Center for Poverty Research

About the Center

Over the past 50 years, the U.S. has experienced a rising standard of living without reducing the fraction of the population that live in poverty. In response to this, the Center for Poverty Research at UC Davis is one of three federally designated National Poverty Centers whose mission is to facilitate non-partisan academic research on poverty in the U.S., disseminate this research, and train the next generation of poverty scholars. Our research agenda includes four themed areas of focus:

- Labor Markets and Poverty
- Children and the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty
- The Non-traditional Safety Net, focusing on health and education
- The Relationship Between Poverty and Immigration

The Center was founded in the fall of 2011 with core funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Leadership

The Center is led by Director Ann Stevens (Economics) and Deputy Director Marianne Page (Economics), as well an Executive Committee and an external advisory board.

Affiliated Scholars

Our vibrant interdisciplinary research community is engaged in both quantitative and qualitative poverty research. Scholars from more than a dozen academic programs and schools are affiliated with the Center, ranging from economics, education, engineering, human and community development, law, medicine, political science, psychology, and sociology.

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Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2010

Percentage of people living below poverty level

- 16.0 or more
- 13.0 – 15.9
- 11.0 – 12.9
- Less than 11.0

Giving to the Center

The generous support of individual and foundation donors leverages our core funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Gifts to the Center for Poverty Research support current needs, including enhancing public lectures and conferences, disseminating research findings, and creating special opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student engagement in research. Donations to the Center for Poverty Research are tax deductible. All gifts are processed by the University of Davis, Office of Development and Alumni Relations. If you would like to help us identify causes and solutions to poverty issues, please visit our website for giving opportunities.

http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/giving

Current Research

Research Affiliates are employing cutting-edge methodologies to explore these, and many other, poverty-related issues:

- Does the Earned Income Tax Credit improve the health of low-income children?
- Does immigration raise the poverty rates of native U.S. workers?
- Does providing resources to poor families today affect the well-being of future generations?
- What are the effects of the Food Stamp Program on the health of families and the labor supply in the U.S.?
- What unique hurdles and support systems affect the success of low-income immigrant families?
- Does the school voucher system provide any educational benefit to poorer children?
- In what ways does poverty affect emotional and cognitive development, and how is poverty transmitted through generations of families?

Opportunities

Our goal is to facilitate research using a diverse set of approaches across academic disciplines to answer critical questions about poverty and the impact of anti-poverty public policy programs. Towards this end, we offer the following opportunities for researchers, students, policy-makers and the public:

- Cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and training activities
- Seminars and conferences featuring renowned and emerging poverty scholars
- A visiting scholar program that expands the network and reach of poverty researchers
- An extramural grant program supporting a new generation of scholars
- Freshman seminars promoting an understanding of, and critical thinking about, the complex nature of poverty in the U.S.
- An interdisciplinary graduate course on Poverty and Public Policy
- Policy Briefs that deliver our research directly to policymakers, journalists and the general public in an accessible format