

SOCIAL **IMPACT** RESEARCH CENTER

Social IMPACT Research Center's

Summary of the U.S. Census Bureau's Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010 Report

September 13, 2011

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About the data in this summary

All data in this summary are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, as published in the report, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010*. The Current Population Survey serves as the nation's primary source of data on labor force characteristics and provides the official annual data on the nation's income and poverty levels. Visit www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2010/index.html for more information.

For state and local poverty, income, and health insurance estimates

While the Current Population Survey does provide estimates for state-level poverty, income, and health insurance coverage, due to small sample sizes the Census Bureau recommends waiting until the 2010 American Community Survey release on September 22, 2011 for these data.

On September 22 and 23, the Social IMPACT Research Center will produce fact sheets on state and local poverty. Visit www.heartlandalliance.org/research on those dates.

Social IMPACT Research Center

The Social IMPACT Research Center (IMPACT) is a nonprofit organization that investigates today's most pressing social issues and solutions to inform and equip those working toward a just global society. IMPACT, a program of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, provides research, policy analysis, consulting, technical assistance, communications, and coalition building to projects in Illinois, the Midwest, and nationally. Visit www.heartlandalliance.org/research to learn more.

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Introduction

The year 2010 was the first full calendar year after the end of the Great Recession, which lasted from December 2007 to June 2009. Estimates of poverty, income, and health insurance from the Current Population Survey shine a spotlight on how Americans are fairing post-recession. The findings reveal a nation struggling with prolonged job loss, as evidenced by increasing poverty, declining incomes, and loss of employer-sponsored health insurance.

NATIONAL POVERTY DATA

SUMMARY

- The official poverty rate in 2010 was 15.1 percent—up from 14.3 percent in 2009. This was the third consecutive annual increase in the poverty rate.
- Since 2007, the poverty rate has increased by 2.6 percentage points, from 12.5 percent to 15.1 percent.
- In 2010, 46.2 million people were in poverty, up from 43.6 million in 2009—the fourth consecutive annual increase in the number of people in poverty.
- The number of people in poverty in 2010 is the largest number in the 52 years for which poverty estimates have been published.
- **The poverty rate in 2010 (15.1 percent) was the highest poverty rate since 1993** but was 7.3 percentage points lower than the poverty rate in 1959, the first year for which poverty estimates are available.

EXTREME POVERTY

- In 2010, 6.7 percent of all people, or 20.5 million, had income below one half of their poverty threshold, up from 6.3 percent, or 19.0 million people, in 2009.
- **Both the number of people in extreme poverty and the rate are the highest on record.**
- People in extreme poverty represented 44.3 percent of the poverty population in 2010.
- For children, 9.9 percent, 7.4 million, in 2010 lived in families with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold, up from 9.3 percent and 6.9 million in 2009.
- Children represented 36.0 percent of the people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold.

RECESSION COMPARISON

- The poverty rate and the number of people in poverty increased in the first calendar year following the end of the last three recessions. On the other hand, in the calendar year following the recessions that ended in 1961 and 1975, the poverty rate decreased.
- **The 2009 to 2010 increase in both the poverty rate and number is the largest increase from the year a recession ended to the first full year after a recession out of the last six recessions.**

RACE

- The poverty rate increased for all race groups and for Hispanics with the exception of Asians.
- Poverty rates for Blacks and Hispanics were 27.4% and 26.6% respectively – both more than double the poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites (9.9%).

AGE

- For people aged 18 to 64, the poverty rate increased to 13.7 percent in 2010 from 12.9 percent in 2009, while the number in poverty increased to 26.3 million from 24.7 million.
- **From 2009 to 2010, the poverty rate for children under age 18 increased to 22.0 percent from 20.7 percent**, while the number of children under age 18 in poverty increased to 16.4 million from 15.5 million.
- Children accounted for 35.5 percent of people in poverty, but only 24.4 percent of the total population.
- For people aged 65 and older in 2010 neither the poverty rate (9.0 percent) nor the number in poverty (3.5 million) were statistically different from the 2009 estimates.

DISABILITY STATUS

- Between 2009 and 2010, the poverty rate and number in poverty for people aged 18 to 64 with a disability rose from 25.0 percent and 3.7 million to 27.9 percent and 4.2 million.
- People aged 18 to 64 with a disability represented 15.9 percent of people aged 18 to 64 in poverty compared to 7.8 percent of all people aged 18 to 64.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- The poverty rate and the number of families in poverty were 11.7 percent and 9.2 million in 2010, compared with 11.1 percent and 8.8 million in 2009.
- The poverty rate and the number in poverty increased for both married-couple families (6.2 percent and 3.6 million in 2010 from 5.8 percent and 3.4 million in 2009) and families with a female householder (31.6 percent and 4.7 million in 2010 from 29.9 percent and 4.4 million in 2009).
- The number of doubled-up households had increased by 2.0 million from 19.7 million in 2007 to 21.8 million, and the percent of households doubled-up had increased by 1.3 percentage points from 17.0 percent to 18.3 percent.

- **The adult population increased by 3.8 percent between 2007 and 2011, but the number of doubled-up adults increased by 12.2 percent.**
- An estimated 5.9 million young adults aged 25 to 34 resided in their parents' households in 2011, compared to 4.7 million before the recession.
- Young adults aged 25 to 34 living with their parents had an official poverty rate of 8.4 percent (when the entire family's income is compared to the threshold that includes the young adult as an additional adult in the family), but **if their poverty status were determined using their own income, 45.3 percent had income below the poverty threshold for a single person under age 65 (\$11,344).**

NATIONAL INCOME DATA

SUMMARY

- In 2010, median household income was \$49,445, a 2.3 percent decline over 2009 and a 6.4 percent decline over 2007. It is 7.1 percent below the income peak in 1999 (\$53,252).
- **Median income has not been this low since 1996 when it was \$49,112.**

RECESSION COMPARISON

- Median household income declined the first full year following the December 2007 to June 2009 recession, as well as in the first year following three other recessions. It increased after one recession, and did not change following two others.

RACE

- Real median income declined for both White and Black households between 2009 and 2010. The decline for Black households was 3.2 percent and for White households it was 1.7 percent (the two changes are not statistically different from each other).
- **Black households have experienced three consecutive annual declines in income**, whereas the experience of White households was more mixed— a 2007 to 2008 decline, a 2008 to 2009 change that was not statistically significant, and the 2009 to 2010 decline.
- The 2009 to 2010 changes in median household income for Asian and Hispanic-headed households were not statistically significant.
- **The 2007 to 2010 changes in median household income were significant for all race and Hispanic-origin groups**, declining by 5.4 percent for White non-Hispanic households, 10.1 percent for Black households, 7.5 percent for Asian households, and 7.2 percent for Hispanic households.

AGE

- Median household income declined by 2.6 percent for households with a head of household under the age of 65, and the change for households headed by someone age 65 or over was not statistically significant.
- **Households with householders aged 15 to 24 had the largest income decline (9.3 percent)**, followed by households with householders aged 45 to 54 (4.3 percent decline) and aged 25 to 34 (1.9 percent decline).

- **Since 2007, median household income declined for all age groups except 65 and older** (increased by 5.5 percent). Households with householders aged 15 to 24 had the largest income decline (15.3 percent). Households with householders aged 25 to 34 had a 6.7 percent decline, those with householders aged 35 to 44 had a 5.6 percent decline, those with householders aged 45 to 54 had a 9.2 percent decline, and those with householders aged 55 to 64 had a 6.2 percent decline.

RESIDENCE

- Real household income declined for all households regardless of metropolitan/nonmetropolitan residence between 2007 and 2010. The median income of households inside metropolitan areas declined by 6.0 percent, those in principal cities by 5.2 percent, those outside principal cities but within metropolitan areas by 7.1 percent, and those outside of metropolitan statistical areas by 5.7 percent.

WORK EXPERIENCE & EARNINGS

- Neither men nor women working full time, year round experienced a statistically significant change in median earnings from 2009 to 2010, which were \$47,715 for men and \$36,931 for women.
- The female-to-male earnings ratio for full-time, year-round workers was 0.77, meaning that women earn 77 cents for every dollar men earn. This was not statistically different from the ratio in 2009.
- **Since 2007, the number of men working full time, year round with earnings decreased by 6.6 million and the number of women working full time, year round with earnings decreased by 2.8 million.**

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE DATA

SUMMARY

- In 2010, the percentage of people without health insurance, 16.3 percent, was not statistically different from the rate in 2009. The number of uninsured people increased to 49.9 million in 2010 from 49.0 million in 2009.

TYPES OF COVERAGE

- In 2010, the rate of private coverage decreased to 64.0 percent, from 64.5 percent in 2009. The rate of private coverage has been decreasing since 2001.
 - **The percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance decreased to 55.3 percent in 2010 from 56.1 percent in 2009.** The number of people covered by employment-based health insurance decreased to 169.3 million from 170.8 million.
- **The percentage and number of people covered by government health insurance increased to 31.0 percent and 95.0 million in 2010** from 30.6 percent and 93.2 million in 2009.
 - The percentage and number of people covered by Medicaid in 2010, 15.9 percent and 48.6 million, were not statistically different from 2009 estimates.
 - The percentage and number of people covered by Medicare increased in 2010 to 14.5 percent and 44.3 million.

AGE

- Children aged 12 to 17 had a higher uninsured rate (10.9 percent) than those under age 6 (9.1 percent) and those aged 6 to 11 (9.3 percent).
- **Children in poverty were more likely to be uninsured (15.4 percent) than all children (9.8 percent).**
- The percentage of people under age 65 who were uninsured in 2010, 18.4 percent, was not statistically different from the percentage uninsured in 2009. Similarly, the percentage of children in 2010 without health insurance, 9.8 percent, was not statistically different from the percentage uninsured in 2009.
- Among those aged 35 to 44, the uninsured rate increased in 2010 to 21.8 percent from 21.0 percent. And for those aged 45 to 64, the rate increased to 16.3 percent from 15.6 percent.
- The uninsured rate for those aged 65 and older increased to 2.0 percent in 2010 from 1.7 percent in 2009.

INCOME

- **In 2010, 26.9 percent of people in households with annual incomes less than \$25,000 had no health insurance coverage.**
- In 2010, the uninsured rate for people in households with incomes ranging from \$25,000 to \$49,999 increased to 21.8 percent from 21.0 percent in 2009.

WORKERS

- For people aged 18 to 64 who worked at some time during the year, 19.5 percent, 28.0 million, were uninsured in 2010, neither of which were not statistically different from the 2009 estimates.
- Full-time, year-round workers were more likely to be covered by health insurance (85.0 percent) than those who worked less than full time, year round (71.5 percent) or non-workers (71.5 percent).

NATIVITY

- Among the foreign-born population, the rate and number of uninsured increased for naturalized citizens in 2010 to 20.0 percent and 3.4 million, from 18.4 percent and 3.0 million in 2009.
- The proportion of the foreign-born population without health insurance in 2010 was about two and one-half times that of the native-born population in 2010.

MIDWEST POVERTY DATA

- The Midwest's poverty rate increased from 13.3 percent in 2009 to 13.9 percent, though the change was not statistically significant.
- The number of people experiencing poverty in the Midwest is the highest on record at 9,148,000. This is an increase of 380,000 over 2009, a change that is not statistically significant.
- The only region that experienced a statistically significant increase in the poverty rate and the number of people experiencing poverty was the South, with a 2010 poverty rate of 16.9 percent.

MIDWEST INCOME DATA

- Median household income in the Midwest in 2010 was \$48,445, the second lowest of the four regions (only the South was lower at \$45,492).
- Median household income declined in the Midwest by 2.5 percent from 2009 to 2010.
- **This was the third annual decline for the Midwest.**
- Since 2007 median household income in the Midwest declined by 8.4 percent, the greatest decline among the three regions that experienced a decline over this period (the Northeast did not).

MIDWEST HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE DATA

- The Midwest had among the lowest uninsured rates in 2010, at 13.0 percent.
- Between 2009 and 2010, the number of uninsured increased to 8.6 million in the Midwest; this is not a statistically significant change.