



# Income Support During COVID-19 and ongoing challenges

## Andrew Heisz, Statistics Canada



Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



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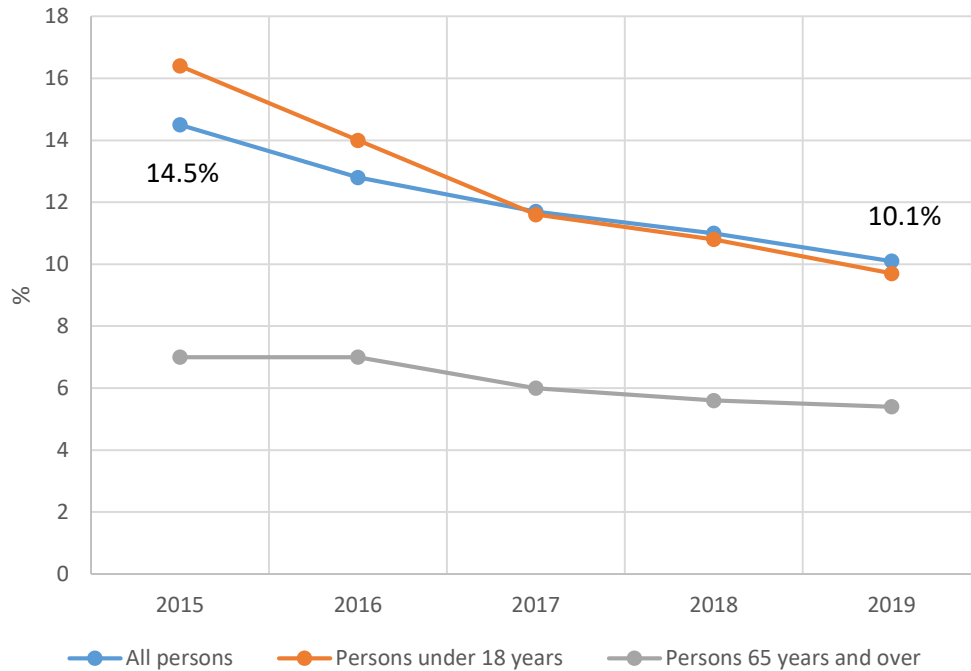
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## Outline

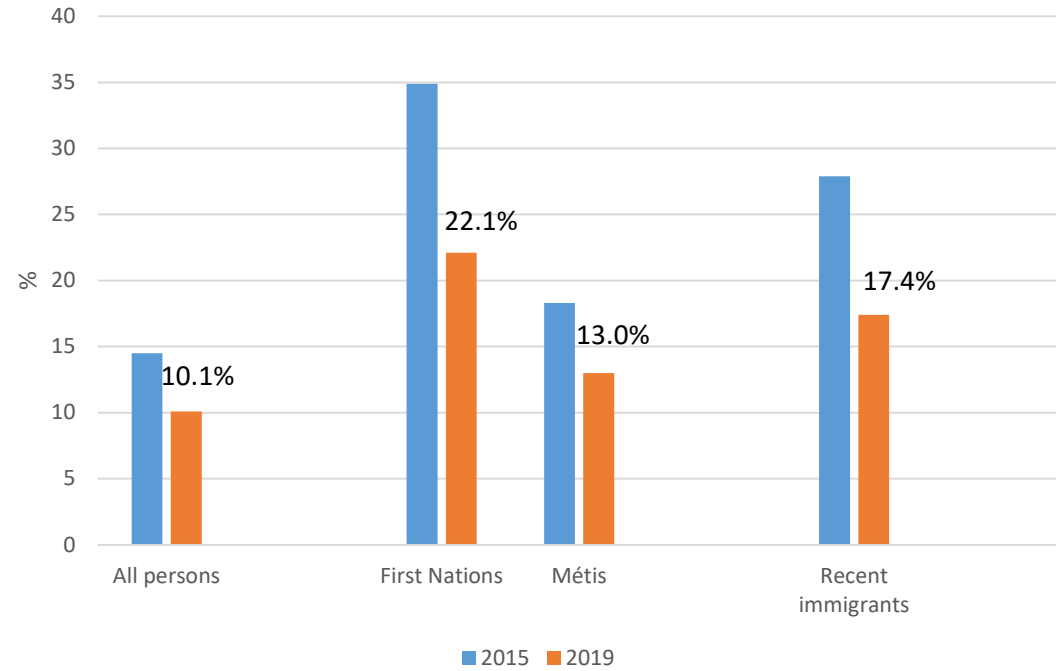
- What were pre-pandemic poverty conditions?
- What were the labour market impacts of the pandemic?
- Who received pandemic benefits?
- What was the role of pandemic benefits in reducing low income and inequality
- What are some ongoing challenges?
- What is the Disaggregated Data Action plan?

Pre-pandemic, the poverty rate was falling, especially for children, though differences were persistent across groups

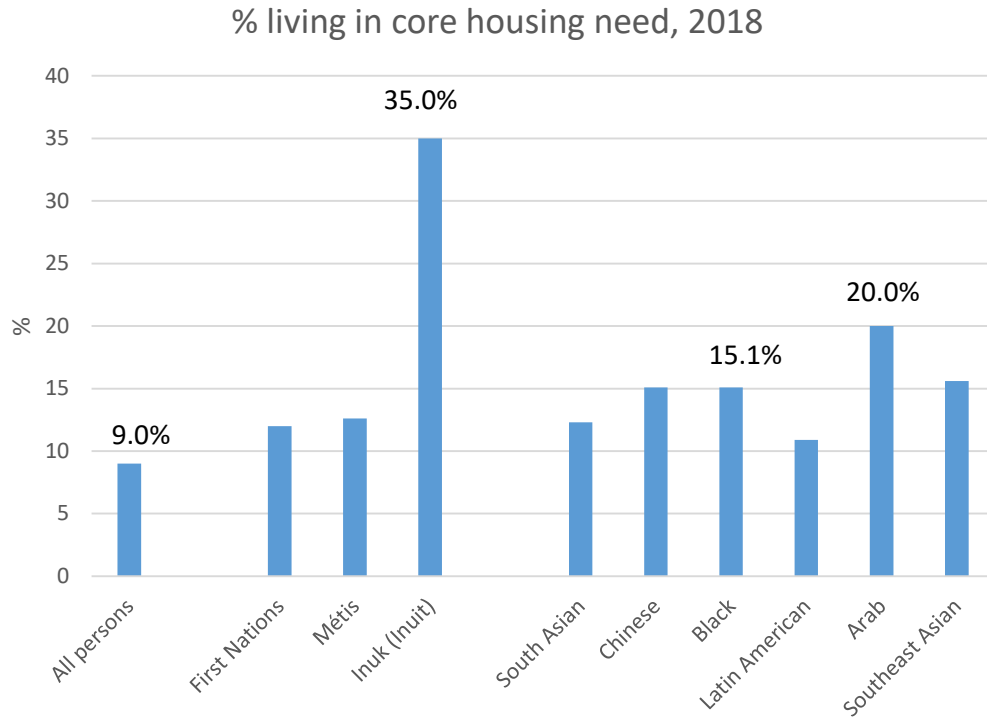
Poverty Rate (Market Basket Measure), by age group



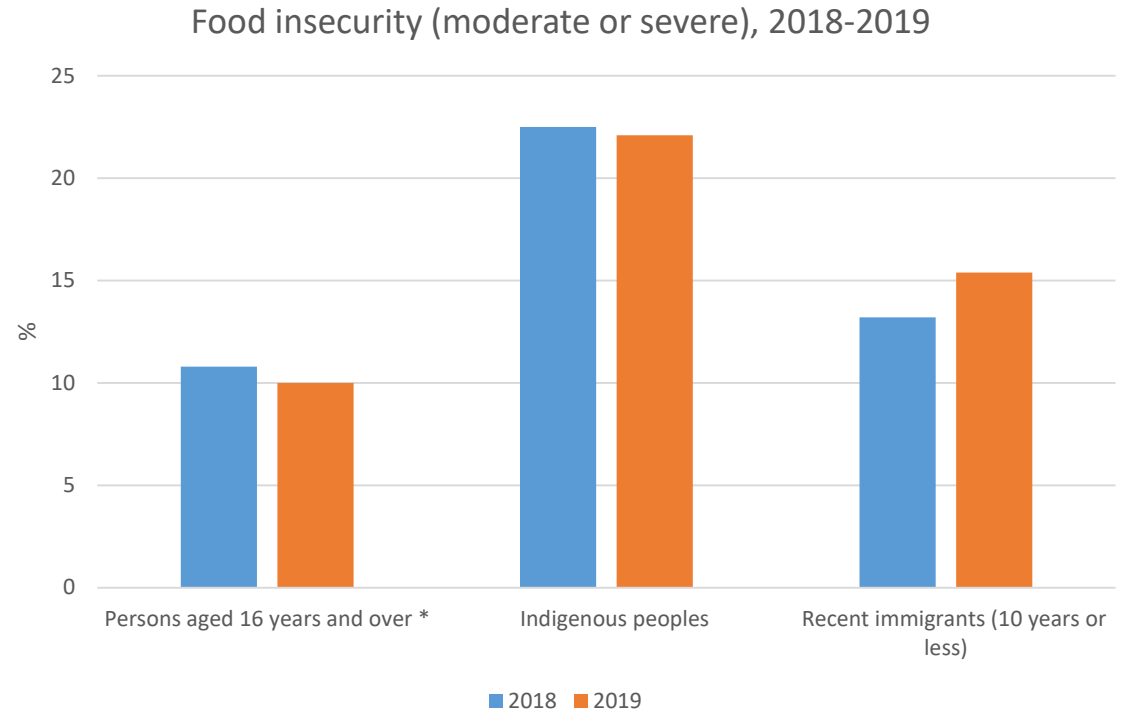
Poverty rate (MBM), by population group



# Pre-pandemic: Differences were also seen across other dimensions of poverty



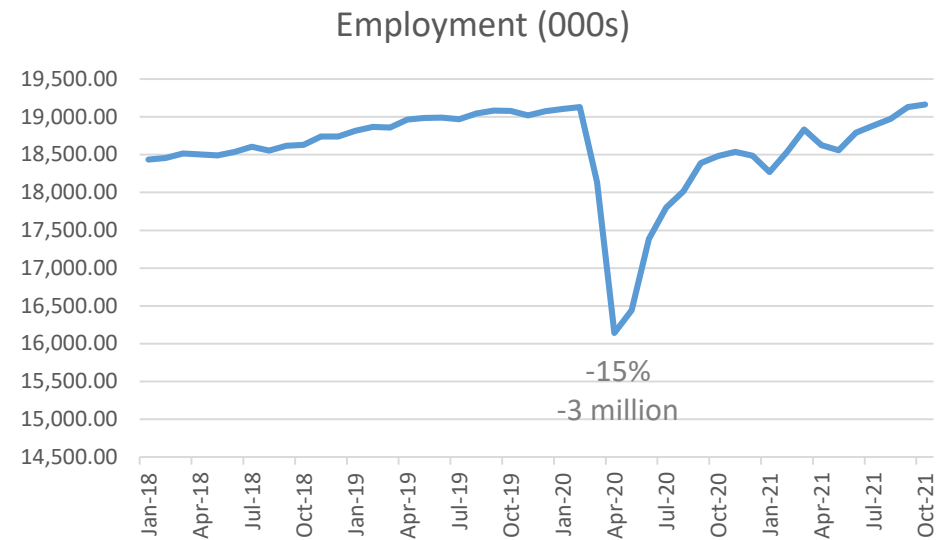
Source: Canadian Housing Survey, Statistics Canada



\*Indicates that the 2019 food insecurity rate is statistically different from the 2018 rate (90% confidence level).

Source: Canadian Income Survey, Statistics Canada

# Pandemic declines in employment were felt unequally

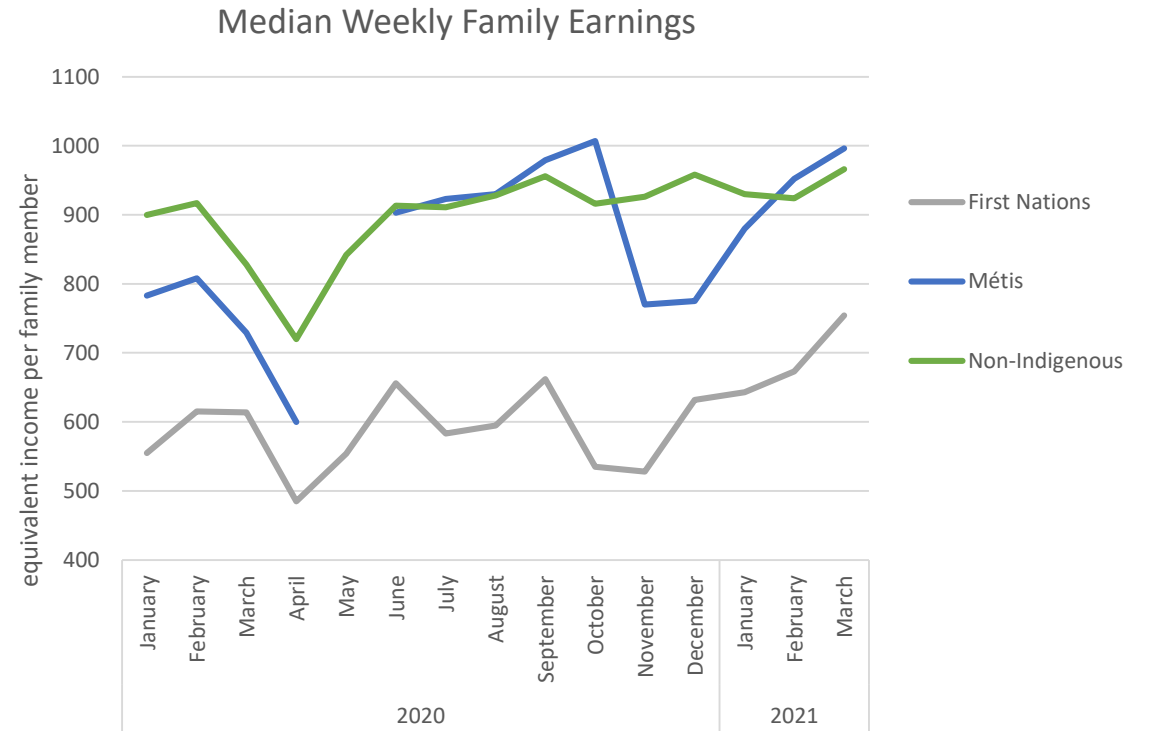
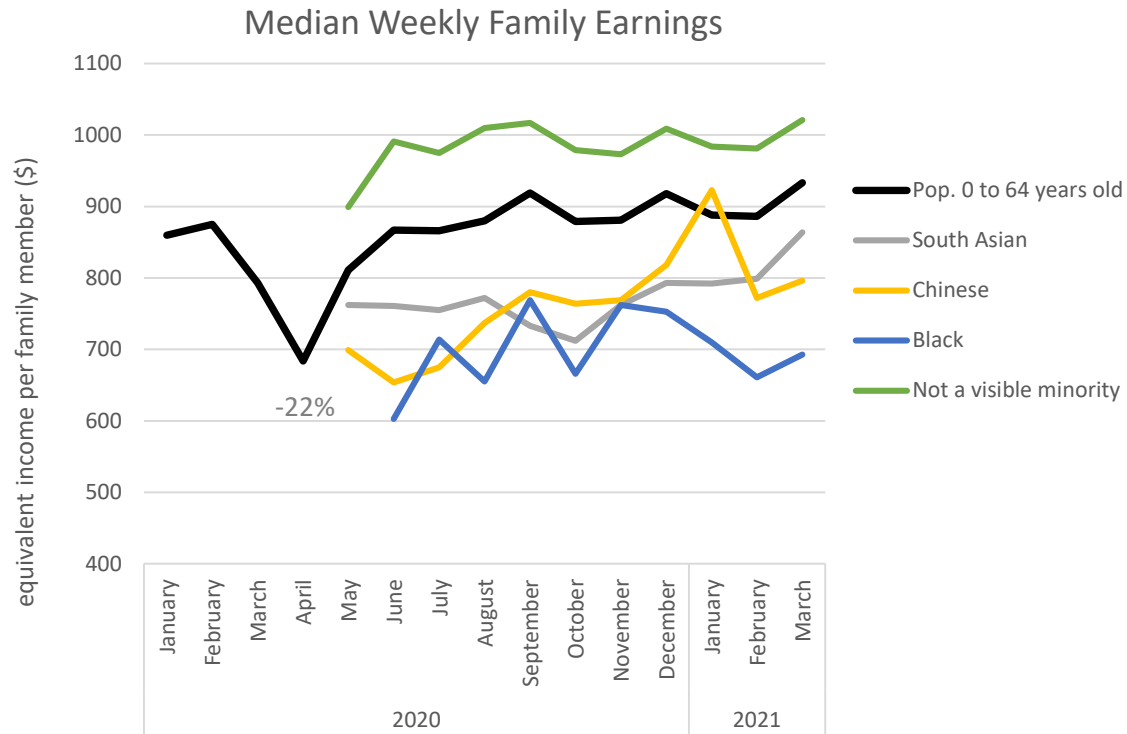


Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

Employment losses were greater for:

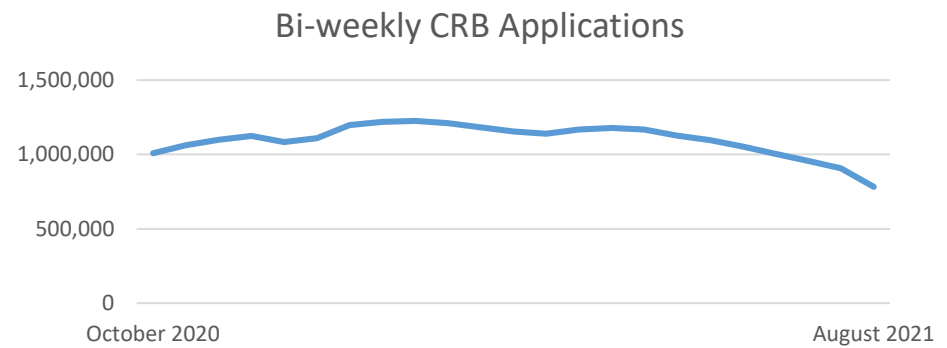
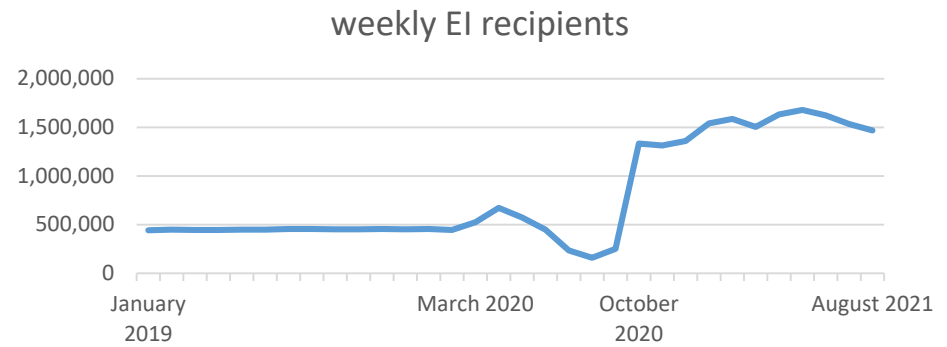
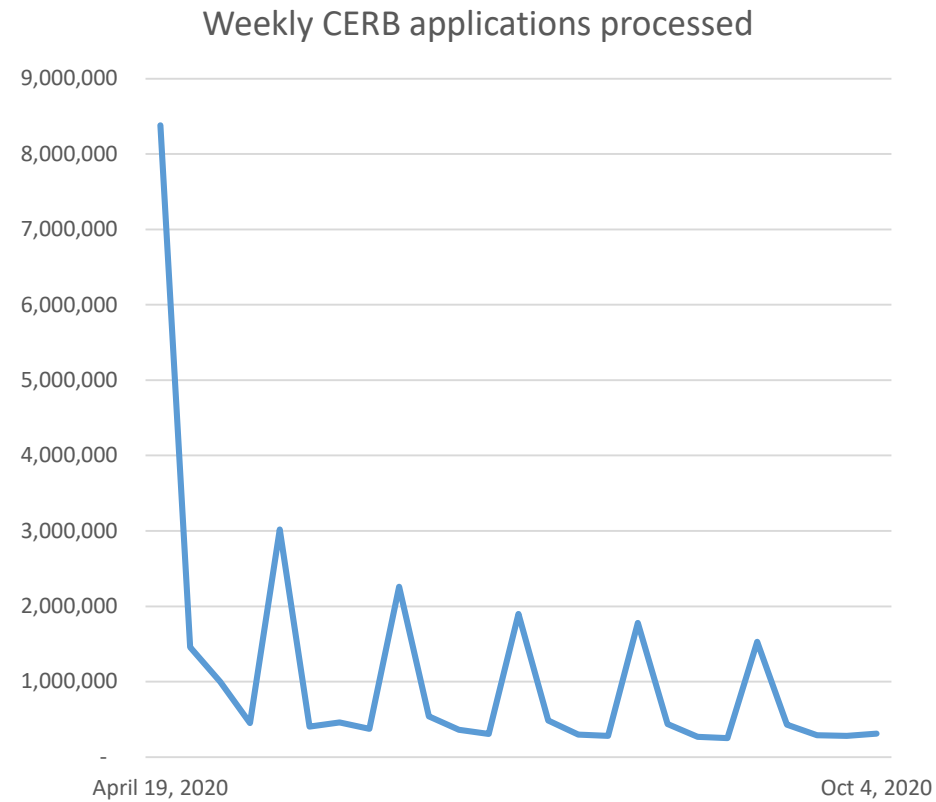
- Women
- Recent immigrants
- Workers with lower earnings and education
- Industries requiring personal contact

# Family earnings fell between February and April 2020...



Source: Statistics Canada, Experimental weekly income estimates, July 2021

# Pandemic relief benefits provided temporary financial support to millions of Canadians...

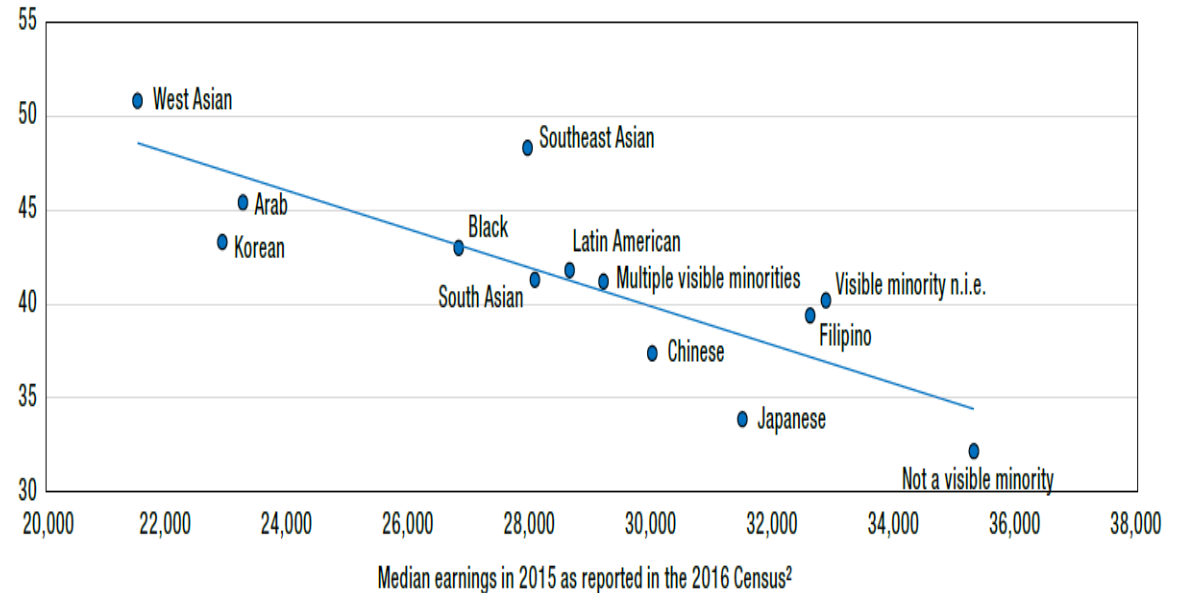


## Who received CERB?

- CERB receipts line up closely with groups impacted most in the labour market
- Workers initially employed in industries that were severely affected by economic lockdowns were the most likely to receive CERB payments
  - More than 60% of workers in Accommodation and food services; Arts, entertainment and recreation industries received CERB
  - More than 60% of workers in the bottom 30% of earners received CERB
- Workers from visible minority groups with lower earnings received CERB more often

### Workers<sup>1</sup> in population groups previously with higher median employment income were less likely to have received CERB payments

Percentage who received CERB amounts in 2020<sup>1</sup>



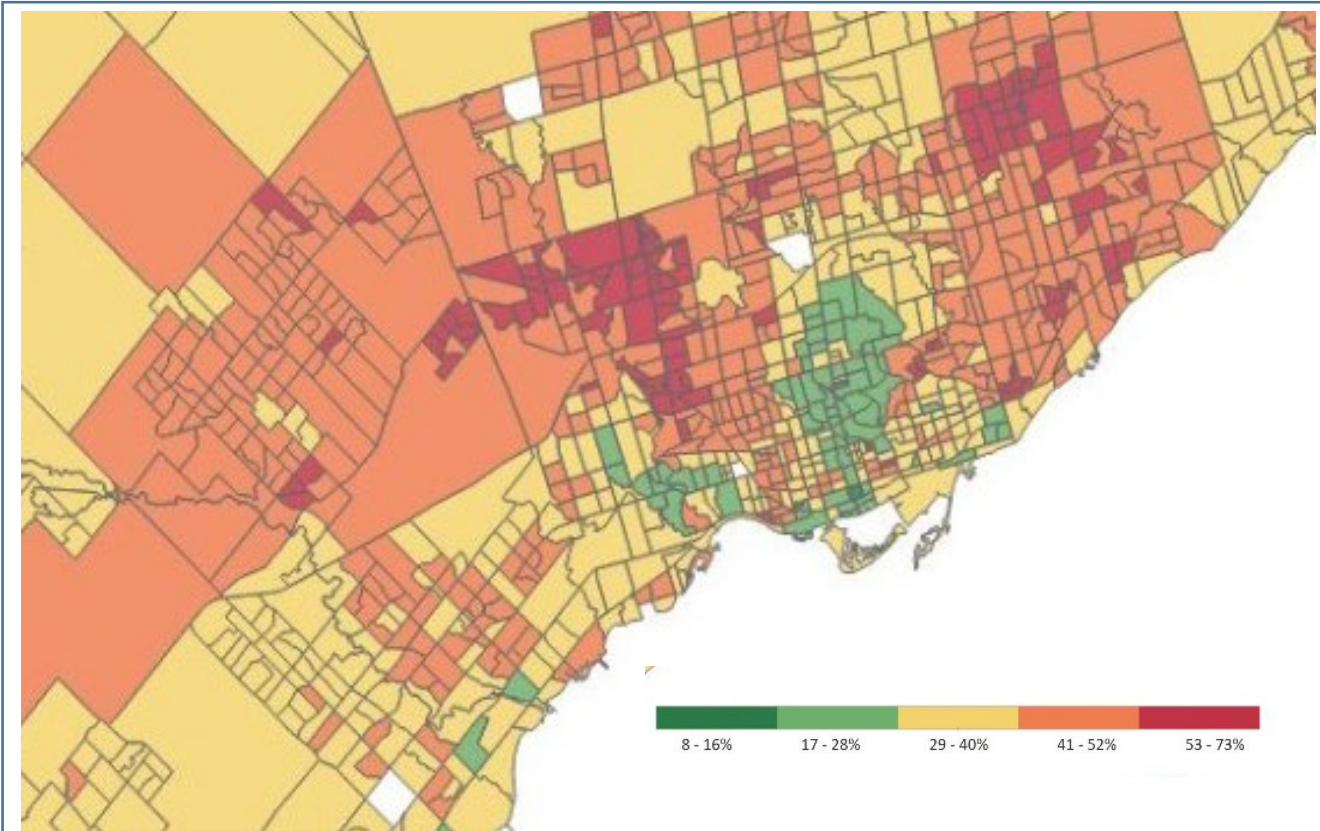
1. Among workers who earned \$5,000 or more in 2019.

2. Among persons 15 years of age or older with employment earnings in 2015.

Source: Statistics Canada, Emergency and recovery benefits, March 2020 to September 2020 and Census of Population, 2016.



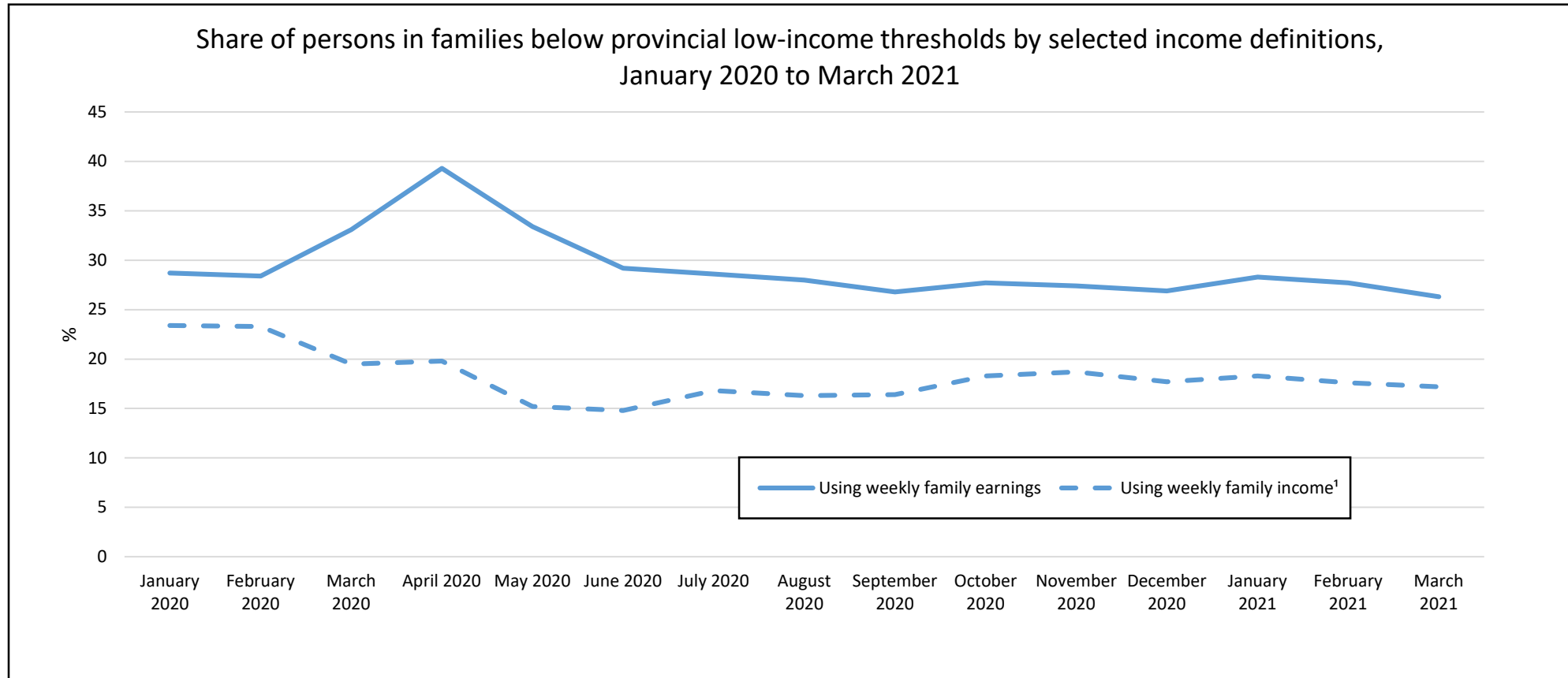
## Some pockets with more intense usage in the GTA...



1. Percentage who received any Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) in 2020 among workers who earned at least \$5,000 in 2019.

- Lower CERB usage associated with the affluent downtown core
- Higher CERB usage in the suburbs

# Pandemic benefits averted a potential surge in low income



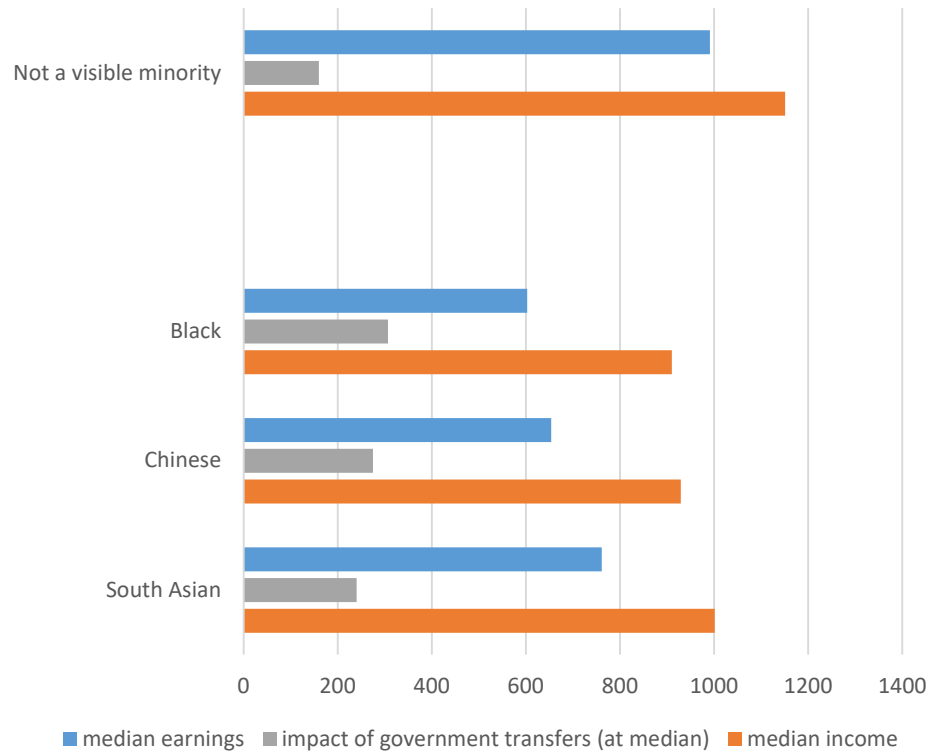
1. Earnings plus GST/HST credits, child benefits, EI, emergency and recovery benefits.

Note(s): Data exclude people living with seniors aged 65 and older. Results represent the percentage of people below their respective provincial threshold.

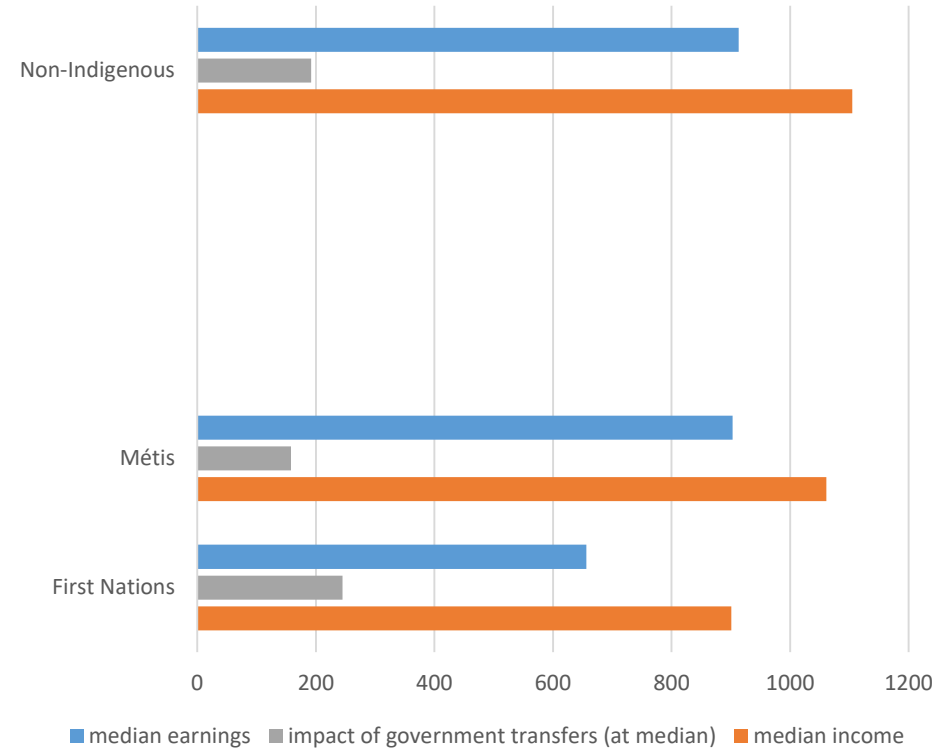
Source(s): Experimental weekly income estimates, July 2021 (75F0002M2021006).

# Pandemic benefits raised incomes more for Visible Minorities, First Nations

Median earnings, income and government transfers, June 2019, selected groups

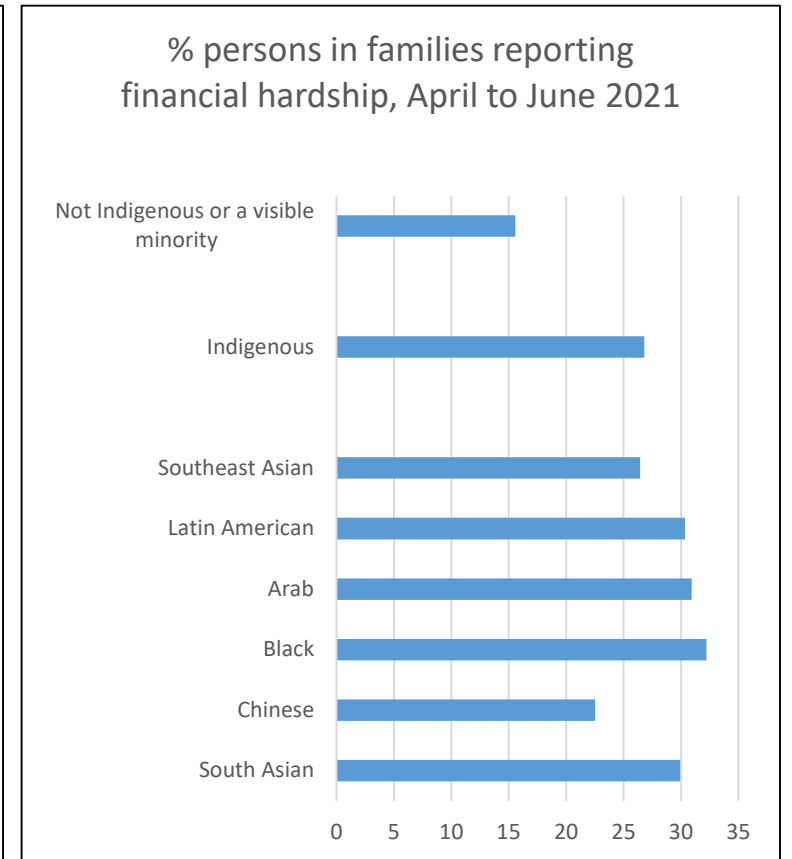
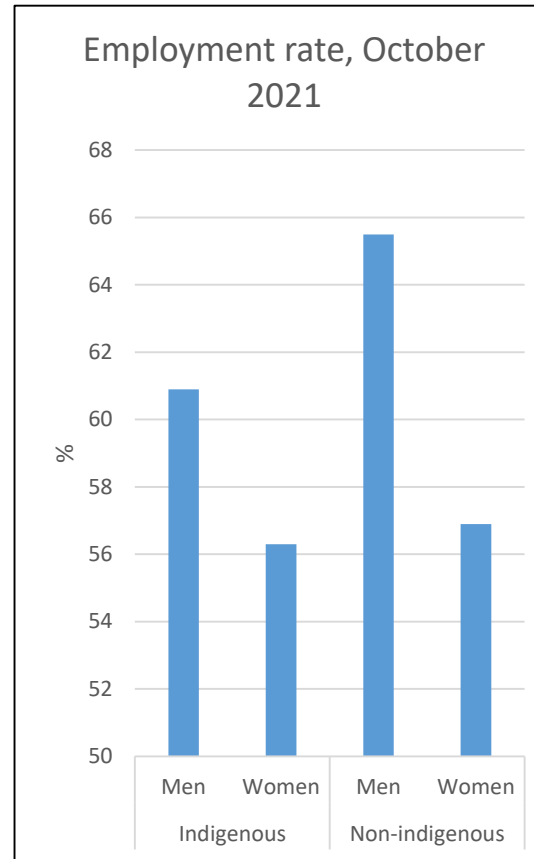
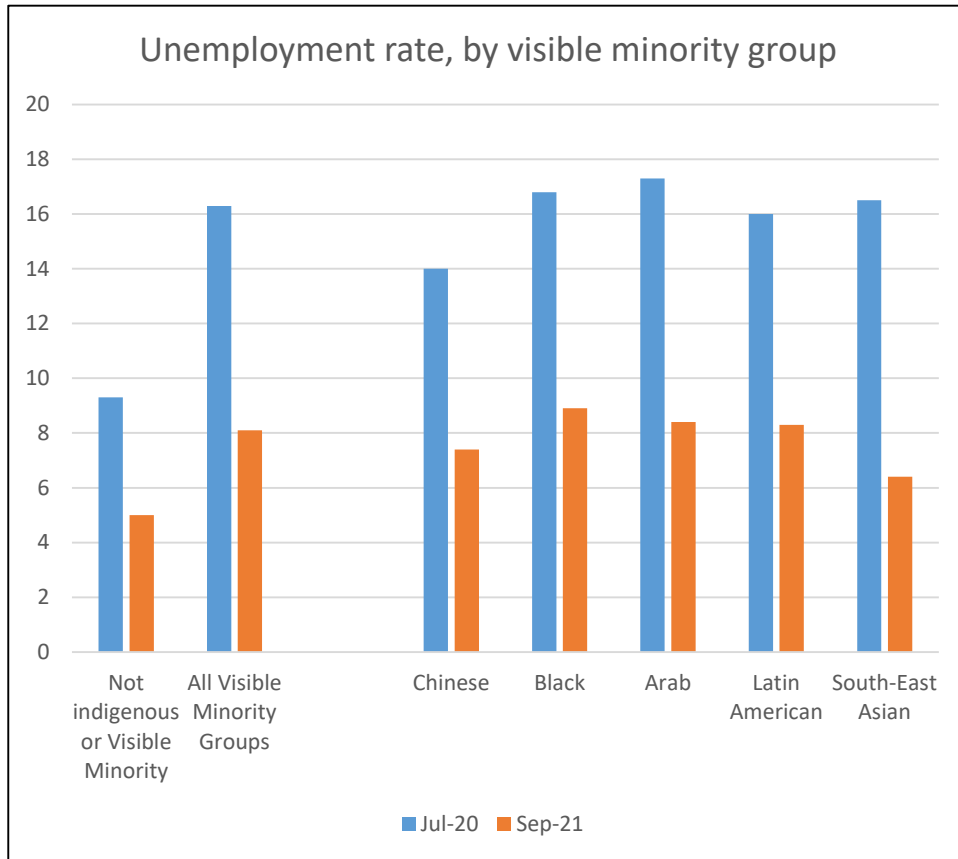


Median earnings, income and government transfers, June 2019



- Government transfers (mostly pandemic benefits, but also CCB and GST credits) increased incomes more for Black, Chinese, South Asian and First Nations (where earnings were lower)
- Thus, they reduced inequalities from the labour market

# Labour market is improving quickly but persistent gaps in labour market and financial well-being outcomes remain concerns going forward



- By October 2021, when the CRB program closed, about 800,000 people were receiving CRB. According to the Labour Force Survey, approximately half were in a population group designated as a visible minority

# DISAGGREGATED DATA ACTION PLAN

**Achieving a more equitable Canada by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating disaggregated data to improve insights and decision-making**

## **Guiding Principles**

- Data and analyses should be disaggregated at the **lowest level of detail** possible while respecting quality and confidentiality
- Analysis should focus on **intersectionality** (e.g., young, black, women) as opposed to binary interactions
- Statistics Canada's **approved standards** should be used for disaggregation across all programs
- Data should be available at the **lowest level of geography** possible

## **Essential Disaggregation (including subcategories)**

- Indigenous Persons, Racialized Groups, Gender, Disability Status

## **Additional Disaggregation Priorities (including subcategories)**

- Sexual Orientation, Official Language, Children, Seniors, Immigrants, Low-Income, Veterans

