

Colorado Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics Webinar

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A CRITICAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

QUESTION 1: WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE PRACTICES TO
REDUCE POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY IN
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN?

1

A. Screen all families
for food insecurity
and poverty

2

B. Give families
screening positive to
list of resources

3

C. Promote SNAP,
WIC, and Child Tax
Credit

4

D. Facilitate
enrollment of
Medicaid Members
in SNAP, WIC, CTC

5

E. Integrate WIC
with healthcare
visits when possible

QUESTION II

What percentage of eligible families in Colorado are enrolled in WIC?

- A. 90%** **B. 80%** **C. 70%** **D. 60%** **E. 50%**

QUESTION III

What percent of eligible Medicaid Members (Health First) in Colorado are enrolled in SNAP?

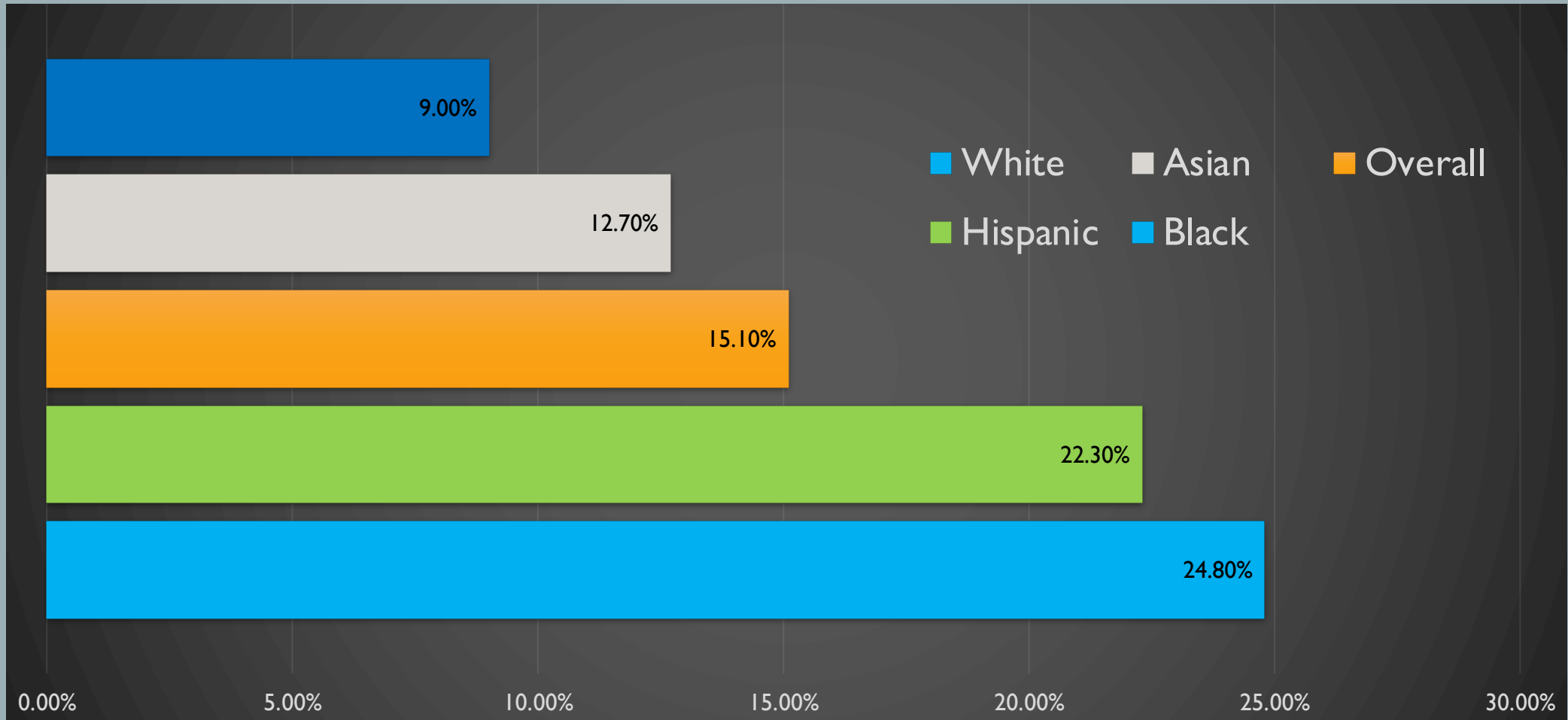
- A. 90%** **B. 80%** **C. 70%** **D. 60%** **E. 50%**

QUESTION IV

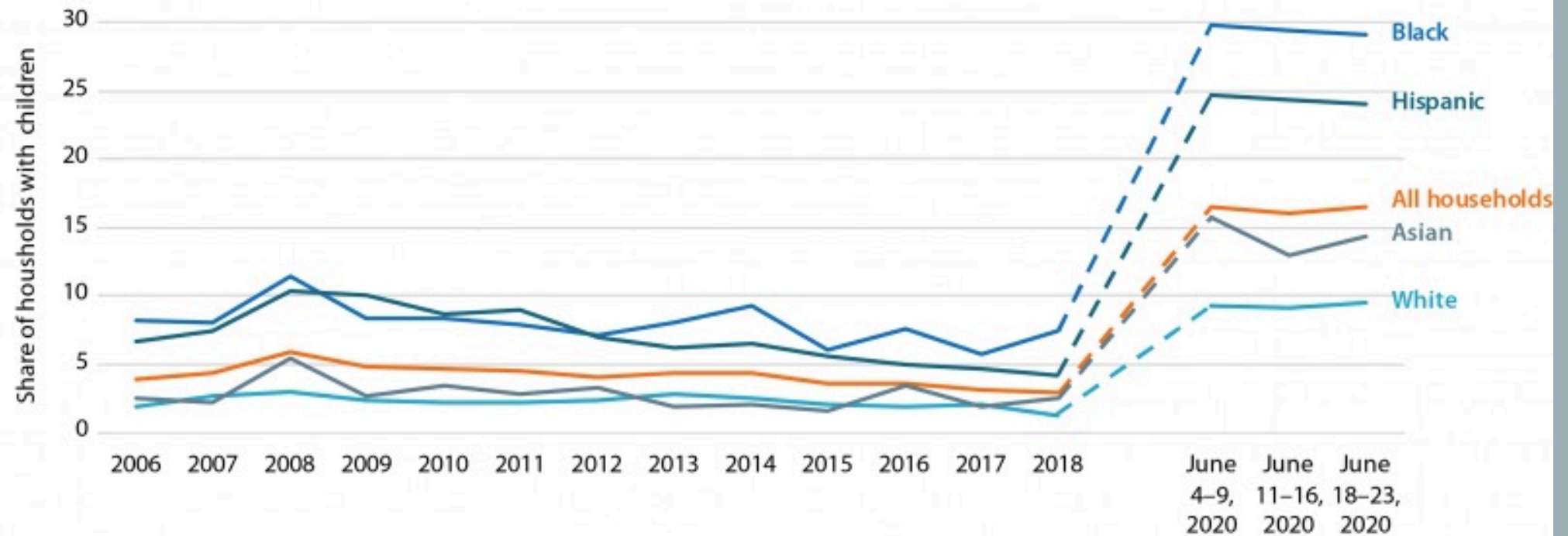
What percent of Medicaid Members are eligible for WIC?

- A. 100% B. 90% C. 80% D. 60% E. 50%**

PREVALENCE OF CHILDHOOD POVERTY BY ETHNICITY 2019



COVID- 19 INCREASES CHILD FOOD INSECURITY AND DISPARITIES



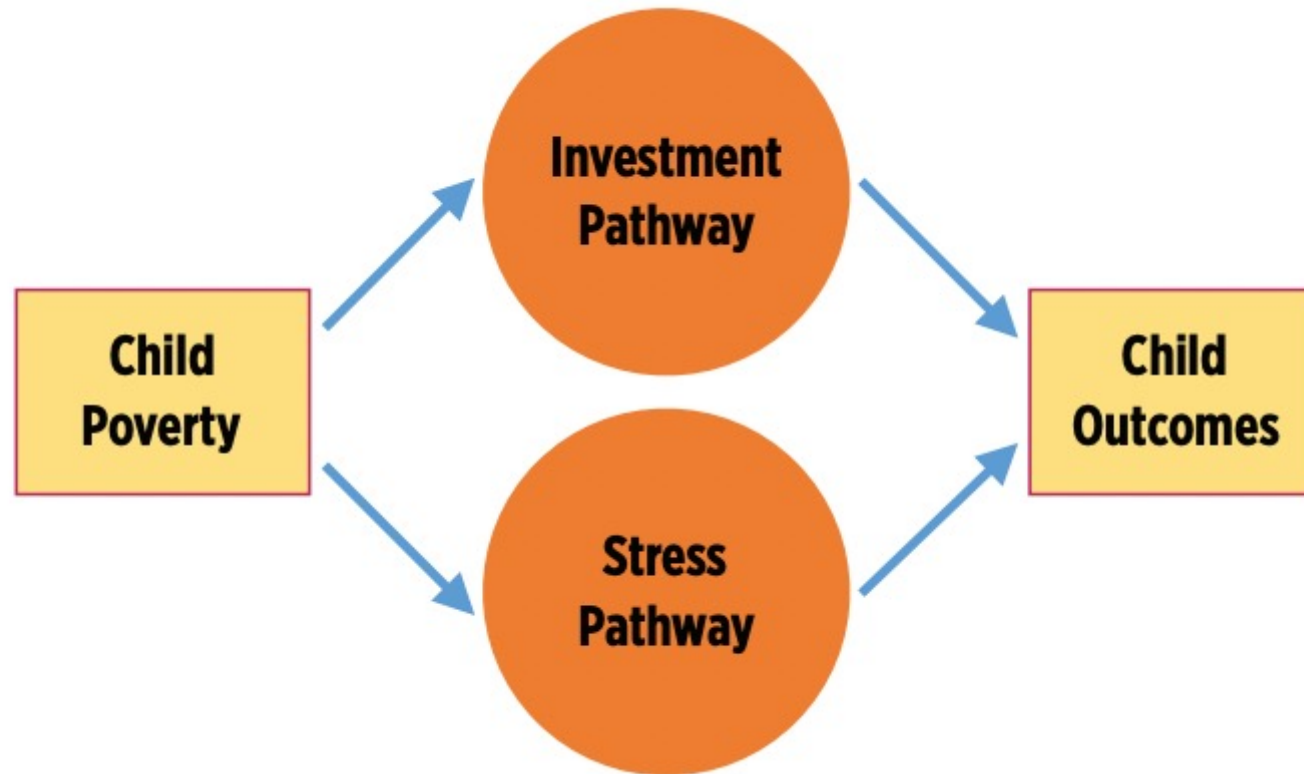
Brookings Institute: Census Household Pulse Survey July 2020

POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY ARE
ASSOCIATED WITH POORER CHILD OUTCOMES

- Impaired physical and mental health
- Low birthweight
- Structural brain changes
- Lower educational attainment
- Greater likelihood of risky behaviors, delinquency, and criminal behavior

Earlier in life and longer exposure increase risk to child

HOW POVERTY IMPACTS CHILD OUTCOMES



THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: A CRITICAL OPPORTUNITY

Predicted to decrease child poverty by 40-50% with key programs:

Increase and Expansion of Eligibility for Tax Credits

- The Child Tax Credit : \$3,000 (ages 6-18y) and \$3,600 (under 6y)
- The Earned Income Tax Credit –max \$1500

Increase in Federal Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit increase
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) fruit and vegetable benefit increase

DEMONSTRATED BENEFITS OF TAX CREDITS, SNAP, AND WIC

- Improved food and economic security
- Decrease in incidence of low birth weight
- Improved parental mental health and child behavior
- Increase in development and educational outcomes
- Decrease in incidence of metabolic disease as adults (SNAP participation early in life)
- Decreased healthcare costs

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-is-linked-with-improved-nutritional-outcomes-and-lower-health-care>

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/wic-works-addressing-the-nutrition-and-health-needs-of-low-income-families>

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25246/a-roadmap-to-reducing-child-poverty>



Promote

- Inform families of CTC, SNAP, WIC
- Promote the health benefits of these programs



Ask

- Ask all families if they have filed their taxes
- Ask all Medicaid Members if they are enrolled in SNAP/WIC



Assist

- Inform families of free tax filing assistance (see flyers)
- Facilitate enrollment in SNAP and WIC (see toolkit)

THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE IN DECREASING
POVERTY



CHILD TAX CREDIT DETAILS

- Previous child tax provided income to households with children but excluded poorest
- Eligibility expanded to include poorest children; predominantly children of color
- 90% of Colorado families are eligible for the benefit
- Benefit increased to \$3,600 for children under 6 years, \$3,000 for 6-18y
- Resources for families in Colorado:

Co. Taxpayer Advocate: 303-603-4600

<https://www.irs.gov/advocate/local-taxpayer-advocate>

Co. VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance):

800-906-9887, <https://www.coloradovita.org/>

* Non-filer sign-up tool

<https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/childtaxcredit>



EARNED
INCOME
TAX
CREDIT

- Provides financial assistance to low- income households with children who work
- Max benefit increased from \$543 to \$1502
- State match may increase if bill passes
- Resources for families in Colorado:
 - Co. Taxpayer Advocate: 303-603-4600
<https://www.irs.gov/advocate/local-taxpayer-advocate>
 - Co.VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance):
800-906-9887, <https://www.coloradovita.org/>



SNAP

- Largest anti-hunger program- benefits increased
- Majority of Medicaid Members are eligible
- SNAP participants qualify for free school meal program & pandemic EBT
- Enrollment: PEAK on-line referral, call 211 visit county human service departments, <https://hungerfreecolorado.org/find-food/>
- Citizenship status is no longer impacted by SNAP participation (public charge)



WIC

- All Medicaid Members are eligible, no citizenship requirement
- WIC provides nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support
- Enrollment:
call WIC office
<https://www.coloradowic.gov/find-wic-clinic>
or send a WIC on-line referral
<https://www.healthinformatics.dphe.state.co.us/WICSignUp>

FAMILY DRIVEN ORGANIZATIONS

- **Family Voices CO, Christy Blakely**

Christy@familyvoicesco.org

<https://familyvoicesco.org>

303-877-1747

- **Parent to Parent of Colorado, Lisa Franklin**

lfranklinp2p@abilityconnectioncolorado.org

www.p2p-co.org

877-472-7201

- **El Grupo Vida, Elisa Aucancela**

elisa@elgrupovida.org

<https://elgrupovida.org>

303-335-9875

- **Family to Family Health Information Center**

alissa@thrivectr.org

<https://thrivectr.org>

303-733-3000

ADVOCATE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

- Expand Child Tax Credit beyond this year
- Adequate SNAP and WIC Benefits
- Living Wage
- Quality Early Child Education for all children
- Improve access to Long -Acting Reversible Contraception

