



Poverty in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Poverty Data from the 2008 American Community Survey¹

September 29, 2009

Over 100,000 people lived in poverty in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties in 2008

- In 2008, one in 12 people lived in poverty in Ventura County and one in eight lived in poverty in Santa Barbara County.
- Of cities with populations over 65,000, poverty increased dramatically from 2007 to 2008 in Ventura (50%), and slightly in Santa Barbara (4%) and Santa Maria (14%).
- Latinos had a higher poverty rate in Ventura (8.4%) and Santa Barbara Counties (12.8%) than the countywide poverty rates in 2008.
- In the cities of Ventura (26.5%) and Santa Barbara (24.8%), one out of four Latinos lived in poverty in 2008.
- The percentage of Latinos in poverty increased in the cities of Ventura (78%), Santa Barbara (21%), and Santa Maria (12%) for 2008.
- The poverty rate in Ventura County was 8.4%, lower than the rate of poverty in California (13.3%) and nationally (13.2%)

Recommendation: To help raise people out of poverty, projects receiving stimulus funding need to pay prevailing wages and include Project Labor Agreements that have local and disadvantaged worker hiring and training goals.

Table 1: 2008 Poverty by County and City with over 65,000 People in Population and by Race

<i>2008 ACS</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Poverty</i>	<i>% in Poverty</i>	<i>White Population</i>	<i>Whites in Poverty</i>	<i>% of Whites in Poverty</i>	<i>Latino Population</i>	<i>Latinos in Poverty</i>	<i>% of Latinos in Poverty</i>
ACS Table #	B17001	B17001	B17001	B17001H	B17001H	B17001H	B17001I	B17001I	B17001I
Ventura County	787,071	66,248	8.4%	403,847	19,303	4.8%	297,860	41,603	14.0%
Santa Barbara County	389,817	48,409	12.4%	202,259	20,267	10.0%	155,158	25,010	16.1%
Oxnard	177,311	22,997	13.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	125,989	19,633	15.6%
Ventura	108,990	14,356	13.2%	70,237	5,373	7.6%	31,177	8,256	26.5%
Simi Valley	118,627	6,579	5.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thousand Oaks	116,076	4,460	3.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara	80,707	11,639	14.4%	47,841	4,978	10.4%	24,849	6,152	24.8%
Santa Maria	89,060	13,039	14.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	61,476	10,088	16.4%

Source: 2008 American Community Survey

Over 17,000 families lived in poverty in 2008

- Over 30,000 children lived in poverty in 2008 in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties which is more than one out of every 10 children.
- Almost one out of five children lived in poverty in the cities of Oxnard (19.1%), Santa Barbara (18.2%), and Santa Maria (17.8%).
- In Ventura County, 4,617 female headed households with children lived in poverty and in Santa Barbara County that number was 2,349 in 2008.
- The poverty rate for children in California was 18.1% and in the United States was 17.8% in 2008.

Recommendation: To help raise people out of poverty, projects receiving stimulus funding need to pay prevailing wages and include Project Labor Agreements that have local and disadvantaged worker hiring and training goals.

Table 2: 2008 Other Characteristics of Poverty by County and City with over 65,000 People in Population

2008 ACS Table #	Children Under 18	Children in Poverty	% of Children in Poverty	Households	Households in Poverty	% of Households in Poverty	Families in Poverty	Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	Male Headed Households with Children in Poverty
ACS Table #	B17006	B17006	B17006	C17017	C17017	C17017	B17010	B17010	B17010
Ventura County	201,537	21,277	10.6%	256,944	19,634	7.6%	11,380	4,617	1,703
Santa Barbara County	92,709	12,191	13.1%	139,212	14,724	10.6%	6,376	2,349	501
Oxnard	49,418	9,445	19.1%	46,440	4,978	10.7%	3,926	1,584	526
Ventura	25,184	3,801	15.1%	39,942	4,034	10.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Simi Valley	27,150	1,516	5.6%	40,024	2,554	6.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thousand Oaks	27,864	1,523	5.5%	42,457	2,091	4.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Barbara	13,666	2,490	18.2%	34,882	4,196	12.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Santa Maria	29,322	5,220	17.8%	24,457	3,505	14.3%	2,495	1,021	221

Source: 2008 American Community Survey

¹The source of data for this report comes from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) which was released on September 28, 2009 by the US Census Bureau. ACS provides demographic, economic and social data for individuals and households. The data is made available for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more.

The weighted average poverty threshold for a family of four in 2008 was \$22,025; for a family of three, \$17,163; for a family of two, \$14,051; and for unrelated individuals, \$10,991. For the full table of poverty thresholds for 2008, see the table at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/threshld/thresh08.html>.