

Children in Poverty

INDICATORS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH



In 2010, more than one in five children (22 percent) lived in families with incomes below the poverty line, the highest level since 1993; by 2014, this had fallen to 21 percent. Black and Hispanic children, children living in single-mother families, and children under five are even more likely to be poor.

Importance

Since the mid-1970s, children under 18 have been much more likely than adults to be poor.¹ Being raised in poverty (defined as income of \$24,008 or less in 2014, for a family of four with two children)² places children at higher risk for a wide range of problems. Research indicates that poor children are disproportionately exposed to factors that may impair brain development³ and affect cognitive, social, and emotional functioning. These risks include environmental toxins, inadequate nutrition, maternal depression, parental substance abuse, trauma and abuse, violent crime, divorce, low-quality child care, and decreased cognitive stimulation (stemming in part from exposure, in infancy, to a more restricted vocabulary).^{4,5,6}

While determining causality is complex in this context, experiencing poverty is also related to increased risks of negative health outcomes for young children and adolescents. When compared with all children, poor children are more likely to have poor health and chronic health conditions.⁷ Children in poor families are more likely to be born premature and at a low birth weight, and to develop later illnesses, such as respiratory diseases. As adolescents, poor youth are more likely to suffer from mental health problems, such as personality disorders and depression. Moreover, in comparison to all adolescents, those raised in poverty engage in higher rates of risky health-related behaviors, including smoking and early initiation of sexual activity.^{8,9,10}

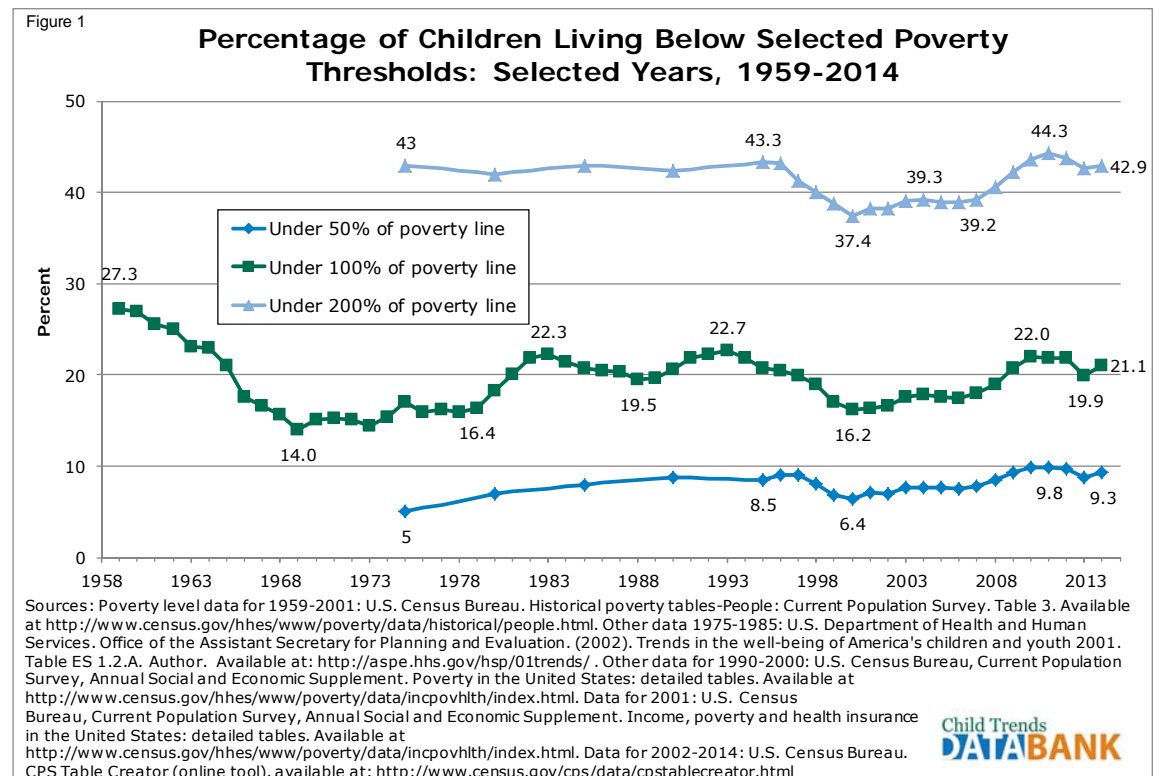
Aside from physical and mental health, poverty in childhood and adolescence is associated with a higher risk for poorer cognitive and academic outcomes, lower school attendance, lower reading and math test scores, increased distractibility, and higher rates of grade failure and early high school dropout.^{11,12} Poor children are also more likely than other children to have externalizing and other behavior problems, or emotional problems,^{13,14} and are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors during adolescence.¹⁵ Finally, growing up in poverty is associated with lower occupational status and lower wages,^{16,17} poorer health,¹⁸ and deficits in working memory¹⁹ in adulthood.



Reporting on child poverty rates at a single point in time gives an under-estimate of its deleterious effects, since research shows that persistent poverty, as well as poverty experienced in the childhood’s early years, is most detrimental to development.²⁰ Nearly four in ten children are poor for one or more years before they reach age 18—nearly double the point-in-time estimate. More than one in ten are poor for half or more of their childhood years.²¹

Trends

After reaching 23 percent in 1993—the highest rate since 1964—child poverty fell to 16 percent in 1999, then rose slowly through 2004, to 18 percent. Beginning in 2007, the data began to reflect the most recent economic downturn. Between 2006 and 2010, child poverty increased by more than one-fourth, to 22 percent of all children under 18, then declined between 2010 and 2013, to 20 percent. A small uptick in 2014 to 21 percent may be attributed to a change in income reporting: comparable numbers from 2013 show a rate of 22 percent.²² (Figure 1)



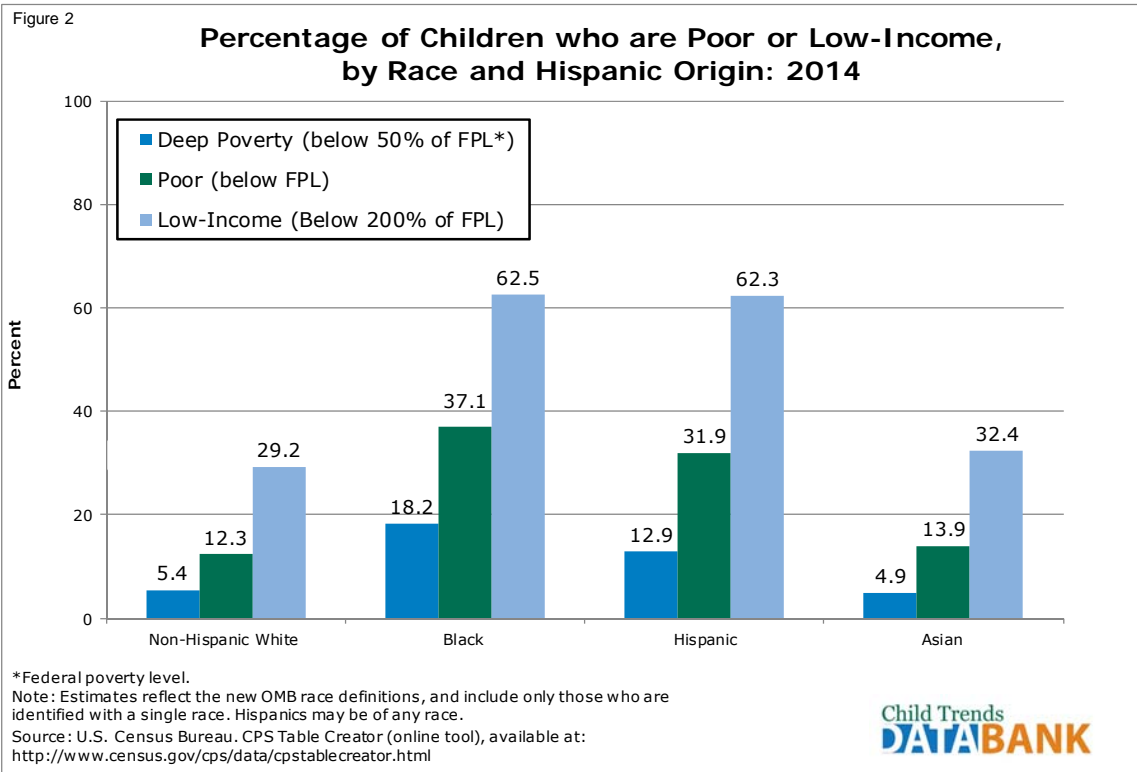


Many researchers and advocates use 200 percent or less of the poverty threshold to identify families with “low-income”.²³ In 2014, more than four in ten children (43 percent) lived in low-income families. Nine percent of children under age 18 lived in families in deep poverty (below 50 percent of the poverty threshold). All these measures of poverty have followed similar patterns over time. (Figure 1)

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) is an alternative measure that takes into account the effects of taxes and in-kind transfers (such as SNAP benefits), regional differences in cost of living, complex family structures, and costs associated with work. Between 2009 and 2014, the SPM yielded a child poverty rate between 16 and 17 percent.²⁴

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin²⁵

Hispanic and black children are much more likely to live in poor families than are white and Asian children. In 2014, 12 percent of white children and 14 percent of Asian children were poor, compared with 32 percent of Hispanic children and 37 percent of black children. In the same year, Hispanics and blacks were also more likely than whites and Asians to live in low-income families (62 and 63 percent, versus 29 and 32 percent, respectively). Black children were more likely than Hispanic children to be in deep poverty (18 and 13 percent, respectively), and both were more likely to be in deep poverty than white or Asian children (five percent, each). (Figure 2)



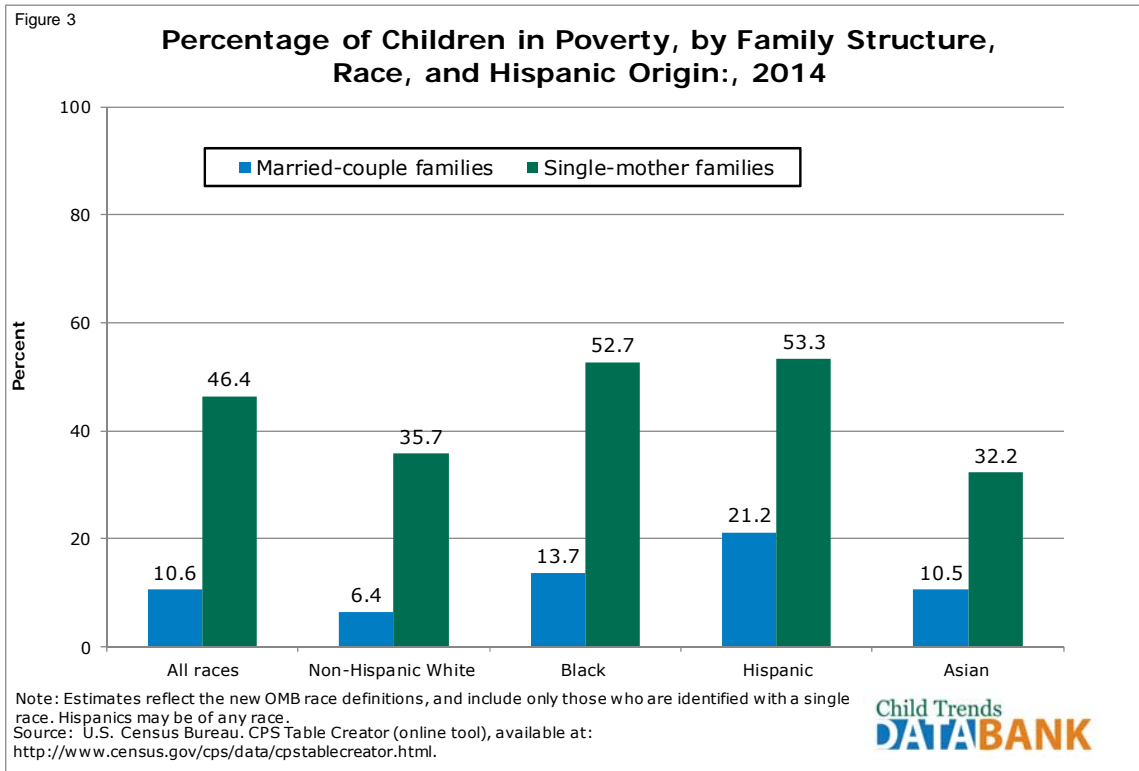
Differences by Age

Children under five are more likely than children five to 17 to live below the poverty line (23 and 20 percent, respectively in 2014). (Appendix 2)

Differences by Family Structure

Children are much more likely to be poor if they live in single-mother families than if they live in married-couple families. In 2014, 46 percent of children living in single-mother families were poor, compared with 11 percent of children living in married-couple families. The same pattern holds for white, black, Hispanic, and Asian children. For example, more than half of black and Hispanic children in single-mother families were poor in 2014. In contrast, 17 percent of black children, and 20 percent of Hispanic children, in married-couple families were poor during the same year. (Figure 3)

After narrowing in the 1990s, the gap between poverty rates for children in married-couple and those in single-mother families grew between 2000 and 2005, then was stable until 2008. The difference grew between 2008 and 2011, but has since leveled off. (Appendix 2)



State and Local Estimates

State-level child poverty estimates are available from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>. The ACS has yearly estimates of children living at multiple ratios of the poverty levels, from 2005 onward, for areas with populations of 65,000 or more, and three-year-average estimates for areas with 20,000 or more people.

Additionally, 2000-2014 state estimates for children in poverty (100 percent), children in extreme poverty (50 percent), children below 150 percent poverty, children below 200 percent poverty, children below 250 percent poverty, and children in poverty by age group are available from the KIDS COUNT Data Center at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/16/20>.



International Estimates

Child poverty estimates (defined as the percent of children living on less than 50 percent of median disposable income, adjusted for family size and composition) for 36 economically advanced countries are available at http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10_eng.pdf (see Figure 1b.)

National Goals

None.

What Works to Make Progress on This Indicator

The Following briefs review ways to reduce child poverty:

- *Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences, and Policy Options*. Available at <http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2009-11ChildreninPoverty.pdf>
- *Reducing the Child Poverty Rate*. Available at: www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDSCOUNT/K/KIDSCOUNTIndicatorBriefReducingtheChildPovert/reducingchildpoverty.pdf
- Magnuson, K. (2013). Reducing the effects of poverty through early childhood interventions. Fast Focus. Institute for Research on Poverty. <http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/fastfocus/pdfs/FF17-2013.pdf>
- Akee, R., Simeonova, R. , Costello, E. J., & Copeland, W. (2015). How does household income affect child personality traits and behaviors? National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper. www.nber.org/papers/w21562

Also see the list of evaluated programs under “Employment and Welfare” on the website of the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy:

http://evidencebasedprograms.org/wordpress/?page_id=50.



Related Indicators

- Children in Working Poor Families: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=children-in-working-poor-families
- Secure Parental Employment: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=secure-parental-employment
- Child Recipients of Welfare: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=child-recipients-of-welfareafdctanf
- Long-Term Welfare Dependence: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=long-term-welfare-dependence
- Receipt of SNAP Benefits: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=food-stamp-receipt
- Food Insecurity: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=food-insecurity
- Homeless Children and Youth: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=homeless-children-and-youth
- Adverse Experiences: www.childtrends.org/?indicators=adverse-experiences
- Long-Term Poverty (archived): www.childtrends.org/?indicators=8282-2

Definition

Families are considered to be in poverty if their pre-tax money income (that is, *not* including in-kind benefits such as food stamps and *not* including the Earned Income Tax Credit) is less than a money income threshold that varies by family size and composition. The thresholds are updated annually to reflect inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. In 2014, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two related children under age 18 was \$24,008, while the threshold of a family of three with two related children was \$19,074. The thresholds are determined by estimating the cost of a minimally adequate diet for a family of a given configuration and size, multiplied by three.

Poverty thresholds for 1959 and beyond for various family configurations are available at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/historical/people.html (table 1)

Because the survey asks about income in the *previous* year, data on each year were collected in March of the following year. For instance, data on 2014 poverty were collected in March 2015.



In 2014, questions related to income were changed slightly, and this reduces comparability with previous data. More detail on this change is available at

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2015/DEMO/ASSA-Income-CPSASEC-Red.pdf>

Data Sources

- Data for 2002-2014: U.S. Census Bureau. *CPS Table Creator* (online tool), available at: <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>
- Data for 2001: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Income, poverty and health insurance in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>.
- Data for 1998-2000: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Poverty in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>.
- Data for 1995-1997 for non-Hispanic whites, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Poverty in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>.
- All other data for 1960-1997: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2002). *Trends in the well-being of America's children and youth 2001*. Table ES 1.2.A. Author. Available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/01trends/>

Raw Data Sources

The Current Population Survey's Social and Economic Supplement (formerly called the March Supplement), a joint project of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau.

www.census.gov/cps/



Appendix 1- Percentage of Children in the United States Under Age 18 Living Below Selected Poverty Thresholds,¹ by Race/Hispanic Origin: Selected Years, 1960-2014

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Under 50% of FPL¹	-	-	-	5	7	8	8.8	8.5	6.4	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.8	8.5	9.3	9.9	9.8	9.7	8.8	9.3	
Race/ Hispanic origin²																						
White	-	-	-	4	5	6	6	-	-	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.6	7.5	7.8	8.1	7.7	6.9	7.4	
Non-Hispanic white	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.6	5.4	4.5	5.4	
Black	-	-	-	14	17	21	22	20	14	17.9	17.1	17.3	16.0	17.3	17.6	17.9	19.9	19.2	19.0	18.6	18.2	
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	16	9	10.9	10.3	11.5	10.3	11.0	12.5	14.1	15.0	14.5	13.7	12.8	12.9	
Mexican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerto Rican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.9	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Asian or Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.7	5	5.5	4.1	4.3	5.0	4.8	7.3	7.5	6.5	5.1	6.8	4.5	6.1	
Asian alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.4	4.0	4.3	5.0	4.9	6.8	6.9	5.8	5.0	6.1	3.9	4.9	
Under 100% of FPL¹	26.9	21.0	15.1	17.1	18.3	20.7	20.6	20.8	16.2	17.6	17.8	17.6	17.4	18.0	19.0	20.7	22.0	21.9	21.8	19.9	21.1	
Race/ Hispanic origin²																						
Non-Hispanic white	-	-	-	10.8	11.8	12.8	12.3	11.2	9.1	9.8	10.5	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.6	11.9	12.3	12.5	12.3	10.7	12.3	
Black	-	65.6	41.5	41.7	42.3	43.6	44.8	41.9	31.2	34.1	33.7	34.5	33.4	34.5	34.7	35.7	39.0	38.8	37.9	38.3	37.1	
Hispanic	-	-	-	33.1	33.2	40.3	38.4	40	28.4	29.7	28.9	28.3	26.9	28.6	30.6	33.1	34.9	34.1	33.8	30.4	31.9	
Mexican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39.8	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerto Rican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54.2	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Asian or Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.6	19.5	12.7	12.7	10.1	11.0	12.5	12.5	15.6	14.5	15.6	13.7	14.7	11.1	14.4	
Asian alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.5	9.9	11.1	12.2	12.5	14.6	14.0	14.4	13.5	13.8	10.1	13.9	



	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Under 150% of FPL¹	-	-	-	30	29	32	31.4	32.2	26.8	28.6	28.2	28.2	28.6	29.3	30.5	32.0	33.4	34.0	33.3	32.1	32.6
Race/ Hispanic origin²																					
White	-	-	-	24	24	26	25	-	-	24.6	24.4	24.1	24.7	25.5	26.6	28.1	29.2	30.4	29.5	27.8	28.8
Non-Hispanic white	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.1	16.9	17.6	17.5	17.2	17.7	17.8	19.0	19.8	20.5	21.5	20.7	19.1	20.7
Black	-	-	-	60	57	59	57	56	45	48.5	48.0	48.8	48.1	49.0	50.5	50.9	53.9	52.2	51.6	53.9	50.4
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	59	47	48.4	47.0	45.9	45.9	47.8	47.7	50.0	51.7	52.4	51.9	48.9	48.7
Mexican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61.1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.5	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian or Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29.5	23	21.2	19.7	19.8	20.7	22.3	24.0	24.7	23.5	25.0	24.2	22.6	24.1
Asian alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.3	18.7	19.4	19.9	21.8	22.2	23.8	22.1	23.6	22.8	21.1	24.1
Under 200% of FPL¹	-	-	-	43	42	43	42.4	43.3	37.4	39.1	39.3	38.9	39.0	39.2	40.6	42.2	43.7	44.3	43.8	42.6	42.9
Race/ Hispanic origin²																					
White	-	-	-	38	37	38	37	-	-	34.7	35.1	34.6	35.0	35.0	36.5	38.2	39.1	40.5	39.9	38.4	38.8
Non-Hispanic white	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.5	25.6	26.4	26.8	26.2	26.3	26.2	27.3	28.7	29.1	30.4	30.0	28.5	29.2
Black	-	-	-	73	70	71	68	68	59	61.3	60.6	61.3	60.2	60.6	60.9	62.5	65.0	63.3	62.5	63.6	62.5
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	73	62	62.6	62.2	60.7	61.0	60.8	62.0	63.0	64.8	65.6	65.0	62.5	62.3
Mexican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75.3	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74.3	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian or Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.5	32	29.7	30.0	28.8	27.4	30.2	32.5	32.6	35.3	35.3	34.1	32.6	32.6
Asian alone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29.7	29.2	28.4	26.2	29.2	30.8	31.7	33.4	33.4	32.3	31.6	32.4

"-" indicates data not available

¹The federal poverty level (abbreviated FPL) is based on pre-tax money income and does not include noncash benefits (such as Food Stamps) or the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty thresholds reflect family size and composition and are adjusted each year using the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) level. The average poverty threshold was \$24,008 in



2014 for a family of four with two children. The levels shown here are derived from the ratio of the family's income to the family's poverty threshold in that year.

² Estimates by race for 2002 and later years have been revised to reflect the new OMB race definitions, and include only those who are identified with a single race.

Sources: Data for 1995-1997 for non-Hispanic whites, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Poverty in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>. All other data for 1960-1997: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2002). *Trends in the well-being of America's children and youth 2001*. Table ES 1.2.A. Author. Available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/01trends/> Data for 1998-2000: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Poverty in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>. Data for 2001: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. *Income, poverty and health insurance in the United States: detailed tables*. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/index.html>. Data for 2002-2014: U.S. Census Bureau. *CPS Table Creator* (online tool), available at: <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>



Appendix 2 - Percentage of Related Children¹ in the United States Living Below the Poverty Line,² By Family Type and Race/Hispanic Origin: Selected Years, 1960-2014

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All Related Children	26.5	20.7	14.9	16.8	17.9	20.1	19.9	20.2	15.6	17.6	17.8	17.6	17.4	18.0	19.0	20.7	22.0	21.9	21.8	19.9	21.1
White³	20.0	14.4	10.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.3	14.8	14.4	14.1	14.9	15.8	17.7	18.5	18.6	18.5	16.4	17.4
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	10.5	11.3	12.3	11.6	10.6	8.5	9.8	10.5	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.6	11.9	12.3	12.5	12.3	10.7	12.3
Black³	-	65.6	41.5	41.4	42.1	43.1	44.2	41.5	30.9	34.1	33.7	34.5	□□	34.5	34.7	35.7	39.0	38.8	37.9	38.3	37.1
Hispanic	-	-	-	33.1	33.0	39.6	37.7	39.3	27.6	29.7	28.9	28.3	26.9	28.6	30.6	33.1	34.9	34.1	33.8	30.4	31.9
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	17.0	18.6	12.5	12.7	10.1	11.0	12.5	12.5	15.6	14.5	15.6	13.7	14.7	11.1	14.4
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.5	9.9	11.1	12.2	12.5	14.6	14.0	14.4	13.5	13.8	10.1	13.9
Related children under age 5⁴	-	-	17	18	20	23	23	24	17	20.3	20.5	20.4	20.7	21.2	22.2	24.5	25.9	25.1	25.1	22.5	23.4
White³	-	-	12	14	16	18	18	-	-	16.8	17.4	17.5	17.1	17.9	18.9	21.0	21.5	21.8	21.5	17.9	19.7
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.3	9	11.5	12.4	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.3	14.7	14.6	15.0	14.5	11.0	13.6
Black³	-	-	42	41	45	47	51	49	33	39.7	38.2	37.9	39.9	40.7	40.5	41.9	45.5	42.7	42.5	43.7	43.0
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	34	41	40	42	28	32.4	31.3	31.4	29.9	31.6	33.6	35.0	37.7	36.0	37.1	33.0	34.0
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21.6	12	8.5	8.3	9.3	8.0	10.1	14.4	14.8	16.7	13.0	14.6	11.4	16.3
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.4	7.6	8.9	7.6	10.0	12.8	14.3	15.7	12.4	12.8	10.7	15.4
Related children ages 5-17⁴	-	-	14	16	17	19	18	18	15	16.6	16.8	16.5	16.1	16.8	17.7	19.2	20.6	20.7	20.6	19.0	20.1
White³	-	-	10	12	12	14	14	-	-	13.4	13.8	13.3	12.9	13.7	14.6	16.3	17.4	17.5	17.4	15.8	17.3
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.7	9	9.2	9.9	9.2	9.1	9.4	9.9	10.8	11.6	11.6	11.6	10.6	11.8
Black³	-	-	41	42	40	41	41	38	30	32.1	32.0	33.2	31.0	32.2	32.4	33.3	36.6	37.3	36.2	36.3	34.9
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	32	39	36	37	27	28.5	27.8	26.9	25.5	27.3	29.2	32.1	33.7	33.4	32.5	29.3	31.1
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.9	15	14.3	10.8	11.7	14.3	13.5	16.1	14.5	15.2	14.0	14.7	11.0	13.6
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.0	10.8	11.9	14.1	13.6	15.4	13.8	13.9	14.0	14.2	9.8	13.4



	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Children in Married-Couple Families	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	8	8.6	9.0	8.5	8.2	8.6	9.9	11.1	11.6	11.0	11.2	9.5	10.6
White³	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	8.2	8.6	8.0	7.5	8.3	9.4	10.4	10.9	10.5	10.6	8.8	10.3
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.9	4.9	4.8	5.2	4.5	4.3	4.8	5.3	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.2	5.0	6.4
Black³	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	13	8	11.2	12.6	12.4	12.1	11.0	11.0	15.3	16.7	16.0	15.0	16.8	13.7
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	28	21	21.4	20.8	20.1	18.5	19.4	22.2	24.0	25.1	23.3	23.6	20.0	21.2
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.8	12	8.7	7.9	8.9	9.1	9.8	13.3	11.6	11.2	9.5	10.7	7.8	9.9
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.5	7.6	9.3	9.2	10.0	12.9	11.3	10.6	9.2	10.4	7.6	10.5
Related children under age 5⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	11	9	9.7	10.2	9.8	9.7	9.6	11.2	13.4	13.3	12.2	12.6	10.4	11.4
White³	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.5	9.5	10.9	12.6	12.3	12.0	12.0	9.3	10.9
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.4	5	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.9	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.0	4.9	6.7
Black³	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	14	9	9.7	13.7	11.1	13.7	12.3	12.8	18.3	19.7	15.2	16.8	18.6	17.1
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	31	22	23.3	22.8	22.7	21.2	21.0	24.0	26.0	26.1	23.6	26.1	21.2	22.4
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.2	9	6.6	6.3	8.4	5.4	8.0	11.9	12.7	13.1	10.5	11.2	7.3	11.3
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.6	6.1	8.7	5.5	7.8	10.9	12.5	12.7	9.8	10.8	7.5	12.0
Related children ages 5-17⁴	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	8	8.2	8.5	7.9	7.6	8.2	9.4	10.1	11.0	10.5	10.6	9.2	10.3
White³	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	7.6	8.0	7.2	6.7	7.8	8.8	9.4	10.4	10.0	10.0	8.6	10.1
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.6	5	4.5	5.0	4.1	3.9	4.6	5.1	5.5	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.0	6.3
Black³	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	12	8	11.7	12.2	12.9	11.5	10.5	10.2	14.1	15.6	16.3	14.3	16.1	12.5
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	27	20	20.5	19.8	18.9	17.1	18.6	21.4	23.0	24.7	23.2	22.6	19.5	20.7
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14.6	13	9.5	8.6	9.2	10.7	10.7	13.9	11.1	10.4	9.1	10.5	8.0	9.3
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.2	8.3	9.5	10.9	10.9	13.8	10.7	9.7	9.0	10.2	7.6	9.9



	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Children in Single-Mother Families	68.4	64.3	58.7	52.7	50.8	53.6	53.4	50.3	40.1	42.1	42.4	43.1	42.4	43.0	43.9	45.1	47.1	48.0	47.6	46.1	46.4
White³	60	53	43	44	42	45	46	-	-	37.5	39.1	39.5	38.3	39.3	40.2	42.3	44.2	45.0	44.7	42.2	42.9
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33.5	28	31.6	33.0	33.8	33.6	32.9	33.1	35.1	36.0	36.5	37.3	34.8	35.7
Black³	-	-	68	66	65	67	65	62	50	50.2	49.3	50.2	49.8	50.3	51.9	50.9	52.8	54.3	53.7	54.2	52.7
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	65	72	68	66	48	50.6	51.9	51.0	47.5	51.8	52.1	52.9	56.8	57.2	55.4	52.4	53.3
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.4	32	37.2	20.0	26.5	35.7	33.3	29.7	29.4	40.5	35.7	35.1	29.1	36.4
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.0	19.7	26.1	34.6	34.0	27.3	27.5	37.8	36.0	33.1	24.1	32.2
Related children under age 5⁴	-	-	64	62	65	66	66	62	47	53.8	54.1	54.2	53.9	54.8	55.3	55.7	59.2	58.5	57.6	56.2	55.5
White³	-	-	59	58	60	59	60	-	-	50.4	52.5	53.0	50.2	53.6	53.2	53.7	56.9	57.7	56.6	51.7	52.6
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45.8	37	46.2	48.1	49.0	47.6	49.8	47.6	51.0	50.0	50.8	51.9	44.0	47.4
Black³	-	-	71	67	72	75	73	71	54	59.9	57.9	58.0	58.9	58.5	61.8	60.2	62.8	61.4	60.5	61.4	59.9
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	70	79	77	72	53	57.6	58.7	58.5	55.3	59.3	58.1	56.8	65.4	64.7	62.0	60.0	58.6
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.1	40	29.1	19.4	19.8	40.3	36.4	33.8	30.6	52.3	35.5	39.7	46.9	43.0
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.6	12.9	15.5	38.5	37.1	30.2	28.5	49.8	34.8	34.3	40.1	37.2
Related children ages 5-17⁴	-	-	49	49	46	48	47	45	37	38.4	38.6	39.4	38.4	38.8	39.7	41.2	43.0	44.3	44.2	42.7	43.2
White³	-	-	38	40	36	40	39	-	-	33.8	35.0	35.2	34.5	34.7	35.7	38.3	40.3	40.9	40.9	39.1	39.8
Non-Hispanic white³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28.6	24	27.9	29.0	29.6	29.5	28.2	29.0	30.4	32.3	32.6	33.1	32.4	32.4
Black³	-	-	66	66	62	63	60	57	48	46.7	46.3	47.5	46.2	46.9	48.0	47.2	49.1	51.6	51.3	51.6	49.9
Hispanic	-	-	-	-	62	70	64	62	46	48.0	49.2	47.9	44.5	48.6	49.2	51.2	53.5	54.3	52.8	49.4	51.3
Asian or Pacific Islander³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.5	29	39.2	20.1	28.4	34.6	32.5	28.5	29.2	37.0	35.8	33.9	24.8	33.7
Asian alone³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40.3	21.2	28.9	33.7	33.1	26.5	27.3	34.3	36.3	32.8	20.2	30.5

"-" indicates data not available



¹ Related children include biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder and all other children in the household related to the householder (or reference person) by blood, marriage, or adoption.

² The federal poverty level (abbreviated FPL) is based on pre-tax money income and does not include noncash benefits (such as Food Stamps) or the Earned Income Tax Credit. Poverty thresholds reflect family size and composition and are adjusted each year using the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) level. The average poverty threshold was \$23,624 in 2013 for a family of four with two children. The levels shown here are derived from the ratio of the family's income to the family's poverty threshold in that year.

³ Estimates by race for 2002 and later years have been revised to reflect the new OMB race definitions, and include only those who are identified with a single race.

⁴ The age categories for data prior to 2002 are "Related children under the age of 6" and " Related children ages 6-17".

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Endnotes

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