

The Utah Department of Workforce Services

Intergenerational Poverty Report 2012

An analysis of public assistance attachment from one generation to the next in Utah

Poverty Rates Total Population



Poverty Rates Children ages 0 to 17



Census Data and DWS Data for July 2010		All individuals	Ages 21 to 40	Ages 0 to 17
State Population	Individuals	2,763,885	842,482	871,027
Estimate of Poverty	Poverty Rate	13.2%	see note 1	15.7%
	Individuals in Poverty	364,833	111,208	136,751
Food Stamps (FS) Population	FS Individuals	257,822	73,022	133,439
	Estimated FS Participation among those in Poverty	70.7%	65.7%	97.6%
DWS Data for SFY2012		All individuals	Ages 21 to 40	Ages 0 to 17
All Public Assistance (see note 2)	Total PA Individuals	383,031	92,138	215,106
	Intergenerational PA Individuals		35,778	50,079
Intergenerational Public Assistance	Percent of all PA	see note 3	38.8%	23.3%
	Percent of Poverty		32.2%	36.6%
	Percent of Total Population		4.2%	5.7%

Note 1: The overall poverty rate is used to estimate the number of those in poverty ages 21 to 40

Note 2: All PA includes programs for which eligibility criteria is not limited to 100 percent of poverty

Note 3: Due to limited historical data, intergenerational PA is not available for the all individuals

The Utah Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act (Senate Bill 37 of the 2012 Legislative Session; Utah Code 35A-8-101, 35A-8-102, and 35A-8-201) requires the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to ...

It's the law

Establish and maintain a system to track intergenerational poverty related data that:

- * identifies at-risk children and other groups
- * identifies trends
- * assists case workers, social scientists, and government officials in the study and development of plans and programs

It's the law

Why?

It's the law

Why?

“to help individuals and families break the cycle of poverty.”

It's the right thing to do

The act establishes an annual report due not later than September 30 of each year to:

- * the governor
- * the Legislative Management Committee
- * Legislature's Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee.

This is the inaugural report

It's accountable

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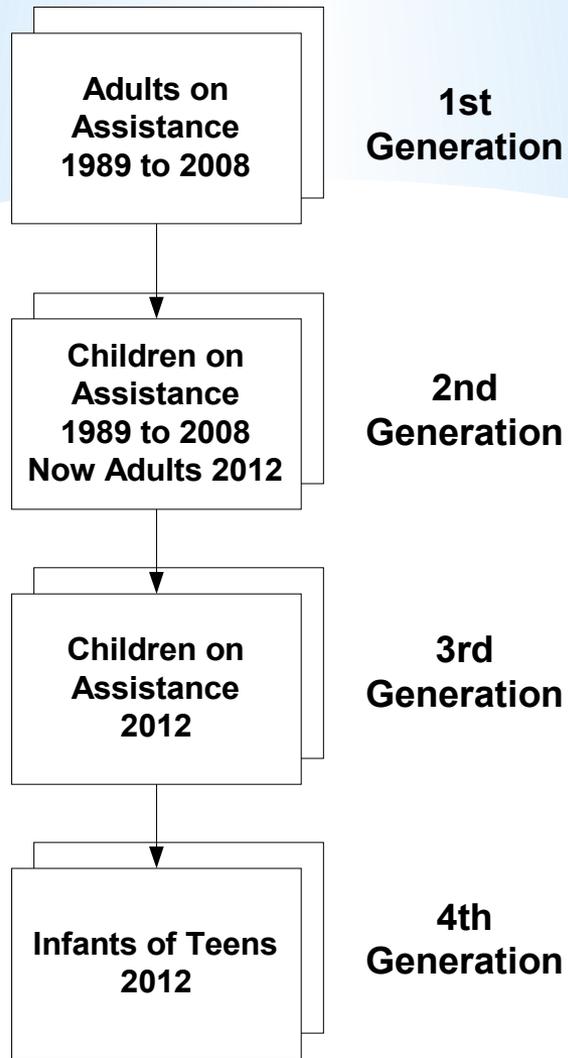
Methodology

The analysis looks at
~~public assistance records~~
Adults are ages 21
to and older

* All adults in "public"
assistance during
SFY 2012
17 and younger

Utah Intergenerational
Poverty Report 2012
* How many adults were
Data goes back to 1989

10/18/12



ADULTS

- * Age and gender
- * Marital status
- * Number of children
- * County of residence
- * Education level
- * Homelessness
- * Legal issues
- * Disability status
- * English language proficiency
- * Employment history
- * Program types of assistance

CHILDREN

- * Age and gender
- * Relationship to intergenerational adults
- * School status
- * Disability
- * Teen pregnancy
- * Multiple households
- * Program types of assistance

* Characteristics

- *The more impoverished a person is during childhood, the more likely that person is to receive public assistance (PA) as an adult.
- *The longer adults experienced poverty as children, the longer they are likely to be in poverty as adults.

*Findings

- * Almost 36,000 children receiving PA between 1989 and 2008 are now adults receiving PA. These “second generation” adults are ages 21 to 40 and represent 1 in every 24 Utahns of the same age group.
- * Two-thirds of these second generation adults have children of their own. That is, there are currently 51,000 children in the “third generation” receiving PA whose parents were also children with PA.

* Findings

* One in every 20 intergenerational teen girls (ages 13 to 17) was pregnant during SFY12 expecting the “fourth generation” of PA recipients.

* Findings

- * In Utah, more than 70 percent of all people living in poverty receive some form of PA including financial aid, Child Care subsidies, Food Stamps, and/or Medicaid.
- * Children in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) have the highest retention in PA when they are adults.

* Findings

- * 36 percent of children in financial (AFDC) households participated in public assistance as adults. TANF was not established until 1996.
- * 29 percent of children in Food Stamps went on to participate in public assistance as adults.
- * 14 percent of children in medical assistance households receive public assistance as adults.
- * The Child Care program was not evaluated since it was not established until after 1991.

* Findings

- * Most intergenerational adults are unmarried females with children. Females are almost twice as likely to be intergenerational PA recipients as males. About 70 percent of all intergenerational mothers have at least two children.
- * One third of intergenerational adults have less than a high school diploma or GED completion. Most of the remaining population have no post-secondary education.

* Findings

- * Most intergenerational adults have some work history—but with low incomes. This is likely because their occupations pay less and/or they do not work as many hours.
- * Every county has a share of intergenerational PA recipients.

* Findings

- * Race and ethnicity
- * Mental Health
- * Substance Abuse
- * Data for those not included:
 - * People over 40
 - * Out-of-State data
 - * Community data (churches, shelters, food pantries, local charities)
 - * Absent parents

* Future Reports

- * Traditional services treats everyone the same
- * Data allows for identification of vulnerable individuals at the time of service
- * Tailor services to improve outcomes for children
 - * Education (high school completion)
 - * Employment experience
 - * Pregnancy prevention

* Potential Policy Implications

“More emphasis must be placed on children if America hopes to provide a pathway out of intergenerational poverty ... Our economic policy priorities and resources must be focused on evidence-based solutions that are proven to work for children in poverty, including adult accountability for improving children’s lives.”

Stuart Reid, Utah State Senate

“We see this as a joint effort with the entire community — advocates and all stakeholders who want to be a part of creating solutions.”

Jon Pierpont, Acting Executive Director, DWS

“Society is defined, in large part, by how we treat those who are most vulnerable in our community. The closer we come to moving these numbers down, the closer we are to effecting real change.”

For more information, please contact:

Rick Little

ricklittle@utah.gov

801-526-9719

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