



# **Poverty in America, 2016: A Catholic Response**

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# Pope Francis on Poverty



# 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



# Pope Francis on Poverty

- ▶ “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:

- <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/poverty/domestic/upload/new-poverty-stats-webinar-2016.pdf>



# 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





# Where are the Data From?

- ▶ Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC)
  - 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

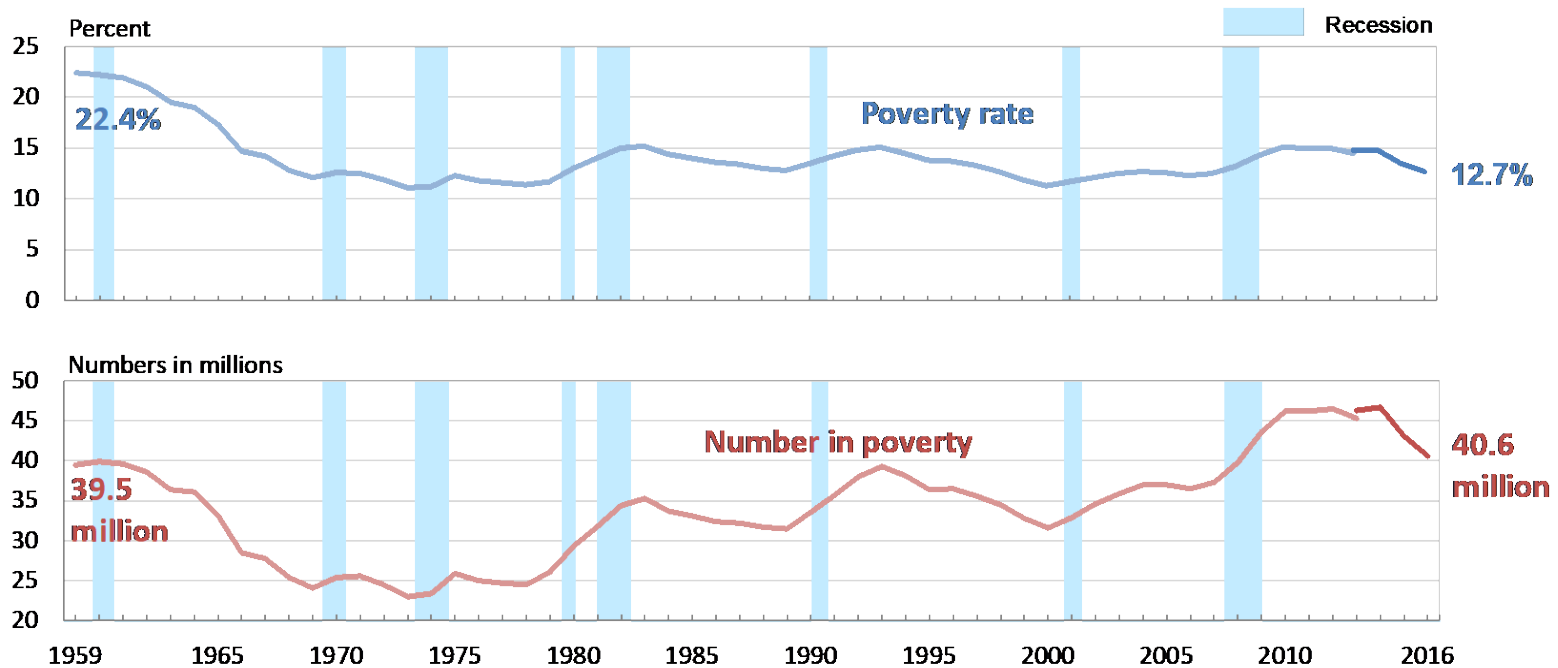
Size of Family Unit	Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds	No Children	One Child	Two	Three	Four
1	\$12,228					
2 (hh<65)	\$16,151	\$16,072	\$16,543			
2 (hh>65)	\$14,522	\$14,507	\$16,480			
3	\$19,105	\$18,774	\$19,318	\$19,337		
4	\$24,563	\$24,755	\$25,160	\$24,339	\$24,424	
5	\$29,111	\$29,854	\$30,288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





# Poverty Rate for 2016

## Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2016



# Changes in the Poverty Rate

## ► 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

- ▶ 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.





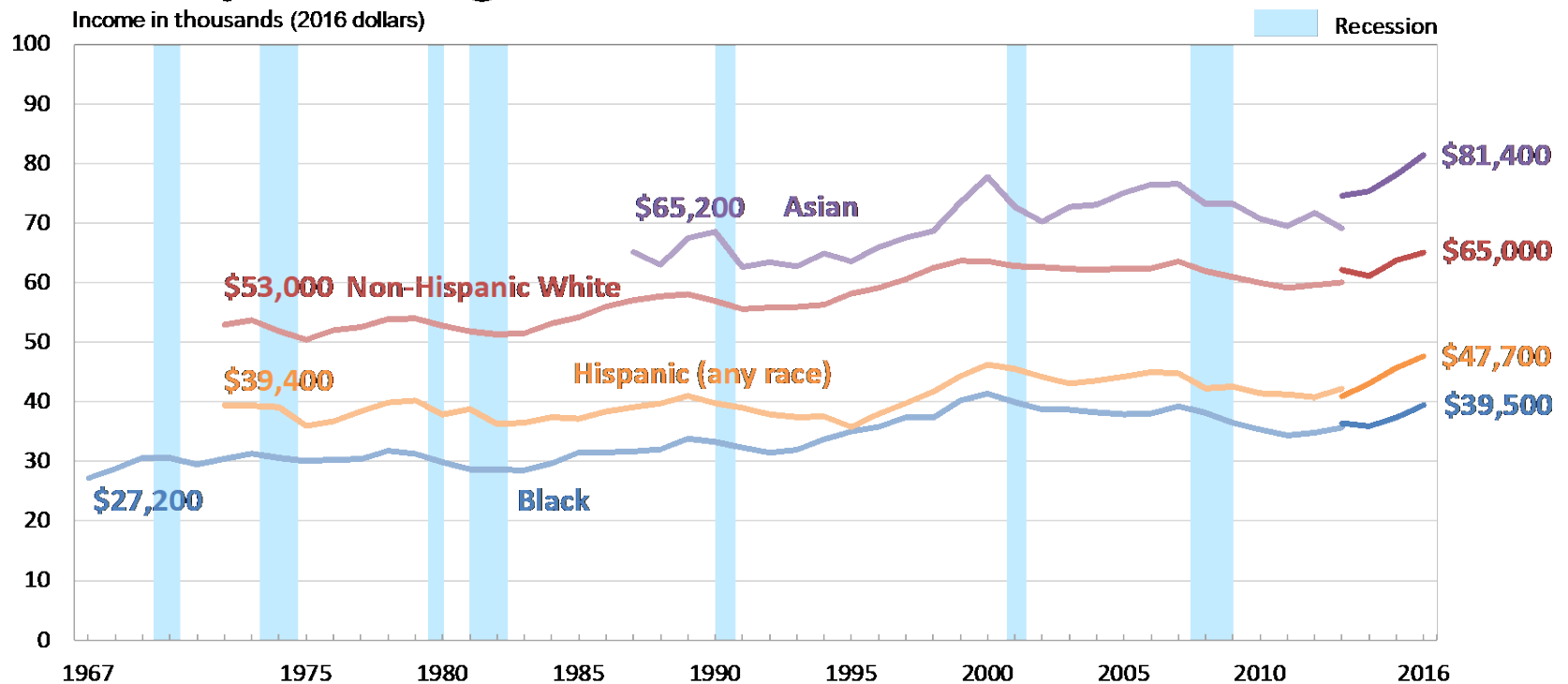
# Families Close to the Poverty Line

- ▶ 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

## Real Median Household Income by Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 1967 to 2016



# Ad Hoc Committee on Racism

- ▶ “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
- ▶ <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/index.cfm>

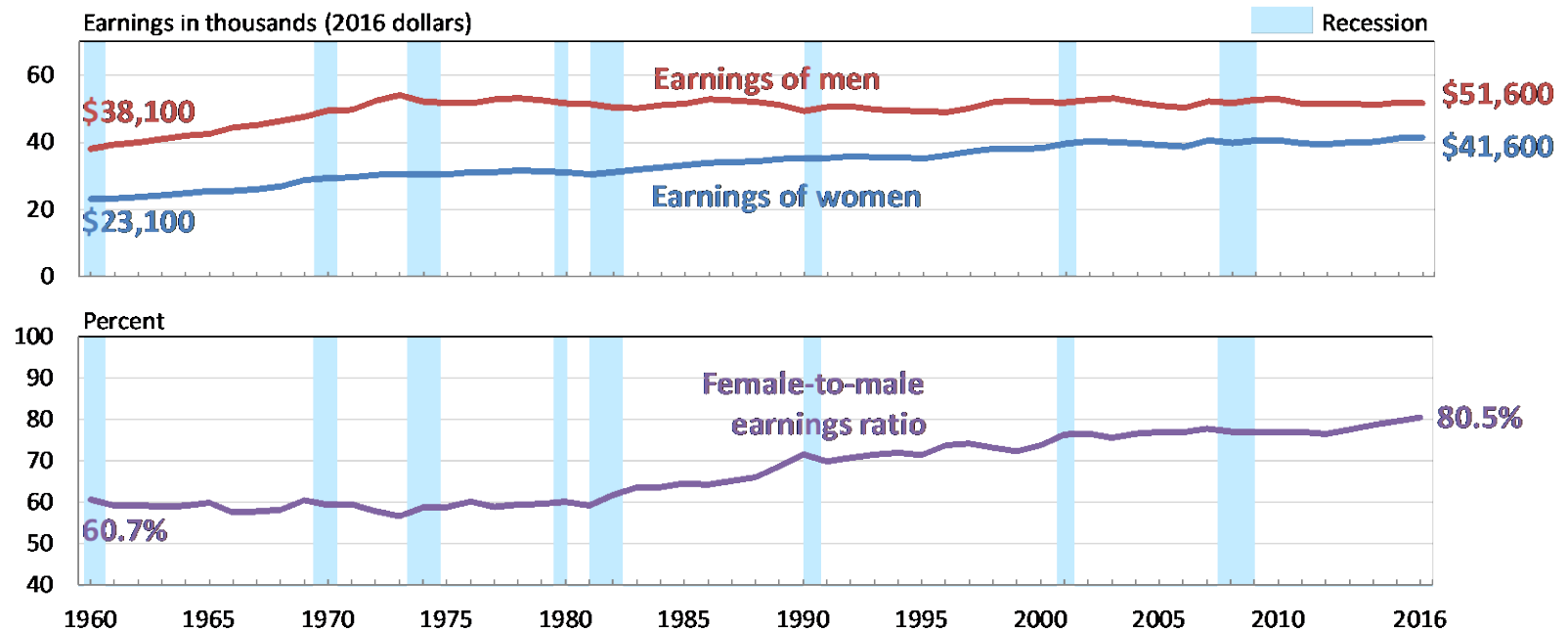


# Gender Disparities in Income

## Real Median Earnings and Female-to-Male Earnings

### Ratio: 1960 to 2016

*(Full-time, year-round workers, aged 15 and older)*





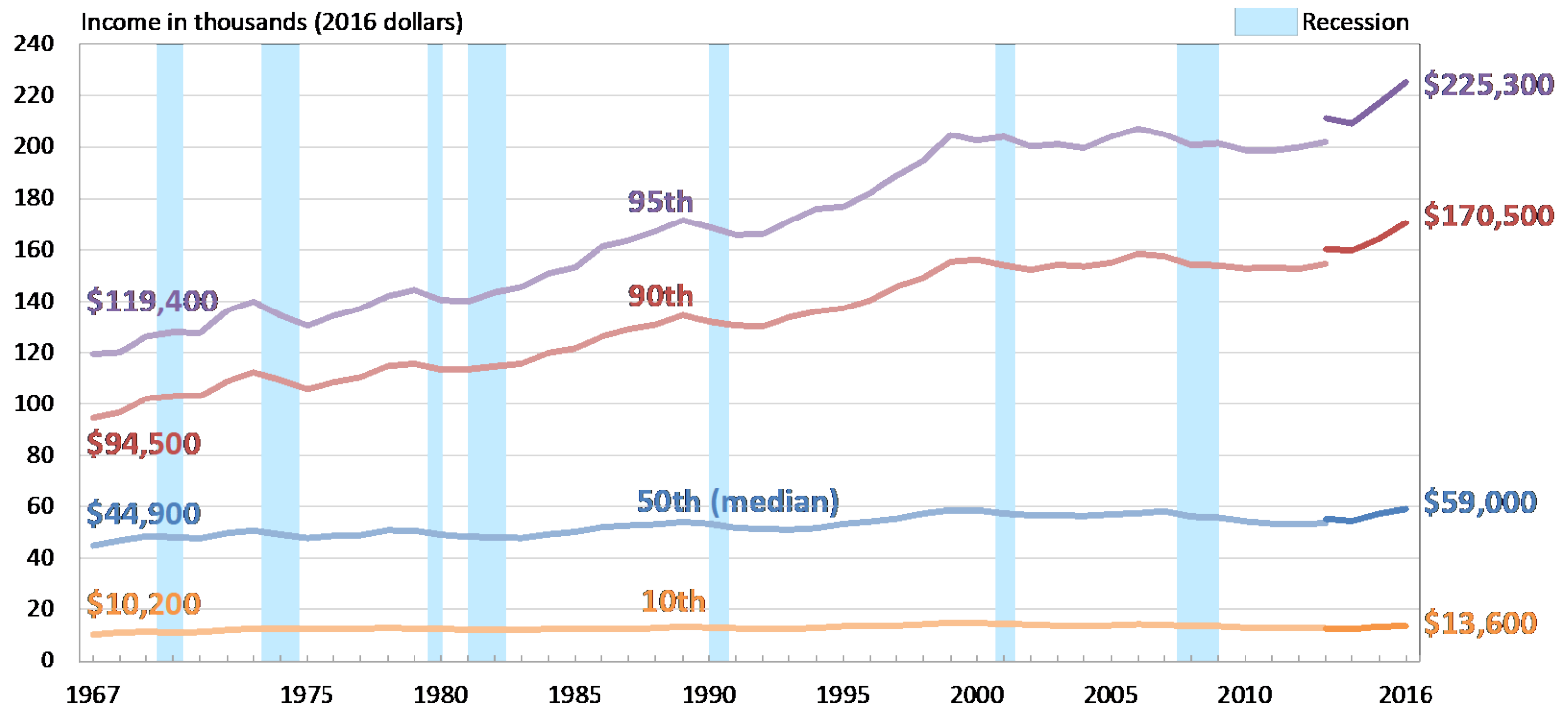
# Decreases in Deep Poverty

- ▶ 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



# Median Income Up

- ▶ \$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 10<sup>th</sup> percentile
  - ▶ Grew by 5.2% for households at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile
  - ▶ Grew by 2.9% at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile
  - ▶ Grew by 3.7% at the 95<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- ▶ Grew by 3.2% at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- ▶ Grew by 3.8% at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- ▶ Grew by 3.7% at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.



# Labor Day Statement

- ▶ <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/labor-day-statement-2017.cfm>



# Supplemental Poverty Measure

## Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)

### The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2016

#### Current Population Reports

By Liana Fox  
Issued September 2017  
HHS-2017-001

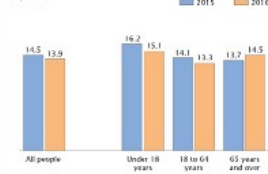
#### INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policymakers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. This is the seventh report describing the SPM released by the Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2017 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2016, the overall SPM rate was 13.9 percent. This was 0.6 percentage points lower than the 2015 SPM rate of 14.5 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Figure 1.  
SPM Poverty Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2015 and 2016  
(in percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, noncoverage error, and adjustment, see [www2.census.gov/programs/supplements/spm](http://www2.census.gov/programs/supplements/spm). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016-2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

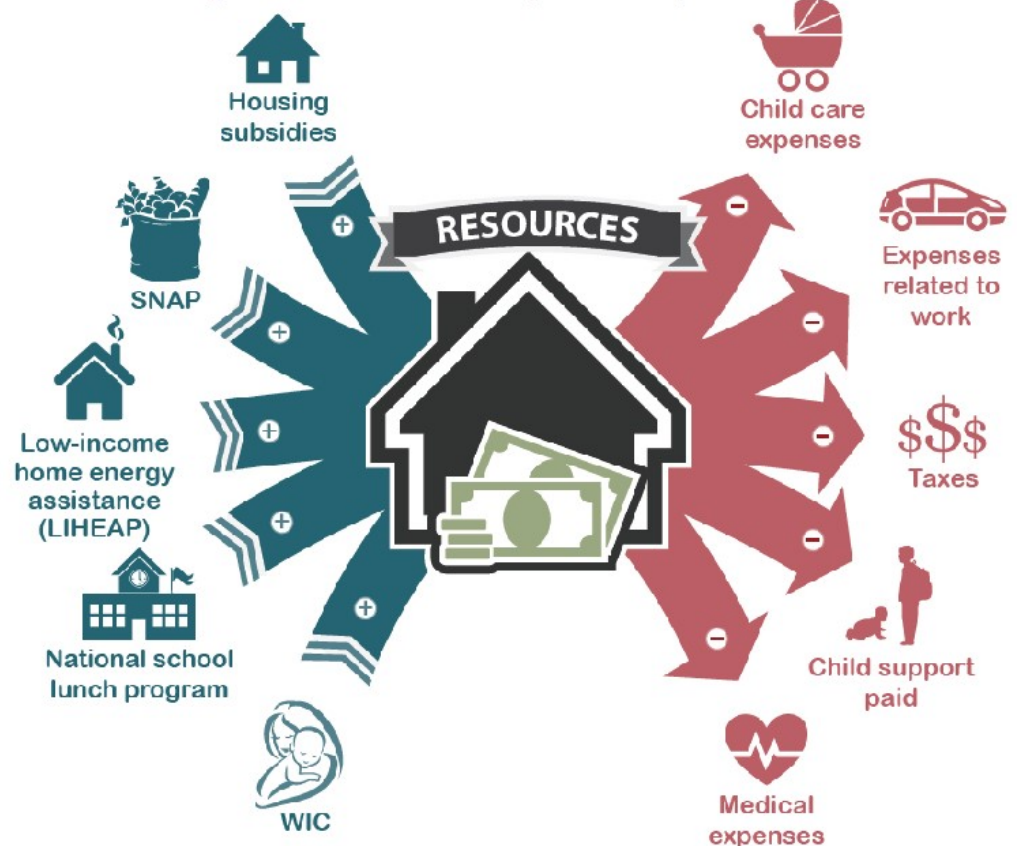
- SPM rates were down for children under age 18 and adults aged 18 to 64. SPM rates for individuals aged 65 and older were up, from 13.7 percent in 2015 to 14.5 percent in 2016 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).
- The SPM rate for 2016 was 1.2 percentage points higher than the official poverty rate of 12.7 percent (Figure 3).
- The percentage of individuals aged 65 and older with SPM resources below half their SPM threshold increased from 4.5 percent in 2015 to 5.2 percent in 2016 (Figure 6 and Appendix Table A-4).
- There were 13 states plus the District of Columbia for which SPM rates were higher than official poverty rates, 20 states with lower rates, and 17 states for

United States  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

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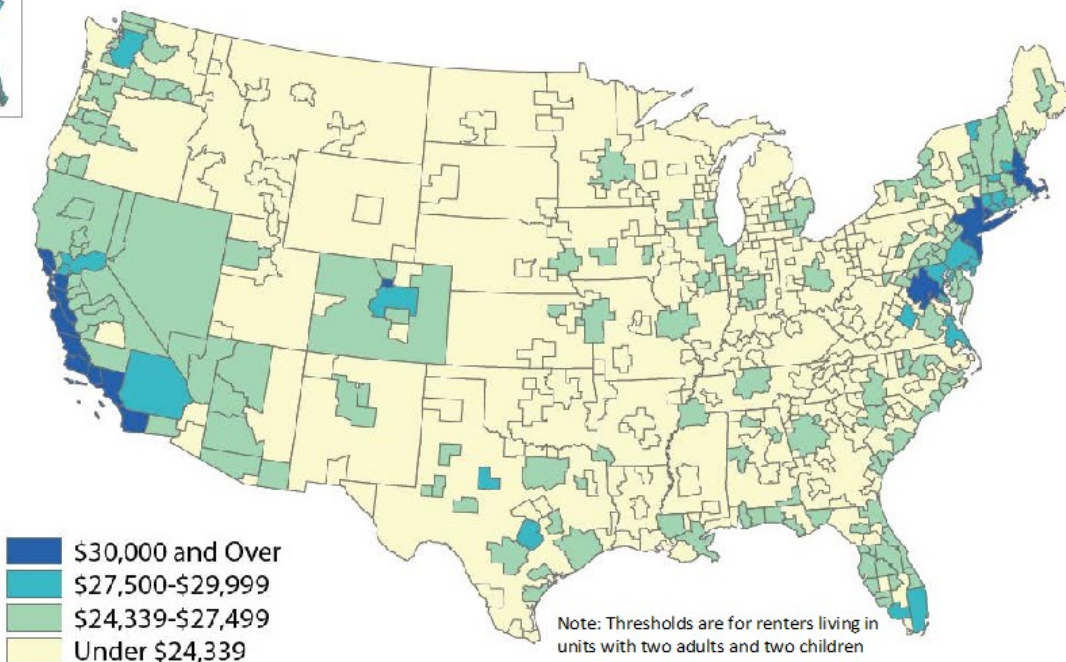
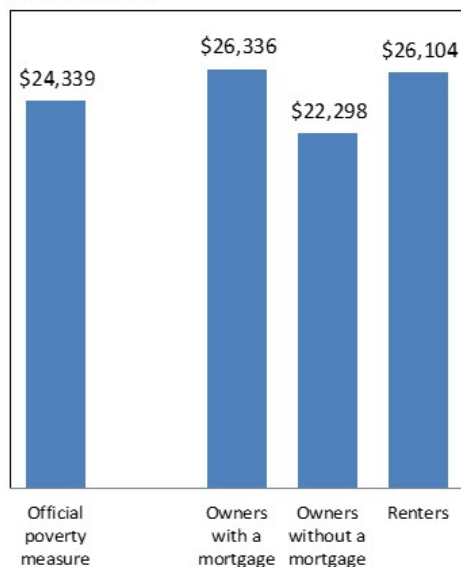


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. [www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.html](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.html).

# SPM Threshold for 2016

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

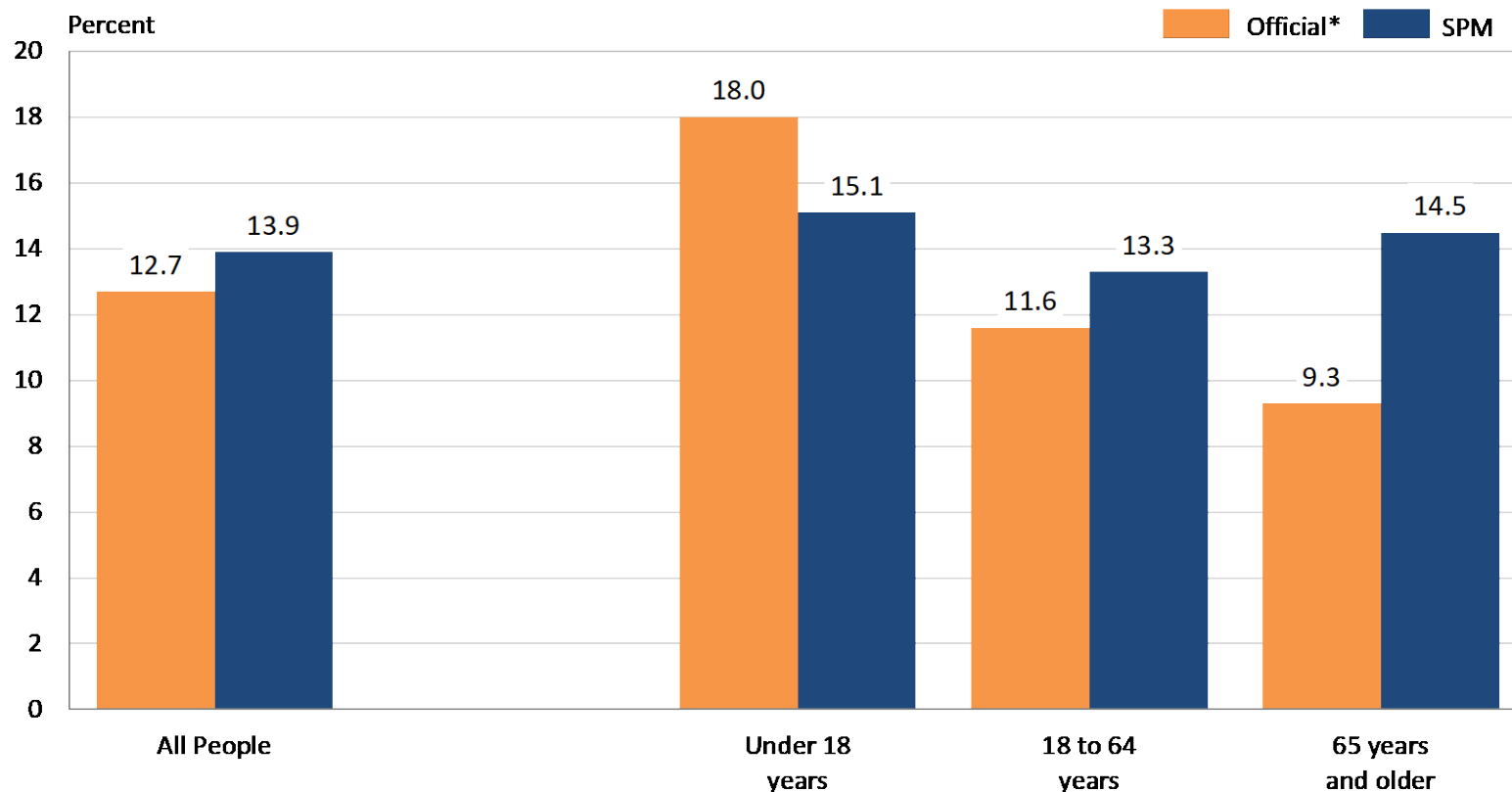
2016 Dollars





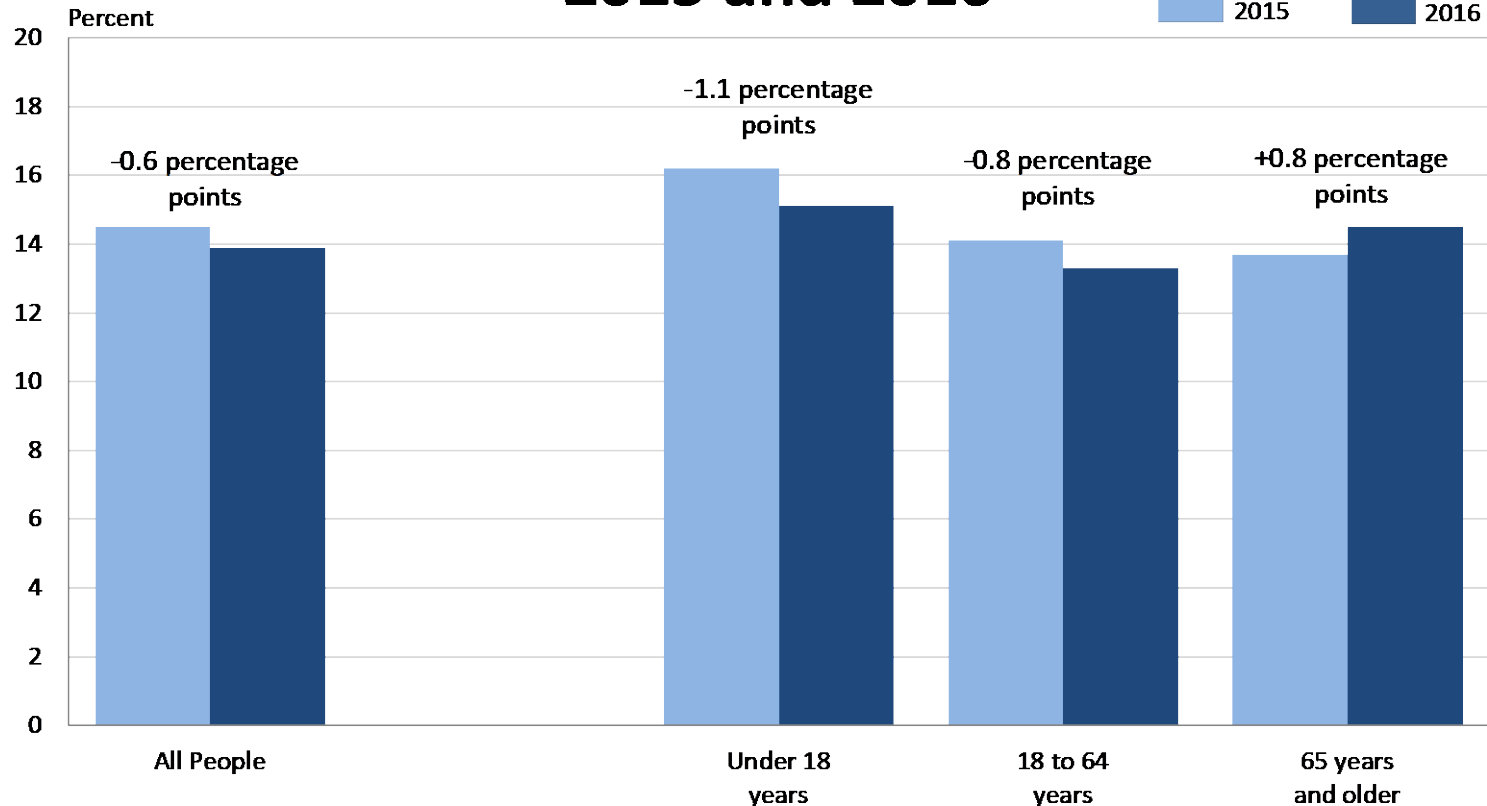
# Child Poverty Less Under SPM

## Comparison of SPM and Official Poverty Estimates: 2016



# SPM: Child Poverty Down, 65+ Up

## Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2015 and 2016



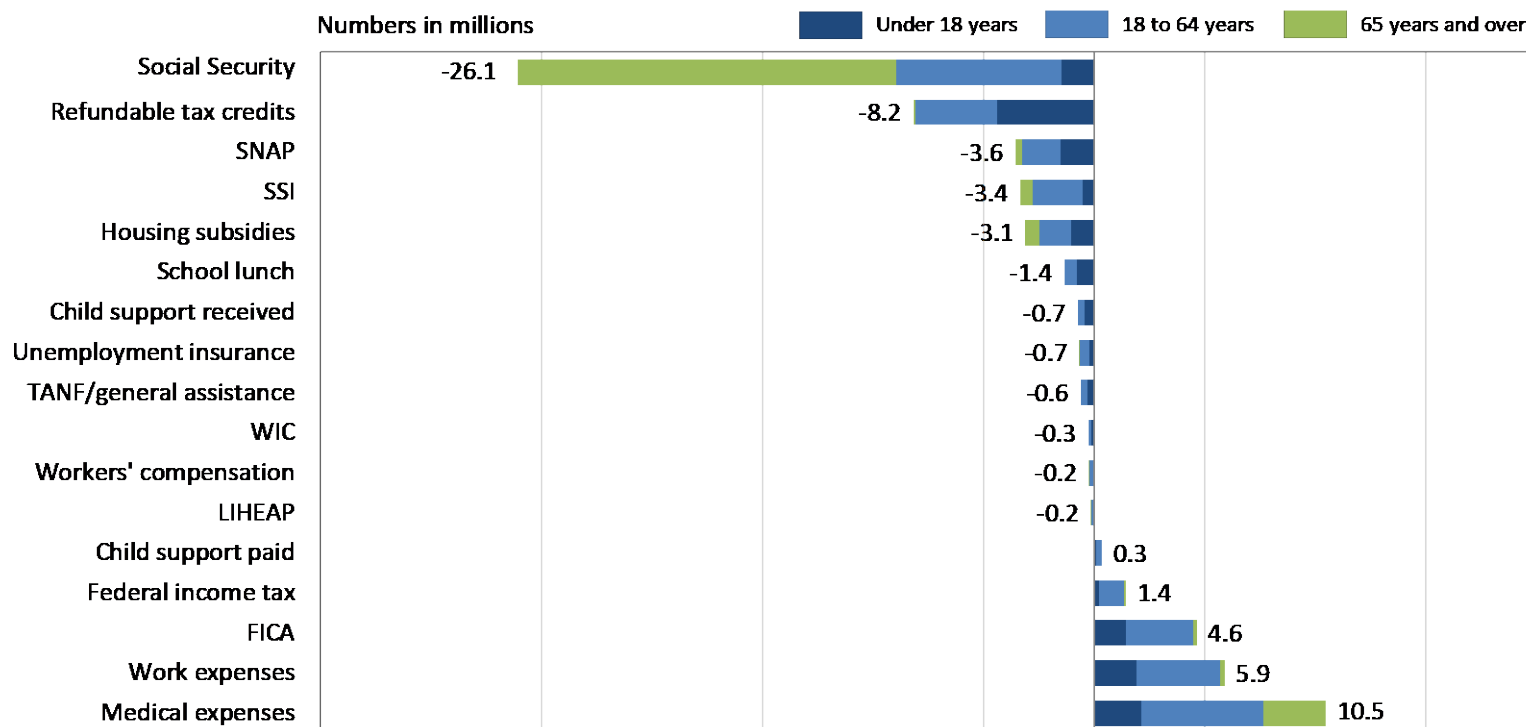
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2016 and 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.




# Effectiveness of Government Programs

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



# PovertyUSA.org (New Soon!)



[Our Mission](#)[We Can Make A Difference](#)[Poverty Resources](#)[Get Involved](#)[LEARN ABOUT THE STATE OF POVERTY](#)

## THE STATE OF POVERTY

- [Poverty Map](#)
- [Poverty USA Tour](#)
- [Poverty Facts](#)
- [Snapshots of Poverty](#)

SEARCH

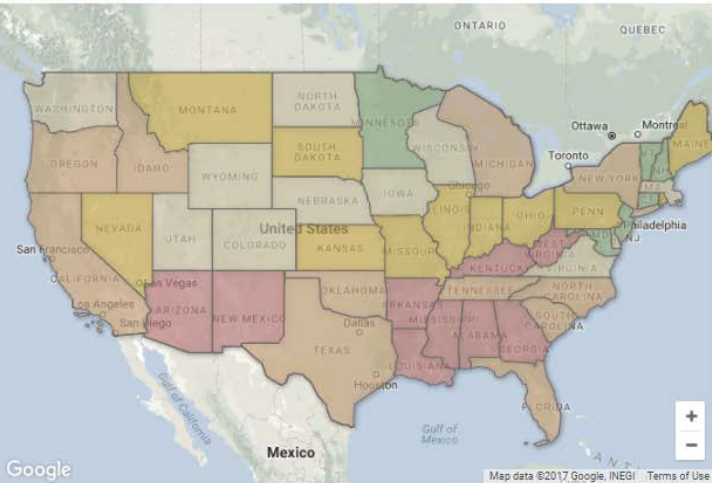
Home > The State of Poverty > Poverty Map

## Poverty Map

This map can help bring to life the statistics and scope of Poverty USA. Use the **National Overview** to compare poverty levels of states. Use the **County Level View** for detailed info at a local level. The County Level View also shows places of hope where people are making a difference with the help of CCHD grants.

### National Overview

PRINT THE MAP




Google Map data ©2017 Google, INEGI Terms of Use

### County Level View

#### CLICK ON A STATE FOR:

State's poverty ranking	Senior poverty rate
Overall poverty rate	Young Adult poverty rate
Deep poverty rate	Disabled poverty rate
Child poverty rate	Poverty by gender

Map data source: Current Population Survey (CPS), 2014 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC).



Switch views to see: Poverty rate info by county, throughout the US

Info on CCHD-funded organizations that are helping to fight domestic poverty.

#### POVERTY RATE

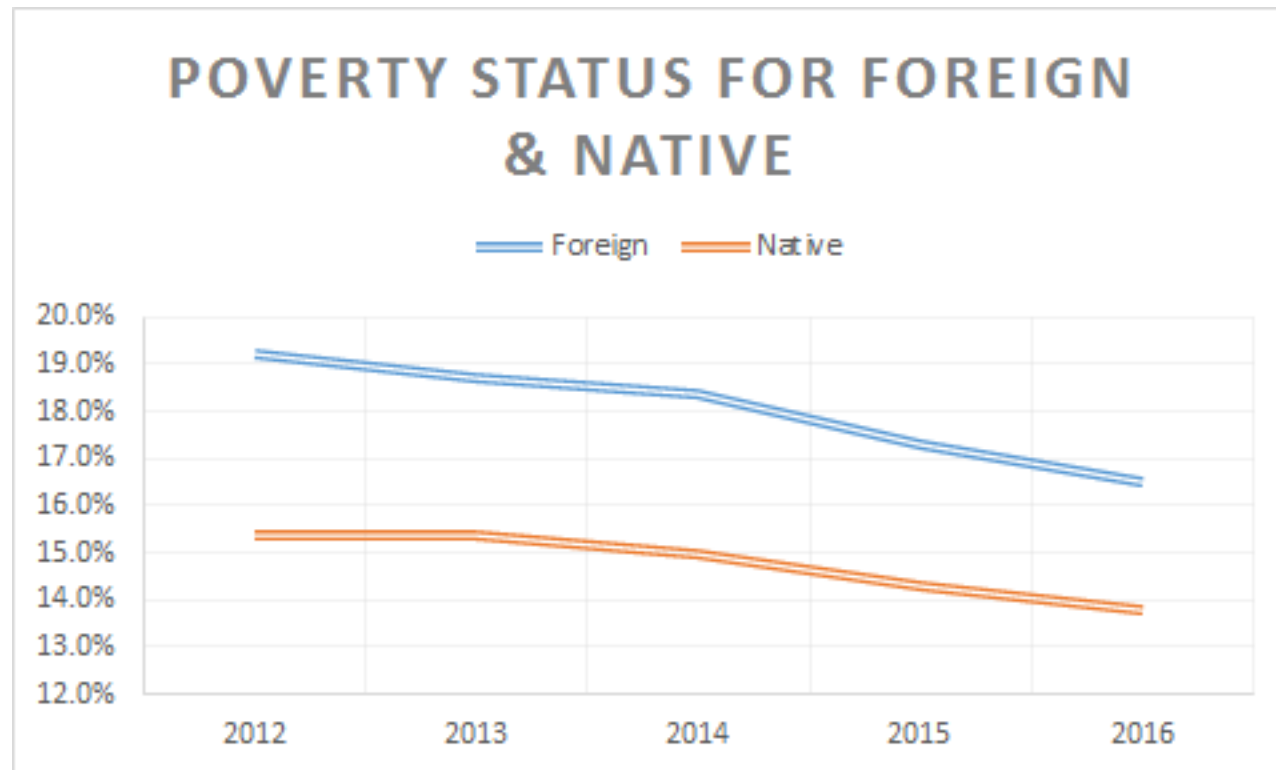
Below 11%
11-13%
13-15%
15-17%
Above 17%



# Trend Analysis: Poverty for Foreigners



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



# Catholic Charities Refugee Services



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

- **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

A photograph of several hands of different skin tones holding each other in a supportive grip. The text "welcoming newcomers" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

welcoming newcomers

"Behind these statistics [on migrants and refugees] are people, each of them with a name, a face, a story, an inalienable dignity which is theirs as a child of God." Pope Francis, Address to the Jesuit Refugee Service, 14 Nov 2015



# Catholic Charities Ministry At Work



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND AMERICORPS:

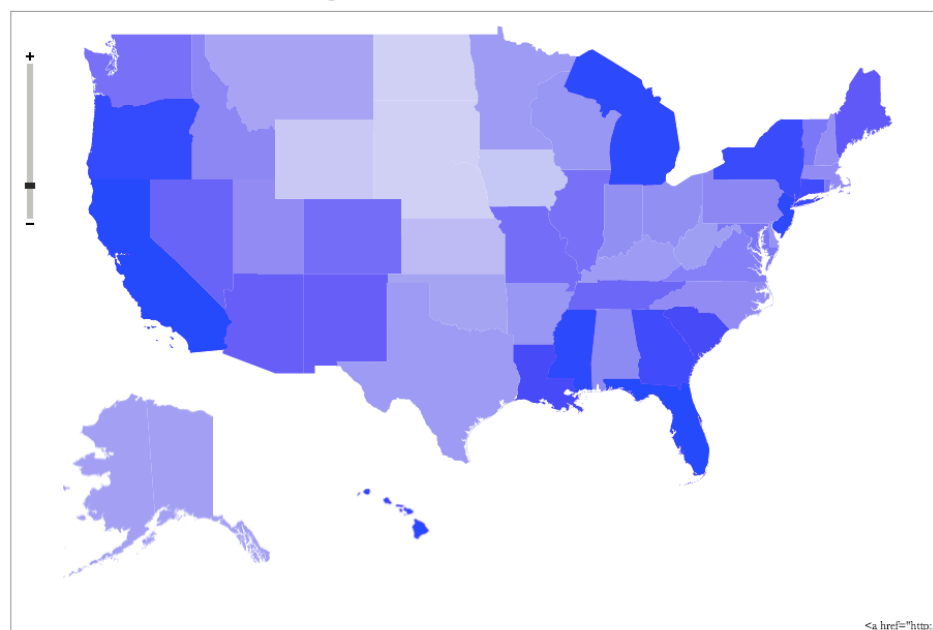
# GETTING THINGS DONE

► FOR NEW AMERICANS

# Heat Map: Rental Burden

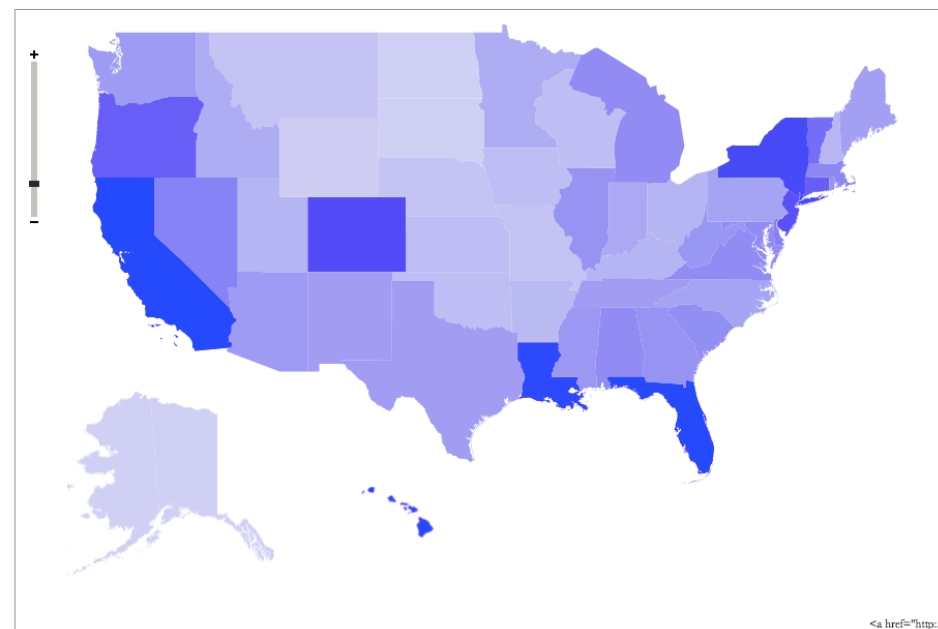
Rent As A Percentage of Income: 2012

OPENHEATMAP



Rent As A Percentage of Income: 2016

OPENHEATMAP



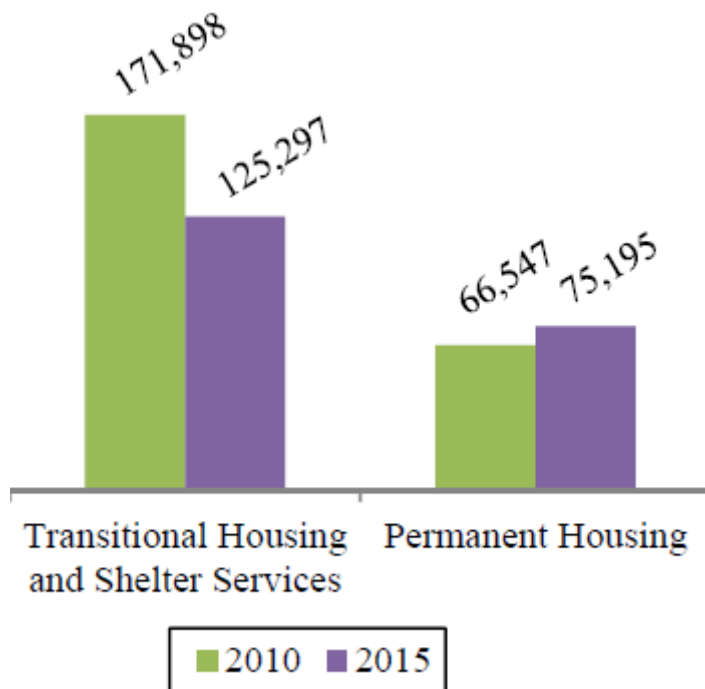
# Catholic Charities Housing



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

## 553,102

### Clients Receiving Housing Services



HOMELESS  
ASSISTANCE  
SERVICES



**215,408**  
TOTAL CLIENTS



**11,593**  
SHELTER BEDS

SUPERVISED  
LIVING



**36,569**  
FOSTER CARE



**13,863**  
FOSTER CARE CLIENTS

PERMANENT  
HOUSING



**73,104**  
TOTAL CLIENTS



**37,086**  
UNITS OF  
PERMANENT  
HOUSING



**1,923**  
ADDITIONAL UNITS IN  
DEVELOPMENT

# Catholic Charities Ministry At Work



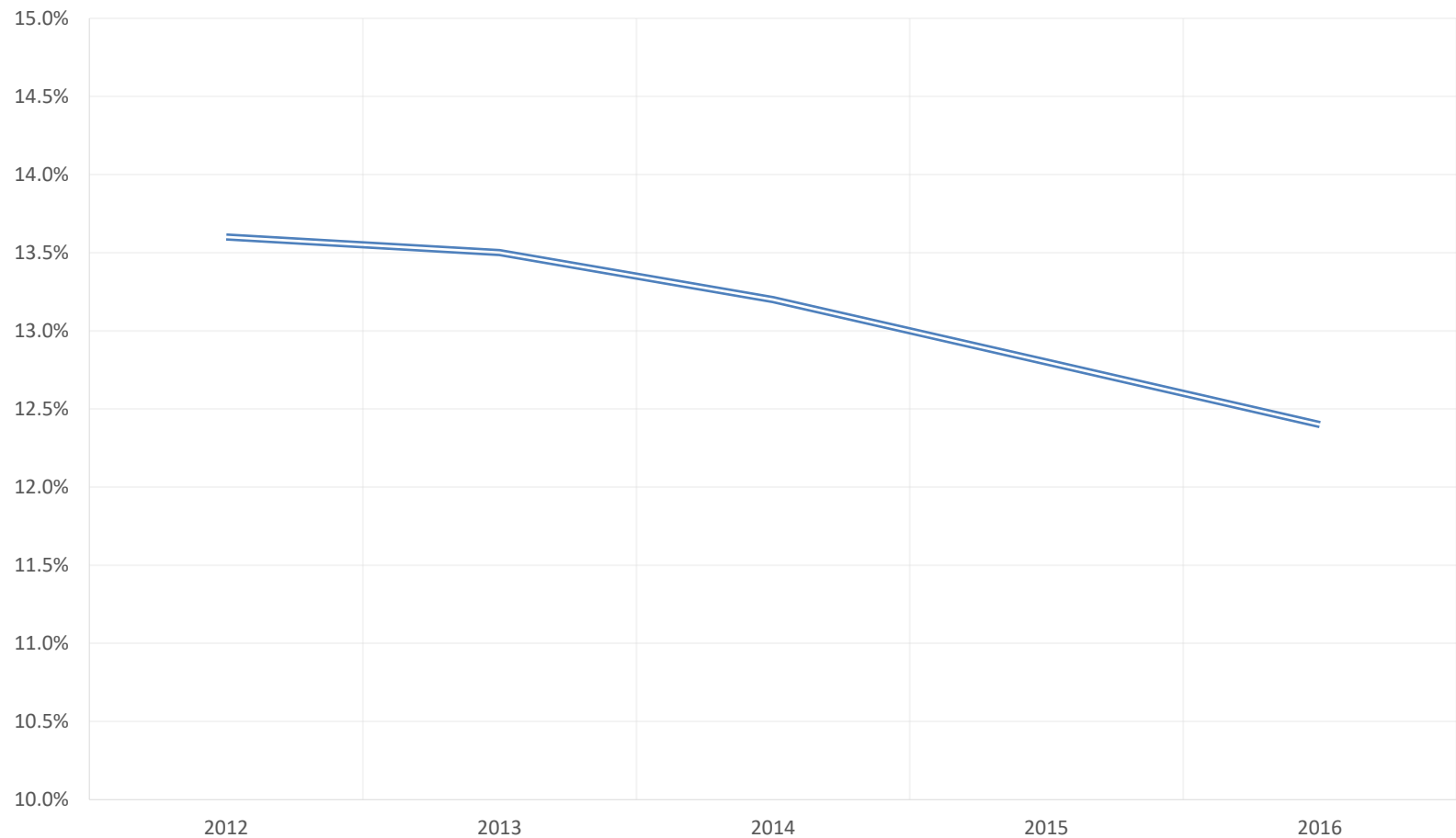
*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



**AN OVERVIEW OF BROOKLYN AND QUEENS' HOUSING PROGRAM**

# Trend Analysis: SNAP

## HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING SNAP PERCENTAGE



# Catholic Charities Nutrition



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

## 5,006,354

## Clients Receiving Distributed Food Services

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION SERVICES

6,279 food distribution sites

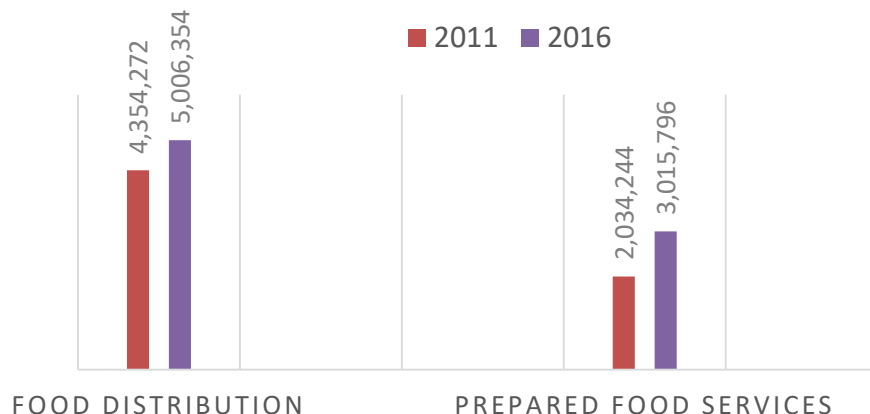
- 17 million food bags or boxes
- 143 million pounds of food

### PREPARED FOOD SERVICES

793 congregate dining sites

- 16.4 million meals
- 3 million clients

5 YEAR CHANGE IN CLIENTS RECEIVING  
HUNGER SERVICES





# Catholic Charities Ministry At Work



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



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.

# VROP

- \* 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



407-630-0023  
Mykal Tairu, Program Coordinator  
mykal@svdporlando.org



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.





The background of the slide features a large, faint, light green circular logo with the letters 'USCCCB' in the center. The logo is composed of concentric circles and a central cross-like shape. The background is a textured, light green and blue gradient with various geometric shapes and patterns.

# **Poverty in America, 2016: A Catholic Response**

## Questions?