

## American Poverty Strikes Record High

Contributed by Tom McGregor  
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A record high number of Americans are living in dire poverty, while the median household income dropped for a second year in 2011. The U.S. Census Bureau announced the statistics on Wednesday as it released its most recent findings on how Americans live.

According to Politico, "in all, as in 2010, 46.2 million Americans lived in poverty last year, the bureau found. But the rate of poverty fell slightly — from 15.1 percent — amid continued population growth. That comes after more than one million Americans fell below the poverty line in 2010 and as experts anticipated the data of 2011 would show an even greater percentage of Americans below that line."

The bureau also uncovered that Americans' median household income dropped 1.5 percent to \$50,053 last year — falling 8.1 percent than it was before the start of the recession, and even lower than it was in the 1990s.

As reported by Politico, "campaigning in Florida on Wednesday, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney used the new data to attack the Obama administration's handling of the economy. Obama is 'the candidate who pushed the middle class into poverty and is crushing the middle class,' Romney said, adding that Republicans are 'not the party of the rich, we're the party of people who want to get rich.'"

To read the entire article from Politico, link here: [Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com](mailto:Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com)