RESULTS Overview of the New 2017 U.S. Poverty Data

September 12, 2018

Login at: https://results.zoom.us/j/956438447 or dial (929) 436-2866 or (669) 900-6833, Meeting ID: 956 438 447.
Census Bureau: Top Takeaways

Measuring the Nation’s Social and Economic Well-Being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$60,309</td>
<td>$61,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people in poverty</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Poverty Measure*</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people without health insurance coverage*</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* An asterisk indicates that the estimates from 2016 and 2017 were not statistically different from one another.
How is poverty defined, anyway?

Official measure, poverty thresholds for 2017
still listed as preliminary, weighted averages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Poverty Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 person (average)</td>
<td>$12,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, under 65:</td>
<td>$12,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 65 or older:</td>
<td>$11,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 people:</td>
<td>$15,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 people:</td>
<td>$19,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 people:</td>
<td>$25,086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2017 US Census Data

SHOWS THAT

1 in 8 Americans

STILL LIVES BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Source: 2017 U.S. Census Data
Huge Disparities by Race

Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2017

Source: United States Census Bureau
ACS Data
Set: State and Local Poverty

2017 Poverty Rate in the United States

Note: U.S. percentage does not include data for Puerto Rico.

Source: United States Census Bureau

Source: 2017 American Community Survey
2017 Puerto Rico Community Survey
www.census.gov/acs
Many Families Face Hardships

**FIGURE 1**
Material Hardships in Past 12 Months Reported by Adults Ages 18 to 64, December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hardship</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any hardship</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple hardships</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed rent or mortgage payment</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evicted or forced to move</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed utility bill payment</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility shutoff</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems paying family medical bills</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmet need for medical care because of costs</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Unmet need for medical care includes general doctor care, specialist care, prescription drugs, tests, treatment and follow-up care, dental care, mental health care or counseling, and substance use treatment or counseling. Food insecurity is based on the six-item short form food security module and includes those with low or very low household food security.

Source: Urban Institute
Looking at Food Insecurity

Source: United States Department of Agriculture
The Supplemental Poverty Measure

Figure 8. Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2017
(In millions)

- Social Security: -27.0
- Refundable tax credits: -8.3
- SNAP: -3.4
- SSI: -3.2
- Housing subsidies: -2.9
- Child support received: -1.0
- School lunch: -1.2
- TANF/general assistance: -0.5
- Unemployment insurance: -0.5
- Workers’ compensation: -0.2
- WIC: -0.3
- LIHEAP: -0.2
- Child support paid: 0.2
- Federal income tax: -4.7
- FICA: 5.6
- Work expenses: 10.9
- Medical expenses: 0.2


Source: United States Census Bureau
LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS LIFT MILLIONS OUT OF POVERTY
CONGRESSIONAL AND TRUMP BUDGETS CALL FOR DEEP CUTS TO THESE PROGRAMS

 Millions of people lifted above supplemental poverty line in 2017

- **Under 18 years**
- **18-64 years**
- **65 years and over**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Figures would be even higher if they included corrections for the underreporting of government benefits in survey data.
The Impact of Anti-Poverty Policies

Safety Net’s Effectiveness at Reducing Child Poverty Has Grown Dramatically Since 1967

Percent of otherwise poor lifted above the poverty line by the safety net

Note: For each year, figures show the percent reduction in the number of children in poverty from when government benefits and taxes are not counted to when they are counted. Calculations use Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and 2012 SPM poverty line adjusted for inflation.

Source: CBPP analysis of Columbia University Population Research Center and U.S. Census Bureau data.
- SNAP is the **first line of defense** against hunger in America
- It is **one of the most efficient** government programs
  - Close to 70 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children; nearly a third are in households with seniors or people with disabilities
- In 2017, SNAP lifted **3.4 million people** above the federal poverty line
  - Serves over **40 million people** per month

Source: [United States Department of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov)
Evidence Based Policy-Making

**Children Receiving Larger EITCs Finish More Education**
Percentage-point change due to increase of about $3,000 in maximum federal Earned Income Tax Credit, enacted in 1993

- High school completion: +7.2%
- College enrollment by age 19: +4.8%


**Children With Access to SNAP Fare Better Years Later**
Percentage-point change in outcomes for adults with access to SNAP as children, compared to those without access

- Stunted growth: -6%
- Heart disease: -5%
- Obesity: -16%
- High school completion: 18%

Note: The study compared adults who had access to SNAP (then food stamps) through age 5 after its introduction in the 1960s and early 1970s to similar children who spent none of these years in a food stamp county.

Health Policies Matter Too

Uninsured Rate by States’ Medicaid Expansion Status
Adults Aged 19 to 64: 2013 to 2017

More: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
The Impact of the 2017 Tax Law

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE TAX CODE AFTER THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017

THE RICHEST 0.1%

THE RICHEST 1%

MIDDLE CLASS

POOREST 1/5 OF AMERICANS

BY INCOME

- $193,380 tax cut

- $51,140 tax cut

- $840 tax cut

- $60 tax cut

BY RACE/ETHNICITY

More Tax Cuts Ahead?!?!?!

Share of Tax Changes in 2018 & 2026

- Tax Cuts & Jobs Act in 2018
- Proposed Extension in 2026
- TCJA as Enacted Plus Proposed Extension in 2026

Poorest 20%: -1% 1%
Second 20%: 5% 6% 3%
Middle 20%: 9% 10% 9%
Fourth 20%: 15% 17% 17%
Richest 20%: 71% 65% 71%

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy
Let’s Make Some Noise!

2017 US Census Data
SHOWS THAT SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) HELPED

3.4 Million People
MOVE ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE LAST YEAR

Source: 2017 U.S. Census Data
Conference Committee

- Works out the differences in Senate and House versions of bills on the same topic
- Creates a “compromise bill” before it is sent to the President
- Made up of Senators and Representative

REMINDER: Food assistance for 2 million Americans is at stake
Thank you!
Questions?
Get Started on Your Media Work!

Take a few minutes to scan your local paper this evening for a good hook and then use it to write and submit a letter to the editor tonight.

Use our online LTE template to help with drafting and submitting your letter.

Once you get published, please let Jos Linn know so we can celebrate!