

Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau does apply income measures in its collection and presentation of Poverty data. Annually, the Census Bureau through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) measures presents a [Poverty Threshold](#). Through this threshold measure, every individual or person in a family is determined to be either in poverty or not in poverty. Along with this determination, the analysis of the poverty threshold and income of individuals and families allows the Bureau to provide a Poverty Ratio Range that shows, within a jurisdiction, the level of poverty for individuals and families. The poverty data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau can be used in part to determine qualification for some government programs. However, there are usually many other factors that are considered. Below is an example how poverty is presented through a table from the American Community Survey. ACS Table S1701 Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months:

POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Subject	Phoenix city, Arizona					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population for whom poverty status is determined	1,473,375	+/-1,226	341,481	+/-6,764	23.2%	+/-0.5
AGE						
Under 18 years	400,431	+/-3,428	133,381	+/-4,163	33.3%	+/-1.0
Related children under 18 years	398,414	+/-3,459	131,569	+/-4,162	33.0%	+/-1.0
18 to 64 years	939,864	+/-3,465	193,057	+/-3,847	20.5%	+/-0.4
65 years and over	133,080	+/-1,824	15,043	+/-785	11.3%	+/-0.6
SEX						
Male	732,510	+/-3,064	162,678	+/-3,370	22.2%	+/-0.5
Female	740,865	+/-2,959	178,803	+/-4,150	24.1%	+/-0.5
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN						
One race	1,429,298	+/-3,059	332,322	+/-6,803	23.3%	+/-0.5
White	1,116,203	+/-7,168	237,535	+/-6,293	21.3%	+/-0.5
Black or African American	100,220	+/-3,421	31,129	+/-2,358	31.1%	+/-2.0
American Indian and Alaska Native	28,316	+/-1,956	8,756	+/-1,185	30.9%	+/-3.5
Asian	49,517	+/-2,127	6,930	+/-1,159	14.0%	+/-2.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3,298	+/-637	1,117	+/-405	33.9%	+/-10.3
Some other race	131,744	+/-5,513	46,855	+/-3,518	35.6%	+/-2.2
Two or more races	44,077	+/-2,841	9,159	+/-1,032	20.8%	+/-2.0
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	597,094	+/-4,762	211,116	+/-5,598	35.4%	+/-0.9
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	677,795	+/-4,806	80,331	+/-2,925	11.9%	+/-0.4
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT						
Population 25 years and over	920,926	+/-3,403	164,142	+/-3,405	17.8%	+/-0.4
Less than high school graduate	175,489	+/-3,362	65,083	+/-1,916	37.1%	+/-1.0
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	219,268	+/-3,364	47,214	+/-1,843	21.5%	+/-0.8
Some college, associate's degree	280,604	+/-3,880	37,844	+/-1,539	13.5%	+/-0.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	245,565	+/-3,289	14,001	+/-1,018	5.7%	+/-0.4
EMPLOYMENT STATUS						

Subject	Phoenix city, Arizona					
	Total		Below poverty level		Percent below poverty level	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Civilian labor force 16 years and over	739,838	+/-4,359	97,162	+/-2,424	13.1%	+/-0.3
Employed	666,956	+/-4,488	67,162	+/-2,064	10.1%	+/-0.3
Male	359,500	+/-3,289	36,170	+/-1,460	10.1%	+/-0.4
Female	307,456	+/-2,923	30,992	+/-1,406	10.1%	+/-0.4
Unemployed	72,882	+/-2,020	30,000	+/-1,303	41.2%	+/-1.5
Male	41,333	+/-1,526	15,841	+/-1,063	38.3%	+/-2.1
Female	31,549	+/-1,485	14,159	+/-865	44.9%	+/-2.0
WORK EXPERIENCE						
Population 16 years and over	1,115,417	+/-3,541	219,855	+/-4,217	19.7%	+/-0.4
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	480,644	+/-4,228	26,925	+/-1,209	5.6%	+/-0.2
Worked part-time or part-year in the past 12 months	252,342	+/-4,002	57,360	+/-2,126	22.7%	+/-0.8
Did not work	382,431	+/-4,111	135,570	+/-3,078	35.4%	+/-0.6
All Individuals below:						
50 percent of poverty level	162,870	+/-5,086	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
125 percent of poverty level	437,665	+/-6,557	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
150 percent of poverty level	527,180	+/-7,285	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
185 percent of poverty level	633,319	+/-7,169	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
200 percent of poverty level	677,504	+/-7,293	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Unrelated individuals for whom poverty status is determined	302,252	+/-4,047	84,498	+/-2,294	28.0%	+/-0.7
Male	161,502	+/-3,126	41,788	+/-1,603	25.9%	+/-0.9
Female	140,750	+/-2,162	42,710	+/-1,347	30.3%	+/-0.9
Mean income deficit for unrelated individuals (dollars)	7,464	+/-130	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Worked full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	145,610	+/-3,393	5,085	+/-573	3.5%	+/-0.4
Worked less than full-time, year-round in the past 12 months	66,212	+/-1,777	25,609	+/-1,338	38.7%	+/-1.6
Did not work	90,430	+/-1,914	53,804	+/-1,776	59.5%	+/-1.3
PERCENT IMPUTED						
Poverty status for individuals	29.3%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

For more specific information on the subject of poverty here are some key links to the U.S. Census Bureau webpages:

- Main Poverty Page - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty.html>
- How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/about.html>
- Poverty Data Tables - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/data/tables.html>
- Guidance for Data Users - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance.html>
- Library - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/library.html>
- Poverty News and Updates - <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/news-updates.html>
- Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program - <https://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/interactive/saipe.html>