

## **Instructions to View District-Level Data: How does your state or district measure up to the national child poverty rate?**

\*Note that district-level poverty data through the Census Bureau is only available through the American Community Survey (ACS), which uses the Official Poverty Measure. This poverty rate does not reflect the impact of tax credits or in-kind benefits such as SNAP. Make sure to compare any state- or district-level data to the overall ACS poverty number, not the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). While the SPM figures showed a significant increase in our national poverty rate, ACS data might have stayed more flat because they don't reflect the impact of the Child Tax Credit changes.

- Go to [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)
  
- Search for Table S1701, titled “Poverty status over the past 12 months,” which has poverty data broken down in age brackets of under 5 and under 18. Then choose the geography tab at the top of the table where you can narrow down to find data by state or congressional district (scroll down to a folder under “All Geographies”). This is an option for any data table you are using.
  
- Each table has a drop-down menu to select data for past years if you want to make comparisons or highlight trends. There are 1-year and 5-year estimates for each year, and some data is only available as 5-year estimates (that data set is not released until December), so be careful not to compare that data to 1-year estimate data.
  - Note that 2020 does not have 1-year estimate tables because the outbreak of COVID-19 posed challenges to collect this data. (However, there are 5-year estimates available for 2020)
  
- Tables B17001B through B17001I show child poverty rates by race. Note that only state level data on poverty by race in 2022 is currently available, while district-level data on race and poverty will be released as 5-year estimates in early December 2023.
  - Table B17001B: Black alone
  - Table B17001C: American Indian and Alaska Native alone
  - Table B17001D: Asian alone
  - Table B17001E: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone
  - Table B17001F: Some other race alone
  - Table B17001G: Two or more races
  - Table B17001H: White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
  - Table B17001I: Hispanic or Latino

These tables are broken out in age brackets and by sex. They show numbers of people in poverty rather than percentages of children or adults of a certain race who are experiencing poverty. To calculate the percentages, you can use data in Table B01001 to find out how many children or adults of each race live in your state or district. (This data can be narrowed by age, race, and geography through the Topics and Geography tabs.)

- Other tables with helpful information that can be broken down by state or district:

- B10050 Grandparents responsible for caring for grandchildren
- B10059 Poverty status of grandparents responsible for caring for grandchildren
- B17024 Ratio of income to poverty level by age
- B05010 Ratio of income to poverty level by nativity of parents and living arrangements
- B08122 Means of transportation to work by poverty status
- B14006 Poverty status in the past 12 months by school enrollment (3 years and older)
- B16009 Poverty status by age and by language spoken at home
- B17016 Poverty status by work experience of householder (which is defined as an adult owns or rents the property)
- B17018 Poverty status by educational attainment of householder
- B25106 Tenure by housing costs as a percentage of household income

- Want to just search for some overall demographic information for your district?

○ Click the Advanced Search tab under the main search bar and go to the Map tab at the top. Click the Layer tab to break out the map by congressional district, and upon selecting your district, you can view a profile that includes an extensive array of demographic data. Note that data points are sourced from various Census surveys.

Additional Resources:

### **Resources from Center for American Progress:**

CAP's poverty data project highlights U.S. Census data on national and state levels, all in one place. The project's features include:

- National statistics: [Data on Poverty in the United States](#)
  - Broken down by race, gender, disability, and more
- Data on a [state](#) by year using their map tool
- Compare data [between up to four states](#), by year

### **Kids Count Data Center**

- Has a plethora of data on children available by state and congressional district, including child poverty rates.
- [Look here for data on child poverty for 2022](#) (uses ACS data), which can be found by congressional district.

### **Template for district-specific talking points:**

Our district, [INSERT NUMBER], had a poverty rate of [2022 POVERTY RATE], a percent increase/decrease of [INSERT PERCENTAGE] from 2021.

- To calculate increase, subtract 2021 district poverty rate from 2022 poverty rate, then divide by 2021 poverty rate and x100.
  - For example, in 2022 the U.S. had an overall SPM child poverty rate of 12.4 percent, and in 2021 it was 5.2 percent. If you subtract 5.2 from 12.4, you get 7.2. If you divide 7.2 by 5.2, you get 1.38. Multiply that by 100, and you get an increase of 138 percent in the SPM child poverty rate for 2022.
- For decrease, subtract 2022 rate from 2021 rate, divide that by 2021 rate and multiply by 100.