Poverty in America, 2016: A Catholic Response

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Pope Francis on Poverty
The economic system that has the god of money at its center, and that sometimes acts with the brutality of the robbers in the parable [of the Good Samaritan], inflicts injuries that to a criminal degree have remained neglected. Globalized society frequently looks the other way with the pretense of innocence. Under the guise of what is politically correct or ideologically fashionable, one looks at those who suffer without touching them. But they are televised live; they are talked about in euphemisms and with apparent tolerance, but nothing is done systematically to heal the social wounds or to confront the structures that leave so many brothers and sisters by the wayside.

- Message of Pope Francis on the Occasion of the World Meeting of Popular Movements in Modesto, CA, Feb. 10, 2017
“This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him” (Ps 34:6). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry. We possess an outstanding testimony to this in the very first pages of the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter asks that seven men, “full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (6:3), be chosen for the ministry of caring for the poor. This is certainly one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian community upon the world’s stage: the service of the poor. The earliest community realized that being a disciple of Jesus meant demonstrating fraternity and solidarity, in obedience to the Master’s proclamation that the poor are **blessed** and **heirs** to the Kingdom of heaven (cf. Mt 5:3).

- Pope Francis, Message to the First World Day of the Poor, Nov 19, 2017
Catholic Social Teaching: Poverty

The 2016 Powerpoint:

Headlines

- Median Household Income is Up and Poverty is Down By Significant Amounts for the second year in a row
- Government Programs Succeed in Raising Many Families Out of Poverty
- Many Families Rely on Programs to Stay Out of Poverty
- Many Families Who Are Above the Poverty Line are Still Close – Almost 1 in 3 report family household income below 200% of threshold
- Survey of 95k households
- Controlled to independent national population estimates of age, sex, and race for March 2016
- Conducted every month
- Primary source of poverty data for the US Government
- Used for the Office of Management and Budget policy calculations
- Has most detailed questions on economics and poverty
# Poverty Threshold for 2016 CPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Family Unit</th>
<th>Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds</th>
<th>No Children</th>
<th>One Child</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$12,228</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (hh&lt;65)</td>
<td>$16,151</td>
<td>$16,072</td>
<td>$16,543</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (hh&gt;65)</td>
<td>$14,522</td>
<td>$14,507</td>
<td>$16,480</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$19,105</td>
<td>$18,774</td>
<td>$19,318</td>
<td>$19,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$24,563</td>
<td>$24,755</td>
<td>$25,160</td>
<td>$24,339</td>
<td>$24,424</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$29,111</td>
<td>$29,854</td>
<td>$30,288</td>
<td>$29,360</td>
<td>$28,643</td>
<td>$28,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Poverty Rate for 2016

Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2016

The Poverty Rate is Down

- 12.7% in 2016, down 0.8% from 2015, 2.1% since 2014.
- 40.6 M in poverty, down 2.5M from 2015, and 6.0M from 2014
- The Pre-Recession poverty rate in 2007 was 12.5%
  - 11.3% in 2000.

- Children: 18%, down from 19.7% in 2015
  - 13.3M, down from 14.5M in 2015.
- 65+: 9.3%, not statistically different from 2015
  - Only age group to increase in number: 4.2 to 4.6M
Poverty rate for families was 9.8% or 8.1M families, down from 10.4% and 8.6M in 2015.

For married couple families, the poverty rate did not show statistically significant change: 5.1%, representing 3.1M families, down from 5.4%, representing 3.2M families in 2015.

For families with a female householder, the poverty rate was 26.6%, representing 4.1M families, down from 28.2%, representing 4.4M families in 2015.

Families with a male householder had a poverty rate of 13.1%, representing 847k families, down from 14.9%, representing 939k families in 2015.

To leave poverty, families needed on avg $10,505 in 2016, slightly higher than $10,246 in 2015.
Poverty Rate for Children Based on Family Composition

- Poverty Rate for children related to the householder is 17.6%, representing 12.8M children down from 19.2%, representing 14 M children in 2015.
- For children in married couple families, the poverty rate is 8.4%, representing 4.2M children, down from 9.8%, representing 4.8 M in 2015.
- For related children in families with a female householder, the poverty rate for children is 42.1%, representing 7.6M children, not statistically different from the rate of 42.6%, representing 7.9M children, in 2015.
Families Close to the Poverty Line

- 17% of all individuals had family income below 125% of their poverty threshold
- 21.2% are below 150% of the threshold
- 29.8% are below 200% of the threshold

- In other words, nearly 1/3 of all individuals are in a family whose household income is less than twice the poverty line.
- For a family of four with two children, that would be a household income less than $48,678.
Racial Disparities in Income

Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. Income rounded to nearest $100.
“Through Jesus’ example of love and mercy, we are called to be a better people than what we have witnessed over the past weeks and months as a nation. Through listening, prayer and meaningful collaboration, I’m hopeful we can find lasting solutions and common ground where racism will no longer find a place in our society.”

- Bishop George V. Murray, SJ, Chairman of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Racism

Gender Disparities in Income
Real Median Earnings and Female-to-Male Earnings Ratio: 1960 to 2016
(Full-time, year-round workers, aged 15 and older)

Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.
Earnings rounded to nearest $100.
18.5M were in deep poverty in 2016, down from 19.4M in 2015

Deep Poverty Rate was 5.8%, down from 6.1% 2015, which accounted for 45.6% of all people in poverty, slightly higher than 45.1% in 2015.

6.0M Children in deep poverty in 2016, down from 6.5M Children in 2015, representing 32.6% of all persons in families living in deep poverty, down 1% from 2015.
Growing Income Disparity
Real Household Income at Selected Percentiles: 1967 to 2016

Income in thousands (2016 dollars)

Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. Income rounded to nearest $100.
$59,039 in 2016, up 3.2% from the 2015 median of $57,320.

This surpasses the pre-recession median of $58,149 in 2007.

It also surpasses the previous high in 1999 of $58,655.

The 8.5% jump in income in the last two years is the largest on record since data begins in the 60s.

However, bottom quintile and bottom 10% is actually down over the last decade, as well as compared to 1999.
In 2015, Income Showed Percentage Growth at Bottom of Income Spectrum

- Income in 2015 grew by 7.9% for households at the 10th percentile
- Grew by 5.2% for households at the 50th percentile
- Grew by 2.9% at the 90th percentile
- Grew by 3.7% at the 95th percentile

- State minimum wage and employment increases likely factors
Income Increased at the Top in 2016

- Income in 2016 grew by 1.3% at the 10\textsuperscript{th} percentile.
- Grew by 3.2% at the 50\textsuperscript{th} percentile.
- Grew by 3.8% at the 90\textsuperscript{th} percentile.
- Grew by 3.7% at the 95\textsuperscript{th} percentile.
Labor Day Statement

Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2016

Current Population Reports

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which replaced the Official Poverty Measure (OPM) starting with the 2011 CPS ASEC, is the measure used for all subsequent years. The SPM accounts for the spending on and cost of noncash benefits received in-kind by individuals in the United States. It is a more comprehensive approach that better captures the resources available to low-income households. The SPM is calculated using the formula:

\[
SPM = \text{Income} - \text{Subtraction} + \text{Additions} + \text{Adjustments}
\]

Where:
- \( \text{Income} \) includes earned income, unearned income, and noncash benefits.
- \( \text{Subtraction} \) includes cash transfers and taxes paid.
- \( \text{Additions} \) includes in-kind benefits.
- \( \text{Adjustments} \) include adjustments for medical costs, child care costs, and other expenses.

The SPM is calculated for each household and then compared to the poverty thresholds. Households with an SPM below the poverty threshold are considered poor. The poverty thresholds are adjusted for family size and composition.

For more information, visit the U.S. Census Bureau website at www.census.gov.

SPM Threshold for 2016
Official and SPM Thresholds for Units with Two Adults and Two Children: 2016

Child Poverty Less Under SPM


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Official*</th>
<th>SPM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All People</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 64 years</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years and older</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes unrelated individuals under age 15.
SPM: Child Poverty Down, 65+ Up

Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2015 and 2016

## Effectiveness of Government Programs

### Change in Number of People in Poverty After Including Each Element: 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Numbers in millions</th>
<th>Under 18 years</th>
<th>18 to 64 years</th>
<th>65 years and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>-26.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable tax credits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-8.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing subsidies</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child support received</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF/general assistance</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ compensation</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Child support paid</td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal income tax</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FICA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PovertyUSA.org (New Soon!)
Trend Analysis: Poverty for Foreigners

POVERTY STATUS FOR FOREIGN & NATIVE

- Foreign
- Native

20.0%
19.0%
18.0%
17.0%
16.0%
15.0%
14.0%
13.0%
12.0%

• Clients Receiving Refugee Services
  – 63,120 refugees served during and post-resettlement
  – 14,193 refugees obtained employment
  – 10,733 achieved English proficiency

• Unaccompanied Children
  – Legal Services 21,788
Catholic Charities Ministry At Work

Catholic Charities and AmeriCorps:

GETTING THINGS DONE

FOR NEW AMERICANS
Heat Map: Rental Burden

Rent As A Percentage of Income: 2012

Rent As A Percentage of Income: 2016
Catholic Charities Housing

553,102
Clients Receiving Housing Services

Graph showing the increase in Transitional Housing and Shelter Services and Permanent Housing from 2010 to 2015.

- **Homeless Assistance Services**
  - Total Clients: 215,408

- **Supervised Living**
  - Foster Care: 36,569
  - Foster Care Clients: 13,863

- **Permanent Housing**
  - Total Clients: 73,104
  - Units of Permanent Housing: 37,086

- **Additional Units in Development**
  - 1,923
AN OVERVIEW OF BROOKLYN AND QUEENS’ HOUSING PROGRAM
Trend Analysis: SNAP

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING SNAP PERCENTAGE

5,006,354
Clients Receiving Distributed Food Services

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SERVICES
- 6,279 food distribution sites
  - 17 million food bags or boxes
  - 143 million pounds of food

PREPARED FOOD SERVICES
- 793 congregate dining sites
  - 16.4 million meals
  - 3 million clients

5 YEAR CHANGE IN CLIENTS RECEIVING HUNGER SERVICES

- FOOD DISTRIBUTION: 2011 - 4,354,272, 2016 - 5,006,354
- PREPARED FOOD SERVICES: 2011 - 2,034,244, 2016 - 3,015,796
Catholic Charities Ministry At Work

Catholic Charities West Virginia: Healthy Eating and Living
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Vincentian Reentry Organizing Project
Who is SVdP?

* Catholic lay spiritual organization
* Our Vision: To End Poverty Through Systemic Change
* 100,000 volunteers and members in 154 dioceses
* Served about 14.1 million people
* Rooted in Home Visits – walking in pairs to respond to those in need, to offer prayer, to offer support and hope, to grow relationships and community.
* We visit you in your homes, in jails and prisons, hospitals, eldercare, even under bridges.
* Uniting formerly incarcerated men and women with Vincentians to join local and state efforts to remove barriers to reentry and dramatically shrink our prison system.
* Currently operate in six states: Ohio, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Florida, Idaho, and Iowa
Cincinnati, OH
Orlando, FL

Join us to learn more about Ban the Box Florida and how you can get involved in changing the lives of our formerly incarcerated community members. Refreshments will be served!

Wednesday
February 1st, 2017
5PM-7PM

Collective Church
111 South Alabama Ave
Deland, FL 32724

An estimated 70 million people in the United States have a prior arrest or conviction record, or nearly 1 in 3 adults. It’s time for bold solutions to adopt fair-chance employment policies and practices that give people with records access to jobs.
Poverty in America, 2016: A Catholic Response

Questions?