

# Poverty: 2000 to 2012

## American Community Survey Briefs

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### INTRODUCTION

The poverty rate is an economic indicator that measures the percentage of people with income below the poverty threshold. Federal and state governments use these estimates in funding formulas to allocate funds to local communities. Local communities often use these estimates to identify the number of individuals or families eligible for various programs.

This report uses data from the 2000 to 2012 American Community Surveys (ACS) to examine trends in poverty rates for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> The report also analyzes the distribution of people by income-to-poverty ratios for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia over this period. In addition, this report discusses the current poverty rates for metropolitan statistical areas with large populations.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- For the first time since 2007–2008, the ACS poverty rate for the nation did not change between 2011 and 2012.<sup>2</sup>
- The number and percentage of people in poverty did not change in 43 states and the District of Columbia between 2011 and 2012.

<sup>1</sup> The data for 2000 were obtained from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS), which was the demonstration stage of the ACS. The C2SS was designed to provide accurate estimates for housing units and the population for the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on a sample of approximately 890,000 housing units. This sample did not include people in group quarters. In this report, the C2SS is referred as the 2000 ACS. For more information on the accuracy of the data see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy00\\_C2SS.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy00_C2SS.pdf)>.

<sup>2</sup> Following the standard specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) are used to estimate the official national poverty rate. For more information, see notes at the end of this report.

- Nationally, between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of people in poverty increased from 12.2 percent to 15.9 percent, while the number of people in poverty increased from 33.3 million to 48.8 million.
- Both the number and percentage of people in poverty increased in 44 states between 2000 and 2012.
- The percentage of people in the United States with income below 50 percent of the poverty thresholds grew from 5.0 percent in 2000 to 7.0 percent in 2012. Over this period, the percentage of people with income below 125 percent of the poverty thresholds grew from 16.5 percent to 20.8 percent.
- Among the largest 25 metropolitan areas, poverty rates in 2012 ranged from 8.4 percent to 19.0 percent.

The estimates contained in this report are based on the 2000 to 2012 ACS. Since 2005, the ACS has been conducted every month with income data collected for the 12 months preceding the interview. Since the survey is continuous, adjacent ACS years have some income reference months in common. Therefore, comparing the 2011 ACS with the 2012 ACS is not an exact comparison of the economic conditions in 2011 with those in 2012 and comparisons should be interpreted with care.<sup>3</sup> For more information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>.

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

## POVERTY 2011 TO 2012

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of people in poverty for the United States and Puerto Rico for 2011 and 2012. In 2012, about 48.8 million people or 15.9 percent of the U.S. population had income below their respective poverty level. After four consecutive years of increases, the number and the percentage of people with income below the poverty level did not change between 2011 and 2012.

During this period, poverty rates did not change for 45 states and the District of Columbia. In three states (California, Mississippi, and New Hampshire), both the number and the percentage of people in poverty increased. In New Jersey and Wyoming, the number of

people in poverty increased. In Minnesota and Texas, the percentage of people in poverty declined.

Figure 1 displays the range of poverty rates across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico using the 2012 ACS and the Puerto Rico Community Survey. The estimated 2012 poverty rates ranged from a low of 10.0 percent for New Hampshire to a high of 24.2 percent for Mississippi.<sup>4</sup> Among the states, poverty rates were the lowest in New Hampshire (10.0 percent), Alaska (10.1 percent), Maryland (10.3 percent), Connecticut (10.7 percent),

<sup>4</sup> The poverty rates for New Hampshire, Alaska, Maryland, and Connecticut were not statistically different from each other. The poverty rates for New Hampshire, Alaska, Connecticut, and New Jersey were not statistically different from each other.

and New Jersey (10.8 percent), while the rate for Mississippi (24.2 percent) was the highest, followed by the rate for New Mexico (20.8 percent).

For Puerto Rico, the number of people with income below poverty level declined from 1.67 million in 2011 to 1.63 million in 2012. The change in the percentage of people in poverty was not statistically significant.

## POVERTY 2000 TO 2012

According to the 2000 ACS, about 33.3 million people or 12.2 percent of the U.S. population had income below their respective poverty level. In 2012, the number of people in poverty increased to about 48.8 million people or 15.9 percent

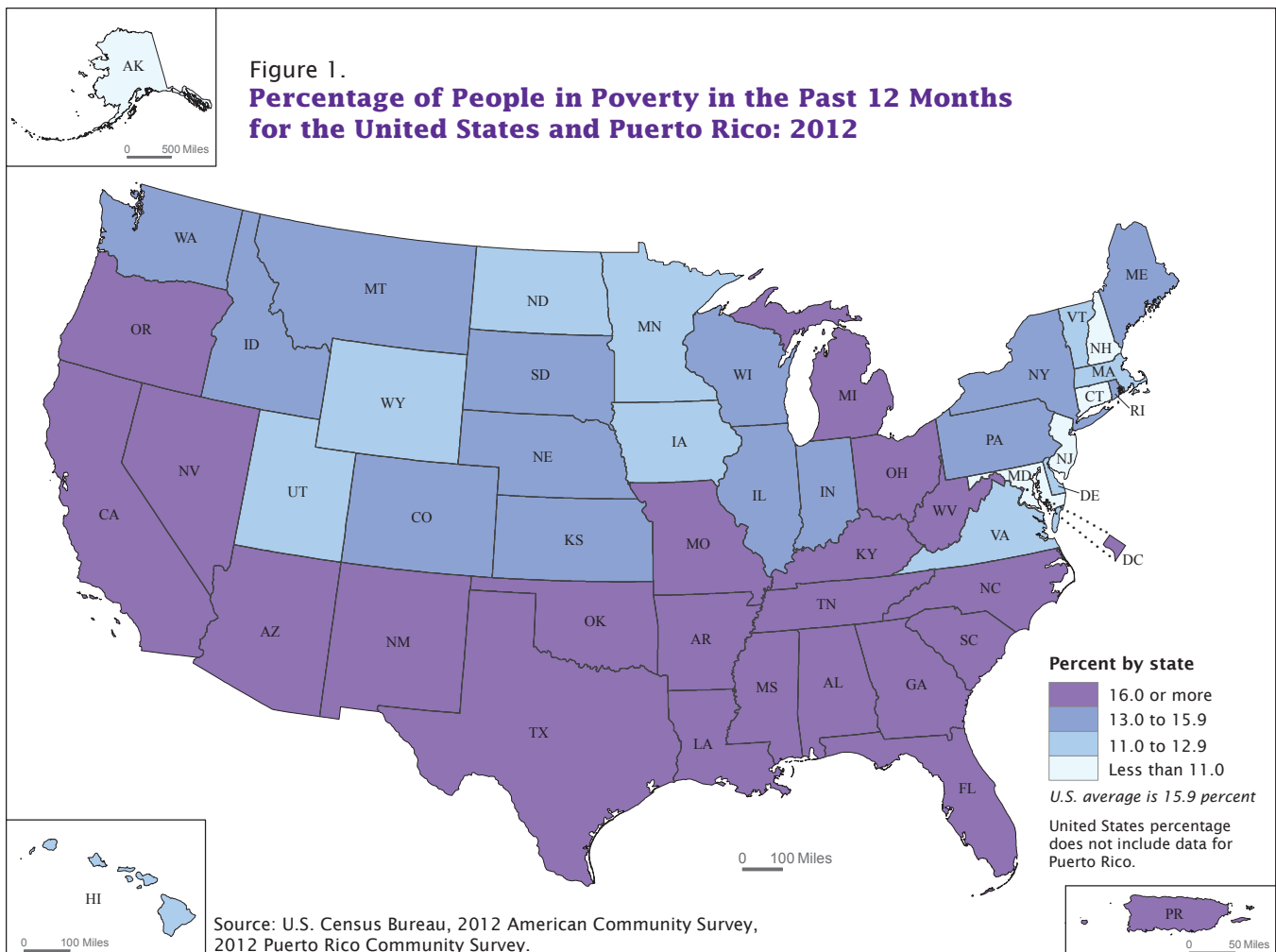


Table 1.

# Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2011 and 2012

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf))

Area	Below poverty in 2011				Below poverty in 2012				Change in poverty (2012 less 2011)			
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States . . .</b>	<b>48,452,035</b>	<b>234,166</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>48,760,123</b>	<b>231,580</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>308,088</b>	<b>329,337</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Alabama . . . . .	892,483	23,804	19.0	0.5	892,564	20,244	19.0	0.4	81	31,249	-0.1	0.7
Alaska . . . . .	73,905	5,839	10.5	0.8	72,400	5,190	10.1	0.7	-1,505	7,812	-0.3	1.1
Arizona . . . . .	1,203,501	38,097	19.0	0.6	1,194,506	25,758	18.7	0.4	-8,995	45,987	-0.3	0.7
Arkansas . . . . .	555,876	17,602	19.5	0.6	568,065	16,759	19.8	0.6	12,189	24,304	0.4	0.8
California . . . . .	6,118,803	71,852	16.6	0.2	6,325,319	64,334	17.0	0.2	*206,516	96,444	*0.4	0.3
Colorado . . . . .	674,195	21,621	13.5	0.4	694,842	20,406	13.7	0.4	20,647	29,729	0.2	0.6
Connecticut . . . . .	377,856	17,034	10.9	0.5	372,390	14,270	10.7	0.4	-5,466	22,222	-0.2	0.6
Delaware . . . . .	104,831	8,149	11.9	0.9	107,307	7,877	12.0	0.9	2,476	11,334	0.2	1.3
District of Columbia . . .	109,363	8,006	18.7	1.4	108,732	7,746	18.2	1.3	-631	11,140	-0.5	1.9
Florida . . . . .	3,173,456	53,070	17.0	0.3	3,238,581	49,032	17.1	0.3	65,125	72,253	0.1	0.4
Georgia . . . . .	1,827,743	40,709	19.1	0.4	1,848,533	37,552	19.2	0.4	20,790	55,384	0.0	0.6
Hawaii . . . . .	161,290	12,291	12.0	0.9	157,243	9,661	11.6	0.7	-4,047	15,633	-0.5	1.2
Idaho . . . . .	255,027	13,229	16.5	0.9	248,494	13,813	15.9	0.9	-6,533	19,127	-0.6	1.2
Illinois . . . . .	1,879,965	34,757	15.0	0.3	1,850,562	32,138	14.7	0.3	-29,403	47,338	-0.2	0.4
Indiana . . . . .	1,011,017	27,152	16.0	0.4	990,325	21,187	15.6	0.3	-20,692	34,440	-0.4	0.5
Iowa . . . . .	378,864	12,247	12.8	0.4	377,484	13,405	12.7	0.4	-1,380	18,157	-0.1	0.6
Kansas . . . . .	383,467	13,367	13.8	0.5	391,734	12,565	14.0	0.4	8,267	18,345	0.2	0.7
Kentucky . . . . .	811,277	24,336	19.1	0.6	823,197	22,937	19.4	0.5	11,920	33,442	0.2	0.8
Louisiana . . . . .	908,375	21,304	20.4	0.5	891,981	23,215	19.9	0.5	-16,394	31,509	-0.5	0.7
Maine . . . . .	182,448	8,462	14.1	0.7	189,786	9,666	14.7	0.7	7,338	12,846	0.5	1.0
Maryland . . . . .	571,887	19,719	10.1	0.3	590,803	19,639	10.3	0.3	18,916	27,830	0.2	0.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	738,514	23,459	11.6	0.4	762,645	18,273	11.9	0.3	24,131	29,736	0.3	0.5
Michigan . . . . .	1,693,294	28,336	17.5	0.3	1,685,178	30,444	17.4	0.3	-8,116	41,590	-0.1	0.4
Minnesota . . . . .	621,970	17,360	11.9	0.3	598,371	17,622	11.4	0.3	-23,599	24,737	*-0.5	0.5
Mississippi . . . . .	650,524	20,706	22.6	0.7	698,252	22,688	24.2	0.8	*47,728	30,716	*1.6	1.1
Missouri . . . . .	920,118	22,609	15.8	0.4	947,792	20,935	16.2	0.4	27,674	30,813	0.5	0.5
Montana . . . . .	144,054	8,962	14.8	0.9	152,199	8,004	15.5	0.8	8,145	12,016	0.7	1.2
Nebraska . . . . .	234,710	10,211	13.1	0.6	233,973	10,768	13.0	0.6	-737	14,839	-0.1	0.8
Nevada . . . . .	426,741	20,552	15.9	0.8	446,840	19,216	16.4	0.7	20,099	28,136	0.5	1.0
New Hampshire . . . . .	112,715	8,386	8.8	0.7	128,466	10,865	10.0	0.8	*15,751	13,725	*1.2	1.1
New Jersey . . . . .	897,376	24,537	10.4	0.3	934,943	22,315	10.8	0.3	*37,567	33,167	0.4	0.4
New Mexico . . . . .	439,914	17,336	21.5	0.8	426,245	13,843	20.8	0.7	-13,669	22,185	-0.7	1.1
New York . . . . .	3,027,342	42,152	16.0	0.2	3,025,016	36,603	15.9	0.2	-2,326	55,826	-0.1	0.3
North Carolina . . . . .	1,680,963	36,728	17.9	0.4	1,713,132	31,019	18.0	0.3	32,169	48,074	0.2	0.5
North Dakota . . . . .	80,882	5,567	12.2	0.8	75,703	4,270	11.2	0.6	-5,179	7,016	-1.0	1.1
Ohio . . . . .	1,845,800	35,067	16.4	0.3	1,824,628	28,992	16.3	0.3	-21,172	45,500	-0.2	0.4
Oklahoma . . . . .	633,298	18,126	17.2	0.5	637,429	14,041	17.2	0.4	4,131	22,929	0.0	0.6
Oregon . . . . .	662,283	20,527	17.5	0.5	658,359	22,218	17.2	0.6	-3,924	30,249	-0.2	0.8
Pennsylvania . . . . .	1,695,996	36,138	13.8	0.3	1,693,285	30,788	13.7	0.2	-2,711	47,475	-0.1	0.4
Rhode Island . . . . .	148,819	8,909	14.7	0.9	138,907	8,499	13.7	0.8	-9,912	12,312	-1.0	1.2
South Carolina . . . . .	856,938	22,008	18.9	0.5	837,770	22,603	18.3	0.5	-19,168	31,548	-0.6	0.7
South Dakota . . . . .	110,681	6,608	13.9	0.8	107,846	5,355	13.4	0.7	-2,835	8,506	-0.5	1.1
Tennessee . . . . .	1,142,299	29,429	18.3	0.5	1,129,330	27,122	17.9	0.4	-12,969	40,021	-0.4	0.6
Texas . . . . .	4,628,758	63,020	18.5	0.3	4,562,352	58,642	17.9	0.2	-66,406	86,084	*-0.5	0.3
Utah . . . . .	374,859	19,403	13.5	0.7	360,017	18,926	12.8	0.7	-14,842	27,104	-0.7	1.0
Vermont . . . . .	69,075	4,730	11.5	0.8	71,084	4,549	11.8	0.8	2,009	6,562	0.3	1.1
Virginia . . . . .	905,914	25,152	11.5	0.3	931,805	22,863	11.7	0.3	25,891	33,991	0.2	0.4
Washington . . . . .	929,258	23,388	13.9	0.4	915,278	30,419	13.5	0.4	-13,980	38,370	-0.4	0.6
West Virginia . . . . .	334,885	13,958	18.6	0.8	320,055	13,000	17.8	0.7	-14,830	19,074	-0.8	1.1
Wisconsin . . . . .	725,797	20,946	13.1	0.4	737,356	16,981	13.2	0.3	11,559	26,965	0.2	0.5
Wyoming . . . . .	62,629	5,598	11.3	1.0	71,019	6,087	12.6	1.1	*8,390	8,270	1.4	1.5
Puerto Rico . . . . .	1,673,610	27,123	45.6	0.7	1,632,533	27,010	44.9	0.7	*-41,077	38,277	-0.7	1.1

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

<sup>1</sup> Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Changes in poverty were calculated with unrounded estimates.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 and 2012 American Community Surveys and 2011 and 2012 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

## 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, the number of related children, and the age of the householder. If a family's before-tax money income is less than the dollar value of the corresponding 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 a poverty threshold for one adult.

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

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

For more information see "How Poverty is Calculated in the ACS" at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/methods/definitions.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/methods/definitions.html).

of the U.S. population. As Figure 2 shows, the percentage of people in poverty increased between 2002 and 2005 and again between 2008 and 2011.

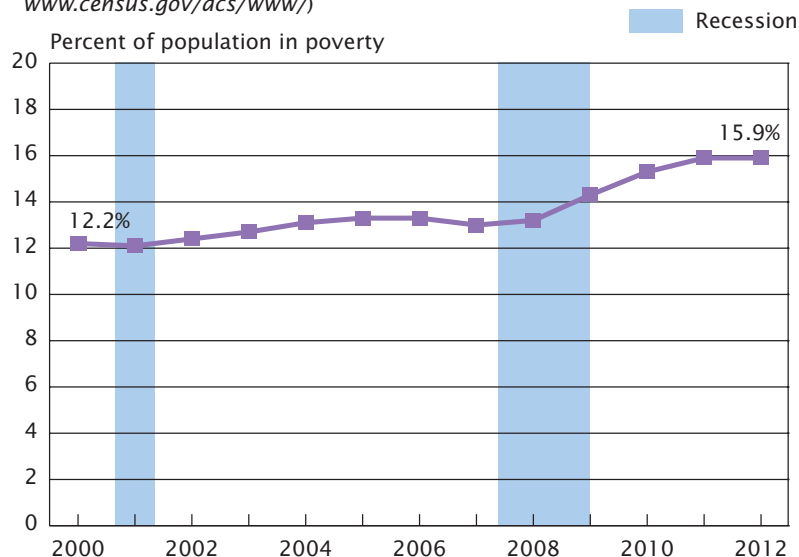
Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2000 and 2012 and the change between the periods for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia. Between 2000 and 2012, 44 states experienced an increase in both the number and the percentage of people in poverty. In three states (Louisiana, North Dakota, and West Virginia), there was no change in either the number or the percentage people in poverty. In three states (Alaska, Vermont, and Wyoming) and the District of Columbia, the number of people in poverty increased but the change in the percentage of people in poverty was not statistically significant.

According to the 2000 ACS, poverty rates ranged from a low of 5.3 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 20.0 percent in Louisiana.<sup>5</sup> Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 17 states had poverty rates lower than 11 percent, while only 4 states and the District of Columbia had poverty rates of 16 percent or higher.

Figure 3 shows the percentage point changes in poverty rates between 2000 and 2012 for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>6</sup> In six states and the District of Columbia, the changes in the poverty rates were not statistically significant.<sup>7</sup> In eight states, the changes in the poverty

Figure 2.  
**Percentage of People in Poverty: 2000 to 2012**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 to 2012 American Community Survey.

<sup>5</sup> In the 2000 ACS, the poverty rates for Louisiana and West Virginia were not statistically different from each other.

<sup>6</sup> The sample for the 2000 Supplementary Survey did not include households from Puerto Rico.

<sup>7</sup> The changes in percentages of people in poverty for Alaska, District of Columbia, Louisiana, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming were not statistically significant.

Table 2.

**Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State: 2000 and 2012**(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf))

Area	Below poverty in 2000				Below poverty in 2012				Change in poverty (2012 less 2000)			
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States . . .</b>	<b>33,311,473</b>	<b>438,067</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>48,760,123</b>	<b>231,580</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>*15,448,650</b>	<b>495,512</b>	<b>*3.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Alabama . . . . .	672,034	40,950	15.6	0.9	892,564	20,244	19.0	0.4	*220,530	45,681	*3.4	1.0
Alaska . . . . .	54,831	5,186	9.1	0.9	72,400	5,190	10.1	0.7	*17,569	7,337	1.0	1.1
Arizona . . . . .	779,680	47,814	15.6	1.0	1,194,506	25,758	18.7	0.4	*414,826	54,311	*3.0	1.0
Arkansas . . . . .	439,300	27,989	17.0	1.1	568,065	16,759	19.8	0.6	*128,765	32,623	*2.9	1.2
California . . . . .	4,519,876	164,649	13.7	0.5	6,325,319	64,334	17.0	0.2	*1,805,443	176,771	*3.2	0.5
Colorado . . . . .	363,359	32,915	8.7	0.8	694,842	20,406	13.7	0.4	*331,483	38,727	*5.0	0.9
Connecticut . . . . .	253,687	27,461	7.7	0.8	372,390	14,270	10.7	0.4	*118,703	30,947	*3.0	0.9
Delaware . . . . .	70,136	7,660	9.3	1.0	107,307	7,877	12.0	0.9	*37,171	10,987	*2.8	1.4
District of Columbia . . . . .	93,840	8,080	17.5	1.5	108,732	7,746	18.2	1.3	*14,892	11,193	0.7	2.0
Florida . . . . .	1,986,652	77,222	12.8	0.5	3,238,581	49,032	17.1	0.3	*1,251,929	91,473	*4.3	0.6
Georgia . . . . .	999,020	65,665	12.6	0.8	1,848,533	37,552	19.2	0.4	*849,513	75,644	*6.5	0.9
Hawaii . . . . .	103,395	10,215	8.8	0.9	157,243	9,661	11.6	0.7	*53,848	14,060	*2.8	1.1
Idaho . . . . .	143,538	16,973	11.4	1.3	248,494	13,813	15.9	0.9	*104,956	21,884	*4.4	1.6
Illinois . . . . .	1,334,589	75,329	11.1	0.6	1,850,562	32,138	14.7	0.3	*515,973	81,898	*3.6	0.7
Indiana . . . . .	591,836	55,968	10.1	1.0	990,325	21,187	15.6	0.3	*398,489	59,844	*5.5	1.0
Iowa . . . . .	281,208	20,187	10.0	0.7	377,484	13,405	12.7	0.4	*96,276	24,232	*2.7	0.8
Kansas . . . . .	247,443	19,668	9.5	0.8	391,734	12,565	14.0	0.4	*144,291	23,339	*4.4	0.9
Kentucky . . . . .	639,514	46,978	16.4	1.2	823,197	22,937	19.4	0.5	*183,683	52,279	*3.0	1.3
Louisiana . . . . .	862,215	44,329	20.0	1.0	891,981	23,215	19.9	0.5	29,766	50,040	−0.1	1.1
Maine . . . . .	124,464	15,134	10.1	1.2	189,786	9,666	14.7	0.7	*65,322	17,957	*4.6	1.4
Maryland . . . . .	476,890	39,115	9.3	0.8	590,803	19,639	10.3	0.3	*113,913	43,769	*1.0	0.8
Massachusetts . . . . .	585,934	40,072	9.6	0.7	762,645	18,273	11.9	0.3	*176,711	44,041	*2.3	0.7
Michigan . . . . .	975,044	52,233	10.1	0.5	1,685,178	30,444	17.4	0.3	*710,134	60,458	*7.3	0.6
Minnesota . . . . .	328,096	28,679	6.9	0.6	598,371	17,622	11.4	0.3	*270,275	33,660	*4.5	0.7
Mississippi . . . . .	498,395	27,007	18.2	1.0	698,252	22,688	24.2	0.8	*199,857	35,272	*5.9	1.3
Missouri . . . . .	605,924	37,487	11.2	0.7	947,792	20,935	16.2	0.4	*341,868	42,936	*5.0	0.8
Montana . . . . .	117,262	11,566	13.4	1.3	152,199	8,004	15.5	0.8	*34,937	14,066	*2.1	1.5
Nebraska . . . . .	158,436	11,445	9.6	0.7	233,973	10,768	13.0	0.6	*75,537	15,714	*3.4	0.9
Nevada . . . . .	193,685	23,757	9.9	1.2	446,840	19,216	16.4	0.7	*253,155	30,556	*6.5	1.4
New Hampshire . . . . .	63,295	9,459	5.3	0.8	128,466	10,865	10.0	0.8	*65,171	14,405	*4.7	1.1
New Jersey . . . . .	651,031	47,661	7.9	0.6	934,943	22,315	10.8	0.3	*283,912	52,627	*2.8	0.7
New Mexico . . . . .	319,722	30,221	18.0	1.7	426,245	13,843	20.8	0.7	*106,523	33,240	*2.9	1.8
New York . . . . .	2,391,054	86,816	13.1	0.5	3,025,016	36,603	15.9	0.2	*633,962	94,217	*2.8	0.5
North Carolina . . . . .	1,017,654	48,953	13.1	0.6	1,713,132	31,019	18.0	0.3	*695,478	57,954	*4.9	0.7
North Dakota . . . . .	71,465	10,747	11.6	1.7	75,703	4,270	11.2	0.6	4,238	11,564	−0.4	1.8
Ohio . . . . .	1,215,503	85,303	11.1	0.8	1,824,628	28,992	16.3	0.3	*609,125	90,095	*5.2	0.8
Oklahoma . . . . .	458,560	28,748	13.8	0.9	637,429	14,041	17.2	0.4	*178,869	31,993	*3.4	0.9
Oregon . . . . .	439,298	46,417	13.2	1.4	658,359	22,218	17.2	0.6	*219,061	51,461	*4.0	1.5
Pennsylvania . . . . .	1,239,857	67,330	10.5	0.6	1,693,285	30,788	13.7	0.2	*453,428	74,036	*3.2	0.6
Rhode Island . . . . .	107,692	11,131	10.7	1.1	138,907	8,499	13.7	0.8	*31,215	14,005	*3.1	1.4
South Carolina . . . . .	557,271	31,052	14.4	0.8	837,770	22,603	18.3	0.5	*280,499	38,408	*3.9	0.9
South Dakota . . . . .	82,961	5,933	11.5	0.8	107,846	5,355	13.4	0.7	*24,885	7,993	*2.0	1.1
Tennessee . . . . .	745,449	50,045	13.5	0.9	1,129,330	27,122	17.9	0.4	*383,881	56,922	*4.4	1.0
Texas . . . . .	3,056,244	112,386	15.1	0.6	4,562,352	58,642	17.9	0.2	*1,506,108	126,766	*2.8	0.6
Utah . . . . .	192,100	25,975	8.8	1.2	360,017	18,926	12.8	0.7	*167,917	32,139	*4.1	1.4
Vermont . . . . .	62,876	6,687	10.7	1.1	71,084	4,549	11.8	0.8	*8,208	8,088	1.1	1.4
Virginia . . . . .	629,513	49,983	9.2	0.7	931,805	22,863	11.7	0.3	*302,292	54,964	*2.5	0.8
Washington . . . . .	666,848	63,792	11.6	1.1	915,278	30,419	13.5	0.4	*248,430	70,673	*1.9	1.2
West Virginia . . . . .	326,822	22,518	18.6	1.3	320,055	13,000	17.8	0.7	−6,767	26,002	−0.8	1.5
Wisconsin . . . . .	461,469	58,321	8.9	1.1	737,356	16,981	13.2	0.3	*275,887	60,743	*4.3	1.2
Wyoming . . . . .	54,506	7,575	11.4	1.6	71,019	6,087	12.6	1.1	*16,513	9,717	1.2	1.9

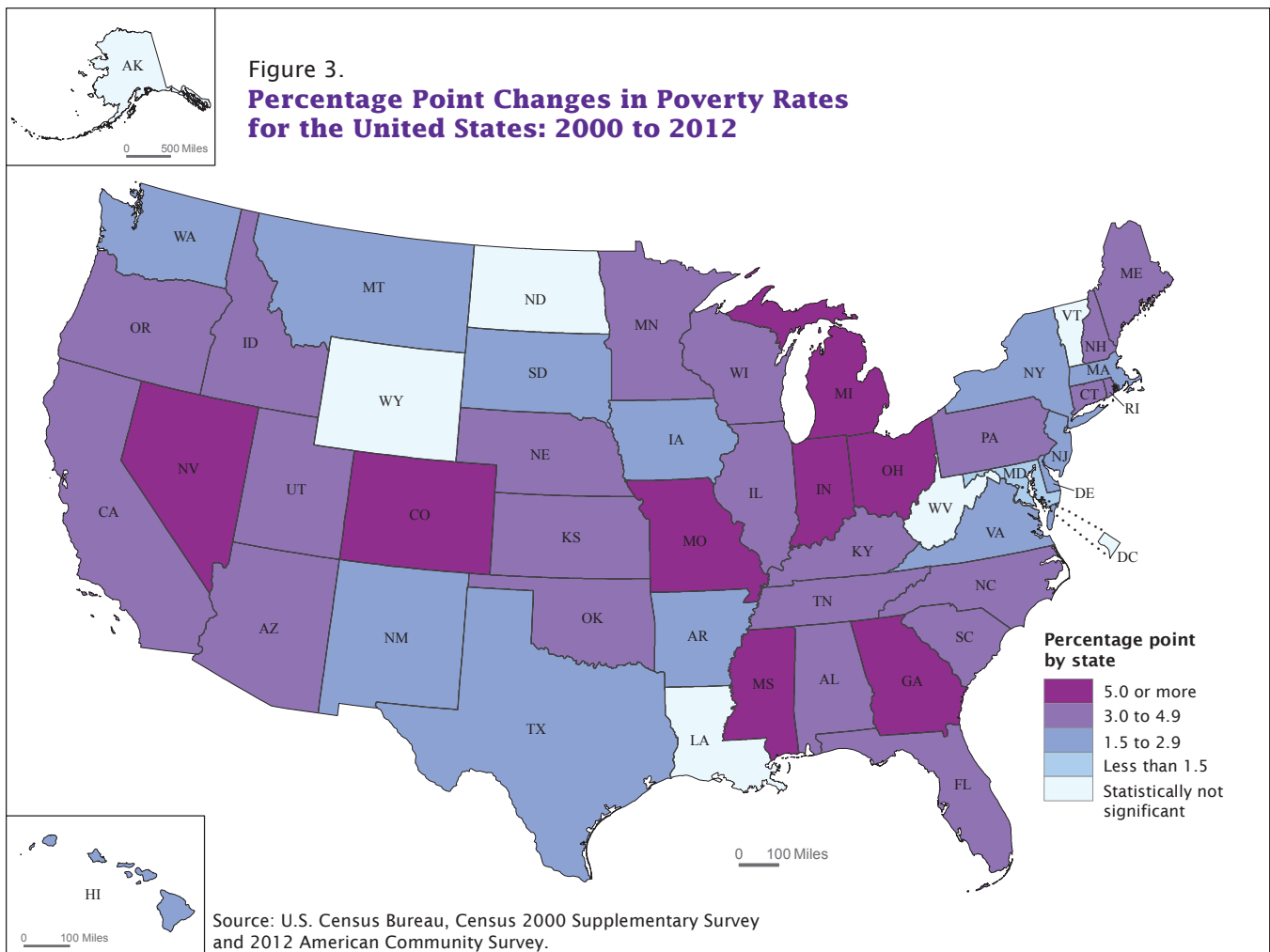
\* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup> Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.<sup>2</sup> 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.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Changes in poverty were calculated with unrounded estimates.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey and 2012 American Community Survey.





rates were 5 percentage points or greater.

### DEPTH OF POVERTY

The poverty rate is an estimate of the proportion of people with family or personal income below their poverty threshold. The income-to-poverty ratio gauges how close a family's income is to their poverty threshold, measuring the depth of poverty for those with income below their threshold and the proximity to poverty for those with income above their 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 a family or individual with income equal to one-half of their poverty threshold. Families and individuals who are identified as in poverty have an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 100 percent.

Table 3 shows the number and percent distribution of people with income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent of the poverty threshold in 2000 and 2012 for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia. In 2000, about 13.7 million people or 5.0 percent of

the U.S. population had income below 50 percent of the poverty threshold, while in 2012 the number and proportion of people grew to 21.5 million and 7.0 percent, respectively.

In 2000, among all the states and the District of Columbia, the proportion of people with income below half of the poverty thresholds varied from 2.2 percent in New Hampshire to 9.4 percent in the District of Columbia.<sup>8</sup> In 2012,

<sup>8</sup> In 2000, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in New Hampshire (2.2 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in Minnesota (2.5 percent). The proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the District of Columbia (9.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in Louisiana (8.3 percent).

Table 3.

# Number and Percentage of People With Income-to-Poverty Ratio Below 50 Percent by State: 2000 and 2012

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf))

Area	2000				2012				Change (2012 less 2000)			
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States..</b>	<b>13,730,120</b>	<b>276,540</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>21,535,923</b>	<b>146,133</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>*7,805,803</b>	<b>312,776</b>	<b>*2.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Alabama .....	264,511	26,396	6.1	0.6	399,317	14,070	8.5	0.3	*134,806	29,912	*2.4	0.7
Alaska .....	21,671	5,624	3.6	0.9	31,811	3,074	4.4	0.4	*10,140	6,409	0.9	1.0
Arizona .....	329,847	36,776	6.6	0.7	566,992	18,108	8.9	0.3	*237,145	40,992	*2.3	0.8
Arkansas .....	157,532	21,004	6.1	0.8	234,771	13,114	8.2	0.5	*77,239	24,762	*2.1	0.9
California .....	1,756,732	98,204	5.3	0.3	2,766,368	41,810	7.4	0.1	*1,009,636	106,734	*2.1	0.3
Colorado .....	159,273	19,767	3.8	0.5	309,929	14,474	6.1	0.3	*150,656	24,499	*2.3	0.6
Connecticut .....	118,220	19,547	3.6	0.6	172,223	10,672	4.9	0.3	*54,003	22,271	*1.3	0.7
Delaware .....	27,676	4,061	3.7	0.5	52,029	5,562	5.8	0.6	*24,353	6,887	*2.2	0.8
District of Columbia ..	50,475	7,523	9.4	1.4	62,040	6,255	10.4	1.0	*11,565	9,783	0.9	1.7
Florida .....	859,888	47,901	5.5	0.3	1,418,025	38,968	7.5	0.2	*558,137	61,749	*2.0	0.4
Georgia .....	423,732	36,544	5.3	0.5	851,775	27,255	8.8	0.3	*428,043	45,588	*3.5	0.5
Hawaii .....	45,548	7,773	3.9	0.7	78,683	7,184	5.8	0.5	*33,135	10,584	*1.9	0.8
Idaho .....	47,889	6,752	3.8	0.5	96,009	8,867	6.1	0.6	*48,120	11,145	*2.3	0.8
Illinois .....	557,066	51,137	4.6	0.4	820,554	21,637	6.5	0.2	*263,488	55,527	*1.9	0.5
Indiana .....	247,515	40,125	4.2	0.7	453,792	16,596	7.2	0.3	*206,277	43,421	*2.9	0.7
Iowa .....	101,203	10,068	3.6	0.4	159,392	8,872	5.4	0.3	*58,189	13,419	*1.8	0.5
Kansas .....	88,904	11,074	3.4	0.4	157,783	8,710	5.6	0.3	*68,879	14,089	*2.2	0.5
Kentucky .....	229,365	30,714	5.9	0.8	342,541	15,008	8.1	0.4	*113,176	34,184	*2.2	0.9
Louisiana .....	356,499	30,409	8.3	0.7	384,979	16,034	8.6	0.4	28,480	34,378	0.3	0.8
Maine .....	42,243	10,053	3.4	0.8	69,220	4,995	5.4	0.4	*26,977	11,226	*1.9	0.9
Maryland .....	200,963	24,121	3.9	0.5	280,402	12,939	4.9	0.2	*79,439	27,372	*1.0	0.5
Massachusetts .....	244,998	24,544	4.0	0.4	348,581	13,402	5.4	0.2	*103,583	27,965	*1.4	0.5
Michigan .....	408,217	34,536	4.2	0.4	768,553	20,326	8.0	0.2	*360,336	40,073	*3.7	0.4
Minnesota .....	119,887	18,862	2.5	0.4	258,077	11,520	4.9	0.2	*138,190	22,102	*2.4	0.5
Mississippi .....	193,442	20,350	7.1	0.7	295,541	14,890	10.2	0.5	*102,099	25,216	*3.1	0.9
Missouri .....	241,838	27,091	4.5	0.5	417,151	14,634	7.1	0.3	*175,313	30,791	*2.7	0.6
Montana .....	41,638	6,227	4.8	0.7	60,922	5,379	6.2	0.5	*19,284	8,228	*1.5	0.9
Nebraska .....	65,909	7,366	4.0	0.4	95,133	6,065	5.3	0.3	*29,224	9,542	*1.3	0.6
Nevada .....	84,452	12,842	4.3	0.7	193,694	12,541	7.1	0.5	*109,242	17,950	*2.8	0.8
New Hampshire .....	26,277	7,390	2.2	0.6	53,140	6,385	4.2	0.5	*26,863	9,766	*2.0	0.8
New Jersey .....	321,324	31,080	3.9	0.4	438,665	15,897	5.0	0.2	*117,341	34,910	*1.1	0.4
New Mexico .....	127,908	16,346	7.2	0.9	187,947	9,961	9.2	0.5	*60,039	19,142	*2.0	1.0
New York .....	1,126,005	54,255	6.1	0.3	1,349,996	26,564	7.1	0.1	*223,991	60,409	*0.9	0.3
North Carolina .....	400,862	34,518	5.2	0.4	754,629	23,217	7.9	0.2	*353,767	41,599	*2.8	0.5
North Dakota .....	28,465	5,048	4.6	0.8	35,318	3,604	5.2	0.5	*6,853	6,203	0.6	1.0
Ohio .....	505,400	38,759	4.6	0.4	855,552	21,795	7.6	0.2	*350,152	44,467	*3.0	0.4
Oklahoma .....	202,200	20,446	6.1	0.6	273,676	11,011	7.4	0.3	*71,476	23,222	*1.3	0.7
Oregon .....	179,966	19,618	5.4	0.6	301,235	15,409	7.9	0.4	*121,269	24,946	*2.5	0.7
Pennsylvania .....	482,978	38,450	4.1	0.3	745,353	24,337	6.0	0.2	*262,375	45,505	*1.9	0.4
Rhode Island .....	52,776	9,270	5.2	0.9	62,056	6,267	6.1	0.6	9,280	11,190	0.9	1.1
South Carolina .....	232,495	40,082	6.0	1.0	376,931	17,315	8.2	0.4	*144,436	43,663	*2.2	1.1
South Dakota .....	31,222	4,283	4.3	0.6	50,820	4,075	6.3	0.5	*19,598	5,912	*2.0	0.8
Tennessee .....	310,625	43,773	5.6	0.8	483,568	18,615	7.7	0.3	*172,943	47,566	*2.1	0.8
Texas .....	1,269,500	76,031	6.3	0.4	1,895,369	37,819	7.4	0.1	*625,869	84,917	*1.2	0.4
Utah .....	82,859	14,419	3.8	0.7	154,441	10,091	5.5	0.4	*71,582	17,599	*1.7	0.8
Vermont .....	24,747	4,799	4.2	0.8	32,128	3,461	5.3	0.6	*7,381	5,917	*1.1	1.0
Virginia .....	243,232	28,296	3.6	0.4	416,102	14,180	5.2	0.2	*172,870	31,650	*1.7	0.5
Washington .....	269,735	29,286	4.7	0.5	424,609	18,040	6.3	0.3	*154,874	34,396	*1.6	0.6
West Virginia .....	135,110	14,285	7.7	0.8	150,998	10,554	8.4	0.6	15,888	17,761	0.7	1.0
Wisconsin .....	169,848	27,543	3.3	0.5	317,756	12,142	5.7	0.2	*147,908	30,101	*2.4	0.6
Wyoming .....	19,453	3,404	4.1	0.7	29,347	4,056	5.2	0.7	*9,894	5,295	*1.2	1.0

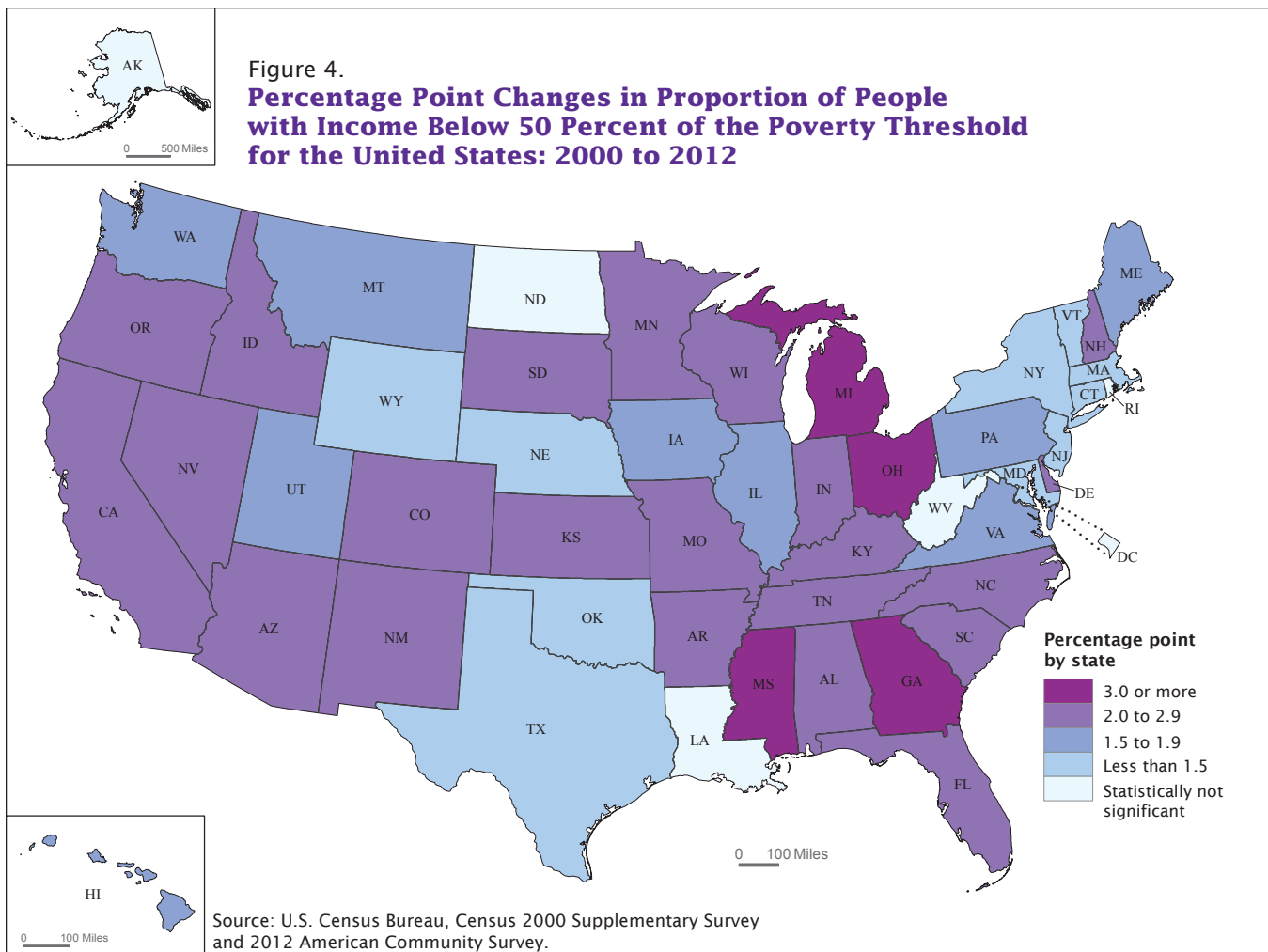
\* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

<sup>1</sup> Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Changes in poverty were calculated with unrounded estimates.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey and 2012 American Community Survey.



the proportion of people with this income level ranged from 4.2 percent in New Hampshire to 10.4 percent in the District of Columbia.<sup>9</sup>

Between 2000 and 2012, 45 states experienced an increase in both the number and the percent of people with income below 50 percent of their respective thresholds. In three states (Louisiana, Rhode Island, and West Virginia), there was no change in either estimate. In Alaska, North Dakota, and the District of

<sup>9</sup>In 2012, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in New Hampshire (4.2 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in Alaska (4.4 percent). The proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent in the District of Columbia (10.4 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in Mississippi (10.2 percent).

Columbia, there was no change in the percent of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent, but the number of people in this category increased.

Figure 4 shows the percentage point change in the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 50 percent of their poverty threshold for the 50 states and the District of Columbia between 2000 and 2012. During this period, most states in the West, the Midwest, and the South experienced a change of between 2 and 3 percentage points. In 10 states, the change in proportion was less than 1.5 percentage points. In five states and the District of Columbia,

the change was not statistically significant.

Table 4 displays the number and percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of their poverty threshold in 2000 and 2012 for the nation, states, and the District of Columbia using 2000 and 2012 ACS data. This table shows both the number and the percentage of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of the poverty threshold increased from 45.1 million or 16.5 percent of the total U.S. population in 2000 to 63.6 million or 20.8 percent in 2012.

Among all states and the District of Columbia, in 2000, the proportion



Table 4.

# Number and Percentage of People With Income-to-Poverty Ratio Below 125 Percent by State: 2000 and 2012

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf))

Area	2000				2012				Change (2012 less 2000)			
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>45,071,197</b>	<b>527,828</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>63,569,291</b>	<b>264,855</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>*18,498,094</b>	<b>590,551</b>	<b>*4.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Alabama . . . . .	913,641	48,817	21.2	1.1	1,157,921	24,918	24.6	0.5	*244,280	54,809	*3.4	1.2
Alaska . . . . .	73,034	6,147	12.1	1.0	105,456	7,322	14.7	1.0	*32,422	9,560	*2.6	1.5
Arizona . . . . .	1,002,001	44,630	20.1	0.9	1,542,380	28,758	24.1	0.4	*540,379	53,093	*4.0	1.0
Arkansas . . . . .	571,056	31,694	22.0	1.2	737,852	18,798	25.8	0.7	*166,796	36,849	*3.7	1.4
California . . . . .	6,172,669	185,135	18.8	0.6	8,325,530	61,961	22.3	0.2	*2,152,861	195,229	*3.6	0.6
Colorado . . . . .	519,278	42,290	12.4	1.0	900,677	21,725	17.8	0.4	*381,399	47,544	*5.4	1.1
Connecticut . . . . .	345,311	27,967	10.5	0.8	483,849	16,625	13.9	0.5	*138,538	32,535	*3.4	1.0
Delaware . . . . .	99,307	9,194	13.1	1.2	138,349	8,660	15.5	1.0	*39,042	12,630	*2.4	1.6
District of Columbia . . . . .	114,772	8,457	21.4	1.6	133,652	7,480	22.3	1.2	*18,880	11,290	0.9	2.0
Florida . . . . .	2,695,428	86,806	17.4	0.6	4,288,362	53,357	22.7	0.3	*1,592,934	101,893	*5.3	0.6
Georgia . . . . .	1,358,608	81,247	17.2	1.0	2,375,151	39,074	24.6	0.4	*1,016,543	90,155	*7.5	1.1
Hawaii . . . . .	146,496	12,419	12.5	1.1	204,395	9,902	15.1	0.7	*57,899	15,884	*2.6	1.3
Idaho . . . . .	210,296	18,597	16.8	1.5	334,266	14,969	21.4	1.0	*123,970	23,873	*4.6	1.8
Illinois . . . . .	1,767,390	94,959	14.7	0.8	2,390,885	33,707	19.0	0.3	*623,495	100,764	*4.3	0.8
Indiana . . . . .	816,970	77,397	13.9	1.3	1,289,225	24,603	20.3	0.4	*472,255	81,214	*6.4	1.4
Iowa . . . . .	387,933	23,907	13.8	0.8	492,600	14,100	16.6	0.5	*104,667	27,755	*2.8	1.0
Kansas . . . . .	368,811	24,644	14.2	0.9	520,640	15,323	18.6	0.5	*151,829	29,019	*4.4	1.1
Kentucky . . . . .	865,095	51,646	22.2	1.3	1,052,226	24,744	24.8	0.6	*187,131	57,268	*2.6	1.5
Louisiana . . . . .	1,074,726	45,732	24.9	1.1	1,143,699	24,444	25.6	0.5	*68,973	51,855	0.7	1.2
Maine . . . . .	184,469	17,350	14.9	1.4	253,595	10,751	19.6	0.8	*69,126	20,411	*4.7	1.6
Maryland . . . . .	622,014	45,477	12.1	0.9	763,742	21,742	13.3	0.4	*141,728	50,407	*1.2	1.0
Massachusetts . . . . .	783,265	43,454	12.8	0.7	974,277	20,088	15.2	0.3	*191,012	47,873	*2.4	0.8
Michigan . . . . .	1,332,075	50,631	13.8	0.5	2,125,842	33,526	22.0	0.3	*793,767	60,724	*8.2	0.6
Minnesota . . . . .	479,304	37,462	10.0	0.8	795,153	20,061	15.1	0.4	*315,849	42,495	*5.1	0.9
Mississippi . . . . .	648,940	28,671	23.8	1.1	887,270	23,752	30.7	0.8	*238,330	37,232	*6.9	1.3
Missouri . . . . .	853,086	42,817	15.8	0.8	1,230,334	22,163	21.1	0.4	*377,248	48,213	*5.3	0.9
Montana . . . . .	171,960	12,194	19.7	1.4	204,658	8,924	20.9	0.9	*32,698	15,111	1.2	1.7
Nebraska . . . . .	239,733	16,264	14.5	1.0	319,068	12,125	17.7	0.7	*79,335	20,286	*3.2	1.2
Nevada . . . . .	287,969	24,648	14.7	1.3	595,988	19,695	21.9	0.7	*308,019	31,550	*7.2	1.5
New Hampshire . . . . .	93,353	11,424	7.8	1.0	166,736	12,569	13.0	1.0	*73,383	16,985	*5.2	1.4
New Jersey . . . . .	873,871	54,092	10.7	0.7	1,223,671	24,805	14.1	0.3	*349,800	59,508	*3.4	0.7
New Mexico . . . . .	439,321	29,878	24.7	1.7	546,292	14,040	26.7	0.7	*106,971	33,012	*2.0	1.8
New York . . . . .	3,130,104	91,649	17.1	0.5	3,863,439	44,908	20.3	0.2	*733,335	102,060	*3.2	0.6
North Carolina . . . . .	1,355,157	69,331	17.5	0.9	2,265,242	36,271	23.8	0.4	*910,085	78,246	*6.4	1.0
North Dakota . . . . .	101,903	12,061	16.6	1.9	100,472	5,112	14.9	0.8	-1,431	13,099	-1.7	2.1
Ohio . . . . .	1,614,899	100,658	14.7	0.9	2,352,041	33,267	20.9	0.3	*737,142	106,013	*6.3	1.0
Oklahoma . . . . .	660,101	42,597	19.9	1.3	846,440	15,641	22.9	0.4	*186,339	45,377	*3.0	1.4
Oregon . . . . .	585,097	39,594	17.6	1.2	849,973	23,512	22.2	0.6	*264,876	46,049	*4.6	1.3
Pennsylvania . . . . .	1,701,448	71,264	14.4	0.6	2,211,259	32,475	17.9	0.3	*509,811	78,315	*3.5	0.7
Rhode Island . . . . .	141,934	11,619	14.1	1.2	183,177	9,638	18.1	1.0	*41,243	15,096	*4.0	1.5
South Carolina . . . . .	722,891	38,666	18.7	1.0	1,096,689	23,975	23.9	0.5	*373,798	45,495	*5.2	1.1
South Dakota . . . . .	114,776	5,596	15.9	0.8	144,350	6,605	17.9	0.8	*29,574	8,657	*2.1	1.1
Tennessee . . . . .	1,020,418	48,720	18.5	0.9	1,464,920	30,363	23.3	0.5	*444,502	57,407	*4.8	1.0
Texas . . . . .	4,146,683	124,948	20.5	0.6	5,999,147	58,953	23.6	0.2	*1,852,464	138,157	*3.0	0.7
Utah . . . . .	267,071	29,162	12.2	1.3	496,647	19,236	17.7	0.7	*229,576	34,935	*5.5	1.5
Vermont . . . . .	85,328	6,976	14.6	1.2	94,485	4,976	15.7	0.8	*9,157	8,569	1.1	1.5
Virginia . . . . .	890,349	63,591	13.1	0.9	1,234,285	27,716	15.6	0.3	*343,936	69,369	*2.5	1.0
Washington . . . . .	881,982	71,148	15.4	1.2	1,184,256	30,819	17.5	0.5	*302,274	77,536	*2.2	1.3
West Virginia . . . . .	437,149	28,285	24.8	1.6	420,802	15,559	23.4	0.9	-16,347	32,282	-1.5	1.8
Wisconsin . . . . .	620,131	70,920	12.0	1.4	968,174	18,169	17.4	0.3	*348,043	73,211	*5.4	1.4
Wyoming . . . . .	81,594	7,804	17.1	1.6	89,752	6,138	16.0	1.1	8,158	9,929	-1.1	2.0

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

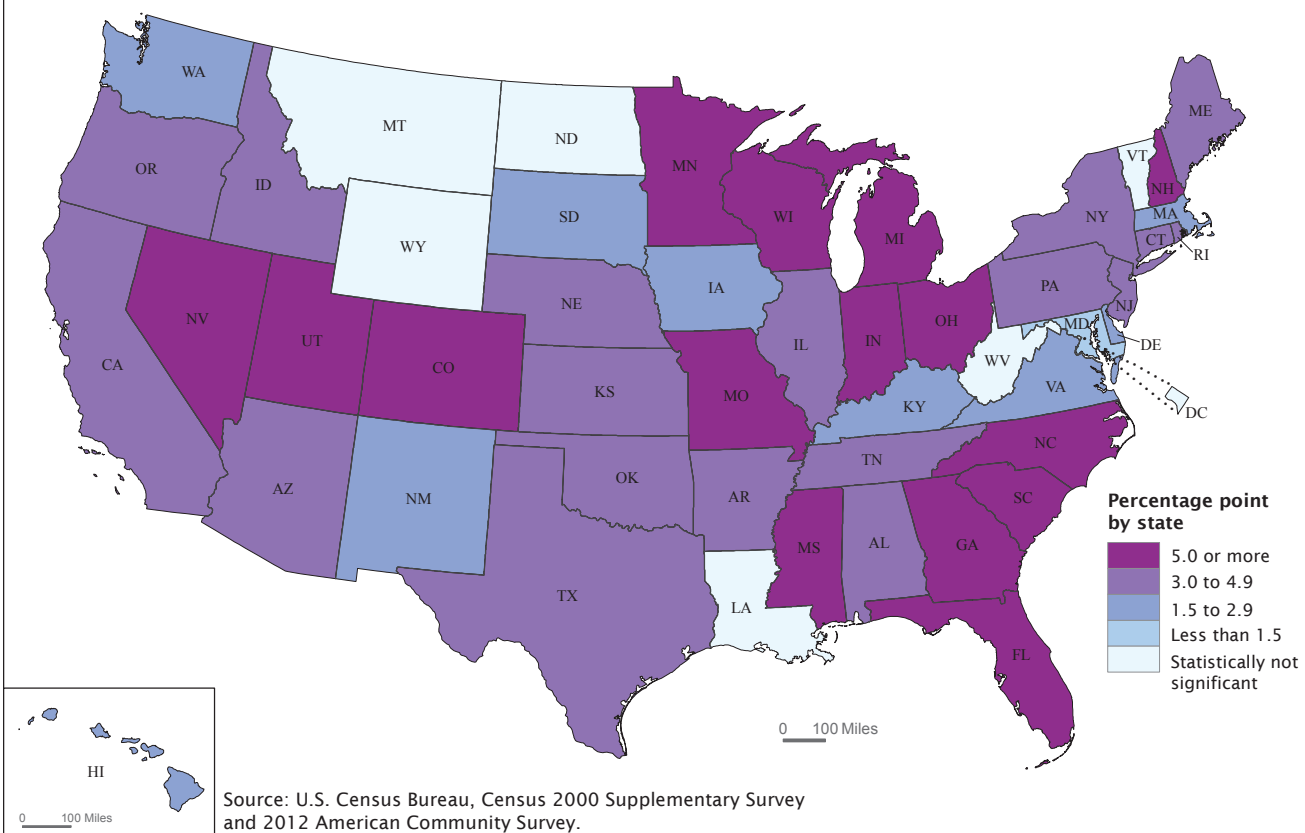
<sup>1</sup> Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Changes in poverty were calculated with unrounded estimates.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey and 2012 American Community Survey.

A map of the state of Alaska, labeled 'AK' in the center. The map shows the coastline and major islands. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates a distance of 500 miles.



<sup>10</sup>In 2000, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of their poverty threshold in Louisiana (24.9 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in West Virginia (24.8 percent), New Mexico (24.7 percent), and Mississippi (23.8 percent).

Among the states and the District of Columbia, in 44 states both the number and proportions of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of their poverty threshold increased, while it remained unchanged in three states (North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming) between 2000 and 2012. In three states (Louisiana, Montana,

<sup>11</sup> In 2012, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of their poverty threshold in New Hampshire (13.0 percent) was not statistically different from the proportion in Maryland (13.3 percent) and Connecticut (13.9 percent).

Figure 5 shows the percentage point change in the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent of their poverty threshold for the 50 states and the District of Columbia between 2000 and 2012. The figure shows most states in the South Atlantic division, the East South Central division, and the East North

Central division had an increase of three percentage points or more. In six states and the District of Columbia, the change in the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio below 125 percent was not statistically significant.

## POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

More than 80 percent of the U.S. population lives in the 366 metropolitan areas and about 40 percent of the total population reside in the largest 25 metropolitan areas. Using 2011 and 2012 ACS data, this report analyzes poverty rates for the largest 25 metropolitan areas.

Table 5 shows the number and percentage of people in poverty for the 25 largest metropolitan areas. In 2012, the poverty rate for these metropolitan areas varied widely, ranging from a low of 8.4 percent for Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area to a high of 19.0 percent for Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area. Among the largest metropolitan areas, Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH Metro Area, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area, and Baltimore-Towson, MD Metro Area were metro areas with the lowest poverty rates.

Between 2011 and 2012, poverty rates for 19 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas did not exhibit statistically significant changes. In three metro areas, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA Metro Area, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area, and Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area, both the number and percentage of people in poverty increased during the same period. In Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area, Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX Metro

Area, and Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area, the poverty rates declined but the change in the number of people in poverty was not statistically significant.

## SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2012 through December 2012 (2012 ACS), the ACS sample interviewed from January 2011 through December 2011 (2011 ACS), and the sample interviewed in 2000 from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS). The estimates based on these samples describe the actual average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling

error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of 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 2012 ACS Accuracy of the Data document located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2012.pdf)> and the 2000 Accuracy of the Data document located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy\\_00\\_C2SS.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy_00_C2SS.pdf)>.

## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.5 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater.

The demonstration stage of the ACS, initially called the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey (C2SS) was conducted in 2000 in 1,239 counties with sample size of 866,000 housing units. The C2SS was designed to provide accurate estimates for the housing units and population for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)>.

Table 5.

# Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for Top 25 Metropolitan Statistical Area: 2011 and 2012

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2012.pdf))

Metropolitan statistical area	Below poverty in 2011				Below poverty in 2012				Change in poverty (2012 less 2011)			
	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)	Per-centage <sup>1</sup>	Margin of error <sup>2</sup> (±)
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>48,452,035</b>	<b>234,166</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>48,760,123</b>	<b>231,580</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>308,088</b>	<b>329,337</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metro Area .....	886,390	31,037	16.8	0.6	887,901	29,846	16.6	0.6	1,511	43,059	-0.2	0.8
Baltimore-Towson, MD Metro Area .....	308,348	15,085	11.6	0.6	303,704	14,893	11.3	0.6	-4,644	21,198	-0.3	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH Metro Area .....	473,590	18,407	10.7	0.4	479,126	15,238	10.7	0.3	5,536	23,896	0.0	0.5
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI Metro Area .....	1,374,328	36,521	14.7	0.4	1,362,635	30,184	14.5	0.3	-11,693	47,380	-0.2	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area .....	1,016,286	31,952	15.8	0.5	984,719	23,684	15.0	0.4	-31,567	39,773	*-0.8	0.6
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO Metro Area .....	328,306	17,702	12.8	0.7	332,043	15,260	12.7	0.6	3,737	23,371	-0.1	0.9
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI Metro Area .....	764,172	23,768	18.0	0.6	740,712	20,248	17.4	0.5	-23,460	31,223	-0.6	0.7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX Metro Area .....	1,044,540	31,794	17.4	0.5	1,005,192	32,475	16.4	0.5	-39,348	45,448	*-1.0	0.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA Metro Area .....	2,173,341	35,851	17.0	0.3	2,266,193	42,491	17.6	0.3	*92,852	55,595	*0.6	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area .....	996,510	31,279	17.8	0.6	993,904	25,832	17.5	0.5	-2,606	40,567	-0.3	0.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area .....	360,489	14,388	11.0	0.4	352,560	14,086	10.7	0.4	-7,929	20,135	-0.4	0.6
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area .....	2,686,469	39,047	14.4	0.2	2,785,196	40,070	14.8	0.2	*98,727	55,949	*0.4	0.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area .....	340,506	20,485	16.0	1.0	369,925	18,528	16.9	0.8	*29,419	27,620	1.0	1.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area .....	790,325	25,260	13.5	0.4	787,217	20,430	13.4	0.3	-3,108	32,488	-0.1	0.6
Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ Metro Area .....	726,424	27,645	17.4	0.7	741,322	19,794	17.4	0.5	14,898	34,001	0.1	0.8
Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area .....	291,237	13,771	12.6	0.6	279,386	12,179	12.1	0.5	-11,851	18,384	-0.5	0.8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area .....	334,511	15,594	15.0	0.7	316,515	12,596	14.0	0.6	-17,996	20,046	*-1.0	0.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area .....	759,340	31,643	18.0	0.8	813,251	22,351	19.0	0.5	*53,911	38,740	*1.1	0.9
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area .....	356,470	20,420	16.6	1.0	378,226	16,970	17.3	0.8	21,756	26,551	0.7	1.2
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA Metro Area .....	462,269	20,240	15.1	0.7	465,295	20,161	15.0	0.7	3,026	28,568	-0.1	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA Metro Area .....	513,843	22,168	11.9	0.5	522,229	18,993	11.9	0.4	8,386	29,192	0.0	0.7
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area .....	407,880	17,329	11.9	0.5	409,239	19,482	11.7	0.6	1,359	26,074	-0.1	0.7
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area .....	377,744	16,327	13.7	0.6	394,288	15,820	14.3	0.6	16,544	22,734	0.6	0.8
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area .....	454,026	21,879	16.3	0.8	458,689	17,744	16.4	0.6	4,663	28,170	0.0	1.0
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area .....	462,358	21,374	8.3	0.4	477,661	17,577	8.4	0.3	15,303	27,673	0.1	0.5

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

<sup>1</sup> Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Changes in poverty were calculated with unrounded estimates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 to 2012 American Community Survey.

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Accuracy of data documents for the years 2001 to 2011 are located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/documentation\\_main/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/documentation_main/)>.

## NOTES

The Census Bureau also publishes poverty estimates based on the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Following the standard

specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the CPS ASEC are used to estimate the official national poverty rate, which can be found in the report *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012*, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p60-245.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p60-245.pdf)>.

For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS ASEC, see "Differences Between the Income and Poverty Estimates From the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey" at <[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/index.html)>.



Appendix Table 1.

**Percentage of People With Income Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months by State: 2000 to 2012**

Area	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Mar- gin of error (±)		
United States ..	12.2	0.2	12.1	0.2	12.4	0.2	12.7	0.1	13.1	0.2	13.3	0.1	13.3	0.1	13.0	0.1	13.2	0.1	14.3	0.1	15.3	0.1	15.9	0.1	15.9	0.1
Alabama .....	15.6	0.9	16.5	0.6	16.6	0.9	17.1	0.7	16.1	0.8	17.0	0.5	16.6	0.5	16.9	0.5	15.7	0.5	17.5	0.5	19.0	0.5	19.0	0.5	19.0	0.4
Alaska .....	9.1	0.9	7.2	0.7	7.7	0.9	9.7	1.0	8.2	0.8	11.2	1.0	10.9	1.1	8.9	0.8	8.4	0.8	9.0	0.8	9.9	0.9	10.5	0.8	10.1	0.7
Arizona .....	15.6	1.0	13.7	0.8	14.2	0.9	15.4	0.7	14.2	1.1	14.2	0.5	14.2	0.4	14.2	0.5	14.7	0.4	16.5	0.4	17.4	0.5	19.0	0.6	18.7	0.4
Arkansas .....	17.0	1.1	15.4	0.9	15.3	1.0	16.0	0.8	17.9	1.3	17.2	0.6	17.3	0.6	17.9	0.6	17.3	0.7	18.8	0.6	18.8	0.6	19.5	0.6	19.8	0.6
California .....	13.7	0.5	12.8	0.4	13.0	0.4	13.4	0.4	13.3	0.4	13.3	0.2	13.1	0.2	12.4	0.2	13.3	0.2	14.2	0.2	15.8	0.2	16.6	0.2	17.0	0.2
Colorado .....	8.7	0.8	9.6	0.9	9.7	0.7	9.8	1.1	11.1	1.3	11.1	0.4	12.0	0.4	12.0	0.4	11.4	0.5	12.9	0.4	13.4	0.5	13.5	0.4	13.7	0.4
Connecticut .....	7.7	0.8	7.3	0.7	7.5	0.9	8.1	0.9	7.6	0.7	8.3	0.5	8.3	0.4	7.9	0.4	9.3	0.4	9.4	0.5	10.1	0.5	10.9	0.5	10.7	0.4
Delaware .....	9.3	1.0	9.8	1.1	8.2	1.0	8.7	1.1	9.9	0.9	10.4	0.8	11.1	1.1	10.5	0.9	10.0	0.8	10.8	1.1	11.8	0.9	11.9	0.9	12.0	0.9
District of Columbia ..	17.5	1.5	18.1	1.6	17.5	1.6	19.9	1.6	18.9	1.7	19.0	1.5	19.6	1.4	16.4	1.4	17.2	1.3	18.4	1.6	19.2	1.3	18.7	1.4	18.2	1.3
Florida .....	12.8	0.5	12.5	0.5	12.8	0.5	13.1	0.5	12.2	0.5	12.8	0.3	12.6	0.2	12.1	0.2	13.2	0.2	14.9	0.2	16.5	0.2	17.0	0.3	17.1	0.3
Georgia .....	12.6	0.8	11.7	0.7	12.7	0.7	13.4	0.7	14.8	0.7	14.4	0.4	14.7	0.3	14.3	0.3	14.7	0.3	16.5	0.4	17.9	0.4	19.1	0.4	19.2	0.4
Hawaii .....	8.8	0.9	10.4	2.3	10.1	1.7	10.9	1.2	10.6	2.3	9.8	0.8	9.3	0.7	8.0	0.5	9.1	0.7	10.4	0.7	10.4	0.7	12.0	0.9	11.6	0.7
Idaho .....	11.4	1.3	12.0	0.9	13.8	1.3	13.8	1.4	14.5	1.3	13.9	0.7	12.6	0.6	12.1	0.6	12.6	0.9	14.3	0.8	15.7	0.7	16.5	0.9	15.9	0.9
Illinois .....	11.1	0.6	11.2	0.8	11.6	0.6	11.3	0.6	11.9	0.7	12.0	0.3	12.3	0.3	11.9	0.3	12.2	0.2	13.3	0.3	13.8	0.3	15.0	0.3	14.7	0.3
Indiana .....	10.1	1.0	9.8	0.5	10.9	0.7	10.6	0.8	10.8	1.1	12.2	0.4	12.7	0.4	12.3	0.3	13.1	0.4	14.4	0.4	15.3	0.4	16.0	0.4	15.6	0.3
Iowa .....	10.0	0.7	9.7	0.9	11.2	1.1	10.1	0.9	9.9	0.6	10.9	0.4	11.0	0.4	11.0	0.5	11.5	0.5	11.8	0.4	12.6	0.5	12.8	0.4	12.7	0.4
Kansas .....	9.5	0.8	11.3	1.1	12.1	1.1	10.8	1.1	10.5	0.6	11.7	0.5	12.4	0.5	11.2	0.5	11.3	0.5	13.4	0.6	13.6	0.6	13.8	0.5	14.0	0.4
Kentucky .....	16.4	1.2	15.4	1.2	15.6	1.2	17.4	1.5	17.4	1.3	16.8	0.5	17.0	0.5	17.3	0.5	17.3	0.5	18.6	0.5	19.0	0.5	19.1	0.6	19.4	0.5
Louisiana .....	20.0	1.0	19.1	1.1	18.8	1.2	20.3	1.0	19.4	1.0	19.8	0.6	19.0	0.6	18.6	0.5	17.3	0.6	17.3	0.5	18.7	0.5	20.4	0.5	19.9	0.5
Maine .....	10.1	1.2	10.6	1.0	11.1	1.0	10.5	0.9	12.3	1.1	12.6	0.7	12.9	0.7	12.0	0.6	12.3	0.6	12.3	0.7	12.9	0.6	14.1	0.7	14.7	0.7
Maryland .....	9.3	0.8	8.1	0.7	8.1	0.7	8.2	0.8	8.8	0.7	8.2	0.5	7.8	0.3	8.3	0.4	8.1	0.3	9.1	0.3	9.9	0.4	10.1	0.3	10.3	0.3
Massachusetts .....	9.6	0.7	8.7	0.6	8.9	0.6	9.4	0.6	9.2	0.5	10.3	0.3	9.9	0.3	9.9	0.3	10.0	0.3	10.3	0.3	11.4	0.3	11.6	0.4	11.9	0.3
Michigan .....	10.1	0.5	10.6	0.5	11.0	0.6	11.4	0.6	12.3	0.7	13.2	0.3	13.5	0.3	14.0	0.3	14.4	0.3	16.2	0.3	16.8	0.3	17.5	0.3	17.4	0.3
Minnesota .....	6.9	0.6	7.8	0.6	8.5	0.7	7.8	0.5	8.3	0.8	9.2	0.3	9.8	0.3	9.5	0.3	9.6	0.3	11.0	0.3	11.6	0.3	11.9	0.3	11.4	0.3
Mississippi .....	18.2	1.0	18.6	1.1	19.9	1.0	19.9	1.0	21.6	1.1	21.3	0.6	21.1	0.8	20.6	0.7	21.2	0.9	21.9	0.6	22.4	0.8	22.6	0.7	24.2	0.8
Missouri .....	11.2	0.7	11.7	0.8	11.9	0.8	11.7	0.6	11.8	1.2	13.3	0.4	13.6	0.4	13.0	0.4	13.4	0.3	14.6	0.4	15.3	0.4	15.8	0.4	16.2	0.4
Montana .....	13.4	1.3	14.6	1.1	14.6	1.6	14.2	1.2	14.2	0.9	14.4	1.0	13.6	0.8	14.1	0.8	14.8	0.9	15.1	1.0	14.6	1.0	14.8	0.9	15.5	0.8
Nebraska .....	9.6	0.7	10.3	0.9	11.0	0.9	10.8	0.9	11.0	0.7	10.9	0.5	11.5	0.6	11.2	0.5	10.8	0.5	12.3	0.6	12.9	0.7	13.1	0.6	13.0	0.6
Nevada .....	9.9	1.2	9.7	1.0	11.8	1.2	11.5	1.1	12.6	1.5	11.1	0.7	10.3	0.5	10.7	0.7	11.3	0.6	12.4	0.7	14.9	0.8	15.9	0.8	16.4	0.7
New Hampshire .....	5.3	0.8	6.0	0.7	6.4	0.7	7.7	0.9	7.6	0.8	7.5	0.6	8.0	0.6	7.1	0.6	7.6	0.6	8.5	0.6	8.3	0.6	8.8	0.7	10.0	0.8
New Jersey .....	7.9	0.6	7.9	0.6	7.5	0.5	8.4	0.6	8.5	0.6	8.7	0.3	8.7	0.3	8.6	0.3	8.7	0.3	9.4	0.3	10.3	0.3	10.4	0.3	10.8	0.3
New Mexico .....	18.0	1.7	17.7	1.7	18.9	1.3	18.6	1.5	19.3	1.6	18.5	0.8	18.5	0.7	18.1	0.8	17.1	0.7	18.0	1.0	20.4	1.0	21.5	0.8	20.8	0.7
New York .....	13.1	0.5	13.4	0.5	13.1	0.6	13.5	0.5	14.2	0.5	13.8	0.5	14.2	0.2	13.7	0.2	13.6	0.2	14.2	0.2	14.9	0.2	16.0	0.2	15.9	0.2
North Carolina .....	13.1	0.6	14.1	0.9	14.2	1.1	14.0	0.7	15.2	1.2	15.1	0.4	14.7	0.3	14.3	0.3	14.6	0.4	16.3	0.3	17.5	0.3	17.9	0.4	18.0	0.3
North Dakota .....	11.6	1.7	12.1	1.5	12.5	1.7	11.7	1.2	12.1	1.7	11.2	0.8	11.4	0.8	12.1	0.9	12.0	0.9	11.7	0.8	13.0	0.9	12.2	0.8	11.2	0.6
Ohio .....	11.1	0.8	11.0	0.7	11.9	0.8	12.1	0.5	12.5	0.5	13.0	0.3	13.3	0.3	13.1	0.3	13.4	0.3	15.2	0.3	15.8	0.3	16.4	0.3	16.3	0.3
Oklahoma .....	13.8	0.9	15.5	1.3	15.0	1.3	16.1	1.2	15.3	1.3	16.5	0.5	17.0	0.5	15.9	0.5	15.9	0.5	16.2	0.5	16.9	0.4	17.2	0.5	17.2	0.4
Oregon .....	13.2	1.4	13.4	1.6	13.2	0.8	13.9	0.8	14.1	1.0	14.1	0.5	13.3	0.5	12.9	0.5	13.6	0.5	14.3	0.5	15.8	0.5	17.5	0.5	17.2	0.6
Pennsylvania .....	10.5	0.6	10.7	0.5	10.5	0.6	10.9	0.5	11.7	0.5	11.9	0.2	12.1	0.2	11.6	0.3	12.1	0.2	12.5	0.2	13.4	0.2	13.8	0.3	13.7	0.2
Rhode Island .....	10.7	1.1	12.0	1.1	10.7	1.0	11.3	1.1	12.8	1.0	12.3	1.0	11.1	0.8	12.0	0.9	11.7	0.8	11.5	0.8	14.0	0.9	14.7	0.9	13.7	0.8
South Carolina .....	14.4	0.8	13.4	1.2	14.2	0.8	14.1	1.0	15.7	1.3	15.6	0.5	15.7	0.5	15.0	0.5	15.7</									

Appendix Table 2.

**Percentage of People With Income Below 50 Percent of the Poverty Threshold by State: 2000 to 2012**

Area	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)
United States ...	5.0	0.1	5.0	0.1	5.3	0.1	5.5	0.1	5.7	0.1	5.7	0.1	5.7	0.0	5.6	0.0	5.7	0.0	6.3	0.1	6.8	0.1	7.1	0.1	7.0	0.0
Alabama .....	6.1	0.6	7.1	0.6	7.4	0.6	7.5	0.5	6.7	0.6	7.3	0.5	7.3	0.3	6.9	0.3	6.3	0.3	7.5	0.3	8.1	0.3	7.8	0.3	8.5	0.3
Alaska .....	3.6	0.9	2.8	0.5	3.0	0.7	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.9	5.0	0.6	4.5	0.6	3.7	0.5	3.6	0.4	4.0	0.6	4.1	0.6	4.7	0.6	4.4	0.4
Arizona .....	6.6	0.7	6.4	0.5	6.0	0.6	7.4	0.6	6.3	0.6	6.3	0.4	6.4	0.3	6.6	0.3	6.7	0.3	7.6	0.4	8.3	0.4	8.7	0.4	8.9	0.3
Arkansas .....	6.1	0.8	6.0	0.6	6.2	0.6	7.1	0.6	7.3	0.9	7.3	0.4	7.1	0.4	6.5	0.4	6.9	0.4	7.7	0.5	7.8	0.4	7.9	0.4	8.2	0.5
California .....	5.3	0.3	5.4	0.2	5.5	0.2	5.4	0.2	5.7	0.2	5.4	0.1	5.4	0.1	5.1	0.1	5.4	0.1	6.0	0.1	6.8	0.1	7.2	0.1	7.4	0.1
Colorado .....	3.8	0.5	4.2	0.5	4.2	0.4	4.2	0.4	5.5	0.9	4.9	0.3	5.5	0.3	5.5	0.3	4.8	0.3	5.9	0.3	6.0	0.3	6.1	0.3	6.1	0.3
Connecticut .....	3.6	0.6	3.4	0.5	3.5	0.5	3.6	0.6	3.9	0.5	3.9	0.4	3.7	0.3	3.6	0.3	4.0	0.3	4.4	0.4	4.7	0.4	5.0	0.3	4.9	0.3
Delaware .....	3.7	0.5	4.2	0.6	4.0	0.7	3.8	0.7	4.7	0.8	4.6	0.7	4.9	0.6	5.2	0.6	4.4	0.6	4.9	0.8	5.4	0.6	5.8	0.6	5.8	0.6
District of Columbia ..	9.4	1.4	9.4	1.3	9.4	1.4	11.6	1.3	10.1	1.6	10.8	1.3	10.5	1.2	8.5	1.1	9.6	1.1	10.7	1.3	10.7	1.1	10.3	1.1	10.4	1.0
Florida .....	5.5	0.3	5.0	0.3	5.6	0.3	5.5	0.3	5.2	0.3	5.5	0.2	5.2	0.2	5.0	0.1	5.6	0.2	6.5	0.2	7.4	0.2	7.5	0.2	7.5	0.2
Georgia .....	5.3	0.5	5.2	0.5	5.4	0.5	5.7	0.4	6.6	0.5	6.4	0.3	6.6	0.3	6.4	0.3	6.3	0.3	7.3	0.3	8.2	0.3	8.6	0.3	8.8	0.3
Hawaii .....	3.9	0.7	4.1	1.1	4.3	1.2	4.7	0.7	4.7	1.5	4.1	0.5	4.4	0.5	3.8	0.4	4.7	0.5	4.4	0.5	5.6	0.6	6.1	0.7	5.8	0.5
Idaho .....	3.8	0.5	4.4	0.6	5.8	1.0	5.0	0.8	5.1	0.7	5.4	0.6	4.6	0.4	4.7	0.5	5.0	0.5	6.0	0.6	6.3	0.6	7.1	0.6	6.1	0.6
Illinois .....	4.6	0.4	4.9	0.3	5.6	0.4	5.2	0.3	5.8	0.5	5.5	0.2	5.5	0.2	5.3	0.2	5.4	0.2	6.0	0.2	6.1	0.2	6.9	0.2	6.5	0.2
Indiana .....	4.2	0.7	4.4	0.5	4.8	0.5	4.8	0.8	4.5	0.5	5.6	0.3	5.8	0.3	5.8	0.3	5.7	0.3	6.4	0.3	7.0	0.3	7.9	0.3	7.2	0.3
Iowa .....	3.6	0.4	3.5	0.6	4.2	0.5	4.2	0.5	4.0	0.5	4.8	0.3	4.8	0.3	4.7	0.3	4.8	0.3	4.9	0.3	5.3	0.3	5.9	0.4	5.4	0.3
Kansas .....	3.4	0.4	4.3	0.6	5.0	0.6	5.1	0.9	4.1	0.5	4.8	0.3	5.0	0.3	4.8	0.3	4.5	0.3	5.6	0.4	5.9	0.4	5.7	0.3	5.6	0.3
Kentucky .....	5.9	0.8	6.0	0.6	6.1	0.6	7.1	0.8	7.1	0.6	7.1	0.3	6.9	0.4	7.1	0.3	7.6	0.3	8.0	0.4	8.2	0.4	8.4	0.4	8.1	0.4
Louisiana .....	8.3	0.7	8.8	0.8	7.4	0.9	9.3	0.8	8.9	0.7	8.3	0.5	8.3	0.4	7.8	0.4	7.4	0.4	7.2	0.4	8.1	0.3	9.4	0.4	8.6	0.4
Maine .....	3.4	0.8	3.9	0.5	4.2	0.6	3.6	0.5	5.6	0.8	4.7	0.5	4.8	0.4	4.6	0.4	4.8	0.4	4.7	0.5	4.7	0.5	5.2	0.4	5.4	0.4
Maryland .....	3.9	0.5	3.6	0.4	3.4	0.5	4.0	0.5	3.8	0.5	3.9	0.3	3.6	0.2	3.8	0.2	3.8	0.2	4.2	0.2	4.9	0.3	5.0	0.3	4.9	0.2
Massachusetts .....	4.0	0.4	3.7	0.4	4.2	0.4	4.2	0.4	4.3	0.4	4.9	0.2	4.5	0.2	4.4	0.2	4.5	0.2	4.5	0.2	5.3	0.3	5.3	0.3	5.4	0.2
Michigan .....	4.2	0.4	4.4	0.3	4.7	0.4	5.0	0.4	5.6	0.5	5.9	0.2	6.0	0.2	6.5	0.2	6.6	0.2	7.4	0.2	7.6	0.2	8.1	0.2	8.0	0.2
Minnesota .....	2.5	0.4	2.9	0.4	3.7	0.7	3.5	0.4	3.3	0.3	3.9	0.2	4.3	0.2	3.9	0.2	4.2	0.2	4.9	0.2	5.0	0.3	5.2	0.2	4.9	0.2
Mississippi .....	7.1	0.7	7.1	0.5	8.5	0.6	7.7	0.7	8.7	0.7	9.3	0.6	8.8	0.4	8.7	0.5	8.5	0.5	9.3	0.5	9.7	0.5	9.8	0.5	10.2	0.5
Missouri .....	4.5	0.5	5.0	0.5	5.0	0.6	4.7	0.5	5.3	0.6	5.5	0.3	5.9	0.3	5.7	0.3	5.5	0.3	6.6	0.3	6.6	0.3	7.0	0.3	7.1	0.3
Montana .....	4.8	0.7	5.6	0.8	5.4	0.8	5.6	0.6	5.6	0.6	5.3	0.5	5.8	0.5	5.8	0.6	6.1	0.6	6.9	0.7	6.3	0.7	5.8	0.5	6.2	0.5
Nebraska .....	4.0	0.4	4.1	0.5	4.9	0.7	4.6	0.6	4.4	0.4	4.7	0.4	5.0	0.4	4.8	0.4	4.5	0.4	5.0	0.4	5.2	0.4	5.6	0.5	5.3	0.3
Nevada .....	4.3	0.7	4.3	0.7	5.1	0.9	5.1	0.6	5.7	1.0	5.0	0.5	4.9	0.4	4.6	0.3	5.2	0.4	5.5	0.5	7.0	0.6	7.2	0.5	7.1	0.5
New Hampshire .....	2.2	0.6	2.3	0.4	2.4	0.5	3.8	0.6	3.2	0.6	3.3	0.4	3.6	0.4	3.4	0.4	3.4	0.5	3.8	0.4	3.8	0.4	4.4	0.4	4.2	0.5
New Jersey .....	3.9	0.4	3.3	0.3	3.0	0.3	3.8	0.5	3.7	0.4	4.0	0.2	3.9	0.2	3.9	0.2	3.9	0.2	4.1	0.2	4.6	0.2	4.8	0.2	5.0	0.2
New Mexico .....	7.2	0.9	7.1	1.1	7.3	1.0	8.7	1.0	6.8	0.8	7.8	0.6	7.6	0.6	7.6	0.5	6.7	0.6	7.5	0.5	8.7	0.6	9.4	0.7	9.2	0.5
New York .....	6.1	0.3	6.1	0.3	5.7	0.3	6.1	0.3	6.4	0.3	6.3	0.2	6.3	0.2	6.1	0.2	6.0	0.1	6.4	0.2	6.8	0.2	7.1	0.2	7.1	0.1
North Carolina .....	5.2	0.4	5.6	0.4	6.4	0.5	6.5	0.5	6.1	0.6	6.2	0.2	6.3	0.2	6.0	0.2	6.0	0.2	7.1	0.2	7.8	0.3	7.8	0.3	7.9	0.2
North Dakota .....	4.6	0.8	4.7	0.7	5.5	0.8	4.7	0.6	4.5	0.8	4.8	0.7	5.2	0.5	5.3	0.6	5.1	0.7	5.0	0.6	5.9	0.7	5.8	0.6	5.2	0.5
Ohio .....	4.6	0.4	4.5	0.3	5.2	0.4	5.5	0.3	5.8	0.5	5.9	0.2	6.1	0.2	6.0	0.2	6.2	0.2	7.0	0.2	7.3	0.2	7.6	0.2	7.6	0.2
Oklahoma .....	6.1	0.6	6.3	0.8	7.2	0.8	6.9	0.8	7.4	0.8	6.9	0.3	7.0	0.4	6.7	0.3	6.4	0.3	6.8	0.4	7.2	0.3	7.4	0.3	7.4	0.3
Oregon .....	5.4	0.6	5.5	0.8	5.0	0.6	6.0	0.5	6.4	0.5	6.1	0.4	5.5	0.3	5.7	0.4	5.7	0.3	6.3	0.3	7.2	0.3	7.7	0.4	7.9	0.4
Pennsylvania .....	4.1	0.3	4.4	0.3	4.3	0.4	4.9	0.4	5.3	0.4	5.2	0.2	5.2	0.2	5.1	0.2	5.3	0.2	5.5	0.2	5.9	0.2	6.2	0.2	6.0	0.2
Rhode Island .....	5.2	0.9	5.6	0.8	5.0	0.9	4.8	0.7	6.0	0.8	5.6	0.6	4.6	0.6	5.2	0.7	5.3	0.6	4.9	0.6	6.0	0.6	6.8	0.7	6.1	0.6
South Carolina .....	6.0	1.0	5.0	0.5	6.5	0.6	6.2	1.0	6.4	0.6	6.9	0.4	6.9	0.3	6.7	0.3	7.0	0.4	7.7	0.4	8.4	0.4	8.5	0.4	8.2	0.4
South Dakota .....	4.3	0.6	4.4	0.6	5.3	2.3	4.8	1.2	4.8	0.8	5.6	0.6	5.9	0.6	5.6	0.6	5.6	0.7	6.1	0.7	6.3	0.7	5.9	0.6	6.3	0.5
Tennessee .....	5.6	0.8	5.4	0.5	6.1	0.6	5.7	0.5	6.4	0.6	6.4	0.3	7.1	0.3	6.5	0.3	6.5	0.3	7.4	0.3	7.9	0.3	7.9	0.3	7.7	0.3
Texas .....	6.3	0.4	6.0	0.3	6.4	0.4	6.7	0.4																		

Appendix Table 3.

**Percentage of People With Income Below 125 Percent of the Poverty Threshold by State: 2000 to 2012**

Area	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012			
	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)	Esti- mate	Margin of error (±)		
United States ...	16.5	0.2	16.3	0.2	16.5	0.2	17.0	0.2	17.5	0.2	17.7	0.1	17.6	0.1	17.3	0.1	17.6	0.1	18.9	0.1	20.1	0.1	20.8	0.1	20.8	0.1	20.8	0.1
Alabama .....	21.2	1.1	22.4	0.8	21.6	0.9	21.8	0.8	21.3	0.9	22.7	0.6	21.7	0.6	22.0	0.5	21.1	0.6	23.0	0.6	24.8	0.5	24.9	0.6	24.6	0.5	24.6	0.5
Alaska .....	12.1	1.0	10.3	0.9	11.8	1.1	13.5	1.4	11.1	0.9	14.8	1.0	14.2	1.2	13.3	1.0	11.9	0.9	12.2	0.9	14.1	1.0	14.5	1.0	14.7	1.0	14.7	1.0
Arizona .....	20.1	0.9	18.5	0.8	19.1	1.0	20.8	1.0	20.0	1.3	19.5	0.6	18.8	0.5	18.9	0.5	19.6	0.5	21.5	0.5	23.5	0.6	24.4	0.6	24.1	0.4	24.1	0.4
Arkansas .....	22.0	1.2	20.7	1.5	20.9	1.0	20.7	0.9	23.5	1.6	23.4	0.8	23.2	0.7	23.5	0.7	23.4	0.8	24.8	0.6	24.9	0.6	25.4	0.6	25.8	0.7	25.8	0.7
California .....	18.8	0.6	17.7	0.5	17.8	0.5	18.2	0.4	18.4	0.4	18.2	0.2	18.0	0.2	17.3	0.2	18.2	0.2	19.1	0.2	21.1	0.2	22.0	0.2	22.3	0.2	22.3	0.2
Colorado .....	12.4	1.0	12.6	1.0	13.3	0.8	13.0	1.4	15.2	1.4	15.2	0.5	15.8	0.5	15.7	0.5	15.3	0.5	16.8	0.5	17.8	0.4	18.1	0.5	17.8	0.4	17.8	0.4
Connecticut .....	10.5	0.8	9.7	0.9	9.9	1.0	10.4	0.9	10.6	0.8	10.9	0.5	10.9	0.4	10.7	0.4	11.9	0.5	11.9	0.5	13.1	0.5	14.1	0.5	13.9	0.5	13.9	0.5
Delaware .....	13.1	1.2	12.9	1.2	11.7	1.1	11.5	1.2	13.6	1.0	13.6	1.0	13.8	1.2	14.3	1.0	13.6	0.9	14.6	1.4	14.6	1.0	16.0	1.1	15.5	1.0	15.5	1.0
District of Columbia ..	21.4	1.6	22.4	1.7	22.0	1.7	24.4	1.6	22.6	2.0	23.9	1.7	23.0	1.3	20.6	1.4	20.7	1.4	21.6	1.6	22.5	1.4	21.9	1.4	22.3	1.2	22.3	1.2
Florida .....	17.4	0.6	17.5	0.6	17.3	0.6	17.7	0.5	17.0	0.6	17.7	0.3	17.1	0.3	16.7	0.3	17.9	0.3	20.0	0.3	21.9	0.3	22.6	0.3	22.7	0.3	22.7	0.3
Georgia .....	17.2	1.0	15.9	1.0	17.0	0.6	18.1	0.5	19.7	0.8	18.9	0.4	19.3	0.3	18.8	0.4	19.5	0.4	21.6	0.4	23.3	0.5	24.5	0.5	24.6	0.4	24.6	0.4
Hawaii .....	12.5	1.1	13.7	2.1	12.9	1.9	13.7	1.1	14.0	2.7	12.5	0.9	12.5	0.9	10.5	0.6	11.9	0.8	13.7	0.9	13.9	0.8	15.5	1.0	15.1	0.7	15.1	0.7
Idaho .....	16.8	1.5	17.0	1.2	19.2	1.5	18.7	1.6	20.9	1.6	19.3	0.8	17.6	0.7	17.1	0.7	18.1	1.0	19.9	0.9	21.6	0.9	21.7	1.0	21.4	1.0	21.4	1.0
Illinois .....	14.7	0.8	14.5	1.0	14.8	0.8	15.1	0.6	16.0	0.7	15.7	0.3	16.2	0.3	15.8	0.3	16.3	0.3	17.5	0.3	18.1	0.3	19.6	0.4	19.0	0.3	19.0	0.3
Indiana .....	13.9	1.3	13.8	0.8	14.2	0.9	15.0	0.8	15.1	1.0	16.3	0.4	16.6	0.5	16.4	0.4	17.6	0.4	18.7	0.5	20.0	0.4	20.7	0.5	20.3	0.4	20.3	0.4
Iowa .....	13.8	0.8	13.6	1.1	15.4	1.5	13.8	0.9	14.9	0.9	15.0	0.5	15.1	0.5	14.7	0.5	15.6	0.5	16.0	0.5	16.9	0.5	17.0	0.5	16.6	0.5	16.6	0.5
Kansas .....	14.2	0.9	15.6	1.4	16.1	1.1	15.8	1.0	15.3	0.7	16.0	0.6	16.6	0.5	15.2	0.5	15.8	0.6	17.9	0.6	18.7	0.7	18.3	0.5	18.6	0.5	18.6	0.5
Kentucky .....	22.2	1.3	20.9	1.3	20.9	1.6	22.8	1.8	22.6	1.4	22.1	0.5	22.0	0.5	22.0	0.5	22.4	0.6	23.6	0.6	24.6	0.6	24.6	0.6	24.8	0.6	24.8	0.6
Louisiana .....	24.9	1.1	24.4	1.4	24.2	1.3	25.4	1.0	24.2	1.1	24.9	0.6	24.2	0.7	24.1	0.6	22.7	0.6	22.7	0.5	24.2	0.5	25.8	0.5	25.6	0.5	25.6	0.5
Maine .....	14.9	1.4	15.4	1.1	15.5	1.2	14.8	1.1	16.6	1.3	16.9	0.7	16.8	0.8	16.4	0.7	16.7	0.7	17.0	0.8	17.9	0.8	19.3	0.7	19.6	0.8	19.6	0.8
Maryland .....	12.1	0.9	10.7	0.8	11.0	0.9	11.2	0.9	11.3	0.8	11.0	0.5	10.5	0.3	11.0	0.4	10.7	0.4	12.0	0.4	12.8	0.4	13.0	0.4	13.3	0.4	13.3	0.4
Massachusetts .....	12.8	0.7	11.9	0.7	11.7	0.7	12.2	0.7	12.2	0.6	13.2	0.4	13.1	0.3	12.7	0.3	13.0	0.3	13.4	0.3	14.0	0.3	15.2	0.4	15.2	0.3	15.2	0.3
Michigan .....	13.8	0.5	14.1	0.7	14.6	0.7	15.1	0.7	16.4	0.8	17.0	0.3	17.4	0.3	18.2	0.3	18.5	0.3	20.7	0.3	21.5	0.3	22.3	0.3	22.0	0.3	22.0	0.3
Minnesota .....	10.0	0.8	10.8	0.9	11.1	0.7	10.4	0.6	11.3	0.9	12.6	0.4	12.9	0.3	12.7	0.3	13.2	0.3	14.6	0.4	15.5	0.3	15.7	0.3	15.1	0.4	15.1	0.4
Mississippi .....	23.8	1.1	24.3	1.1	25.4	1.1	26.0	1.1	26.0	1.0	27.6	0.7	27.9	0.7	27.1	0.8	27.6	0.9	28.2	0.7	28.9	0.8	29.1	0.7	30.7	0.8	30.7	0.8
Missouri .....	15.8	0.8	16.0	0.9	15.4	0.8	16.3	1.0	16.6	1.0	17.9	0.5	18.3	0.5	17.6	0.4	18.0	0.4	19.2	0.5	20.0	0.4	20.8	0.4	21.1	0.4	21.1	0.4
Montana .....	19.7	1.4	20.6	1.5	20.0	1.8	20.0	1.5	19.9	1.0	19.4	1.1	18.4	1.0	19.1	1.0	18.6	1.1	20.2	1.1	20.2	1.0	20.4	1.0	20.9	0.9	20.9	0.9
Nebraska .....	14.5	1.0	14.3	1.0	15.0	1.1	14.5	1.0	15.4	0.8	15.4	0.7	15.8	0.6	15.7	0.6	14.5	0.6	17.2	0.7	17.4	0.7	17.8	0.6	17.7	0.7	17.7	0.7
Nevada .....	14.7	1.3	14.2	1.1	16.1	1.4	15.5	1.3	17.0	1.8	15.3	0.7	14.2	0.7	14.1	0.8	15.3	0.7	17.0	0.7	19.4	0.9	20.9	0.9	21.9	0.7	21.9	0.7
New Hampshire .....	7.8	1.0	8.3	0.9	8.9	0.8	10.6	1.0	10.5	1.0	10.0	0.7	10.5	0.6	9.8	0.7	10.2	0.7	10.9	0.7	11.2	0.7	12.0	0.7	13.0	1.0	13.0	1.0
New Jersey .....	10.7	0.7	10.6	0.7	10.3	0.6	11.2	0.7	11.2	0.6	11.7	0.4	11.6	0.3	11.4	0.3	11.6	0.3	12.5	0.3	13.5	0.3	13.8	0.3	14.1	0.3	14.1	0.3
New Mexico .....	24.7	1.7	23.5	2.0	24.3	1.9	25.3	1.9	25.2	1.8	24.9	0.9	24.3	0.8	23.5	0.9	23.2	0.9	23.5	0.9	26.4	0.9	27.6	0.9	26.7	0.7	26.7	0.7
New York .....	17.1	0.5	17.2	0.5	17.0	0.7	17.7	0.5	18.3	0.6	17.8	0.3	18.1	0.2	17.7	0.2	17.9	0.2	18.2	0.3	19.2	0.3	20.5	0.2	20.3	0.2	20.3	0.2
North Carolina .....	17.5	0.9	18.6	1.1	18.9	1.1	19.0	1.0	20.5	1.5	20.1	0.4	19.5	0.4	19.4	0.3	19.5	0.4	21.2	0.4	22.9	0.4	23.4	0.5	23.8	0.4	23.8	0.4
North Dakota .....	16.6	1.9	16.5	1.9	17.1	2.1	15.8	1.3	16.7	1.9	15.5	0.9	15.7	0.9	15.7	0.9	16.9	1.1	15.2	0.9	17.4	1.0	15.8	0.8	14.9	0.8	14.9	0.8
Ohio .....	14.7	0.9	14.6	0.8	15.5	1.1	15.9	0.5	16.3	0.9	17.0	0.3	17.2	0.3	17.3	0.3	17.4	0.3	19.6	0.3	20.4	0.4	21.0	0.3	20.9	0.3	20.9	0.3
Oklahoma .....	19.9	1.3	21.6	1.3	20.5	1.2	21.5	1.2	21.3	1.5	22.1	0.6	22.6	0.5	21.4	0.6	20.8	0.6	21.7	0.5	22.5	0.5	22.8	0.5	22.9	0.4	22.9	0.4
Oregon .....	17.6	1.2	17.8	1.7	17.8	1.2	18.9	0.9	18.9	1.0	19.0	0.6	17.7	0.6	17.6	0.6	17.7	0.5	19.0	0.6	21.0	0.5	22.4	0.6	22.2	0.6	22.2	0.6
Pennsylvania .....	14.4</																											