Understanding the Women's Wealth Gap

CFPB FinEx Webinar | Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 2-3:30 pm ET

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Understanding the Women's Wealth Gap

MEETING LOGISTICS

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CFPB's mission and vision

MISSION

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is a 21st century agency that helps consumer finance markets work by making rules more effective, by consistently and fairly enforcing those rules, and by empowering consumers to take more control over their economic lives.

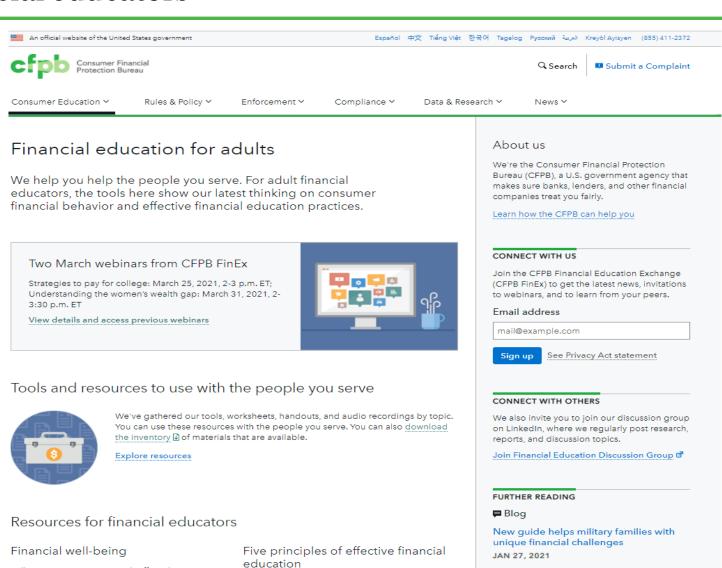


Resources for financial educators

Following a rigorous research effort, the CFPB

defined financial well-being and developed and

Find it at consumerfinance.gov/a dult-financial-education/



The five principles build on insights about how

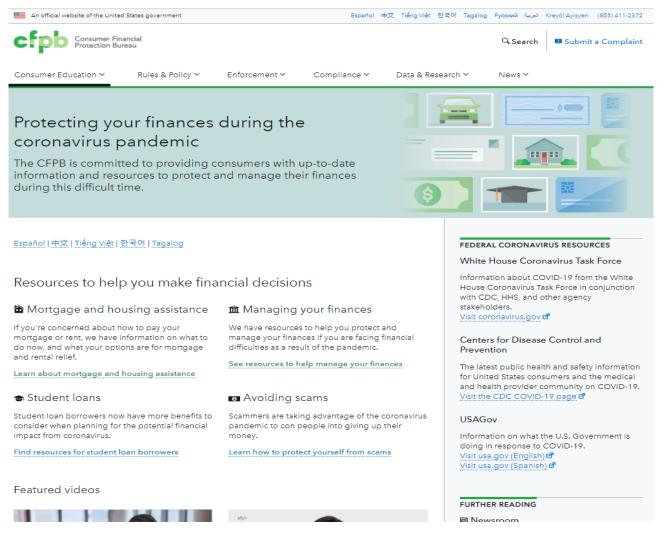


Key links for you

- Protecting Your Finances During the Coronavirus Pandemic:
 <u>consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus</u>
- To order free, bulk copies of CFPB publications:
 http://promotions.usa.gov/cfpbpubs.html
- To sign up for the CFPB Financial Education Exchange:
 <u>CFPB FinEx@cfpb.gov</u>
- To sign up for the CFPB Financial Education Discussion Group: <u>linkedin.com/groups/5056623</u>
- CFPB Resources for Financial Educators webpage:
 consumerfinance.gov/adult-financial-education



Rapid response – Financial protection during the coronavirus pandemic









1 in 4 women and 1 in 2 trans people will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

#1

obstacle to survivors' safety is

financial insecurity

\$104k

is the CDC's estimate of how much DV costs female survivors 99%

of survivors experience economic abuse

\$1.3k

is the average amount stolen from individual survivors each month

\$15.9k

is the average amount of coerced or fraudulent debt a survivor is saddled with each year



"We had a savings account, a checking account, and a business checking account. And I had opened all three accounts. He went to the bank to sign the paperwork, but I opened the accounts and I did all the admin stuff for our business. I never signed any papers that I would be removed from the accounts, but somehow, he had taken me off. In the midst of the divorce and trying to hide and find somewhere to live, I didn't have time to deal with it."

- Tammy



Fewer Financial Resources

The Impact of COVID-19 on Survivors

Slowed Court Proceedings

keeping survivors in contact with harm-doers and delaying potential income like child support

Theft of Stimulus Checks
And Other COVID-19 Related Assistance



Escalating Violence



Survivors Don't Have a Safe Way to Save and Access Money

- Only 52% of survivors have access to a safe bank account
- **30%** had **money stolen from their account** by a harm-doer
 - 17% didn't receive / couldn't access their stimulus checks due to economic abuse
- 29% had their bank account monitored by a harm-doer
- 23% say a harm-doer controlled their access to their bank account
- 13% say a harm-doer has prevented them from having their own bank account
- BIPOC survivors are 3 times more likely than white survivors to report that they
 do not have a bank account that is protected from a harm-doer



There are approximately

28.4NN

survivors banked and underserved in the U.S.





The Impact of Abuse on Survivors' Banking Experience

- Survivors can't safely save the money they need to get to safety and don't have access to the cash they need to support themselves and their children
- The financial devastation of abuse makes banking products unaffordable for survivors
- 3. Harm-doers are using banks to locate survivors after they leave and to access and monitor their online bank accounts
- 4. Survivors must repeat their story to multiple bank employees and often get inconsistent information

- Economic abuse is happening every day in branches across the US and bank employees aren't trained on how to detect and respond to it
- 6. Survivors often leave abuse without their ID or a permanent address
- 7. Harm-doers are incurring debts in survivors' names without their knowledge or consent
- 8. Survivors need time to financially recover without enduring further credit damage



The Opportunity

Banks have the opportunity to implement supportive systems, products and training to help millions of customers across the U.S. build the assets they need to keep themselves and their families safe.

- 75% of survivors have never sought support from banks as a survivor
- Of the 25% who have sought support from banks as a survivor, only 16% found the support they received "very helpful," while 64% reported that they received no help or the assistance provided was unhelpful
- 51% of survivors would seek support from banks if they knew banks offered services for survivors
- Survivors consistently ranked banks in their top 2 choices for services





The Guidelines

% of survivors reporting that the Guideline will help their financial security

1.	Offer accounts that meet <u>BankOn's National Standards</u>	75%
2.	Keep survivors' contact information confidential and secure	73%
3.	Implement enhanced fraud protections on survivors' accounts	77%
4.	Offer Safety Accounts for survivors	76%
5.	Designate internal team to handle survivor accounts	77%
6.	Hire FreeFrom to train bank staff to detect, prevent and respond to economic abuse	81%





The Guidelines cont'd

% of survivors reporting that the Guideline will help their financial security

7.	Allow survivors to open accounts with ID and address alternatives	77%
8.	Offer interest-free deferred payment emergency loans to survivors	87%
9.	Refrain from reporting defaults on coerced / fraudulent debt to credit reporting agencies	79%
10	. Offer flexible repayment plans for survivors in default	79%
11	Provide survivor paid leave and other resources to employees	N/A





Following the Example of Elder Abuse Prevention Efforts

- 88% require training for all frontline and customer service staff on how to detect and report elder financial abuse
- 80% place holds on suspicious transactions in elder customer's accounts
- **62% have dedicated staff to manage elder customer** programs
- 53% of banks offer products for elders with favorable terms like low or no minimum balance requirements, reduced monthly maintenance fees, and discounted safety deposit boxes.
- 43% have procedures in place to help elder customers control who can access their accounts





Following the Examples of Other Countries

Australia

 The National Australia Bank offers a support package for survivors, including \$2500 emergency grants and hiding survivor information in internet banking

New Zealand

• The Australia and New Zealand Banking Group allows survivors to open accounts with **ID** and address alternatives, as well as offers domestic violence leave and support to staff

UK

- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)-UK uses an untraceable national code that hides the location of the bank branch and, by extension, hides the location of the survivor
- HSBC-UK also offers staff training to detect and respond to economic abuse and a specialist team specifically taking calls from survivors



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Understanding the Women's Wealth Gap

Cindy Hounsell
President, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement

March 2021 · CFPB FinEx Webinar



About WISER contact-info@wiserwomen.org

- Nonprofit founded in 1996
- Provides women with basic tools and financial information aimed at helping them take financial control of their lives
- Topics include:

Saving & Investing Widowhood

Social Security Divorce

Caregiving Health and Long-Term Care

Retirement Planning Financial Fraud & Abuse

National Resource Center on Women and Retirement

- WISER operates in partnership with the ACL's Administration on Aging (AoA)
- One-Stop Gateway" to provide basic retirement information and resources
- OPartners include a diverse group of organizations working with older adults, low-income women, women of color, and women with limited English-speaking proficiency.

Visit the Center at wiserwomen.org



Why Women?

- •There are many more older women than men!
- OAt age 65+, there are 5.8 million more women than men
- Women make up 67% of the 85+ population
 - This age group expected to double, even triple over the next 3 decades
 - This is the group most likely to end up in poverty
- Many women who have never been poor end up in poverty in old age



The Pandemic & Women

- In February 2021, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.2%, for Black & Latina women it was over 8% compared with 5.2% of white women
- 77% of women are in occupations that require close contact & cannot be done remotely, such as food preparation, health care support and person service
- In 2021, 1 in 4 women have considered "downshifting" careers or leaving the workforce due to lack of flexibility at work
 - Employment gap of 1 year can lead to 39% reduction in annual earnings. Employment gap of 4 years can lead to 65% reduction in annual earnings.



The Pandemic & Mothers

- •The unemployment rate for mothers living with school-age children was 13.9% in April 2020. It was cut more than half to 6.0% in January 2021.
- •Percentage of unemployed single mothers by race and ethnicity: 9.5% Asian, 9.3% Black, 8.8% Latina, and 5% White in January 2021.
- •Many moms have left the workforce: nearly three-quarters of a million (705,000) have given up on work entirely.
- •By leaving the workforce over the last 12 months, many have lost out on job benefits: healthcare, retirement contributions, promotions, and raises.

Sources: Korn Ferry, "Moms Return to Work-Any Work", March 2021
US Census Bureau, "Tracking Job Losses for Mothers of School Age Children During a Health Crisis", March 2021



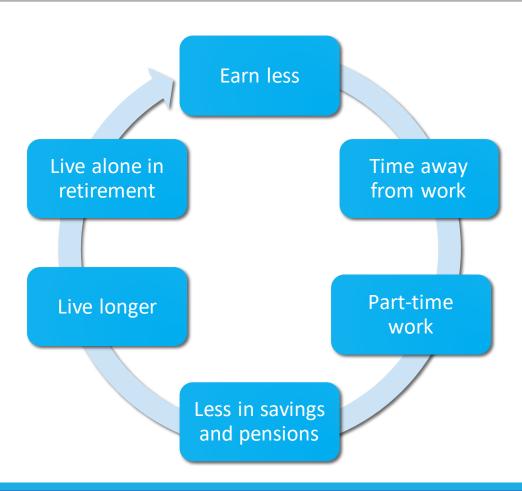
7 Life-Defining Financial Decisions That Can Improve Your Future

- Plan Early for Short-term Goals
- Be Involved in Financial Decisions with Partner/Spouse
- Avoid Credit Card Debt/Keep Good Credit Rating
- Make the Most of Job-Related Benefits
- Carefully Select Options for Saving For Retirement
- Learn about Social Security and how long your savings can last
- ■Future Shocks Caregiving, Death, Divorce, Economic Crisis learn how to





Women's Unique Challenges



Need for long-term planning

- Women need to recognize what old-age looks like in 21st Century; living to 100+
- Women will need more income to pay for extra retirement years
- Need to start saving early and know basic rules to succeed—sign up at workplace
- At age 65 women on average can expect to live 22 more years

- •Where will the income come from?
- Social Security, Workplace & Savings

Improved policy options can help such as the Saver's Tax Credit.

- Working 2-4 years longer than the full retirement age helps
- Portability is key and not cashing out -

Women & Pay Equity

Women earn 82 cents for every dollar men earn.

Hispanic Women: 58 cents

Black Women: 63 cents

Asian Women: 95 cents

Women may reach pay equality in 2059

White women: 2055

Black women: 2119

Hispanic women: 2224

Sources:

Institute for Women's Policy Research, "The Gender Wage Gap"; Earnings Differences by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity", 2019.

Full-time working women earn less than their male counterparts

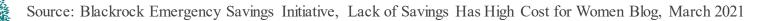
Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time Year-Round Workers Age 15 Years and Older by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity, 2019

Race/Ethnicity	Women	Men
All	\$47,299	\$57,456
White	\$51,324	\$65,208
Black	\$41,098	\$45,644
Asian	\$56,807	\$75,671
Hispanic/Latino	\$36,110	\$41,519

Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2019.

Women & Emergency Savings

- 47% of women can't afford a \$400 emergency expense, compared with 35% of men.
- More than one-fifth of women (21%) use a credit card for emergency expenses and pay it over time.
- Women turn to payday loans, bank loans, or lines of credit more frequently than men.
- •Women carry more credit card debt than men: 43% of women compared with 39% of men. For Latinx women, credit card debt is at 51%.



Emergency Savings Accounts

- Cash is easily accessible but use only for emergencies, such as economic crisis, job loss/pay cut, medical emergency or unexpected repairs
- Recommended 3 to 6 months worth of living expenses start small, build over time
- Set up at bank or credit union with automatic deposit from paycheck or from checking account
- Helps you avoid using a credit card or high interest loan, such as payday loans, to help pay for expenses
- Continue to contribute to the emergency fund while paying down debt



Your Stimulus Check: Get Organized

- Make a list of all expenses, including essentials to be paid
- Prioritize: food, shelter, medicine and utilities should come first stock up on non-perishable food items
- Contact: Creditors & Lenders to set up payment plans if necessary
- Prepay a utility bill and get a credit
- Start an emergency savings account or add to the one you have



Sources of Retirement Income Workplace, Social Security, Savings or Earnings



Make a list of each source of income you (and your spouse) have and be able to answer these basic questions for each:

- Where is the account based (bank, financial company, etc.)?
- How much is in the account now?
- How are contributions to the account being made and for how much?
- How is it invested look at all accounts together
- If married, what happens to the account if one spouse dies?

Know what your retirement will cost - What is Your annual or monthly Number?

Figure out how much income you will need in retirement

Even a best guess estimate is helpful

Lots of great tools and online calculators make this easy

But – you may have an unplanned workforce break



Examples:

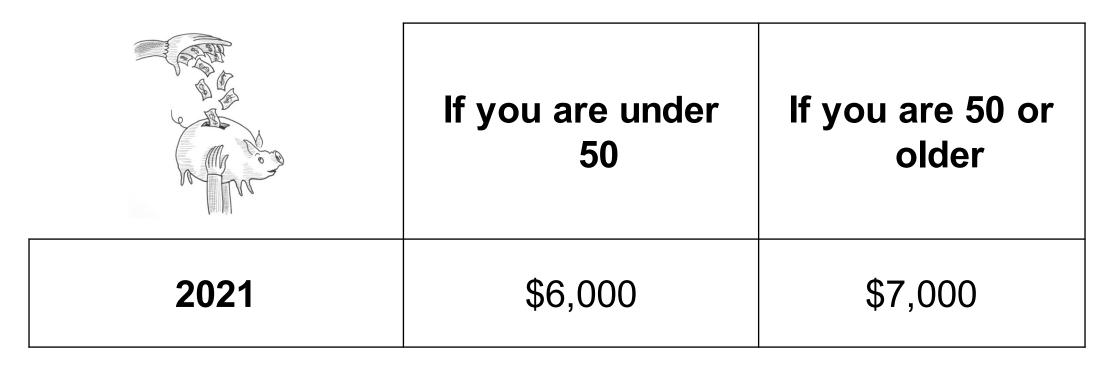
- RetireOnYourTerms.org Calculators Tab
- Social Security Planning Calculators <u>www.ssa.gov</u>
- Your Future Paycheck calculator wiserwomen.org



Tax Tips and Saver Incentives

- Max out tax-deductible retirement contributions
- Use tax refund to start an emergency fund
- Beware of tax scams that commonly target older adults
- Check out WISER's Tax Update Fact Sheet
- Eligible? Earned income Tax Credit or the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit?
- Learn about the Saver's Tax Credit:
- The Saver's Tax Credit is available to eligible individuals who save for retirement
- It works like a federal match for retirement contributions. Eligible individuals should seriously consider taking advantage of this tax credit.

Yearly IRA contribution limits – per person





Social Security Benefit Types

- Retirement
- Spousal
- Survivor
- Disability Insurance
- Supplemental Income





Social Security Retirement Benefit

- Retired worker benefit
- Full benefit replaces about 40% of your pay on average
- ○Full Retirement Age(FRA) get benefit with NO reduction
 - *Age 66 if born between 1943-1954
 - *Age 66+ 2 months
 if born between 1955-1959 add 2 months each year until 1960
 - *Age 67
 if born in 1960 or later



Social Security Claiming Age Example

At full retirement age of 66: receive full benefit amount

Claim at 62 (earliest): – 25% reduction in benefit

Claim at age 70 (latest): + 32% increase (8% each additional year)

Retirement Age	Monthly benefit
62 (early retirement)	\$758
66 (full retirement)	\$1,000
70 (latest)	\$1,320

What if You Need To Take Time Off/Work Part-Time?

These are financial consequences to consider if you have to provide Childcare and Elder care for parents or a spouse:

- Losing out on income/benefits/savings opportunities. Try not to leave just before earning a legal right to a benefit – know what you have
- Consider a Spousal IRA
- Lower Social Security benefits
- Caregivers have out-of-pocket costs
- How to protect your own financial retirement security



Thank you! Contact WISER

Info@wiserwomen.org 202-393-5452

Learn more at:

wiserwomen.org



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Annamaria Lusardi

The George Washington University Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center (GFLEC)





Our data: The P-Fin Index



- The TIAA-Institute-GFLEC Personal Finance Index (P-Fin Index for short) is an annual barometer of knowledge and understanding which enable sound financial decisionmaking and effective management of personal finances
- The focus is on financial well-being indicators

















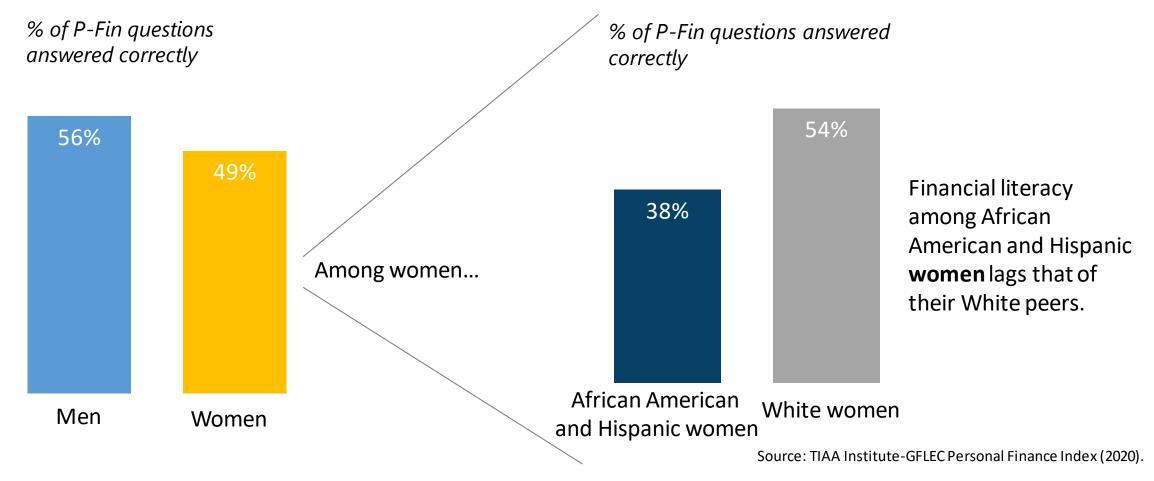






Unequal financial literacy

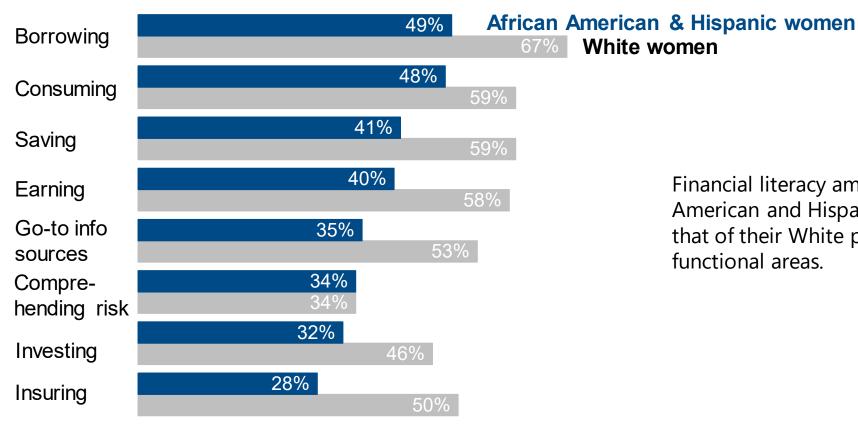




Unequal financial literacy in critical areas



% of P-Fin questions answered correctly

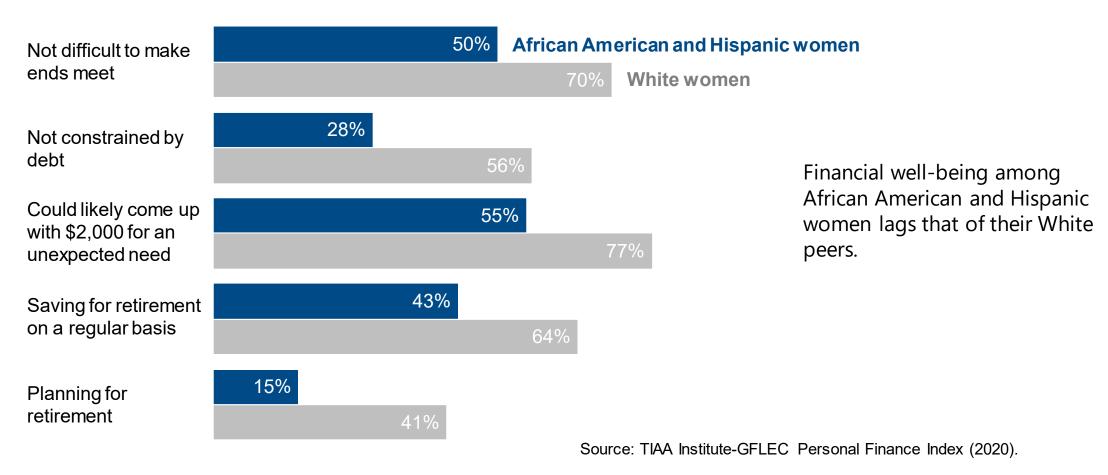


Financial literacy among African American and Hispanic women lags that of their White peers across functional areas.

White women

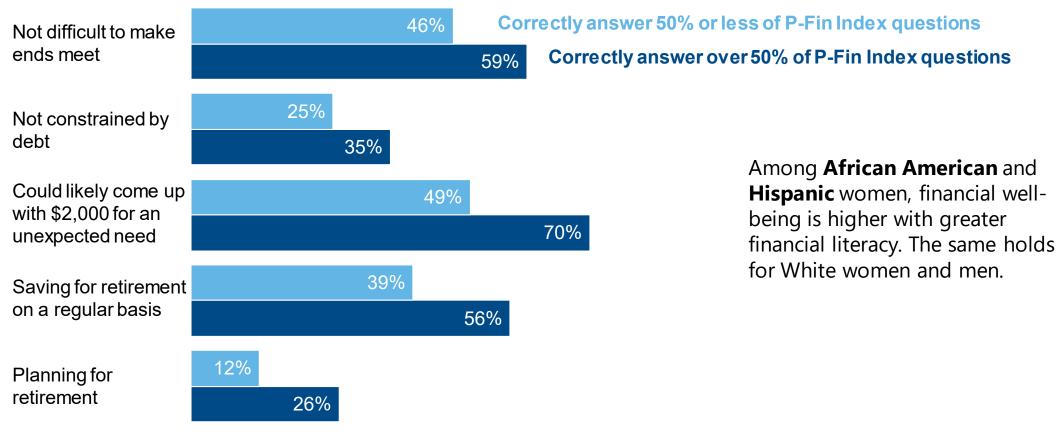
Lower financial well-being





Financial knowledge matters: Evidence for African American and Hispanic women

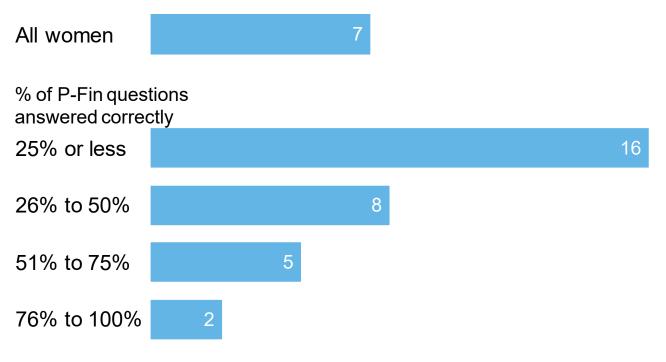




Investing in financial wellness (1)



Average hours per week spent thinking about and dealing with issues and problems related to personal finances

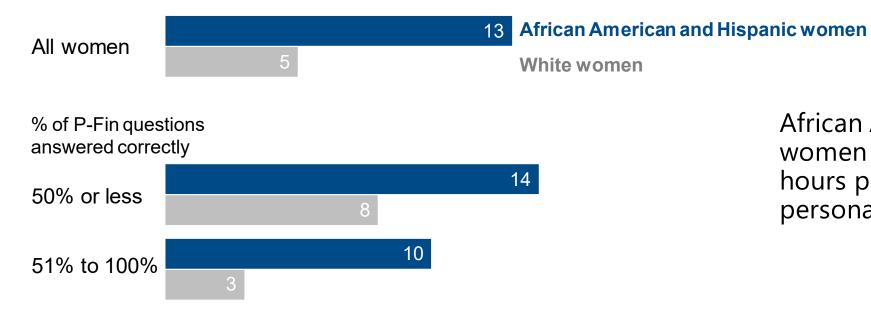


Women with greater financial literacy spend less time on financial issues and problems.

Investing in financial wellness (2)



Average hours per week spent thinking about and dealing with issues and problems related to personal finances



African American and Hispanic women spend an average of 13 hours per week dealing with personal finance issues.

Boosting financial wellness



- Many areas of concerns
- Need to focus beyond investment and retirement savings
- One size does not fit all
- Importance of prevention



Living well

- Financial literacy is like water in an eco-system
- We need it to grow and flourish





Financial wellness for all

GFLEC
GLOBAL FINANCIAL LITERACY
EXCELLENCE CENTER

- Best practices and knowledge to be financially healthy
- Benefits can easily be greater than costs







Date of the release:

Monday April 5th, 2021

Title:

Financial Wellbeing and Literacy in the Midst of a Pandemic

The 2021 TIAA Institute-GFLEC Personal Finance Index

Published at:

https://gflec.org/initiatives/personal-finance-index/

Thank you!

www.gflec.org

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