



FACT SHEET: *Updated: Sept. 17, 2010*

Poverty increases in Mississippi as families continue to experience economic hardship during current recession

KEY TAKEAWAY:

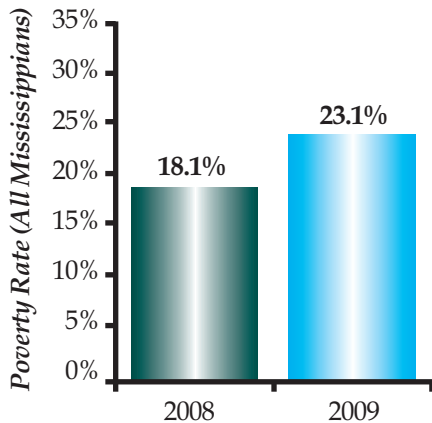
In 2009, Mississippi's poverty rate was 23.1 percent, a statistically significant increase from the 2008 rate of 18.1 percent. The poverty rate for Mississippi's children rose to 31.9%. Approximately 250,000 children living in households with incomes below the federal poverty level.

The numbers underscore the importance of many of the Recovery Act programs including Unemployment Insurance Extensions, the Making Work Pay Credit and expanded Supplemental Nutrition. Such assistance moderated the severity of poverty for thousands of Mississippians.

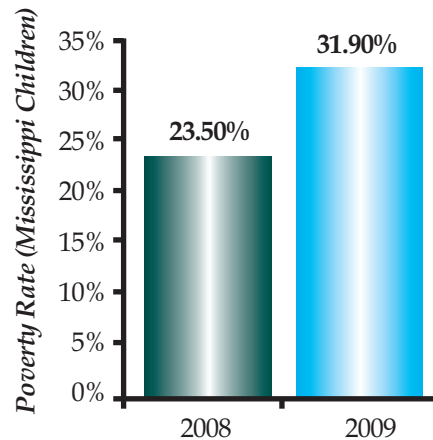
Poverty rates rise in 2009 for state overall and for Mississippi's children

On September 28, the Census will release more authoritative and detailed state-by-state estimates on poverty. These preliminary data show that the poverty rate in Mississippi increased for the overall population and Mississippi's children.

Poverty rate for all Mississippians



Poverty rate for Mississippi's children



Source: U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey

CONCLUSIONS:

The federal Recovery Act has provided resources for a number of important programs supporting working families. Significant tax relief provided by the Act also went to Mississippi's working families experiencing financial hardship resulting from the recession. Many of these programs are scheduled to expire soon and the conclusion could result in additional families falling below the poverty line. Specifically, the federal program supporting the Mississippi STEPS

program which has connected thousands of people to jobs will expire on September 30. Additional Unemployment Insurance weeks for the long-term unemployed will expire on November 30. Finally, the new and expanded tax credits for working families expire after 2010. For Mississippians struggling to make ends meet, it is important that these provisions remain in place in the near term.