



Idaho KIDS COUNT: Small Faces in a BIG Recession Project Quote Summary (2009)

Economic Impact of the Recession on Families:

“If my dad gets laid off, I’ll have to quit school and find two or three jobs to help him pay rent.” (College student)

“We are struggling to pay off our college loans. The reason kids our age are in so much debt is because it is hard to find jobs. It is so hard to juggle debt and then try to enter the job market to pay it off. When you look at how we got into this economic mess, we are just setting up another one in the future!” (College student)

“My mom was sick, and so now I don’t have any money and no insurance, either. I’m graduating, so I hope I have a bit better of job prospects, but the year was really hard financially. My parents and I faced homelessness a couple of times because of no jobs, and no food sometimes.” (College Student)

“We are not abnormal people- we care, we are responsible, and have gotten sick in normal amounts. Why can’t we afford basic medical: I haven’t been to the dentist in years, even though I need to. My friends are in the same boat. If you are sick, you stick it out.” (College Student)

“Financial security has slipped. My father retired before the recess, and now he is pulling out all his savings. He doesn’t have anymore savings and he doesn’t get retirement for another four years.” (College student)

“My parents started with very little and worked their way up to financial success. This is the first year I’ve seen them be worried over their financial security.” (College student)

“We can’t afford paper here at the school. We ran out of paper supply, we had to write all the whole worksheets down. The school couldn’t buy anymore-no money.” (Secondary student)

“The recession makes me think about what I could do if I was homeless.” (Secondary student)

“My dad makes a difference by going to pawn shops just to get money.” (Secondary student)

“I can’t afford as much food anymore. The grocery store is a different place for me now.” (Secondary student)

“Jobs are getting pushed down to other levels- adults are taking the college level jobs, college kids are taking our jobs, and the only thing left if you are lucky is something for the pre teens like lawns or tutoring.” (Secondary student)

“I’m having a hard time getting work because I don’t have my drivers license and getting a license costs money- that I don’t have because I don’t have a job. But I can’t find one anyway!” (Secondary student)

“Since the recession, kids are dropping out, running away, skipping school, and getting drunk much more. Some people kill themselves.” (Secondary student)

“I want people to pay attention to the streets and neighborhoods that have trash and bad people on them because kids live there. Maybe if they cleaned it up it would get better.” (Primary student)

“My friend is losing his house and will have to move to California into pretty much a shack.” (Primary student)

“We have sports balls, but we can’t play with them. They are all really flat.” (Primary Student)

“There’s a lot of homeless. We give them cheeseburgers.” (Primary student)

“We really should try at least to get the homeless children off the streets and help them go to school.” (Primary student)

“After watching the news last night, I got a little scared because I saw that the firemen and cops are getting laid off and there’s a lot of crime in my neighborhood. It took overnight to get over being scared.” (Primary student)

“My parents are both real estate agents, which is kind of hard. It goes on and off sometimes. My mom does selling houses and my dad does rent to one, so the rent one isn’t doing to well and the people that my parents are working with aren’t really cooperating because it’s hard to pay rent.” (Primary student)

“In a way, this recession has been good for our society. Compared to others, we are really separate as a society. Families are so much closer in other countries. This is bringing us back together because of the fact that it is hard times.” (Primary student)

“You know Spring Trip? I had to pay for that. I have to pay my parents back for that, by working around my neighborhood. I am only ten.” (Primary student)

“We need better schools. Seriously why are we letting our schools go, even if it is a hard time in the economy? Don’t people care about their kids or even their own future?”(Primary student)

“It’s important to have lots of places to go to be together and have good experiences for stress relief and happiness, especially during the recession,” (Primary student)

“There are some kids who are acting bad now because things are hard at home with the economy.” (Primary student)

“My mom is trying to get a house-because we had to move out of ours and now we just live in a hotel.” (Kindergartner)

“I wish my friends and family had more food. We don’t have enough food sometimes.” Kindergartner)

“I feel sorry for hobos. No home and no money. That makes me worried.” (Kindergartner)

“I miss my parents because they are working much more now!” (Kindergartner)

“I am alone too much times.” (Kindergartner)

“There needs to be some sort of assistance for care for people because there are a lot of people who don’t have insurance and neglect themselves which only makes it worse, so when you do get insurance it’s a preexisting condition.” (Parent)

“My husband has no sales, and I don’t work because I have a baby. I don’t have any money to pay for day care.” (Parent)

“As a foster parent, I have three teen moms and these girls are also just babies and in school. Most of them are pretty driven to get things done. One thing they are really focused on is getting a job. I would take them around to look for jobs but there’s nothing there and they can’t get day care for their kids.” (Foster parent)