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Many California Children Do Not Have Enough to Eat During COVID-19

Share of California Households that Sometimes or Often Did Not Have Enough to Eat

Nearly **1 in 4**

California low-income households with children reported sometimes or often not having enough food to eat during a period starting from late August through October.



Note: "Low-income" is defined as households with annual incomes less than \$50,000. Due to survey limitations, these results may underestimate food hardship in California.

Source: Budget Center analysis of Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey.

Support for this Data Hit was provided by First 5 California.

- Nearly 1 in 4 California low-income households with children surveyed from late August through October reported sometimes or often not having enough food to eat, according to data from the US Census Bureau looking at how COVID-19 is affecting households.

- Due to historic and ongoing racial discrimination, **Black and Latinx families in particular have always struggled to afford enough food**, and the COVID-19 health and economic crisis has only increased food hardship in California.

- **Not having enough food affects people of all ages, but is especially harmful to children, as inadequate nutrition can harm their health, development, and learning.** Policymakers must invest in food and income support to help Californians, especially with many federal COVID-19 relief measures set to expire at the end of December, which would make it even more difficult for families to put enough food on the table.