The great recession has affected cities and communities across Minnesota. These facts about poverty in Saint Paul help show how our capital city is faring.

Basic facts

- Almost 25% of Saint Paul residents live in poverty, compared to 11% in the 7-county Twin Cities region.
- Median household income is $44,057 compared to $62,600 for the Twin Cities 7-county region.
- The median income for Saint Paul adults age 65 and older is under $18,000.
- 38% of Saint Paul households have incomes under $35,000; 54% under $50,000.
- 36% of children age 17 and younger live in poverty, about 25,000 kids.
- 68% of Saint Paul adults age 16-64 are employed.
- While Saint Paul has a relatively low unemployment rate compared to state and national figures, the city lost 7,500 jobs in 2009 and 2010.

Basic needs

- Between 2008 and 2010 there was a 36% increase in visits to St. Paul city food shelves—52,842 more visits.
- About 2 out of 5 Saint Paul households pay more than 30% of income for monthly housing costs, an amount considered “cost-burdened.”
- Overall, about half of Saint Paul households own their homes. However, there is a wide racial gap in home ownership; 64% of white households own their home, while just 30% of households of color own their homes.

- After steep rises between 2005 and 2008, the number of foreclosures in Saint Paul remains high, but stable at about 1,200 per year.
- 14% of Saint Paul residents under age 65 have no health insurance.
- About 14% of households do not have a car.

Student achievement by income

Low income poses large barriers to achievement.

- 48% of lower-income students (receive free or reduced price lunches) attending Saint Paul public schools score proficient on 3rd grade reading scores compared to 84% of higher-income Saint Paul public school students, and 77% of all public school students in the 7-county Twin Cities region.
- 20% of lower-income students in the Saint Paul Public School district score proficient on 11th grade math scores compared to 30% of all Saint Paul Public School students, and 50% of all public school students in the 7-county Twin Cities region.
- About 66% of Ramsey County students graduate on time compared to 72% in the Twin Cities 7-county region.

Find additional poverty data on Minnesota Compass. Visit www.mncompass.org.