

How are Montana families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

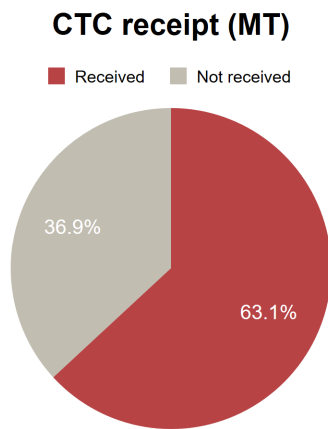
Evidence from Census Data

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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.

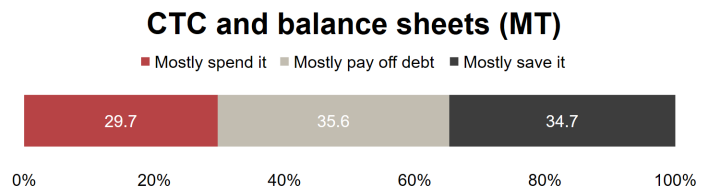
In this brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of CTC-eligible Montana families making less than \$150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the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

Key Finding 1: Almost 63% of eligible MT families received the CTC.



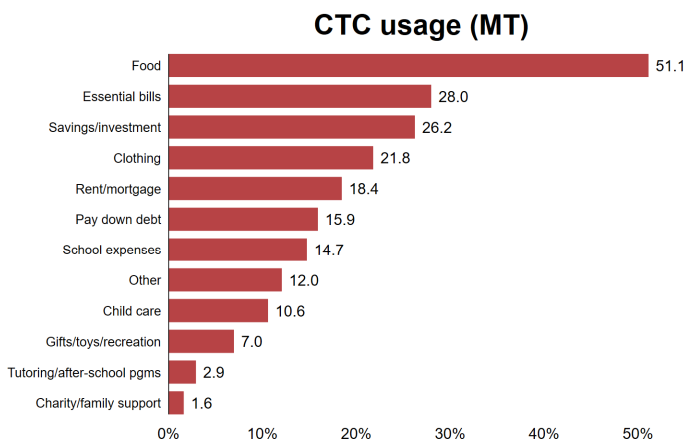
Sample size: 307

Key Finding 2: 36% of MT families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 30% mostly spent it.



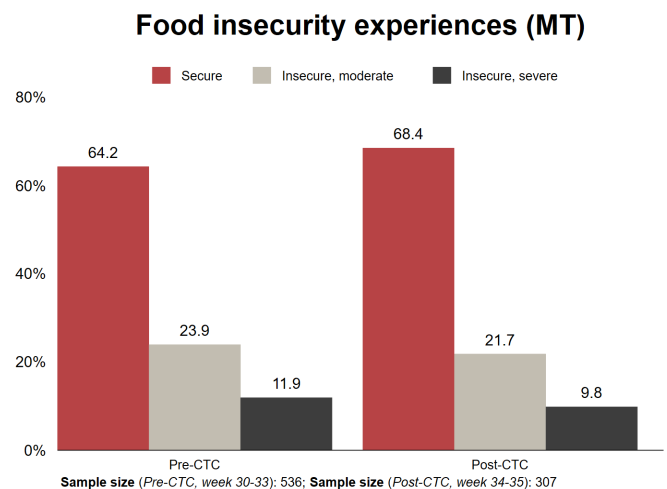
Sample size: 197

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among MT families were purchasing food for their family (51%), managing bills (28%), and saving for the future (26%).



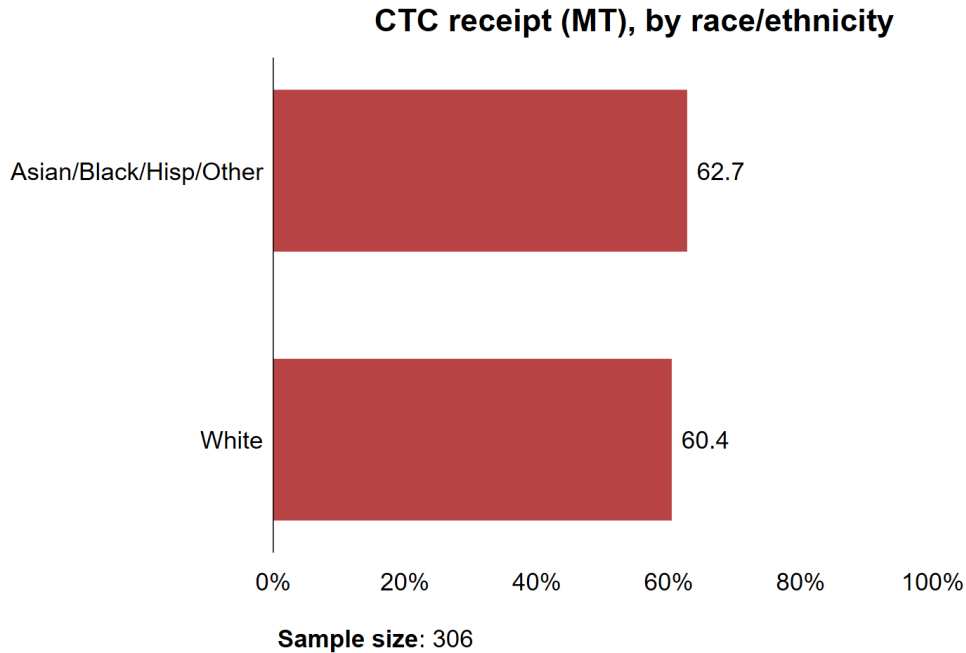
Sample size: 197

Key Finding 4: Eligible MT families experienced lower rates of moderate and severe food insecurity following the introduction of the CTC.

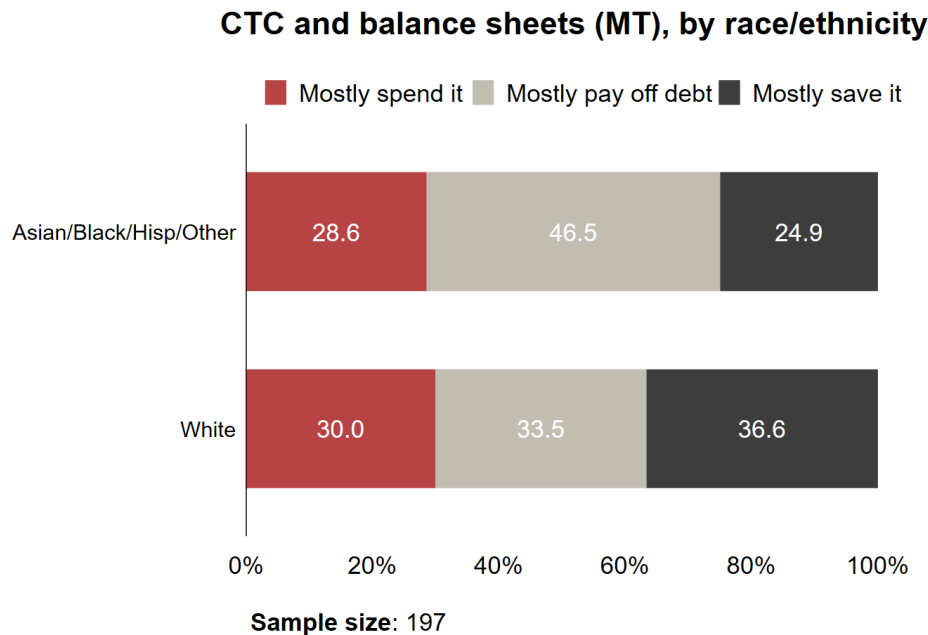


Sample size (Pre-CTC, week 30-33): 536; Sample size (Post-CTC, week 34-35): 307

Key Finding 5: 63% of non-white MT families received the CTC, as did 60% of white families.



Key Finding 6: Non-white families were more likely to use the CTC payments to mostly pay down debt, while white families were relatively evenly split in their usage of the CTC for different purposes.



*Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Other races/ethnicities were combined due to small sample sizes in each group.