

How are Washington, D.C. families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

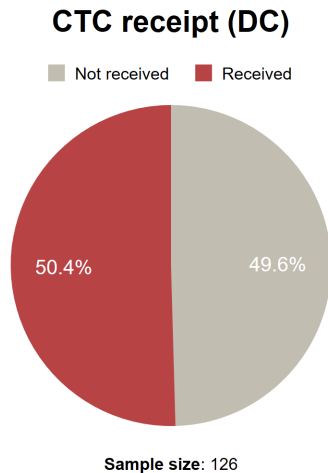
Evidence from Census Data

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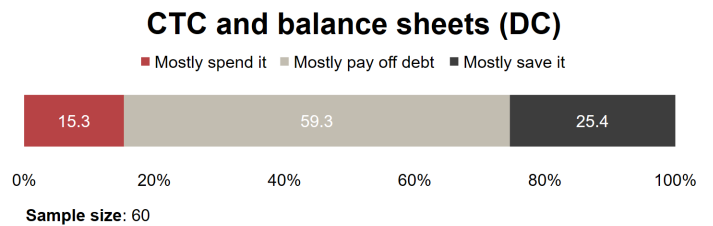
The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with \$3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and \$3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Washington, D.C. families making less than \$150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families' bank accounts.

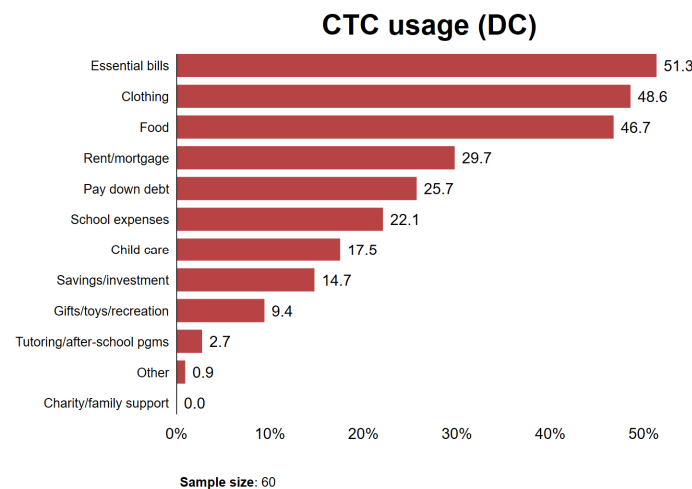
Key Finding 1: 50.4% of eligible DC families received the CTC.



Key Finding 2: 59% of DC families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 25% mostly saved their CTC, and 15% mostly spent it.



Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among DC families were managing bills (51%), clothing costs (49%), and purchasing food for their family (47%).



Key Finding 4: Eligible DC families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out. Overall food security increased substantially.

