

Methodology:

Poor or low-income rates and total estimates were calculated by the Institute for Policy Studies, and with support from Robert Paul Hartley, Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University. Data are used from the 2012-2016 *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement* (CPS ASEC). These estimates utilize the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The SPM is commonly considered to be a more accurate measurement of poverty. Poverty thresholds in the SPM are based on the amount people spend on basic needs (food, clothing, shelter and utilities) rather than the Official Poverty Measure (OPM), which is based only on spending for food. SPM thresholds differ by family size, renter/homeowner status, and location. Compared to the OPM, the SPM also takes into account non-cash government benefits, such as tax credits and social welfare programs. It also factors in necessary expenses, which includes taxes, medical out-of-pocket expenses, childcare and transportation.

Based on U.S. Census recommendations, state-level estimates use 5-year averages (2012-2016) for additional statistical reliability. The margin of error was calculated for each state within a 90% confidence interval. Table 1 shows the median and maximum margin of errors for each poor or low-income rate, across all states.

Poor or Low-income Rate	Median Margin of Error	Max Margin of Error
Total	±1.41%	±2.29%
Children	±2.25%	±3.50%
Women	±1.50%	±2.21%
People of Color	±2.45%	±6.04%
White People	±1.54%	±2.51%

Table 1. Median and Max Margin of Errors for Selected Population, Poor or Low-income Rates per State.

“Total” refers to the total population. “Children” refers to the total population under the age of 18. “Women” refers to the total female population. “People of Color” refers to the total Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Mixed, and Other population. “White People” refers to the total White, non-Hispanic population.