

Plaid Pantry

by Jay Thiemeyer

behind was the story
two sitting beneath the dark angle
drinking Steel Reserve, 'Hanford
runoff'
light you up in the dark
then throw the switch, turn you off
a limp rag drowned in sulfites and
sugar
and salt
leave you to wake
in a shaking box
bounded and banging about
inside six close and heaving walls
but for a moment
free to wonder about idle things,
the universe, the sudden heat
consuming everything, the light
around that corner
above the parking lot
spreading its gold

Too Long

By David Mair

I dared to stare at her
For so long.
In a moment
I had the pleasant thought
We'd get along.
Except she gazed into the distance
Without even a second glance.

Oregon's deep poverty at Great Recession levels

STAFF REPORTS

There's poverty — and then there's deep poverty. A person living in poverty today survives on just over \$11,000 per year, while someone living in deep poverty survives on half of that. For a single person that's \$16 per day.

For a family of four, that's almost \$8 per person, per day. In Oregon, over 310,000 people live in deep poverty, a new analysis of Census records shows.

The recession officially ended four years ago, but the rate of people in deep poverty today is higher than it was at any time between 2007 and 2009. The poverty rate in general is higher by almost three percentage points, or by 120,000 people. After over two years of economic recovery, there are enough impoverished people in Oregon to create a city larger than Portland. Half of that city would live in deep poverty and it would be the state's largest city.

These statistics come from a report released by the Oregon Center for Public Policy and are based upon data from the American Survey Community. They are based on the 2012 Census, revealing a distressing reality for 8 percent of Oregon's men, women and children.

To put those numbers in perspective, renting a \$500 room in Portland costs almost \$17 per day. Renting a 2 bedroom apartment from low income housing is likely to cost at least \$700, which comes out to just over \$23 per day. Housing alone either exceeds or takes nearly all the money of someone living in deep poverty. Never mind food. Or transportation. No cell phone, internet, heat, electricity, running water. Most of the people in this demographic are living on the streets and many are dealing with mental illness and addiction.

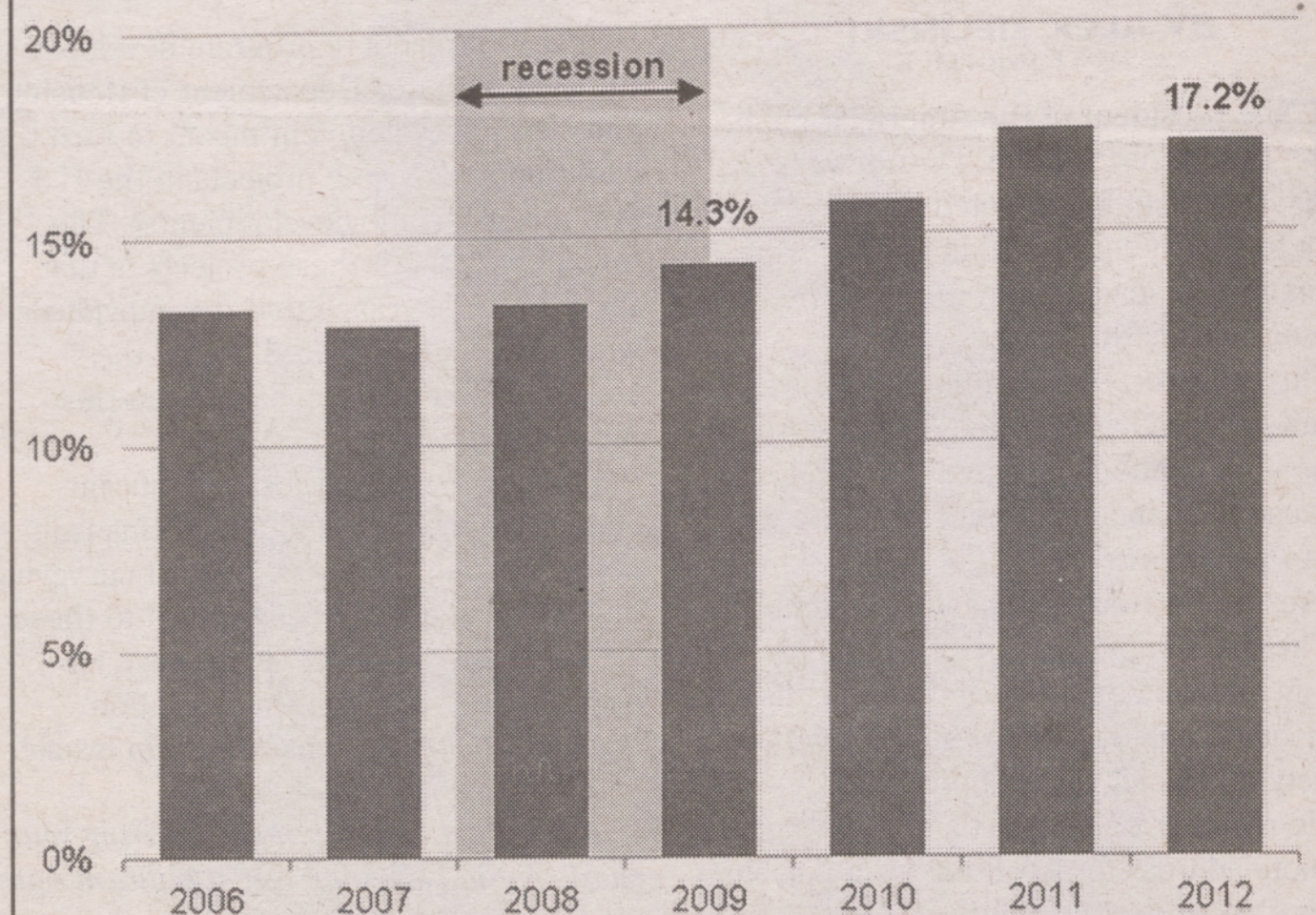
Who else in Oregon would live in this city? 1 in every 4 kids. Prior to the recession, rates for poor children trailed the national average, but since it "ended," the two rates have been about the same.

According to the survey, Oregon's communities of color are significantly overrepresented compared to their Asian (12 percent) and non-Hispanic white neighbors (15 percent). That includes 41 percent of African Americans, 36 percent of Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, 34 percent of Native Americans and Alaskans and 30 percent of Latinos.

The recession hit the Oregon economy harder than most states, but economic recovery overall has been deemed successful at about 3.4 percent in 2010, the eighth highest economic recovery rate in the U.S.

Poverty Remains Higher than During Recession

(Rate of poverty among all Oregonians)

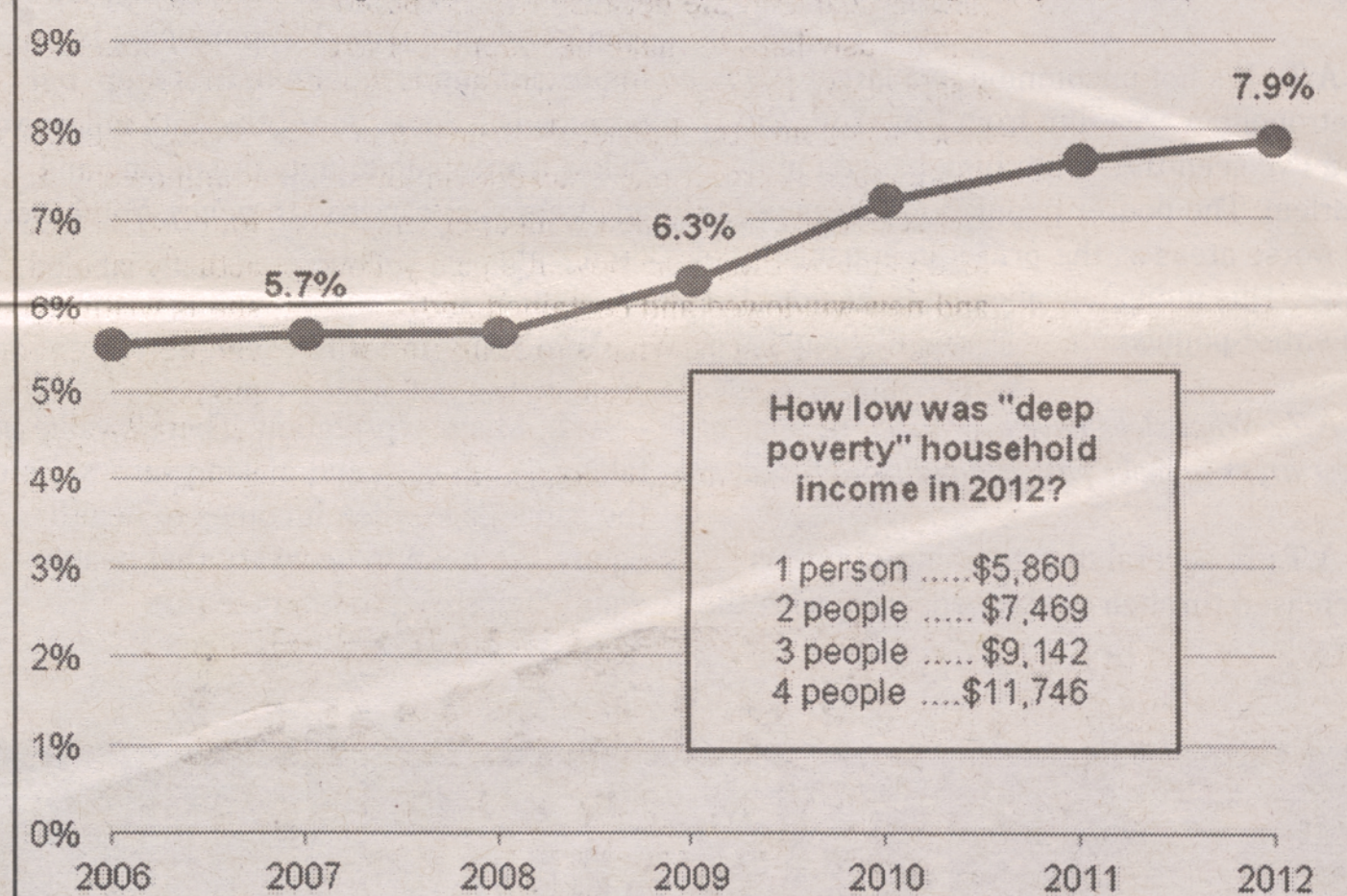


Note: There was no statistically significant change in the poverty rate between 2011 and 2012. Differences between 2012 and all other years are significant at a 90 percent confidence interval. Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

Oregon Center for Public Policy | www.ocpp.org

"Deep Poverty" Remains Too High

(Share of Oregon population below 50 percent of federal poverty threshold)



How low was "deep poverty" household income in 2012?

1 person	\$5,860
2 people	\$7,469
3 people	\$9,142
4 people	\$11,746

Note: Income levels are based on weighted averages for household size. Actual thresholds vary by age of householder and number of children. There is no statistically significant difference between the deep poverty rate in 2012 and that in 2010 or 2011. The rate in 2012 is statistically above the rates for 2006-09. Source: OCPP analysis of American Community Survey data.

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