

Table 2. Persons below poverty level, by selected characteristics, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1973-2011

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

Selected characteristic, race, and Hispanic origin ¹ / All persons	1973	1980	1985	1990	1995	2002	2005	2010 ⁴	2011
	Percent below poverty								
All races.....	11.1	13.0	14.0	13.5	13.8	12.1	12.6	15.1	15.0
White only.....	8.4	10.2	11.4	10.7	11.2	10.2	10.6	13.0	12.8
Black or African American only....	31.4	32.5	31.3	31.9	29.3	24.1	24.9	27.4	27.6
Asian only.....	---	---	---	12.2	14.6	10.1	11.1	12.2	12.3
Hispanic or Latino.....	21.9	25.7	29.0	28.1	30.3	21.8	21.8	26.5	25.3
Mexican.....	---	---	28.8	28.1	31.2	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	43.3	40.6	38.1	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino..	7.5	9.1	9.7	8.8	8.5	8.0	8.3	9.9	9.8
Related children under 18 years of age in families									
All races.....	14.2	17.9	20.1	19.9	20.2	16.3	17.1	21.5	21.4
White only.....	9.7	13.4	15.6	15.1	15.5	13.1	13.9	17.9	18.1
Black or African American only....	40.6	42.1	43.1	44.2	41.5	32.1	34.2	39.0	38.6
Asian only.....	---	---	---	17.0	18.6	11.4	11.0	14.0	13.0
Hispanic or Latino.....	27.8	33.0	39.6	37.7	39.3	28.2	27.7	34.3	33.7
Mexican.....	---	---	37.4	35.5	39.3	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	58.6	56.7	53.2	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino..	---	11.3	12.3	11.6	10.6	8.9	9.5	11.7	11.9
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	39.6	42.8	46.6	47.6
White only.....	---	41.6	45.2	45.9	42.5	34.7	38.8	43.3	44.3
Black or African American only....	---	64.8	66.9	64.7	61.6	47.5	50.2	53.2	54.2
Asian only.....	---	---	---	32.2	42.4	29.8	25.6	36.9	34.5
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	65.0	72.4	68.4	65.7	47.9	50.2	56.3	56.8
Mexican.....	---	---	64.4	62.4	65.9	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	85.4	82.7	79.6	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino..	---	---	---	39.6	33.5	29.2	33.1	34.7	35.5
All persons									
	Number below poverty in thousands								
All races.....	22,973	29,272	33,064	33,585	36,425	34,570	36,950	46,343	46,247
White only.....	15,142	19,699	22,860	22,326	24,423	23,466	24,872	31,083	30,849
Black or African American only....	7,388	8,579	8,926	9,837	9,872	8,602	9,168	10,746	10,929
Asian only.....	---	---	---	858	1,411	1,161	1,402	1,899	1,973

Hispanic or Latino.....	2,366	3,491	5,236	6,006	8,574	8,555	9,368	13,522	13,244
Mexican.....	---	---	3,220	3,764	5,608	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	1,011	966	1,183	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	12,864	16,365	17,839	16,622	16,267	15,567	16,227	19,251	19,171

Related children under 18 years
of age in families

All races.....	9,453	11,114	12,483	12,715	13,999	11,646	12,335	15,598	15,539
White only.....	5,462	6,817	7,838	7,696	8,474	7,203	7,652	9,590	9,643
Black or African American only....	3,822	3,906	4,057	4,412	4,644	3,570	3,743	4,271	4,247
Asian only.....	---	---	---	356	532	302	312	477	466
Hispanic or Latino.....	1,364	1,718	2,512	2,750	3,938	3,653	3,977	5,815	5,820
Mexican.....	---	---	1,589	1,733	2,655	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	535	490	610	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	5,174	5,421	5,106	4,745	3,848	3,973	4,544	4,554

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	6,564	7,210	8,603	9,026
White only.....	---	2,813	3,372	3,597	4,051	3,271	3,747	4,495	4,792
Black or African American only....	---	2,944	3,181	3,543	3,954	2,855	2,993	3,252	3,331
Asian only.....	---	---	---	80	145	85	68	141	147
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	809	1,247	1,314	1,872	1,501	1,774	2,707	2,955
Mexican.....	---	---	553	615	1,056	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	449	382	459	---	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	---	---	2,411	2,299	1,949	2,158	2,209	2,321

---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 (shown in spreadsheet version) were revised to reflect a correction to the weights in the 2005 Annual Social and Economic Supplements of the Current Population Survey.

See Appendix I, Current Population Survey (CPS).

⁴Data for 2010 were revised to reflect Census 2010-based population controls.

NOTES: Estimates of poverty for 1991-1998 are based on 1990 postcensal population estimates. Estimates for 1999-2009 were based on Census 2000 population controls. Estimates for 2010 and beyond were based on Census 2010 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 Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons. The 2009-2011 average poverty rate for American Indian or Alaska Native only persons was 28.3%, representing 896,000 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: 2011. Current Population Reports, P60-243. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. 2012. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf>. See Appendix I, Current Population Survey (CPS).

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