

ARIZON  
NEW MEXICO

OKLAHOMA

ARKANSAS

TENNESSEE

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

R1701

**PERCENT OF PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (FOR WHOM POVERTY STATUS IS DETERMINED) - United States -- States; and Puerto Rico**  
 Universe: Population for whom poverty status is determined  
 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

To view this table with statistical significance, select With Statistical Significance in the Action menu.

An # next to a geography indicates when an estimate is not statistically significant from the estimate for the selected geography.  
 The ## indicates the selected geography.

Rank	Geographical Area	Percent	Margin of Error
	United States	15.9	+/-0.1
1	Mississippi	24.2	+/-0.8
2	New Mexico	20.8	+/-0.7
3	Louisiana	19.9	+/-0.5
4	Arkansas	19.8	+/-0.6
5	Kentucky	19.4	+/-0.5
6	Georgia	19.2	+/-0.4
7	Alabama	19.0	+/-0.4
8	Arizona	18.7	+/-0.4
9	South Carolina	18.3	+/-0.5
10	District of Columbia	18.2	+/-1.3
11	North Carolina	18.0	+/-0.3
12	Tennessee	17.9	+/-0.4
12	Texas	17.9	+/-0.2
14	West Virginia	17.8	+/-0.7
15	Michigan	17.4	+/-0.3
16	Oklahoma	17.2	+/-0.4
16	Oregon	17.2	+/-0.6
18	Florida	17.1	+/-0.3
19	California	17.0	+/-0.2
20	Nevada	16.4	+/-0.7
21	Ohio	16.3	+/-0.3
22	Missouri	16.2	+/-0.4
23	Idaho	15.9	+/-0.9
23	New York	15.9	+/-0.2
25	Indiana	15.6	+/-0.3
26	Montana	15.5	+/-0.8
27	Illinois	14.7	+/-0.3
27	Maine	14.7	+/-0.7
29	Kansas	14.0	+/-0.4
30	Colorado	13.7	+/-0.4
30	Pennsylvania	13.7	+/-0.2
30	Rhode Island	13.7	+/-0.8

Rank	Geographical Area	Percent	Margin of Error
33	Washington	13.5	+/-0.4
34	South Dakota	13.4	+/-0.7
35	Wisconsin	13.2	+/-0.3
36	Nebraska	13.0	+/-0.6
37	Utah	12.8	+/-0.7
38	Iowa	12.7	+/-0.4
39	Wyoming	12.6	+/-1.1
40	Delaware	12.0	+/-0.9
41	Massachusetts	11.9	+/-0.3
42	Vermont	11.8	+/-0.8
43	Virginia	11.7	+/-0.3
44	Hawaii	11.6	+/-0.7
45	Minnesota	11.4	+/-0.3
46	North Dakota	11.2	+/-0.6
47	New Jersey	10.8	+/-0.3
48	Connecticut	10.7	+/-0.4
49	Maryland	10.3	+/-0.3
50	Alaska	10.1	+/-0.7
51	New Hampshire	10.0	+/-0.8
	Puerto Rico	44.9	+/-0.7

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

While the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) data generally reflect the December 2009 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in ACS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities.

Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on Census 2000 data. Boundaries for urban areas have not been updated since Census 2000. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

#### Explanation of Symbols:

1. An '\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An '\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
6. An '\*\*\*\*\*' entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.
7. An 'N' entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
8. An '(X)' means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.