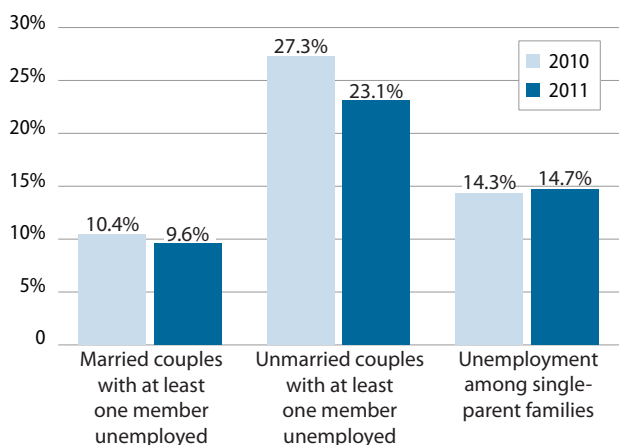


Children



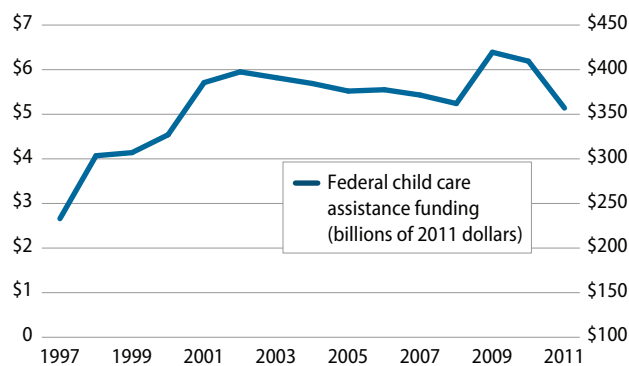
The national child poverty rate has substantially increased since the Great Recession of 2007–2009. As of 2011 more than 20 percent of children under the age of 18 live in poverty, with African American and Latino children having the highest rates. The child food-insecurity rate and the number of children who have lost their homes follow the same disturbing trend. These numbers not only threaten our vulnerable and youngest Americans but also threaten future U.S. competitiveness and long-term economic growth and prosperity.

a *When parental unemployment is high, more children will be in poverty*
 12 percent of families with children had at least one parent unemployed in 2011



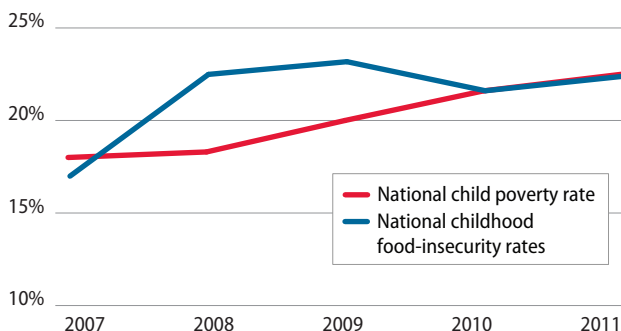
Source: Author's calculation with original data from U.S. Census Bureau, *America's Families and Living Arrangements* (2010, 2011).

b *Even when parents are working, affording quality child care presents a major challenge*
 Federal funding for Child Care and Development Fund, FY 1997–2011



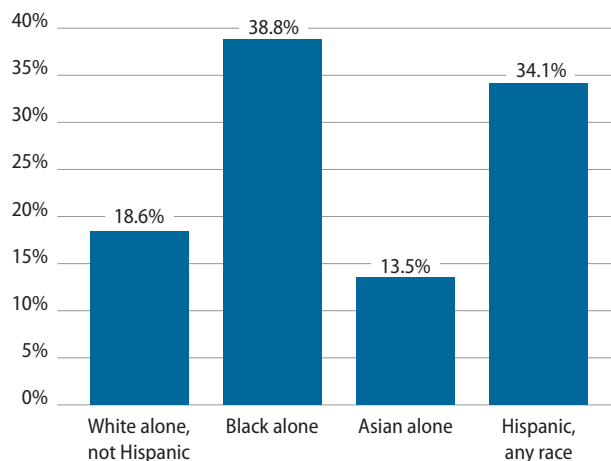
Source: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Census Current Population Survey.

c *National child poverty rate vs. food-insecurity rate*
 SNAP mitigates effects of poverty on hunger



Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Report, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

d *National child poverty rate by race in 2011*
 African American and Latino children have disproportionately high poverty rates

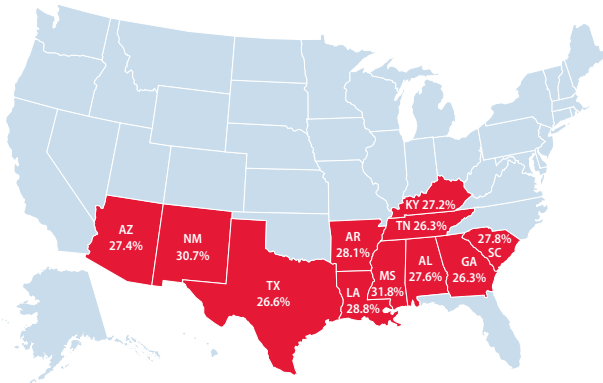


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.

e

Top 10 worst states for childhood poverty

Percentage in 2011 by state

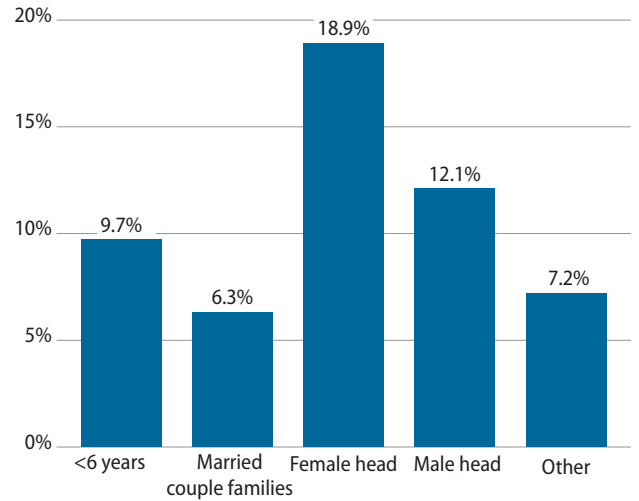


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

f

Prevalence of households with food-insecure children

Female-headed households overwhelmingly suffer from hunger



Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Report

g

Homeless children in 2011

Child homelessness has increased by more than 30 percent since 2007

More than 1.6 million children—1 in 45—were homeless in 2011



Source: National Center on Family Homelessness.

Left unchecked, millions of children will continue to live in poverty. The well-being of our nation's children is not only a moral issue but also an economic threat to long-term progress and success. Today's children are tomorrow's workforce, and the challenges they face today with education, housing, and health only serve as roadblocks to their ability to serve as our country's net generation of economic drivers.

Looking forward, our nation must focus on creating jobs, improving wages, and investing in the economic security of children and families. Regardless of race or household characteristics, we must ensure that all children are afforded the same opportunities to thrive.