Using Research to Support Policies for Children in New Hampshire

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Building knowledge for families and communities

The Carsey Institute was established in 2002 with a generous gift from Marcy Carsey ’66.

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Introduction

- Child poverty rates
- Picture of families with children in poverty and low-income
- New Hampshire economy
- Policy reflections and discussion
Data on Child Poverty
Child Poverty in Context, 2006

Percent of children under 18 in poverty

Source: ACS Data, KIDS COUNT DATABOOK 2008
Trends in Child Poverty, 1989-2005

Percent of children under 18 in poverty

Source: SAIPE data, US Census Bureau
Child Poverty in NH by County: 2000

Percent of children under 18 in poverty:
- 4.6 - 6.7%
- 6.8 - 8.7%
- 8.8 - 10.3%
- 10.4 - 13.8%
- 13.9 - 17.8%

State of New Hampshire: 6.9%

Source: SAIPE data
Child Poverty in NH by County: 2005

Source: SAIPE data
Child Poverty Increases: 2000-2005

Source: SAIPE data
Child Poverty in New Hampshire

- Child poverty lower in NH than in neighboring states.
- Rise in child poverty in NH since 2000.
- Level of child poverty in NH varies by county.
Policy Considerations

- Programs and policies will differ depending on place.

- Economic trends point to more families in need.
Data on Families with Children in NH
Definitions

- Severe poverty
  - Below 50% of the poverty level

- Poverty
  - Below 100% of the poverty level

- Low-income
  - Below 200% of the poverty level
Families Facing Economic Insecurity

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Median Family Income

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Family Composition: Families with Children

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Families with a Foreign-born Parent

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Secure Parental Employment

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Parental Employment by Family Composition

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Challenges for Working Parents
Families with Children in New Hampshire

- One in five families with children are low-income.
- Majority of families in poverty are single mother families.
- One third of low-income families are married couple families.
Policy Reflections

- Having a working parent does not safeguard against low-income and poverty.

- Different factors contribute to low-income status.
Housing and Related Expenses
Critical Housing Need: New Hampshire Renters

Low-Income Families
- 55% Critical need

Families Above Low-Income
- 2% Critical need

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Critical Housing Need: New Hampshire Owners

Low-Income Families:
- 60% Critical need

Families Above Low-Income:
- 10% Critical need

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Policy Considerations

- Higher prevalence of renting among families in poverty and low-income families.

- Many low-income owners and renters face a critical housing need.
Data on the New Hampshire Economy
Positive Job Growth Since 1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure and Hospitality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Health Services</td>
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<td>Professional and Business Services</td>
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<td>Financial Activities</td>
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<td>Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
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<td>Wholesale Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources and Mining</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Jobs in New Hampshire

- Positive job growth since 1990
- Large losses in manufacturing jobs
- Counterbalanced by gains in health and education jobs and other service jobs
Median Wages Since 1979

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
Wage Growth Over Time
Growing Inequality in New Hampshire
Wages in New Hampshire

- Overall, positive growth in wages since 1979
- Period of wage stagnation and decline in early to mid-1990s
- Flattening out of wages since 2002
- Evidence of growing wage inequality
Policy Reflections

- Research to guide policy

- Consider:
  - Geography
  - Type of job
  - Difficult economy
Statistical significance

- Due to small sample size, not all of the data presented here are statistically significant at the .05 p-value level.

- For more information on statistical significance among these data, contact Kristin Smith at kristin.smith@unh.edu.