

In 2010, more than one in five children lived in families with incomes below the poverty line — the highest level since 1993; black and Hispanic children, children living in single-mother families, and children under age five are most likely to be poor.

Children under 18 are much more likely than adults to be poor. Being raised in poverty (defined as income of \$22,113 or less in 2010 for a family of four with two children) places children at higher risk for a wide range of problems. Research indicates that poor children are disproportionately exposed to risk factors that may impair brain development and affect social and emotional development. These risks include environmental toxins, inadequate nutrition, maternal depression, parental substance abuse, trauma and abuse, violent crime, divorce, low-quality child care, and decreased cognitive stimulation (stemming in part from exposure to a more restricted vocabulary as infants).

Source: Child Trends Data Bank, September 2011