

Poverty: 2015 and 2016

American Community Survey Briefs

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INTRODUCTION

Planners and policymakers use poverty estimates as key indicators to evaluate trends and current economic conditions within communities and to make comparisons across demographic groups. Federal and state governments often use these estimates to allocate funds to local communities. Government agencies and local organizations regularly use these estimates to identify the number of individuals and families eligible for various programs.

This brief uses the 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys (ACS) 1-year estimates to analyze poverty rates for 2016 as well as the changes in poverty from 2015 for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia, and the most populous metropolitan areas.¹ The brief also discusses the distribution of people by income-to-poverty ratio.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2016, 14.0 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty level, a decline from 14.7 percent in 2015. This is the third consecutive annual decline in the ACS national poverty rate.²

¹ Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (metro and micro areas) are geographic entities delineated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. The term "Core Based Statistical Area" (CBSA) is a collective term for both metro and micro areas. A metro area contains a core urban area with a population of 50,000 or more individuals, and a micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) individuals. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/omb-standards.html>.

² Following the standard specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the Current Population Survey Annual and Social Economic Supplement are used to estimate the official national poverty rate, which can be found in the report *Income and Poverty in the United States: 2016*, available at <www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-259.pdf>.

- The poverty rate declined in 24 states between 2015 and 2016. In 15 states, the poverty rate declined for the second year in a row. The poverty rate increased in one state, Vermont.
- In 17 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the poverty rate declined between 2015 and 2016. The poverty rate declined for the second consecutive year in 11 of these 17 metropolitan areas.
- The percentage of the U.S. population with income less than 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined to 6.2 percent in 2016, from 6.5 percent in 2015.
- In 2016, the proportion of people with income less than 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined in 15 states and in 11 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The proportion of people with income less than 50 percent of their poverty threshold increased in the District of Columbia and Vermont.
- The percentage of people in the United States with income less than 125 percent of their threshold declined to 18.6 percent in 2016.
- The proportion of people with income less than 125 percent of their threshold declined in 16 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2016. The proportion of people with income less than 125 percent of their poverty threshold did not increase in any of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.

Most of the analysis in this report is based on the 2015 and 2016 ACS 1-year estimates. The ACS is conducted every month, with income data collected for the 12 months preceding the interview. Since the survey is continuous, adjacent ACS years have income reference

months in common. Therefore, comparing the 2015 ACS with the 2016 ACS is not an exact comparison of the economic conditions in 2015 with those in 2016, and comparisons should be interpreted with caution.³ For more information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs>.

POVERTY

In 2016, 14.0 percent of the total U.S. population had income below their respective poverty thresholds, a significant decline from the 2015 estimate of 14.7 percent. This is the third consecutive year that the percentage of the U.S. population in poverty, as measured by the ACS, has significantly declined and is the

³ For a discussion of this and related issues see Howard Hogan, "Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," *Applied Demography in the 21st Century*, eds. Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008.

How Poverty Is Measured

Poverty status is determined by comparing annual income to a set of dollar values (called poverty thresholds) that vary by family size, number of children, and the age of the householder. If a family's before-tax money income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing the individual's income to his or her poverty threshold.

The poverty thresholds are updated annually to account for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). They do not vary geographically.

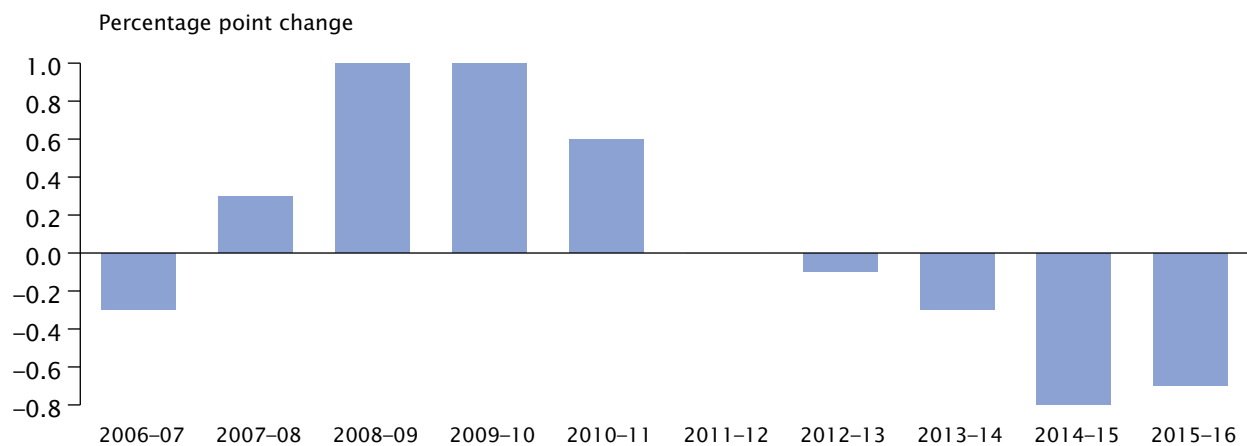
The ACS is a continuous survey and people respond throughout the year. Since income is reported for the previous 12 months, the appropriate poverty threshold for each family is determined by multiplying the base-year poverty threshold from 1982 by the average of monthly CPI values for the 12 months preceding the survey month.

For more information, see page 105 of "American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2015 Subject Definitions" at <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2015_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf>.

Figure 1.

Year-to-Year Percentage Point Change in Poverty Rate: 2006–2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)



Note: All the changes are statistically significant except the changes for 2011–2012 and 2012–2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 to 2015 American Community Surveys.

first instance of three consecutive years of decline since the inception of the ACS in 2005 (Figure 1).⁴

Among the states, poverty rates ranged from a low of 7.3 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 20.8 percent in Mississippi (Table 1).⁵

Figure 2 displays the percentage of people in poverty for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on 2016 ACS 1-year estimates. Poverty rates of 18.0 percent or higher are observed in

Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Utah exhibit lower than 11.0 percent.

Figure 3 shows changes in the percentage of people in poverty from 2015 to 2016 for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The figure shows that 24 states, distributed throughout the country, experienced decreases in poverty rates in 2016. For 25 states and the District of Columbia, changes in the percentage of people in poverty across years were not statistically significant.

In Vermont, the poverty rate increased from 10.2 percent in 2015 to 11.9 percent in 2016, but continues to be lower than the national rate of 14.0 percent.

According to the 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, the poverty rate for Puerto Rico declined to 43.5 percent in 2016, from 46.1 percent in 2015. This was the first decline in poverty in Puerto Rico since the inception of the Puerto Rico Community Survey in 2005.⁶

⁴ All year-to-year changes from 2006 to 2016, except the changes between 2011–2012 and 2012–2013, were statistically significant.

⁵ The poverty rate for Mississippi (20.8 percent) was not statistically different from the poverty rates for New Mexico (19.8 percent) and Louisiana (20.2 percent).

⁶ The poverty rates for Puerto Rico from the 2005 to 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys 1-year estimates are available on American FactFinder at factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t.

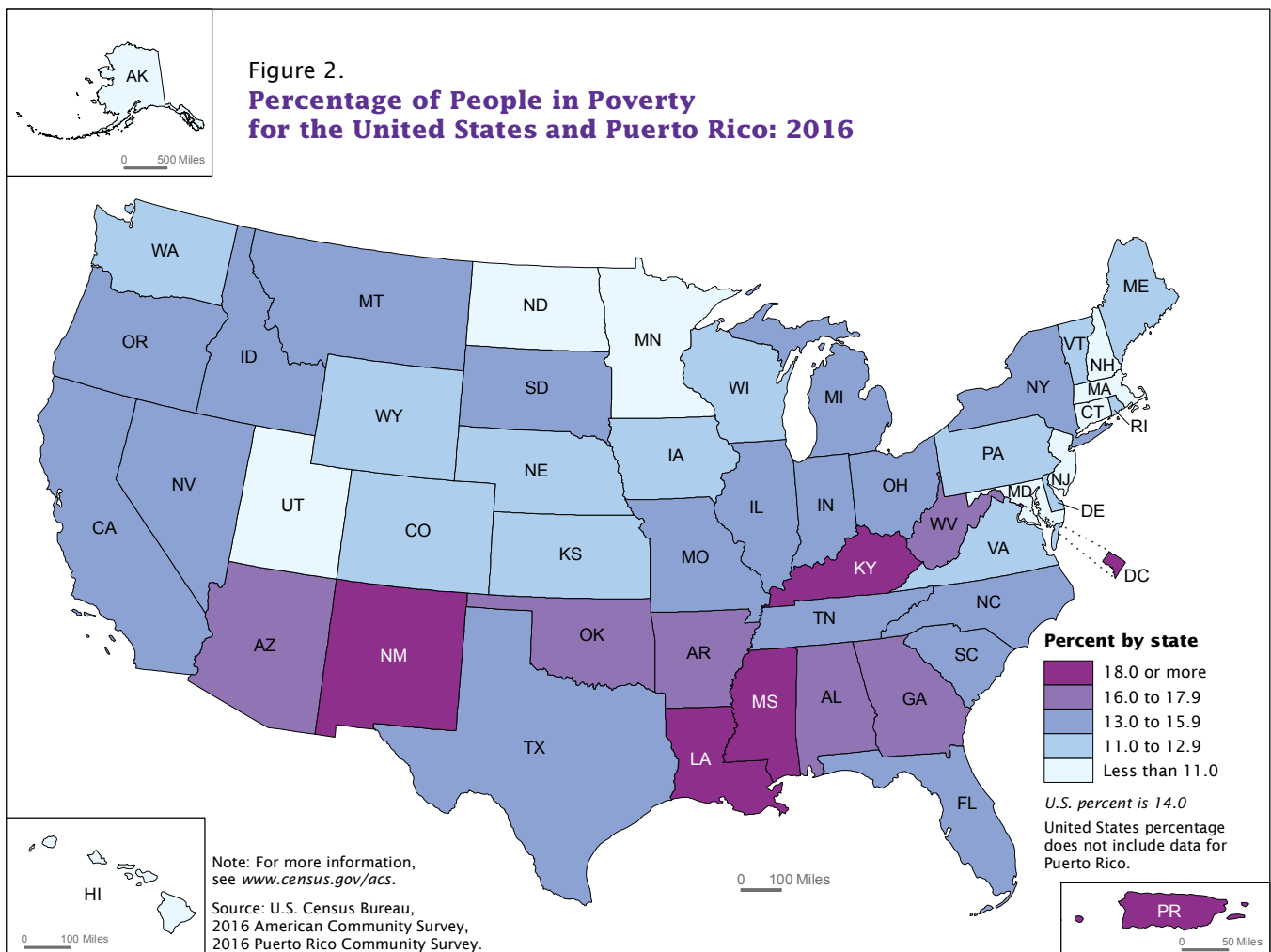


Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Area	Below poverty in 2015				Below poverty in 2016				Change in poverty (2016 less 2015)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)
United States ..	46,153,077	275,061	14.7	0.1	44,268,996	246,910	14.0	0.1	*-1,884,081	369,626	*-0.7	0.1
Alabama	876,016	23,918	18.5	0.5	810,231	23,417	17.1	0.5	*-65,785	33,473	*-1.4	0.7
Alaska	74,532	5,835	10.3	0.8	71,566	6,534	9.9	0.9	-2,966	8,760	-0.4	1.2
Arizona	1,159,043	29,822	17.4	0.4	1,107,464	27,786	16.4	0.4	*-51,579	40,760	*-1.0	0.6
Arkansas	550,508	17,473	19.1	0.6	499,225	17,721	17.2	0.6	*-51,283	24,887	*-1.9	0.8
California	5,891,678	66,827	15.3	0.2	5,525,524	66,544	14.3	0.2	*-366,154	94,308	*-1.0	0.3
Colorado	613,549	20,501	11.5	0.4	598,736	17,942	11.0	0.3	-14,813	27,243	-0.5	0.5
Connecticut	366,909	15,789	10.5	0.5	339,128	14,645	9.8	0.4	*-27,781	21,535	*-0.7	0.6
Delaware	114,360	9,567	12.4	1.0	108,211	8,223	11.7	0.9	-6,149	12,615	-0.7	1.3
District of Columbia ..	110,500	8,628	17.3	1.4	120,308	9,084	18.6	1.4	9,808	12,528	1.3	2.0
Florida	3,116,886	47,330	15.7	0.2	2,973,512	48,474	14.7	0.2	*-143,374	67,748	*-1.0	0.3
Georgia	1,694,988	33,156	17.0	0.3	1,603,013	34,382	16.0	0.3	*-91,975	47,764	*-1.0	0.4
Hawaii	147,984	8,530	10.6	0.6	129,569	10,361	9.3	0.7	*-18,415	13,421	*-1.3	0.9
Idaho	245,551	13,820	15.1	0.9	237,445	15,728	14.4	1.0	-8,106	20,937	-0.7	1.3
Illinois	1,703,258	35,831	13.6	0.3	1,621,508	35,297	13.0	0.3	*-81,750	50,297	*-0.6	0.4
Indiana	933,181	24,656	14.5	0.4	906,077	22,930	14.1	0.4	-27,104	33,671	-0.4	0.6
Iowa	367,414	13,279	12.2	0.4	356,378	12,582	11.8	0.4	-11,036	18,293	-0.4	0.6
Kansas	368,879	13,898	13.0	0.5	342,544	14,393	12.1	0.5	*-26,335	20,008	*-0.9	0.7
Kentucky	794,055	21,101	18.5	0.5	794,060	24,195	18.5	0.6	5	32,104	Z	0.8
Louisiana	889,946	24,422	19.6	0.5	918,187	25,851	20.2	0.6	28,241	35,563	0.6	0.8
Maine	172,620	9,255	13.4	0.7	161,749	10,063	12.5	0.8	-10,871	13,672	-0.9	1.1
Maryland	570,776	21,279	9.7	0.4	567,715	17,097	9.7	0.3	-3,061	27,297	Z	0.5
Massachusetts	752,071	21,473	11.5	0.3	686,597	20,435	10.4	0.3	*-65,474	29,643	*-1.1	0.4
Michigan	1,529,645	27,659	15.8	0.3	1,451,936	23,392	15.0	0.2	*-77,709	36,224	*-0.8	0.4
Minnesota	546,431	16,392	10.2	0.3	533,276	15,913	9.9	0.3	-13,155	22,846	-0.3	0.4
Mississippi	637,128	21,554	22.0	0.7	602,768	21,320	20.8	0.7	*-34,360	30,317	*-1.2	1.0
Missouri	875,495	21,660	14.8	0.4	826,954	22,623	14.0	0.4	*-48,541	31,320	*-0.8	0.6
Montana	147,287	8,916	14.6	0.9	135,638	7,800	13.3	0.8	-11,649	11,846	*-1.3	1.2
Nebraska	231,321	10,619	12.6	0.6	211,453	10,293	11.4	0.6	*-19,868	14,789	*-1.2	0.8
Nevada	418,243	18,129	14.7	0.6	399,420	18,626	13.8	0.6	-18,823	25,992	-0.9	0.8
New Hampshire	106,046	8,442	8.2	0.7	94,289	7,685	7.3	0.6	*-11,757	11,416	*-0.9	0.9
New Jersey	946,114	26,304	10.8	0.3	915,913	28,791	10.4	0.3	-30,201	38,998	-0.4	0.4
New Mexico	417,834	15,720	20.4	0.8	404,463	15,353	19.8	0.8	-13,371	21,973	-0.6	1.1
New York	2,970,032	47,607	15.4	0.2	2,832,824	38,578	14.7	0.2	*-137,208	61,276	*-0.7	0.3
North Carolina	1,607,835	31,818	16.4	0.3	1,521,880	32,197	15.4	0.3	*-85,955	45,266	*-1.0	0.4
North Dakota	80,170	5,329	11.0	0.7	78,464	6,184	10.7	0.8	-1,706	8,163	-0.3	1.1
Ohio	1,674,415	34,580	14.8	0.3	1,645,382	32,693	14.6	0.3	-29,033	47,588	-0.2	0.4
Oklahoma	610,828	15,093	16.1	0.4	620,377	15,205	16.3	0.4	9,549	21,424	0.2	0.6
Oregon	607,029	22,484	15.4	0.6	536,146	18,071	13.3	0.4	*-70,883	28,846	*-2.1	0.7
Pennsylvania	1,629,995	31,848	13.2	0.3	1,592,045	30,765	12.9	0.2	-37,950	44,281	-0.3	0.4
Rhode Island	141,035	9,670	13.9	1.0	129,932	9,143	12.8	0.9	-11,103	13,308	-1.1	1.3
South Carolina	790,715	22,651	16.6	0.5	735,960	23,271	15.3	0.5	*-54,755	32,475	*-1.3	0.7
South Dakota	114,071	7,467	13.7	0.9	110,962	6,706	13.3	0.8	-3,109	10,036	-0.4	1.2
Tennessee	1,077,900	30,450	16.7	0.5	1,023,177	25,829	15.8	0.4	*-54,723	39,929	*-0.9	0.6
Texas	4,255,517	65,900	15.9	0.2	4,261,337	60,018	15.6	0.2	5,820	89,135	-0.3	0.3
Utah	331,854	15,217	11.3	0.5	306,902	15,189	10.2	0.5	*-24,952	21,500	*-1.1	0.7
Vermont	61,314	5,009	10.2	0.8	71,329	5,685	11.9	0.9	*10,015	7,577	*1.7	1.2
Virginia	909,346	25,335	11.2	0.3	896,440	28,235	11.0	0.3	-12,906	37,935	-0.2	0.4
Washington	857,801	23,751	12.2	0.3	805,691	22,400	11.3	0.3	*-52,110	32,648	*-0.9	0.4
West Virginia	321,583	14,177	17.9	0.8	319,063	13,661	17.9	0.8	-2,520	19,688	Z	1.1
Wisconsin	677,964	19,332	12.1	0.3	661,565	19,715	11.8	0.4	-16,399	27,612	-0.3	0.5
Wyoming	63,425	7,239	11.1	1.3	64,663	5,547	11.3	1.0	1,238	9,120	0.2	1.6
Puerto Rico	1,586,285	22,921	46.1	0.7	1,469,382	26,573	43.5	0.8	*-116,903	35,093	*-2.6	1.1

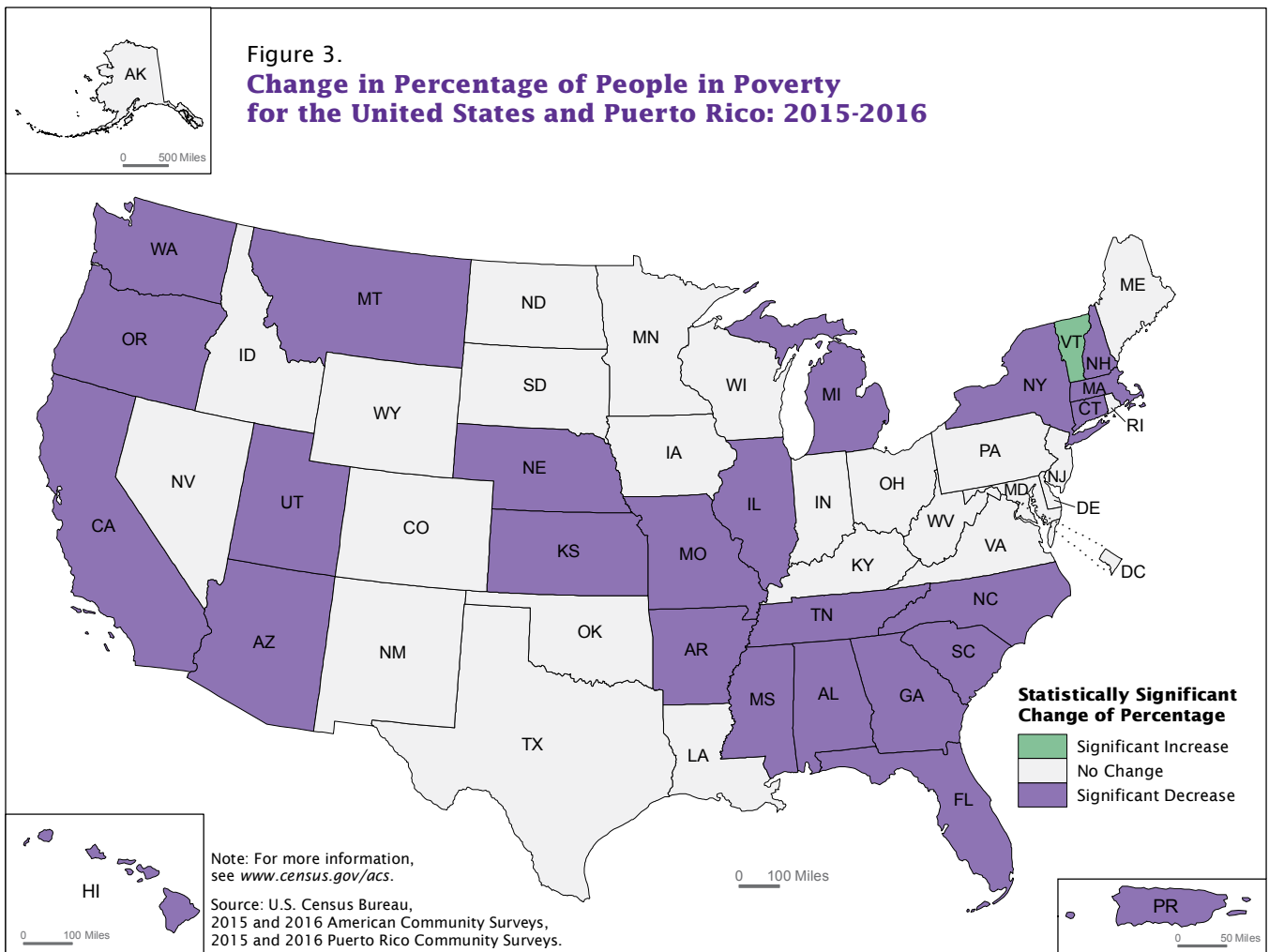
* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys and 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.



POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2015 and 2016 for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (8.4 percent) had one of the lowest poverty rates among the 25 most populous metropolitan

areas (Figure 4).⁷ The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area had the highest poverty rate in 2016 (16.4 percent) among these metropolitan areas.

In 17 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the percentage of people in poverty decreased from 2015 to 2016 (Table 2). None of the metropolitan areas shown in

⁷ The 2016 ACS poverty rate for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (8.4 percent) and the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (8.8 percent) are not statistically different from each other.

Table 2 experienced a statistically significant increase in the percentage of individuals in poverty. For the second year in a row, the percentage of people in poverty decreased in the four most populous metropolitan areas (New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area; Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area; and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area).

Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Metropolitan areas	Below poverty in 2015			Below poverty in 2016			Change in poverty (2016 less 2015)		
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percent ¹	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percent ¹	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percent ¹
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	780,892	29,178	13.9	747,336	29,168	13.1	-33,556	41,257	*-0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	288,786	13,900	10.6	284,087	13,710	10.4	-4,699	19,524	-0.2
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	471,869	17,554	10.2	446,502	16,797	9.6	*-25,367	24,296	*-0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	337,010	15,184	14.1	299,707	15,669	12.3	*-37,303	21,819	*-1.8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,252,772	29,768	13.3	1,160,186	30,605	12.4	*-92,586	42,694	*-0.9
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	936,012	31,523	13.4	907,610	31,550	12.7	-28,402	44,599	*-0.7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	285,724	14,662	10.3	265,745	14,687	9.4	-19,979	20,753	*-0.9
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	685,863	20,180	16.1	632,297	17,744	14.9	*-53,566	26,872	*-1.2
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	958,566	32,515	14.6	986,610	31,046	14.8	28,044	44,956	0.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	2,064,301	42,315	15.7	1,974,307	37,220	15.0	*-89,994	56,355	*-0.7
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	980,283	29,167	16.5	921,495	29,125	15.4	*-58,788	41,219	*-1.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	321,741	14,408	9.3	307,548	12,631	8.8	-14,193	19,161	-0.5
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	2,793,698	41,582	14.1	2,672,312	48,360	13.5	*-121,386	63,779	*-0.6
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	351,315	18,449	15.0	352,865	19,730	14.7	1,550	27,012	-0.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	773,078	20,864	13.1	763,704	21,326	12.9	-9,374	29,835	-0.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	729,904	22,624	16.2	687,225	23,945	15.0	*-42,679	32,943	*-1.2
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	288,119	16,149	12.2	260,891	15,453	10.9	*-27,228	22,351	*-1.3
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	768,690	25,415	17.5	728,914	25,980	16.4	*-39,776	36,344	*-1.1
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	337,010	13,441	12.2	313,434	14,666	11.4	*-23,576	19,894	*-0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	341,912	16,885	14.6	358,149	18,451	15.0	16,237	25,011	0.4
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	444,260	18,840	13.8	398,475	22,006	12.3	*-45,785	28,969	*-1.5
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	485,243	17,632	10.6	426,007	16,042	9.2	*-59,236	23,838	*-1.4
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	375,320	14,531	10.2	360,058	16,223	9.6	-15,262	21,779	*-0.6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	431,209	16,902	14.7	424,852	17,507	14.2	-6,357	24,335	-0.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	494,913	20,631	8.3	506,066	19,893	8.4	11,153	28,660	0.1

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

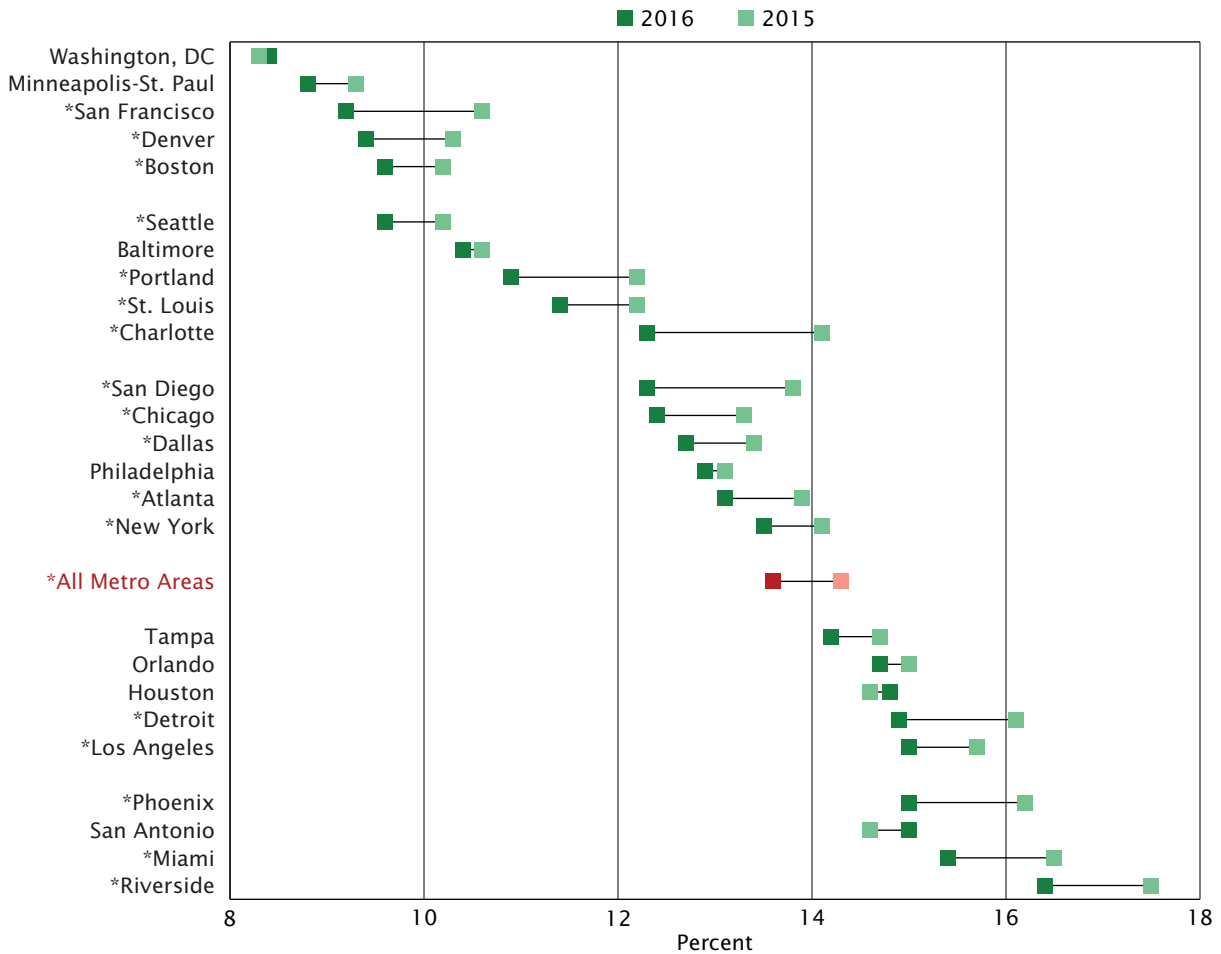
² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

Figure 4.

Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)



* Change statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

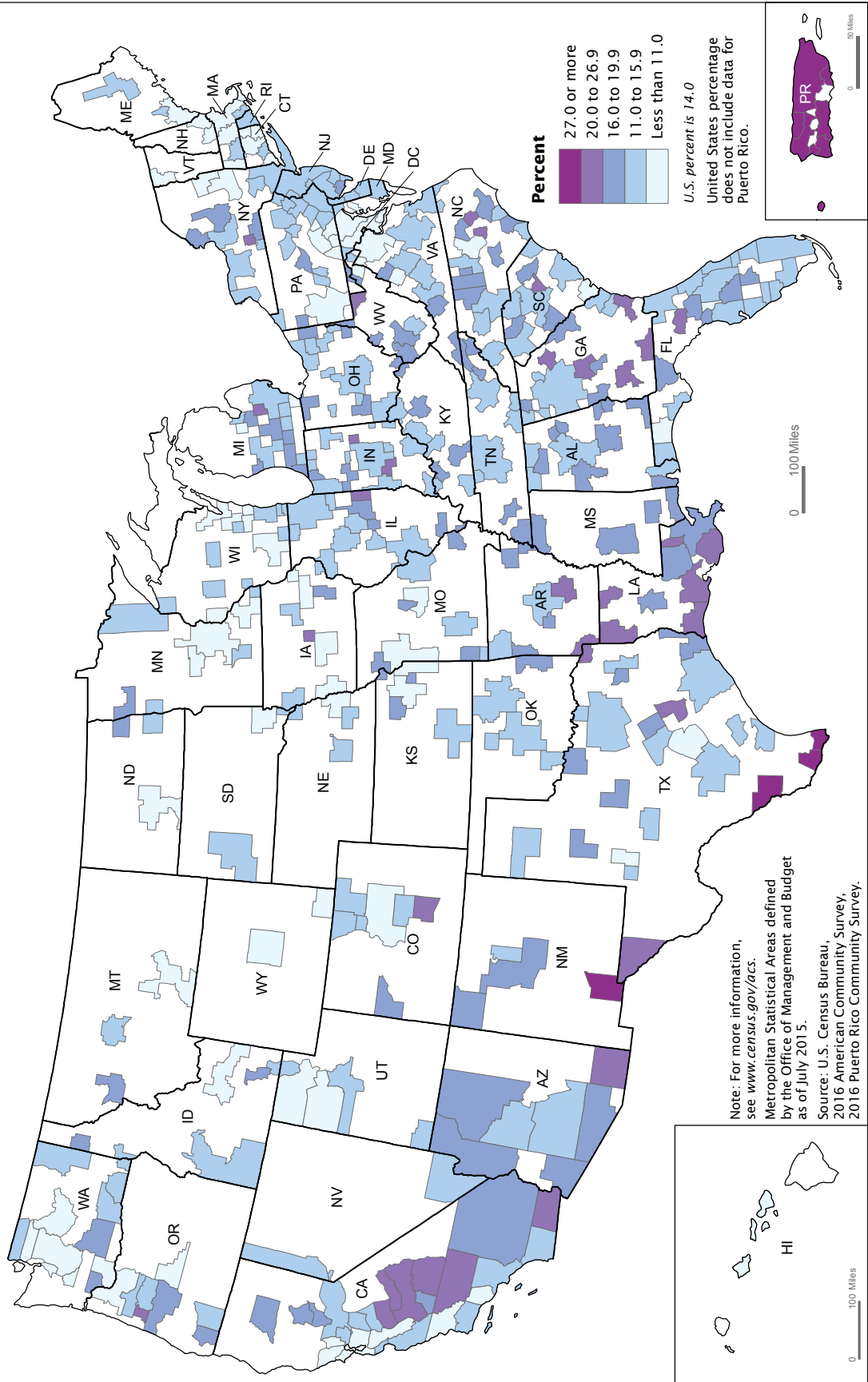
Figure 5 shows 2016 poverty rates for all metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). Among all MSAs in the United States, the poverty rates in 2016 ranged from a low of 5.4 percent in the Sheboygan, WI Metro Area to a high of 33.0 percent

in the Laredo, TX Metro Area.⁸ Geographically, higher poverty

⁸ The poverty rate for the Sheboygan, WI Metro Area (5.4 percent) is not statistically different from the poverty rates for the Barnstable Town, MA Metro Area (6.5 percent); the Fond du Lac, WI Metro Area (6.6 percent); and the Napa, CA Metro Area (7.3 percent). The poverty rate for the Laredo, TX Metro Area (33.0 percent) is not statistically different from the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area (31.4 percent) and the Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area (29.3 percent).

MSAs are scattered throughout the country, however, the heaviest concentrations were in the West and the South. Conversely, MSAs with lower poverty are primarily located in the Midwest and Northeast regions.

Figure 5.
**Percentage of People in Poverty by
 Metropolitan Statistical Area: 2016**



DEPTH OF POVERTY

The poverty rate is an estimate of the proportion of people with family or personal income below their poverty threshold. An income-to-poverty ratio evaluates how close a family's or individual's income is to their poverty threshold. It measures the depth of poverty for those with income below their poverty threshold.

In this report, the income-to-poverty ratio is reported as a percentage. For example, an income-to-poverty-ratio of 125 percent indicates a family or individual with income equal to 1.25 times their poverty threshold, while an income-to-poverty ratio of 50 percent identifies families or individuals with income equal to one-half of their poverty threshold. Families and individuals identified as in poverty and described in the preceding sections of this report had an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 100 percent.

Table 3 details the number and percentage of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold for 2015 and 2016 for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The percentage of the U.S. population with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined to 6.2 percent in 2016, from 6.5 percent in 2015. This is the third consecutive annual decrease in the proportion of the U.S. population living with income below half their poverty threshold.

Among the states, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent ranged from a low of 3.2 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 10.7 percent in the District of Columbia. The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent decreased in 15 states. In Vermont and the District of

Columbia, the percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent increased 1.3 and 1.5 percentage points, respectively. Changes in the other 34 states were not statistically significant.

Table 4 reports the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent for 2015 and 2016 for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. Among these populous metro areas in 2016, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent ranged from a low of 3.8 percent in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area to a high of 7.4 percent in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area.⁹

The percentage of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined in 11 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas from 2015 to 2016. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area was the only area to show an increase in the percentage of people with an income-poverty ratio below 50 percent from 2015 to 2016.

PROXIMITY TO POVERTY

For those with income above their poverty threshold, an income-to-poverty ratio also measures the proximity to poverty. Estimates of the percentage of people below 125 percent of their poverty threshold include the combined proportion of people whose income is below their poverty threshold (below 100 percent) as well as those whose income is just above their poverty threshold (below 125 percent).

⁹ The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent of the poverty threshold in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (3.8 percent) is not statistically different from the percentage for the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (4.1 percent).

Table 5 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2015 and 2016 for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2016, the percentage of people in the United States with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent declined to 18.6 percent, from 19.3 percent in 2015.

Among the states, the percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2016 ranged from a low of 10.0 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 26.7 percent in Mississippi.¹⁰ During the same period, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent declined in 20 states, while no state experienced a statistically significant increase.

Table 6 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2015 and 2016 among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area had the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2016 (11.0 percent). The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area and the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area had the highest rates of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, 21.3 percent and 21.8 percent, respectively.¹¹

¹⁰ The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for Mississippi (26.7 percent) was not statistically different from the percentage for New Mexico (25.8 percent).

¹¹ The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (21.3 percent) and the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (21.8 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

Table 3.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2015				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2016				Change (2016 less 2015)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)
United States	20,441,866	156,191	6.5	0.1	19,636,022	148,964	6.2	0.1	*-805,844	215,838	*-0.3	0.1
Alabama	385,733	15,876	8.1	0.3	356,387	15,096	7.5	0.3	*-29,346	21,907	*-0.6	0.4
Alaska	30,067	3,654	4.2	0.5	33,035	4,496	4.6	0.6	2,968	5,794	0.4	0.8
Arizona	547,868	22,497	8.2	0.3	525,626	18,752	7.8	0.3	-22,242	29,287	*-0.4	0.4
Arkansas	228,019	12,753	7.9	0.4	213,946	12,974	7.4	0.4	-14,073	18,192	-0.5	0.6
California	2,568,959	47,903	6.7	0.1	2,389,302	46,102	6.2	0.1	*-179,657	66,484	*-0.5	0.1
Colorado	273,501	13,881	5.1	0.3	258,193	13,370	4.8	0.2	-15,308	19,273	-0.3	0.4
Connecticut	174,686	10,493	5.0	0.3	157,228	9,372	4.5	0.3	*-17,458	14,069	*-0.5	0.4
Delaware	53,449	6,143	5.8	0.7	50,068	5,833	5.4	0.6	-3,381	8,471	-0.4	0.9
District of Columbia	58,611	6,805	9.2	1.1	69,581	7,412	10.7	1.1	*10,970	10,062	*1.5	1.6
Florida	1,329,921	34,082	6.7	0.2	1,295,153	34,976	6.4	0.2	-34,768	48,835	*-0.3	0.3
Georgia	761,945	25,436	7.7	0.3	727,471	25,250	7.2	0.3	-34,474	35,841	*-0.5	0.4
Hawaii	74,746	7,175	5.4	0.5	64,908	7,258	4.7	0.5	-9,838	10,206	-0.7	0.7
Idaho	96,781	8,190	6.0	0.5	102,062	8,519	6.2	0.5	5,281	11,817	0.2	0.7
Illinois	784,584	28,635	6.2	0.2	738,806	22,637	5.9	0.2	*-45,778	36,502	*-0.3	0.3
Indiana	422,132	18,581	6.6	0.3	409,184	17,566	6.4	0.3	-12,948	25,570	-0.2	0.4
Iowa	164,920	9,343	5.5	0.3	159,453	8,423	5.3	0.3	-5,467	12,579	-0.2	0.4
Kansas	159,767	10,717	5.6	0.4	151,518	8,417	5.4	0.3	-8,249	13,627	-0.2	0.5
Kentucky	332,398	14,004	7.7	0.3	339,407	14,656	7.9	0.3	7,009	20,271	0.2	0.4
Louisiana	399,056	16,767	8.8	0.4	395,474	18,532	8.7	0.4	-3,582	24,991	-0.1	0.6
Maine	67,868	5,779	5.2	0.4	58,948	5,453	4.5	0.4	*-8,920	7,946	*-0.7	0.6
Maryland	275,043	17,106	4.7	0.3	271,954	13,137	4.6	0.2	-3,089	21,568	-0.1	0.4
Massachusetts	355,730	17,000	5.4	0.3	324,784	14,455	4.9	0.2	*-30,946	22,315	*-0.5	0.4
Michigan	673,796	20,833	6.9	0.2	646,971	18,011	6.7	0.2	-26,825	27,539	-0.2	0.3
Minnesota	233,791	10,447	4.4	0.2	238,104	10,585	4.4	0.2	4,313	14,872	Z	0.3
Mississippi	301,574	15,351	10.4	0.5	267,875	14,912	9.3	0.5	*-33,699	21,401	*-1.1	0.7
Missouri	378,734	14,791	6.4	0.3	364,094	18,167	6.2	0.3	-14,640	23,427	-0.2	0.4
Montana	63,304	4,561	6.3	0.5	57,493	4,969	5.6	0.5	-5,811	6,745	-0.7	0.7
Nebraska	96,268	6,151	5.2	0.3	94,746	6,650	5.1	0.4	-1,522	9,059	-0.1	0.5
Nevada	188,103	12,149	6.6	0.4	181,573	11,652	6.3	0.4	-6,530	16,834	-0.3	0.6
New Hampshire	46,789	5,705	3.6	0.4	41,811	4,321	3.2	0.3	-4,978	7,157	-0.4	0.5
New Jersey	437,079	19,002	5.0	0.2	396,039	19,292	4.5	0.2	*-41,040	27,079	*-0.5	0.3
New Mexico	178,880	11,329	8.7	0.6	174,249	12,488	8.5	0.6	-4,631	16,861	-0.2	0.8
New York	1,335,126	33,044	6.9	0.2	1,289,747	29,394	6.7	0.2	*-45,379	44,226	-0.2	0.3
North Carolina	697,968	23,016	7.1	0.2	658,824	22,915	6.7	0.2	*-39,144	32,478	*-0.4	0.3
North Dakota	39,134	3,652	5.4	0.5	40,350	5,204	5.5	0.7	1,216	6,358	0.1	0.9
Ohio	771,435	21,394	6.8	0.2	756,435	22,872	6.7	0.2	-15,000	31,318	-0.1	0.3
Oklahoma	265,938	9,240	7.0	0.2	272,498	11,788	7.2	0.3	6,560	14,978	0.2	0.4
Oregon	271,974	13,307	6.9	0.3	237,154	14,805	5.9	0.4	*-34,820	19,906	*-1.0	0.5
Pennsylvania	725,873	22,068	5.9	0.2	702,681	23,423	5.7	0.2	-23,192	32,181	-0.2	0.3
Rhode Island	58,599	5,995	5.8	0.6	55,404	6,860	5.5	0.7	-3,195	9,110	-0.3	0.9
South Carolina	344,307	14,310	7.2	0.3	345,252	17,468	7.2	0.4	945	22,581	Z	0.5
South Dakota	55,221	5,349	6.7	0.6	56,619	5,431	6.8	0.6	1,398	7,623	0.1	0.8
Tennessee	472,717	20,086	7.3	0.3	445,999	18,264	6.9	0.3	-26,718	27,148	*-0.4	0.4
Texas	1,783,216	43,509	6.6	0.2	1,790,879	39,610	6.6	0.1	7,663	58,839	Z	0.2
Utah	142,038	11,575	4.8	0.4	144,180	10,409	4.8	0.3	2,142	15,567	Z	0.5
Vermont	27,015	3,598	4.5	0.6	34,577	3,943	5.8	0.7	*7,562	5,338	*1.3	0.9
Virginia	439,350	16,187	5.4	0.2	426,822	17,572	5.2	0.2	-12,528	23,891	-0.2	0.3
Washington	405,847	14,452	5.8	0.2	370,552	14,162	5.2	0.2	*-35,295	20,234	*-0.6	0.3
West Virginia	143,749	10,230	8.0	0.6	141,536	9,615	8.0	0.5	-2,213	14,039	Z	0.8
Wisconsin	292,435	11,049	5.2	0.2	286,260	12,214	5.1	0.2	-6,175	16,470	-0.1	0.3
Wyoming	25,822	2,956	4.5	0.5	24,810	2,896	4.3	0.5	-1,012	4,138	-0.2	0.7
Puerto Rico	889,086	22,201	25.8	0.6	805,412	20,670	23.8	0.6	*-83,674	30,334	*-2.0	0.8

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys and 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Table 4.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Metropolitan areas	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2015				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2016				Change (2016 less 2015)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Margin of error ² (±)
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	351,157	18,158	6.3	0.3	323,502	19,455	5.7	0.3	*-27,655	26,612	*-0.6	0.4
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	144,820	9,993	5.3	0.4	137,228	10,018	5.0	0.4	-7,592	14,150	-0.3	0.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	229,476	13,149	5.0	0.3	211,872	12,111	4.6	0.3	-17,604	17,877	*-0.4	0.4
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	142,747	8,584	6.0	0.4	137,475	10,687	5.6	0.4	-5,272	13,708	-0.4	0.6
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	567,425	23,805	6.0	0.3	532,859	19,780	5.7	0.2	*-34,566	30,950	*-0.3	0.4
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	358,218	16,853	5.1	0.2	378,317	19,973	5.3	0.3	20,099	26,133	0.2	0.4
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	125,634	9,210	4.5	0.3	107,709	9,232	3.8	0.3	*-17,925	13,040	*-0.7	0.4
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	301,681	12,483	7.1	0.3	267,075	12,731	6.3	0.3	*-34,606	17,830	*-0.8	0.4
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	403,707	22,642	6.1	0.3	396,692	23,417	5.9	0.4	-7,015	32,573	-0.2	0.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	880,522	26,790	6.7	0.2	819,747	25,408	6.2	0.2	*-60,775	36,922	*-0.5	0.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	384,458	19,790	6.5	0.3	376,327	22,144	6.3	0.4	-8,131	29,698	-0.2	0.5
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	134,330	8,548	3.9	0.2	142,004	8,485	4.1	0.2	7,674	12,044	0.2	0.3
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	1,233,929	30,424	6.2	0.2	1,184,597	30,287	6.0	0.2	*-49,332	42,929	*-0.2	0.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	139,976	11,082	6.0	0.5	158,969	13,891	6.6	0.6	*18,993	17,770	0.6	0.8
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	375,182	16,093	6.3	0.3	358,829	17,947	6.1	0.3	-16,353	24,106	-0.2	0.4
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	348,523	18,035	7.8	0.4	338,415	17,215	7.4	0.4	-10,108	24,932	-0.4	0.6
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	131,939	10,400	5.6	0.4	118,071	11,509	4.9	0.5	-13,868	15,512	*-0.7	0.6
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	339,773	17,017	7.7	0.4	299,402	18,592	6.8	0.4	*-40,371	25,204	*-0.9	0.6
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	157,139	10,667	5.7	0.4	148,680	11,999	5.4	0.4	-8,459	16,055	-0.3	0.6
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	152,302	12,621	6.5	0.5	143,573	11,932	6.0	0.5	-8,729	17,368	-0.5	0.7
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	200,816	14,381	6.2	0.4	184,003	14,233	5.7	0.4	-16,813	20,233	-0.5	0.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	225,685	11,904	4.9	0.3	198,401	9,223	4.3	0.2	*-27,284	15,059	*-0.6	0.4
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	191,489	10,201	5.2	0.3	173,389	11,166	4.6	0.3	*-18,100	15,124	*-0.6	0.4
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	197,560	10,834	6.7	0.4	185,484	12,942	6.2	0.4	-12,076	16,878	-0.5	0.6
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	234,697	13,026	3.9	0.2	255,470	13,724	4.2	0.2	*20,773	18,922	*0.3	0.3

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2015 and 2016

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Area	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2015				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2016				Change (2016 less 2015)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-cent ¹	Mar-gin of error ² (±)
United States	60,552,019	291,801	19.3	0.1	58,498,340	285,951	18.6	0.1	*-2,053,679	408,553	*-0.7	0.1
Alabama	1,129,280	23,418	23.8	0.5	1,058,934	26,546	22.3	0.6	*-70,346	35,399	*-1.5	0.8
Alaska	100,422	6,807	13.9	0.9	96,434	7,502	13.3	1.0	-3,988	10,130	-0.6	1.3
Arizona	1,490,362	32,375	22.3	0.5	1,457,773	32,680	21.5	0.5	-32,589	46,001	*-0.8	0.7
Arkansas	729,974	20,665	25.3	0.7	674,036	18,849	23.3	0.7	*-55,938	27,970	*-2.0	1.0
California	7,768,650	70,792	20.2	0.2	7,372,644	68,865	19.1	0.2	*-396,006	98,762	*-1.1	0.3
Colorado	812,553	22,356	15.2	0.4	811,601	20,259	15.0	0.4	-952	30,170	-0.2	0.6
Connecticut	478,550	17,177	13.7	0.5	447,210	16,204	12.9	0.5	*-31,340	23,614	*-0.8	0.7
Delaware	146,612	10,280	15.9	1.1	138,825	8,758	15.0	0.9	-7,787	13,505	-0.9	1.4
District of Columbia	136,322	8,962	21.4	1.4	143,434	9,735	22.1	1.5	7,112	13,232	0.7	2.1
Florida	4,194,063	56,120	21.1	0.3	4,042,007	53,681	20.0	0.3	*-152,056	77,660	*-1.1	0.4
Georgia	2,201,142	40,034	22.1	0.4	2,084,319	34,605	20.8	0.3	*-116,823	52,917	*-1.3	0.5
Hawaii	184,671	9,484	13.2	0.7	171,872	11,513	12.4	0.8	-12,799	14,916	-0.8	1.1
Idaho	322,009	15,887	19.9	1.0	320,096	17,447	19.4	1.1	-1,913	23,596	-0.5	1.5
Illinois	2,233,291	40,704	17.8	0.3	2,134,887	40,276	17.1	0.3	*-98,404	57,262	*-0.7	0.4
Indiana	1,219,906	26,274	19.0	0.4	1,188,798	24,257	18.5	0.4	-31,108	35,759	-0.5	0.6
Iowa	493,318	15,548	16.3	0.5	476,862	15,706	15.7	0.5	-16,456	22,100	-0.6	0.7
Kansas	490,927	15,932	17.3	0.6	470,354	16,582	16.6	0.6	-20,573	22,995	-0.7	0.8
Kentucky	1,000,159	23,442	23.3	0.5	1,006,041	26,774	23.4	0.6	5,882	35,586	0.1	0.8
Louisiana	1,128,564	27,150	24.8	0.6	1,165,846	29,015	25.6	0.6	37,282	39,737	0.8	0.8
Maine	229,862	11,443	17.8	0.9	216,266	10,879	16.7	0.8	-13,596	15,789	-1.1	1.2
Maryland	747,057	23,496	12.7	0.4	732,794	18,539	12.5	0.3	-14,263	29,929	-0.2	0.5
Massachusetts	973,763	23,373	14.8	0.4	877,835	22,793	13.4	0.3	*-95,928	32,647	*-1.4	0.5
Michigan	1,961,687	30,913	20.2	0.3	1,892,396	27,053	19.5	0.3	*-69,291	41,079	*-0.7	0.4
Minnesota	750,284	18,560	14.0	0.3	738,451	18,832	13.7	0.3	-11,833	26,441	-0.3	0.4
Mississippi	819,297	22,117	28.3	0.8	771,735	22,853	26.7	0.8	*-47,562	31,803	*-1.6	1.1
Missouri	1,142,790	24,009	19.4	0.4	1,101,741	25,834	18.6	0.4	*-41,049	35,268	*-0.8	0.6
Montana	192,976	8,701	19.1	0.9	188,687	9,077	18.5	0.9	-4,289	12,574	-0.6	1.3
Nebraska	305,376	10,869	16.6	0.6	289,719	11,491	15.7	0.6	-15,657	15,817	*-0.9	0.8
Nevada	561,034	19,028	19.7	0.7	546,538	20,677	18.9	0.7	-14,496	28,100	-0.8	1.0
New Hampshire	138,076	9,701	10.7	0.8	128,975	8,965	10.0	0.7	-9,101	13,209	-0.7	1.1
New Jersey	1,257,255	28,987	14.3	0.3	1,216,360	31,223	13.9	0.4	-40,895	42,604	-0.4	0.5
New Mexico	531,630	17,620	26.0	0.9	526,100	16,599	25.8	0.8	-5,530	24,207	-0.2	1.2
New York	3,817,118	48,693	19.8	0.3	3,625,549	47,450	18.9	0.2	*-191,569	67,989	*-0.9	0.4
North Carolina	2,133,530	35,488	21.8	0.4	2,032,054	32,672	20.6	0.3	*-101,476	48,238	*-1.2	0.5
North Dakota	105,089	5,568	14.4	0.8	105,624	7,665	14.4	1.0	535	9,474	Z	1.3
Ohio	2,180,344	34,842	19.3	0.3	2,140,296	37,897	19.0	0.3	-40,048	51,480	-0.3	0.4
Oklahoma	816,349	16,349	21.5	0.4	836,848	17,635	22.0	0.5	20,499	24,048	0.5	0.6
Oregon	788,531	25,442	20.0	0.6	721,841	23,412	18.0	0.6	*-66,690	34,575	*-2.0	0.8
Pennsylvania	2,107,958	33,949	17.0	0.3	2,079,210	32,683	16.8	0.3	-28,748	47,124	-0.2	0.4
Rhode Island	183,385	10,827	18.0	1.1	170,528	10,390	16.8	1.0	-12,857	15,006	-1.2	1.5
South Carolina	1,030,953	23,119	21.7	0.5	976,167	22,911	20.3	0.5	*-54,786	32,548	*-1.4	0.7
South Dakota	152,366	8,628	18.4	1.0	143,424	7,729	17.1	0.9	-8,942	11,584	-1.3	1.3
Tennessee	1,425,698	33,976	22.1	0.5	1,350,202	26,624	20.8	0.4	*-75,496	43,165	*-1.3	0.6
Texas	5,669,421	82,239	21.1	0.3	5,645,277	72,526	20.7	0.3	-24,144	109,651	*-0.4	0.4
Utah	446,870	16,777	15.2	0.6	438,984	20,403	14.6	0.7	-7,886	26,415	-0.6	0.9
Vermont	90,330	5,954	15.0	1.0	95,366	6,067	15.9	1.0	5,036	8,501	0.9	1.4
Virginia	1,202,425	29,901	14.8	0.4	1,188,143	30,973	14.6	0.4	-14,282	43,051	-0.2	0.6
Washington	1,122,481	26,660	16.0	0.4	1,069,229	24,895	14.9	0.3	*-53,252	36,476	*-1.1	0.5
West Virginia	415,363	15,865	23.2	0.9	421,637	15,446	23.7	0.9	6,274	22,142	0.5	1.3
Wisconsin	906,049	20,077	16.1	0.4	883,790	20,939	15.7	0.4	-22,259	29,009	-0.4	0.6
Wyoming	85,897	7,944	15.0	1.4	84,601	6,833	14.8	1.2	-1,296	10,478	-0.2	1.8
Puerto Rico	1,880,584	22,641	54.6	0.7	1,769,399	27,795	52.4	0.8	*-111,185	35,849	*-2.2	1.1

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys and 2015 and 2016 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Table 6. Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2015 and 2016
(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html)

Metropolitan areas	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2015				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2016				Change (2016 less 2015)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Mar- gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Mar- gin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per- cent ¹	Mar- gin of error ² (±)
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	1,038,229	33,236	18.5	0.6	984,684	30,806	17.3	0.5	*-53,545	45,317	*-1.2	0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	377,166	15,870	13.8	0.6	358,587	13,628	13.1	0.5	-18,579	20,918	-0.7	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	615,332	20,577	13.3	0.4	569,131	19,470	12.3	0.4	*-46,201	28,328	*-1.0	0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	449,584	16,665	18.8	0.7	395,923	17,913	16.2	0.7	*-53,661	24,466	*-2.6	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,648,754	34,971	17.5	0.4	1,533,688	35,274	16.4	0.4	*-115,066	49,671	*-1.1	0.6
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	1,281,107	37,668	18.3	0.5	1,235,395	34,137	17.3	0.5	-45,712	50,835	*-1.0	0.7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	375,928	15,893	13.5	0.6	365,932	16,190	13.0	0.6	-9,996	22,687	-0.5	0.8
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	873,290	23,075	20.5	0.5	810,568	17,995	19.1	0.4	*-62,722	29,262	*-1.4	0.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	1,259,435	34,310	19.2	0.5	1,309,594	35,674	19.6	0.5	*50,159	49,496	0.4	0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	2,768,203	43,681	21.0	0.3	2,630,190	38,848	20.0	0.3	*-138,013	58,457	*-1.0	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	1,344,512	30,338	22.7	0.5	1,273,473	32,220	21.3	0.5	*-71,039	44,255	*-1.4	0.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	437,064	15,712	12.6	0.5	419,954	14,909	12.0	0.4	-17,110	21,660	-0.6	0.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	3,613,185	41,938	18.2	0.2	3,455,870	55,694	17.5	0.3	*-157,315	69,718	*-0.7	0.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	485,157	20,118	20.7	0.9	470,392	20,439	19.6	0.8	-14,765	28,679	-1.1	1.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	983,943	23,721	16.6	0.4	966,399	20,490	16.3	0.3	-17,544	31,345	-0.3	0.5
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	943,599	25,984	21.0	0.6	903,171	28,169	19.7	0.6	*-40,428	38,323	*-1.3	0.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	373,341	18,273	15.8	0.8	351,063	17,397	14.7	0.7	-22,278	25,230	*-1.1	1.1
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	1,001,119	30,034	22.8	0.7	965,996	26,257	21.8	0.6	-35,123	39,893	*-1.0	0.9
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	433,730	14,962	15.8	0.5	410,163	15,261	14.9	0.6	*-23,567	21,372	*-0.9	0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	462,123	19,406	19.7	0.8	473,289	20,633	19.8	0.9	11,166	28,325	0.1	1.2
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	581,014	21,624	18.0	0.7	546,391	23,342	16.9	0.7	*-34,623	31,819	*-1.1	1.0
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	639,158	22,916	13.9	0.5	555,067	18,998	12.0	0.4	*-84,091	29,767	*-1.9	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	487,453	16,832	13.3	0.5	462,088	19,236	12.3	0.5	-25,365	25,561	*-1.0	0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	570,734	18,030	19.5	0.6	563,313	18,388	18.9	0.6	-7,421	25,753	-0.6	0.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	645,921	24,733	10.8	0.4	664,373	21,895	11.0	0.4	18,452	33,032	0.2	0.6

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities), and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 and 2016 American Community Surveys.

In 2016, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent decreased in 16 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas (Table 6). There were no statistically significant increases for this metric among the most populous metropolitan areas.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2015 through December 2015 (2015 ACS) and the ACS sample interviewed from January 2016 through December 2016 (2016 ACS). The estimates based on these samples describe the average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.5 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons).* The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data have been released annually for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs.

* While people living in group quarters are sampled in the ACS, those living in institutionalized group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities) are not included in the poverty universe.

the operations used to collect and process survey data, such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the 2016 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.

NOTES

The Census Bureau also publishes poverty estimates based on the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement

(CPS ASEC). For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS ASEC, see “Differences between the Income and Poverty Estimates from the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey” at www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources/acs-vs-cps.html.