

Table 3. Persons and families below poverty level, by selected characteristics, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1973-2008

(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	2004 ³	2007	2008
All persons									
Percent below poverty									
All races.....	11.1	13.0	14.0	13.5	13.8	11.3	12.7	12.5	13.2
White only.....	8.4	10.2	11.4	10.7	11.2	9.5	10.8	10.5	11.2
Black or African American only....	31.4	32.5	31.3	31.9	29.3	22.5	24.7	24.5	24.7
Asian only.....	---	---	---	12.2	14.6	9.9	9.8	10.2	11.8
Hispanic or Latino.....	21.9	25.7	29.0	28.1	30.3	21.5	21.9	21.5	23.2
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	8.7	8.2	8.6
Related children under 18 years of age in families									
All races.....	14.2	17.9	20.1	19.9	20.2	15.6	17.3	17.6	18.5
White only.....	9.7	13.4	15.6	15.1	15.5	12.4	14.3	14.4	15.3
Black or African American only....	40.6	42.1	43.1	44.2	41.5	30.9	33.4	34.3	34.4
Asian only.....	---	---	---	17.0	18.6	12.5	9.4	11.8	14.2
Hispanic or Latino.....	27.8	33.0	39.6	37.7	39.3	27.6	28.6	28.3	30.3
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	9.9	9.7	10.0
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	41.9	43.0	43.5
White only.....	---	41.6	45.2	45.9	42.5	33.9	38.2	39.0	39.3
Black or African American only....	---	64.8	66.9	64.7	61.6	49.3	49.2	50.4	51.9
Asian only.....	---	---	---	32.2	42.4	38.0	18.7	32.3	25.0
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	65.0	72.4	68.4	65.7	49.8	51.9	51.6	51.9
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	31.5	32.4	31.7
All persons									
Number below poverty in thousands									
All races.....	22,973	29,272	33,064	33,585	36,425	31,581	37,040	37,276	39,829
White only.....	15,142	19,699	22,860	22,326	24,423	21,645	25,327	25,120	26,990
Black or African American only....	7,388	8,579	8,926	9,837	9,872	7,982	9,014	9,237	9,379
Asian only.....	---	---	---	858	1,411	1,258	1,201	1,349	1,576
Hispanic or Latino.....	2,366	3,491	5,236	6,006	8,574	7,747	9,122	9,890	10,987
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	16,908	16,032	17,024

Related children under 18 years
of age in families

All races.....	9,453	11,114	12,483	12,715	13,999	11,005	12,473	12,802	13,507
White only.....	5,462	6,817	7,838	7,696	8,474	6,834	7,876	8,002	8,441
Black or African American only....	3,822	3,906	4,057	4,412	4,644	3,495	3,702	3,838	3,781
Asian only.....	---	---	---	356	532	407	265	345	430
Hispanic or Latino.....	1,364	1,718	2,512	2,750	3,938	3,342	3,985	4,348	4,888
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	4,190	3,996	4,059

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	7,152	7,546	7,587
White only.....	---	2,813	3,372	3,597	4,051	3,090	3,782	3,931	3,926
Black or African American only....	---	2,944	3,181	3,543	3,954	2,908	2,963	3,114	3,123
Asian only.....	---	---	---	80	145	162	55	100	88
Hispanic or Latino.....	---	809	1,247	1,314	1,872	1,407	1,840	2,092	2,218
Mexican.....	---	---	553	615	1,056	938	---	---	---
Puerto Rican.....	---	---	449	382	459	242	---	---	---
White only, not Hispanic or Latino...	---	---	---	2,411	2,299	1,832	2,114	2,101	1,985

---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 2006-2008 average poverty rate for American Indian or Alaska Natives only was 26.7%,

representing 721,000 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: 2008. Current Population Reports, P-60-236. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. 2009. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/incpovhlth/2008/index.html>.

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