

***For Immediate Release***  
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## News Release

### **Newly Released Survey Shows Arkansas Kids Still Lacking**

LITTLE ROCK – Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released two statistical surveys containing data about poverty, incomes, and health care coverage: the Current Population Survey and the American Community Survey. And according to Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, neither report holds great news for Arkansas.

Based on data from the American Community Survey, child poverty in Arkansas remains high at 23.8 percent, statistically unchanged from the 2005 rate of 24.4 percent and well above the 2002 rate of 21.4 percent.

“Nearly one out of every four Arkansas children lives in poverty, and it’s not getting any better,” said Rich Huddleston, Executive Director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. “If we are to move forward as a state, it’s time for citizens and policymakers to start talking about child poverty, its impacts on kids, and what we are going to do about it. How can we give kids a brighter future when so many of them are growing up in poverty?”

For an economy that is supposedly in its fifth year of recovery, the new figures released by the Census Bureau are very disappointing. For example, median household incomes in Arkansas are not growing once you take into account inflation. According to data from the American Communities Survey, the 2006 median household income of \$36,599 remained virtually unchanged from the 2005 inflation adjusted level of \$36,147, and was less than the 2002 median household income of \$38,556.

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“Research shows that children who grow up in poverty are at greater risk for health problems, more likely to have difficulty in school and less likely to achieve economic success later in life,” said Huddleston. “It’s a problem that Arkansas has danced around for far too long. Public policy, whether it involves tax policy, economic development, health care, or education, has to be about helping the low- and middle-income children and families who need it the most – those that are struggling to simply make ends meet.”

For more information on the survey, please visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families is a statewide, non-profit child advocacy organization established in 1977. Our mission is to ensure that all children and their families have the resources and opportunities to lead healthy and productive lives and to realize their full potential. On the web at [www.aradvocates.org](http://www.aradvocates.org)

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