



ECONOMY

Indiana's National Rankings*

National KIDS COUNT Book Economy Ranking	19th
Child Poverty	31st
Secure Parental Employment	21st
High Housing Burdens	9th
Child Food Insecurity	21st

**For each indicator, higher rankings (1st) indicate better outcomes for youth*

Parents need secure employment, well-paying jobs, and affordable housing to be able to invest in their children's future. When parents are unemployed or underemployed, they may be limited in the investments they can make in their children's development. These experiences of economic insecurity or poverty can have lasting effects on children's well-being and later economic success.





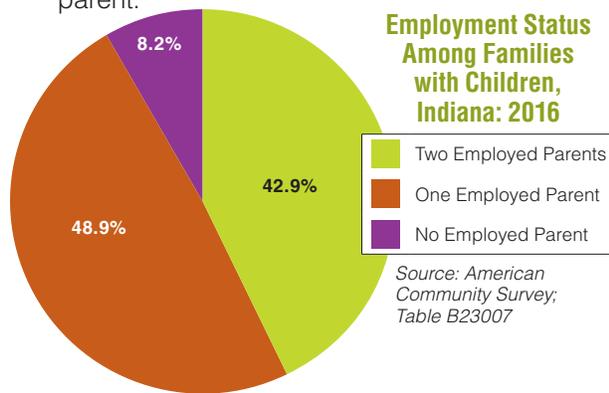
Barriers to Parental Employment

When parents do better economically, their children do better as well. Full-time, full-year employment contributes to greater financial stability and higher income, which is associated with positive child outcomes such as better health, behavior, academic achievement and financial well-being as adults. Despite these benefits, Hoosier parents often face barriers to sustaining living wage employment.¹

How Many Parents are Unemployed?

When a parent loses a job, the family often must decrease spending on necessities, increase reliance on public assistance, or both. Parental unemployment may be especially harmful for children if the period of unemployment lasts for many months,² and parental permanent job loss is linked to an increased likelihood of parental divorce, family relocation, and children repeating a grade.³

- 4.5% of Indiana’s families with children younger than 18 have an unemployed parent.⁴
- 91.8% of Indiana’s families with children younger than 18 have at least one employed parent.⁵



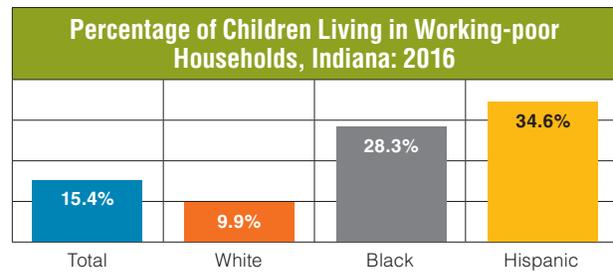
Some individuals who are not currently employed would like to work but did not actively pursue work recently. Therefore, they are not counted as “unemployed.” Others would like to work full time but have only been able to find part-time work.

- If these marginally attached and involuntarily part-time workers are included, Indiana’s unemployment rate rises from 4.5% to 8.3%.⁶

How Many Parents are Working Poor?

Work can be an important step out of poverty, but for low-income families, it does not guarantee an escape from poverty.⁷ Individuals who spent at least 27 weeks in the labor force (working or looking for work) but whose incomes fall below the official poverty level are considered “working poor.”⁸

- 15.4% of Hoosier children live in working-poor households.⁹



Source: National Survey of Children’s Health

What are the Challenges?

Hoosier families face numerous barriers to sustainable living wage employment.

Child care. For many families, the high cost of child care interferes with successful employment. Families unable to afford formal care may need to rely on multiple forms of informal care. These arrangements can be less reliable, meaning parents may be forced to miss work more frequently. Parents working nontraditional hours may face additional difficulty accessing needed childcare.¹⁰

- In Indiana, the average annual cost of high-quality early childhood care and education is \$8,818.
- A single parent in poverty with one child would spend 54% of their annual income on high-quality child care.¹¹

Transportation. Safe, reliable and affordable transportation helps families access jobs, educational opportunities, and social services. Transportation challenges can cause workers to be late or spend more time commuting than can be economically justified.



1 in 8

low-income Hoosier families with children younger than six had to quit a job, not take a job, or greatly change their job in the past year because of child care problems.

- 6.3% of all Indiana households have no vehicle available.¹²
- High gas costs, long commutes or an unreliable car can mean that even families with access to a vehicle face transportation challenges.

Access to social safety nets. Many eligible families face difficulties accessing social safety nets that can buffer against economic insecurity. Families may not know what programs are available or how to apply.

- Although 13.3% of all Hoosier households live in poverty,¹³ only 11.2% receive any sort of cash public assistance or Food Stamps/ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.¹⁴
- Approximately 1 in 5 Hoosier taxpayers who are eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit do not receive the credit.¹⁵

Housing burdens. Families who spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs each month are considered to have a housing burden. High housing costs may prevent families from moving to areas with available jobs, and low-income working families facing high housing burdens may not have enough to cover the family's other basic needs such as food and medical care.¹⁶

- In Indiana, 1 in 4 children (25%) live in households with a high housing cost burden.¹⁷
- 46.1% of renters and 19.4% of owners with a mortgage spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing.¹⁸

What Resources Are Available?

WorkOne Centers are the heart of Indiana's workforce development system. WorkOne staff



help job seekers find a new or better job, choose a career, access training or get the information needed to succeed in today's job market. <http://www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/index.html>

Child Care Finder allows parents to locate child care providers in Indiana. Parents may use search filters to select providers that accept child care vouchers (CCDF). <http://www.in.gov/fssa/childcarefinder>

Self Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse is a hub of research on low-income and TANF families. It aims to improve policy and practice in employment, education and family self-sufficiency by providing access to field-tested, evidence-based program strategies. <https://www.opressrc.org/>

What Solutions are Possible?

Individuals

- ✓ Spread awareness of available safety net programs and how to apply.
- ✓ Offer child care for parents while they search or interview for jobs.

Organizations and Communities

- ✓ Expand education and training for parents seeking jobs.
- ✓ Coordinate affordable transportation alternatives such as carpools.

Leaders and Policy Makers

- ✓ Expand child care subsidies to make work feasible for parents.
- ✓ Expand high-quality child care to all Indiana counties.
- ✓ Expand transportation options by supporting public transportation and making roadways accessible for walking and cycling.
- ✓ Expand policies for affordable housing.



2018 Indiana KIDS COUNT[®] Data Book

a profile of child well-being

Economy Spotlight Sources

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² Urban Institute (2013). Unemployment from a Child's Perspective. Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/23131/1001671-Unemployment-from-a-Child-s-Perspective.PDF>

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⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey (2016). Table B23007: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Family type by Employment Status. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey (2016). Table B23007: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Family type by Employment Status. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

⁶ Bureau of Labor Statistics (2016). Alternative Measures of Labor Utilization for States, 2016 Annual Averages. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt16q4.htm>

⁷ Child Trends (2015). Children in Working Poor Families. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/children-in-working-poor-families/>

⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2017). A Profile of the Working Poor, 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/working-poor/2015/home.htm>

⁹ National Survey of Children's Health (2016). Children living in "working poor" families. Retrieved from www.nschdata.org

¹⁰ Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee (2018). 2018 Annual Report. Retrieved from http://www.elacindiana.org/elacindiana/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/final_ar_2018.pdf

¹¹ Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee (2018). 2018 Annual Report. Retrieved from http://www.elacindiana.org/elacindiana/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/final_ar_2018.pdf

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¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, (2016). Table B19058: Public Assistance Income for Food Stamps in the Past 12 Months for Households. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

¹⁵ Internal Revenue Services (2015). EITC Participation Rates by States. Retrieved from <https://www.irs.gov/eitc-central/participation-rate/eitc-participation-rate-by-states>

¹⁶ Annie E. Casey Foundation (2017). One-Third of U.S. Kids Live in Families Burdened by Housing Costs. Retrieved from <http://www.aecf.org/blog/one-third-of-us-kids-live-in-families-burdened-by-housing-costs/>

¹⁷ KIDS COUNT Data Center (2015). Children living in households with a high housing cost burden. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#IN>

¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey (2016). Table DP04: Selected Housing Characteristics. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>