More Hispanic Children Living in Poverty than Any Other Group; African-American Children Face Greatest Poverty Rate

According to a new Pew Center report, Hispanic children make up the largest group living in poverty for the first time in U.S. history, outnumbering white children beginning in 2007. More than 6 million (6.1) Hispanic children were living in poverty in 2010, compared with 5.0 million non-Hispanic white children and 4.4 million African-American children. The number living in poverty has increased among all three groups, most dramatically for Hispanic children, from 4.5 million, 4.3 million, and 3.9 million in 2007, respectively. The steep increase in the number of Hispanic children is likely caused by the economic recession, high unemployment rates, and high birth rates. Although the number of Hispanic children living in poverty is greater than the number of African-American children, the latter face a higher poverty rate (39%) than other groups; 35% of Hispanic children and 12% of white children lived in poverty in 2010.

Children Living in Poverty in the U.S., 2010

Source:

Notes:
1 The U.S. Census Bureau measures poverty based on family size and income. In 2010, the official poverty line for a family of four, including two related children, was $22,113. Every individual in a family of four with a total income below this line is considered to be in poverty.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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