

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

September 11, 2014



Seminar in Advance of Poverty/Income Report

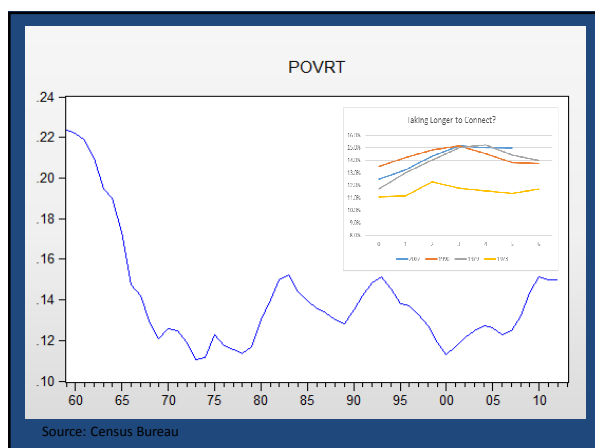
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Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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.

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[illegible][illegible]



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

American Factfinder - Re: x The Washington Post Inc. x www.census.gov/prod/ x www.census.gov/content/ x

factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afACS_12_1YR_CP03&prodType=table

CP03 SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS
2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Table View

Actions: Modify Table Bookmark Print Download Create a Map

View Geography Notes View Table Notes

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 current year. A "t" indicates the estimate for that year and the current year are both controlled; a statistical test is not appropriate.

Subject	2012 Estimate	2011 Estimate	2012 - 2011 Statistical Significance	2010 Estimate	2012 - 2010 Statistical Significance	2009 Estimate	2012 - 2009 Statistical Significance	2008 Estimate	2012 - 2008 Statistical Significance
EMPLOYMENT STATUS									
Population 18 years and over	2,322,236	2,381,248	-	2,298,099	-	2,225,891	-	2,222,091	-
In labor force	1,641	1,676	-	1,626	-	1,611	-	1,612	-
Unemployed	681	704	-	672	-	614	-	609	-
Employed	1,424	1,448	-	1,444	-	1,444	-	1,444	-
Unemployed	681	704	-	672	-	614	-	609	-
At least 16 years	624	624	-	624	-	624	-	624	-
Not in labor force	641	704	-	672	-	614	-	609	-
Unemployed	1,387,522	1,383,235	-	1,377,434	-	1,371,228	-	1,368,383	-
Percent Unemployed	6.4%	5.8%	-	6.0%	-	6.1%	-	6.2%	-
Female 18 years and over	1,113,450	1,119,744	-	1,101,803	-	1,107,952	-	1,110,282	-
In labor force	74,526	74,526	-	74,526	-	74,526	-	74,526	-
Unemployed	34,526	34,526	-	34,526	-	34,526	-	34,526	-
Employed	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	-	40,000	-	40,000	-

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

American Factfinder - Re: x The Washington Post Inc. x www.census.gov/prod/ x www.census.gov/content/ x

factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afACS_12_1YR_CP03&prodType=table

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Subject	2012 Estimate	2011 Estimate	2012 - 2011 Statistical Significance	2010 Estimate	2012 - 2010 Statistical Significance	2009 Estimate	2012 - 2009 Statistical Significance	2008 Estimate	2012 - 2008 Statistical Significance
Health insurance coverage									
Population 18 years and over	1,781,385	1,783,728	-	1,781,433	-	1,774,882	-	1,771,182	-
In labor force	1,281,311	1,285,078	-	1,282,773	-	1,280,440	-	1,280,002	-
Unemployed	117,623	118,650	-	117,660	-	117,440	-	118,002	-
With health insurance coverage	75.5%	77.5%	-	77.2%	-	76.4%	-	76.2%	-
With private health insurance	75.5%	76.5%	-	76.2%	-	76.2%	-	76.0%	-
With public coverage	9.1%	9.5%	-	9.0%	-	8.8%	-	8.9%	-
No health insurance coverage	24.5%	22.5%	-	22.8%	-	23.6%	-	23.8%	-
Unemployed	107,559	118,650	-	103,872	-	117,003	-	122,007	-
With health insurance coverage	42.4%	48.4%	-	37.1%	-	40.1%	-	37.2%	-
With private health insurance	27.5%	24.5%	-	24.2%	-	25.7%	-	22.7%	-
No health insurance coverage	57.6%	51.6%	-	62.9%	-	59.9%	-	62.8%	-
Not in labor force	490,074	478,150	-	497,660	-	447,442	-	434,180	-
With health insurance coverage	74.2%	74.7%	-	74.4%	-	74.6%	-	74.4%	-
With private health insurance	47.4%	42.2%	-	42.1%	-	41.2%	-	40.0%	-
With public coverage	26.8%	32.5%	-	32.3%	-	33.4%	-	34.4%	-
No health insurance coverage	25.8%	25.3%	-	25.6%	-	25.4%	-	25.6%	-
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL									
All people	14.4%	14.3%	-	14.1%	-	14.1%	-	13.2%	-
Under 18 years	23.1%	23.6%	-	23.2%	-	23.4%	-	21.0%	-
Related children under 18 years	23.1%	23.6%	-	23.2%	-	23.4%	-	21.0%	-
Related children under 5 years only	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
Married couple families	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
With related children under 18 years	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
With related children under 5 years only	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
Families with income below poverty level	20.8%	20.2%	-	20.4%	-	20.4%	-	18.2%	-
With related children under 18 years	20.8%	20.2%	-	20.4%	-	20.4%	-	18.2%	-
With related children under 5 years only	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
All people	14.4%	14.3%	-	14.1%	-	14.1%	-	13.2%	-
Under 18 years	23.1%	23.6%	-	23.2%	-	23.4%	-	21.0%	-
Related children under 18 years	23.1%	23.6%	-	23.2%	-	23.4%	-	21.0%	-
Related children under 5 years only	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
Married couple families	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
With related children under 18 years	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-
With related children under 5 years only	11.4%	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-	11.2%	-

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

American Factfinder - Re: x The Washington Post Inc. x www.census.gov/prod/ x www.census.gov/content/ x

factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?_afACS_12_1YR_S1701&prodType=table

S1701 POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS
2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

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Subject	Total Estimate	Margin of Error	Below poverty level Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent below poverty level Estimate	Margin of Error
Population for whom poverty status is determined	6,142,421	±11,171	893,121	±12,187	14.5%	±0.2%
Under 18 years	1,352,496	±14,231	248,124	±12,182	18.3%	±0.3%
Related children under 18 years	1,352,496	±14,231	248,124	±12,182	18.3%	±0.3%
18 years and over	4,789,925	±11,171	645,000	±11,182	13.5%	±0.2%
SEX						
Male	3,100,022	±14,241	445,121	±11,181	14.4%	±0.2%
Female	3,042,399	±14,230	197,899	±11,186	16.4%	±0.3%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN						
One race						
White	5,354,284	±10,430	889,180	±10,511	16.6%	±0.2%
Black or African American	1,001,142	±12,281	187,171	±12,029	18.7%	±0.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	10,000	±1,000	2,000	±1,000	20.0%	±0.4%
Asian	102,022	±1,141	22,022	±1,141	21.6%	±0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	10,000	±1,000	2,000	±1,000	20.0%	±0.4%
Some other race	102,022	±1,141	22,022	±1,141	21.6%	±0.3%
Hispanic or Latino	102,022	±1,141	22,022	±1,141	21.6%	±0.3%
Hispanic or Latino of any race	102,022	±1,141	22,022	±1,141	21.6%	±0.3%

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 2x poverty line. (scroll down.)

Other handy products

Ranking tables:

Can show 50 states plus DC – poverty, child poverty, senior poverty.

Geographic Comparison tables:

PERCENT OF PEOPLE WITH INCOME BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL, BY STATE, 2012

State	Percent
Alabama	18.1
Alaska	10.1
Arizona	14.1
Arkansas	17.1
California	12.1
Colorado	10.1
Connecticut	9.1
Delaware	8.1
District of Columbia	10.1
Florida	13.1
Georgia	14.1
Hawaii	10.1
Idaho	11.1
Illinois	12.1
Indiana	13.1
Iowa	10.1
Kansas	11.1
Kentucky	14.1
Louisiana	17.1
Maine	9.1
Maryland	10.1
Massachusetts	8.1
Michigan	11.1
Minnesota	10.1
Mississippi	19.1
Missouri	12.1
Montana	11.1
Nebraska	10.1
Nevada	13.1
New Hampshire	9.1
New Jersey	10.1
New Mexico	14.1
New York	11.1
North Carolina	13.1
North Dakota	10.1
Ohio	12.1
Oklahoma	14.1
Oregon	11.1
Pennsylvania	11.1
Rhode Island	9.1
South Carolina	14.1
South Dakota	11.1
Tennessee	14.1
Texas	13.1
Utah	10.1
Vermont	9.1
Virginia	11.1
Washington	10.1
West Virginia	17.1
Wisconsin	10.1
Wyoming	11.1

Geographic Comparison Table to Show Percent Without Health Insurance

Note: 20.1% of Floridians had no health insurance in 2012.

3.9% of people from Massachusetts had no health insurance.

PERCENT WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, BY STATE, 2012

State	Percent
Alabama	18.1
Alaska	10.1
Arizona	14.1
Arkansas	17.1
California	12.1
Colorado	10.1
Connecticut	9.1
Delaware	8.1
District of Columbia	10.1
Florida	20.1
Georgia	14.1
Hawaii	10.1
Idaho	11.1
Illinois	12.1
Indiana	13.1
Iowa	10.1
Kansas	11.1
Kentucky	14.1
Louisiana	17.1
Maine	9.1
Maryland	10.1
Massachusetts	3.9
Michigan	11.1
Minnesota	10.1
Mississippi	19.1
Missouri	12.1
Montana	11.1
Nebraska	10.1
Nevada	13.1
New Hampshire	9.1
New Jersey	10.1
New Mexico	14.1
New York	11.1
North Carolina	13.1
North Dakota	10.1
Ohio	12.1
Oklahoma	14.1
Oregon	11.1
Pennsylvania	11.1
Rhode Island	9.1
South Carolina	14.1
South Dakota	11.1
Tennessee	14.1
Texas	13.1
Utah	10.1
Vermont	9.1
Virginia	11.1
Washington	10.1
West Virginia	17.1
Wisconsin	10.1
Wyoming	11.1

Using the Data to Make the Case for Investments

SNAP, UI, Tax credits lift millions out of poverty:

➔ **Expand, don't cut them!**

The more education, the less poverty:

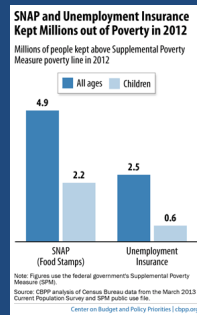
➔ **Invest, don't cut!**

States using ACA and Medicaid expansion have fewer uninsured.

➔ **Take ACA Medicaid option!**

Huge numbers are paying 30% or more of their income on rent.

➔ **Stop cutting rental vouchers!**



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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