

Poverty: 2017 and 2018

American Community Survey Briefs

By Craig Benson and Alemayehu Bishaw

Issued November 2019

ACSB/18-02(RV)

INTRODUCTION

Planners, policymakers, and community stakeholders 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 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates to analyze poverty rates for 2018, as well as the changes in poverty from 2017 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the most populous metropolitan areas.^{1,2} This brief also discusses the distribution of people by income-to-poverty ratio.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, 13.1 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty level, a decline from 13.4

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 The U.S. Census Bureau reviewed this data product for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and has approved the disclosure avoidance practices applied to this release. CBDRB-FY19-POP001-0061.

percent in 2017. This is the fifth consecutive annual decline in the ACS national poverty rate.³

- The poverty rate declined in 14 states and Puerto Rico between 2017 and 2018. In three of those states (Arizona, Illinois, and New York), poverty declined for a fourth consecutive year. Four states (California, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina) had declining poverty rates for a fifth year in a row. The poverty rate increased in only one state, Connecticut.
- In 7 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the poverty rate declined between 2017 and 2018. The poverty rate declined for the fourth consecutive year in 5 of these 7 areas. An additional 4 metropolitan areas showed poverty rate declines in 3 of the last 4 years. Poverty did not increase in 2018 for any of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.
- In 2018, the proportion of people with income less than 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined in eight states, and in 3 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 50 percent increased in two states (Michigan and Rhode Island) but in none of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.

³ Following the standard specified by OMB in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the Current Population Survey Annual 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: 2018*, available at <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf>.

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 107 of "American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2018 Subject Definitions" at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

- The percentage of people in the United States with income less than 125 percent of their poverty threshold declined to 17.4 percent in 2018, from 17.9 percent in 2017.
- The proportion of people with income less than 125 percent of their poverty threshold declined in 11 states and in 9 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2018. The proportion of

people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 125 percent increased in Connecticut and Iowa. None of the most populous metropolitan areas had an increase.

The analysis in this report is based predominantly on the 2017 and 2018 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 2017 ACS with the 2018 ACS is not an exact comparison of economic conditions in 2017 with those in 2018, and comparisons should be interpreted with caution.⁴ For more information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs>.

⁴ 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.

POVERTY

In 2018, 13.1 percent of the total U.S. population had income below their respective poverty thresholds, a significant decline from the 2017 estimate of 13.4 percent. This is the fifth consecutive year that the percentage of the U.S. population in poverty, as measured by the ACS, has declined (from 15.8 percent in 2013) and is the first instance of five consecutive years

of decline since the inception of the ACS in 2005 (Figure 1).⁵

Focusing on the states, New Hampshire had the lowest poverty rate at 7.6 percent, while Mississippi had among the highest at 19.7 percent (Table 1).⁶ Figure 2 displays the

⁵ All year-to-year changes from 2005 to 2018, except the changes between 2005–2006, 2011–2012, and 2012–2013, were statistically significant.

⁶ The poverty rate for Mississippi (19.7 percent) was not statistically different from the poverty rate for New Mexico (19.5 percent).

percentage of people in poverty for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.⁷ Poverty rates of 16.0 percent or higher are seen in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

⁷ The classification bins used in Figure 2 are determined by the natural breaks (Jenks) method of categorization. This is different from previous editions of this brief that held classification bins constant across years.

Figure 1.

Year-to-Year Percentage Point Change in Poverty Rate: 2005 to 2018

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



Z Represents or rounds to zero.

Note: Starting in 2006, the American Community Survey included group quarters population. Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

All changes are statistically significant except for 2005–2006, 2011–2012, and 2012–2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 to 2018 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018(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 2017				Below poverty in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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	42,583,651	241,032	13.4	0.1	41,852,315	232,949	13.1	0.1	*-731,336	335,204	*-0.3	0.1
Alabama	802,656	24,897	16.9	0.5	800,422	20,616	16.8	0.4	-2,234	32,325	-0.1	0.6
Alaska	80,012	7,303	11.1	1.0	78,620	7,217	10.9	1.0	-1,392	10,267	-0.2	1.4
Arizona	1,018,935	28,419	14.9	0.4	983,499	28,300	14.0	0.4	-35,436	40,106	*-0.9	0.6
Arkansas	478,365	17,030	16.4	0.6	504,504	19,795	17.2	0.7	*26,139	26,113	0.8	0.9
California	5,160,208	71,947	13.3	0.2	4,969,326	62,249	12.8	0.2	*-190,882	95,138	*-0.5	0.3
Colorado	564,312	17,223	10.3	0.3	537,492	18,885	9.6	0.3	*-26,820	25,559	*-0.7	0.4
Connecticut	334,128	18,741	9.6	0.5	361,377	14,037	10.4	0.4	*27,249	23,415	*0.8	0.6
Delaware	N	N	N	N	117,242	9,236	12.5	1.0	N	N	N	N
District of Columbia	109,920	7,135	16.6	1.1	108,055	8,920	16.2	1.3	-1,865	11,423	-0.4	1.7
Florida	2,889,506	57,828	14.0	0.3	2,840,977	47,549	13.6	0.2	-48,529	74,866	*-0.4	0.4
Georgia	1,517,702	49,244	14.9	0.5	1,468,642	34,068	14.3	0.3	-49,060	59,880	*-0.6	0.6
Hawaii	132,549	8,537	9.5	0.6	122,143	8,890	8.8	0.6	-10,406	12,325	-0.7	0.8
Idaho	216,309	12,513	12.8	0.7	203,264	12,603	11.8	0.7	-13,045	17,760	-1.0	1.0
Illinois	1,569,753	35,647	12.6	0.3	1,509,247	32,779	12.1	0.3	*-60,506	48,427	*-0.5	0.4
Indiana	871,247	27,337	13.5	0.4	852,638	24,677	13.1	0.4	-18,609	36,828	-0.4	0.6
Iowa	326,636	11,546	10.7	0.4	343,504	13,910	11.2	0.5	16,868	18,078	0.5	0.6
Kansas	336,487	14,398	11.9	0.5	338,175	14,157	12.0	0.5	1,688	20,192	0.1	0.7
Kentucky	744,239	20,861	17.2	0.5	730,408	22,182	16.9	0.5	-13,831	30,450	-0.3	0.7
Louisiana	899,039	27,219	19.7	0.6	843,626	23,603	18.6	0.5	*-55,413	36,027	*-1.1	0.8
Maine	144,012	7,961	11.1	0.6	151,541	7,765	11.6	0.6	7,529	11,121	0.5	0.8
Maryland	549,171	21,371	9.3	0.4	528,203	21,054	9.0	0.4	-20,968	30,000	-0.3	0.6
Massachusetts	692,201	22,499	10.5	0.3	663,918	20,551	10.0	0.3	-28,283	30,472	*-0.5	0.4
Michigan	1,377,766	28,586	14.2	0.3	1,373,349	26,495	14.1	0.3	-4,417	38,976	-0.1	0.4
Minnesota	517,476	15,252	9.5	0.3	529,077	16,528	9.6	0.3	11,601	22,490	0.1	0.4
Mississippi	571,219	15,607	19.8	0.5	567,645	18,752	19.7	0.6	-3,574	24,397	-0.1	0.8
Missouri	795,732	21,880	13.4	0.4	786,330	21,180	13.2	0.4	-9,402	30,452	-0.2	0.6
Montana	127,777	8,406	12.5	0.8	135,114	8,427	13.0	0.8	7,337	11,903	0.5	1.1
Nebraska	200,909	11,487	10.8	0.6	206,341	9,787	11.0	0.5	5,432	15,091	0.2	0.8
Nevada	384,120	18,511	13.0	0.6	387,327	14,864	12.9	0.5	3,207	23,740	-0.1	0.8
New Hampshire	99,966	7,412	7.7	0.6	100,220	6,538	7.6	0.5	254	9,883	-0.1	0.8
New Jersey	882,673	28,071	10.0	0.3	832,133	26,316	9.5	0.3	*-50,540	38,477	*-0.5	0.4
New Mexico	401,755	16,280	19.7	0.8	399,456	16,659	19.5	0.8	-2,299	23,293	-0.2	1.1
New York	2,722,257	47,366	14.1	0.2	2,591,391	46,405	13.6	0.2	*-130,866	66,310	*-0.5	0.3
North Carolina	1,471,339	35,219	14.7	0.4	1,417,873	35,989	14.0	0.4	*-53,466	50,355	*-0.7	0.6
North Dakota	75,279	5,405	10.3	0.7	78,676	5,987	10.7	0.8	3,397	8,066	0.4	1.1
Ohio	1,582,931	31,003	14.0	0.3	1,578,673	37,243	13.9	0.3	-4,258	48,459	-0.1	0.4
Oklahoma	603,864	16,323	15.8	0.4	596,949	16,807	15.6	0.4	-6,915	23,429	-0.2	0.6
Oregon	537,974	19,115	13.2	0.5	516,570	19,440	12.6	0.5	-21,404	27,263	*-0.6	0.7
Pennsylvania	1,548,720	31,552	12.5	0.3	1,517,870	30,308	12.2	0.2	-30,850	43,751	-0.3	0.4
Rhode Island	118,367	9,887	11.6	1.0	131,205	9,492	12.9	0.9	12,838	13,706	1.3	1.3

See notes at end of table.

Table 1.

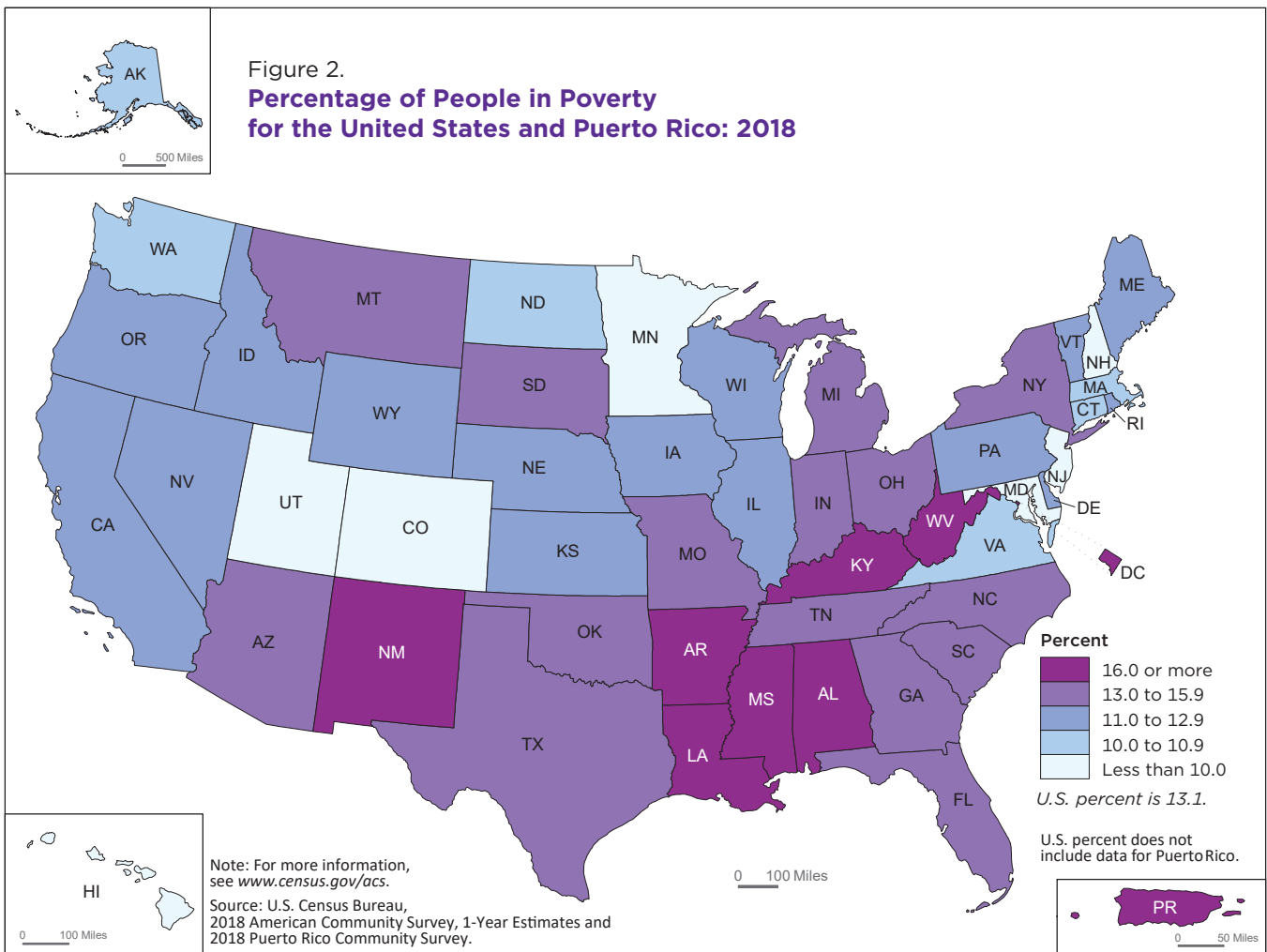
Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018—Con.(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>)

Area	Below poverty in 2017				Below poverty in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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 (±)
South Carolina	751,907	19,900	15.4	0.4	755,215	23,160	15.3	0.5	3,308	30,535	-0.1	0.6
South Dakota	109,099	6,423	13.0	0.8	111,626	6,667	13.1	0.8	2,527	9,258	0.1	1.1
Tennessee	980,284	25,177	15.0	0.4	1,011,016	27,948	15.3	0.4	30,732	37,616	0.3	0.6
Texas	4,076,905	62,508	14.7	0.2	4,180,675	65,525	14.9	0.2	*103,770	90,558	0.2	0.3
Utah	296,557	16,717	9.7	0.5	280,773	15,853	9.0	0.5	-15,784	23,039	-0.7	0.7
Vermont	67,841	5,946	11.3	1.0	66,013	5,347	11.0	0.9	-1,828	7,997	-0.3	1.3
Virginia	874,483	27,673	10.6	0.3	884,647	27,692	10.7	0.3	10,164	39,149	0.1	0.4
Washington	802,159	24,114	11.0	0.3	759,013	23,800	10.3	0.3	*-43,146	33,881	*-0.7	0.4
West Virginia	336,301	14,216	19.1	0.8	312,188	15,244	17.8	0.9	*-24,113	20,844	*-1.3	1.2
Wisconsin	639,564	18,029	11.3	0.3	625,826	17,423	11.0	0.3	-13,738	25,072	-0.3	0.4
Wyoming	64,054	6,154	11.3	1.1	62,301	6,775	11.1	1.2	-1,753	9,153	-0.2	1.6
Puerto Rico	1,468,798	31,819	44.4	1.0	1,363,666	23647	43.1	0.7	*-105,132	39,644	*-1.3	1.2

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in Delaware. As a result, 2017 estimates for Delaware are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/120.html>.¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates and 2017 and 2018 Puerto Rico Community Survey.



Seven states had poverty rates of below 10.0 percent in 2018.

Several states in 2018 showed significant change in poverty as compared to 2017.⁸ In 14 states, poverty rates declined. Connecticut was the only state that experienced an increase in

poverty, from 9.6 percent in 2017 to 10.4 percent in 2018 (Table 1).

According to the 2017 and 2018 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, the poverty rate for Puerto Rico was 43.1 percent

in 2018, a decline from the rate of 44.4 percent in 2017.⁹

POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2017 and 2018 for the 25 most populous metropolitan

⁸ After the release of the 2017 data products, the Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in Delaware. As a result, comparisons between 2017 and 2018 for Delaware are not made in this report. For more information, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/120.html.

⁹ Hurricanes caused a disruption of data collection activities from September through December of 2017 in Puerto Rico. All 2017 1-year estimates for Puerto Rico are based on data collected prior to this disruption. For more information, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2018-02.html.

areas.¹⁰ The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (7.6 percent) and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area

¹⁰ After the release of the 2017 data products, the Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area. As a result, comparisons between 2017 and 2018 for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area are not made in this report. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/121.html>.

(8.0 percent) had two of the lowest poverty rates among these populous metropolitan areas (Figure 3).¹¹ Conversely, the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (at 15.4 percent) had the highest poverty

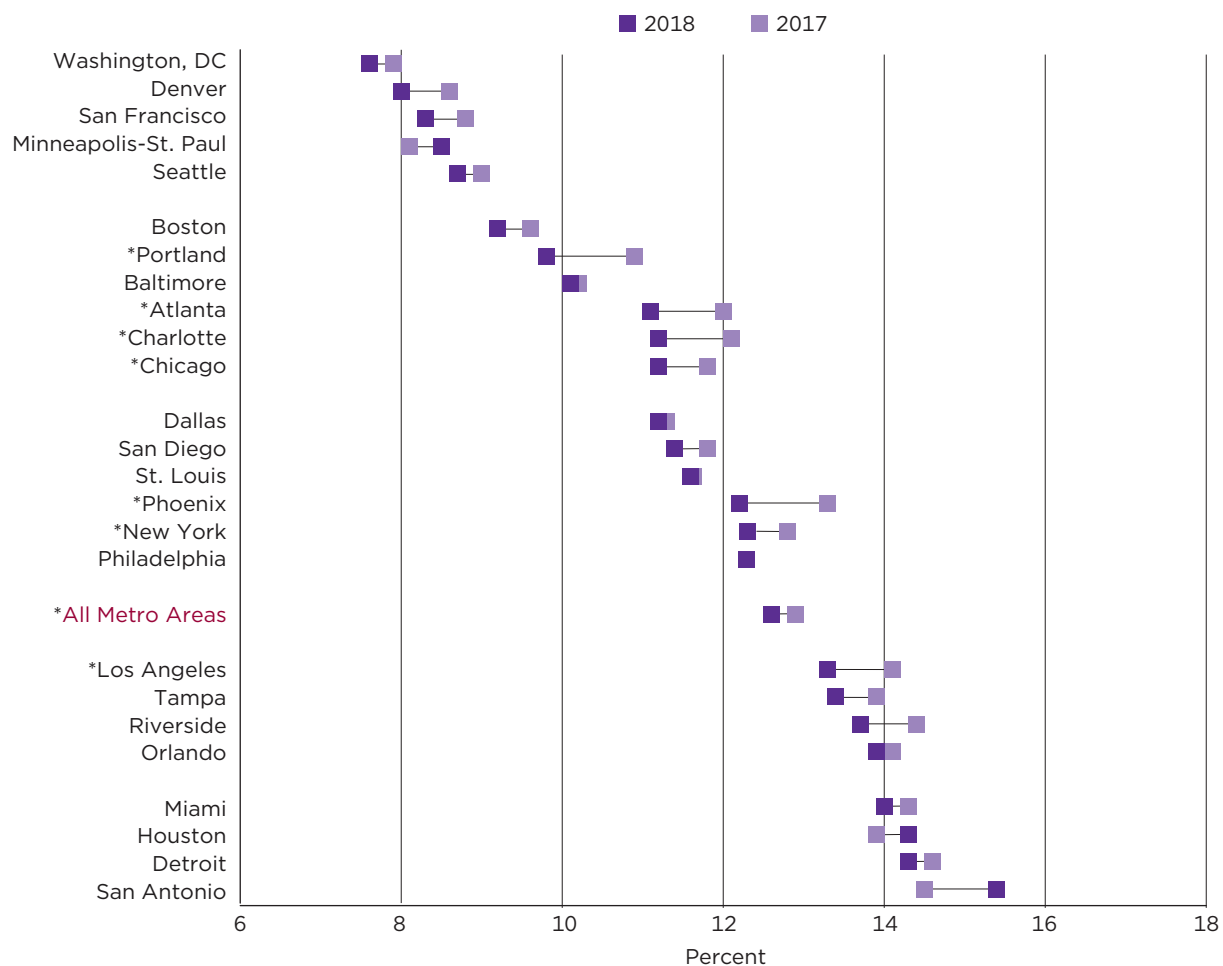
¹¹ The 2018 poverty rate for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (7.6 percent) and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (8.0 percent) were not statistically different.

rate among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2018.

In 7 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the percentage of people in poverty decreased from 2017 to 2018 (Table 2). None of the most populous metropolitan areas shown in Table 2 experienced an increase in poverty rates in 2018. For the fourth year in a row, the percentage of people in poverty

Figure 3.
Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2017 and 2018

(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.

Note: After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area. As a result, comparisons between 2017 and 2018 for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area are omitted from this figure. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/121.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2017 and 2018
 (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 2017			Below poverty in 2018			Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)					
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Per- cent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Per- cent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Per- cent ¹			
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	692,754	35,782	12.0	0.6	648,680	27,723	11.1	0.5	-44,074	45,265	*-0.9	0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	278,750	14,367	10.2	0.5	275,066	15,233	10.1	0.6	-3,684	20,939	-0.1	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	448,807	19,750	9.6	0.4	433,504	17,786	9.2	0.4	-15,303	26,578	-0.4	0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	301,726	13,088	12.1	0.5	283,143	17,151	11.2	0.7	-18,583	21,574	*-0.9	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,102,860	30,087	11.8	0.3	1,046,663	30,669	11.2	0.3	*-56,197	42,963	*-0.6	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	825,131	30,453	11.3	0.4	837,090	30,758	11.2	0.4	11,959	43,283	-0.1	0.6
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	245,823	12,280	8.6	0.4	230,903	14,652	8.0	0.5	-14,920	19,118	-0.6	0.7
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	620,334	19,753	14.6	0.5	612,777	19,020	14.3	0.4	-7,557	27,422	-0.3	0.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	946,689	34,951	13.9	0.5	986,768	36,395	14.3	0.5	40,079	50,460	0.4	0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	1,850,841	34,792	14.1	0.3	1,736,592	37,268	13.3	0.3	*-114,249	50,984	*-0.8	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	871,372	23,362	14.3	0.4	854,920	30,298	14.0	0.5	-16,452	38,259	-0.3	0.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	288,410	12,517	8.1	0.4	302,886	14,043	8.5	0.4	14,476	18,812	0.4	0.5
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	2,546,704	45,726	12.8	0.2	2,411,422	47,368	12.3	0.2	*-135,282	65,838	*-0.5	0.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	348,692	21,023	14.1	0.9	351,017	20,292	13.9	0.8	2,325	29,219	-0.2	1.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	N	N	N	N	731,023	23,255	12.3	0.4	N	N	N	N
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	620,578	22,016	13.3	0.5	583,806	19,689	12.2	0.4	*-36,772	29,536	*-1.1	0.6
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	263,666	14,637	10.9	0.6	238,600	12,510	9.8	0.5	*-25,066	19,255	*-1.1	0.8
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	646,186	24,344	14.4	0.5	621,808	24,177	13.7	0.5	-24,378	34,310	-0.7	0.8
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	319,414	14,748	11.6	0.5	318,344	15,024	11.6	0.5	-1,070	21,053	0.0	0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	351,164	17,655	14.5	0.7	381,584	16,509	15.4	0.7	*30,420	24,171	0.9	1.0
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	384,542	18,181	11.8	0.6	371,159	18,601	11.4	0.6	-13,383	26,010	-0.4	0.8
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	411,500	17,025	8.8	0.4	388,670	16,854	8.3	0.4	-22,830	23,956	-0.5	0.5
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	342,539	15,235	9.0	0.4	338,257	16,163	8.7	0.4	-4,282	22,211	-0.3	0.6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	423,423	17,017	13.9	0.6	414,704	18,378	13.4	0.6	-8,719	25,047	-0.5	0.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	482,845	19,583	7.9	0.3	468,140	19,915	7.6	0.3	-14,705	27,930	-0.3	0.5

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area. As a result, 2017 estimates for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/121.html>.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 15 who are not related to the household, 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

decreased in the three most populous metropolitan areas (New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area; and the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area).

Figure 4 shows 2018 poverty rates for all metropolitan areas. The Rochester, MN Metro Area (6.6 percent) along with the Sheboygan, WI Metro Area (6.6 percent), and the Ogden-Clearfield, UT Metro Area (6.7 percent) had among the lowest poverty rates.¹² The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area had among the highest poverty rate at 30.5 percent.¹³ Geographically, metropolitan areas with higher poverty rates are spread throughout the country; however, a concentration can be observed in the Southern region of the United States. Conversely, metropolitan areas with lower poverty rates are predominantly located in the Midwest and West regions.

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

¹² The 2018 poverty rate for the Rochester, MN Metro Area (6.6 percent) was not statistically different from poverty rates for the Appleton, WI Metro Area (6.9 percent); the Wausau, WI Metro Area (7.0 percent); the Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina, HI Metro Area (7.1 percent); and the Gettysburg, PA Metro Area (7.2 percent) among others.

¹³ The 2018 poverty rate for the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area (30.5 percent) was not statistically different from poverty rates for the Brownsville-Harlingen, TX Metro Area (28.1 percent) and the Valdosta, GA Metro Area (28.0 percent).

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 2017 and 2018 for the nation, 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 5.9 percent in 2018, from 6.0 percent in 2017. This is the fifth consecutive annual decrease in the proportion of the U.S. population living with income below half their poverty threshold.

New Hampshire, at 3.8 percent, was among the states with the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent. Mississippi and New Mexico were the only two states with more than 9.0 percent of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent. The District of Columbia had a poverty rate of 9.7 percent for people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent.¹⁴ From 2017 to 2018, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent decreased in eight states. During the same period, two states, Michigan and Rhode Island, had an increase in the percentage

¹⁴ The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the District of Columbia, Mississippi, and New Mexico were not significantly different from one another.

of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent.

Table 4 reports the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent for 2017 and 2018 for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. In 2018, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent was among the lowest in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area, the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area, and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area, all with a rate of 3.8 percent. The Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area had among the highest rate of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent, at 6.8 percent.

The percentage of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined in 3 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas from 2017 to 2018 and did not increase in any.

PROXIMITY TO POVERTY

For those with income above their poverty threshold, an income-to-poverty ratio 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 (from 100 percent to less than 125 percent).

Table 5 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2017 and 2018 for the nation, all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2018, the percentage of people in the United States with an income-to-poverty ratio below

Table 3.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018

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

Area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2017				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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	19,075,627	150,164	6.0	0.1	18,769,825	130,617	5.9	0.1	*-305,802	199,023	*-0.1	0.1
Alabama	352,069	17,765	7.4	0.4	363,398	15,146	7.6	0.3	11,329	23,345	0.2	0.5
Alaska	41,036	3,678	5.7	0.5	37,710	4,115	5.2	0.6	-3,326	5,519	-0.5	0.8
Arizona	468,888	19,143	6.8	0.3	440,556	17,575	6.3	0.3	*-28,332	25,987	*-0.6	0.4
Arkansas	199,669	12,396	6.8	0.4	196,541	11,349	6.7	0.4	-3,128	16,806	-0.1	0.6
California	2,250,522	45,736	5.8	0.1	2,275,195	40,838	5.9	0.1	24,673	61,315	0.1	0.1
Colorado	261,234	12,567	4.8	0.2	255,879	12,214	4.6	0.2	-5,355	17,524	-0.2	0.3
Connecticut	160,256	10,790	4.6	0.3	157,621	10,739	4.5	0.3	-2,635	15,224	-0.1	0.4
Delaware	N	N	N	N	50,635	5,990	5.4	0.6	N	N	N	N
District of Columbia	59,021	6,123	8.9	0.9	64,617	7,441	9.7	1.1	5,596	9,636	0.7	1.4
Florida	1,278,075	38,634	6.2	0.2	1,230,013	33,744	5.9	0.2	-48,062	51,295	*-0.3	0.3
Georgia	684,349	28,168	6.7	0.3	668,662	27,520	6.5	0.3	-15,687	39,380	-0.2	0.4
Hawaii	66,658	6,356	4.8	0.5	61,108	6,887	4.4	0.5	-5,550	9,371	-0.4	0.6
Idaho	92,767	8,711	5.5	0.5	82,577	8,111	4.8	0.5	-10,190	11,903	*-0.7	0.7
Illinois	724,307	22,542	5.8	0.2	695,247	22,723	5.6	0.2	-29,060	32,008	-0.2	0.3
Indiana	402,895	19,196	6.2	0.3	396,763	18,031	6.1	0.3	-6,132	26,336	-0.1	0.4
Iowa	143,191	8,139	4.7	0.3	154,683	8,495	5.1	0.3	11,492	11,765	0.4	0.4
Kansas	152,553	9,904	5.4	0.4	143,862	9,057	5.1	0.3	-8,691	13,421	-0.3	0.4
Kentucky	335,188	15,015	7.8	0.3	325,902	16,763	7.5	0.4	-9,286	22,504	-0.2	0.5
Louisiana	420,630	18,563	9.2	0.4	365,987	15,673	8.1	0.3	*-54,643	24,294	*-1.2	0.5
Maine	56,941	5,051	4.4	0.4	60,264	6,008	4.6	0.5	3,323	7,849	0.3	0.6
Maryland	269,670	15,581	4.6	0.3	259,827	14,544	4.4	0.2	-9,843	21,314	-0.2	0.4
Massachusetts	335,511	15,459	5.1	0.2	309,113	12,277	4.6	0.2	*-26,398	19,741	*-0.4	0.3
Michigan	603,543	16,203	6.2	0.2	632,834	19,832	6.5	0.2	29,291	25,609	*0.3	0.3
Minnesota	219,109	10,216	4.0	0.2	231,376	11,773	4.2	0.2	12,267	15,588	0.2	0.3
Mississippi	263,238	14,839	9.1	0.5	264,940	16,808	9.2	0.6	1,702	22,421	0.1	0.8
Missouri	340,742	15,044	5.7	0.3	335,885	14,154	5.7	0.2	-4,857	20,656	-0.1	0.4
Montana	56,550	5,893	5.5	0.6	56,235	5,526	5.4	0.5	-315	8,078	-0.1	0.8
Nebraska	85,719	7,365	4.6	0.4	85,297	6,090	4.5	0.3	-422	9,557	0.0	0.5
Nevada	178,057	12,479	6.0	0.4	174,548	11,125	5.8	0.4	-3,509	16,718	-0.2	0.6
New Hampshire	49,029	6,305	3.8	0.5	49,395	5,798	3.8	0.4	366	8,566	0.0	0.7
New Jersey	387,543	17,230	4.4	0.2	371,646	15,844	4.3	0.2	-15,897	23,408	-0.1	0.3
New Mexico	182,379	13,160	8.9	0.6	187,319	11,963	9.1	0.6	4,940	17,785	0.2	0.8
New York	1,243,212	29,538	6.4	0.2	1,175,106	32,200	6.2	0.2	*-68,106	43,696	*-0.3	0.3
North Carolina	651,533	22,599	6.5	0.2	622,599	21,330	6.2	0.2	-28,934	31,075	*-0.3	0.3
North Dakota	39,968	3,596	5.5	0.5	39,586	4,192	5.4	0.6	-382	5,523	-0.1	0.8
Ohio	712,712	23,646	6.3	0.2	698,757	26,433	6.1	0.2	-13,955	35,466	-0.1	0.3
Oklahoma	254,821	10,603	6.7	0.3	264,068	8,846	6.9	0.2	9,247	13,809	0.2	0.4
Oregon	235,473	11,586	5.8	0.3	229,916	12,862	5.6	0.3	-5,557	17,311	-0.2	0.4
Pennsylvania	743,558	22,833	6.0	0.2	693,015	25,901	5.6	0.2	*-50,543	34,159	*-0.4	0.3
Rhode Island	43,222	6,015	4.2	0.6	56,774	7,829	5.6	0.8	*13,552	9,873	*1.3	1.0

See notes at end of table.

Table 3.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018—Con.

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

Area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2017				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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
South Carolina	334,715	17,093	6.9	0.4	334,323	16,953	6.8	0.3	-392	24,075	-0.1	0.5
South Dakota	51,063	4,763	6.1	0.6	50,823	5,726	6.0	0.7	-240	7,448	-0.1	0.9
Tennessee	404,675	19,158	6.2	0.3	433,900	19,556	6.6	0.3	*29,225	27,377	0.4	0.4
Texas	1,775,415	48,340	6.4	0.2	1,815,948	46,057	6.5	0.2	40,533	66,768	0.1	0.3
Utah	132,148	9,362	4.3	0.3	131,030	10,201	4.2	0.3	-1,118	13,846	-0.1	0.4
Vermont	27,688	3,227	4.6	0.5	28,406	3,889	4.7	0.6	718	5,054	0.1	0.8
Virginia	414,209	18,230	5.0	0.2	423,400	20,585	5.1	0.2	9,191	27,497	0.1	0.3
Washington	368,952	20,225	5.1	0.3	350,974	16,492	4.7	0.2	-17,978	26,097	-0.3	0.4
West Virginia	141,757	8,696	8.0	0.5	132,751	9,424	7.6	0.5	-9,006	12,823	-0.5	0.7
Wisconsin	282,723	13,200	5.0	0.2	274,093	11,506	4.8	0.2	-8,630	17,511	-0.2	0.3
Wyoming	31,730	5,045	5.6	0.9	28,721	3,603	5.1	0.6	-3,009	6,200	-0.5	1.1
Puerto Rico	827,091	28,288	25.0	0.9	734,815	20,630	23.2	0.7	*-92,276	35,011	*-1.8	1.1

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in Delaware. As a result, 2017 estimates for Delaware are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/120.html>.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates and 2017 and 2018 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

125 percent declined to 17.4 percent, from 17.9 percent in 2017.

Among the states, the percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2018 was lowest in New Hampshire (10.4 percent), while Mississippi (25.8 percent) had among the highest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent. From 2017 to 2018, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent declined in 11 states, while Connecticut and Iowa were the only states to experience a

statistically significant increase, from 12.6 percent to 13.6 percent in Connecticut and from 14.8 percent to 15.4 percent in Iowa.

Table 6 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2017 and 2018 among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area had among the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2018 at 10.1 percent. The San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro

Area (20.1 percent) and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (19.2 percent) had among the highest percentages of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 125 percent among these most populous MSAs.¹⁵

In 2018, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent decreased in 9 of the 25 most populous

¹⁵ The percentage of people with an income-to poverty ratio below 125 percent for the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (20.1 percent) and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (19.2 percent) were not statistically different.

Figure 4.
Percentage of People in Poverty by Metropolitan Statistical Area: 2018

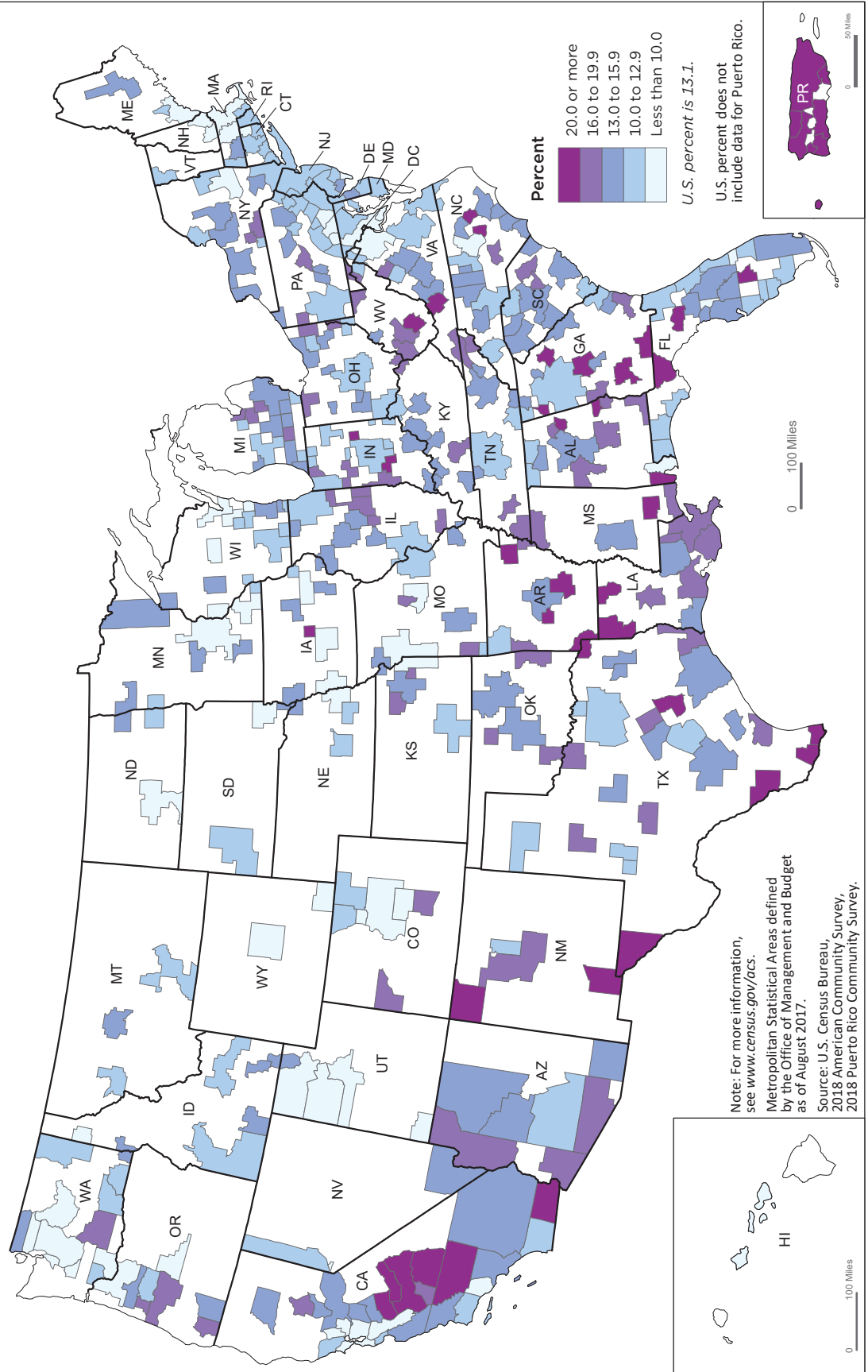


Table 4.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2017 and 2018

(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 2017			Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2018			Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)					
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent 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	299,875	20,615	5.2	0.4	17,635	4.9	0.3	-14,755	27,128	-0.3	0.5	
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	140,167	11,201	5.1	0.4	11,182	5.1	0.4	-1,803	15,827	-0.1	0.6	
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	220,662	13,405	4.7	0.3	203,958	4.3	0.2	-16,704	17,825	*-0.4	0.4	
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	126,357	9,922	5.1	0.4	117,769	4.7	0.4	-8,588	14,196	-0.4	0.6	
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	513,030	17,500	5.5	0.2	479,613	22,028	5.1	0.2	*-33,417	28,133	*-0.3	0.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	343,876	22,875	4.7	0.3	368,481	17,786	4.9	0.2	24,605	28,976	0.2	0.4
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	118,393	9,084	4.2	0.3	109,491	8,103	3.8	0.3	-8,902	12,173	-0.4	0.4
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	272,540	12,856	6.4	0.3	292,999	15,349	6.8	0.4	*20,459	20,022	0.4	0.5
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	408,536	22,997	6.0	0.3	441,766	25,656	6.4	0.4	33,230	34,454	0.4	0.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	765,728	26,546	5.8	0.2	776,380	25,968	5.9	0.2	10,652	37,136	0.1	0.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	372,638	20,112	6.1	0.3	349,950	20,147	5.7	0.3	-22,688	28,468	-0.4	0.5
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	126,368	8,271	3.6	0.2	135,684	9,089	3.8	0.3	9,316	12,289	0.2	0.3
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	1,129,337	26,704	5.7	0.1	1,076,245	31,014	5.5	0.2	*-53,092	40,926	-0.2	0.2
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	150,162	12,474	6.1	0.5	145,541	13,962	5.8	0.6	-4,621	18,723	-0.3	0.7
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	N	N	N	N	339,849	20,810	5.7	0.3	N	N	N	N
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	287,179	15,199	6.2	0.3	254,910	13,110	5.3	0.3	*-32,269	20,072	*-0.8	0.4
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	116,620	9,394	4.8	0.4	111,363	8,641	4.6	0.4	-5,257	12,764	-0.3	0.5
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	284,409	16,867	6.3	0.4	271,670	16,597	6.0	0.4	-12,739	23,663	-0.4	0.5
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	134,895	9,884	4.9	0.4	144,735	10,991	5.3	0.4	9,840	14,782	0.4	0.5
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	155,587	12,528	6.4	0.5	156,053	10,822	6.3	0.4	466	16,555	-0.1	0.7
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	176,861	12,449	5.4	0.4	185,018	14,966	5.7	0.5	8,157	19,467	0.2	0.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	191,376	11,832	4.1	0.3	201,566	11,383	4.3	0.2	10,190	16,419	0.2	0.4
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	160,722	11,822	4.2	0.3	160,378	10,425	4.1	0.3	-344	15,762	-0.1	0.4
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	190,663	11,827	6.3	0.4	181,033	11,429	5.8	0.4	-9,630	16,447	-0.4	0.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	240,780	14,316	3.9	0.2	233,313	13,532	3.8	0.2	-7,467	19,699	-0.1	0.3

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area. As a result, 2017 estimates for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/121.html>.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018

(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 2017				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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.....	56,773,672	284,292	17.9	0.1	55,643,386	285,786	17.4	0.1	*-1,130,286	403,107	*-0.5	0.1
Alabama.....	1,064,645	24,794	22.4	0.5	1,045,821	24,407	22.0	0.5	-18,824	34,791	-0.4	0.7
Alaska.....	104,532	7,968	14.5	1.1	100,355	8,445	13.9	1.2	-4,177	11,611	-0.6	1.6
Arizona.....	1,356,969	32,797	19.8	0.5	1,319,148	30,582	18.8	0.4	-37,821	44,843	*-1.0	0.6
Arkansas.....	645,454	20,609	22.1	0.7	674,173	22,252	23.0	0.8	28,719	30,330	0.9	1.1
California.....	6,927,903	77,695	17.9	0.2	6,665,447	71,042	17.2	0.2	*-262,456	105,278	*-0.7	0.3
Colorado.....	760,985	19,484	13.9	0.4	718,908	21,637	12.9	0.4	*-42,077	29,117	*-1.0	0.6
Connecticut.....	440,490	20,849	12.6	0.6	470,748	14,430	13.6	0.4	*30,258	25,356	*1.0	0.7
Delaware.....	N	N	N	N	149,652	10,574	15.9	1.1	N	N	N	N
District of Columbia.....	135,030	8,051	20.4	1.2	133,555	9,550	20.0	1.4	-1,475	12,491	-0.4	1.8
Florida.....	3,934,431	61,054	19.1	0.3	3,859,725	56,890	18.5	0.3	-74,706	83,451	*-0.6	0.4
Georgia.....	2,030,950	52,729	20.0	0.5	1,954,123	37,143	19.1	0.4	*-76,827	64,498	*-0.9	0.6
Hawaii.....	164,225	9,580	11.8	0.7	163,511	9,400	11.8	0.7	-714	13,421	0.0	1.0
Idaho.....	296,964	14,628	17.6	0.9	295,600	14,637	17.2	0.9	-1,364	20,693	-0.4	1.3
Illinois.....	2,088,058	39,539	16.7	0.3	1,997,989	38,361	16.1	0.3	*-90,069	55,090	*-0.6	0.4
Indiana.....	1,156,914	30,932	17.9	0.5	1,143,102	27,510	17.6	0.4	-13,812	41,396	-0.3	0.6
Iowa.....	449,886	13,699	14.8	0.4	471,351	13,428	15.4	0.4	*21,465	19,183	*0.6	0.6
Kansas.....	459,957	14,896	16.3	0.5	460,532	15,313	16.3	0.5	575	21,363	0.0	0.7
Kentucky.....	965,527	24,064	22.4	0.6	938,992	21,841	21.7	0.5	-26,535	32,498	-0.7	0.8
Louisiana.....	1,164,559	30,444	25.6	0.7	1,113,022	25,581	24.6	0.6	*-51,537	39,765	*-1.0	0.9
Maine.....	202,987	9,106	15.6	0.7	204,217	8,854	15.7	0.7	1,230	12,701	0.1	1.0
Maryland.....	717,918	22,766	12.1	0.4	697,991	24,498	11.8	0.4	-19,927	33,443	-0.3	0.6
Massachusetts.....	895,399	25,074	13.5	0.4	873,162	23,528	13.1	0.4	-22,237	34,384	-0.4	0.6
Michigan.....	1,806,839	29,854	18.6	0.3	1,782,688	30,630	18.2	0.3	-24,151	42,772	-0.4	0.4
Minnesota.....	705,795	17,835	12.9	0.3	713,715	21,854	13.0	0.4	7,920	28,208	0.1	0.5
Mississippi.....	745,846	18,019	25.8	0.6	744,760	23,296	25.8	0.8	-1,086	29,451	0.0	1.0
Missouri.....	1,082,062	25,134	18.3	0.4	1,066,683	24,964	17.9	0.4	-15,379	35,425	-0.4	0.6
Montana.....	181,092	10,277	17.7	1.0	185,654	8,837	17.9	0.9	4,562	13,554	0.2	1.3
Nebraska.....	279,922	13,140	15.0	0.7	290,437	11,072	15.5	0.6	10,515	17,183	0.5	0.9
Nevada.....	519,263	21,082	17.6	0.7	521,573	17,305	17.4	0.6	2,310	27,275	-0.2	0.9
New Hampshire.....	137,550	8,729	10.6	0.7	136,377	7,751	10.4	0.6	-1,173	11,674	-0.2	0.9
New Jersey.....	1,165,524	32,674	13.2	0.4	1,117,605	30,244	12.8	0.3	*-47,919	44,523	-0.4	0.5
New Mexico.....	515,351	17,828	25.2	0.9	526,096	18,026	25.6	0.9	10,745	25,353	0.4	1.3
New York.....	3,556,003	49,418	18.4	0.3	3,381,210	47,081	17.8	0.2	*-174,793	68,255	*-0.6	0.4
North Carolina.....	1,976,975	38,075	19.8	0.4	1,900,667	37,566	18.8	0.4	*-76,308	53,487	*-1.0	0.6
North Dakota.....	102,872	5,937	14.1	0.8	107,592	7,286	14.6	1.0	4,720	9,399	0.5	1.3
Ohio.....	2,052,976	34,595	18.1	0.3	2,047,923	37,225	18.0	0.3	-5,053	50,818	-0.1	0.4
Oklahoma.....	807,543	18,688	21.2	0.5	783,754	18,556	20.5	0.5	-23,789	26,336	-0.7	0.7
Oregon.....	717,931	23,057	17.7	0.6	705,051	23,407	17.1	0.6	-12,880	32,856	-0.6	0.8
Pennsylvania.....	2,025,851	37,852	16.3	0.3	2,012,077	36,769	16.2	0.3	-13,774	52,771	-0.1	0.4
Rhode Island.....	157,571	10,796	15.5	1.1	170,195	10,611	16.7	1.0	12,624	15,138	1.2	1.5

See notes at end of table.

Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2017 and 2018—Con.

(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 2017				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2018				Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)			
	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
South Carolina	1,016,594	26,257	20.8	0.5	985,027	27,829	19.9	0.6	-31,567	38,261	*-0.9	0.8
South Dakota	141,285	7,825	16.8	0.9	149,965	8,291	17.6	1.0	8,680	11,400	0.8	1.3
Tennessee	1,320,238	28,013	20.1	0.4	1,331,724	28,056	20.2	0.4	11,486	39,647	0.1	0.6
Texas	5,530,305	72,480	20.0	0.3	5,559,872	70,409	19.8	0.3	29,567	101,048	-0.2	0.4
Utah	409,782	16,901	13.4	0.6	393,198	19,189	12.6	0.6	-16,584	25,571	-0.8	0.8
Vermont	92,586	7,082	15.4	1.2	86,080	5,859	14.3	1.0	-6,506	9,191	-1.1	1.6
Virginia	1,172,909	30,512	14.3	0.4	1,146,100	32,142	13.9	0.4	-26,809	44,318	-0.4	0.6
Washington	1,051,726	25,345	14.5	0.3	1,002,777	26,160	13.6	0.4	*-48,949	36,424	*-0.9	0.5
West Virginia	427,624	13,827	24.3	0.8	415,783	16,392	23.7	0.9	-11,841	21,445	-0.6	1.2
Wisconsin	860,108	19,382	15.2	0.3	845,387	20,021	14.9	0.4	-14,721	27,866	-0.3	0.5
Wyoming	82,893	7,152	14.7	1.3	82,292	7,326	14.6	1.3	-601	10,238	-0.1	1.8
Puerto Rico	1,756,548	30,934	53.1	0.9	1,648,770	25,958	52.1	0.8	*-107,778	40,382	-1.0	1.2

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in Delaware. As a result, 2017 estimates for Delaware are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/120.html>.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates and 2017 and 2018 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

metropolitan areas (Table 6).

None of the most populous metropolitan areas saw statistically significant increases.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2017 through December 2017 (2017 ACS) and the ACS sample interviewed from January 2018 through December 2018 (2018 ACS). The estimates based on these samples describe the average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection.

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide 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 institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes or correctional facilities) are not included in the poverty universe.

Table 6.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2017 and 2018

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

Metropolitan areas	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2017			Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2018			Change in poverty (2018 less 2017)				
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Per- cent 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	970,163	38,880	16.8	0.7	15.3	31,425	895,199	0.5	49,992	*-1.5	0.9
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	352,752	16,033	12.9	0.6	12.9	16,383	351,885	0.6	22,923	0.0	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	567,626	22,357	12.1	0.5	11.9	20,976	562,848	0.4	-4,778	30,657	0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	403,454	14,094	16.2	0.6	15.1	19,114	381,588	0.8	-21,866	23,748	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,486,379	36,273	15.8	0.4	14.9	34,826	1,388,286	0.4	*-98,093	50,285	0.6
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	1,169,999	36,215	16.0	0.5	15.5	37,139	1,151,530	0.5	-18,469	51,873	0.7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	334,064	14,064	11.7	0.5	10.8	17,320	312,203	0.6	-21,861	22,311	0.8
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	792,466	19,897	18.6	0.5	18.2	21,018	780,531	0.5	-11,935	28,942	0.7
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	1,288,736	40,766	18.9	0.6	18.9	41,137	1,306,403	0.6	17,667	57,915	0.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	2,488,273	38,613	18.9	0.3	17.9	41,000	2,349,488	0.3	*-138,785	56,320	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	1,199,427	27,941	19.7	0.5	19.2	33,701	1,178,712	0.6	-20,715	43,777	0.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	393,984	14,684	11.1	0.4	11.1	16,910	397,729	0.5	3,745	22,396	0.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	3,332,147	49,450	16.7	0.2	16.0	49,660	3,144,348	0.3	*-187,799	70,082	0.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	484,429	22,742	19.6	0.9	18.9	22,258	476,398	0.9	-8,031	31,822	1.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	N	N	N	N	15.8	25,066	936,431	0.4	N	N	N
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	824,280	23,427	17.7	0.5	16.4	21,545	784,303	0.5	*-39,977	31,828	0.7
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	346,978	16,630	14.4	0.7	13.7	15,470	336,354	0.6	-10,624	22,713	0.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	878,535	28,614	19.6	0.6	18.8	29,998	850,859	0.7	-27,676	41,456	0.9
Saint Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	415,497	15,423	15.1	0.6	15.1	14,689	415,014	0.5	-483	21,299	0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	478,642	21,044	19.7	0.9	20.1	20,592	498,822	0.8	20,180	29,443	1.2
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	509,138	21,322	15.6	0.7	15.5	21,121	505,518	0.6	-3,620	30,012	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	544,516	19,122	11.7	0.4	10.7	18,350	502,007	0.4	*-42,509	26,502	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	436,818	17,145	11.5	0.5	11.0	17,681	426,601	0.5	-10,217	24,629	0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	572,196	19,131	18.8	0.6	17.7	19,887	547,893	0.6	-24,303	27,595	0.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	643,295	23,531	10.5	0.4	10.1	24,249	618,885	0.4	-24,410	33,789	0.6

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

N Not available or not comparable. After the release of the 2017 data products, the U.S. Census Bureau identified issues with data collection in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area. As a result, 2017 estimates for the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area are omitted from this table. For more information, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/errata/121.html>.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under the age of 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 and 2018 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

How to Access American Community Survey Poverty Data

The 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates will start being released on Thursday, September 26, 2019. This release will include the Detailed Tables, Data Profiles, Comparison Profiles, and Summary File. Subsequent releases will include the following 2018 ACS data products:

October 17, 2019	1-Year Selected Population Profiles and Subject Tables
November 14, 2019	1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files
December 19, 2019	5-Year Detailed Tables, Data Profiles, and Summary File
January 16, 2020	5-Year Comparison Profiles, Subject Tables, and Narrative Profiles
January 30, 2020	5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files
February 6, 2020	Supplemental 1-year estimates for geographies with populations of 20,000 or more

Beginning in 2018, all ACS data products are released on the U.S. Census Bureau's new data dissemination platform at <<https://data.census.gov>>. American FactFinder will not host any future ACS data releases. Data.census.gov is the new platform to access data and digital content from the U.S. Census Bureau. The centralized experience allows data users of all skill levels to search tables, visualize and download data, and create custom statistics. ACS data from 2010 forward will be available on data.census.gov. Historical estimates of Table 1 prior to 2010 can be found in the brief, *Poverty: 2016 and 2017*, in Appendix Table 1. See <www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/acs/acsbr17-02.html>.

An additional method for obtaining ACS data is through the Census Bureau's Application Programming Interface, visit <www.census.gov/developers/>. This tool provides the public with maximum flexibility to query data directly from Census Bureau servers.

Additional poverty estimates, publications, working papers, visualizations, and data from other surveys can be found online at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>.

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 confidence level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error

may be introduced during any of 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 2018 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

NOTES

The U.S. 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 the factsheet available at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources/acs-vs-cps.html>.