

POVERTY & FAMILY SUPPORTS

National Snapshot: Poverty Among Women & Families, 2012

September 2013

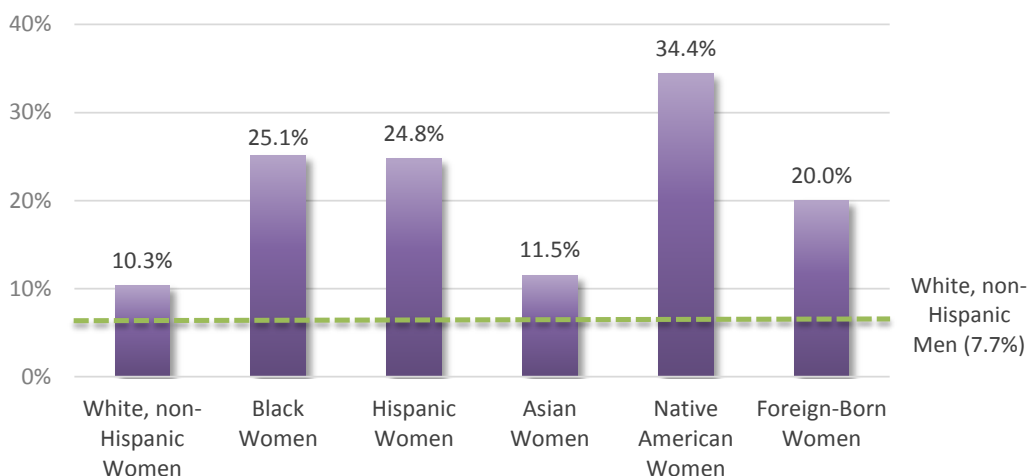
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The poverty rates for women, like poverty rates overall, remained at historically high levels in 2012, according to U.S. Census Bureau data released in September 2013. Women's poverty rates were once again substantially above the poverty rates for men. More than one in seven women – nearly 17.8 million – and more than one in five children – over 16 million – lived in poverty in 2012. More than half of all poor children lived in families headed by women.

Adult Women, 2012

- More than one in seven women, nearly 17.8 million, lived in poverty in 2012. About 44 percent of these women (nearly 7.8 million) lived in extreme poverty, defined as income at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level. More than 1 in 16 women lived in extreme poverty in 2012.
- The poverty rate for women (14.5 percent) was 3.5 percentage points higher than it was for men (11.0 percent). The extreme poverty rate for women (6.3 percent) was 1.5 percentage points higher than it was for men (4.8 percent).
- Women in all racial and ethnic groups experienced higher poverty rates than white, non-Hispanic men. Poverty rates were particularly high, at about one in four, among black (25.1 percent) and Hispanic (24.8 percent) women, and about one in three among Native American (34.4 percent) women. Rates for foreign-born women (20.0 percent), white, non-Hispanic women (10.3 percent), and Asian women (11.5 percent) were also considerably higher than the rate for white, non-Hispanic men (7.7 percent). Poverty rates for all groups of adult women were also higher than for their male counterparts (see summary table).

Poverty Rates for Adults, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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What Does the Federal Poverty Rate Measure?

The official poverty rate reported by the Census Bureau measures the percentage of the U.S. population with total income below the federal poverty threshold for their family size (e.g., \$23,283 in 2012 for a family of four with two children). "Income" is calculated before taxes and includes only cash income, such as:

- Earnings
- Pension income
- Investment income
- Social Security

- Unemployment benefits
- Child support payments

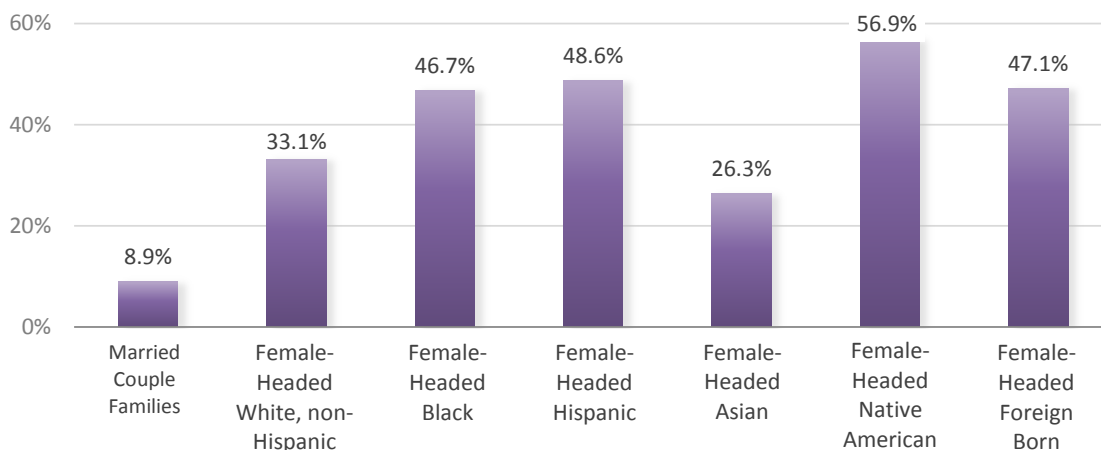
A number of other federal and state benefits that help support low-income families are not counted as income under the official poverty measure. These include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Tax benefits (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit)
- Housing subsidies

Single Mothers and Children, 2012

- Over 16 million children lived in poverty in 2012, close to half of whom (44 percent) lived in extreme poverty.
- 21.8 percent of children were poor, almost twice the rate for adult men (11.0 percent). Poverty rates were particularly high, at more than one in three, for black (37.9 percent) and Hispanic (33.8 percent) children, and nearly one in two Native American (45.1 percent) children. The poverty rate was 13.8 percent for Asian children and 12.3 percent for white, non-Hispanic children.
- The poverty rate for female-headed families with children was 40.9 percent, compared to 22.6 percent for male-headed families with children, and 8.9 percent for families with children headed by a married couple.
- Poverty rates were about one in two for black female-headed families with children (46.7 percent), Hispanic female-headed families with children (48.6 percent), foreign-born female-headed families with children (47.1 percent), and Native American female-headed families with children (56.9 percent). The poverty rate was 33.1 percent for white, non-Hispanic female-headed families with children and 26.3 percent for Asian female-headed families with children.
- More than half of all poor children (56.1 percent) lived in families headed by women.
- Nearly 587,000 single women with children (13.2 percent) who worked full time, year round in 2012 lived in poverty.

Poverty Rates for Families with Children, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

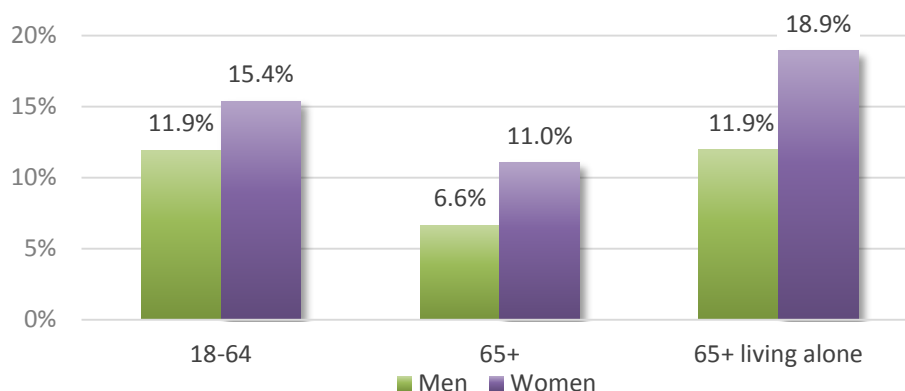
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Women 65 and Older, 2012

- Among people 65 and older, more than twice as many women (over 2.6 million) as men (almost 1.3 million) lived in poverty in 2012.
- The poverty rate for women 65 and older was 11.0 percent, 4.4 percentage points higher than the poverty rate for men 65 and older (6.6 percent).
- 18.9 percent of women 65 and older living alone lived in poverty, compared to 11.9 percent for men 65 and older living alone.
- Poverty rates were particularly high for black (21.2 percent), Hispanic (21.8 percent), and Native American (27.1 percent) women 65 and older. Poverty rates for other groups were lower at 8.6 percent for white non-Hispanic, 12.2 percent for Asian, and 16.9 percent for foreign-born women 65 and older. Poverty rates for almost all groups of women 65 and older were higher than those of their male counterparts (see summary table).

Poverty Rates for Adults by Gender and Age, 2012

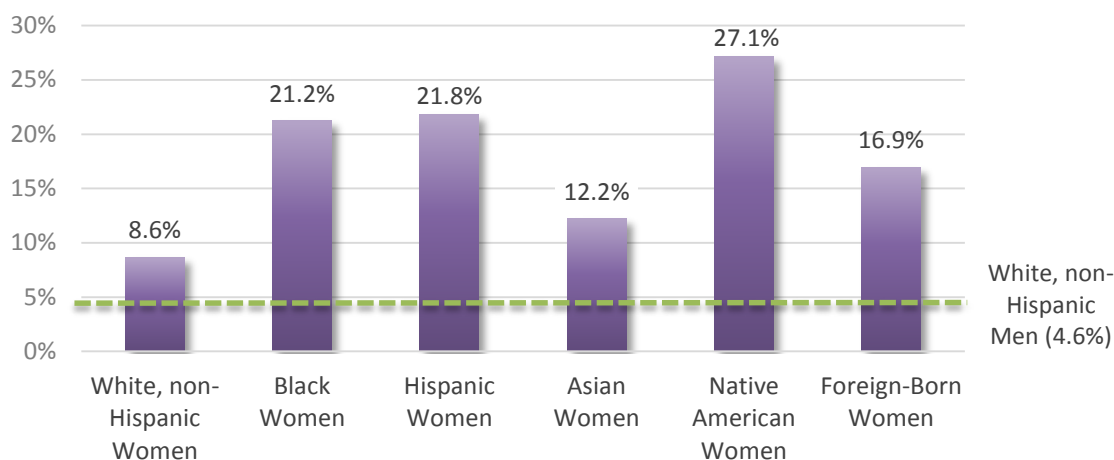


Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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Poverty Rates for Adults 65 and Older, 2012



Source: Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

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SOURCE NOTE: All data are from the 2013 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

SUMMARY TABLE: POVERTY RATES AMONG WOMEN, MEN, AND CHILDREN - 2012

Group	Number in Poverty, 2012 (in millions)	Poverty Rate, 2012
Adult Women 18+	17.78	14.5%
White, non-Hispanic	8.30	10.3%
Black	4.01	25.1%
Hispanic	4.38	24.8%
Asian	0.79	11.5%
Native American	0.43	34.4%
Foreign Born	3.87	20.0%
Adult Men 18+	12.64	11.0%
White, non-Hispanic	5.86	7.7%
Black	2.70	20.6%
Hispanic	3.26	18.4%
Asian	0.64	10.6%
Native American	0.28	24.1%
Foreign Born	3.11	16.9%
Female-Headed Households with Children	4.10	40.9%
White, non-Hispanic	1.42	33.1%
Black	1.41	46.7%
Hispanic	1.13	48.6%
Asian	0.07	26.3%
Native American	0.13	56.9%
Foreign Born	0.80	47.1%
Children	16.07	21.8%
White, non-Hispanic	4.78	12.3%
Black	4.20	37.9%
Hispanic	5.98	33.8%
Asian	0.50	13.8%
Native American	0.47	45.1%
Foreign Born	0.71	30.0%
Older Women 65+	2.64	11.0%
White, non-Hispanic	1.62	8.6%
Black	0.48	21.2%
Hispanic	0.40	21.8%
Asian	0.12	12.2%
Native American	0.04	27.1%
Foreign Born	0.50	16.9%
Living Alone	1.60	18.9%
Older Men 65+	1.28	6.6%
White, non-Hispanic	0.71	4.6%
Black	0.23	14.0%
Hispanic	0.26	19.1%
Asian	0.09	12.3%
Native American	0.02	15.2%
Foreign Born	0.35	15.4%
Living Alone	0.44	11.9%

Source: Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Some figures may differ from published Census estimates due to rounding.