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 Region 3’s low-income children and families and highlights state policy choices regarding families’ work attachment and advancement, income adequacy, and asset development.

In Region 3, there are families, with children. Among these children, percent live in families that are low-income, defined as income below twice the federal poverty level (nationally, 44 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, 47 percent of low-income children have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round; in Region 3, the figure is percent.

Parents without a college education often struggle to earn enough to support a family, but only 29 percent of adults in Region 3 have a bachelor’s degree. A substantial portion of children in Region 3 whose parents only have a high school diploma-- 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, 2010¹**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>No high school degree</th>
<th>Only a high school degree</th>
<th>Beyond a high school degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employment status of parents of low-income children, 2010¹**

- 20% Not employed
- 33% Part-time or part-year
- 47% Full-time, year-round

**Percent of children who are low-income by parents' nativity, 2010¹**

- 41% Children w/native-born parents
- 61% Children w/immigrant parents

---

¹ Data not available
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

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

Providers prohibited from charging additional fees

Provider payment rates at least 75th percentile of market rate

State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

Refundable credit available

Benefit structure

Max benefit for family with 2 qualifying children

State Choices to Promote Access to Health Insurance

Public Health Insurance for Parents

Applicant earnings limit for single parent with 2 children

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

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

Legal immigrants otherwise barred from benefits eligible for prenatal care

Public Health Insurance for Children

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

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

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

Low-income children who have parents working full- or part-time, 2010

Health insurance status by age, 2007

Employer-based health insurance coverage, 2000 and 2006
State Choices to Promote Access to Benefits for the Under- and Unemployed

Unemployment Insurance

State counts most recent earnings when determining eligibility. Eligible if seeking part-time work. State has general provision recognizing "good cause" for quitting work.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Earnings limit for a single-parent family of 3.

Official unemployment rate, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate, 2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part-time workers who want full-time work, 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers who</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>want full-time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work, 2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income Adequacy

State Choices to Increase and Supplement Wages

Minimum Wage Standards

Indexed to inflation.

State Earned Income Tax Credit

Refundable credit available.

Percent of federal EITC.

State Choices to Reduce Tax Burdens

Income Tax Liability

Income tax threshold for single-parent family of 3.

Income tax threshold for two-parent family of 4.

Income tax burden for single-parent family of 3 at 100% FPL.

Income tax burden for two-parent family of 4 at 100% FPL.

Median annual household income for family of four, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median annual</td>
<td>$70,354</td>
<td>$78,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income, 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workers covered by a union, and

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covered by</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a union, and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Choices to Promote Access to Paid Leave

Family and Medical Leave

State provisions for paid leave

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

Unemployment Insurance

Minimum weekly benefit (no dependents)

Additional dependent allowance provided

Weekly benefit amount is indexed to average weekly wage

Potential duration of benefits

Food Stamps

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

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance

Annual maximum benefit for family of 3

Treatment of child support income
ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

State Policy Choices to Promote Asset Development

Individual Development Accounts
State-supported IDA program in operation

State Choices to Promote Asset Protection

Public Health Insurance for Parents
Assets disregarded for eligibility determination

Public Health Insurance for Children
Assets disregarded for Medicaid eligibility
Assets disregarded for SCHIP (separate program) eligibility

Food Stamps
Treatment of vehicles in asset test

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance
Assets disregarded for eligibility determination
Treatment of vehicles in asset test

---

Children who are "asset poor," 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children who are &quot;asset poor,&quot; 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeownership rate, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeownership rate, 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

Data were compiled from 50-state sources. Some state policy decisions may have changed since these data were collected.

1. National data were calculated from the 2010 American Community Survey, representing information from 2010. State data were calculated from the 2008-2010 American Community Survey, representing information from the years 2008 to 2010.
3. 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.
5. States were asked to report state reimbursement rates and the 75th percentile of market rates for their state's most populous city, country, or region. Data reflect basic provider payment rates (higher rates may be available for particular types of care). Rates are considered below the 75th percentile if they are based on an out-dated market rate survey (more than 2 years old).
7. Figure reflects limit under Medicaid plan with highest income eligibility limit for parents, taking into account the value of earnings disregards (which may be time-limited in some instances).
9. Value reflects comparison of applicant earnings limit for a single parent with 2 children to the highest Medicaid or SCHIP program eligibility limit for children ages 6-19.
13. Figures reflect the percent of of children (under age 18) and adults (ages 18-64) who did not have health insurance coverage at any point during the year.
15. 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.

2006:
16. 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.
18. 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.