

# Economic Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Colorado Kids and Families

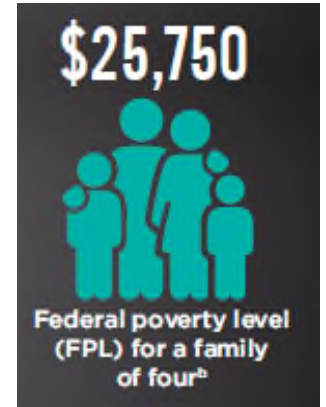
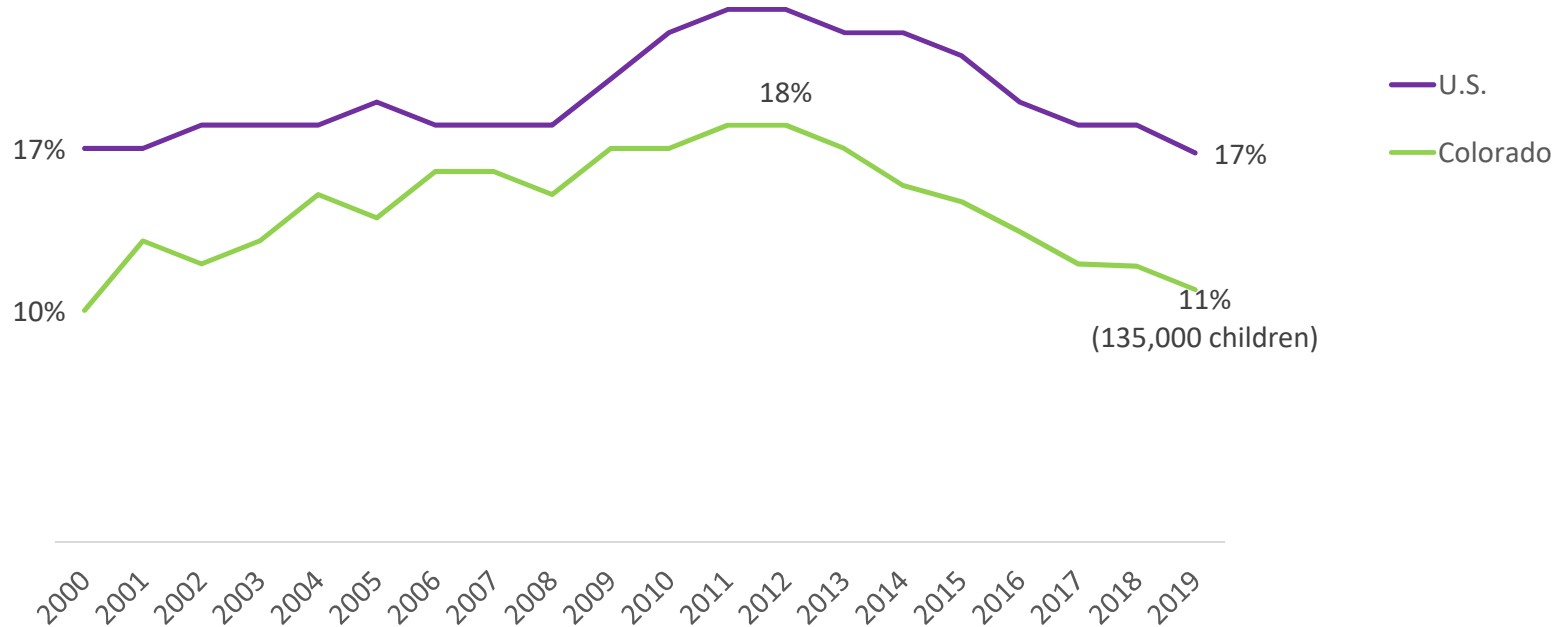
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Prior to the pandemic, Colorado's child poverty rate had fallen to its lowest level since 2000.



Child Poverty, 2000 to 2019

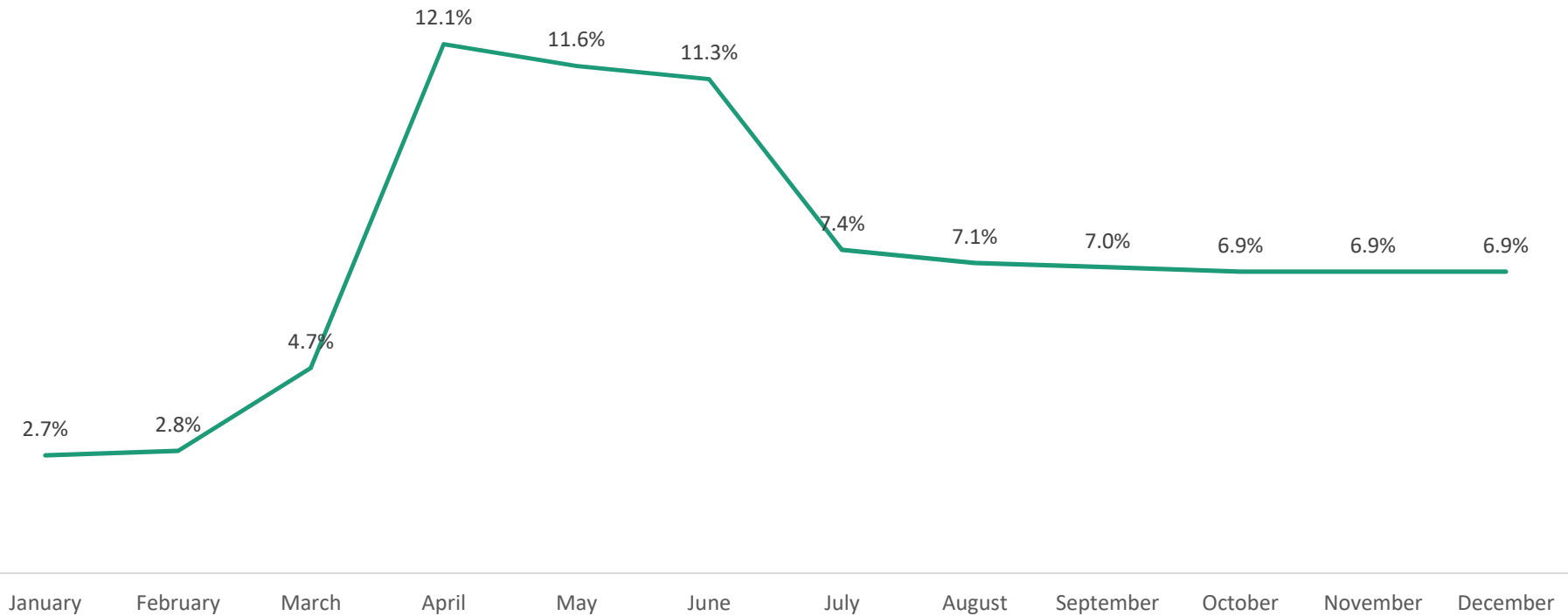


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Child poverty data for 2020 are not yet available for Colorado, but other indicators point to pervasive economic struggles for families during the pandemic.



Unemployment Rate in Colorado By Month in 2020, Seasonally Adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Amid widespread economic hardship, Colorado families are struggling to afford the basics.

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### Among Colorado households with children:



About **1/2** have reported a **loss of household income** since the pandemic began.



About **1 in 5** report **difficulty paying for usual household expenses**, including food or medical care.



**1 in 10** report they have **little to no confidence in their ability to pay their next rent or mortgage payment.**

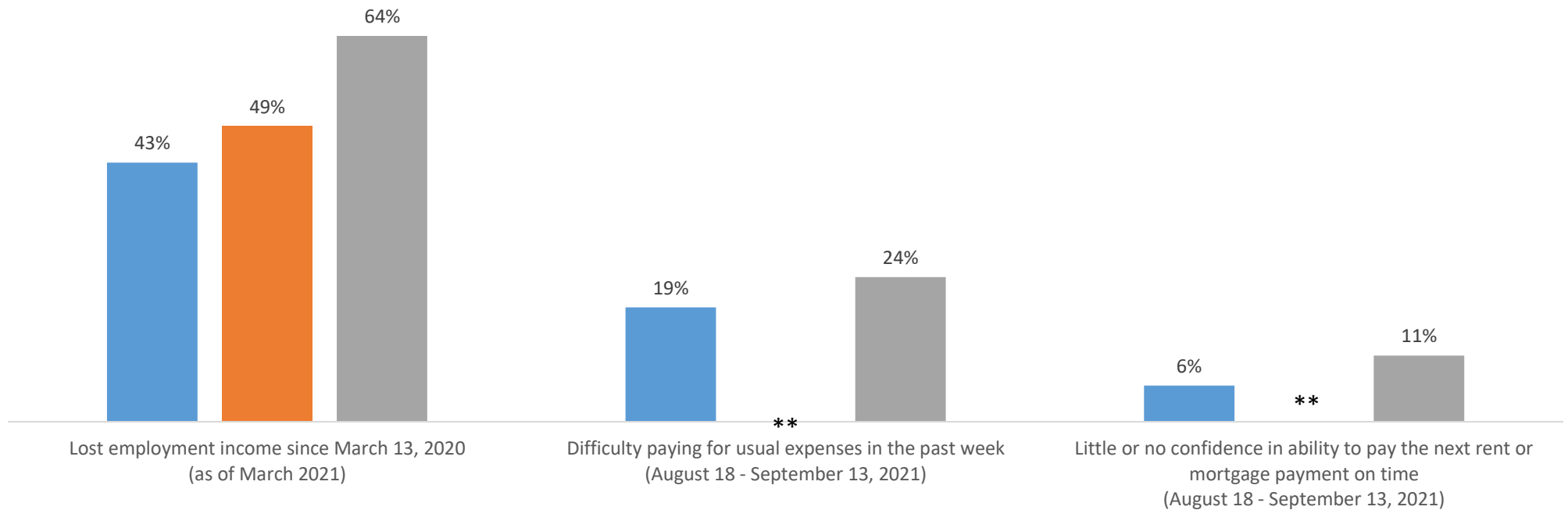
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

# Families of color were disproportionately harmed by the pandemic's economic fallout, as the COVID-19 crisis exacerbated longstanding racial inequities in the economy.



Economic Struggles Among Colorado Households with Children, By Race/Ethnicity\*

■ Non-Hispanic White ■ Two or More Races ■ Hispanic or Latino



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

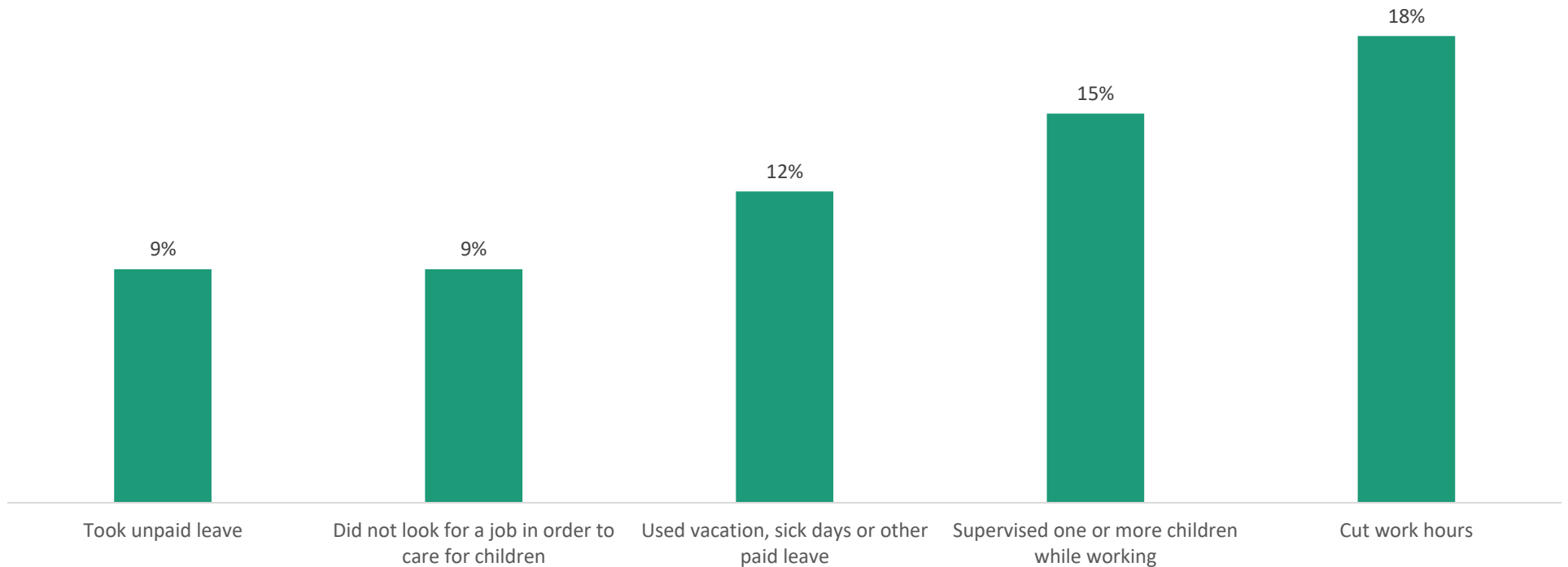
\*Data for racial groups other than those listed here were suppressed due to large margins of error.

\*\*Data were suppressed for the Two or More Races category for this indicator due to a large margin of error.

# The pandemic has exacerbated challenges for an already fragile child care system, with implications for Colorado's labor force



Ongoing child care challenges have severe implications for Colorado's labor force and employers.  
*Employment impacts of child care disruptions for Colorado households with children under 5, August 18 - September 13, 2021*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey.

## Prioritize kids and families in Colorado's pandemic recovery.

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- Ensure families have adequate income to afford necessities by strengthening income supports, including maximizing access to TANF basic cash assistance.
- Ensure that policy solutions to support housing security include a focus on families with children, with an emphasis on helping them stay in their homes.
- Strengthen support for families going through the eviction process.
- Target funds to sectors that have been disrupted by the pandemic, including infant and toddler child care and early childhood educator compensation.

# Thank you

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**COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN**  
*Every Chance for Every Child*

