

Research Briefing: 2Gen Data Snapshot of Families with Low Incomes **Post-Event Questions & Answers (Q&A)**

On March 2nd, 2023, Child Trends joined Ascend to discuss a new groundbreaking two-generation analysis of families with low incomes across the US. To watch the recording and view associated resources, visit the [event webpage HERE](#).

Q: How have intergenerational families and non-custodial parents showed up in your research? How did you take as inclusive a lens as possible to this data analysis?

A [Marta Alvira-Hammond, Child Trends]: For the sample of families in the report's analyses, we could not include information on non-residential parents because the survey only collects data on who is living in the household. Some of the parents in the sample could be non-residential or non-custodial parents of children living elsewhere, but we do not have the data to confirm how many or examine further.

Multigenerational families are very present in the report. Many families of mixed immigration or generational status will be in our sample of families, but we did not do separate analyses for that group. If you mean grandparents or other extended families that don't live in the household (which would also include non-custodial parents of the children in the household), we are not able to speak to them with these data but we do discuss those dynamics, data limitations, and the importance of considering family beyond the household in the report.

Q: For the drop in wealth among families 29-36, did that change during the pandemic?

A [Marta Alvira-Hammond, Child Trends]: The 2021 income questions refer to the previous year's income (2020), so the 2011-2021 trends capture changes during that period of the pandemic. The pandemic is also not totally over yet, so this is something that is still unfolding, now in addition to current inflation affecting cost of living for many families. It's also important to remember that we present a trend across two time points, 2011 and 2021, but that within that period there can be fluctuations (for example, an increase between two years despite an overall downward trend).

Overall drops in poverty were already documented — our colleagues at Child Trends have done some fantastic work recently on [child poverty trends through 2019](#). In the 3 years since the pandemic began, we have seen increases and decreases in poverty, depending on the time and group being examined. One important factor is the various

pandemic-related safety net expansions and economic impact payments—we know those helped many families, but many of those supports have expired or will expire. We saw [child poverty increase during the pandemic particularly among Black and Latino children](#)—at the same time, we also know the [2020 payments helped keep millions of Latino and Black children out of poverty](#), and [millions more people overall](#). The [expanded Child Tax Credit](#) paid to the families of millions of eligible children also reduced child poverty. [Eviction moratoria helped keep many families safe from losing their homes](#), but many of those moratoria have expired.

Additional resources: [Census 2021 poverty report](#), [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities report on COVID relief effects on poverty and hardship](#).

Q: What safety net programs show the most support for families to move out of poverty?

A [Marta Alvira-Hammond, Child Trends]: This is a big question that goes beyond the scope of this report, but see the above answer for some key info on this as the effects of added and expanded supports is relevant here.

Additional resources below:

- Some programs have eligibility at a threshold above the poverty threshold, so families or individuals may not technically be in poverty but may be at risk of being in poverty or may still be experiencing economic hardship. Sometimes these families end up without critical support, as they may not meet eligibility requirements for assistance but still are struggling financially.
- Administrative factors beyond the type of support itself can shape its effectiveness. For example, strict, confusing, or burdensome eligibility requirements and application processes can interfere with a program's effect even if the support itself is helpful. (See, for example, [how state policies for child care assistance may affect access among Hispanic families](#)).
- [Most programs aren't made to be responsive to economic downturns](#), which also shapes their effectiveness.
- Additional resource: [Census 2022 report](#) on government assistance lifting people out of poverty, which also shows levels when accounting for different types of programs.