

insecure & **unequal** poverty and income among women and families 2000-2011

ABOUT THE CENTER

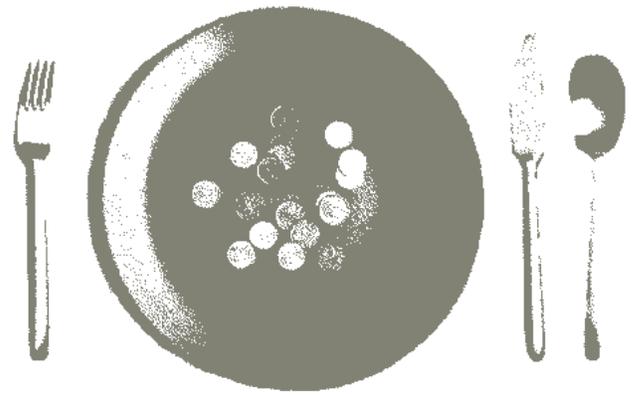
The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand the possibilities for women and girls by working to remove barriers based on gender, open opportunities, and help women and their families lead economically secure, healthy, and fulfilled lives—especially low-income women and their families.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The report was a collaborative endeavor that relied upon the work of many individuals. The primary authors are Joan Entmacher, Abby Lane, Katherine Gallagher Robbins, and Julie Vogtman. Beth Stover designed the report.

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insecure & unequal poverty and income among women and families, 2000-2011

September 2012

THIS REPORT provides a gender analysis of national Census data for 2011, released by the Census Bureau in September 2012.¹ The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) supplies this analysis, as it has for several years, because little information broken out by gender is available directly from the Census Bureau's series of reports titled *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States*. Determining, for example, if there were changes to the poverty rate for black women or elderly women living alone, or the gap between the wages of Hispanic women and white, non-Hispanic men, requires examining separate detailed Census Bureau tables – which is the way NWLC prepared this report. *Insecure & Unequal* provides a snapshot of poverty and income data in 2011 – and changes in poverty and the wage gap from 2010 to 2011 and since 2000.² However, its scope is largely confined to statistical analysis; it does not attempt to capture what poverty and economic insecurity mean in real terms for women, their families, and their futures.

KEY FINDINGS

Poverty rates generally stabilized in 2011 after several years of increases, as the economy slowly recovered from the Great Recession that began in late 2007 – but that left poverty among women and children at or near historically high levels. Poverty rates for all groups of women were higher than for their male counterparts. The gender wage gap persisted, undermining women's ability to support themselves and their families.

- **The rate of poverty for women³ was 14.6 percent in 2011**, statistically indistinguishable from the 2010 rate (14.5 percent) but a statistically significant increase from the rate in 2000 (11.5 percent). Nearly 18 million women lived in poverty in 2011 and almost 8 million of them lived in extreme poverty, with incomes below half of the federal poverty level.
- **Poverty rates in 2011 were substantially higher for some groups of women than for women overall**, including single mothers (40.9 percent), black women (25.9 percent), Hispanic women (23.9 percent), and women 65 and older living alone (18.4 percent).
- **Poverty rates for all groups of women in 2011 were substantially higher than for their male counterparts.** The poverty rate for men was 10.9 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the rate in 2010 (11.2 percent) but a statistically significant increase from 7.7 percent in 2000.
- **The poverty rate for children was 21.9 percent in 2011**, not a statistically significant change from 22.0 percent in 2010 but a statistically significant increase from the rate in 2000 (16.2 percent). Nearly six in ten poor children in 2011 (58.0 percent) lived in families headed by women.
- **The typical woman who worked full time, year round in 2011 was paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart**, representing an annual difference of \$11,084 in median earnings.
- **The gender wage gap in 2011 did not change from 2010.** Since 2000, when women working full time, year round were paid 74 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts, the gender wage gap has narrowed by three cents; in the past decade, it has not closed at all.
- **The wage gaps for black and Hispanic women relative to white, non-Hispanic men were 64 cents and 55 cents, respectively, in 2011.**

The data present a grim picture, but they also show the importance of federal and state programs in alleviating poverty and hardship, even though not all of these programs are counted in the official poverty measure. For example, in 2011:

- **Social Security** prevented 21.4 million people from falling into poverty, including 1.1 million children.
- **Unemployment insurance benefits** (both state benefits and federal emergency benefits) prevented 2.3 million people from falling into poverty, including 600,000 children.⁴

If the official poverty measure counted non-cash and after-tax benefits as income, the poverty rate would be lower. For example, in 2011:

- Counting income families receive from the **Earned Income Tax Credit** in the poverty measure would have lifted 5.7 million people above the poverty line, including 3.1 million children.
- If the value of **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)** benefits (food stamps) were counted as income in the poverty measure, 3.9 million fewer people would have been below the poverty line, including 1.7 million children.⁵

WHAT DOES THE FEDERAL POVERTY RATE MEASURE?

The official poverty rate reported by the Census Bureau measures the percentage of the U.S. population with total income below the federal poverty threshold for their family size. For example, poverty thresholds in 2011 include:

- \$11,702 for one person under 65
- \$10,788 for one person 65 or older
- \$15,504 for one adult with one child
- \$18,123 for one adult with two children
- \$22,811 for two adults with two children⁶

“Income” is calculated before taxes and includes only cash income, such as:

- Earnings
- Pension income
- Investment income
- Social Security
- Unemployment benefits
- Child support payments

A number of other federal and state benefits that help support low-income families are not counted as income under the official poverty measure, such as:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Tax benefits (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit)
- Housing subsidies

national snapshot: poverty among women and children, 2011

IN 2011, WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONTINUED TO BE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY POVERTY.

The highest poverty rates were for female-headed families with children; women 65 and older living alone; and black, Hispanic, and Native American women.

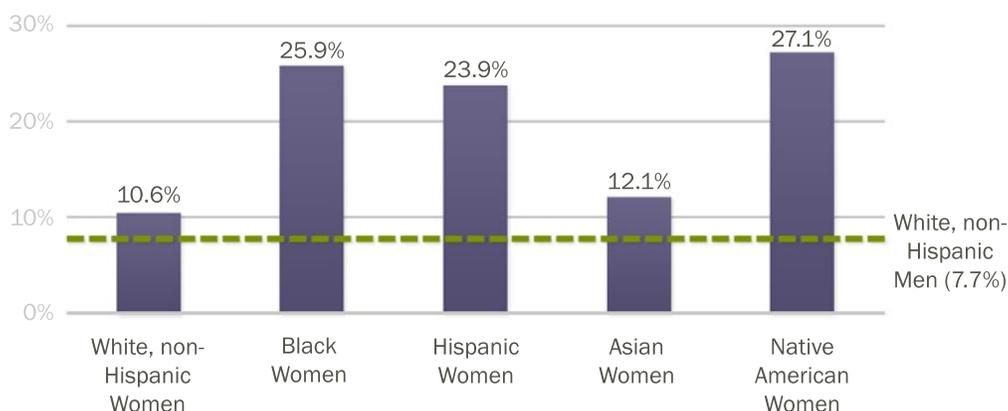
ADULT WOMEN, 2011

- More than one in seven women, nearly 18 million, lived in poverty in 2011. About 44 percent of these women (nearly 8 million) lived in extreme poverty, defined as income at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level. Nearly 1 in 15 women lived in extreme poverty in 2011.

- The poverty rate for women (14.6 percent) was 3.7 percentage points higher than it was for men (10.9 percent). The extreme poverty rate for women (6.4 percent) was 1.7 percentage points higher than it was for men (4.7 percent).

- Women in all racial and ethnic groups experienced higher poverty rates than white, non-Hispanic men. Poverty rates were particularly high, at about one in four, for black (25.9 percent), Hispanic (23.9 percent), and Native American (27.1 percent) women. Rates for white, non-Hispanic women (10.6 percent) and Asian women (12.1 percent) were also considerably higher than the rate for white, non-Hispanic men (7.7 percent).

POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS BY GENDER, RACE, AND ETHNICITY, 2011

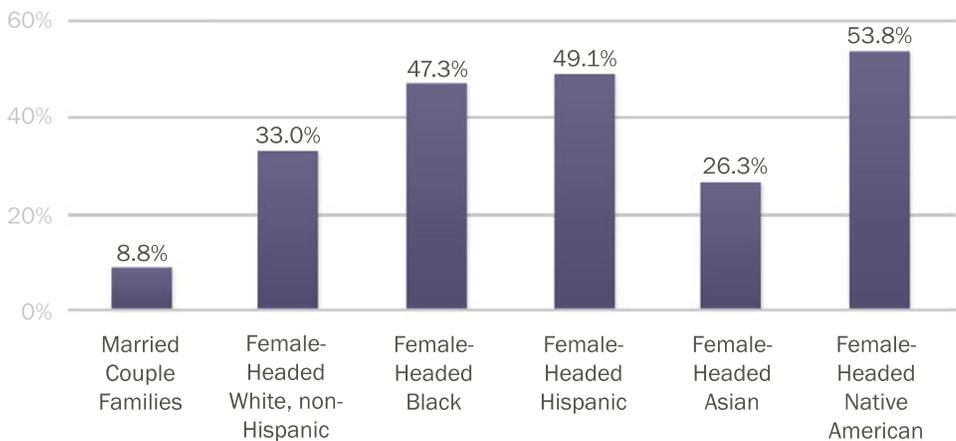


Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2011

- Over 16 million children lived in poverty in 2011, close to half of whom (45 percent) lived in extreme poverty.
- 21.9 percent of children were poor, almost twice the rate for adult men (10.9 percent). Poverty rates were particularly high, at more than one in three, for black (38.8 percent), Hispanic (34.1 percent), and Native American (38.2 percent) children. The poverty rate was 13.5 percent for Asian children and 12.5 percent for white, non-Hispanic children.
- The poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 40.9 percent, compared to 21.9 percent for male-headed families with children, and 8.8 percent for families with children headed by a married couple.
- Poverty rates were about one in two for black female-headed families with children (47.3 percent), Hispanic female-headed families with children (49.1 percent), and Native American female-headed families with children (53.8 percent). The poverty rate was 33.0 percent for white, non-Hispanic female-headed families with children and 26.3 percent for Asian female-headed families with children.
- Nearly six in ten poor children (58.0 percent) lived in families headed by women.
- More than 600,000 (13.3 percent) of single mothers who worked full time, year round in 2011 lived in poverty.

POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BY MARITAL STATUS, RACE, AND ETHNICITY, 2011



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

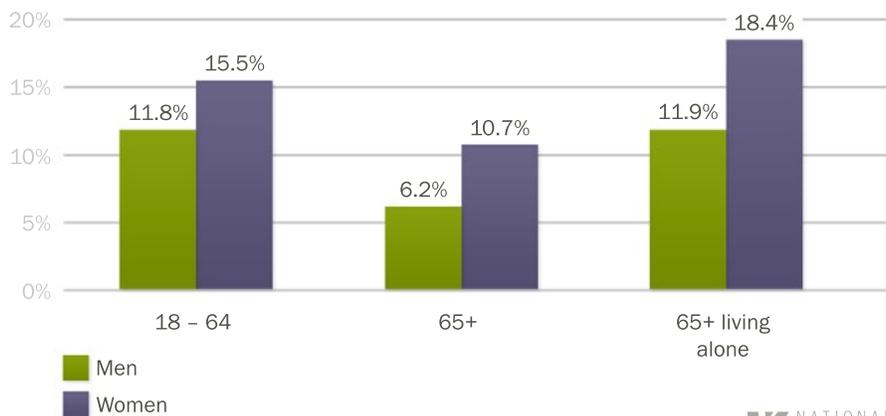


WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2011

- Among people 65 and older, more than twice as many women (2.5 million) as men (1.1 million) lived in poverty in 2011.
- The poverty rate for women 65 and older was 10.7 percent, 4.5 percentage points higher than the poverty rate for men 65 and older (6.2 percent).

- 18.4 percent of women 65 and older living alone lived in poverty, compared to 11.9 percent of men 65 and older living alone.
- Poverty rates were particularly high, at about one in five, for black (20.8 percent) and Hispanic (19.7 percent) women 65 and older. The poverty rate was 8.5 percent for white, non-Hispanic women 65 and older, 13.3 percent for Asian women 65 and older, and 15.6 percent for Native American women 65 and older.

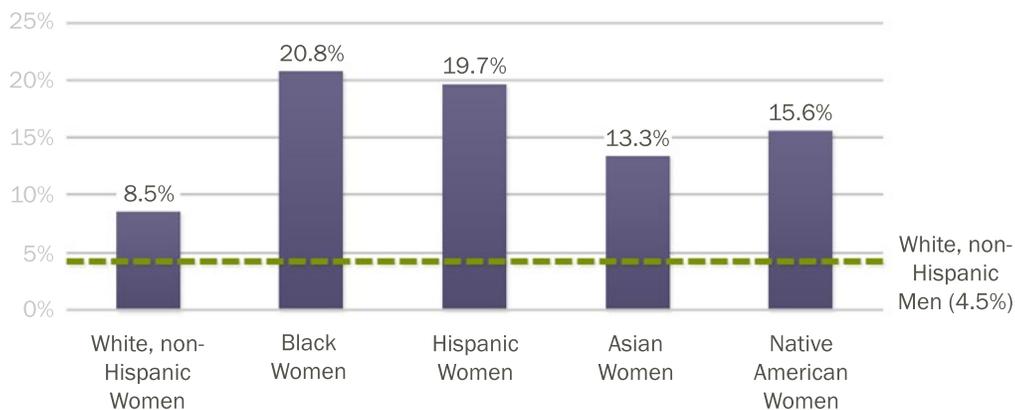
POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS BY GENDER AND AGE, 2011



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS 65 AND OLDER BY GENDER, RACE, AND ETHNICITY, 2011



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



after years of increases, poverty stabilizes: 2010-2011

AFTER THREE YEARS OF RISING POVERTY RATES IN THE WAKE OF THE GREAT RECESSION that began in December 2007, poverty started to stabilize – albeit at very high levels – for women, children, and men. Between 2010 and 2011, there were no statistically significant changes in the poverty rates for most subgroups of women or children. However, there was a statistically significant decrease in poverty for Hispanic women, and a statistically significant increase in poverty for women 65 and older living alone.

ADULT WOMEN, 2010-2011

- The poverty rate for women was 14.6 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the 14.5 percent rate in 2010. The extreme poverty rate for women was 6.4 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the 6.3 percent rate in 2010.
- The poverty rate for men was 10.9 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the rate of 11.2 percent in 2010. The extreme poverty rate for men decreased to 4.7 percent in 2011 from 4.9 percent in 2010, a statistically significant drop.
- Among racial and ethnic groups, Hispanic women and men experienced statistically significant decreases in poverty in 2011: the poverty rate for Hispanic women dropped to 23.9 percent (from 25.0 percent in 2010), and the rate for Hispanic men dropped to 17.8 percent (from 19.2 percent in 2010). There were no statistically significant one-year changes for black, Asian, Native American or white, non-Hispanic women or men.

SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2010-2011

- The poverty rate for children was 21.9 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the rate of 22.0 percent in 2010. Children's extreme poverty rate was 9.8 percent in 2011, also statistically indistinguishable from the 2010 rate (9.9 percent).
- The poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 40.9 percent in 2011, statistically indistinguishable from the 2010 rate (40.7 percent). The poverty rate for families with children headed by a married couple in 2011 was the same as in 2010 at 8.8 percent. There was a statistically significant decline in the poverty rate for male-headed families with children, to 21.9 percent in 2011 from 24.2 percent in 2010.
- There were no statistically significant changes in poverty rates for children across racial and ethnic groups between 2011 and 2010.
- Similarly, there were no statistically significant one-year changes in poverty rates among female-headed households with children across racial and ethnic groups.

WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2010-2011

- For women 65 and older, the poverty rate held steady at 10.7 percent in 2011. The extreme poverty rate for women 65 and older in 2011 was 2.6 percent, statistically indistinguishable from the 2.7 percent rate in 2010.
- The poverty rate for men 65 and older dropped to 6.2 percent in 2011 from 6.8 percent in 2010, a statistically significant decline. Extreme poverty for men 65 and older also declined to 1.9 percent in 2011 from 2.3 percent in 2010, a statistically significant change.

- The poverty rate for women 65 and older living alone rose to 18.4 percent in 2011 from 17.0 percent in 2010, a statistically significant increase. In contrast, the poverty rate for men 65 and older living alone fell to 11.9 percent in 2011 from 13.5 percent in 2010, a statistically significant decrease.
- There were no statistically significant changes in poverty rates for women 65 and older across racial and ethnic groups between 2011 and 2010. There were statistically significant declines in poverty rates for white, non-Hispanic men 65 and older (to 4.5 percent in 2011 from 5.0 percent in 2010) and Asian men 65 and older (to 9.6 percent in 2011 from 13.9 percent in 2010). There was a statistically significant increase in the poverty rate for Hispanic men 65 and older to 17.5 percent in 2011 from 14.1 percent in 2010. Changes in poverty rates for black men 65 and older and Native American men 65 and older were not statistically significant.

national trends: poverty among women and children, 2000-2011

THIS ANALYSIS COMPARES POVERTY RATES IN 2011 TO 2000,⁷ THE YEAR BEFORE THE 2001 RECESSION.

The 2000 benchmark, which was used in previous NWLC analyses of Census data, continues to be used in this report because, even at the peak of the most recent business cycle before the Great Recession began in December 2007, poverty rates were higher than in 2000.⁸

The recovery from the 2001 recession was the weakest recovery in the post-World War II period in terms of average growth of GDP, investment, employment, and employee compensation.⁹ Between 2000 and 2007, despite overall economic growth and a substantial boost in income at the top of the income distribution, incomes for middle-class families fell (in inflation-adjusted terms) and poverty increased.¹⁰ In fact, a third of the increase in poverty among women and children between 2000 and 2011 – and half of the increase for single mothers – occurred between 2000 and 2007.¹¹ For these reasons, 2000 provides a better benchmark than 2007 for what poverty rates look like after a real economic recovery.

Between 2000 and 2011, there were statistically significant increases in the poverty rates for adult women and men, as well as children and most subgroups; however, there were statistically significant declines in poverty rates over this period for women and men 65 and older (overall and for those living alone). Changes in this section are statistically significant unless otherwise noted.

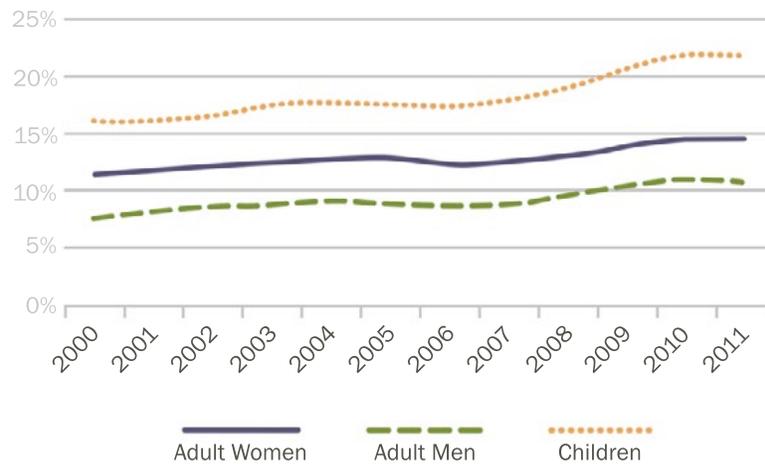
ADULT WOMEN, 2000-2011

- About 5.4 million more women and 4.7 million more men lived in poverty in 2011 than in 2000.
- The poverty rate for women was higher in 2011 (14.6 percent) than in 2000 (11.5 percent). The extreme poverty rate for women increased to 6.4 percent in 2011 from 4.4 percent in 2000.
- Men's poverty rate increased to 10.9 percent in 2011 from 7.7 percent in 2000. The extreme poverty rate for men increased to 4.7 percent in 2011 from 3.0 percent in 2000. Men's poverty and extreme poverty rates have consistently been well below women's.
- The poverty rate for white, non-Hispanic women rose to 10.6 percent in 2011 from 8.3 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for black women rose to 25.9 percent in 2011 from 22.0 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for Hispanic women rose to 23.9 percent in 2011 from 20.9 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for Asian women rose to 12.1 percent in 2011 from 9.7 percent in 2000.¹² Poverty rates also rose for all racial and ethnic groups of men between 2000 and 2011 (see summary table).

SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2000-2011

- The poverty rate for children increased to 21.9 percent in 2011 from 16.2 percent in 2000. Over 4.5 million more children lived in poverty in 2011 than in 2000. The extreme poverty rate for children increased to 9.8 percent in 2011 from 6.7 percent in 2000.
- Poverty rates increased for white, non-Hispanic children, black children, and Hispanic children between 2000 and 2011. Poverty rates rose to 12.5 percent in 2011 from 9.1 percent in 2000 for white, non-Hispanic children, to

POVERTY RATES FOR WOMEN, MEN, AND CHILDREN, 2000-2011



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey



38.8 percent in 2011 from 31.2 percent in 2000 for black children, and to 34.1 percent in 2011 from 28.4 percent in 2000 for Hispanic children. The change in the poverty rate for Asian children was not statistically significant.

- From 2000 to 2011, poverty rates increased for both single-parent families and married-couple families with children. The poverty rate increased to 40.9 percent in 2011 from 33.0 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by single females, to 21.9 percent in 2011 from 15.3 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by single males, and to 8.8 percent in 2011 from 6.0 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by married couples.
- Poverty rates increased between 2000 and 2011 for female-headed households with children in all racial and ethnic groups for which data are available. For white, non-Hispanic female-headed households with children, the poverty rate rose to 33.0 percent in 2011 from 24.6 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for black female-headed households with children rose to 47.3 percent in 2011 from 41.0 percent in 2000. Hispanic female-headed households with children also saw an increase in poverty, to 49.1 percent in 2011 from 42.9 percent in 2000.

WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2000-2011

- Between 2000 and 2011, the poverty rate for women 65 and older declined, to 10.7 percent in 2011 from 12.1 percent in 2000. There was no statistically significant change in the extreme poverty rate for women 65 and older between 2011 and 2000.
- Poverty among men 65 and older also declined, to 6.2 percent in 2011 from 6.9 percent in 2000. There was no statistically significant change in the extreme poverty rate for men 65 and older between 2011 and 2000.
- For women 65 and older living alone, poverty declined to 18.4 percent in 2011 from 20.8 percent in 2000. For men 65 and older living alone, poverty declined to 11.9 percent in 2011 from 15.6 percent in 2000.
- There were declines in poverty for white, non-Hispanic women 65 and older (to 8.5 percent in 2011 from 10.1 percent in 2000), black women 65 and older (to 20.8 percent in 2011 from 25.3 percent in 2000), and black men 65 and older (to 12.1 percent in 2011 from 16.2 percent in 2000). There were no statistically significant changes in the poverty rates for Hispanic women and men 65 and older, Asian women and men 65 and older, or white, non-Hispanic men 65 and older.

national trends: the persistent wage gap, 2000-2011

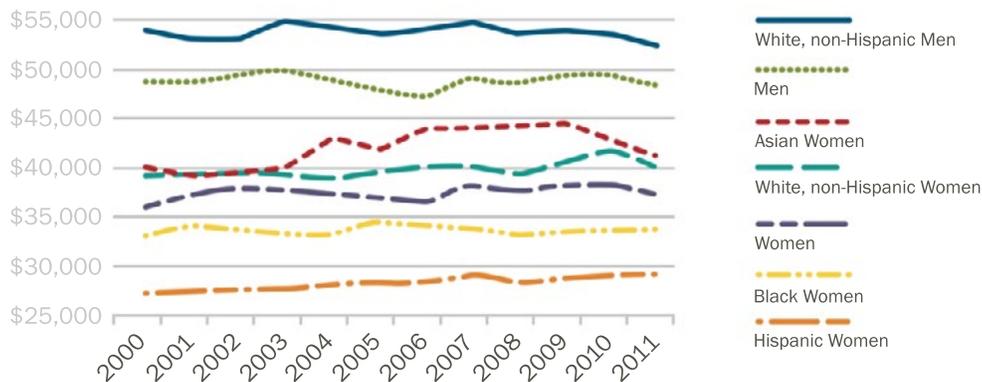
IN 2011, THE TYPICAL AMERICAN WOMAN WHO WORKED FULL TIME, YEAR ROUND WAS PAID ONLY 77 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR PAID TO HER MALE COUNTERPART.

This figure has not changed since 2010 or in the past decade, although it has narrowed by three cents since 2000.¹³ The wage gap was even more substantial for many groups of women of color.

- Women working full time, year round in 2011 were paid 77 percent of what their male counterparts were paid – the same level as in 2010. The median full-time, year-round female worker was paid \$11,084 per year less than her male counterpart in 2011, a gap that is \$327 narrower (adjusted for inflation) than in 2010.
- Median annual earnings for women working full time, year round declined to \$37,118 in 2011 from \$38,052 in 2010 (in 2011 dollars), while median annual earnings for men working full time, year round fell to \$48,202 in 2011 from \$49,463 in 2010 (in 2011 dollars). Both declines were statistically significant.

- In 2011, the median earnings of white, non-Hispanic women working full time, year round in 2011 were only 77 percent of the median earnings of white, non-Hispanic males working full time, year round. For Asian women this figure was 78 percent, for black women it was 64 percent, and for Hispanic women it was 55 percent. There were no statistically significant changes in these percentages from 2010 except for Asian women (who were paid 80 percent of what white, non-Hispanic men were paid in 2010).
- Between 2000 and 2011, the wage gap between women and men overall narrowed by just over three cents, a statistically significant change. The annual median earnings of women working full time, year round were 74 percent of the median earnings of their male counterparts in 2000. The narrowing of the wage gap is due to an increase in women's median earnings since 2000; men's earnings stagnated during this period. In 2011 dollars, men's median earnings decreased by \$451 between 2000 and 2011; women's increased by \$1,251 over the same time period. The change in women's earnings was statistically significant; the change in men's earnings was not.

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS (IN 2011 DOLLARS)



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

a look ahead

THE ECONOMY CONTINUED ITS MODEST RECOVERY IN 2012. Both women and men have gained jobs and their unemployment rates have declined since the recession ended in June 2009¹⁴ – but not enough to drive poverty rates down to pre-recession levels any time soon, much less to the even lower levels of 2000, and the wage gap is stubbornly persistent. Policy makers can make a difference; their actions could strengthen the economy, alleviate poverty, and reduce inequality – or undermine the recovery, exacerbate hardship, and allow persistent discrimination to continue.

Policy makers face critical budget choices over the next few months.¹⁵ Budget cuts at the federal and state levels have led to job losses in the public sector that have slowed the recovery, especially for women. From the start of the recovery in June 2009 through August 2012, women lost 450,000 public sector jobs, offsetting 45 percent of the nearly 1 million jobs they gained in the private sector.¹⁶ And further budget cuts are ahead: the Budget Control Act (BCA) enacted in August 2011 cuts nearly \$1 trillion over ten years from the discretionary budget (which funds domestic programs like K-12 education, Head Start, child care assistance, Pell grants and family planning services, as well as many defense programs) and requires an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction between 2013 and 2021. These additional cuts will be enforced through automatic, across-the-board spending cuts (“sequestration”) beginning in January 2013 unless Congress enacts an alternative plan. However, the alternative plan passed by the House of Representatives, H.R. 5652, designed to avert cuts to the Pentagon budget, would cut programs for low-income people even more deeply than these programs would be cut by sequestration, while not requiring millionaires and corporations to contribute a penny of additional revenue toward deficit reduction.¹⁷

Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that alleviate poverty and help boost the economy – including expanded tax credits for families with low earnings and extended unemployment insurance benefits for long-term jobless workers – are scheduled to expire at the end of 2012. The improvements to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC), enacted as part of ARRA, kept 1.6 million people out of poverty in 2010 under an alternative measure of poverty.¹⁸ These improvements will expire on December 31, 2012, along with the Bush-era tax cuts. The House and Senate have taken different approaches to extending these expiring tax cuts. The House-passed bill, H.R. 8, would end the ARRA improvements in the EITC and CTC but extend all of the Bush-era tax cuts, including for the wealthiest two percent. The Senate-passed bill, S. 3412, would extend the ARRA improvements in the CTC and EITC and the Bush-era tax cuts on income up to \$250,000 per couple, but would generally allow the Bush-era tax cuts on income above \$250,000 to expire.¹⁹

ARRA also extended and expanded federal emergency unemployment insurance benefits for long-term jobless workers. The federal expansions in the duration and level of unemployment insurance benefits kept 3.4 million people out of poverty in 2010 under an alternative measure of poverty.²⁰ Those benefits, already scaled back for 2012,²¹ will run out at the end of 2012. In previous recessions, Congress has never allowed federal emergency unemployment benefits to expire when the unemployment rate was above 7.2 percent,²² and unemployment was at 8.1 percent in August 2012.²³

Policy makers should do more than avert harm – they should take steps to reduce poverty and inequality. They can create jobs and speed the recovery by providing aid to states and localities to rehire teachers and other workers providing needed public services; investing in infrastructure

(including measures to increase access to these jobs for women and disadvantaged people); creating subsidized jobs; and increasing reemployment services. (Such measures were proposed in the American Jobs Act, introduced in 2011 but not acted on by Congress.)

They can alleviate poverty and economic insecurity by protecting and strengthening effective programs like Social Security, SNAP/Food Stamps, tax credits for low-income families, child care assistance, child support enforcement, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare. Policy makers can restore fiscal responsibility – and improve tax fairness – by requiring the wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. For example, President Obama's budget for fiscal year 2013 includes a number of measures that would make the tax system more equitable and raise needed revenues.²⁴ To promote fair pay for

women, Congress could provide additional tools to challenge discrimination as proposed in the Paycheck Fairness Act,²⁵ and it could raise the federal minimum wage as proposed by the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which would help close the wage gap and reduce poverty by boosting the earnings of minimum wage workers (two-thirds of whom are women).²⁶

Behind the statistics in this report are real people: women and men who are forced to make hard choices between rent and utilities, food and medicine. In the coming months, Congress will choose between protecting programs for struggling families and expanding tax cuts for millionaires. For anyone who cares about Americans living on the edge of a real fiscal cliff, that choice should be easy.

SUMMARY TABLE: POVERTY RATES AMONG WOMEN, MEN, AND CHILDREN – 2011, 2010, 2000

September 2012

Group	Number in Poverty, 2011 (in millions)	Poverty Rate, 2011	Poverty Rate, 2010	Poverty Rate, 2000
Adult Women 18+	17.74	14.6%	14.5%	11.5%*
White, non-Hispanic	8.47	10.6%	10.4%	8.3%*
Black	4.06	25.9%	25.6%	22.0%*
Hispanic	4.13	23.9%	25.0%*	20.9%*
Asian	0.80	12.1%	12.2%	9.7%*
Native American	0.31	27.1%	26.5%	-
Adult Men 18+	12.37	10.9%	11.2%	7.7%*
White, non-Hispanic	5.85	7.7%	8.1%	5.5%*
Black	2.55	19.9%	19.1%	13.8%*
Hispanic	3.11	17.8%	19.2%*	15.1%*
Asian	0.68	11.7%	10.4%	8.1%*
Native American	0.25	22.0%	21.2%	-
Female-Headed Households with children	4.24	40.9%	40.7%	33.0%*
White, non-Hispanic	1.50	33.0%	32.7%	24.6%*
Black	1.47	47.3%	47.5%	41.0%*
Hispanic	1.16	49.1%	50.3%	42.9%*
Asian	0.07	26.3%	30.3%	-
Native American	0.09	53.9%	53.9%	-
Children	16.13	21.9%	22.0%	16.2%*
White, non-Hispanic	4.85	12.5%	12.4%	9.1%*
Black	4.32	38.8%	39.1%	31.2%*
Hispanic	6.01	34.1%	35.0%	28.4%*
Asian	0.49	13.5%	14.4%	12.8%
Native American	0.36	38.2%	39.0%	-
Older Women 65+	2.49	10.7%	10.7%	12.1%*
White, non-Hispanic	1.55	8.5%	8.3%	10.1%*
Black	0.45	20.8%	20.5%	25.3%*
Hispanic	0.34	19.7%	20.9%	22.3%
Asian	0.12	13.3%	15.1%	10.2%
Native American	0.02	15.6%	15.0%	-
Living Alone	1.54	18.4%	17.0%*	20.8%*
Older Men 65+	1.13	6.2%	6.8%*	6.9%*
White, non-Hispanic	0.66	4.5%	5.0%*	5.1%
Black	0.18	12.1%	14.2%	16.2%*
Hispanic	0.23	17.5%	14.1%*	19.0%
Asian	0.06	9.6%	13.9%*	8.2%
Native American	0.01	9.8%	18.6%	-
Living Alone	0.41	11.9%	13.5%*	15.6%*

* Indicates a statistically significant change compared to 2011

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. 2000 figures are from the expanded dataset. Some figures may differ from published Census estimates due to rounding and Census revisions.

endnotes

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011 – Report and Detailed Tables, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2011/index.html> (last visited Sept. 12, 2012).
- 2 Changes in poverty rates reported in this document are statistically significant unless otherwise noted; the word “significant” is used to refer to statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level. The statistical significance of estimates in this analysis is evaluated using standard errors which are estimated using general variance parameters. This method of estimation may result in slight differences from the statistical significance of published Census estimates because the Census used replication methods to estimate the standard errors of Current Population Survey estimates in 2010 and 2011.
- 3 This report uses “women” to refer to females 18 and older.
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage: 2011, at 22 (Sept. 2012), available at http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/pdf/20120912_ip_%20slides_noplotpoints.pdf (PowerPoint slides).
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 The Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds for households of three or more persons do not vary by age of householder. For a complete list of poverty thresholds, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/> (last visited Sept. 17, 2012).
- 7 The Census Bureau produced two sets of poverty, health insurance, and income data for the year 2000. According to the Census Bureau, “One version is based on the traditional sample of about 50,000 households and reflects the use of 1990 census population controls. The second version is based on a sample of 78,000 households, reflecting a 28,000 household sample expansion and the use of Census 2000 population controls.” This report uses the expanded sample to match what is used in the Census Bureau’s historical tables. For more information, see U.S. Census Bureau, Changes in Methodology for the March Current Population Survey, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/history.html> (last visited Sept. 13, 2012). Additional expanded data that were obtained for this report may result in small differences in estimates for 2000 compared to prior NWLC reports on poverty.
- 8 See generally NWLC, Poverty Among Women and Families, 2000-2007: Getting Worse Even Before the Downturn (Sept. 2008), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/WomenPoverty2000-2007.pdf>.
- 9 See Josh Bivens & John Irons, Econ. Policy Inst., A Feeble Recovery: The Fundamental Economic Weakness of the 2001-2007 Expansion, at 2 (Dec. 2008), available at <http://www.epi.org/page/-/old/briefingpapers/214/bp214.pdf>; Heather Boushey & Michael Ettlinger, Ctr. for American Progress, Government Spending Can Create Jobs – and It Has, at 5 (Sept. 2011), available at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/yes_we_can.pdf.
- 10 Boushey & Ettlinger, *supra* note 9. See also Hannah Shaw & Chad Stone, Ctr. on Budget & Policy Priorities, Tax Data Show Richest 1 Percent Took a Hit in 2008, but Income Remained Highly Concentrated at the Top, at 2 (Oct. 2010), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/files/10-21-10inc.pdf>; U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011, at 50 (Sept. 2012), available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf> (showing overall poverty rate rose from 11.3 percent in 2000 to 12.5 percent in 2007).
- 11 Women’s poverty rose 1.0 percentage points between 2000 and 2007 and another 2.1 percentage points between 2007 and 2011. Children’s poverty rose 1.8 percentage points between 2000 and 2007 and another 3.9 percentage points between 2007 and 2011. Poverty for female-headed households with children rose 4.0 percentage points between 2000 and 2007 and another 3.9 percentage points between 2007 and 2011. NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey.
- 12 The comparisons for blacks and Asians use the Census Bureau’s racial groups “black” and “Asian” prior to 2002 and the racial groups “black alone” and “Asian alone” for 2002 and later. Data for Native American women are not available on the Census Bureau web site for 2000.
- 13 Over the last decade (since 2002), the wage gap has not changed: the typical woman working full time, year round in 2002 was paid 77 percent of what her male counterpart was paid.
- 14 NWLC, Press Release: Public Sector Job Losses Wiped Out 45 Percent of Women’s Private Sector Job Gains During the Recovery, NWLC Analysis Shows (Sept. 7, 2012), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/press-release/public-sector-job-losses-wiped-out-45-percent-women%E2%80%99s-private-sector-job-gains-during->
- 15 See generally NWLC, A Roadmap to the Upcoming Federal Budget Debates (Sept. 2012), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/federalbudgetroadmap.pdf>.
- 16 NWLC, Press Release, *supra* note 14.
- 17 NWLC, A Roadmap to the Upcoming Federal Budget Debates, *supra* note 15, at 2.
- 18 Arloc Sherman, Ctr. on Budget & Policy Priorities, Poverty and Financial Distress Would Have Been Substantially Worse in 2010 Without Government Action, New Census Data Show, at 4 (Sept. 2011), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/files/11-7-11pov.pdf>.
- 19 NWLC, A Roadmap to the Upcoming Federal Budget Debates, *supra* note 15, at 2.
- 20 Sherman, *supra* note 18.
- 21 See Nat’l Employment Law Project, Phase Out of Federal Unemployment Insurance (Sept. 2012), available at http://www.nelp.org/page/-/UI/2012/EUC_fact_sheet.pdf?nocdn=1.
- 22 *Ibid.*, at 2.
- 23 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, News Release: The Employment Situation – August 2012 (Sept. 7, 2012), available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf>.
- 24 See NWLC, President Obama’s FY 2013 Budget: Supporting Key Investments for Women and Fairer Taxes (Feb. 2012), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/president-obama%E2%80%99s-fy-2013-budget-supporting-key-investments-women-and-fairer-taxes>.
- 25 NWLC, How the Paycheck Fairness Act Will Strengthen the Equal Pay Act (May 2012), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/broadpaycheckfairnessfactsheet.pdf>.
- 26 NWLC, Fair Pay for Women Requires Increasing the Minimum Wage and Tipped Minimum Wage (Aug. 2012), available at <http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/minimumwagefactsheetupdatedaug14.pdf>.



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