

POVERTY TRENDS IN MICHIGAN

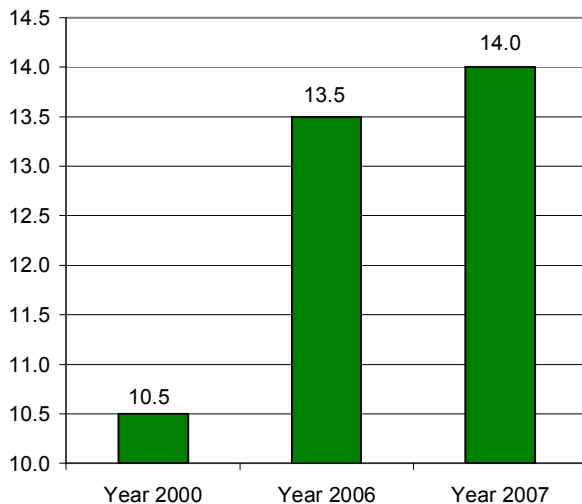


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Poverty limits the ability of individuals and families to meet their basic needs, robs them of their dignity, and compromises the stability of entire communities, counties, and states. Yet newly released 2007 data from the U.S. Census Bureau reveal that this hardship continues to be a reality for millions of people in Michigan. These data reinforce the urgency for a comprehensive vision and plan to end poverty in our state.

Poverty and Child Poverty

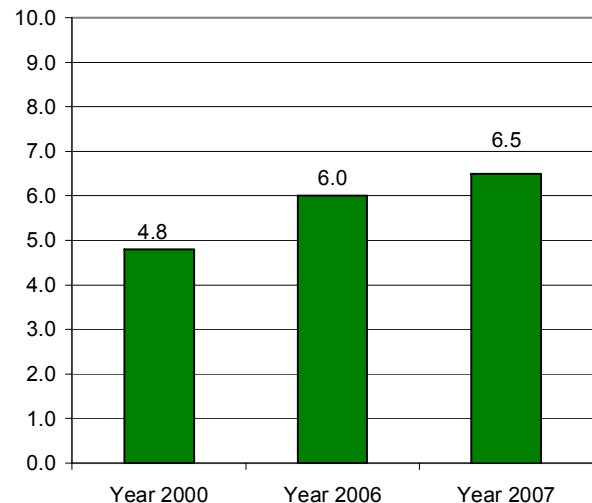
In Michigan, 1,376,658 people live below the poverty line, a poverty rate of 14.0%. The poverty rate has risen from 13.5% in 2006 and has risen from 10.5% in 2000.



Children are particularly vulnerable to poverty. 454,418 children live below the poverty line in Michigan, a child poverty rate of 19.0%. The child poverty rate has risen from 17.8% in 2006 and has risen from 13.4% in 2000.

Extreme Poverty

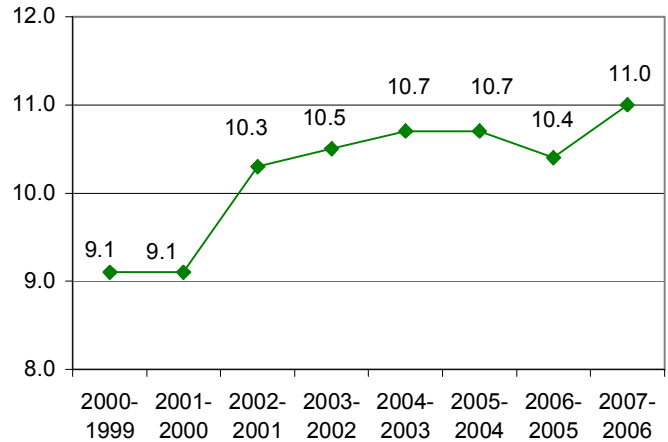
Extreme poverty, living on an annual income of less than half the poverty line (below \$10,325 for a family of four), affects 636,782 people in Michigan, an extreme poverty rate of 6.5%. The extreme poverty rate has risen from 6.0% in 2006 and has risen from 4.8% in 2000. Those living in extreme poverty are often in unsafe living conditions and struggle to meet the most basic of their needs.



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Health Insurance Coverage

Despite the importance of being insured, many in Michigan are unable to obtain health insurance coverage. In 2007, 11.0% were without health insurance coverage. The uninsured rate has risen from 10.4% in 2006* and has risen from 9.1% in 2000.



At Risk of Poverty

In addition to the 1,376,658 people who are poor in Michigan, 1,649,567 people, an additional 16.8%, are at risk of falling into poverty. These individuals, often called low income, have family incomes that fall between the official poverty line and twice the poverty line. This leaves them dangerously close to the edge, where just one event, such as an illness or job loss, can push them into poverty.

Median Household Income

The median household income in Michigan is \$47,950, meaning half of all households in Michigan have incomes higher and half have incomes lower than this amount. Median household income has declined \$570 since 2006 and has declined \$7,633 since 2000 (when adjusted for inflation).

What is Poverty?

Poverty is defined by the federal government using food cost as a basis:

2007 Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	The Poverty Line	Half the Poverty Line	Twice the Poverty Line
1	\$10,210	\$5,105	\$20,420
2	\$13,690	\$6,845	\$27,380
3	\$17,170	\$8,585	\$34,340
4	\$20,650	\$10,325	\$41,300

For further analysis and comments on poverty trends, implications, and solutions, contact us:

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Data Source Explanation:

The data in this fact sheet are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey the 2000 Decennial Census*, and the *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement*. The *American Community Survey* recently released data on 2007 income and poverty, which is the most current data available, for geographies with populations over 65,000.

For more information on the data sources, visit www.census.gov/.