

# Pandemic-Related Economic Impact Payments (EIPs): 2021

## Survey of Income and Program Participation Snapshots

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**73%** of adults 18 and over received stimulus checks in 2021.

Some groups, like Asian adults and those with a bachelor's degree or more, were less likely to report EIP receipt while others, like those over the age of 70 and those with only a high school degree, were more likely to report EIP receipt.

**2 in 5** EIP recipients mostly used their stimulus checks for everyday expenses (e.g., food, rent, utilities) or to purchase other items.

The next most common uses of the stimulus checks were paying down debt (35 percent) and saving the money (23 percent). Only 2 percent of EIP recipients reported giving their stimulus payments away to charity or someone else in need.

**29%** of EIP recipients with at least a bachelor's degree primarily saved their EIPs.

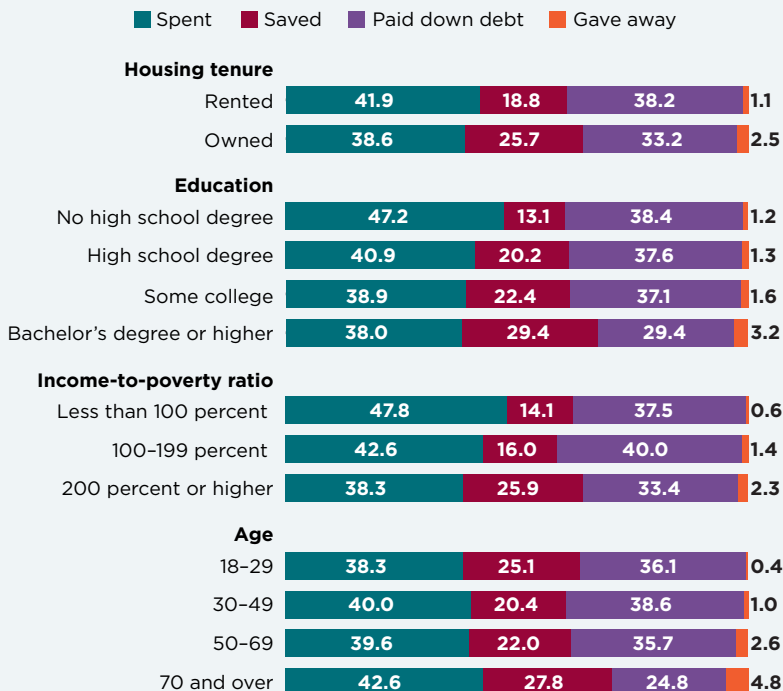
Those with less education were less likely to primarily save their EIPs. About 13 percent of those with no high school degree primarily saved their stimulus checks compared to about 20 percent of those with a high school degree and about 22 percent of those with some college.

### What are EIPs?

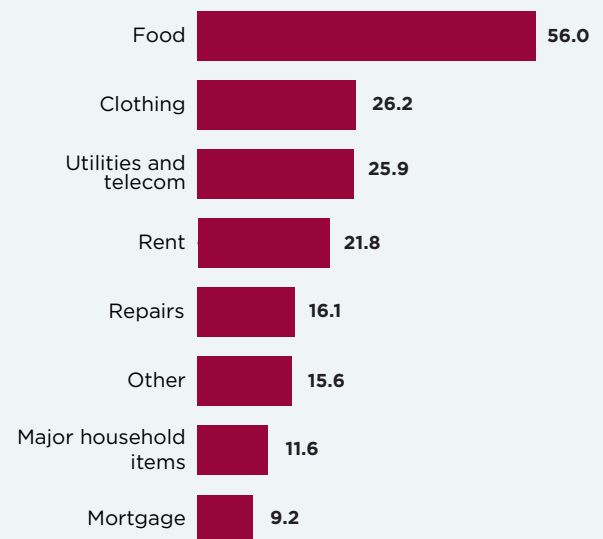
**Economic Impact Payments** (EIPs or "stimulus checks") were direct relief payments sent to millions of Americans in response to the pandemic-induced economic hardship. In total, three different EIPs were distributed, with the second and third payments occurring partially or fully in 2021. EIPs were received by most adults under a defined income threshold with the amount of each payment depending on the number of adults and children in the family.

**More information** on EIPs and other social safety net programs is available in [fact sheets](#), [detailed program participation tables](#), [interactive data visualizations](#), and [reports](#).

### Primary Use of EIPs for Adults Aged 18 and Over by Group: 2021 (In percent)



### Spending Categories Among Those Who Primarily Spent their EIPs: 2021 (In percent)



Note: Numbers do not sum to 100 because respondents could report multiple spending categories.