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## FP-12-17 Child Poverty in the United States, 2010

Seth Williams

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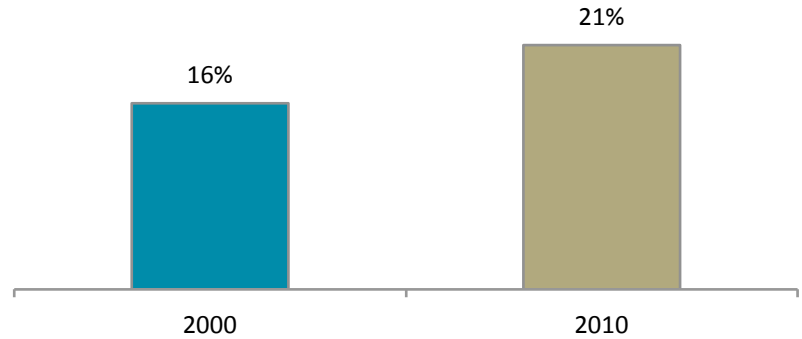
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Understanding child poverty is crucial, as research has linked poverty to lower levels of child well-being, as well as health, economic, and behavioral problems in adulthood (Anderson Moore et al., 2009). Using 1-year estimates from the 2010 American Community Survey, this profile examines poverty rates for children 17 and under according to their race-ethnicity and nativity, family structure, and the educational attainment of the household head in the child's home.

## Child Poverty Trends

- Figure 1 shows that more than 1 in 5 children in the United States live at or below the poverty threshold.
- During the 2000-2010 period, there were 2 recessions and a 31% percent increase in child poverty—from 16% in 2000 to 21% in 2010 (Dalaker, 2001).

Figure 1. Percentage of Children at or Below Poverty Threshold, 2000 & 2010

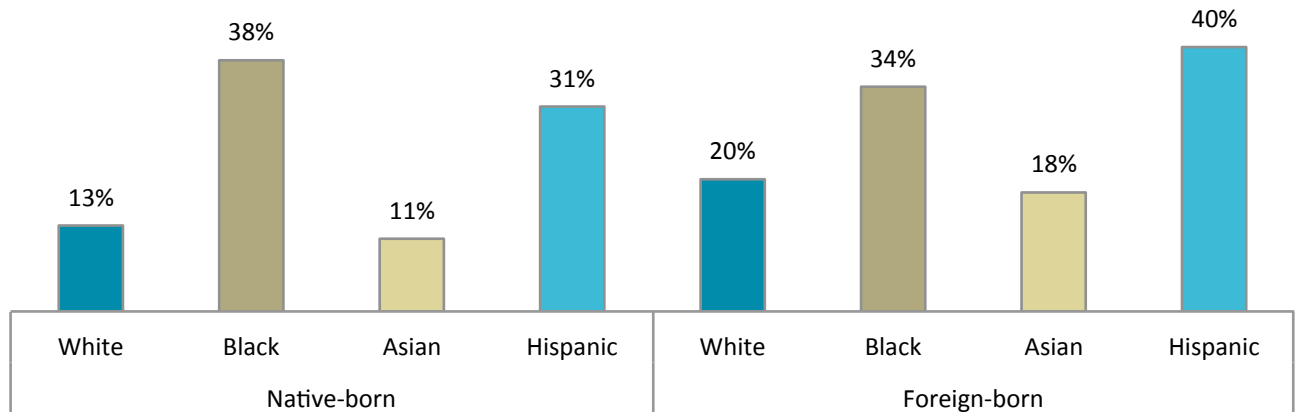


Source: Dalaker, 2001; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010.

## Child Poverty Rates by Child's Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity

- Figure 2 shows that foreign-born children experience a higher rate of poverty than their native-born counterparts, *except* among Blacks.
  - Thirty-four percent of foreign-born Black children live in poverty compared to 38% native-born Blacks.
  - Asians and Whites have the lowest poverty rates, regardless of nativity.
  - Foreign-born Hispanics have rates 9% higher than native-born Hispanics (31% vs. 40%).
- Native-born Black children and foreign-born Hispanic children suffer the highest poverty rates, 38% and 40%, respectively.

Figure 2. Child Poverty Rates by Race, Ethnicity, and Nativity, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

*This profile draws on research published in the following articles:*

Anderson Moore, K., Redd, Z., Burkhauser, M., Mbwana, K., & Collins, A. (2009) Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences, and Policy Options. *Child Trends Research Brief*, 2009-11.

<http://www.childtrends.org/listAllPubs.cfm?LID=D688D32A-3B35-41CA-AF86D79017944287>

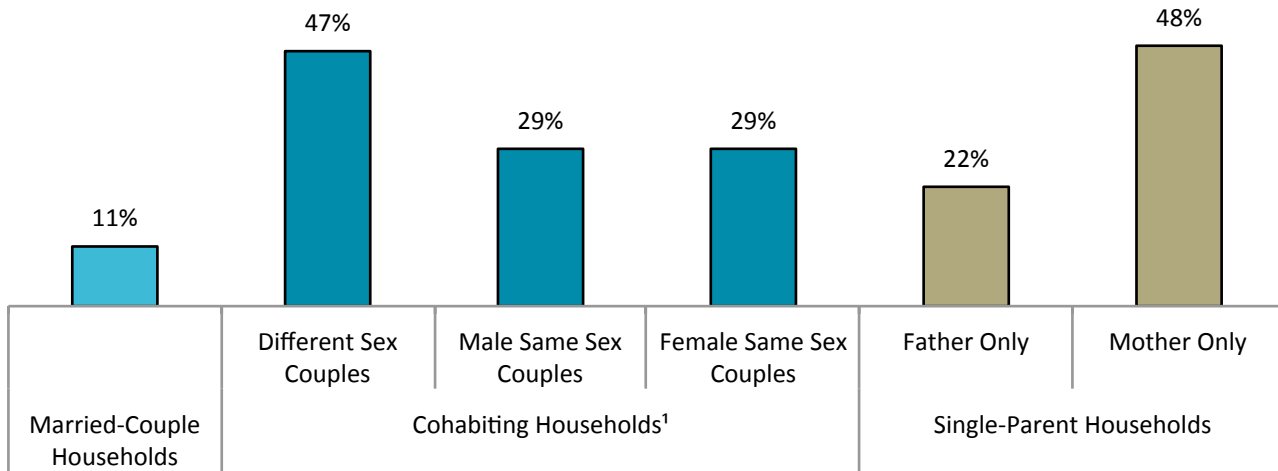
Dalaker, Joseph. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, Series P60-214, *Poverty in the United States: 2000*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 2001.

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

### Child Poverty Rates by Family Structure

- Children in married households are the least likely to be in poverty, at 11%.
- Children of same-sex cohabiting households experience poverty at a rate of 29%, regardless of parents' sex and are 18% less likely than children of different-sex cohabiting households to experience poverty (29% vs. 47%).
- Children living in single-mother households and children living in different-sex cohabiting households have the highest rates of poverty (48% and 47%, respectively), as shown in Figure 3.
- Children living in single-mother households have poverty rates more than twice that of children in single-father homes (48% vs. 22%).

Figure 3. Child Poverty Rates by Family Structure, 2010



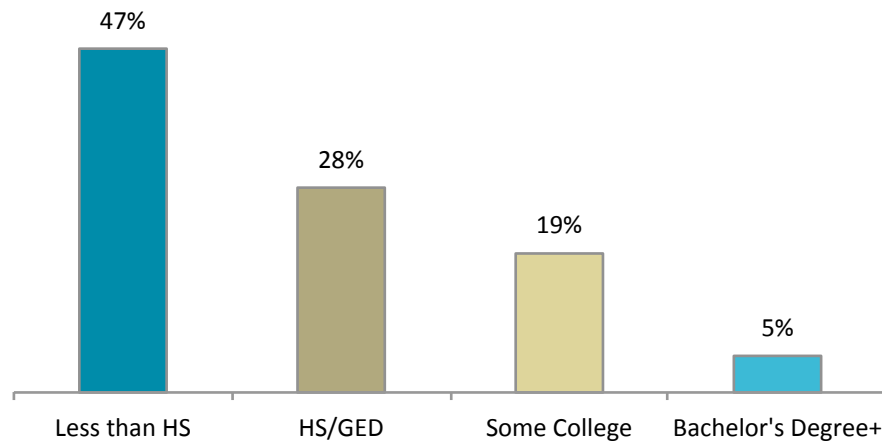
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

<sup>1</sup>Poverty levels for same-sex and different-sex cohabiting households are based on the income of the household head only and do not include the income of cohabiting partners.

### Child Poverty Rates by Educational Attainment of Household Head

- Figure 4 illustrates the negative association between the educational attainment of the household head and child poverty rates.
  - Children in households headed by adults with less than a high school education experience the highest poverty rates at 47%, nearly 10 times that of children living in a household where the head has a bachelor's degree or more.
  - Children in households headed by adults with at least some college (including associate's degrees) have poverty rates 9% lower than those with a high school degree or GED.

Figure 4. Child Poverty by Educational Attainment of Household Head, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2010

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