



FACT SHEET
Sept. 28, 2010

Women, children, minorities among hardest-hit groups as poverty rises across Colorado

Poverty in Colorado has increased since the beginning of the recession. A total of 12.9 percent of Coloradans lived in poverty in 2009, up from 11.4 percent in 2008 and 12 percent at the beginning of the recession in 2007, according to new figures from the U.S. Census Bureau. The number of families living in poverty also increased to 8.9 percent.

Not surprising in light of increasing poverty in the state, median household income declined from \$57,030 last year to \$55,430 in 2009. Median household income has declined by \$1,686 since the recession began in 2007.

Overallⁱ

- Colorado poverty rates for the total state population, for families, and for children increased in 2009. Total poverty was 12.9 percent, up from 11.4 percent in 2008 and 0.9 percentage points higher than 2007.
- Family poverty was 8.9 percent, up from 7.8 percent 2008 and half a percentage point higher than 2007.

Figure 1

COLORADO RECESSIONARY POVERTY RATES			
	2007	2008	2009
Overall	12.0%	11.4%	12.9%
Family	8.4%	7.8%	8.9%
Kids	15.9%	14.8%	17.0%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey 2010*

Kids

The most alarming statistic from the 2009 Census data shows 17 percent of Colorado's children lived in poverty. That's an increase from 14.8 percent in 2008.

- Child poverty was 17 percent, up from 14.8 percent in 2008 and up 1.1 percentage point since 2007.
- An estimated 10.2 percent of Colorado children did not have health insurance in 2009, representing 124,366 kids.

Gender

Women in Colorado have been hit particularly hard by the economic downturn. In 2009 they experienced a higher rate of poverty and lower median earnings than men. (Figure 2) Single-women families experienced astonishingly high rates of poverty. (Figure 3)

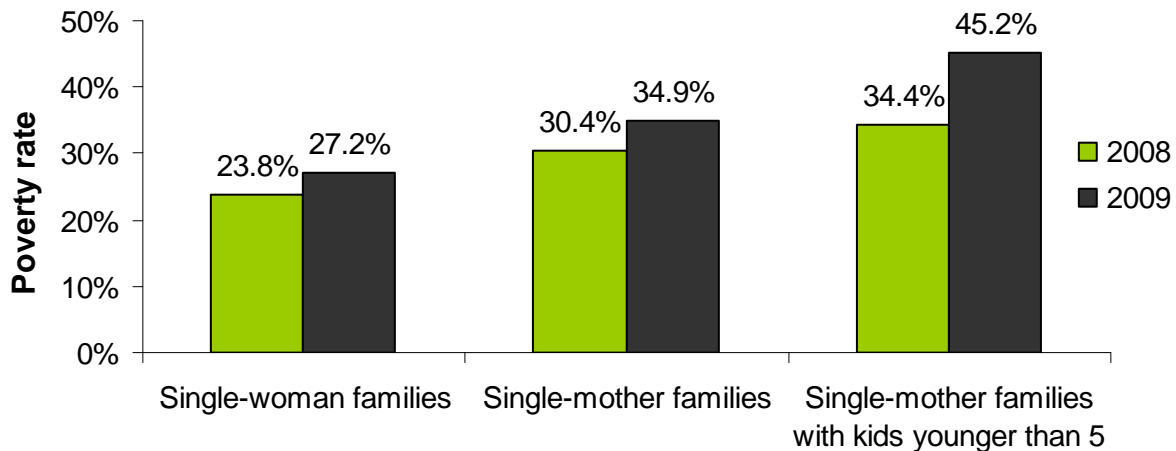
Figure 2

INCOME AND POVERTY BY GENDER IN COLORADO (2009)		
	POVERTY RATE	MEDIAN EARNINGS
Men	12.1%	\$34,887
Women	13.7%	\$24,535

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010

Figure 3

Single-woman families in Colorado hit hard during recession



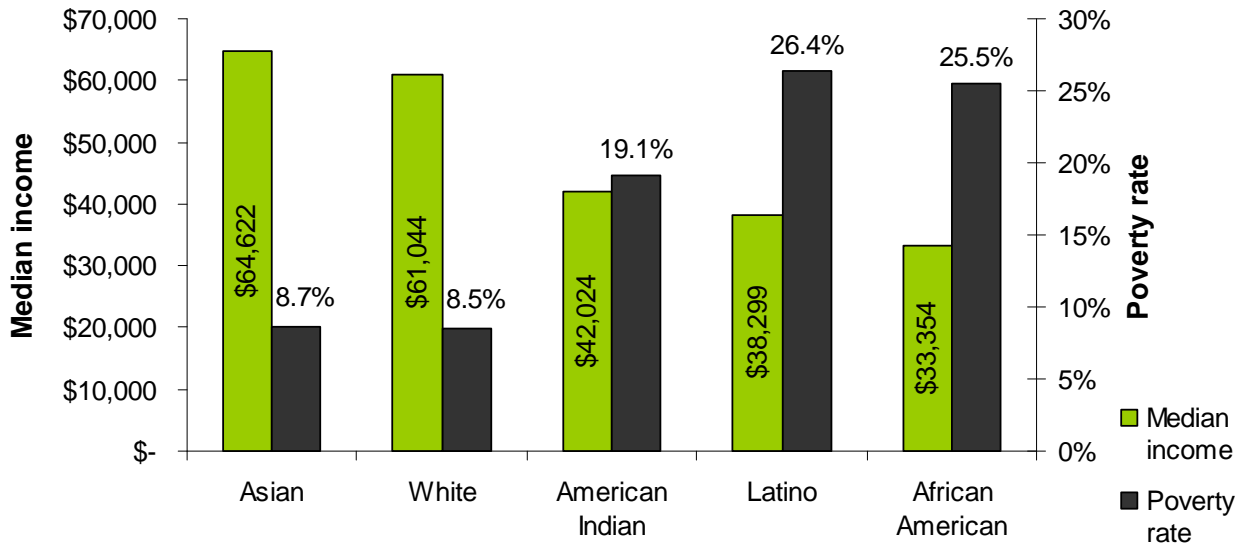
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010

Race

The 2009 census data show racial disparities in poverty and income that existed throughout the decade persisted during the Great Recession, with blacks and Hispanics having higher rates of poverty and lower median incomes.

Figure 4

Colorado income and poverty by race (2009)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010

Education

Education continues to be a huge determinant of earnings and poverty. Coloradans with graduate or professional degrees earn more than three times as much as those who did not graduate high school. What's more, the poverty rate for individuals without a high school degree is more than seven times that for individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher. (Figure 5)

Figure 5

EARNINGS AND POVERTY IN COLORADO BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2009)			
POPULATION	MEDIAN EARNINGS	POPULATION	POVERTY RATE
All 25 years and over with earnings	\$35,320	All 25 years and over for whom poverty status is determined	9.5%
Less than high school graduate	\$18,155	Less than high school graduate	28.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$27,975	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	11.2%
Some college or associate's degree	\$32,412	Some college or associate's degree	8.5%
Bachelor's degree	\$45,569	Bachelor's degree or higher	3.8%
Graduate or professional degree	\$59,118	<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010</i>	

Counties

Poverty varies widely across Colorado. Of the 11 counties with populations sufficiently large to be surveyed in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Denver County experienced the highest rate of poverty in 2009 (19.1 percent), and Douglas County experienced the lowest rate (3.2 percent). All but two of the 11 counties experienced double-digit rates of poverty in 2009.

Figure 5

POVERTY RATE 2009	
COLORADO	12.9%
Denver County	19.1%
Pueblo County	16.8%
Weld County	16.3%
Larimer County	15.6%
Boulder County	13.9%
Adams County	13.8%
Arapahoe County	12.8%
Mesa County	12.3%
El Paso County	11.5%
Jefferson County	8.2%
Douglas County	3.2%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau
American Community Survey 2010*

Health insurance

- An estimated 15.8 percent of Colorado’s population, or 777,794 people, lacked health insurance.
- Among adults, the uninsurance rate was 20.3 percent, or 648,050 adults.
- Private insurance policies remain the most common way of getting health insurance, at 71.3 percent of Colorado’s population, while 22.4 percent of the population relies on public health coverage.

Figure 6

COLORADO INSURANCE COVERAGE 2009	
With health insurance coverage	84.2%
With private health insurance coverage	71.3%
With public health coverage	22.4%
No health insurance coverage	15.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010

How Colorado ranks

COLORADO’S 2009 RANKINGS	
TOPIC	RANK
Total poverty	29
Child poverty	30
Median Household income	14
Share of population with a bachelor's degree	9
Share of population with an advanced degree	3
Uninsurance rate	18

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010

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ⁱ The poverty rate is the percentage of individuals with annual incomes below the Federal Poverty Line. In 2010 Federal Poverty Line is defined as an annual income of \$10,830 for an individual and \$22,050 for a family of four.