



First Look at Poverty, Hardship, and Health Insurance 2021: COVID Made Long-Term Struggles Worse; *But Congress Prevented Poverty for Millions*

Number of People Lifted Out of Poverty, by Program (Numbers in 1,000's) (source: Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020, Census Bureau) ¹		
	2020	2019
Social Security	26,502	26,454
Refundable tax credits ^a	5,281	7,792
Housing subsidies	2,407	2,189
SNAP	2,888	2,603
Unemployment Insurance	5,545	524
Economic Impact/Stimulus	11,684	n/a

Hardship in 2021 (source: Census Household Pulse Survey) ²		
	Number	Percent
Adults, Trouble Paying for Usual Household Expenses	60m	27
Adults in Latinx Households, trouble w HH Expenses	13.3m	37
Black, not Latino	10.3m	41
Asian, not Latino	2.5m	22
White, not Latino	31.3m	22
Other/multiracial, not Latino	2.7m	34
Adults in Households Not Caught Up on Rent	7.6m	14
Adults in Latinx Households behind in rent	2.2m	17
Black, not Latino	2.0m	21
Asian, not Latino	.45m	18
White, not Latino	6.9m	9
Other/multiracial, not Latino	.4m	16
Adults in Households w/children sometimes/often without enough to eat in previous 7 days	9m	11
Adults in Latinx HH w/children/not enough to eat	2.8m	16
Black, not Latino	2m	19
Asian, not Latino	0.2m	5
White, not Latino	3.5m	8
Other/multiracial, not Latino	0.5m	13
Adults Uninsured, 18-64 years	17.1m	10

CPS Health Insurance Coverage³ (Numbers in 1,000's) (source: Health Insurance Coverage: 2020, Current Population Survey, Census Bureau) ³				
	2020 Number	2020 Percent	2019 Number	2019 Percent
All Uninsured	27,957	8.6	26,111	8.0
With Any Private Insurance	216,532	66.5	220,848	68.0
With Any Public Insurance	113,337	34.8	110,687	34.1
Uninsured Working Age, 19-64 Year Olds	23,103	11.9	21,524	11.1
Uninsured Children Under Age 19	4,291	5.6	3,994	5.2



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CPS Mean Household Income (In 2020 dollars) (source: Income and Poverty in the United States: 2020, Current Population Survey, Census Bureau) ⁴			
	2020	2000	Percent Change
Lowest Quintile	\$14,589	\$15,310	-4.7%
2 nd Quintile	\$39,479	\$38,226	+3.3%
Top 5%	\$446,030	\$380,446	+17.2%

Columbia University Center on Poverty & Social Policy Monthly Poverty Rate Estimates⁵		
	With COVID Relief	Without COVID Relief
January 2021	13%	17%
July 2021	12%	16%

All Poor (Numbers in 1,000's) (source: Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020; and Income and Poverty in the United States, Current Population Survey: 2020; Census Bureau) ^{2,4}								
	2020 Number		2020 Percent		2019 Number		2019 Percent	
	SPM	CPS	SPM	CPS	SPM	CPS	SPM	CPS
All Below 100% Poverty Line	29,805	37,247	9.1	11.4	38,300	33,984	11.8	10.5
All Below 200% Poverty Line	n/a	89,679	n/a	27.5	n/a	85,460	n/a	26.3
Children in Poverty	7,079	11,607	9.7	16.1	9,253	10,466	12.6	14.4
Children below 50% Poverty Line	n/a	5,513	n/a	7.6	n/a	4,501	3.4	6.2
Poor Families with Children with at Least 1 Worker ^b	n/a	3,131	n/a	9.0	n/a	2,962	n/a	8.5
All Poor Blacks	6,369	8,472	14.6	19.5	7,907	8,073	18.3	18.8
Poor Black Children	n/a	3,038	n/a	27.7	n/a	2,865	n/a	26.4
All Poor Hispanics	8,570	10,409	14.0	17.0	11,464	9,545	18.9	15.7
Poor Hispanic Children	n/a	4,265	n/a	23.1	n/a	3,888	n/a	20.9
All Poor Asians	1,770	1,629	8.8	8.1	2,327	1,464	11.7	7.3
Poor Asian Children	n/a	352	n/a	8.4	n/a	286	n/a	7.3
All Poor Whites (Not Hispanic)	12,646	15,942	6.5	8.2	15,921	14,152	8.2	7.3
Poor White Children (Not Hispanic)	n/a	3,531	n/a	9.9	n/a	3,030	n/a	8.3
Poor Families with Children Headed by Women	n/a	2,978	n/a	32.1	n/a	2,703	n/a	30.7
Average Amount Below the Poverty Line, Income for all Poor Families	n/a	\$11,318	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$10,668	n/a	n/a
Poor with Disability, 18-64	2,562	3,643	17.6	25.0	3,107	3,252	21.5	22.5

Note: SPM = Supplemental Poverty Measure; CPS = Current Population Survey



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Additional Notes:

- a. Refundable tax credits include the portion of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit available to low-income families that is in excess of their income tax liability.
- b. Row reads: 9.0% of families with children with at least one worker are poor.

Weighted Average Poverty Thresholds in 2020 by Size of Family Unit ⁴	
One Person	\$13,171
Two People	\$16,733
Three People	\$20,591
Four People	\$26,496

Sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau, The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2020; released September 14, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-275.html>
2. U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Conducted August 18-30, 2021; released September 8, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp13.html>
3. U.S. Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2020, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), released September 14, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-274.html>
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2020, Current Population Survey, 2020 Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC); released September 14, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2021/demo/p60-273.html>
5. Columbia University Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Monthly Poverty Rates, U.S.: <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/forecasting-monthly-poverty-data>