

# QUICK GUIDE

## 2011 SNAPSHOT: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage

Newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) present a startling picture of poverty in the nation and the Midwest: millions of individuals and families face persistent challenges in their struggles to gain a foothold on the path to economic recovery. Yet, these near unprecedented poverty levels are not simply the result of the recession and a sluggish recovery. Poverty was on the rise before the recession began as broader shifts in wages, job quality, workforce preparation, inequality, and harmful cuts to the safety net disproportionately impacted people at the lower end of the income spectrum.

The Social IMPACT Research Center will continue to analyze the data and is available for customized data requests, for trend analyses, and for providing context for the new poverty numbers.

	United States		Midwest*		Illinois**	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
2011 Poverty	46,247,000	15.0%	9,221,000	14.0%	1,802,500	14.1%
2010 Poverty	46,343,000	15.1%	9,216,000	14.0%	1,807,500	14.1%
2010 to 2011 Poverty Change in <i>numbers</i>	-97,000	0.0%	+5,000	0.0%	-5,000	0.0%
2010 to 2011 Poverty Change in <i>percents</i>	-0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

\* The U.S. Census Bureau defines the Midwest as including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

\*\* Based on Census Bureau recommendations on proper data use, these estimates are 2-year averages (2011 includes 2010 and 2011; 2010 includes 2009 and 2010) to help smooth out variation due to small sample size. Because the comparisons share a year of data, the figures presented here provide a diluted look at the change over the year. More robust and detailed state-level estimates will be released on September 20, 2012.

NOTE: An earlier version of this Quick Guide contained figures for Illinois that the U.S. Census Bureau has since updated.

### ...HIGHLIGHTS...

- 20.4 million people (6.6 percent) are in extreme poverty, with incomes below half the poverty threshold for their family size.
- The 2011 median household income is \$50,054, which is 1.5 percent lower than in 2010.
- Without unemployment insurance, an additional 2.3 million people would be counted as poor in 2011.
- Household incomes fell in the middle and rose at the top as income gains were not shared evenly. For the 20 percent of household in the middle, aggregate income declined by 1.7 percent, while earners in the top 5 percent saw average income rise by 5.3 percent.

2011 Federal Poverty Thresholds	
Family Size	Poverty Threshold
1	\$11,484
2	\$14,657
3	\$17,916
4	\$23,021

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# ABOUT THE DATA

## 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: 2011*. 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/2011/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2011/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 2011 American Community Survey release on September 20, 2012 for these data. For this reason, only high-level Illinois findings are presented here.

On September 20 and 21, the Social IMPACT Research Center will produce fact sheets on state and local poverty. Visit [www.heartlandalliance.org/research](http://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](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research) to learn more.

# UNITED STATES

## ...Poverty...

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **The poverty rate in 2011 (15.0 percent) is not statistically different from the poverty rate in 2010 (15.1 percent), which was the highest poverty rate since 1993.**
- In 2011, 46.2 million people were in poverty, showing no statistically significant change from 2010 in the number of people in poverty.
- Following 3 consecutive years of increases, neither the official poverty number or rate in 2011 were statistically different from 2010.

### EXTREME POVERTY

- In 2011, 6.6 percent of all people, or 20.4 million, had income below one half of their poverty threshold, not statistically different from 6.7 percent, or 20.5 million people, in 2010.
- People in extreme poverty represented 44.0 percent of the poverty population in 2011.
- For children, 9.8 percent, 7.3 million, in 2011 lived in families with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold, not statistically different from 9.9 percent and 7.4 million in 2010.
- Children represented 35.6 percent of the people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold.

### RACE

- The poverty rate for most groups were not statistically different from their 2010 rates.
- Poverty rates for Blacks and Hispanics were 27.6 percent and 25.3 percent respectively – both more than double the poverty rate for non-Hispanic Whites (9.8 percent).
- The poverty rate for Hispanics declined from 26.5 percent in 2010 to 25.3 percent in 2011. The number of Hispanics in poverty in 2011 (13.2 million) was not statistically different from 2010.

### AGE

- For people aged 18 to 64, the number of people in poverty (26.5 million) and the poverty rate 13.7 percent) in 2011 were not statistically different from 2010.
- The poverty rate for children (21.9 percent) and number of children in poverty (16.1 million) in 2011 are not statistically different from 2010.
- For people aged 65 and older in 2011 neither the poverty rate (8.7 percent) nor the number in poverty (3.6 million) were statistically different from the 2010 estimates.

### DISABILITY STATUS

- In 2011, there were 4.3 million people aged 18 to 64 with a disability. The poverty rate for this group was 28.8 percent. This is not statistically different from 2010
- People aged 18 to 64 with a disability represented 16.3 percent of people aged 18 to 64 in poverty compared to 7.7 percent of all people in this age group.

### HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- The poverty rate and the number of families in poverty were 11.8 percent and 9.5 million in 2011, which were not statistically different from 2010.

# UNITED STATES

- The number of shared households had increased from 19.7 million in 2007 to 22.3 million, and the percent of shared households had increased from 17.0 percent to 18.4 percent of all households.
- An estimated 9.7 million young adults aged 25 to 34 (23.6 percent) were additional adults in someone else's household, which is not statistically different from 2010. The number and rate of young adults residing with their parents did not change.
- Young adults aged 25 to 34 living with their parents had an official poverty rate of 9.0 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, 43.7 percent had income below the poverty threshold for a single person under age 65 (\$11,702).**

## ...Income...

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2011, median household income was \$50,054, a 1.5 percent decline over 2010 and a 8.1 percent decline over 2007. It is 8.9 percent below the income peak (\$54,932) in 1999.
- This was the second consecutive annual decline in household income.

### RACE

- Real median income declined for non-Hispanic White households and Black households between 2010 and 2011. The decline for Black households was 2.7 percent and for White households was 1.4 percent. The changes for Hispanic households and Asian households were not statistically different.
- **Household income in 2011 was 7.0 percent lower for non-Hispanic Whites, 16.8 percent lower for Blacks, 10.6 percent lower for Asians, and 10.8 percent lower for Hispanics than pre-2001 recession levels.**

### AGE

- Median household income declined by 2.1 percent from 2010 to 2011 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 55 to 64 had the largest income decline (4.0 percent),** followed by households with householders aged 35 to 44 (2.3 percent decline). Changes in income for other age groups were not statistically significant.

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## RESIDENCE

- Between 2010 and 2011, real median income declined by 2.2 percent for households in metropolitan areas, while the change for households outside of metropolitan areas was not statistically significant.
- Households inside principle cities saw real median income decline by 3.7 percent in 2011.

## WORK EXPERIENCE & EARNINGS

- Median earnings of men and women who worked full time, year round declined by 2.5 percent from 2010 to 2011. For men, median earnings declined from \$49,463 to \$48,202. For women, median earnings declined from \$38,052 to \$37,118.
- 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 2010.
- **The number of men and women working full time, year round with earnings increased from 2010 to 2011 by 1.7 million men and 0.5 million women. However, the changes in the number of working men and women with earnings were not statistically different. This suggests a shift from part-time or part-year work status to full-time, year-round work status.**

## ...Health Insurance...

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2011, the percentage of people without health insurance, 15.7 percent, was a decrease from 16.3 percent in 2010. The number of uninsured people decreased from 50.0 million in 2010 to 48.6 million in 2011.

### TYPES OF COVERAGE

- In 2011, the rate (63.9 percent) and number (197.3 million) of those with private coverage were not statistically different from 2010.
- **The percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance was 55.1 percent in 2011, which is not statistically different from 2010.** The number of people covered by employment-based health insurance was also not statistically different at 170.1 million.
- **The percentage and number of people covered by government health insurance increased to 32.2 percent and 99.5 million in 2010** from 31.2 percent and 95.5 million in 2010.
- The percentage and number of people covered by Medicaid in 2011, 16.5 percent and 50.8 million, increased from 15.8 percent and 48.5 million in 2010.
- The percentage and number of people covered by Medicare increased in 2011 to 15.2 percent and 46.9 million.

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## AGE

- The percentage of children in 2011 without health insurance, 9.4 percent, was not statistically different from 2010.
- The percentage of people under age 65 who were uninsured in 2011, 17.9 percent, declined by 0.5 percent from 18.4 percent in 2010. Among those aged 35 to 44, the uninsured rate decreased in 2011 to 21.0 percent from 21.9 percent in 2010. And for those aged 45 to 64, the rate increased to 16.3 percent from 15.6 percent, which was not statistically significant.
- The uninsured rate for those aged 65 and older decreased from 2.0 percent in 2010 to 1.7 percent in 2011.

## INCOME

- **In 2011, 25.4 percent of people in households with annual incomes less than \$25,000 had no health insurance coverage.**
- In 2011, the uninsured rate for people in households with incomes ranging from \$25,000 to \$49,999 was 21.5 percent.

## WORKERS

- For people aged 18 to 64 who worked at some time during the year, 19.3 percent, 27.9 million, were uninsured in 2011, neither of which were not statistically different from the 2010 estimates.
- Full-time, year-round workers were more likely to be covered by health insurance (84.7 percent) than those who worked less than full-time, year-round (72.3 percent) or non-workers (73.3 percent).

## NATIVITY

- Among the foreign-born population, the rate and number of uninsured naturalized citizens in 2011, 19.1 percent and 3.4 million, were not statistically different from 2010.
- The proportion of the foreign-born population without health insurance in 2011 was about two and one-half times that of the native-born population in 2011.

## ...Poverty...

- The Midwest's poverty rate in 2011 was 14.0 percent, which is not statistically different from 2010.
- The only region that experienced a statistically significant decrease in the poverty rate and the number of people experiencing poverty was the South, with a 2011 poverty rate of 16.0 percent.

## ...Income...

- Median household income in the Midwest in 2011 was \$48,722, the second lowest of the four regions (only the South was lower at \$46,899).
- Median household income declined in the Midwest by 2.1 percent from 2010 to 2011, but this change was not statistically significant.

## ...Health Insurance...

- The Midwest had among the lowest uninsured rates in 2011, at 12.7 percent.
- In 2011, the number of uninsured in the Midwest was 8.4 million, which was not statistically different from 2010.