



September 29, 2009

Poverty in San Diego County

Analysis of regional data from the US Census Bureau
2008 American Community Survey

ISSUE BRIEF

The Data

The following data comes from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) which was released on September 29, 2009 by the US Census Bureau. ACS provides demographic, economic and social data for individuals and households. The data is made available for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more.

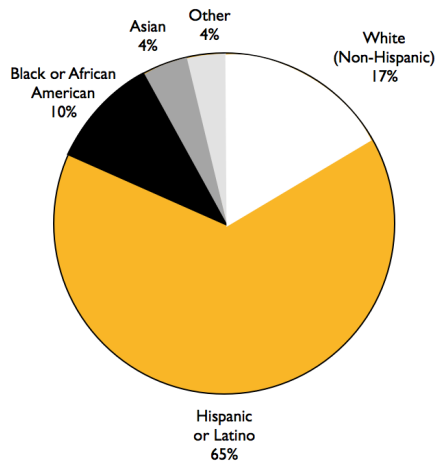
Key Findings

- San Diego County’s official poverty rate rose in 2008 from 11.1% to 12.6%, the highest level on record during the past 50 years.
- 367,000 county residents are living below the federal poverty level (46,000 more than in 2007), with household incomes of less than \$10,991 for an individual or \$21,834 for a family of two adults with two children.
- The number people in poverty in San Diego grew at a much faster rate than in the state or the nation. US poverty grew .2 percentage points and California poverty grew .9 percentage points, while San Diego County poverty grew 1.5 percentage points.
- The data show that 850,000 county residents -- 29% of the population -- were living in economic hardship in 2008. Economic hardship is CPI’s term describing households with incomes below 200% of FPL, e.g. \$21,982 for an individual, \$43,668 for a family of 4.

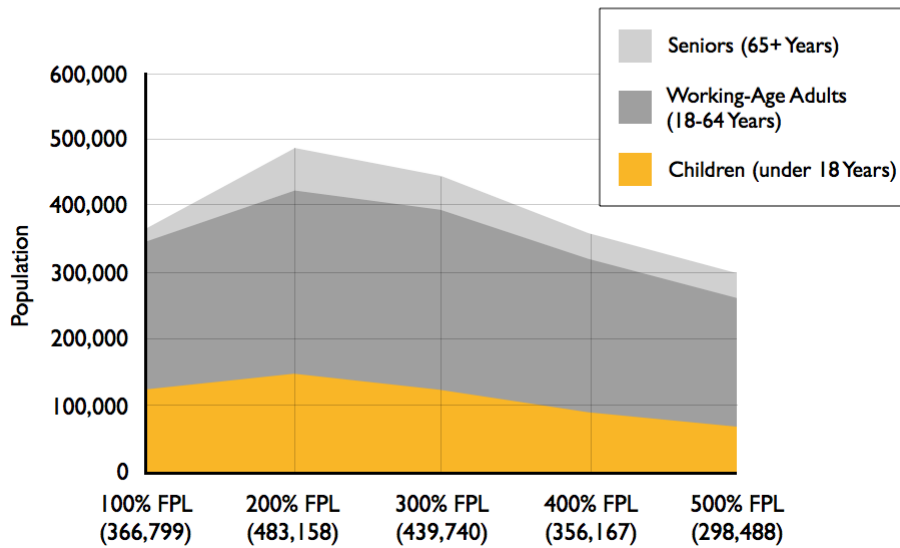
Key Indicators	2008	2007	Change
County residents living below the federal poverty level (FPL)	366,799 (12.6%)	320,378 (11.1%)	+46,421 (+1.5%)
County residents in economic hardship (below double the FPL)	849,957 (29.3%)	787,991 (27.4%)	+61,966 (+1.9%)
Children living in poverty (in families below FPL)	119,079 (16.3%)	110,124 (15.1%)	+8,955 (+1.2%)

Poverty in San Diego County

Racial Distribution of 123,069 Children in Poverty



Income to Poverty Level Ratio by Age Group



About CPI

The Center on Policy Initiatives is a nonprofit research and policy action center established in 1997. CPI focuses on economic and social justice issues affecting working people in the San Diego region. All CPI research publications are available at www.onlineCPI.org.