UnderStandingAmericaStudy

UAS 438: FHN CHILD TAX CREDIT SURVEY

Survey author(s): Financial Health Network

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1 INTRODUCTION

This UAS panel survey, titled ”UAS 438: FHN Child Tax Credit Survey” asks respondents if they received Child Tax Credit payments and if so, in what manner. The pilot survey related to the survey is UAS 435. This survey is no longer in the field.

1.1 Topics

This survey contains questions (among others) on the following topics: . A complete survey topic categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.2 Experiments

This survey did not include any experiments. A complete survey experiment categorization for the UAS can be found here.

1.3 Citation

Each publication, press release or other document that cites results from this survey must include an acknowledgment of UAS as the data source and a disclaimer such as, ‘The project described in this paper relies on data from survey(s) administered by the Understanding America Study, which is maintained by the Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) at the University of Southern California. The content of this paper is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of USC or UAS.’ For any questions or more information about the UAS, contact Tania Gutsche, Project and Panel Manager, Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California, at tgutsche@usc.edu.

2 SURVEY RESPONSE AND DATA

2.1 Sample selection and response rate

The sample selection for this survey was:

Custom selection of unique households with children (based on UAS411).

As such, this survey was made available to 3867 UAS participants. Of those 3867 participants, 2128 completed the survey and are counted as respondents. Of those who are not counted as respondents, 13 started the survey without completing and 1726 did not start the survey. The overall response rate was 55.03%.

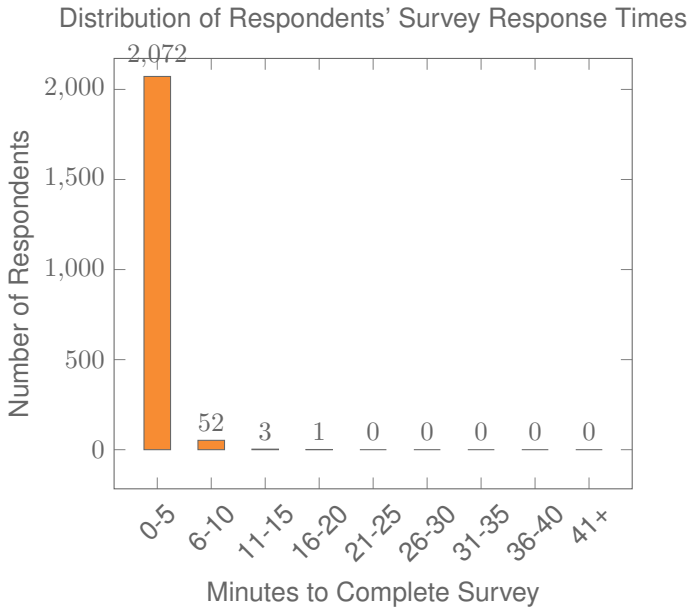
Note: We are unable to provide sample weights for a small number of UAS members (see the Sample and weighting section below for details). If they completed the survey, these members are included in the data set with a weight of zero, but accounted for in the computation of total sample size and survey response rate.%.

The detailed survey response rate is as follows:

UAS438 - Response Overview	
Size of selected sample	3867
Completed the survey	2128
Started but did not complete the survey	13
Did not start the survey	1726
Response rate	55.03%

2.2 Timings

The survey took respondents an average of 2 minutes, and the full distribution of survey response times is available in the figure below. Times per question are available upon request.



2.3 Sample & Weighting

Sample weights for this survey are computed following the general UAS Weighting Procedure. Specifically, we use a two-step process where we first compute base weights, which correct for unequal probabilities of sampling UAS members, and then generate final, post-stratification weights, which align the sample to the reference population along certain socio-economic dimensions. These are gender (male/female), race and ethnicity (White/Black/Other/Hispanic/Native American), age (18-39/40-49/50/59/60+), education (High school or less/Some college/Bachelor or more), Census regions (Northeast/Midwest//West, excl. CA/CA, excl. LAC, LAC). Benchmark distributions for these variables are derived from the 6 most recent available Current Population Survey (CPS) Basic Monthly Survey with respect to the survey's completion date. The reference population considered for the weights is the U.S. population of adults age 18 and older.

This survey dataset may contain respondents with a weight of zero. These respondents belong to a small group of UAS members for whom sample weights cannot be computed due to non-probability recruitment for special projects. Hence, while they are accounted for in the total number of survey respondents, they do not contribute to any statistics using sample weights. More information is available from the UAS Weighting Procedure. Please contact UAS staff with any questions.

3 STANDARD VARIABLES

Each Understanding America Study data set contains a series of standard variables, consisting of individual, household and sample identifiers, language indicator, time stamps and a rating by the respondent of how much he or she liked the survey. These variables are based on the questions asked quarterly in the My Household survey after the application of a cleaning process (https://uasdata.usc.edu/page/Data+Cleaning+Process). They are the following:

- **uasid**: the identifier of the respondent. This identifier is assigned to a respondent at recruitment and stays with the respondent throughout each and every survey he/she participates in. When analyzing data from multiple surveys, the 'uasid' can be used to merge data sets.
- **uashhid**: the household identifier of the respondent. Every member is assigned a household identifier, stored in the variable ¡em¿uashhid¡/em¿. For the primary respondent this identifier is his or her 'uasid'. All other eligible members of the primary respondent's household (everyone who is 18 or older in the household) who become UAS respondents receive the uasid of the primary respondent as their household identifier. The uashhid remains constant over time for all respondents. Thus it is always possible to find the original UAS household of an UAS panel member (even after they, for example, have moved out to form another household).
- **uashhid_current**: the current household identifier of the respondent. Uniquely identifies the household a UAS panel member belongs to in a given survey INDEPENDENT of the exact composition of the household in terms of who else in the household are UAS members. Missing (.n) for respondents who are in a single-UAS member household at the time of survey start. Available on request in data sets prior to September 3, 2025.
- **survhhid**: uniquely identifies the household a UAS panel member belongs to in a given survey DEPENDENT on the exact composition of the household in terms of who else in the household are UAS members. Is set to missing (.n) if no other household members are UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Is set to unknown (.u) for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.
- **uasmembers**: is the number of other household members who are also UAS panel members at the time of the survey. Since individuals can answer the same survey at different points in time (which can be relatively far apart is the survey is kept in the field for a prolonged time), it may be possible that, within the same data set, the primary respondent of a household has a value of '0', whereas the second UAS household respondent has a value of '1'. Therefore 'uasmembers' should be interpreted as the number of household and UAS panel members at the time the respondent answers the survey. Note: in the My Household survey 'uasmembers' is set to unknown (.u)

for respondents who last participated in the My Household survey prior to January 21, 2015.

- **sampleframe**: indicates the sampling frame from which the household of the respondent was recruited. All UAS recruitment is done through address based sampling (ABS) in which samples are acquired based on postal records. Currently, the variable 'sampleframe' takes on four values reflecting four distinct sample frames used by the UAS over the year (in future data sets the number of sample frames used for recruitment may increase if additional specific populations are targeted in future recruitment batches):

  1. U.S. National Territory: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
  2. Areas high concentration Nat Ame: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans in the zip-code. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
  3. Los Angeles County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
  4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

  Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable was called sampletype and had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

  1. Nationally Representative Sample: recruited through ABS within the entire U.S.
  2. Native Americans: recruited through ABS in areas with a high concentration of Native Americans. Within these batches, individuals who are not Native Americans are not invited to join the UAS.
  3. LA County: recruited through ABS within Los Angeles County.
  4. California: recruited through ABS within California.

- **batch**: indicates the batch from which the respondent was recruited. Currently, this variable takes the following values (in future data sets the number of batches may increase as new recruitment batches are added to the UAS):

  1. ASDE 2014/01
  2. ASDE 2014/01
  3. ASDE 2014/01
  4. Public records 2015/05
  5. MSG 2015/07
  6. MSG 2016/01
  7. MSG 2016/01
  8. MSG 2016/01
  9. MSG 2016/02
  10. MSG 2016/03

11. MSG 2016/04
12. MSG 2016/05
13. MSG 2016/08
14. MSG 2017/03
15. MSG 2017/11
16. MSG 2018/02
17. MSG 2018/08
18. MSG 2019/04
19. MSG 2019/05
20. MSG 2019/11
21. MSG 2020/08
22. MSG 2020/10
23. MSG 2021/02
24. MSG 2021/08
25. MSG 2021/08
26. MSG 2022/02
27. MSG 2022/02
28. MSG 2022/08
29. MSG 2022/11
30. MSG 2022/11
31. MSG 2023/01
32. MSG 2023/06
33. MSG 2023/09
34. MSG 2023/10
35. MSG 2025/02
36. MSG 2025/09
37. MSG 2026/06

Note: prior to March 6, 2024 this variable had the following value labels for the above list in UAS data sets:

1. ASDE 2014/01 Nat.Rep.
2. ASDE 2014/01 Native Am.
3. ASDE 2014/11 Native Am.
4. LA County 2015/05 List Sample
5. MSG 2015/07 Nat.Rep.

6. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 2
7. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 3
8. MSG 2016/01 Nat.Rep. Batch 4
9. MSG 2016/02 Nat.Rep. Batch 5
10. MSG 2016/03 Nat.Rep. Batch 6
11. MSG 2016/04 Nat.Rep. Batch 7
12. MSG 2016/05 Nat.Rep. Batch 8
13. MSG 2016/08 LA County Batch 2
14. MSG 2017/03 LA County Batch 3
15. MSG 2017/11 California Batch 1
16. MSG 2018/02 California Batch 2
17. MSG 2018/08 Nat.Rep. Batch 9
18. MSG 2019/04 LA County Batch 4
19. MSG 2019/05 LA County Batch 5
20. MSG 2019/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 10
21. MSG 2020/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 11
22. MSG 2020/10 Nat. Rep. Batch 12
23. MSG 2021/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 13
24. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 15
25. MSG 2021/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 16
26. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (priority)
27. MSG 2022/02 Nat. Rep. Batch 17 (regular)
28. MSG 2022/08 Nat. Rep. Batch 18
29. MSG 2022/11 LA County Batch 6
30. MSG 2022/11 Nat. Rep. Batch 20
31. MSG 2023/01 Nat. Rep. Batch 21
32. MSG 2023/06 Nat. Rep. Batch 22
33. MSG 2023-09 Native Am. Batch 3
34. MSG 2023-10 Nat. Rep. Batch 23

- **primary_respondent**: indicates if the respondent was the first person within the household (i.e. to become a member or whether s/he was added as a subsequent member. A household in this regard is broadly defined as anyone living together with the primary respondent. That is, a household comprises individuals who live together, e.g. as part of a family relationship (like a spouse/child/parent) or in context of some other relationship (like a roommate or tenant).

- **hardware**: indicates whether the respondent ever received hardware or not. Note: this variable should not be used to determine whether a respondent received hardware at a given point in time and/or whether s/he used the hardware to participate in a survey. Rather, it indicates whether hardware was ever provided:

    1. None
    2. Tablet (includes Internet)

- **language**: the language in which the survey was conducted. This variable takes a value of 1 for English and a value of 2 for Spanish.

- **start_date (start_year, start_month, start_day, start_hour, start_min, start_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent started the survey.

- **end_date (end_year, end_month, end_day, end_hour, end_min, end_sec)**: indicates the time at which the respondent completed the survey.

- **cs_001**: indicates how interesting the respondent found the survey.

4 DEMOGRAPHICS

Every UAS survey data set also includes demographic variables, which provide background information about the respondent and their household. Demographic information such as age, ethnicity, education, marital status, work status, state of residence, family structure is elicited every quarter through the ‘‘My Household’’ survey. The demographic variables provided with each survey are taken from the most recent ‘MyHousehold’ survey answered by the respondent. If at the time of a survey, the information in ‘‘My Household’’ is more than three months old, a respondent is required to check and update his or her information before being able to take the survey.

The demographic variables are based on the questions taken from the My Household survey after the application of the cleaning process.

The following variables are available in survey data sets after October 8, 2025:

- **sex**: indicates the sex of the respondent as assigned at birth. Is set to gender if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **genderid**: indicates the current gender of the respondent. Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025.
- **dateofbirth_year**: indicates the year of birth of the respondent.
- **age**: indicates the age of the respondent at the start of the survey.
- **agerange**: if the respondent’s age cannot be calculate due to missing information, ‘agerange’ indicates the approximate age. Should a value for both the ‘age’ and ‘agerange’ be present, then ‘age’ takes precedence over ‘agerange’.
- **citizenus**: indicates whether the respondent is a U.S. citizen.
- **bornus**: indicates whether the respondent was born in the U.S.
- **stateborn**: indicates the state in which the respondent was born. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent was not born in the U.S.
- **countryborn**: indicates the country in which the respondent was born. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent was born in the U.S.
- **statereside**: indicates the state in which the respondent is living.
- **immigration_status**: indicates whether the respondent is an immigrant. It takes one of the following values: 0 Non-immigrant, 1 First generation immigrant (immigrant who migrated to the U.S), 2 Second generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least one foreign-born parent), 3 Third generation immigrant (U.S.-born children of at least

one U.S.-born parent, where at least one grandparent is foreign-born), or 4 Unknown immigrant status.

- **maritalstatus**: indicates the marital status of the respondent.
- **livewithpartner**: indicates whether the respondent lives with a partner.
- **education**: indicates the highest level of education attained by the respondent.
- **white**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as white (Caucasian).
- **black**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as black (African-American).
- **nativeamer**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native American (American Indian or Alaska Native).
- **asian**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Asian (Asian-American).
- **pacific**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- **race**: indicates the race of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 White' or '2 Black') or as mixed (in case the respondent identifies with two or more races). The value '6 Mixed' that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single race categories. This variable is generated based on the values of the different race variables (white, black, nativeamer, asian, pacific). This composite measure is not conditional on hisplatino, so an individual may identify as Hispanic or Latino, and also as a member of one or more racial groups.
- **race_identify**: indicates the race the respondent identifies with most (if mixed). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hisplatino**: indicates whether the respondent identifies him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino. This variable is asked separately from race.
- **mena**: indicates whether the respondent identifies as being of Middle Eastern or North African ancestry. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **working**: indicates whether the respondent is working for pay.
- **sick_leave**: indicates whether the respondent is not working because sick or on leave.
- **unemp_layoff**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed or on lay off.
- **unemp_look**: indicates whether the respondent is unemployed and looking for a job.

- **retired**: indicates whether the respondent is retired.
- **disabled**: indicates whether the respondent has a disability.
- **workemployer**: indicates whether the respondent works for an employer. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **workself**: indicates whether the respondent is self-employed. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **homemaker**: indicates whether the respondent is a homemaker. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **student**: indicates whether the respondent is a student. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **notworking**: indicates whether the respondent is not working and not looking for work. Is set to missing (".e") if no answer for laborstatus was given by the respondent. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **lf_other**: indicates whether the respondent has another labor force status.
- **laborstatus**: indicates the labor force status of the respondent as singular (e.g., '1 Working for pay' or '2 On sick or other leave') or as mixed (in case the respondent selects two or more labor statuses). The value '8 Mixed' indicates that the respondent answered 'Yes' to at least two of the single labor force status variables. This variable is generated based on the values of the different labor status variables (working, sick_leave, unempl_layoff, unempl_look, retired, disabled, lf_other).
- **hourswork**: indicates the number of hours the respondent works per week. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave.
- **hhincome**: indicates the total combined income of all members of the respondent's household (living in their household) during the past 12 months.
- **anyhhmember**: indicates whether there were any members in the respondent's household at the time he/she answered the survey as reported by the respondent. Based on the hhmemberin variables if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Based on hhcomp_total if the respondent has filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhmembernumber**: indicates the number of household members in the respondent's household at the time of the survey as reported by the respondent. It may

be that ‘anyhhmember’ is ‘Yes’, but ‘hhmembernumber’ is missing if the respondent did not provide the number of household members at the time of the survey. Based on the hhmemberin variables if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025. Based on hhcomp_total if the respondent has filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_male_0_3**: indicates the number of male children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_0_3**: indicates the number of female children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_0_3**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 0 through 4 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.¡/li¿
- **hhcomp_male_4_12**: indicates the number of male children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_4_12**: indicates the number of female children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_4_12**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 5 through 12 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_male_13_17**: indicates the number of male children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_13_17**: indicates the number of female children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (”.v”) if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_13_17**: indicates the number of other-gendered children ages 13 through 17 who are living in the respondent’s household right now (even if they only

live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_male_18_64**: indicates the number of male adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_18_64**: indicates the number of female adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_18_64**: indicates the number of other-gendered adults ages 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_male_65plus**: indicates the number of male adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_female_65plus**: indicates the number of female adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_other_65plus**: indicates the number of other-gendered adults ages 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_18_64**: indicates the total number of adults 18 through 64 who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_65plus**: indicates the total number of adults 65 or older who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total_adults**: indicates the total number of adults who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

- **hhcomp_total_children**: indicates the total number of children who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **hhcomp_total**: indicates the total number of people who are living in the respondent's household right now (even if they only live with the respondent part-time or temporarily). Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_a**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 0 to 4 in the respondent's household. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_b**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 5 to 12 in the respondent's household. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.
- **parent_guardian_c**: indicates whether the respondent is the parent or guardian of one or more children ages 13 to 17 in the respondent's household. Is set to missing (".a") if hhcomp_total_children is not greater than 0. Is set to missing (".v") if the respondent has not filled out My Household after October 8, 2025.

The following variables were provided up until October 8, 2025. Several remain available in data sets created after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **gender**: indicates the gender of the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.
- **countryborn_other**: indicates the country of birth if that country is not on the drop down list of countries shown to the respondent'.
- **hisplatinogroup**: indicates which Hispanic or Latino group a respondent identifies him or herself with. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent does not identify him or herself as being Hispanic or Latino. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.
- **employmenttype**: indicates the employment type of the respondent (employed by the government, by a private company, a nonprofit organization, or self-employed). Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.
- **workfullpart**: indicates whether the respondent works full or part-time. Is set to missing (.) if the respondent is not currently working or currently on sick or other leave. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025.

- **hhmemberin_#**: indicates whether a household member is currently in the household as reported by the respondent. Household members are never removed from the stored household roster and their information is always included in survey data sets. The order of the roster is the same order in which household members were specified by the respondent in the 'MyHousehold' survey. The order is identified by the suffix _# (e.g., _1 indicates the first household member, _2 the second household member, etc.).

  As an example, if the first household member is in the household at the time of the survey, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '1 HH Member 1 is in the HH'; if he/she has moved out, 'hhmemberin_1' is set to '0 HH member 1 is no longer in the HH'. Since information of other household members (stored in the variables listed below) is always included in survey data sets, information about 'hhmemberin_1' is available whether this person is still in the household or has moved out. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmembergen_#**: indicates the gender of the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberage_#**: indicates the age of the household member. The age is derived from the month and year of birth of the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberrel_#**: indicates the relationship of the respondent to the household member as reported by the respondent. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

- **hhmemberuasid_#**: indicates the 'uasid' of the household member if this person is also a UAS panel member. It is set to missing (.) if this person is not a UAS panel member at the time of the survey. Since this identifier is directly reported by the respondent (chosen from a preloaded list), it may differ from the actual (correct) 'uasid' of the UAS member it refers to because of reporting error. Also, this variable should not be used to identify UAS members in a given household at the time of the survey. This is because the variables 'hhmemberuasid_#' are taken from the most recent 'My Household' and changes in household composition involving UAS members may have occurred between the time of the respondent answered 'My Household' and the time the respondent answers the survey. To follow UAS members of a given household, it is advised to use the identifiers 'uashhid' and 'survhhid'. Available in data sets before October 9, 2025. Available in data sets after October 8, 2025 on request.

Lastly, data sets created after May 8, 2025 include an urbanicity variable. It is based on panel members' current census tract of residence and the 2010 Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes released by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. To preserve confidentiality, the UAS collapses the 10 primary RUCA codes to 4

levels: Metropolitan, Micropolitan, Small/Rural, and Unknown. The Metropolitan level corresponds to primary RUCA codes 1-3, the Micropolitian level corresponds to RUCA codes 4-6, and the Small/Rural UAS classification corresponds to RUCA codes 7-10.

For detailed information and definitions of the 10 primary RUCA codes, please visit the USDA ERS Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes site. Surveys conducted completely prior to May 8, 2025 will have an urbanicity data variable available on request. Data sets created after February 6, 2026 contain two urbanicity variables (urbanicity2010 and urbanicity2020, based on the 2010 and 2020 RUCA codes respectively). Information regarding differences between the 2010 and 2020 codes is located here.

5 MISSING DATA CONVENTIONS

Data files provide so-called clean data, that is, answers given to questions that are not applicable anymore at survey completion (for example because a respondent went back in the survey and skipped over a previously answered question) are treated as if the questions were never asked. In the data files all questions that were asked, but not answered by the respondent are marked with (.e). All questions never seen by the respondent (or any dirty data) are marked with (.a). The latter may mean that a respondent did not view the question because s/he skipped over it; or alternatively that s/he never reached that question due to a break off. If a respondent did not complete a survey, the variables representing survey end date and time are marked with (.c). Household member variables are marked with (.m) if the respondent has less household members (e.g. if the number of household members is 2, any variables for household member 3 and up are marked with (.m).

UAS provides data in STATA and CSV format. Stata data sets come with include variable labels that are not available in the CSV files. Value labels are provided for single-response answer option. In STATA these labels will include the labels 'Not asked' and 'Not answered' for (.a) and (.e), and will show in tabulations such as 'tab q1, missing'. For multiple-response questions a binary variable is created for each answer option indicating whether the option was selected or not. A summary variable is also provided in string format reflecting which options were selected and in which order. For example, if a question asked about favorite animals with options cat, dog, and horse, then if a respondent selected horse and then cat, the binary variables for horse and cat will be set to yes, while the overall variable would have a string value of '3-1'. If no answer was given, all binary variables and the summary variable will be marked with '.e'.

Questions that are asked multiple times are often implemented as so-called array questions. Supposing the name of such question was Q1 and it was asked in 6 different instances, your data set would contain the variables Q1_1_ to Q1_6_. To illustrate, if a survey asked the names of all children, then child_1_ would contain the name of the first child the respondent named and so on.

More information about the UAS data in general can be found on the UAS Data Pages web site.

6 ROUTING SYNTAX

The survey with routing presented in the next section includes all of the questions that make up this survey, the question answers when choices were provided, and the question routing. The routing includes descriptions of when questions are grouped, conditional logic that determines when questions are presented to the respondent, randomization of questions and answers, and fills of answers from one question to another.

If you are unfamiliar with conditional logic statements, they are typically formatted so that ***if*** the respondent fulfills some condition (e.g. they have a cellphone or a checking account), ***then*** they are presented with some other question or the value of some variable is changed. If the respondent does not fulfill the condition (e.g. they are not a cellphone adopter or they do not have a checking account), something ***else*** happens such as skipping the next question or changing the variable to some other value. Some of the logic involved in the randomization of questions or answers being presented to the respondent is quite complex, and in these instances there is documentation to clarify the process being represented by the routing.

Because logic syntax standards vary, here is a brief introduction to our syntax standards. The syntax used in the conditional statements is as follows: '=' is equal to, '$<$' is less than, '$>$' is greater than, and '!=' is used for does not equal. When a variable is set to some number N, the statement looks like 'variable := N'.

The formatting of the questions and routing are designed to make it easier to interpret what is occurring at any given point in the survey. Question ID is the bold text at the top of a question block, followed by the question text and the answer selections. When a question or variable has associated data, the name links to the appropriate data page, so you can easily get directly to the data. Text color is used to indicate the routing: red is conditional logic, gold is question grouping, green is looping, and orange is used to document randomization and other complex conditional logic processes. The routing is written for a computer to parse rather than a human to read, so when the routing diverges significantly from what is displayed to the respondent, a screenshot of what the respondent saw is included.

The name of the randomization variables are defined in proximity to where they are put into play, and like the question ID the names of the randomization variables can be used to link directly to the associated data page.

7 SURVEY WITH ROUTING

Start of section **Ctc**

pilot_indicator := 1

ctc_intro2 (Section Ctc)
This survey asks about the U.S. Child Tax Credit payments that began in July 2021.

ctc000a (parent or guardian of any children under age 18 in section Ctc)
Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18, whether or not they are currently living in your household?
1 Yes
2 No

ctc000 (number of children under 18 in section Ctc)
How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household?
NUMBER (NO DECIMALS ALLOWED)

IF (ctc000 = 0 OR ctc000 = empty) AND (ctc000a = 2 OR ctc000a = empty) THEN
> **earlyexit2** (Section Ctc)
> Thank you. The rest of the questions are for parents or people living in households with children. We will contact you again when the next UAS survey is ready.
>
> Please click ”Next” to return to your panel member pages.
>
> dummy := doPayout(438, 1)
> Exit the survey

END OF IF

preload_ctc001 := getUAS411Preload(”ctc001”)

IF preload_ctc001 = EMPTY THEN
> **ctc001** (filed income taxes in section Ctc)
> Did you file your income taxes in 2021, or have them filed for you by a tax preparer?
> 1 Yes
> 2 No
> 3 Don’t remember

END OF IF

ctc_intro (Section Ctc)
Around the 15th of July 2021, the federal government began sending a new monthly pay-

ment to households with children up to 18 years old. These new payments, which are delivered as direct deposits or paper checks, come from a program called the Child Tax Credit (also known as the CTC or CHILDCTC). The following questions will ask you about your household's experience with these payments.

ctc002 (received child tax credit since July 2021 in section Ctc)
Have you or has anyone else in your household received a Child Tax Credit payment (CHILDCTC) since July 2021? (check all that apply)
1 Yes, I have
2 Yes, someone else in the household has
3 No
4 Don't know

IF ctc000a = 1 AND not(1 IN ctc002) AND 2 IN ctc002 THEN
GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc003a (why R not received payment CTC in section Ctc)
Why haven't you received a Child Tax Credit payment (CHILDCTC)?
1 I did not know about the Child Tax Credit
2 I knew about the Child Tax Credit, but did not know how to access it
3 I tried to access the Child Tax Credit, but was not successful
4 I prefer to receive the Child Tax Credit at tax time
5 My children's other parent/guardian received the Child Tax Credit
6 Other (please specify):
7 I don't know

ctc003a_other (other why R not received payment CTC in section Ctc)
STRING

END OF GROUP
ELSEIF ctc000a = 1 AND ctc002 = 3 THEN
GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc003a (why R not received payment CTC in section Ctc)
Why haven't you received a Child Tax Credit payment (CHILDCTC)?
1 I did not know about the Child Tax Credit
2 I knew about the Child Tax Credit, but did not know how to access it
3 I tried to access the Child Tax Credit, but was not successful
4 I prefer to receive the Child Tax Credit at tax time
5 My children's other parent/guardian received the Child Tax Credit
6 Other (please specify):
7 I don't know

ctc003a_other (other why R not received payment CTC in section Ctc)

STRING

END OF GROUP

earlyexit (Section Ctc)
Thank you, that is the last of our questions. Please click ”Next” to return to your panel member pages.

dummy := doPayout(438, 1)
Exit the survey

ELSEIF ctc000a != 1 AND ctc002 = 3 THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc003b (why household not received payment CTC in section Ctc)
Why hasn’t your household received a Child Tax Credit payment (CHILDCTC)?
1 No one knew about the Child Tax Credit
2 We knew about the Child Tax Credit, but did not know how to access it
3 We tried to access the Child Tax Credit, but were not successful
4 We prefer to receive the Child Tax Credit at tax time
5 The children’s other parent/guardian received the Child Tax Credit
6 Other (please specify):
7 I don’t know

ctc003b_other (other why household not received payment CTC in section Ctc)
STRING

END OF GROUP

earlyexit (Section Ctc)
Thank you, that is the last of our questions. Please click ”Next” to return to your panel member pages.

dummy := doPayout(438, 1)
Exit the survey

ELSEIF ctc002 = 4 THEN

earlyexit (Section Ctc)
Thank you, that is the last of our questions. Please click ”Next” to return to your panel member pages.

dummy := doPayout(438, 1)
Exit the survey

END OF IF

IF 1 IN ctc002 OR 2 IN ctc002 THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc004_intro (which months received child tax credit payment in section Ctc)
Since July 2021, in which months have you or someone else in your household received a Child Tax Credit payment?

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

ctc004a (received July 2021 in section Ctc)
July 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

ctc004b (received August 2021 in section Ctc)
August 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

ctc004c (received September 2021 in section Ctc)
September 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

ctc004d (received October 2021 in section Ctc)
October 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

ctc004e (received November 2021 in section Ctc)
November 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

ctc004f (received December 2021 in section Ctc)
December 2021
1 Received
2 Did not receive
3 Don't know

| END OF SUBGROUP

END OF GROUP

CTC_received := '0'

IF ctc004a = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004b = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004c = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004d = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004e = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004f = 1 THEN
| CTC_received := CTC_received + 1
END OF IF

ctc005 (which ways received child tax credit payment in section Ctc)
In what ways have you or someone else in your household received a Child Tax Credit Payment? Select all that apply.
1 Direct deposit into a bank account
2 Paper check sent in the mail
3 Direct deposit onto a Direct Express card or other prepaid card
4 Don't know

IF 1 IN ctc002 THEN
| **ctc006** (which ways prefer to receive child tax credit payment in section Ctc)
| How would you **prefer** to receive your Child Tax Credit payment?
| 1 Direct deposit into a bank account
| 2 Paper check sent in the mail
| 3 Direct deposit onto a Direct Express card or other prepaid card

4 No preference for how the Child Tax Credit payment is received

END OF IF

IF 2 IN ctc005 AND (ctc004a = 1 OR ctc004b = 1 OR ctc004c = 1 OR ctc004d = 1 OR ctc004e = 1 OR ctc004f = 1) THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc007_intro (Section Ctc)
In which months did you or someone else in your household receive a Child Tax Credit Payment as a paper check?

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

IF ctc004a = 1 THEN

ctc007a (paper received July 2021 in section Ctc)
July 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

IF ctc004b = 1 THEN

ctc007b (paper received August 2021 in section Ctc)
August 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

IF ctc004c = 1 THEN

ctc007c (paper received September 2021 in section Ctc)
September 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

IF ctc004d = 1 THEN

ctc007d (paper received October 2021 in section Ctc)
October 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

IF ctc004e = 1 THEN

ctc007e (paper received November 2021 in section Ctc)
November 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

IF ctc004f = 1 THEN

ctc007f (paper received December 2021 in section Ctc)
December 2021
1 Received payment as a paper check
2 Received the payment some other way
3 Don't know or don't remember

END OF IF

END OF SUBGROUP

END OF GROUP

CTC_received_by_paper := '0'

IF ctc004a = 1 AND ctc007a = 1 THEN
  CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004b = 1 AND ctc007b = 1 THEN
  CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004c = 1 AND ctc007c = 1 THEN
  CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1

END OF IF

IF ctc004d = 1 AND ctc007d = 1 THEN
CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004e = 1 AND ctc007e = 1 THEN
CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1
END OF IF

IF ctc004f = 1 AND ctc007f = 1 THEN
CTC_received_by_paper := CTC_received_by_paper + 1
END OF IF

IF CTC_received_by_paper > 0 THEN
GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc008_intro (Section Ctc)
Out of the (number of CTC payments received by check()) time(s) that you or someone in your household received a Child Tax Credit Payment as a paper check, how many times was the check cashed or deposited in the following ways? Enter 0 or numbers that add up to (number of CTC payments received by check()).

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

ctc008a (paper cashed in person at a branch of a bank or credit union in section Ctc)
In person at a branch of a bank or credit union
RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008b (paper cashed at an ATM in section Ctc)
At an ATM
RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008c (paper cashed at a check casher in section Ctc)
At a check casher (Ace Check Express, Americash, Currency Exchange, etc.)
RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008d (paper cashed at a retail or convenience store in section Ctc)
At a retail or convenience store (a grocery store, drug store, WalMart, etc.)
RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008e (paper cashed using mobile deposit on my phone in section Ctc)
Using mobile deposit on a phone or tablet

RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008f (paper cashed other in section Ctc)
Other (please specify):
RANGE 0..(number of CTC payments received by check())

ctc008_total (paper cashed total in section Ctc)
Total
NUMBER (NO DECIMALS ALLOWED)

END OF SUBGROUP

ctc008f_other (specify paper cashed other in section Ctc)
STRING

ctc008_dk (don't know how many times cashed in section Ctc)
OR
1 I don't know or don't remember

ctc008_warning (Section Ctc)
The numbers you entered don't add up to (number of CTC payments received by check()). Please change your answer(s).Please enter the number of times the check was cashed or deposited for each way OR check the "I don't know or don't remember" box.

END OF GROUP

END OF IF

END OF IF

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc010 (top three ways used funds in section Ctc)
How has your household used the funds you received from your Child Tax Credit payment? Please select up to three top ways you have used the funds.
1 Spending on essentials
2 Spending on non-essentials
3 Saving
4 Investing
5 Paying down debt
6 Donating to charity
7 Some other way (please specify):
8 Don't know

ctc010_other (other top three ways used funds in section Ctc)

STRING

END OF GROUP

ctc011 (top three impact if not receive any more CTC payments in section Ctc)
If you did not receive any more Child Tax Credit payments after December 2021, what would be the most immediate impact on your household? Please select up to three top three impacts this would have on your household.
1 We would struggle to pay for essentials
2 We would struggle to pay for non-essentials
3 We would struggle to save
4 We would struggle to invest
5 We would struggle to pay down debt
6 We would not be able to donate to charity
7 No impact
8 Don't know

ctc009_intro2 (Section Ctc)
We are also interested in how people in the United States handle paper checks in general.

ctc012 (you anyone in your household ever receive paper checks in section Ctc)
Do you or does anyone in your household ever receive paper checks, for example from an employer, a government agency, as payment for a loan, or from a friend or family member? If you don't know about other members of your household, please just answer for yourself.
1 Yes
2 No

IF ctc012 = 1 THEN

GROUP OF QUESTIONS PRESENTED ON THE SAME SCREEN

ctc009_intro (Section Ctc)
In general, when you or someone in your household receives a paper check, how often is the check cashed or deposited in the following ways?

SUBGROUP OF QUESTIONS

ctc009a (how often cash in person at a branch of a bank or credit union in section Ctc)
In person at a branch of a bank or credit union
1 Always or Most of the time
2 Sometimes
3 Rarely or Never

ctc009b (how often cash at an ATM in section Ctc)

At an ATM
1 Always or Most of the time
2 Sometimes
3 Rarely or Never

ctc009c (how often cash at a check casher in section Ctc)
At a check casher (Ace Check Express, Americash, Currency Exchange, etc.)
1 Always or Most of the time
2 Sometimes
3 Rarely or Never

ctc009d (how often cash at a retail or convenience store in section Ctc)
At a retail or convenience store (a grocery store, drug store, WalMart, etc.)
1 Always or Most of the time
2 Sometimes
3 Rarely or Never

ctc009e (how often cash using mobile deposit on phone in section Ctc)
Using mobile deposit on a phone or tablet
1 Always or Most of the time
2 Sometimes
3 Rarely or Never

END OF SUBGROUP

ctc009_dk (don't know or never receive paper checks in section Ctc)

textbfOR

1 I don't know

ctc009_warning (Section Ctc)
Please select how often checks are cashed or deposited for each way OR check the "I don't know" box.

END OF GROUP
END OF IF
END OF IF

End of section **Ctc**

Start of section **Closing**

CS_001 (HOW PLEASANT INTERVIEW in section Closing)

Could you tell us how interesting or uninteresting you found the questions in this interview?
1 Very interesting
2 Interesting
3 Neither interesting nor uninteresting
4 Uninteresting
5 Very uninteresting

CS_003 (comments in section Closing)
Do you have any other comments on the interview? Please type these in the box below. (If you have no comments, please click next to complete this survey.)
STRING

dummy := doPayout(438, 2)

End of section **Closing**

/* Please note that although question CS_003 is listed in the routing, the answers are not included in the microdata in the event identifiable information is captured. Cleaned responses are available by request. */