

South Central Missouri Community Action Agency Promotes Release of Statewide Poverty Report

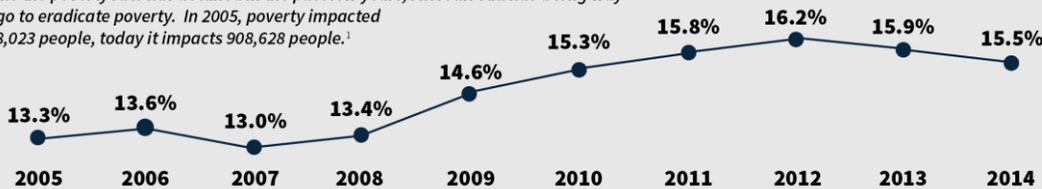
Report highlights multidimensional factors facing 908,628 Missourians in poverty

SCMCAA promoted the release of the 2016 State of the State: Poverty in Missouri report on February 4th, at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City. This report is a comprehensive resource of statewide poverty information which is released in cooperation with the Missourians to End Poverty coalition every two years. South Central Missouri Community Action Agency works on the front line of poverty each day to assist low-income families. Our mission is to eliminate poverty and promote stability and self-sufficiency for individuals and families in our seven county service delivery area of Butler, Carter, Dent, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon and Wayne Counties.

Although the economic situation in Missouri is beginning to look up, the report highlights that Missouri's poverty rate only decreased slightly since its peak in 2012 and is significantly higher than 10 years ago. During the last ten years, Missouri's poverty rate has increased from 13.3 percent (748,023) in 2005 to 15.5 percent (908,628) today. This amounts to a 21.5 percent increase overall.

Poverty Rates in Missouri over the Last 10 Years

While the poverty rate has declined in the past few years, Missouri still has a long way to go to eradicate poverty. In 2005, poverty impacted 748,023 people, today it impacts 908,628 people.¹



The 5 key issues outlined in the report are Food, Education, Health, Housing & Energy, and Family & Economic Security. From the number of Missouri jobs in low wage occupations to the fact that our state ranks 7th in the country for food insecurity, this report highlights critical issues for our citizens. In addition, specific topics relating to children in poverty have been included, such as child homeless rates, percentages of children on free or reduced lunch and more.

The Missourians to End Poverty Coalition is a non-partisan group comprised of nonprofits, religious organizations, businesses, government agencies, local Community Action Agencies, and concerned citizens, who have come together around the vision that *“As Missourians, we envision a just society of share responsibility by individuals, communities, business, and government in which all individuals are respected, have opportunities to reach their full potential and participate in thriving, diverse, and sustainable communities.”*

The Missourians to End Poverty coalition will also be hosting the fourth Missouri Poverty Summit in Jefferson City on April 27th. For more information on the report or summit visit: www.MoEndPoverty.org.

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