

Poverty, Hunger, and Family Expenses	Poverty			Hunger		Family Expenses	
	Total Poverty, 2008 ¹	Child Poverty, 2008 ¹	Children Under Age 18 in Low-Income Working Families, 2007 ²	Households with Food Insecurity, 2008 ³	Food Insecurity Among Children Under Age 18, 2007 ⁴	Average Yearly Child Care Costs for Two Children, 2008	Median Yearly Rent, 2007 ⁶
Alabama	15.7%	21.7%	36.9%	13.3%	13.5%	\$10,452	\$7,212
Alaska	8.4%	11.0%	23.5%	11.6%	15.7%	\$15,220	\$11,016
Arizona	14.7%	20.8%	38.0%	13.2%	20.2%	\$15,131	\$9,828
Arkansas	17.3%	24.9%	44.6%	15.9%	18.3%	\$9,881	\$6,876
California	13.3%	18.5%	34.7%	12.0%	16.8%	\$19,814	\$12,936
Colorado	11.4%	15.1%	29.2%	11.6%	17.2%	\$20,834	\$9,456
Connecticut	9.3%	12.5%	18.8%	11.0%	13.0%	\$22,012	\$11,172
Delaware	10.0%	13.6%	29.1%	12.4%	13.8%	\$15,668	\$10,920
District of Columbia	17.2%	25.9%	32.4%	9.4%	21.4%	\$24,627	\$11,208
Florida	13.2%	18.3%	35.2%	12.2%	15.9%	\$13,617	\$11,100
Georgia	14.7%	20.1%	34.9%	14.2%	19.1%	\$12,927	\$9,216
Hawaii	9.1%	10.0%	23.8%	9.1%	12.6%	\$19,032	\$14,328
Idaho	12.6%	15.8%	38.3%	11.4%	16.6%	\$11,177	\$7,848
Illinois	12.2%	17.0%	29.8%	11.1%	14.1%	\$19,142	\$9,396
Indiana	13.1%	18.3%	31.3%	11.2%	13.1%	\$16,580	\$7,656
Iowa	11.5%	14.4%	28.9%	11.6%	17.9%	\$15,335	\$6,804
Kansas	11.3%	14.5%	31.9%	13.8%	17.8%	\$15,665	\$7,476
Kentucky	17.3%	23.5%	37.4%	12.6%	19.0%	\$11,960	\$6,756
Louisiana	17.3%	24.7%	39.2%	11.0%	20.0%	\$9,706	\$7,812
Maine	12.3%	15.8%	30.7%	13.7%	19.5%	\$15,860	\$7,800
Maryland	8.1%	10.2%	19.5%	9.6%	15.1%	\$19,783	\$12,000
Massachusetts	10.0%	12.0%	18.1%	8.3%	12.3%	\$27,573	\$11,352
Michigan	14.4%	19.4%	30.7%	12.0%	16.2%	\$16,536	\$8,196
Minnesota	9.6%	11.4%	23.4%	10.3%	13.7%	\$22,500	\$8,532
Mississippi	21.2%	30.4%	45.0%	17.4%	21.5%	\$8,616	\$7,308
Missouri	13.4%	18.6%	33.4%	14.0%	20.0%	\$11,164	\$7,416
Montana	14.8%	20.6%	37.4%	10.9%	14.7%	\$13,645	\$6,948
Nebraska	10.8%	13.4%	32.2%	10.4%	14.3%	\$14,976	\$7,368
Nevada	11.3%	15.0%	31.4%	12.4%	18.5%	\$16,145	\$11,760
New Hampshire	7.6%	9.0%	16.9%	8.5%	12.0%	\$18,123	\$10,704
New Jersey	8.7%	12.5%	20.5%	10.3%	13.3%	\$18,765	\$12,312
New Mexico	17.1%	24.2%	44.6%	14.1%	19.2%	\$12,763	\$7,644
New York	13.6%	19.1%	30.9%	11.3%	14.8%	\$24,171	\$10,884
North Carolina	14.6%	19.9%	35.8%	13.7%	19.4%	\$14,952	\$8,136
North Dakota	12.0%	15.3%	27.8%	6.9%	10.9%	\$12,709	\$6,192
Ohio	13.4%	18.5%	30.9%	13.3%	18.7%	\$16,724	\$7,716
Oklahoma	15.9%	22.6%	41.1%	14.0%	17.1%	\$11,475	\$7,056
Oregon	13.6%	18.1%	33.2%	13.1%	18.9%	\$17,436	\$8,916
Pennsylvania	12.1%	16.8%	28.4%	11.2%	15.8%	\$17,940	\$8,220
Rhode Island	11.7%	15.5%	25.7%	11.7%	13.7%	\$17,264	\$9,960
South Carolina	15.7%	21.7%	36.4%	13.1%	20.2%	\$10,446	\$7,740
South Dakota	12.5%	17.6%	34.9%	10.3%	14.9%	\$13,910	\$6,312
Tennessee	15.5%	21.8%	37.3%	13.5%	20.5%	\$12,930	\$7,608
Texas	15.8%	22.5%	41.6%	16.3%	22.1%	\$13,260	\$8,808
Utah	9.6%	10.5%	31.6%	11.2%	16.9%	\$13,020	\$8,796
Vermont	10.6%	13.2%	26.8%	12.1%	15.8%	\$15,592	\$9,072
Virginia	10.2%	13.8%	23.9%	8.6%	11.0%	\$18,694	\$10,704
Washington	11.3%	14.3%	27.6%	11.1%	19.2%	\$17,940	\$9,792
West Virginia	17.0%	23.0%	37.2%	12.0%	17.8%	\$10,560	\$6,300
Wisconsin	10.4%	13.3%	27.9%	10.1%	14.2%	\$18,824	\$8,076
Wyoming	9.4%	11.6%	28.9%	9.2%	17.5%	\$14,300	\$7,632
US	13.2% [^]	19.0% [^]	32.5%	14.6%	17.0%	\$15,831	\$9,468

As you join with Bread for the World members across the country to participate in the 2010 Offering of Letters, we hope that the statistics provided here will help you educate and instruct our nation's decision-makers to adopt changes to U.S. tax policy that will benefit low-income working families.

On this page, it is important to note that:

- Almost a third of all children live in households where their parents are working but earn wages less than twice the poverty line, or below \$43,668 for a family with two adults and two children.
- Paying for basic needs, especially in households with children, can be a challenge for poor and low-income families. Nationally, child care alone averages \$15,831 for two children, or almost three quarters of the income of a family at the poverty line (\$21,834 for a family with two adults and two children) and over a third of the income of a family earning twice the poverty line (\$43,668).

On the reverse side, also note that:

- The Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit boost the resources available to millions of low-income working families who then make purchases that put billions of dollars into state and local economies. Economists report that refundable tax credits, like the EITC and CTC, have a multiplier effect that generates \$1.26 in economic activity in communities for every \$1 invested.
- Over 70% of EITC recipients use paid tax preparers, resulting in costs of over \$3 billion annually. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites provide free services to low income filers and make sure that those costs stay in the pockets of filers. Yet, only a fraction of families receiving EITC get their taxes prepared by a free VITA site.

For more numbers, statistics, and maps, please visit:
www.bread.org/OL2010

Poverty, Hunger, and Family Expenses

¹ Income, Earnings, and Poverty data from the 2008 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2009
[^] Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008, U.S. Census Bureau, 2009
² Community Survey microdata, U.S. Census Bureau, 2007, compiled by The Working Poor Families Project
³ Household Food Security in the United States, 2008, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2009
⁴ Child Food Insecurity in the United States, Feeding America, 2009
⁵ Parents and the High Price of Child Care: 2009 Update, National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies, 2009
⁶ American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2007

Program Information	Tax Returns Filing for EITC, 2006 ⁷	Total EITC Benefits Received, 2006 ⁷	Tax Returns Filing for the Refundable Portion of the Child Tax Credit, 2006 ⁷	Total Benefits From the Refundable Portion of the Child Tax Credit Received, 2006 ⁷	EITC Returns Filed Using a Paid Preparer, 2006 ⁷	Amount Spent on Tax Prep Services and Refund Anticipation Loans and Other Services, 2006 ^{8*}	EITC Returns Filed at a VITA Site, 2006 ^{7#}	Amount Saved by Using a VITA Site, 2006 ^{7**}
Alabama	25.4%	\$1,125,960,884	14.4%	\$248,356,004	76.9%	\$80,421,690	0.7%	\$954,520
Alaska	12.3%	\$66,261,354	8.0%	\$30,355,606	52.8%	\$4,237,560	5.8%	\$652,120
Arizona	16.5%	\$797,261,337	14.1%	\$403,340,957	68.6%	\$54,270,060	2.3%	\$2,658,600
Arkansas	24.5%	\$588,095,397	14.1%	\$151,627,755	76.6%	\$44,532,360	1.3%	\$1,065,960
California	15.7%	\$4,555,478,745	13.4%	\$2,303,330,379	76.1%	\$322,680,750	1.6%	\$10,560,480
Colorado	12.5%	\$470,299,228	9.7%	\$241,846,788	62.0%	\$31,338,060	2.7%	\$2,021,320
Connecticut	10.3%	\$296,595,328	6.6%	\$109,768,590	65.9%	\$21,541,770	3.3%	\$1,594,880
Delaware	14.7%	\$110,252,636	9.3%	\$36,899,054	59.8%	\$7,132,020	7.5%	\$1,237,880
District of Columbia	17.0%	\$85,828,767	9.1%	\$23,362,396	68.7%	\$6,624,600	4.5%	\$589,120
Florida	19.3%	\$3,124,150,946	11.7%	\$911,823,587	70.0%	\$216,062,400	1.6%	\$7,359,520
Georgia	22.9%	\$1,976,701,895	15.2%	\$586,876,192	74.0%	\$138,888,540	0.8%	\$2,107,560
Hawaii	13.8%	\$146,633,797	9.1%	\$62,429,806	62.3%	\$9,882,960	3.5%	\$836,360
Idaho	16.6%	\$191,047,455	13.0%	\$98,843,618	59.6%	\$11,391,000	3.6%	\$1,050,560
Illinois	15.0%	\$1,715,198,986	10.5%	\$645,869,666	70.4%	\$118,609,950	2.2%	\$5,272,960
Indiana	15.5%	\$841,918,082	9.8%	\$303,467,255	67.8%	\$61,734,870	1.4%	\$1,807,400
Iowa	13.1%	\$308,401,785	8.5%	\$124,228,733	70.4%	\$22,923,150	2.9%	\$1,457,680
Kansas	14.2%	\$323,604,927	10.0%	\$139,614,456	65.8%	\$22,475,370	3.7%	\$1,826,720
Kentucky	19.8%	\$666,305,104	10.8%	\$184,940,703	74.7%	\$52,713,690	2.5%	\$2,429,783
Louisiana	27.6%	\$1,138,787,660	14.8%	\$223,869,403	74.6%	\$77,392,500	1.5%	\$2,108,120
Maine	14.1%	\$148,095,393	7.8%	\$48,352,158	57.0%	\$9,376,680	2.0%	\$495,600
Maryland	13.0%	\$627,830,548	9.4%	\$251,711,908	65.2%	\$43,173,660	2.2%	\$2,101,400
Massachusetts	10.3%	\$529,960,360	6.2%	\$192,393,055	64.4%	\$36,439,200	2.8%	\$2,496,760
Michigan	15.0%	\$1,299,220,630	8.9%	\$413,449,342	67.9%	\$88,741,320	1.6%	\$3,032,960
Minnesota	10.9%	\$463,509,281	7.4%	\$208,707,180	63.4%	\$30,902,670	5.6%	\$4,308,640
Mississippi	32.2%	\$878,090,208	17.9%	\$180,160,869	75.0%	\$61,350,990	1.0%	\$1,063,720
Missouri	17.0%	\$856,961,955	10.0%	\$263,367,544	69.4%	\$61,461,330	2.0%	\$2,565,080
Montana	15.8%	\$125,823,689	9.0%	\$42,738,033	64.1%	\$8,809,380	2.5%	\$511,000
Nebraska	13.8%	\$203,497,643	9.6%	\$86,448,455	65.3%	\$13,702,800	3.0%	\$946,120
Nevada	14.6%	\$303,612,242	13.0%	\$169,000,871	72.2%	\$23,991,090	1.2%	\$558,040
New Hampshire	9.8%	\$102,699,684	6.0%	\$40,117,273	58.5%	\$6,985,860	2.0%	\$361,200
New Jersey	11.8%	\$900,252,192	8.3%	\$339,849,491	76.3%	\$69,202,500	0.6%	\$790,160
New Mexico	22.7%	\$379,256,990	13.0%	\$107,752,934	65.3%	\$24,426,570	4.4%	\$2,383,920
New York	17.1%	\$2,821,948,510	9.8%	\$819,707,864	74.1%	\$199,525,650	3.2%	\$13,268,080
North Carolina	20.1%	\$1,577,535,179	13.5%	\$539,166,175	73.1%	\$118,374,690	1.4%	\$3,175,200
North Dakota	12.8%	\$67,444,629	7.7%	\$25,052,173	62.9%	\$4,720,620	4.5%	\$501,480
Ohio	15.1%	\$1,531,439,384	8.6%	\$457,110,318	63.5%	\$105,183,600	1.8%	\$4,198,880
Oklahoma	20.7%	\$611,525,843	12.9%	\$198,193,414	68.7%	\$42,860,370	4.5%	\$3,874,080
Oregon	13.8%	\$390,917,949	9.7%	\$178,345,672	54.3%	\$23,028,270	4.4%	\$2,765,560
Pennsylvania	13.4%	\$1,422,120,983	7.7%	\$458,263,163	64.5%	\$98,789,010	1.9%	\$4,298,000
Rhode Island	13.4%	\$123,711,822	8.1%	\$38,368,512	73.8%	\$9,288,360	3.1%	\$584,640
South Carolina	23.0%	\$894,480,469	13.6%	\$240,617,829	77.4%	\$70,560,750	1.0%	\$1,279,600
South Dakota	15.1%	\$99,557,452	9.3%	\$37,022,854	68.9%	\$7,554,660	1.7%	\$266,000
Tennessee	21.2%	\$1,125,077,612	12.4%	\$317,734,772	72.9%	\$85,135,950	1.5%	\$2,381,177
Texas	22.9%	\$4,912,183,987	15.8%	\$1,527,124,336	72.1%	\$325,669,770	1.9%	\$12,084,240
Utah	13.5%	\$259,855,028	15.2%	\$222,665,123	58.9%	\$15,298,890	2.7%	\$1,054,480
Vermont	12.2%	\$60,318,477	6.6%	\$20,860,923	57.8%	\$4,034,580	2.0%	\$214,200
Virginia	14.1%	\$926,379,855	9.5%	\$339,076,986	64.9%	\$64,029,180	1.8%	\$2,479,680
Washington	12.1%	\$619,954,276	8.9%	\$291,617,358	57.1%	\$39,026,310	3.3%	\$3,298,960
West Virginia	19.1%	\$261,351,818	9.3%	\$66,028,917	62.1%	\$18,366,360	2.9%	\$1,161,160
Wisconsin	11.6%	\$548,785,245	7.6%	\$224,505,265	63.8%	\$36,577,860	2.9%	\$2,531,480
Wyoming	12.6%	\$54,584,815	7.8%	\$21,065,549	62.2%	\$3,843,090	2.0%	\$181,720
US	16.8%	\$43,656,768,461	11.1%	\$15,197,427,264	71.0%	\$3,055,285,320	2.1%	\$128,804,760

Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

⁷ IRS data compiled by the Brookings Institution

⁸ Internal Revenue Service SPEC Information Database, Tax Year 2006, calculated by Children's Defense Fund

* Calculations assume \$280 spent on tax prep fees and services

Includes VITAs, Military VITAs, and Tax Consulting for the Elderly sites