

# How are Texas families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

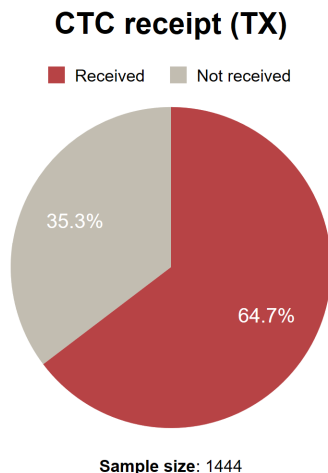
## Evidence from Census Data

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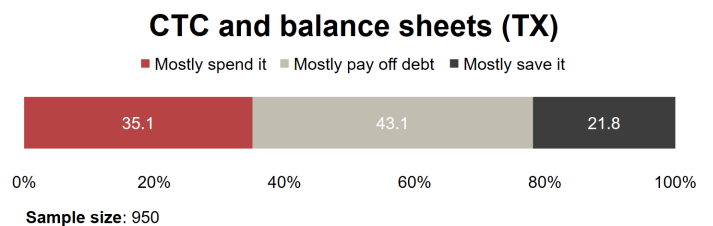
The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with \$3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and \$3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of 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 Texas families making less than \$150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families' bank accounts.

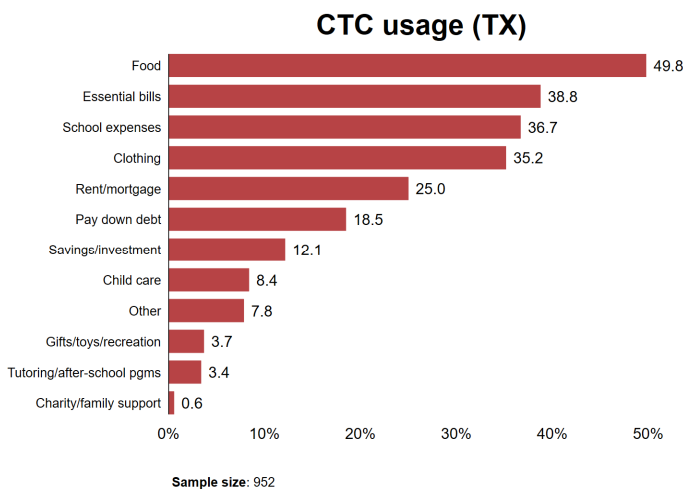
**Key Finding 1:** Almost two-thirds of eligible TX families received the CTC.



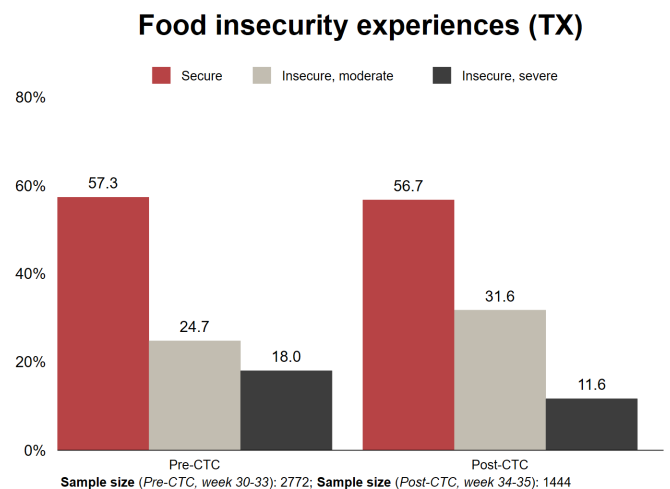
**Key Finding 2:** 43% of TX families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly spent their CTC, and 22% mostly saved it.



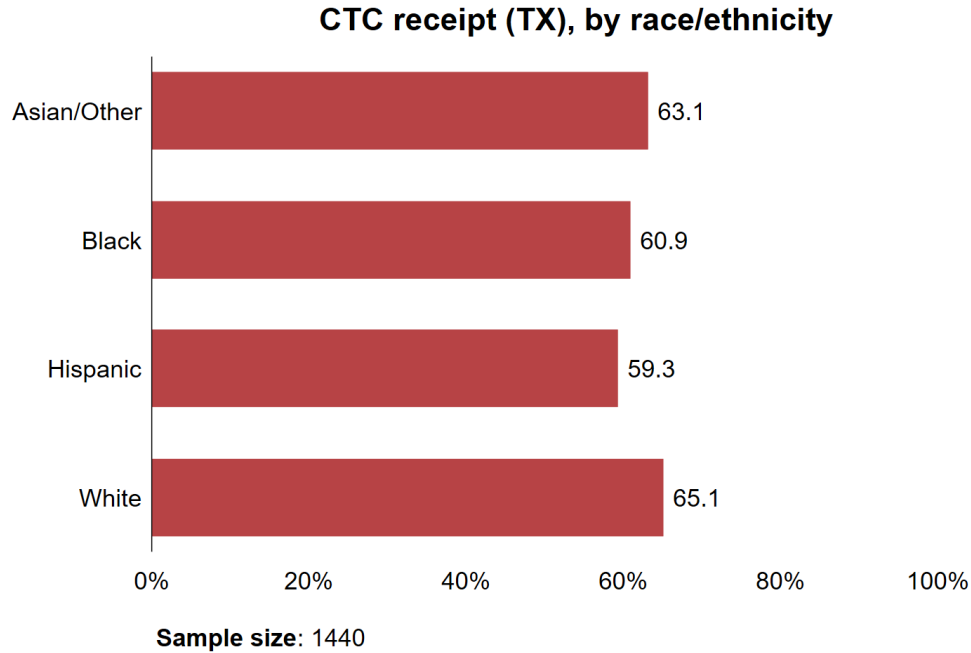
**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among TX families were purchasing food for their family (50%), managing bills (39%), and paying for school expenses (37%) or clothing/other essentials for their children (35%).



**Key Finding 4:** Eligible TX families experienced lower rates of severe food insecurity after CTC payments went out, as many families went from *severe* to *moderate* food insecurity.



**Key Finding 5:** Regardless of race/ethnicity, eligible TX families received the CTC at similar rates.



**Key Finding 6:** Black and white TX families reported using the CTC in similar ways, while Hispanic families were least likely to report mostly saving the CTC and Asian/other families were the most likely to report mostly saving it.

