

LITERACY AND POVERTY

The relationship between level of education and poverty is clear. The National Institute for Literacy estimates that 43% of adult with very low literacy skills live in poverty. About 70% of adult welfare recipients have lower level literacy skill on the National Assessment of the Adult Literacy (NAAL).

About 47% of adult welfare recipients have not graduated from high school.

Individuals ages 25-34 who dropped out of high school are more than three times as likely to receive public assistance as high school graduates who did not go on to college

According to one study of welfare recipients without high school diplomas, when recipients increase their basic skills, they tend to make substantial improvements in employment, earnings, and self-sufficiency. In a study of mothers receiving welfare, each additional year of schooling led to approximately a 7% wage increase.

SOURCE: *U.S. Adult Literacy Programs, Making a Difference.* ProLiteracy America.

POVERTY IN FLORIDA

The overall poverty rate of a person in Florida when measured in the 2000 census was 2 million persons or 12.5%. This rate is slightly lower than in 1990 when 12.7% of the state's residents lived in poverty.

Poverty rates varied greatly by age and by family composition. Nearly one out of every five children in Florida lived in poverty in 1999 (17.6%), less than 1 in 10 of Florida's 65 and older population had income below the federal poverty threshold (9.15%).

Close to 400,000 Florida families lived below the federal poverty threshold (383, 131 families, 9% of all families in the state). This rate is unchanged since the 1990 census when 9% of all families were living below poverty.

The poverty rate for families headed by females with no husband present was nearly three times as high as the rate for all families (25.3% compared to 9%) and five times as high as the rate for married couple families (4.9%).

Nearly half of all female headed families with children under five lived below the poverty level. The poverty rate for these families was 44.6%. The number of female-headed families with children under five living in the poverty totaled 75,752 in the 2000 census.

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

America's children are almost twice as likely to live in poverty as Americans in any other age group. Since it peaked in 1993, the child poverty rate has been reduced by more than one quarter. However, the decline stalled in 2001. With the recent economic downturn, there is a risk the United States will again experience sharp increases in child poverty similar to those that accompanied the recessions of the early 1980's and 1990's. The United States' child poverty rate is substantially higher than that of most major Western industrialized nations.

Nationwide in 2006, 18% of children lived in poverty (approximately 13 million). During 2005 five million children lived in families with incomes less than half of the poverty level. 19% of poor children lacked health insurance

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty, <http://www.nccp.org/topics/childpoverty.html>

Child Poverty is defined as children who live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level. The annual poverty level is \$16,600 for a family of three and \$20,000 for a family of four. In 2005 extreme child poverty is defined as children who live in families with incomes below half the Federal poverty level, or \$8045 for a family of three and \$9675 for a family of four.

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty.

In 2007, Latino children and black children were most likely to be born into low income families at (61%). There are 8.8 million Black children and 6.5 million Latino children. There are 0.8million Asian children (28%) of the population living in a low income family. The rate for white children was 26%. They make up the largest number of children living in low income with 11.1 Million. 57% of the children of immigrants are likely to be born into poverty (7.0 million) as opposed to 36% native-born children (20.4).

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty.

Children whose parents lack a high school diploma are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as children whose parents are high school graduates. These children live in poverty seven and a half times more often than children who parts have more than a high school education.

SOURCE: *Key Facts About the Children: A Report on the Status of Florida's Children.*

CHILD POVERTY IN FLORIDA

A child in Florida is born into poverty every 15 minutes.

Source: Children in Florida 2003 – Children's Defense Fund

41% of children in Florida or 1,627,259 children are in low-income families, defined as income below 200% of the federal poverty level.

SOURCE: http://www.nccp.org/media/cpt05b_text.pdf

- 78% (345,280) of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in low-income families.
- 53% (459,712) of children of immigrant parents live in low-income families.
- 57% (569,729) of children whose parents have a high school degree, but no college education lives in low-income families.
- 27% (667,398) of children whose parents have some college or more live in low-income families.
- 65% (544,543) of black children live in low-income families.
- 51% (457,474) of Latino children live in low-income families.

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty

In the six states with the largest populations of immigrants – Florida, California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas – the poverty rate among children of immigrant parents ranges from 13% to 39%. In all six states, children living with immigrant parents are more likely to be poor than children of native-born parents.

SOURCE: National Center for Children in Poverty, http://www.nccp.org/media/cpt05b_text.pdf

Every \$1 invested in quality early childhood education saves as much as \$7 by increasing the likelihood that children will be literate, employed and less likely to be school dropouts, dependent on welfare or arrested.

Every year a child spends growing up in poverty will cost an estimated \$11,800 in lost future productivity over his or her working life.

Almost 44% of Florida's students in Public School were eligible for free or reduced price meals in the 1998-1999 school year. That represents 1,025,470 students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data, Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey, 1998-1999, Local Education Agency Universe Survey, 1998-1999.

Children in families with incomes below the poverty line were less likely to be read to every day than were children in families with incomes at or above the poverty line. Forty-eight percent of children in families in poverty were read to very day in 2001 compared with 61% of children in families at or above the poverty line.

SOURCE: *America's Smallest School: The Family*. Educational Testing Service.