

Women

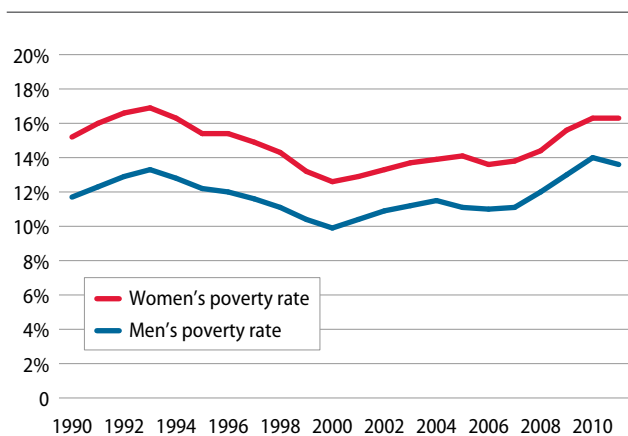


The poverty rate among U.S. women ages 18 to 64 remained unchanged between 2010 and 2011, with 15.5 percent of working-age women living in poverty in 2011 and 2012. This is the highest rate in nearly two decades, which is not surprising considering that many factors affecting women’s economic security—such as the cost of child care and affordable housing—have either not budged or gotten worse in recent years. The gender wage gap has not moved dramatically in the past decade, with the average woman earning only 77 cents for every dollar paid to her male counterpart. Even more dramatic pay disparities exist for women of color.

The availability of affordable child care has largely decreased since 2002, with the exception of two years of Recovery Act funding, and millions of low-wage workers—disproportionately women—continue to lack job-protected paid sick days, which would enable them to better balance work and caregiving responsibilities without losing needed income. In order to dramatically lower the poverty rate for women, we must pursue labor-market reforms and investments that provide greater economic opportunity for women and families. Here are some highlights about women in poverty from the broad range of indicators that Half in Ten tracked in its 2012 report, available at WWW.HALFINTEN.ORG/INDICATORS.

a *The poverty rate for working age women stabilized in 2011 but is significantly higher than the pre-recession rate, and is always higher than the equivalent for men*

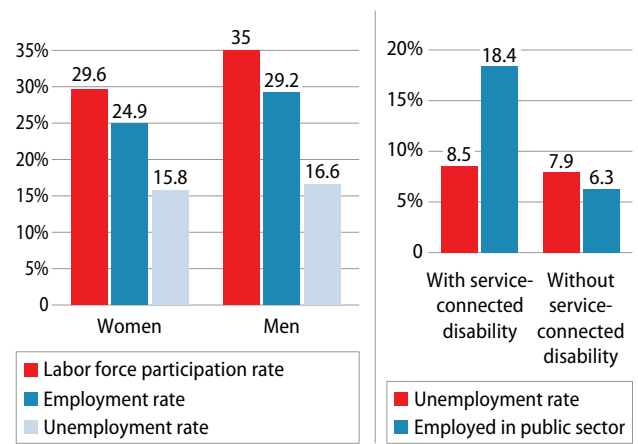
Percentage of women and men ages 18 to 64 living below the poverty line, 1990-2011



Source: "Historical Poverty Tables: Table 7. Poverty, by Sex," available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/historical/hstpov7.xls>.

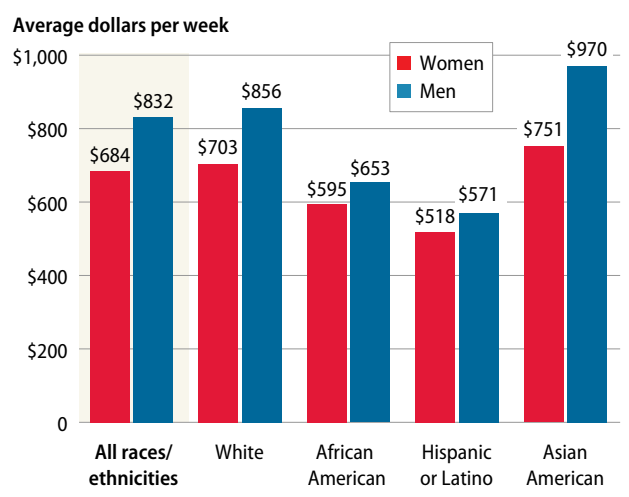
b *Women with disabilities less likely to be in labor force than men*

Employment and unemployment rates for persons with disabilities ages 16 to 64, by gender, 2011



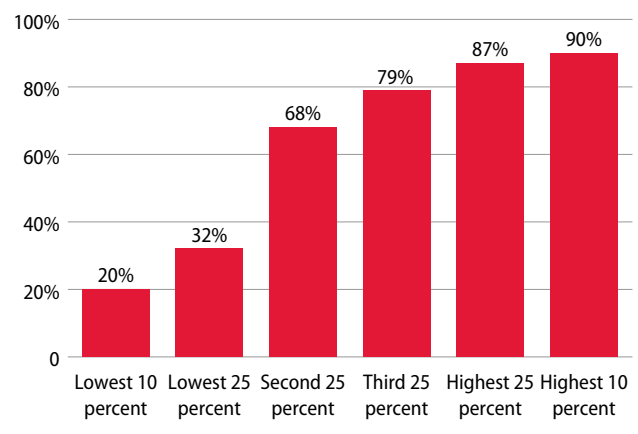
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

c *Pay disparity is highest for Latino and African American women when compared to white men*
Gender wage gaps, by race and ethnicity, 2011



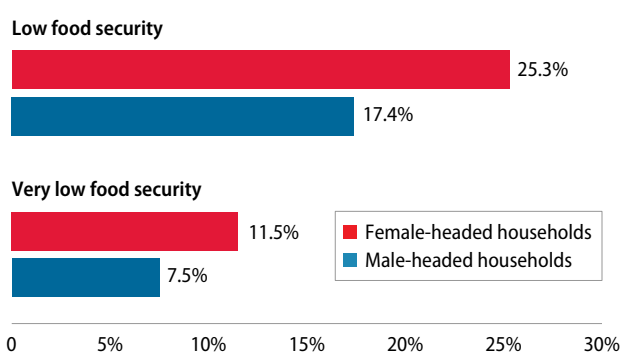
Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research, Current Population Survey.

d *Poorly compensated workers much less likely to have paid sick leave*
Workers with access to paid sick leave by wage percentile, March 2012



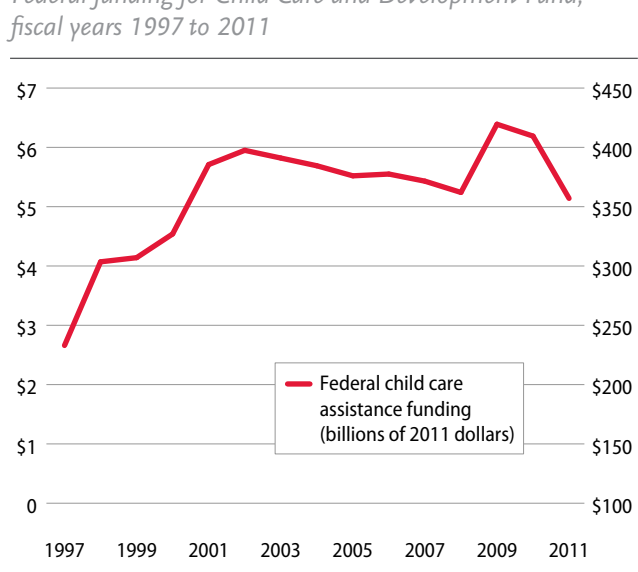
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey.

e *Female-headed households are more likely to be food insecure*
Percentage of food-insecure households by gender, 2011



Source: Alisha Coleman-Jensen and others, "Household Food Security in the United States in 2011" (Washington: Economic Research Service, 2012), available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err141.aspx>.

f *Except for a two-year increase due to the Recovery Act, federal funding for child care assistance has steadily declined since 2002*
Federal funding for Child Care and Development Fund, fiscal years 1997 to 2011



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