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## **By Any Measure, Rising Poverty Rates Take a Toll on Two Generations: Young Children, Young Parents, Single-Mother Families Disproportionately Hit by Weak Economy**

**Washington, D.C.** - The younger the parent and the younger the child, the more likely a family is to be poor, according to a new Child Trends report, [Two Generations in Poverty: Status and Trends among Parents and Children in the United States](#), commissioned by Ascend: The Family Economic Security Program at the Aspen Institute. As policy makers ponder the merits of alternative measures of poverty, the Child Trends report outlines the disproportionate effects of poverty on young children, young parents, and children and parents in single-mother families.

Among the report's highlights:

- The younger the parent, the more likely a family is to be poor. Households headed by young parents (18-24) are more likely to be poor than households headed by older parents, regardless of marital status.
- The younger the child, the more likely a family is to be poor. Families with young children (0-6) are more likely to be poor than families with older children.
- Overall poverty rates mask much higher rates for some sub-groups, such as single-mother families, whose poverty rate was 40.7 percent in 2010, compared to 8.8 percent for married-couple families.

The Child Trends report also summarizes the large body of research establishing the association between poverty and negative outcomes for adults, including parents, and for children. For parents, the negative effect of poverty extends beyond material hardships and basic needs, and is associated with increased mental health problems and difficulties in parenting. Among children, the effects of poverty are potentially even more pervasive and lasting. Children experiencing early, deep, or persistent poverty are especially likely to experience long-term, deleterious effects on their development and life circumstances, such as increased economic hardships as adults.

This [brief](#) draws on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, and focuses a two-generation lens on poverty rates and low-income status among children and parents. In addition, it presents data on differences across race, age, family structure, gender, education, employment status and geography.