

Women Have Been Uniquely Affected By The COVID19 Pandemic, Facing Greater Economic Pain And Job Losses

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This Year, The Unemployment Rate For Women Reached Double Digits For The First Time Since 1948. “This year, female unemployment reached double digits for the first time since 1948, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics started tracking women’s joblessness. White women haven’t been such a small share of the population with a job since the late 1970s. Women of color, who are more likely to be sole breadwinners and low-income workers, suffer acutely. The unemployment rate for Latinas was 15.3% in June. For Black women, it was 14%. For white men: 9%. [USA Today, [08/03/20](#)]

- **Between February And April Of This Year, Women Lost Over 12.1 Million Jobs, And Had An Unemployment Rate That Was 1% Higher Than Men.** “Between February and April, women lost more than 12.1 million jobs as a result of the coronavirus and only a third of those jobs returned in May and June. When comparing the unemployment rate for women versus men, women ages 20 and over have an unemployment rate of 11.2% compared to men over 20 with an unemployment rate of 10.1%.” [CNBC.com, [07/08/20](#)]

Despite These Job Losses, 1-in-3 Jobs Held By Women - Including Many Healthcare And Childcare Workers - Have Been Deemed Essential During The Crisis, But No Federal Hazard Pay Has Been Approved To Support These Workers.

One In Three Jobs Held By Women Have Been Designated As Essential During The Pandemic. “One in three jobs held by women has been designated as essential, according to a New York Times analysis of census data crossed with the federal government’s essential worker guidelines. Nonwhite women are more likely to be doing essential jobs than anyone else.” [New York Times, [04/18/20](#)]

- **Nearly 80% Of Healthcare Workers Are Women** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, [2019](#)]
- **83% of Social Assistance Jobs Such As Child Care Are Held By Women.** [Bureau of Labor Statistics, [2019](#)]
- **Still, As Of July, Lawmakers Had Not Passed Any Hazard Pay Provision For Essential Workers.** “But so far, lawmakers have not passed any measure to increase pay for workers who were asked to keep going to work during a highly contagious health crisis. Some companies did create hazard, or ‘hero,’ pay — typically around \$2 extra an hour or a one-time bonus. Most have since ended it.” [NPR, [07/01/20](#)]

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Experts Feared That Up To 90% Of Minority And Women-Owned Businesses Were Shut Out Of The Paycheck Protection Program. “Up to 90% of minority and women owners shut out of Paycheck Protection Program, experts fear.” [CBS, [04/22/20](#)]

Women Were Four To Five Times More Likely To Leave Work Or Reduce Hours During The Pandemic As Child Care Shifted To The Home

Experts Predict The Child Care Crisis Coupled With Online Schooling “Could Harm Women’s Careers, Widen The Gender Pay Gap And Reduce The Number Of Women Serving In Business Leadership Roles.” “An already existing child care crisis compounded by online schooling in many school districts could harm women’s careers, widen the gender pay gap and reduce the number of women serving in business leadership roles, some experts predict.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [8/16/20](#)]

- **In Opposite-Sex Couples Where Both Parents Work, “Mothers With Young Children Were Four To Five Times More Likely To Leave Work Or Reduce Hours Following The Start Of The Pandemic.”** “Research published in the journal Gender, Work and Organization found that, in heterosexual relationships where both parents work, mothers with young children were four to five times more likely to leave work or reduce hours following the start of the pandemic than fathers with young children.” [Wisconsin State Journal, [8/16/20](#)]

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD: Women Account For 95% Of The US Childcare Workforce An Industry That Has Seen Nearly 1-In-5 Workers Lose Their Job. “According to a report released Wednesday, more than 1 out of 5 of the nearly 1 million people employed in the U.S. as child care providers in February have lost their jobs. Women account for 95% of the child care workforce, so they have felt the impact of those lost jobs especially hard, according to the report from the National Women's Law Center.” [NPR, [08/19/20](#)]