



# PANDEMIC IMPACTS ON NEW HAMPSHIRE FAMILIES

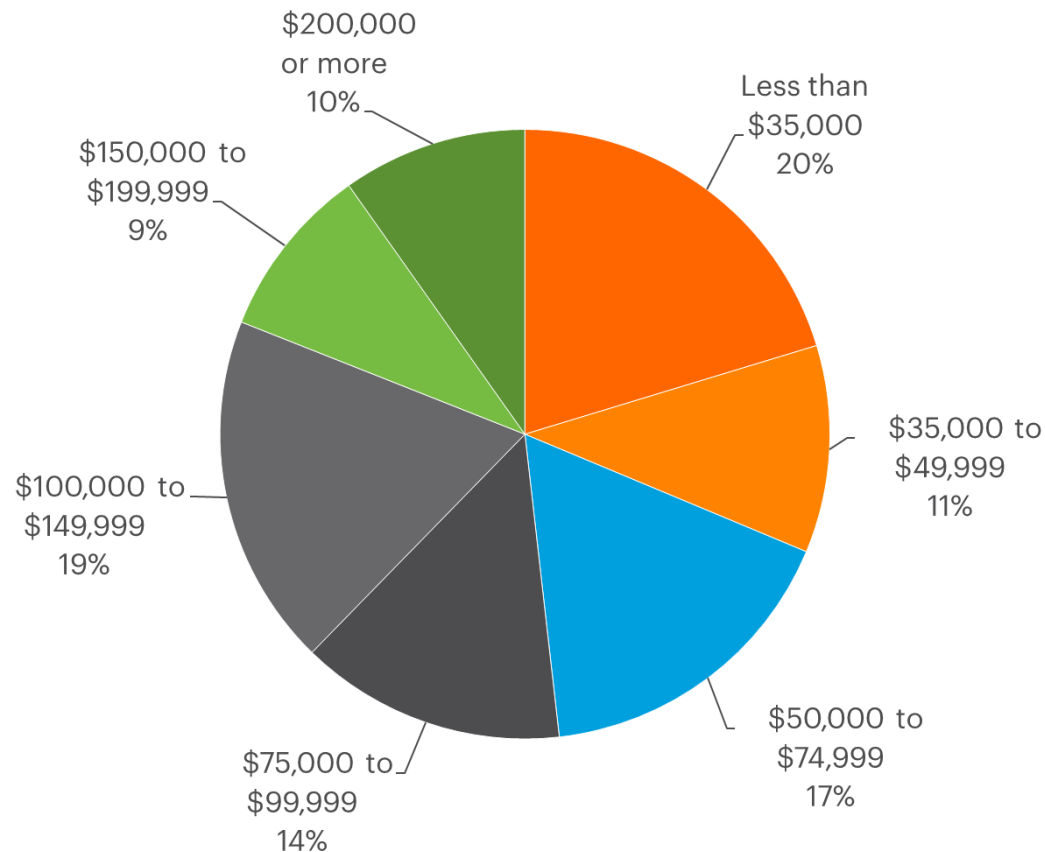
PRESENTED BY  
MICHAEL POLIZZOTTI, POLICY ANALYST

NEW FUTURES: KIDS COUNT DATA REVIEW  
December 15, 2021

**Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Granite Staters  
faced disparities in poverty and challenges.**

# HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME LEVEL

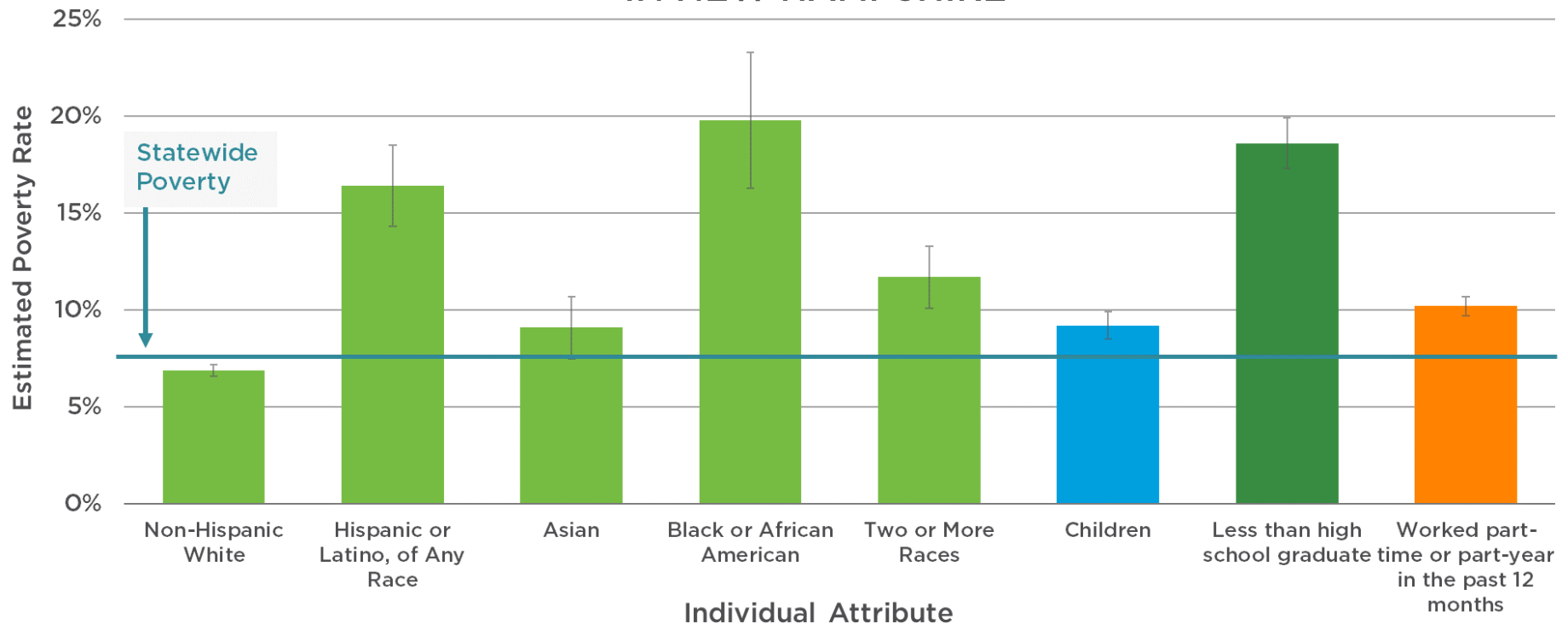
ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSEHOLDS  
BY INCOME GROUP



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019 One-Year Estimates

# HIGHER POVERTY RATES FOR SOME GROUPS

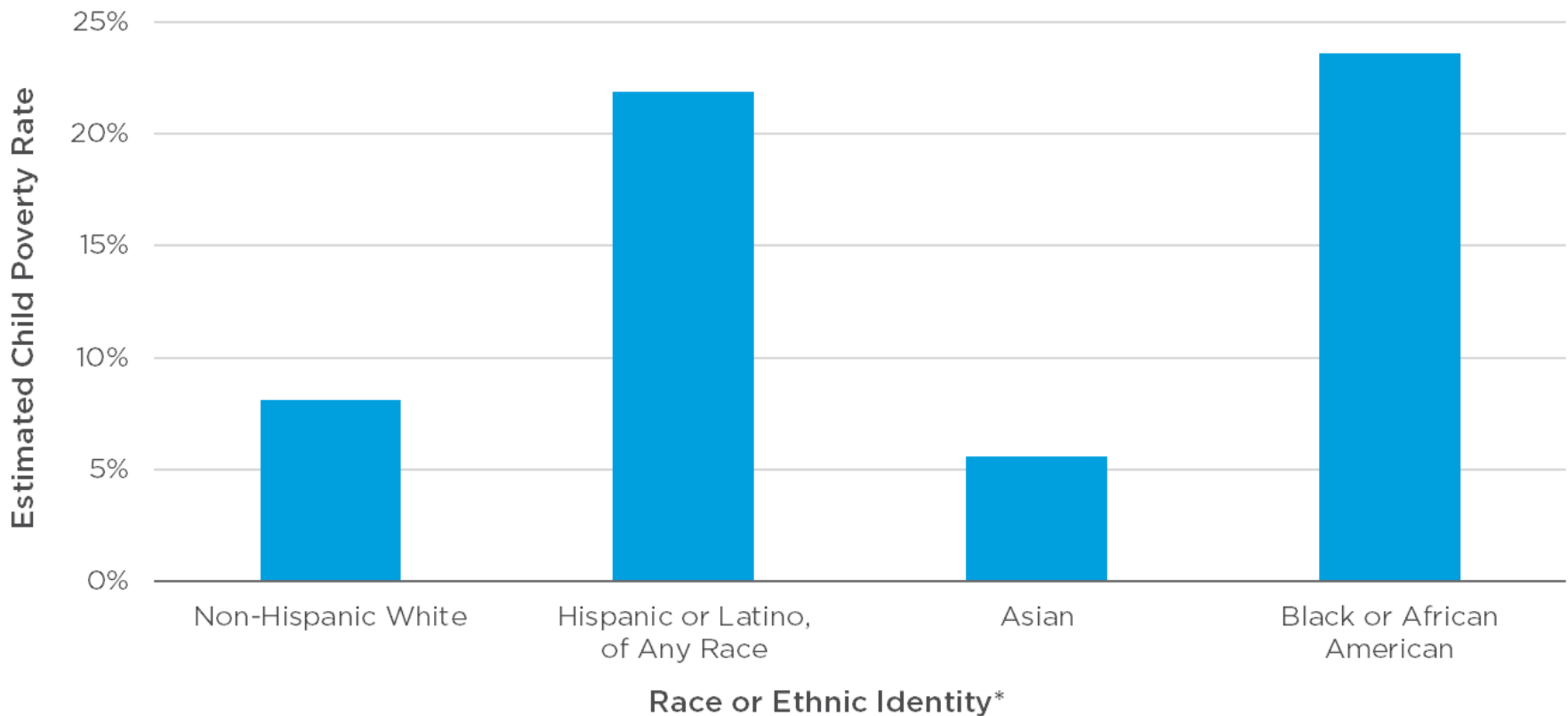
## POVERTY LEVELS BY GROUP OR ATTRIBUTE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Notes: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals, Hispanic origin included in non-white races  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

# BLACK AND HISPANIC CHILDREN MORE LIKELY TO BE IN POVERTY THAN WHITE CHILDREN

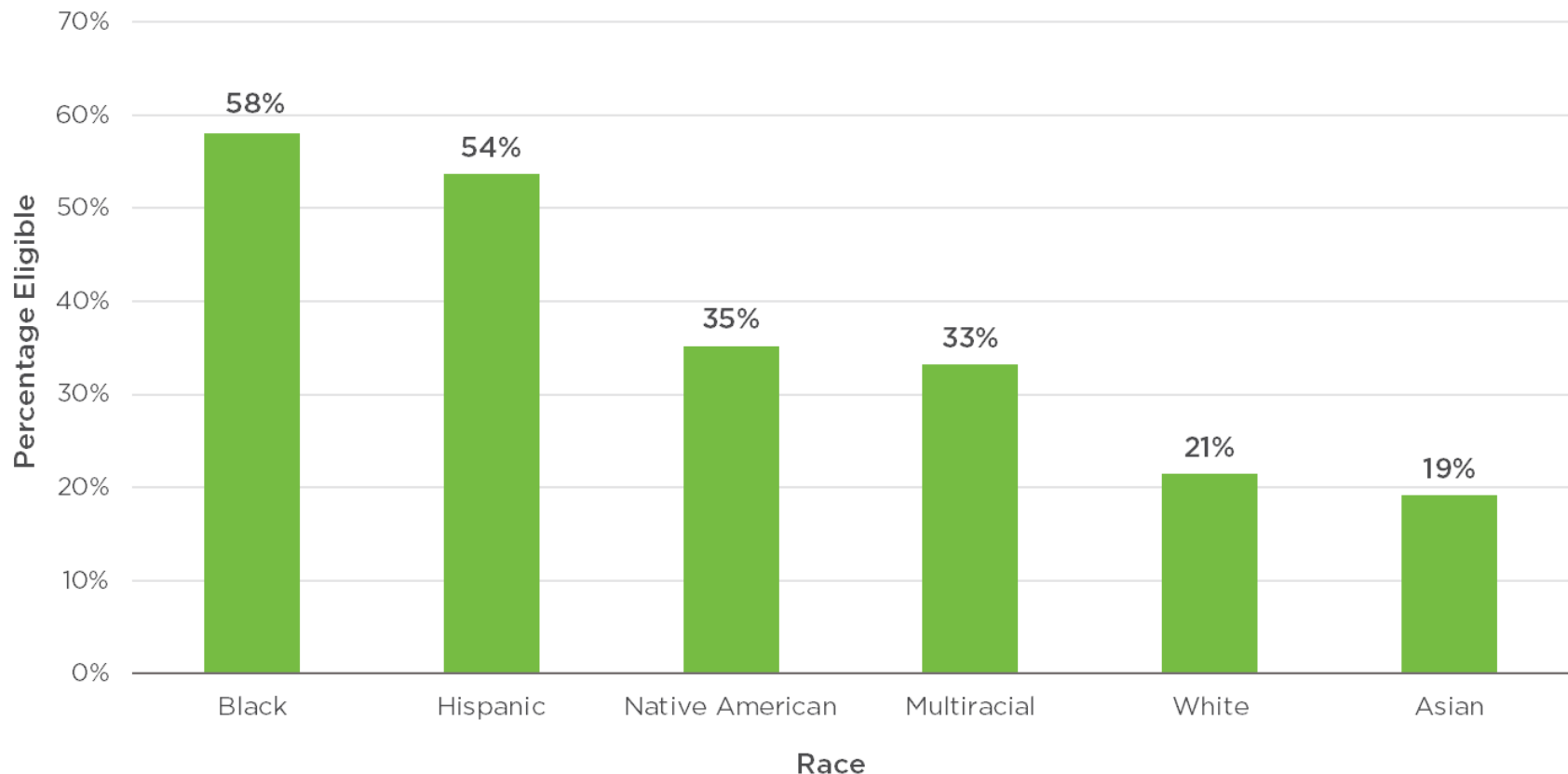
ESTIMATED POVERTY RATES FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY



\*Note: Races and ethnicities presented here are a subset of all races and ethnicities identified by the American Community Survey.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019

# ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS SHOW DISPARITIES

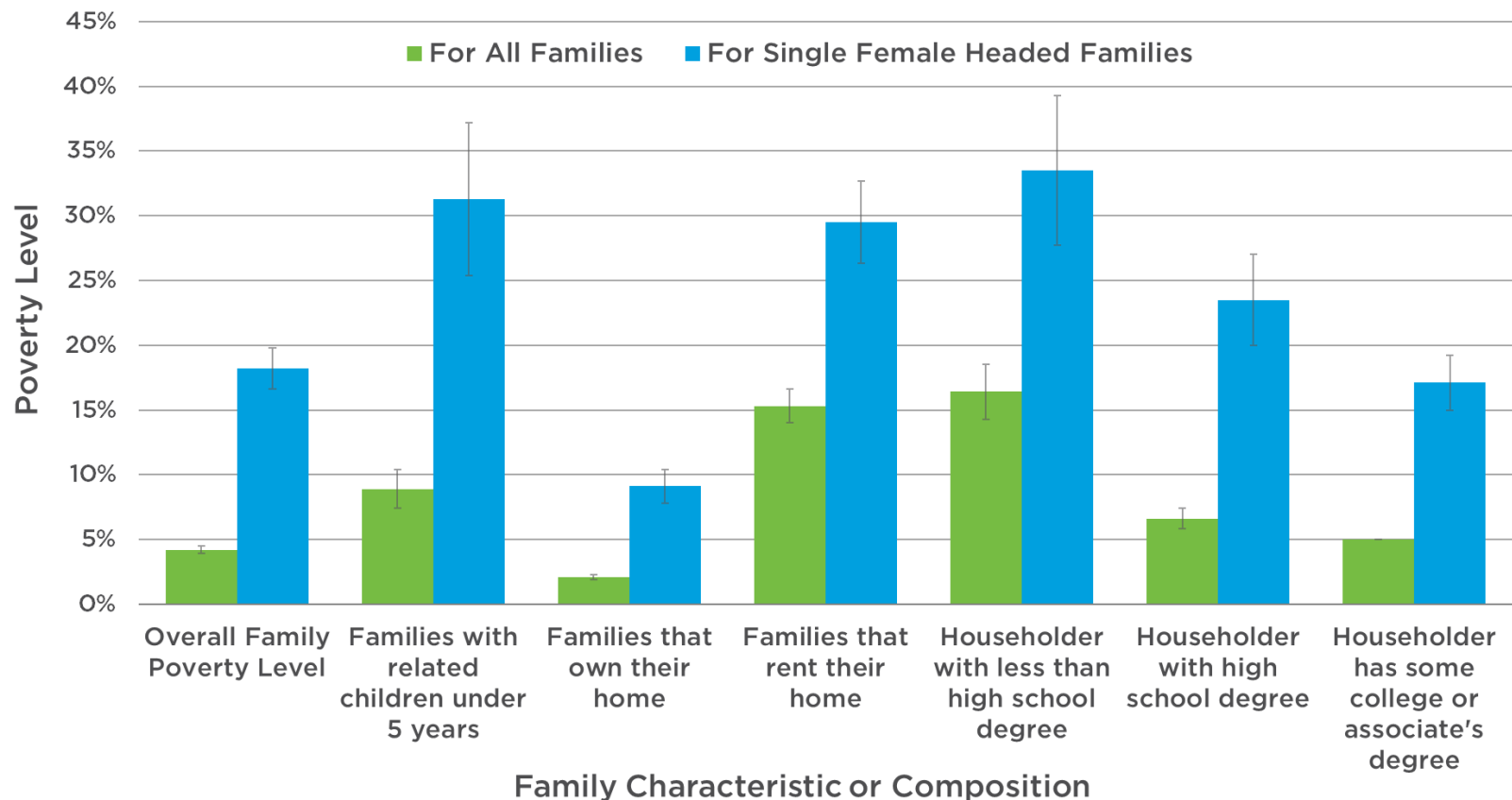
PERCENTAGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS  
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS BY RACE,  
OCTOBER 2019



Source: New Hampshire Department of Education

# POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES

## BY FAMILY COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTIC IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

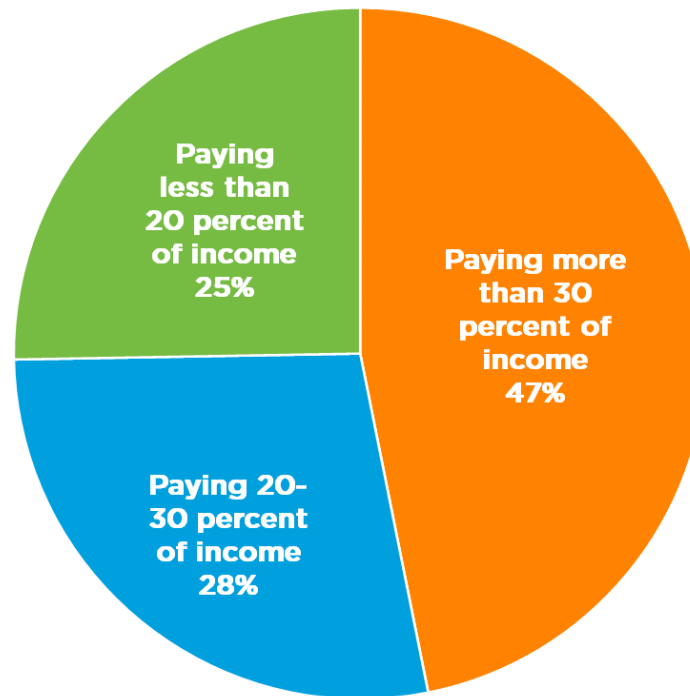


Note: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

# HOUSING EXPENSES FOR RENTERS

## RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Note: Estimates For All New Hampshire Renter Households,  
Gross Rent Including Utilities  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey,  
2019 One-Year Estimates



# OTHER EXISTING CHALLENGES PRIOR TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

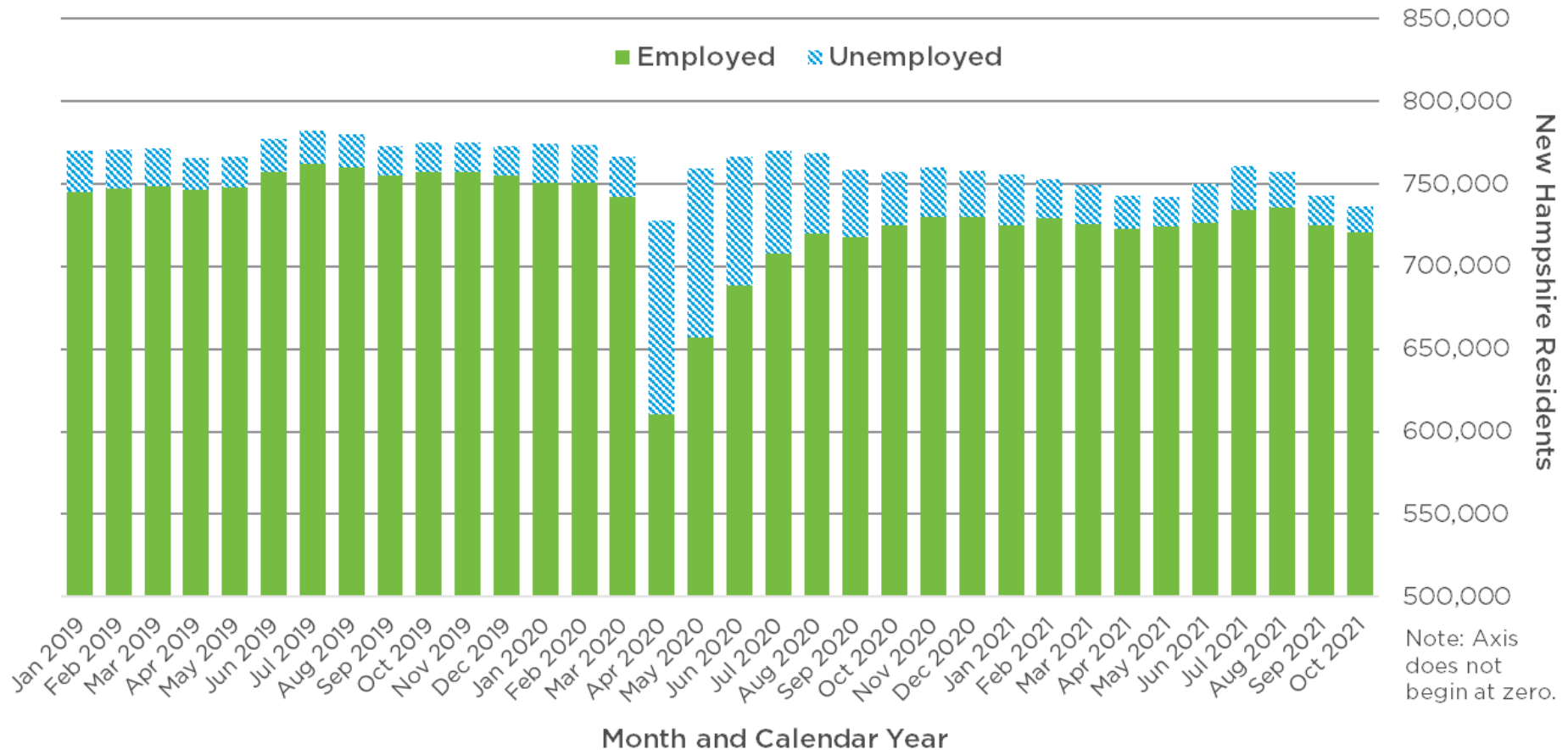
- Uneven economic recovery from the Great Recession (2007 to 2009): slower wage recovery for lower-income workers
- Challenges accessing childcare: capacity addressed about 60 percent of the estimated need for children under the age of 6 years

Sources: NHFPI August 30, 2019, Issue Brief titled *New Hampshire's Workforce, Wages, and Economic Opportunity* and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services commissioned report titled *Constraints on New Hampshire's Workforce Recovery*

**The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were uneven, with the most acute effects on individuals and families earning lower incomes.**

# WORKFORCE DECLINES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

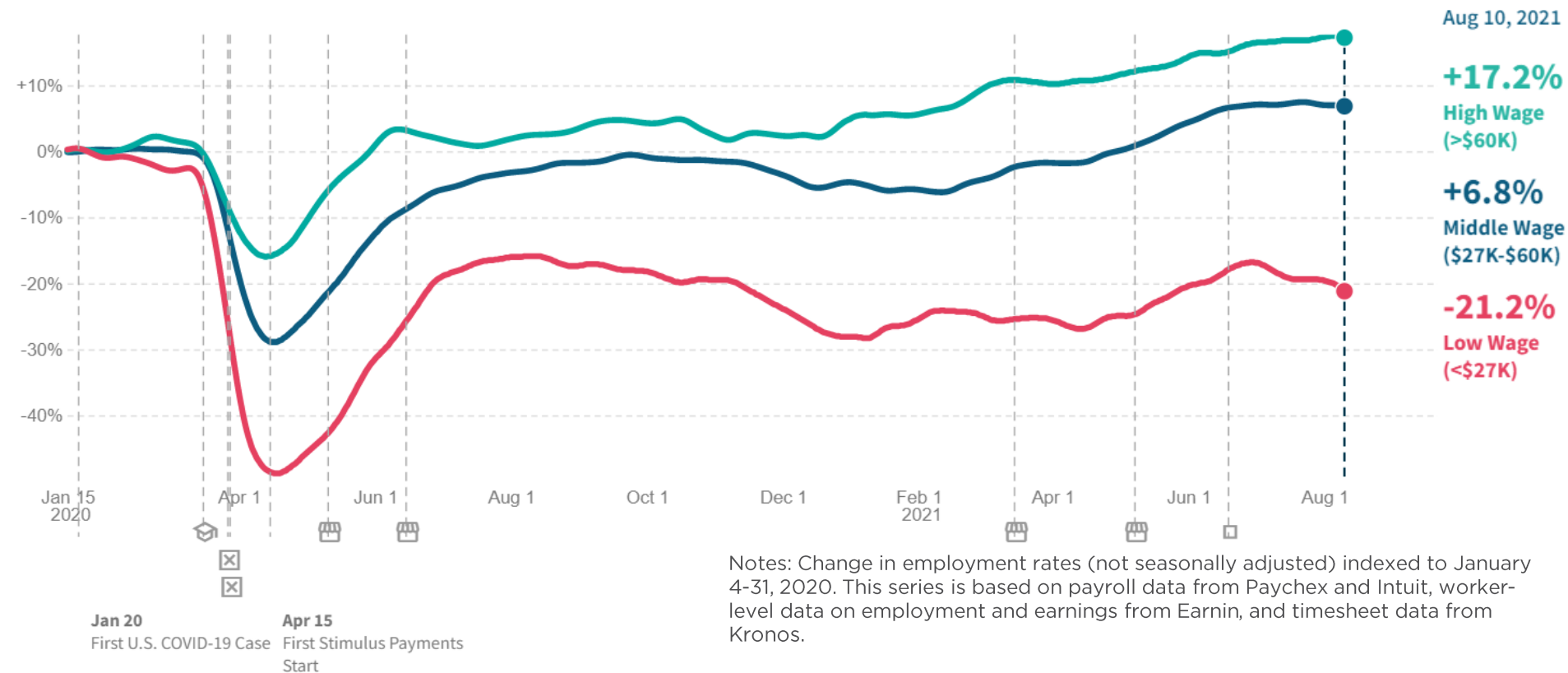
## EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED WHILE ACTIVELY SEEKING WORK NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS



Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

# PANDEMIC'S NEGATIVE IMPACTS GREATEST ON LOW-WAGE WORK

## PERCENT CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Individuals and families experienced uneven employment and income impacts from the pandemic, and certain groups continue to face additional challenges in returning to the workforce.**

# UNEVEN EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS

## Nationally:

- Higher unemployment faced by Black and Hispanic workers
- More workers faced long-term unemployment and underemployment
- Labor force participation of women has declined more and has recovered less than the male participation rate

## New Hampshire:

- Continued lower overall labor force levels compared to before the pandemic
- Labor force participation of women declined more than men
- Overall uneven changes in labor force participation by age

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve Banks of Dallas and Minneapolis, the RAND Corporation Blog *Women Are Leaving the Labor Force in Record Numbers*, New Hampshire Employment Security, and the New Hampshire Women's Health Foundation December 2020 Special Issue

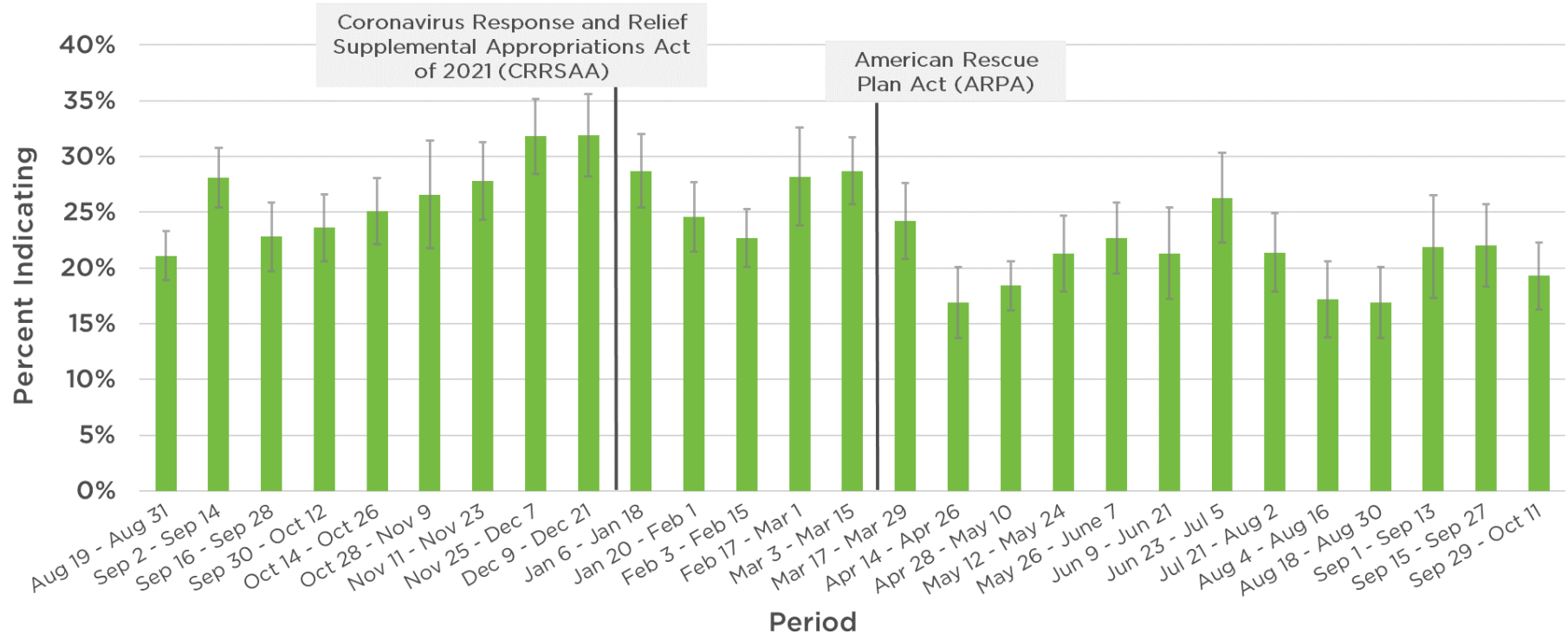
# CHALLENGES FACING HOUSEHOLDS

- Renters were more likely to lose their jobs during the pandemic, and renters had less savings to endure times of unemployment
- In mid-2021, 38 percent of U.S. households were estimated to be experiencing serious financial challenges, including paying for housing, affording food, affording medical care, or paying other expenses
- In November 2020, about one in four U.S. adults said they were worse off financially than they were a year earlier
- 11 percent of mothers and 6 percent of fathers nationally stated they did not work in 2020 due to childcare challenges

Sources: Harvard T.H. School of Public Health, JPMorgan Chase & Co, the Federal Reserve, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

# COVERING EXPENSES STILL DIFFICULT FOR MANY NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSEHOLDS

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WHERE IT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OR VERY DIFFICULT TO PAY FOR USUAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES DURING THE LAST SEVEN DAYS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Note: Margin of error bars represent 90 percent confidence intervals  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2021 Household Pulse Survey, accessed December 13, 2021



# HARDSHIPS RESULTING FROM THE PANDEMIC IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

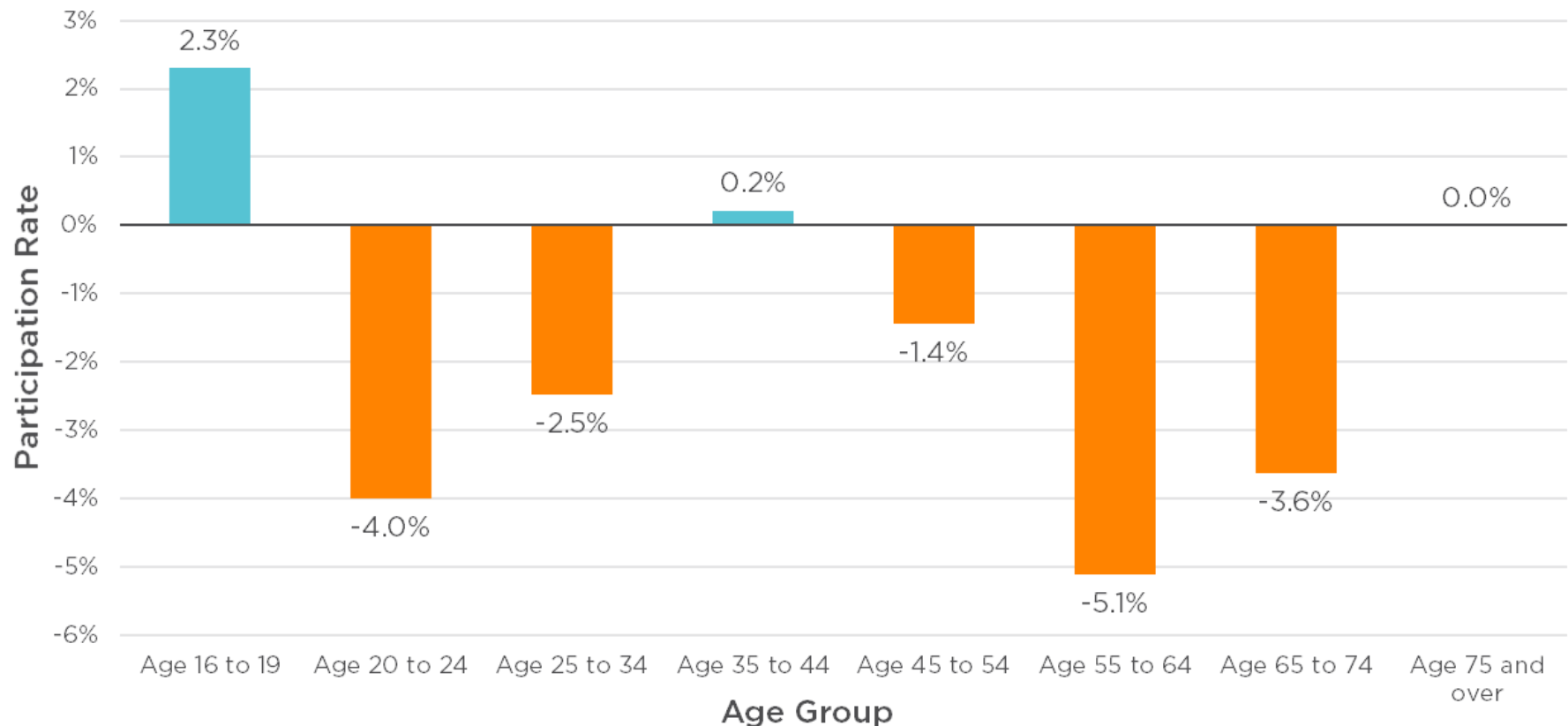
- Nearly half of New Hampshire adults reported a loss of household employment income in the middle of 2020, and nearly 1 in 5 experienced these challenges in October 2021
- From July to October 2021, around half of households with young children participating in childcare experienced disruptions in that care
- From July to October 2021, about a third of households with children received food assistance due to challenges accessing food

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey

# YOUNGER, OLDER ADULTS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE STOPPED WORKING, SEEKING WORK

## CHANGE IN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE

*New Hampshire, March 2019-February 2020  
to September 2020-August 2021*

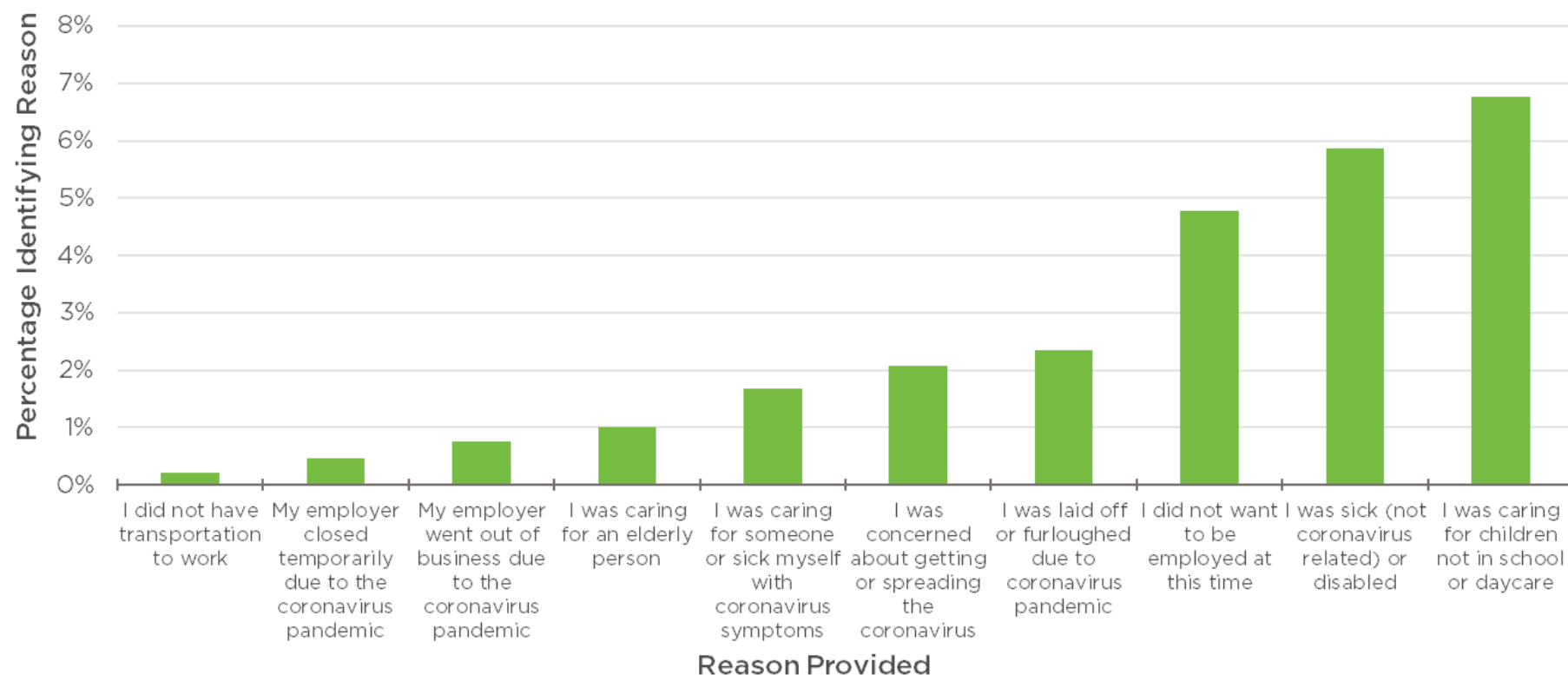


Source: New Hampshire Employment Security

# OTHER THAN RETIREMENT, CARING FOR CHILDREN WAS MOST COMMON REASON

## STATED REASONS FOR NOT WORKING

*Based on Surveys of New Hampshire Adults, July 21, 2021-October 11, 2021  
Excluding Respondents Who Are Working, Identified As Retired (Nearly Half of Those Not Working), Gave Uncategorized Reason, or Did Not Identify Reason*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey. Note: Insufficient data cells assumed to be zero for purposes of averages.

# OPPORTUNITY AREAS TO SUPPORT AN EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Security and Financial Stability
- Childcare and Caregiving

# FLEXIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS

- ARPA provides significant funds to New Hampshire for targeted investments, assistance to individuals, and a robust recovery in addition to relief
- Aid available to support childcare, healthcare, and housing assistance
- Flexible Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: \$1.457 billion to New Hampshire State and local governments
- Many key provisions time-limited, including both flexible aid and assistance to individuals

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The uneven recovery from the Great Recession left many Granite State families less prepared to weather the current crisis
- The COVID-19 crisis resulted in the most acute employment losses among workers earning lower wages
- Disproportionate impacts on certain groups, such as women, certain racial and ethnic minority groups

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Many individuals have left the labor force due to challenges surrounding childcare, health, or caregiving
- Policy actions and aid have contributed significantly to the recovery thus far, and ARPA provides significant funds to New Hampshire for additional targeted investments, assistance to individuals
- Continued investments to support those most impacted, and to connect Granite State families to resources, can foster a more equitable and inclusive economic recovery

## ADDITIONAL NHFPI RESOURCES

- Uneven Employment Impacts and Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis – September 1, 2021: <https://nhfpi.org/resource/uneven-employment-impacts-and-recovery-from-the-covid-19-crisis/>
- Webinar: Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis – March 19, 2021: <https://nhfpi.org/events/economic-impacts-of-the-covid-19-crisis/>
- Resource Inequities Across Counties – February 22, 2021: <http://nhfpi.org/resource/resource-inequities-across-counties/>
- Resource Inequities by Population Group – January 14, 2021: <http://nhfpi.org/resource/resource-inequities-by-population-group/>

**See more resources at [nhfpi.org](https://nhfpi.org)**



# ADDITIONAL NHFPI ARPA RESOURCES

- More Than One Third of the State's Flexible Federal Funds for COVID-19 Recovery Appropriated – November 17, 2021: <https://nhfpi.org/blog/more-than-one-third-of-the-states-flexible-federal-funds-for-covid-19-recovery-appropriated/>
- Federal Guidance Details Uses of Flexible Aid for State and Local Governments – May 25, 2021: <http://nhfpi.org/blog/federal-guidance-details-uses-of-flexible-aid-for-state-and-local-governments/>
- Webinar: Federal Aid and the Recovery from the COVID-19 Crisis – May 19, 2021: <http://nhfpi.org/resource/federal-aid-and-the-recovery-from-the-covid-19-crisis/>

**See more resources at [nhfpi.org](https://nhfpi.org)**



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