

Fast Facts on Poverty

As household earnings have declined, due to un/underemployment, more and more Americans find themselves falling into poverty. The consequences of poverty can be severe – homelessness, poor health, hunger, high-poverty neighborhoods, that suffer from high crime and low-performing schools.

1. It is being projected that when the final numbers come out later this year that the U.S. poverty rate will be the highest that it has been [in almost 50 years](#).
2. Approximately [57 percent](#) of all children in the United States are living in homes that are either considered to be either “low income” or impoverished.
3. Today, [one out of every four](#) workers in the United States brings home wages that are at or below the poverty level.
4. It is projected that about [half of all American adults](#) will spend at least some time living below the poverty line before they turn 65.
5. Today, there are approximately [20.2 million Americans](#) that spend more than half of their incomes on housing. That represents a 46 percent increase from 2001.
6. Right now, one out of every seven Americans is on food stamps and [one out of every four](#) American children is on food stamps.
7. It is projected that [half of all American children](#) will be on food stamps at least once before they turn 18 years of age.
8. The poverty rate for children living in the United States is [22 percent](#), although when the new numbers are released in the fall that number is expected to go even higher.
9. Households that are led by a single mother have a [31.6%](#) poverty rate.
10. There are 314 counties in the United States where [at least 30% of the children](#) are facing food insecurity.
11. [More than 20 million](#) U.S. children rely on school meal programs to keep from going hungry.
12. Today, [one out of every six](#) elderly Americans lives below the federal poverty line.