

Economics

In 2019, 11 percent of Vermont’s population were living in poverty. **One out of every nine Vermont residents lives in poverty.**¹ Poverty is defined using the U.S. Census Bureau’s income thresholds, depending on the size of the family.¹ The poverty threshold for a family of four in 2019 was \$25,750 annually.¹ Low-income families have higher rates of chronic conditions.²

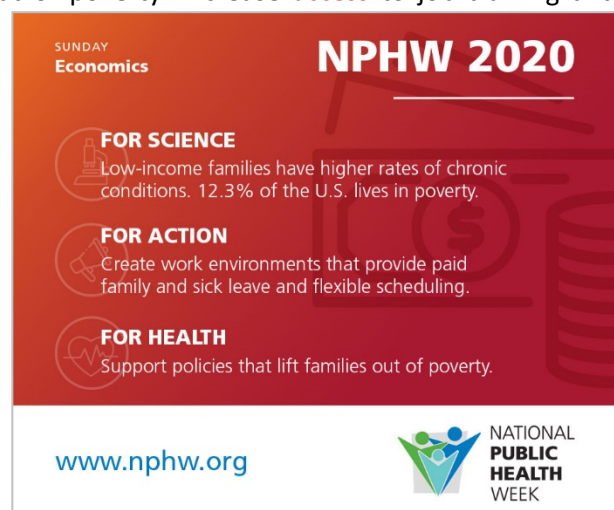
Twelve percent of Vermont children live in poverty.³ Children in poverty experience consequences across their lives that harm their educational success, emotional development and physical health.⁴

The **Vermont Public Health Association (VtPHA)** believes that the availability of earned sick leave is a public health issue. Earned sick leave protects the public’s health, creates a healthier workforce and helps cut business costs associated with lost productivity, the spread of disease, and employee turnover. VtPHA believes that no employee should have to choose between going to work sick or getting paid, or choosing between caring for a sick child or losing a job.⁵ VtPHA is committed to improving the health status of Vermonters by ensuring that all individuals have access to high quality medical and dental health care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. VtPHA supports continued investment in public primary and preventive care to reduce the need for higher cost interventions.⁵

Ensure all workers have access to health insurance through their employers or through a public health insurance system. **Create** supportive work environments that provide paid family and sick leave and flexible scheduling. **Increase** or supplement income through living wage laws, unemployment insurance and child care subsidies.⁶

Support policies that lift families and individuals out of poverty. Increase **access** to job training and opportunities. **Apply** a holistic social determinants approach to community development to create neighborhoods and communities that provide equal economic and educational opportunities. Equitably **distribute** resources to schools. **Advocate** for resources to support low-income families and a fair tax policy.

The public health response for mitigating the effects of COVID-19 has again brought to light the many economic inequities of our society, such as the threat to those with minimal incomes or those families with no resources to support their children in a “virtual” learning situation.




SUNDAY
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NPHW 2020

- FOR SCIENCE**
Low-income families have higher rates of chronic conditions. 12.3% of the U.S. lives in poverty.
- FOR ACTION**
Create work environments that provide paid family and sick leave and flexible scheduling.
- FOR HEALTH**
Support policies that lift families out of poverty.

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NATIONAL
PUBLIC
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WEEK

¹ [US Census](#)

² [CDC, National Center for Health Statistics](#)

³ [America’s Health Rankings](#)

⁴ [Pediatrics](#)

⁵ [Vermont Public Health Association](#)

⁶ [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)