



WOMEN & CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

Compiled August 2017

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by poverty – 56% of people living below the federal poverty line in Erie and Niagara counties are female compared to 44% male.ⁱ
- 41% of Erie County households experience financial hardship – 60% in the City of Buffalo and 42% of seniors.ⁱⁱ
- Homeless families with children are most likely to be led by a young single mother aged 18-34. Across Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, and Genesee Counties, 79% of homeless families were led by single mothers.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Social and economic deprivation during childhood and adolescence can have a lasting effect on individuals, making it difficult for children who grow up in low-income families to escape poverty when they become adults. The stress of living in poverty and struggling to meet daily needs can impair parenting.^{iv}
- Living in poverty- chronic scarcity- results in cognitive consequences that are highly deleterious when experienced chronically.^v
- There is a 30 million word gap between children growing up in low-income households, in comparison with their middle- and upper-class peers.^{vi}
- On average, children coming from low-income households are 12-14 months behind their middle- and upper-class peers in developing pre-reading skills when they start school.^{vii}
- An annual income increase of \$1,000 during early childhood has been associated with improved school performance. For families experiencing deep poverty, a salary increase of \$10,000 annually over the first five years of a child's life nearly triples the odds that s/he will finish high school.^{viii}
- The behaviors and decisions we may observe among people living with low incomes tell us much more about the condition of poverty itself than about the motives, skills, or character of the people experiencing it.^{ix}
- White and black women are almost twice as likely to be living in poverty than their male counterparts during retirement. Women are 80 percent more likely than men to be impoverished at age 65 and older. Women age 75 to 79 are three times more likely.^x



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



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- ⁱ 2011-2015 American Community Survey – Poverty Status in the past 12 months by Sex by Age – Table B17001.
- ⁱⁱ United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. “A Profile of Financial Hardship in Erie County.” Community Report Card Series, UWBECE. November 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwbec.org/reports>
- ⁱⁱⁱ “Annual Report on the State of Homelessness in Western New York.” Homeless Alliance of WNY, 2015. Retrieved from: <https://wnyhomeless.org/app/uploads/2015-Homeless-Alliance-Annual-Report1.pdf>
- ^{iv} Wagmiller, R. and R. Adelman. “Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing Up Poor.” National Center for Children in Poverty, November, 2009. Retrieved from: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_909.html
- ^v Daminger, Allison, J. Hayes, A. Barrows, J. Wright. “Poverty Interrupted: Applying Behavioral Science to the Context of Chronic Scarcity.” Ideas 42, May, 2015. Retrieved from: http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/I42_PovertyWhitePaper_Digital_FINAL-1.pdf
- ^{vi} United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. “A Profile of Third-Grade Proficiency in Erie County.” Community Report Card Series, UWBECE. June 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwbec.org/reports>
- ^{vii} United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. “A Profile of Third-Grade Proficiency in Erie County.” Community Report Card Series, UWBECE. June 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwbec.org/reports>
- ^{viii} Daminger, Allison, J. Hayes, A. Barrows, J. Wright. “Poverty Interrupted: Applying Behavioral Science to the Context of Chronic Scarcity.” Ideas 42, May, 2015. Retrieved from: http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/I42_PovertyWhitePaper_Digital_FINAL-1.pdf
- ^{ix} Daminger, Allison, J. Hayes, A. Barrows, J. Wright. “Poverty Interrupted: Applying Behavioral Science to the Context of Chronic Scarcity.” Ideas 42, May, 2015. Retrieved from: http://www.ideas42.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/I42_PovertyWhitePaper_Digital_FINAL-1.pdf
- ^x Brown, J., N. Rhee, J. Saad-Lessler, and D. Oakley. “Shortchanged in Retirement: Continuing Challenges to Women’s Financial Future.” National Institute on Retirement Security, March, 2016. Retrieved from: http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=912&Itemid=48