

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 22, 2010

**Poverty and uninsured rates fall in North Dakota**

BISMARCK, ND – According to recently released U.S. Census Bureau information, North Dakota continued to buck national economic changes in poverty and the uninsured. North Dakota's poverty rate fell to 10.9 percent in 2009 from 11.8 percent in 2008. As a result, 5,000 fewer North Dakotans were living in poverty in 2009.

During the same time period, the nation's official poverty rate grew to 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008.

North Dakotans without health insurance coverage also decreased to 10.7 percent in 2009 from 11.8 percent in 2008. The number of uninsured children in North Dakota declined even further.

In 2009, 5.9 percent of children under age 18 were not covered by private or public health insurance at anytime during the year. That was down from 7.9 percent of children in 2008.

"This is very encouraging news, and we will continue to work hard to serve individuals and families," said Department of Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson.

Olson encouraged families and individuals who may be struggling financially to contact their county social service office or the department. North Dakotans can also complete an application for public assistance and health coverage programs confidentially and conveniently online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/application.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/application.html).

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