

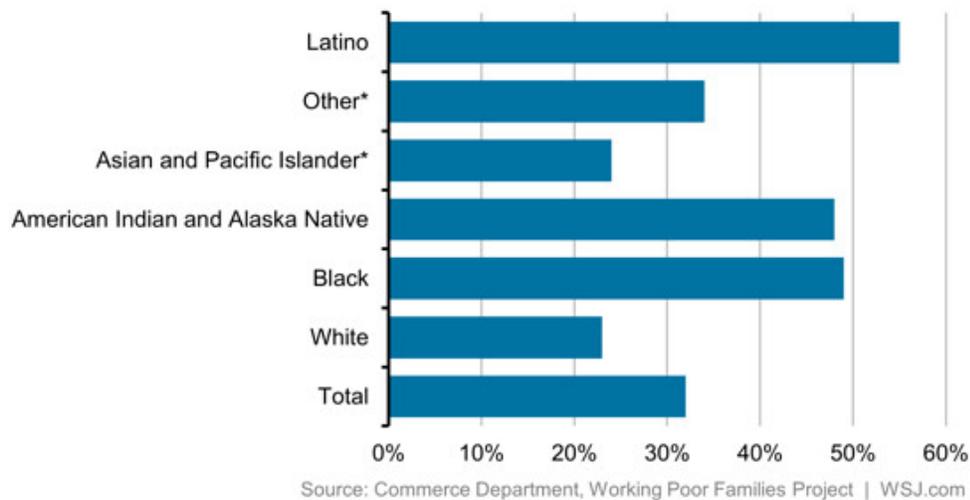
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WORKING MINORITY FAMILIES ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE LOW-INCOME AS WHITES

By Kate Davidson
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Working Poor

Percent of working families who are below 200% of the poverty line



Among America's working poor, a significant divide is growing between white families and most minority groups.

Working minority families are twice as likely to be low-income – meaning their total income fell below 200% of the poverty level – as white working families, according to a new report from the Working Poor Families Project analyzing U.S. Census data. And the gap has only increased since the start of the last recession, the study's authors said.

Minority working families were also disproportionately low-income. Racial and ethnic minorities made up 40% of all working families, but accounted for 58% of working families that are low-income, according to the report.

Young families headed by racial and ethnic minorities are especially vulnerable, the report said. In 2013, 76% of minority families headed by adults ages 18 to 24 were considered low-income, compared with 47% of minority families headed by workers ages 25 to 54.

Of the 24 million children in working poor families, 14 million children – three out of every five – are racial or ethnic minorities.

"This is a moral as well as economic issue that's defining the fairness of our society," said Brandon Roberts, one of the study's authors. "The inequality between hard-working families

in America is very real and must be addressed and our state leaders have the power to do so.”

A family is defined as working if all family members 15 years and older worked a combined 39 weeks or more in the prior 12 months, or if the family met those conditions and had one unemployed parent looking for work in the prior four weeks.

The report also found that more than a third of African-American and Latino working families are in the lowest income bracket – which tops out at around \$32,000 – compared with just 13% of whites and Asian Americans. The disparity is likely due to the fact that racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be working in low-paying jobs, such as retail sales, food preparation, health care and housekeeping services, the report said.