

## CCRWF FACT SHEET ON POVERTY Fall 2009

### CALIFORNIA

- 4.6 million Californians (12.7%) were living below the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2007.<sup>i</sup>
- Out of all children 18 years and under, 18% lived in poverty in 2007.<sup>ii</sup>
  - 7.5% were White.
  - 28.5% were Black.
  - 23.6% were Latino.
  - 24.6% were Native American.
  - 10.9% were Asian/PI.
  
  - 47% lived with single mothers.
  - 7.7% lived with single fathers.
  - 50% lived with married-couple parents.
- In 2007, 11% of adults 18-64 years, lived in poverty.<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2007, 8% of all elderly 65 years and over lived in poverty.<sup>ii</sup>

### *Income Gaps*

- Between 1995-2007, adjusted gross income increased by an average of:<sup>iii</sup>
  - 117% for the top 1% of households.
  - 9.1% for households in the middle fifth.
  - 7.7% for households in the bottom fifth.
- In 2006-2007 alone, adjusted gross income increased by an average of:<sup>iv</sup>
  - 4.3% (\$75,071) for the top 1% of households.
  - 0.5% (\$188) for households in the middle fifth.
  - -2.8% (-\$) for households in the bottom fifth.
- Between 1995-2007, the gap between the rich and the middle class had increased 13 times, and in 2007 alone, the top 1% made more than 50.7 times the income of the middle fifth.<sup>v</sup>

## NATIONAL

- 37.3 million (12.5%) Americans were living in poverty in 2007:<sup>vi, vii</sup>
  - Out of all children 18 years and under, 13.3 million (18%) were living in poverty.
    - 13.3% were White.
    - 34.5% were Black.
    - 27.5% were Hispanic.
    - 32.9% were American Indian.
    - 12% were Asian/PI.
  - Out of all adults 18-64 years, 10.9% were living in poverty.
  - Out of all elderly 65 years and over, 9.7% were living in poverty.
- 7.6 million (9.8%) families lived in poverty in 2007:<sup>viii</sup>
  - 2.8 million (4.9%) were married-couple families.
  - 4.1 million (28.3%) were female-headed household families.
  - 696,000 (13.6%) were male-headed household families.

## Income Gaps

- Between 1979-2006, after-tax incomes increased by an average of:<sup>ix</sup>
  - 256% (\$863,000) for the top 1% of households.
  - 21% (\$9,200) for households in the middle fifth.
  - 11% (\$1,600) for households in the bottom fifth.
- Between 1979-2006 the rich-poor gap has more than tripled.<sup>x</sup>
- In 2006 alone, the top 1% made 23 times the income of the middle fifth and 72.7 times that of the bottom fifth.<sup>xi</sup>
- Tax cuts have contributed to increased income gaps.<sup>xii</sup>
  - In 2006 alone, tax cuts increased after-tax incomes by an average of:
    - 6% (\$118,000) for the top 1% of households.
    - 2.5% (\$740) for households in the middle fifth.
    - 0.3% (\$20) for households in the bottom fifth.

## END NOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> California Budget Project. (2008). *2007 Incomes Declined, Poverty Increased: New Data Mark a Reversal of Progress Made in 2006*. Sacramento: California Budget Project.
  - <sup>ii</sup> California, P. P. I. o. (2009). *Just the Facts: Child Poverty In California*. Oakland: Public Policy Institute of California.
  - <sup>iii</sup> Anderson, A., & Macias, F. (2009). *New Data Show that California's Income Gaps Continue to Widen*. Sacramento: California Budget Project.
  - <sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.*
  - <sup>v</sup> *Ibid.*
  - <sup>vi</sup> DeNavas-Walt, C., Proctor, B. D., & Smith, J. C. (2008). *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007*. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau.
  - <sup>vii</sup> Children's Defense Fund. (2008b). *Children in the United States*. Washington, DC.
  - <sup>viii</sup> DeNavas-Walt, op. cit.
  - <sup>ix</sup> Sherman, A. (2009). *Income Gaps Hit Record Levels in 2006, New Data Show Rich-Poor Gap Tripled Between 1979 and 2006*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
  - <sup>x</sup> *Children in the United States*, op. cit.
  - <sup>xi</sup> *Ibid.*
  - <sup>xii</sup> *Ibid.*