

Women's Poverty and Economic Insecurity in Massachusetts in 2010

September 2011

- 12.0 percent of women were poor in Massachusetts.
- Women working full time, year round in Massachusetts were paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts.
- 7.5 percent of women were unemployed in Massachusetts.

The latest Census Bureau data show [record numbers](#) of poor women and children nationally, and widespread poverty and insecurity in the states. Policy makers face critical choices – whether to continue to cut supports for vulnerable families in the face of a continuing economic crisis, or take immediate steps to create jobs for women and men, protect vital services, and promote opportunity for all.

Women's Poverty in Massachusetts

- The poverty rate for women was 12.0 percent, compared to 9.1 percent for men.
- Women's poverty rates varied by age, race and ethnicity.
 - The poverty rate for women 65 and older was 10.3 percent.
 - The poverty rate for black women was 23.3 percent; for Hispanic women, 31.9 percent; for Native American women, 32.6 percent; for Asian women, 16.1 percent; for white, non-Hispanic women, 8.6 percent.

Poverty Among Single Mothers and Children in Massachusetts

- The poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 34.9 percent.
- The poverty rate for children was 14.3 percent.
- 72.5 percent of all poor children lived in female-headed families.

Women's Economic Insecurity in Massachusetts

- Women working full time, year round were paid 81 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts.
- 4.4 percent of women and 1.5 percent of children were uninsured.
- 7.5 percent of women were unemployed.

Source Note: State-level poverty, income and insurance figures come from the 2010 American Community Survey (<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>). All figures for women are for women 18 and older except for health insurance which is for women 18 to 64. Data on all racial and ethnic groups are not available for all states due to sample size. Poor children living in female-headed families are related children. The overall children's poverty rate includes unrelated children. Unemployment figures for individuals 16 and older come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/lau/table14full10.pdf>). For an analysis of the latest national poverty data and trends, see National Women's Law Center, [Poverty Among Women and Families, 2000-2010: Extreme Poverty Reaches Record Levels as Congress Faces Critical Choices](#) (September 2011)