

## MEMORANDUM

TO: YWCA Local Associations  
FROM: YWCA USA Public Policy and Advocacy Department  
DATE: September 13, 2018  
SUBJECT: New Census Bureau Data from 2017

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New data was released by the U.S. Census Bureau this week for 2017. Of particular importance to YWCA are the following:

### 1. Poverty Rates: Progress in Fighting Poverty Slows

- The decline in the poverty rate slowed between 2016 and 2017
  - The official poverty rate was 12.3 percent, down from 12.7 percent in 2016.
  - 39.7 million people lived in poverty in the US in 2017.
  - Near-poor people (below 200 percent of the poverty line, or below about \$25,000 for an individual in 2017) make up just below 30 percent of the population.
  - Racial disparities persist with respect to who is poor and who is not:
    - Non-Hispanic whites: 8.7 percent poverty rate
    - Blacks: 21.2 percent poverty rate
    - Hispanics (any race): 18.3 percent poverty rate
- Children remain disproportionately poor:
  - One-third of the 39.7 million people in poverty in the US are children – 12.8 million children, which is 17.5 percent of all children.
  - Racial disparities re: poverty are even higher among children than the general population:
    - 10.9 percent of non-Hispanic white children live in poverty
    - 28.3 percent of Black children
    - 25 percent of Hispanic (any race) children
    - 36.2 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native children
    - 12.2 percent of Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children
  - The youngest children are the poorest children:
    - During the most critical stage for brain development, 3.9 million children under 5 lived in extreme poverty in 2017 – 55,000 more than in 2016
- Sources:

- [Progress in Fighting Poverty Slows – and for the First Time in Years, the Number of Uninsured Americans Does Not Significantly Decline](#) (Coalition on Human Needs)
- [Health Insurance Coverage in the United States \(2017\)](#) – (U.S. Census Bureau)
- [Our National Disgrace: Census Data Points to Continued Child Poverty Crisis](#) (Children’s Defense Fund)

## 2. Health Care Enrollment: Stalled Progress on Healthcare Coverage

- The share of Americans without health insurance remained at a historic low in 2017 – unchanged from 2016.
  - 8.8 percent of people lacked insurance in 2017 (same as in 2016).
  - However, the number of uninsured rose due to population growth, from 29.1 million people in 2016 to 28.5 million people in 2017.
  - Uninsured rates in state that expanded Medicaid was 6.5 percent in 2017 – close to half the uninsured rate in non-expansion states, which was 12.2 percent (Center for American Progress)
  - Even though the uninsured rate remained stable overall, some vulnerable groups experienced coverage declines in 2017:
    - Young adults aged 19-24 experienced an increase in the uninsured rate – from 13.1 percent in 2016 to 14.0 percent in 2017
    - Uninsured rates among low-income adults living in Medicaid expansion states increased from 11.8 percent in 2016 to 12.2 percent in 2017
- The Administration’s cancellation of most federal outreach efforts at the end of the 2017 open enrollment period for 2017 marketplace coverage, coupled with public confusion caused by Administration and Congressional efforts to repeal the ACA in 2017, likely prevented coverage gains by creating barriers to obtaining available and affordable coverage.
- Sources:
  - **STATEMENT:** [Greenstein: Health Coverage Progress Stalls — Even as Economy Reduces Poverty, Boosts Income](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
  - [Census: Health Coverage Progress Stalled](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
  - [Census: States Not Expanding Medicaid Lagging on Health Coverage](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
  - [New Census Bureau Data Show Too Many Everyday Families Being Left Behind in the Trump Economy, Says CAP’s Jacob Leibenluft](#) (Center for American Progress)

### 3. Median Household Income

- Median household income rose modestly (1.8 percent) in 2017.
- This represents a significant slowdown from much larger increases in 2016 (3.1 percent) and 2015 (5.1 percent).
- Black and Asian American households do not share in 2017's modest income gains, unraveling recent years' progress in closing the black-white income gap.
  - White households experienced a 3.3 percent median increase in household income and Hispanic households experienced a 3.7 percent increase. Meanwhile, Asian households experienced a negative 2.2 percent change in income, and Black households experienced a negative .2 percent change.
- Household income changes gains were also unequally distributed between men and women.
  - In female-headed households with no husband, median incomes dropped by 0.5 percent. Meanwhile, in male-headed households with no wife median incomes rose by 2.6 percent.
  - In non-family households, female household income dropped by 1.5 percent. while male household income rose by 3.8 percent.
- In contrast, the richest 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of households (incomes of \$237,000 per year) saw "their incomes grow by nearly \$7,000 in 2017 – eclipsing the modest gains for low- and middle-income households.
- Sources:
  - [New Census Bureau Data Show Too Many Everyday Families Being Left Behind in the Trump Economy, Says CAP's Jacob Leibenluft](#) (Center for American Progress)

### 4. Gender Pay Gap Remains “Stubbornly Unchanged”

- The gender pay gap is both persistent and problematic – and even wider for women of color.
  - In 2017 the median earnings for men were \$52,146 and the median earnings for women were \$41,977, for a gender pay ratio of 80.499%. So rounding, 80.5% or 80%, so exactly the same as last year.
  - Real earnings in constant dollars actually dropped slightly for both men and women between 2016 and 2017, but by the same relative amount, so no change in the ratio.
  - White men's earnings were up slightly, but all women's were down slightly, so the available race-based gaps actually all got slightly worse this year.
  - In 2017, American Indian and Alaska Native women made 58% of white, non-Hispanic men's earnings.

- In 2017, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women made 62% of white, Non-Hispanic men's earnings.
- Stats are all for full time, year round workers:

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Women's Earnings as a Percentage of White Men's Earnings</u>
White, Not Hispanic	77%
Black	61%
Asian	85%
Hispanic	53%

- We continue to see a gender pay gap in every state and in almost all congressional districts.
  - While there were no dramatic changes in any state between the 2016 and 2017 data, we do see the gap consistently widening between 2015-2016-2017 in Alabama, Indiana and South Carolina. While California has made small, but consistent gains over that same time period in closing the gap.
  - 74.5 percent of congressional districts with gaps wider than the national average are represented by Members of Congress who are not cosponsors of the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- New Resource: State and congressional roadmaps on the pay gap and what steps jurisdictions need to take to advance pay equity: [this map](#).
- Source:
  - AAUW – private email (analysis not yet publicly posted)

## 5. Anti-Poverty Programs Keep Millions from Poverty, But Are Targeted for Budget Cuts

- According to Supplemental Poverty Measure, economic security programs like SNAP, the EITC and Child Care Tax Credit, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), rent subsidies, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) kept

millions of people above the poverty line in 2017 – and reduced the severity of poverty for tens of millions of others by lifting them closer to the poverty line

- SNAP lifted 3.4 million above the SPM poverty line (historically, SNAP lifts more poor children out of “deep poverty” than any other program)
- EITC and Child Care Tax Credit together lifted 8.3 million out of poverty, including 4.5 million children
- SSI lifted 3.2 million out of poverty
- Rent subsidies lifted 2.9 million out of poverty
- TANF and state general assistance programs lifted 544,000 out of poverty
- Social Security moved 27 million individuals out of poverty
- The President’s 2019 budget and the House Budget Committee budget plan would deeply cut nutrition assistance through SNAP and income assistance programs such as TANF and SSI. Cuts to housing assistance (through significantly raising rent on the very poorest families) have also been proposed.
- “Make no mistake: If these programs are cut, in the coming years, we will see a reversal of the progress we have made in fighting poverty.” (Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs)
- Sources:
  - [Census: Programs Eyed for Cuts Keep Millions from Poverty](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
  - [Progress in Fighting Poverty Slows – and for the First Time in Years, the Number of Uninsured Americans Does Not Significantly Decline](#) (Coalition on Human Needs)