



# ASPE

## ISSUE BRIEF

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### INFORMATION ON POVERTY AND INCOME STATISTICS: A SUMMARY OF 2013 CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA (September 17, 2013)

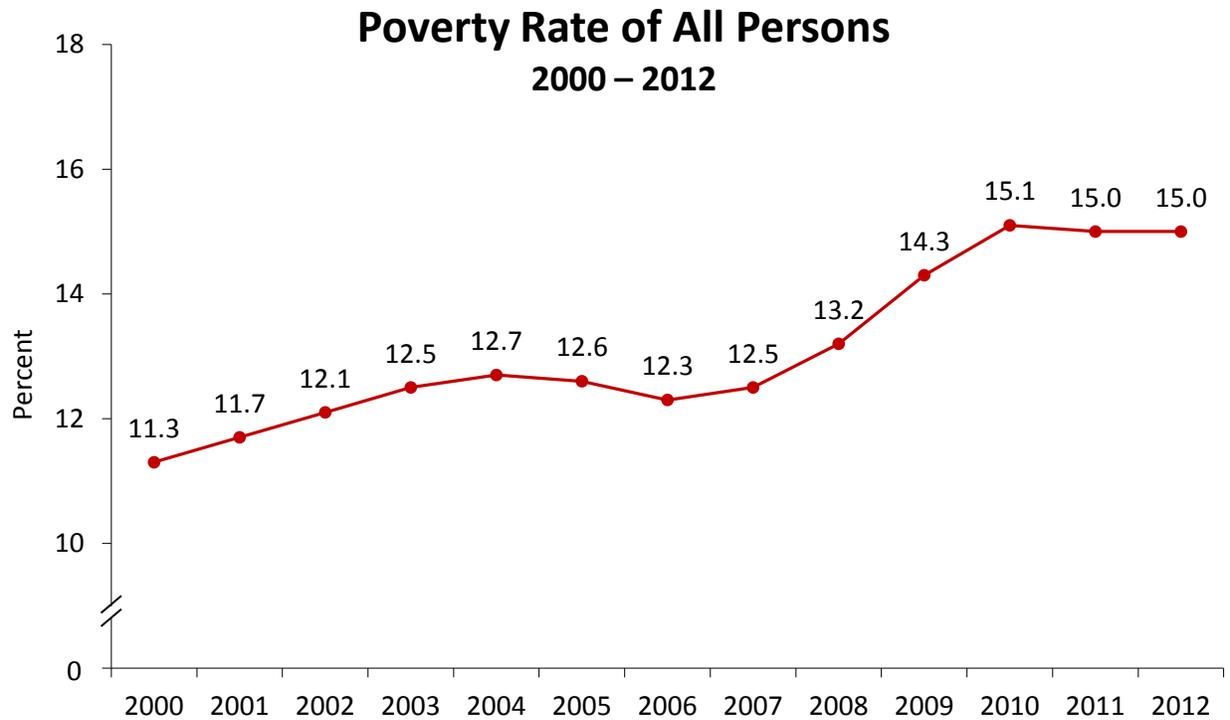
- The Census Bureau today released data indicating that the overall poverty rate in 2012 was 15.0 percent – unchanged from 15.0 percent in 2011. This represents 46.5 million people living in poverty in 2012.<sup>1</sup>
- Median household income was \$51,017 in 2012, which is not statistically different from the 2011 median.
- For each year between 2007 and 2011 either poverty increased or median household income decreased. From 2011 to 2012, the percentage of the population in poverty did not increase nor did the median household income decrease.
- Today's data indicate that there were 16.1 million children (persons under 18) living in poverty in 2012, not significantly changed from 2011. The child poverty rate was 21.8 percent, not significantly changed from the 2011 rate of 21.9 percent.
- For African-American children, the poverty rate reported today was 36.7 percent for 2012. The rate for Hispanic children was 33.8 percent. For non-Hispanic, White children the rate was 12.3 percent.
- Related children living in female-headed families with no spouse present had a poverty rate of 47.2 percent, over four times the rate of children in married-couple families (11.1 percent).
- The poverty rate for people age 65 and over was 9.1 percent, which is statistically unchanged from 2011. There were 3.9 million people age 65 and over living in poverty in 2012, which is a statistically significant increase from 3.6 million in 2011.
- In 2012, 6.6 percent of all people, or 20.4 million people, lived in deep poverty (had income below one-half the poverty threshold, or \$11,746 for a family of four).
- These figures reflect money income only and do not reflect in-kind public supports or tax credits. More detailed data incorporating these and other noncash benefits and how they affect measures of poverty will be available in late October.

<sup>1</sup> The Census Bureau measures poverty by comparing total family money income (before taxes and tax credits and excluding non-cash benefits) to dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition. The weighted average poverty threshold in 2012 for a family of four was \$23,492.

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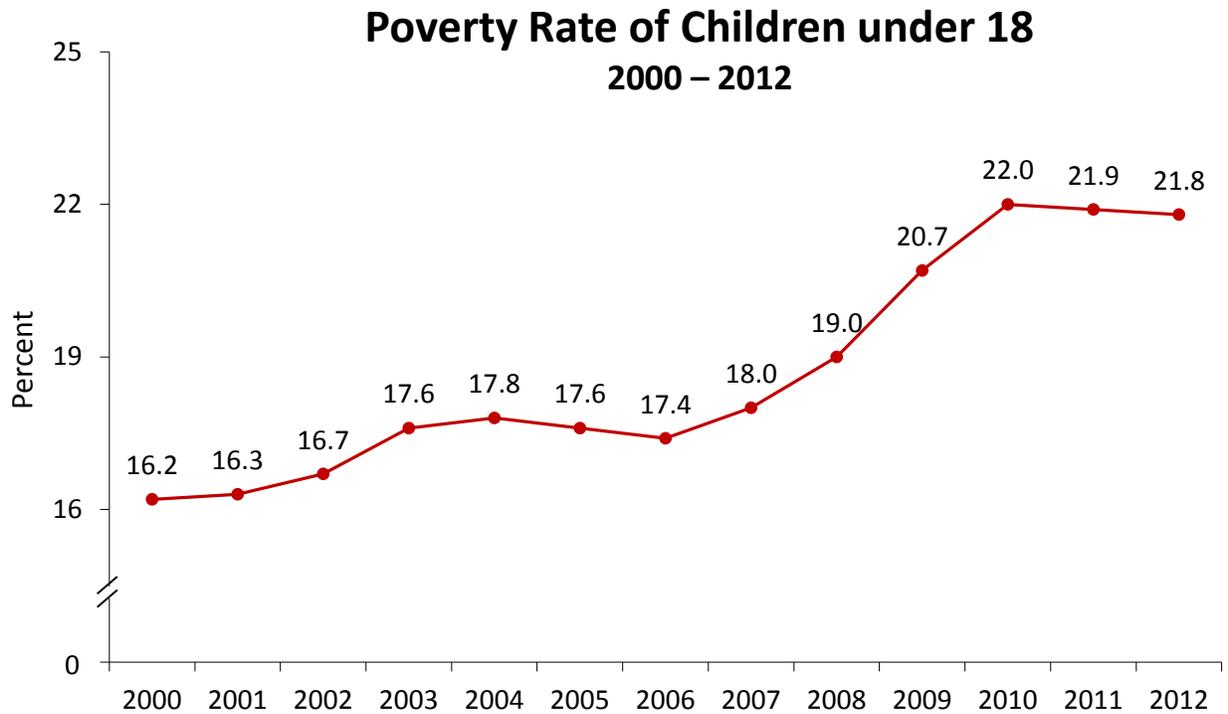
**The following charts summarize key points about the poverty data released today.**

1. Poverty Rate of All Persons: 2000 to 2012
2. Poverty Rate of Children under 18: 2000 to 2012
3. All Persons and Children below 50% of Poverty Threshold: 2000 to 2012
4. Poverty Rate of All Persons by Age: 2000 to 2012
5. Child Poverty by Race and Ethnicity: 2000 to 2012
6. Child Poverty by Family Structure: 2000 to 2012
7. Poverty Rate of All Persons by Race and Ethnicity: 1979 to 2012



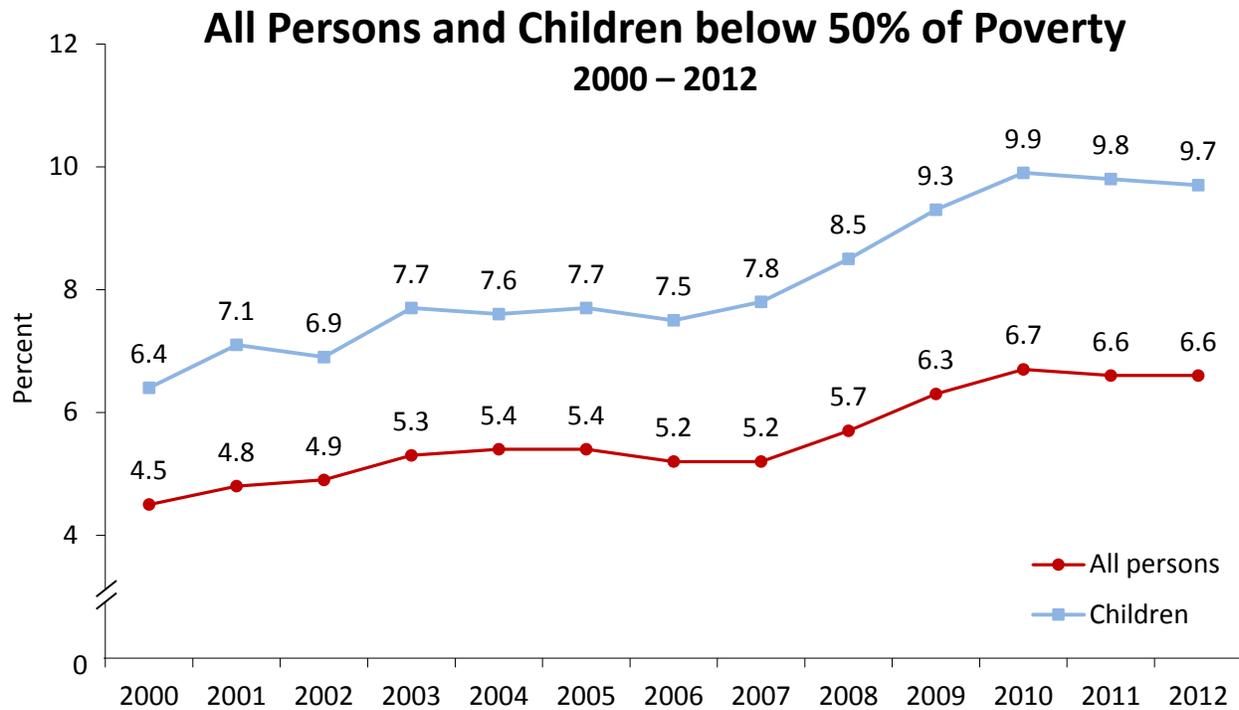
#### OVERALL POVERTY

- For calendar year 2012, the official overall poverty rate was 15.0 percent.
- This is unchanged from 15.0 percent in 2011.
- In 2012, the total number of people in poverty was 46.5 million, statistically unchanged from 2011.
- The poverty rate in 2012 was 3.7 percentage points higher than in 2000.



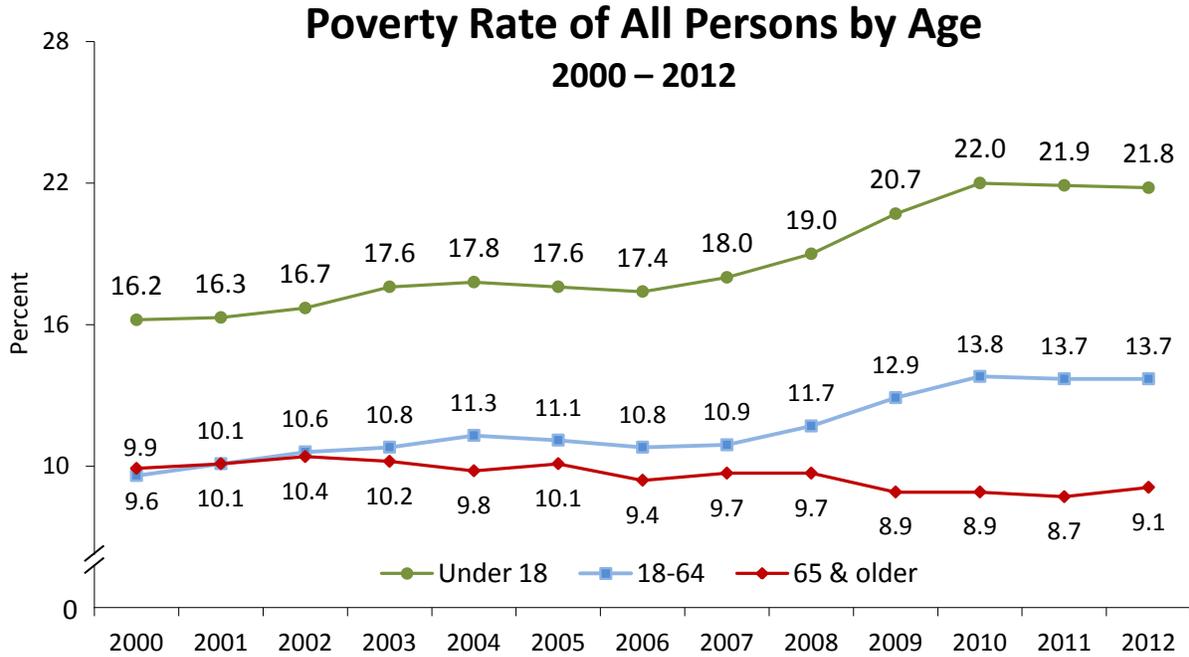
#### CHILD POVERTY – ALL CHILDREN

- For calendar year 2012 the percentage of children (persons under 18) in poverty was 21.8 percent.
- This rate is not statistically different from 21.9 percent in 2011.
- The total number of children in poverty in 2012 was 16.1 million, unchanged from 2011.
- The child poverty rate in 2012 was 5.6 percentage points higher than in 2000.



#### DEEP POVERTY

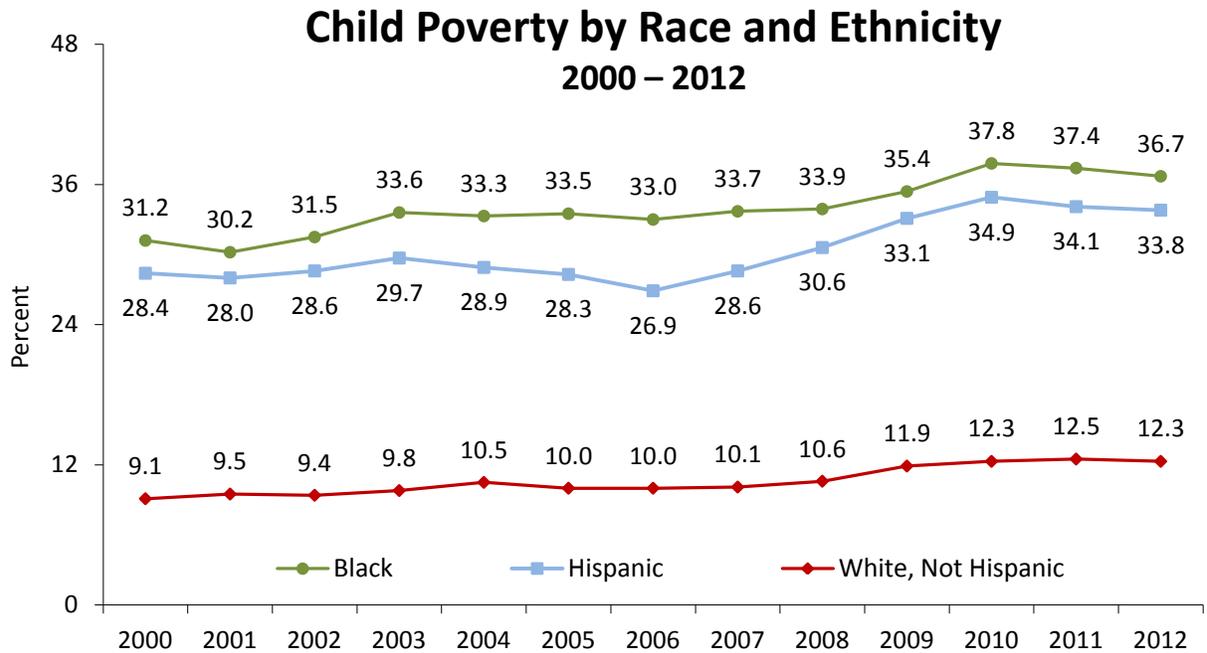
- In 2012, 6.6 percent of all people, or 20.4 million people, had incomes below one-half of the poverty threshold. In 2012, 50 percent of the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$11,746.
- These 20.4 million people with incomes below one-half of the poverty threshold represent more than two-fifths (43.9 percent) of those living in poverty in 2012.
- In 2012, 7.1 million children under 18 or 9.7 percent of all children were living in deep poverty.



#### POVERTY BY AGE

##### *Poverty among Persons under 18, 18 to 64, and 65 and Older*

- In 2012, the poverty rate among adults 65 and older was 9.1 percent, which is statistically unchanged from the rate in 2011. There were 3.9 million people age 65 and older living in poverty in 2012, which is a statistically significant increase from 3.6 million in 2011.
- The poverty rate among adults between the ages of 18 and 64 was 13.7 percent in 2012, unchanged from 2011.
- In 2012, children under the age of 18 had a poverty rate of 21.8 percent, statistically unchanged from 21.9 percent in 2011.
- In 2012, the poverty rate among adults ages 18 to 64 was 4.6 percentage points higher than for adults 65 and older, while these groups had the same poverty rate of 10.1 percent in 2001.
- In 2012, poverty rates for the under 18 and 18 to 64 age groups have increased 5.6 and 4.1 percentage points, respectively, since 2000. The poverty rate for those 65 and older has fallen somewhat since 2000.

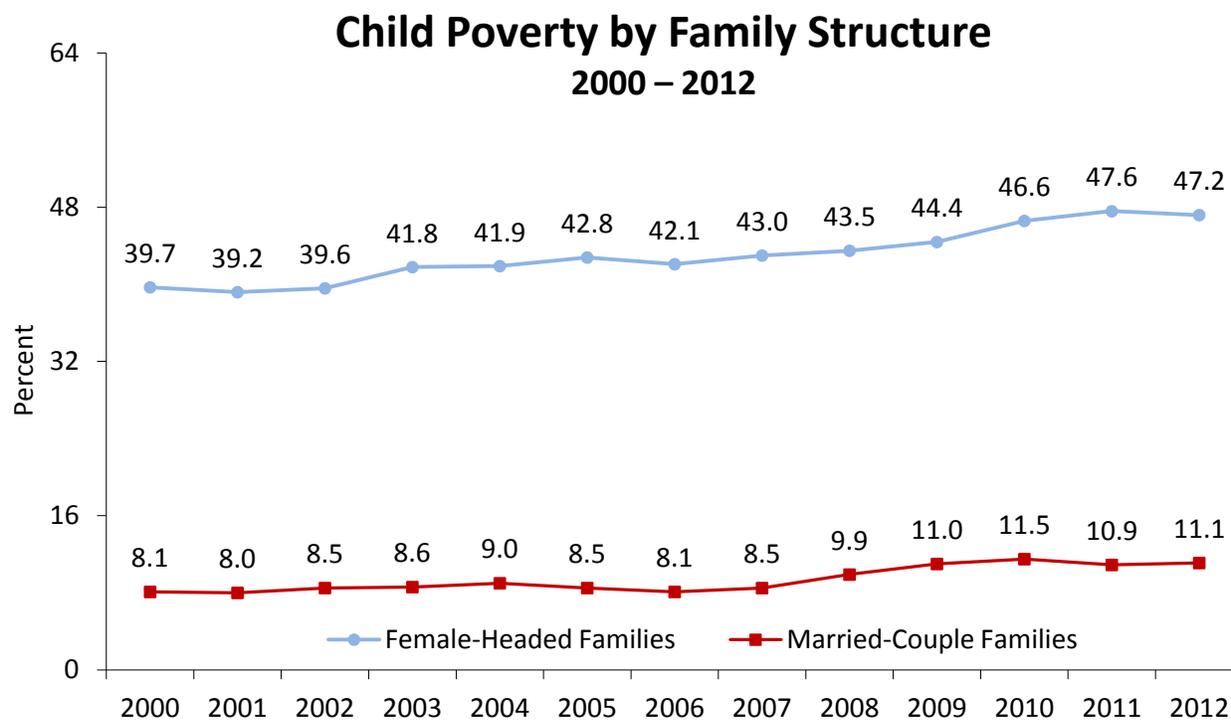


Note: *Hispanic* includes children of all races. *White, Not Hispanic* does not include any Hispanic children and starting in 2002 excludes White, Not Hispanic children reporting multiple race categories. *Black or African-American* includes Hispanic children and starting in 2002 includes Black or African-American children reporting multiple race categories.

#### CHILD POVERTY

##### *Children in African-American, Hispanic, and Non-Hispanic White Families*

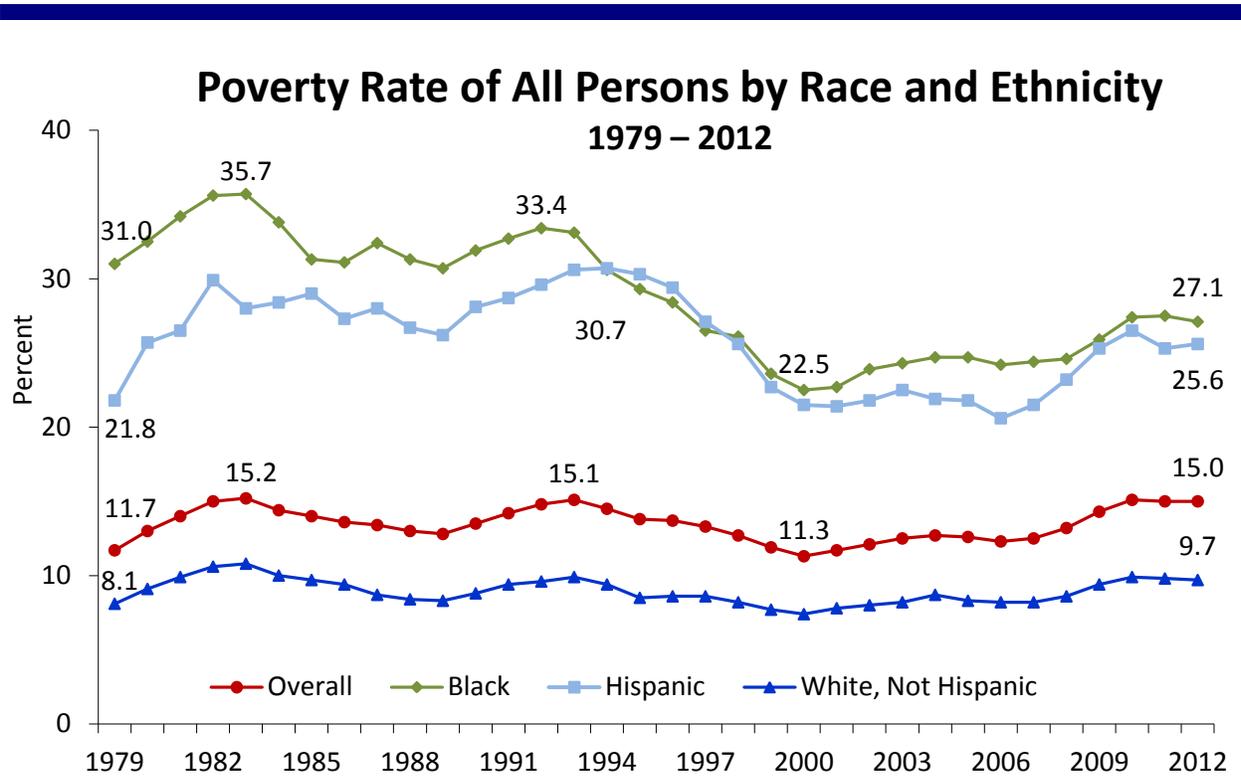
- For African-American children, the poverty rate in 2012 was 36.7 percent. The poverty rate for African-American children in 2012 was 6.5 percentage points higher than the recent low in 2001.
- For Hispanic children, the poverty rate in 2012 was 33.8 percent. The poverty rate for Hispanic children in 2012 was 6.9 percentage points higher than the recent low in 2006.
- For non-Hispanic White children, the poverty rate was 12.3 percent in 2012. The poverty rate for non-Hispanic White children in 2012 was 3.2 percentage points higher than the recent low in 2000.



#### CHILD POVERTY

##### *Related Children in Married-Couple Families and Female-Headed Families*

- In 2012, the poverty rate for children in married-couple families was 11.1 percent, up from a recent low of 8.1 percent in 2006.
- The poverty rate among children in female-headed families with no spouse present was 47.2 percent in 2012, up from a recent low of 42.1 percent in 2006.
- Children living in female-headed families with no spouse present had a poverty rate over four times that of children in married-couple families in 2012 (47.2 percent compared to 11.1 percent).



Note: *Hispanic* includes persons of all races. *White, Not Hispanic* does not include any Hispanic persons, and starting in 2002 excludes White, Not Hispanic persons reporting multiple race categories. *Black or African-American* includes Hispanic persons and starting in 2002 includes Black or African-American persons reporting multiple race categories.

#### HISTORICAL POVERTY RATES FOR ALL PERSONS

- The percentage of all persons living in poverty in 2012, 15.0 percent, was comparable to the past peak rates of 15.2 percent in 1983 and 15.1 percent in 1993.
- In calendar year 2012, the poverty rate for all African-American persons was 27.1 percent. This is statistically unchanged from 27.5 percent in 2011, and it is below the recent peak poverty rate of 33.4 percent in 1992.
- In calendar year 2012, the poverty rate for all Hispanic persons was 25.6 percent. This is statistically unchanged from 25.3 percent in 2011 and below the peak poverty rate of 30.7 percent in 1994.