

Poverty: 2012 and 2013

American Community Survey Briefs

By Alemayehu Bishaw and Kayla Fontenot

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INTRODUCTION

The poverty rate is a key economic indicator often used by policy makers to evaluate current economic conditions within communities and to make comparisons between sectors of the population. It measures the percentage of people whose income fell below the poverty threshold. Federal and state governments use poverty estimates to allocate funds to local communities. Local communities often use these estimates to identify the number of individuals or families eligible for various programs.

This report uses the 2012 and 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year data to compare poverty rates and the number of people in poverty for the nation, states and the District of Columbia, and large metropolitan areas. The report also examines the proportion of people by selected income-to-poverty ratios for the same geographic levels.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2013, about 48.8 million people or 15.8 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty level. Neither the number nor the rate for 2013 was statistically different from 2012.
- This is the second consecutive year without a statistically significant change in the poverty rate. In the previous 4 years, the poverty rate increased each year.
- New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington experienced increases in both the number and percentage of people in poverty between 2012 and

2013. New Hampshire and Wyoming experienced declines in both the number and percentage of people in poverty.

- Between 2012 and 2013, the number and percentage of people in poverty in 42 states and the District of Columbia remained statistically unchanged.
- In 20 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas, the changes in the number and percentage of people in poverty between 2012 and 2013 were not statistically significant.
- In 2013, the percentage of people in the United States with income below 125 percent of their poverty threshold was 20.6 percent. The proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 50 percent was 7.0 percent.
- Among large metropolitan areas, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 50 percent in 2013 ranged from a low of 4.2 percent to a high of 8.4 percent.

The estimates contained in this report are mostly based on the 2012 and 2013 ACS. The ACS is conducted every month, with income data collected for the 12 months preceding the interview. Since the survey is continuous, adjacent ACS years have income reference months in common. Therefore, comparing the 2012 ACS with the 2013 ACS is not an exact comparison of the economic conditions in 2012 with those in

2013, and comparisons should be interpreted with care.¹ For more information on the ACS sample design and other topics visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

POVERTY

According to the 2013 ACS, 15.8 percent of the U.S. population had income below their respective poverty level. After increasing for 4 consecutive years (2007–2011), for the second year in a row the poverty rate for the United States remained steady (see Figure 1). The 2013 ACS data indicate that the number of people in poverty was about 48.8 million people, not significantly different from the previous year's estimate.

Table 1 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty by state in 2012 and 2013. According to the 2013

¹ For a discussion of this and related issues see Hogan, Howard, "Measuring Population Change Using the American Community Survey," *Applied Demography in the 21st Century*, eds. Steven H. Murdock and David A. Swanson. Springer Netherlands, 2008.

How Poverty Is Measured

Poverty status is determined by comparing annual income to a set of dollar values called poverty thresholds that vary by family size, number of children, and the age of the householder. If a family's before-tax money income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing the individual's income to his or her poverty threshold.

The poverty thresholds are updated annually to allow for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). They do not vary geographically.

The ACS is a continuous survey and people respond throughout the year. Since income is reported for the previous 12 months, the appropriate poverty threshold for each family is determined by multiplying the base-year poverty threshold (1982) by the average of monthly CPI values for the 12 months preceding the survey month.

For more information see "How Poverty Is Calculated in the ACS" at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/methods/definitions.html>.

ACS, the poverty rates for New Hampshire (8.7 percent) and Alaska (9.3 percent) were among the lowest in the country, while Mississippi (24.0 percent) had the highest rate,

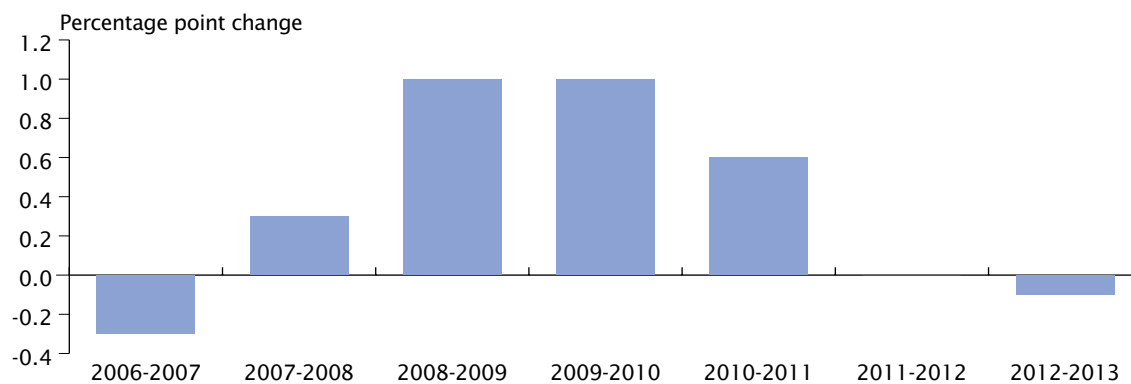
followed by New Mexico (21.9 percent).²

² The poverty rates for New Hampshire (8.7 percent) and Alaska (9.3 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

Figure 1.

Year-to-Year Percentage Point Change in Poverty Rate: 2006–2013

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 to 2013 American Community Surveys.

Table 1.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State and Puerto Rico: 2012 and 2013

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf)

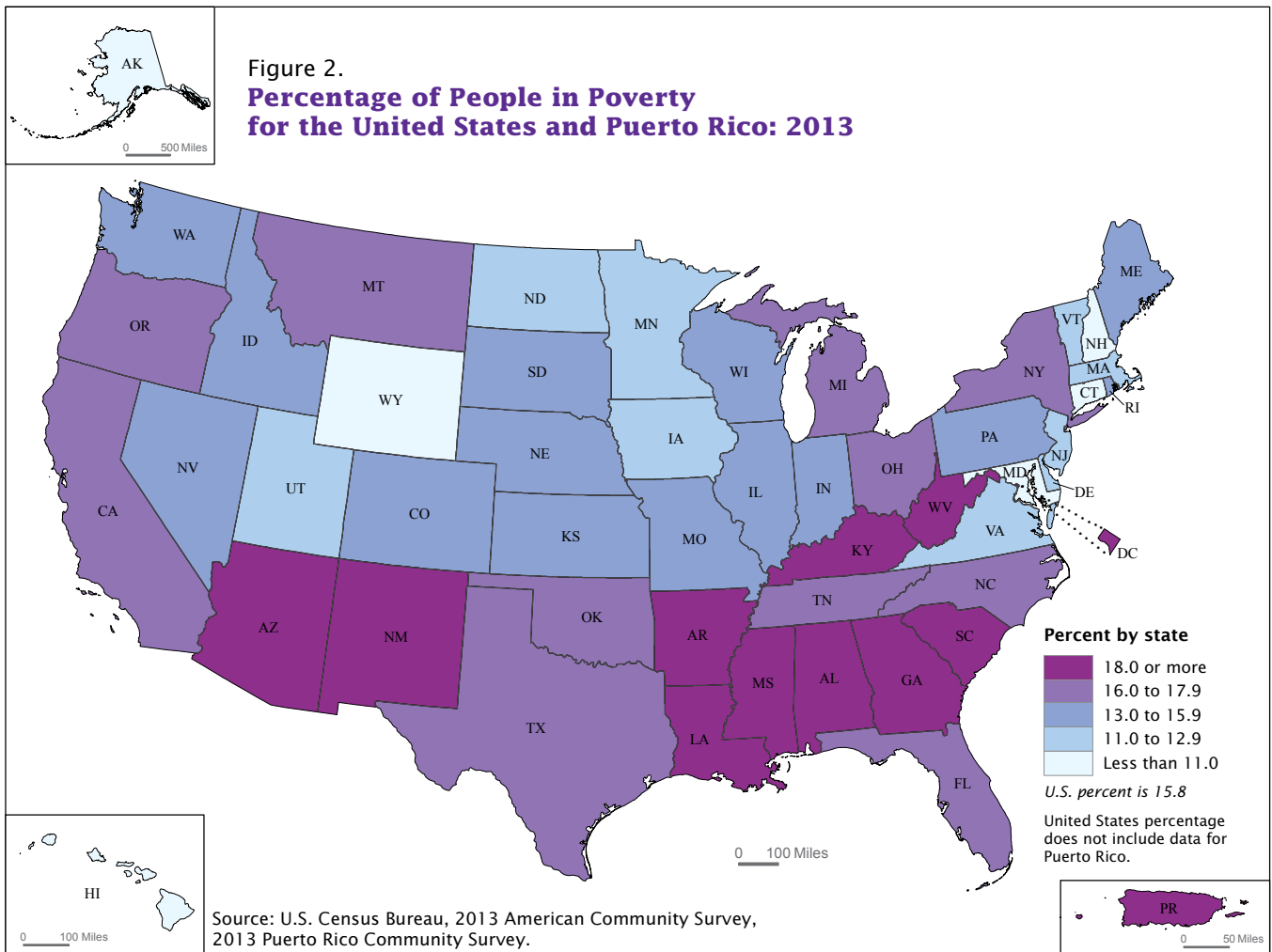
Area	Below poverty in 2012				Below poverty in 2013				Change in poverty (2013 less 2012)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-centage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-centage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Per-centage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)
United States . . .	48,760,123	231,580	15.9	0.1	48,810,868	256,176	15.8	0.1	50,745	345,334	-0.1	0.1
Alabama	892,564	20,244	19.0	0.4	883,371	20,758	18.7	0.4	-9,193	28,995	-0.3	0.6
Alaska	72,400	5,190	10.1	0.7	67,016	4,778	9.3	0.7	-5,384	7,054	-0.8	1.0
Arizona	1,194,506	25,758	18.7	0.4	1,206,460	32,132	18.6	0.5	11,954	41,182	-0.1	0.6
Arkansas	568,065	16,759	19.8	0.6	565,469	16,418	19.7	0.6	-2,596	23,461	-0.1	0.8
California	6,325,319	64,334	17.0	0.2	6,328,824	64,631	16.8	0.2	3,505	91,192	-0.2	0.2
Colorado	694,842	20,406	13.7	0.4	667,446	21,463	13.0	0.4	-27,396	29,615	*-0.7	0.6
Connecticut	372,390	14,270	10.7	0.4	373,900	14,722	10.7	0.4	1,510	20,503	0.0	0.6
Delaware	107,307	7,877	12.0	0.9	111,327	9,589	12.4	1.1	4,020	12,410	0.4	1.4
District of Columbia	108,732	7,746	18.2	1.3	115,551	7,400	18.9	1.2	6,819	10,713	0.7	1.8
Florida	3,238,581	49,032	17.1	0.3	3,253,333	61,090	17.0	0.3	14,752	78,333	-0.1	0.4
Georgia	1,848,533	37,552	19.2	0.4	1,843,768	35,778	19.0	0.4	-4,765	51,867	-0.2	0.5
Hawaii	157,243	9,661	11.6	0.7	148,368	10,323	10.8	0.8	-8,875	14,139	-0.8	1.0
Idaho	248,494	13,813	15.9	0.9	246,550	15,129	15.6	1.0	-1,944	20,487	-0.3	1.3
Illinois	1,850,562	32,138	14.7	0.3	1,845,393	34,145	14.7	0.3	-5,169	46,890	0.0	0.4
Indiana	990,325	21,187	15.6	0.3	1,015,127	24,249	15.9	0.4	24,802	32,201	0.3	0.5
Iowa	377,484	13,405	12.7	0.4	379,127	13,393	12.7	0.4	1,643	18,949	0.0	0.6
Kansas	391,734	12,565	14.0	0.4	393,358	17,298	14.0	0.6	1,624	21,379	0.0	0.8
Kentucky	823,197	22,937	19.4	0.5	800,635	19,947	18.8	0.5	-22,562	30,397	-0.6	0.7
Louisiana	891,981	23,215	19.9	0.5	888,019	24,140	19.8	0.5	-3,962	33,492	-0.1	0.7
Maine	189,786	9,666	14.7	0.7	180,639	8,805	14.0	0.7	-9,147	13,075	-0.7	1.0
Maryland	590,803	19,639	10.3	0.3	585,571	19,629	10.1	0.3	-5,232	27,766	-0.2	0.5
Massachusetts	762,645	18,273	11.9	0.3	770,513	23,021	11.9	0.4	7,868	29,392	0.0	0.5
Michigan	1,685,178	30,444	17.4	0.3	1,648,436	25,647	17.0	0.3	-36,742	39,807	-0.4	0.4
Minnesota	598,371	17,622	11.4	0.3	592,422	16,554	11.2	0.3	-5,949	24,178	-0.2	0.5
Mississippi	698,252	22,688	24.2	0.8	695,915	21,951	24.0	0.8	-2,337	31,568	-0.2	1.1
Missouri	947,792	20,935	16.2	0.4	931,066	25,159	15.9	0.4	-16,726	32,730	-0.3	0.6
Montana	152,199	8,004	15.5	0.8	163,637	9,336	16.5	0.9	11,438	12,297	1.0	1.2
Nebraska	233,973	10,768	13.0	0.6	239,433	11,539	13.2	0.6	5,460	15,783	0.2	0.9
Nevada	446,840	19,216	16.4	0.7	433,576	18,630	15.8	0.7	-13,264	26,765	-0.6	1.0
New Hampshire	128,466	10,865	10.0	0.8	111,495	9,003	8.7	0.7	*-16,971	14,110	*-1.3	1.1
New Jersey	934,943	22,315	10.8	0.3	998,549	28,143	11.4	0.3	*63,606	35,917	*0.6	0.4
New Mexico	426,245	13,843	20.8	0.7	448,461	14,432	21.9	0.7	*22,216	19,998	*1.1	1.0
New York	3,025,016	36,603	15.9	0.2	3,055,645	41,913	16.0	0.2	30,629	55,646	0.1	0.3
North Carolina	1,713,132	31,019	18.0	0.3	1,715,397	30,951	17.9	0.3	2,265	43,819	-0.1	0.5
North Dakota	75,703	4,270	11.2	0.6	82,398	5,117	11.8	0.7	*6,695	6,665	0.6	1.0
Ohio	1,824,628	28,992	16.3	0.3	1,796,942	35,664	16.0	0.3	-27,686	45,961	-0.3	0.4
Oklahoma	637,429	14,041	17.2	0.4	626,906	13,621	16.8	0.4	-10,523	19,563	-0.4	0.5
Oregon	658,359	22,218	17.2	0.6	642,138	19,715	16.7	0.5	-16,221	29,705	-0.5	0.8
Pennsylvania	1,693,285	30,788	13.7	0.2	1,690,405	39,229	13.7	0.3	-2,880	49,868	0.0	0.4
Rhode Island	138,907	8,499	13.7	0.8	144,446	9,182	14.3	0.9	5,539	12,511	0.6	1.2
South Carolina	837,770	22,603	18.3	0.5	860,380	21,666	18.6	0.5	22,610	31,310	0.3	0.7
South Dakota	107,846	5,355	13.4	0.7	115,454	6,396	14.2	0.8	7,608	8,342	0.8	1.0
Tennessee	1,129,330	27,122	17.9	0.4	1,126,772	24,666	17.8	0.4	-2,558	36,661	-0.1	0.6
Texas	4,562,352	58,642	17.9	0.2	4,530,039	65,158	17.5	0.3	-32,313	87,661	*-0.4	0.3
Utah	360,017	18,926	12.8	0.7	361,181	15,958	12.7	0.6	1,164	24,756	-0.1	0.9
Vermont	71,084	4,549	11.8	0.8	74,058	5,273	12.3	0.9	2,974	6,964	0.5	1.2
Virginia	931,805	22,863	11.7	0.3	938,733	25,914	11.7	0.3	6,928	34,558	0.0	0.4
Washington	915,278	30,419	13.5	0.4	967,282	26,419	14.1	0.4	*52,004	40,290	*0.6	0.6
West Virginia	320,055	13,000	17.8	0.7	332,347	12,755	18.5	0.7	12,292	18,212	0.7	1.0
Wisconsin	737,356	16,981	13.2	0.3	755,551	17,896	13.5	0.3	18,195	24,670	0.3	0.4
Wyoming	71,019	6,087	12.6	1.1	62,039	5,844	10.9	1.0	*-8,980	8,438	*-1.7	1.5
Puerto Rico	1,632,533	27,010	44.9	0.7	1,626,879	25,081	45.4	0.7	-5,654	36,859	0.5	1.0

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys and 2012 and 2013 Puerto Rico Community Surveys.



In 2013, the poverty rate for Puerto Rico was 45.4 percent, which was not statistically different from its rate of 44.9 percent in 2012.

Figure 2 displays the range of poverty rates across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico using the 2013 ACS and the Puerto Rico Community Survey. According to the figure, most of the states in the South and West regions had higher poverty rates, while states in the Northeast and Midwest had lower poverty rates.

As shown in Table 1, three states (New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington) experienced an increase in both the number and

percentage of people in poverty between 2012 and 2013. Two states (New Hampshire and Wyoming) experienced a decline in both the number and percentage of people in poverty. Between 2012 and 2013, North Dakota experienced an increase in the number of people in poverty without a corresponding increase in the poverty rate. Colorado and Texas experienced a decline in the poverty rate without a significant change in the number of people in poverty. For 42 states and the District of Columbia, the changes in the number and percentage of people in poverty were not statistically significant.

POVERTY IN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Table 2 shows the estimated number and percentage of people in poverty in 2012 and 2013 for the 25 largest metropolitan areas. According to the 2013 ACS, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area had the lowest poverty rate (8.5 percent) among large metropolitan areas. The poverty rates for the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area (17.6 percent), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (17.6 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (17.7 percent), and Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario,

Table 2.
Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Largest Metropolitan Areas: 2012 and 2013
 (For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf)

Metropolitan areas	Below poverty in 2012				Below poverty in 2013				Change in poverty (2013 less 2012)			
	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percentage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percentage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Number ¹	Margin of error ² (±)	Percentage ¹	Margin of error ² (±)
United States	48,760,123	231,580	15.9	0.1	48,811,797	256,186	15.8	0.1	51,674	345,342	-0.1	0.1
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area.....	887,901	29,846	16.6	0.6	865,858	28,129	15.9	0.5	-22,043	41,012	-0.7	0.8
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area.....	303,704	14,893	11.3	0.6	301,630	13,812	11.2	0.5	-2,074	20,312	-0.1	0.8
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area.....	479,126	15,238	10.7	0.3	470,178	18,981	10.4	0.4	-8,948	24,341	-0.3	0.5
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area.....	272,027	12,223	15.1	0.7	339,434	15,265	14.8	0.7	*67,407	19,556	-0.3	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area.....	1,362,635	30,184	14.5	0.3	1,347,179	32,543	14.4	0.3	-15,456	44,387	-0.1	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area.....	984,719	23,684	15.0	0.4	1,005,325	30,615	15.0	0.5	20,606	38,707	0.0	0.6
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area.....	332,043	15,260	12.7	0.6	323,179	15,703	12.1	0.6	-8,864	21,896	-0.6	0.8
Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area.....	740,712	20,248	17.4	0.5	717,584	17,780	16.9	0.4	-23,128	26,946	-0.5	0.6
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area.....	1,005,192	32,475	16.4	0.5	1,021,922	32,157	16.4	0.5	16,730	45,702	0.0	0.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area ³	2,266,193	42,491	17.6	0.3	2,283,272	40,149	17.6	0.3	17,079	58,459	0.0	0.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area.....	993,904	25,832	17.5	0.5	1,017,832	27,848	17.7	0.5	23,928	37,984	0.2	0.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area.....	352,560	14,086	10.7	0.4	349,161	13,880	10.3	0.4	-3,399	19,775	-0.4	0.6
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area.....	2,785,196	40,070	14.8	0.2	2,861,640	41,911	14.6	0.2	*76,444	57,984	-0.2	0.3
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area.....	787,217	20,430	13.4	0.3	792,981	24,235	13.5	0.4	5,764	31,697	0.1	0.5
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area.....	741,322	19,794	17.4	0.5	760,706	27,227	17.6	0.6	19,384	33,662	0.2	0.8
Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area.....	279,386	12,179	12.1	0.5	294,363	10,892	12.8	0.5	14,977	16,339	0.7	0.7
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area.....	316,515	12,596	14.0	0.6	308,138	15,086	13.5	0.7	-8,377	19,654	-0.5	0.9
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area.....	813,251	22,351	19.0	0.5	781,792	23,534	18.2	0.5	-31,459	32,456	*-0.8	0.8
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX Metro Area.....	378,226	16,970	17.3	0.8	363,769	18,299	16.3	0.8	-14,457	24,957	-1.0	1.1
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area.....	465,295	20,161	15.0	0.7	475,773	21,393	15.2	0.7	10,478	29,396	0.2	0.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area.....	522,229	18,993	11.9	0.4	510,653	18,671	11.5	0.4	-11,576	26,634	-0.4	0.6
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area.....	409,239	19,482	11.7	0.6	446,327	18,551	12.6	0.5	*37,088	26,902	*0.9	0.8
St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area.....	394,288	15,820	14.3	0.6	352,550	13,984	12.9	0.5	*-41,738	21,114	*-1.4	0.8
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area.....	458,689	17,744	16.4	0.6	435,739	20,238	15.4	0.7	-22,950	26,915	-1.0	1.0
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area.....	477,661	17,577	8.4	0.3	495,683	19,944	8.5	0.3	18,022	26,585	0.1	0.5

* Statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level.

¹ Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters. The poverty universe excludes children under age 15 who are not related to the householder, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories or military barracks.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to or subtracted from the estimate forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

³ As of 2013, the name for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA metropolitan area has changed to the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA metropolitan area. For more information on changes in Metropolitan Statistical Areas delineations see the notes on www.census.gov/population/metro/data/metrodef.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 and 2013 American Community Surveys.

CA Metro Area (18.2 percent) were among the highest for large metropolitan areas.³

As shown in Table 2, 20 large metropolitan areas did not experience a significant change in either the number or percentage of people in poverty between 2012 and 2013. The Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area and the New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area experienced an increase in the number of people in poverty with no corresponding change in their poverty rates. Between 2012 and 2013, the St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area experienced a decrease in both the number of people in poverty and the poverty rate, while the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area experienced an increase in both the number of people in poverty and the poverty rate. The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area experienced a decrease in its poverty rate, while the change in the number of people in poverty was not statistically significant.

DEPTH OF POVERTY

The poverty rate is an estimate of the proportion of people with family or personal income below their poverty threshold. The income-to-poverty ratio gauges how close a family's income is to their poverty threshold, measuring the depth of poverty for those with income below their threshold and the proximity to poverty for those with income above their threshold.

In this report, the income-to-poverty ratio is reported as a percentage. For example, an income-to-poverty ratio of 125 percent

³ The poverty rates for the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area (17.6 percent), Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (17.6 percent), Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (17.7 percent), and Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (18.2 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3.5 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

indicates a family or individual with income equal to 125 percent of their poverty threshold, while an income-to-poverty ratio of 50 percent identifies a family or individual with income equal to one-half of their poverty threshold. Families and individuals who are identified as in poverty have an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 100 percent.

According to 2013 ACS data, the proportion of people in the United States with an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 125 percent of the poverty level was 20.6 percent. The proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 50 percent was 7.0 percent. Among the states, New Hampshire (11.9 percent) had the lowest proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 125 percent according to the 2013 ACS (see Figure 3). On the other side of the distribution, Mississippi, with 30.3 percent, and New Mexico, with 28.3 percent, were the two states with the highest proportions of people with an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 125 percent.

In the 2013 ACS, New Hampshire (4.1 percent) and Alaska (4.3 per-

cent) were among the states with the lowest proportions of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent.⁴ New Mexico (10.2 percent), Mississippi (10.7 percent), and the District of Columbia (10.3 percent) were among the states with the highest proportions of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent.⁵

Figure 4 displays the range of income-to-poverty ratios for the largest MSAs in 2013. As shown in the figure, the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (11.5 percent) had the lowest proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 125 percent of the poverty level. The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (23.4 percent), the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (23.4

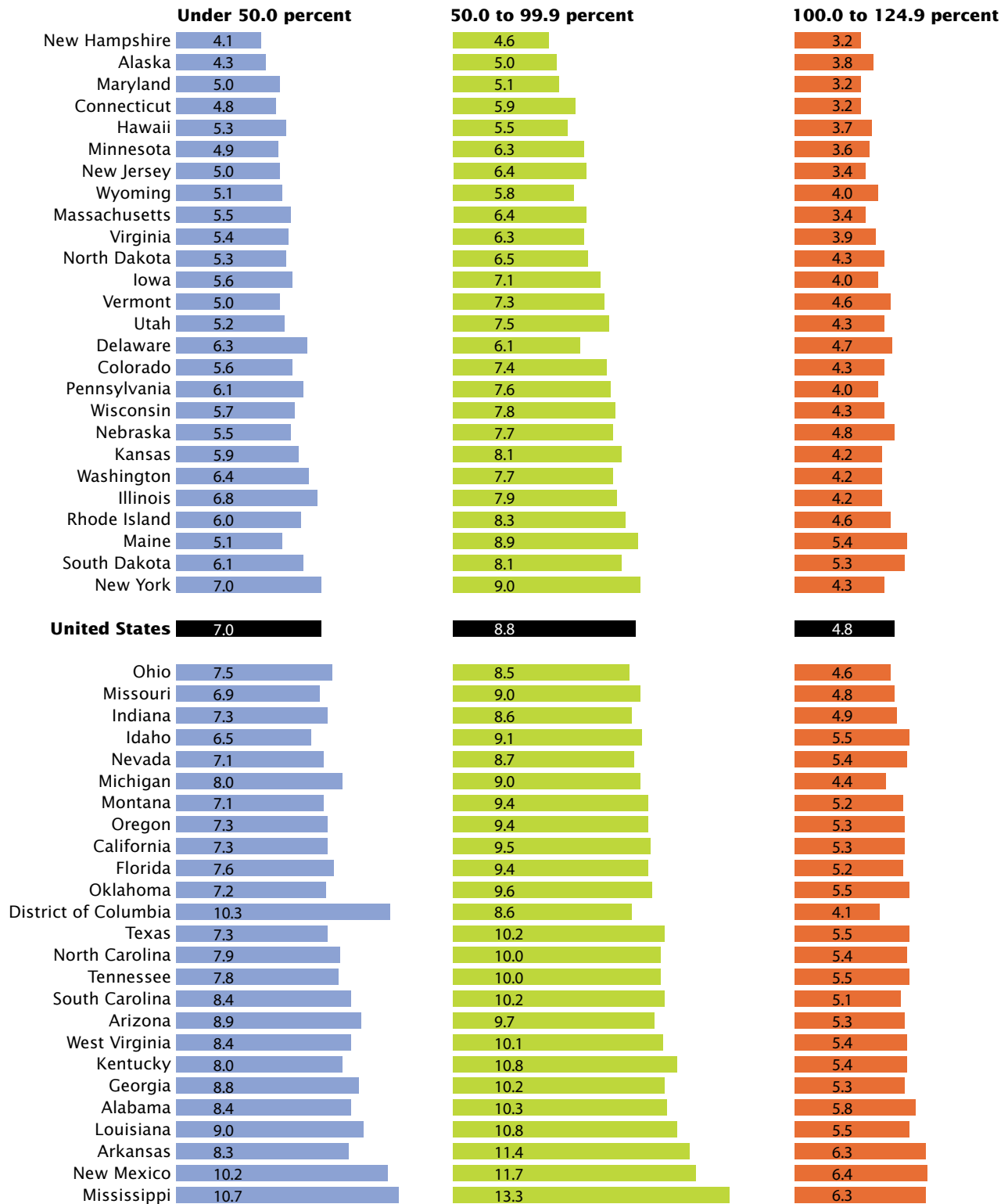
⁴ The proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent for New Hampshire (4.1 percent) and Alaska (4.3 percent) were not statistically different from each other. The proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent for Alaska (4.3 percent) was also not significantly different from Connecticut (4.8 percent), Vermont (5.0 percent), and Wyoming (5.1 percent).

⁵ The proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent for New Mexico (10.2 percent), Mississippi (10.7 percent), and the District of Columbia (10.3 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

Figure 3.

Percentage of People by Income-to-Poverty Ratio in the Past 12 Months by State: 2013

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf)



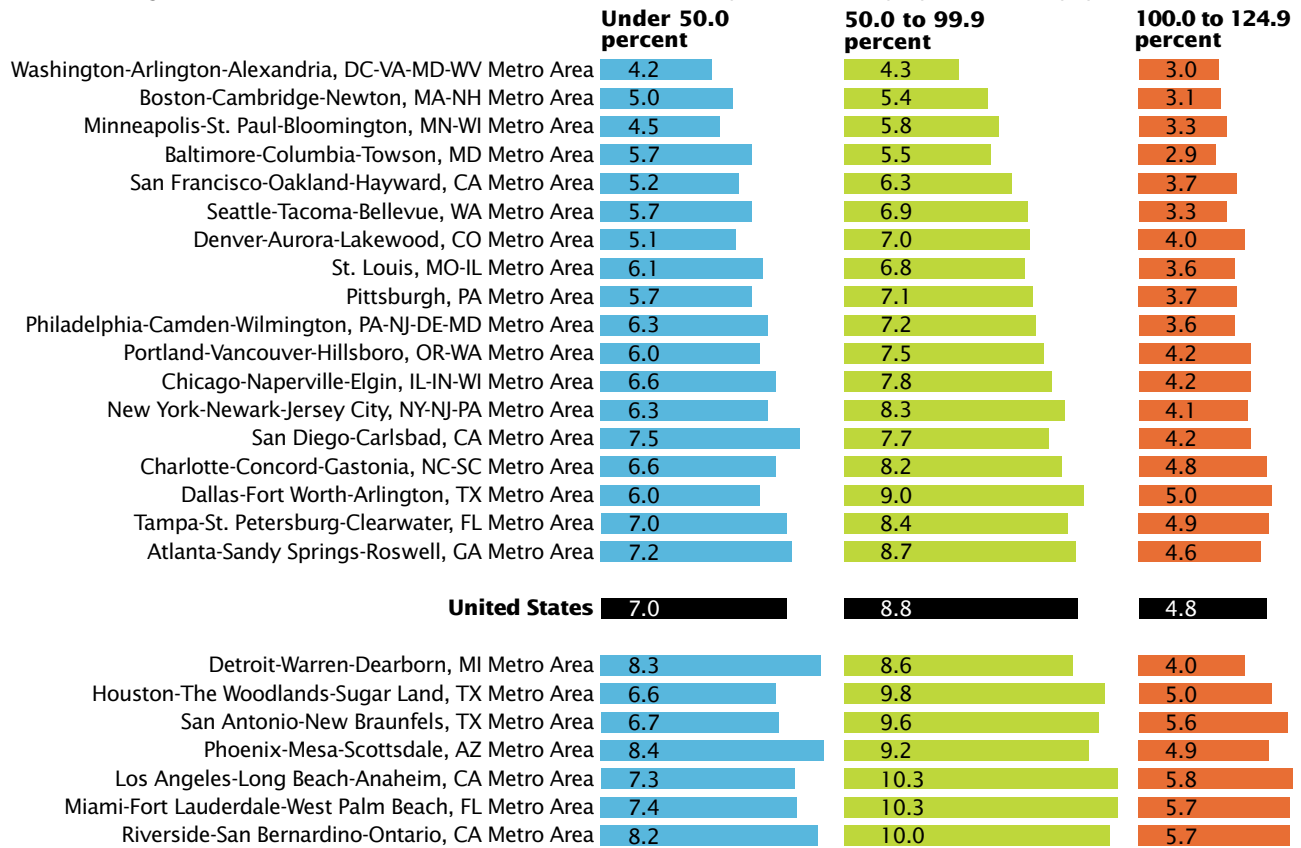
Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.

Percentage of People by Income-to-Poverty Ratio in the Past 12 Months for the 25 Largest Metropolitan Areas: 2013

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf)



Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey.

percent), and the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (23.9 percent) had among the highest percentages of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 125 percent.⁶

Among the largest MSAs, the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio of less than 50 percent in 2013 ranged from a low

⁶ The proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 125 percent for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area (23.4 percent), the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area (23.4 percent), and the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (23.9 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

of 4.2 percent in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area to a high of 8.4 percent in the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area.⁷

⁷ The proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios of less than 50 percent for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area (4.2) and the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area (4.5) were not statistically different from each other, while the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio less than 50 percent for the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area (8.4 percent), the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area (8.3 percent), and the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area (8.2 percent) were not statistically different from each other.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2012 through December 2012 (2012 ACS) and the ACS sample interviewed from January 2013 through December 2013 (2013 ACS). The estimates based on these samples describe the actual average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based

on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for all estimates included in this report. All comparative statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data, such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires. For more information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the 2013 ACS

Accuracy of the Data document located at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf>.

NOTES

The Census Bureau also publishes poverty estimates based on the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Following the standard specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, data from the CPS ASEC are used to estimate the official national poverty rate, which can be found in the report *Income and Poverty in the United*

States: 2013, available at <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>.

For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the CPS ASEC, see "Differences Between the Income and Poverty Estimates From the American Community Survey and the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey" at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/index.html>.