



Children's Defense Fund

Poor Children in 2007: A Closer Look at the Numbers

All Children:

- The number of poor children under age 18 was 13.3 million (18.0%) or one child in six.
- The number of extremely poor children under age 18 was 5.8 million (7.8%) or one child in 13.
- The number of poor children under age 5 was 4.4 million (21.2%) or two children in nine.
- The number of poor related children in working families was 9.1 million (71.1%) or five of every seven poor children.

Black Children:

- The number of poor children under age 18 was 3.9 million (34.5%) or one child in three.
- The number of extremely poor children under age 18 was 2.0 million (17.3%) or one child in six.
- The number of poor children under age 5 was 1.3 million (40.7%) or two children in five.
- The number of poor related children in working families was 2.5 million (64.5%) or two in three children.
- More than half of all poor Black children live in extreme poverty.

White, non-Latino Children:

- The number of poor children under age 18 was nearly 4.3 million (10.1%) or one child in ten.
- The number of extremely poor children under age 18 was 1.8 million (4.3%) or one child in 23.
- The number of poor children under age 5 was 1.4 million (12.3%) or one child in eight.
- The number of poor related children in working families was 2.8 million (69.1%) or seven of every ten poor children.

Latino Children (Latino children may be of any race):

- The number of poor children under age 18 was 4.5 million (28.6%) or more than one child in four.
- The number of extremely poor children under age 18 was 1.7 million (11.0%) or one child in nine.
- The number of poor children under age 5 was 1.6 million (31.6%) or three children in ten.
- The number of poor related children in working families was 3.4 million (78.0%) or seven of every nine poor children.
- More poor children are Latino than any other group.

Notes:

Poor children are defined as those living in families with incomes below the poverty threshold (or below half the poverty threshold for extreme poverty), which varies by family size and number of children. In 2007, the poverty threshold was \$21,027 for a family of four with two children.

The status of employment of families can only be calculated for related children; it cannot be calculated for every child under the age of 18 in the family.

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