Poverty Tracker

CENTER ON POVERTY & SOCIAL POLICY at Columbia University

COLUMBIA | CPRC
Columbia Population Research Center

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MONITORING POVERTY AND WELL-BEING IN NYC

# Portrait of Disadvantage Among Women in New York City in 2022

The Poverty Tracker is a groundbreaking study of poverty and well-being in New York City conducted in partnership with Columbia University since 2012. The study provides a dynamic view of poverty in New York City, checking in with more than 3,000 households multiple times a year for up to six years. As highlighted below, the study allows us to further examine the economic disadvantages millions of New Yorkers are facing, and the gender disparities underlying these experiences.

ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE[i]

Female New Yorkers are **more likely than males to experience poverty** (23% vs. 18%), **material hardships** (32% vs. 25%), **and health problems** (25% vs. 20%).
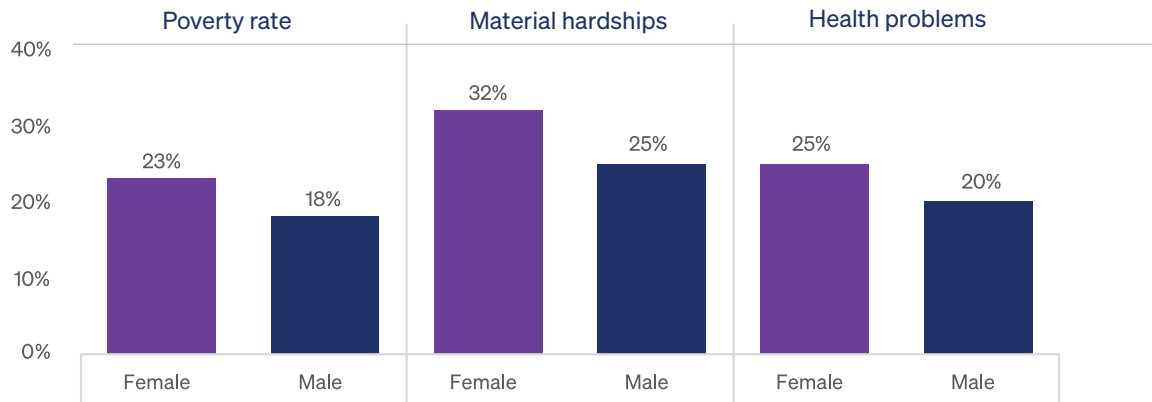
Black and Latina females faced **disproportionate rates** of all forms of economic disadvantage.
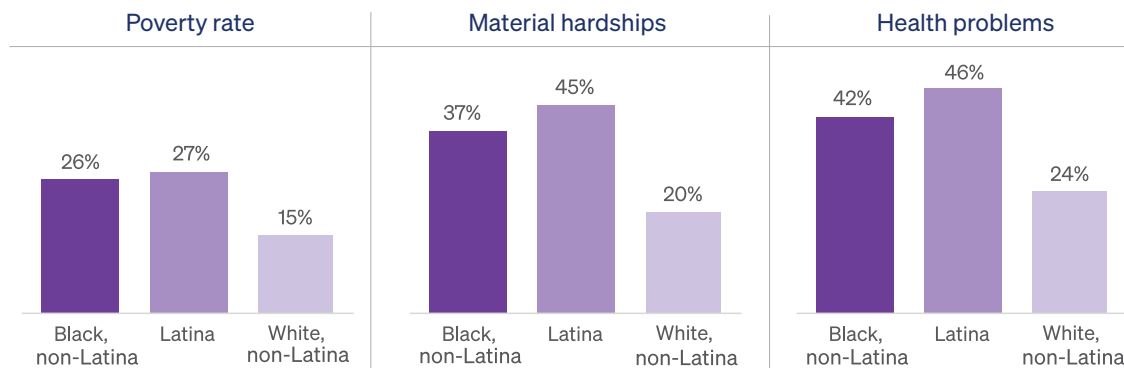
Disadvantage is more persistent for females than males. Across a 5-year period, **60% of females were in poverty** for at least one year versus 45% of males, and **24% of females were in poverty for 3 or more years** versus 16% of males. Gaps are similar for experiences of material hardship over a 5-year period.
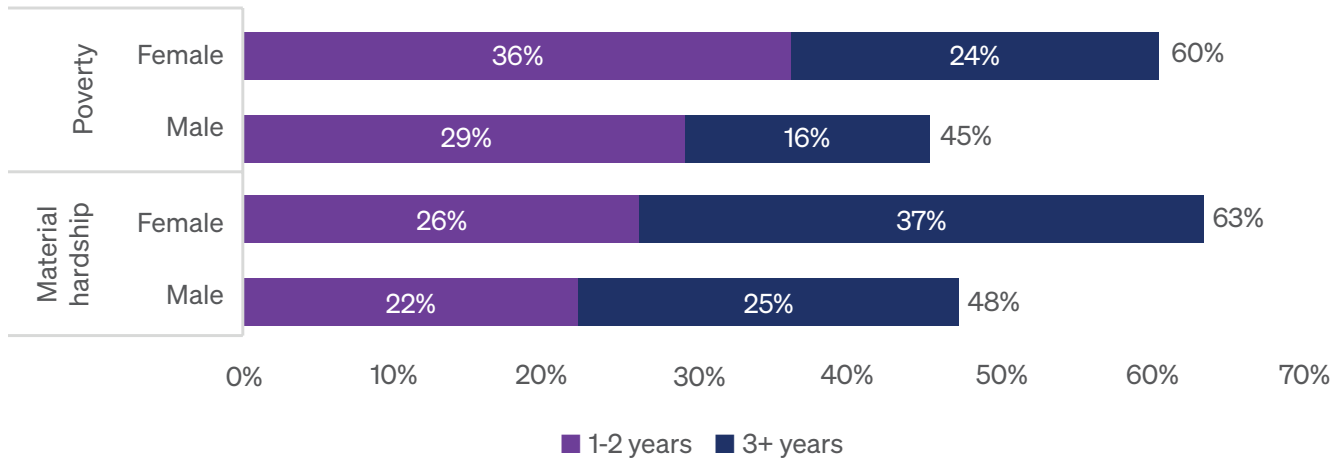
Across racial and ethnic groups, disadvantage was more persistent for Black and Latina females than white females. More than a quarter of Black females (27%) and a third of Latina New Yorkers (35%) faced poverty for 3 or more years across a 5-year period versus 1 in 10 white females (11%). Black and Latina females were also more than twice as likely as white females to have their experiences of material hardship persist for more than three years (42% and 50% vs. 21%).

EMPLOYMENT[ii]

Overall, a similar proportion of females and males are low-wage workers (29% vs. 27%), but **Black and Latina females are almost three times more likely than white females to work in low-wage jobs (40% and 39% vs. 15%).**
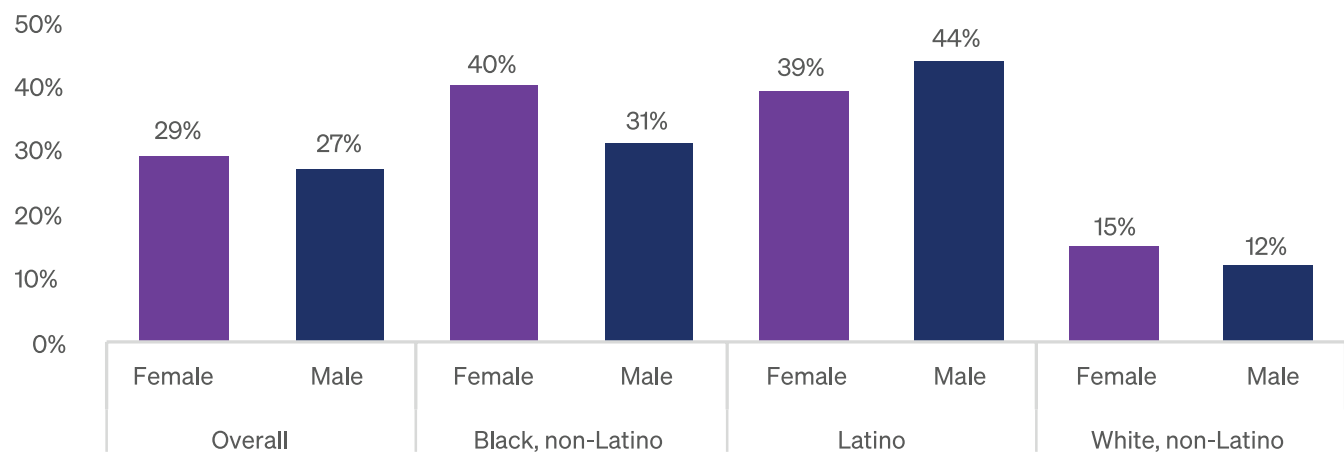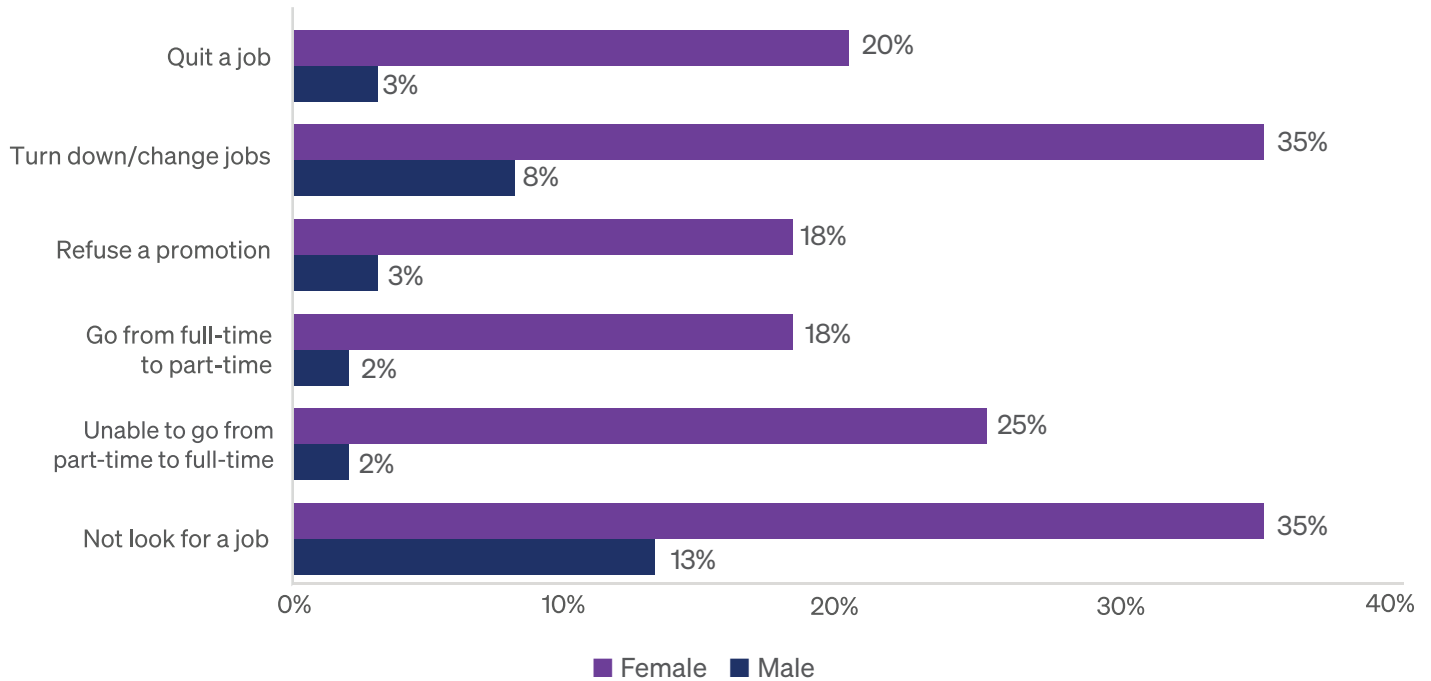
CHILD CARE[iii]

Child care responsibilities may disproportionately fall on/affect females compared to males.

Female New Yorkers are much more likely than males to **quit a job** (20% vs 3%), **turn down a job** (35% vs 8%), or **refuse a promotion** (18% vs 3%) **due to child care issues**.

In the past 12 months, did you have to do any of the below due to child care issues?

Roughly one in five females **(18%) switched from full-time employment to part-time employment due to child care issues**, compared to **2%** of males, and roughly one in four females **(25%) could not go from working part-time to working full-time** due to child care responsibilities, compared to **2%** of males.

Females are also over **twice as likely to not look for a job because of child care responsibilities** than males (35% vs 13%).

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[i] *Findings on the rates of disadvantage among females and males are drawn from annual Poverty Tracker data, using the study's second through fifth cohorts and a three-year average of 2018, 2019, and 2022 data. Findings on the persistence of disadvantages are drawn using longitudinal Poverty Tracker data from the second cohort's baseline to 60-month surveys.*

[ii] *Findings are drawn using annual Poverty Tracker data from 2022 and the study's second through fifth cohorts.*

[iii] *Findings are drawn using longitudinal Poverty Tracker data from the fourth cohort's 18-month survey. We urge interpreting these results with caution given a small sample size of females (190 respondents) and males (98 respondents) to these questions.*