



The Tallahassee-Leon County  
 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council  
*Quality of Life / Sustainability*  
**COMMUNITY INDICATOR**

**Quality of Life / Sustainability Segment:**  
 ECONOMIC PROGRESS PROFITS PROSPERITY  
 SOCIAL PEOPLE  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANET PLACE  
*governance ethics justice spirituality peace*  
**Title: Poverty, Children and Youth**

**Poverty, Children and Youth**

**Indicator:**

The percentage of children and youth under 18 years of age who are considered below the poverty level over previous 12 months; Leon County and Florida census data and survey estimates.

**Commentary:**

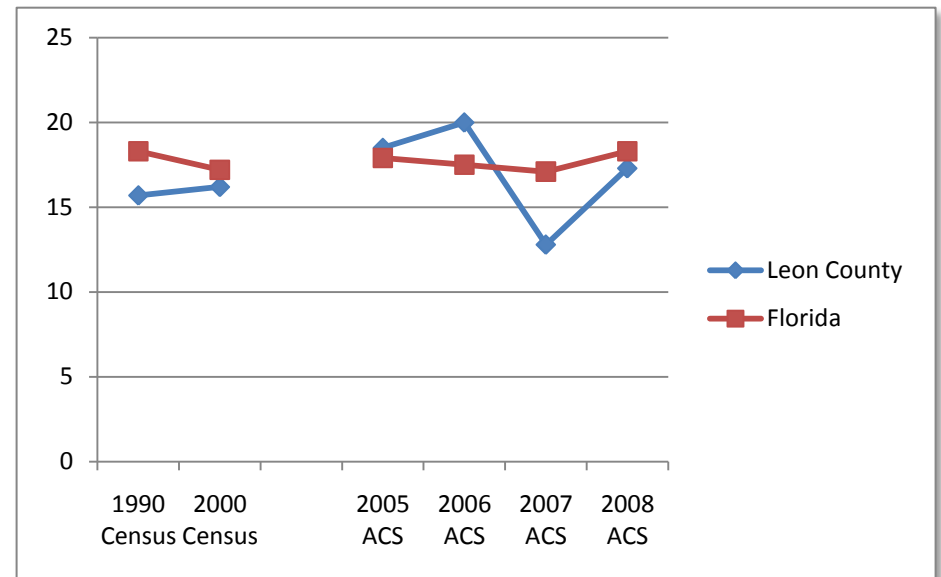
The percent or incidence of children age 0-17 living in poverty in the State of Florida has remained fairly constant since 1990. In Leon County, children and youth under age 18 living in poverty has reportedly risen steadily since the 1990 and 2000 Census, and is estimated to have reached a peak of 20% in 2006 according to the US Census American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS furthermore estimated a significant drop to 12.8% in 2007 but then a rise back up to 17.3% in 2008, near the Florida state average. New poverty data is expected following completion of the 2010 Census.

**Source(s):**

US Census Bureau, US Census 1990 and 2000 and US Census American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, 2005-08;  
<http://www.census.gov/>.

*Note: United States Census is taken every 10 years to collect information about the people and housing of the United States. The US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) estimations are typically taken every year with smaller samples.*

**Chart 1: % Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level**



**Table 1: % Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level**

	1990 Census	2000 Census	2005 ACS	2006 ACS	2007 ACS	2008 ACS
<b>Leon County</b>	15.7	16.2	18.5	20.0	12.8	17.3
<b>Florida</b>	18.3	17.2	17.9	17.5	17.1	18.3



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**Title: Poverty, Families**

**Poverty, Families**

**Indicator:**

The percentage of all individuals and families with children under age 18 whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level according to the US Census Bureau.

**Commentary:**

The percentage of individual poverty among all Leon County residents has been higher than statewide averages since 2000. The significant gap – an overall average of 18.4% in Leon County vs. 12.6% statewide – may be skewed by Leon County’s large student population. Leon County families with children under age 18 living in poverty have remained close to state averages. Yet, with relative affluence, high education levels and stable employment base the incidence of family poverty in Leon County could be considered surprising. On average a third of all female headed households with young children are living in poverty, a significant risk factor for those children as they develop.

**Source(s):**

US Census Bureau, US Census 2000 and US Census American Community Surveys (ACS), 2005-08; <http://www.census.gov/>

*Note: United States Census is taken every 10 years to collect information about the people and housing of the United States. The US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) estimations are taken every year with smaller samples.*

**Chart 1: Leon County and Florida Poverty**

