

# WOMEN AND POVERTY

Analysis of 2010 U.S. Census data by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC)

MORE THAN  
**HALF**

of poor children lived  
in families headed  
by women.

**17.2**  
MILLION

women were  
living in  
poverty.

**800,000**  
**MORE**

women lived  
in poverty in  
2010 than  
in 2009.  
The poverty  
rate among  
women is the  
highest it  
has been in  
17 years.

“Behind today's grim statistics are real people who are finding it harder than ever to keep a roof over their heads, feed their families, get the health care they need and give their children a chance at a better life.”

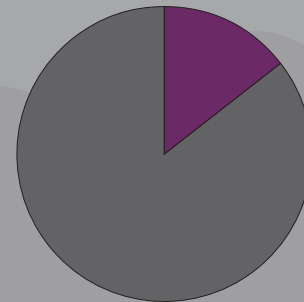
**-JOAN ENTMACHER**  
NWLC Vice President  
for Family Economic Security.

## poverty:

The United States Bureau of the Census measures poverty by comparing household income to the poverty threshold. In 2010 the poverty threshold for a household of four was **\$22,314**.

## extreme poverty:

Also referred to as deep poverty, extreme poverty is defined as cash income that falls below half of the poverty threshold. At 6.3 percent, extreme poverty has reached its highest rate since it was first measured **22** years ago.



**14.5 %**  
percent of all women  
were living in poverty.  
This is the highest rate  
of poverty in 17 years.