

**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**





Research and Revolution

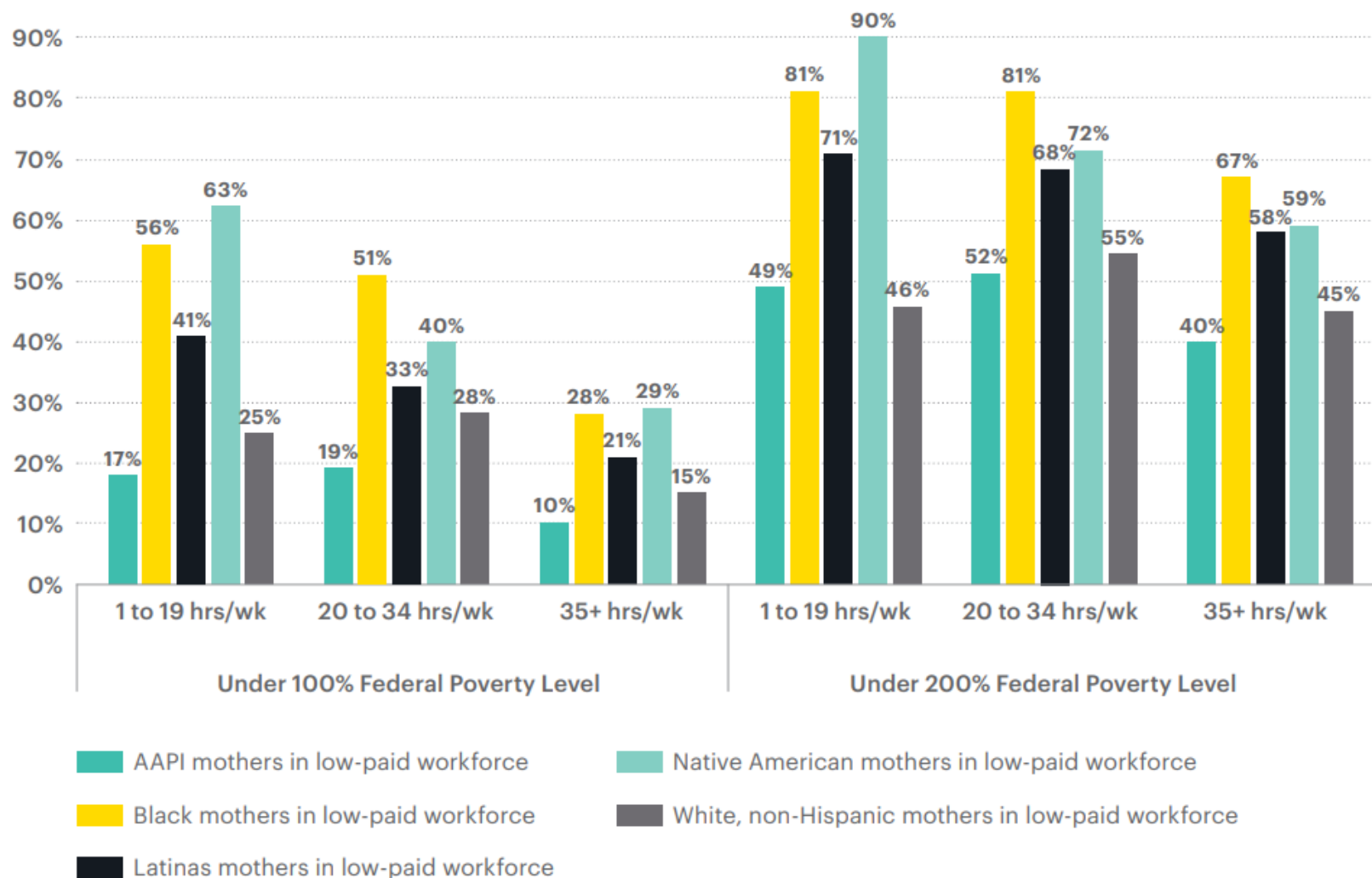
On Women, Work, and What Comes Next

Julie Vogtman

National Women's Law Center

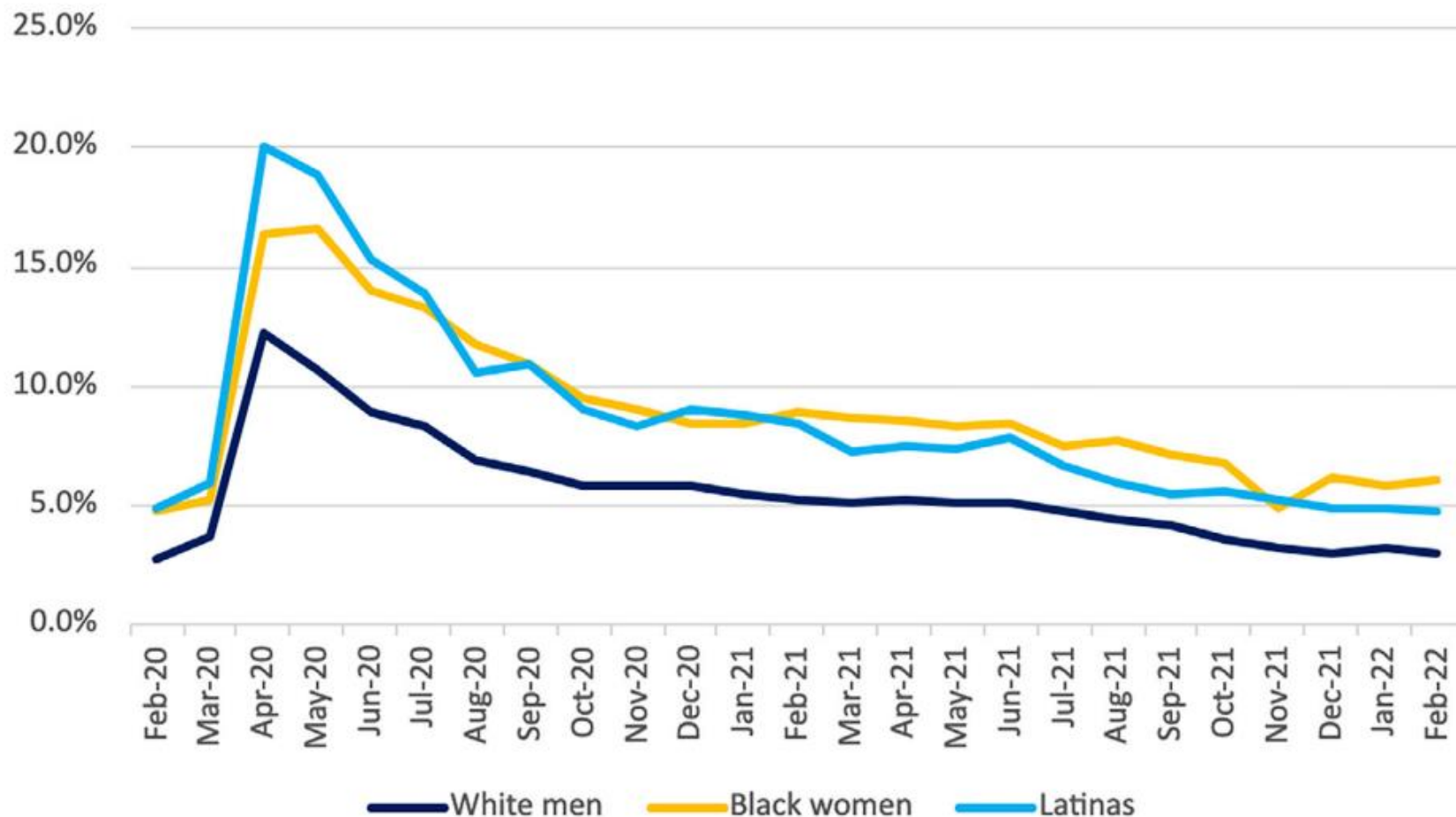
AAUW Pennsylvania State Convention | June 4, 2022

Poverty and Near-Poverty Rates Among Mothers in Low-Paid Jobs, by Race/Ethnicity (2018)



Source: NWLC, [When Hard Work Is Not Enough: Women in Low-Paid Jobs](#) (2020)

Unemployment Rates by Selected Demographics, February 2020 – February 2022



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

“If they do have another lockdown, how am I going to through that all over again? Financially, mentally, physically. I don’t know how I’m going to handle it.”

“I struggled, I cried all day, every day. I’m trying to teach the little one how to use a computer...then I have my headset on and I’m like ‘guys, I’m on a call’ and people on the call are like ‘are you there? And I’m like, ‘yes, mute, unmute, mute.’”



“I was having to go to the [house] cleanings, then leave early to come pick [my daughter] up and then bring her back to work with me... After a couple of times of being late for picking her up and me explaining what’s happening, [the school was] threatening to call child protective services on me because I was late.”

“

“It’s been really, really hard, because . . . they were out of school, and with them out of school, that pretty much put my work to a halt anyway, because somebody had to be there to watch them.”

“I left health care in May, and went to Wal-Mart to work in the bakery, because it was just so awful, because you see all those people and they all start dying, one by one, it seemed like every couple days we would lose a person.”



“I lost a few good friends that I worked with. So that’s been kind of difficult too at work... you have to go and get your own kind of therapy or grief counseling. In the plant if someone passes, nothing stops. The plant goes on.”

“[Mental health treatment] is so expensive. How am I going to afford that?... I didn’t even look into it, because I was like ‘ugh, another thing to pay for.’”



“Actually [the stimulus checks were] what kept me afloat. I pretty much pay my rent and it was pretty much gone, but it did help.”

“[The Child Tax Credit] really helps a lot to us... we don't really have any much savings now... All of our savings is really used up already... We're just living paycheck-to-paycheck.”

“Honestly, I feel like I have to start over completely because any savings that I had at the time went towards survival basically.”

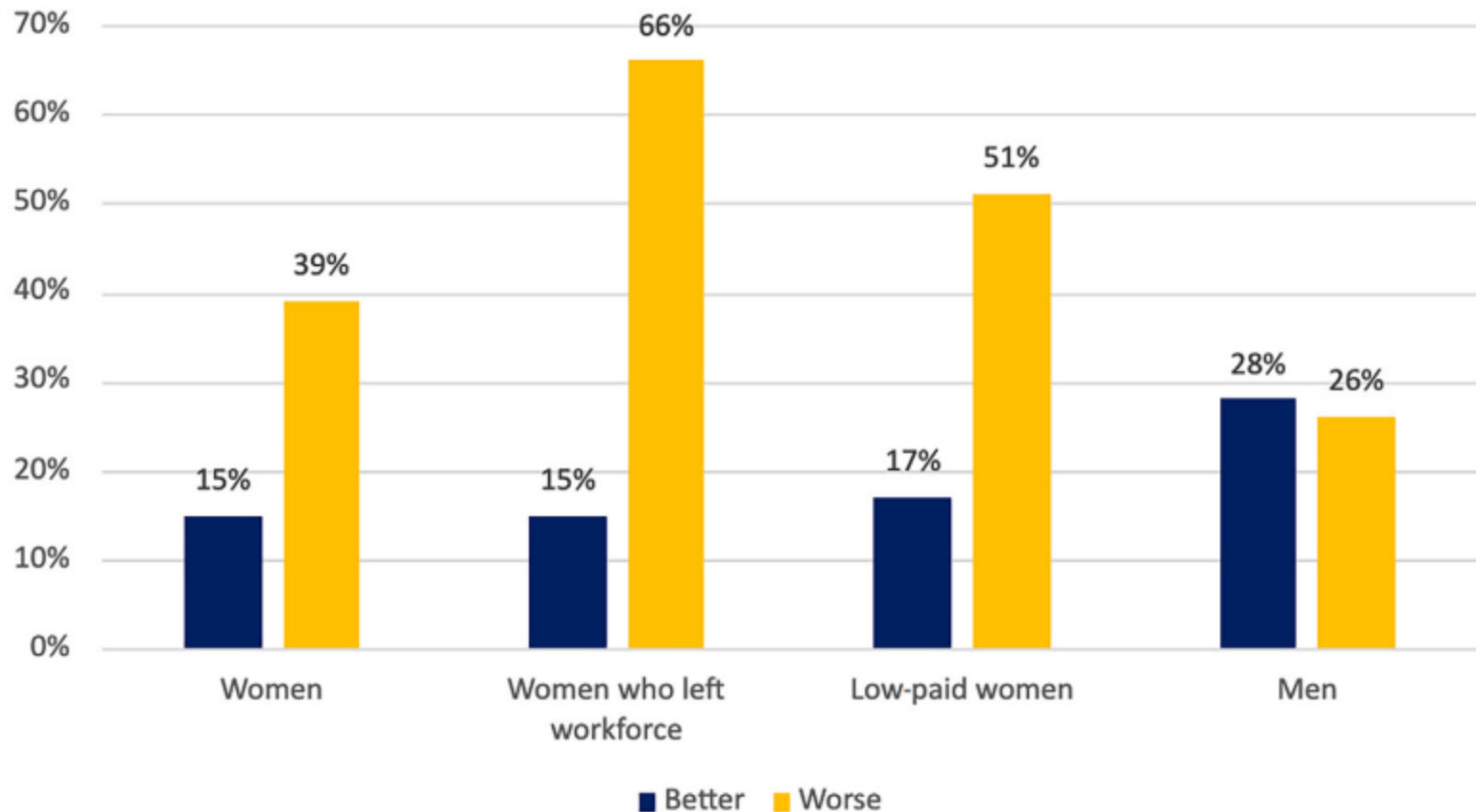
“*We don’t know what the future holds so that definitely reshaped my mind about thinking of having a family.”*



“Because of what's going on this year and last year, I may not be able to retire at the age that I had planned to years ago.”

“I don’t necessarily love my job... some people who throw caution to the wind and they quit their job, but I guess I have too many other people depending on me, so it’s not going to happen.”

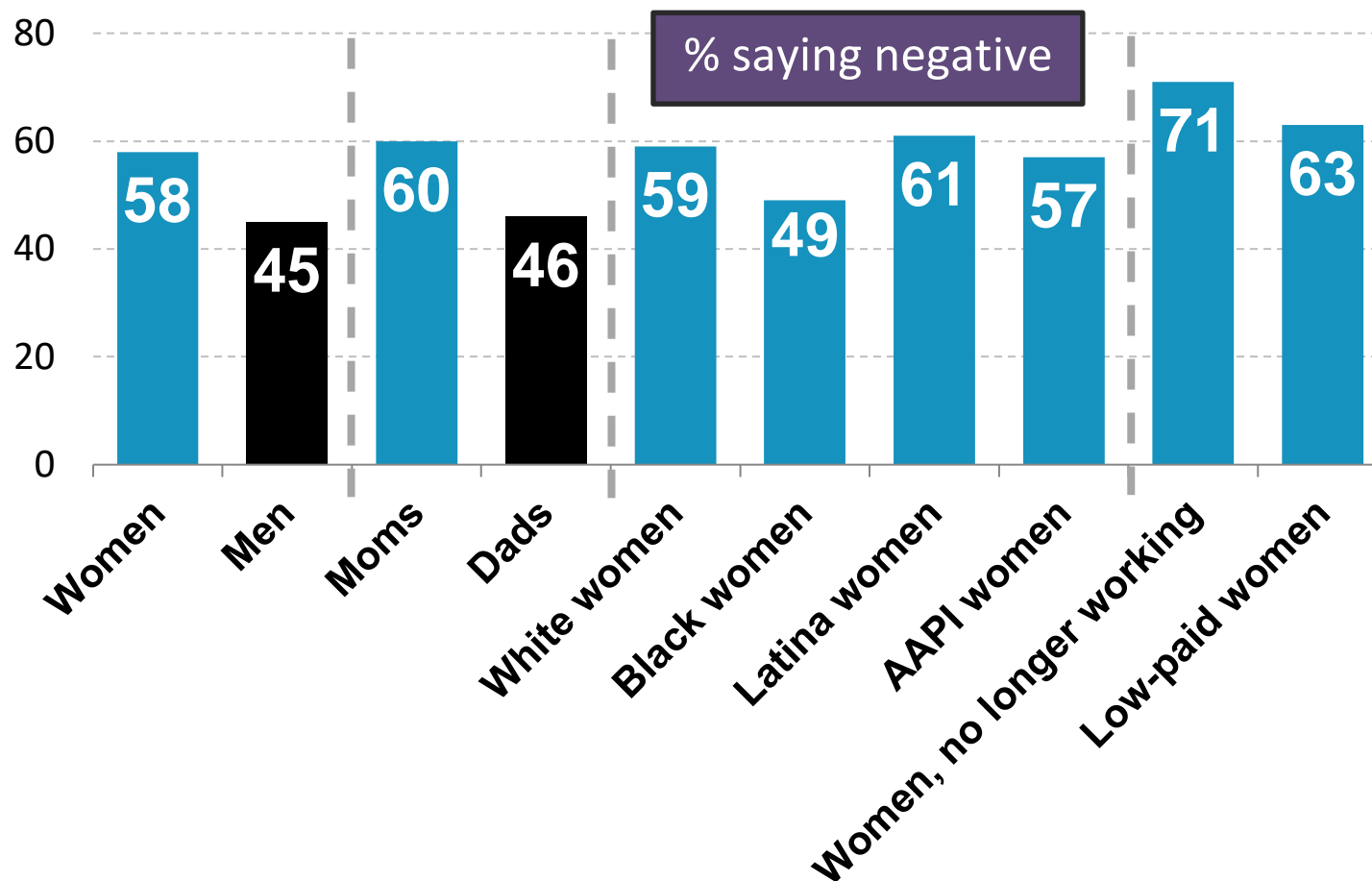
Compared to before the pandemic, is your family's financial situation today better, worse, or is it about the same?



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

Mental health worsens most for women who lost jobs, are low-paid

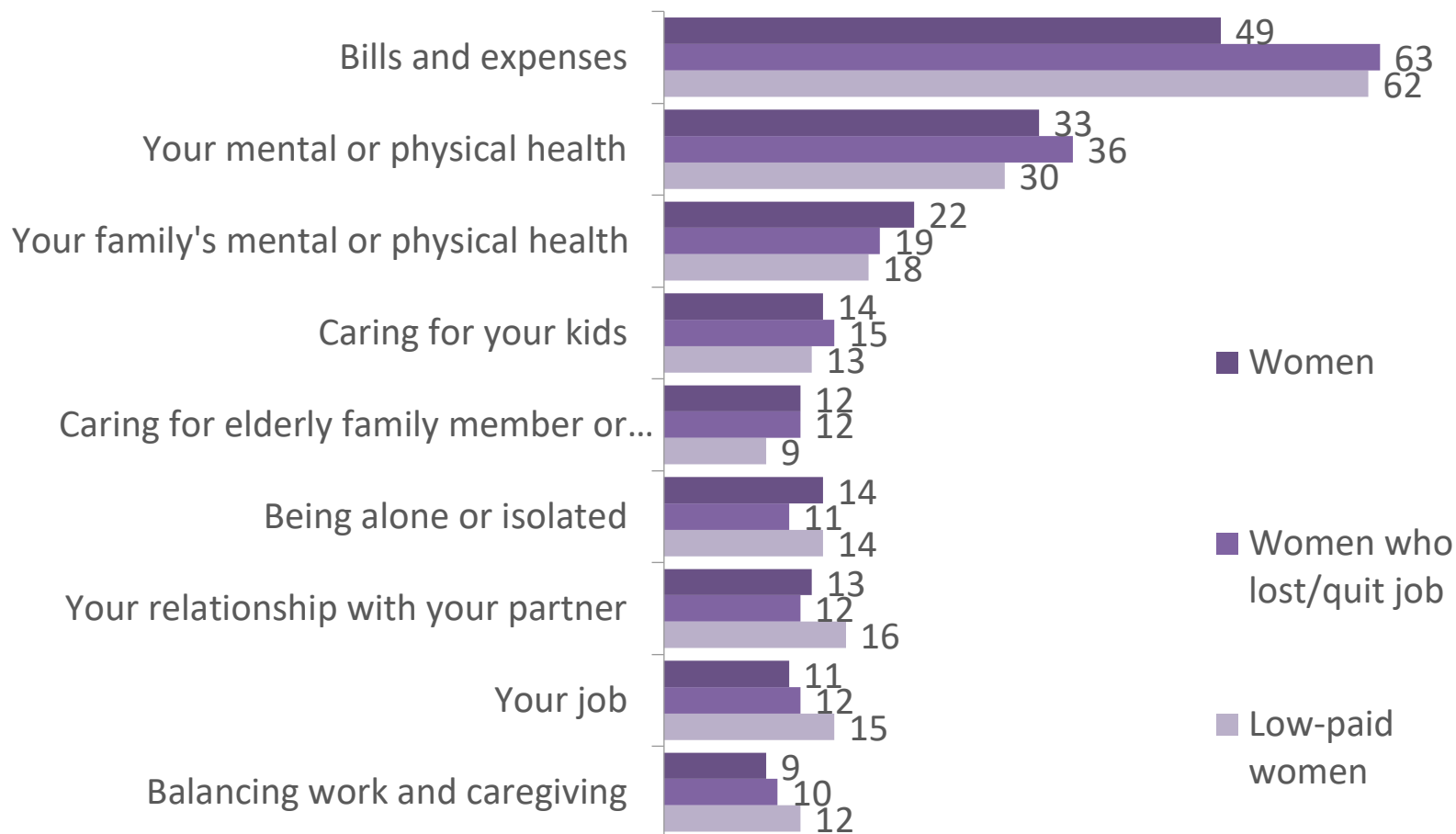
Would you say that the COVID-19 pandemic had a positive, a negative or no impact on your mental health, such as depression, anxiety, or sleep difficulties?



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

Expenses, health, caregiving are women's biggest stressors

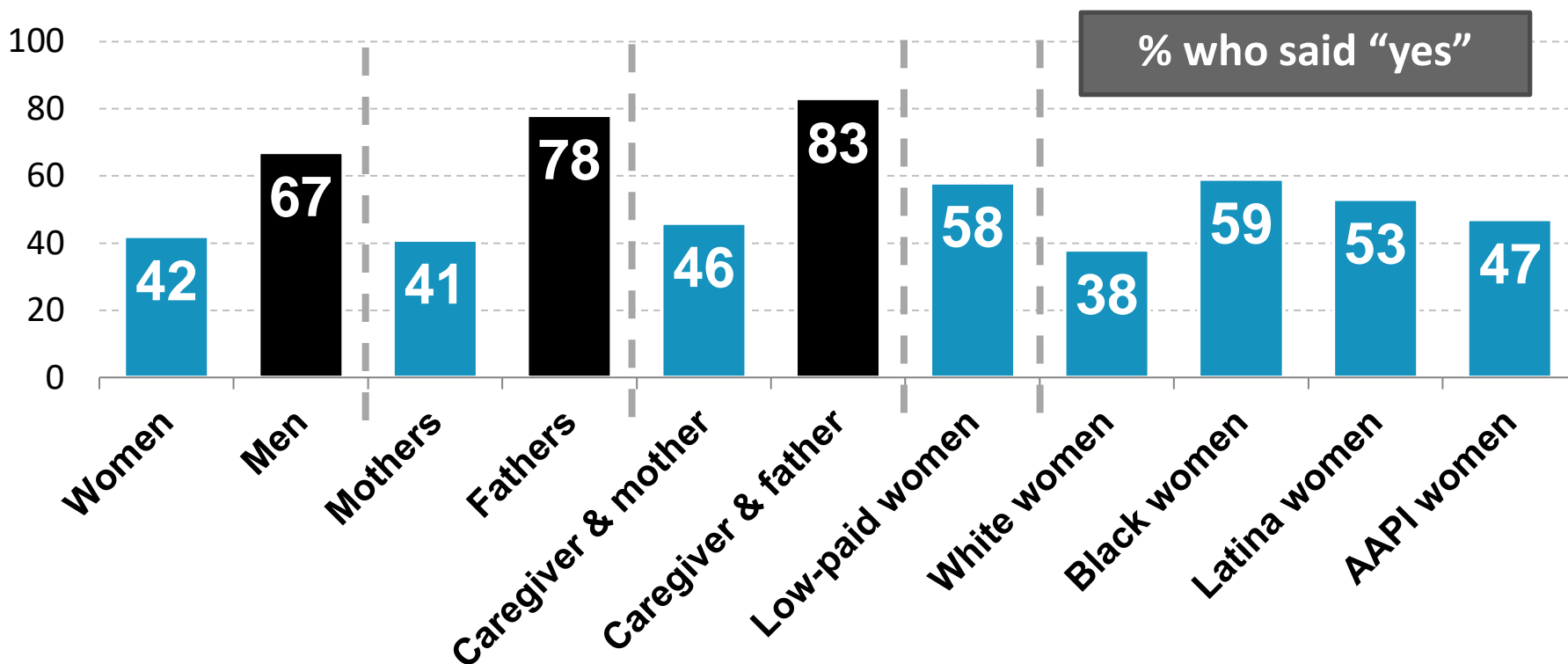
Which two of the following causes the most stress in your life?



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

Women less likely than men to have returned to work

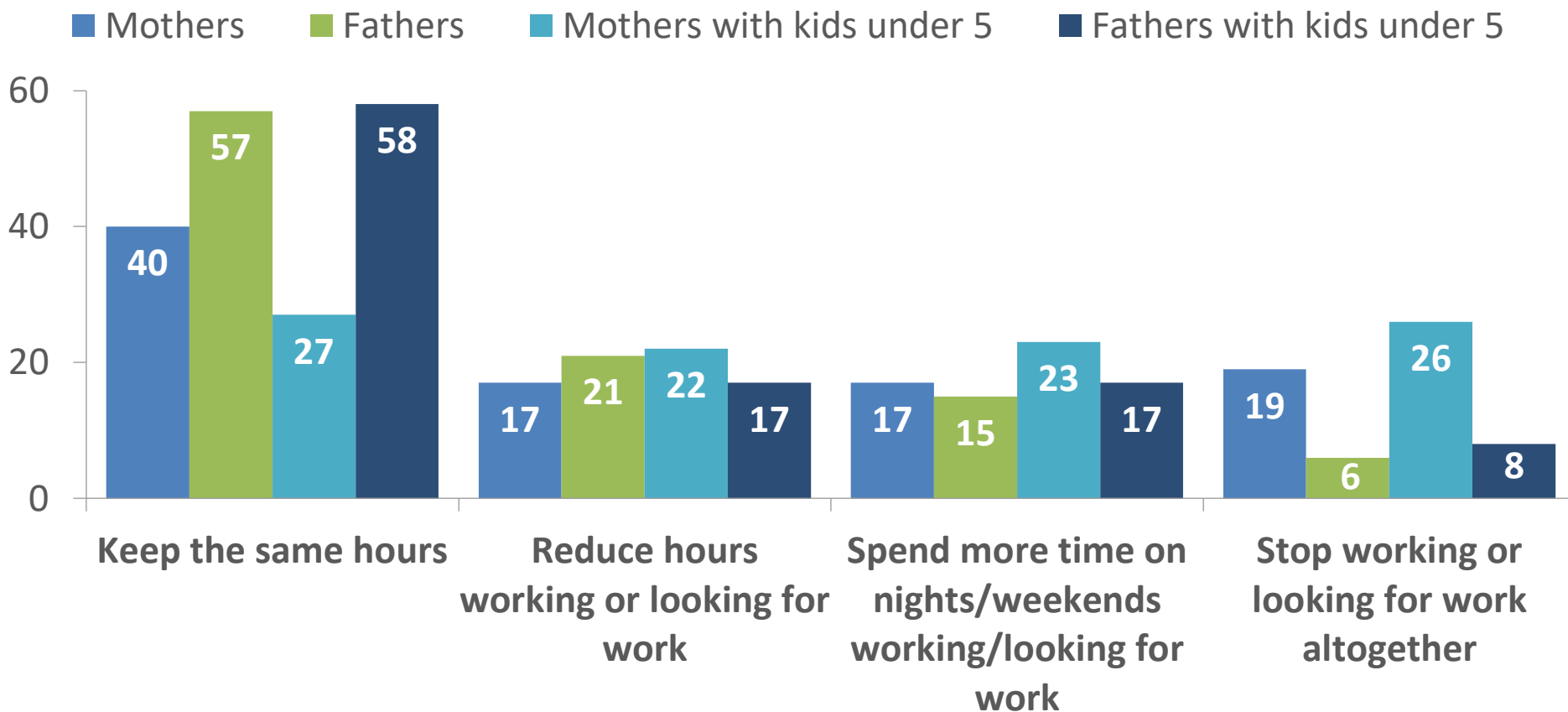
(IF LOST OR QUIT JOB) Did you get a new job since losing or quitting your job?



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

Men more likely to keep the same hours when children are home

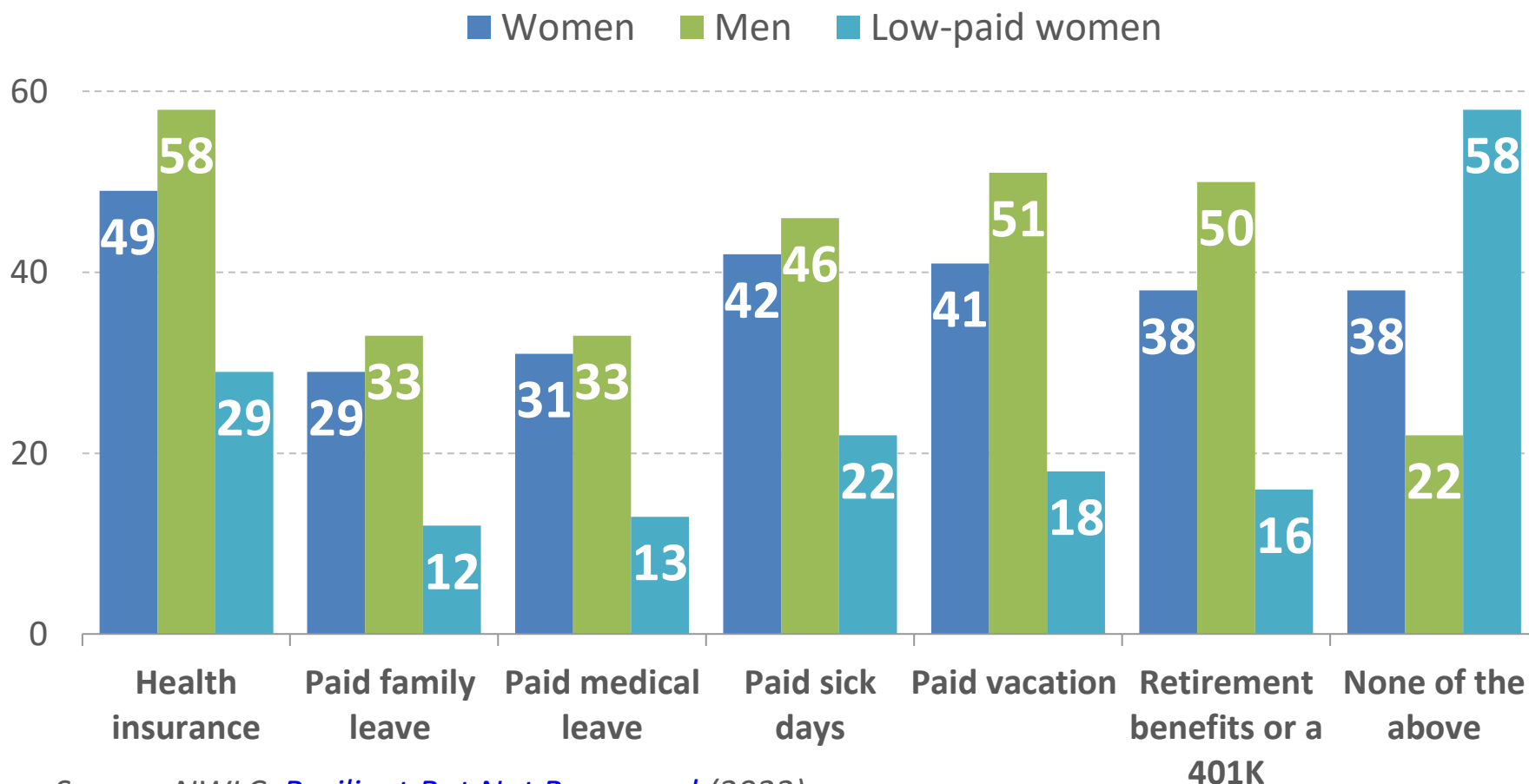
[IF HAVE KIDS UNDER 18 AT HOME) When your child/children are not at school in person or when you do not have child care, do you:



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

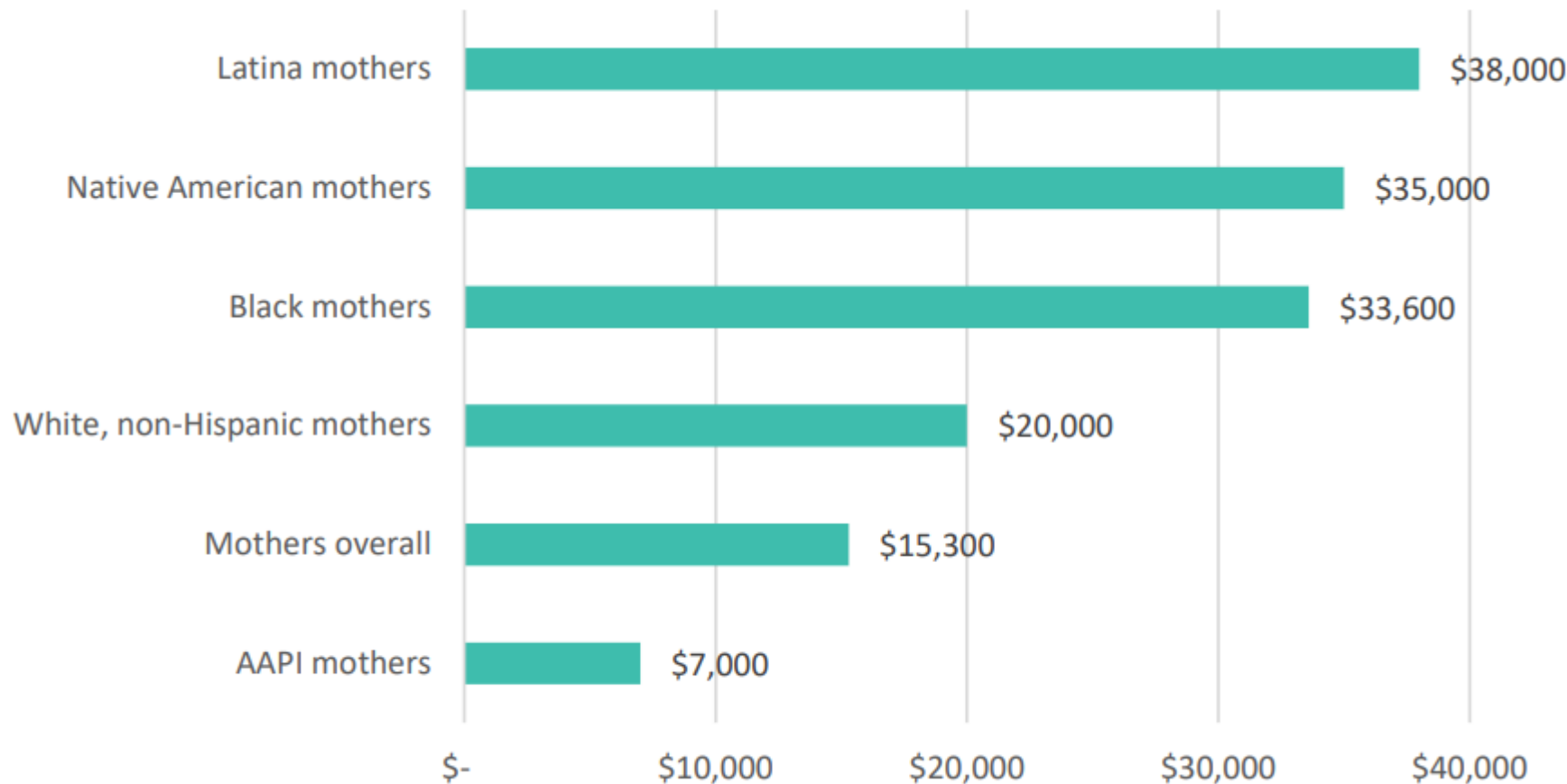
Women less likely than men to receive benefits from their jobs

(IF EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME) Which of the following benefits do you receive through your current or most recent employment, if any?



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)

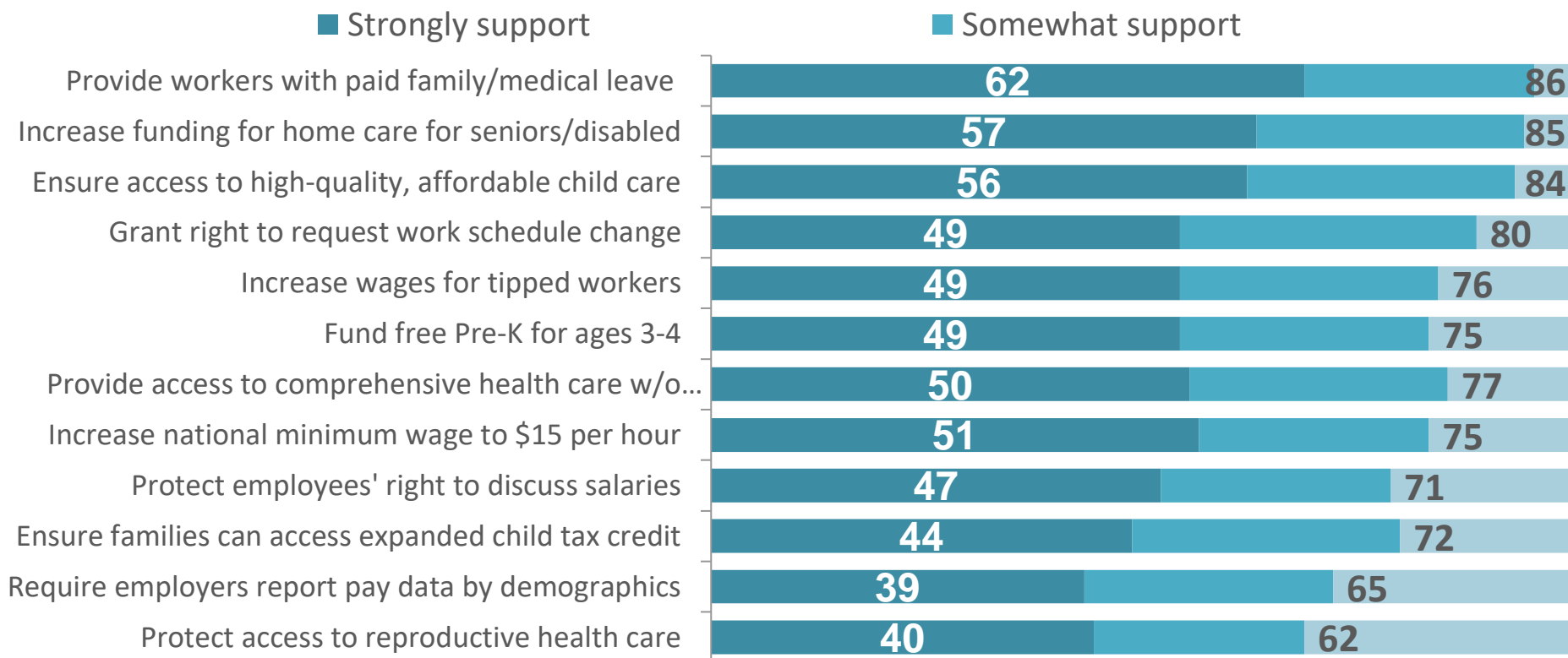
Annual Losses Due to the Wage Gap for Mothers, by Selected Demographics (2019)



Source: NWLC, [Even Before This Disastrous Year for Mothers, They Were Still Only Paid 75 Cents for Every Dollar Paid to Fathers](#) (2021). Calculations based on median annual earnings for full-time, year-round workers as reported in U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey. Mothers and fathers have at least one related child under the age of 18 at home.

Most popular polices support ability to work + care

Here are some policies that Congress is considering. For each one, please indicate if you support or oppose that policy.



Source: NWLC, [Resilient But Not Recovered](#) (2022)



NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER

Questions?

Contact me:

Julie Vogtman, Director of Job Quality & Senior Counsel
jvogtman@nwlc.org / @JulieVogtman

Follow NWLC:

www.nwlc.org / @nwlc



We are **advocates, experts, and lawyers who fight for gender justice**, taking on issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. We **drive change in the courts, in public policy, and in our society**, especially for women facing multiple forms of discrimination.