

Illinois and Chicago Region



POVERTY, INCOME, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The U.S. poverty rate was 13.5% in 2015, representing 43.1 million people living in poverty. This is a significant decline from 2014, and is, in fact, the largest decline in 16 years. Nonetheless, the poverty rate still remains higher than the pre-recession level of 12.5% in 2007. In Illinois, 1.7 million people were in poverty in 2015 — a rate of 13.6% — and 2.1 million Illinoisans are near poor and economically insecure with incomes between 100%–199% of the federal poverty threshold.

In Illinois's second year without a state budget, the burden falls on the backs of the millions of Illinoisans in poverty. The resulting erosion of services that help connect people to work, ensure low-income workers can access child care, provide MAP grants for students seeking an education, and help survivors of violence recover will make it much more difficult for people to move out of poverty.

Illinois

	2007		2014		2015	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	1,496,248	11.9	1,804,535*	14.4*	1,703,258*	13.6*
Extreme Poverty	667,578	5.3	829,130*	6.6*	784,584*	6.2*
Low Income/Near Poor	2,029,262	16.2	2,156,083*	17.2*	2,095,725*	16.7*
Related Child Poverty	511,142	16.3	582,212*	19.9*	548,174*	18.9*
No Health Insurance [†]	1,597,086	14.2	1,218,548*	11.1*	885,459*	8.1*
Median Household Income [^]	\$61,871	--	\$57,516*	--	\$59,588*	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant. [†] Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008—the first year they were collected—rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65. [^] All income figures are in 2015 dollars.

Chicago

	2007		2014		2015	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	550,580	20.5	586,719*	22.0*	556,134*	20.9
Extreme Poverty	244,498	9.1	274,122*	10.3*	252,392*	9.5*
Low Income/Near Poor	554,636	20.6	568,241	21.3	556,736	20.9
Related Child Poverty	201,748	30.6	195,154	33.3*	178,946*	31.2
No Health Insurance [†]	526,082	21.6	379,827*	15.9*	278,843*	11.7*
Median Household Income [^]	\$52,018	--	\$48,795*	--	\$50,702*	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant. [†] Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008—the first year they were collected—rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65. [^] All income figures are in 2015 dollars.

6-County Chicago Region

	2007		2014		2015	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	936,259	11.3	1,144,044*	13.8*	1,098,665*	13.3
Extreme Poverty	416,119	5.0	514,643*	6.2*	493,866	6.0
Low Income/Near Poor	1,277,860	15.4	1,393,032*	16.9*	1,345,347	16.3
Related Child Poverty	339,216	15.8	386,474*	19.8*	364,717	18.8
No Health Insurance [†]	1,151,068	15.4	902,050*	12.4*	677,327*	9.3*
Median Household Income [^]	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant. [†] Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008—the first year they were collected—rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65. [^] Estimates of median household income are not available for this geography. 6-County region includes the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

Suburban 6-County Region (no Chicago)

	2007		2014		2015	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	385,679	6.9	557,325*	10.0*	542,531	9.7
Extreme Poverty	171,621	3.1	240,521*	4.3*	241,474	4.3
Low Income/Near Poor	723,224	12.9	824,791*	14.7*	788,611	14.1
Related Child Poverty	137,468	9.2	191,320*	14.0*	185,771	13.6
No Health Insurance [†]	624,986	12.4	522,223*	10.7*	398,484*	8.2*
Median Household Income [^]	--	--	--	--	--	--





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Measuring Poverty

Official poverty data are based on the federal poverty thresholds, which are used to determine poverty status. The measure is not geographically specific and does not reflect what it takes for families to make ends meet.

Far more people struggle to make ends meet than the official poverty data suggest. The Illinois Basic Economic Security Tables™ (BEST™) show that it takes a family of 3 (adult, preschooler, school-age child) over \$70,000 to be economically secure in Illinois.

2015 FEDERAL POVERTY THRESHOLDS

Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
	\$6,043	\$12,085	\$24,170
	\$7,699	\$15,397	\$30,794
	\$9,436	\$18,872	\$37,744
	\$12,130	\$24,259	\$48,518

National data come from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. All sub-national data are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates program. The most recent American Community Survey estimates reflect 2015 income, poverty, and health insurance coverage, which are the most current data available for geographies with populations over 65,000. For more information on the American Community Survey, visit www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Statistical significance refers to the probability that the observed changes are "true" rather than the result of an error in sampling or estimation. Data included here are statistically significant at the 90th percentile.

For more information on the Illinois Basic Economic Security Tables™, visit <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/illinois-cost-of-living/>.

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