

Strengthening families and communities

Strategies to support all families so they can raise their children in safe, stable environments

By Joy Moses



Andrea Moore, 36, and her three-year-old daughter Ryan Moore, right, play at a park in North Las Vegas.

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The family is a crucial institution in the campaign to cut poverty in half. Family members support one another financially and emotionally. They also help in numerous other ways that further employment and education goals. Providing love and encouragement, caring for children, rides to work, homework help, and healthy meals are just a few examples of the importance of family.



While families positively prevent individual members from falling into poverty, the reverse is also true—poverty causes family relationships to fray, often with devastating consequences. Financial stress and tension often cause parents to separate or divorce, which in turn often damages parent-child relationships. Families on the cusp of poverty or almost able to climb out of it often slip because of disintegrating relationships caused by poverty.

Historically, some government policies have also played a role in weakening families by creating disincentives for parents to marry or live together. Divided families share less in one another's financial and emotional resources, affecting children and making it more difficult to lift them out of poverty. Acknowledging and accounting for these dynamics is necessary when measuring progress toward the goals of creating opportunity and ending poverty. In short, effective anti-poverty efforts must support the family unit. This emphasis should be reflected in our policy approaches to work and income.

Poverty and families

In recent years policymakers have engaged in a national dialogue on the value of marriage. We've also debated how to equalize low-income families' access to parenting supports such as child care and flexible work schedules. And we have recognized the importance of extended family members and local communities in strengthening families. Tying all these strings together is a child-centered approach that focuses less on the structure of a family and more on the kinds of programs that will assist all types of family

units where they live, and help them advance toward economic stability.

In America, far too many (13.2 percent of people in families) fall below the federal poverty line.¹ It is widely recognized that the official poverty line underestimates how much families actually require for the basics of living. That's why substitute measures, such as twice the official poverty level, are often used to identify families lacking in sufficient opportunities to achieve the American dream.

Single mothers are often at the center of debates about family poverty. Children in these families, with a poverty rate of 46.9 percent, are much more likely to be poor than those living with married parents (11.6 percent) or even those headed by a single father (28.1 percent).² There have also been steady increases in the number of single mothers over the last couple of decades, with 23 percent of children now living in such households.³

Single women raising children are only one part of the evolving nature of “family” in America. There are now more families headed by same-sex couples, a group that is simply not accounted for in much of the nation’s antipoverty and other policies. And there are other social and economic forces that are placing a renewed importance on extended family connections.

Case in point: There are 2.3 million children living apart from their parents, either with grandparents or other relatives,⁴ due to such factors as parental death, incarceration, and substance abuse. Additionally, over 400,000 children were in the foster care system in 2010. Poverty is often at the root of these problems. Another significant pattern is a lack of affordable housing and other economic hardship, which drives more than 795,000 families to live with extended family members.⁵

We divide our analysis of today’s families struggling to join the middle class into four policy areas:

- Work and income
- Marriage and relationships
- Parenting
- Communities

We begin with work and income.

Work and income

The most direct way to lift families out of poverty is to ensure that parents have quality employment opportunities. For many families two full-time, year-round salaries are needed to support children adequately, which can only be achieved with child care and other work supports. Much could also be gained by efforts that reduce unmanageable costs, such as transportation and high housing costs, which also drain family incomes.

Ultimately, these steps would reduce financial

pressures that can strain marriages and other relationships and ultimately divide families in ways that limit time, attention, and money that parents living outside the home provide to their children. So let’s look at each in turn.

Value of full-time, year-round employment

U.S. Census Bureau data reflect a high rate of poverty for single mother families—40.7 percent compared to 8.8 percent for married

Table 1: The importance of work for a single mother and her family

THE POVERTY RATE OF HOUSEHOLDS LED BY SINGLE MOTHERS, 2010

		Poverty rate of single-mother households (%)
All races	All employment statuses	40.7
	One, full-time, year-round worker	14
	Two or more full-time, year-round workers	4
White	All employment statuses	37.8
	One, full-time, year-round worker	12.9
	Two or more full-time, year-round workers	3.4
Black	All employment statuses	47.6
	One, full-time, year-round worker	16.9
	Two or more full-time, year-round workers	5.6
Hispanic	All employment statuses	50.3
	One, full-time, year-round worker	24.9
	Two or more full-time, year-round workers	5.9
Asian	All employment statuses	30
	One, full-time, year-round worker	8.9
	Two or more full-time, year-round workers	Unavailable

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (Table POV07)* (Washington: Census Bureau, 2011).

couple families.⁶ Single mothers with a full-time, year-round job have a poverty rate of just 14 percent, suggesting that it may be possible to gain a lot of ground in the fight against poverty by ensuring stable full-time year round employment for more single mothers.⁷

Taken even further, single mother-headed households with 2 or more full-time year round workers, such as teens and adult children, have

even lower poverty rates.⁸ This data provide some indication of the value to be gained from a second income that could come from a future spouse or fully contributing live-in partner. (See Table 1)

The tremendous value of having at least one full-time, year-round worker in a household (with greater benefit coming from two full-time year round incomes) suggests a need for family-oriented employment policies such as paid leave

and health coverage that serve parents living in a home and directly contributing to household resources. Also included in these policies should be legally responsible parents who are living outside the home. Those with solid, full-time, year-round employment can pay child support—although less helpful to family income than marriage or cohabitating, child support still makes up 48 percent of the average income of mothers living in poverty and receiving the full amount of support owed to them.⁹

This requires a priority shift for government programs, which have tended to focus largely on mothers and their children. Couples who are co-parenting children (either living together or apart) could benefit from programs that provide for, and coordinate, their job training, education, and placement needs with the end goal of maximizing the financial resources available to their children. Third parties such as counselors may also be able to help couples discuss the family's financial goals and how couples will work together to reach them.

Paying child support is of uppermost importance for parents living apart because it can help reduce material hardship for their child or children. Other key factors could be one parent providing child care while the other attends training that will eventually lead to increases in income.

Finally, employment and financial education programs should explore whether it's worthwhile to include other adults who are living with children and their custodial parents. Adult children, grandparents, other relatives, and under circumstances, relative equivalents (such as parents'

long-term intimate partners) may also be willing and able to contribute to household income and items that ultimately benefit children.

Causes of unemployment

In addition to government efforts that support parents' full-time, year-round employment, there is a need to examine and address the underlying reasons for unstable and limited employment. Although some would suggest that encouraging people to work is all that's needed, the data indicates that the problem is much more complicated.

Many poor adults with children who do not work for all of the year or who work only part of the year have good reasons for not doing so. In 2010, 18 percent of those with employment challenges indicated they were ill, disabled, or retired.¹⁰ Fourteen percent could not find work, raising questions about the availability of work, access to education or training for the jobs available, and for some, other barriers such as a criminal history.¹¹

Significantly, 35 percent had home or family reasons for not working all or part of the year (women are more likely to be affected in this area).¹² These reasons could include a sick child or parent, needing to take off for maternity leave, or disruptions in child care that prevent work. Some of the remaining individuals were in school.¹³

In reducing poverty, one goal should be to reduce the number of people who face employment barriers. To the extent that's not possible, policymakers should ensure a proper safety net prevents

them and their families from falling into poverty due to their health or caregiving requirements.

Unmanageable costs

Unmanageable costs are a big drain on family income. These are big-ticket items that strain budgets and create financial havoc no matter how hard families work. In recent decades, these types of costs usually were housing and child care.

Housing is unaffordable for a significant number of families. There is no jurisdiction in the United States where a minimum wage earner can afford a two-bedroom apartment.¹⁴ Two-thirds of low-income families with children spend more than

half their income on housing.¹⁵ An increasing number have been falling into homelessness, living in shelters, in crowded conditions with other families, or in vehicles and other places not suitable for habitation.¹⁶

Child care is a necessity for working parents. Those who lack safe and suitable informal arrangements must find a way to enroll their children in care that can severely weigh down their budgets. Full-time child care costs can range from \$3,582 to \$18,773 per year.¹⁷ Multiple children needing care multiplies the costs. A single mother living at the poverty line with two children in need of full-time care would have to spend 41 percent of her income just to afford the absolute cheapest possible care arrangement.¹⁸

Marriage and relationships

Marriage is an important institution that ties families together, tends to offer greater stability and outcomes for children, and comes with beneficial legal and tax statuses. Marriage can also be a sensitive topic that provokes intense debate. What we know is that poverty makes marriage less likely, and also contributes to strains in relationships that may cause break-ups and divorces.

Economic assistance, job training, and other work supports can play a positive role in ensuring relationship stability that allows parents to continue to pool their resources and achieve the dreams that they have for their

families. For some couples, it may be useful to supplement economic supports with social supports such as relationship skills education or family counseling.

Additional supports are needed for low-income couples who stay together without marrying. Evidence from the “Fragile Families” studies shows that a large majority of unwed parents have close and loving relationships at the time of their child’s birth. A little more than half of the unmarried couples were living together when their child was born, and an additional 32 percent were in dating relationships.¹⁹



Jenni McGlaun, single mother of three who has been on and off welfare, reads a book to her children Julia, left, and Tiffany in their Milwaukee home.

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Marriage promotion and relationship education

Marriage, and partnering in general, is a potential solution to the problem of family poverty. One reason is that children in married-couple families are less likely to be poor than those with single parents. This data, however, presents a chicken-and-egg question: Are people poor because they aren't married or are they not married because they are poor?

Some studies suggest that if poor women married partners it would help in lifting them out of poverty.²⁰ Certainly two adults with consistent earnings would be better off pooling their incomes and sharing expenses.

Other evidence suggests that causation works in the opposite direction, with poverty causing

fewer people to get married. There is evidence that many low-income people desire marriage but are more likely to think financial stability is a necessary quality for a good marriage prospect, which means they often postpone marriage for this reason.²¹ On the back end, these couples cite financial stress as a leading cause of marital problems.²² This suggests that effectively connecting couples to employment and work supports, the most direct way of addressing poverty, would help relationships.

It is within this context that Congress, through the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, created the federally funded Healthy Marriage Initiative, which featured marriage-education courses and promotional campaigns advertising the benefits of marriage. This approach was met with some real world barriers and questions. Given the role of economics in marital decisions and

outcomes, for example, can the government successfully encourage people to get and stay married without fully addressing their work-and-income challenges?

Although there is no definitive answer to that question, existing evaluations of the Healthy Marriage Initiative indicate that it has failed in getting more couples to marry, with no evidence that the program has reduced poverty.²³

Despite these results, it remains reasonable to suggest that expanding services to improve parenting and relationship skills may be valuable as a supplement to larger efforts to improve employment and income outcomes. Working with couples on conflict resolution and other methods of building healthy relationships could have several potential benefits, including reducing conflict witnessed by children, building mutually supportive environments that advance couples' poverty reduction goals, and generally improving quality of life.

But there remains one noteworthy issue about whether increasing marriage would be an appropriate role for government—some argue that it is a private matter involving personal decisions that should be free of government interference. These divisions over making marriage the goal of the program alongside existing failures to reach that goal suggest the need for continued experimentation. Policymakers should consider new aims for these kinds of services, such as evidence of improved communication, reduced conflict, joint problem solving (especially when it comes to childrearing), or relationship satisfaction.

Marriage disincentives

While marriage promotion remains controversial, there appears to be greater consensus around the idea that government should not hinder marriage. Historically, various social safety net programs created disincentives to marry or even just live together, largely by dropping families from programs, slashing the amount of assistance they receive, or creating rules that make it difficult for two parent families to participate.²⁴

This issue also arises in the world of tax breaks. The earned income tax credit traditionally provides fewer benefits for married couples than single individuals filing separately. Although it is somewhat unclear whether marriage and cohabitation decisions are actually influenced by these kinds of disincentives,²⁵ reducing them would eliminate the possibility of their influence.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence policy also falls within the category of marriage and relationships. In addition to strengthening the Violence Against Women Act and other existing legal protections, there is an ongoing need to ensure that other policies focused on marriage, relationships, and families properly identify incidences and situations of domestic violence and protect those at-risk of harm. Also, greater attention should be paid to the prevention of domestic violence through programs that support fathers and work with men on violence issues.²⁶

Nontraditional couples and families

In most areas of our country, same-sex couples are unable to marry, and their relationships may not be recognized by programs focused on marriage, relationships, and families. Yet the same range of issues examined in this report may apply to these couples, too. There is a need to ensure that all programs are inclusive of non-traditional families, which may require altering practices and policies.

Separated couples

Finally, the area of marriage and relationships should also include government initiatives to help parents when things don't work out and there are children involved. These families have

legal issues related to custody, visitation, and child support, as well as concerns about how to effectively co-parent. But low-income families often don't have easy access to legal assistance or the courts to help resolve these issues.²⁷

Greater investments in free legal services providers and the federal Access and Visitation program are needed along with evidence-based methods of helping people represent themselves in legal matters. Mediation programs and other alternative dispute-resolution methods are also useful. These efforts can minimize conflict between parties who must continue to co-parent after their legal issues are resolved. These same couples may also benefit from continued, periodic dispute resolution services that could be offered.

Parenting

Parents' relationships with one another can have a significant impact on their children, but the direct connections between parents and their children also hold obvious importance. Future achievements can frequently be linked to the types of adult supervision and support received as a child.

Consequently, helping parents foster positive outcomes for children is a critical factor in strengthening families and there are multiple avenues for achieving that goal. Support for parenting should begin with family planning but also should encompass a range of support for mothers, fathers, and other caregivers.

Family planning

The earliest stage of parenting is addressed by family planning. Men and women should have access to the education, information, and services necessary to help them plan when they will take on the financial, emotional, and other responsibilities associated with parenting.

Teens represent a special population because the vast majority of their pregnancies (about 82 percent) are unintended.²⁸ Education and services that help teens and young adults in their choices to delay childbirth to an age where they are emo-



Marquicia Murray, 21, walks with her daughter Eleana Orta, while looking for work at a jobs fair. Murray is an unemployed single mother living with her parents.

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tionally and economically prepared prevent many long-term negative consequences. Chief among these are a greater likelihood of poverty, mothers dropping out of high school and never finishing, low-birth weights and premature births, and children having academic and behavioral problems.²⁹ Teen pregnancy rates have declined since 1990. A good body of evidence is available that demonstrates what works in this area.³⁰

Parenting supports

Families with greater financial means have access to various parenting supports. These include:

- Quality health insurance and prenatal care
- Parenting classes
- Private child care facilities that work with them in nurturing their child's development

- The ability to purchase books and other enrichment materials.

Low-income parents face greater barriers to accessing such supports.

The inability to directly pay for them is an obvious concern. A selection of government-funded social services reach some of these needs. Examples include parenting education programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership, which provides support and guidance to first-time, low-income parents and other home-visiting programs. There are also fatherhood programs available to help expecting fathers prepare for their new responsibilities.

Then there are the programs devoted directly to children, such as the Head Start program, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant,

which provides affordable child care options, and health care provisions for children in our nation's Medicaid program. Yet many of these programs reach only a fraction of those who could benefit from them.

In addition, some parents need to overcome personal challenges that impair their ability to parent and otherwise have healthy relationships. Mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment, anger management, and prisoner re-entry services are examples that would fit into this category. Again, far too few actually get help.

For some families, unaddressed personal challenges plus poverty lead to involvement in two significant systems—child welfare and criminal justice. Existing family challenges and dysfunctions often become exaggerated by the physical separation and trauma that go along with involvement in criminal justice and child welfare systems. The number of families involved in these systems, which disproportionately include low-income people, and their outcomes are reflective of how the nation is doing on poverty.

Fathers

In recent years, there has been growing grassroots and policy interest in supporting fatherhood. One reason is the knowledge of the positive role that fathers can, and do, play in their children's development. Another is the growing recognition that some low-income men and fathers have great unmet employment and social services needs that can hurt their ability to financially and

emotionally care for their children, suggesting a need for comprehensive service models.³¹

These concerns led to the creation of a federal Responsible Fatherhood Initiative,³² followed by an ongoing dialogue about how to include more men in a range of government-funded parenting supports (and other social services) that were created for families but that largely serve women and children. Within designated fatherhood programs, parents gain access to a broad range of services, including employment help, child support payment information, parenting skills classes, and dispute resolution services that help with co-parenting.

Child-support enforcement is another program with significant ties to fathers and their families. It provides a valuable service but could benefit from some reforms. Some men have obligations that are too high given their income, while others face barriers adjusting their child-support orders when employment changes cause their incomes to drop.³³ As a result, men (and especially those with the lowest incomes) accrue significant amounts of debt that is difficult to repay with the harshest consequences of default, including losses of driver's licenses and imprisonment.

Poor men are disproportionately represented among those not fully meeting their child support obligations—they account for half of the debtors and owe 70 percent of all arrears.³⁴ Finally, the child-support system's focus on collecting money far outstrips any efforts to develop visitation arrangements. All of these challenges discourage the engagement of fathers and some

mothers who don't want men they care about involved in the system, undermining the program's ability to collect money for children.

Mothers

When it comes to mothers, there are various services available through programs such as public housing assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and nutritional assistance for women and infants known as the WIC program. Much can be gained from efforts to better coordinate services so that administrators from different programs such as these are communicating with one another and working together. Working together, the administrators can share information and generally apply model practices for simplifying application processes, conducting outreach, and providing culturally appropriate services.

Greater service integration for individual mothers is also important, offering case planning and a package of needed services rather than just enrollment in individual programs that only address one of a family's needs. If a mother applies for unemployment insurance, for example, she may also benefit from gaining simultaneous access to SNAP or a homelessness prevention program that can temporarily help with rent as she completes the final stages of her employment search.

Finally, we should explore whether there are services offered through some fatherhood programs that should be extended to more mothers. This could come in multiple forms. It may be advisable for the programs to directly involve more

women in their services—a program teaching men about relationship skills may want to invite greater participation of female partners in order to achieve greater outcomes. Or replicating models may be useful—a community that has a fatherhood community center may see equal benefit in opening a women's center that offers centralized access to new and existing services.

Other caretakers

In addition to mothers and fathers, there are other adults involved in directly raising children, including stepparents or other intimate partners of their parents, grandparents, other relatives, or foster parents. Efforts should be aimed at ensuring that these individuals are included and accounted for within family-oriented services and, where appropriate, they should have access to parenting supports.

For some programs, this may require a mental shift from thinking that mothers or parents are the only ones that matter to the child. Other programs may not be accustomed to thinking creatively in identifying all the individuals who could help in achieving the desired outcomes. The problem of resource limitations also can't be ignored.

This approach requires human resources or time spent working with more adults connected to each child. It also could involve more direct expenditures, providing these additional adults with services such as employment help. Importantly, we can find ways to overcome these barriers through such means as retraining and targeted, increased investments.

Strengthening communities

Although the value of a strong family cannot be underestimated, the world in which families meet when they walk outside their front door is also significant. Far too many children are growing up in high-poverty neighborhoods, defined by extreme levels of racial and economic segregation. These neighborhoods often lack such resources as high performing schools, grocery stores, banks, parks and safe places to play, and adequate public transportation. These community factors put families at higher risk for a range of negative outcomes—poor employment opportunities, academic achievement, physical and mental health, amongst other things.³⁵

Crumbling communities have significant consequences for residents, but also the larger society, which is deprived of the economic and social contributions of individuals who are unable to reach their full potential, and unnecessarily spending resources on systems of last resort such as prisons, homeless shelters, and child welfare.

Community stakeholders and poverty advocates are addressing these problems in two significant ways. The first is a new type of cross-system collaboration that breaks down the fragmentation in services delivery in poor communities.³⁶ This involves effectively leveraging public and private resources such as the business community and academic institutions to develop community-focused service models.

The Harlem Children's Zone and federally funded Promise Neighborhoods, for example,

target entire communities. They aim to improve neighborhood resources and provide supports that strengthen all the families living within their boundaries.³⁷ The Community Schools model has also shown some success in helping to bridge gaps by providing a range of services including family support and health care services to vulnerable youth.³⁸

A second approach to helping families living in crisis communities is to provide them with opportunities to move to different communities. The Moving to Opportunity program, a five-city experiment with this approach, found that participants had improved physical health outcomes as well as significant decreases in psychological distress and depression.³⁹ Another study focused on movers found improved educational outcomes, greater rates of employment, and higher incomes amongst participants.⁴⁰

The primary means available for low-income families to move out of communities in crisis is the Housing Choice Voucher program (formerly known as Section 8), which provides families with rent subsidies that allow them to pay below market rates for rent. The Housing Choice Voucher program is in high demand with many regions having long waiting lists for services.

Communities with limited resources, as well as those that are economically isolated or plagued with crime, create additional stress on families that can lead to fractured families. Expanding

the types of resources and supports that target community factors that contribute to poverty is critical to strengthening families and improving

childhood outcomes. Communities with more supports provide outlets for families and activities for children.

Measuring our progress

Over the next decade the Half in Ten campaign will pursue efforts to support families and build healthier communities. We will examine measures to increase family income, build stronger family connections, and improve access to safe affordable health services. Specifically, we will measure:

- Dual income families
- Individuals without health insurance coverage
- Teen birth rate
- Permanency rate among foster care youth

With the results of these measures in hand, policymakers will be able to gauge some of the progress made in strengthening families and communities, though as our next chapter demonstrates, family income security will also play a role in cutting poverty in half in 10 years.

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Indicators

Health insurance coverage

Increasing the number of people with health insurance coverage will reduce both economic and health risks for low-income families, factors that contribute to keeping families poor.

1 *Individuals without health insurance coverage*

State	Population	Number of people without health insurance	Percentage of uninsured	State	Population	Number of people without health insurance	Percentage of uninsured
AL	4,666,970	686,592	14.6	MT	964,509	168,981	17.3
AK	696,822	136,840	19.9	NE	1,776,166	207,653	11.5
AZ	6,272,686	1,065,132	16.9	NV	2,666,662	603,700	22.6
AR	2,839,798	500,613	17.5	NH	1,276,614	145,013	11.1
CA	36,593,372	6,824,913	18.5	NJ	8,626,524	1,151,158	13.2
CO	4,934,178	789,109	15.9	NM	2,024,716	398,558	19.6
CT	3,466,977	320,133	9.1	NY	18,879,810	2,277,382	11.9
DE	874,321	85,801	9.7	NC	9,304,553	1,569,837	16.8
DC	570,953	45,164	7.6	ND	651,415	64,535	9.8
FL	18,436,788	3,941,060	21.3	OH	11,224,969	1,398,943	12.3
GA	9,446,906	1,875,566	19.7	OK	3,646,849	693,551	18.9
HI	1,326,373	103,764	7.9	OR	3,765,919	651,504	17.1
ID	1,541,860	275,404	17.7	PA	12,298,955	1,271,180	10.2
IL	12,543,457	1,745,556	13.8	RI	1,012,200	126,184	12.2
IN	6,294,417	947,920	14.8	SC	4,493,865	795,275	17.5
IA	2,950,251	279,811	9.3	SD	788,226	98,886	12.4
KS	2,775,355	389,446	13.9	TN	6,195,120	898,561	14.4
KY	4,215,643	647,041	15.3	TX	24,652,927	5,875,474	23.7
LA	4,413,890	790,987	17.8	UT	2,730,176	421,924	15.3
ME	1,293,012	133,065	10.1	VT	600,850	49,880	8.0
MD	5,643,821	640,861	11.3	VA	7,780,635	1,020,130	13.1
MA	6,333,611	285,717	4.4	WA	6,615,922	945,589	14.2
MI	9,656,449	1,207,384	12.4	WV	1,799,960	266,161	14.6
MN	5,189,200	476,259	9.1	WI	5,535,803	529,200	9.4
MS	2,875,594	528,095	18.2	WY	551,120	82,836	14.9
MO	5,817,852	773,894	13.2				

Source: Bureau of the Census, ACS 2010 Data

Youth in foster care

Increasing the number of youth who transition from foster care to safe permanent living arrangements is an important factor in cutting economic risk for youth.

2 *Permanency rate among foster care youth*

Number of children in foster care 2009	423,773
Number of children in foster care 2010	408,425
Number of children entering foster care 2009	255,418
Number of children entering foster care 2010	254,375

Primary placement arrangement 2010

Foster family home (non-relative)	48%	194,900
Foster family home (relative)	26%	103,943
Institution	9%	36,607
Group home	6%	25,066
Adoptive home	4%	14,886

Average length of stay for 2010 exiters 21.7 months

Children adopted from foster care	52,891
Children reunited with parents or caregiver	128,913
Emancipated	27,854

Race/ethnicity of children in foster care 2010

White	41%	165,135
Black	29%	117,610
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	84,727
Alaska Native/American Indian	2%	7,839
Asian	1%	2,469

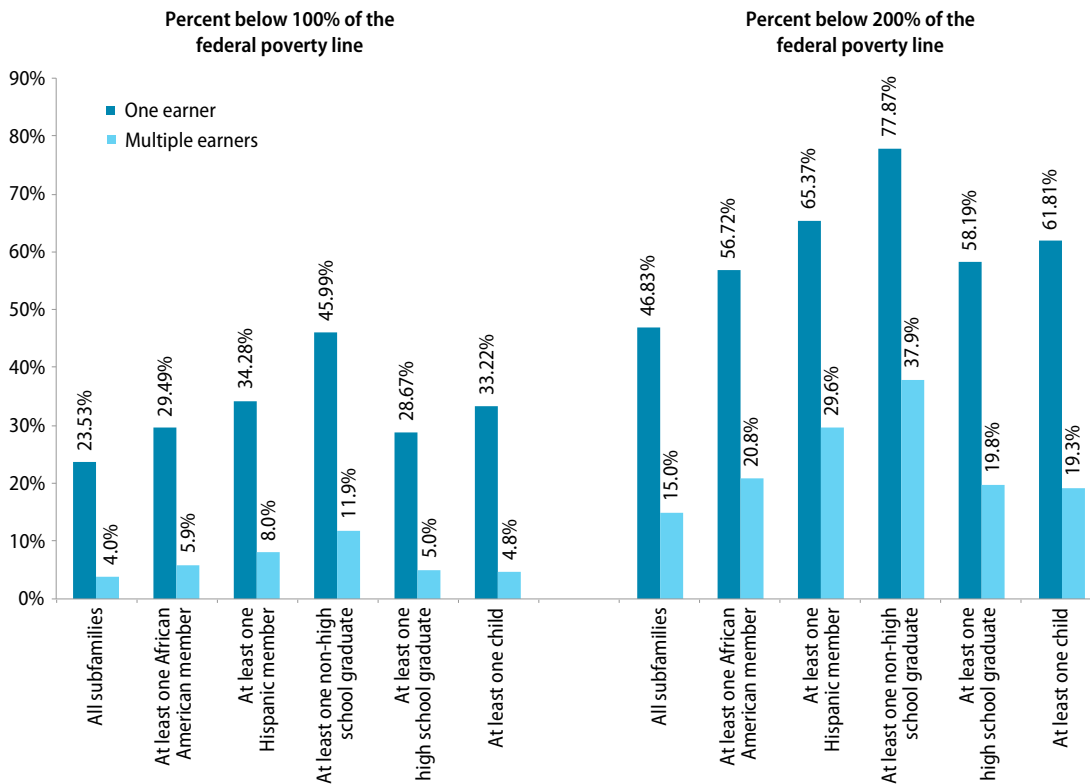
Source: Administration on Children and Families, The AFCARS Report- Preliminary FY 2010 Estimates as of June 2011- Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. Available at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report18.pdf

Indicators

Dual-income households

Increasing the number of dual-income households will reduce the number of children living in poverty.

3 Poverty Status of Subfamilies by Number of Earners and Demographic Characteristics



Source: CAP analysis of Center for Economic and Policy Research, 2011. March CPS Uniform Extracts, Version 0.9.4. Washington, DC.

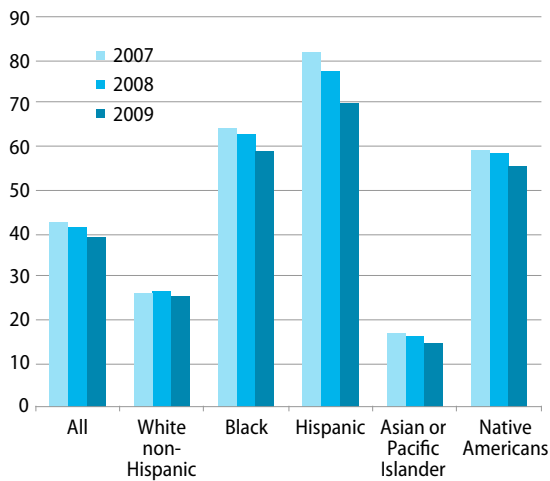
Teen births

Reducing the number of teen pregnancies will lower the long-term economic challenges faced by teen parents.

4a

U.S. LEVEL

Teen birth rates, ages 15-19
PER 1,000 BIRTHS



Source: Births: Preliminary Data 2009- National Vital Statistics Reports, CDC, December 2010. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr59/nvsr59_03.pdf

4b

STATE LEVEL

Teen birth rates (2008)
PER 1,000 BIRTHS

State	All races	State	All races
AL	52.9	MT	40.7
AK	46.9	NE	36.5
AZ	56.2	NV	53.5
AR	61.8	NH	19.8
CA	38.4	NJ	24.5
CO	42.5	NM	64.1
CT	22.9	NY	25.5
DE	40.4	NC	49.4
DC	50.9	ND	28.6
FL	42.8	OH	41.0
GA	52.0	OK	61.6
HI	42.1	OR	37.2
ID	41.2	PA	31.5
IL	38.1	RI	28.5
IN	43.7	SC	53.0
IA	33.9	SD	40.0
KS	45.6	TN	55.6
KY	55.6	TX	63.4
LA	54.1	UT	35.1
ME	26.1	VT	21.3
MD	32.8	VA	33.5
MA	20.1	WA	34.6
MI	33.2	WV	48.8
MN	27.2	WI	31.3
MS	65.7	WY	49.2
MO	45.5	U.S.	41.5

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Disparities in Teenage Birth Rates in the United States, Department of Health and Human Services, 2010. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db46.pdf>