Wake Up Call to the Nation

How to Use the New Poverty and Health Insurance Data

With many thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, George Gund Foundation, ELCA World Hunger Grant, and anonymous donors for their generous support
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The 2010 Poverty and Health Insurance Numbers

What to Watch For on September 13

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The Poverty Rate Was Trending Upward for Most of the Last Decade

Unemployment Expected to Remain Very High Into 2014

Unemployment Rate


Center on Budget and Policy Priorities | cbpp.org
In 2009, a Record High Percentage of Americans Had Cash Income Below *Half* of the Official Poverty Line

![Graph showing percentage of Americans with cash income below half of the official poverty line from 1975 to 2009.]

**Change in the Number of People Below Their Poverty Threshold Using Alternative Resource Measures: 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative resource measures</th>
<th>All people</th>
<th>Children under 18</th>
<th>Adults 18-64</th>
<th>Adults 65 and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money income plus cash value of SNAP* benefits</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money income after income and payroll taxes</td>
<td>-4.2</td>
<td>-2.9</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
<td>+0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money income less Unemployment Insurance Benefits</td>
<td>+3.3</td>
<td>+1.0</td>
<td>+2.3</td>
<td>+0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money income less Social Security Income</td>
<td>+20.5</td>
<td>+1.1</td>
<td>+5.4</td>
<td>+14.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Change in Percent Insured by Type of Coverage, 2001-2009

Percentage point change in health insurance coverage for the non-elderly population

Total Insured -2.9
Employer -8.1
Direct purchase -0.1
Medicaid 5.2
Medicare 0.5
Military 0.5

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How to Use the New Poverty and Health Insurance Data

Deborah Weinstein

Coalition on Human Needs
September 8, 2011
A little context

Since the start of the recession:

• 7.7 million more unemployed
• 6.3 million more poor people
• 1.5 million more poor children
• Percentage of children with unemployed parent doubled (18%)
More context

• For past 28 months, unemployment at or above 8.8 percent

• Over the course of 2009:
  
  ➢ Unemployed or underemployed: 31%
  
  ➢ African Americans: 36%
  
  ➢ Hispanics: 41%

At the same time...

• For the top 1 percent of households (making more than $620,000 in 2008 dollars), the Bush era tax cuts increased income by 7.3 percent from 2009 to 2010.

• Their average tax cut: $97,000 in 2010.

• How much did they need that tax cut?
  
  Over the past 3 decades, income of top 1 percent nearly quadrupled: from $347,000 to $1.3 million (in 2007 $, after-tax income).
So what has Washington focused on?

Deficit Reduction

Budget Control Act has agreed to cut $1 T over 10 years from domestic and military/international approps. And now the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction has to make at least $1.2 T more in savings. **Or automatic cuts.**

Not job creation

But with 0 job growth in August, that may be starting to change.

✓ President’s speech, Sept. 8
✓ Candidates’ job creation plans

How can the new poverty and health insurance information help make the case for jobs and protecting low-income programs?
Very Timely Points

• Proposals to cut (unspecified) services/benefits for the poor or near-poor:
  The new data will answer:
  ➢ How many poor, near poor, extremely poor were there in 2010 in the nation, your state, congressional districts and localities?
  ➢ How many poor children, breakdowns by race/ethnicity?
  ➢ Did poverty get worse since 2009? Since the beginning of the recession?
  ➢ How does poverty intersect with work?

Specific Proposals to Cut Medicaid

The new data will show:
  ➢ Number, proportion, and trends for people without health insurance.
  ➢ How many have insurance through their employer? How has this changed over time?
  ➢ How many are insured through Medicaid or CHIP?
  ➢ Are children more likely to be insured than working age adults? How about seniors?
Proposals to Cut Unemployment Insurance or to Create Jobs

The data will tell you:

- When people are not working full-time, year-round, their poverty is higher.
- Is there an increase in the number of families with no work in the past year?
- State data about low education/unemployment/poverty.
- How Unemployment Insurance lifts families out of poverty (alternative measure).

Proposals to Cut Nutrition Programs

You can show:

- Families getting food aid like SNAP (food stamps) and WIC are less likely to be unable at some points to afford the food they need (USDA survey).
- Large numbers of children below poverty (or below half the poverty line) indicate need for nutrition aid.
- Soon: SNAP helps lift people out of poverty/reduces extent of poverty (alternative measure).
Proposals to Cut Low-Income Tax Credits, Housing, Education

You will be able to see:

- How many lifted out of poverty by EITC (alternative measure).
- How many households in your state are paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent.
- Poverty status for people with varying levels of education.

www.census.gov
Two Surveys

Current Population Survey: Tuesday, September 13

Data for the nation, regions, states (limited)
Sample size: 3 million per year
Years in use: 50 +
Best use: national data: poverty, income, health insurance; state data for historical trends

American Community Survey: Thursday, September 22

Data for nation, states, localities, counties, congressional districts
Sample size: 100,000 per year
Years in use: 10; has expanded over this period.
Best use: state, local data. (1 year estimates down to pop. of 65,000; 3 yr. estimates down to 20,000)

U.S. Census Bureau

Current Population Survey (CPS)
A joint effort between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau

Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H101</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Selected Characteristics: 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H102</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Selected Characteristics for People in the Poverty Universe: 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H103</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Selected Characteristics for Poor People in the Poverty Universe: 2009 (Income-to-Poverty Ratio is below 100 percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H104</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Selected Characteristics for Near Poor People in the Poverty Universe: 2009 (Income-to-Poverty Ratio is between 100 and 125 percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H105</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State and Age for All People: 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H106</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status by State for All People: 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H107</td>
<td>Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by Selected Characteristics for Children Under 18 (All Children)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CPS: September 13, 10 a.m.
2010 Income, Poverty and Health Insurance

Toll free number: 1-888-989-7686
Passcode: CENSUS
Note: Stay on the line until operator asks for the passcode. Do not key in passcode.

Online presentation —
access information: Please login early, as some setup is required.
URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/>
Conference/meeting number: PW3970899
Conference/meeting passcode: CENSUS
If closed captioning is required:
URL: http://livewrite.nccsite.com/view/cb0913

Poverty Definitions:

Poverty Thresholds: dollar amounts the Census Bureau uses to determine poverty status
Easy to Get Poverty Findings

Go to Report Highlights, Tables, and Graphs on www.census.gov
or **POV 46** (detailed table)

Provides 100 – 200% of poverty line; Poverty by age, family type (but no simple comparisons over time). Use weighted person count. CPS doesn’t show state poverty by race/ethnicity.

### State Summary Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>95 percent confidence interval (±1.9)</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>95 percent confidence interval (±1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Work and Poverty in Families with Children:

CPS – but not by state

**POV11**: People in Families With Related Children Under 18 by Number of Working Family Members and Family Structure: 2009

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/pao/pubs/cps/cpsmar11.pdf](http://www.census.gov/pao/pubs/cps/cpsmar11.pdf) (PDF).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All income levels</th>
<th>Below 100% of poverty (7)</th>
<th>Percentage below 100% of poverty (6)</th>
<th>Below 100% of poverty (5)</th>
<th>Percentage below 100% of poverty (4)</th>
<th>Below 100% of poverty (3)</th>
<th>Percentage below 100% of poverty (2)</th>
<th>Below 100% of poverty (1)</th>
<th>Percentage below 100% of poverty (0)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All races</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in families, total (2)</td>
<td>154,692</td>
<td>26,090</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>112,722</td>
<td>10.790</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9,096</td>
<td>2,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In families with one worker (3)</td>
<td>9,020</td>
<td>7,750</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>1,564</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In families with at least one worker (4)</td>
<td>144,050</td>
<td>104,307</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>110,127</td>
<td>9,127</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>8,020</td>
<td>1,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only one working family member</td>
<td>54,010</td>
<td>14,310</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>40,490</td>
<td>6,491</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>5,204</td>
<td>1,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more working family members</td>
<td>90,040</td>
<td>90,040</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>70,717</td>
<td>7,652</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2,856</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In families with no workers working full-time year-round (FTYR) (5)</td>
<td>35,340</td>
<td>28,340</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>16,555</td>
<td>6,095</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>3,336</td>
<td>1,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No gain-time or part-time workers</td>
<td>9,020</td>
<td>7,750</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>2,110</td>
<td>1,678</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>1,564</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health Insurance

Most important points:

- Number of uninsured continues to rise
- Number of people with employer-provided health coverage continues to decline
- Medicaid and CHIP provides vital coverage: fewer uninsured children than 18-64 year olds

To compare states from 2007-2008 to 2009-2010, use summary table under Tables and Figures. (but won’t show ages or types of health coverage)

Detailed Table H105
Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State and Age for All People: 2010

In 2009, showed that in Alabama,

- 80% had some form of health insurance; same for 92% of children and 99.8% of elderly.
- 59% of all had employer-based insurance; 54% of children.
- 19% of under 65 group had Medicaid; 44% of children had Medicaid.
American Community Survey: September 22

• More to say about population subgroups in your state or locality:
  ▪ Children
  ▪ Race/ethnicity
  ▪ People with disabilities
  ▪ Use of public benefits programs
  ▪ Health insurance
  ▪ Poverty by educational attainment
  ▪ Paying more than 30% of income on rent

www.census.gov
Don’t confuse us!

To find ACS data
Select American Community Survey,
Get data;
Select 2010 1 year data;
Select Data Profiles;
Select geographic type
Pick your state
Or locality
Select “show result”
Select “economic” out of the profile choices
Examples of Detailed ACS Tables

- **C18130**: Age by disability status by poverty status
- **C17003**: Poverty status in past 12 months of individual by educational attainment
- **C17015**: Poverty Status of Families by Social Security Income by SSI and Public Assistance income
- **C25074**: Household income by gross rent as percentage of household income
How to Use

• On day of Census release, issue a statement. Tie key findings to key messages.
• Write comment about coverage online in your newspaper; submit letter to the editor.
• Send copy of whatever you write to your Rep and Senators.
• Send copy to Whitehouse.gov
• Send an email to the Super Committee on September 13 (their first hearing).
• Blog posts, Twitter, Facebook...
• Write op-ed soon after release.

Key Messages

• With so much poverty, we need to invest in creating jobs.
• We must protect people who are out of work by continuing Unemployment Insurance.
• It makes no sense to cut programs that are working to reduce poverty, like SNAP/food stamps and low-income tax credits.
• It makes no sense to cut Medicaid and CHIP when they’ve done so much to get medical care to children.
More Message Points

• Slashing services like nutrition aid, Medicaid, UI, education... not only harm vulnerable and poor people – these cuts keep our economy from growing and creating jobs.

• We can afford to rebuild our economy and protect our people’s economic security if millionaires and billionaires pay their share:

  Remember the top 1%'s income quadrupled – while the poorest lost ground.

What we’ll provide

On September 13 or before:
• Highlights of key findings
• State tables (thanks, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities!)
• Updated message points; LTE samples...

After September 22 release (ACS):
• Highlights of key findings
• Links to key state data
• Poverty by congressional district (thanks, Half in Ten!)
• More LTE samples...
PLEASE...
SIGN THE SAVE FOR ALL PRINCIPLES (www.chn.org)
GET ON THE CHN EMAIL LIST
TAKE ACTION!

Thanks!