

About the Data – Children in Poverty

Indicator Description

The children in poverty indicator is defined as the number of children aged 0–17 years in families with incomes at or below the federal poverty thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Data Sources

[United States Census Bureau](#), American Community Survey (ACS) 2010–2021 5-Year Estimates
Detailed Tables:

- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Table B17001)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Black or African American Alone; Table B17001B)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone; Table B17001C)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Asian Alone; Table B17001D)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone; Table B17001E)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Two or More Races; Table B17001G)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino; Table B17001H)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Hispanic or Latino; Table B17001I)

[United States Census Bureau](#), American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimates
Detailed Tables:

- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Table B17020)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Black or African American Alone; Table B17020B)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone; Table B B17020C)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Asian Alone; Table B17020D)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone; Table B17020E)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Two or More Races; Table B17020G)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino; Table B17020H)
- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age (Hispanic or Latino; Table B17020I)

- Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age (Table B17001)

Data Analysis

The percentage of children living in poverty shown in these dashboards is the number of children aged 0–17 years in California households with incomes below the poverty thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau, per 100 children. Poverty thresholds are based on the number and age of adults and the number of children under age 18 in family units. Individuals in a family whose annual combined income, before taxes, is less than the poverty threshold for the family's size and composition are defined as living in poverty. More information is available from: [How the U.S. Census Bureau measures poverty](#)

The number of children living in poverty is a weighted estimate based on the American Community Survey's population representative sample of respondents. These data are stratified by age, race/ethnicity, and sex. The 95% confidence interval presented in the tooltips indicates there is a 95% chance that the range contains the true prevalence or rate in the population. Rates or percentages with wide confidence intervals should be interpreted with caution.

Data Suppression

The numerator, rate, and confidence interval are not shown when the numerator is less than 10. More information is available from: [U.S. Census Bureau: Data suppression](#)

Category and Subcategory Definitions

Age: Age of the child, in years.

Race/ethnicity: Race and Hispanic or Latino origin are self-reported by the ACS participant. Hispanic includes all persons of Hispanic or Latino origin of any race. White includes those who reported a single race of non-Hispanic origin. Multi-Race includes those who reported more than one race, regardless of Hispanic origin. The remaining groups are those who reported a single race, regardless of Hispanic origin: American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black or African American (Black), Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Pacific Islander).

Sex: Sex of the child, defined as either male or female. Missing values were imputed.

Suggested Citation

California Department of Public Health, Center for Family Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, Children in Poverty Dashboard, Last Modified May 2024.
go.cdph.ca.gov/Children-in-Poverty-Dashboard