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.

www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu

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

Source: SAIPE data, US Census Bureau

Child Poverty in NH by County: 2000

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

Families Above Low-Income

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS

Critical Housing Need: New Hampshire Owners

Low-Income Families

Families Above Low-Income

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

New Hampshire Job Growth: 2000-2007

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

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.