

Poverty: 2019 and 2021

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, researchers, 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 2019 and 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates to analyze poverty rates for calendar year 2021, as well as the changes in poverty from calendar year 2019 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the most populous metropolitan areas.^{1,2} In 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted data collection and resulted in lower survey response rates. Those who responded to the survey had statistically different social, economic, and housing characteristics than those who did not. This resulted in unreasonable estimates,

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, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/omb-standards.html>.

² The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System number: P-001-0000001262, Disclosure Review Board approval number: CBDRB-FY22-SEHSD003-051).

or ones that were inconsistent with benchmarks and administrative data. These inconsistencies signaled a serious quality issue and nonresponse bias in the 2020 ACS 1-year data. Rather than release the estimates using standard methodology, the U.S. Census Bureau created experimental estimates using a new weighting methodology aimed at mitigating the nonresponse bias in the 2020 data. Rather than comparing 2021 estimates to 2020 experimental estimates, the comparisons in this brief are made between 2021 and 2019 data, which used consistent weighting methodologies. For additional information on the experimental data, visit <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/experimental-data.html>.

In addition, 2019 estimates in this report are weighted using population estimates based on the 2010 Census population counts, while the 2021 estimates in this report are weighted based on the 2020 Census population counts. Therefore, comparisons between 2019 and 2021 estimates in part reflect the differences in the base population in 2010 and 2020.

The significant national economic shifts that have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting public health crisis should be considered when analyzing the estimates in this report.

This report also 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 percentage of people not only in poverty, but also those near or just above their poverty threshold.³

³ The data collection period for the 2019 ACS spanned January to December of 2019; the data collection period for the 2021 ACS spanned from January to December of 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021, the ACS national poverty rate was 12.8 percent, an increase from 12.3 percent in 2019.⁴ This change was the first increase in year-to-year poverty rates since 2010 to 2011.⁵
- The poverty rate increased in 14 states and the District of Columbia between 2019 and 2021. This is the largest number of states with a year-to-year increase in poverty rates since 2010 to 2011. Arizona was the only state where the poverty rate declined. Additionally, Puerto Rico had a poverty rate decrease from 2019 to 2021.
- In 12 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas, the poverty rate increased between 2019 and 2021. The Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area was the only metro area among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas that saw poverty decrease in 2021.
- In 2021, the proportion of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold increased nationally from 5.5 percent to 6.2 percent. The share of individuals living below 50 percent of poverty also increased in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

⁴ 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 "Poverty in the United States: 2021," available at www.census.gov/library/publications/2022/demo/p60-277.html. The national poverty percentage does not include data for Puerto Rico.

⁵ Year-to-year comparisons in this brief are between the last two available years with standard data collection.

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 individuals' income to their poverty threshold.

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

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. Population figures used in this brief reflect the poverty universe.

The American Community Survey (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-U values for the 12 months preceding the survey month.

For more information, refer to page 112 of "American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2021 Subject Definitions" at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html. For more information on ACS sample design and other topics, refer to www.census.gov/acs.

- The percentage of people in the United States with income less than 125 percent of their poverty threshold increased to 16.6 percent in 2021, from 16.3 percent in 2019.
- The percentage of U.S. households receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits was 12.4 percent in 2021, an increase from 10.7 percent in 2019.⁶

⁶ Though included in this brief for informational purposes, SNAP benefits are not included in cash income or estimation of official poverty measures.

Figure 1.
ACS Poverty and SNAP Rates: 2005 to 2021



¹ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

² Estimates for 2020 experimental data not shown. For more information refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.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, refer to www.nber.org/cycles.html. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 to 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

POVERTY

In 2021, 12.8 percent of the total U.S. population had income below their respective poverty thresholds, a significant increase from the 2019 estimate of 12.3 percent. This is the first increase in year-to-year poverty rates since 2010 to 2011, and it follows what had been 6 consecutive years of poverty

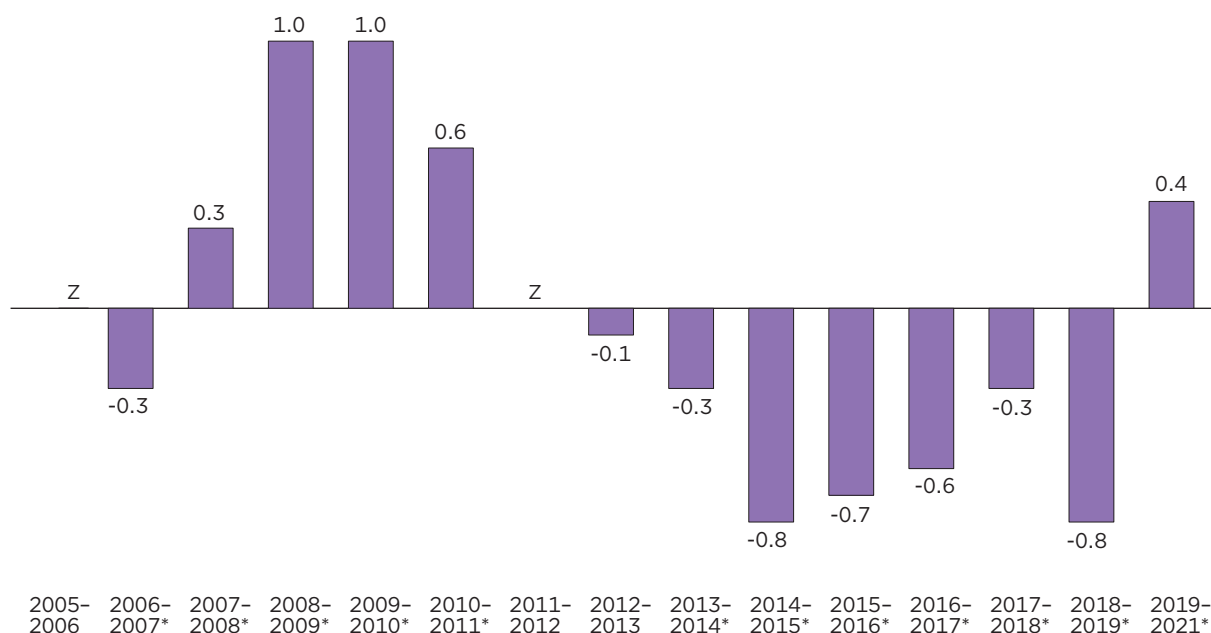
decline (from 15.8 percent in 2013 to 12.3 percent in 2019) (Figures 1 and 2).⁷ In 2021, 14 states and the District of Columbia showed statistically significant increases in poverty rates as compared to 2019 (Figure 4). In 5 of the 14 states and the District of Columbia, the

⁷ All year-to-year changes from 2005 to 2021, except between 2005–2006, 2011–2012, and 2012–2013 were statistically significant.

increase in poverty rates follows at least 5 consecutive years of decline (California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, and New York). Many of the states that had poverty rate increases were among the largest in terms of population. These 14 states and the District of Columbia with increasing poverty rates captured 52.2 percent of the nation's population for whom poverty status can

Figure 2.

Year-to-Year Percentage-Point Change in Poverty Rate: 2005 to 2021



* Year-to-year change is different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

Note: Starting in 2006, the American Community Survey 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. Year-to-year comparison made for years with standard estimates. No year-to-year change displayed for 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 to 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

be determined. The poverty rate increases in the 14 states and the District of Columbia represent the most states with a year-to-year increase in poverty since 2010 to 2011, when 17 states had a year-to-year increase. Arizona was the only state where the poverty rate decreased (from 13.5 percent in 2019 to 12.8 percent in 2021). In Arizona, poverty has declined in 5 of the last 6 years. Additionally, according to the 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys,

the poverty rate for Puerto Rico declined from 43.5 percent in 2019 to 40.5 percent in 2021.

A review of state poverty rates shows New Hampshire had the lowest 2021 rate, at 7.2 percent, while Louisiana had among the highest, at 19.6 percent (Table 1).⁸ Figure 3 displays the percentage of people in poverty for all states, the District of Columbia, and

⁸ The 2021 poverty rate for Louisiana (19.6 percent) was not statistically different from the poverty rates for Mississippi (19.4 percent) and New Mexico (18.4 percent).

Puerto Rico.⁹ Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Utah, and Washington had poverty rates of 10.0 percent or less in 2021. Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had 2021 poverty rates of 15.0 percent or higher (Figure 3).

⁹ The classification categories used in Figures 3 and 6 have been determined by the natural breaks (Jenks) method of categorization. For more information on data classification methods, refer to <https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/latest/help/mapping/layer-properties/data-classification-methods.htm>.

Table 1.

People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico (2019 and 2021) and Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (2021)

(In number and percent)

Area	Below poverty in 2019				Below poverty in 2021				Change in poverty (2021 less 2019)				Households receiving SNAP in 2021	
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	39,490,096	242,000	12.3	0.1	41,393,176	243,679	12.8	0.1	*1,903,080	343,429	*0.4	0.1	12.4	0.1
Alabama	739,108	24,870	15.5	0.5	794,326	27,043	16.1	0.5	*55,218	36,740	0.7	0.8	14.1	0.4
Alaska	71,938	7,880	10.1	1.1	75,165	6,814	10.5	0.9	3,227	10,418	0.4	1.5	10.4	0.7
Arizona	958,442	33,279	13.5	0.5	908,961	26,990	12.8	0.4	*-49,481	42,848	*-0.7	0.6	11.2	0.3
Arkansas	474,739	16,707	16.2	0.6	480,153	21,721	16.3	0.7	5,414	27,403	0.1	0.9	10.9	0.5
California	4,552,837	67,995	11.8	0.2	4,733,036	68,101	12.3	0.2	*180,199	96,234	*0.5	0.2	12.0	0.2
Colorado	526,979	20,810	9.3	0.4	553,272	20,121	9.7	0.4	26,293	28,947	0.4	0.5	8.4	0.3
Connecticut	347,149	13,761	10.0	0.4	354,166	16,673	10.1	0.5	7,017	21,618	0.1	0.6	11.7	0.5
Delaware	106,383	10,953	11.3	1.2	113,450	9,306	11.6	1.0	7,067	14,372	0.3	1.5	10.5	0.8
District of Columbia	90,534	8,570	13.5	1.3	105,007	8,772	16.5	1.4	*14,473	12,263	*3.0	1.9	14.3	1.1
Florida	2,664,772	55,731	12.7	0.3	2,805,433	50,403	13.1	0.2	*140,661	75,143	*0.5	0.4	14.1	0.2
Georgia	1,373,909	35,565	13.3	0.3	1,476,348	43,526	14.0	0.4	*102,439	56,208	*0.7	0.5	12.4	0.4
Hawaii	128,722	11,476	9.3	0.8	156,735	10,849	11.2	0.8	*28,013	15,792	*1.8	1.1	12.6	0.9
Idaho	195,984	13,818	11.2	0.8	205,702	14,781	11.0	0.8	9,718	20,234	-0.2	1.1	8.4	0.6
Illinois	1,420,542	37,778	11.5	0.3	1,498,523	37,209	12.1	0.3	*77,981	53,025	*0.6	0.4	14.1	0.2
Indiana	775,823	24,457	11.9	0.4	803,021	25,718	12.2	0.4	27,198	35,490	0.2	0.5	9.4	0.3
Iowa	341,613	16,006	11.2	0.5	344,696	16,580	11.1	0.5	3,083	23,045	-0.0	0.8	9.8	0.4
Kansas	323,189	13,737	11.4	0.5	333,518	15,020	11.7	0.5	10,329	20,355	0.3	0.7	7.3	0.4
Kentucky	703,627	22,815	16.3	0.5	721,878	20,774	16.5	0.5	18,251	30,856	0.2	0.7	14.2	0.4
Louisiana	857,894	28,695	19.0	0.6	883,236	30,108	19.6	0.7	25,342	41,592	0.6	0.9	19.0	0.7
Maine	141,803	9,329	10.9	0.7	154,117	11,184	11.5	0.8	12,314	14,564	0.6	1.1	11.5	0.8
Maryland	532,241	20,417	9.0	0.3	618,372	24,989	10.3	0.4	*86,131	32,269	*1.2	0.5	12.6	0.3
Massachusetts	625,763	19,408	9.4	0.3	700,138	21,871	10.4	0.3	*74,375	29,241	*1.0	0.4	14.6	0.4
Michigan	1,269,062	30,302	13.0	0.3	1,286,329	29,158	13.1	0.3	17,267	42,052	0.1	0.4	13.4	0.3
Minnesota	494,683	17,961	9.0	0.3	519,731	16,588	9.3	0.3	*25,048	24,449	0.3	0.4	7.9	0.3
Mississippi	564,192	24,018	19.6	0.8	554,152	18,347	19.4	0.6	-10,040	30,224	-0.2	1.1	13.5	0.6
Missouri	770,175	23,258	12.9	0.4	761,311	21,677	12.7	0.4	-8,864	31,794	-0.2	0.5	10.2	0.3
Montana	131,882	8,022	12.6	0.8	128,123	8,263	11.9	0.8	-3,759	11,516	-0.8	1.1	8.6	0.7
Nebraska	185,761	9,589	9.9	0.5	205,852	11,385	10.8	0.6	*20,091	14,885	*0.9	0.8	8.5	0.5
Nevada	379,564	19,019	12.5	0.6	437,385	19,561	14.1	0.6	*57,821	27,283	*1.6	0.9	13.6	0.6
New Hampshire	95,711	7,285	7.3	0.6	97,403	6,851	7.2	0.5	1,692	10,000	-0.0	0.8	6.0	0.5
New Jersey	798,262	25,821	9.2	0.3	930,602	29,531	10.2	0.3	*132,340	39,228	*1.1	0.4	9.1	0.3
New Mexico	373,230	15,038	18.2	0.7	382,798	20,667	18.4	1.0	9,568	25,559	0.3	1.2	20.7	1.0
New York	2,467,006	45,734	13.0	0.2	2,688,587	47,579	13.9	0.2	*221,581	65,995	*0.9	0.3	15.0	0.2
North Carolina	1,386,122	34,891	13.6	0.3	1,378,621	37,327	13.4	0.4	-7,501	51,095	-0.2	0.5	13.9	0.3
North Dakota	78,112	6,057	10.6	0.8	83,350	7,085	11.1	0.9	5,238	9,321	0.5	1.3	6.2	0.8
Ohio	1,484,862	31,837	13.1	0.3	1,536,524	35,311	13.4	0.3	*51,662	47,545	0.3	0.4	13.0	0.3
Oklahoma	583,029	15,382	15.2	0.4	606,782	14,779	15.6	0.4	*23,753	21,331	0.5	0.6	13.8	0.4
Oregon	470,643	17,376	11.4	0.4	507,829	18,144	12.2	0.4	*37,186	25,122	*0.8	0.6	15.9	0.5
Pennsylvania	1,489,333	38,199	12.0	0.3	1,519,032	31,274	12.1	0.2	29,699	49,368	0.1	0.4	14.1	0.3
Rhode Island	110,244	9,715	10.8	1.0	120,055	8,450	11.4	0.8	9,811	12,876	0.6	1.2	14.9	1.0
South Carolina	692,744	27,058	13.8	0.5	741,652	25,957	14.6	0.5	*48,908	37,496	*0.8	0.7	11.1	0.4
South Dakota	101,946	8,090	11.9	0.9	106,548	6,668	12.3	0.8	4,602	10,484	0.4	1.2	8.0	0.7
Tennessee	922,176	25,901	13.9	0.4	927,587	26,005	13.6	0.4	5,411	36,703	-0.2	0.5	11.9	0.4
Texas	3,865,010	70,183	13.6	0.2	4,122,538	79,332	14.2	0.3	*257,528	105,921	*0.6	0.4	12.2	0.2
Utah	281,279	15,513	8.9	0.5	281,673	15,053	8.6	0.5	394	21,616	-0.3	0.7	5.6	0.3

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Table 1.

People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico (2019 and 2021) and Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (2021)—Con.

(In number and percent)

Area	Below poverty in 2019				Below poverty in 2021				Change in poverty (2021 less 2019)				Households receiving SNAP in 2021	
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent	Margin of error (±) ²
Vermont.....	60,897	4,517	10.2	0.8	63,720	4,947	10.3	0.8	2,823	6,699	0.1	1.1	10.9	0.9
Virginia.....	822,775	24,460	9.9	0.3	854,145	27,033	10.2	0.3	31,370	36,457	0.2	0.4	8.8	0.3
Washington.....	730,240	26,102	9.8	0.3	754,315	22,276	9.9	0.3	24,075	34,315	0.1	0.5	12.3	0.3
West Virginia.....	278,734	14,047	16.0	0.8	291,930	13,791	16.8	0.8	13,196	19,685	0.8	1.1	18.3	0.8
Wisconsin.....	591,486	18,294	10.4	0.3	621,125	17,649	10.8	0.3	*29,639	25,420	0.4	0.4	11.8	0.3
Wyoming.....	56,945	5,626	10.1	1.0	64,224	6,630	11.4	1.2	7,279	8,695	1.2	1.5	5.5	0.9
Puerto Rico.....	1,376,809	24,017	43.5	0.8	1,310,464	28,786	40.5	0.9	*-66,345	37,489	*-3.0	1.2	49.5	0.8

* 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.

³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental estimates, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN 2021

In addition to collecting information about poverty status, the American Community Survey (ACS) also collects data on receipt of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that provides nutrition benefits to low-income families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. On the ACS, respondents are asked whether they have received SNAP benefits in the last 12 months. This benefit is not included in money income to estimate official poverty status. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. Eligibility to receive SNAP benefits is determined by individual states and is based on household size, income, and expenses.¹

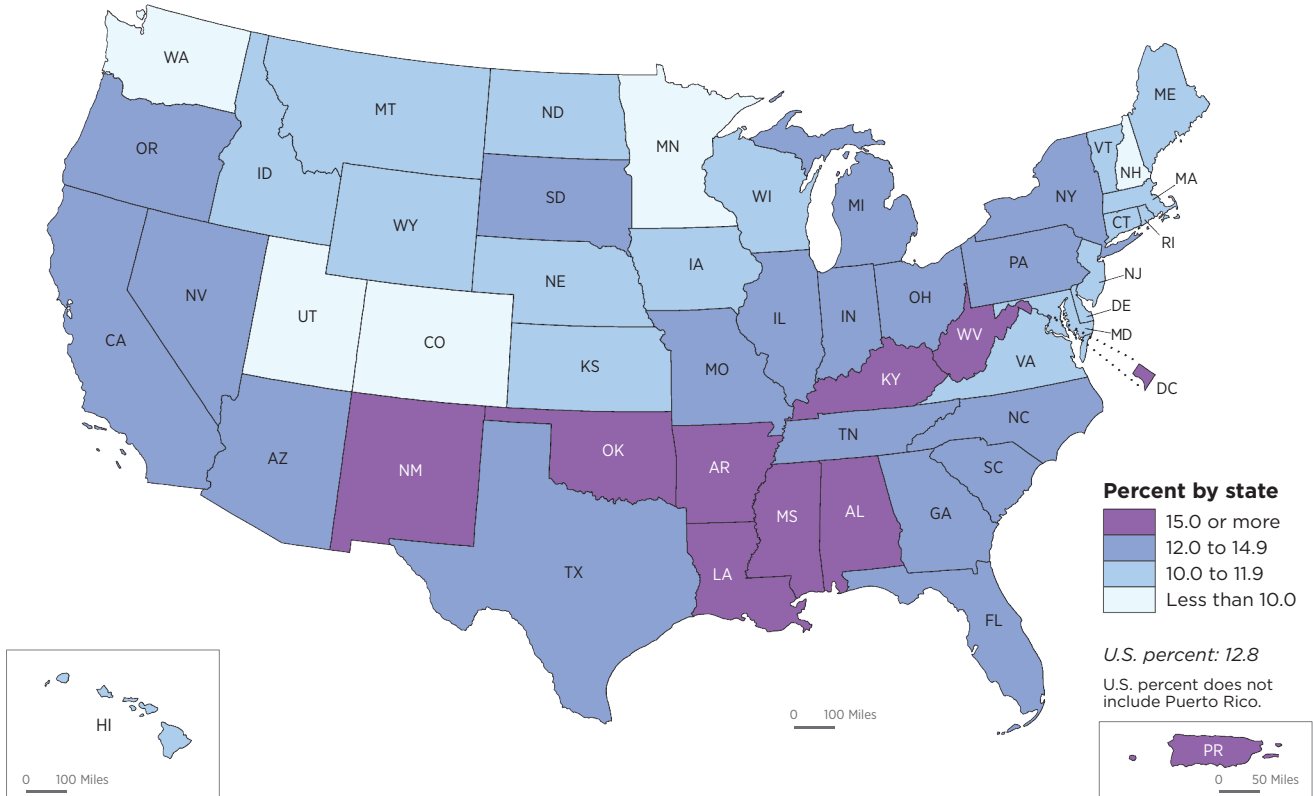
In 2021, 12.4 percent of U.S. households received SNAP benefits, an increase from 10.7 percent of households in 2019. Overall, 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had an increase in the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits from 2019. Wyoming (5.5 percent), Utah (5.6 percent), New Hampshire (6.0 percent), and North Dakota (6.2 percent) had among the lowest percentage of households that received SNAP benefits in 2021.² Among states, New Mexico had the highest percentage of households that received SNAP benefits in 2021, at 20.7 percent. In Puerto Rico, the percentage of households receiving SNAP benefits was 49.5 percent.

¹ For additional information on SNAP, refer to <www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>.

² In 2021, the percentages of households receiving SNAP in Wyoming (5.5 percent), Utah (5.6 percent), New Hampshire (6.0 percent), and North Dakota (6.2 percent) were not statistically different.



Figure 3.
Percentage of People in Poverty for the United States and Puerto Rico: 2021



Note: For more information, visit <www.census.gov/acs>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

While the national poverty rate was 12.8 percent, there was variability among Census Regions.¹⁰ More than three-quarters of states in the Northeast region had poverty rates below 12 percent, whereas nearly one-half of the states in the South had poverty rates of 15.0 percent or more. States in the Midwest were generally not in the highest or lowest poverty categories in Figure

¹⁰ Census Regions are groupings of states and the District of Columbia that subdivide the United States for the presentation of census data. For more information, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf>.

3, with all but one state between 10.0 percent and 14.9 percent. The West had three states in the lowest poverty category and one state in the highest. The majority (nearly 70 percent) of states in the West had poverty rates between 10.0 percent and 14.9 percent. The poverty rate for the Northeast was 11.9 percent, the West was 11.9 percent, the Midwest was 12.1 percent, and the South was 14.1 percent.¹¹

¹¹ The 2021 poverty rate for the Northeast, West, and Midwest regions were not statistically different.

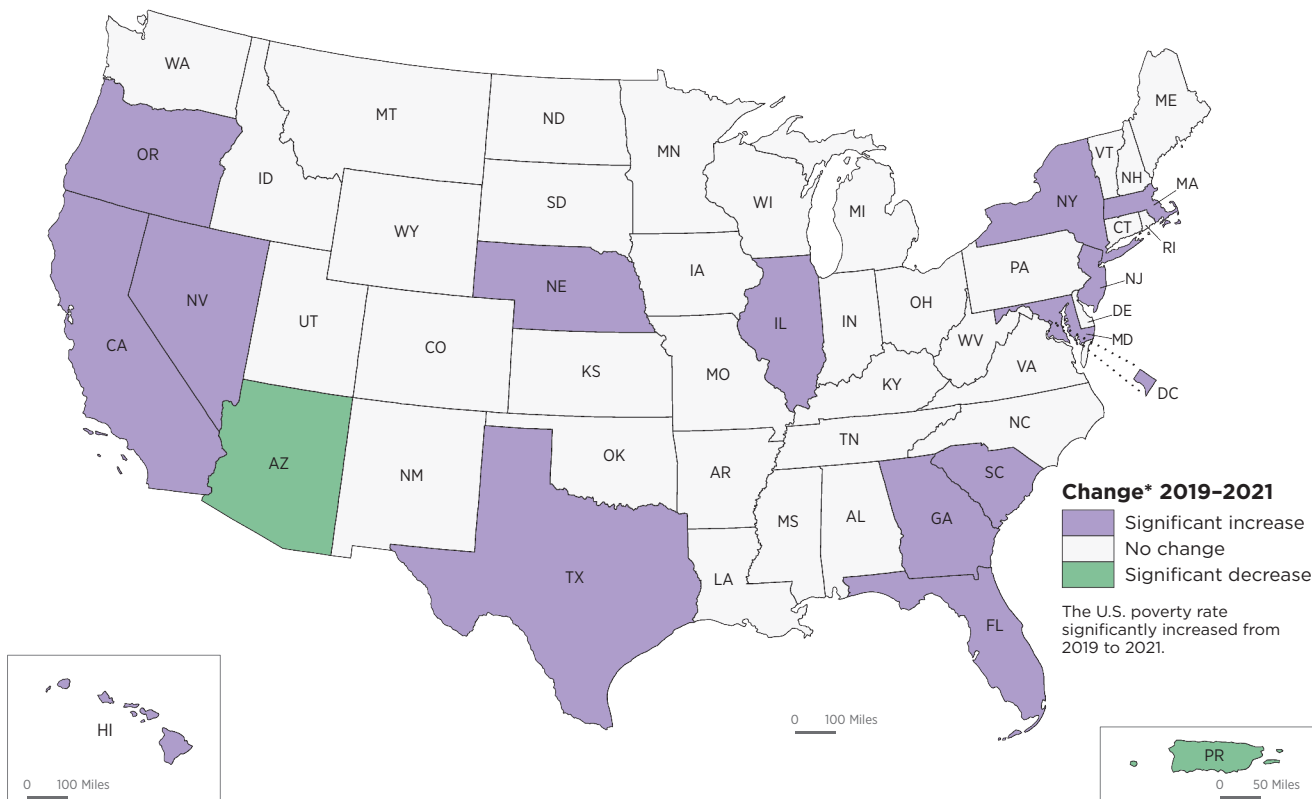
POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2019 and 2021 for the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN Metro Area had among the lowest poverty rates at 8.0 percent (Figure 5).¹²

¹² The Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN Metro Area (8.0 percent) was not statistically different from the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (8.4 percent).



Figure 4.
**Change in Percentage of People in Poverty for the
United States and Puerto Rico: 2019-2021**



* Change statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: For more information, visit www.census.gov/acs. Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental data products, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Conversely, the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area had among the highest poverty rates of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas in 2021 at 14.1 percent.¹³

Despite having one of the lowest poverty rates in 2021, the

¹³ The 2021 poverty rates for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (14.1 percent) and the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (13.4 percent) were not statistically different.

Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area experienced a 1.2-percentage-point increase in poverty between 2019 and 2021, from 7.5 percent in 2019 to 8.7 percent in 2021.

Poverty rates increased in 12 of the 25 most populous metro areas compared to 2019. Poverty rates decreased in one metro area, the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler Metro Area, from 12.1 percent in 2019 to

11.1 percent in 2021. The three most populous metro areas (New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA; and Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI) all showed an increase in poverty rates from 2019 to 2021. This is a reversal of a trend that saw each of these three most populous metro areas experiencing decreasing poverty rates in the previous 5 years.

Table 2.

People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas (2019 and 2021) and Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (2021)

(In number and percent)

Metro area	Below poverty in 2019				Below poverty in 2021				Change in poverty (2021 less 2019)				Households receiving SNAP in 2021	
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent	Margin of error (±) ²
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA	623,646	25,044	10.5	0.4	700,620	33,318	11.6	0.6	*76,974	41,681	*1.0	0.7	9.9	0.5
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	258,075	16,582	9.4	0.6	296,128	17,558	10.7	0.6	*38,053	24,150	*1.2	0.9	13.6	0.6
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	403,821	17,499	8.6	0.4	441,663	19,550	9.3	0.4	*37,842	26,238	*0.7	0.6	12.5	0.4
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	250,656	12,952	9.7	0.5	284,609	15,087	10.7	0.6	*33,953	19,884	*1.0	0.8	10.4	0.5
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	981,876	32,048	10.6	0.3	1,074,693	29,914	11.5	0.3	*92,817	43,840	*0.9	0.5	13.2	0.3
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	782,288	31,373	10.5	0.4	841,313	36,790	11.0	0.5	*59,025	48,350	0.5	0.6	8.5	0.3
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	232,135	12,967	7.9	0.4	246,608	14,133	8.4	0.5	14,473	19,180	0.5	0.7	6.9	0.4
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	540,135	21,745	12.6	0.5	577,524	18,569	13.4	0.4	*37,389	28,595	*0.7	0.7	15.1	0.4
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	899,953	37,139	12.9	0.5	1,000,281	37,426	14.1	0.5	*100,328	52,726	*1.2	0.7	12.9	0.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	1,617,730	36,524	12.4	0.3	1,677,468	42,715	13.1	0.3	*59,738	56,201	*0.7	0.4	12.5	0.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	821,703	30,662	13.5	0.5	802,934	30,023	13.3	0.5	-18,769	42,913	-0.2	0.7	18.6	0.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	292,422	14,975	8.2	0.4	291,109	13,250	8.0	0.4	-1,313	19,995	-0.2	0.6	7.7	0.4
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	2,189,593	50,436	11.6	0.3	2,511,435	55,664	12.9	0.3	*321,842	75,115	*1.3	0.4	13.5	0.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	309,279	22,492	12.1	0.9	341,946	22,965	12.9	0.9	*32,667	32,145	0.8	1.2	15.1	0.8
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	699,913	26,981	11.8	0.5	749,432	26,596	12.3	0.4	*49,519	37,886	0.6	0.6	13.6	0.4
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	587,560	25,225	12.1	0.5	539,178	22,748	11.1	0.5	*-48,382	33,967	*-1.0	0.7	9.5	0.4
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	236,844	15,553	9.6	0.6	247,359	12,104	10.0	0.5	10,515	19,708	0.3	0.8	13.2	0.7
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	555,948	22,482	12.2	0.5	563,241	24,199	12.3	0.5	7,293	33,031	0.1	0.7	13.1	0.5
St. Louis, MO-IL	272,601	14,376	9.9	0.5	292,321	13,840	10.6	0.5	19,720	19,955	0.7	0.7	10.6	0.5
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	338,954	20,995	13.5	0.8	342,159	17,855	13.4	0.7	3,205	27,561	-0.1	1.1	14.3	0.7
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	333,862	18,677	10.3	0.6	339,554	17,542	10.6	0.5	5,692	25,623	0.4	0.8	10.1	0.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA	380,982	19,484	8.2	0.4	411,862	17,497	9.0	0.4	*30,880	26,188	*0.9	0.6	9.2	0.4
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	305,079	17,468	7.8	0.4	340,387	16,033	8.6	0.4	*35,308	23,711	*0.8	0.6	9.5	0.4
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	389,600	19,782	12.4	0.6	411,625	17,831	13.0	0.6	22,025	26,632	0.6	0.8	12.3	0.5
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV ..	465,533	21,467	7.5	0.3	545,736	21,628	8.7	0.3	*80,203	30,473	*1.2	0.5	8.1	0.3

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

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

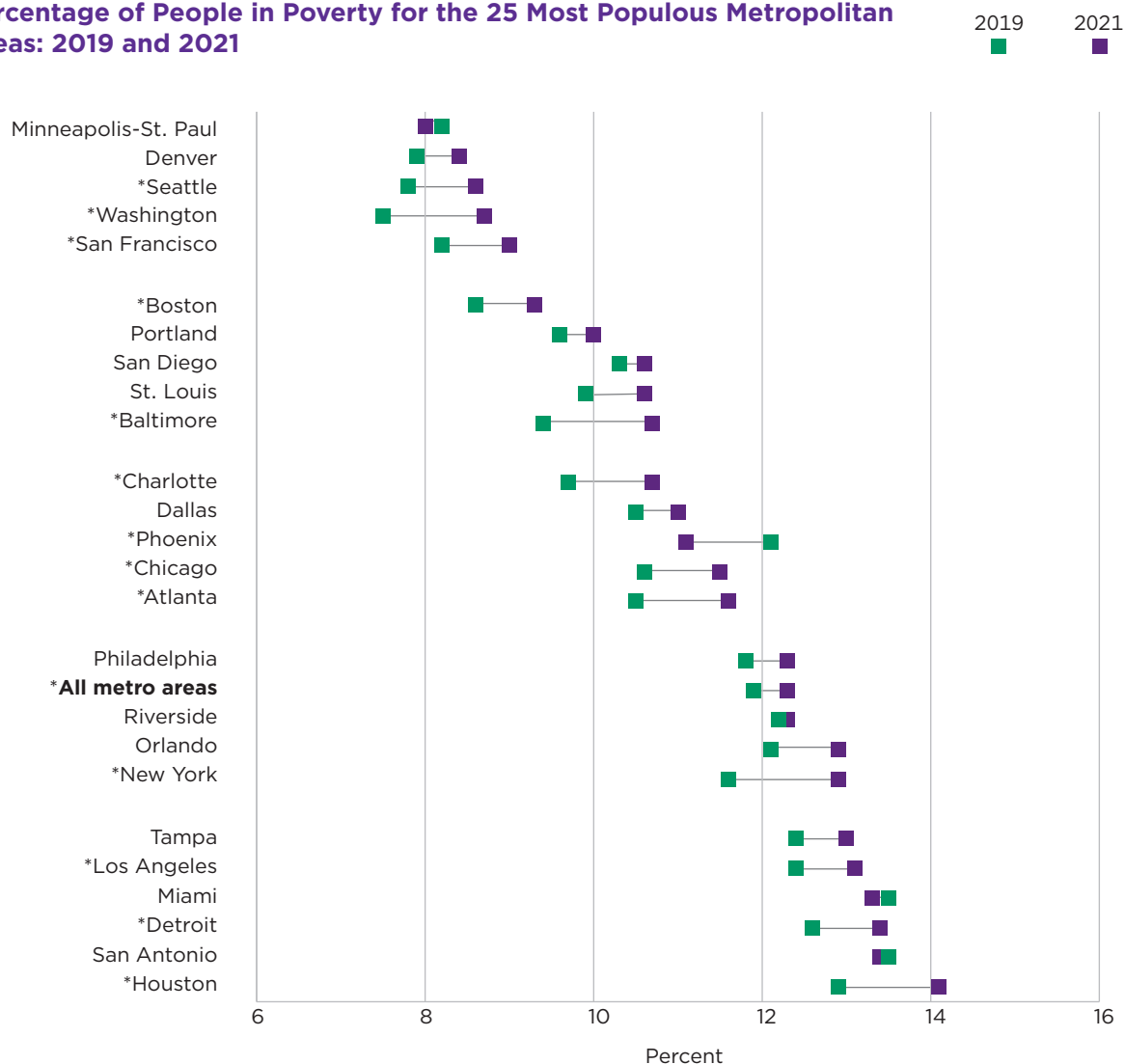
³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent year with standard data collection. For more information, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Figure 5.

Percentage of People in Poverty for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2019 and 2021



* Change statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. Refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html for information on 2020 experimental data products. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Figure 6 provides 2021 poverty rates for Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs), including all metropolitan and population qualifying micropolitan areas (total population 65,000 or greater).¹⁴

Geographically, metropolitan and micropolitan areas with poverty rates of 21.0 percent or higher were concentrated in the South.¹⁵ Alternatively, metropolitan and micropolitan areas with poverty rates below 10.0 percent were predominantly located in the other three regions.

Among all metropolitan areas, the Fairbanks, AK Metro Area had among the lowest poverty rate in 2021 at 6.4 percent.¹⁶

The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area had among the highest 2021 poverty rates at 29.3 percent.¹⁷

¹⁴ Figure 6 is limited to CBSAs with a population of 65,000 or greater. Micropolitan areas can exceed 50,000 in population when including surrounding areas within the micropolitan borders defined by OMB. For more information on metropolitan and micropolitan areas, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/reference-materials.html>.

¹⁵ For more information, refer to <www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-regions-and-divisions-of-the-united-states.html>.

¹⁶ The 2021 poverty rate for the Fairbanks, AK Metro Area (6.4 percent) was not statistically different than the Columbus, IN Metro Area (6.6 percent), the Ocean City, NJ Metro Area (6.7 percent), the San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA Metro Area (6.9 percent), the Dubuque, IA Metro Area (6.9 percent), and the Appleton, WI Metro Area (7.0 percent), among others.

¹⁷ The 2021 poverty rate for the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX Metro Area (29.3 percent) was not statistically different from the Valdosta, GA Metro Area (27.6 percent), the Monroe, LA Metro Area (27.2 percent), and the Farmington, NM Metro Area (26.7 percent).

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 incomes 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 2019 and 2021 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The percentage of the U.S. population with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold increased to 6.2 percent in 2021, from 5.5 percent in 2019. This is the first

increase since 2010 to 2011 in the proportion of the U.S. population living with income below one-half their poverty threshold.

Overall, 36 states and the District of Columbia had an increase in the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent since 2019. Puerto Rico was the only area that had a decline on this measure, from 23.3 percent in 2019 to 21.0 percent in 2021.

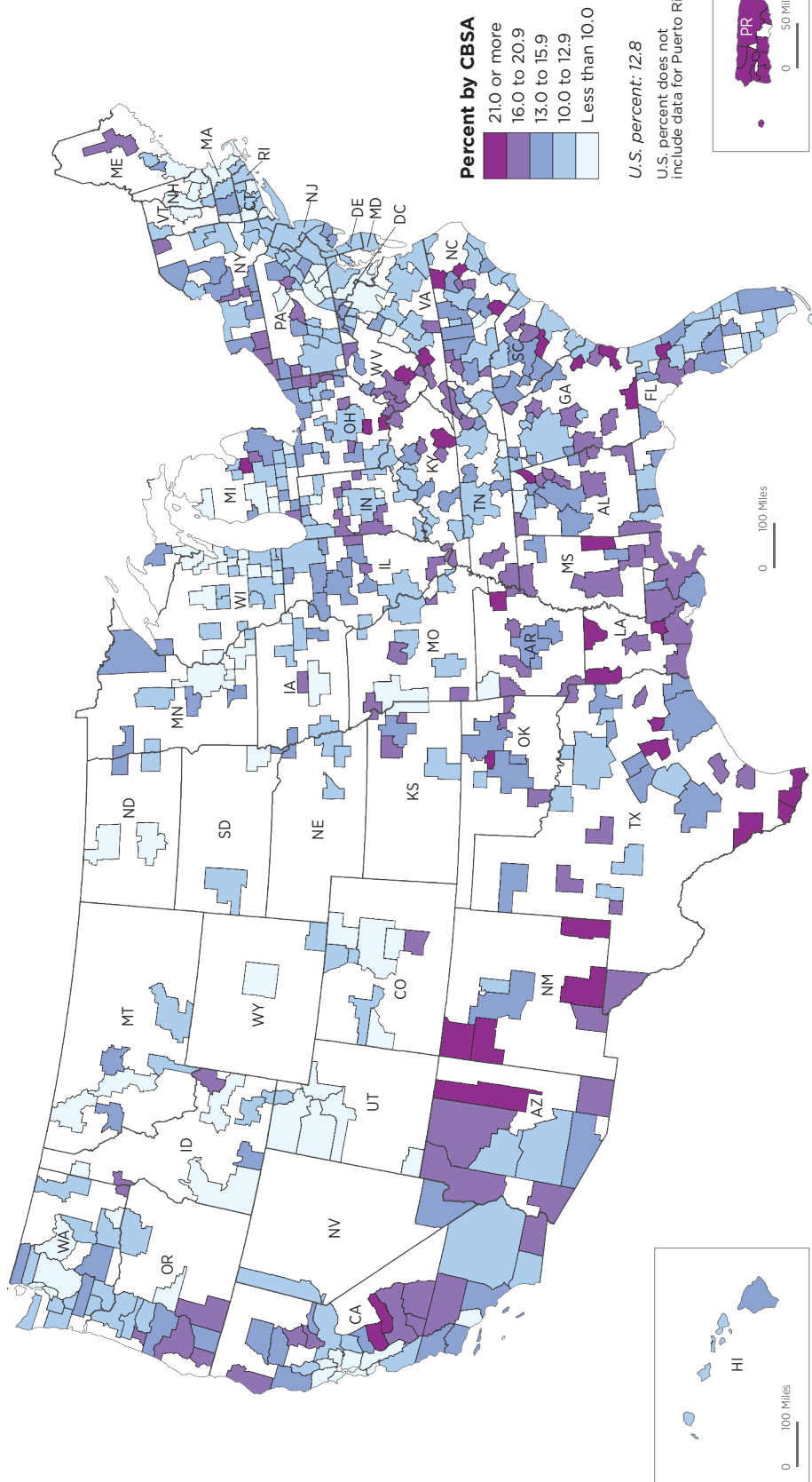
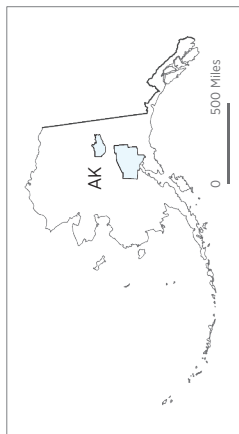
New Hampshire, at 3.7 percent, and Utah, at 4.1 percent, were the states with among the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in 2021.¹⁸

The District of Columbia (10.4 percent), Louisiana (9.4 percent), and New Mexico (9.3 percent) had among the highest proportions of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent and were the only states (including the District of Columbia) in which 9.0 percent or more people lived below 50 percent of their poverty threshold.¹⁹

¹⁸ The percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in New Hampshire (3.7 percent) and Utah (4.1 percent) were not statistically different.

¹⁹ The percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the District of Columbia (10.4 percent), Louisiana (9.4 percent), and New Mexico (9.3 percent) were not statistically different.

Figure 6.
Percentage of People in Poverty by Core-Based Statistical Area: 2021



Note: Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA). This map is limited to CBSAs with a population of 65,000 or greater. For more information on metropolitan and micropolitan areas included, refer to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/reference-materials.html. CBSAs are defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin NO. 20-01. For more information, visit www.census.gov/acs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 3.

People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2019 and 2021

(In number and percent)

Area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2019				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2021				Change (2021 less 2019)			
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	17,602,164	126,927	5.5	Z	20,039,537	158,045	6.2	0.1	*2,437,373	202,703	*0.7	0.1
Alabama	331,570	17,091	6.9	0.4	358,721	16,756	7.3	0.3	*27,151	23,935	0.4	0.5
Alaska	31,265	4,237	4.4	0.6	36,394	4,908	5.1	0.7	5,129	6,484	0.7	0.9
Arizona	443,347	23,084	6.2	0.3	463,060	20,686	6.5	0.3	19,713	30,997	0.3	0.4
Arkansas	182,068	12,288	6.2	0.4	215,058	14,479	7.3	0.5	*32,990	18,991	*1.1	0.6
California	2,030,466	39,751	5.2	0.1	2,360,741	52,193	6.1	0.1	*330,275	65,607	*0.9	0.2
Colorado	252,005	16,263	4.5	0.3	276,581	13,470	4.9	0.2	*24,576	21,117	*0.4	0.4
Connecticut	161,001	11,999	4.7	0.3	184,320	12,482	5.3	0.4	*23,319	17,314	*0.6	0.5
Delaware	45,902	6,184	4.9	0.7	57,527	6,506	5.9	0.7	*11,625	8,976	*1.0	0.9
District of Columbia . .	48,918	6,663	7.3	1.0	66,124	7,843	10.4	1.2	*17,206	10,291	*3.1	1.6
Florida	1,176,117	37,695	5.6	0.2	1,331,879	37,775	6.2	0.2	*155,762	53,366	*0.6	0.3
Georgia	589,685	23,313	5.7	0.2	711,562	29,950	6.8	0.3	*121,877	37,954	*1.1	0.4
Hawaii	61,176	7,540	4.4	0.5	77,776	7,906	5.5	0.6	*16,600	10,925	*1.1	0.8
Idaho	80,682	7,351	4.6	0.4	87,885	9,516	4.7	0.5	7,203	12,024	0.1	0.7
Illinois	630,012	22,945	5.1	0.2	742,192	27,832	6.0	0.2	*112,180	36,071	*0.9	0.3
Indiana	369,119	16,068	5.7	0.2	404,254	17,206	6.1	0.3	*35,135	23,542	*0.5	0.4
Iowa	147,369	9,081	4.8	0.3	157,369	11,319	5.1	0.4	10,000	14,511	0.3	0.5
Kansas	131,234	9,218	4.6	0.3	161,972	10,017	5.7	0.4	*30,738	13,613	*1.0	0.5
Kentucky	302,990	16,564	7.0	0.4	348,544	16,434	8.0	0.4	*45,554	23,333	*1.0	0.5
Louisiana	392,776	19,829	8.7	0.4	421,547	21,904	9.4	0.5	28,771	29,546	*0.7	0.7
Maine	52,472	5,633	4.0	0.4	67,284	7,342	5.0	0.5	*14,812	9,254	*1.0	0.7
Maryland	263,925	13,754	4.5	0.2	304,135	17,003	5.0	0.3	*40,210	21,869	*0.6	0.4
Massachusetts	295,308	16,548	4.4	0.2	353,336	18,302	5.2	0.3	*58,028	24,674	*0.8	0.4
Michigan	550,644	21,357	5.6	0.2	607,530	20,676	6.2	0.2	*56,886	29,726	*0.5	0.3
Minnesota	219,740	11,338	4.0	0.2	236,942	11,626	4.2	0.2	*17,202	16,239	0.3	0.3
Mississippi	238,168	15,529	8.3	0.5	251,945	16,539	8.8	0.6	13,777	22,687	0.5	0.8
Missouri	347,031	14,406	5.8	0.2	336,119	14,024	5.6	0.2	-10,912	20,105	-0.2	0.3
Montana	54,383	5,290	5.2	0.5	59,392	6,599	5.5	0.6	5,009	8,457	0.3	0.8
Nebraska	80,013	6,073	4.3	0.3	100,144	6,935	5.2	0.4	*20,131	9,218	*1.0	0.5
Nevada	164,213	12,023	5.4	0.4	232,133	13,749	7.5	0.4	*67,920	18,264	*2.1	0.6
New Hampshire	41,329	4,731	3.1	0.4	49,839	5,269	3.7	0.4	*8,510	7,081	*0.6	0.5
New Jersey	361,529	16,791	4.1	0.2	444,098	19,506	4.9	0.2	*82,569	25,738	*0.7	0.3
New Mexico	160,794	12,221	7.8	0.6	193,305	15,234	9.3	0.7	*32,511	19,531	*1.5	0.9
New York	1,127,474	33,927	6.0	0.2	1,338,023	34,449	6.9	0.2	*210,549	48,350	*1.0	0.3
North Carolina	616,903	23,265	6.0	0.2	668,153	29,608	6.5	0.3	*51,250	37,655	*0.4	0.4
North Dakota	35,963	4,880	4.9	0.7	45,455	5,666	6.0	0.8	*9,492	7,478	*1.2	1.0
Ohio	645,934	21,203	5.7	0.2	752,267	28,603	6.6	0.2	*106,333	35,605	*0.9	0.3
Oklahoma	253,762	11,587	6.6	0.3	280,153	13,276	7.2	0.3	*26,391	17,621	*0.6	0.5
Oregon	215,906	10,061	5.2	0.2	235,662	12,385	5.7	0.3	*19,756	15,956	*0.4	0.4
Pennsylvania	674,228	23,993	5.4	0.2	737,113	22,508	5.9	0.2	*62,885	32,898	*0.4	0.3
Rhode Island	46,474	6,825	4.6	0.7	58,694	6,127	5.6	0.6	*12,220	9,172	*1.0	0.9
South Carolina	314,754	15,483	6.3	0.3	368,185	17,271	7.3	0.3	*53,431	23,195	*1.0	0.5
South Dakota	46,142	5,241	5.4	0.6	50,696	6,157	5.8	0.7	4,554	8,086	0.4	0.9
Tennessee	386,333	15,767	5.8	0.2	458,780	18,532	6.7	0.3	*72,447	24,332	*0.9	0.4
Texas	1,715,399	48,189	6.0	0.2	1,909,988	59,797	6.6	0.2	*194,589	76,797	*0.6	0.3
Utah	116,851	9,241	3.7	0.3	135,019	13,754	4.1	0.4	*18,168	16,570	0.4	0.5
Vermont	29,784	3,302	5.0	0.6	32,075	3,432	5.2	0.6	2,291	4,762	0.2	0.8

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Table 3.

People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2019 and 2021—Con.

(In number and percent)

Area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2019				Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2021				Change (2021 less 2019)			
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²
Virginia.....	390,934	16,173	4.7	0.2	420,008	20,741	5.0	0.2	*29,074	26,301	0.3	0.3
Washington	338,242	16,834	4.5	0.2	386,289	18,025	5.1	0.2	*48,047	24,663	*0.6	0.3
West Virginia	125,103	10,582	7.2	0.6	138,024	9,742	8.0	0.6	12,921	14,384	0.8	0.8
Wisconsin	260,705	11,992	4.6	0.2	293,421	12,047	5.1	0.2	*32,716	16,998	*0.5	0.3
Wyoming.....	24,022	3,956	4.3	0.7	31,824	4,183	5.6	0.7	*7,802	5,757	*1.4	1.0
Puerto Rico.....	737,603	19,359	23.3	0.6	678,095	21,036	21.0	0.7	*-59,508	28,588	*-2.3	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.

³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 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 2019 and 2021. In 2021, the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (3.7 percent) and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (4.0 percent) had among the lowest percentage of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent.²⁰ The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (6.8 percent), the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area (6.7 percent), the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (6.6 percent), and the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (6.5 percent) all had rates

²⁰ In 2021, the percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (3.7 percent) and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (4.0 percent) were not statistically different.

of 6.5 percent or more and had among the highest rates of individuals with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent.²¹

The percentage of people with income below 50 percent of their poverty threshold increased in 15 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas from 2019 to 2021, while none of the largest metropolitan areas saw poverty rate declines in the same period.

PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

For those with incomes above their poverty threshold, an income-to-poverty ratio measures how close

²¹ In 2021, the percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (6.8 percent), the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area (6.7 percent), the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (6.6 percent), and the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (6.5 percent) were not statistically different.

a person is to being in 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 2019 and 2021 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2021, the percentage of people in the United States with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent increased to 16.6 percent, from 16.3 percent in 2019. This is the first increase at this income-to-poverty ratio since 2010 to 2011.

Table 4.

People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2019 and 2021

(In number and percent)

Metro area	Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2019			Below 50 percent of poverty level in 2021			Change (2021 less 2019)		
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Margin of error (±) ²
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA	261,311	15,560	4.4	0.3	342,867	21,089	5.7	0.4	*81,556
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	135,658	11,403	5.0	0.4	146,562	12,860	5.3	0.5	17,187
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	193,835	14,049	4.1	0.3	230,714	14,505	4.9	0.3	*36,879
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	108,210	8,246	4.2	0.3	134,019	11,106	5.0	0.4	*25,809
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	432,390	19,534	4.6	0.2	539,369	22,799	5.8	0.2	*106,979
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	377,659	23,268	5.0	0.3	385,210	24,752	5.0	0.3	7,551
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	113,045	12,015	3.9	0.4	118,406	9,688	4.0	0.3	5,361
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	237,032	13,409	5.5	0.3	271,127	13,805	6.3	0.3	*34,095
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	393,386	27,485	5.6	0.4	482,642	29,315	6.8	0.4	*89,256
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	702,429	25,909	5.4	0.2	839,347	26,417	6.6	0.2	*136,918
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	346,460	23,507	5.7	0.4	361,110	19,437	6.0	0.3	14,650
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	128,412	8,881	3.6	0.2	136,199	8,867	3.7	0.2	7,787
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	987,658	32,929	5.2	0.2	1,230,481	35,831	6.3	0.2	*242,823
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	137,390	15,533	5.4	0.6	166,950	16,190	6.3	0.6	*29,560
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	325,807	19,486	5.5	0.3	386,571	20,975	6.4	0.3	*60,764
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	263,650	19,459	5.4	0.4	280,220	17,559	5.8	0.4	16,570
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	109,787	8,655	4.5	0.4	116,951	8,345	4.7	0.3	7,164
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	259,110	15,540	5.7	0.3	268,647	16,773	5.9	0.4	9,537
St. Louis, MO-IL	129,943	9,209	4.7	0.3	142,824	9,918	5.2	0.4	12,881
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	143,418	13,478	5.7	0.5	165,064	15,811	6.5	0.6	*21,646
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	159,042	10,475	4.9	0.3	180,396	13,464	5.6	0.4	*21,354
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA	189,503	12,299	4.1	0.3	219,495	13,114	4.8	0.3	*29,992
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	146,110	10,203	3.7	0.3	180,898	13,333	4.6	0.3	*34,788
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	183,608	12,029	5.8	0.4	213,458	14,334	6.7	0.5	*29,850
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	232,414	14,300	3.8	0.2	291,443	16,127	4.7	0.3	*59,029

* 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.

³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental estimates, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/ code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Table 5.

People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2019 and 2021

(In number and percent)

Area	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2019				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2021				Change (2021 less 2019)			
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²
United States	52,189,901	299,896	16.3	0.1	53,659,559	290,612	16.6	0.1	*1,469,658	417,604	*0.2	0.1
Alabama	981,864	27,416	20.5	0.6	1,044,187	29,887	21.2	0.6	*62,323	40,557	0.7	0.8
Alaska	98,446	7,934	13.8	1.1	96,558	7,028	13.5	1.0	-1,888	10,599	-0.3	1.5
Arizona	1,250,500	34,690	17.6	0.5	1,195,884	32,849	16.8	0.5	*-54,616	47,775	*-0.8	0.7
Arkansas	635,701	19,715	21.7	0.7	634,069	24,003	21.5	0.8	-1,632	31,061	-0.2	1.1
California	6,086,993	74,545	15.7	0.2	6,176,926	74,293	16.1	0.2	89,933	105,245	*0.3	0.3
Colorado	699,596	23,771	12.4	0.4	715,231	21,877	12.6	0.4	15,635	32,306	0.1	0.6
Connecticut	450,066	14,602	13.0	0.4	446,075	18,115	12.7	0.5	-3,991	23,267	-0.3	0.7
Delaware	132,502	11,443	14.0	1.2	147,888	10,391	15.1	1.1	15,386	15,457	1.1	1.6
District of Columbia	109,845	8,894	16.3	1.3	116,745	9,111	18.3	1.4	6,900	12,733	*2.0	1.9
Florida	3,585,002	62,204	17.0	0.3	3,710,020	57,967	17.4	0.3	*125,018	85,027	0.3	0.4
Georgia	1,818,801	41,708	17.6	0.4	1,894,945	51,183	18.0	0.5	*76,144	66,025	0.4	0.6
Hawaii	161,166	12,213	11.7	0.9	194,832	11,429	13.9	0.8	*33,666	16,726	*2.2	1.2
Idaho	273,965	15,127	15.6	0.9	279,800	18,259	15.0	1.0	5,835	23,711	-0.6	1.3
Illinois	1,856,271	40,281	15.0	0.3	1,903,050	40,336	15.4	0.3	46,779	57,005	0.4	0.5
Indiana	1,053,737	26,903	16.2	0.4	1,069,496	29,798	16.2	0.5	15,759	40,146	Z	0.6
Iowa	458,833	17,508	15.0	0.6	453,932	16,132	14.6	0.5	-4,901	23,807	-0.4	0.8
Kansas	433,345	15,382	15.3	0.5	431,838	15,921	15.1	0.6	-1,507	22,138	-0.2	0.8
Kentucky	914,548	24,533	21.1	0.6	939,435	22,378	21.4	0.5	24,887	33,206	0.3	0.8
Louisiana	1,077,806	28,953	23.9	0.6	1,097,615	33,423	24.4	0.7	19,809	44,220	0.5	1.0
Maine	189,951	10,834	14.6	0.8	196,181	12,180	14.7	0.9	6,230	16,301	0.1	1.2
Maryland	694,399	25,832	11.8	0.4	782,043	27,796	13.0	0.5	*87,644	37,946	*1.2	0.6
Massachusetts	808,993	22,299	12.2	0.3	884,315	22,817	13.1	0.3	*75,322	31,904	*1.0	0.5
Michigan	1,648,088	29,960	16.9	0.3	1,669,077	28,399	16.9	0.3	20,989	41,280	0.1	0.4
Minnesota	673,897	19,915	12.2	0.4	681,859	21,618	12.2	0.4	7,962	29,393	Z	0.5
Mississippi	734,425	26,175	25.5	0.9	707,631	18,300	24.7	0.6	-26,794	31,938	-0.8	1.1
Missouri	1,013,874	25,888	17.0	0.4	998,376	23,692	16.6	0.4	-15,498	35,093	-0.4	0.6
Montana	177,279	8,988	17.0	0.9	171,773	9,215	15.9	0.9	-5,506	12,872	-1.1	1.2
Nebraska	262,811	12,789	14.0	0.7	277,837	13,924	14.5	0.7	15,026	18,906	0.5	1.0
Nevada	494,197	22,200	16.3	0.7	578,248	24,242	18.6	0.8	*84,051	32,871	*2.4	1.1
New Hampshire	130,309	8,919	9.9	0.7	121,381	7,439	9.0	0.6	-8,928	11,614	*-0.9	0.9
New Jersey	1,063,153	28,303	12.2	0.3	1,186,666	30,362	13.1	0.3	*123,513	41,508	*0.8	0.5
New Mexico	481,979	17,597	23.5	0.9	496,626	22,560	23.9	1.1	14,647	28,612	0.4	1.4
New York	3,140,546	51,779	16.6	0.3	3,403,383	54,207	17.6	0.3	*262,837	74,963	*1.0	0.4
North Carolina	1,861,398	37,292	18.3	0.4	1,807,974	38,677	17.6	0.4	-53,424	53,727	*-0.7	0.5
North Dakota	105,170	6,736	14.2	0.9	108,035	8,203	14.4	1.1	2,865	10,614	0.1	1.4
Ohio	1,937,840	38,277	17.1	0.3	1,957,516	39,137	17.1	0.3	19,676	54,743	Z	0.5
Oklahoma	761,813	15,770	19.8	0.4	784,961	16,716	20.2	0.4	*23,148	22,981	0.4	0.6
Oregon	623,030	20,289	15.1	0.5	663,988	23,496	15.9	0.6	*40,958	31,043	*0.9	0.7
Pennsylvania	1,928,704	39,045	15.6	0.3	1,932,300	33,819	15.4	0.3	3,596	51,655	-0.2	0.4
Rhode Island	144,221	11,157	14.2	1.1	154,968	9,327	14.7	0.9	10,747	14,542	0.6	1.4
South Carolina	936,288	30,700	18.7	0.6	948,919	28,055	18.7	0.6	12,631	41,588	Z	0.8
South Dakota	136,771	8,274	16.0	1.0	141,013	6,971	16.3	0.8	4,242	10,819	0.3	1.3
Tennessee	1,222,131	29,999	18.4	0.5	1,251,409	30,985	18.4	0.5	29,278	43,128	Z	0.6
Texas	5,199,158	88,613	18.3	0.3	5,369,720	84,060	18.6	0.3	*170,562	122,141	0.2	0.4
Utah	375,627	16,615	11.9	0.5	389,046	19,346	11.8	0.6	13,419	25,502	-0.1	0.8

Footnotes provided at end of table.

Table 5.

People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level by State and Puerto Rico: 2019 and 2021—Con.

(In number and percent)

Area	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2019				Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2021				Change (2021 less 2019)			
	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 ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Per-cent ³	Margin of error (±) ²
Vermont.....	80,422	5,306	13.4	0.9	84,592	5,934	13.6	1.0	4,170	7,960	0.2	1.3
Virginia.....	1,084,287	29,145	13.1	0.4	1,107,868	29,660	13.2	0.4	23,581	41,583	0.1	0.5
Washington.....	964,782	27,656	12.9	0.4	976,710	25,428	12.9	0.3	11,928	37,569	-0.1	0.5
West Virginia.....	369,252	14,772	21.2	0.9	383,084	15,135	22.1	0.9	13,832	21,149	0.8	1.2
Wisconsin.....	791,725	18,797	13.9	0.3	809,760	21,603	14.1	0.4	18,035	28,636	0.1	0.5
Wyoming.....	74,394	6,645	13.2	1.2	83,774	7,752	14.8	1.4	9,380	10,210	1.6	1.8
Puerto Rico.....	1,664,313	23,336	52.5	0.7	1,610,731	28,464	49.8	0.9	*-53,582	36,807	*-2.8	1.1

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

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

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

³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information about the 2020 experimental estimates, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates and 2019 and 2021 Puerto Rico Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

Among the states, the percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2021 was lowest in New Hampshire (9.0 percent), with rates in Mississippi (24.7 percent), Louisiana (24.4 percent), and New Mexico (23.9 percent) among the highest. The percentage of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in Puerto Rico was 49.8 percent in 2021.²²

From 2019 to 2021, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent increased in eight states and the District of Columbia. In 2021, three states (Arizona, New Hampshire, and North Carolina) and Puerto Rico had a decrease in the proportion of individuals with incomes below 125 percent of poverty compared to 2019.

²² In 2021, the percentages of individuals with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in Mississippi (24.7 percent), Louisiana (24.4 percent), and New Mexico (23.9 percent) were not statistically different.

Table 6 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for 2019 and 2021 among the 25 most populous metropolitan areas. The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (10.6 percent), the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (10.6 percent), the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (10.7 percent), and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (10.9 percent) had among the lowest percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent in 2021.²³

The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (18.4 percent), the San Antonio-New

²³ In 2021, the percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (10.6 percent), the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (10.6 percent), the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area (10.7 percent), and the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area (10.9 percent) were not statistically different.

Braunfels, TX Metro Area (18.1 percent), and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (18.0 percent) had among the highest percentages of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 125 percent among the most populous metropolitan statistical areas.²⁴

In 2021, the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent increased from 2019 in nine of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas (Table 6). The Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ Metro Area was the only one of the most populous metropolitan areas that showed a decrease from 2019 (from 15.7 percent in 2019 to 14.7 percent in 2021) in the percentage of people at this income-to-poverty ratio.

²⁴ In 2021, the percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent for the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area (18.4 percent), the San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area (18.1 percent), and the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area (18.0 percent) were not statistically different.

Table 6.

People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Level for the 25 Most Populous Metropolitan Areas: 2019 and 2021

(In number and percent)

Metro area	Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2019			Below 125 percent of poverty level in 2021			Change (2021 less 2019)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Number ¹	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ¹	Number ³	Margin of error (±) ²	Percent ³	Margin of error (±) ²
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA	818,465	31,496	13.8	902,097	36,535	14.9	*83,632	48,237	*1.1	0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	333,164	19,593	12.2	380,704	17,240	13.7	*47,540	26,098	*1.6	0.9
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	510,054	20,312	10.8	558,503	21,036	11.8	*48,449	29,242	*1.0	0.6
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	360,765	16,212	13.9	382,089	15,927	14.4	21,324	22,726	0.4	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	1,294,309	36,321	13.9	1,359,819	33,115	14.5	*65,510	49,151	*0.6	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	1,081,039	40,334	14.5	1,123,170	41,800	14.6	42,131	58,087	0.2	0.8
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	307,775	16,787	10.5	320,921	15,834	10.9	13,146	23,076	0.4	0.8
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	696,079	22,794	16.3	742,539	20,373	17.2	*46,460	30,572	*0.9	0.7
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	1,229,686	37,356	17.6	1,305,956	37,229	18.4	*76,270	52,739	0.7	0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	2,166,947	41,965	16.7	2,209,155	49,690	17.3	42,208	65,040	*0.6	0.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	1,113,118	34,533	18.3	1,086,383	33,908	18.0	-26,735	48,397	-0.2	0.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	393,551	16,882	11.0	386,620	16,540	10.6	-6,931	23,634	-0.3	0.7
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	2,820,885	54,219	14.9	3,165,541	64,074	16.3	*344,656	83,935	*1.3	0.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	419,294	23,609	16.4	450,578	24,958	17.0	31,284	34,355	0.6	1.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	895,211	29,180	15.0	926,174	28,317	15.2	30,963	40,661	0.2	0.7
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	765,286	29,591	15.7	712,658	28,272	14.7	*-52,628	40,926	*-1.1	0.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	310,525	15,805	12.6	323,770	14,021	13.1	13,245	21,128	0.4	0.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	759,547	26,018	16.7	756,342	28,496	16.6	-3,205	38,587	-0.1	0.8
St. Louis MO-IL	355,694	18,259	13.0	379,482	15,548	13.8	23,788	23,982	0.8	0.9
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	452,780	24,529	18.1	461,910	20,389	18.1	9,130	31,896	Z	1.3
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	440,621	22,222	13.5	434,414	17,965	13.6	-6,207	28,575	Z	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley, CA	480,898	21,792	10.3	521,351	19,154	11.4	*40,453	29,013	*1.1	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	398,703	18,617	10.2	422,982	19,570	10.7	24,279	27,011	0.5	0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	525,244	20,945	16.7	544,722	21,892	17.2	19,478	30,298	0.5	1.0
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	603,388	24,201	9.8	662,263	23,402	10.6	*58,875	33,665	*0.8	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.

³ Comparisons are made from 2021 to 2019, the most recent data year with standard data collection. For more information on the 2020 experimental estimates, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>.

Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 and 2021 American Community Surveys, 1-year estimates.

SUMMARY

This brief used the 2019 and 2021 ACS 1-year estimates to analyze poverty rates for the calendar year 2021, as well as changes in poverty from calendar year 2019 for the nation, states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the most populous metro areas. The comparison of 2021 poverty rates to those in 2019 was necessitated by data collection disruptions and lower survey response rates in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. National economic shifts experienced during this period were substantial, as the COVID-19 pandemic public health crisis significantly affected the nation's economy.

The national poverty rate increased for the first time since 2011, from 12.3 percent in 2019 to 12.8 percent in 2021. The poverty rate increased in 14 states, the largest number of states with a year-to-year increase since 2011. There were also poverty rate increases in 12 of the 25 most populous metropolitan areas.

The percentage of the U.S. population with income below 50

percent of their poverty threshold increased to 6.2 percent in 2021, from 5.5 percent in 2019, the first instance of an increase at this income-to-poverty ratio since 2011. The proportion of people below 125 percent of their poverty threshold also increased nationally from 16.3 percent in 2019 to 16.6 percent in 2021.

For all three income-to-poverty ratios examined in this brief (income below 50 percent, 100 percent, and 125 percent of poverty thresholds), the share of people living below these ratios increased for the first time since 2011.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2019 through December 2019 (2019 ACS) and the ACS sample interviewed from January 2021 through December 2021 (2021 ACS). The estimates based on these samples describe the average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period

of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent 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, refer to the 2021 ACS Accuracy of the Data document at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

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).¹ 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 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>.

¹ 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.

NOTES

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

(CPS ASEC), the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ

from those based on the CPS ASEC, SIPP, and SAIPE, refer to the information and survey comparisons at www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/data-sources.html.

HOW TO ACCESS AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA

American Community Survey (ACS) data products will be released on the following dates:

September 15, 2022	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 20, 2022	1-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file and supplemental 1-year estimates for geographies with populations of 20,000 or more.
December 8, 2022	5-Year Data Release (data profiles, detailed tables, summary file, comparison profiles, subject tables, and narrative profiles) for all geographies.
January 26, 2023	5-Year PUMS files.

All ACS data products are now released on the U.S. Census Bureau's updated data dissemination platform located at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>. Data.census.gov is now the primary platform to access data and digital content from the Census Bureau. The centralized experience allows data users of all skill levels to search premade tables, visualize and download data, and create custom statistics. ACS data from 2010 forward are available on data.census.gov. Historical estimates of state poverty rates prior to 2010 can be found in Appendix Table 1 of the brief, "Poverty: 2016 and 2017" at www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/acs/acsbr17-02.html.

An additional method for obtaining ACS data is available 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 poverty data from other surveys can be found at www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html.