

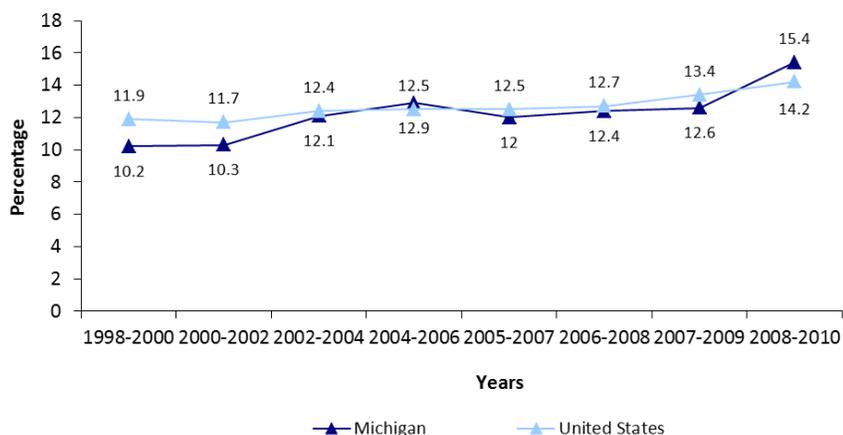
# Adults and Children in Poverty

**Indicator Definition:** Percentage of individuals living below the United States Census Bureau income thresholds for poverty status. For 2010, the poverty threshold for a single individual was an income of \$11,139 and for a family of four the threshold was \$22,314.

**Indicator Overview:**

- Poverty rates are established with the ten-year census, and percentages are then estimated annually based on the American Community Survey and/or the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey.
- Beginning with the late 1950s, the poverty rate for all Americans fell from 22.4 percent. These numbers declined steadily, dropping as low as 11.1% in 1973. The poverty rate began to cycle up to as high as 15.2 percent in 1983. The national poverty rate has remained between 11 and 15 percent since 1973.
- Poverty rates can vary greatly across subpopulations.

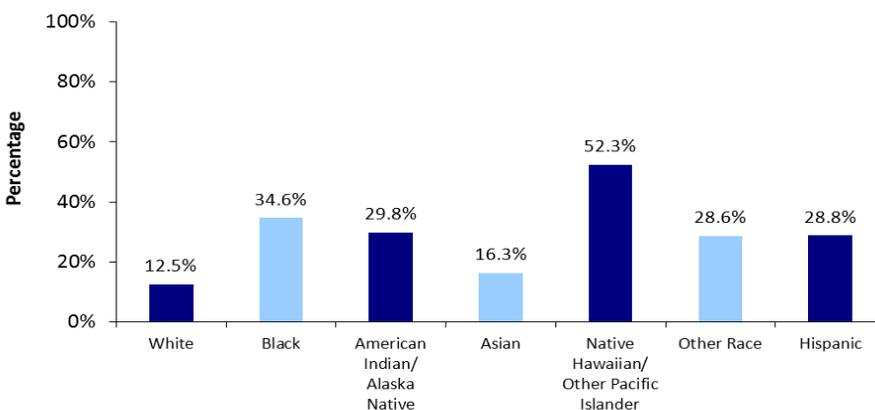
**Poverty in Michigan and the United States, 1998-2010, Three-year Averages**



← **Trends:** Prior to 2000, the poverty level in Michigan was consistently lower than the national average, reaching a low for the past decade of 10.2 percent. Since 2000, the poverty level in Michigan has remained more consistent with the national percentage, and is slightly higher than the national percentage for 2008-2010 at 15.4 percent. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, in 2009, 44 percent (1,012,918) of children lived in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty level) in Michigan, compared to the national rate of 42 percent. Children living below the federal poverty threshold in 2008 was 22 percent compared to the national rate of 21 percent.

→ **Subpopulation Variations:** Among racial and ethnic subgroups, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander families have the highest poverty rate in Michigan at 52.3 percent, while Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic families are each at approximately 30 percent. The poverty rate for children in families led by single parents (44%) is dramatically higher than the rate in married couple families (11%). Children in families where the most highly educated parent did not finish high school have a poverty rate of 66 percent, while those who completed high school are at a rate of 36 percent.

**Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, Michigan, 2009**



**Links to Other Sources of Information:**

- U.S. DHHS Poverty Guidelines, Research, & Measurement: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml#latest>
- Poverty in Michigan: <http://www.michigan.gov/poverty>
- University of Michigan National Poverty Center: <http://www.npc.umich.edu/poverty/>
- Spotlight on Poverty: <http://spotlightonpoverty.org/>

**Links to Related Public Health Programs:**

- Michigan Medicaid Program: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943\\_4860---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_4860---,00.html)
- MDCH: Help finding Health Care: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943\\_52115---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943_52115---,00.html)