

2013 saw some positive news for children, with the national child poverty rate dropping from 21.8 percent to 19.9 percent, resulting in 1.4 million less children living in poverty. (The official poverty line for a family of four is \$23,624)

While this is encouraging, we know we can do better. Children in America still suffer higher rates of poverty than any other age group. Of all the people living in poverty in this country in 2013, 32.3 percent of them were children (while children comprise about 23 percent of the total population).

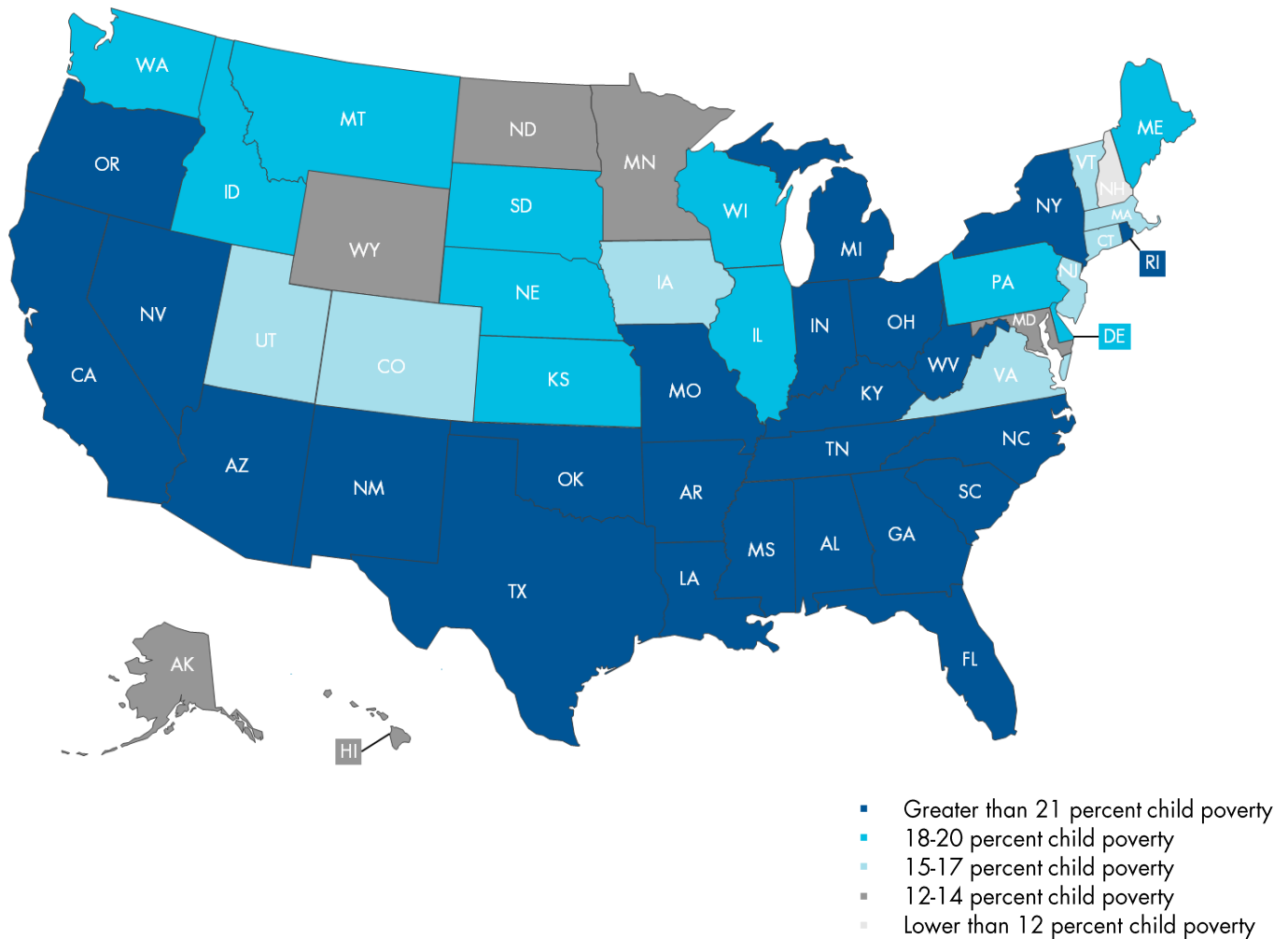
There are also still huge disparities that exist for children. While the Hispanic child poverty rate also saw a significant decrease (30.4 percent in 2013 compared to 33.8 percent in 2012), the poverty rate for Hispanic and Black continues to be higher than for white children, with rates of 30.4 and 38.3 percent respectively compared to 10.7 percent for white children.

8.8 percent of children are still living in extreme poverty as well (below 50 percent of the poverty line), a slight decrease from 9.7 percent last year. This includes 12.8 percent of Hispanic children and 18.6 percent of Black children compared with 4.5 percent of white children.

Finally, younger children tend to experience poverty at higher rates – 22.5 percent of children under 5 were living in poverty in 2013, including 43.7 percent of Black children and 33 percent of Hispanic children compared with 11 percent of white children.

Highlights of State-by-State Trends

- 8 states saw statistically significant decreases in the percentage of children living in poverty from 2012-2013: Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire Ohio, Texas, and Wyoming.
- The biggest decrease in child poverty occurred in New Hampshire, with an almost 6 percent decrease in 2013. New Hampshire has the lowest child poverty rate in the country at 10 percent.
- Only 2 states - New Jersey and West Virginia - saw a statistically significant increase in child poverty in 2013, with West Virginia experiencing an increase of over 2 percent.
- 22 states and DC had child poverty rates higher than or equal to the national average.
- The state with the highest child poverty rate in 2013 was Mississippi, despite a slight decrease from last year, it still has 34 percent of its children living in poverty.



Regional Trends

States in the South and Southwest historically tend to have higher rates of child poverty than the rest of the country. This trend continued in 2013, for among the ten states with the highest rates of child poverty (Mississippi, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, West Virginia, Arizona, Georgia and Tennessee), the majority are concentrated in these two regions of the US. The majority of these states also have fairly diverse child populations. In each of the ten states, with the exception of West Virginia and Arkansas, at least 30 percent of the child population is either Black or Hispanic.

On the other hand, the states with the lowest child poverty rates are less clustered. Of the ten states with the lowest child poverty rates, three are in the Northeast region (Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont) and the others are geographically scattered: Maryland, Utah, Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, Wyoming and Minnesota.

Limitations of the Data

The national numbers used in this report come from the US Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey – Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013. The state numbers used in this report come from the American Community Survey, 2013, 1-Year Estimates. These numbers are generated from sampling, and as such, there is potential for error. For more information on each survey, please visit www.census.gov.