

# How are Rhode Island families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

## Evidence from Census Data

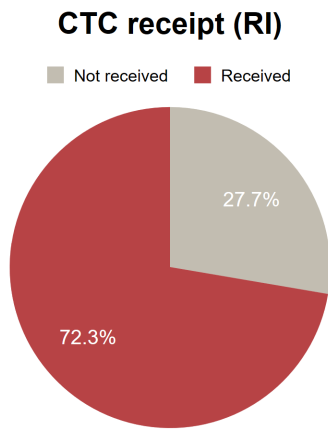
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The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with \$3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and \$3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

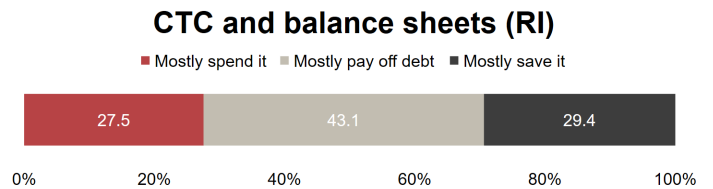
In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Rhode Island families making less than \$150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>, covering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

**Key Finding 1:** 72% of eligible RI families received the CTC.

**Key Finding 2:** 43% of RI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 29% mostly saved their CTC, and 28% mostly spent it.



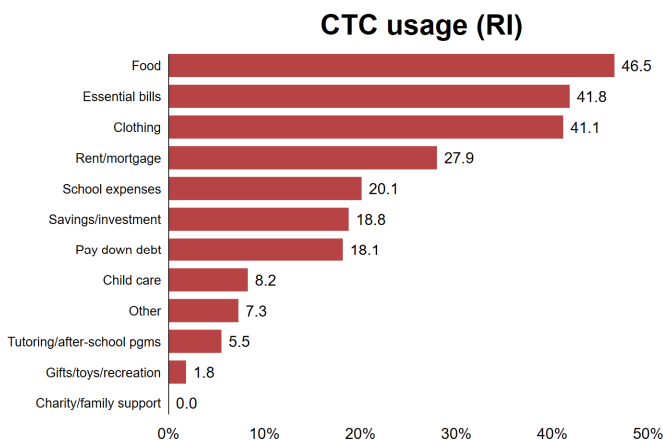
Sample size: 205



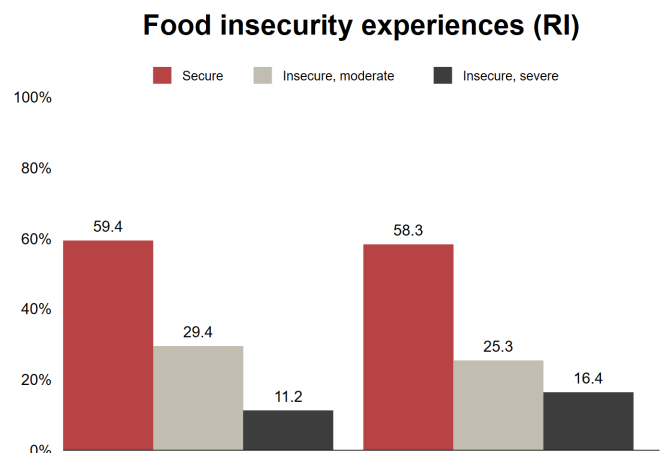
Sample size: 137

**Key Finding 3:** The most common uses of the CTC payments among RI families were purchasing food for their family (47%), managing bills (42%), and clothing expenses (41%).

**Key Finding 4:** Eligible RI families experienced lower rates of moderate food insecurity after CTC payments, though severe food insecurity increased as well.



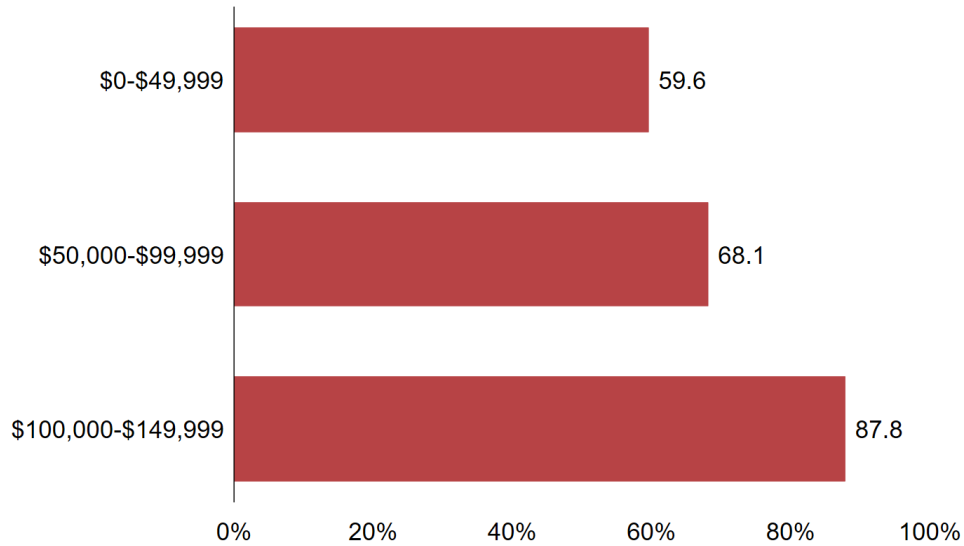
Sample size: 137



Sample size (Pre-CTC, week 30-33): 389; Sample size (Post-CTC, week 34-35): 205

**Key Finding 5:** RI families in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (88%), followed by families in the middle income category (68%).

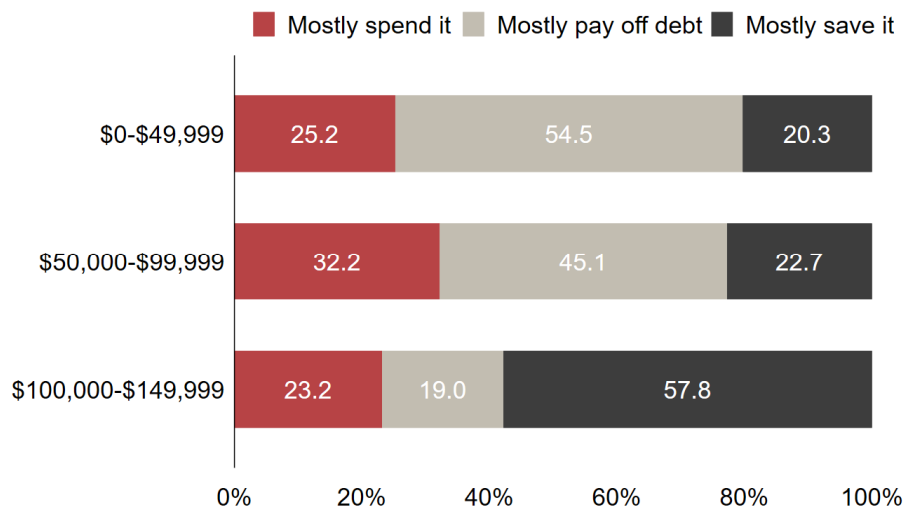
**CTC receipt (RI), by income**



Sample size: 205

**Key Finding 6:** RI families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving their CTC payments.

**CTC and balance sheets (RI), by income**



Sample size: 137