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%

Coos: 13.2%
Carroll: 11.7%
Sullivan: 10.3%
Belknap: 9.2%
Merrimack: 6.7%
Hillsborough: 6.1%
Rockingham: 4.6%
Cheshire: 7.6%
Grafton: 8.7%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Married couple</th>
<th>Single father</th>
<th>Single mother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All families</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In poverty</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above low-income</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Source: Combined 2005 & 2006 ACS
Secure Parental Employment

- All families: 95% employed
- In poverty: 77% employed
- Low-income: 80% employed
- Above low-income: 99% employed

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

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

- Government: 12.1%
- Other Services: -7.9%
- Leisure and Hospitality: 10.7%
- Education and Health Services: 23.2%
- Professional and Business Services: 11.9%
- Financial Activities: 12.9%
- Information: -11.5%
- Transportation and Utilities: -7.2%
- Retail Trade: 3.7%
- Wholesale Trade: 10.9%
- Manufacturing: -24.0%
- Construction: 12.9%
- Natural Resources and Mining: 10.0%
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

The chart shows the median wages for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont from 1979 to 2007. The wages have generally increased over this period, with some fluctuations. Maine's wages have been consistently higher than Vermont's, while New Hampshire's wages have been in between the two.
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.