

# Pre-Recession Poverty and Warnings of Rising Rates

Compiled by the Coalition on Human Needs, September 2009

Geography	2000-2007 Poverty Rates			2000-2007 Child Poverty Rates			2008-2009 Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			2008-2009 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps): Number of Persons Participating		
	2000 (percent)	2007 (percent)	Percent Change	2000 (percent)	2007 (percent)	Percent Change	Aug 2008 Rate (percent)	Aug 2009 Rate* (percent)	Percent Change	June 2008	June 2009	Percent Change
United States	12.2	13.0	6.0	16.8	17.6	4.7	6.2	9.7	56.5	28,703,505	35,122,123	22.4
Alabama	15.6	16.9	8.2	20.9	24.0	14.7	5.2	10.4	100.0	578,826	710,174	22.7
Alaska	9.1	8.9	-1.6	12.8	10.7	-16.0	6.7	8.3	23.9	61,282	70,175	14.5
Arizona	15.6	14.2	-9.3	22.7	19.8	-12.8	5.9	9.1	54.2	645,799	867,997	34.4
Arkansas	17.0	17.9	5.4	24.7	25.4	2.6	5.1	7.1	39.2	382,391	425,684	11.3
California	13.7	12.4	-9.8	19.2	16.9	-12.4	7.6	12.2	60.5	2,270,623	2,797,186	23.2
Colorado	8.7	12.0	37.9	9.2	15.9	72.1	4.9	7.3	49.0	256,731	343,968	34
Connecticut	7.7	7.9	2.9	11.2	10.6	-4.7	6.1	8.1	32.8	227,168	262,229	15.4
Delaware	9.3	10.5	13.1	11.3	14.3	26.3	5.1	8.1	58.8	75,672	96,592	27.6
District of Columbia	17.5	16.4	-6.2	29.5	22.4	-24.1	7.2	11.1	54.2	90,304	105,451	16.8
Florida	12.8	12.1	-5.5	18.3	16.6	-9.3	6.5	10.7	64.6	1,505,590	2,086,298	38.6
Georgia	12.6	14.3	13.0	18.0	19.4	8.1	6.4	10.2	59.4	1,043,726	1,359,041	30.2
Hawaii	8.8	8.0	-9.5	12.2	9.4	-22.8	4.2	7.2	71.4	97,845	120,193	22.8
Idaho	11.4	12.1	6.2	13.9	15.4	10.8	5.2	8.9	71.2	104,057	146,516	40.8
Illinois	11.1	11.9	7.7	14.9	16.3	8.9	6.7	10	49.3	1,305,952	1,503,680	15.1
Indiana	10.1	12.3	22.4	14.0	16.7	19.7	6	9.9	65.0	639,470	721,155	12.8
Iowa	10.0	11.0	10.3	12.6	13.1	4.2	4.2	6.8	61.9	279,253	303,429	8.7
Kansas	9.5	11.2	17.1	11.1	13.9	25.7	4.4	7.1	61.4	190,341	230,503	21.1
Kentucky	16.4	17.3	5.6	21.4	23.4	9.5	6.7	11.1	65.7	639,394	723,193	13.1
Louisiana	20.0	18.6	-6.9	26.7	26.4	-1.1	4.8	7.8	62.5	653,096	737,124	12.9
Maine	10.1	12.0	19.4	10.9	14.8	35.1	5.4	8.6	59.3	179,373	210,997	17.6
Maryland	9.3	8.3	-10.8	12.9	10.0	-23.0	4.5	7.2	60.0	366,595	478,023	30.4
Massachusetts	9.6	9.9	3.7	13.3	12.6	-5.8	5.4	9.1	68.5	514,298	653,932	27.2
Michigan	10.1	14.0	38.3	13.6	19.0	39.1	8.6	15.2	76.7	1,283,157	1,527,902	19.1
Minnesota	6.9	9.5	38.4	8.6	11.6	33.9	5.4	8	48.1	300,191	369,349	23
Mississippi	18.2	20.6	13.0	25.9	28.9	11.6	7.3	9.5	30.1	451,103	522,305	15.8
Missouri	11.2	13.0	16.0	15.2	17.3	13.5	6.2	9.5	53.2	899,332	1,071,194	19.1
Montana	13.4	14.1	5.4	15.9	17.8	12.2	4.6	6.6	43.5	80,760	98,681	22.2
Nebraska	9.6	11.2	16.8	10.0	14.5	44.0	3.3	5	51.5	120,973	138,114	14.2
Nevada	9.9	10.7	7.7	12.4	14.7	18.5	7	13.2	88.6	151,009	219,106	45.1
New Hampshire	5.3	7.1	33.5	6.2	8.3	33.6	3.9	6.9	76.9	64,514	83,778	29.9
New Jersey	7.9	8.6	7.9	10.0	11.3	13.0	5.7	9.7	70.2	443,143	512,268	15.6
New Mexico	18.0	18.1	0.8	25.7	25.0	-2.5	4.3	7.5	74.4	242,604	308,416	27.1

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United States	12.2	13.0	6.0	16.8	17.6	4.7	6.2	9.7	56.5	28,703,505	35,122,123	22.4
New York	13.1	13.7	4.9	18.8	19.1	1.6	5.7	9	57.9	2,004,511	2,427,841	21.1
North Carolina	13.1	14.3	9.2	18.1	19.2	5.7	6.6	10.8	63.6	957,376	1,185,681	23.8
North Dakota	11.6	12.1	3.9	14.2	12.8	-9.6	3.3	4.3	30.3	48,688	55,326	13.6
Ohio	11.1	13.1	18.8	15.5	18.1	17.1	6.7	10.8	61.2	1,169,351	1,442,644	23.4
Oklahoma	13.8	15.9	15.5	18.4	22.1	20.2	3.9	6.8	74.4	417,040	494,551	18.6
Oregon	13.2	12.9	-2.3	16.8	16.3	-3.3	6.5	12.2	87.7	482,871	617,595	27.9
Pennsylvania	10.5	11.6	10.6	14.9	15.9	6.6	5.5	8.6	56.4	1,199,230	1,370,254	14.3
Rhode Island	10.7	12.0	12.1	15.1	17.3	14.8	8.3	12.8	54.2	87,285	107,891	23.6
South Carolina	14.4	15.0	4.3	19.1	20.6	7.8	7.3	11.5	57.5	599,339	711,621	18.7
South Dakota	11.5	13.1	14.4	13.3	16.4	23.8	3.1	4.9	58.1	64,442	75,686	17.4
Tennessee	13.5	15.9	17.7	19.1	22.5	18.1	6.6	10.8	63.6	921,820	1,117,009	21.2
Texas	15.1	16.3	7.6	21.4	22.9	7.0	5	8	60.0	2,505,800	2,941,406	17.4
Utah	8.8	9.7	10.0	9.7	10.7	10.2	3.4	6	76.5	137,483	201,121	46.3
Vermont	10.7	10.1	-6.0	12.0	11.7	-2.6	4.7	6.8	44.7	56,545	77,706	37.4
Virginia	9.2	9.9	7.8	12.2	12.7	3.7	4.1	6.5	58.5	550,389	685,312	24.5
Washington	11.6	11.4	-1.5	15.4	14.4	-6.8	5.4	9.2	70.4	565,781	820,430	45
West Virginia	18.6	16.9	-9.0	25.7	22.1	-14.1	4.2	9	114.3	278,713	315,938	13.4
Wisconsin	8.9	10.8	21.1	11.1	13.9	25.0	4.7	8.8	87.2	447,376	589,220	31.7
Wyoming	11.4	8.7	-24.1	14.8	11.3	-23.9	3.4	6.6	94.1	22,587	29,609	31.1

Source: American Community Survey

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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

\*Preliminary

Source: Food Research and Action Center, USDA

All data is the most recent available.

Unemployment rates and SNAP (food stamp) participation provide information far more current than Census poverty figures and are important indicators of rising poverty during the recession period. The most current Census data is from 2007, before the recession began. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that if unemployment rose to nine percent, the total number of Americans in poverty would increase by 7.5 to 10.3 million, and child poverty would rise by 2.6 to 3.3 million. The June U.S. unemployment rate was 9.5 percent. SNAP is a good marker for poverty because fewer than 13 percent of SNAP households have income above the poverty line; about half of SNAP recipients are children (2007 data).

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