

What Connects Us

Allegheny County Department of Human Services



4/28/2022

Provider Briefing

Agenda



4:30 – 4:35: Welcome

4:35 – 4:45: Policy & Legislative Updates / Solicitations/Announcements

4:45 – 5:30: Investing in Allegheny County Moms: A direct cash payment pilot

- Presentation
 - Erin Dalton
 - Alex Jutca
 - Tammy Thompson
- Provide feedback on the pilot
- Discussion / Q&A

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 26, 2022



Join the DHS Team!

<https://allegHENYcounty.bamboohr.com/jobs/>



Policy and Legislative Update

Medicaid & CHIP Coverage



- During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), certain Medicaid and CHIP requirements were waived, preventing people from losing coverage during the pandemic. HealthChoices membership is over 20% higher today than in January 2020.
- The PHE **was extended recently and is now set to expire on July 15th**, unless extended again by the Biden administration.
- Once the PHE ends, this will trigger an “unwinding” that will require states to resume conducting MA and CHIP coverage renewals.
- We’ll need everyone’s partnership to help participants complete their renewals!
- **Key messages for participants:**
 - 1) **Update contact information** – Make sure COMPASS/CAO has current mailing address, phone number, email or other contact information.
 - 2) **Check your mail** – PA DHS will mail letters about Medicaid or CHIP coverage. This letter will let people know if they need to complete a renewal form to see if they still qualify.
 - 3) **Complete your renewal form (if you get one)** – Fill out the form and return it right away to help avoid a gap in Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

Medicaid Updates



- **Pennsylvania expands postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months**
 - On April 1, 2022, the postpartum Medicaid expansion took effect. New mothers receive 12 full months of Medicaid coverage following the birth of a child.
 - Expansion was made possible by the American Rescue Plan.
- **Medicaid Recipients Encouraged to Sign Up For Text Alerts from DHS**
 - Pennsylvanians who receive MA and/or SNAP can sign up to receive important alerts about these benefits from DHS. If DHS currently has cell phone numbers for recipients, a mass message was recently sent by text, and a YES reply will allow the recipient to opt in to get important updates via text.

Tax Filing Information



- Even though the April 18th IRS filing deadline has passed, taxpayers due a refund receive no penalty for filing late; those who owe and missed the deadline without requesting an extension should file quickly to limit penalties and interest.
- Families who don't owe taxes to the IRS can still file their 2021 tax return and claim the Child Tax Credit for the 2021 tax year at any point until April 15, 2025, without any penalty.
- Below are the tax credits that most often result in additional refunds:
 - [Earned Income Tax Credit](#)
 - [Child and Dependent Care Credit](#)
 - [Child Tax Credit](#)
- This year, those who don't usually file and didn't qualify for a third-round Economic Impact Payment or got less than the full amount may be eligible to claim the [2021 Recovery Rebate Credit](#) when they file their 2021 tax return.
- For more information, [visit this IRS site](#).

Vital Legal Document Youth Hotline



On May 1, the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) will be opening the "I am Here: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth."

- NN4Y is a membership association of community-based organizations that focus on the needs of youth in runaway and homeless situations.
- The hotline will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the month of May.
- The hotline will provide youth with resources and assistance in accessing:
 - State ID cards and licenses
 - Birth certificates
 - Social Security cards
 - Documents needed to obtain an ID/license
- For more information on the hotline and suggested social media posts, visit the [NN4Y website here](#)

State Updates



- **Gov. Wolf continues to call on the General Assembly to spend a portion of stockpiled state American Rescue Plan dollars on vulnerable communities**
 - Initiatives include doubling the property tax and rent rebate program for seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as sending one-time \$2,000 checks to everyone making under \$80,000 a year.
 - Little chance these will be enacted as the Republican-controlled legislature is not supportive.
- **Recent reports from the state's Independent Fiscal Office detail the effects of a possible minimum wage increase as called for by the Governor's Budget, and the revenue impact of ending property taxes as called for in House Bill 13.**
 - If enacted, the first phase of Gov. Wolf's minimum wage proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$12.00 per hour would give roughly 635,000 low wage workers an average wage gain of \$1,700 per annum, but at a reduction of 5,000 total employment opportunities.
 - If property taxes were ended per House Bill 13, a significant increase in sales & use as well as personal income taxes would be required to meet current PA revenue needs.

Local Updates



- **Pittsburgh City Council expanded inclusionary zoning to Bloomfield and Polish Hill which will mandate low-income housing requirements with any new large-scale development.**
- **City Council also created a task force for itself and Pittsburgh Public Schools to discuss issues around school violence, after-school care, childcare and transportation.**
 - No response yet from PPS as to whether or not they will participate as the bill is non-binding for them.
- **House seats formerly held by Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey and his chief of staff Jake Wheatley were filled in a special election.**
 - Aerion Abney will serve the remainder of Jake Wheatley's term this year, and faces one opponent in the primary in May for the upcoming term.
 - Martell Covington will serve the remainder of Ed Gainey's term this year, and faces several primary opponents in May for the upcoming term.



Active Solicitations

Active Solicitations



[DHS Solicitations Webpage](#)

RFP for Community Violence Reduction Plans for High-Priority Areas

- Due Date: Friday, May 6, 2022

Homeless Prevention and Emergency Shelters

- A partnership between DHS and the City of Pittsburgh
- This RFP is being coordinated through the City, not DHS.
- While you can find the RFP on the DHS Solicitations Webpage, please follow the application guidelines and instructions for submission details.
- Due Date: Friday, May 13, 2022

RFP for Random Moment Time Studies Software

- Due Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022

RFI for a Racial Equity Training and Support Directory

- Due Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Presentation



Investing in Allegheny County Moms

A direct cash payment pilot

Video Presentation



Erin Dalton

Executive Director, DHS

Alex Jutca, Deputy Director

DHS Office of Analytics, Technology and Planning

Tammy Thompson

Executive Director, Catapult of Greater Pittsburgh

[Investing in Allegheny County Moms: A direct cash payment pilot](#)

We want your feedback!



Go to this link for a 2-question survey:

<https://allegHENYcounty.az I .qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SVcROoAY89eEGEnyK>



Next Meeting

5/26/22

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting notices and reminders will come from the staff of the Office of Equity and Engagement.

Here is the link to sign up to receive those notices:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uvw6IMX/ProviderBriefings>

Or email us at DHS-OEE@AlleghenyCounty.us



Allegheny County
Department of
Human Services

Direct Cash Transfers

The Allegheny County DHS Direct Cash Transfer Study

March 2022



What are direct cash transfers?

- Represent an effort to address poverty and the vulnerabilities that can result from it.
- Provide income to households to use however they see fit without requiring certain conditions to be met.
- Help to stabilize families with children and ultimately improve outcomes.
- Are increasingly recognized worldwide for have positive economic and social effects.

Goals for the **DHS Direct Cash Payment Study**

- Understand whether financial resources are effective at keeping families safe, together, and limiting interactions with child welfare.
 - The treatment group will receive a more substantial cash payment than the control group.
- We will survey participants periodically to measure short and long-term outcomes.
- Determine if outcomes for the treatment group have improved to inform DHS prevention strategy.

Economic instability can lead to CYF involvement

CYF Allegation Types and Needs

#	CYF Allegation Type	% GPS	% CPS	Potential Needs
1	Inadequate Physical Care	18%	4%	Economic means; stress reduction
	Inadequate Home	10%	2%	Economic means; capacity
	Neglect	10%	2%	Economic means; stress reduction; capacity
	Unable to Care	9%	2%	Economic means; capacity
2	Substance Abuse	22%	4%	Treatment; stress reduction if self-medicating
	Risk Exposure	16%	3%	Treatment; stress reduction if self-medicating
	Mental Health	8%	3%	Economic means; stress reduction; capacity; treatment
3	Physical Maltreatment	16%	74%	Emotional regulation; stress reduction
4	Domestic Violence	7%	3%	Will and ability to leave
5	Sexual Abuse	3%	18%	Treatment; will and ability to leave

Global Research

- There is significant research on cash transfers in low- and middle-income countries
- Increasing evidence that cash transfers reduce monetary poverty
- GiveDirectly – forecast to reach two million people and distribute \$2 billion annually in cash transfers
- Some flagship projects such as Progresa (MX) have shown important long-run effects on children after 20 years, including 15% higher income
- Meta-analyses find no effects on consumption of “temptation goods”

U.S. Research

- \$1,300 (10%) increase in income in a child's 1st year of life for a 1st child increases young adult earnings $\geq 1-2\%$
 - Anticipated by increases in math and reading test scores and high school graduation rates.
- Using payouts from casinos to Native American families, higher financial resources resulted in better:
 - Educational outcomes
 - Mental health outcomes
 - Parent-child relationships
- Among EITC recipients, \$1,000 increase in income raised combined math and reading test scores by 6% of an S.D., with larger effects for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Few studies on effects of income on child welfare outcomes:
 - \$100/year increase in child support associated with 2 percentage point decrease in screen-in referrals for child abuse.
 - Increase in EITC of \$1,000 decreased the probability of CPS involvement by 7-10% for single mother families and families with two or more children at age of 3.
 - \$1 increase in minimum wage associated with 9.6% decline in neglect reports.

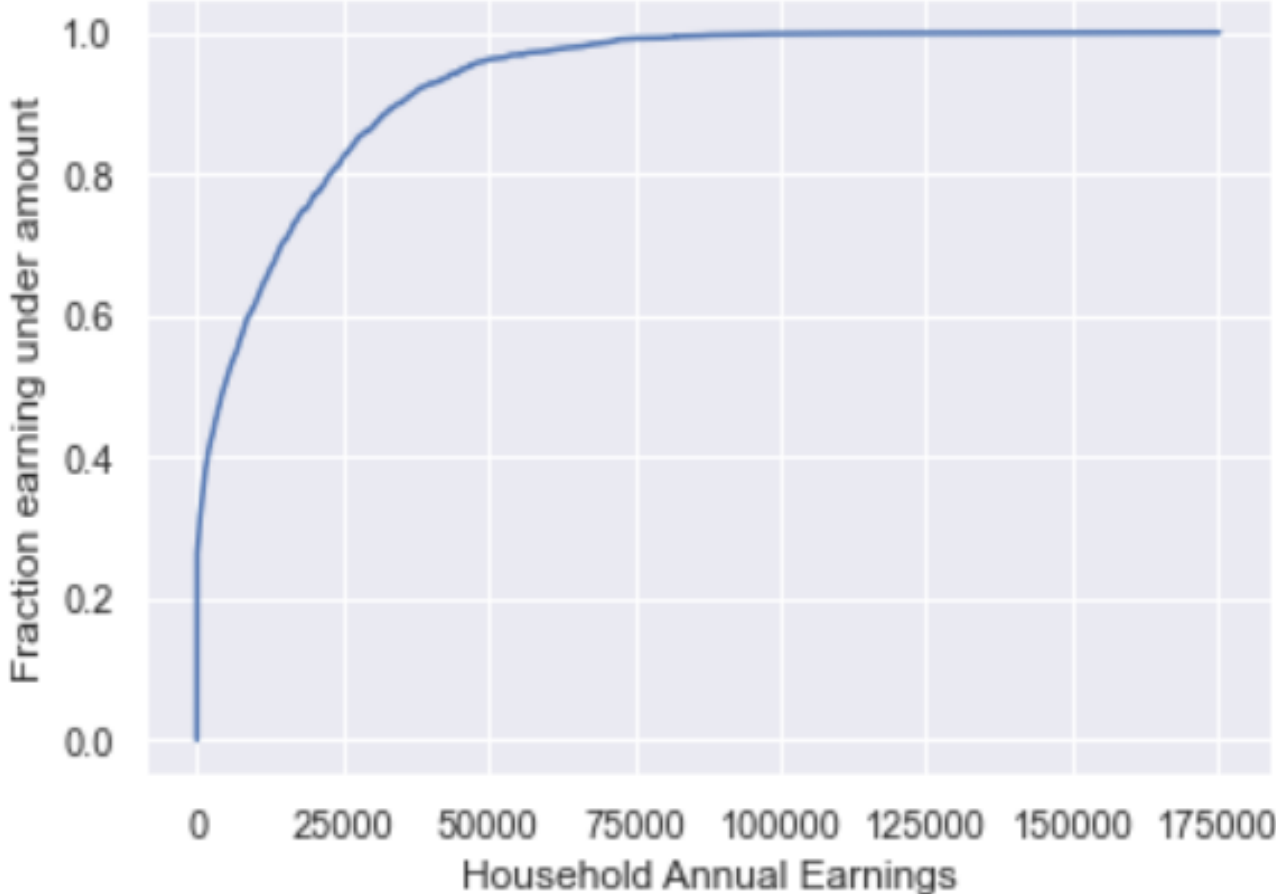
U.S. Research

- Recent increase in interest for cash transfer pilots (20+ since 2018)
 - Mayors for a Guaranteed Income is in 12 cities, including Pittsburgh
 - Y Combinator 3K-person pilot in Chicago
 - Two pilots in Philadelphia
 - GiveDirectly trials with EBT card holders during the pandemic and for women in Georgia
 - San Diego pilot for CYF-involved children
 - Chicago trial for CYF-involved children (early planning)
 - L.A. pilot for 1K participants
 - Baby's First Years

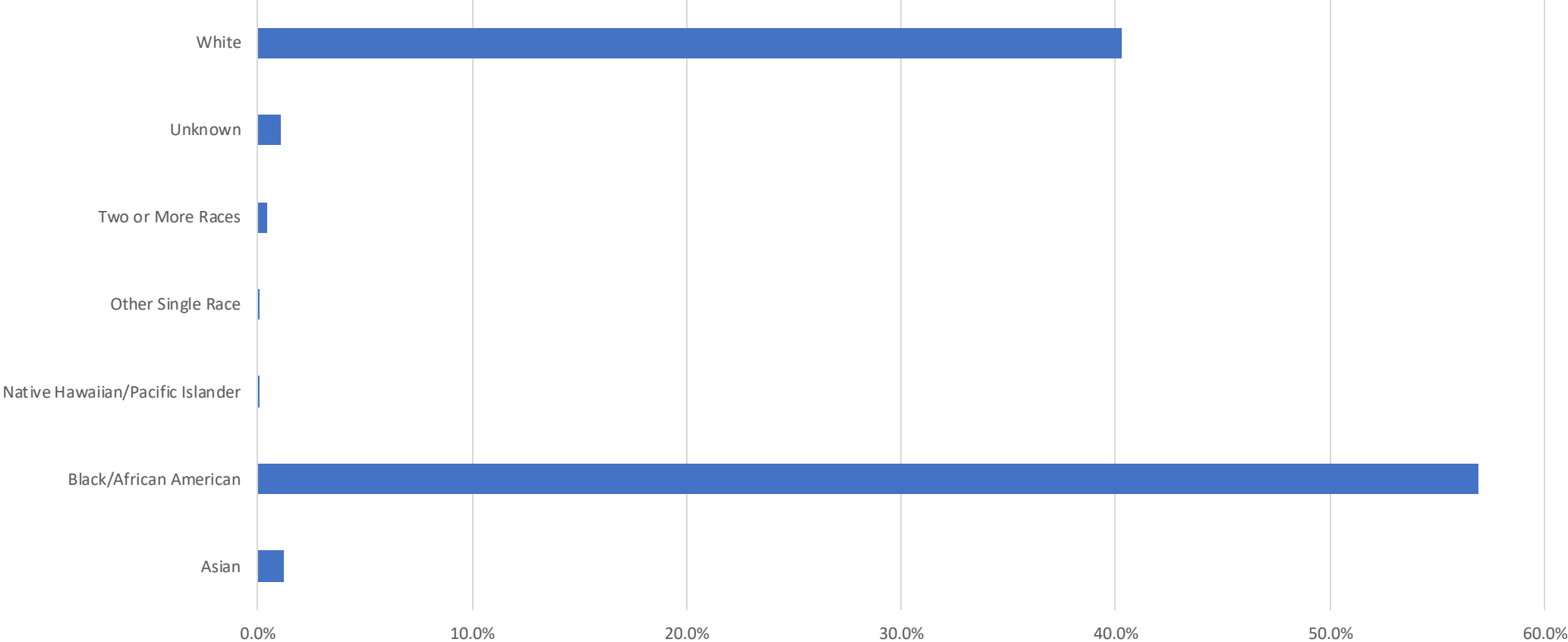
Details

- Eligible participants: all Hello Baby mothers and families with new babies who are scored medium-to-high risk of the child being removed from the home within two years of birth since launch on 9/1/2020 (4,273 as of 2/28)
 - 1 in 9 risk of child removal
 - Exclude SSI recipients due to benefits eligibility and size
- Pilot with two groups (chosen randomly)
 - Treatment: \$7,500 one-time, unconditional payment
 - Control: \$200
 - All participants will receive at least \$700 if surveys completed
 - For treatment group, cash transfer would double HH income for 50+% of participants
- Payments are one-time and unconditional
 - Minimizes benefits/tax impact
 - Maximizes family discretion and financial options

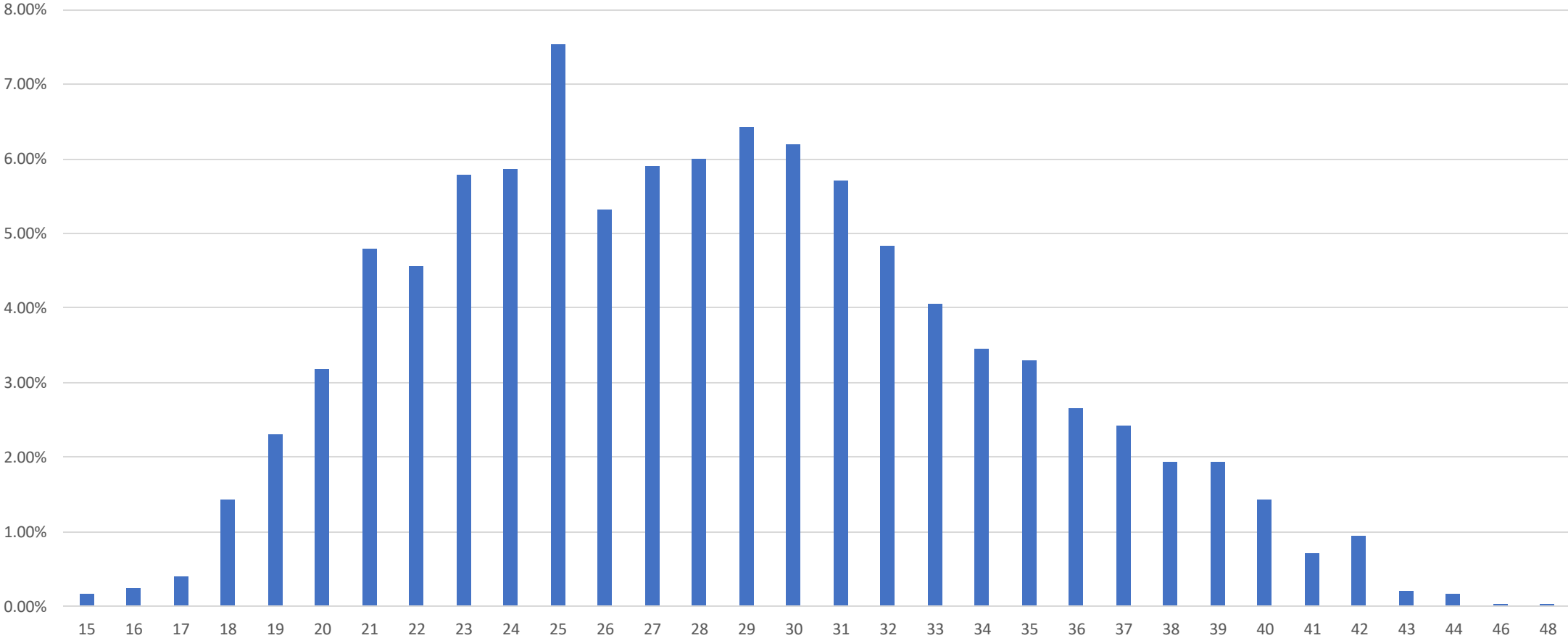
Participant Demographics: HH Income



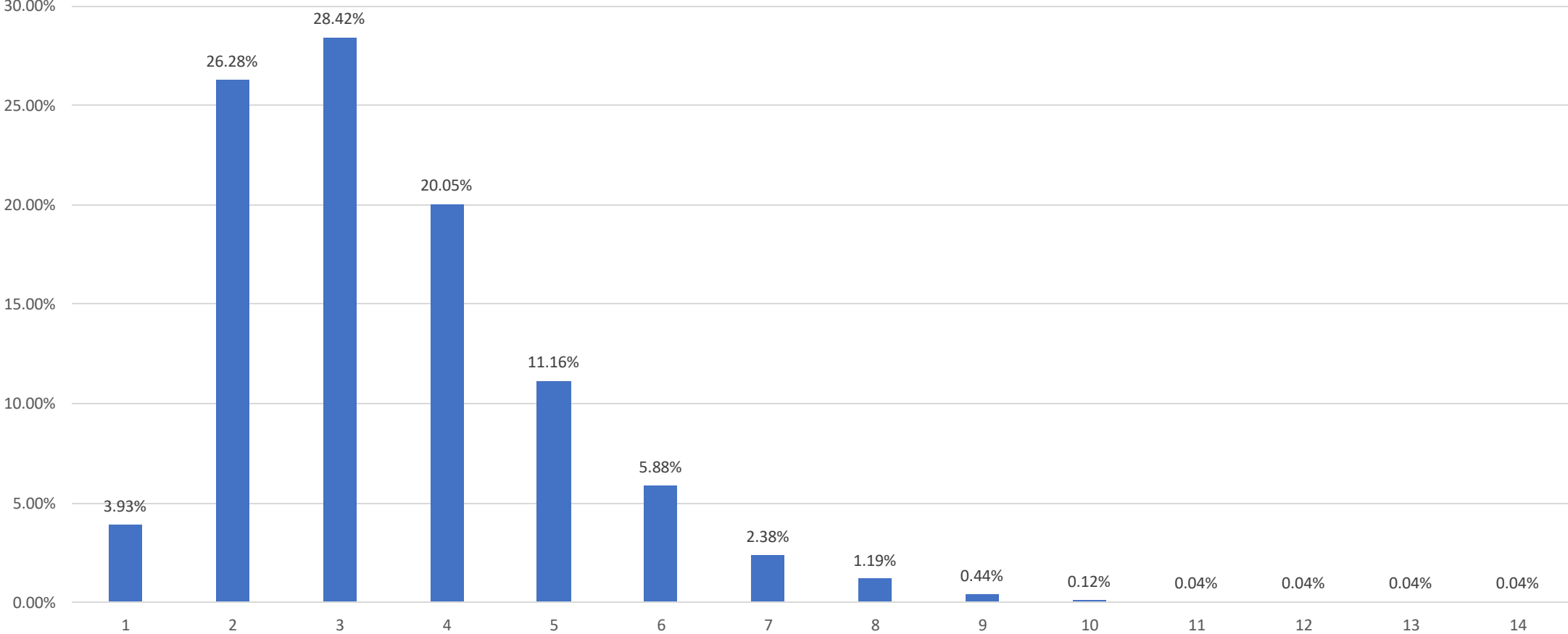
Participant Demographics: Race



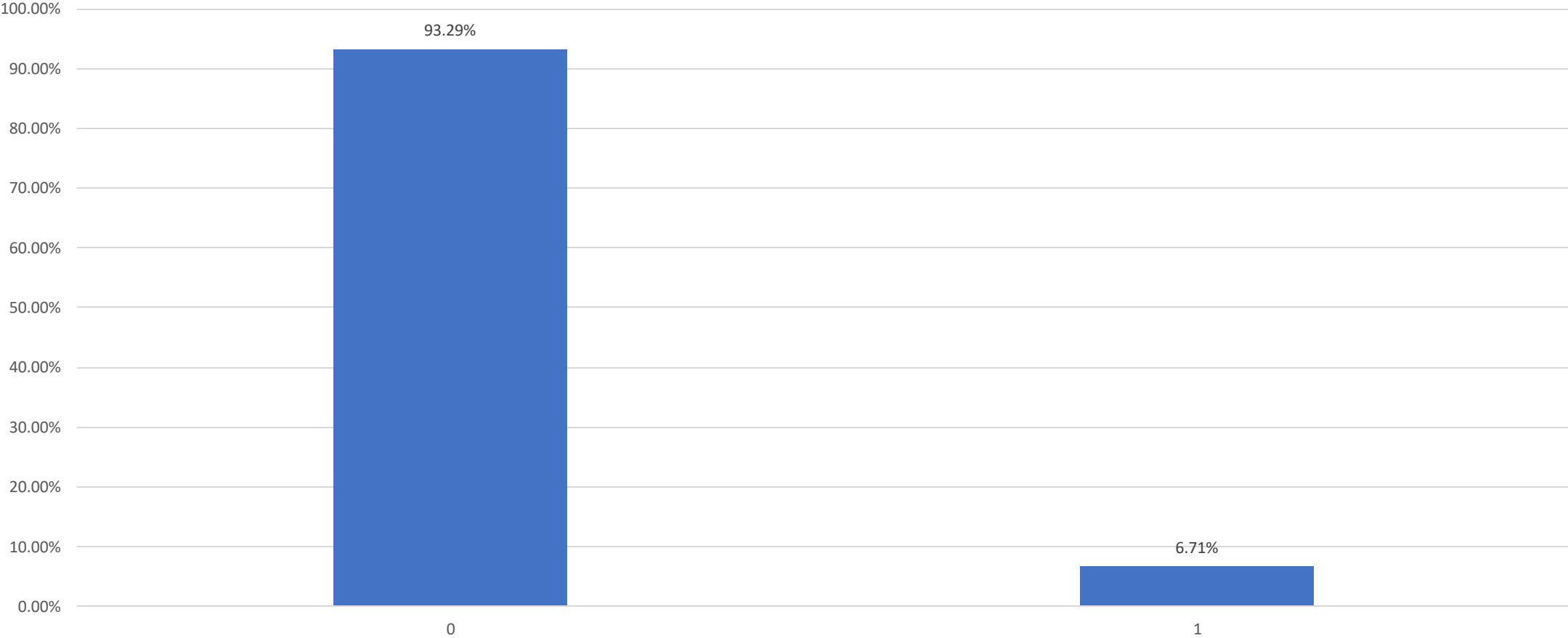
Participant Demographics: Age



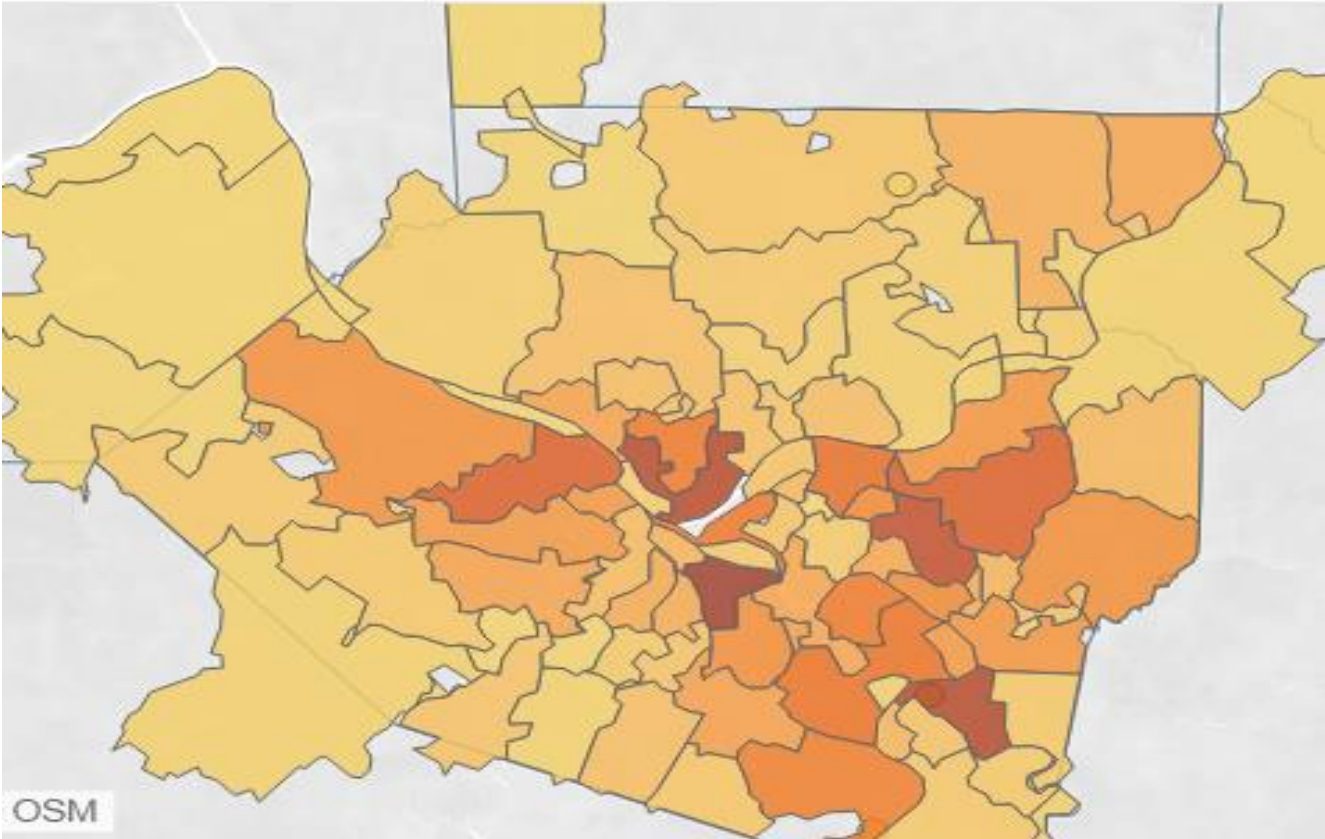
Participant Demographics: Household Size



Participant Demographics: Marital Status



Participant Demographics: Neighborhoods



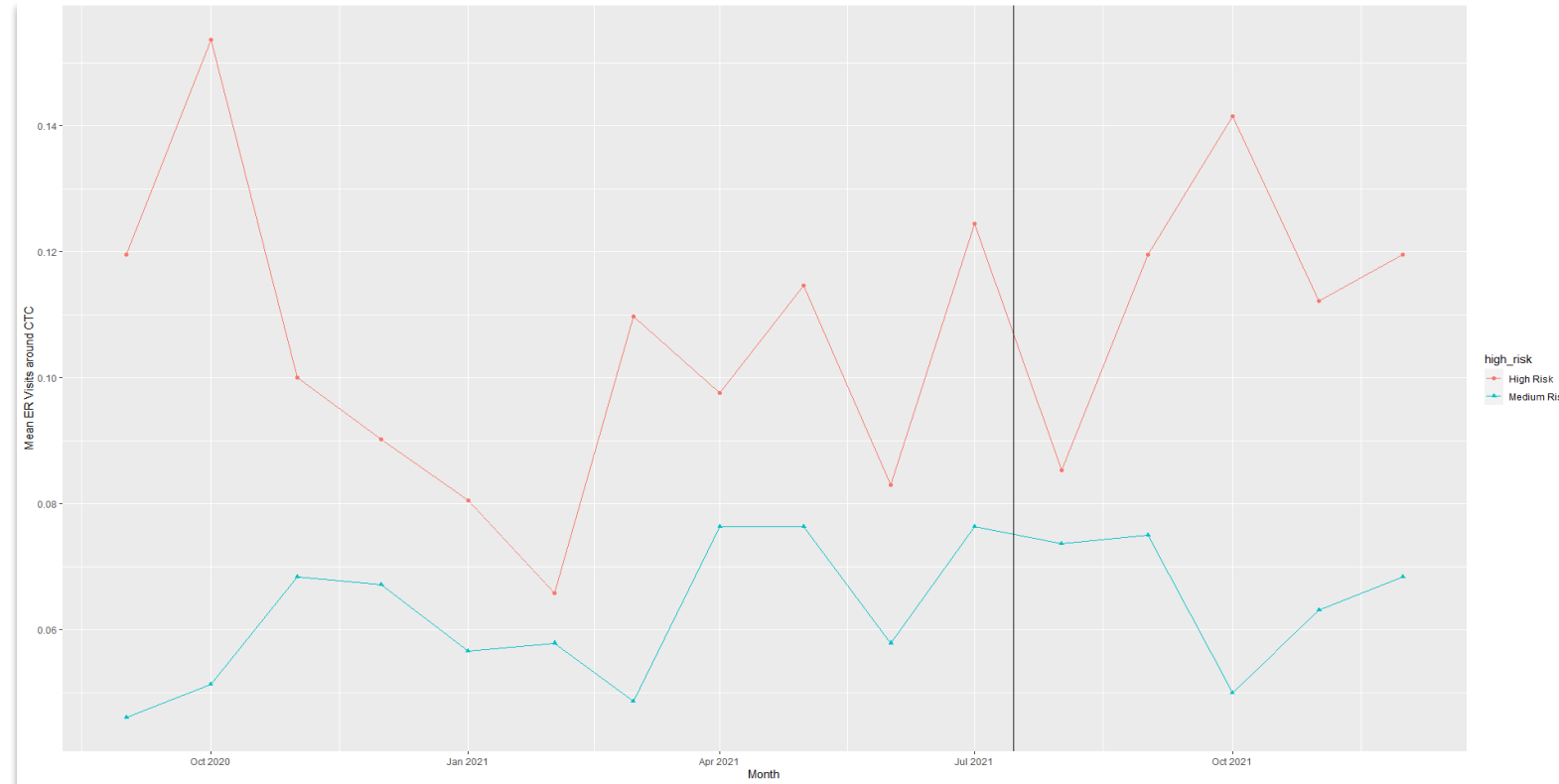
Success Metrics

- Outcomes drawn from both administrative data and survey data
- **Short-run outcomes:**
 - Child welfare: referrals, investigations, open cases, removals, re-referrals, child health
 - Family and living situation: housing stability and neighborhood quality, family composition, time use
 - Mom's well-being: work, earnings, empowerment index, mental health
 - Household interactions with the state: criminal-justice involvement, benefits receipt, hospital usage
- **Long-term outcomes:**
 - Child and sibling education: GPA, disciplinary infractions, HS graduation, college enrollment, college graduation
 - Child and sibling labor: employment, earnings

Did the CTC

worsen outcomes for families in high-risk situations?

- CTC is an interesting lab
 - Eligibility unaffected by CYF involvement, substance use, DV issues
 - Not conditional on engagement with services (e.g., treatment)
- We found no increases from CTC on ER visits or CYF for mothers in higher risk situations



Operations



Eligible Population

Hello Baby mothers since 9/1/2020 with scores 15-20

- Must receive public benefits
- Must have low income
- Must not receive SSI benefits



- Letters
- Texts
- Calls



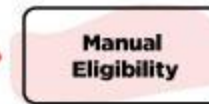
Website includes account creation; participants will be asked to supply personal info; benefits usage; upload ID; and consent to financial terms



In the initial eligibility screen, participants will be asked to provide: Name, Gender, DOB,SSN, and baby's DOB.



Rejection email

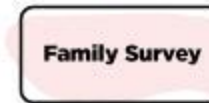


Rejection email

Consent?

Yes

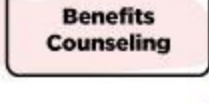
No



Baseline surveys each worth \$50 can opt out of either/both



Control \$200



Treatment \$7.5K



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