

The Utah Department of Workforce Services

# Intergenerational Poverty Report 2012

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

The Utah Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act (Senate Bill 37 of the 2012 Legislative Session) requires the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) to ...

# Intergenerational Poverty Report

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

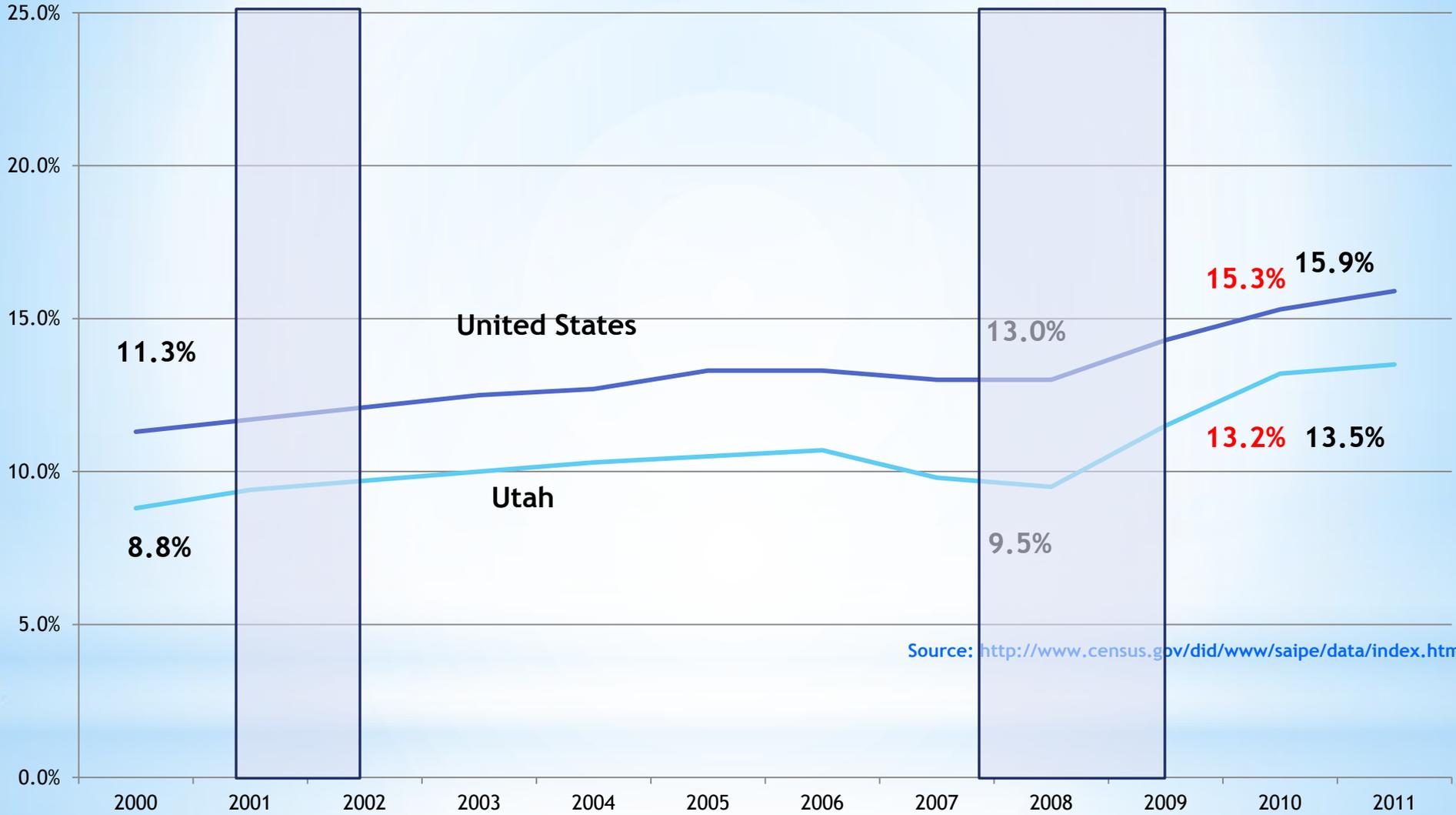
# Intergenerational Poverty Report

Why?

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

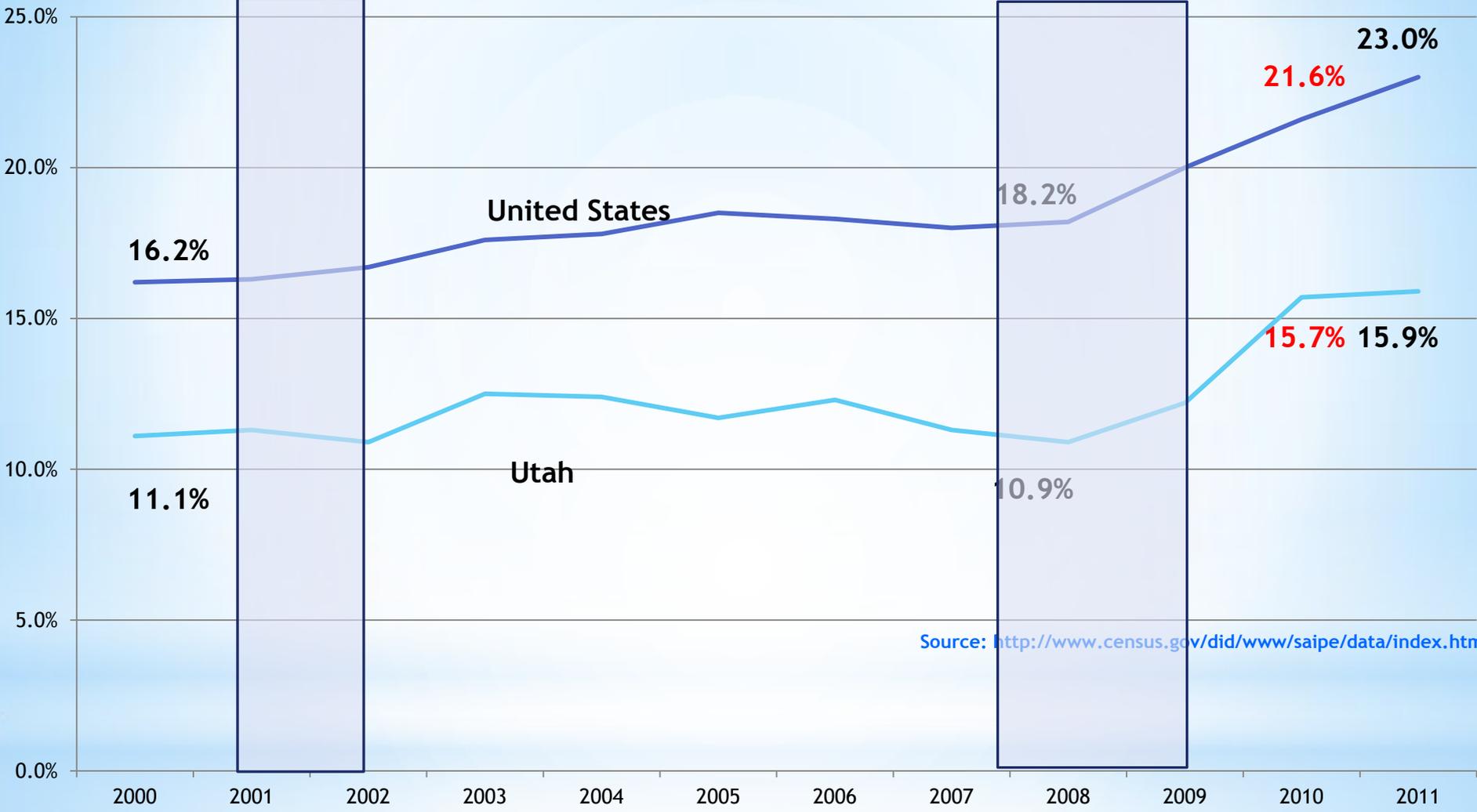
# Intergenerational Poverty Report

# Poverty Rates Total Population



Source: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/index.html>

# Poverty Rates Children ages 0 to 17



Source: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/index.html>



## Methodology

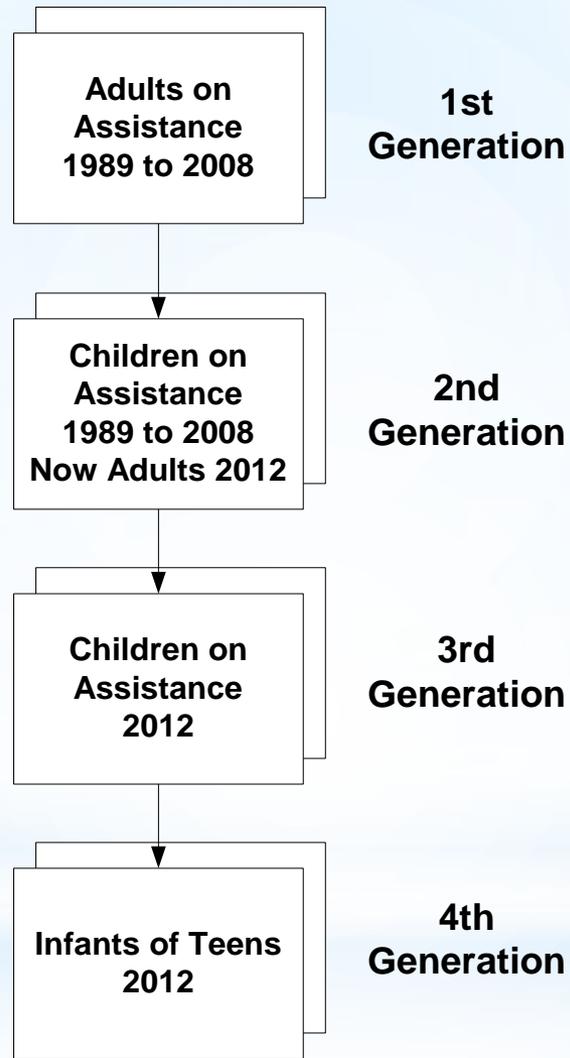
“Adults” are ages 21 and older

They were “children” when they were ages 17 and younger

Data goes back to 1989

The analysis looks at public assistance records to observe

- \* All adults in public assistance during SFY2012
- \* How many adults were recipients of public assistance as children
- \* Excludes those whose public assistance was situational (less than 12 months as an adults and less than 12 months as a child)



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 Public Assistance	Intergenerational PA Individuals	see note 3	35,778	50,079
	Percent of all PA		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 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

- \* 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

- \* 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

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