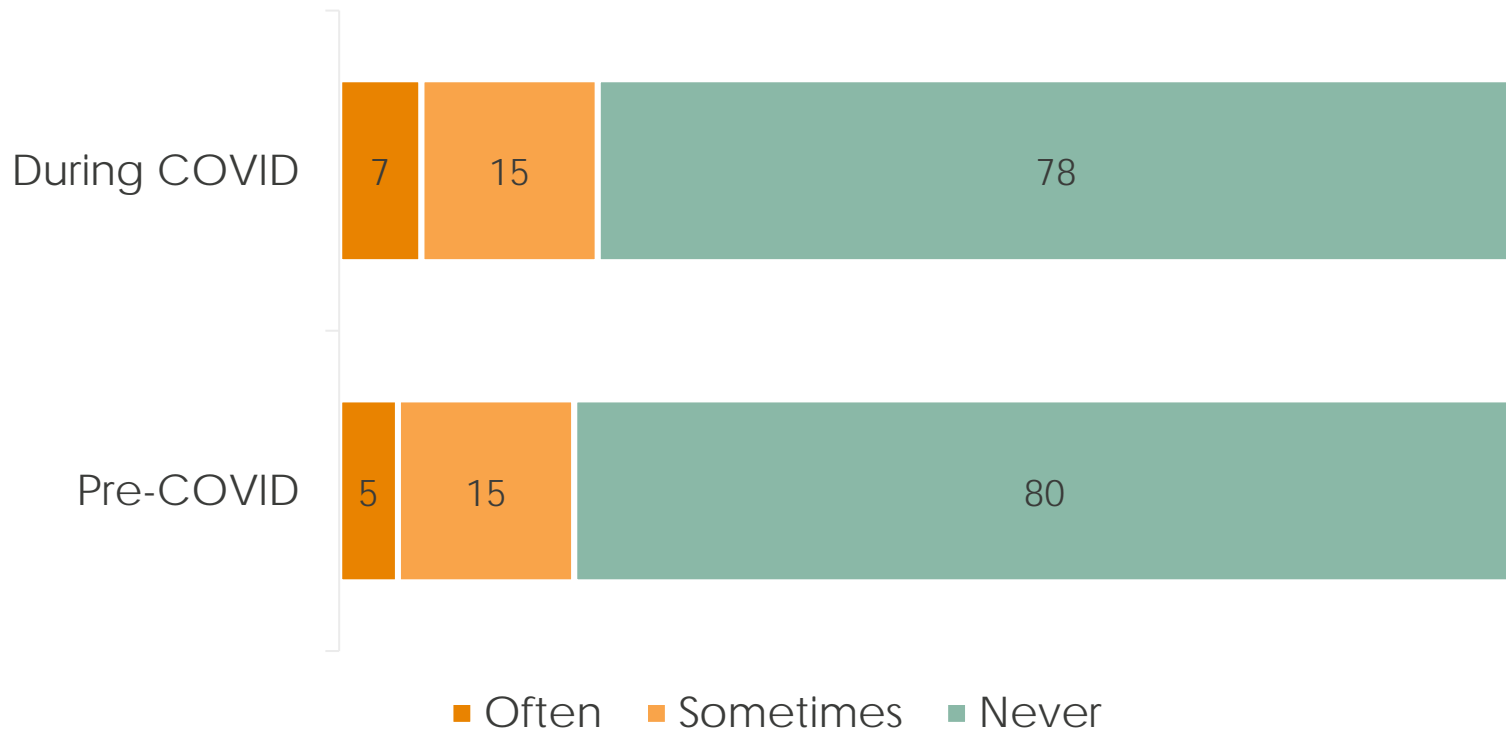
Foregoing physical care has not increased since COVID.





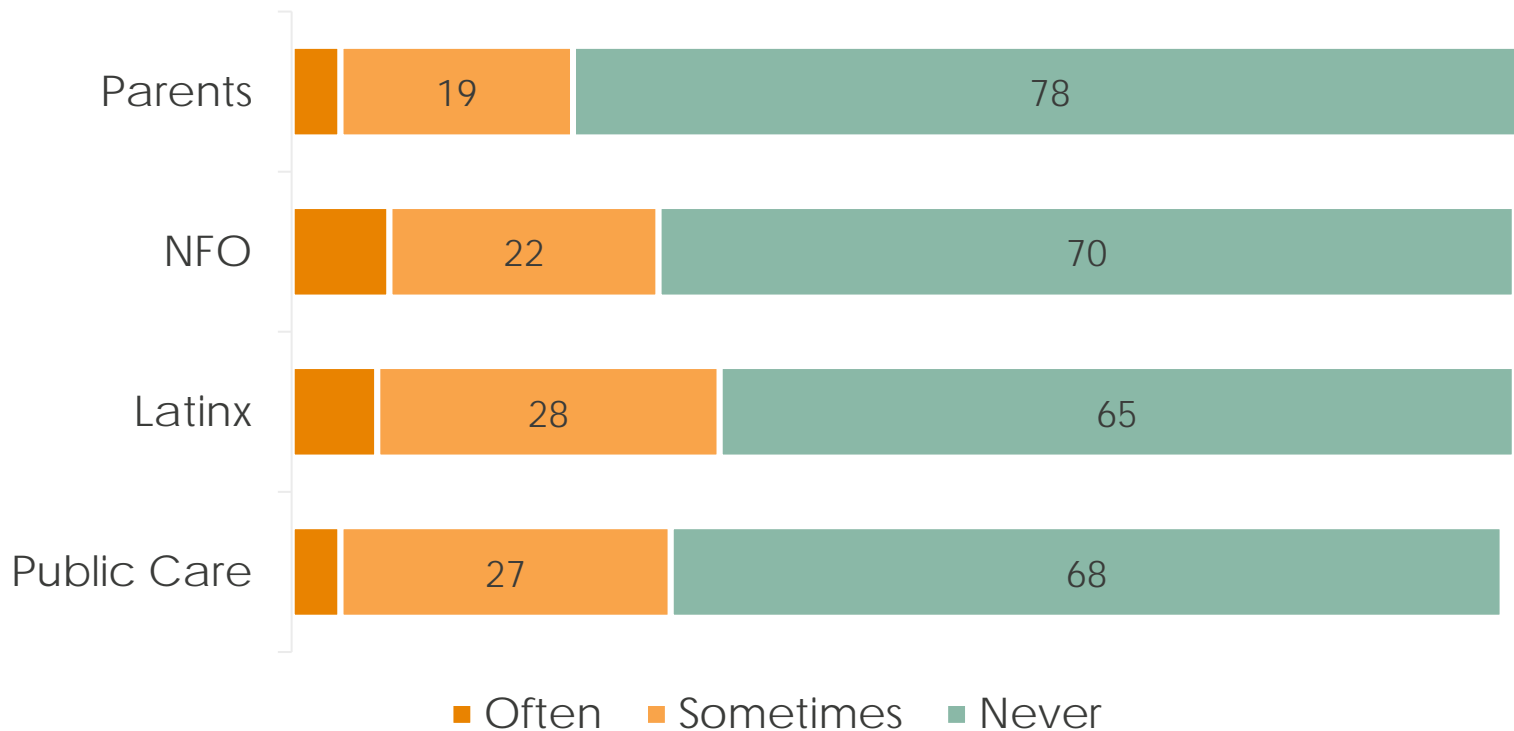
# Foregoing Mental Care

Mental care insecurity equivalent to physical care, except "often" was twice as frequent.



# Healthcare Insecurity Subgroups

There's a smaller spread in healthcare insecurity across subgroups than for other needs.



# *Digital Divide*

# Digital Divide

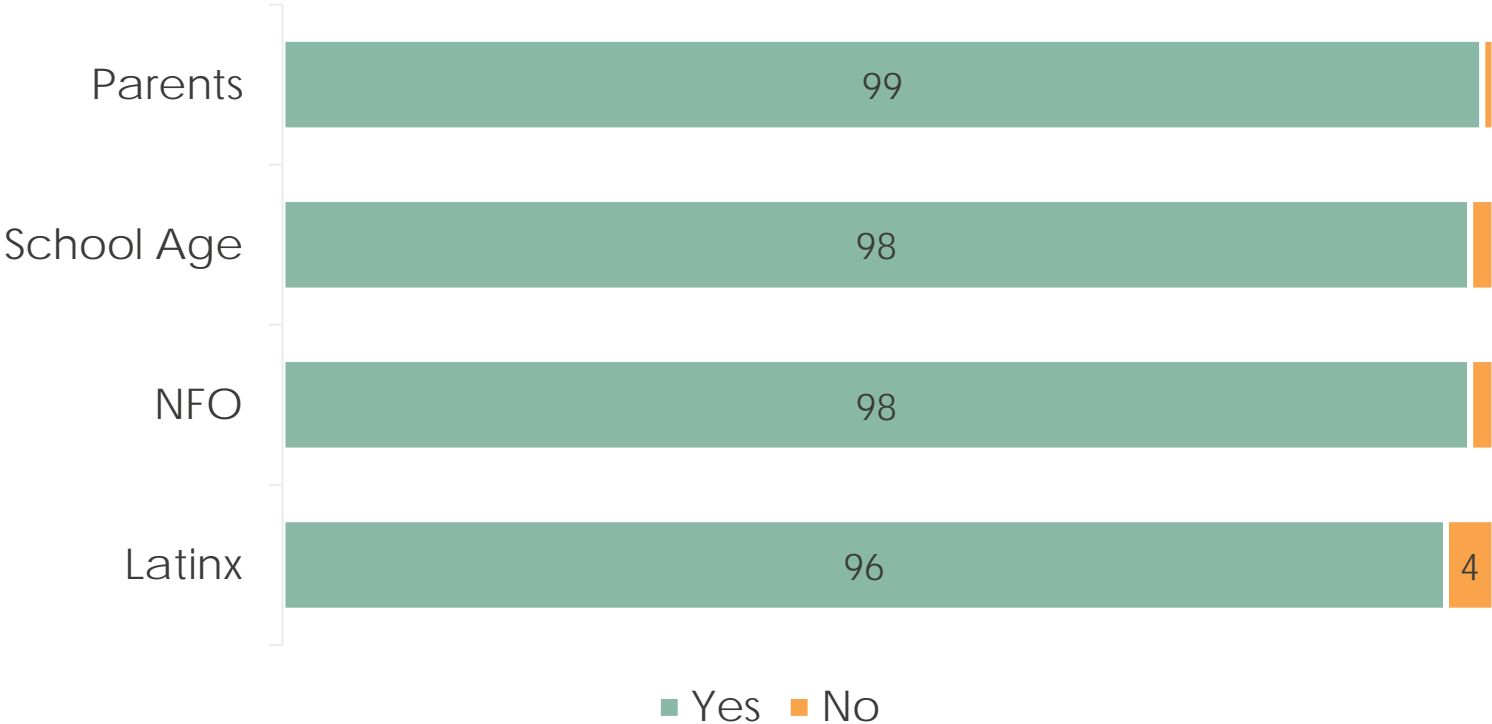
**99% of households** with school-age children have a connected device.



Only **82% of households** with school-age children have a computer.

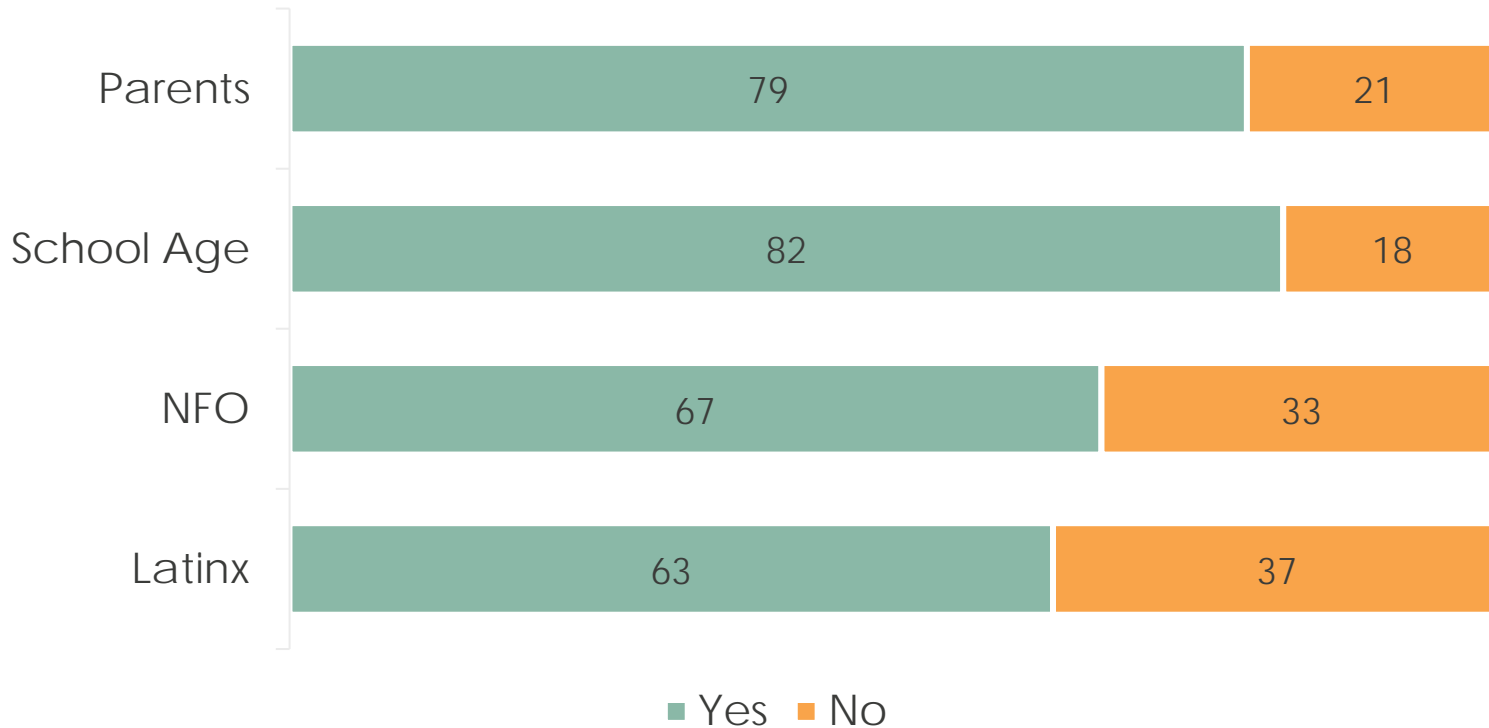
# Have a Connected Device

A majority of households have access to a connected device.



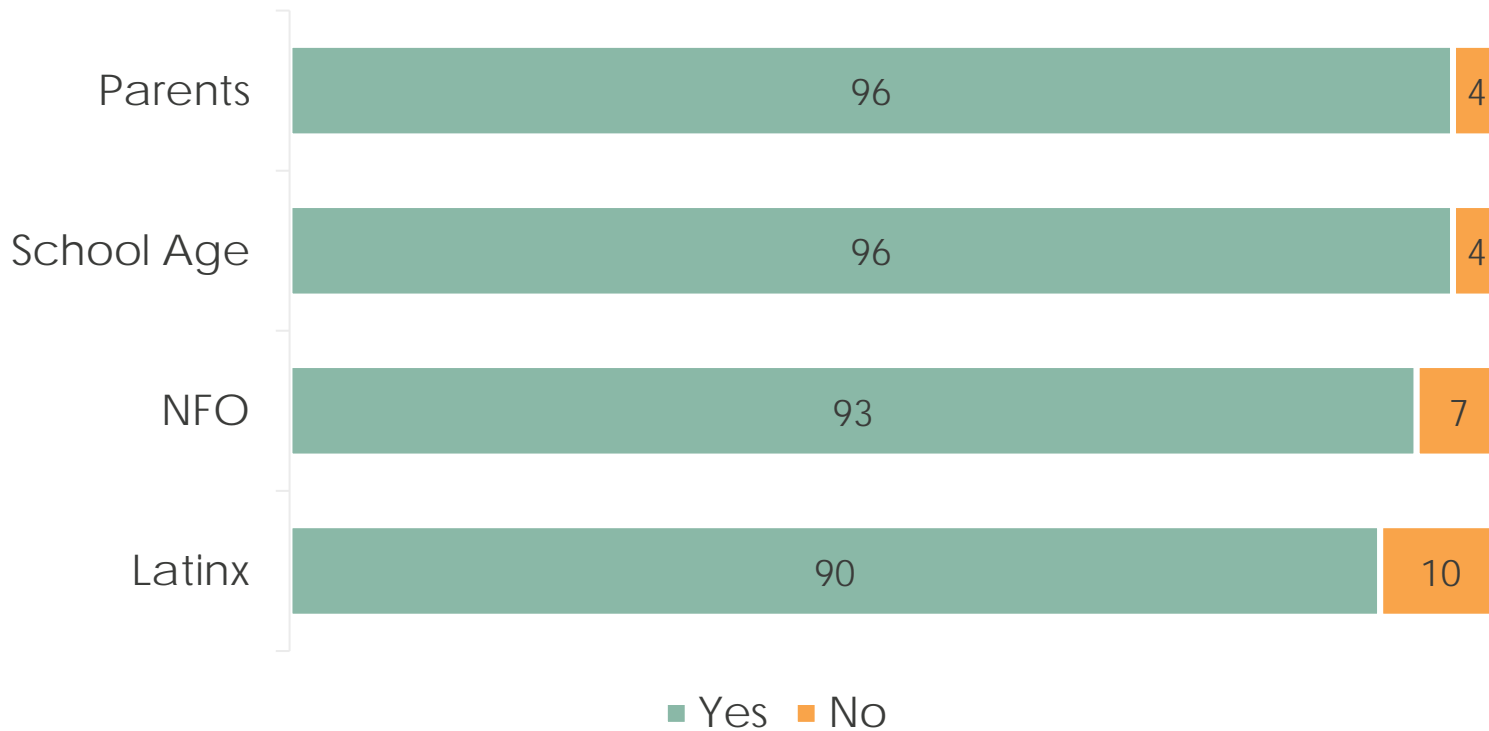
# Have a Computer

Fewer households have a home computer, including one in five families with school aged children.



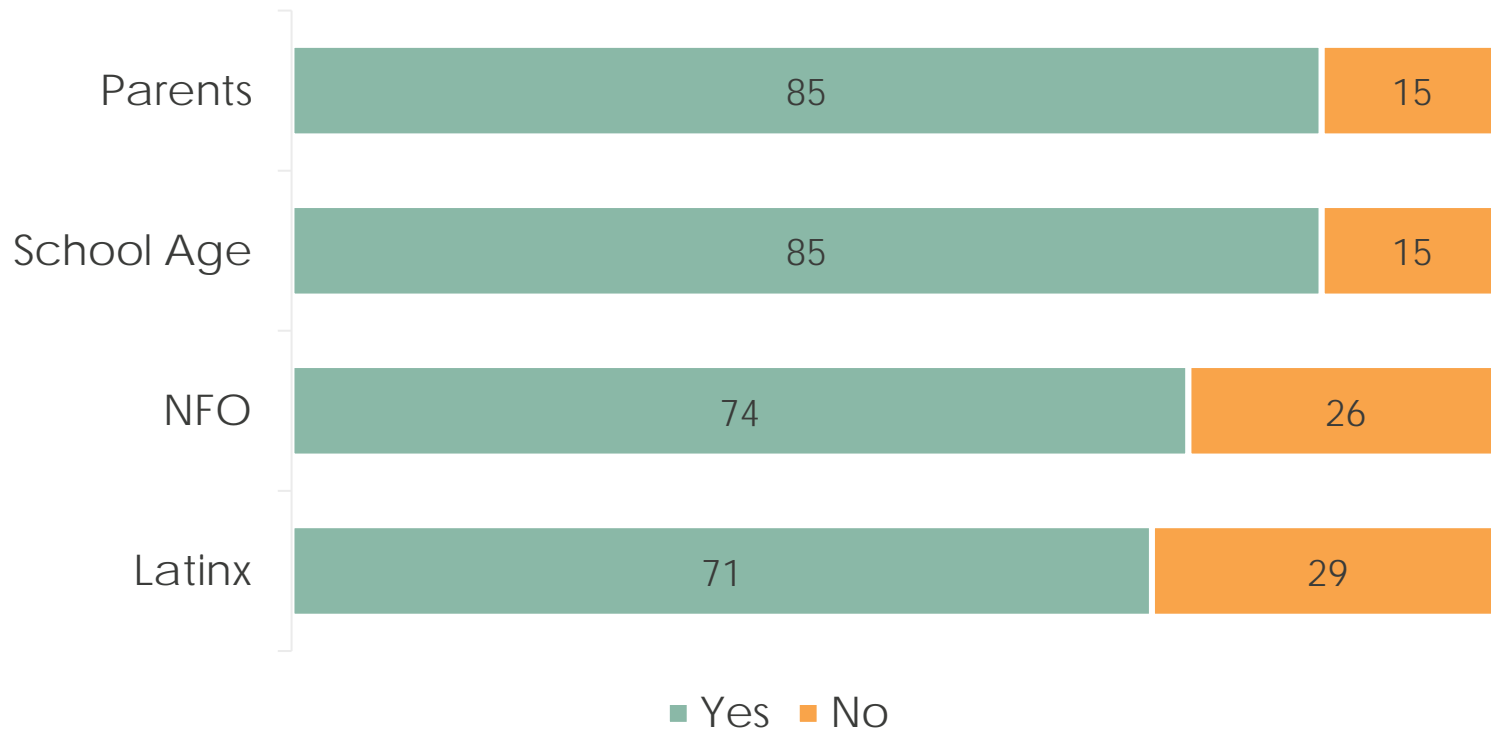
# Have Internet Access

Most households have internet access.



# Have Installed Internet

Fewer households have installed internet, particularly Latinx households.

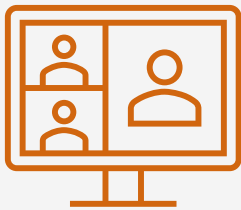




# *Distance Learning*

# Distance Learning Challenges

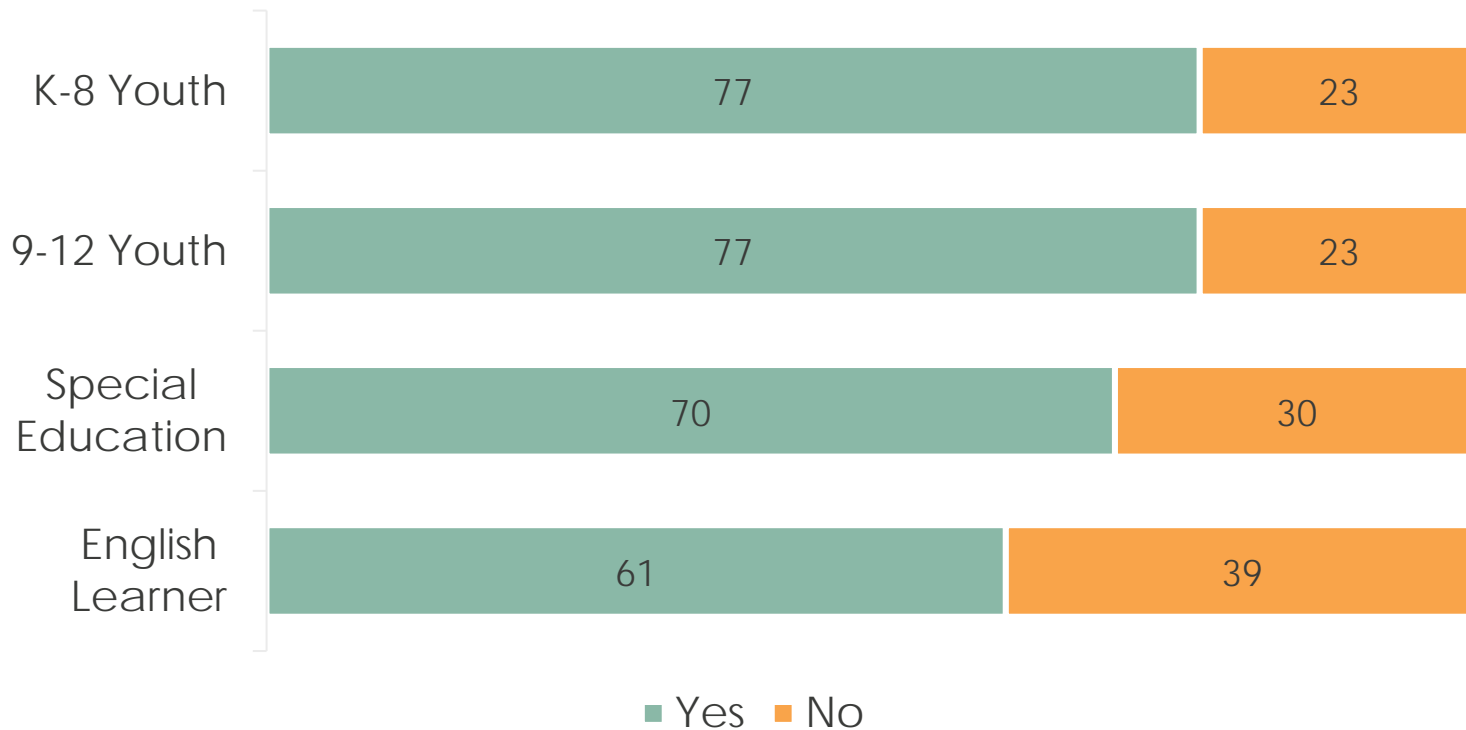
Nearly **one-third of families** lacked access to a private place to work last Spring.



About **one-fifth of families** had insufficient support from teachers or school staff last Spring.

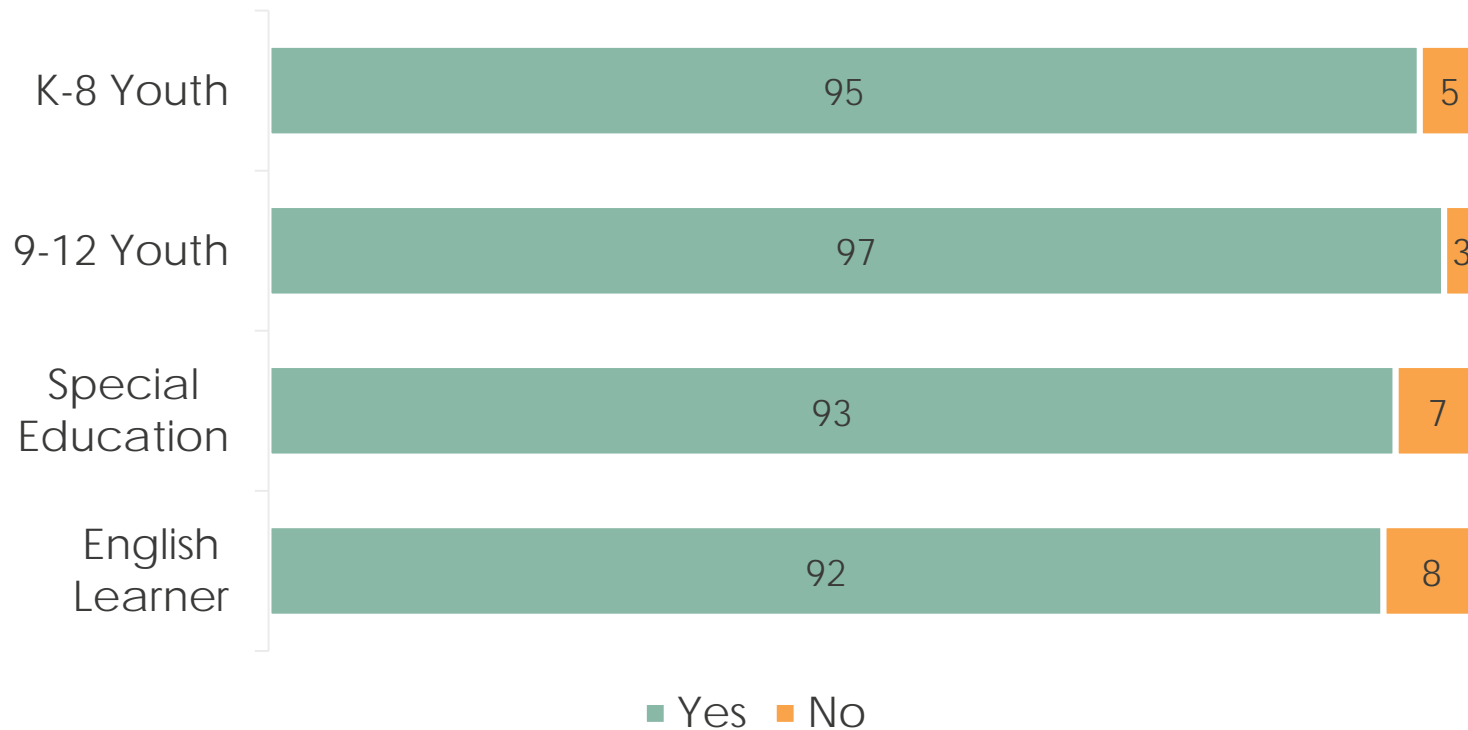
# Have Access to Privacy

Households with English learner and special education students report more problems due to lack of private workspace.



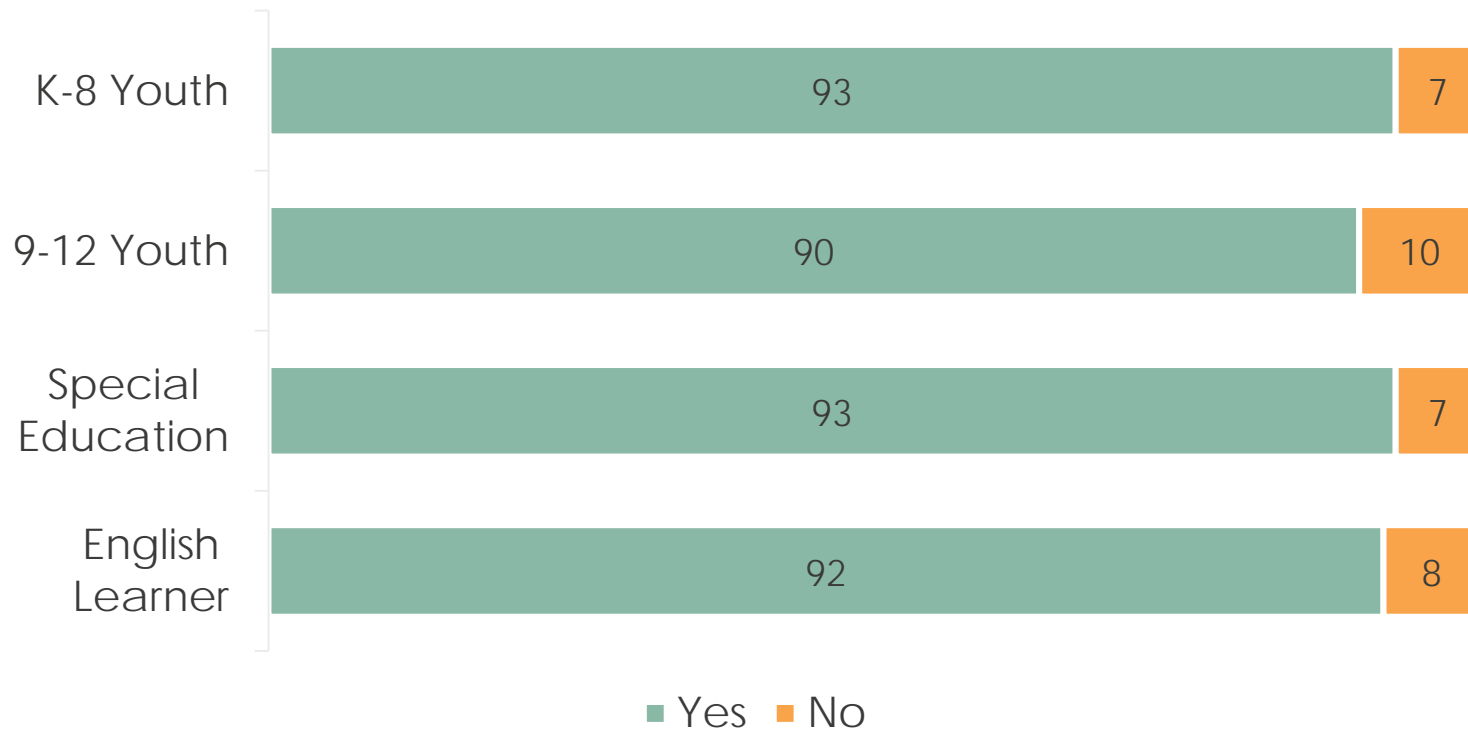
# Have Enough Time to Complete Work

Relatively few households struggled with having enough time to complete work, but this may be higher in Fall.



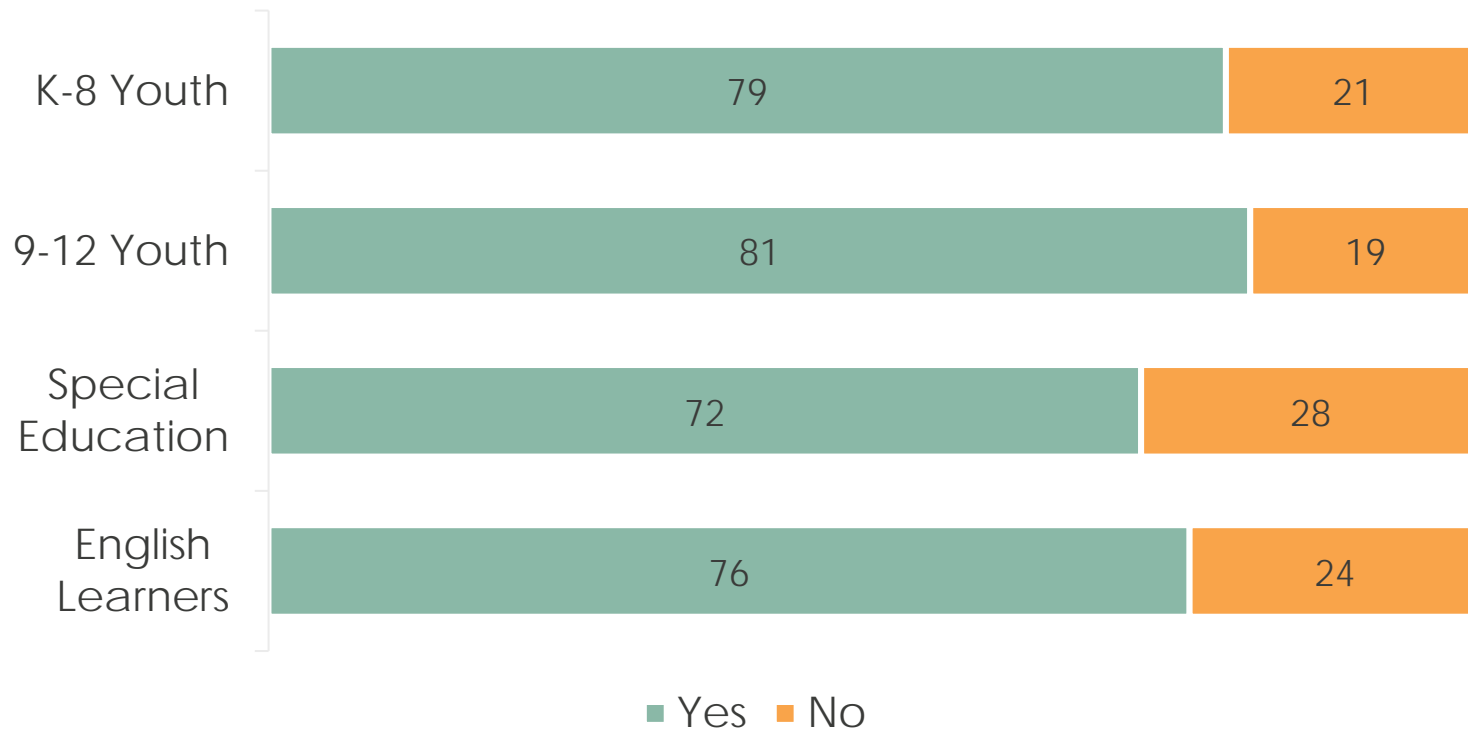
# Have Access to Online Materials

Low rates of challenges due to lack of access to online materials, even among people with limited technology.



# Have Access to Teacher Support

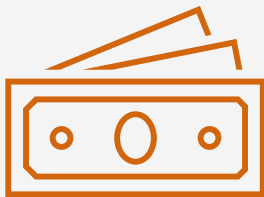
Households with English learners and special education students report needing more teacher support.



# *Second Shift*

# Childcare Burden

Households are **spending much more time** on childcare.

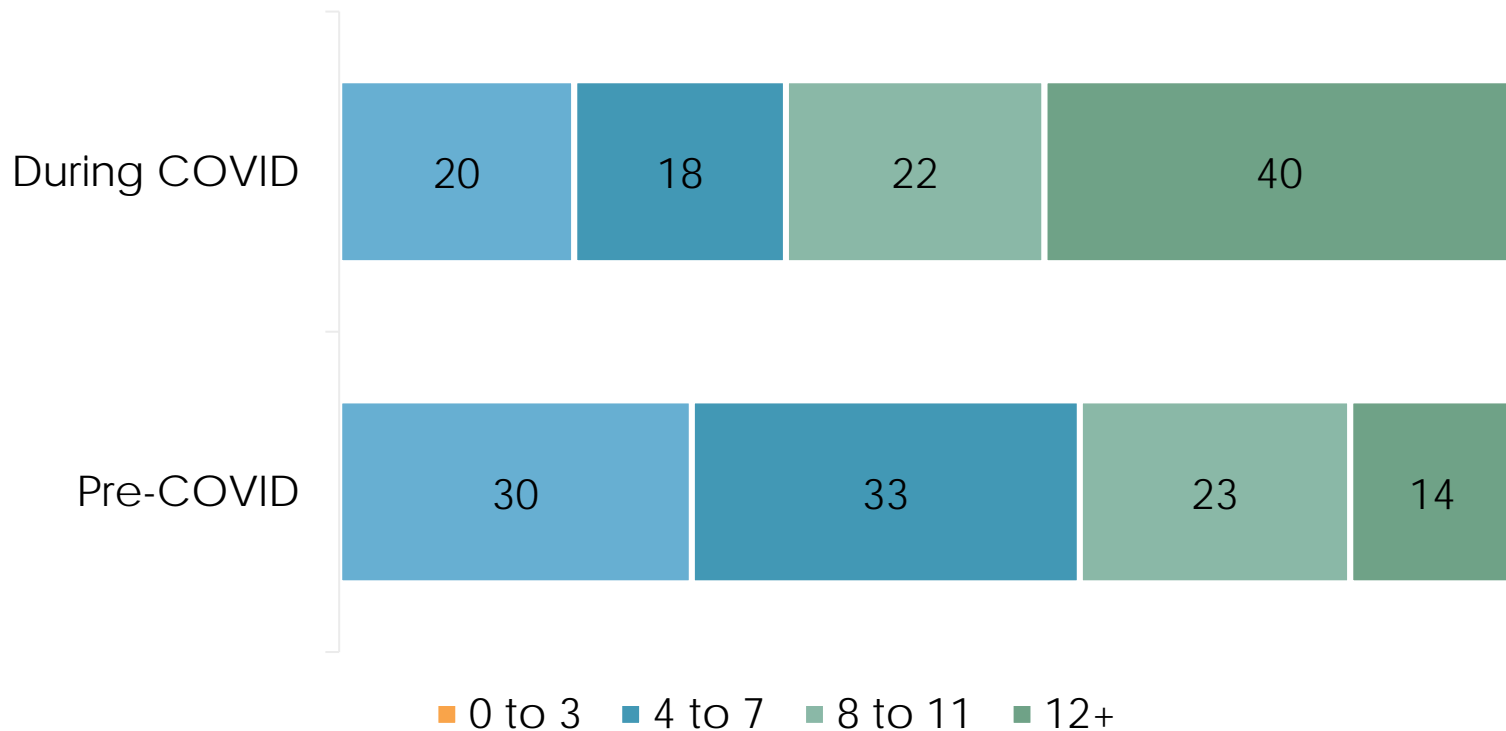


Households are **spending less money** on childcare.



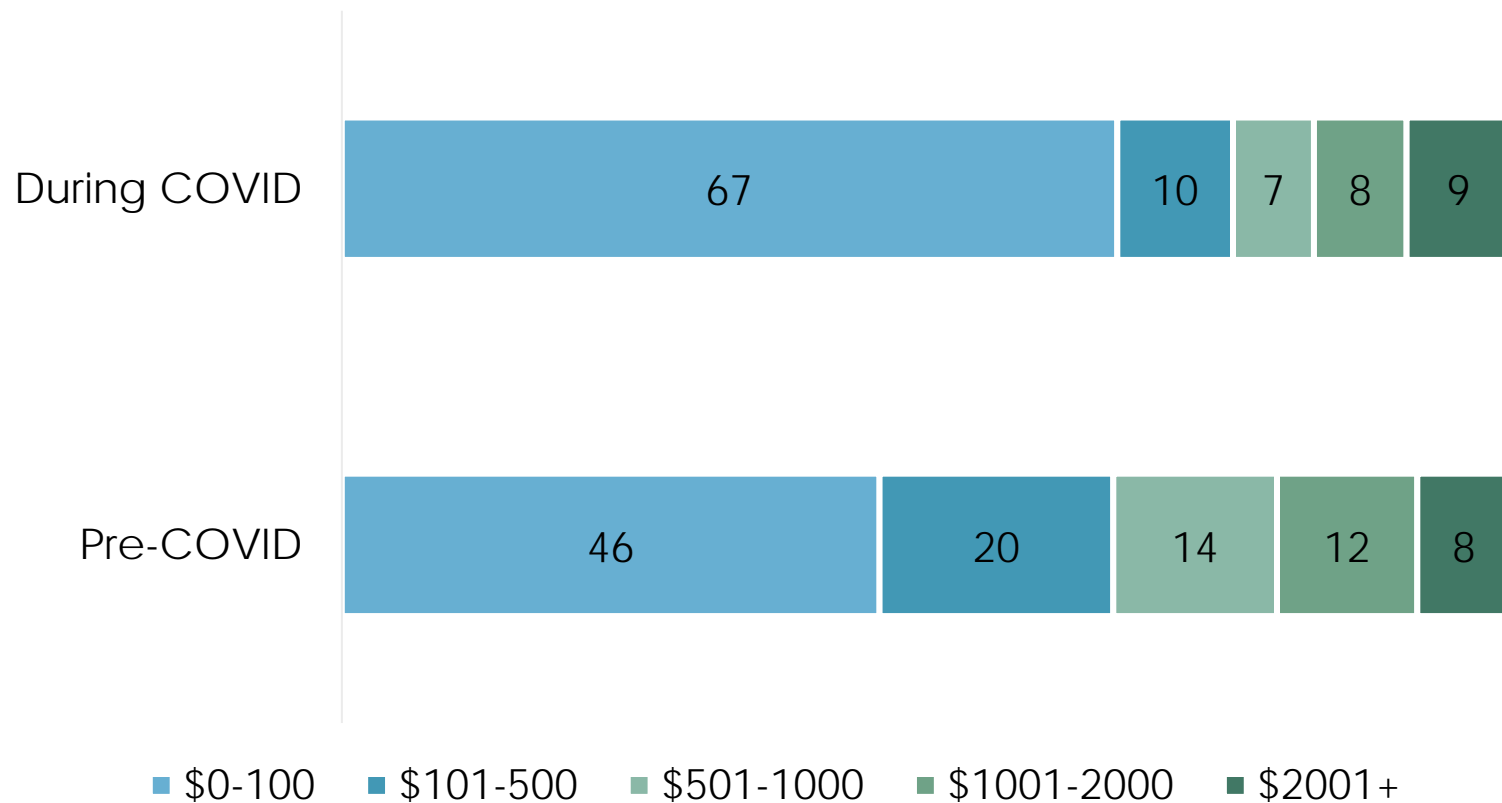
# Hours Spent Caring for Children

A plurality of households (40%) are providing twelve or more hours of childcare on a workday, much more than before (14%).



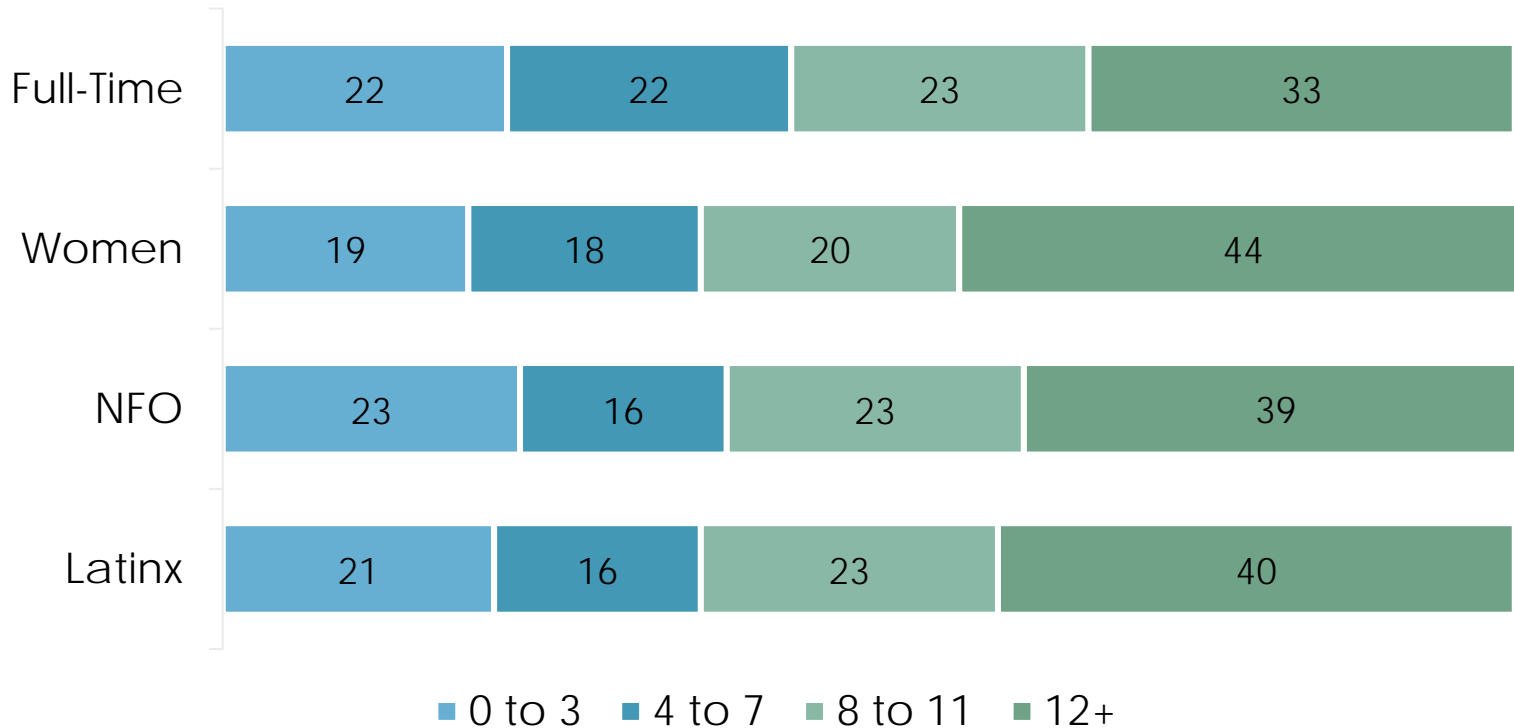
# Money Spent on Childcare

The proportion of households who are spending less than \$100 a month on childcare has increased dramatically since COVID.



# Hours Caring for Children by Subgroups

One third of full-time employees also provide twelve or more hours of childcare.



# *Job Insecurity*

# Job Insecurity

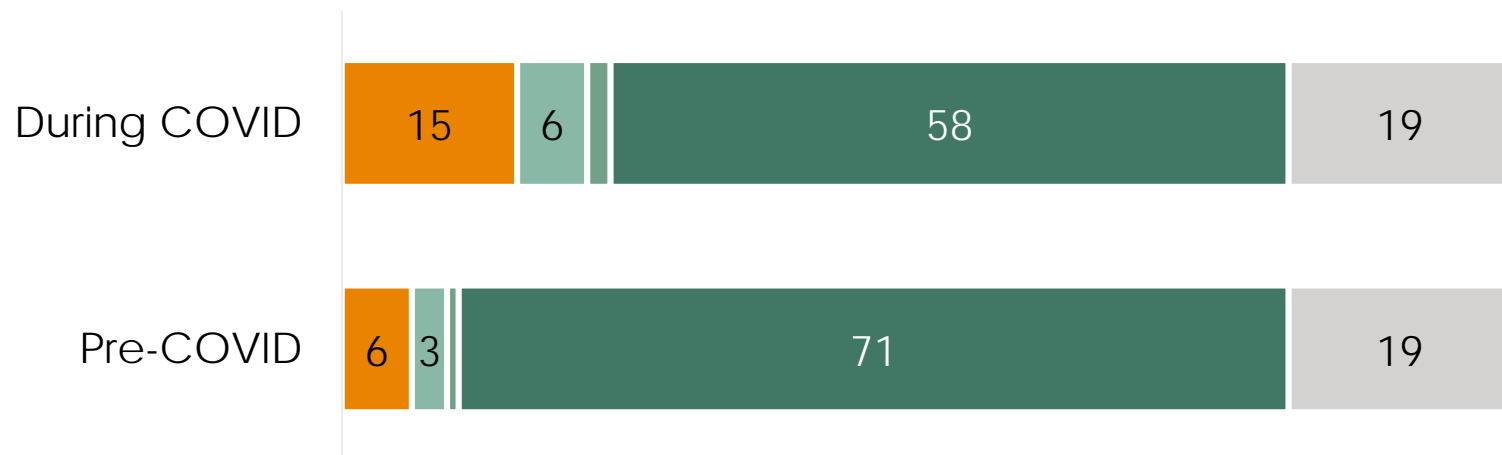
Total hours worked  
have decreased  
since COVID.



**Wages have decreased**  
since COVID, especially for  
those already low-income.

# Employment Status

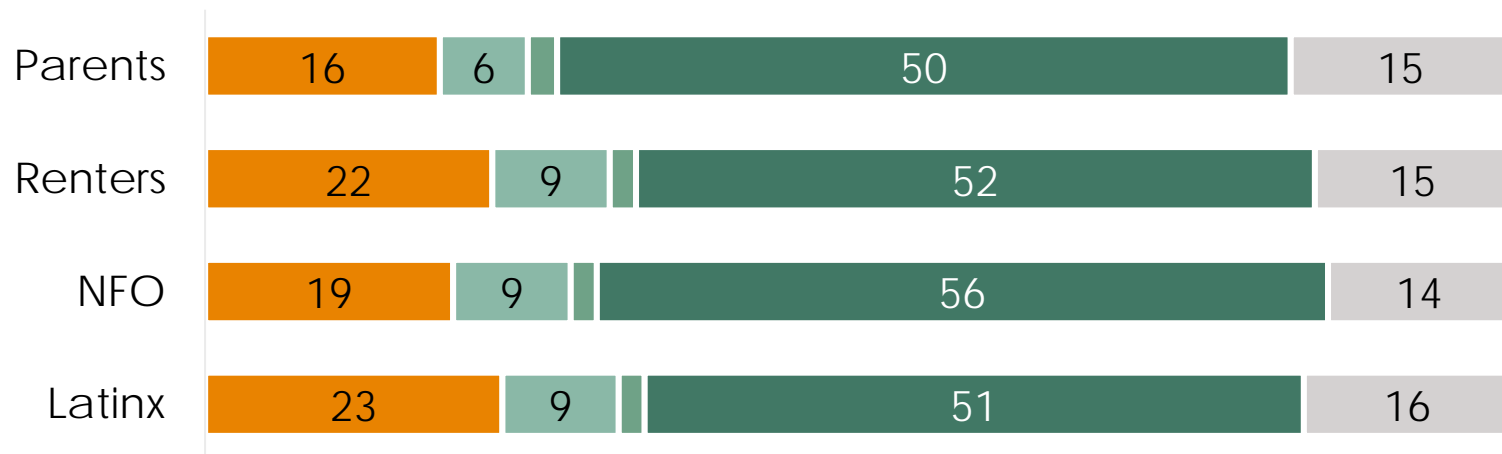
Unemployment and furlough rates have more than doubled.  
People do not appear to be exiting the workforce yet.



- Unemployed
- Employed but Furloughed
- Employed but On Leave
- Employed and Working
- Retired, Disabled, or Not Looking

# Employment Status by Subgroup

Job insecurity does not vary based on geography, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, unlike other forms of insecurity.



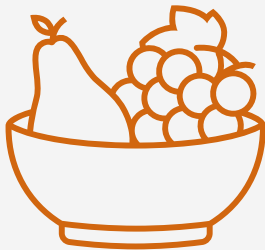
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# *Community Resource Uptake*



# Community Resource Uptake

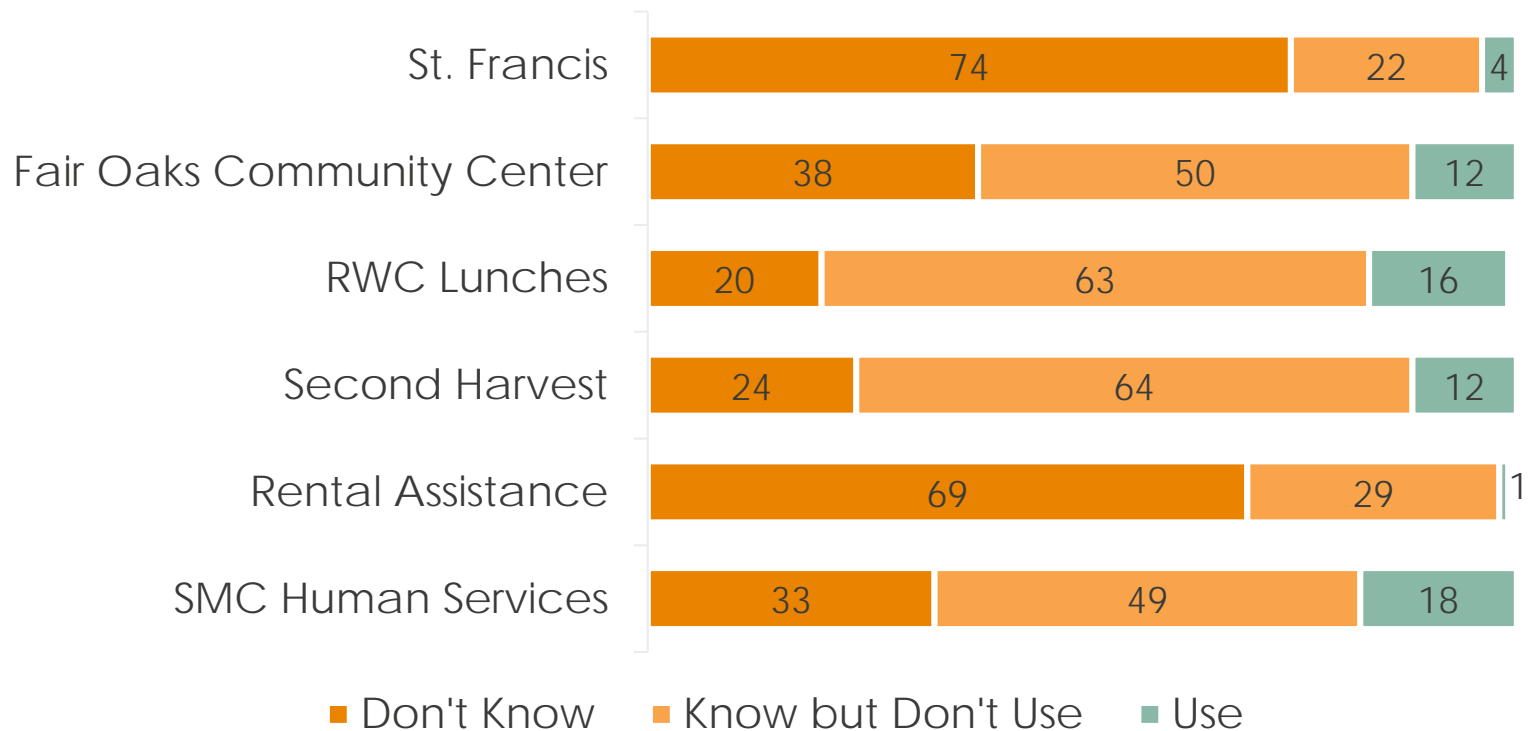
**86% of parents** are aware of Redwood City school lunches



**27% of renters** are aware of Redwood City COVID Rental Assistance

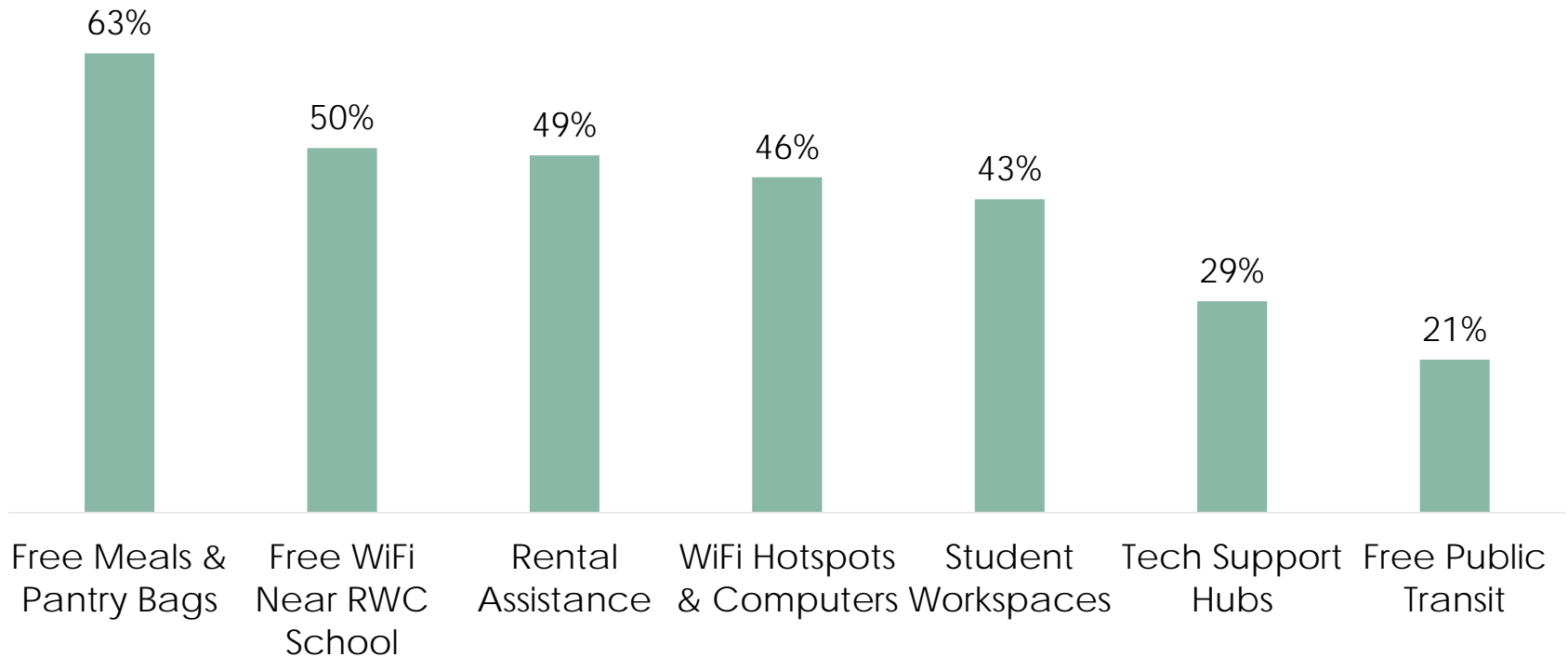
# Community Resource Uptake Comparison

Resources for food have the highest awareness and uptake.



# Community Resource Preferences

Free meals were ranked higher than housing, technology, education, and transit resources.



## *Next Steps*

# Next Steps

- Deliberate amongst community leaders on implications of survey findings.
- Conduct data learning sessions and community briefings.
- Solicit feedback, determine any new questions, and survey again in spring 2021.

# Thanks for joining us today!

The John W. Gardner Center partners with communities, researchers, and practitioners to produce research to improve and strengthen the well-being of youth, inform policy and practice, and emphasize equity and capacity-building in youth-serving organizations.

*<https://gardnercenter.stanford.edu>*

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