

The Poverty Rate Has Not Improved Since 2013

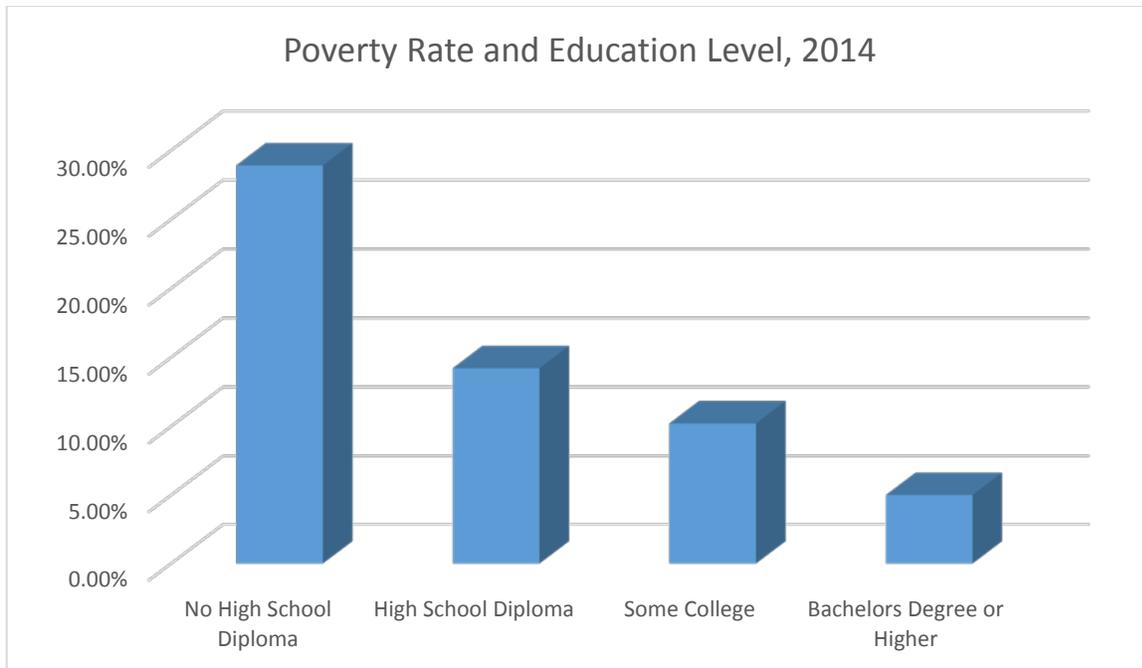
Census figures reveal that the poverty rate has not improved. The latest data reveal that while the poverty rate, or the percentage of the population that lived below the poverty line during the year, did not increase in 2014, it did not decrease, either. Approximately 15% of the population, or 46.7 million people including 15.5 million children, lived in poverty in 2014. The poverty rate increased for married couples and people age 25 and up with at least a bachelor’s degree. However, these two groups still represent a small proportion of people living in poverty and they are less likely to fall below the poverty line than other demographic groups.

Less than 3% of the population lived in poverty consistently from 2009 to 2012. However, 34.5% of the population had at least one spell of poverty lasting two or more months, highlighting the number of people in the United States existing in a frightening precarious economic position.

The level of income that constitutes the “poverty line” for any given family varies based on family size and the number of children in the household. However, the amount of income required to be considered “in poverty” is always quite low. For example, in 2014, the federal poverty line for a single adult under the age of 65 was \$12,316, and the federal poverty line for a family of three with two children was \$19,073.

People with Less Formal Education Are More Likely to Be Living in Poverty

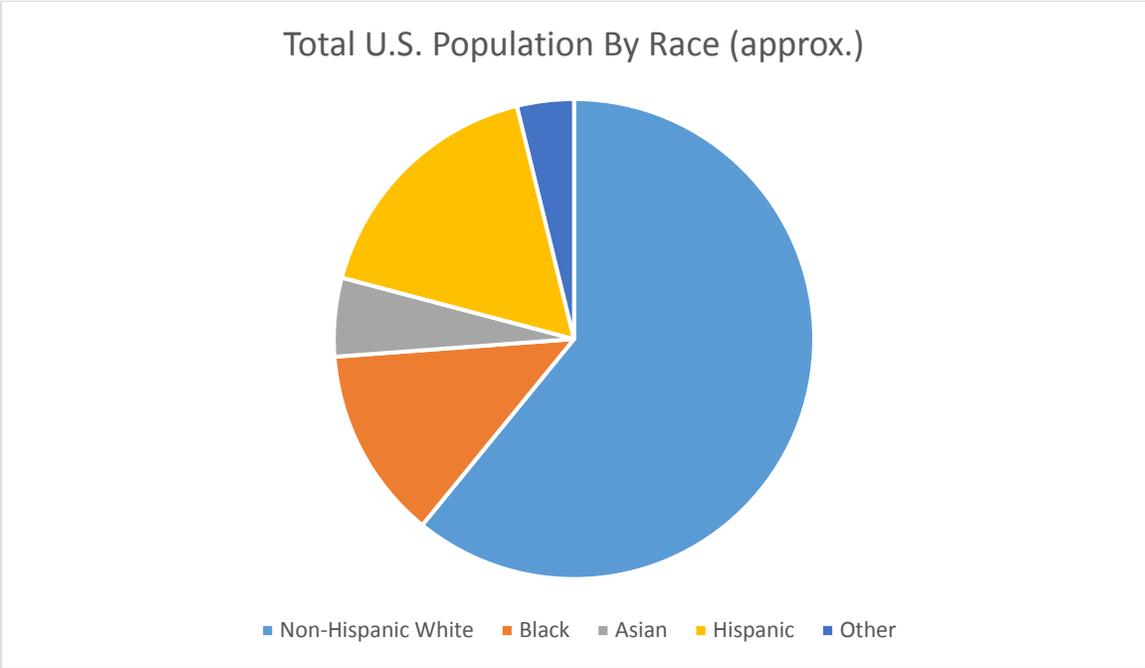
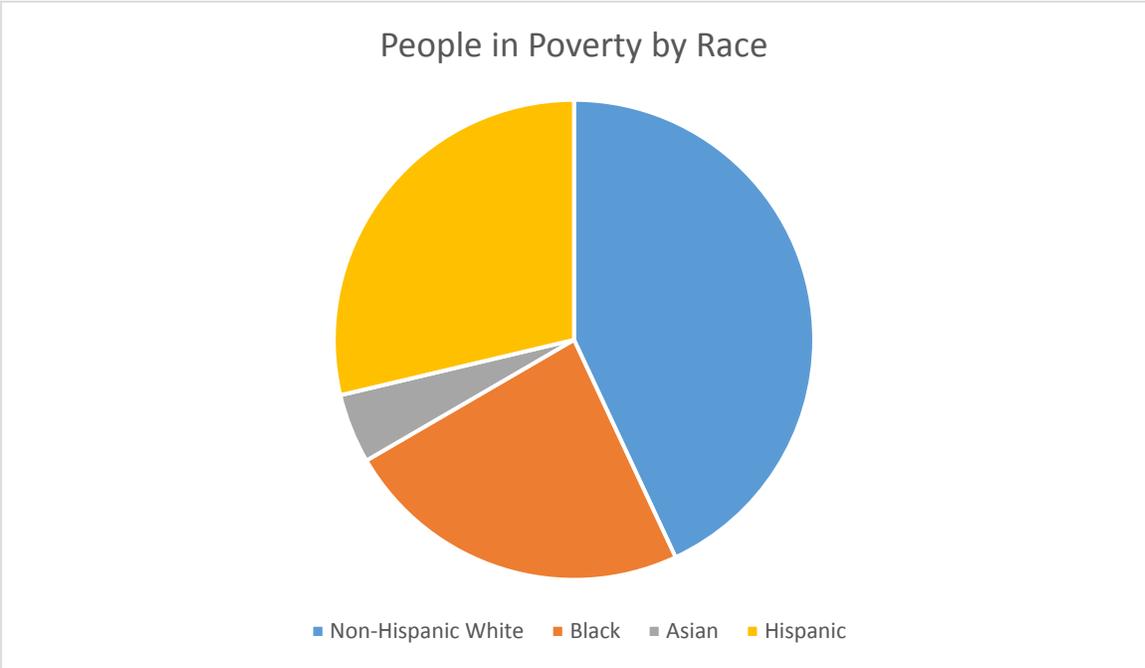
Census figures demonstrate that the higher a person’s education level, the less likely they are to live in poverty. Nearly 29% of adults over the age of 25 with no high school diploma were living in poverty in 2014, and more than 14% of adults over the age of 25 people with a high school diploma were living in poverty. In contrast, more than 10% of adults over the age of 25 people with some college were living in poverty, while a mere 5% of adults over the age of 25 people with a college degree were living in poverty. Additionally, people with less education were more likely to remain economically stagnant or move down the ladder economically.



Racial and Ethnic Minorities are Particularly Vulnerable to Poverty

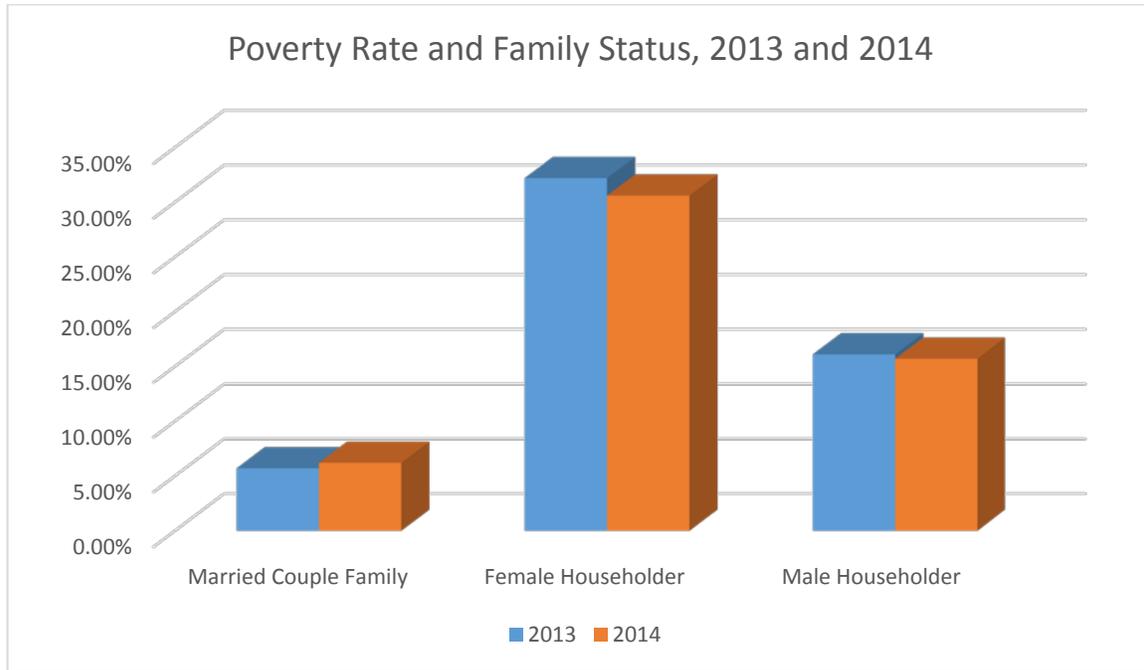
Non-Hispanic Whites are far less likely to live in poverty than Blacks and Hispanics. Non-Hispanic Whites make up 61.8% of population, but only 42% of people in poverty.

More than 26% of Black people and nearly 24% of Hispanic people were in poverty in 2014. In comparison, 10% of Non-Hispanic Whites and 12% of Asians were in poverty.



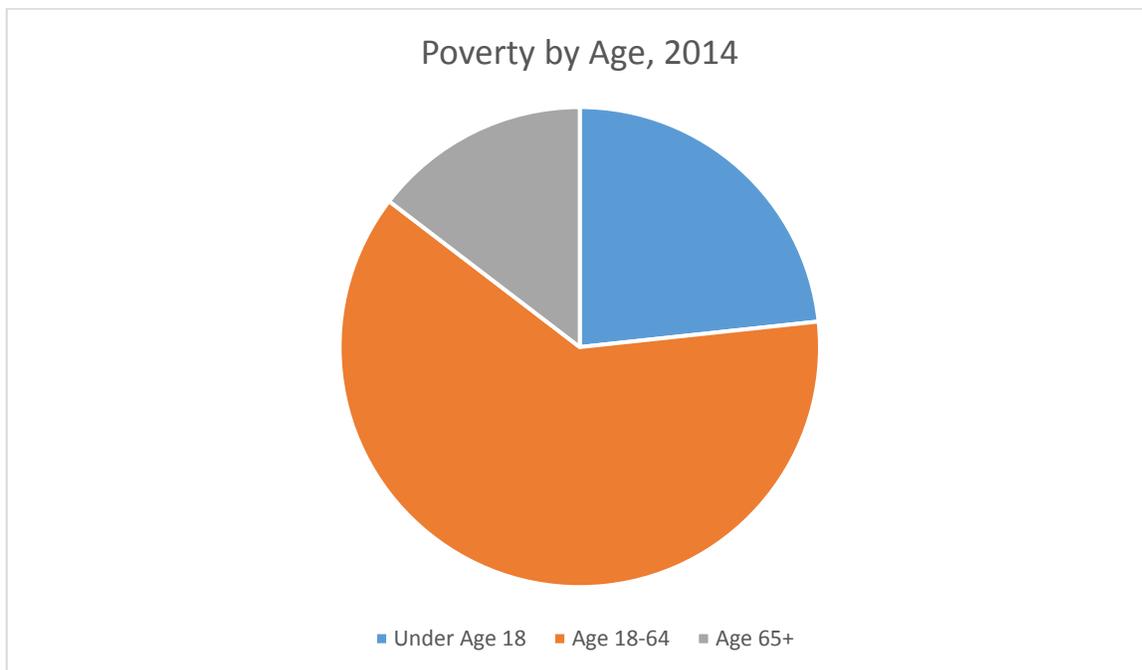
Poverty in the United States is Gendered

Gender disparities in poverty persisted in 2014. 16% of women were living in poverty, compared with less than 14% of men. Additionally, 30.6% of households headed by single women lived in poverty.



Children are More Likely to Live in Poverty than Any Other Age Group

In 2014, children were more likely to live in poverty than any other age group. Approximately 21% of children were in poverty, compared with 13.5% of adults age 18-64 and 10% of people over 65. Children also made up a large portion of people living just above the poverty line (27% of people between 100% and 200% of the poverty line were children).



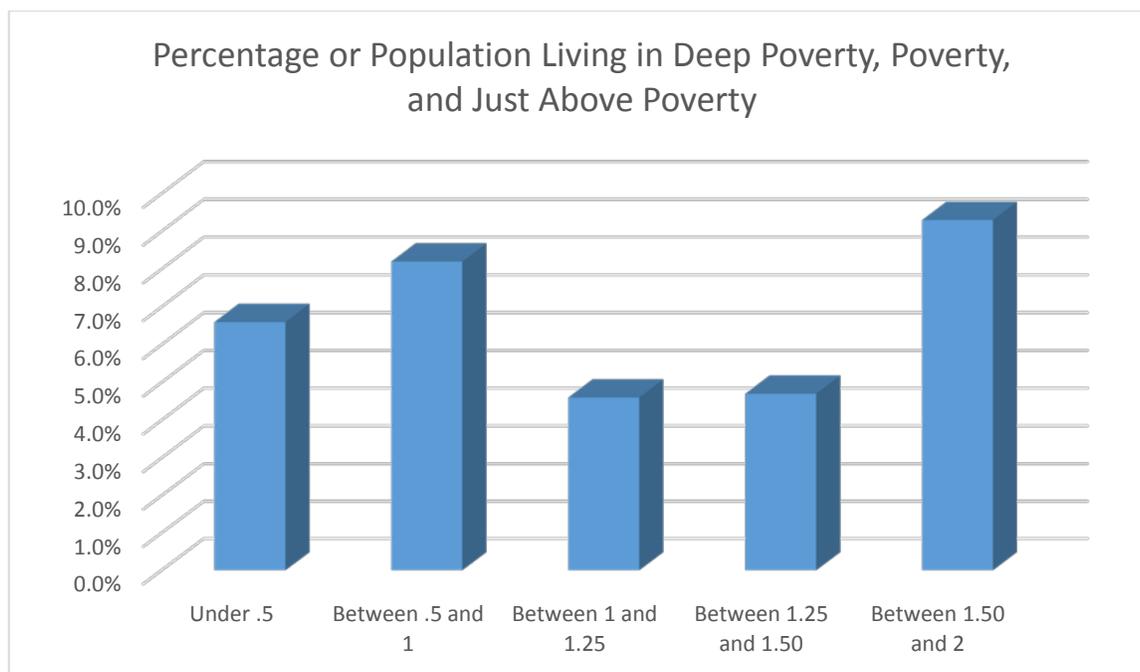
The poverty rate for young adults (adults age 25-34) who lived with their parents was only 7.2% when their income was pooled with the household income. However the poverty rate for the same group jumps to 39.4% when their income is considered on its own.

Over One Quarter of Adults with Disabilities Live in Poverty

In 2014, 28.5% of adults age 18-64 were living in poverty.

Demographic Groups that are More Vulnerable to Living in Poverty are also more Vulnerable to Deep Poverty

“Deep poverty” is defined as having income that is 50% or less of the poverty line. 12% of Blacks and nearly 10% of Hispanics were in deep poverty in 2014. One third of people living in deep poverty (below 50% of the poverty line) were children.



Supplemental Poverty Measure

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (“SPM”) was developed as an answer to criticisms that the federal poverty measure does not accurately account for the financial needs of modern families. To that end, the SPM calculates the poverty line based on the amount of money needed to pay for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, and a small number of additional items, and it makes a number of adjustments in an attempt to be more accurate. These adjustments include making regional housing cost adjustments and adjustments for people with mortgages, including non-related household members as family members for the purposes of calculating family income, and including non-cash benefits (like SNAP).

In 2014 the SPM, like the standard poverty measure, showed no increase in the overall poverty rate from 2013 to 2014. However, there were some differences between the standard poverty measure and the SPM. The poverty rates for men and married couples were slightly higher under the SPM, and the inclusion of non-cash benefits reduced the number of people categorized as the poorest of the poor in all age groups other than seniors.

Data from U.S. Census Bureau