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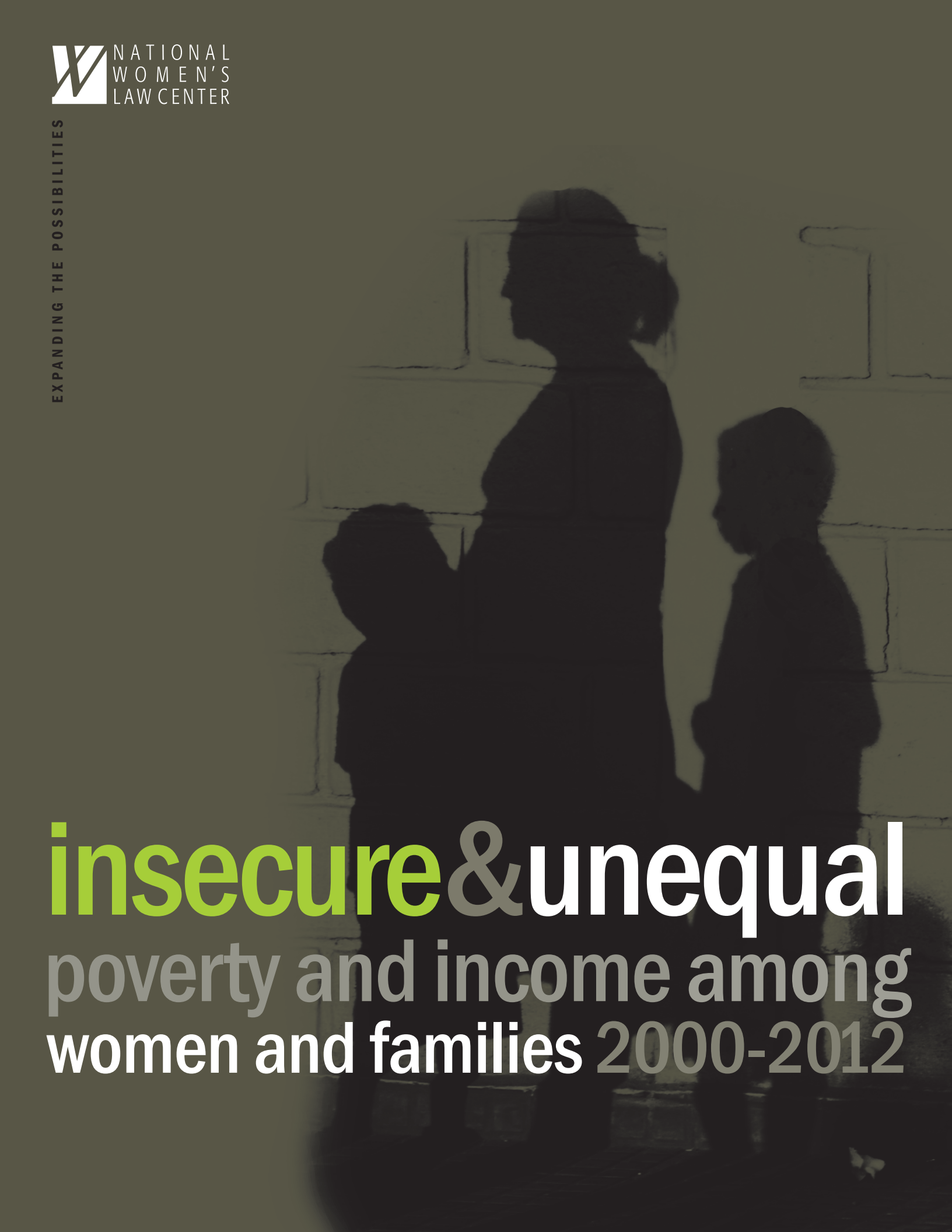
EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES



insecure & unequal

poverty and income among women and families 2000-2012

ABOUT THE CENTER

The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand the possibilities for women and girls by working to remove barriers based on gender, open opportunities, and help women and their families lead economically secure, healthy, and fulfilled lives—especially low-income women and their families.

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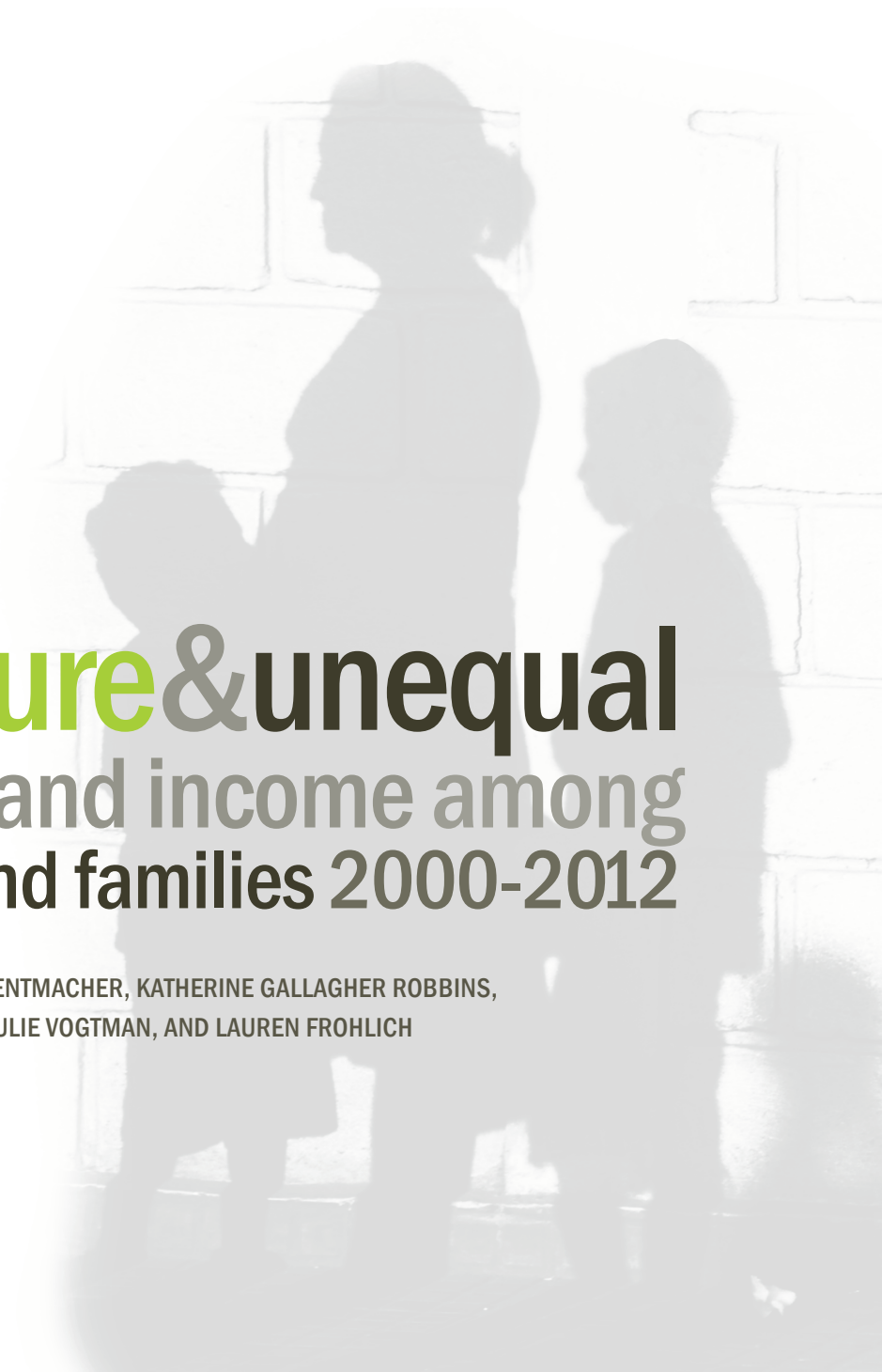

insecure&unequal

poverty and income among women and families 2000-2012

BY JOAN ENTMACHER, KATHERINE GALLAGHER ROBBINS,
JULIE VOGTMAN, AND LAUREN FROHLICH

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insecure & unequal
poverty and income among women and families, 2000-2012

September 2013

THIS REPORT provides a gender analysis of national and state poverty and income data for 2012, released by the Census Bureau in September 2013.[1] The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) supplies this analysis, as it has for several years, because little information broken out by gender is available directly from the Census Bureau's series of reports titled *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States*. Determining, for example, if there were changes to the poverty rates for black women or women 65 and older living alone, or the gap between the earnings of Hispanic women and white, non-Hispanic men, requires examining separate detailed Census Bureau tables – which is the way NWLC prepared this report. *Insecure & Unequal* provides a snapshot of poverty and income data in 2012, nationally and by state – and documents changes in poverty and the wage gap nationally from 2011 to 2012 and since 2000.[2] However, its scope is largely confined to statistical analysis; it does not attempt to capture what poverty and economic insecurity mean in real terms for women, their families, and their futures.

KEY FINDINGS

Although the economy continued its slow recovery in 2012, poverty rates for most groups were statistically indistinguishable from 2011, leaving poverty among women and children at or near historically high levels. Poverty rates for women were once again higher than for men, and were especially high for women of color, women who head families, foreign-born women, and women 65 and older living alone. The gender wage gap was unchanged for the year and the decade, undermining women's ability to support themselves and their families. And income inequality remained stark.

- The poverty rate for women[3] was 14.5 percent in 2012, compared to 11.0 percent for men.
- More than one in seven women, nearly 17.8 million, lived in poverty, and nearly 7.8 million of them lived in extreme poverty, with incomes below half of the federal poverty level.
- The poverty rates for black, Hispanic, and Native American women were more than three times higher than for white non-Hispanic men; poverty rates were also higher for Asian, foreign-born, and white, non-Hispanic women than for white, non-Hispanic men.
- More than four in ten female-headed families with children were poor, and more than half of all poor children lived in families headed by women. More than one in five children – over 16 million – were poor.
- Among women 65 and older, poverty rates were particularly high for women who lived alone and black, Hispanic, Native American, and foreign-born women.
- There were few statistically significant changes in poverty rates between 2011 and 2012, but extreme poverty rates increased for women and men 65 and older and for women 65 and older living alone. Poverty rates also increased for Native American women and children.
- Women who worked full time, year round in 2012 were typically paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts, representing an annual difference of $11,608 in median earnings.
- The gender wage gap in 2012 did not change from 2011. Since 2000, when women working full time, year round were typically paid 74 cents for every dollar paid to their male counterparts, the gender wage gap has narrowed by less than three cents; in the past decade, it has not closed at all.

- The wage gaps for black and Hispanic women relative to white, non-Hispanic men were 64 cents and 54 cents, respectively, in 2012.
- The richest 20 percent of households received over half of all income in 2012.

WHAT DOES THE FEDERAL POVERTY RATE MEASURE?

The official poverty rate reported by the Census Bureau measures the percentage of the U.S. population with total income below the federal poverty threshold for their family size. For example, poverty thresholds in 2012 include:

- $11,945 for one person under 65
- $11,011 for one person 65 or older
- $15,825 for one adult with one child
- $18,498 for one adult with two children
- $23,283 for two adults with two children[4]

"Income" is calculated before taxes and includes only cash income, such as:

- Earnings
- Pension income
- Investment income
- Social Security
- Unemployment benefits
- Child support payments

A number of other federal and state benefits that help support low-income families are not counted as income under the official poverty measure, such as:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Tax benefits (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit)
- Housing subsidies

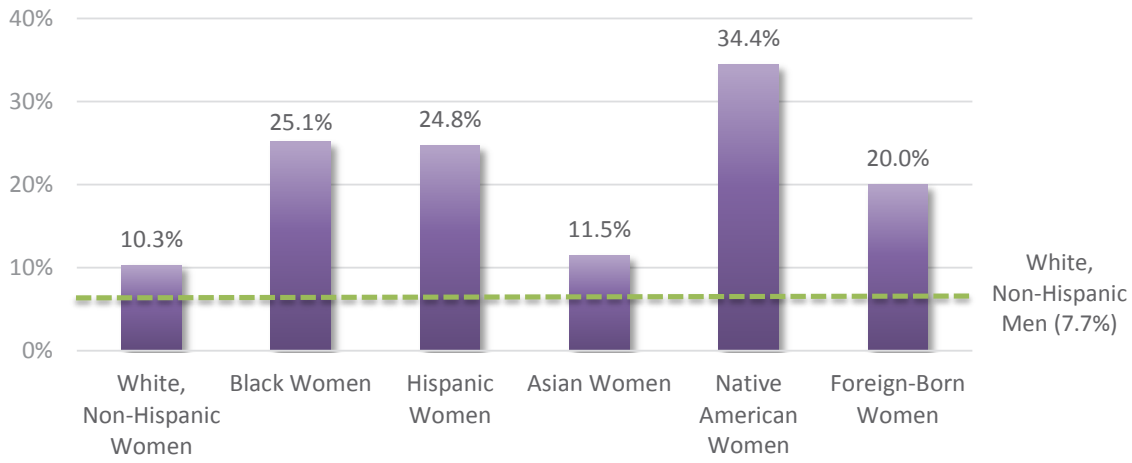
national snapshot: poverty among women and children, 2012

IN 2012, WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONTINUED TO BE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY POVERTY, especially female-headed families with children; women 65 and older living alone; and foreign-born, black, Hispanic, and Native American women and children. Key facts are highlighted below. For a complete list of national poverty rates among women, men, and children, see Table 1 at the end of this report; for a list of poverty rates among women and families by state in 2012, see Table 2.

ADULT WOMEN, 2012

- More than one in seven women, nearly 17.8 million, lived in poverty in 2012. About 44 percent of these women (nearly 7.8 million) lived in extreme poverty, defined as income at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 1 in 16 women lived in extreme poverty in 2012.
- The poverty rate for women (14.5 percent) was 3.5 percentage points higher than it was for men (11.0 percent). The extreme poverty rate for women (6.3 percent) was 1.5 percentage points higher than it was for men (4.8 percent).
- Women in all racial and ethnic groups experienced higher poverty rates than white, non-Hispanic men. Poverty rates were particularly high, at about one in four, among black (25.1 percent) and Hispanic (24.8 percent) women, and about one in three among Native American (34.4 percent) women. Rates for foreign-born women (20.0 percent), white, non-Hispanic women (10.3 percent), and Asian women (11.5 percent) were also considerably higher than the rate for white, non-Hispanic men (7.7 percent). Poverty rates for all groups of adult women were higher than for their male counterparts (see Table 1).

POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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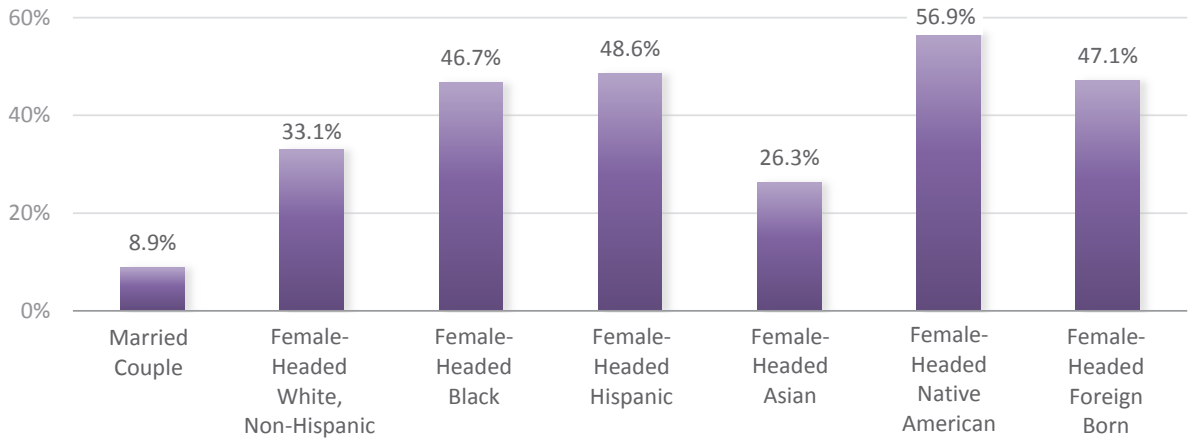
SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2012

- Over 16 million children lived in poverty in 2012, close to half of whom (44 percent) lived in extreme poverty.
- 21.8 percent of children were poor, almost twice the rate for adult men (11.0 percent). Poverty rates were particularly high, at about one in three, for black (37.9 percent), Hispanic (33.8 percent), and foreign-born (30.0 percent) children; nearly one in two Native American (45.1 percent) children was poor in 2012. The poverty rate was 13.8 percent for Asian children and 12.3 percent for white, non-Hispanic children.
- The poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 40.9 percent, compared to 22.6 percent for male-headed families with children, and 8.9 percent for families with children headed by a married couple.
- Poverty rates were about one in two for black female-headed families with children (46.7 percent), Hispanic female-headed families with children (48.6 percent), foreign-born female-headed families with children (47.1 percent), and Native American female-headed families with children (56.9 percent). The poverty rate was 33.1 percent for white, non-Hispanic female-headed families with children and 26.3 percent for Asian female-headed families with children.
- More than half of all poor children (56.1 percent) lived in families headed by women.
- Nearly 587,000 single mothers (13.2 percent) who worked full time, year round in 2012 lived in poverty.

POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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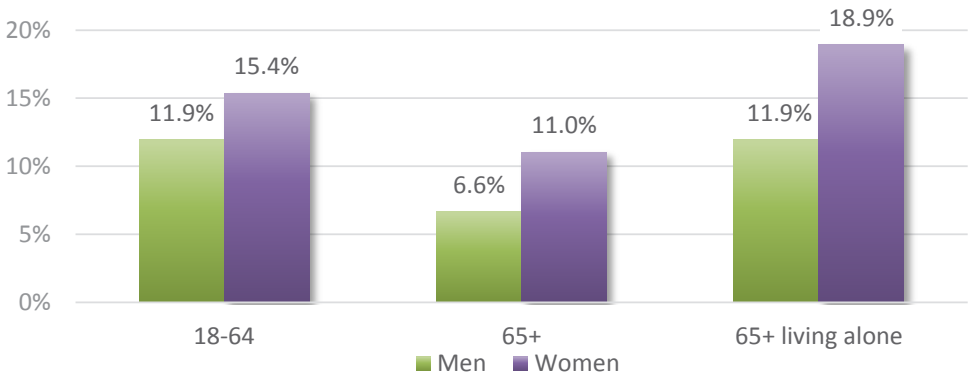
WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2012

- Among people 65 and older, more than twice as many women (over 2.6 million) as men (almost 1.3 million) lived in poverty in 2012.
- The poverty rate for women 65 and older was 11.0 percent, 4.4 percentage points higher than the poverty rate for men 65 and older (6.6 percent).
- 18.9 percent of women 65 and older living alone lived in poverty, compared to 11.9 percent for men 65 and older living alone.
- Poverty rates were particularly high for foreign-born (16.9 percent), black (21.2 percent), Hispanic (21.8 percent), and Native American (27.1 percent) women 65 and older.

POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS BY GENDER AND AGE, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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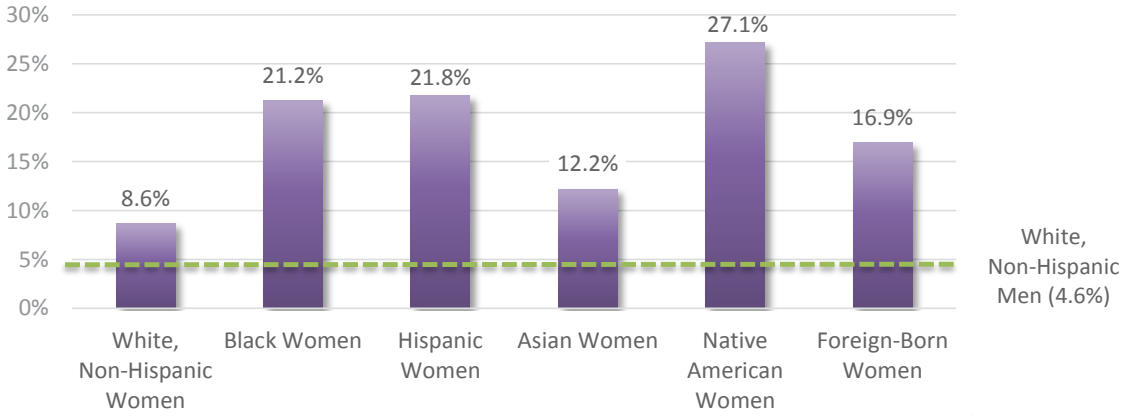
POVERTY RATES FOR ADULTS 65 AND OLDER, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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no significant improvements in poverty: 2011-2012

ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMY CONTINUED TO ADD JOBS IN 2012, the modest recovery failed to produce any statistically significant improvements in national poverty rates between 2011 and 2012, leaving poverty at or near record levels. For most groups, poverty rates in 2012 were statistically indistinguishable from the rates in 2011. However, a few groups experienced statistically significant increases in poverty – or extreme poverty – between 2011 and 2012. The statistically significant changes are highlighted below; for a complete list of poverty rates for women, men, and children in 2000, 2011, and 2012, see Table 1 at the end of this report.

ADULT WOMEN, 2011-2012

- The poverty rate for Native American women increased to 34.4 percent in 2012 from 27.1 percent in 2011, a statistically significant increase. No other groups of adult women, and no groups of adult men, experienced a statistically significant change in the poverty rate or the extreme poverty rate.[5]

SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2011-2012

- The poverty rate for Native American children increased to 45.1 percent in 2012 from 38.2 percent in 2011. There were no other statistically significant changes in the poverty rate for any groups of single mother families or for children. Extreme poverty rates for single mother families and children overall remained stagnant between 2011 and 2012.

WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2011-2012

- There were no statistically significant changes in the poverty rate for any groups of women or men 65 and older; however, extreme poverty rates increased significantly for women 65 and older to 3.1 percent in 2012 from 2.6 percent in 2011, and for men 65 and older to 2.3 percent in 2012 from 1.9 percent in 2011. The extreme poverty rate also increased significantly for women 65 and older living alone, to 4.7 percent in 2012 from 3.6 percent in 2011. The change in the extreme poverty rate for men 65 and older living alone between 2011 and 2012 was not statistically significant.

national trends: women's and children's poverty, 2000-2012

THIS ANALYSIS COMPARES POVERTY RATES IN 2012 TO 2000,[6] THE YEAR BEFORE THE 2001 RECESSION. The 2000 benchmark, which was used in previous NWLC analyses of Census data, continues to be used in this report because, even at the peak of the most recent business cycle before the Great Recession began in December 2007, poverty rates had failed to fully recover from the 2001 recession.[7]

The recovery from the 2001 recession was the weakest recovery in the post-World War II period in terms of average growth of GDP, investment, employment, and employee compensation,[8] apart from the recovery from the Great Recession.[9] Between 2000 and 2007, despite overall economic growth and a substantial boost in income at the top of the income distribution, incomes for middle-class families fell (in inflation-adjusted terms) and poverty increased.[10] In fact, a third of the increase in poverty among women and children between 2000 and 2012 – and half of the increase for single mothers – occurred between 2000 and 2007.[11] For these reasons, 2000 provides a better benchmark than 2007 for what poverty rates look like after a real economic recovery.

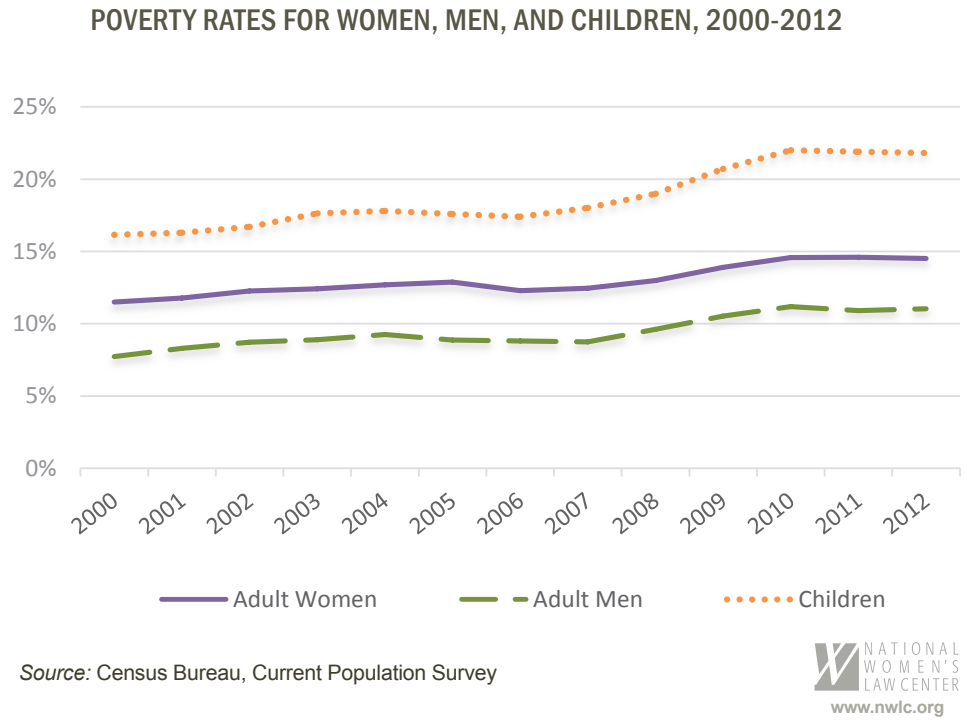
Between 2000 and 2012, there were statistically significant increases in the poverty rates overall and for most racial and ethnic groups of adult women and men, single mother families, and children; however, there was a statistically significant decline in the poverty rate over this period for women 65 and older. Changes in this section are statistically significant unless otherwise noted.

ADULT WOMEN, 2000-2012

- Nearly 5.5 million more women and 5.0 million more men lived in poverty in 2012 than in 2000.
- The poverty rate for women was higher in 2012 (14.5 percent) than in 2000 (11.5 percent). The extreme poverty rate for women increased to 6.3 percent in 2012 from 4.4 percent in 2000.
- Men's poverty rate increased to 11.0 percent in 2012 from 7.7 percent in 2000. The extreme poverty rate for men increased to 4.8 percent in 2012 from 3.0 percent in 2000. Men's poverty and extreme poverty rates have consistently been well below women's.
- The poverty rate for white, non-Hispanic women rose to 10.3 percent in 2012 from 8.3 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for black women rose to 25.1 percent in 2012 from 22.0 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for Hispanic women rose to 24.8 percent in 2012 from 20.9 percent in 2000. The change in the poverty rate for Asian women was not statistically significant.[12] Poverty rates also rose for all racial and ethnic groups of men between 2000 and 2012 (see Table 1).

SINGLE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2000-2012

- The poverty rate for children increased to 21.8 percent in 2012 from 16.2 percent in 2000. Nearly 4.5 million more children lived in poverty in 2012 than in 2000. The extreme poverty rate for children increased to 9.7 percent in 2012 from 6.7 percent in 2000.
- Poverty rates increased for white, non-Hispanic children, black children, and Hispanic children between 2000 and 2012. Poverty rates rose to 12.3 percent in 2012 from 9.1 percent in 2000 for white, non-Hispanic children, to



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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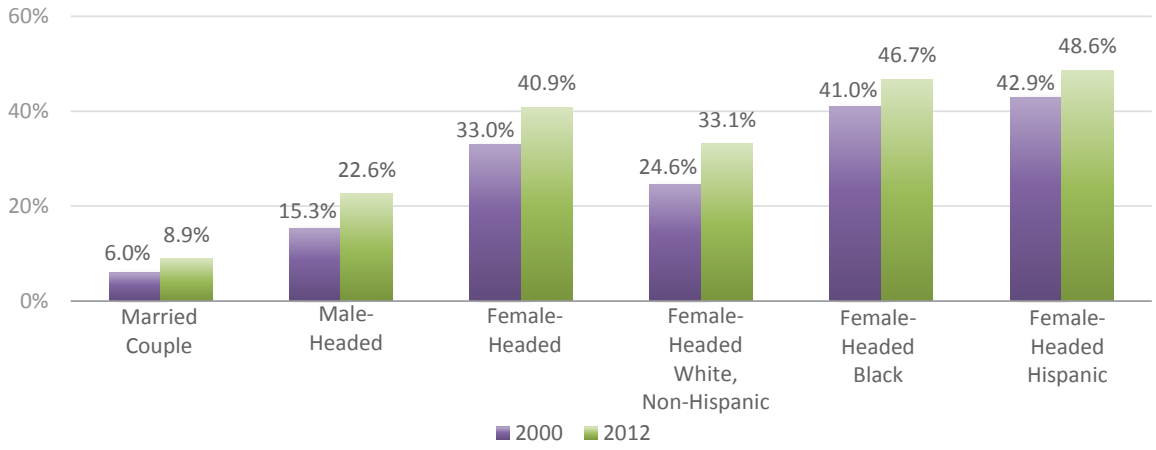
37.9 percent in 2012 from 31.2 percent in 2000 for black children, and to 33.8 percent in 2012 from 28.4 percent in 2000 for Hispanic children. The change in the poverty rate for Asian children was not statistically significant.

- From 2000 to 2012, poverty rates increased for both single-parent families and married-couple families with children. The poverty rate increased to 40.9 percent in 2012 from 33.0 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by single mothers, to 22.6 percent in 2012 from 15.3 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by single fathers, and to 8.9 percent in 2012 from 6.0 percent in 2000 for families with children headed by married couples.
- Poverty rates increased between 2000 and 2012 for female-headed households with children in all racial and ethnic groups for which data are available. For white, non-Hispanic female-headed households with children, the poverty rate rose to 33.1 percent in 2012 from 24.6 percent in 2000. The poverty rate for black female-headed households with children rose to 46.7 percent in 2012 from 41.0 percent in 2000. Hispanic female-headed households with children also saw an increase in poverty, to 48.6 percent in 2012 from 42.9 percent in 2000.

POVERTY RATES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, 2000 AND 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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WOMEN 65 AND OLDER, 2000-2012

- Between 2000 and 2012, the poverty rate for women 65 and older declined, to 11.0 percent in 2012 from 12.1 percent in 2000. However, the extreme poverty rate for women 65 and older increased to 3.1 percent in 2012 from 2.5 percent in 2000.
- The changes in the poverty rate and the extreme poverty rate for men 65 and older between 2000 and 2012 were not statistically significant.
- For women 65 and older living alone, the change in poverty between 2000 and 2012 was not statistically significant. However, the extreme poverty rate for women 65 and older living alone increased to 4.7 percent in 2012 from 3.4 percent in 2000.
- For men 65 and older living alone, poverty declined to 11.9 percent in 2012 from 15.6 percent in 2000. The change in the extreme poverty rate for men 65 and older living alone was not statistically significant.
- Poverty among white, non-Hispanic women 65 and older declined to 8.6 percent in 2012 from 10.1 percent in 2000. There were no statistically significant changes in the poverty rates for other groups of women and men 65 and older between 2000 and 2012.

national trends:
the wage gap, earnings, and inequality

WAGE GAP

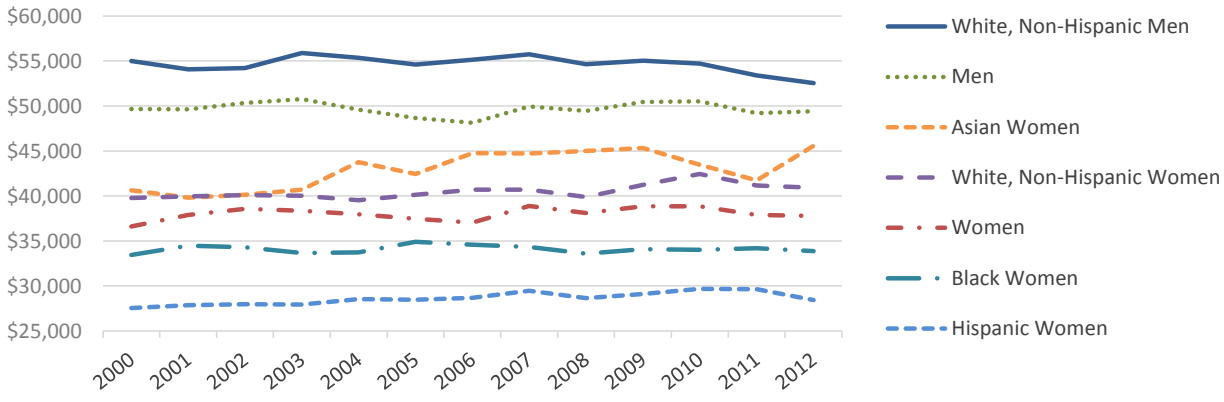
IN 2012, THE TYPICAL AMERICAN WOMAN WHO WORKED FULL TIME, YEAR ROUND WAS PAID ONLY 77 CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR PAID TO HER MALE COUNTERPART. This figure has not changed since 2011 or in the past decade,[13] although it has narrowed by almost three cents since 2000. The wage gap was even wider for many women of color. (All figures in this section are in 2012 dollars unless otherwise noted.)

- Women working full time, year round in 2012 were typically paid 77 percent of what their male counterparts were paid – the same level as in 2011. The median full-time, year-round female worker was paid $11,608 per year less than her male counterpart in 2012, a gap that is $292 wider than in 2011.
- In 2012, the median earnings of white, non-Hispanic women working full time, year round were only 78 percent of the median earnings of white, non-Hispanic males working full time, year round. For Asian women this figure was 87 percent, for black women it was 64 percent, and for Hispanic women it was 54 percent. There were no statistically significant changes in these percentages from 2011 except for Asian women (who were paid 78 percent of what white, non-Hispanic men were paid in 2011).
- Between 2000 and 2012, the wage gap between women and men overall narrowed by just under three cents, a statistically significant change. The annual median earnings of women working full time, year round were 74 percent of the median earnings of their male counterparts in 2000. The narrowing of the wage gap is due to an increase in women's median earnings since 2000; men's earnings stagnated during this period.

EARNINGS

Median earnings were stagnant for female and male workers overall and for female and male full-time, year-round workers between 2011 and 2012. The picture is more mixed since

MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR FULL-TIME, YEAR-ROUND WORKERS (IN 2012 DOLLARS)



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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2000: between 2000 and 2012 earnings increased for full-time, year-round women workers; remained stagnant for female workers overall and full-time, year-round male workers; and declined for male workers overall.

- Median annual earnings for women working full time, year round were $37,791, statistically equivalent to the median earnings of $37,893 in 2011. Similarly, median annual earnings for men working full time, year round were statistically unchanged at $49,398 in 2012, compared to $49,209 in 2011.
- Median annual earnings for female workers overall were $26,882 in 2012, statistically unchanged from $27,105 in 2011. Median annual earnings for male workers overall were $37,916 in 2012, statistically equivalent to their median annual earnings of $38,121 in 2011.
- Full-time, year-round female workers' median annual earnings increased to $37,791 in 2012 from $36,616 in 2000, a statistically significant change. Median annual earnings for full-time, year-round male workers were $49,398 in 2012, statistically unchanged from $49,669 in 2000.
- Median earnings for female workers overall were $26,882 in 2012, statistically unchanged from $27,023 in 2000. Median earnings for male workers overall declined to $37,916 in 2012 from $41,268 in 2000, a statistically significant difference.

INEQUALITY

In 2012, the 20 percent of households at the top of the income distribution received over 50 percent of aggregate income, while households in the bottom quintile – which are disproportionately female-headed households – received about 3 percent.[14]

Income inequality changed little between 2011 and 2012 but increased substantially between 2000 and 2012, with households at the lowest levels of income receiving a declining share of aggregate income while the wealthiest households increased their share.

- Households in the top five percent of the income distribution received nearly the same share of total income (22.3 percent) as households in the bottom 60 percent combined (25.9 percent).
- Between 2000 and 2012, the average incomes of households at each quintile declined, but the largest percentage losses were borne by those in the lowest income quintile. During this time period, average incomes of households in the bottom 20 percent of the income distribution declined by 15.2 percent (to $11,490 in 2012 from $13,543 in 2000), while those in the top 20 percent declined by 4.1 percent (to $181,905 in 2012 from $189,692 in 2000).
- Between 2000 and 2012, only households in the top 20 percent of the income distribution increased their share of aggregate income (to 51.0 percent in 2012 from 49.8 percent in 2000). The share of income captured by households in all other quintiles in 2012 was either the same or less than in 2000.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 2012

Percentile	*Average Household Income*	*Share of Aggregate Income*
0-20 percent	$11,490	3.2%
21-40 percent	$29,696	8.3%
41-60 percent	$51,179	14.4%
61-80 percent	$82,098	23.0%
81-100 percent	$181,905	51.0%
95-100 percent	$318,052	22.3%

Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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conclusion

IN 2012, WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE NOT DOING BETTER on key economic measures. Poverty rates did not decline; the gender wage gap did not narrow; and earnings did not increase for typical working men and women. Yet the economic recovery that started in 2009 has brought gains for a few: the richest one percent captured 95 percent of all income gains from 2009 to 2012.[15]

Analyses of employment data show a recovery that continues to be slow and uneven. Unemployment rates for women and men remained painfully high into 2013,[16] and at the current rate of job growth, the economy will not return to pre-recession employment levels until the next decade, according to the Hamilton Project.[17] Moreover, many of the jobs being added to the economy are not sufficient to ensure that families remain above the poverty line. Fully 60 percent of the jobs women have gained during the recovery are in the ten largest low-wage occupations (such as child care, food service, and home health care jobs), which typically pay less than $10.10 per hour.[18]

The sluggish recovery is not an accident. In recent years, a misplaced focus on budget cuts has taken precedence over – and often run counter to – attention to increasing job growth and expanding economic opportunity. Since fiscal year (FY) 2011, Congress has enacted $2.5 trillion in deficit reduction, about three-quarters of which has come from cuts to funding for programs.[19] The Budget Control Act (BCA) enacted in August 2011 cuts nearly $1 trillion over ten years from the discretionary budget in addition to establishing automatic spending cuts known as "sequestration" that began to take effect in March 2013. Sequestration cuts have reduced federal emergency unemployment benefits for long-term unemployed workers[20] and cut vital services – including Head Start, child care, meals-on-wheels, and housing assistance – for families struggling to pull themselves out of poverty.[21]

Sequestration and other budget cuts at the federal and state levels also have slowed economic growth overall and led to job losses in the public sector that have undermined the recovery, especially for women. From the start of the recovery in June 2009 through June 2013, women lost 444,000 public sector jobs, offsetting nearly a fifth of the over 2.3 million jobs they gained in the private sector.[22] The Congressional Budget Office estimates that canceling sequestration would create 900,000 jobs within one year.[23]

Congress faces a number of critical budget choices that present an opportunity to change course.[24] Policy makers in Washington can choose to strengthen federal supports for low-income families by ending sequestration, rejecting proposed cuts to effective programs like SNAP (food stamps), expanding early educational opportunities for children, and fully funding implementation of the Affordable Care Act. They can extend emergency unemployment benefits for the nearly 4.3 million workers who still cannot find jobs after more than six months of searching[25] and make the investments we need – in physical infrastructure, public services, and human capital – to create more jobs and grow the economy. They can take steps to close the wage gap[26] and improve pay for low-wage workers and boost demand by raising the federal minimum wage.[27] And they can fund critical investments – and improve tax fairness – by requiring the wealthy and large corporations to pay their fair share of taxes.[28]

The persistently high levels of economic inequality and insecurity documented in this report need not, and must not, be allowed to become the new normal.

TABLE 1: POVERTY RATES AMONG WOMEN, MEN, AND CHILDREN – 2000, 2011, 2012

September 2013

Group	Number in Poverty, 2012 (in millions)	Poverty Rate, 2012	Poverty Rate, 2011	Poverty Rate, 2000
Adult Women 18+	17.78	14.5%	14.6%	11.5%*
White, Non-Hispanic	8.30	10.3%	10.6%	8.3%*
Black	4.01	25.1%	25.9%	22.0%*
Hispanic	4.38	24.8%	23.9%	20.9%*
Asian	0.79	11.5%	12.1%	9.7%
Native American	0.43	34.4%	27.1%*	–
Foreign Born	3.87	20.0%	19.9%	–
Adult Men 18+	12.64	11.0%	10.9%	7.7%*
White, Non-Hispanic	5.86	7.7%	7.7%	5.5%*
Black	2.70	20.6%	19.9%	13.8%*
Hispanic	3.26	18.4%	17.8%	15.1%*
Asian	0.64	10.6%	11.7%	8.1%*
Native American	0.28	24.1%	22.0%	–
Foreign Born	3.11	16.9%	16.2%	–
Female-Headed Families with Children	4.10	40.9%	40.9%	33.0%*
White, Non-Hispanic	1.42	33.1%	33.0%	24.6%*
Black	1.41	46.7%	47.3%	41.0%*
Hispanic	1.13	48.6%	49.1%	42.9%*
Asian	0.07	26.3%	26.3%	–
Native American	0.13	56.9%	53.9%	–
Foreign Born	0.80	47.1%	47.5%	–
Children	16.07	21.8%	21.9%	16.2%*
White, Non-Hispanic	4.78	12.3%	12.5%	9.1%*
Black	4.20	37.9%	38.8%	31.2%*
Hispanic	5.98	33.8%	34.1%	28.4%*
Asian	0.50	13.8%	13.5%	12.8%
Native American	0.47	45.1%	38.2%*	–
Foreign Born	0.71	30.0%	32.0%	–
Older Women 65+	2.64	11.0%	10.7%	12.1%*
White, Non-Hispanic	1.62	8.6%	8.5%	10.1%*
Black	0.48	21.2%	20.8%	25.3%
Hispanic	0.40	21.8%	19.7%	22.3%
Asian	0.12	12.2%	13.3%	10.2%
Native American	0.04	27.1%	15.6%	–
Foreign Born	0.50	16.9%	17.5%	–
Living Alone	1.60	18.9%	18.4%	20.8%
Older Men 65+	1.28	6.6%	6.2%	6.9%
White, Non-Hispanic	0.71	4.6%	4.5%	5.1%
Black	0.23	14.0%	12.1%	16.2%
Hispanic	0.26	19.1%	17.5%	19.0%
Asian	0.09	12.3%	9.6%	8.2%
Native American	0.02	15.2%	9.8%	–
Foreign Born	0.35	15.4%	13.8%	–
Living Alone	0.44	11.9%	11.9%	15.6%*

* Indicates a statistically significant change compared to 2012.

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. 2000 figures are from the expanded dataset. Some figures may differ from published Census estimates due to rounding.

TABLE 2: POVERTY RATES FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES BY STATE, 2012

	Women	Black Women	Hispanic Women	Asian Women	Native American Women	Women 65 and Older	Female-Headed Families	Children
United States	*14.5%*	*25.1%*	*24.8%*	*11.5%*	*34.4%*	*11.0%*	*40.9%*	*21.8%*
Alabama	18.7%	29.1%	33.4%	18.3%	26.2%	13.6%	49.9%	27.5%
Alaska	9.6%	10.2%	11.1%	11.0%	19.5%	5.5%	29.3%	13.9%
Arizona	17.3%	26.4%	27.1%	15.1%	35.5%	9.4%	40.4%	27.0%
Arkansas	19.5%	32.9%	30.3%	10.9%	24.9%	13.1%	50.0%	28.5%
California	16.2%	24.2%	22.7%	12.9%	25.1%	12.0%	39.4%	23.8%
Colorado	13.4%	26.4%	24.2%	10.8%	28.5%	9.3%	33.9%	18.5%
Connecticut	10.6%	22.1%	26.8%	6.1%	26.4%	7.8%	32.3%	14.8%
Delaware	12.3%	16.9%	24.1%	9.1%	–	9.6%	28.7%	17.4%
District of Columbia	17.6%	24.9%	18.1%	13.1%	–	14.0%	36.6%	26.5%
Florida	16.4%	26.4%	21.6%	12.2%	22.4%	11.8%	40.0%	25.4%
Georgia	18.4%	26.3%	27.8%	14.6%	30.5%	13.8%	46.9%	27.2%
Hawaii	11.8%	16.4%	17.9%	8.2%	–	8.3%	33.7%	17.1%
Idaho	15.7%	–	27.4%	14.6%	26.2%	10.9%	47.6%	20.7%
Illinois	14.4%	29.7%	20.8%	13.4%	20.4%	10.6%	41.2%	20.7%
Indiana	15.1%	30.1%	26.8%	19.8%	28.7%	8.8%	43.8%	22.4%
Iowa	13.5%	38.7%	25.0%	20.1%	39.7%	9.5%	39.4%	15.9%
Kansas	13.6%	24.1%	23.7%	14.5%	21.3%	8.7%	38.2%	19.0%
Kentucky	19.2%	33.9%	29.1%	14.3%	38.0%	14.7%	50.2%	26.5%
Louisiana	20.2%	32.0%	24.6%	26.3%	22.9%	15.4%	49.0%	28.1%
Maine	14.6%	44.3%	28.4%	23.9%	43.5%	10.0%	41.1%	20.9%
Maryland	10.6%	15.5%	16.7%	7.8%	14.2%	9.4%	27.6%	13.8%
Massachusetts	12.5%	23.2%	32.1%	17.9%	29.2%	11.0%	37.1%	15.4%
Michigan	16.7%	32.6%	28.5%	16.1%	21.6%	9.9%	47.1%	24.9%
Minnesota	11.6%	35.8%	25.5%	14.7%	34.4%	9.9%	36.3%	14.6%
Mississippi	23.9%	36.3%	34.9%	16.0%	34.7%	18.3%	53.7%	34.7%
Missouri	16.1%	28.9%	28.7%	18.7%	28.6%	10.9%	43.4%	22.6%
Montana	16.1%	–	28.6%	18.2%	34.8%	10.0%	42.0%	20.3%
Nebraska	13.3%	29.4%	27.4%	17.8%	42.0%	9.8%	40.3%	17.9%
Nevada	15.5%	26.4%	23.5%	9.1%	28.3%	9.2%	35.5%	24.0%
New Hampshire	9.6%	22.4%	21.6%	13.0%	–	7.6%	32.7%	15.6%
New Jersey	10.8%	19.0%	20.8%	7.3%	27.1%	9.5%	35.3%	15.4%
New Mexico	19.7%	29.9%	24.3%	17.1%	32.5%	13.7%	46.7%	29.3%
New York	15.6%	21.7%	27.5%	18.9%	28.7%	13.4%	38.6%	22.8%
North Carolina	17.6%	26.7%	35.0%	13.0%	34.5%	12.2%	45.6%	26.0%
North Dakota	12.8%	63.8%	23.5%	25.3%	31.9%	14.0%	35.1%	13.2%
Ohio	15.9%	31.9%	28.1%	15.2%	24.2%	9.8%	47.2%	23.8%
Oklahoma	16.8%	29.1%	27.9%	9.4%	22.5%	11.5%	44.9%	24.1%
Oregon	16.5%	39.1%	28.4%	13.4%	33.0%	8.8%	44.2%	23.0%
Pennsylvania	13.6%	27.2%	31.8%	16.9%	22.0%	10.1%	40.0%	19.7%
Rhode Island	13.7%	23.6%	36.5%	16.6%	31.2%	12.2%	35.2%	19.5%
South Carolina	17.8%	28.0%	27.5%	13.6%	26.0%	12.3%	47.0%	26.9%
South Dakota	13.3%	30.2%	32.6%	2.6%	43.8%	12.3%	35.3%	17.5%
Tennessee	17.6%	26.5%	34.3%	14.7%	17.2%	12.0%	46.4%	25.8%
Texas	17.1%	23.6%	25.1%	12.2%	26.7%	13.4%	42.7%	25.8%
Utah	13.0%	18.9%	26.2%	21.1%	25.2%	8.2%	35.0%	15.1%
Vermont	11.8%	33.1%	21.9%	12.6%	–	9.0%	36.9%	15.5%
Virginia	12.0%	19.3%	18.0%	8.8%	17.3%	9.6%	35.4%	15.3%
Washington	13.5%	25.2%	24.8%	13.8%	28.3%	9.0%	37.7%	18.5%
West Virginia	17.7%	32.0%	27.3%	21.4%	–	10.5%	50.1%	24.6%
Wisconsin	13.4%	36.4%	27.3%	19.4%	25.0%	9.2%	39.4%	18.2%
Wyoming	13.2%	–	16.4%	–	32.5%	5.1%	43.2%	16.9%

National poverty rates calculated by NWLC based on 2013 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (http://www.nwlc.org/nwlc-analysis-2012-census-poverty-data). State poverty rates calculated by NWLC based on 2012 American Community Survey (http://www.census.gov/acs/www/). Dashes indicate unavailable data. Female-headed families are families with female householders, no husband present and related children under 18. Women are individuals 18 and older.

endnotes

1 U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012 – Report and Detailed Tables, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2012/index.html (last visited Sept. 23, 2013), and associated data available in the Current Population Survey Table Creator, http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html (last visited Sept. 23, 2013); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2012 Data Release, http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/2012_release/ (last visited Sept. 23, 2013).

2 Changes in poverty rates reported in this document are statistically significant unless otherwise noted; the word "significant" is used to refer to statistical significance at the 90-percent confidence level. The statistical significance of estimates in this analysis is evaluated using standard errors, which are estimated using generalized variance parameters. This method of estimation may result in slight differences from the statistical significance of published Census estimates because the Census used replication methods to estimate the standard errors of Current Population Survey estimates beginning in 2010.

3 This report uses "women" to refer to females 18 and older and "men" to refer to males 18 and older.

4 The Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds of three or more persons do not vary by age of householder. For a complete list of poverty thresholds, *see* http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/ (last visited Sept. 23, 2013).

5 Differences in extreme poverty rates for Asian women and men and Native American women and men between 2011 and 2012 were not examined.

6 The Census Bureau produced two sets of poverty, health insurance, and income data for the year 2000. According to the Census Bureau, "One version is based on the traditional sample of about 50,000 households and reflects the use of 1990 census population controls. The second version is based on a sample of 78,000 households, reflecting a 28,000 household sample expansion and the use of Census 2000 population controls." This report uses the expanded sample to match what is used in the Census Bureau's historical tables. For more information, see U.S. Census Bureau, Changes in Methodology for the March Current Population Survey, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/history.html (last visited Sept. 24, 2013). Additional expanded data that were obtained for this report may result in small differences in estimates for 2000 compared to prior NWLC reports on poverty.

7 *See generally* NWLC, Poverty Among Women and Families, 2000-2007: Getting Worse Even Before the Downturn (Sept. 2008), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/WomenPoverty2000-2007.pdf.

8 *See* Josh Bivens & John Irons, Econ. Policy Inst., A Feeble Recovery: The Fundamental Economic Weakness of the 2001-2007 Expansion, at 2 (Dec. 2008), *available at* http://www.epi.org/page/-/old/briefingpapers/214/bp214.pdf; Heather Boushey & Michael Ettlinger, Ctr. for Am. Progress, Government Spending Can Create Jobs – and It Has, at 5 (Sept. 2011), *available at* http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/yes_we_can.pdf.

9 *See, e.g.*, Ctr. on Budget & Policy Priorities, Chart Book: The Legacy of the Great Recession (updated Sept. 10, 2013), http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3252 (last visited Sept. 24, 2013).

10 Boushey & Ettlinger, *supra* note 8. *See also* Hannah Shaw & Chad Stone, Ctr. on Budget & Policy Priorities, Tax Data Show Richest 1 Percent Took a Hit in 2008, but Income Remained Highly Concentrated at the Top, at 2 (Oct. 2010), *available at* http://www.cbpp.org/files/10-21-10inc.pdf; U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012, at 52 (Sept. 2013), *available at* http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p60-245.pdf (showing overall poverty rate rose from 11.3 percent in 2000 to 12.5 percent in 2007).

11 Women's poverty rose 1.0 percentage point between 2000 and 2007 and another 2.1 percentage points between 2007 and 2012. Children's poverty rose 1.8 percentage points between 2000 and 2007 and another 3.8 percentage points between 2007 and 2012. Poverty for female-headed households with children rose 4.0 percentage points between 2000 and 2007 and another 3.9 percentage points between 2007 and 2012. NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey.

12 The comparisons for blacks and Asians use the racial groups "black" and "Asian" prior to 2002 and the racial groups "black alone" and "Asian alone" for 2002 and later. Data for Native American women are not available on the Census Bureau website for 2000.

13 Over the last decade (since 2003), the wage gap has not narrowed: the typical woman working full time, year round in 2003 was paid 76 percent of what her male counterpart was paid.

14 Published Census data do not permit a more detailed examination of income inequality as households in the top five percent of the income distribution are grouped together, so gains by the top one percent or top 0.1 percent are not discernible.

15 Emanuel Saez, Striking it Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States, at 1 (Sept. 2013), *available at* http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/saez-UStopincomes-2012.pdf.

16 *See generally* NWLC, Fourth Anniversary of the Recovery Shows Job Gains for Women – But a Long Road to a Full Recovery (Jul. 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/4thanniversaryrecovery.pdf.

17 *See* The Hamilton Project, Closing the Jobs Gap, http://www.hamiltonproject.org/jobs_gap/ (calculator last visited Sept. 24, 2013). The Hamilton Project estimates that if the U.S. gained jobs at a rate of 169,000 per month (the job growth in August 2013), it would take until 2020 to fill the "jobs gap" – i.e., the number of jobs that the U.S. economy needs to create in order to return to pre-recession employment levels while also absorbing the people who enter the labor force each month.

18 NWLC, 60 Percent of Women's Job Gains in the Recovery Are in the Ten Largest Low-Wage Jobs (Jul. 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/60percentfactsheet.pdf.

19 Michael Linden, Ctr. for Am. Progress, It's Time to Hit the Reset Button on the Fiscal Debate, at 6 (June 2013), *available at* http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/FiscalReset.pdf.

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21 *See generally* Coalition on Human Needs, Sequester Impact Report: March 5 – September 2 (Sept. 2013), *available at* http://www.chn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/completesetofsequesterreports.pdf.

22 NWLC, Fourth Anniversary of the Recovery Shows Job Gains for Women, *supra* note 16, at 3.

23 Letter from Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director, Cong. Budget Office, to Rep. Chris Van Hollen (Jul. 25, 2013), *available at* https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/44445-SpendReductions_1.pdf.

24 *See* NWLC, The Fall 2013 Fiscal Fights: A Political Drama with Real Consequences for Women and Families (Sept. 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/fall_2013_fiscal_fights.pdf.

25 Figure is for August 2013 (seasonally adjusted). U.S. Dep't of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Table A-12: Unemployed persons by duration of unemployment, http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t12.htm (last visited Sept. 24, 2013).

26 *See* NWLC, 50 Years & Counting: The Unfinished Business of Achieving Fair Pay, at 10-20 (June 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/final_nwlc_equal_pay_report.pdf.

27 *See* NWLC, Fair Pay for Women Requires Raising the Minimum Wage and the Tipped Minimum Wage (Aug. 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/minimumwagefactsheetaugust.pdf.

28 *See* Americans for Tax Fairness & NWLC, The High Price of Tax Loopholes (Aug. 2013), *available at* http://www.americansfortaxfairness.org/files/The-High-Price-of-Tax-Loopholes.pdf.

11 Dupont Circle, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
202.588.5180 | fax 202.588.5185
www.nwlc.org