



Expanded Child Tax Credit continues to keep millions of children from poverty in September 2021

Data Update Oct 27, 2021

The third monthly payment of the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) kept 3.4 million children from poverty in September 2021. The monthly child poverty rate increased between August and September, from 11.5 percent to 13.2 percent, due to the expiration of expanded unemployment benefits across the country and the rollback of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotment benefits in some states. However, the Child Tax Credit contributed to a 4.6 percentage point (26 percent) reduction in child poverty compared to what the monthly poverty rate in September 2021 would have been in its absence. Estimates are also available by children's race and ethnicity.

In prior work, we found the first Child Tax Credit payment kept [3 million children from poverty in July 2021](#) and the second payment kept [3.5 million children from poverty in August 2021](#) and that the payments reduced food insufficiency among low income families with children. The U.S. Department of Treasury reported that the first Child Tax Credit payment reached 59.3 million children in July, the second payment reached 60.9 million children in August, and the third payment reached 60 million children in September.

Effect of Child Tax Credit on Monthly Poverty Rate in September 2021 by Children's Race and Ethnicity

SPM POVERTY RATE (%)

Children	Pre-COVID Relief	With COVID Relief/ No CTC	With COVID Relief +CTC	Percentage Pt. Reduction (CTC only)	Percent Reduction (CTC only)	Percentage Pt. Reduction (COVID Relief +CTC)	Percent Reduction (COVID Relief + CTC)
All	19.6%	17.9%	13.2%	-4.6%	-25.9%	-6.4%	-32.6%
White	13.0%	11.9%	8.4%	-3.5%	-29.5%	-4.7%	-35.8%
Black	30.2%	27.2%	21.6%	-5.6%	-20.5%	-8.6%	-28.5%
Latino	26.8%	24.4%	17.9%	-6.6%	-26.9%	-8.9%	-33.3%
Asian	16.8%	15.6%	12.2%	-3.4%	-21.8%	-4.6%	-27.3%

NUMBER OF CHILDREN MOVED OUT OF POVERTY

Children	Pre-COVID Relief	With COVID Relief/ No CTC	With COVID Relief +CTC	Number Moved Out of Poverty (CTC only)	Number Moved Out of Poverty (COVID Relief + CTC)
All	14,494,000	13,195,000	9,774,000	3,421,000	4,720,000
White	4,808,000	4,375,000	3,084,000	1,291,000	1,723,000
Black	3,371,000	3,032,000	2,410,000	623,000	961,000
Latino	5,052,000	4,614,000	3,371,000	1,243,000	1,681,000
Asian	731,000	679,000	531,000	148,000	200,000

**Numbers rounded to the nearest thousand.*

Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University, Monthly SPM Poverty for September 2021

Measuring Monthly Poverty

In 2020, we established a novel method of forecasting poverty to provide monthly projections of poverty using the Supplemental Poverty Measure. Using a monthly framework, we are able to track poverty amidst changing economic circumstances as the COVID-19 pandemic and federal policy responses continue to unfold. Visit our data page to see monthly poverty trends for the US population as a whole, as well as by race/ethnicity and age groups.

[ACCESS MONTHLY DATA](#)

Suggested Citation:

Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University. 2021. [Expanded Child Tax Credit continues to keep millions of children from poverty in September](#). Monthly Poverty Update.