

# Pandemic-EBT in California



## PANDEMIC-EBT IN CALIFORNIA: LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

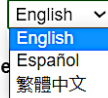


CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOOD BANKS

Rocio Perez  
Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow  
Congressional Hunger Center  
March 2021

Rocio Perez  
*National Emerson Hunger  
Fellow*

# My Project



Thank you for taking time to participate in this survey about P-EBT (Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer).

P-EBT is a food benefit card that was given to school-age children this spring/summer while schools were closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our goal of this survey is to understand your experience with P-EBT, how it helped your family to buy food, and what challenges you had in applying for or using P-EBT.

The survey will take about 5-10 minutes to finish, and if you answer all the questions we will enter you into a raffle to win a \$50 Visa gift card.

Your answers are important to us and will remain confidential. Anonymous responses to this survey will be published in a report about P-EBT in February, 2021. We may also use anonymous responses from this survey in messaging and communication about P-EBT in the future.

This survey is being administered by the California Association of Food Banks, the Congressional Hunger Center, and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA).

## Survey:

- 1,400 responses
- 30 questions

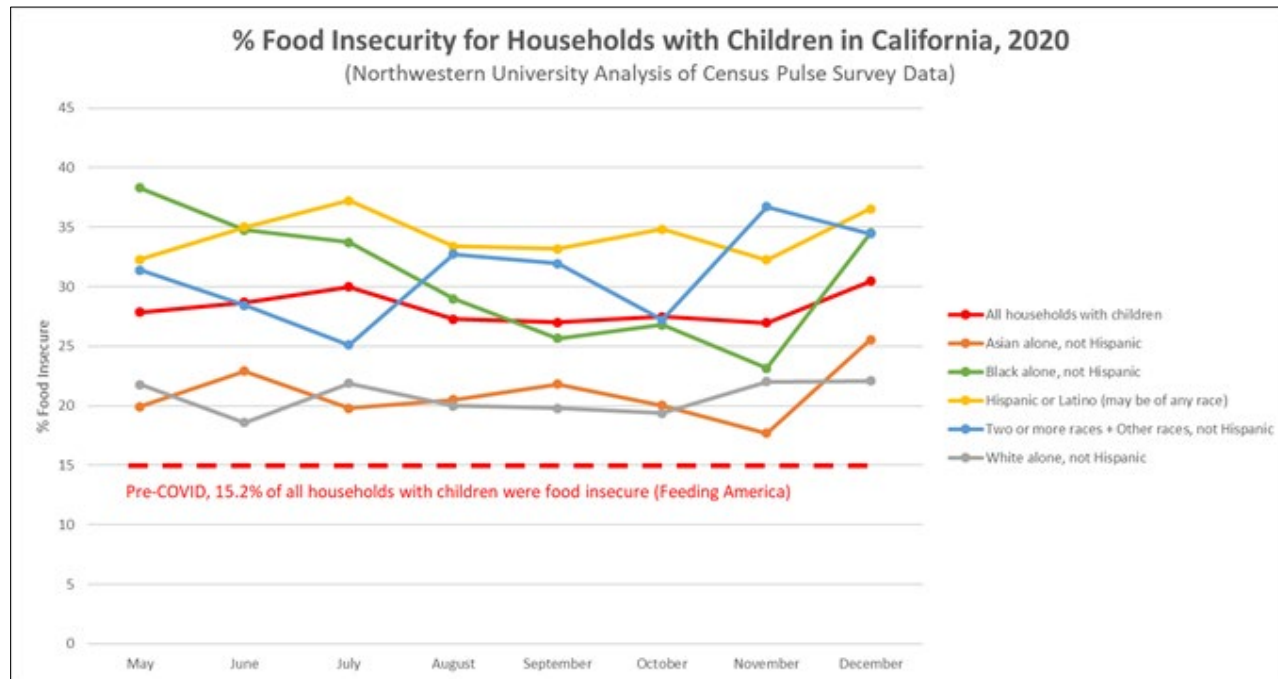
## Interviews:

- 19 P-EBT recipients
- 12 key-stakeholders

## Compensation:

- \$50 gift cards for interviewees & 100 raffle winners from survey

# Children Hunger Before and During COVID-19



# Summary of P-EBT 1.0 in CA

In CA alone, CDSS and CDE worked together to send P-EBT cards to 4 million kids – a 95% reach rate across 58 counties.

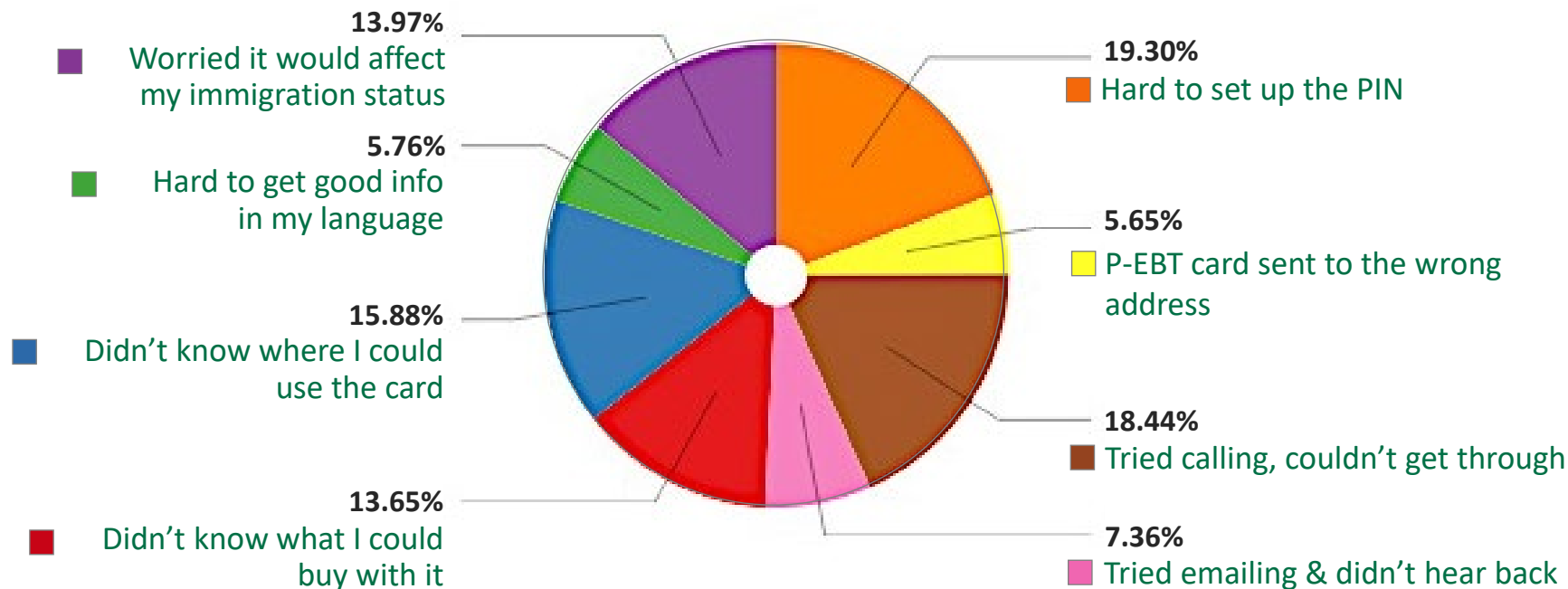


Summary of Statewide P-EBT Data	Value
Total Eligible Children Issued P-EBT Benefits	3,738,746
Total P-EBT Benefits Issued	\$1,362,140,097
Total Automatically Eligible Children Issued P-EBT Benefits	2,256,807
Total Applicant Eligible Children Issued P-EBT Benefits	1,481,939
Total Cards Issued to Automatically Eligible Children <sup>i</sup>	1,640,403
Total Cards Issued to Applicant Children <sup>i</sup>	1,253,956
Total Applications Received (unduplicated)	1,374,413
Total Children Issued Full Benefits	3,719,015
Total Children Issued Prorated Benefits	19,723

# Customer Service Challenges



Did you have any of the following problems with using P-EBT? (Check all that apply)

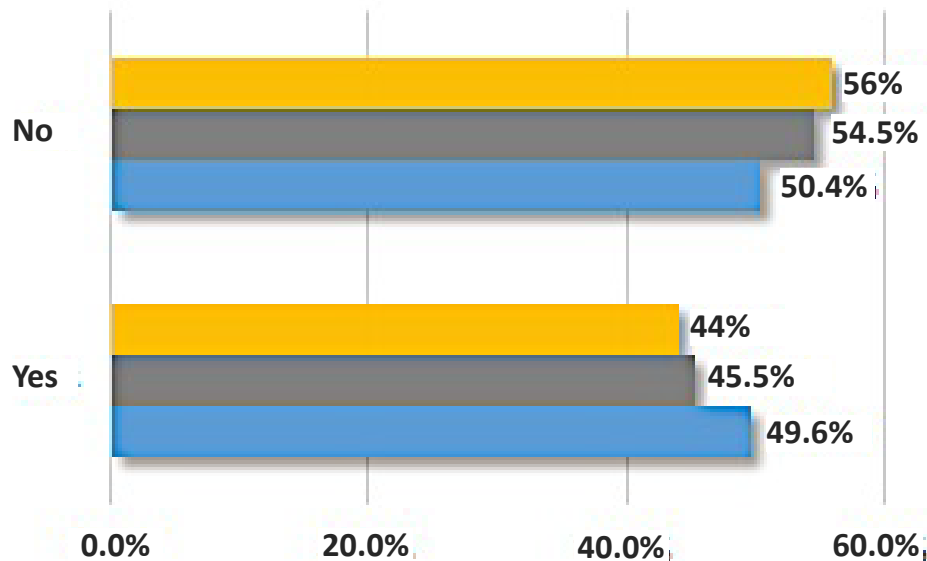


# P-EBT & CalFresh

Over half of P-EBT recipients were not already on CalFresh when they received P-EBT benefits



Spanish Chinese English

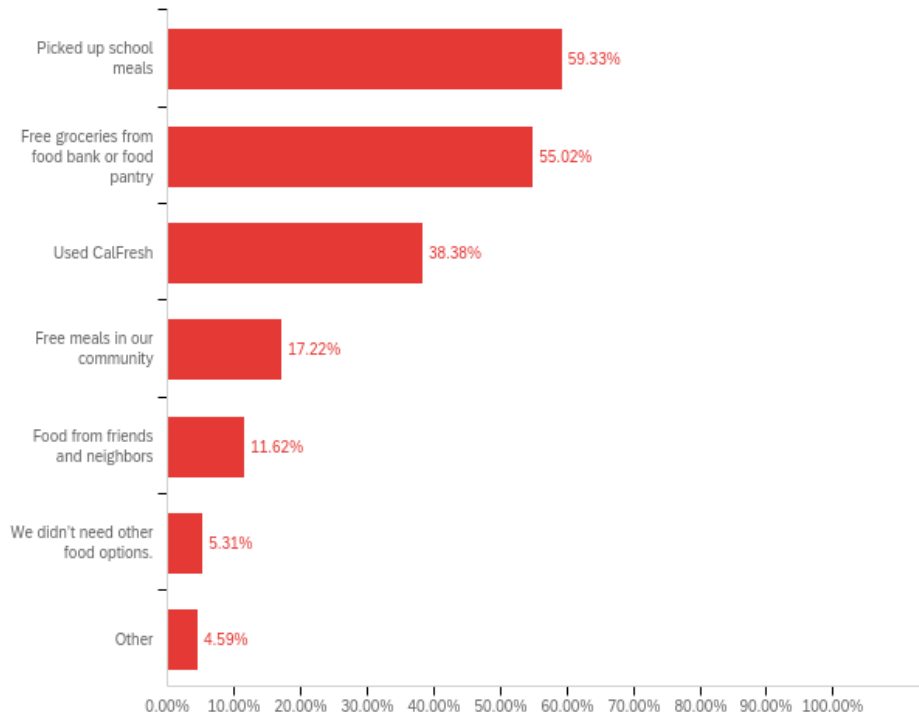


*"I worry about being considered a public charge.....maybe I'll regret it later but for now I need any help I can get." – P-EBT Recipient*

# P-EBT & School Meals



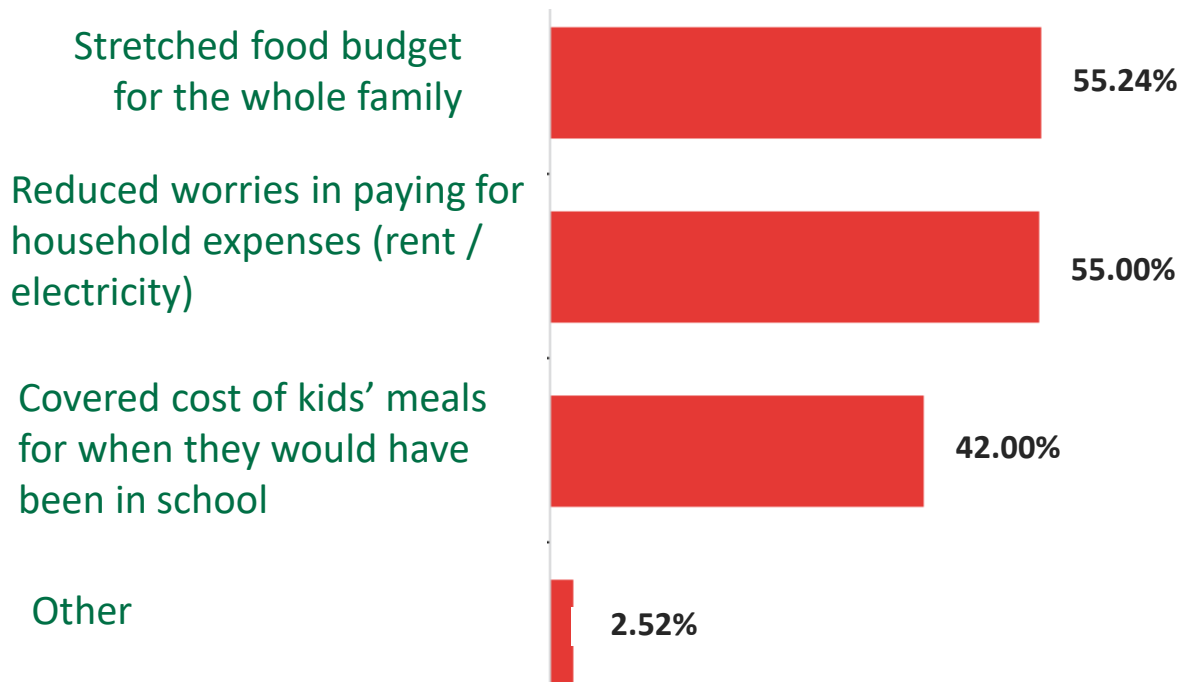
More than half of P-EBT recipients stated that they relied on school meals and free groceries from a food bank or food pantry before applying for or receiving P-EBT.



*“I would take my daughters to pick up meals one to two times a week. They really liked cereal, milk, and juice. With P-EBT, I had flexibility to buy other foods they liked and make home cook meals for them.” – P-EBT Recipient*

# P-EBT Impact

How did P-EBT impact your family? (Check all that apply)



*"It helped immensely with the household budget with 5 kids being out of school. It would have been very hard to provide food they would have normally gotten at school and pay the bills with a smaller income of my single parent home."— P-EBT Recipient*



**55%**

55% say that P-EBT reduces their worry about being able to pay their bills.

**I was able to nourish my kids with P-EBT. I have trouble getting to food giveaways or school lunch pickups because I'm disabled and can't drive.**

—P-EBT recipient

<https://capandemic-ebt.org/#3>



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**Thank you!**



Voice of:

**Rocio Perez**

Center for Law and Social Policy