



ASPE

ISSUE BRIEF

CHANGE IN CHILD POVERTY BY SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS: 2007–2012 (December 2013)

Since the Great Recession poverty has increased overall and particularly for children. Nearly all of the increase in child poverty occurred between 2007 and 2010, as shown by the orange bars, with the national rate rising by 4.0 percentage points (from 18.0 percent to 22.0 percent). In 2011 and 2012 the national poverty rate generally leveled off with little change, as shown by the green bars.

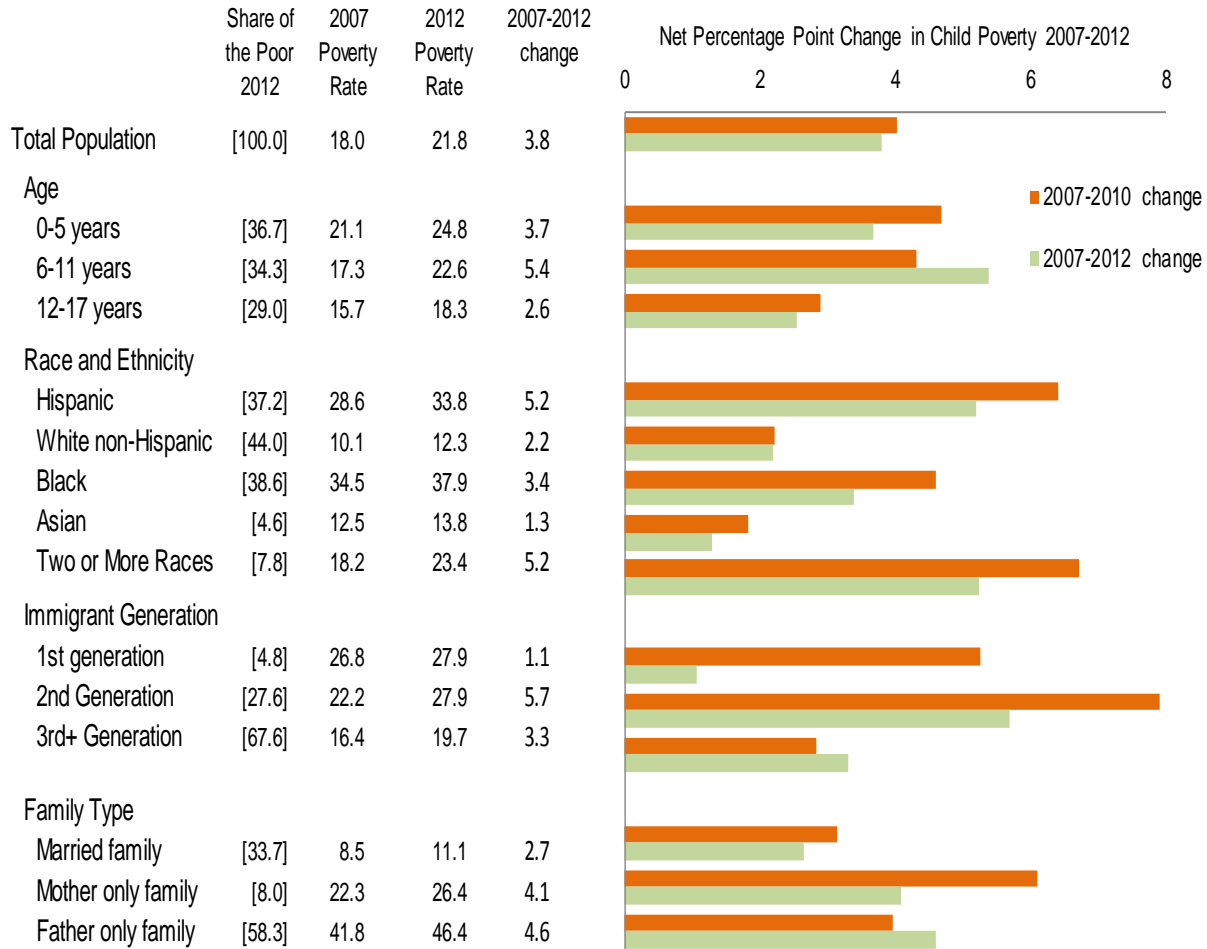
Table 1. Child Poverty Rate for Selected Demographics, 2007, 2010 and 2012



Note: White non-Hispanic refers to White alone. Black refers to Black alone and Asian refers to Asian alone. Hispanics may be any race. First generation is foreign-born. Second Generation is native-born with a foreign-born parent(s). Family type is a count of children in families. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Table 2 shows that since the start of the Great Recession in 2007, poverty increased somewhat more for young children (ages 6-11 years), as well as for Hispanic children, and children identified with two or more races, relative to the overall 3.8 percentage point change in child poverty. Second generation children and those living in single-parent families also experienced a greater rise in poverty compared with their peers in native-born or married parent families.

Table 2. Change in the Child Poverty Rate from 2007 to 2012



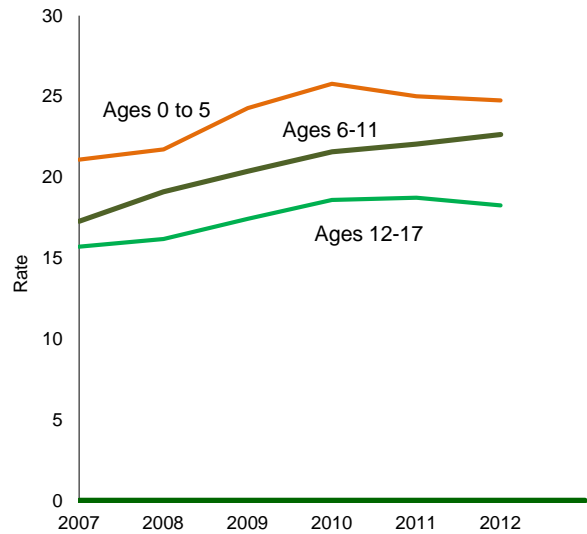
Note: White non-Hispanic refers to White alone. Black refers to Black alone and Asian refers to Asian alone. Hispanics may be any race. First generation is foreign-born. Second Generation is native-born with a foreign-born parent(s). Family type is a count of children in families.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Child Poverty by Age

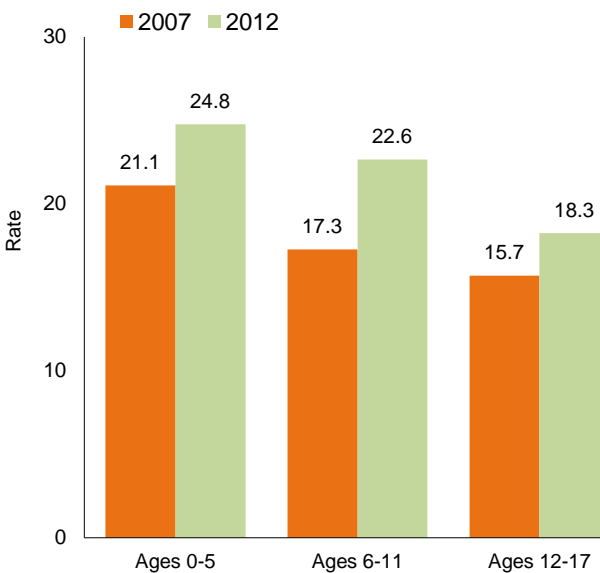
- In 2012, one of every four U.S. children under age 5 lived in poverty. From well before the recession, children under 5 years of age have had higher poverty rates than older children.
- The child poverty rate climbed most steeply for children ages 6-11 years, increasing by 5.3 percentage points from 2007 to 2012.
- The number of poor children in each age group increased. Compared with 2007, the poor population in 2012 had increased by about 1.4 million children for ages 6-11, by 676,000 for ages 0-5, and by 643,000 for ages 12 to 17.
- The largest number of poor children were ages 0-5, totaling 5.9 million in 2012.

Figure 1a. Child Poverty by Age, 2007–2012



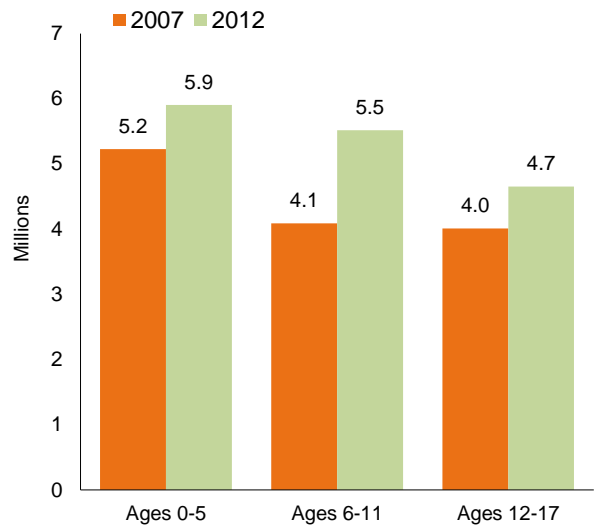
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 1b. Child Poverty by Age, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 1c. Number of Poor Children by Age, 2007 and 2012

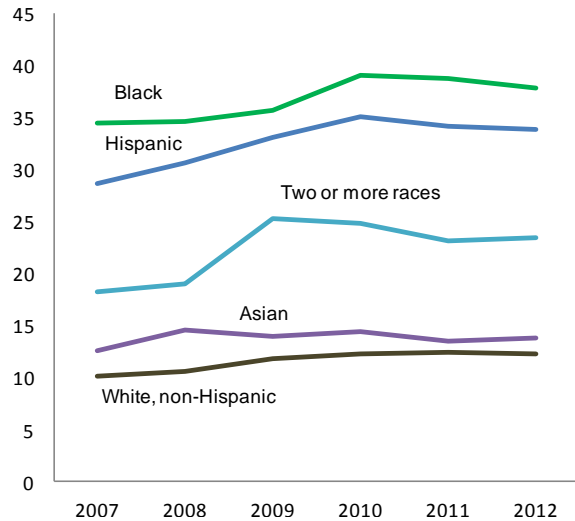


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Child Poverty by Race and Ethnicity

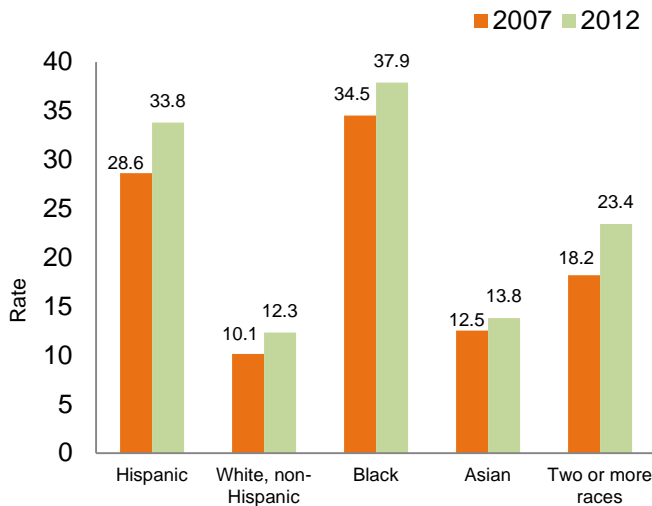
- Since 2007 poverty increased and remained high for Black Children, Hispanic children, and children identified with two or more races.
- The child poverty rate increased most, by 5.2 percentage points each, for Hispanic children and children identified with two or more races between 2007 and 2012.
- The highest child poverty rates in 2007 and 2012 were experienced by Black children at 34.5 percent and 37.9 percent, respectively.
- The number of White non-Hispanic children in poverty grew by about 500,000 from 2007 to 2012. Over the same period the number of poor Hispanic children increased by 1.5 million for a total of 6 million Hispanic children living in poverty, the largest number of any group.

Figure 2a. Child Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 and 2012



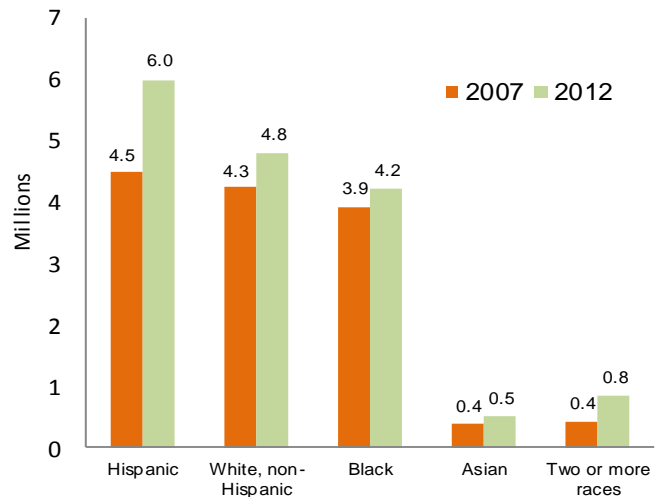
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 2b. Child Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 2c. Number of Poor Children by Race and Ethnicity, 2007 and 2012

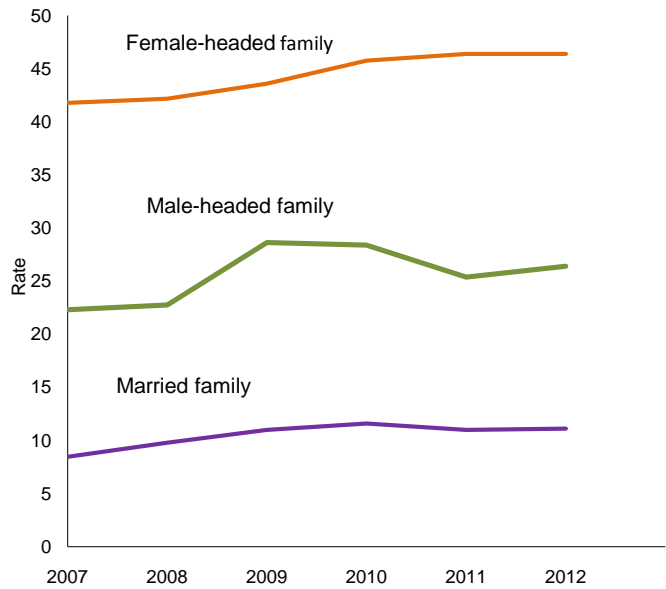


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Child Poverty by Family Type

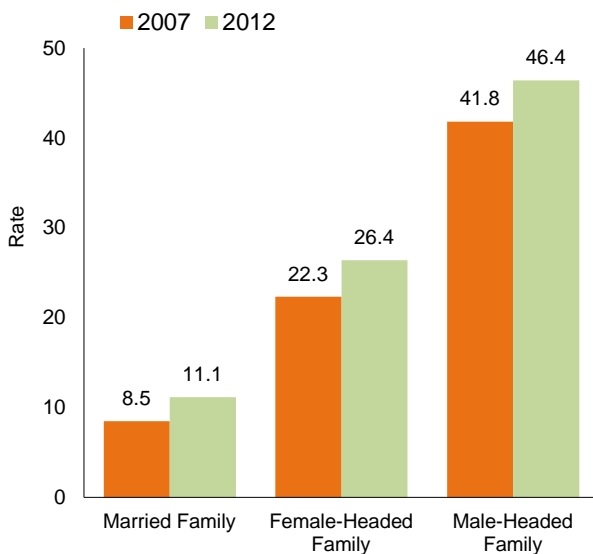
- Children in single-parent families experienced a greater increase in poverty than their peers in married couple families since the start of the Great Recession.
- Between 2007 and 2012, poverty increased by 4.1 and 4.6 percentage points, respectively, for children in female-headed families and male-headed families.
- Since 2007 the number of poor children in female-headed families increased by 1.3 million and totaled 9.4 million poor children in 2012.
- Since 2007 the number of poor children in married families increased by 1.1 million for a total of 5.4 million in 2012.

Figure 3a. Child Poverty by Family Type: 2007–2012



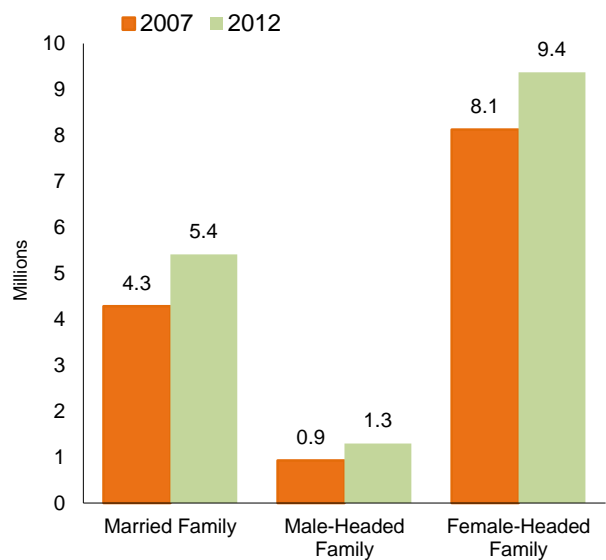
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 3b. Child Poverty by Family Type, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Figure 3c. Number of Poor Children by Family Type, 2007 and 2012

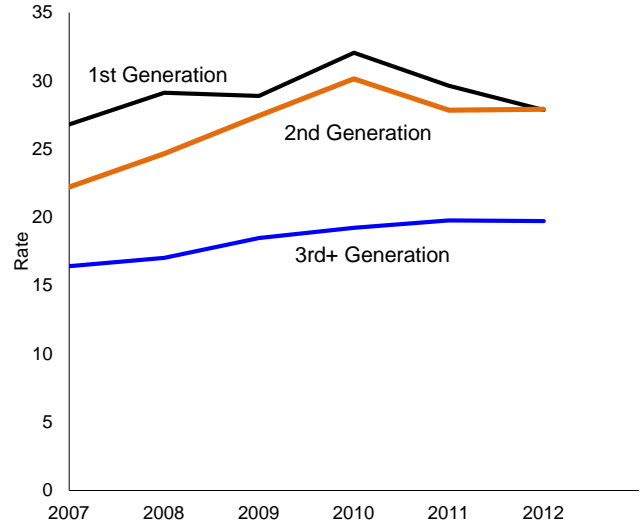


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Change in Child Poverty by Immigrant Generation

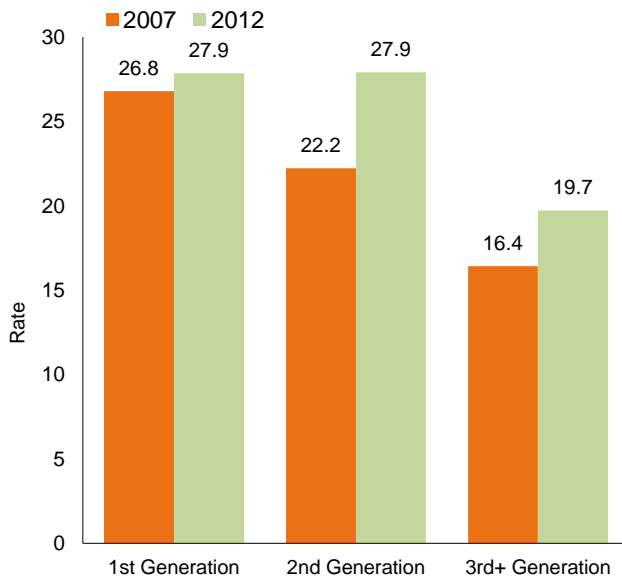
- Both prior to and since the Great Recession, third and later generation children have had lower poverty rates than their peers in immigrant families.
- First generation children (i.e. foreign-born) had higher poverty rates than the second generation (children born to foreign-born parents) from 2007 through 2011.
- Second generation children experienced the greatest poverty increase between 2007 and 2012 at 5.7 percentage points.
- Following the Great Recession, child poverty fell more among the first generation. By 2012, the poverty rate for both first and second generation children was 27.9 percent.
- Most poor children in 2012 were either second generation (4.4 million) or third and later generation (10.9 million) with a small minority in the first generation (800,000).

Figure 4a. Child Poverty by Immigrant Generation, 2007–2012



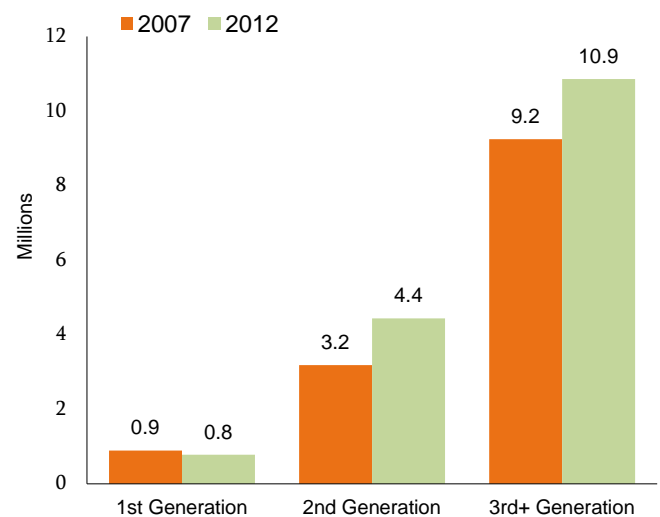
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2008-2013.

Figure 4b. Child Poverty by Immigrant Generation, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 2008 and 2013.

Figure 4c. Number of Poor Children by Immigrant Generation, 2007 and 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements.