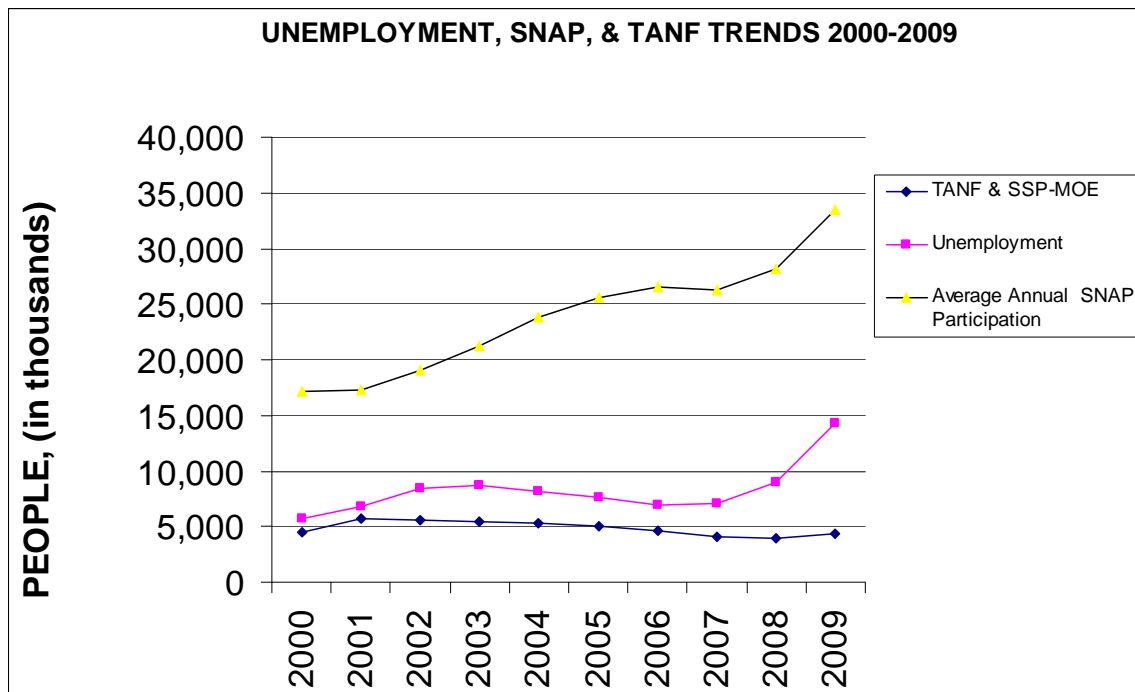


## POVERTY TRENDS – 2010

Each September, the Census Bureau reports on the status of poverty in the United States. In 2010, the statistics are again alarming.

Poverty has risen to an unprecedented level. Even more distressing is the widening of the wedge between those who have more resources than they could ever use, and those struggling for minimal survival.

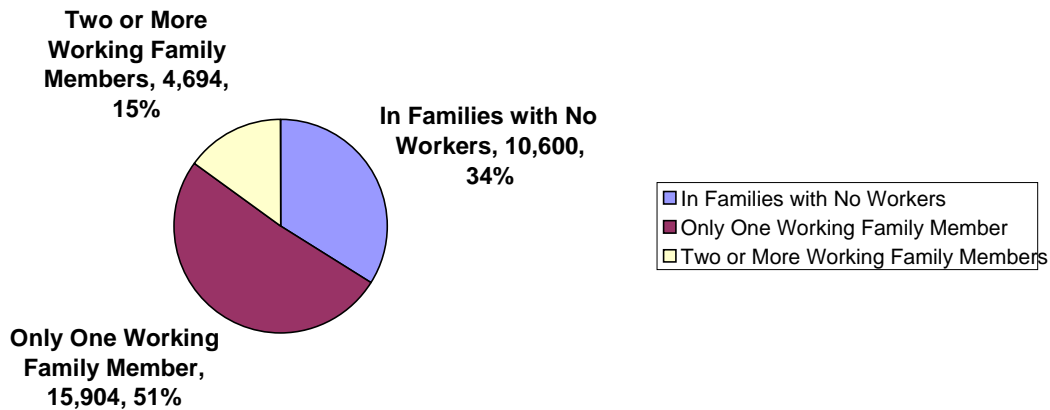
NETWORK has developed the following graphs to point out the gravity of the developing disparity, and the overall poverty in our nation. We once again call on Congress to stand with the economically marginalized by extending tax credits for low-income families and adequately funding programs for people in need, specifically TANF, SNAP and child nutrition programs.



*Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics*  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/SNAPsummary.htm>

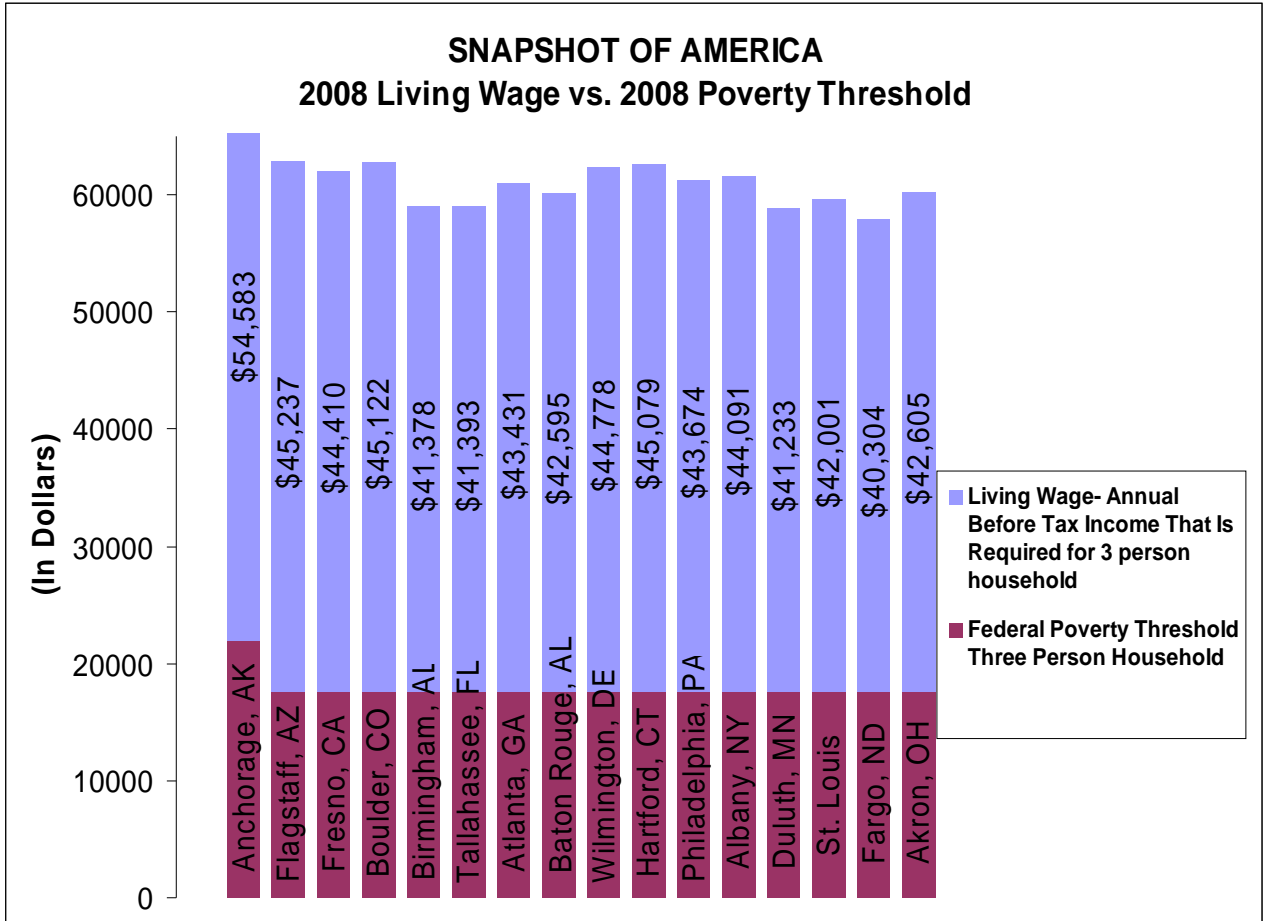
During crises, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, NETWORK learned that SNAP (food stamps) was the most successfully responsive program, finding and enrolling those in need in a timely manner. It most closely parallels the rate of unemployment - becoming available as most needed. TANF has been nearly unresponsive to the economic downturn. This may be in part due to the state matching requirement - when states face bankruptcy they cannot provide necessary matching funds. The application requirements, and start up of TANF benefits also discourage some who need assistance.

**People in Families by Number of Working Family Members  
Below 100% of the Poverty Level  
(in thousands)**



*Source: U.S Census Bureau*

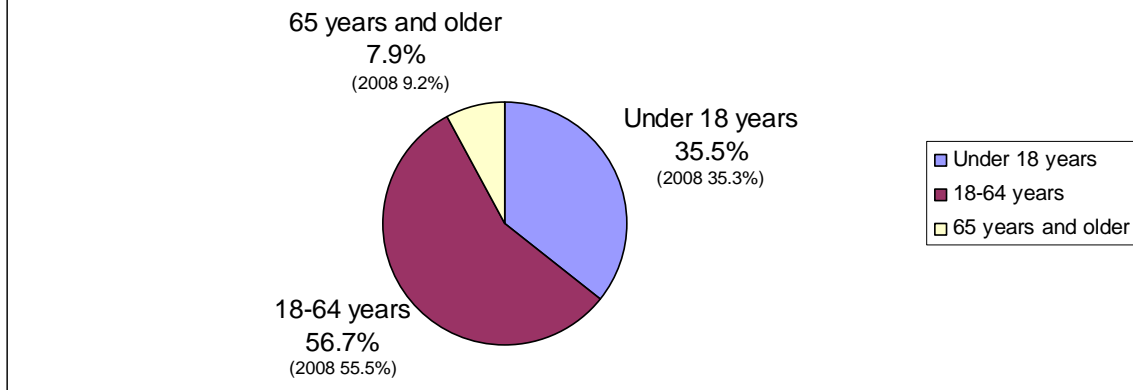
Over four and a half million families with two or more working members still cannot move out of poverty. This reflects poorly on wage structures in our businesses. Often low-wage workers are unable to find full-time employment, many times the employment is not regular. Many of the sixteen million families with one working member represent single parent households. The Census Bureau Poverty Report shows that twice as many families headed by a woman live below the poverty threshold than the average household. This accounts for many of the 3.5 million children living below the poverty threshold.



Data from <http://www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu/>  
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>

This selection of statistics points out the devastating condition in which millions of members of our communities struggle. A “Living Wage” is calculated using the fair market value of housing, food, transportation and other necessities. As these cases show, in order to live with dignity, income needs to be roughly three times the poverty threshold. Yet, millions live far below even the threshold.

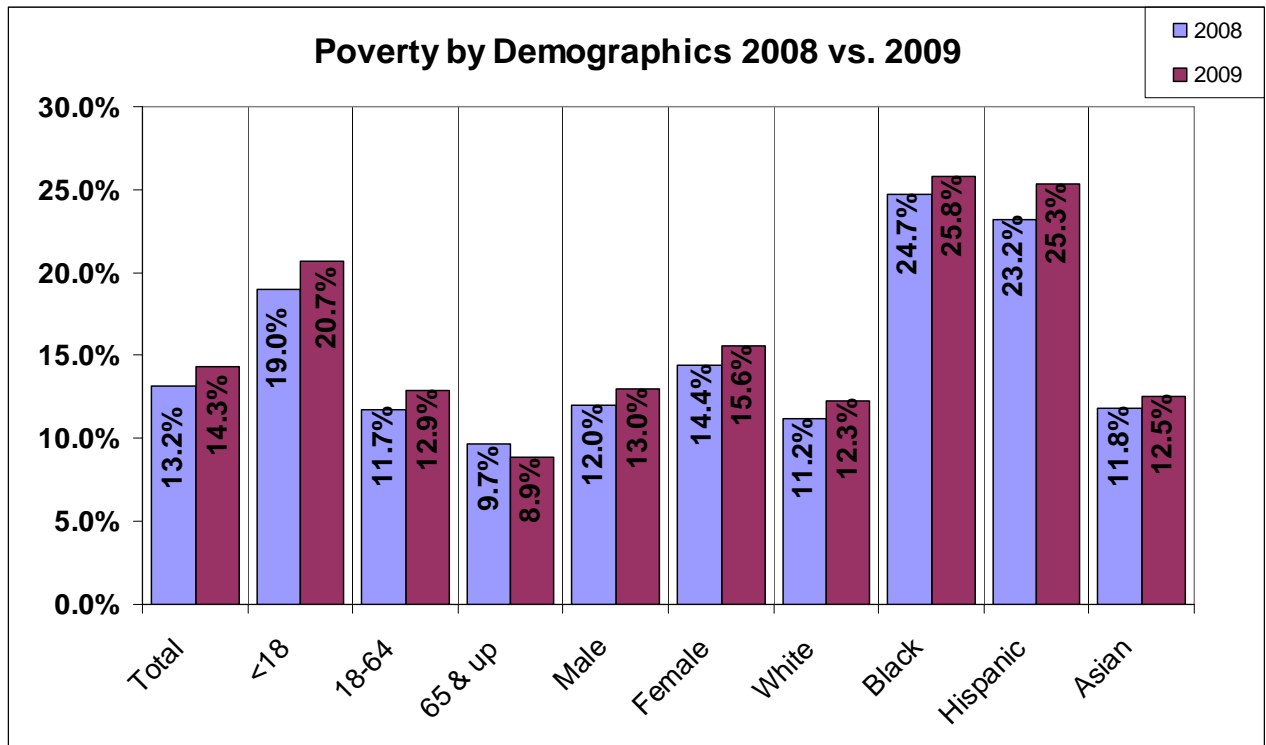
## 2009 Breakdown of People below 100% of Poverty Line



Data from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/historical/hstpov15.xls>

Age-related considerations of the poverty statistics show an increase in the numbers of children and of adults of working ages. The situation of the elderly improved during from 2008 to 2009 by the additional \$250 given to recipients of Social Security. It was sufficient to move 1.3% of seniors out of poverty.

Children growing up in poverty face greater hurdles than other children in learning and in overall development. Nutrition and stability of a home environment have particularly negative effects. Research has shown that the strongest indicator of living in poverty as an adult is growing up in poverty. There is greater likelihood of being in underperforming schools, in part due to a lower tax base.



*Data from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/p60-238.pdf>  
[http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new01\\_100\\_01.htm](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032009/pov/new01_100_01.htm)*

Last year we were appalled at the increase in the number and percent of people in poverty- in just one year. Now, we see even higher percentages. A 1.1% increase in the total number of people added to the rolls of poverty may not seem so terrible, until we realize that represents an additional 3.7 million people living in poverty than just one year earlier. And, 1.4 million of those newly below the poverty threshold are children.

The poverty increase among White and Black populations matched the 1.1% overall increase. Hispanic populations fared less well with a 2.1% increase in the number living in poverty. This points to a further increase in social disparity in our nation.

Women and female-headed households continue to fare less well than men. Almost 1 in 6 women in this nation lives in poverty. For a single woman, that means her income is at or below \$10,800. Almost 1/3 of women who are head of a family fall below the poverty threshold. For a family of 4, that income threshold is \$22,050.