

# Poverty and Health

Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project (HCI)  
Office of Health Equity

## Key Facts

- ❖ 46.3% of children (<18 years) in California experience poverty.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ Minimum wage in California as of January 1, 2019 is \$11.00/hour for employers with <25 employees, and \$12.00/hour for employers with 26 employees or more.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ A person who works full-time earning a minimum wage of \$11.00/hr would earn \$22,957 per year. He or she would be in poverty (<200% FPL).
- ❖ The San Joaquin Valley has a poverty rate of 48.5% — the highest rate of any region in California.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), California has the highest poverty rate of any state in the U.S. at 19%.<sup>5</sup>

## Programs to Alleviate Poverty

- ❖ Medi-Cal
- ❖ Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- ❖ CalWORKs
- ❖ CalFresh
- ❖ National School Lunch Program
- ❖ Housing Choice Voucher Program

## Salary Spotlight: Fresno

In the Fresno metro area, the median salaries of retail salespersons, farmworkers, and office clerks are \$28,900, \$31,500, and \$37,200, respectively. The income needed to afford the rent for a two-bedroom home in the area is \$38,300.<sup>6</sup>

## Related HCI Indicators

- Housing cost burden
- Unemployment rate
- Living wage

## To Learn More about HCI

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/HCI-Search.aspx>

## Contact us

HCI OHE @ cdph.ca.gov

## WHY POVERTY MATTERS TO HEALTH

Poverty is an important public health issue. It limits access to basic material necessities such as housing, food, education, jobs and transportation, and thereby impacts the ability to live a healthy life.

## MEASURING POVERTY

Poverty and low income can be measured in various ways. Due to California's high cost of living, 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) is a more realistic measure of financial hardship than the official 100% FPL.

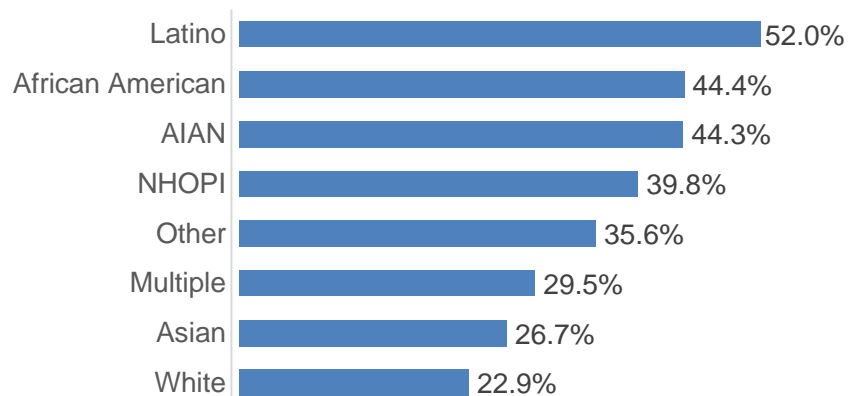
## WHAT DOES 200% FPL LOOK LIKE?

Household size	Annual Income <sup>1</sup>
1	\$24,980
2	\$33,820
3	\$42,660
4	\$51,500

## DISPARITIES IN POVERTY

1 in 3 Californians (36.1%)<sup>2</sup> live in poverty – that's 12.9 million Californians.

Latinos, African Americans, and American Indians/Alaska Natives are twice as likely as whites to be in poverty.



AIAN: American Indian/Alaska Native.

NHOPI: Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

## References

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2. Population with ratio of income to 100% federal poverty level <2.00. U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2011-2015 Table C17002.
3. IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org). American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2012-2016.
4. State of California Department of Industrial Relations. Minimum Wage. [https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/faq\\_minimumwage.htm](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/faq_minimumwage.htm). Published December 2016. Accessed March 28, 2019.
5. U.S. Census Bureau. The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-265.pdf>. Published September 2018. Accessed March 28, 2019.
6. National Housing Conference. Paycheck to Paycheck 2018 data tool. <https://www.nhc.org/paycheck-to-paycheck/>. Accessed May 2019.