
May 4, 2015

Fact Sheet: 21 Million Mothers Benefit From Tax Credits for Lower-Income Working Families

Two working-family tax credits — the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) — have proven to be powerful tools for reducing children’s poverty and advancing their long-term well-being.¹ About 21 million mothers in low- and moderate-income working families received either the EITC or the low-income portion of the CTC in 2012. (For data on how the credits help fathers, see “13 Million Fathers Benefit from Tax Credits for Lower-Income Working Families.”)

Over 26 million Americans claimed the EITC, including about 20 million filers with children, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) figures show. A mostly overlapping group of 19 million parents claimed the low-income (that is, refundable) CTC. We estimate that about 10 million single mothers and 11 million couples that include a mother² received one or both credits. Our estimates are based on IRS data, additional state tax information from the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, and national-level Census data on the gender of tax credit recipients.

The table shows the figures for mothers (married or single) by state. In most states, more than 200,000 mothers received one or both credits. In even the least populous states, such as Vermont and Wyoming, over 25,000 mothers received this help.

¹ Chuck Marr *et al.*, “EITC and Child Tax Credit Promote Work, Reduce Poverty, and Support Children’s Development, Research Finds,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, revised April 3, 2015, <http://www.cbpp.org/research/eitc-and-child-tax-credit-promote-work-reduce-poverty-and-support-childrens-development>.

² These figures treat same-sex married couples as unmarried for tax purposes because the Census Bureau’s 2013 tax model, which these calculations rely on, had not yet incorporated recent Supreme Court and IRS rulings allowing legally married same-sex couples to file together.

TABLE 1

Mothers With EITC or Refundable Child Tax Credit, Fiscal Year 2012

50 States + DC	20,960,000
Alabama	421,000
Alaska	36,000
Arizona	463,000
Arkansas	228,000
California	2,675,000
Colorado	289,000
Connecticut	161,000
Delaware	55,000
Dist. of Columbia	38,000
Florida	1,465,000
Georgia	894,000
Hawaii	79,000
Idaho	115,000
Illinois	861,000
Indiana	429,000
Iowa	155,000
Kansas	168,000
Kentucky	296,000
Louisiana	403,000
Maine	63,000
Maryland	329,000
Massachusetts	277,000
Michigan	602,000
Minnesota	255,000
Mississippi	309,000
Missouri	373,000
Montana	53,000
Nebraska	106,000
Nevada	209,000
New Hampshire	51,000
New Jersey	453,000
New Mexico	162,000
New York	1,239,000
North Carolina	763,000
North Dakota	29,000
Ohio	676,000
Oklahoma	257,000
Oregon	206,000
Pennsylvania	641,000
Rhode Island	59,000
South Carolina	384,000
South Dakota	43,000
Tennessee	501,000
Texas	2,212,000
Utah	200,000
Vermont	28,000
Virginia	462,000
Washington	359,000
West Virginia	98,000
Wisconsin	293,000
Wyoming	27,000

Source: CBPP estimates based on data from IRS, unpublished data from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, and CBPP analysis of the Census Bureau's March 2010-March 2014 Current Population Survey.