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Poverty Rising Recently in Connecticut, Census Data Indicate

City & county poverty, income, and uninsured estimates reported

Poverty has continued to rise in Connecticut during Connecticut's slow economic recovery, according to new Census data from the American Community Survey. In 2011, 10.9% of Connecticut residents (377,856) had incomes under the Federal Poverty Level, up from 10.1% in 2010. Poverty increased more quickly among children. Among Connecticut children under age 18, 14.9% (118,809 children) lived in families with incomes under the Federal Poverty Level in 2011, a startling increase from 12.8% in 2010. This child poverty increase was the 5th highest in the nation. (For a two-parent household with two children, the poverty level was \$22,811 in 2011.)

Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based think tank that analyzed the Census data, stated that poverty trends reflect the continued impact of the economic recession, which began in the state in March 2008. Connecticut already experienced the largest increase in poverty of any state between 2007 and 2008, growing from 7.9% to 9.3%. There was a statistically significant increase in poverty among all Connecticut residents over the decade, rising from 7.3% in 2001 to 10.9% in 2011. Poverty also grew significantly among children in the state over the last decade, from 10.2% in 2001 to 14.9% in 2011.

In response to the findings, Connecticut Voices called upon state policymakers to raise the minimum wage, encourage participation in the state and federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and avoid state budget cuts that could undermine support for low-income families.

“We need to redouble our efforts to reverse these damaging trends by raising the floor for low-wage jobs through a minimum wage increase and avoiding state budget cuts that could plunge more children and families into poverty,” said **Jamey Bell, Executive Director at Connecticut Voices for Children**. “Children are our economic future, and we can't afford to leave more and more of them in poverty.”

Connecticut Voices pointed to Connecticut's new state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as a measure that could pull many working families out of poverty. Connecticut residents have just begun to receive the benefits of the state EITC this year. The federal version of the EITC, started

by President Nixon and greatly expanded by President Reagan, lifts more children out of poverty than any other federal program, according to a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The state version of this credit for low-income workers is intended to help offset Connecticut's greater cost of living and to reward work.

“The new state EITC will put more money directly into the hands of low-income people working hard to reach the middle class,” said **Wade Gibson, Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children**. “We need to make sure that eligible families know about both the state and federal tax credits.”

Estimates of poverty rates varied significantly across Connecticut's cities: Bridgeport (25.7%), Danbury (13.9%), Hartford (36.0%), New Britain (25.5%), New Haven (30.1%), Norwalk (8.0%), Stamford (11.1%), and Waterbury (21.5%). The percentage of children under 18 in poverty in Connecticut cities was also reported for Bridgeport (39.9%), Danbury (17.9%), Hartford (47.9%), New Britain (35.7%), New Haven (41.4%), Norwalk (7.7%), Stamford (17.5%), and Waterbury (34.5%). Poverty estimates are only available at this time for cities with populations over 65,000. There were no statistically significant changes in poverty or median household income estimates for Connecticut cities between 2010 and 2011.

The American Community Survey also provided poverty estimates for Connecticut's counties and Congressional districts. There were significant increases in the poverty rate among all residents and among children in New Haven County and Tolland County. There was also a significant increase in poverty in the 1st Congressional district (represented by Rep. Larson). (Congressional district data are based on 2011 boundaries, prior to redistricting in 2012. See attached fact sheet for details on county and Congressional district estimates.)

Statewide, the poverty rates for Hispanics (27.3%) and African Americans (22.9%) were dramatically higher than the rate for White, non-Hispanic residents (6.2%).

With the establishment of the Child Poverty Council by state legislation in 2004, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to set a goal of reducing child poverty -- by half by 2014. In 2003 (the baseline year for the Council), 10.8% of Connecticut's children in families (“related children”) had incomes below the poverty line. The state set a goal of reducing the poverty rate to only 5% of children in 2014. Connecticut's poverty rate for children in families (14.8% in 2011) has significantly worsened over the last decade (the 2001 rate was 9.7%). To meet the goal of reducing child poverty by half, Connecticut must reverse course dramatically, according to Connecticut Voices.

Nationwide, the American Community Survey estimated that 15.9% of all Americans (48.5 million) lived in poverty in 2011, a statistically significant increase from 15.3% in 2010. Among children under 18, 22.5% (16.4 million) were under the poverty line in 2011, up from 21.6% in 2010. Median household income also declined nationally, from \$51,144 in 2010 to \$50,042 in 2011.

“We're hopeful that recent state actions like the state Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income workers and efforts to generate jobs will begin to reduce poverty, and we're hoping that the Governor and legislature will seek to do more in the coming year in light of this increase,” said **Jim Horan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services**.

Median household income in Connecticut was \$65,753 in 2011. This was a decline from the income level prior to the recession in 2007, when the median household income was \$71,429. However, the 2011 income estimate was not statistically different from the 2010 estimate.

Uninsured

For the fourth year, the U.S. Census Bureau released state-, city-, county- and Congressional district-level estimates for health insurance coverage in Connecticut from the American Community Survey. In Connecticut, an estimated 8.8% (308,945) of all people in Connecticut were without health insurance at the time of the survey. This was not significantly different from the 2008 or 2010 rates. An estimated 2.9% of children under 18 (23,377) were uninsured at the time of the 2011 survey, a significant decrease from the 4.6% rate in 2008, though not significantly changed from the 2010 rate. Estimates for Connecticut city residents who were uninsured at the time they were surveyed for the American Community Survey in 2011 ranged from 10.5% in Waterbury to 23.3% in Bridgeport. There were statistically significant increases in the uninsured rates for all residents and for uninsured children in Bridgeport. There were also declines in the uninsured rates for Stamford residents and for Danbury children. These changes warrant further investigation, according to Connecticut Voices. There were no statistically significant changes in county or Congressional district uninsured rates between 2010 and 2011.

Connecticut Voices pointed to the recent stability in uninsured rates in the face of growing poverty as evidence of the success of early state and federal health reforms, particularly expanded eligibility for parents and pregnant women in the HUSKY health insurance program, extension of Medicaid eligibility for more low-income adults without children, and improved access for young adults up to age 26 to their parents' health plans.

“State and federal health reforms are working to hold down the numbers of uninsured children in Connecticut during, as parents struggle through this difficult economy to keep their jobs and private health insurance coverage” said **Sharon Langer, Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices**. “We need to preserve the policies that are working to support these families.”

Statewide, the uninsured rate for Hispanics (20.4%) and African Americans (12.1%) was substantially higher than the rate for White, non-Hispanic residents (5.9%).

“It's still early, but the numbers in these historically underserved communities appear to be moving in the right direction, when compared to last year's numbers of 21.7 percent and 13.8 percent. Access to quality, affordable health care for everyone regardless of income, ethnicity and race should be the goal in Connecticut,” said **Frances G. Padilla, president of the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut**.

In 2011, 15.1 % (46.4 million) of Americans were uninsured at the time they were surveyed, according to the American Community Survey, a significant drop from 15.5% in 2010. Among children in the U.S., an estimated 7.5% (5.5 million) were uninsured, down from 8.0% in 2010.

Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based think tank that works to advance policies that benefit the state's children, youth and families (ctvoices.org).

More about these data

This news release and fact sheet, along with links to additional national, state, and local data on demographic, social, and housing indicators from the American Community Survey are available on the CT Voices website at www.ctvoices.org/node/2887.

For the fourth year, the US Census Bureau has included a question in its annual American Community Survey (ACS) on health insurance coverage. The question asks whether the person is currently covered by any type of insurance. The results are not directly comparable to data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), released last week, which asked whether respondents were uninsured for the entire previous year. The sample size for the ACS is much larger than the CPS, so 2011 estimates of insurance status are currently available through the ACS for cities and counties with population greater than 65,000. CPS estimates of the uninsured are available only at the national and state levels.

See the attached CT Voices fact sheet for detailed survey results for Connecticut, its counties, Congressional districts, and cities; evaluation of the statistical significance of changes in local, state, and national estimates; and background on the measures. Note: Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it is not accurate to say that poverty has increased or declined in a city, county, or state.

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Poverty, Median Income, and Health Insurance in Connecticut: Summary of 2011 American Community Survey Census Data

September 20, 2012

Connecticut and the Nation – Poverty, Income, & Uninsured

Poverty in Connecticut

Poverty Indicator	Connecticut 2011 % and #	Connecticut 2010 % and #	Connecticut 2007 (pre-recession) % and #	Connecticut 2001 % and #
Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level*	10.9% (377,856) Significant increase from 2010, 2007 and 2001	10.1% (350,145)	7.9% (268,880)	7.3% (242,421)
All children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level**	14.9% (118,809) Significant increase from 2010, 2007 and 2001	12.8% (103,498)	11.1% (89,373)	10.2% (81,583)
Related children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	14.8% (116,925) Significant increase from 2010, 2007 and 2001	12.7% (101,791)	10.6% (85,530)	9.7% (77,251)
All Children with income under 200% Federal Poverty Level ***	30.4% (241,906) No significant change from 2010 Significant increase from 2007 and 2001	28.1% (226,074)	25.1% (202,579)	Not available
Families with income below Federal Poverty Level	7.9% (70,551) Significant increase from 2010, 2007 and 2001	7.2% (63,695)	5.7% (50,353)	5.3% (46,935)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. One-year comparisons are valid for ACS data. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2011 data to other years are not statistically significant.**

Historical data reflect revised estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau. As a result, data listed here may not match previously published Census data.

* In 2011, the federal poverty level was set to \$22,811 for a two-parent household with two children.

** “Persons” and “children in poverty” are more inclusive groups than “related children under 18” in poverty. All persons and children in poverty include some people living in “group quarters.” “Related children,” who might also be considered “children in families,” are those related to the head of household.

*** The 200% federal poverty level roughly corresponds to Connecticut’s Self-Sufficiency Standard -- a measure, created by the state of Connecticut, of the income necessary for a family to meet basic needs. (The Standard for some regions of the state is considerably higher than 200% of the poverty level.)

Poverty in the Nation in 2011

Poverty Indicator	United States	
	2011 % and #	2010 % and #
Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level	15.9% (48.5 million) Significant increase	15.3% (46.2 million)
All Children under 18 with income under Federal Poverty Level	22.5% (16.4 million) Significant increase	21.6% (15.7 million)
Related children under 18 with income under Federal Poverty Level	22.2% (16.1 million) Significant increase	21.2% (15.4 million)
All Children with income under 200% Federal Poverty Level	45.0% (32.7 million) Significant increase	44.0% (32.2 million)
Families with income below Federal Poverty Level	11.7% (8.9 million) Significant increase	11.3% (8.6 million)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons of 2011 data to other years are not statistically significant.** “Related children,” who might also be considered “children in families,” are those related to the head of household.

Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity in Connecticut in 2011

	Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level
White non-Hispanic	6.2% (153,710)
African American non-Hispanic	22.9% (78,883) Significantly higher than White non-Hispanic
Hispanic	27.3% (131,546) Significantly higher than White non-Hispanic

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS); calculations by Connecticut Voices for Children.

Income Estimates for Connecticut and the Nation

Income Indicator	Connecticut			United States	
	2011	2010	2007 (pre-recession)	2011	2010
Median household income in 2011 dollars (ACS)	\$65,753 Significant decrease from 2007	\$65,883	\$71,429	\$50,042 Significant decrease from 2010	\$51,144

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, changes in median income estimates between 2010 and 2011 are not statistically significant.**

Uninsured Estimates for Connecticut

Uninsured Indicator	Connecticut		
	2011 % and #	2010 % and #	2008 % and #
All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)	8.8% (308,945) No significant change from 2010 or 2008	9.1% (320,133)	8.8% (302,413)
All children under 18 uninsured (point in time estimate)	2.9% (23,377) No significant change from 2010 Significant decrease from 2008	3.0% (24,144)	4.6% (37,355)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. The Census began gathering uninsured estimates through the American Community Survey in 2008. The Census revised some of its initial 2008 uninsured ACS estimates, so data listed here may not match Census data published earlier.

Uninsured Estimates for the Nation

Uninsured Indicator	United States	
	2011 % and #	2010 % and #
All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)	15.1% (46.4 million) Significant decrease	15.5% (47.2 million)
All children under 18 uninsured (point in time estimate)	7.5% (5.5 million) Significant decrease	8.0% (5.9 million)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children.

Uninsured Rates by Race/Ethnicity in Connecticut in 2011

	All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)
White non-Hispanic	5.9% (153,710)
African American non-Hispanic	12.1% (42,307) Significantly higher than rate for White non-Hispanic
Hispanic	20.4% (98,914) Significantly higher than rate for White non-Hispanic

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS); calculations by Connecticut Voices for Children. Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. Estimated number of uninsured is less than statewide total because other racial/ethnic groups are not reported here.

Connecticut's Large Cities – Poverty, Income & the Uninsured

Poverty Rates and Median Income in Connecticut Cities in 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

City	Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level	Children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	Median household income in 2011 dollars
STATEWIDE	10.9% (10.4%-11.4%)	14.9% (13.8%-16.0%)	\$65,753 (\$64,889-\$66,607)
Bridgeport	25.7% (22.3%-29.1%)	39.9% (32.8%-47.0%)	\$35,379 (\$32,285-\$38,473)
Danbury	13.9% (9.7%-18.1%)	17.9% (8.5%-27.3%)	\$64,974 (\$55,389-\$74,559)
Hartford	36.0% (31.9%-40.1%)	47.9% (40.1%-55.7%)	\$29,169 (\$26,414-\$31,924)
New Britain	25.5% (21.5%-29.5%)	35.7 % (27.3%-44.1%)	\$35,357 (\$31,222-\$39,492)
New Haven	30.1% (25.8%-34.4%)	41.4% (32.8%-50.0%)	\$33,526 (\$30,559-\$36,493)
Norwalk	8.0% (5.9%-10.1%)	7.7% (3.5%-11.9%)	\$67,888 (\$60,992-\$74,784)
Stamford	11.1% (7.9%-14.3%)	17.5% (8.8%-26.2%)	\$75,454 (\$65,482-\$85,426)
Waterbury	21.5% (18.2%-24.8%)	34.5% (27.7%-41.3%)	\$41,593 (\$39,074-\$44,112)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 city data are not statistically significant.** Single year estimates are only available for cities with populations greater than 65,000.

The numbers reported in ACS surveys are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. The margin of error estimates the range of values within which the population's actual uninsured rate is likely to fall. Because sample sizes for a survey at the city level (and particularly for subgroups like children) can be small, the margins of error can be quite wide, and differences between cities should be interpreted with caution.

Uninsured in Connecticut Cities in 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

	Uninsured	
	All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)	All children under 18 uninsured (point in time estimate)
Connecticut	8.8% (8.5%-9.1%)	2.9% (2.5%-3.3%)
Bridgeport*	23.3%* (20.3%-26.3%)	10.0%* (4.9%-15.1%)
Danbury	22.0% (17.7%-26.3%)	2.8% (0.2%-5.4%)
Hartford	18.3% (15.9%-20.7%)	6.9% (4.1%-9.7%)
New Britain	15.6% (12.1%-19.1%)	3.9% (-0.4%-8.2%)
New Haven	15.0% (12.3%-17.7%)	4.0% (0.8%-7.2%)
Norwalk	12.1% (9.2%-15.0%)	3.5% (0.1%-6.9%)
Stamford	17.2%* (14.2%-20.2%)	4.6% (1.6%-7.6%)
Waterbury	10.5% (8.6%-12.4%)	1.8%* (0.6%-3.0%)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 city data are not statistically significant.** Single year estimates are available only for cities with populations greater than 65,000.

*Indicates a statistically significant change:

- In the City of Bridgeport, the percentage of persons who were uninsured rose from 18.6% in 2010 to 23.3% in 2011.
- In the City of Bridgeport, the percentage of children under 18 who were uninsured rose from 4.4% in 2010 to 10.0% in 2011.
- In the City of Stamford, the percentage of persons who were uninsured fell from 24.0% in 2010 to 17.2% in 2011.
- In the City of Waterbury, the percentage of children under 18 who were uninsured fell from 5.3% in 2010 to 1.8% in 2011.

The numbers reported in ACS surveys are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. The margin of error estimates the range of values within which the population's actual uninsured rate is likely to fall. **Because sample sizes for a survey at the city level (and particularly for subgroups like children) can be small, the margins of error can be quite wide, and differences between cities should be interpreted with caution. In addition, dramatic changes over time, as in the city data above, should be interpreted with caution.**

Connecticut Counties – Poverty, Income & Uninsured

Poverty Rates and Median Income in Connecticut Counties in 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

County	Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level	Children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	Median household income in 2011 dollars
STATEWIDE	10.9%* (10.4%-11.4%)	14.9%* (13.8%-16.0%)	\$65,753 (\$64,899-\$66,607)
Fairfield	9.4% (8.5%-10.3%)	12.8% (10.8%-14.8%)	\$77,289 (\$74,979-\$79,599)
Hartford	12.7% (11.8%-13.6%)	17.2% (15.2%-19.2%)	\$60,965 (\$59,734-\$62,196)
Litchfield	8.1% (6.7%-9.5%)	8.1% (5.2%-11.0%)	\$69,097 (\$65,669-\$72,525)
Middlesex	6.7% (5.1%-8.3%)	9.2% (5.2%-13.2%)	\$77,193 (\$70,883-\$83,503)
New Haven	13.2%* (12.2%-14.2%)	19.9%* (17.7%-22.1%)	\$59,245 (\$56,809-\$61,681)
New London	8.8% (7.4%-10.2%)	11.7% (8.9%-14.5%)	\$64,788 (\$60,778-\$68,798)
Tolland	8.7%* (6.6%-10.8%)	8.8%* (4.7%-12.9%)	\$78,210 (\$73,858-\$82,562)
Windham	9.8% (7.6%-12.0%)	13.1% (7.8%-18.4%)	\$55,744 (\$51,688-\$59,800)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 county data are not statistically significant.**

* Indicates change over time in the poverty rate that was statistically significant:

- In New Haven County, persons with income less than FPL increased from 11.7% in 2010 to 13.2% in 2011.
- In New Haven County, children under 18 under the FPL increased from 16.5% in 2010 to 19.9% in 2011.
- In Tolland County, persons with income less than FPL increased from 5.4% in 2010 to 8.7% in 2011.
- In Tolland County, children under 18 under the FPL increased from 3.8% in 2010 to 8.8% in 2011.

Uninsured in Connecticut Counties in 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

	Uninsured	
	All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)	All children under 18 uninsured (point in time estimate)
Connecticut	8.8% (8.5%-9.1%)	2.9% (2.5%-3.3%)
Fairfield County	11.2% (10.5%-11.9%)	3.2% (2.2%-4.2%)
Hartford County	8.6% (7.9%-9.3%)	2.9% (2.2%-3.6%)
Litchfield County	7.0% (5.5%-8.5%)	2.9% (1.2%-4.6%)
Middlesex County	7.1% (5.5%-8.7%)	4.3% (2.0%-6.6%)
New Haven County	8.2% (7.5%-8.9%)	2.4 % (1.6%-3.2%)
New London County	7.0% (6.0%-8.0%)	2.2% (0.8%-3.6%)
Tolland County	5.7% (3.8%-7.6%)	4.2% (0.2%-8.2%)
Windham County	8.1% (6.4%-9.8%)	2.1% (0.5%-3.7%)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 county data are not statistically significant.**

Connecticut Congressional Districts – Poverty, Income & Uninsured

Poverty Rates and Median Income in Connecticut Congressional Districts in 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

Congressional District	Persons with income less than Federal Poverty Level	Children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	Median household income in 2011 dollars
STATEWIDE	10.9%* (10.4%-11.4%)	14.9%* (13.8%-16.0%)	\$65,753 (\$64,899-\$66,607)
1 st Congressional District (Rep. Larson)	12.7%* (11.6%-13.8%)	17.8% (15.4%-20.2%)	\$60,241 (\$58,658-\$61,824)
2 nd Congressional District (Rep. Courtney)	8.2% (7.4%-9.0%)	9.9% (8.3%-11.5%)	\$69,641 (\$67,335-\$71,947)
3 rd Congressional District (Rep. DeLauro)	11.7% (10.6%-12.8%)	17.7% (15.2%-20.2%)	\$61,012 (\$59,347-\$62,677)
4 th Congressional District (Rep. Himes)	9.7% (8.6%-10.8%)	13.1% (10.7%-15.5%)	\$79,535 (\$76,507-\$82,563)
5 th Congressional District (Rep. Murphy)	12.0% (10.8%-13.2%)	16.4% (14.0%-18.8%)	\$63,301 (\$60,551-\$66,051)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Survey used Congressional district boundaries as of January 1, 2011 (prior to 2012 redistricting). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 Congressional district data are not statistically significant.**

* Indicates change over time in the poverty rate that was statistically significant:

- In the 1st Congressional District, the number of persons with income below the FPL rose from 11.1% in 2010 to 12.7% in 2011

Uninsured in Connecticut Congressional Districts – 2011

Estimate and range included. Range is estimate +/- the margin of error.

Congressional District	All persons uninsured (point in time estimate)	All children under 18 uninsured (point in time estimate)
Connecticut	8.8% (8.5%-9.1%)	2.9% (2.5%-3.3%)
1 st Congressional District (Rep. Larson)	8.7% (8.0%-9.4%)	3.1% (2.4%-3.8%)
2 nd Congressional District (Rep. Courtney)	6.6% (5.9%-7.3%)	2.9% (1.8%-4%)
3 rd Congressional District (Rep. DeLauro)	8.2% (7.4%-9.0%)	2.6% (1.7%-3.5%)
4 th Congressional District (Rep. Himes)	10.8% (9.9%-11.7%)	3.5% (2.3%-4.7%)
5 th Congressional District (Rep. Murphy)	9.5% (8.6%-10.4%)	2.4% (1.6%-3.2%)

Data from the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). Analysis of statistical significance of estimate changes by CT Voices for Children. **Unless specifically noted, comparisons between 2010 and 2011 Congressional district data are not statistically significant.**

Technical Notes on the Data

Data Source. The United States Census Bureau released poverty estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) on September 20, 2012.

Comparing Data Over Time. Unless specifically noted in the comparison charts above, there were no statistically significant changes in Census estimates between 2011 data and other years as calculated at the 90% confidence interval. The numbers reported in ACS surveys are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. For this reason, estimates reported by the ACS are published with additional data that allow us to estimate the range of values within which the population's actual poverty or uninsured rate is likely to fall. This enables us to determine whether or not the change in an estimate from one time period to the next is large enough to conclude that a change in the population has occurred, or whether the change in the estimate may have been due to random chance. For example, in the field of opinion polling, the "margin of error" of a poll helps to assess whether there has been a significant change in polling results over time. **A change in Census estimates is called "statistically significant" if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance** (this term describes the statistical evidence of change, not whether it is important or meaningful). **Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it is not accurate to say, for example, that poverty rates have increased or declined.** Statistical significance tests were conducted for poverty and uninsured rates, rather than numbers of people in poverty or numbers uninsured.

Household Income Comparisons. ACS data for median household income is comparable over time. Median income figures are in 2011 dollars (inflation adjusted), so they would not match estimates in earlier reports.

Health Insurance Coverage. In 2008, the US Census Bureau began including a question in its annual American Community Survey (ACS) on health insurance coverage. The question asks whether the person is **currently covered** by any type of insurance. The results are not directly comparable to data from the Current Connecticut Voices for Children

Population Survey (CPS), which asks whether respondents were uninsured for the **entire previous year**. The sample size for the ACS is much larger than the CPS, so estimates of insurance status are available through the ACS for counties, Congressional Districts, and cities with population greater than 65,000. CPS estimates of the uninsured are available only at the national and state levels. See the table below for comparisons of these estimates.

Understanding Census Bureau Estimates of the Uninsured		
	American Community Survey (ACS)	Current Population Survey (CPS)
When are 2011 estimates are released?	September 20, 2012	September 12, 2012
What does the survey measure?	Uninsured at time of survey	Uninsured for entire previous year
Are comparisons possible over time?	Yes, comparing one-year estimates for 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011	Yes, by using two-year averages (not single-year estimates)
Are national and state level estimates available?	Yes	Yes
Are estimates available for counties, Congressional districts, and cities with populations greater than 65,000?	Yes	No

CT Voices' use of ACS data is informed by the guidance of analysts at the Census Bureau, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Coalition on Human Needs.