



Rochester-Monroe  
Anti-Poverty Initiative at



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## **Rochester's Poverty Rates Continue to Rise; Remains 5<sup>th</sup> Poorest City Among Top 75 Metro Areas and in Top 2 of Similar-Sized Cities**

Rochester, NY — An analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data released today for the most recent five-year period shows that the City of Rochester's poverty rate continues to rise.

Data from the new American Community Survey for the years 2010 through 2014 shows:

- Rochester's **overall poverty rate** increased slightly from 32.9 percent to 33.8 percent.
- Rochester's **child poverty rate** increased markedly, from 50.1 percent to 52.5 percent.
- The city's rate of **extreme poverty** (below half the federal poverty line) grew slightly from 16.2 percent to 16.4 percent.
- Rochester remains the **5<sup>th</sup> poorest city** in the United States among the top 75 metropolitan areas.

These new statistics update a January 2015 report by ACT Rochester and Rochester Area Community Foundation that compared the city's poverty rate to similar-sized cities across the country and the top 75 metro areas. It used the data from the Census Bureau's five-year American Community Survey for 2009 to 2013. The five-year survey is considered the most reliable and precise because it is based on a larger sample.

This update is being jointly released by the Community Foundation, its affiliate, ACT Rochester, along with the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative at United Way of Greater Rochester. This latest data was collected through 2014, prior to the launch of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI).

"These statistics provide the baseline for measuring the progress of our work and should motivate us in the work ahead," says Leonard Brock, director of RMAPI. "We need to continue to work together to reverse the trend and move the needle for our entire community."

The 10 Poorest Cities Among Top 75 Metropolitan Areas		
Rank By Poverty Rate	City	Poverty Rate
1	Detroit	39.8%
2	Cleveland	35.9%
3	Dayton	35.3%
4	Hartford	34.4%
5	Rochester	33.8%
6	Birmingham	31.0%
7	Buffalo	30.9%
8	Cincinnati	30.9%
9	Miami	29.9%
10	Providence	29.7%

Source:

U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey for 2010-2014

Among these 10 poorest U.S. cities, Rochester also ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for its childhood poverty rate and 5<sup>th</sup> for the rate of people living in extreme poverty.

Rochester's poverty also was the focus of a December 2013 report, *Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area*, released by ACT Rochester and the Community Foundation and primarily based on data from the American Community Survey for 2007 to 2011.

To put Rochester's poverty rate into context, the January 2015 report compared the city's statistics to a list of 18 principal cities in similar-sized metro areas (within plus or minus 200,000 of the Rochester population). Included in the benchmark group are Buffalo, Hartford, Conn., Richmond, Va., Birmingham, Ala., Tulsa, Okla., Louisville, Ky., and Honolulu.

For this benchmark group of cities, the Census data released today found:

- Rochester continues to rank 2<sup>nd</sup> in overall poverty, behind Hartford;
- Rochester continues to rank 1<sup>st</sup> in childhood poverty;
- Rochester continues to rank 1<sup>st</sup> in extreme poverty.

Overall, these findings reveal little year-to-year change, but continue to show that poverty is a crisis for our community.

"Rising poverty threatens our children and our future," says Jennifer Leonard, president and CEO of Rochester Area Community Foundation. "These unwelcome statistics underscore the importance of the coordinated, strategic actions we're taking to lift our community's trajectory."

Poverty Rates Among Rochester's Benchmark Cities <sup>1</sup>				
Rank: Overall Poverty Rate	City	Poverty Rate: Overall	Poverty Rate: Child under 18	Poverty Rate: Extreme
1	Hartford	34.4%	46.3%	15.6%
2	Rochester	33.8%	52.5%	16.4%
3	Birmingham	31.0%	49.2%	14.1%
4	Buffalo	30.9%	47.8%	14.8%
5	Fresno	30.6%	42.8%	14.0%
6	New Orleans	27.7%	41.5%	13.7%
7	Grand Rapids	26.7%	37.4%	11.9%
8	Richmond	25.5%	39.5%	13.6%
9	Tucson	25.1%	34.0%	11.9%
10	Bridgeport	23.6%	34.9%	11.5%
11	Worcester	22.0%	31.3%	9.5%
12	Salt Lake City	20.9%	27.2%	9.9%
13	Tulsa	20.0%	31.0%	9.3%
14	Albuquerque	18.5%	25.6%	8.4%
15	Louisville	18.4%	26.7%	7.9%
16	Oklahoma City	18.2%	27.3%	7.6%
17	Raleigh	16.3%	22.5%	7.5%
18	Honolulu	9.8%	13.0%	4.9%

<sup>1</sup>Principal cities in all metro areas within 200,000 population (+/-) of Rochester

At 6 p.m. later today, the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative will be hosting a town hall-style meeting at The Community Place, 145 Parsells Avenue. Brock will review RMAPI's progress report that was released in September and provide insight into what the initiative hopes to achieve by the end of this year.

For more details on the earlier poverty reports, visit [www.racf.org/Reports](http://www.racf.org/Reports) or [www.ACTRochester.org/Poverty](http://www.ACTRochester.org/Poverty).