

**The New Poverty Data:
Using it to Show What Works
(and What Doesn't)
to Reduce Poverty**

September 11, 2014



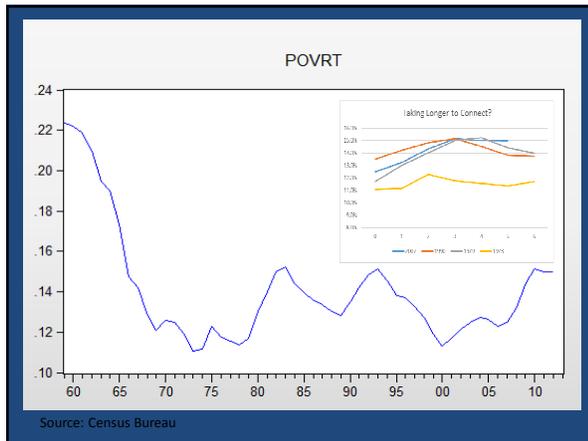
COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

**Seminar in Advance of
Poverty/Income Report**

Jared Bernstein
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Sept 11, 2014

**Big picture thoughts re what to look
for**

- 2013 is year four of an economic recovery that does not appear to have reached a lot of people.
- Official poverty—which is badly measured but still informative—has yet to respond to recovery.
- Might it do so this year?
- Best guess: I'm afraid not, but forecast risk is to the "upside" meaning I wouldn't be too surprised if poverty fell a little bit.
- I'd be very surprised if it fell a lot or went up much.



Reasons to expect poverty to fall

- Improvement in unemployment, payrolls, “aggregate hours.”
- Mild inflation.
- Real wages at low end did a little better. (Min wage increases in 10 states probably helped a bit)
- Fewer single mom households

Reasons why poverty might not change (could go up, of course, but I’d be surprised)

- 2013 unemployment rate decline partially driven by labor force dropouts.
- Employment rate was flat.
- Inequality—I suspect this was important.
- Fiscal drag—this too.
- Real wage growth was flat at best.
- Smaller sample and so will take a slightly bigger change to be statistically significant.

Summing up...

- Linkages between economy and poverty weakening; inequality a factor.
- Taking longer for recoveries to reach the poor (so we need long recoveries if we're going to make a dent in poverty!).
- Though some improvement in job market and wages, not much, and inequality likely operative last year.
- Thus, I see flat poverty rate, though some upside risk.

The New Data: Finding and Using it

Deborah Weinstein



Questions the data can answer:

- **Poverty** – The Great Recession officially ended in 2009. By 2013, did poverty finally start to decline?
- Have SNAP, UI, tax credits reduced poverty?
- **Income** – has income continued to slide for most people? Has inequality continued to widen?
- **Health insurance** – early signs of the impact of the Affordable Care Act?

More questions

- **Rent hardships** - how many people are paying more than 35 percent of their income on rent?
- **Food hardships** – are more people using SNAP? How many are food insecure?
- **Education** - of those who haven't finished high school, how many are poor? Unemployed?

How to Find the Answers

- On September 16 and 18, the Census Bureau will release survey data for 2013:
 - Sept. 16: **Current Population Survey (CPS)** – national and some state data: poverty, income, health insurance. Also, some **American Community Survey (ACS)** health insurance data.
 - Sept. 18: **American Community Survey (ACS)** – state, local data (including congressional district).
- USDA has already released **Household Food Security in the U.S. in 2013** (with state data).

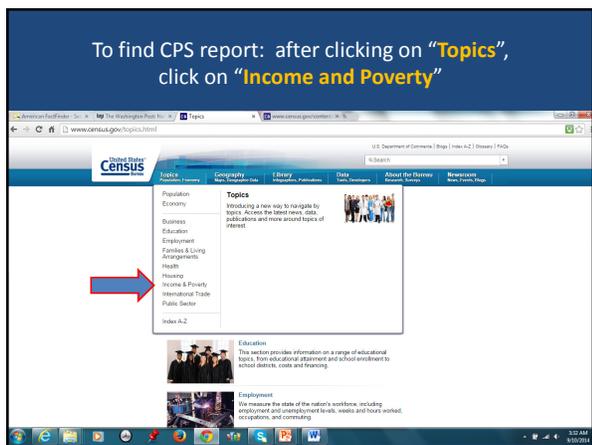
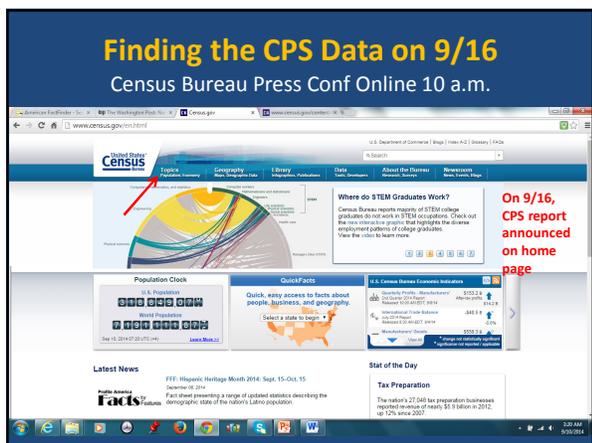
The New Data – Part 1

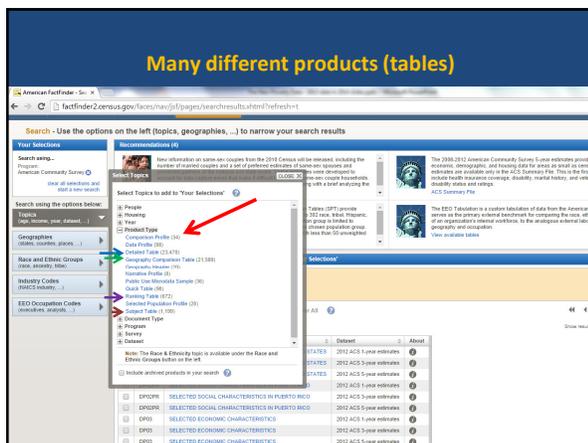
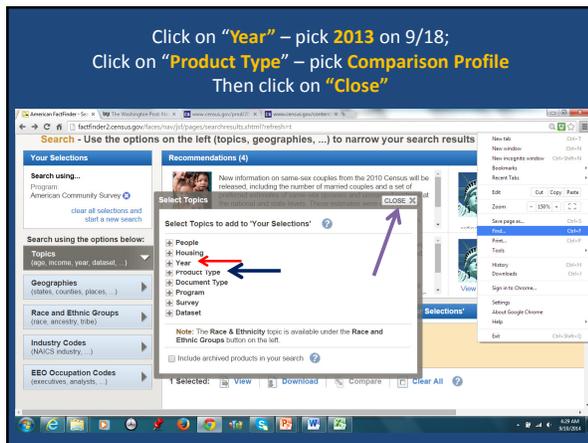
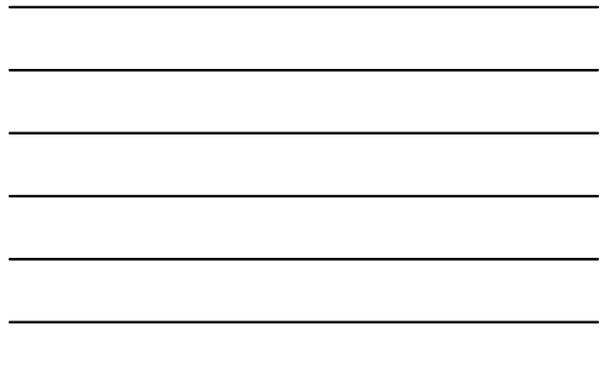
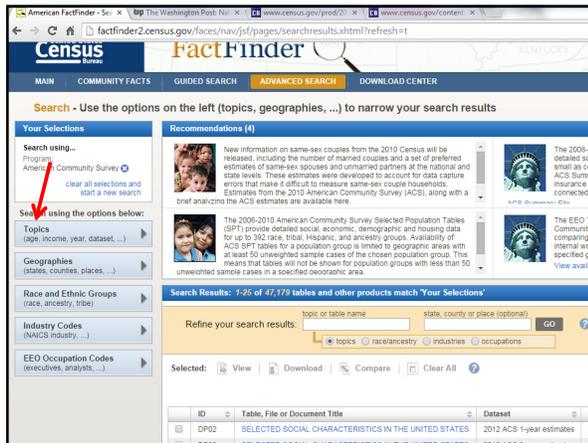
Tuesday, September 16: **Current Population Survey** release:

- Emphasizes national picture re income, poverty, and health insurance.
- Will have state health insurance data from American Community Survey.
- Some state income and poverty data from CPS (but sample not large enough for state data by race/ethnicity).

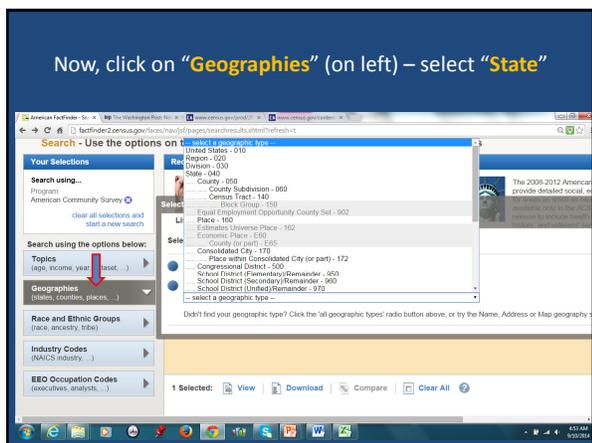
Likely key points:

- Despite reduced joblessness and economic growth– too many still left behind.
- Health insurance improvements: **thanks, ACA!**
- Millions lifted out of poverty by SNAP, UI, tax credits.

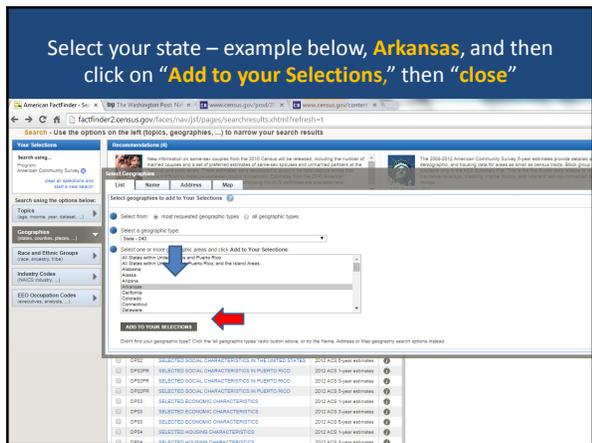




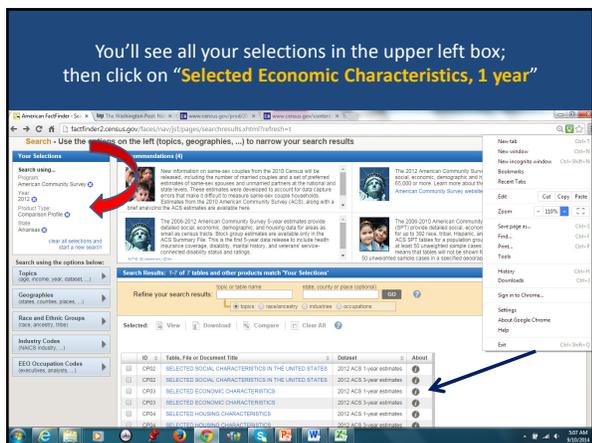
Now, click on **“Geographies”** (on left) – select **“State”**



Select your state – example below, **Arkansas**, and then click on **“Add to your Selections,”** then **“close”**



You'll see all your selections in the upper left box; then click on **“Selected Economic Characteristics, 1 year”**



Comparison Profile will show 2009 – 2013 changes, and whether they are statistically significant (not just chance)

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Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

An * indicates that the estimate is significantly different (at a 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the most recent year. A "S" indicates the estimates for that year and the current year are both controlled, a statistical test is not appropriate.

Subject	2012		2011		2010		2009		2008	
	Estimate	Change								
EMPLOYMENT STATUS										
Population 18 years and over	2,322,226	2,381,248	2,322,226	2,381,248	2,322,226	2,381,248	2,322,226	2,381,248	2,322,226	2,381,248
In labor force	84.4%	85.5%	84.4%	85.5%	84.4%	85.5%	84.4%	85.5%	84.4%	85.5%
Employed	54.2%	53.7%	54.2%	53.7%	54.2%	53.7%	54.2%	53.7%	54.2%	53.7%
Unemployed	30.2%	31.8%	30.2%	31.8%	30.2%	31.8%	30.2%	31.8%	30.2%	31.8%
Not in labor force	15.6%	14.5%	15.6%	14.5%	15.6%	14.5%	15.6%	14.5%	15.6%	14.5%
Percent Unemployed	8.4%	9.4%	8.4%	9.4%	8.4%	9.4%	8.4%	9.4%	8.4%	9.4%
Female 18 years and over	1,193,450	1,193,744	1,193,450	1,193,744	1,193,450	1,193,744	1,193,450	1,193,744	1,193,450	1,193,744
In labor force	84.2%	84.5%	84.2%	84.5%	84.2%	84.5%	84.2%	84.5%	84.2%	84.5%
Employed	54.0%	53.4%	54.0%	53.4%	54.0%	53.4%	54.0%	53.4%	54.0%	53.4%



Table has income, use of benefits, health coverage, and, at the bottom, poverty. Asterisks mean the change is not just chance.

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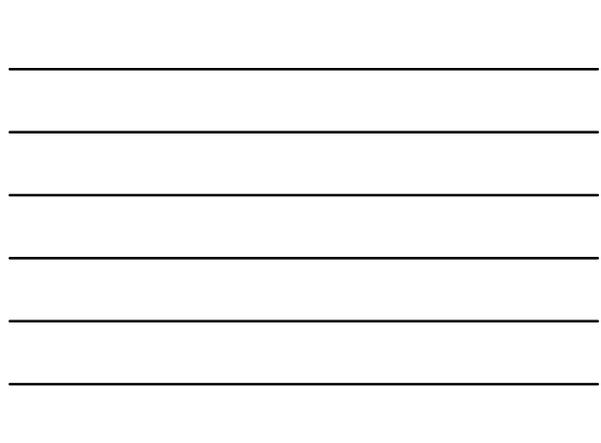
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Subject	2012		2011		2010		2009		2008	
	Estimate	Change								
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE										
Population 18 years and over	1,761,305	1,763,728	1,761,305	1,763,728	1,761,305	1,763,728	1,761,305	1,763,728	1,761,305	1,763,728
With health insurance coverage	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%	82.1%
With private health insurance	75.0%	74.8%	75.0%	74.8%	75.0%	74.8%	75.0%	74.8%	75.0%	74.8%
With public coverage	7.1%	7.3%	7.1%	7.3%	7.1%	7.3%	7.1%	7.3%	7.1%	7.3%
Not in labor force	400,054	479,530	400,054	479,530	400,054	479,530	400,054	479,530	400,054	479,530
With health insurance coverage	74.2%	74.7%	74.2%	74.7%	74.2%	74.7%	74.2%	74.7%	74.2%	74.7%
With private health insurance	41.4%	42.3%	41.4%	42.3%	41.4%	42.3%	41.4%	42.3%	41.4%	42.3%
With public coverage	32.8%	32.4%	32.8%	32.4%	32.8%	32.4%	32.8%	32.4%	32.8%	32.4%
Percent of families and people whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level	14.6%	14.9%	14.6%	14.9%	14.6%	14.9%	14.6%	14.9%	14.6%	14.9%
All people	19.6%	19.5%	19.6%	19.5%	19.6%	19.5%	19.6%	19.5%	19.6%	19.5%
Under 18 years	20.1%	20.7%	20.1%	20.7%	20.1%	20.7%	20.1%	20.7%	20.1%	20.7%
Related children under 18 years	21.7%	21.5%	21.7%	21.5%	21.7%	21.5%	21.7%	21.5%	21.7%	21.5%
Related children 18 to 17 years	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%	20.5%
18 years and over	17.0%	16.7%	17.0%	16.7%	17.0%	16.7%	17.0%	16.7%	17.0%	16.7%
18 to 64 years	15.5%	15.1%	15.5%	15.1%	15.5%	15.1%	15.5%	15.1%	15.5%	15.1%



Comparison Profiles do not include race/ethnicity breakdowns. For those, You need "Subject tables"

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Subject	2012		2011		2010		2009		2008	
	Estimate	Change								
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS										
Population for whom poverty status is determined	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-
Under 18 years	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-
Related children under 18 years	1,550,000	-	1,550,000	-	1,550,000	-	1,550,000	-	1,550,000	-
18 to 64 years	1,525,478	-	1,525,478	-	1,525,478	-	1,525,478	-	1,525,478	-
65 years and over	850,460	-	850,460	-	850,460	-	850,460	-	850,460	-
Male	1,193,022	-	1,193,022	-	1,193,022	-	1,193,022	-	1,193,022	-
Female	1,193,450	-	1,193,450	-	1,193,450	-	1,193,450	-	1,193,450	-
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN										
White	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-	1,552,406	-
Black or African American	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
American Indian and Alaska Native	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Asian	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Some other race	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Hispanic or Latino	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Not Hispanic or Latino	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-	1,542,423	-

Topics: product types, Subject tables, people, Poverty.
Geographies: state, Select your state.

You can find poverty by age, race, educational attainment, work, and those below 1/2 poverty line through Zx poverty line. (scroll down)



Time to Make Some Noise



Use the data:

- In letters or tweets to your Rep and Senators
- Blog posts; comment on blogs (www.chn.org/blog)
- In letters to the editor
- In a Tweet chat: **MomsRising**, October 1, 2-3 p.m. Eastern
- Posts, links on your Facebook page
- In meetings with members of Congress or staff

We'll send you...

- These slides and the webinar recording
- Quick key points
- State tables (*thank you, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities!*) showing comparisons back to 2007 and 2001
- Links to Census Bureau tables with the data we've discussed
- Analyses by other expert organizations
- CHN national report; report for your state if a group is doing one
- Suggested tweets, sample letters to the editor, etc.

Thanks!

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