

Table 2. Persons and families below poverty level, by selected characteristics, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1973-2009

(Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population)

Selected characteristics race, and Hispanic origin ¹	1973	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000 ²	2005	2008	2009
All persons									
Percent below poverty									
All races.....	11.1	13.0	14.0	13.5	13.8	11.3	12.6	13.2	14.3
White only.....	8.4	10.2	11.4	10.7	11.2	9.5	10.6	11.2	12.3
Black or African American only....	31.4	32.5	31.3	31.9	29.3	22.5	24.9	24.7	25.8
Asian only.....	---	---	---	12.2	14.6	9.9	11.1	11.8	12.5
Hispanic or Latino.....	21.9	25.7	29.0	28.1	30.3	21.5	21.8	23.2	25.3
Mexican.....	---	---	28.8	28.1	31.2	22.9	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	43.3	40.6	38.1	25.6	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	7.5	9.1	9.7	8.8	8.5	7.4	8.3	8.6	9.4
Related children under 18 years of age in families									
All races.....	14.2	17.9	20.1	19.9	20.2	15.6	17.1	18.5	20.1
White only.....	9.7	13.4	15.6	15.1	15.5	12.4	13.9	15.3	17.0
Black or African American only....	40.6	42.1	43.1	44.2	41.5	30.9	34.2	34.4	35.3
Asian only.....	---	---	---	17.0	18.6	12.5	11.0	14.2	13.6
Hispanic or Latino.....	27.8	33.0	39.6	37.7	39.3	27.6	27.7	30.3	32.5
Mexican.....	---	---	37.4	35.5	39.3	29.5	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	58.6	56.7	53.2	32.1	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	11.3	12.3	11.6	10.6	8.5	9.5	10.0	11.2
Related children under 18 years of age in families with female householder and no spouse present									
All races.....	---	50.8	53.6	53.4	50.3	40.1	42.8	43.5	44.4
White only.....	---	41.6	45.2	45.9	42.5	33.9	38.8	39.3	41.2
Black or African American only....	---	64.8	66.9	64.7	61.6	49.3	50.2	51.9	50.6
Asian only.....	---	---	---	32.2	42.4	38.0	25.6	25.0	25.6
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	65.0	72.4	68.4	65.7	49.8	50.2	51.9	52.2
Mexican.....	---	---	64.4	62.4	65.9	51.4	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	85.4	82.7	79.6	55.3	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	---	---	39.6	33.5	28.0	33.1	31.7	33.5
All persons									
Number below poverty in thousands									
All races.....	22,973	29,272	33,064	33,585	36,425	31,581	36,950	39,829	43,569
White only.....	15,142	19,699	22,860	22,326	24,423	21,645	24,872	26,990	29,830
Black or African American only....	7,388	8,579	8,926	9,837	9,872	7,982	9,168	9,379	9,944
Asian only.....	---	---	---	858	1,411	1,258	1,402	1,576	1,746
Hispanic or Latino.....	2,366	3,491	5,236	6,006	8,574	7,747	9,368	10,987	12,350
Mexican.....	---	---	3,220	3,764	5,608	5,460	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	1,011	966	1,183	814	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	12,864	16,365	17,839	16,622	16,267	14,366	16,227	17,024	18,530
Related children under 18 years of age in families									
All races.....	9,453	11,114	12,483	12,715	13,999	11,005	12,335	13,507	14,774
White only.....	5,462	6,817	7,838	7,696	8,474	6,834	7,652	8,441	9,440
Black or African American only....	3,822	3,906	4,057	4,412	4,644	3,495	3,743	3,781	3,919
Asian only.....	---	---	---	356	532	407	312	430	444
Hispanic or Latino.....	1,364	1,718	2,512	2,750	3,938	3,342	3,977	4,888	5,419
Mexican.....	---	---	1,589	1,733	2,655	2,537	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	535	490	610	329	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	5,174	5,421	5,106	4,745	3,715	3,973	4,059	4,518
Related children under 18 years of age in families with female householder and no spouse present									
All races.....	---	5,866	6,716	7,363	8,364	6,300	7,210	7,587	7,942
White only.....	---	2,813	3,372	3,597	4,051	3,090	3,747	3,926	4,325
Black or African American only....	---	2,944	3,181	3,543	3,954	2,908	2,993	3,123	2,998
Asian only.....	---	---	---	80	145	162	68	88	90
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	809	1,247	1,314	1,872	1,407	1,774	2,218	2,437
Mexican.....	---	---	553	615	1,056	938	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	449	382	459	242	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	---	---	2,411	2,299	1,832	2,158	1,985	2,144

---Data not available.

¹The race groups, white, black, and Asian, include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 2002 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The three single-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. For

2002 and subsequent years, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group.

Estimates for single-race categories prior to 2002 are based on answers to the Current Population Survey question which asked respondents to choose only a single race.

Prior to data year 2002, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards in which the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

²Estimates are consistent with 2001 data through implementation of the 2000 census-based population controls and a 28,000 household sample expansion.

³The 2004 data have been revised to reflect a correction to the weights in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey.
See Appendix I, Current Population Survey (CPS).

NOTES: Estimates of poverty for 1991-1998 are based on 1990 postcensal population estimates.

Estimates for 1999 and subsequent years are based on 2000 census population controls.

Poverty level is based on family income and family size using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds.

See Appendix II, Poverty. The Current Population Survey is not large

enough to produce reliable annual estimates for American Indian or Alaska Native persons, or for Native Hawaiians.

The 2007-2009 average poverty rate for American Indian or Alaska Natives only was 26.1%,

representing 717,000 persons. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements;

DeNavas-Walt C, Proctor BD, Smith JC. Income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States: 2009.

Current Population Reports, P-60-238. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. 2010.

Available from: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2009/index.html>.