Poverty data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2010 showed that over one in five children in America lived in poverty. The number of children in poverty increased by 950,000 between 2009 and 2010, rising from 15.5 million to 16.4 million. The end of the recession in 2009 did not stop the rapid rise in the number of children living in poverty that started in 2008.

**Child Poverty**

Children are the poorest age group in the country and getting poorer according to the latest poverty data. Overwhelmingly, children have suffered more than any other age group during this recession and slow recovery.

- The number of children living in poverty: **16,401,000**
  - After a record increase in the number of children in poverty between 2008 and 2009 – nearly 1.4 million children – there was another major increase between 2009 and 2010, with 950,000 additional children living in poverty.
  - Since 2000 the number of poor children has increased by more than 4.8 million.
- The percent of children living in poverty: **22.0 percent**
  - The child poverty rate increased by six percent between 2009 and 2010 and by 36 percent since 2000.
  - The child poverty rate is the highest it has been since 1993, when 22.7 percent of children were poor.
- A family of four living in poverty with an annual income of under $22,314 lives on less than:
  - $1,860 a month
  - $429 a week
  - $60 a day

**Extreme Child Poverty**

In 2010, over seven million children – or one in ten children – lived in extreme poverty, defined as an annual income of less than half of the poverty level ($11,570 for a four-person family).

- The number of children living in extreme poverty: **7,369,000**
  - The number of children living in extreme poverty increased by 455,000 between 2009 and 2010.
- The percent of children living in extreme poverty: **9.9 percent**
- A family of four living in extreme poverty lives on less than:
  - $930 a month
  - $215 a week
  - $30 a day
Young Children
Children under five are the poorest age group. One in four infants, toddlers and preschoolers were poor in 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children under five living in poverty</th>
<th>Children under five living in extreme poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>5,467</td>
<td>2,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Numbers in thousands)

Families with Children
Families with children faced higher poverty rates than families without children. Married-couple families with children were not immune. Almost nine percent of these families were poor, a four percent increase from the previous year.

Family Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poor families with children under 18</th>
<th>Poor children in married-couple families</th>
<th>Poor children in single-parent families</th>
<th>Poor children in single-mother families</th>
<th>Poor children in single-father families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>6,997</td>
<td>5,819</td>
<td>9,961</td>
<td>8,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Numbers in thousands)

Working Families
- Number of poor families with children under 18 with one or more working members: **4,523,000**
- Percent of poor families with children under 18 with one or more working member: **64.6 percent**

Young Families
Although poverty has affected all family types, the increases in poverty have been most severe among the youngest families (those headed by an adult under 30), especially those with one or more children present in the home.
**Children of Color**

Children of color continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty. Every racial and ethnic group experienced an increase in poverty in 2010 except for White children under five. Young children of color are especially at risk, with almost one in two young Black children and more than one in three young Hispanic children living in poverty.

**Child Poverty, by Age and Race, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White, non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>5,002</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>4,362</td>
<td>39.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Five</td>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Numbers in thousands)

**Percent of Children Living in Poverty, by Age and Race, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Under 18</th>
<th>Under 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All children</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, not Hispanic</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children Living in Extreme Poverty, by Age and Race, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White, non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under Five</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Numbers in thousands)

**Percent Children Living in Extreme Poverty, by Age and Race, 2010**
**Trends in Child Poverty**

Child poverty was at its lowest level 40 years ago (14.0%). After dropping 27 percent between 1992 and 2000, the child poverty rate increased by 36 percent between 2000 and 2010. Our youngest children are most at-risk of being poor and continue to experience large increases in poverty. The child poverty rate for children under six* increased by 43 percent between 2000 and 2010.

*Note: This graph refers to young children under six, however, the rest of this fact sheet refers to young children under five.

Black and Hispanic children have experienced significantly higher rates of poverty since data was first collected.
Notes and Citations:

CHILD POVERTY:

Poor Children (under age 18 and under age five), number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV01 (Below 100 percent of poverty).


Children in Extreme Poverty (under age 18 and under age five), number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV01 (Below 50 percent of poverty)

Poverty Thresholds (dollar amounts used to determine poverty status): U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, “Poverty Thresholds for 2010 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years.”

FAMILIES WITH RELATED CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY:


Children in Poor Families, by Family Type, number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV03.

Poor Families with at least one working member, number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV07.


CHILD POVERTY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY:

Poor Children (under age 18 and under age five), number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV01 (Below 100 percent of poverty; All Races; White alone, not Hispanic; Black alone; Asian alone; Hispanic).

Children in Extreme Poverty (under age 18 and under age five), number and percent: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV01 (Below 50 percent of poverty; All Races; White alone, not Hispanic; Black alone; Asian alone; Hispanic).
