

Summary

HudsonUP Year One Report

For one year, since Fall 2020, HudsonUP has given 25 residents of Hudson, NY \$500 each month. The program is now expanding to 75 total recipients as of October 2021. While the pilot will continue for five years—one of the longest in the country—the first-year report by Leah Hamilton presents preliminary findings on housing security, agency, and employment during the economic downturn of COVID-19. These early results depict recipients' experiences and present descriptive statistics on outcomes.



Photo by Marisa Howenstine on Unsplash

"It's aiding me with providing for my son, assisted paying my rent, where I live. It has been a positive impact on my financial situation."

HudsonUP Recipient

Those who received the benefit described greater financial stability and security, with many reporting that they had been able to pay their rent, take care of their family members, and avoid accumulating debt. Single mothers in the group especially emphasized that the greater financial security helped them provide for their children.

"I was able to go to caretake for my mom for a month in [another state]...it affected my friends, community, family in an amazing way."

HudsonUP Recipient



Photo by Raychan on Unsplash

Key Impact Areas:

- **Increased employment among recipients**
- **Better reported emotional and physical wellbeing**
- **Financial security and improved relationships**

After the first year of receiving payments, the percentage of participants who worked either full-time or part-time increased from 29% to 63%. The percentage of participants who reported not working for reasons other than retirement or disability decreased from 50% to 38%. Participant surveys also showed improved physical and mental health according to standardized surveys (i.e. Short Form 36 and Kessler 10, see report for details). Many described the program as a "relief," with surveys reporting decreased stress after a year of monthly basic income payments.

Beyond Hudson - A picture of a broken safety net

Participants reported that the Hudson pilot had been a more positive experience than traditional assistance programs. In particular, participants referenced the harsh cutoffs in other programs.

All recipients reported positive feelings about the program, reflecting on the trust and agency inherent to the basic income and reinforced by administrators. Some reported, "As a country, this is what we need," and, "I just wish all of this [the child tax credit debate] was more about you need this to plan a life...versus we're going to help you poor people."

"Social services have not been updated to allow people to sustain their financial stability in times of change."

HudsonUP Recipient



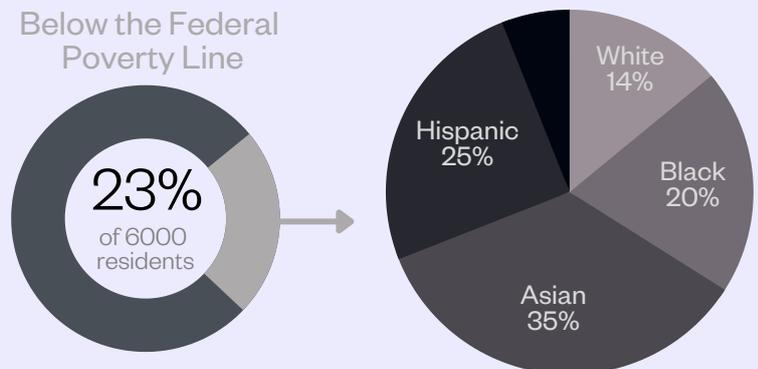
Photo by Daniel Case, Wikimedia

HudsonUP recipients & respondents

From college students to retirees, HudsonUP pilot recipients represent a wide breadth and depth of experience. Of the 14 participants in the first wave of interviews and surveys, 6 were White (including 1 Latinx), 6 Black, and 1 Asian. Eleven of the participants were female, 2 were male, and 1 was non-binary. In terms of education, 1 has not completed high school, 4 hold a high school diploma or GED, 3 attended some college, and 5 hold either an Associate's or Bachelor's degree, with just 1 having a postgraduate degree. Five of those surveyed were currently pursuing further education, with some using the basic income to enable their advanced study.

About Hudson, NY

Hudson is a small, diverse city of 6,000 residents, with close to 1 in 4 residents part of the city's growing tourism and service industries. With median incomes at roughly \$39,000 per year (2015-19), the city has twice the national poverty rate. The poverty rate is higher among children (25%) and Black, Asian, and Hispanic households.



Like in many cities nationwide, housing costs in Hudson have skyrocketed in the past decade, up 60% since 2011, with a third of residents paying over 30% of their monthly income toward housing, and gentrification pushing hundreds of residents out. The pandemic's economic downturn only worsened these conditions. The city of Hudson and its larger Columbia County also have notably differing political orientations, with the city leaning left and the county leaning right. In this unique context, HudsonUP observes diverse attitudes toward and effects of a basic income.

For more information, contact communications@jainfamilyinstitute.org and [read the full report here](#). Visit [HudsonUP.org](https://www.hudsonup.org) for more about the pilot, funders, and recent updates.