

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty in Minnesota Increase of 56 Percent

The percentage of children living in poverty in Minnesota increased 56 percent since the beginning of the decade. Between 2008 and 2009, almost 34,000 more children were living in poverty. Almost 60,000 more Minnesota children lived in poverty since 2000 according to the American Community Survey. (Poverty is defined as an annual income of below \$21,947 for a four-person family.)

Compared to other states, Minnesota's children are doing worse, dropping from 5th place to 12th place in the percentage of children living in poverty.

What does this mean for our state's future? What we know is that children's outcomes worsen over time when impacted by poverty. With less food, warmth, and other basic needs and more family stress, babies can't thrive. In fact, their brains suffer as a consequence of these 'toxic stresses.'

With more Minnesota children living in poverty, the state will suffer even greater long-term fallout. Conversely, investments in children today can reap tremendous dividends in the future. By investing in education, food supports, quality child care, safe neighborhoods, health insurance for every child, we as a state can look forward to a successful and prepared workforce. Businesses prosper with a solid workforce and the state can reap the ensuing benefits.

Jim Koppel, CDF-Minnesota director expressed his alarm at the numbers of children in poverty: "We know that every child that's left behind today will do worse in school, have a greater chance of dropping out, and earn less as an adult. By investing in our children, we are really putting our dollars to work towards our futures, our retirements, and our communities. Minnesota has led the nation but we are falling behind – we must do better for our children today for the sake of our tomorrows."

ACS Child Poverty Data:
Minnesota Statewide and the 7-county Metro Area 2000 to 2009

Minnesota Statewide: Child Poverty

Children Living in Poverty

2000	9%	114,000
2001	11%	
2002	12%	
2003	9%	
2004	11%	
2005	12%	
2006	12%	
2007	12%	
2008	11%	140,000
2009	14%	173,980

Children Living in Extreme Poverty

2000	3%	38,000
2001	4%	
2002	6%	
2003	5%	
2004	4%	
2005	5%	
2006	6%	
2007	5%	
2008	5%	61,000
2009		

Extreme poverty is defined as those children living at 50% of the poverty line. Children living in extreme poverty increased 61 percent from 2000 to 2008. Minnesota ranks 4th overall in having the lowest percentage of children living in extreme poverty compared to the rest of the nation.

Single Female Headed
Households with Children
living in poverty

2006	30%
2007	34%
2008	33%
2009	33%

The difference between children in single female-headed households and married family households living in poverty is startling. Children living in single female headed households are over 6 times more likely to experience poverty compared to children living in married families.

Married families with children living in poverty

2000	3%
2001	3%
2002	4%
2003	2%
2004	4%
2005	4%
2006	4%
2007	3%
2008	3%
2009	5%

Married families with children living in poverty has remained steady throughout this decade, however, married families saw a slight increase in poverty rates in 2009.

Families with children living in poverty

2000	8%	53,000
2001	9%	
2002	9%	
2003	8%	
2004	9%	
2005	10%	
2006	10%	
2007	11%	
2008	10%	66,000
2009	12%	Approx. 79,500

There was a 50 percent increase in the percentage of families with children living in poverty from 2000 to 2009 in Minnesota. Approximately 26,500 more families with children were living in poverty in 2009 compared to 2000

There was a decrease in the percentage of families with children having all available parents in the workforce for children under 6 years and children 6 to 17 years of age. High unemployment rates are most likely a contributing factor. Even though workforce participation remains high, child poverty rates increased significantly in Minnesota from 2008 to 2009.

7-County Metro Area: Child Poverty

Child Poverty	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ramsey	27.4%	21.1%	19.3%	19.4%
Hennepin	15.9%	13.5%	14.5%	16.0%
Carver	7.3%	6.6%	3.4%	7.2%
Anoka	9%	6.3%	8.3%	7.5%
Scott	3.8%	4.6%	5.1%	5.4%
Washington	7.0%	3.3%	6.5%	5.0%
Dakota	8.2%	3.5%	6.0%	4.3%

All parents in family in labor force with children under 6 years				
	2009	2008	2007	2006
Number		409,704	404,840	404,827
Percent	72%	73.7%	70.9%	69.7%
All parents in family in labor force with children 6 to 17 years				
Number		793,398	801,154	795,523
Percent	78%	79.5%	76.4%	76.4%

Over one in four children in Ramsey county lived in poverty in 2009 an increase of 6.2% from 2008. In addition, children in Ramsey county are almost 4 times more likely to be living in poverty compared to children in Carver and Washington counties and 8 times more likely to be living in poverty compared to children in Scott county. For children in Hennepin county, they are more than twice as likely to be living in poverty than children in Carver and Washington counties and 4 times more likely to be living in poverty compared to children in Scott County. Except for Scott County, all counties experienced an increase in children living in poverty from 2008 to 2009. The largest increase was in Ramsey county.

Families with children under 18 years living in Poverty				
County	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ramsey	20.8%	15.5%	15.8%	15.7%
Hennepin	11.6%	11.2%	11.4%	12.6%

Carver	3.3%	5.0%	4.0%	7.6%
Anoka	7.4%	4.7%	7.4%	6.4%
Scott	3.3%	3.3%	4.7%	4.9%
Dakota	5.7%	3.3%	5.9%	4.9%
Washington	6.8%	3.1%	6.6%	4.6%

All counties saw a decrease in the percentage of families with children living in poverty from 2006 to 2008. However in 2009, all counties except Carver county saw an increase in the percent of families living in poverty and Scott county did not see a change. Families in Ramsey county are seven times more likely to be living in poverty than families in Carver county. The largest increase in families with children living in poverty was in Washington county with an increase of almost 4 percent.

All parents in family in labor force with children under 6 years				
County	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ramsey	64%	70.5%	65.4%	67.5%
Scott	80%	72.1%	75.1%	69.0%
Hennepin	70%	72.3%	68.6%	67.7%
Carver	71%	72.5%	67.6%	71.6%
Anoka	81%	73.2%	75.5%	63.0%
Dakota	68%	73.5%	69.3%	68.6%
Washington	75%	75.6%	72.9%	65.2%
All parents in family in labor force with children 6 to 17 years				
County	2009	2008	2007	2006
Hennepin	75%	74.4%	71.8%	71.1%
Ramsey	70%	74.9%	73.8%	72.3%
Carver	75%	76.3%	70.1%	67.3%
Dakota	82%	79.0%	77.9%	78.1%
Scott	78%	81.0%	78.8%	74.8%
Anoka	83%	83.3%	78.8%	79.4%
Washington	73%	84.1%	78.3%	75.7%

Across the 7-county metro area there is a 16-percentage point disparity in child poverty rates. However, the workforce participation rates show a disparity of only 5 to 10 percentage points. This would suggest that participating in the workforce alone does not guarantee a family's ability to live above the poverty line.