

Poverty: 2018 and 2019

American Community Survey Briefs

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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 and to measure economic well-being.

This brief uses the 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates to analyze poverty rates for 2019, as well as the changes in poverty from 2018 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the most populous metropolitan areas.^{1,2} Additionally, this report discusses the distribution of people by income-to-poverty ratios for the aforementioned geographic areas, providing a picture of the depth of poverty and the proximity to poverty.

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 fewer 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-FY20-POP001-0201.

This report provides estimates for calendar year 2019, the last year of the economic expansion spanning from June 2009 through February 2020. The data collection period for the 2019 ACS spanned January to December of 2019; estimates presented here do not reflect the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic, the associated public health response, or the end of the economic expansion.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2019, the ACS national poverty rate was 12.3 percent, a decline from 13.1 percent in 2018.³ The 0.8 percentage-point decrease in the percent of the U.S. population with income below the poverty level was among the largest declines in year-to-year poverty rates since the inception of the ACS in 2005.⁴ The ACS national poverty rate was the lowest rate since the beginning of the ACS in 2005.⁵

³ Following the standard specified by OMB in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the Current Population Survey Annual Social Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) are used to estimate the official national poverty rate, which can be found in the report, "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2019," available at <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.pdf>. The national poverty percentage does not include data for Puerto Rico.

⁴ The 0.8 percentage-point decline in poverty rates from 2018 to 2019 was not statistically different from the decline from 2014 to 2015.

⁵ National poverty rates for the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS), a precursor to the ACS, were 12.2 percent in 2000, 12.1 percent in 2001, 12.4 percent in 2002, 12.7 percent in 2003, and 13.1 percent in 2004. The C2SS poverty rate in 2000 was not statistically different from poverty rates in 2001 and 2002. The 2019 ACS poverty rate was not statistically different from the C2SS poverty rates in 2000, 2001, and 2002.

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, with people responding 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.

The analysis in this report is based predominantly on the 2018 and 2019 ACS 1-year estimates. Since the survey is continuous, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common. Therefore, comparing the 2018 ACS estimates with the 2019 ACS estimates is not an exact comparison of economic conditions in 2018 with those in 2019, and comparisons should be interpreted with caution.*

For more information, see page 108 of "American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2019 Subject Definitions" at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>. For more information on ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs>.

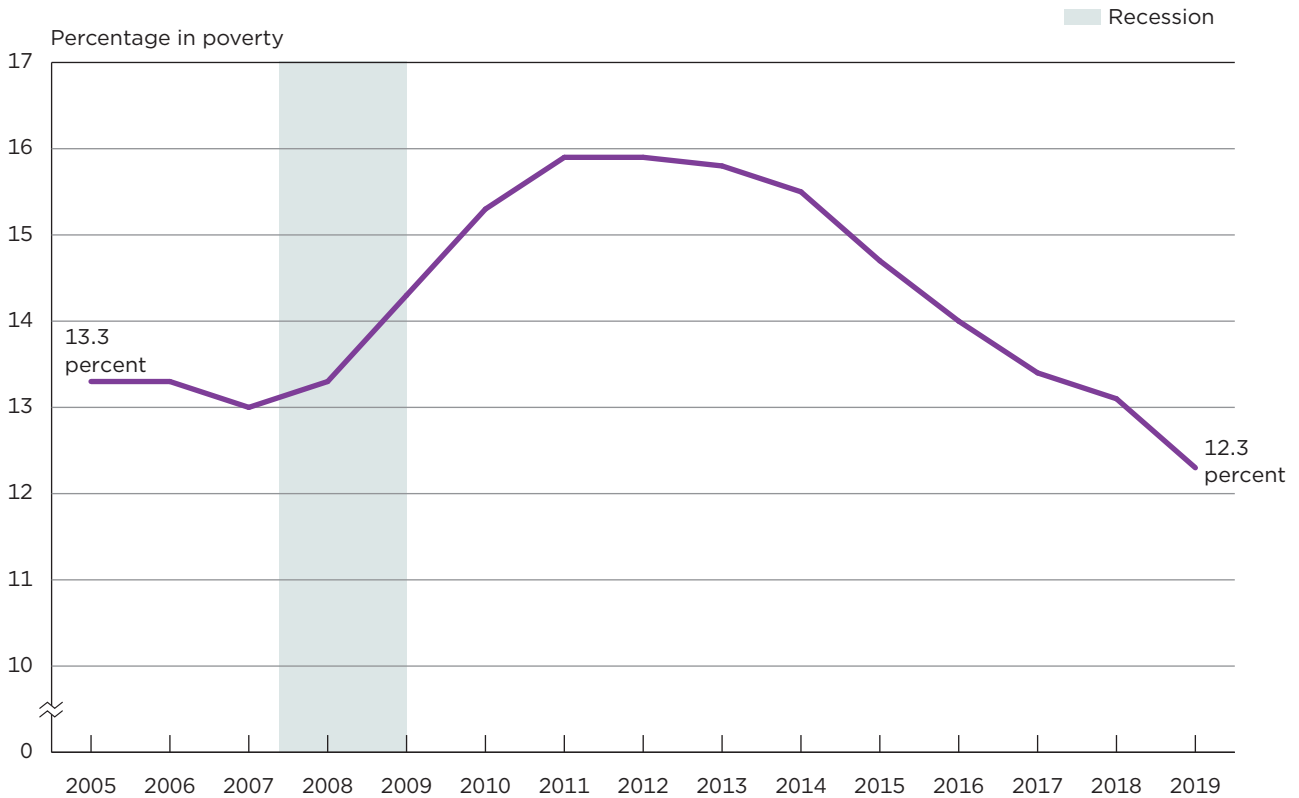
* For a discussion of this and related issues, see Howard Hogan, "Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," *Applied Demography in the 21st Century*, eds. Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson, Springer Netherlands, 2008.

- The poverty rate declined in nearly half of all states (23 states and the District of Columbia) between 2018 and 2019. Poverty rates did not increase in any state from 2018 to 2019.
- In 15 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the poverty rate declined between 2018 and 2019. None of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas saw poverty increase in 2019.
- In 2019, the proportion of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined nationally from 5.9 percent to 5.5 percent.
- The percentage of people in the United States with income less than 125 percent of their poverty threshold declined to 16.3 percent in 2019, from 17.4 percent in 2018.

Figure 1.

ACS Poverty Rates: 2005 to 2019

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



Note: Starting in 2006, the American Community Survey (ACS) included group quarters population. 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. Recessions are determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. For more information, see <www.nber.org/cycles.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 to 2019 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

POVERTY

In 2019, 12.3 percent of the total U.S. population had income below their respective poverty thresholds, a decline from the 2018 estimate of 13.1 percent. This was the sixth consecutive year that the percentage of the U.S. population in poverty, as measured by the ACS, has

decreased (from 15.8 percent in 2013) and was the first instance of 6 consecutive years of decline since the inception of the ACS in 2005 (Figures 1 and 2).⁶ In three states (California, Florida, and Georgia), poverty rates declined

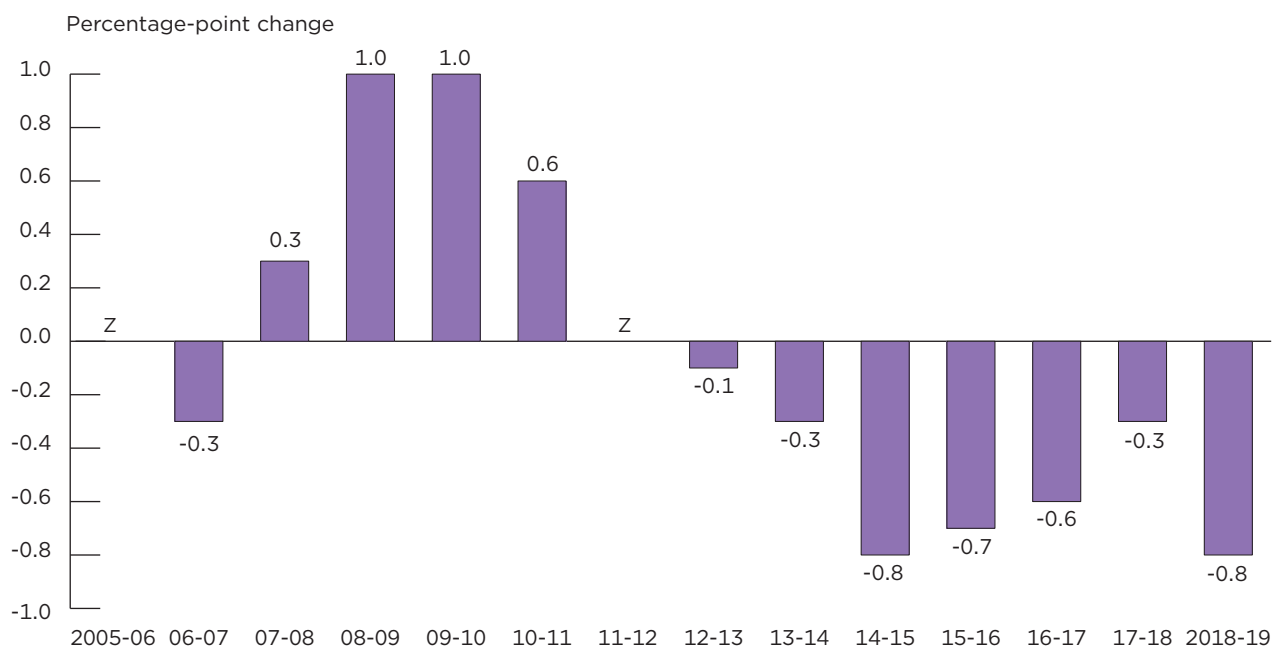
⁶ All year-to-year changes from 2005 to 2019, except 2005 to 2006, 2011 to 2012, and 2012 to 2013, were statistically significant.

for the sixth year in a row. In two states (Illinois and New York), poverty rates declined for a fifth consecutive year. In six additional states (Arizona, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington), poverty rates declined in 4 of the last 5 years.

Figure 2.

Year-to-Year Percentage-Point Change in Poverty Rate: 2005 to 2019

(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 (ACS) included group quarters population. 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 to 2006, 2011 to 2012, and 2012 to 2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 to 2019 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

A review of state poverty rates shows New Hampshire had the lowest 2019 rate at 7.3 percent, while Mississippi had among the highest at 19.6 percent (Table 1).⁷ Figure 3 displays the percentage of people in poverty for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.⁸ In 2019, eight states had poverty rates below 9.5 percent: Colorado, Hawaii,

⁷ The poverty rate for Mississippi (19.6 percent) was not statistically different from the poverty rate for Louisiana (19.0 percent).

⁸ The classification categories used in Figure 3 and Figure 6 have been determined by the natural breaks (Jenks) method of categorization.

Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Utah. Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico had 2019 poverty rates of 15.0 percent or higher (Figure 3). States with poverty rates of less than 9.5 percent were concentrated in the New England and Mountain Census Divisions, while states with a poverty rate of 15.0 percent or higher were concentrated in the

East South Central and the West South Central Census Divisions.⁹

⁹ Census divisions are groupings of states and the District of Columbia that are subdivisions of the four census regions—Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. For a map as well as a list of states contained in each region and division, see <www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-regions-and-divisions-of-the-united-states.html>. The New England Division includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Mountain Census Division includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. The East South Central Division includes Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The West South Central Division includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2018 and 2019(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 2018				Below poverty in 2019				Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	41,852,315	232,949	13.1	0.1	39,490,096	242,000	12.3	0.1	*-2,362,219	335,900	*-0.8	0.1
Alabama	800,422	20,616	16.8	0.4	739,108	24,870	15.5	0.5	*-61,314	32,303	*-1.3	0.7
Alaska	78,620	7,217	10.9	1.0	71,938	7,880	10.1	1.1	-6,682	10,685	-0.8	1.5
Arizona	983,499	28,300	14.0	0.4	958,442	33,279	13.5	0.5	-25,057	43,685	-0.6	0.6
Arkansas	504,504	19,795	17.2	0.7	474,739	16,707	16.2	0.6	*-29,765	25,903	*-1.0	0.9
California	4,969,326	62,249	12.8	0.2	4,552,837	67,995	11.8	0.2	*-416,489	92,186	*-1.0	0.2
Colorado	537,492	18,885	9.6	0.3	526,979	20,810	9.3	0.4	-10,513	28,101	-0.3	0.5
Connecticut	361,377	14,037	10.4	0.4	347,149	13,761	10.0	0.4	-14,228	19,657	-0.4	0.6
Delaware	117,242	9,236	12.5	1.0	106,383	10,953	11.3	1.2	-10,859	14,328	-1.2	1.5
District of Columbia	108,055	8,920	16.2	1.3	90,534	8,570	13.5	1.3	*-17,521	12,370	*-2.7	1.8
Florida	2,840,977	47,549	13.6	0.2	2,664,772	55,731	12.7	0.3	*-176,205	73,259	*-0.9	0.3
Georgia	1,468,642	34,068	14.3	0.3	1,373,909	35,565	13.3	0.3	*-94,733	49,249	*-1.0	0.5
Hawaii	122,143	8,890	8.8	0.6	128,722	11,476	9.3	0.8	6,579	14,516	0.5	1.1
Idaho	203,264	12,603	11.8	0.7	195,984	13,818	11.2	0.8	-7,280	18,702	-0.6	1.1
Illinois	1,509,247	32,779	12.1	0.3	1,420,542	37,778	11.5	0.3	*-88,705	50,016	*-0.6	0.4
Indiana	852,638	24,677	13.1	0.4	775,823	24,457	11.9	0.4	*-76,815	34,744	*-1.2	0.5
Iowa	343,504	13,910	11.2	0.5	341,613	16,006	11.2	0.5	-1,891	21,206	-0.1	0.7
Kansas	338,175	14,157	12.0	0.5	323,189	13,737	11.4	0.5	-14,986	19,727	-0.5	0.7
Kentucky	730,408	22,182	16.9	0.5	703,627	22,815	16.3	0.5	-26,781	31,820	-0.6	0.7
Louisiana	843,626	23,603	18.6	0.5	857,894	28,695	19.0	0.6	14,268	37,156	0.4	0.8
Maine	151,541	7,765	11.6	0.6	141,803	9,329	10.9	0.7	-9,738	12,138	-0.8	0.9
Maryland	528,203	21,054	9.0	0.4	532,241	20,417	9.0	0.3	4,038	29,328	0.1	0.5
Massachusetts	663,918	20,551	10.0	0.3	625,763	19,408	9.4	0.3	*-38,155	28,267	*-0.6	0.4
Michigan	1,373,349	26,495	14.1	0.3	1,269,062	30,302	13.0	0.3	*-104,287	40,252	*-1.1	0.4
Minnesota	529,077	16,528	9.6	0.3	494,683	17,961	9.0	0.3	*-34,394	24,409	*-0.7	0.4
Mississippi	567,645	18,752	19.7	0.6	564,192	24,018	19.6	0.8	-3,453	30,471	-0.1	1.1
Missouri	786,330	21,180	13.2	0.4	770,175	23,258	12.9	0.4	-16,155	31,456	-0.3	0.5
Montana	135,114	8,427	13.0	0.8	131,882	8,022	12.6	0.8	-3,232	11,635	-0.4	1.1
Nebraska	206,341	9,787	11.0	0.5	185,761	9,589	9.9	0.5	*-20,580	13,701	*-1.1	0.7
Nevada	387,327	14,864	12.9	0.5	379,564	19,019	12.5	0.6	-7,763	24,139	-0.4	0.8
New Hampshire	100,220	6,538	7.6	0.5	95,711	7,285	7.3	0.6	-4,509	9,789	-0.4	0.7
New Jersey	832,133	26,316	9.5	0.3	798,262	25,821	9.2	0.3	-33,871	36,868	-0.4	0.4
New Mexico	399,456	16,659	19.5	0.8	373,230	15,038	18.2	0.7	*-26,226	22,443	*-1.3	1.1
New York	2,591,391	46,405	13.6	0.2	2,467,006	45,734	13.0	0.2	*-124,385	65,154	*-0.6	0.3
North Carolina	1,417,873	35,989	14.0	0.4	1,386,122	34,891	13.6	0.3	-31,751	50,126	-0.4	0.5
North Dakota	78,676	5,987	10.7	0.8	78,112	6,057	10.6	0.8	-564	8,517	-0.1	1.2
Ohio	1,578,673	37,243	13.9	0.3	1,484,862	31,837	13.1	0.3	*-93,811	48,997	*-0.8	0.4
Oklahoma	596,949	16,807	15.6	0.4	583,029	15,382	15.2	0.4	-13,920	22,783	-0.4	0.6
Oregon	516,570	19,440	12.6	0.5	470,643	17,376	11.4	0.4	*-45,927	26,074	*-1.2	0.6
Pennsylvania	1,517,870	30,308	12.2	0.2	1,489,333	38,199	12.0	0.3	-28,537	48,762	-0.2	0.4
Rhode Island	131,205	9,492	12.9	0.9	110,244	9,715	10.8	1.0	*-20,961	13,582	*-2.1	1.3
South Carolina	755,215	23,160	15.3	0.5	692,744	27,058	13.8	0.5	*-62,471	35,616	*-1.4	0.7
South Dakota	111,626	6,667	13.1	0.8	101,946	8,090	11.9	0.9	-9,680	10,483	-1.2	1.2
Tennessee	1,011,016	27,948	15.3	0.4	922,176	25,901	13.9	0.4	*-88,840	38,105	*-1.5	0.6
Texas	4,180,675	65,525	14.9	0.2	3,865,010	70,183	13.6	0.2	*-315,665	96,017	*-1.3	0.3
Utah	280,773	15,853	9.0	0.5	281,279	15,513	8.9	0.5	506	22,181	-0.1	0.7
Vermont	66,013	5,347	11.0	0.9	60,897	4,517	10.2	0.8	-5,116	6,999	-0.8	1.2
Virginia	884,647	27,692	10.7	0.3	822,775	24,460	9.9	0.3	*-61,872	36,948	*-0.8	0.4
Washington	759,013	23,800	10.3	0.3	730,240	26,102	9.8	0.3	-28,773	35,324	*-0.5	0.5
West Virginia	312,188	15,244	17.8	0.9	278,734	14,047	16.0	0.8	*-33,454	20,729	*-1.8	1.2
Wisconsin	625,826	17,423	11.0	0.3	591,486	18,294	10.4	0.3	*-34,340	25,263	*-0.6	0.4
Wyoming	62,301	6,775	11.1	1.2	56,945	5,626	10.1	1.0	-5,356	8,806	-1.0	1.6
Puerto Rico	1,363,666	23,647	43.1	0.7	1,376,809	24,017	43.5	0.8	13,143	33,704	0.4	1.1

* 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 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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey and 2018 and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

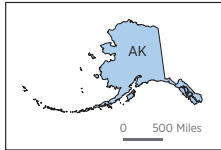
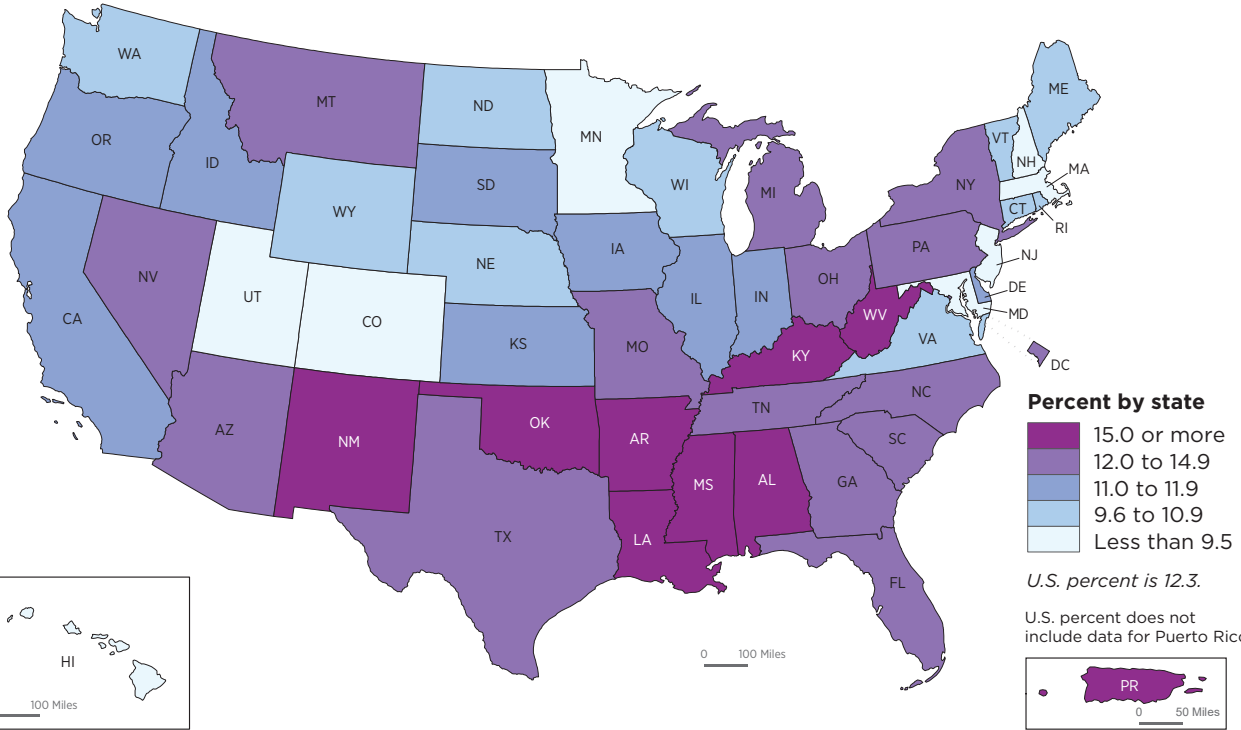


Figure 3.
**Percentage of People in Poverty
 for the United States and Puerto Rico: 2019**



Note: For more information, see <www.census.gov/acs>.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Nearly half of all states in 2019 showed statistically significant declines in poverty rates as compared to 2018 (Figure 4). Poverty rates declined in 23 states and the District of Columbia; this was among the largest number of states with a

year-to-year decrease since the ACS data collection began in 2005. No state experienced an increase in poverty rates from 2018 to 2019 (Table 1). This was the first time in 4 years that no state saw an annual increase in its poverty rate.

According to the 2018 and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, the poverty rate for Puerto Rico was 43.5 percent in 2019, not statistically different from the rate of 43.1 percent in 2018.

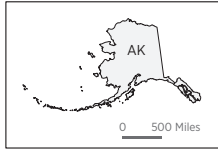
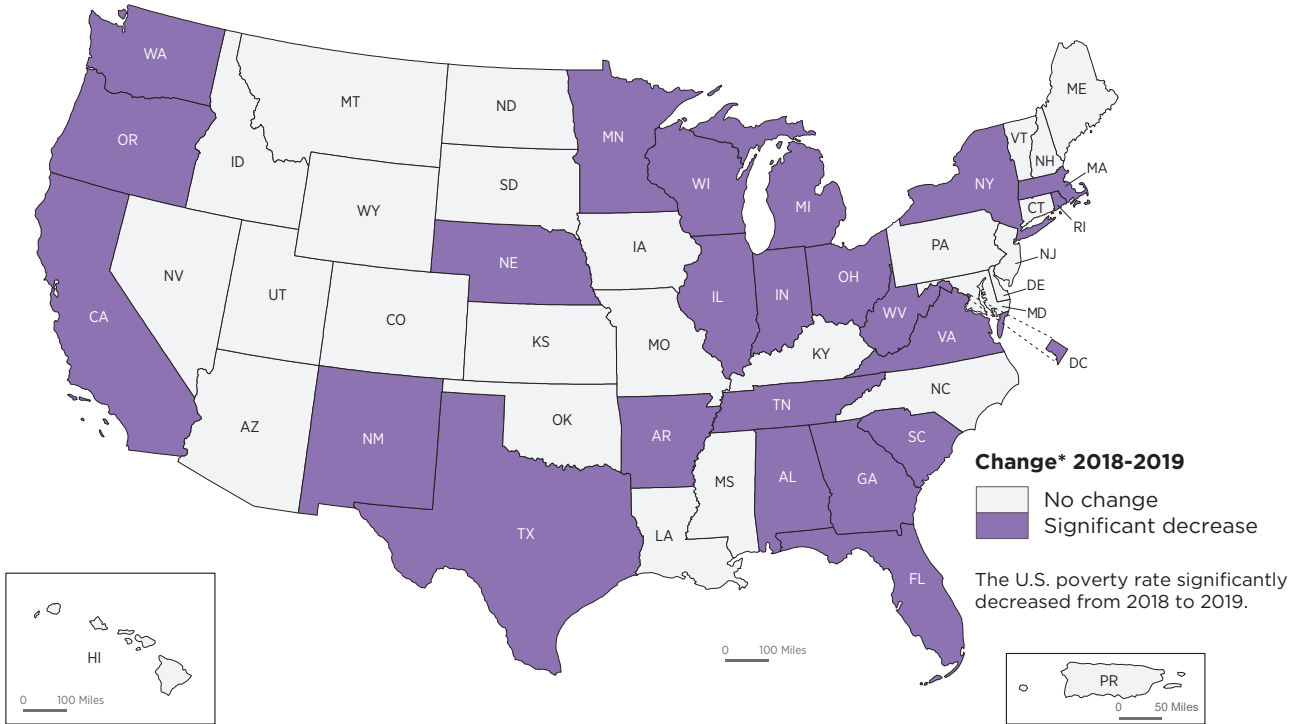


Figure 4.
**Change in Percentage of People in Poverty
 for the United States and Puerto Rico: 2018-2019**



* Change statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.
 Note: For more information, see <www.census.gov/acs>.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey and 2018 and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2018 and 2019 for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (7.5 percent); the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (7.8

percent); and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (7.9 percent) had three of the lowest poverty rates of these most populous metropolitan areas (Figure 5).¹⁰ Conversely,

¹⁰ The 2019 poverty rate for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (7.5 percent); the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (7.8 percent); and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (7.9 percent) were not statistically different.

the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (13.5 percent) had among the highest poverty rates of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2019.¹¹

¹¹ The 2019 poverty rate for the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (13.5 percent); the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (13.5 percent); the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (12.9 percent); and the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area (12.6 percent) were not statistically different.

Table 2.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2018 and 2019

(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 2018			Below poverty in 2019			Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)					
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²			
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area ..	648,680	27,723	11.1	0.5	623,646	25,044	10.5	0.4	-25,034	37,360	-0.5	0.6
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	275,066	15,233	10.1	0.6	258,075	16,582	9.4	0.6	-16,991	22,517	-0.6	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	433,504	17,786	9.2	0.4	403,821	17,499	8.6	0.4	*-29,683	24,951	*-0.6	0.5
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	283,143	17,151	11.2	0.7	250,656	12,952	9.7	0.5	*-32,487	21,492	*-1.5	0.8
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,046,663	30,669	11.2	0.3	981,876	32,048	10.6	0.3	*-64,787	44,358	*-0.6	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	837,090	30,758	11.2	0.4	782,288	31,373	10.5	0.4	*-54,802	43,935	*-0.8	0.6
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	230,903	14,652	8.0	0.5	232,135	12,967	7.9	0.4	1,232	19,566	Z	0.7
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	612,777	19,020	14.3	0.4	540,135	21,745	12.6	0.5	*-72,642	28,889	*-1.7	0.7
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	986,768	36,395	14.3	0.5	899,953	37,139	12.9	0.5	*-86,815	51,999	*-1.4	0.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	1,736,592	37,268	13.3	0.3	1,617,730	36,524	12.4	0.3	*-118,862	52,182	*-0.8	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	854,920	30,298	14.0	0.5	821,703	30,662	13.5	0.5	-33,217	43,106	-0.5	0.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	302,886	14,043	8.5	0.4	292,422	14,975	8.2	0.4	-10,464	20,529	-0.3	0.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	2,411,422	47,368	12.3	0.2	2,189,593	50,436	11.6	0.3	*-221,829	69,192	*-0.7	0.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	351,017	20,292	13.9	0.8	309,279	22,492	12.1	0.9	*-41,738	30,293	*-1.8	1.2
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	731,023	23,255	12.3	0.4	699,913	26,981	11.8	0.5	-31,110	35,620	-0.5	0.6
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area	583,806	19,689	12.2	0.4	587,560	25,225	12.1	0.5	3,754	32,000	-0.1	0.7
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area ..	238,600	12,510	9.8	0.5	236,844	15,553	9.6	0.6	-1,756	19,960	-0.1	0.8
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area ..	621,808	24,177	13.7	0.5	555,948	22,482	12.2	0.5	*-65,860	33,014	*-1.5	0.7
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	318,344	15,024	11.6	0.5	272,601	14,376	9.9	0.5	*-45,743	20,794	*-1.6	0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	381,584	16,509	15.4	0.7	338,954	20,995	13.5	0.8	*-42,630	26,708	*-1.9	1.1
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	371,159	18,601	11.4	0.6	333,862	18,677	10.3	0.6	*-37,297	26,360	*-1.1	0.8
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	388,670	16,854	8.3	0.4	380,982	19,484	8.2	0.4	-7,688	25,762	-0.2	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	338,257	16,163	8.7	0.4	305,079	17,468	7.8	0.4	*-33,178	23,799	*-0.9	0.6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	414,704	18,378	13.4	0.6	389,600	19,782	12.4	0.6	-25,104	27,002	*-1.0	0.9
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	468,140	19,915	7.6	0.3	465,533	21,467	7.5	0.3	-2,607	29,282	-0.1	0.5

* 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 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.

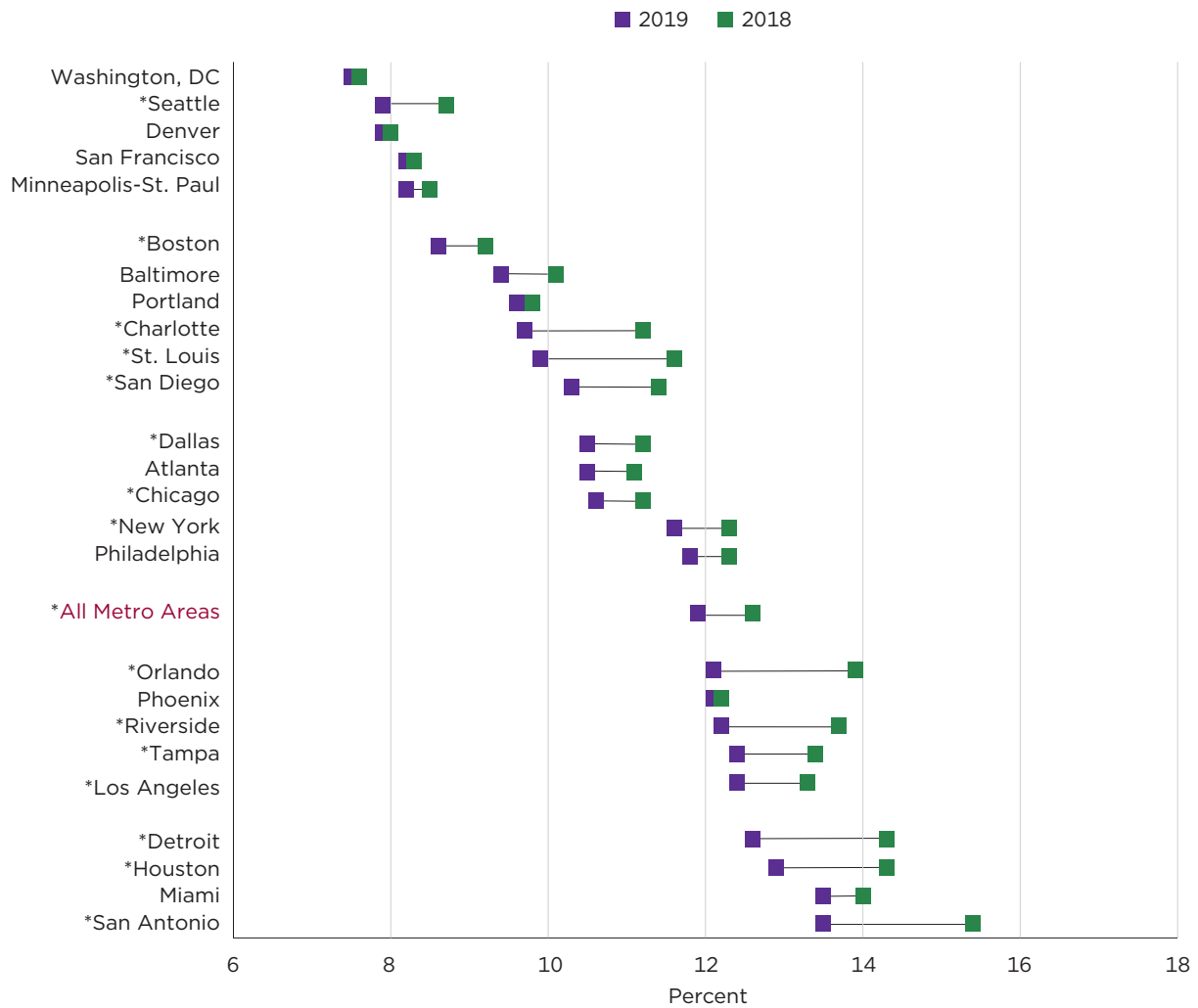
² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Figure 5.

Percentage of People in Poverty for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2018 and 2019

(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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Despite having one of the highest poverty rates in 2019, the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area experienced a 1.9 percentage-point decline in its poverty rate between 2018 and 2019, falling from 15.4 percent in 2018.

Poverty rates declined in 2019 for 15 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas (Table 2). None of the most populous metropolitan areas experienced an increase in poverty rates in 2019. For the fifth year in a row, the percentage of people in poverty decreased in the three most populous metropolitan areas

(the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area; the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area; and the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area). Figure 5 provides 2018 and 2019 poverty rates for these most populous metropolitan areas.

Figure 6 provides 2019 poverty rates for CBSAs including metropolitan and micropolitan areas.¹² Geographically, concentrations of metropolitan and micropolitan areas with poverty rates of 22.0 percent or higher were observed in the West South Central and South Atlantic Census Divisions.¹³ Alternatively, metropolitan and micropolitan areas with poverty rates below 8.0 percent were predominantly located in the Pacific and New England Divisions.¹⁴

Among metropolitan and micropolitan areas, the Heber, UT Micro area (4.1 percent) had among the lowest poverty rates in 2019.¹⁵ The Gallup, NM Micro Area had among the highest

¹² Figure 6 is limited to CBSAs with a population of 65,000 or greater. Micropolitan areas can exceed 65,000 in population when including surrounding areas within the micropolitan borders defined by OMB. For more information on metropolitan and micropolitan areas, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/reference-materials.html>.

¹³ The West South Central Census Division includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The South Atlantic Census Division includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information see <www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-regions-and-divisions-of-the-united-states.html>.

¹⁴ The Pacific Census Division includes Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The New England Census Division includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. For more information see <www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-regions-and-divisions-of-the-united-states.html>.

¹⁵ The 2019 poverty rate for the Heber, UT Micro area (4.1 percent) was not statistically different from poverty rates for the Barnstable Town, MA Metro Area (5.2 percent); the Concord, NH Micro Area (5.4 percent); the Ogden-Clearfield, UT Metro Area (5.6 percent); the Fairbanks, AK Metro Area (5.9 percent); the Bismarck, ND Metro Area (5.9 percent); and the Fond du Lac, WI Metro Area (6.2 percent), among others.

2019 poverty rates at 32.4 percent.¹⁶

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 in 2018 and 2019 for the nation, all

¹⁶ The 2019 poverty rate for the Gallup, NM Micro area (32.4 percent) was not statistically different from poverty rates for the Lumberton, NC Micro Area (31.9 percent); the Dublin, GA Micro Area (29.3 percent); the Orangeburg, SC Micro Area (27.5 percent); the Athens, OH Micro Area (27.4 percent); and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area (27.3 percent), among others.

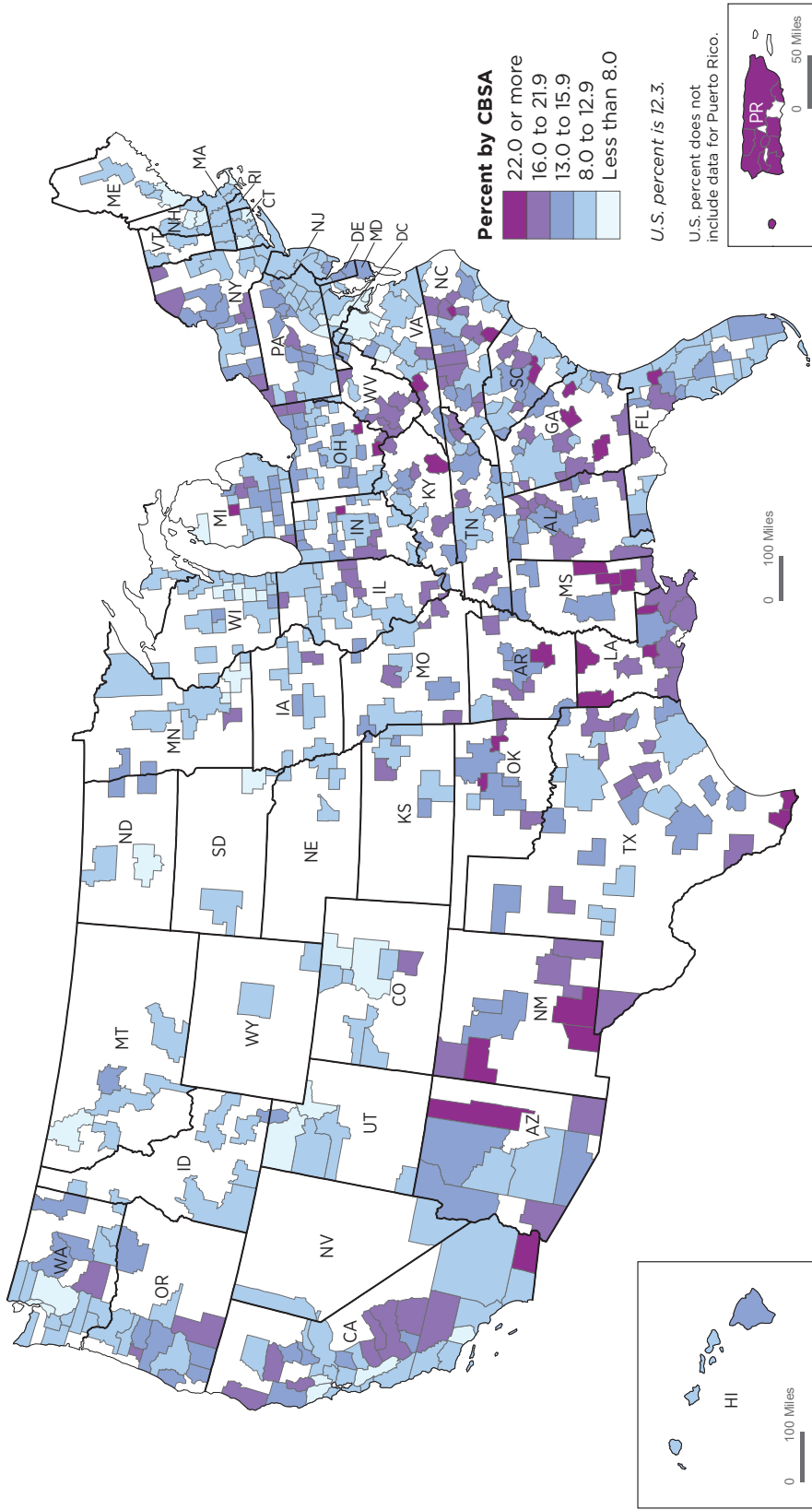
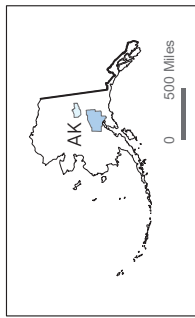
states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The percentage of the U.S. population with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined to 5.5 percent in 2019, from 5.9 percent in 2018. This was the sixth consecutive annual decrease in the proportion of the U.S. population living with income below half their poverty threshold.

New Hampshire, at 3.1 percent, was the state with the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in 2019. Louisiana (8.7 percent) and Mississippi (8.3 percent) had the highest proportions of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent, and were the only two states in which 8.0 percent or more people lived below 50 percent of their poverty threshold.¹⁷

From 2018 to 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent decreased in 18 states and the District of Columbia. During this period, only one state, Louisiana, saw an increase in the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent, from 8.1 percent in 2018 to 8.7 percent in 2019.

¹⁷ The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in Louisiana (8.7 percent) and Mississippi (8.3 percent) were not statistically different. The percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in New Mexico was not statistically different from 8.0 percent.

Figure 6.
**Percentage of People in Poverty by
 Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA): 2019**



Note: This map is limited to CBSAs with a population of 65,000 or greater. For more information on metropolitan and micropolitan areas included, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/reference-materials.html. CBSAs are defined by the Office of Management and Budget as of September 2018. For more information, see www.census.gov/acs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 3.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2018 and 2019

(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 2018				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2019				Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	18,769,825	130,617	5.9	0.1	17,602,164	126,927	5.5	Z	*-1,167,661	182,130	*-0.4	0.1
Alabama	363,398	15,146	7.6	0.3	331,570	17,091	6.9	0.4	*-31,828	22,836	*-0.7	0.5
Alaska	37,710	4,115	5.2	0.6	31,265	4,237	4.4	0.6	*-6,445	5,906	*-0.9	0.8
Arizona	440,556	17,575	6.3	0.3	443,347	23,084	6.2	0.3	2,791	29,013	-0.1	0.4
Arkansas	196,541	11,349	6.7	0.4	182,068	12,288	6.2	0.4	-14,473	16,727	-0.5	0.6
California	2,275,195	40,838	5.9	0.1	2,030,466	39,751	5.2	0.1	*-244,729	56,990	*-0.6	0.1
Colorado	255,879	12,214	4.6	0.2	252,005	16,263	4.5	0.3	-3,874	20,339	-0.1	0.4
Connecticut	157,621	10,739	4.5	0.3	161,001	11,999	4.7	0.3	3,380	16,103	0.1	0.5
Delaware	50,635	5,990	5.4	0.6	45,902	6,184	4.9	0.7	-4,733	8,609	-0.5	0.9
District of Columbia	64,617	7,441	9.7	1.1	48,918	6,663	7.3	1.0	*-15,699	9,988	*-2.4	1.5
Florida	1,230,013	33,744	5.9	0.2	1,176,117	37,695	5.6	0.2	*-53,896	50,592	*-0.3	0.2
Georgia	668,662	27,520	6.5	0.3	589,685	23,313	5.7	0.2	*-78,977	36,067	*-0.8	0.4
Hawaii	61,108	6,887	4.4	0.5	61,176	7,540	4.4	0.5	68	10,212	Z	0.7
Idaho	82,577	8,111	4.8	0.5	80,682	7,351	4.6	0.4	-1,895	10,947	-0.2	0.6
Illinois	695,247	22,723	5.6	0.2	630,012	22,945	5.1	0.2	*-65,235	32,292	*-0.5	0.3
Indiana	396,763	18,031	6.1	0.3	369,119	16,068	5.7	0.2	*-27,644	24,151	*-0.5	0.4
Iowa	154,683	8,495	5.1	0.3	147,369	9,081	4.8	0.3	-7,314	12,435	-0.2	0.4
Kansas	143,862	9,057	5.1	0.3	131,234	9,218	4.6	0.3	-12,628	12,923	-0.4	0.5
Kentucky	325,902	16,763	7.5	0.4	302,990	16,564	7.0	0.4	-22,912	23,566	-0.5	0.5
Louisiana	365,987	15,673	8.1	0.3	392,776	19,829	8.7	0.4	*26,789	25,275	*0.6	0.6
Maine	60,264	6,008	4.6	0.5	52,472	5,633	4.0	0.4	-7,792	8,236	-0.6	0.6
Maryland	259,827	14,544	4.4	0.2	263,925	13,754	4.5	0.2	4,098	20,018	0.1	0.3
Massachusetts	309,113	12,277	4.6	0.2	295,308	16,548	4.4	0.2	-13,805	20,605	-0.2	0.3
Michigan	632,834	19,832	6.5	0.2	550,644	21,357	5.6	0.2	*-82,190	29,145	*-0.8	0.3
Minnesota	231,376	11,773	4.2	0.2	219,740	11,338	4.0	0.2	-11,636	16,345	-0.2	0.3
Mississippi	264,940	16,808	9.2	0.6	238,168	15,529	8.3	0.5	*-26,772	22,883	*-0.9	0.8
Missouri	335,885	14,154	5.7	0.2	347,031	14,406	5.8	0.2	11,146	20,195	0.2	0.3
Montana	56,235	5,526	5.4	0.5	54,383	5,290	5.2	0.5	-1,852	7,650	-0.2	0.7
Nebraska	85,297	6,090	4.5	0.3	80,013	6,073	4.3	0.3	-5,284	8,601	-0.3	0.5
Nevada	174,548	11,125	5.8	0.4	164,213	12,023	5.4	0.4	-10,335	16,380	-0.4	0.5
New Hampshire	49,395	5,798	3.8	0.4	41,329	4,731	3.1	0.4	*-8,066	7,483	*-0.6	0.6
New Jersey	371,646	15,844	4.3	0.2	361,529	16,791	4.1	0.2	-10,117	23,086	-0.1	0.3
New Mexico	187,319	11,963	9.1	0.6	160,794	12,221	7.8	0.6	*-26,525	17,102	*-1.3	0.8
New York	1,175,106	32,200	6.2	0.2	1,127,474	33,927	6.0	0.2	*-47,632	46,775	-0.2	0.2
North Carolina	622,599	21,330	6.2	0.2	616,903	23,265	6.0	0.2	-5,696	31,563	-0.1	0.3
North Dakota	39,586	4,192	5.4	0.6	35,963	4,880	4.9	0.7	-3,623	6,433	-0.5	0.9
Ohio	698,757	26,433	6.1	0.2	645,934	21,203	5.7	0.2	*-52,823	33,886	*-0.5	0.3
Oklahoma	264,068	8,846	6.9	0.2	253,762	11,587	6.6	0.3	-10,306	14,577	-0.3	0.4
Oregon	229,916	12,862	5.6	0.3	215,906	10,061	5.2	0.2	-14,010	16,330	-0.4	0.4
Pennsylvania	693,015	25,901	5.6	0.2	674,228	23,993	5.4	0.2	-18,787	35,306	-0.1	0.3
Rhode Island	56,774	7,829	5.6	0.8	46,474	6,825	4.6	0.7	-10,300	10,386	*-1.0	1.0
South Carolina	334,323	16,953	6.8	0.3	314,754	15,483	6.3	0.3	-19,569	22,959	*-0.5	0.5
South Dakota	50,823	5,726	6.0	0.7	46,142	5,241	5.4	0.6	-4,681	7,762	-0.6	0.9
Tennessee	433,900	19,556	6.6	0.3	386,333	15,767	5.8	0.2	*-47,567	25,120	*-0.8	0.4
Texas	1,815,948	46,057	6.5	0.2	1,715,399	48,189	6.0	0.2	*-100,549	66,659	*-0.4	0.2
Utah	131,030	10,201	4.2	0.3	116,851	9,241	3.7	0.3	*-14,179	13,764	*-0.5	0.4
Vermont	28,406	3,889	4.7	0.6	29,784	3,302	5.0	0.6	1,378	5,102	0.2	0.8
Virginia	423,400	20,585	5.1	0.2	390,934	16,173	4.7	0.2	*-32,466	26,178	*-0.4	0.3
Washington	350,974	16,492	4.7	0.2	338,242	16,834	4.5	0.2	-12,732	23,567	-0.2	0.3
West Virginia	132,751	9,424	7.6	0.5	125,103	10,582	7.2	0.6	-7,648	14,170	-0.4	0.8
Wisconsin	274,093	11,506	4.8	0.2	260,705	11,992	4.6	0.2	-13,388	16,619	-0.2	0.3
Wyoming	28,721	3,603	5.1	0.6	24,022	3,956	4.3	0.7	-4,699	5,351	-0.8	0.9
Puerto Rico	734,815	20,630	23.2	0.7	737,603	19,359	23.3	0.6	2,788	28,291	0.1	0.9

* 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 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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey and 2018 and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 4 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area; the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area; the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area; and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area had among the lowest percentage of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent, each with rates of 4.0 percent or less.¹⁸ The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area had among the highest rate of individuals with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent, at 5.8 percent.¹⁹

The percentage of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold declined in 9 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas from 2018 to 2019, while none of the

¹⁸ In 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (3.6 percent); the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (3.7 percent); the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (3.8 percent); and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (3.9 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

¹⁹ In 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area (5.8 percent) was not statistically different from the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (5.7 percent); the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (5.7 percent); the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (5.7 percent); the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (5.6 percent); the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area (5.5 percent); and the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area (5.5 percent), among others.

largest metropolitan areas saw increases.

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 in 2018 and 2019 for the nation, all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2019, the percentage of people in the United States with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent declined to 16.3 percent, from 17.4 percent in 2018.

Among the states, the percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2019 was the lowest in New Hampshire (9.9 percent), with the highest rate in Mississippi (25.5 percent). From 2018 to 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent declined in more than two-thirds of states (35 states and the District of Columbia). No state saw an increase in the proportion of individuals with income below 125 percent of poverty in 2019.

Table 6 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2018 and 2019 among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area had among the lowest percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2019 (9.8 percent).²⁰ The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (18.3 percent); the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (18.1 percent); and the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (17.6 percent) had the highest proportions of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 125 percent among the most populous metropolitan areas.²¹

In 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent decreased in 19 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas (Table 6). None of the most populous metropolitan areas showed an increase in the percentage of people below this income-to-poverty ratio.

²⁰ In 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (9.8 percent) was not statistically different from the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (10.2 percent) and the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area (10.3 percent).

²¹ In 2019, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (18.3 percent); the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (18.1 percent); and the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (17.6 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

Table 4.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2018 and 2019

(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 2018			Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2019			Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)		
	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-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area	285,120	17,635	4.9	261,311	15,560	4.4	*-23,809	23,518	*-0.5
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	138,364	11,182	5.1	135,658	11,403	5.0	-2,706	15,971	-0.1
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	203,958	11,750	4.3	193,835	14,049	4.1	-10,123	18,314	-0.2
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	117,769	10,153	4.7	108,210	8,246	4.2	-9,559	13,079	-0.5
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	479,613	22,028	5.1	432,390	19,534	4.6	*-47,223	29,442	*-0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	368,481	17,786	4.9	377,659	23,268	5.0	9,178	29,287	0.1
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	109,491	8,103	3.8	113,045	12,015	3.9	3,554	14,492	0.1
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	292,999	15,349	6.8	237,032	13,409	5.5	*-55,967	20,381	*-1.3
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	441,766	25,656	6.4	393,386	27,485	5.6	*-48,380	37,598	*-0.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	776,380	25,968	5.9	702,429	25,909	5.4	*-73,951	36,683	*-0.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	349,950	20,147	5.7	346,460	23,507	5.7	-3,490	30,959	Z
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	135,684	9,089	3.8	128,412	8,881	3.6	-7,272	12,707	-0.2
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	1,076,245	31,014	5.5	987,658	32,929	5.2	*-88,587	45,235	*-0.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	145,541	13,962	5.8	137,390	15,533	5.4	-8,151	20,886	-0.4
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	339,849	20,810	5.7	325,807	19,486	5.5	-14,042	28,509	-0.2
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area	254,910	13,110	5.3	263,650	19,459	5.4	8,740	23,463	0.1
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	111,363	8,641	4.6	109,787	8,655	4.5	-1,576	12,230	-0.1
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	271,670	16,597	6.0	259,110	15,540	5.7	-12,560	22,737	-0.3
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	144,735	10,991	5.3	129,943	9,209	4.7	*-14,792	14,339	*-0.5
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	156,053	10,822	6.3	143,418	13,478	5.7	-12,635	17,285	-0.6
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	185,018	14,966	5.7	159,042	10,475	4.9	*-25,976	18,268	*-0.8
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	201,566	11,383	4.3	189,503	12,299	4.1	-12,063	16,758	-0.3
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	160,378	10,425	4.1	146,110	10,203	3.7	-14,268	14,587	*-0.4
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	181,033	11,429	5.8	183,608	12,029	5.8	2,575	16,593	Z
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	233,313	13,532	3.8	232,414	14,300	3.8	-899	19,687	Z

* 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 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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 5.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2018 and 2019

(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 2018				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2019				Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	55,643,386	285,786	17.4	0.1	52,189,901	299,896	16.3	0.1	*-3,453,485	414,260	*-1.1	0.1
Alabama	1,045,821	24,407	22.0	0.5	981,864	27,416	20.5	0.6	*-63,957	36,706	*-1.4	0.8
Alaska	100,355	8,445	13.9	1.2	98,446	7,934	13.8	1.1	-1,909	11,587	-0.1	1.6
Arizona	1,319,148	30,582	18.8	0.4	1,250,500	34,690	17.6	0.5	*-68,648	46,246	*-1.2	0.7
Arkansas	674,173	22,252	23.0	0.8	635,701	19,715	21.7	0.7	*-38,472	29,729	*-1.3	1.0
California	6,665,447	71,042	17.2	0.2	6,086,993	74,545	15.7	0.2	*-578,454	102,975	*-1.5	0.3
Colorado	718,908	21,637	12.9	0.4	699,596	23,771	12.4	0.4	-19,312	32,144	-0.5	0.6
Connecticut	470,748	14,430	13.6	0.4	450,066	14,602	13.0	0.4	*-20,682	20,529	-0.6	0.6
Delaware	149,652	10,574	15.9	1.1	132,502	11,443	14.0	1.2	*-17,150	15,580	*-1.9	1.7
District of Columbia	133,555	9,550	20.0	1.4	109,845	8,894	16.3	1.3	*-23,710	13,050	*-3.6	1.9
Florida	3,859,725	56,890	18.5	0.3	3,585,002	62,204	17.0	0.3	*-274,723	84,296	*-1.5	0.4
Georgia	1,954,123	37,143	19.1	0.4	1,818,801	41,708	17.6	0.4	*-135,322	55,849	*-1.5	0.5
Hawaii	163,511	9,400	11.8	0.7	161,166	12,213	11.7	0.9	-2,345	15,411	-0.1	1.1
Idaho	295,600	14,637	17.2	0.9	273,965	15,127	15.6	0.9	*-21,635	21,049	*-1.5	1.2
Illinois	1,997,989	38,361	16.1	0.3	1,856,271	40,281	15.0	0.3	*-141,718	55,625	*-1.0	0.4
Indiana	1,143,102	27,510	17.6	0.4	1,053,737	26,903	16.2	0.4	*-89,365	38,478	*-1.4	0.6
Iowa	471,351	13,428	15.4	0.4	458,833	17,508	15.0	0.6	-12,518	22,064	-0.4	0.7
Kansas	460,532	15,313	16.3	0.5	433,345	15,382	15.3	0.5	*-27,187	21,705	*-1.0	0.8
Kentucky	938,992	21,841	21.7	0.5	914,548	24,533	21.1	0.6	-24,444	32,847	-0.6	0.8
Louisiana	1,113,022	25,581	24.6	0.6	1,077,806	28,953	23.9	0.6	-35,216	38,635	-0.7	0.9
Maine	204,217	8,854	15.7	0.7	189,951	10,834	14.6	0.8	*-14,266	13,992	*-1.1	1.1
Maryland	697,991	24,498	11.8	0.4	694,399	25,832	11.8	0.4	-3,592	35,602	-0.1	0.6
Massachusetts	873,162	23,528	13.1	0.4	808,993	22,299	12.2	0.3	*-64,169	32,416	*-0.9	0.5
Michigan	1,782,688	30,630	18.2	0.3	1,648,088	29,960	16.9	0.3	*-134,600	42,847	*-1.4	0.4
Minnesota	713,715	21,854	13.0	0.4	673,897	19,915	12.2	0.4	*-39,818	29,567	*-0.8	0.5
Mississippi	744,760	23,296	25.8	0.8	734,425	26,175	25.5	0.9	-10,335	35,040	-0.3	1.2
Missouri	1,066,683	24,964	17.9	0.4	1,013,874	25,888	17.0	0.4	*-52,809	35,964	*-0.9	0.6
Montana	185,654	8,837	17.9	0.9	177,279	8,988	17.0	0.9	-8,375	12,604	-0.9	1.2
Nebraska	290,437	11,072	15.5	0.6	262,811	12,789	14.0	0.7	*-27,626	16,916	*-1.5	0.9
Nevada	521,573	17,305	17.4	0.6	494,197	22,200	16.3	0.7	-27,376	28,148	*-1.2	0.9
New Hampshire	136,377	7,751	10.4	0.6	130,309	8,919	9.9	0.7	-6,068	11,816	-0.5	0.9
New Jersey	1,117,605	30,244	12.8	0.3	1,063,153	28,303	12.2	0.3	*-54,452	41,422	*-0.6	0.5
New Mexico	526,096	18,026	25.6	0.9	481,979	17,597	23.5	0.9	*-44,117	25,191	*-2.2	1.2
New York	3,381,210	47,081	17.8	0.2	3,140,546	51,779	16.6	0.3	*-240,664	69,984	*-1.2	0.4
North Carolina	1,900,667	37,566	18.8	0.4	1,861,398	37,292	18.3	0.4	-39,269	52,933	*-0.6	0.5
North Dakota	107,592	7,286	14.6	1.0	105,170	6,736	14.2	0.9	-2,422	9,923	-0.4	1.3
Ohio	2,047,923	37,225	18.0	0.3	1,937,840	38,277	17.1	0.3	*-110,083	53,393	*-1.0	0.5
Oklahoma	783,754	18,556	20.5	0.5	761,813	15,770	19.8	0.4	-21,941	24,352	*-0.7	0.6
Oregon	705,051	23,407	17.1	0.6	623,030	20,289	15.1	0.5	*-82,021	30,976	*-2.1	0.8
Pennsylvania	2,012,077	36,769	16.2	0.3	1,928,704	39,045	15.6	0.3	*-83,373	53,633	*-0.7	0.4
Rhode Island	170,195	10,611	16.7	1.0	144,221	11,157	14.2	1.1	*-25,974	15,397	*-2.6	1.5
South Carolina	985,027	27,829	19.9	0.6	936,288	30,700	18.7	0.6	*-48,739	41,436	*-1.2	0.8
South Dakota	149,965	8,291	17.6	1.0	136,771	8,274	16.0	1.0	*-13,194	11,713	*-1.6	1.4
Tennessee	1,331,724	28,056	20.2	0.4	1,222,131	29,999	18.4	0.5	*-109,593	41,074	*-1.8	0.6
Texas	5,559,872	70,409	19.8	0.3	5,199,158	88,613	18.3	0.3	*-360,714	113,180	*-1.5	0.4
Utah	393,198	19,189	12.6	0.6	375,627	16,615	11.9	0.5	-17,571	25,382	-0.7	0.8
Vermont	86,080	5,859	14.3	1.0	80,422	5,306	13.4	0.9	-5,658	7,904	-0.9	1.3
Virginia	1,146,100	32,142	13.9	0.4	1,084,287	29,145	13.1	0.4	*-61,813	43,388	*-0.8	0.5
Washington	1,002,777	26,160	13.6	0.4	964,782	27,656	12.9	0.4	-37,995	38,068	*-0.6	0.5
West Virginia	415,783	16,392	23.7	0.9	369,252	14,772	21.2	0.8	*-46,531	22,066	*-2.5	1.3
Wisconsin	845,387	20,021	14.9	0.4	791,725	18,797	13.9	0.3	*-53,662	27,462	*-1.0	0.5
Wyoming	82,292	7,326	14.6	1.3	74,394	6,645	13.2	1.2	-7,898	9,891	-1.4	1.8
Puerto Rico	1,648,770	25,958	52.1	0.8	1,664,313	23,336	52.5	0.7	15,543	34,906	0.5	1.1

* 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 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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey and 2018 and 2019 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

Table 6.

Number and Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2018 and 2019

(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 2018			Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2019			Change in poverty (2019 less 2018)			
	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-Alpharetta, GA Metro Area	895,199	31,425	15.3	818,465	31,496	13.8	*-76,734	44,492	*-1.5	0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	351,885	16,383	12.9	333,164	19,593	12.2	-18,721	25,540	-0.7	0.9
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	562,848	20,976	11.9	510,054	20,312	10.8	*-52,794	29,198	*-1.1	0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	381,588	19,114	15.1	360,765	16,212	13.9	-20,823	25,063	*-1.2	1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	1,388,286	34,826	14.9	1,294,309	36,321	13.9	*-93,977	50,319	*-0.9	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	1,151,530	37,139	15.5	1,081,039	40,334	14.5	*-70,491	54,828	*-1.0	0.7
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	312,203	17,320	10.8	307,775	16,787	10.5	-4,428	24,120	-0.3	0.8
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	780,531	21,018	18.2	696,079	22,794	16.3	*-84,452	31,005	*-2.0	0.7
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	1,306,403	41,137	18.9	1,229,686	37,356	17.6	*-76,717	55,567	*-1.3	0.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	2,349,488	41,000	17.9	2,166,947	41,965	16.7	*-182,541	58,669	*-1.3	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area	1,178,712	33,701	19.2	1,113,118	34,533	18.3	*-65,594	48,253	*-1.0	0.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	397,729	16,910	11.1	393,551	16,882	11.0	-4,178	23,894	-0.2	0.7
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	3,144,348	49,660	16.0	2,820,885	54,219	14.9	*-323,463	73,524	*-1.1	0.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	476,398	22,258	18.9	419,294	23,609	16.4	*-57,104	32,447	*-2.5	1.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	936,431	25,066	15.8	895,211	29,180	15.0	*-41,220	38,468	*-0.7	0.6
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area	784,303	21,545	16.4	765,286	29,591	15.7	-19,017	36,604	-0.7	0.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	336,354	15,470	13.7	310,525	15,805	12.6	*-25,829	22,116	*-1.1	0.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	850,859	29,998	18.8	759,547	26,018	16.7	*-91,312	39,709	*-2.1	0.9
St. Louis MO-IL Metro Area	415,014	14,689	15.1	355,694	18,259	13.0	*-59,320	23,434	*-2.1	0.9
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area	498,822	20,592	20.1	452,780	24,529	18.1	*-46,042	32,027	*-2.1	1.3
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	505,518	21,121	15.5	440,621	22,222	13.5	*-64,897	30,657	*-2.0	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA Metro Area	502,007	18,350	10.7	480,898	21,792	10.3	-21,109	28,489	-0.4	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	426,601	17,681	11.0	398,703	18,617	10.2	*-27,898	25,675	*-0.8	0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	547,893	19,887	17.7	525,244	20,945	16.7	-22,649	28,883	*-1.0	0.9
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	618,885	24,249	10.1	603,388	24,201	9.8	-15,497	34,259	-0.3	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 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, 2018 and 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

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 (the Puerto Rico Community Survey). Beginning in 2006, ACS 1-year 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.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2018 through December 2018 (2018 ACS) and the ACS sample interviewed from January 2019 through December 2019 (2019 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

HOW TO ACCESS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY POVERTY DATA

The 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates were released on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Releases from the 2019 ACS include the following data products:

September 17, 2020	1-year data release (data profiles, detailed tables, summary file, comparison profiles, selected population profiles, and subject tables) for geographies of 65,000 or greater
October 15, 2020	1-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file and supplemental 1-year estimates for geographies with populations of 20,000 or more
December 10, 2020	5-year data release (data profiles, detailed tables, summary file, comparison profiles, subject tables, and narrative profiles) for all geographies
January 14, 2021	5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file

All ACS data products are now released on data.census.gov, the U.S. Census Bureau's primary data dissemination and digital content platform located at <<https://data.census.gov>>. 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 are 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 (API) at <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 at <www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>.

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 2019 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 American Community Survey (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.