

## Poverty in Idaho

The citizens of Idaho care about the wellbeing of their families and communities. We want a hopeful and prosperous future for our children, communities that are thriving and a state that is a great place to live, work and raise a family. While many Idaho families prosper, a number struggle to meet basic needs. The harsh realities of a slowly improving economy continue to affect nearly **sixteen percent of Idaho's families who are living in poverty**.

### Facts regarding Hunger in Idaho –

According to The Idaho Foodbank's *Hunger in Idaho 2010 report*:

- **47 percent** of food bank clients report having to choose between paying for food or paying for utilities or heating fuel.
- **34 percent** of food bank clients had to choose between paying for food or paying their rent or mortgage.
- **34 percent** of food bank clients had to choose between paying for food or paying for medicine or medical care.
- Only **36 percent** of food bank client households receive Food Stamps.
- Among households with children, **86 percent** of those served are food insecure and **38 percent** are food insecure with very low food security.

### Facts regarding Healthcare in Idaho –

- According to Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN) Idaho, **suicide is the second leading cause of death** for Idahoans age 15-34 and for males age 10-14.
- In 2010, **9 percent** (37,721) of Idaho's children were uninsured (Idaho Kids Count).
- In 2009, nearly **21 percent** of Idaho's children were considered overweight or obese (Idaho Kids Count).

### Facts regarding Affordable Housing in Idaho –

- In 2010, **25 percent** of Idaho's children (0-17) were considered homeless (Idaho Kids Count).
- In November 2011, Idaho ranked **16<sup>th</sup>** in the country for housing foreclosures (Realty Trac).

### Facts regarding Economic Security in Idaho –

- The unemployment rate in Idaho stood at **8.5 percent** in November 2011 (Idaho Department of Labor).
- In 2010, **31 percent** of children in Idaho lived in a family where no parent has full-time year round employment (Idaho Kids Count).
- In 2010, **20 percent** of Idaho's children were growing up in poverty (Idaho Kids Count).
- In 2010, Idaho payday lenders awarded 499,704 in loans for a combined total of **\$185.3 million**. Idaho does not have a limit on the amount of interest or fees a payday lender can charge consumers.

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