

Unemployment trends in King County, WA: March 2020 – October 2021

Report date: November 18, 2022

BACKGROUND

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 1.3 million King County residents were employed, representing over 40% of the Washington State workforce. In 2019, the majority (85%) of employed King County residents worked in the service sector, workers who assist community members and businesses by providing shopping, leisure, wholesale trade, information, finance, professional, social and/or care services; the largest number working in the retail trade industry (n=165,400), health care & social assistance (n=157,400) and leisure and hospitality (n = 142,600).¹

In March 2020, after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, federal, state, and local officials implemented mitigation measures designed to protect the health and safety of residents. These community mitigation measures, such as closures of non-essential business and limits on large gatherings, resulted in mass unemployment waves in King County. In July 2020, we analyzed initial King County unemployment claims filed during the first 9 weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 1, 2020 – May 2, 2020). The average number of initial unemployment claims filed during March- April 2020 was 19 times greater than the average number filed in January-February 2020.² Disparities existed in who filed for unemployment insurance (UI) by age, gender, race, and education in April and May of 2020, the early months of the pandemic. Workers with a high school or equivalent education and ages 25-34 years filed the highest number of claims per capita. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI), Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) workers filed more claims per capita than people in other race/ethnicity groups.³

This brief describes King County residents who filed continued unemployment insurance (UI) claims during the first 20 months of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 – October 2021) to examine the full period when policies were in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 and unemployment insurance coverage was expanded. The primary question was whether previously observed disparities persisted.

RELEVANT POLICY TIMELINE

The federal, state, and local mitigation policies enacted to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help unemployed workers started in March 2020 and ended in September 2021.

- March 24, 2020: The statewide “WA Stay Home, Stay Healthy” policy began when all non-essential businesses closed and all public and private social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings were prohibited.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Unemployment insurance (UI) claim requests increased after the “WA Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order and decreased when the order ended.
- 2) Workers with a high school or equivalent education filed more UI claims per worker than workers with other education levels. Workers ages 25-34 years filed more UI claims per worker than workers in other age groups. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI), American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), and Black workers filed more UI claims per worker than other race/ethnic groups. White workers filed the lowest per worker UI claims.
- 3) Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) UI claimants were more likely to have multiple, non-overlapping periods of UI coverage than white UI claimants. Black claimants were the most likely to experience multiple periods of UI claims.
- 4) A higher percentage of BIPOC UI claimants were:
 - a) essential workers (such as farmers, teachers, and in-home service care workers) compared to white UI claimants, with NHPI UI claimants having the highest percentage of essential workers filing for UI claims;
 - b) in-person workers (such as grocery workers, nurses, and transportation workers) than were white UI claimants, with Black UI claimants having the highest percentage of in-person workers filing for UI.

- March 27, 2020: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law to help blunt the impact of an economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, included various programs related to unemployment and financial aid described below.⁵
 - CARES Act Economic Impact Payments provided American households with three payments of up to \$1,200 per adult for individuals whose income was less than \$99,000 (or \$198,000 for joint filers) and \$500 per child under 17 years old – or up to \$3,400 for a family of four.
 - The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program extended the number of weeks a claimant could receive UI (up to 39 weeks from the usual 26 weeks).
 - The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program expanded eligibility for UI to workers not typically eligible, including self-employed workers, freelancers, independent contractors, gig workers, and part-time workers (with fewer than 680 hours).
 - The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program provided an additional \$600 weekly to unemployment benefits.
 - The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provided small businesses with funds to pay up to eight weeks of payroll costs, including benefits.⁶
- May 4, 2020: King County entered a phased/gradual reopening of non-essential businesses and larger gatherings that included a rollback in re-openings when COVID-19 cases surged in Fall/Winter 2020.
- July 25, 2020: FPUC weekly \$600 benefits ended.
- August 2020: Washington State implemented the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program, paying an additional \$300 per week for three weeks.⁴
- May 31, 2021: The PPP ended.
- Summer 2021: With over 70% of the King County residents vaccinated and decreasing number of cases, King County removed physical distancing restrictions and capacity restrictions.
- September 4, 2021: The PEUC and PUA programs ended.
- September 6, 2021: The FPUC program and WA LWA program ended.

The overall impact of the additional federal unemployment coverage was expanded unemployment benefits including the number of workers eligible, the amount received per week, and how long one could receive benefits. Washington State expanded individual unemployment benefit access by eliminating the one week waiting period and offering the LWA program after the FPUC program ended.^{4,5} The state also provided business tax relief by waiving interest, fees, late payments and extending due dates for various taxes, which helped prevent immediate business closures and thus preserved some jobs. This business tax relief ended September 30, 2021.^{4,5}

METHODS

The following descriptive analyses reference de-identified data from the WA State Employment Security Department (WA ESD) on unemployment continued paid claims⁵ that includes self-reported demographics for King County residents during March 1, 2020–October 31, 2021. We report race/ethnicity as mutually exclusive groups (e.g., Asian alone, not Hispanic/Latinx). Residents had an address in King County at any time while they received UI during March 1, 2020–October 31, 2021. The **duration of unemployment** is the number of weeks of compensation (in WA State, claimants must file on a weekly basis to continue receiving unemployment). Residents' occupations are from the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, a federal standard using definitions to classify workers into one of 867 occupations (Major and Minor groups).^{6, 7}

Per worker insurance claims are the number of workers receiving unemployment divided by the estimated number of workers in King County. We obtained the number of King County residents in the workforce overall and within key subgroups from the 2019 American Community Survey.⁸

We defined **in-person work** by using data from the US Department of Labor and surveys to identify and classify workers that work outside of the home (including how many hours).⁹ Examples of fully and partially in-person workers include health care providers and grocery store workers. **Essential workers** were exempt from stay-home orders, business closures and other community mitigation restriction based on occupation codes defined by Washington State.⁸ Examples of essential workers include farmers, teachers, in-home service care workers, Human Resource managers and web developers. Some workers are both essential and work remotely (not in-person), e.g., therapists, traffic controllers, and engineers.

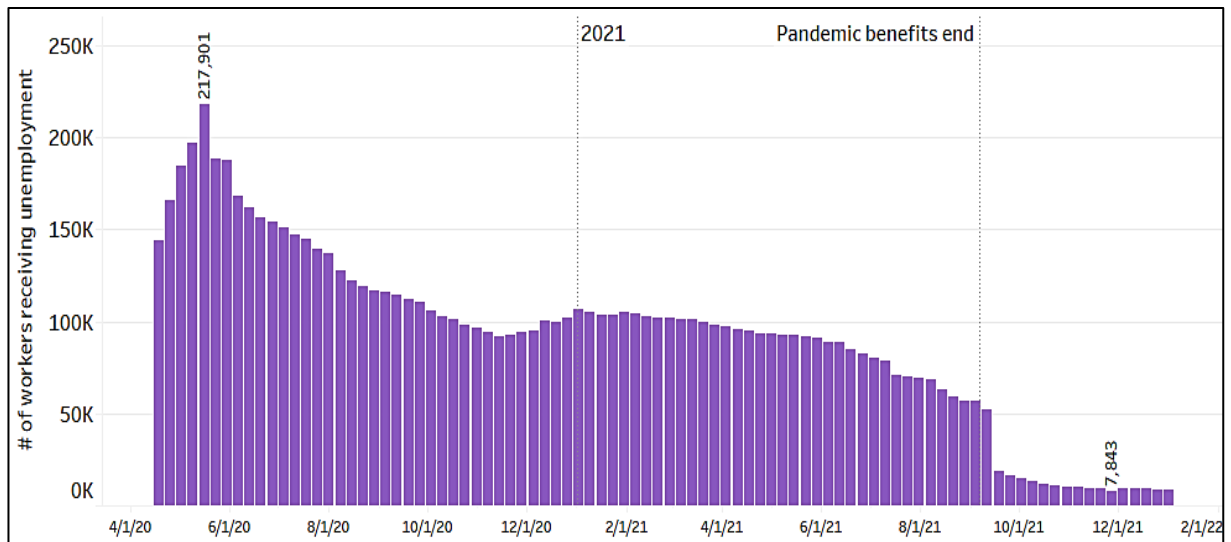
We conducted chi-square tests to determine if there were statistically significant differences between UI claimant groups. Only statistically significant (p-value <0.05) differences are reported in this brief.

RESULTS

Unemployment rates increased after stay home orders and decreased when orders ended.

Unemployment rates (Figure 1) give context and mirror what occurred with UI claims;¹⁰ that is, claims decreased when stay home orders ended. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the average unemployment rate was 2.4%.¹¹ The average unemployment rate for 2020 was 7.8%, with a peak of 15.3% in April 2020.¹² During 2021, the average unemployment rate was 4.3% with the highest rates during January–March (5.0% - 5.9%). The lowest rates occurred during October–December 2021 (2.9% - 3.4%)¹³ after pandemic-related unemployment benefits and COVID-19 mitigation policies ended. As expected, the number of King County residents receiving unemployment insurance was higher when mitigation policies and expanded UI policies were in place.

Figure 1: King County residents receiving unemployment benefits by week, April 2020 – February 2022



Adults (25-34 & 35-44-year-olds), females, and workers with a high school diploma or equivalent were more likely to file UI claims than others.

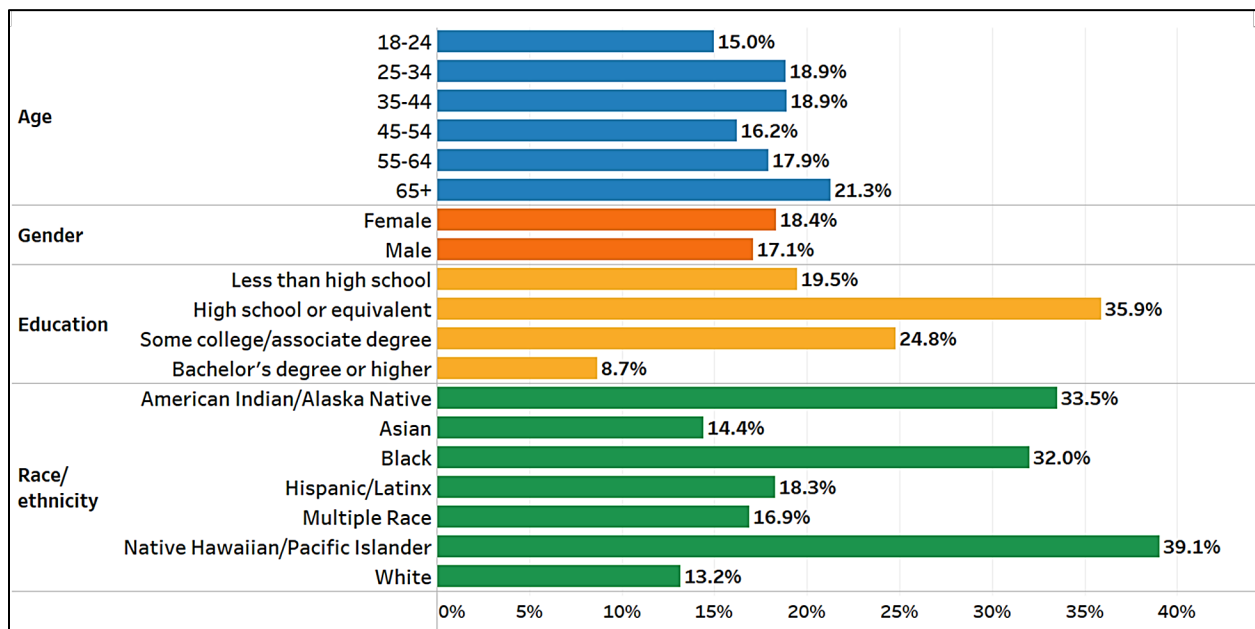
Among the 1.2 million King County jobs during March 1, 2020–October 31, 2021, 233,629 individuals filed 283,096 unemployment claims. The per worker UI claims (the percentage of people filing unemployment insurance claims among the total number of people in the workforce) for King County overall was 18.0%.

Compared to people of other ages, 25-34 and 35-44-year-old workers (18.9%) filed the highest number of UI claims per worker (Figure 2 and Appendix Table 2). Women filed more UI claims per worker than men (18.4% vs. 17.1%, respectively). Workers with a high school diploma or equivalent filed the most UI claims per worker (35.9%) compared to those with other education levels.

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) workers filed more UI claims than white workers.

Over one-third (39.1%) NHPH workers in King County filed UI claims, a percentage three times higher than the UI claims per worker filed by white workers (13.2%; Figure 2). AIAN workers (33.5%), Black workers (32.0%), Hispanic/Latinx workers (18.3%), workers who identify as Multiple race (16.9%), and Asian workers (14.4%) also filed UI claims per worker at higher percentages than white workers (12.0%; Figure 2 and Appendix Table 2).

Figure 2: King County per worker unemployment insurance claims, March 2020 – October 2021



More than half of people filing for UI were essential workers and/or working in-person prior to filing.

In King County’s workforce, just prior to the pandemic, roughly 17% were working an essential job.^{14,15} In comparison, over half (57.0% or 133,102) of UI claimants were essential workers. Among claimants receiving UI through the PUA program, 49.6% were essential workers.

More than half (61.0% or 140,391) of UI claimants came from in-person jobs. Among the general population, slightly less than half (48.7%) of all workers in King County switched to remote from in-person work because of the pandemic.¹⁶

The top five Major Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) occupation groups with the highest percent of UI claimants were:¹⁷

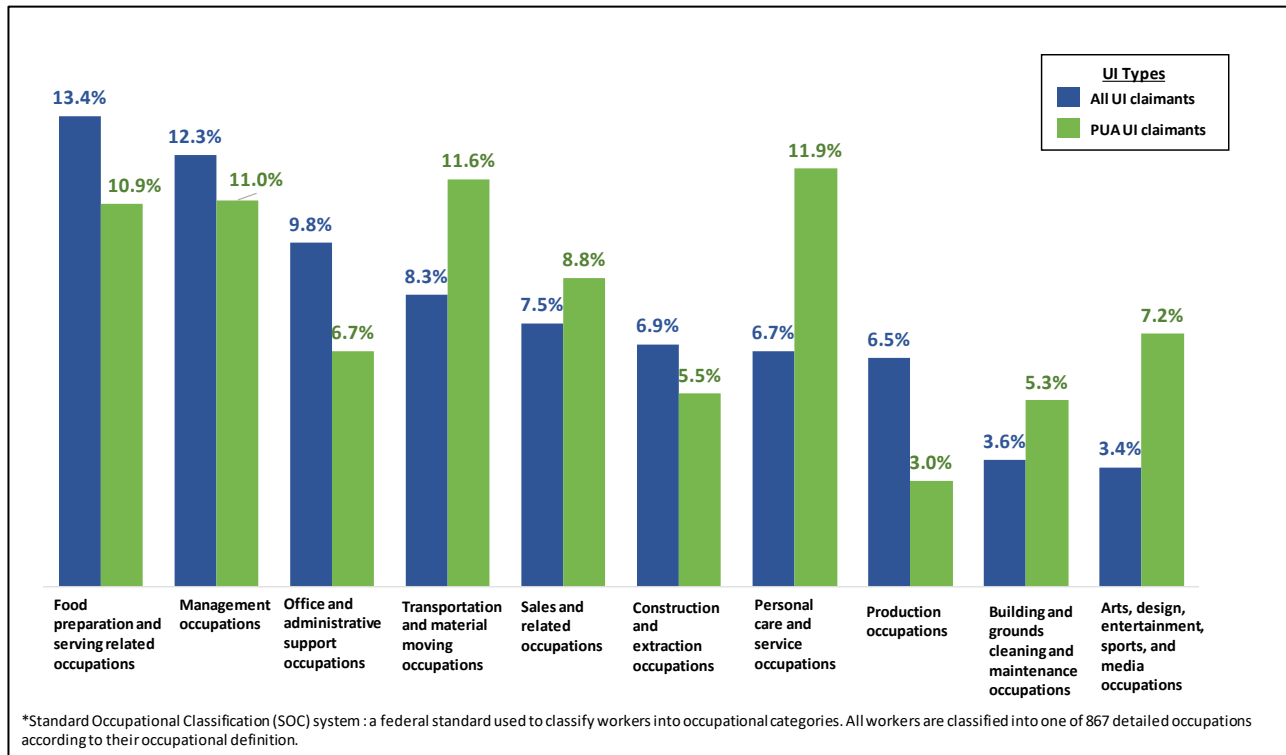
- food preparation and serving related occupations with 13.4% of UI claimants (in comparison, they represent 5.6% of the total 2019 King County workforce);
- management occupations with 12.3% of UI claimants (5.0% of the total 2019 King County workforce);
- office and administrative support occupations with 9.8% of UI claimants (7.3% of the total 2019 King County workforce);
- transportation and material moving occupations with 8.3% of UI claimants (4.1% of the total 2019 King County workforce);

- sales and related occupations with 7.5% of UI claimants (6.8% of total 2019 King County workforce; Figure 3).

Unlike overall (regular and PUA) UI claimants, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program UI claimants had similar percentages of essential/non-essential jobs and were most likely to be in personal care and service occupations or transportation and material moving occupations.

Of the 233,629 individuals who filed for UI claims, 54,395 (23.3%) filed specifically for PUA benefits, which expanded eligibility for UI to self-employed and gig workers, freelancers, independent contractors, and others not typically eligible. PUA claimants had slightly different occupations than overall UI claimants. The top five Major SOC occupation groups among PUA claimants were personal care and service occupations (11.9%; 6,450 individuals), transportation and material moving occupations (11.6%; 6,299 individuals), management occupations (11.0%; 6,001 individuals), food preparation and serving related occupations (10.9%; 5,940 individuals), and sales and related occupations (8.8%; 4,807 individuals; Figure 3).¹⁸

Figure 3: Top ten Major Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) groups with the highest number of UI claimants by UI type in King County, March 2020 – October 2021



Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) UI claimants were more likely to file multiple non-overlapping UI claims than white UI claimants; Black claimants had the highest percentage with multiple UI claims.

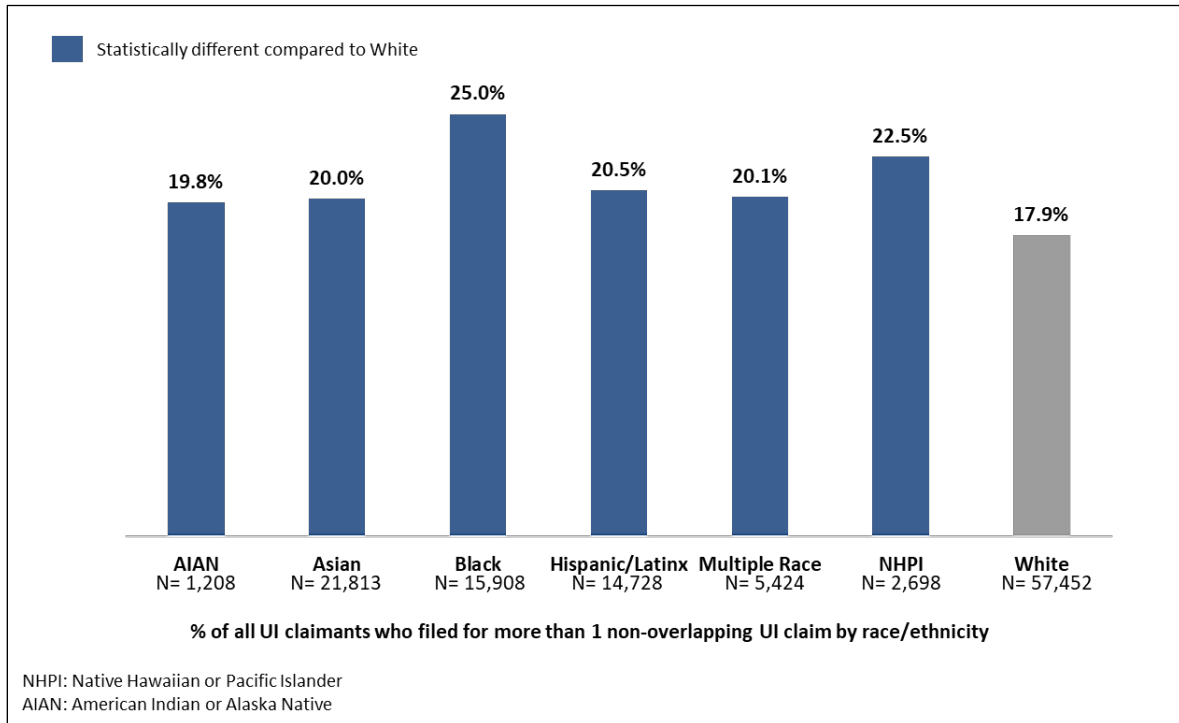
Non-overlapping claims mean a worker lost work and was on unemployment more than once during a certain timeframe. Almost one in five UI claimants (19.4%; n= 45,388) filed more than one non-overlapping UI claim, meaning they experienced multiple episodes of unemployment between March 1, 2020, and October 31, 2021. A higher percentage of Black UI claimants had multiple non-overlapping unemployment episodes compared to white UI claimants (25.0% vs. 17.9% respectively; Figure 4). NHPI (22.5%), Hispanic/Latinx (20.1%), those who identify as Multiple races (20.1%), Asian (20.0%), and AIAN (19.8%) UI claimants also had higher percentages of multiple non-overlapping UI claims than did white

UI claimants.

UI claimants with lower education levels were more likely to file multiple non-overlapping UI claims than those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Claimants with less than a bachelor's degree were most likely to file more than one unemployment claim. A higher percentage of workers with a high school diploma or equivalent (22.1%) filed more than one unemployment claim than workers at higher education levels (15.4%; data not shown).

Figure 4: Percentage of King County UI claimants who filed multiple non-overlapping UI claims by race/ethnicity, March 2020 – October 2021



Black UI claimants had the longest average number of weeks with UI payments compared to other race/ethnicities.

Black claimants also received UI for a longer overall period than did white claimants (32.8 and 26.5 weeks respectively; data not shown). On average, UI claimants received UI payments for 27.1 weeks (median: 18 weeks), and the duration of UI benefits was otherwise similar by race/ethnicity.¹⁹

A higher percentage of BIPOC UI claimants were essential workers or worked in person compared to white UI claimants.

A higher percentage of NHPI UI claimants were essential workers than white UI claimants (70.9% and 56.1% respectively; Figure 5). AIAN (66.3%), Hispanic/Latinx (63.8%), Black (61.6%), Asian (59.1%), and those who identify as Multiple races (57.6%) UI claimants were also more likely to be in essential jobs than white UI claimants (Figure 5).

A higher percentage of Black (68.7%), Asian (68.5%), Hispanic/Latinx (68.4%), NHPI (67.6%), AIAN (62.8%), and those who identify as Multiple races (59.8%) UI claimants worked in-person compared to white UI claimants (Figure 6).

Figure 5: Percentage of King County UI claimants who are essential workers by race/ethnicity, March 2020 – October 2021

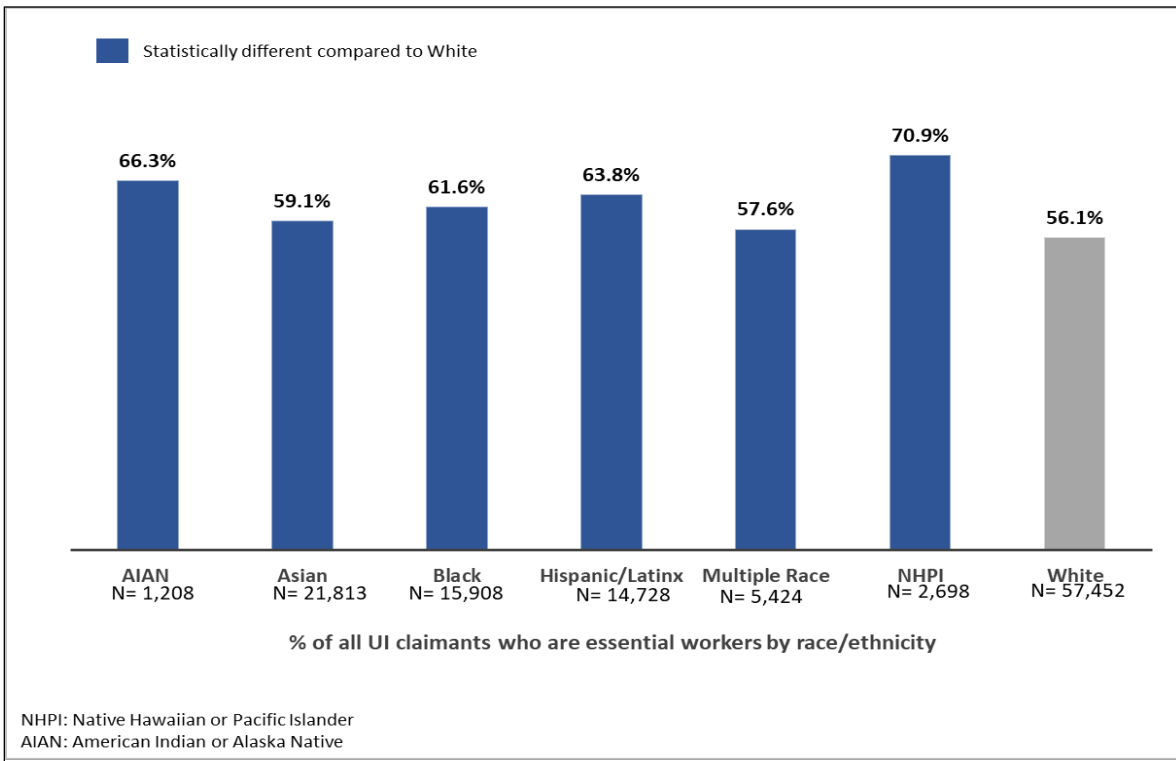
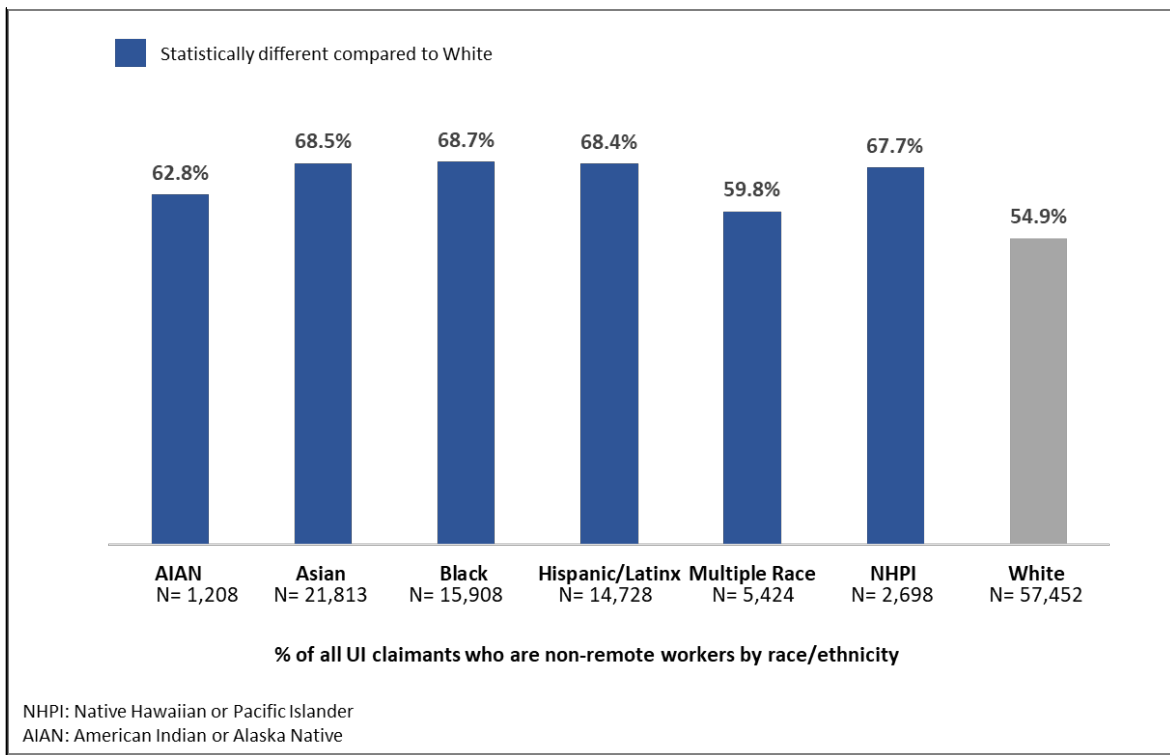


Figure 6: Percentage of King County UI claimants who are in-person workers by race/ethnicity, March 2020 – October 2021



LIMITATIONS

We are most likely underestimating the true number of workers who were unemployed during this time because UI data do not include people who are ineligible for unemployment benefits or people who did not apply. These include a) non-US citizen workers ineligible to receive assistance from federally funded programs because of their immigration status or reluctant to file given the Public Charge rule enacted in February 2020 (though receiving unemployment support does not invoke Public Charge),²⁰ and b) workers who voluntarily quit or cut back hours, thus ineligible for unemployment benefits.

We do not know why King County workers were filing for unemployment –whether they were laid off for poor performance, because of business closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, took leave to care for someone with COVID-19 or another reason. Understanding the reason for filing might help us understand some of the results, especially for essential workers filing for UI, as well as the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment.

DISCUSSION

UI claim filings among King County workers increased after stay home orders and decreased when these orders and pandemic-related expansion of UI benefits ended. Working adults ages 25-34 and workers with a high school or equivalent education were more likely to file for UI claims than others.

Disparities in who filed for UI by race/ethnicity that existed prior to the pandemic persisted during the pandemic.²¹ Specifically:

- BIPOC workers were more likely to file for UI benefits than were white workers. NHPI and AIAN workers were nearly three times as likely to file for UI and PUA benefits than were white workers during the first 20 months of the pandemic.
- BIPOC UI claimants were more likely to have multiple, non-overlapping periods of UI coverage than White UI claimants, and Black claimants had the highest percentage experiencing multiple periods of UI.

BIPOC claimants were more likely than white claimants to be essential workers. This is expected perhaps given that low-wage essential workers are more likely to be economically vulnerable and are disproportionately BIPOC.²² BIPOC claimants were also more likely to work partially or fully in-person. This matches observations of the workforce; in April 2020, among the roughly 48 million essential workers in the US (42% of the US workforce), the majority were BIPOC.²³ BIPOC workers are more likely to have in-person occupations, even in jobs considered non-essential.^{24,25,26} It is possible that a higher percentage of BIPOC essential workers and BIPOC in-person workers filed for UI claims because they were at higher risk of getting sick due to the nature of their jobs, less likely to have paid time off, and more likely to get laid off.^{27,28} It is difficult to determine with existing data whether working an essential and/or in-person job increased the likelihood of needing to file for UI. Many workforce positions considered essential and requiring in-person work are low wage, but others are paid well above a living wage, including HR managers, data scientists and web developers.^{1,29} Additional analyses of wages and potentially more data collection are needed to better understand whether or how being an in-person and/or essential worker might have increased risk of unemployment.

Unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on BIPOC King County residents, especially Black residents. Black UI claimants had the highest percentage of multiple non-overlapping UI claims and the longest average number of UI payment weeks. Black workers face more hurdles to get a job than their White counterparts,³⁰ including fewer job opportunities, lower pay, fewer benefits, higher and longer unemployment rates, and lower rates of re-employment regardless of education levels.^{25, 31} These persistent differences in labor and economic outcomes existed before the pandemic and reflect systemic barriers and challenges.³²

The systematic and societal barriers to stable, healthy/safe, and high-paying jobs faced by workers with

lower levels of education and BIPOC workers remain. It is also likely that BIPOC workers faced increased vulnerabilities during the first 20 months of the pandemic that may continue to affect their employment options. Nationally, the unemployment rate for white workers was the same in early 2022 as it was pre-pandemic (3.0%), but the unemployment rate for Black workers remained slightly higher than pre-pandemic (6.5% vs. 6.2% pre-pandemic).³³ It is important to continue monitoring employment to observe disparities and the relative need for additional employment supports to increase equity in King County.

DATA SOURCES AND TECHNICAL NOTES

This report references data from Washington State's Employment Security Department (WA ESD) for March 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021. This analysis does not include people who are ineligible* for unemployment benefits or people who did not apply.

*Note: special federal programs expanded eligibility for unemployment benefits

We identified King County residents by those with an address in King County at any time during the account period and limited analyses to accounts with corresponding UI compensation (i.e., those that were eligible and paid out. Duration of unemployment was calculated by using the number of weeks of compensation (claimants must file on a weekly basis to continue receiving unemployment).

When comparing UI claimant demographics to that of the King County workforce, we pulled data from the American Community Survey including analyses from the Public Use Microdata Sample to get 2019 workforce estimates (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>). We used 2019 ACS data because of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on 2020/2021 the ACS survey data collection and quality. Claims per worker were calculated as the number of workers receiving unemployment divided by the number of King County residents in the workforce in 2019.

Claims per worker differs from the unemployment rate. Unemployment rate includes all people who are looking for work in each area, including those not receiving unemployment insurance (see <https://www.bls.gov/lau/> for more information). Race/ethnicity is self-identified for UI claims.

Remote workers: We combined two definitions/analyses to identify occupations that can be performed remotely:

1. Chmura defined remote occupations based on American Time-Use Survey responses and Department of Labor's O*NET occupation characteristics - Work in close physical proximity to other people; other working conditions that would typically preclude working from home, such as working outdoors or in an enclosed vehicle or needing to spend working time standing or wearing safety equipment ([Chmura Economics & Analytics, JobsEQ.: Which Jobs Can Be Done Remotely?: A JobsEQ Analysis of Remote Occupations | Chmura](#)).
2. Dingel defined remote occupations based on O*NET surveys, Work Context Questionnaire and Generalized Work Activities Questionnaire.² We then created a crosswalk of SOC and O*NET codes. If either analysis designated an occupation as remote/teleworkable, we flagged it as remote/teleworkable (Jonathan I. Dingel and Brent Neiman, How Many Jobs Can be Done at Home?, [BFI White-Paper Dingel Neiman 3.2020.pdf \(uchicago.edu\)](#)).

Essential workers: We defined essential workers as those exempted from stay-home orders, business closures and other community mitigation restrictions. We based essential workers on occupation and industry. Using occupation: [Labor Market Information \(LMI\) Institute](#) created a crosswalk of essential critical infrastructure occupations using SOC codes. Using industry: Department of Homeland Security – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS-CISA) [Essential Critical Infrastructure Industry Code Set](#) (crosswalk to NAICS codes by NIOSH). Industry information is only available in the wage dataset and is tied to the employer. ESD identifies the dates of the base year; major base year employer is the employer with the most wages in that year. This employer is used to identify the industry associated with the UI claim.

The numbers reported here may differ compared to the numbers reported by WA ESD. This could be due to how we have defined King County workers (time period and what ZIP Codes we have included). WA ESD has also been continuously searching for fraudulent UI claims and updating their data. Data used for this analysis was not continuously updated to remove fraudulent claims.

FUNDING

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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For more information and updated data, see www.kingcounty.gov/covid/impacts

For questions email us at COVIDevaluation@kingcounty.gov

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL DATA

Table A1: Number of King County residents who filed UI claims between March 2020–October 2021			
Demographic Characteristic	Overall Claims	PUA Claims	Non-PUA Claims
Total	233,629	54,395	179,234
Age			
<18	31	24	7
18-24	19,384	6,836	12,548
25-34	70,723	12,738	57,985
35-44	55,757	13,208	42,549
45-54	40,985	9,969	31,016
55-64	33,399	7,749	25,650
65+	13,349	3,871	9,478
Gender			
Female	110,587	27,034	83,553
Male	121,729	27,066	94,663
Non-binary/Other	1,313	295	1,018
Missing	0	0	0
Race/ethnicity			
AIAN	1,823	405	1,418
Asian	36,881	8,641	28,240
Black	25,807	7,647	18,160
Hispanic/Latinx	23,068	3,889	19,179
Multiple race	9,414	2,261	7,153
NHPI	3,804	591	3,213
White	102,415	23,738	78,677
Missing	30,417	7,223	23,194
Education			
Less than high school	16,726	4,613	12,113
High school graduate or GED	64,255	14,751	49,504
Some college/associates degree	78,883	18,560	60,323
Bachelor's degree and higher	63,424	13,997	49,427
Missing	10,341	2,474	7,867
Essential worker			
Essential	133,102	26,981	106,121
Non-Essential worker	100,518	27,411	73,107
Missing	9	3	6
Remote worker			
Remote	59,450	13,516	45,934
In-person worker	140,391	32,955	107,436
Partially/possibly Remote worker	30,412	6,881	23,531
Missing	3,376	1,043	2,333

Table A1: Number of King County residents who filed UI claims between March 2020–October 2021

Demographic Characteristic	Overall Claims	PUA Claims	Non-PUA Claims
Disability			
No Disability	217,005	49,627	167,378
Disability	5,837	1,731	4,106
Missing	10,787	3,037	7,750
Language			
Chinese	4,082	1,036	3,046
English	213,410	49,908	163,502
Khmer	485	43	442
Korean	1,057	410	647
Laotian	232	18	214
Russian	1,099	20	1,079
Samoan	177	449	-272
Spanish	4,279	1,356	2,923
Vietnamese	5,942	0	5,942
Other	2,866	454	2,412
Missing	0	701	0
Veteran status			
Non-veteran	221,320	51,922	169,398
Veteran	7,511	1,266	6,245
Missing	4,798	1,207	3,591
Major SOC Occupation Group (Occupation Code)			
Management Occupations (11-0000)	28,629	6,001	22,628
Business and Financial Operations Occupations (13-0000)	7,567	1,440	6,127
Computer and Mathematical Occupations (15-0000)	6,282	744	5,538
Architecture and Engineering Occupations (17-0000)	4,131	379	3,752
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (19-0000)	1,334	229	1,105
Community and Social Service Occupations (21-0000)	2,207	578	1,629
Legal Occupations (23-0000)	1,080	246	834
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (25-0000)	5,265	1,719	3,546
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media Occupations (27-0000)	7,957	3,920	4,037
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (29-0000)	5,945	1,083	4,862
Healthcare Support Occupations (31-0000)	7,452	1,774	5,678
Protective Service Occupations (33-0000)	2,362	594	1,768
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (35-0000)	31,406	5,940	25,466
Building, Grounds Cleaning, Maintenance Occupations (37-0000)	8,444	2,873	5,571
Personal Care and Service Occupations (39-0000)	15,627	6,450	9,177
Sales and Related Occupations (41-0000)	17,496	4,807	12,689
Office/Administrative Support Occupations (43-0000)	22,905	3,620	19,285
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (45-0000)	687	116	571
Construction and Extraction Occupations (47-0000)	16,205	2,970	13,235

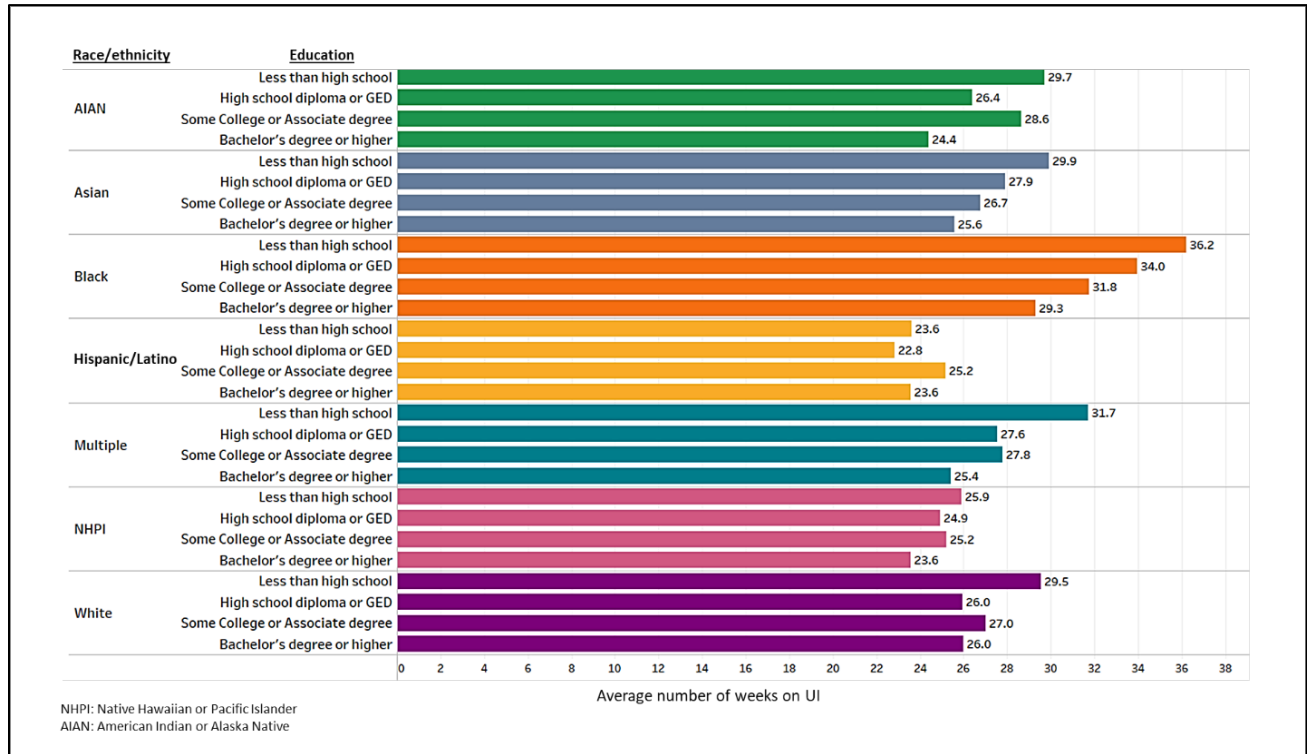
Table A1: Number of King County residents who filed UI claims between March 2020–October 2021

Demographic Characteristic	Overall Claims	PUA Claims	Non-PUA Claims
Installation, Maintenance, Repair Occupations (49-0000)	5,856	978	4,878
Production Occupations (51-0000)	15,114	1,618	13,496
Transportation, Material Moving Occupations (53-0000)	19,473	6,299	13,174
Military Specific Occupations (55-0000)	196	14	182
Missing	9	3	6

Table A2: Number and percentage of King County workforce and UI claimants

Demographic Characteristic	King County Workforce 2019 (#)*	King County Workers in workforce (%)	UI Claimants March 2020 - October 2021 (#)	Workers who Received UI (%)	PUA Claimants March 2020 - October 2021 (#)	Workers who Received PUA UI (%)
Total	1,314,256	100.0%	233,629	17.0%	54,395	4.1%
Age						
<18	13,146	1.0%	31	0.2%	24	0.2%
18-24	129,608	9.9%	19,384	15.0%	6,836	5.3%
25-34	374,952	28.5%	70,723	18.9%	12,738	3.4%
35-44	295,162	22.5%	55,757	18.9%	13,208	4.5%
45-54	252,501	19.2%	40,985	16.2%	9,969	3.9%
55-64	186,189	14.2%	33,399	17.9%	7,749	4.2%
65+	62,698	4.8%	13,349	21.3%	3,871	6.2%
Missing	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Race/ethnicity						
American Indian/Alaska Native	5,441	0.4%	1,823	33.5%	405	7.4%
Asian	256,389	19.5%	36,881	14.4%	8,641	3.4%
Black/African American	80,624	6.1%	25,807	32.0%	7,647	9.5%
Hispanic/Latinx	126,180	9.6%	23,068	18.3%	3,889	3.1%
Multiple Race	55,719	4.2%	9,414	16.9%	2,261	4.1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	9,740	0.7%	3,804	39.1%	591	6.1%
White	776,473	59.1%	102,415	13.2%	23,738	3.1%
Gender						
Female	602,489	45.8%	110,587	18.4%	27,034	4.5%
Male	711,767	54.2%	121,729	17.1%	27,066	3.8%
Non-binary	0	0%	1,313	0	295	0%
Education						
Less than high school	85,848	6.5%	16,726	19.5%	4,613	5.4%
High school or equivalent, no college	179,049	13.6%	64,255	35.9%	14,751	8.2%
Some college or Associate degree	318,124	24.2%	78,883	24.8%	18,560	5.8%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	731,235	55.6%	63,424	8.7%	10,758	1.5%
Missing	0	0%	10,341	0%	2,474	0%

Figure A1: Average number of weeks a King County worker received UI payments by race/ethnicity and education, March 2020 – October 2021



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[2021#:~:text=Counts%20for%20initial%20claims%20do,or%20unknown%20for%20many%20reasons](https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/monthly-initial-and-continuing-unemployment-insurance-claims-report-for-december-2021#:~:text=Counts%20for%20initial%20claims%20do,or%20unknown%20for%20many%20reasons).

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