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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US</th>
<th>NH</th>
<th>VT</th>
<th>ME</th>
<th>MA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Percent of children under 18 in poverty:
- 6.1 - 6.7%
- 6.8 - 8.7%
- 8.8 - 10.3%
- 10.4 - 13.8%
- 13.9 - 17.8%

State of New Hampshire: 9.5%

Coos: 17.5%

Grafton: 12.0%

Carroll: 11.9%

Belknap: 11.2%

Sullivan: 13.8%

Merrimack: 8.3%

Hillsborough: 9.7%

Rockingham: 6.1%

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

20% of families are Low-income (12), 6% are in poverty, and 3% are in severe poverty.

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>Percent</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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In poverty</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above low-income</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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%

Job growth ranges from -35.0% to 25.0%.
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

- 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.