



Maine Center for Economic Policy

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Quote

"The dramatic increase of 12,000 uninsured and the fact that Maine is one of only two states to see an increase in the percentage of people without health insurance are sobering evidence of the failure of Maine's recent health care policy choices."

Garrett Martin, executive director, Maine Center for Economic Policy

Dear MECEP Friend,

September is the transition from summer to fall.

As the temperatures cool, the election season is heating up. During this time, MECEP remains focused on helping Maine people and media understand the impact of policy decisions and on providing the most up to date analysis of Maine's economy. This month new data from the U.S. Census Bureau on poverty, income and health insurance revealed Maine to be an outlier among states in providing health coverage and affirmed that for most working Mainers the signs of economic recovery remain elusive.

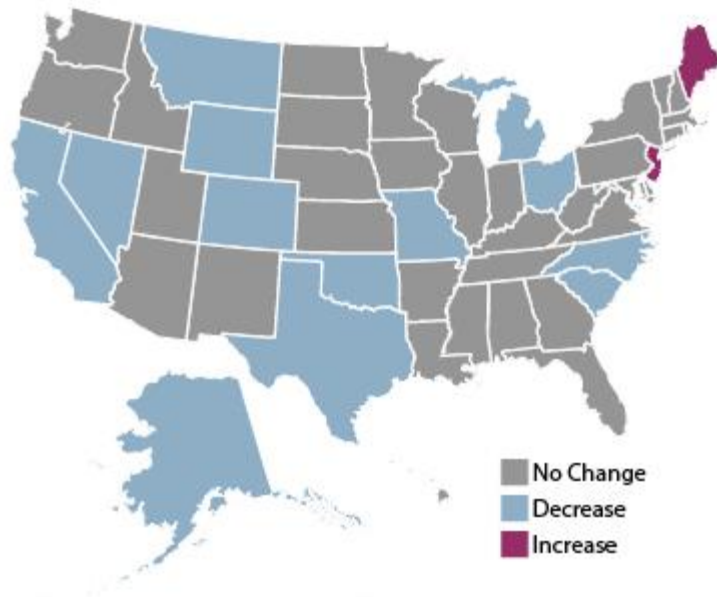


Fall is Town Fair Season
[The B's](#) from Western Maine, USA

Maine 1 of 2 States Where Rate of People without Health Coverage Rose in 2013

Wrong Way for Maine on Health Insurance

Change in share of residents without coverage, 2012-2013



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 2013 1-year Estimates

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Facts & Figures

2013 Health Insurance Coverage, Poverty, and Income

12,000

Number of additional Mainers without health insurance from 2012 to 2013.

+ .9%

Change in the percentage of Mainers without health insurance from 2012 to 2013.

-.2%

Change in the percentage of people nationally without health insurance from 2012-2013.

Maine and New Jersey

Only states where the rate of those without health insurance increased from 2012 to 2013.

Statistically Unchanged

Income for the median Maine household and percentage of Mainers living in poverty from 2012 to 2013.

-3.4%

Change in the percentage from 2012 to 2013 of Maine children under age 18 living in poverty

The number of Mainers without any form of health care coverage grew by 12,000 in 2013 and the state's uninsured rate rose from 10.2% in 2012 to 11.2% in 2013, according to federal [Census Bureau data released on September 16th](#). Nationally, the rate of uninsured fell by 0.2%. Maine and New Jersey were the only states to experience an increase in the percentage of their people who do not have health insurance. Maine's decline can be attributed in part to restrictions on Medicaid eligibility enacted in the last two years and to changes in key consumer protections by the state in 2011 that have led to higher premiums for older rural Mainers and small businesses.

[MECEP's analysis](#) helped shape the coverage of this new data and garnered significant attention through social media. The [\(Lewiston\) Sun Journal](#) and [Maine Public Broadcasting Network](#) featured our work, and both [WZON-AM's The Morning Pulse program](#) and [WVOM-AM/FM's George Hale and Ric Tyler show](#) invited MECEP on for talk radio interviews.

U.S. Census Bureau: Poverty, Wages in Maine Statistically Unchanged in 2013

No Income Growth for Typical Maine Households Inflation-Adjusted Median Household Income in Maine



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates

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On September 18th, the census bureau's [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) reported that Maine's median household income and the percentage of Mainers living in poverty remained more or less the same from 2012 to 2013.

"The lack of improvement in median household income and overall poverty is further evidence that this recovery is leaving too many Maine working families behind," MECEP economist Joel Johnson noted in a [joint press release](#) with

-6.5%

Change in the percentage from 2012 to 2013 of Maine children under age 5 living in poverty.

1 in 5

Maine children under age 5 living in poverty in 2013.

source: [U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey](#).

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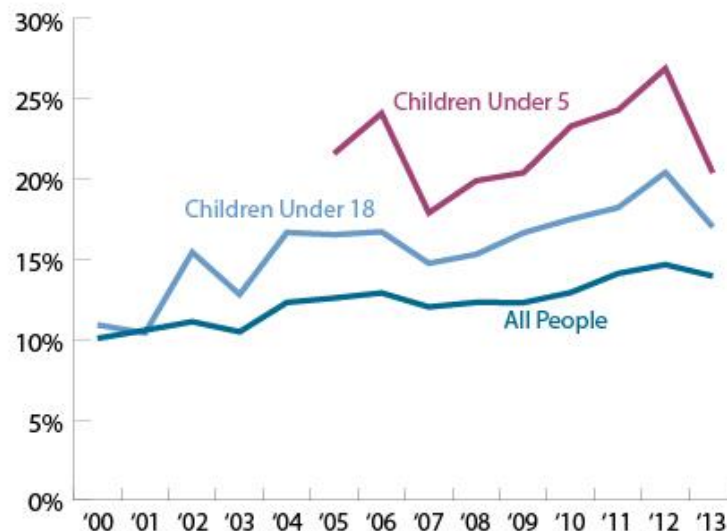
[facebook](#) | Become Our Fan

[Maine Equal Justice Partners](#) and the [Maine Children's Alliance](#). "Maine's poverty rate remains higher than it was even in the depths of the recession, and incomes for Maine's working families are down and going nowhere. Real income for Maine's median household is lower than it was at the bottom of the Great Recession and showing no signs of growth. Income inequality continues to grow, as paychecks for wage earners are no bigger than they were a decade ago."

On a much more encouraging note, the ACS found that poverty among Maine children under 18 fell to 17.0% in 2013 from 20.4% in 2012, while poverty among children under 5 fell to 20.4% from 26.9%. While these levels are much closer to those existing before the recession, nearly one in five Maine children under the age of 5 still live in

Child Poverty Rates Improve in 2013

Percent of Maine's population living in poverty



Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates

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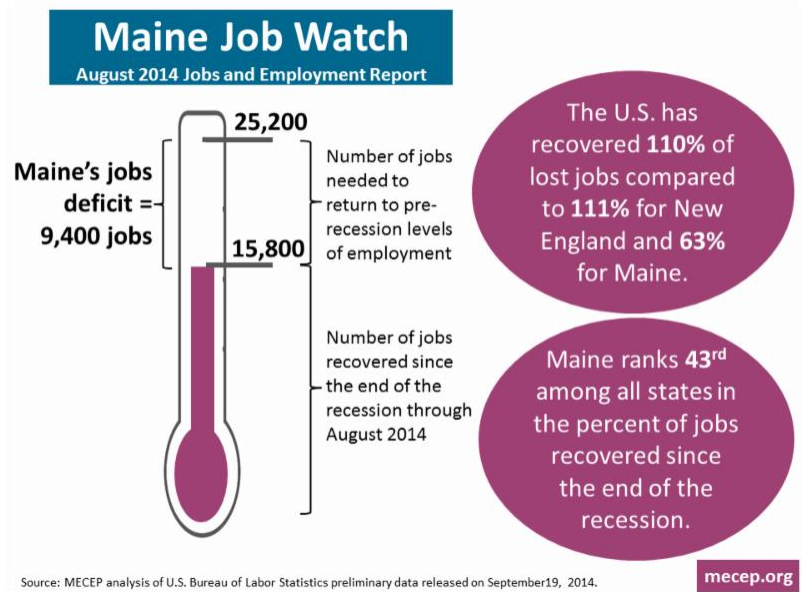
poverty.

Updates on Maine's Economy and Medicaid Expansion

MECEP continues to follow closely Maine's slow climb from the depths of the Great Recession. As the [Maine Job Watch](#)

graphic shows, we have failed to keep pace with the recovery nationally and in New England as a whole. The [Maine Medicaid Counter](#) graphic updates how much federal aid the state is losing by refusing to accept Affordable Care Act funds to provide health coverage to low-income Mainers. As you will note elsewhere in this issue, Maine policymakers and media regularly cite MECEP's research and analysis on these and other issues.

Click on each graphic for the latest information.



MAINE MEDICAID COUNTER

TAKE BACK OUR TAX DOLLARS

\$247,773,764.71

Since January 1, 2014, Maine has rejected over \$900,000 per day that would provide coverage to 70,000 uninsured people.

We can make a better choice.

The total amount Maine has lost and can never recover as of September 25, 2014

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MECEP Blogposts Dig Deeper into the Latest Data on Poverty, Incomes, Jobs and Health Care



In September, MECEP's staff blogged to provide in depth analysis of new census bureau data on poverty, incomes, and health insurance coverage; report on the latest findings on progress implementing health care reforms; and examine the latest jobs and employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in more depth.

[ACA cost saving measures turn McAllen Texas from](#)

[national basket case to bellwether](#) (September 25, 2014)

[Health reform is making history, but Maine is slipping behind](#) (September 22, 2014)

[Maine's economic recovery: limited job growth, persistent underemployment, and declining incomes](#) (September 19, 2014)

[Child poverty fell in 2013, but median income continues to go nowhere](#) (September 18, 2014)

[Attention: Important Census data ahead](#) (September 12, 2014)

[A simple 1-2 punch to give Mainers a raise](#) (September 5, 2014)

MECEP in the News

When the U.S Census Bureau released its annual reports on poverty, incomes, and health coverage in two stages on September 16 and September 19, the Maine media turned to MECEP and our partners to provide swift analysis and commentary on the bureau's findings. Our research on Maine's economy, jobs and income, and health care continues to inform the discussion.



[Two views of bond spending: Which one will prevail in Maine in November](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, September 26, 2014)

[Interview about new report on crushing Maine student loan debt burden](#) (WZON-AM *The Pulse Morning program*, September 26, 2014)

[Maine Democrats go on the offensive on jobs](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, September 22, 2014)

[Census: Little changed in Maine poverty rate, median income](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, September 19, 2014)

[Interview about census bureau report finding percentage of Mainers without health insurance increased in 2013](#) (WZON-AM *The Pulse Morning Program*, September 17, 2014)

[Interview about census bureau report finding percentage of Mainers without health insurance increased in 2013](#) (WVOM-AM/FM *The George Hale-Ric Tyler Program*, September 17, 2014)

[U.S. Census: More Mainers lack health insurance](#) (Lewiston

Sun Journal, September 17, 2014)

[U.S. census: Maine's percentage of uninsured on the rise](#) (Maine Public Broadcasting Network, September 16, 2014)

[Maine hospitals suffering because of state's refusal to expand Medicaid](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, September 10, 2014)

[Maine's economy a focus of governor's race](#) (**Maine Sunday Telegram**, August 7, 2014)

Be sure to keep up with MECEP on social media: "like" us on [Facebook, \(click here\)](#) and "follow" us on [Twitter, \(click here\)](#). And read the latest posts to [MECEP's blog \(click here\)](#) for more detailed information on our ongoing research and analysis of issues in the news.

Fall Is the Season for Workplace Giving through MaineShare

MaineShare ▶

MaineShare makes it easy for you to give to MECEP and to more than 40 other groups working to promote social justice, economic opportunity, environmental conservation, and safe communities.

By pledging at work, you can make regular automatic donations every payday to the causes that mean the most to you. MaineShare makes it easy to choose where your money goes.

If your workplace already offers MaineShare, thank you for remembering MECEP when you pledge. If MaineShare is not yet available where you work, [Jody Harris](#) at MECEP can help you and your human resources representative easily establish a campaign.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan
Maine Center for Economic Policy