

2014 did not see improvement for children living in poverty. 21 percent, or 15.5 million children were living in poverty in 2014 (the official poverty line for a family of four with two children is \$24,008 a year). This is not a significant change from last year.

Children in the United States still suffer higher rates of poverty than any other age group. While children made up 23 percent of the population, they make up 33 percent of the people living in poverty.

9.3 percent of children were living in extreme poverty in 2014. This means that 6.8 million children were living in families with an annual income of \$12,004 a year or less. The number of children living in extreme poverty only saw a small decrease from 2013.

Minority and young children continue to experience higher rates of poverty. 37 percent of African-American children and 31 percent of Latino children were living in poverty, compared with 12 percent of white children. African-American children were the only children to experience an increase in poverty in 2014.

23.5 percent of related children under 6 (5.5 million) were living in poverty in 2014, which is not a significant change from 2013. Close to half of these children were living in extreme poverty (2.6 million).

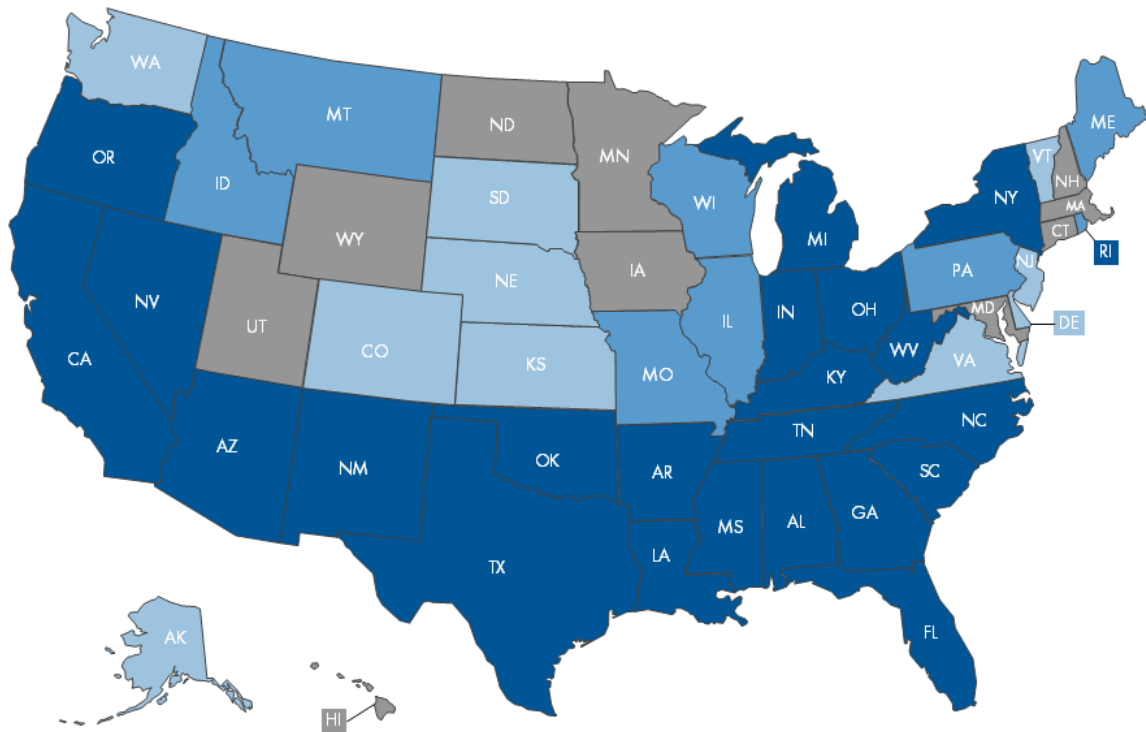
Highlights of State-by-State Trends

- Most states did not see any significant changes in their child poverty rate from 2013;
- While still having one of the highest child poverty rates in the country, Mississippi saw the largest decrease in its child poverty rate;
- Despite having relatively low levels of child poverty, Alaska, New Hampshire, and North Dakota saw the largest increases in their child poverty rate;
- 20 states, as well as DC, had child poverty rates higher than the national average;
- Wyoming, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Utah have the lowest poverty rates in the country, with rates of 13 percent or lower.

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 2014. The ten states with the highest rates of child poverty (Mississippi, New Mexico, Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Arizona), all are concentrated in these two regions of the United States. These states also have fairly diverse child populations. In the majority of these states, at least 30 percent of the child population is either African American or Latino.

On the other hand, the states with the lowest child poverty rates are geographically scattered: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland, Utah, Hawaii, North Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, and Iowa.



- Greater than 21 percent child poverty
- 18-20 percent child poverty
- 15-17 percent child poverty
- 12-14 percent child poverty

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: 2014](#). The state numbers used in this report come from the [American Community Survey, 2014, 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.