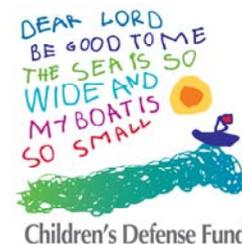


# Children's Defense Fund

## Child Poverty in America 2010



September 2011

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.

	Children under five living in poverty	Children under five living in <i>extreme</i> poverty
Number	5,467	2,577
Percent	25.9	12.2

(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

	Poor <i>families</i> with children under 18	Poor children in married-couple families	Poor children in single-parent families	Poor children in single-mother families	Poor children in single-father families
Number	6,997	5,819	9,961	8,673	1,288
Percent	18.3	11.6	60.7	46.9	28.2

(Numbers in thousands)

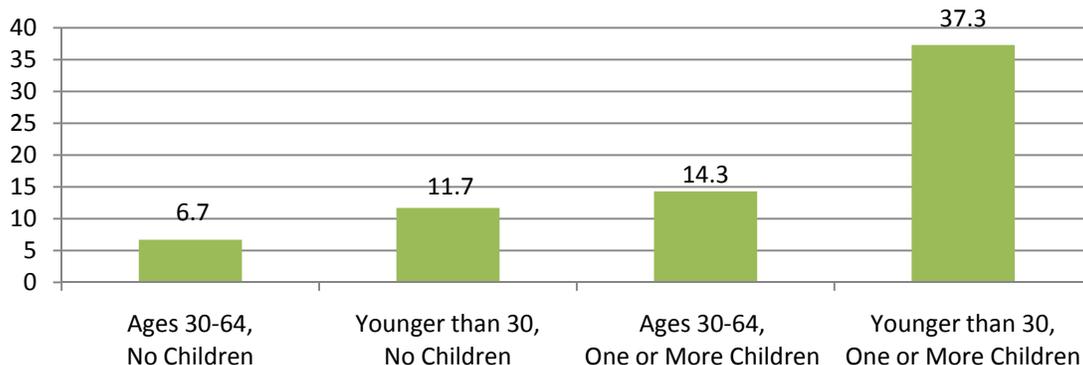
### Working Families

- 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.

Poverty Rates of Families in Selected Age Groups  
With and Without Children, 2010



## Children of Color

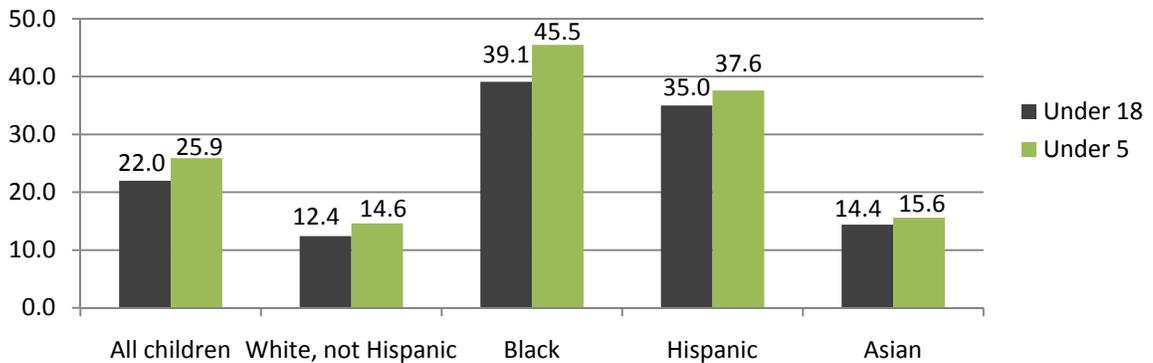
Children of color continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty. Every racial and ethnic group experienced an increase in poverty in 2010 except for White children under five. Young children of color are especially at risk, with almost one in two young Black children and more than one in three young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

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

	White, non-Hispanic		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 18	5,002	12.4	4,362	39.1	6,110	35.0	474	14.4
Under Five	1,557	14.6	1,472	45.5	2,070	37.6	160	15.6

(Numbers in thousands)

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

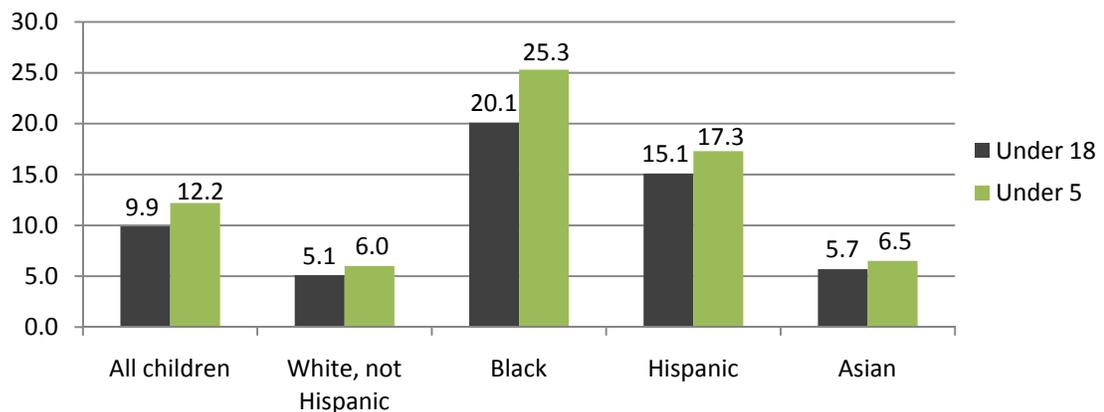


**Children Living in Extreme Poverty, by Age and Race, 2010**

	White, non-Hispanic		Black		Hispanic		Asian	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 18	2,070	5.1	2,240	20.1	2,627	15.1	188	5.7
Under Five	641	6.0	817	25.3	951	17.3	66	6.5

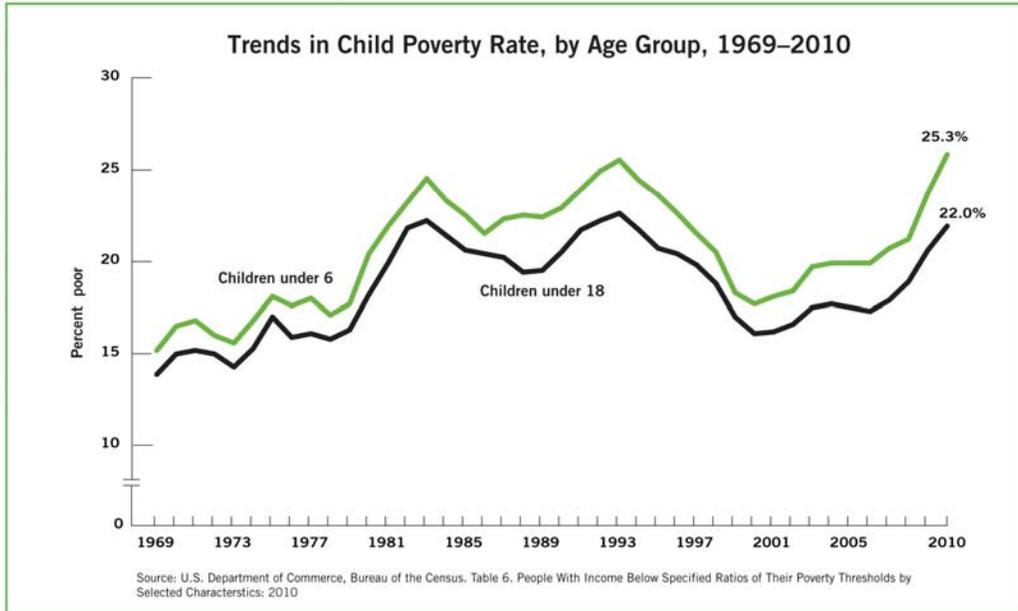
(Numbers in thousands)

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



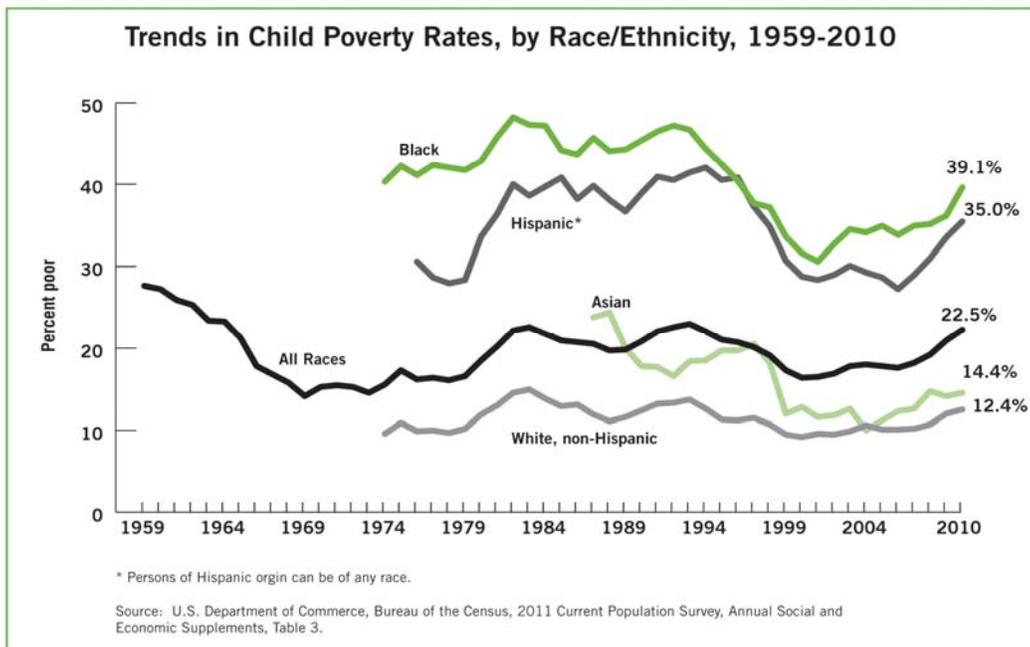
## Trends in Child Poverty

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).

**Poor Children (under age six):** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Table 6. People with Income Below Specified Ratios of Their Poverty Thresholds by Selected Characteristics: 2010.

**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:

**Poor Families, number and percent:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Current Population Survey, Table POV07.

**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.

**Poverty Among Young Families:** U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2010, Washington, D.C., September 2011.

### 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).

For further information on poverty, visit the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

For state, city, and Congressional District level poverty data, visit U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2010 American Community Survey.