

Census Data Show Florida Is Still Struggling With Recovery from Recession

Florida's poverty rate remained unchanged in 2013, median household income remained lower than before the Great Recession, and the state's percentage of residents without health insurance was third-highest in the nation, the U.S. Census Bureau reported this week.

The data from the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey paints a picture of Florida still poorer than it was five years previously, despite the ongoing economic recovery.

The percentage of Floridians in poverty remained basically unchanged at 17.0 percent – the same as in 2011. But that number is considerably higher than the 14.9 percent recorded five years previously, in 2009. Poverty of children under 18 was down slightly from 2012, at one in four Florida children, but still about three percent higher than 2009.

(The federal poverty level in 2013 was \$11,490 for a one-person household, \$15,510 for a two-person household, \$19,530 for a three-person household, and \$23,550 for a four-person household.)

Highlights from the census data follow. All data is from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#)'s American Community Survey or Current Population Survey.

POVERTY

- The poverty rate remains substantially higher than five years ago. Of all Floridians, 17.0 percent lived below the federal poverty level in 2013, a statistically meaningless difference from 17.1 percent in 2011. But five years ago, in 2009, the poverty rate was 14.9 percent.
- Florida's 17.0 percent poverty rate was 15th highest in the nation. Mississippi was highest at 24.0 percent and New Hampshire lowest at 8.7 percent.

- The percentage of children under 18 in poverty improved slightly in 2013, falling to 24.5 percent from 25.4 percent in 2012. In 2009, the rate was 21.3 percent.
- The 2013 data means that about 1 million Florida children under 18 live in poverty.
- Floridians 65 and over had the lowest percentage living in poverty, 10.7 percent, which is comparable to the 10.2 rate in 2009.

INCOME

- Median household income (in 2013 inflation-adjusted dollars) crept up from \$45,578 in 2012 to \$46,036 in 2013. But that's still down by \$2,625, or 5.4 percent, from \$48,661 in 2009.
- Florida's median household income is well below the \$51,939 recorded for the entire U.S.
- Of the 7.2 million households in Florida, 26.4 percent reported incomes below \$25,000. That number remains higher than 2009's 24.0 percent. That means that 225,000 more households had income below \$25,000 in 2013 than in 2009.
- 17.7 percent of Floridians reported household income of \$100,000 or more in 2013, down slightly from 2009.
- Per capita income grew a bit in 2013 over 2012, to \$25,834. That income level was still nearly \$1,000 lower than the \$26,816 reported in 2009.

HEALTH INSURANCE

- Only Texas and Nevada had a higher percentage of residents without health insurance in all or part of 2013 than Florida. Florida's 20.0 percent uninsured rate was down slightly from 2009. The rate was much higher than the nation's 14.5 percent. The lowest rate of uninsured was 3.7 percent in Massachusetts.
- Florida's percentage of uninsured was basically unchanged from 2012. The rate of uninsured for 2013 was reported prior to Floridians enrolling in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, beginning in January 2014. The percentage uninsured is expected to be lower when 2014 census surveys are completed.
- Almost 3.9 million Floridians were without insurance in 2013.
- Of white Floridians, 18.6 percent were insured, compared to 24.0 percent of blacks, 31.3 percent of Hispanics (of any race), and 19.5 percent of those of two or more races.

- The uninsured rate for native-born Americans was 15.9 percent; for foreign born Florida residents, the rate was 36.8 percent.
- The more education and the higher the income, the more likely an individual had health insurance.
- 8.4 million Floridians had employment based insurance, 2.5 million purchased coverage directly, 697,000 had TRICARE/military coverage, 3.9 million were enrolled in Medicare, 3.3 million in Medicaid, and 547,000 had VA coverage. (Some individuals had more than one kind of coverage.)