



Upstate Update

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Poverty

Poverty represents a challenge to the promise of America, a challenge that has been growing in the wake of the 2008 - 2009 recession. According to official government reports, poverty increased in each year of the past four years, and currently stands at 46.2 million people living below the poverty line, \$22,314 a year for a family of four. Of those living below the poverty line, nearly half (20.5 million), live below the “deep poverty” line, equal to \$11,157 for a family of four. 7.4 million children are in families with incomes below the deep poverty line. Upstate New York includes communities historically challenged by high poverty rates including old industrial cities (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, and Utica), and areas classified within the Appalachian Region (Southern Tier and Western Catskill counties). For this reason New York State represents an important front in the fight to contain, and ultimately eliminate, poverty from America.

Thomas A. Hirschl, Cornell University

Resources

(titles link to sources on-line)

Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality

Survey on Economic Human Rights in New York State

CaRDI, Upstate New York in Profile: Trends, Projections, and Community & Economic Development Issues – pgs 44-49

See CaRDI’s March New York Minute:

“What do Upstate New Yorkers Think of Poverty and Poor People?”
by Robin Blakely-Armitage, Cornell University

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The *Upstate Updates* are monthly highlights of one of the nine topic areas covered in the *State of Upstate New York Initiative*, the Community & Regional Development Institute’s (CaRDI) on-going effort to provide up-to-date data, research, and other information to inform dialogue around important community and economic development issues in the Upstate New York region. For access to our statewide network of experts on this month’s topic, please contact the individual listed above. For more information on the *State of Upstate New York Initiative*, access to our publication series, news on upcoming trainings, and other resources, please visit the CaRDI website at: www.cardi.cornell.edu.