State policies that promote the economic security of our nation’s families can help offset larger economic and social conditions that make it difficult for families to get by and get ahead. This four-part profile provides data on Maryland’s low-income children and families and highlights state policy choices regarding families’ work attachment and advancement, income adequacy, and asset development.

In Maryland, there are 716,424 families, with 1,306,400 children. Among these children, 29 percent live in families that are low-income, defined as income below twice the federal poverty level (nationally, 45 percent of children live in low-income families). Young children are particularly likely to live in low-income families.

Low wages and a lack of higher education contribute to families having insufficient incomes. Nationally, 48 percent of low-income children have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round; in Maryland, the figure is 47 percent.

Parents without a college education often struggle to earn enough to support a family, but only 35 percent of adults in Maryland have a bachelor’s degree. A substantial portion of children in Maryland whose parents only have a high school diploma--53 percent--are low income.

Children of foreign-born parents are also more likely to be low income than children of native-born parents.

**Percent of children who are low-income by parental education, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Percentage of Low Income Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No high school degree</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only a high school degree</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond a high school degree</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of children who are low-income by parents’ nativity, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Nativity</th>
<th>Percentage of Low Income Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children w/native-born parents</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children w/immigrant parents</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children in Maryland by income level, 2011**

- Above low income: 71%
- Less than 100% FPL: 12%
- 100-200% FPL: 18%
- Low income: 29%

**Employment status of parents of low-income children, 2011**

- Not employed: 21% (Maryland), 20% (U.S.)
- Part-time or part-year: 32% (Maryland), 32% (U.S.)
- Full-time, year-round: 47% (Maryland), 48% (U.S.)
WORK ATTACHMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

State Choices to Promote Child Care Affordability and Access

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Subsidies

Earnings limit for a single-parent family of 3

$29,990/year

Co-payment as percent of income for family of 3 at 150% FPL, 1 child in care

14%

Providers prohibited from charging additional fees

No

Provider payment rates at least 75th percentile of market rate

No

State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Refundable credit available

No

Benefit structure

Deduction of eligible expenses; in addition, for tax filers with income of $50,000/year or less, credit of 3.25-32.5% of federal credit, depending on income

Low-income children who have parents working full- or part-time, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent employed part-time</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent employed full-time</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Choices to Promote Access to Health Insurance

Public Health Insurance for Parents

Applicant earnings limit for single parent with 2 children

$20,412/year

Parents eligible up to same limit as children, single parent with 2 children

No

Legal immigrants eligible for state-funded benefits when barred from federal

No

Legal immigrants otherwise barred from benefits eligible for prenatal care

Yes

Public Health Insurance for Children

Medicaid income eligibility limit as % of FPL for children ages 1-5 in family of 3

300%

Medicaid income eligibility limit as % of FPL for children ages 6-19 in family of 3

300%

SCHIP (separate program) income eligibility as % of FPL for children in family of 3

No separate SCHIP

Health insurance status by age, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who lack health insurance</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults who lack health insurance</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer-based health insurance coverage, 2000 and 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals under 65 (2000)</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals under 65 (2006)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 18 (2000)</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 18 (2006)</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Choices to Promote Access to Benefits for the Under- and Unemployed

Unemployment Insurance

State counts most recent earnings when determining eligibility\(^{20}\) No

Eligible if seeking part-time work\(^{21}\) No

State has general provision recognizing "good cause" for quitting work\(^{22}\) Yes

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Earnings limit for a single-parent family of 3\(^{23}\) $7,236/year

Official unemployment rate, 2007\(^{24}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part-time workers who want full-time work, 2003\(^{25}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income Adequacy

State Choices to Increase and Supplement Wages

Minimum Wage Standards

Indexed to inflation\(^{26}\) Not applicable

State Earned Income Tax Credit

Refundable credit available\(^{27}\) Yes

Percent of federal EITC\(^{27}\) 25%\(^{28}\)

State Choices to Reduce Tax Burdens

Income Tax Liability

Income tax threshold for single-parent family of 3\(^{29}\) $29,900/year

Income tax threshold for two-parent family of 4\(^{29}\) $32,000/year

Income tax burden for single-parent family of 3 at 100% FPL\(^{29}\) $-647/year

Income tax burden for two-parent family of 4 at 100% FPL\(^{29}\) $-434/year
Median annual household income for family of four, 2006

- $70,354 (U.S.)
- $94,017 (Maryland)

Workers covered by a union, 1987 and 2007

- 1987:
  - 19% (Maryland)
  - 19% (U.S.)
- 2007:
  - 15% (Maryland)
  - 13% (U.S.)
State Choices to Promote Access to Paid Leave

Family and Medical Leave

State provisions for paid leave\textsuperscript{32} None

State Choices to Promote Adequate Benefits for the Under- and Unemployed

Unemployment Insurance

Minimum weekly benefit (no dependents)\textsuperscript{33} $25/week

Additional dependent allowance provided\textsuperscript{33} Yes

Weekly benefit amount is indexed to average weekly wage\textsuperscript{34} No

Potential duration of benefits\textsuperscript{35} 26 weeks

Food Stamps

Legal immigrants eligible for state-funded benefits when barred from federal\textsuperscript{37} No

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Annual maximum benefit for family of 3\textsuperscript{23} $5,784/year

Treatment of child support income\textsuperscript{38} No pass-through or disregard

Households facing hardships, 2006\textsuperscript{36}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households that are &quot;food insecure&quot;</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renting households that are &quot;housing insecure&quot;</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

State Policy Choices to Promote Asset Development

Individual Development Accounts

State-supported IDA program in operation\textsuperscript{39} No

State Choices to Promote Asset Protection

Public Health Insurance for Parents

Assets disregarded for eligibility determination\textsuperscript{16} Yes

Public Health Insurance for Children

Assets disregarded for Medicaid eligibility\textsuperscript{40} Yes

Assets disregarded for SCHIP (separate program) eligibility\textsuperscript{16} No separate SCHIP

Food Stamps

Treatment of vehicles in asset test\textsuperscript{41} Aligned to TANF cash assistance rules

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Assets disregarded for eligibility determination\textsuperscript{23} No

Treatment of vehicles in asset test\textsuperscript{23} Excludes all vehicles owned by household

Children who are “asset poor,” 2004\textsuperscript{42}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeownership rate, 2007\textsuperscript{43}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeownerships</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maryland State Family Economic Security Profile

page 6
National data were calculated from the 2011 American Community Survey, representing information from 2011. State data were calculated from the 2009-2011 American Community Survey, representing information from the years 2009 to 2011. 

Co-payments are based on the maximum state reimbursement rates in the region where the family lives. This figure reflects the copayments in the region of the state with the highest provider rates. 

If the state calculates co-payments based on the cost of care, figure reflects the co-payment for a 4-year-old in licensed, nonaccredited center care at the maximum state payment rate. 


Lawful permanent residents (LPRs) are generally barred from federal benefits during their first 5 years as LPRs, unless they entered the U.S. before 8/22/96. Exceptions include refugees and U.S. veterans (and their families). See data source for more details. 


Limit includes SCHIP-funded Medicaid expansions, where applicable. 


Figures reflect the percent of children (under age 18) and adults (ages 18-64) who did not have health insurance coverage at any point during the year. 


Dec. 2000: Figures reflect the percent of children under age 18 and the percent of adults under 65 who were covered by employer-based health insurance during at least part of the year. 


Figures reflect the percent of children under age 18 and the percent of adults under 65 who were covered by employer-based health insurance during at least part of the year. 


In most states, the base period consists of the first 4 of the 5 most recently completed quarters. Some states allow claimants to use an alternative base period that includes more recent earnings.


22. A general "good cause" provision extends eligibility to persons who leave their jobs for "personal emergencies" or "compelling circumstances", which should include—among others—child care conflicts, illness, domestic violence, and spousal relocation. Eligibility determinations, however, may vary in practice. States may also specifically recognize certain reasons as "good cause"; for more information see Appendix B in Rebecca Smith, Rick McHugh, Andrew Stettner, and Nancy Segal, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Confronting the Failure of State Unemployment Insurance Systems to Serve Women and Working Families*, National Employment Law Project, 2003.


25. Figure reflects the percent of part-time workers who are available to work full-time, but usually work less than 35 hours per week due to slack work or unfavorable business conditions, inability to find full-time work, or seasonal declines in demand. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment*, 2003, "Estimates for States, Table 16: Employed and Unemployed Persons by Full- and Part-Time Status, Sex, Age, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity," [http://www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) (accessed March 14, 2008).


27. State EITC Online Resource Center, [http://www.stateeitc.com](http://www.stateeitc.com) (accessed June 3, 2009); with additional information from NCCP.

28. Value reflects state's refundable credit; filers may claim either the refundable credit or a nonrefundable credit of 50 percent of the federal EITC.


35. Potential duration is the maximum number of weeks of benefits that a claimant is eligible for under the regular state program. In most states, it is determined based on the amount and distribution of the recipient's earnings in the base period; eight states have a uniform potential duration for all claimants.


38. A child support pass-through is the amount of collected child support that the state gives to families on whose behalf the child support was collected. A child support disregard is the amount of child support that the family can keep without lowering their TANF benefits.

39. Community-based IDA programs are operating in all states but often without state support. Also, in some states without state-supported IDA programs, IDA legislation was passed but never implemented due to lack of state funding, or IDA legislation expired, and no new state support was allocated. Center for Social Development, Washington University, "Summary Tables: IDA Policy in the States, Table 1," October 2006, [http://gwuweb.wustl.edu](http://gwuweb.wustl.edu).


41. Households in which all members receive TANF cash assistance or SSI benefits do not have to meet gross income or asset eligibility criteria. Most states also waive these criteria for recipients of certain other benefits; some states waive these criteria for nearly all applicants. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "States' Vehicle Asset Policies in the Food Stamp Program," November 2006.

42. Figure reflects the percent of children in households that have insufficient net worth to subsist at the federal poverty level for three months in the absence of income. Corporation for Enterprise Development, Assets and Opportunity Scorecard, http://www.cfed.org (accessed February 25, 2008).

43. Figure reflects the percent of households who are homeowners. U.S. Census Bureau, "Housing Vacancies and Homeownership, Annual Statistics 2007, Table 13," http://www.census.gov (March 14, 2008).