

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010

U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011

Who's Living in Poverty?

In September 2011, the Census Bureau released the latest data on poverty, income, and health insurance coverage for 2010, based on the 2010 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Slides from the presentation are available online, at: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/pdf/2010_Report.pdf . Key findings:

- In 2010, the number of people in poverty continued to increase, for the fourth year in a row. There were 46.2 million people in poverty; this is the largest number in the 52 years in which the Census Bureau has been tracking this figure.
- The 2010 official poverty rate for the nation was 15.1 percent, an increase from 14.3 percent in 2009.
- The number of children under 18 in poverty increased by 900,000 children--from 15.5 million in 2009 to 16.4 million in 2010.
- The 2010 poverty rate for children under 18 was 22.0 percent, an increase from 20.7 percent in 2009. This is the highest child poverty rate since 1993.
- Children under age 18 living with a single mother were far more likely to be in poverty: 46.9 percent were in poverty, compared with 11.6 percent of children in married-couple families.
 - 8.7 million children under age 18 (46.9 percent) living with their mother alone were living in poverty compared to 5.8 million children living with married parents (11.6 percent).
 - 4.8 million Black children under age 18 (38.2 percent) were living in poverty--more than half (52.5 percent) of Black children living with their mother alone were living in poverty.
 - 6.1 million Hispanic children under age 18 (35.0 percent) were living in poverty—more than half (57.0 percent) of Hispanic children under age 18 living with their mother alone were living in poverty.
- Children accounted for 35.5 percent of people in poverty, but only 24.4 percent of the total population.

Where are the people in poverty?

- The South is the region with the highest poverty rate (16.9 percent), and the only region to show an increase in the poverty rate, from 15.7 percent in 2009 to 16.9 percent in 2010.
- Poverty increased within cities ("metropolitan statistical areas"), from 13.9 percent in 2009 to 14.9 percent in 2010. The rate of poverty in rural areas continues to exceed the rate in urban areas (16.5 percent versus 14.9 percent).

Young Children Living in Poverty in 2010

- The poverty rate for children under age 6 increased, from 23.8 percent in 2009 to 25.3 percent in 2010; That means one in four children in this age group are living in poverty.
- The number of young children under 6 in poverty increased from 6.0 million in 2009 to **6.3 million in 2010**.
- Children under age 6 living in single mother-headed households were about four times as likely as their peers in married-couple households to be living in poverty in 2010: 58.2 percent of young children of single mothers versus 13.4 percent of young children in married-couple households.

Families in Poverty

- There were 9.2 million families in poverty in 2010, compared with 8.8 million in 2009.
- The poverty rate for families increased from 11.1 percent in 2009 to 11.7 percent in 2010.
- Increases in the poverty rate were seen in both married-couple and single-mother headed households. The poverty rate increased for married-couple families from 5.8 percent in 2009 to 6.2 percent in 2010. For single mother-headed households, the poverty rate increased from 29.9 percent to 31.6 percent in 2010.

Children in Deep Poverty

- In 2010, the number of children living in families in deep poverty (with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold) rose by half a million children. 7.4 million children, or 9.9 percent, lived in families with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold, up from 9.3 percent and 6.9 million in 2009.
- There were 900,000 more children living in families with income below 125 percent of their poverty threshold in 2010. The percentage and number of children living in families with income below 125 percent of their poverty threshold in 2010 were 27.8 percent and 20.7 million, up from 26.3 percent and 19.6 million in 2009.
- In 2010, children represented 36 percent of all people living in deep poverty (with family income below 50 percent of their family's poverty threshold).

Source: *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, September 2011, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf>

Detailed tables: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032011/pov/toc.htm>

Children in poverty by race and household type:

http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032011/pov/new03_100.htm