



Cook County

September 20, 2012 (version 1)

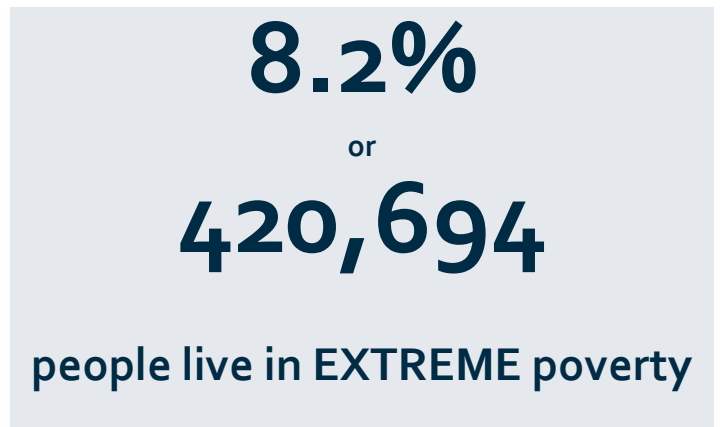
POVERTY RATE

*Indicates that the change from 2007 to 2011 is statistically significant.



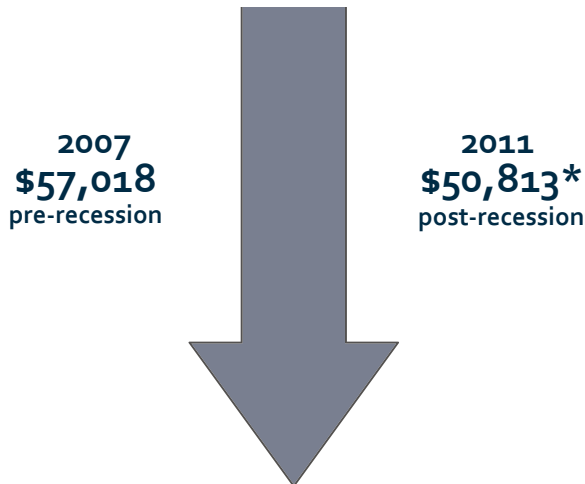
EXTREME POVERTY

Defined as living below 50% of the poverty threshold.



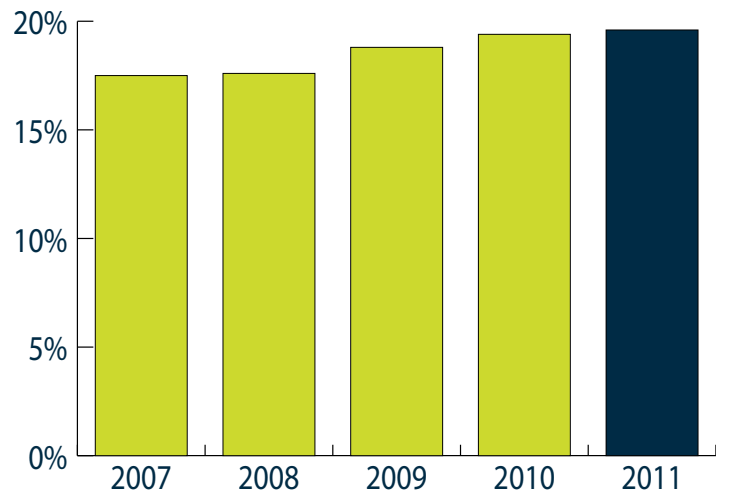
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

*Indicates that the change from 2007 to 2011 is statistically significant; all dollar amounts in 2011 dollars.



LOW-INCOME RATE

Defined as living between 100% and 199% of the poverty threshold.



Illinois

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	1,496,248	11.9	1,532,238	12.2	1,677,093*	13.3*	1,731,711*	13.8*	1,879,965*	15.0*
Extreme Poverty	667,578	5.3	680,013	5.4	759,761*	6.0*	764,391	6.1	863,868*	6.9*
Low Income	2,029,262	16.2	2,004,794	16.0	2,128,485*	16.9*	2,220,781*	17.7*	2,245,488	17.9
Child Poverty	511,142	16.3	525,880	16.8	581,466*	18.6*	590,949	19.2	648,592*	21.3*
No Health Insurance	n/a	n/a	1,597,086	14.2	1,675,198*	15.0*	1,725,416*	15.5*	1,639,724*	14.8*
Median Household Income	\$58,710	--	\$58,743	--	\$56,587*	--	\$54,643*	--	\$53,234*	--

Cook County

	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	758,802	14.6	768,839	14.8	825,870*	15.9*	856,360	16.7*	905,232*	17.6*
Extreme Poverty	336,379	6.5	344,119	6.6	385,862*	7.4*	381,092	7.4	420,694*	8.2*
Low Income	911,150	17.5	919,506	17.6	978,277*	18.8*	994,186	19.4	1,007,499	19.6
Child Poverty	277,704	21.4	273,727	21.1	286,312	22.6*	296,752	24.4*	314,181	26.0*
No Health Insurance	n/a	n/a	831,998	17.9	874,187*	18.8*	906,654*	19.9*	869,466*	19.1*
Median Household Income	\$57,018	--	\$57,016	--	\$55,091*	--	\$53,089*	--	\$50,813*	--

*Indicates that the change from the preceding year in the table is statistically significant; child poverty reflects children related to their head of household; uninsured rate reflects only those ages 0 to 64.

Measuring Poverty

Official poverty data are based on the federal poverty thresholds, which are used to determine poverty status. The measure is not geographically specific and does not reflect what it takes for families to make ends meet.

2011 Federal Poverty Thresholds

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

What does it really take to make ends meet?

Far more people struggle to make ends meet than the official poverty data suggest. The Illinois Self-Sufficiency Standard shows that it takes a family of 3 (adult, preschooler, school-age child) \$56,304 to make ends meet in Cook County.

All data are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* 1-year estimates program. The American Community Survey released estimates on 2011 income, poverty, and health insurance coverage, which are the most current data available for geographies with populations over 65,000. For more information on the American Community Survey, visit www.census.gov/acs/www/. Statistical significance refers to the probability that the observed changes are "true" rather than the result of an error in sampling or estimation. Data included here are statistically significant at the 90th percentile. For more information on the Illinois Self-Sufficiency Standard, visit <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/illinois-self-sufficiency-standard/>.

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.