

2015 saw some positive news for children, with the national child poverty rate dropping from 21.1 percent in 2014 to 19.7 percent in 2015, resulting in 1 million less children living in poverty. (The official poverty line for a family of four with two children is \$24,036).

Yet we know we can do better. Children are still 69 percent more likely to live in poverty than adults. They make up 23.1 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 33.6 percent of the population living in poverty.

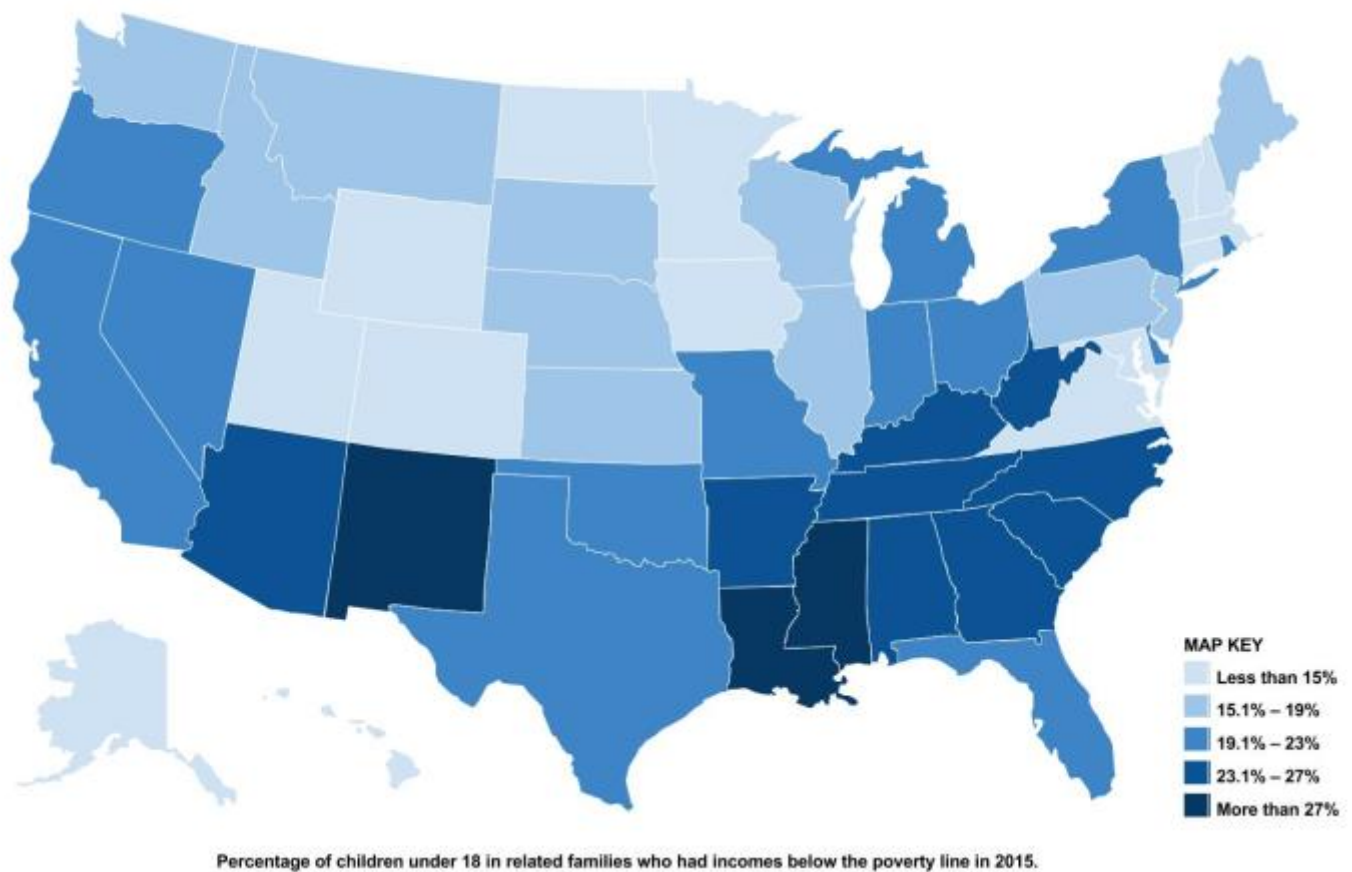
There are also still huge disparities that exist for children in poverty. While the Black child poverty rate saw a considerable decrease (32.9 percent in 2015 compared to 37 percent in 2014), the poverty rate for Black and Hispanic children continues to be significantly higher than for white children, with rates of 32.9 and 28.9 percent respectively compared to 12.1 percent for white children.

8.9 percent of children are still living in extreme poverty as well, meaning that over 6.6 million children were living in households with an annual income of \$12,018 or less a year.

Finally, younger children tend to experience poverty at higher rates – 21 percent of children under 6 were living in poverty in 2015, a small decrease from 23.5 percent in 2014.

Highlights of State-by-State Trends

- 13 states saw a statistically significant decrease in the percentage of children living in poverty from 2014-2015: California, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.
- New Hampshire has the lowest child poverty rate in the country at 10.2 percent.
- No state saw a statistically significant increase in child poverty in 2015.
- 22 states, as well as DC and Puerto Rico had child poverty rates higher than the national average.
- The state with the highest child poverty rate in 2015 was Mississippi with 31.1 percent of its children living in poverty.



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 2015, for among the ten states with the highest rates of child poverty (Mississippi, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, 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 20 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: North Dakota, Utah, Minnesota, Maryland, Wyoming, Hawaii, North Dakota and Colorado.

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: 2015. The state numbers used in this report come from the American Community Survey, 2015, 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.