

DEFINITION

This indicator reports on the percentage of families with children under age 18, and individuals under age 18, whose household income is below the poverty threshold. The poverty threshold is an annually adjusted dollar amount the Census Bureau uses to determine a family's poverty status.

CONTEXT

Currently in the United States more than 16 million children (approximately 22 percent) live in families with incomes below the poverty threshold, which in 2014 was \$24,008 for a family of four with two related children under 18 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2014). The National Center for Child Poverty suggests that, in order to cover basic expenses, families need about twice as much income as the poverty level (NCCP, 2014).

Living in poverty can have numerous adverse effects on children's well-being. It is associated with social, emotional, and behavioral problems, as well as poorer physical and mental health (NCCP, 2014). In the long term, childhood poverty is associated with lower educational attainment, annual hours worked, and earnings in adulthood (Duncan et al. 2012), related at least in part to the higher odds of poor health among those who were poor as children (Ziol-Guest et al. 2012). Growing up in poverty also puts children at a greater risk for living in persistent poverty as adults (NCCP, 2014).

NEW HAMPSHIRE FINDINGS

According to recent estimates, 5.6 percent of all New Hampshire families live below the federal poverty threshold. This rate increases to 9.5 percent for families with children under 18. The poverty rate among individuals under 18 years is 11.1 percent.

Coös County has the highest rate of family poverty in general (9.0 percent), family poverty among families with children under 18 (19.2 percent), and poverty among individuals under age 18 (21.7 percent). Rockingham County has the lowest rates in these three categories, at 3.5 percent, 5.9 percent, and 6.8 percent, respectively.

It is important to note that although poverty rates are highest in Coös County, higher numbers of families in poverty are found in the more populous southern part of the state despite the relatively low rates. Recent estimates

Poverty in Families with Children Under 18 Years by County, 2009-2013 (5 year estimate)

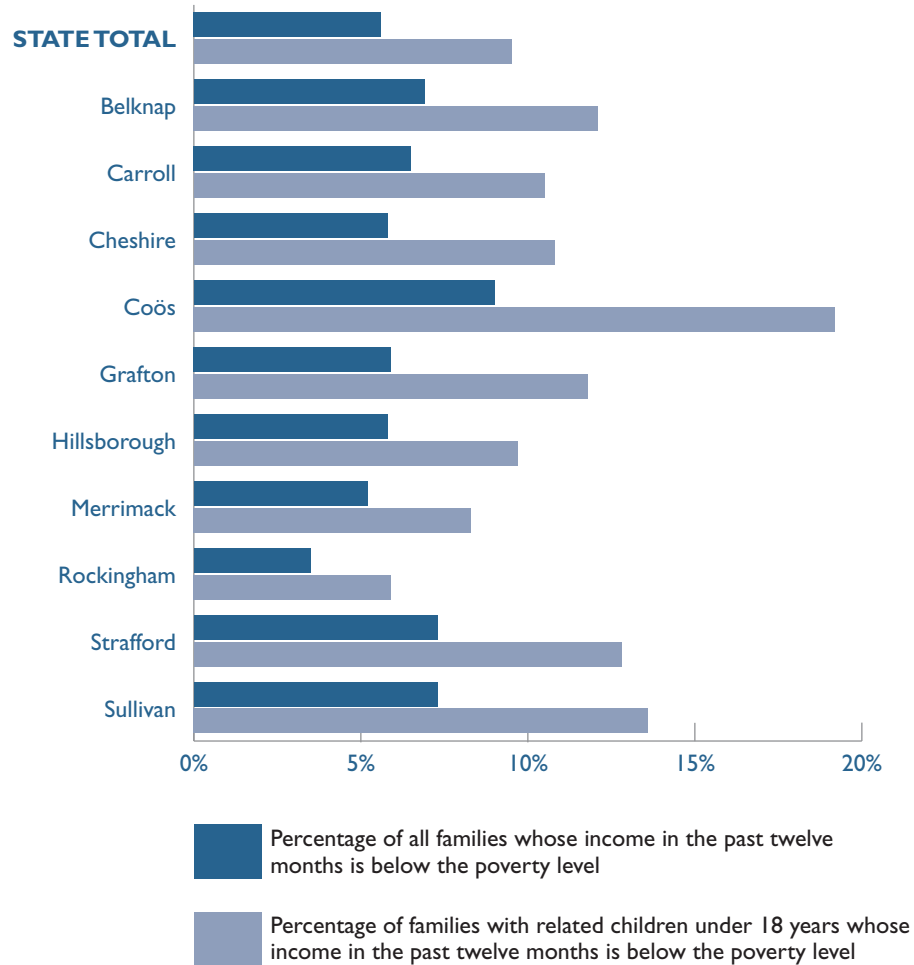
	% OF ALL FAMILIES WHOSE ANNUAL INCOME IS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	% OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 WHOSE ANNUAL INCOME IS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL	CHILD POVERTY RATE (POVERTY AMONG INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18)
STATE TOTAL	5.6%	9.5%	11.1%
Belknap	6.9%	12.1%	14.7%
Carroll	6.5%	10.5%	11.8%
Cheshire	5.8%	10.8%	14.3%
Coös	9.0%	19.2%	21.7%
Grafton	5.9%	11.8%	13.8%
Hillsborough	5.8%	9.7%	11.9%
Merrimack	5.2%	8.3%	10.3%
Rockingham	3.5%	5.9%	6.8%
Strafford	7.3%	12.8%	12.5%
Sullivan	7.3%	13.6%	12.6%

NOTE: Margins of error for poverty estimates range from 0.3% to 4.8%. The poverty threshold for each year is applied to each year of data within the 5-year estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table DP03

place the number of families with children under 18 living in poverty in Coös County at approximately 610, compared with approximately 4,600 in Hillsborough County and 2,060 in Rockingham County.

Poverty in Families with Children Under 18 Years by County, 2009-2013 (5 year estimate)



SOURCE OF DATA FOR ILLUSTRATION/METHODOLOGY

U.S. Census Bureau (2014). American Community Survey, Table DP03, Selected Economic Characteristics, 5-Year Estimate 2009–2013.
 ▶ www.factfinder.census.gov

REFERENCES

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U.S. Census Bureau (2014). *Poverty Thresholds*.
 ▶ www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/

Ziol-Guest, K.M., G.J. Duncan, A. Kalil and W.T. Boyce. (2012). "Early Childhood Poverty, Immune-Mediated Disease Processes and Adult Productivity." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109(2):17289-17293.