

# CHILD POVERTY: A GREAT ABYSS FOR THE PUERTO RICAN ECONOMY

Even before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico was dealing with a major crisis- its abysmal rate of child poverty, which in 2016 was 56%. This means that almost 6 out of 10 children in Puerto Rico are growing up in conditions that limit the opportunities they will have to succeed as adults. Multiple studies have shown that children who grow up in poverty are less likely to complete school, have worse health outcomes, and earn less as adults when compared to their peers who do not grow up in poverty. As a result, child poverty has a crippling effect on society and the economy. It has been estimated that child poverty costs the United States \$ 500 billion per year in lost economic activity, criminal prosecution and health costs. Child poverty is driven by the economic security of a family, which in Puerto Rico is compromised by low labor participation, job insecurity, and poor compensation. Tackling these underlying issues will be key to ensuring that all children in Puerto Rico live in families with economic security and can develop to their full potential.

## 6 OF EVERY 10 CHILDREN



LIVE IN POVERTY

## IMPACT OF CHILD POVERTY



Less children  
finish school



Worse  
overall health



Lower wages once  
reaching adulthood

vs children living in families with economic security

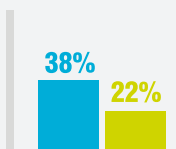
## SOCIAL COST OF POVERTY

**\$500  
BILLION**



## LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES

Families with children and an annual family income less than twice the federal poverty level, where at least one of the parents worked 50 weeks or more.

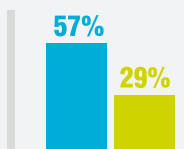


2015

■ Puerto Rico ■ United States

## CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK JOB SECURITY

Children from families where parents worked less than 35hrs per week, for 50 weeks in the last year



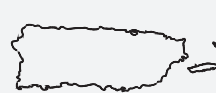
2015

■ Puerto Rico ■ United States

**28%**

of children live in low-income households, where none of their parents are employed

## PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE 2017

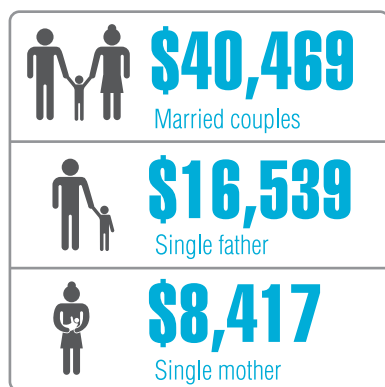


**40%**  
Puerto Rico

**VS.**

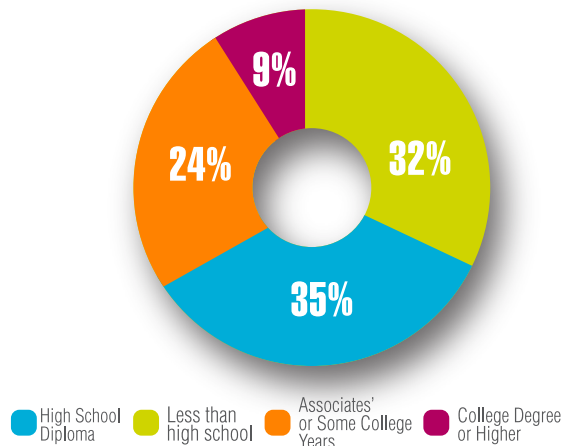
**63%**  
United States

## MEDIAN INCOME IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: 2016

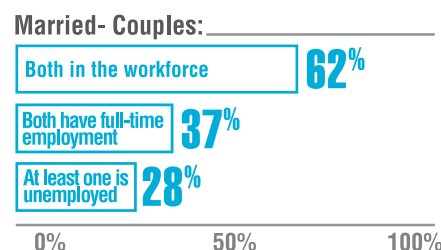


70% of single mothers with children live in poverty.

## POVERTY BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ACHIEVED IN FAMILIES



## STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: 2016



Single Mothers:

