A Tale of Two Decades: Post-welfare reform progress reversed

U.S. Official Poverty Rate, 1990-2013

Note: The official poverty measure used in this graph calculates income without taking into account non-cash benefits (such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and housing assistance) or post-tax welfare (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit), and therefore is not an accurate measure of material hardship. It is, however, a good indication of the extent to which Americans are independently earning their income.

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U.S. Official Child Poverty Rate, 1990-2013

Note: The official poverty measure used in this graph calculates income without taking into account non-cash benefits (such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and housing assistance) or post-tax welfare (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit), and therefore is not an accurate measure of material hardship. It is, however, a good indication of the extent to which Americans are independently earning their income.

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SNAP Trends Through Recessions, 1969-2013

SNAP Participants/population

Unemployment Rate

Unemployment & participants shift together

Unemployment & participants diverge
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**U.S. Child Support: % Change in Total Distributed Collections, 1980-2013**

*Focus on responsibility diminishes*

Data: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families