



U.S., Midwest See Impact of the Recession in Increases in Poverty

2009 Poverty Data Release from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement

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Social IMPACT Research Center, a program of Heartland Alliance

The newly released poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey shine a spotlight on how the Great Recession has further eroded economic stability for millions of families. **A total number of 43.6 million people were in poverty in 2009 - more people experienced poverty than at any other time since poverty has been measured.**

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	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2009 Poverty.....	43,569,000	14.3%	8,768,000	13.3%
2008 Poverty.....	39,829,000	13.2%	8,120,000	12.4%
2008 to 2009 Poverty Change in numbers.....	3,739,000	+1.1	648,000	+0.9
2008 to 2009 Poverty Change in percents.....	+9%	+8%	+8%	+7%

Prior to the 2008 to 2009 increase, the **highest increase in poverty occurred between 1980 and 1981** when the poverty rate increased from 13.0% to 14.0%, an increase of 8%.

Since 1980 the percentage of **children living in extreme poverty**, children living in families with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold (less than \$10,977 in 2009 for a family of four), **increased from 6.9% to 9.3%.**

After falling for many years, reaching a low of 33.0% in 2000, the poverty rate for **female-headed households with children has increased**, reaching 38.5% in 2009.

The Federal Poverty Measure

Official poverty data are based on the federal poverty guidelines, which were developed in the 1960s.

2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	Poverty Guideline
1	\$10,830
2	\$14,570
3	\$18,310
4	\$22,050

A Glimpse at State Poverty Reveals Large Increases in Many Midwest States

Official state and local data will be released on September 28, at which time IMPACT will release state-level fact sheets.

	2007-2008 Poverty	2008-2009 Poverty	2007-2008 to 2008-2009 Poverty Change in numbers	2007-2008 to 2008-2009 Poverty Rate Change in percents
Illinois	11.1	12.8	+214,000	+14%
Indiana	13.1	15.2	+142,000	+16%
Iowa	9.2	10.1	+28,000	+9%
Kansas	12.2	13.2	+28,000	+8%
Michigan	11.9	13.5	+150,000	+13%
Minnesota	9.6	10.5	+47,000	+10%
Missouri	13.1	14.4	+92,000	+10%
Nebraska	10.3	10.3	+1,000	0%
North Dakota	10.6	11.4	+6,000	+7%
Ohio	13.2	13.5	+40,000	+2%
South Dakota	11.3	13.6	+20,000	+21%
Wisconsin	10.4	10.3	-1,000	-1%

Experts agree: the effects of the Great Recession on unemployment, poverty, and income generation will linger for many years after recovery takes hold. Though the new data show great increases in poverty, we have partial solutions in place that have mitigated what would have been even worse poverty rates. Preserving, extending, and strengthening these solutions can help keep more people from falling into poverty and help those struggling to meet their basic needs.

- **TANF Emergency Fund:** putting unemployed and underemployed low-income people to work, giving them earned income and valuable job experience, and at the same time helping businesses survive.
- **Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit:** putting money back into the pockets of working families to help them meet their basic needs.
- **SNAP/Food Stamps:** giving families vital help in purchasing food while stimulating local economies.

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For further analysis and comments on poverty trends, implications, and solutions, contact us:

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The data in this fact sheet are from the U.S. Census Bureau's *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2009* and Current Population Survey historical data available here: www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2009/index.html. State data are displayed in 2-year floating averages, per the Census Bureau's recommendations on comparing state data over time.

Visit www.heartlandalliance.org/povertyreport for more information and new smaller geography poverty data that will become available on September 28.