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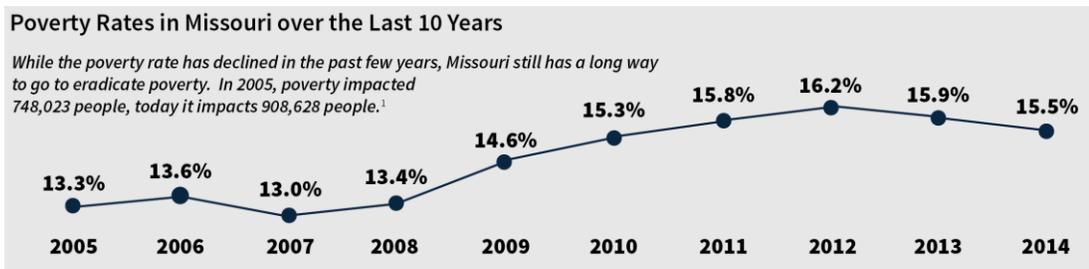
## Missourians to End Poverty Coalition Releases Statewide Poverty Report

*Report highlights multidimensional factors facing 908,628 Missourians in poverty*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Members of the Missourians to End Poverty coalition gathered at the State Capitol in Jefferson City on February 4, to release the *2016 State of the State: Poverty in Missouri* report. This biennial document is a comprehensive snapshot of poverty statistics in Missouri.

The Missourians to End Poverty Coalition, is a nonpartisan group comprised of nonprofits, religious organizations, businesses, government agencies and concerned citizens, who have come together around the vision: *“As Missourians, we envision a just society of share responsibility by individuals, communities, business, and government in which all individuals are respected, have opportunities to reach their full potential and participate in thriving, diverse, and sustainable communities.”*

Although the economic situation in Missouri is beginning to look up, the poverty rate has only decreased slightly since its peak in 2012 and is significantly higher than 10 years ago. During the last ten years, Missouri’s poverty rate has increased from 13.3 percent in 2005 to 15.5 percent today, which is a 21.5 percent increase in the poverty rate. This means that in 2005 poverty impacted 748,023 Missourians and today it impacts 908,628 Missourians.



The 5 key issues outlined in the report are Food, Education, Health, Housing & Energy, and Family & Economic Security. From the number of Missouri jobs in low wage occupations to the fact that our state ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the country for food insecurity, this report highlights critical issues for our citizens. In addition, specific topics relating to children in poverty have been included, such as child homeless rates, percentages of children on free or reduced lunch and more.

The Missourians to End Poverty Coalition will host the fourth Statewide Poverty Summit on April 27, 2016, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. Join Missourians to End Poverty as we bring people together from across the state to explore local best practices to address poverty. See what our communities are doing to ensure a thriving state for all.

The 2016 State of the State: Poverty in Missouri report is available online at [www.MoEndPoverty.org](http://www.MoEndPoverty.org).

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