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City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor
Rochester City Council



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U.S. Census Data Released; Rochester Poverty Rate Declines, Extreme Poverty Rate Rises

Rochester, NY – New data released from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates a continue increase in poverty rates throughout the city of Rochester. The data, updated from 2014 shows a slight decrease in overall poverty from 33.8 percent to 33.5 percent.

- Rochester's **child poverty rate** decreased from 52.5 percent to 51.6 percent.
- The city's rate of **extreme poverty** (below half the federal poverty line) increased from 16.4 percent to 17.0 percent.
- Rochester is now the 4th poorest city in the United States among the top 75 metropolitan areas.

These statistics were compiled by the City of Rochester Mayor's Office of Innovation in partnership with the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative and ACT Rochester based on information gathered by the Census Bureau's five-year American Community Survey from 2011 to 2015. This survey uses a larger sample size making it the most comprehensive and reliable measure of poverty in our country.

"The information compiled in this report is used to guide the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) and is critical to its success and measurement," said Dr. Leonard Brock, director of RMAPI. "We know that it will take more than a year to see a change in our current poverty rates. We are making great strides launching the pilot of our adult mentoring programs, changing policies and practices to help people impacted by poverty and helping our community better align to solve our challenges."

"The City is proud to support RMAPI and the unprecedented work that our community has completed to date. These statistics are a reminder of the need for our community to remain focused and work collectively as RMAPI, the City, and other partners move to implement the first wave of pilot programs" said Mayor Lovely Warren. "These initiatives are intended to provide our residents the supports, services, and opportunities that will allow families to thrive

and achieve their goals. We look forward to monitoring these efforts closely, and reporting their impact as relevant data becomes available.”

The 10 Poorest Cities Among Top 75 Metropolitan Areas		
Rank By Poverty Rate	City	Poverty Rate
1	Detroit, MI	40.3%
2	Cleveland, OH	36.2%
3	Dayton, OH	35.5%
4	Rochester, NY	33.5%
5	Hartford, CT	33.4%
6	Buffalo, NY	31.4%
7	Birmingham, AL	30.9%
8	Cincinnati, OH	30.5%
9	Fresno, CA	29.8%
10	Providence, RI	29.1%

Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey for 2011-2015

Among these 10 poorest U.S. cities, Rochester continues to rank 4th for its childhood poverty rate and now ranks 3rd for the rate of people living in extreme poverty, moving up from 5th.

To put Rochester’s poverty rate into context, the January 2015 report compared the city’s statistics to a list of 18 principal cities in similar-sized metro areas (within plus or minus 200,000 of the Rochester population). Included in the benchmark group are Buffalo, Hartford, Conn., Richmond, Va., Birmingham, Ala., Tulsa, Okla., Louisville, Ky., and Honolulu.

For this benchmark group of cities, the Census data released today found:

- Rochester now ranks 1st in overall poverty, edging ahead of Hartford;
- Rochester continues to rank 1st in childhood poverty;
- Rochester continues to rank 1st in extreme poverty.

“Our community’s battle against poverty is not about simple solutions or quick fixes. Making a real difference will take time, focus and consistent attention from the business, government, education, and nonprofit sectors in order to improve the lives of people living in poverty,” says Jennifer Leonard, president and CEO of Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Poverty Rates Among Rochester's Benchmark Cities ¹				
Rank: Overall Poverty Rate	City	Poverty Rate: Overall	Poverty Rate: Child under 18	Extreme Poverty Rate:
1	Rochester, NY	33.5%	51.6%	17.1%
2	Hartford, CT	33.4%	44.8%	12.6%
3	Buffalo, NY	31.4%	48.9%	17.0%
4	Birmingham, AL	30.9%	49.4%	11.9%
5	Fresno, CA	29.8%	41.3%	13.8%
6	New Orleans, LA	27.0%	41.0%	12.8%
7	Grand Rapids, MI	26.0%	36.2%	7.9%
8	Richmond, VA	25.5%	40.0%	14.2%
9	Tucson, AZ	25.3%	34.9%	11.0%
10	Bridgeport, CT	22.9%	34.7%	9.5%
11	Worcester, MA	22.4%	31.5%	11.3%
12	Salt Lake City, UT	20.3%	26.3%	9.4%
13	Tulsa, OK	20.2%	31.2%	9.8%
14	Albuquerque, NM	19.2%	26.3%	7.8%
15	Oklahoma City, OK	18.3%	27.0%	7.5%
16	Louisville, KY	18.1%	26.5%	7.1%
17	Raleigh, NC	16.0%	22.5%	7.0%
18	Honolulu, HI	12.0%	15.8%	6.4%

¹Principal cities in all metro areas within 200,000 population (+/-) of Rochester

For more details on the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, visit www.uwrochester.org/RMAPI.

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United Way of Greater Rochester's mission is to unite the good will and resources of the Greater Rochester community so that everyone can thrive. We invest in solutions, make lasting connections and serve our community. United Way is a four-star rated Charity Navigator charity and a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity. Please visit us online at uwrochester.org.