



Child Poverty in California 2015

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau Official Poverty Measure

September 15, 2016

Poverty data released by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal 14.5 million children in the United States lived in poverty in 2015. **California had the largest number of poor children of any state in the nation.**

The data below are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's official poverty measure. An alternative Census measure, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), suggests that these figures substantially understate how many children face economic hardship in California.

Child Poverty

- 1,901,505 California children lived in poverty in 2015.
- The child poverty rate in California was 21.2% in 2015.
- This represents a decline from 2014 when: 2,047,259 (22.7%) children lived in poverty.
- Poverty is defined nationally as an annual income below \$24,257 for a family of four, meaning less than \$2,021 a month, \$466 a week, or \$66 a day.

Extreme Poverty

- 795,846 (8.9%) children in California lived in extreme poverty in 2015
- Extreme poverty is defined as an annual income of less than half the poverty level, or \$12,129 for a family of four, which amounts to less than \$1,011 a month, \$233 a week, or \$33 a day.

Children of Color

Children of color continue to be disproportionately poor.

Race/Ethnicity	Number in Poverty, 2015	Percent in Poverty, 2015
Latino	1,328,619	28.5%
Black	150,457	31.0%
Asian	115,846	11.4%
2 or more races	110,900	14.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	23,300	33.2%
White	240,953	10.3%

Young Children

The youngest children have the highest poverty rates, at the time of greatest brain development.

- 657,979 (22.3%) children under age six in California lived in poverty in 2015.
- 278,612 (9.5%) children under age six in California were living in extreme poverty in 2015.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates