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COVID-19: Tougher on Women?

Aika Dietz

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, aika.dietz@unlv.edu

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COVID-19: TOUGHER ON WOMEN?

WOMEN ARE RECEIVING THE WORST EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 RECESSION.

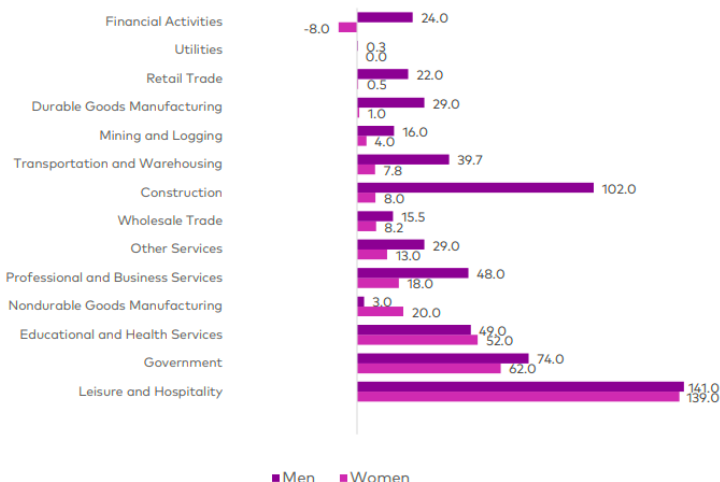
Dietz, October 2021

EMPLOYMENT

- Projected 13 million fewer women in employment in 2021 compared to 2019.¹
- Unlike past recessions, COVID-19 hit industries that were mostly women-dominated - leisure and hospitality, retail, and education. In early 2020, women accounted for 64 percent of all 'frontline' industries.²
- While payroll jobs increased in March 2021, men gained most of these jobs (Figure 1).³
- Low-wage jobs faced the biggest losses. 72.3% of job loss in leisure and hospitality were service occupations. Black women, Hispanic women, and Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers experienced disproportionate losses (Figure 2).⁴

FIGURE 1

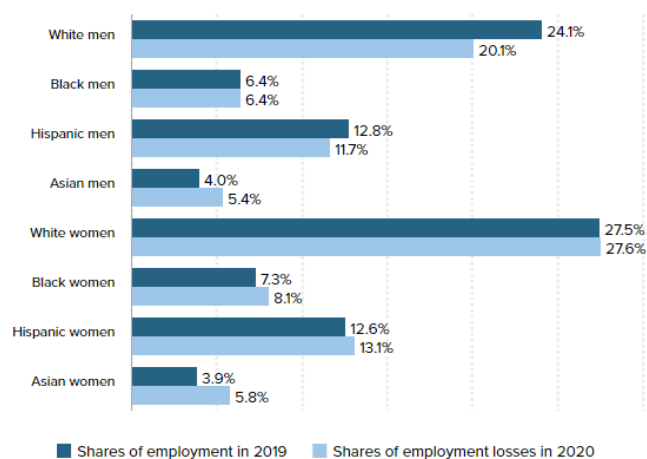
Change in Number of Jobs on Payrolls, February to March 2021 (in thousands)



Source: IWPR analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (April 2, 2021).

FIGURE 2

Employment share in 2019 and share of losses in 2020, by race/ethnicity and gender



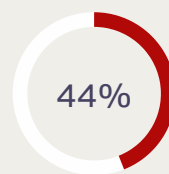
Source: Economic Policy Institute Current Population Survey Extracts, Version 1.0.15 (2021), <https://microdata.epi.org>.

Economic Policy Institute

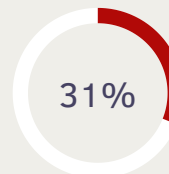
EDUCATION

- While girls struggled with practical issues in terms of access to technology, lack of space to study at home, etc; they also experienced loneliness, stress and anxiety, and domestic responsibilities which interfered with distance learning.⁵
- Heightened risks of sexual harassment, abuse, and violence during the pandemic had a disparate impact on K-12 and postsecondary girls and women, as well as those who were transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming.⁶
- During the pandemic, 20 students in CCSD committed suicide.⁷
- The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of students to a school counselor is 250:1; the recommended ratio for school social workers is 400:1. Nevada's was 475:1 and 3,200:1 respectively.⁸

OF THE OVER 1200 GIRLS AND NON-BINARY YOUTH SURVEYED ACROSS CALIFORNIA...



said they had more caregiving responsibilities at home than before the pandemic.



of girls with extra duties reported those additional responsibilities negatively affected their education.

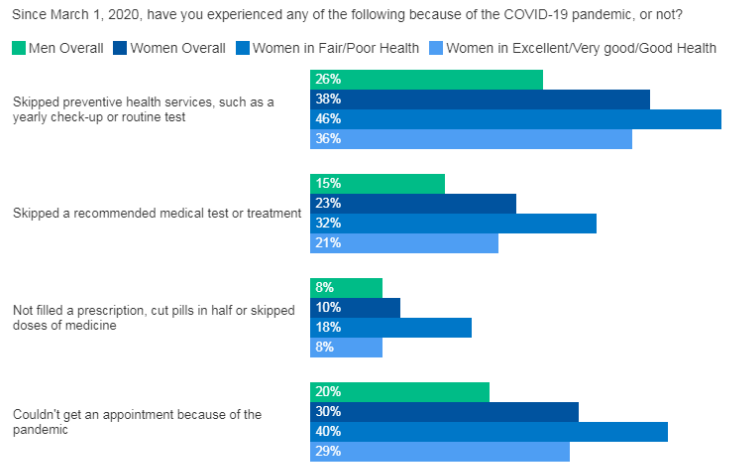
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HEALTH

- Women are more likely to have gone without health care during the pandemic compared to men (Figure 3).¹¹
- Hispanic women experience greater rates of barriers when finding appointments as well as access to medication.¹¹
- COVID-19 has universally amplified levels of stress and anxiety in women.¹²
- Women are more likely to agree that they often do not prioritize their own mental health because they are focused on taking care of others.¹²

FIGURE 3 A larger share of women have gone without health care services during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly women in fair or poor health



NOTE: All comparisons between women in fair/poor health and women in excellent/very good/good health are significantly different (p < 0.05), while all comparisons between men and women are significantly different except for "Not filled a prescription, cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine."
SOURCE: KFF Women's Health Survey 2020 • PNG



CAREGIVERS

- Even though Congress passed emergency COVID-19 relief packages, the United States is still one of the only countries in the world that do not guarantee workers' access to any form of paid leave.¹³
- Women undertake most of the responsibilities when it comes to caring for their families, a pattern that is taken for granted.¹⁴
- It is difficult to find exactly how many women are caregivers simply because they do not use that term to define themselves.¹⁵
- Many women have been forced to reduce their work hours because of caregiving responsibilities.¹⁶
- Yet, in the US, women who are the primary breadwinner for their families (disproportionately women of color) may not have this option.¹⁶

FIGURE 4

America's adult caregivers, before the pandemic

Estimated number of unpaid caregivers for adults	47.9 million
Share who are women	61%
Average caregiver age	49.4
Average number of years of care to date	4.5
Share providing care more than 40 hours a week	21%
Share with no paid help	64%
Care recipients needing help with daily activities like eating, dressing, or using the bathroom	60%
Care recipients hospitalized at least once in 12-month period	48%

Source: 2019 AARP survey of 1,392 caregivers



CHILDCARE

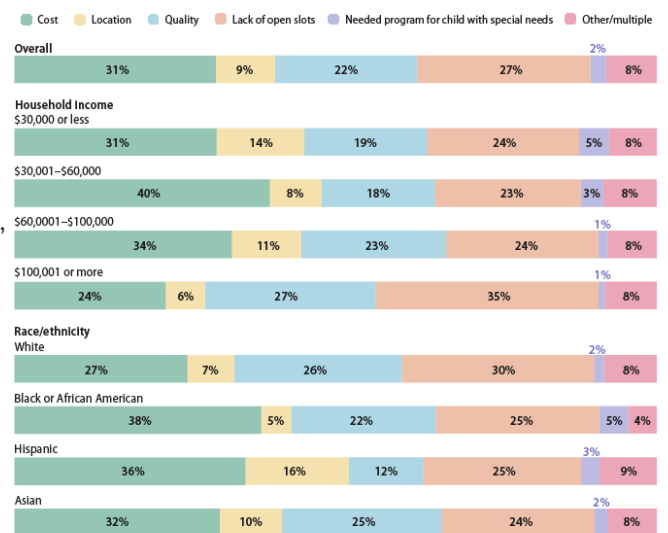


who became unemployed during the pandemic reported the job loss was due to a lack of childcare, twice the rate of men surveyed.²⁰

- The pandemic disrupted both the employment and education of parents, disproportionately impacting young parents who were working in low-wage sectors.¹⁷
- Whether due to high cost, limited availability, or inconvenient program hours, child care challenges drove parents out of the workforce in alarming numbers.¹⁸
- It is not only important to make child-care more affordable, but also to account for the variety of barriers in finding child care (Figure 5).¹⁸
- Child-care in Nevada is more expensive than in-state college tuition.¹⁹

FIGURE 5

Main reason for difficulty in finding child care, by household income, mother's race/ethnicity, and child's age



Note: Results for Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and American Indian or Alaska Native are omitted from this table due to small sample sizes. "Difficulty" includes families who reported "a little difficulty," "some difficulty," "a lot of difficulty," or "did not find the child care program (they) wanted." Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Source: Author's analysis of National Center for Education Statistics, "2016 National Household Education Survey: Early Childhood Program Participation Survey" (Washington: U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences, 2018) available at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/dataproducts.asp#2016p>.



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