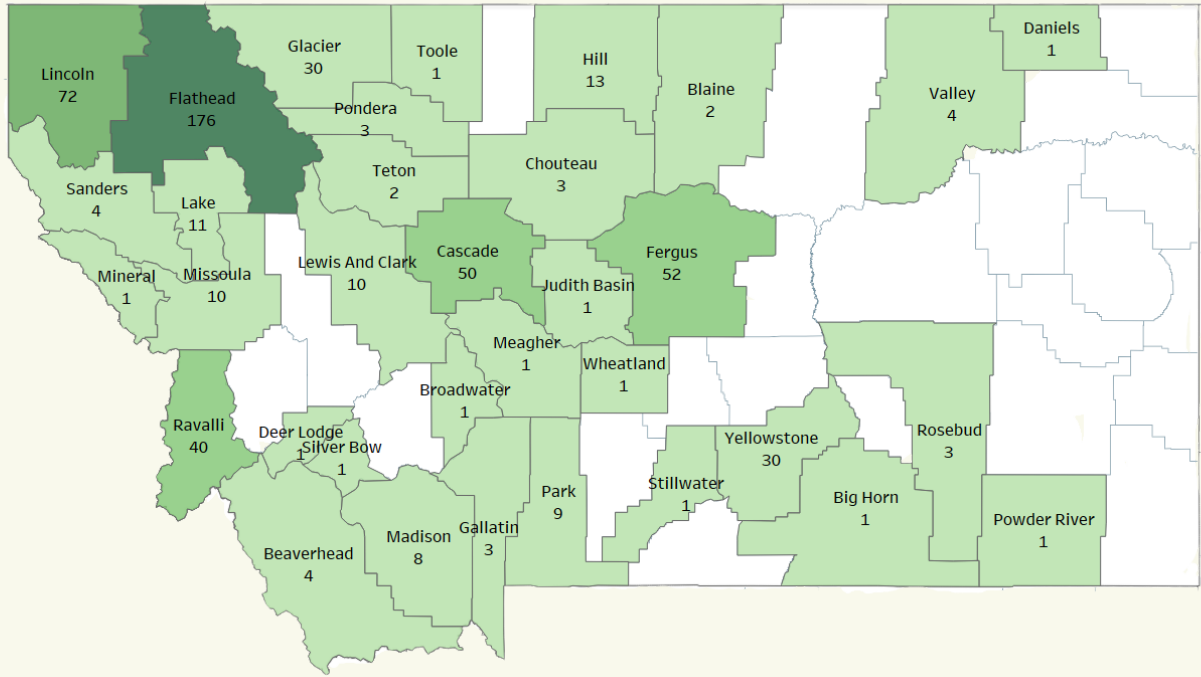


Montana Food Bank Network conducted a follow-up survey to our 2020 COVID-19 Client Impact Survey to measure how the pandemic continues to effect Montanans. MFBN provided survey materials to 134 food pantries and other network partners, who distributed the one-page survey to households participating in their programs and services. The survey was open from July 1 to July 31, 2021. A total of 551 households completed the survey, across 43 Montana counties.

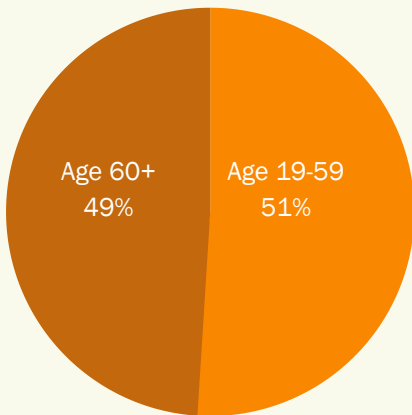


Responses by County



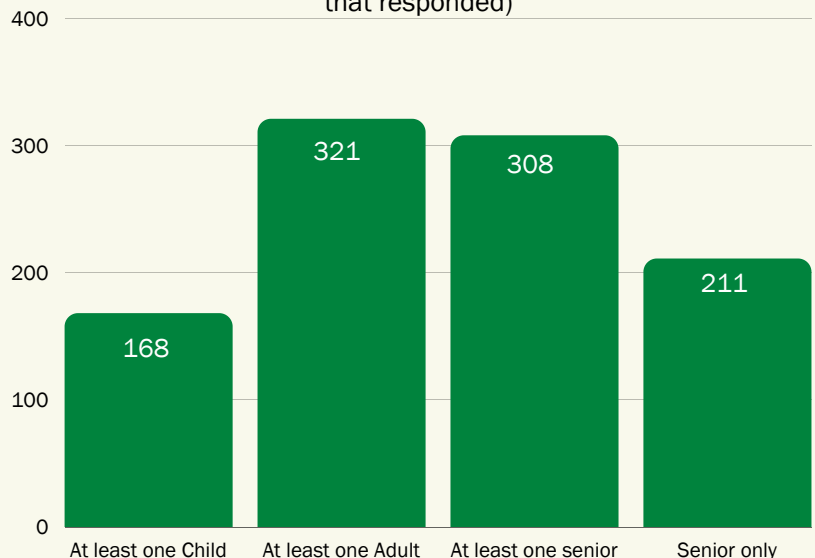
"My family of three became homeless in the start of the pandemic. We had lived with other family members but they were financially impacted, causing us to relocate. Our only option was motels, which depleted our income quick."

Age of Respondent



Household Demographics

Number of households that have at least one adult (age 19-59), child (18 or younger) or senior (60 or over) (out of 551 households that responded)

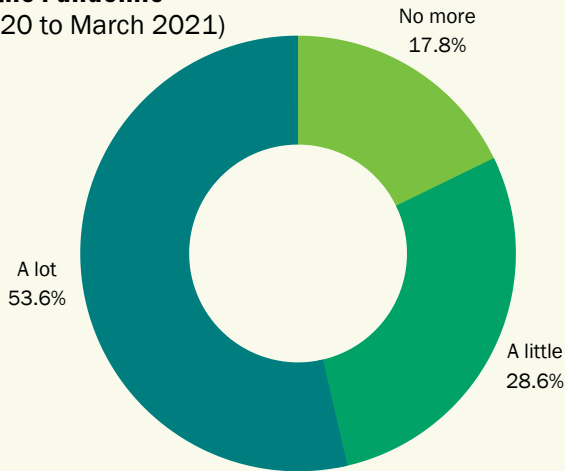


Challenge Making Ends Meet

Households were asked to indicate if their ability to make ends meet during the height of the pandemic and over the next six months was no more, a little more, or a lot more challenging compared to before the pandemic.

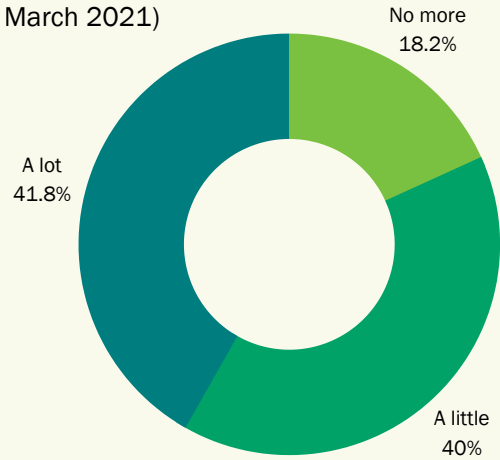
Height of the Pandemic

(March 2020 to March 2021)



Next Six Months

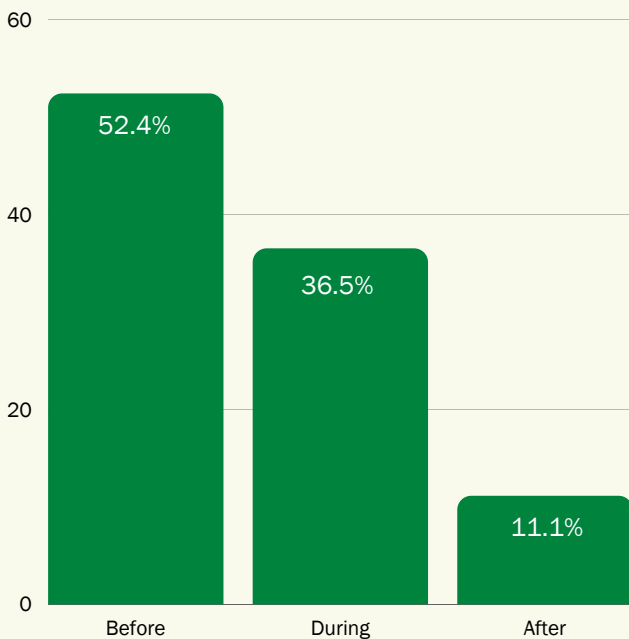
(After March 2021)



"Gas and groceries have skyrocketed so much that I can't afford to drive or get groceries except on a credit card, creating more debt. I don't know what a senior citizen who has worked for 50+ years is supposed to do to survive."

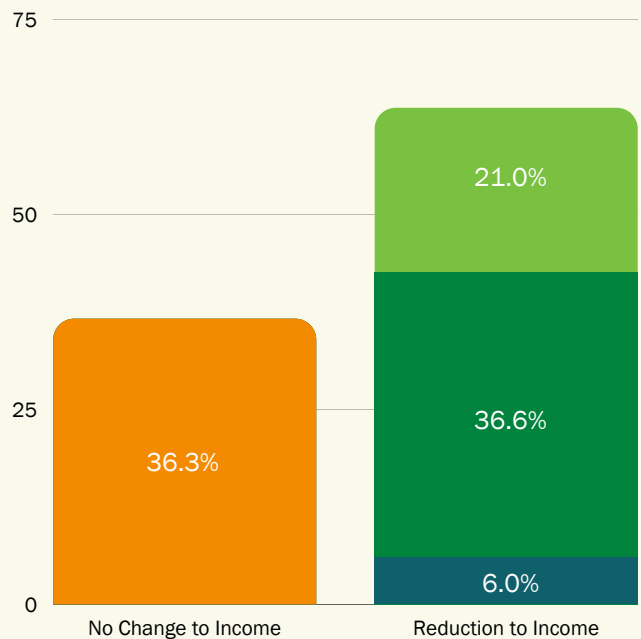
First Time Receiving Food Assistance

Percentage of households that accessed free food through a food pantry or other program for the first time before, during or after the height of the pandemic.



Loss of Income

Households that lost income due to being furloughed, loss of a job, or decrease of hours during the height of the pandemic.



"I'm appreciative of the food bank's help with the free groceries. It's a blessing knowing that the little income I have doesn't have to all go for food."