Demographic Data- Children Living below the Poverty Level

Age and Sex

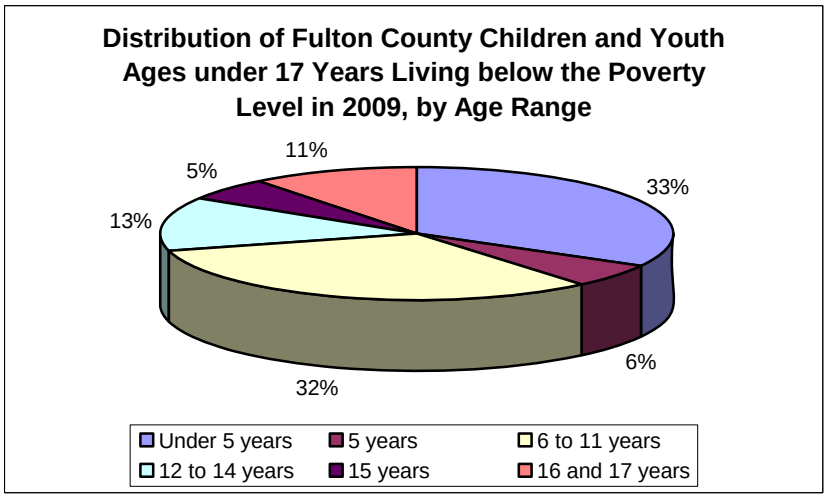
U.S. Census data indicate that there were approximately 46,706 Fulton County children and youth under 18 years of age living on incomes below the poverty level in 2008.

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	8,398	7,538	15,936
5 years	1,255	957	2,212
6 to 11 years	7,627	6,539	14,166
12 to 14 years	4,345	2,818	7,163
15 years	2,030	1,392	3,422
16 and 17 years	1,469	2,338	3,807
Total	**25,124**	**21,582**	**46,706**

By 2009, the number of Fulton County children and youth under 18 years of age who were living below the poverty level had increased by over ten thousand children to 58,931.

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	9,796	9,623	19,419
5 years	1,833	1,745	3,578
6 to 11 years	8,539	10,140	18,679
12 to 14 years	4,230	3,610	7,840
15 years	1,932	1,221	3,153
16 and 17 years	3,148	3,114	6,262
Total	**29,478**	**29,453**	**58,931**

Nearly 40% (n= 22,997) of the Fulton County children and youth living below the poverty level in 2009 were under 6 years of age.



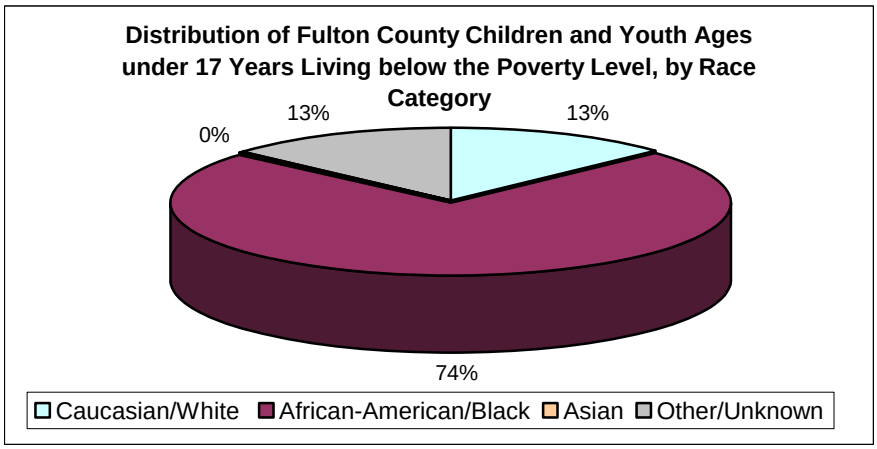
Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau 2009 American Community Survey estimates indicate that approximately 12,907 of the Fulton County children and youth under 17 years of age living below the poverty level in 2009 are Hispanic/Latino. It appears that across all age ranges, there are a greater number of male compared to female Hispanic/Latino children and youth living on incomes below the poverty level.

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
Under 5 years	2,584	2,197	4,781
5 years	696	503	1199
6 to 11 years	1,889	2,051	3,940
12 to 14 years	1,187	354	1541
15 years	554	207	761
16 and 17 years	228	457	685
Total	**7,138**	**5,769**	**12,907**

Race Category

Viewed by race category, African-American/Black children comprise the majority of Fulton County children and youth under 18 years of age who live below the poverty level. Approximately three-fourths (n=43,087) of Fulton County children and youth who live below the poverty level are African-American/Black. Approximately 13% (7,753) are Caucasian/White, and less than one percent (n=254) are Asian.



American Community Survey poverty estimates are not available for American-Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, other race, and two or more races groups due to the number of sample cases being too small. A remaining estimated 13% (n=7,837) of the total 58,931 Fulton County children and youth ages under 18 years living below the poverty level in 2009 are indicated in the above chart as "other/unknown" race category.

The following tables describe the Fulton County children and youth under 18 years of age living below the poverty level in 2009 by race category and by age range. Data are available for African-American, Caucasian, and Asian race category groups. American Community Survey poverty estimates are not available for other race categories due to the number of sample cases being too small.

African-American/Black			
Age Range	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Under 5 years	6,873	7,011	13,884
5 years	1,137	1,242	2,379
6 to 11 years	6,460	7,678	14,138
12 to 14 years	3,005	2,798	5,803
15 years	1,459	777	2,236
16 and 17 years	2,192	2,455	4,647
Total	**21,126**	**21,961**	**43,087**

Caucasian/White			
Age Range	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Under 5 years	2,229	1,161	3,390
5 years	374	0	374
6 to 11 years	572	790	1,362
12 to 14 years	523	749	1,272
15 years	410	182	592
16 and 17 years	592	171	763
Total	**4,700**	**3,053**	**7,753**

Asian			
Age Range	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Under 5 years	0	0	0
5 years	0	0	0
6 to 11 years	0	0	0
12 to 14 years	0	63	63
15 years	0	55	55
16 and 17 years	136	0	136
Total	**136**	**118**	**254**

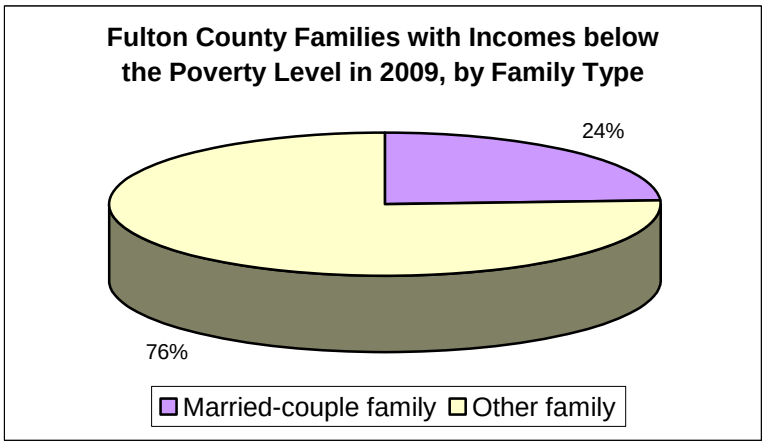
The National School lunch program provides free or reduced price school lunches for children of families who are economically disadvantaged. Eligibility is based on the federal poverty guidelines which are established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2009, for a family of four, that level is $22,050. For a child to receive reduced price meals, at 185% of the poverty level, the annual family of four's income, must not exceed $40,793. To receive a free meal, that same family size income could not exceed $28,665, which is 130% of the poverty level. The following chart depicts the number of students who are eligible for free and reduced lunches within the Fulton County and the Atlanta Public school systems.

	Enrollment	Free Meals	Reduced Meals	% of students
Atlanta Public Schools	48,909	35,864	2,098	77.62
Fulton County Public Schools	90,399	33,890	4,560	42.53
TOTAL	**139,308**	**69,754**	**6,658**	**60.075 (avg.)**

Over 13, 500 Fulton County families live on annual incomes of less than 10,000.

Family income	Number of families
Less than $10,000	13,541
$10,000 to $14,999	8,934
$15,000 to $24,999	16,514
$25,000 to $34,999	13,698
$35,000 to $49,999	20,620

A majority of the Fulton County families living on incomes below the poverty level in 2009 are non-married couple families. Approximately 76% (n= 20,418) of Fulton County families with incomes below the poverty level are non-married couple families. Approximately 24% (n=6,465) of the Fulton County families living on sub-poverty level incomes are married couple families.



The following tables were copied from the 2009 American Community Survey. Data contained in these tables provide more detailed information about the married-couple and "other" or non-married-couple families living on incomes below the poverty level in Fulton County.

Families with Income in the Past 12 Months below Poverty Level	**26,883**
Married-couple family:	6,465
Householder worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months:	1,346
Spouse worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	55
Spouse worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	0
Spouse did not work in the past 12 months	1,291
Householder worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months:	2,592
Spouse worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	147
Spouse worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	1,162
Spouse did not work in the past 12 months	1,283
Householder did not work in the past 12 months:	2,527
Spouse worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	284
Spouse worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	699
Spouse did not work in the past 12 months	1,544
Other family:	20,418
Male householder, no wife present:	1,933
Householder worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	297
Householder worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	554
Householder did not work in the past 12 months	1,082
Female householder, no husband present:	18,485
Householder worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	3,840
Householder worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	7,059
Householder did not work in the past 12 months	7,586

Percentage of Fulton County Families Headed by a Female Householder and no Husband Present with Incomes below the Poverty Level in 2009

Families with female householder, no husband present	33.0%
With related children under 18 years	40.0%
With related children under 5 years only	40.5%

Poverty and Truancy

During the summer of 2002, the BBC reported on research that was conducted by Cambridge University on the topic of poverty and truancy. One of the findings included that "parents sometimes forgot about their younger children's schooling when they hit money trouble." According to the 2009 American Community Survey, there are nearly 60,000 Fulton County children and youth who live in poverty.

A review of the research literature review commissioned by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) found correlates between truancy and four categories of risk factors: (1) family factors (lack of supervision, poverty, alcohol or drug abuse, lack of awareness of attendance laws, attitude toward education); (2) school factors (school size, attitudes of students, staff, teachers, inflexibility toward meeting different learning styles, inconsistent procedures for dealing with chronic absenteeism); (3) economic factors (employed students, single parent home, high mobility, parents with multiple jobs, lack of transportation); and (4) student factors (drug and alcohol abuse, lack of understanding of attendance laws, lack of social competence, mental and physical health problems) (Baker, Sigmon, and Nugent, 2001, as cited on the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention website).

Other links to research related to truancy and poverty include:

Logsdon, Keith (2005). School Truancy: A Look at Self Esteem and Poverty
http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/10410D3E-3674-4CE3-A2EE-4D9843F5D9E0/0/2005FSJUVENILECOURTS_STATUSOFFENDERSLogsdon_Keith.pdf

"This paper reports on various studies that have been completed on the link between truancy, poverty, and self esteem. Recent research indicates strong correlations between poverty and self esteem with truancy"

"The study shows that there is a strong correlation between self esteem and truancy."

BBC News.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/2094292.stm

BBC News. School absence is highest in England's poorest areas.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/education/8430155.stm

The Telegraph. Link between truancy and poverty.
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/letters/3583509/Link-between-truancy-and-poverty.html

K12 Academics
http://www.k12academics.com/educational-psychology/truancy

"Beyond the effect missed schooling may have on a student's academic record, truancy may indicate more deeply embedded problems with the student, the education system, or both. Truancy is commonly associated with juvenile delinquency. In some schools, truancy may result in an ineligibility to graduate or to receive credit for class attended, until the time lost to truancy is made up through a combination of detention, fines, or summer school."

"Several studies indicate a high correlation between chronic truancy and poverty. Truancy may also be prevalent in dysfunctional families or among children placed in the care of local authorities"

References

British Broadcasting Corporation
http://www.bbc.co.uk/

Georgia Department of Education
http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
http://www.ojjdp.gov/

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2008 & 2009
http://www.census.gov/acs/www/

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009 Poverty Guidelines
http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09extension.shtml