

Data Points on Black Women and Single Mother Households

March 2022

Black women have long been at risk of experiencing poverty, violence, and food and housing insecurity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Black women have suffered job losses and their children—especially those among single mother homes—have experienced severe hardship.^{1, 2}

Black women were surveyed by the U.S. Census Bureau between March 2020 and April 2021:³

- 53% of Black women reported their household lost income since the start of the pandemic.
- 24% of Black women expected income losses over the next month.
- 20% of Black women reported not having enough food to eat in the past week.
- 27% of Black women that rent reported being behind on rent.

Between 1990 and 2020, the number of Black households with single mothers increased from 3.4 million to 4.3 million.⁴



In 2017, Black mothers were more than twice as likely as white mothers to be their family's primary breadwinner, and more than 50 percent more likely than Latina mothers.⁵

In 2019, 35% of Black single mothers lived in poverty—exceeded only by Native American single mothers at 43%.¹

Living with two married parents is a common living arrangement for children of all races except Black children. Fewer than two-fifths of Black children lived with two married parents in 2020.⁶

In 2018, Black women were 2.5 times more likely to be murdered by men than White women.⁷

In 2014, Black women of all ages were twice as likely to be imprisoned as White women.⁸

Quality childcare is unaffordable for many Black women.⁹

Endnotes

1. National Women's Law Center, "National Snapshot: Poverty Among Women & Families," December 2020 Fact Sheet, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PovertySnapshot2020.pdf>
2. National Women's Law Center, "One in Six Latinas and One in Five Black, Non-Hispanic Women Don't Have Enough to Eat," November 2020 Fact Sheet, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/pulseFS11.pdf>



3. National Women's Law Center, "Over a Year into the Pandemic, Women Still Face Economic, Housing, and Food Insecurity," April 2021 Fact Sheet, <https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PulseWeek26FS-1.pdf>
4. Statista, "Number of Black Families with a Single Mother in the United States from 1990 to 2020," October 2021, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/205106/number-of-black-families-with-a-female-householder-in-the-us/>
5. Center for American Progress, "Breadwinning Mothers Continue To Be the U.S. Norm," May 2019 <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/breadwinning-mothers-continue-u-s-norm/>
6. United States Census Bureau, "Percentage and Number of Children Living With Two Parents Has Dropped Since 1968," April 2021, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/number-of-children-living-only-with-their-mothers-has-doubled-in-past-50-years.html>
7. Violence Policy Center, "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2018 Homicide Data," September 2020, <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2020.pdf>
8. National Domestic Worker's Alliance & Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Status of Black Women in the United States," June 2017, <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Status-of-Black-Women-6.26.17.pdf>
9. Center for American Progress, "The Coronavirus Will Make Child Care Deserts Worse and Exacerbate Inequality," June 2020, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/coronavirus-will-make-child-care-deserts-worse-exacerbate-inequality/>

SEG Programs

Urban Training, Research, Advocacy, Institute & Network (U-TRAIN)

U-TRAIN is a trauma-informed cohort leadership development program for women of color active in violence prevention work in their communities.

National Black Violence Prevention Advisory Council

The council is a network of Black scholars, experts, and practitioners who support Sustain Equity Group's work with evidence-based research and recommendations. Council members represent a wide range of disciplines, including public safety, public health, psychology, sociology, criminology, education, economics, law enforcement, legal, and media.



President & CEO, Kayla A. Hicks

Kayla Hicks is the founder, President, and CEO of Sustain Equity Group (SEG), a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering professional equity for black women in violence prevention, justice, education, economics, the arts, and other fields.

Kayla has worked as a constituency state director for the 2008 Obama campaign, strategic planning coordinator for labor giant SEIU, private detective for J.M. Richard Investigations, and director of outreach for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. In 2017, Kayla founded her own consulting firm, BridgeOver Consulting Group LLC. She has served as a managing consultant (for professional athletes and A-list actors/artists), transformational leadership coach, impact strategist, and trauma response specialist.