

3.E Poverty

Table 3.E2—Number and percentage of poor persons, by age, at end of selected years 1959–2000

Age and family status ^a	1959	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990 ^b	1999	2000
Total population (millions) ^c								
All ages	176.5	202.5	210.4	225.0	236.6	248.6	273.5	275.9
Children under 18 in families	64.0	69.9	64.8	62.2	62.0	64.9	70.5	70.6
With—								
Male householder ^d	58.3	60.8	54.1	50.6	49.5	49.5	54.0	54.5
Female householder	5.7	9.0	10.6	11.5	12.5	15.4	16.4	16.1
18–54 ^e	81.0	94.9	104.7	116.3	125.2	132.3	146.0	147.4
55–64	15.5	18.4	19.8	21.7	22.1	21.3	23.4	23.8
65 or older	15.6	19.3	21.7	24.7	27.3	30.1	32.6	33.0
In families	11.9	13.4	14.8	16.7	18.4	20.1	22.0	22.3
Unrelated individuals	3.7	5.8	6.9	8.0	8.9	10.0	10.6	10.7
Men	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.9
Women	2.5	4.4	5.4	6.3	7.0	7.7	7.8	7.8
Number poor ^c (millions)								
All ages	39.5	25.3	25.9	29.3	33.1	33.6	32.3	31.1
Children under 18 in families	17.2	10.5	10.9	11.1	12.5	13.3	11.5	11.1
With—								
Male householder ^d	13.1	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.3	4.8	4.9
Female householder	4.1	4.8	5.6	5.9	6.7	8.0	6.7	6.2
18–54 ^e	13.4	8.2	9.7	12.2	14.8	14.6	15.0	14.1
55–64	3.3	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2
65 or older	5.5	4.7	3.3	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.2	3.4
In families	3.2	2.0	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Unrelated individuals	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.2
Men	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Women	1.6	2.2	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.7
Percent poor ^c								
All ages	22.4	12.6	12.3	13.0	14.0	13.5	11.8	11.3
Children under 18 in families	26.9	15.0	16.8	17.9	20.1	20.5	16.3	15.7
With—								
Male householder ^d	22.4	9.3	9.8	10.4	11.7	10.7	9.0	8.9
Female householder	72.2	53.4	52.7	50.8	53.6	52.1	40.6	38.4
18–54 ^e	16.5	8.7	9.2	10.5	11.8	11.0	10.3	9.6
55–64	21.5	11.4	10.2	9.5	10.5	9.7	9.5	9.4
65 or older	35.2	24.6	15.3	15.7	12.6	12.2	9.7	10.2
In families	26.9	14.7	8.0	8.5	6.4	5.9	4.9	5.1
Unrelated individuals	61.9	47.1	31.0	30.6	25.6	24.8	19.7	20.8
Men	59.0	38.9	27.7	24.4	20.5	17.3	16.4	18.3
Women	63.3	49.7	31.9	32.3	27.0	26.9	20.9	21.8

a. Income and poverty status refer to the calendar year shown; family status is as of March of the succeeding year.

b. Based on revised methodology.

c. Includes armed forces in the United States living off post or with families on post. Excludes unrelated individuals under age 16.

d. Includes children in families with both spouses present and in families with male householder with no spouse present.

e. Includes persons under age 18 listed as unrelated individual, family householder, spouse of householder, or other family member.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, public use file of the March 2001 Income Supplement. Data for 1970 and 1975 are based on the 1970 Census of Population controls.

NOTES: Table includes civilian noninstitutionalized population residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For a discussion of standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60.

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Table 3.E3—Shares of money income from earnings and other sources for aged and nonaged families, 2000

Type of money income received during year	Aged family units						Nonaged family units					
	Individuals aged 65 or older living alone or with nonrelatives only			Multiperson families with householder aged 65 or older			Individuals under age 65 living alone or with nonrelatives only			Multiperson families with householder under age 65		
	Total	Nonpoor	Poor ^a	Total	Nonpoor	Poor ^a	Total	Nonpoor	Poor ^a	Total	Nonpoor	Poor ^a
Number of families and unrelated individuals (millions)	10.7	8.4	2.2	11.6	11	0.6	34.7	28	6.7	60.8	55.2	5.6
	Percent receiving income of specified type^b											
Earnings.....	13	16	3	45	46	22	84	94	40	95	97	69
Public program payments												
Social Security ^c	93	95	84	92	93	64	6	5	12	10	10	10
Supplemental Security Income.....	5	3	16	5	4	16	4	1	14	3	2	10
Other public assistance.....	2	3	2	4	3	8	10	9	12	12	10	25
Other programs ^d	4	4	2	8	8	7	5	6	4	9	9	7
Other sources												
Dividends, interest, rent	58	66	27	67	69	30	46	53	16	61	66	15
Employment-related pensions, alimony, annuities	39	47	9	51	53	9	6	6	3	15	15	15
	Percentage distribution of income, by type											
Total percent.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Earnings.....	14	15	1	34	34	12	88	89	46	90	91	68
Public program payments												
Social Security ^c	44	42	85	32	32	64	2	1	20	2	1	7
Supplemental Security Income.....	1	1	8	1	e	9	1	e	17	e	e	6
Other public assistance.....	e	e	e	e	e	3	2	2	7	1	1	10
Other programs ^d	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2
Other sources												
Dividends, interest, rent	20	21	3	15	15	5	5	5	3	4	4	1
Employment-related pensions, alimony, annuities	19	20	3	17	18	4	2	2	3	3	2	5
Median income (dollars).....	13,767	16,716	5,747	32,858	34,641	8,440	24,185	29,318	3,791	55,145	56,310	8,790

a. Poverty status based on money income of all family members after receipt of Social Security and any other cash transfer payments.

b. Received by individuals or any family member at any time during 1999. Most individuals or families received more than one type of income during the year.

c. Social Security may include more than one type of income during the year.

d. Unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, or veterans' payments.

e. Less than 0.05 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Public use file of the March 2001 Income Supplement.

NOTES: Table includes civilian noninstitutionalized population residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For a discussion of standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60.

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Table 3.E4—Current living arrangements of persons aged 65 or older, March 2001

Living arrangement and sex	Population (thousands)			Percentage distribution			Percent officially poor
	Total	Poor	Nonpoor	Total	Poor	Nonpoor	
All	32,979	3,360	29,619	100.0	100.0	100.0	10.2
Unrelated individuals.....	10,659	2,220	8,439	32.3	66.1	28.5	20.8
Family members	22,320	1,140	21,180	67.7	33.9	71.5	5.1
Householder or spouse	20,196	1,020	19,176	61.2	30.3	64.7	5.0
Other relative ^a	2,124	120	2,004	6.4	3.6	6.8	5.7
Poor by own income.....	854	102	751	2.6	3.0	2.5	12.0
Not poor by own income.....	1,271	18	1,253	3.9	0.5	4.2	1.4
Men	14,179	1,063	13,116	43.0	31.7	44.3	7.5
Unrelated individuals.....	2,882	528	2,354	8.7	15.7	7.9	18.3
Family members	11,298	536	10,762	34.3	15.9	36.3	4.7
Householder.....	7,974	354	7,620	24.2	10.5	25.7	4.4
Spouse of householder	2,692	151	2,542	8.2	4.5	8.6	5.6
Other relative ^a	632	31	600	1.9	0.9	2.0	5.0
Poor by own income.....	158	27	131	0.5	0.8	0.4	16.8
Not poor by own income.....	474	5	469	1.4	0.1	1.6	1.0
Women	18,799	2,296	16,503	57.0	68.3	55.7	12.2
Unrelated individuals.....	7,777	1,692	6,085	23.6	50.4	20.5	21.8
Family members	11,022	604	10,418	33.4	18.0	35.2	5.5
Householder, no husband present	1,727	175	1,552	5.2	5.2	5.2	10.1
Householder with husband present.....	2,039	104	1,935	6.2	3.1	6.5	5.1
Wife of householder	5,764	236	5,527	17.5	7.0	18.7	4.1
Other relative ^a	1,493	89	1,404	4.5	2.6	4.7	6.0
Poor by own income.....	696	76	620	2.1	2.3	2.1	10.9
Not poor by own income.....	797	13	783	2.4	0.4	2.6	1.7

a. Aged family members who are neither the family householder nor the spouse of the householder. Official poverty classification is based on combined income of all related persons living together. Persons in this group are classified here on the basis of official poverty criteria for family income and on a comparison of their own income with official poverty criteria for elderly persons maintaining their own households. The hidden poor are other relatives in nonpoor households whose own income is below the official poverty line for unrelated individuals or married couples.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Public use file of the March 2001 Income Supplement.

NOTES: Living arrangements as of March 2001.

Poverty status in 2000 as reflected by income of unrelated individual or family money income for year compared with official poverty income criterion for families of appropriate size and composition.

Table includes civilian noninstitutionalized population residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For a discussion of standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, see U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60.

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Table 3.E6—Aged families receiving Social Security benefits, by share of income from benefits and race, 2000

Social Security share of money income for year ^a	Individuals aged 65 or older living alone or with nonrelatives only				Multiperson families with householder aged 65 or older			
	Total	Nonpoor	Poor	Percent poor	Total	Nonpoor	Poor	Percent poor
	All races ^b							
Total number (thousands).....	10,653	8,435	2,218	...	11,822	11,134	688	...
Total percent.....	100	100	100	21	100	100	100	6
No Social Security benefits.....	7	5	16	46	8	7	36	25
Some Social Security benefits.....	93	95	84	19	92	93	64	4
Less than one-fourth of income.....	10	12	1	2	22	23	^c	^c
One-fourth up to one-half of income.....	19	23	2	2	26	27	4	1
One-half up to three-fourths of income.....	20	23	11	11	20	21	12	4
Three-fourths or more of income.....	44	37	70	33	24	23	48	11
	White							
Total number (thousands).....	9,452	7,711	1,742	...	10,299	9,840	459	...
Total percent.....	100	100	100	18	100	100	100	4
No Social Security benefits.....	7	5	15	44	8	6	40	23
Some Social Security benefits.....	93	95	85	17	92	94	60	3
Less than one-fourth of income.....	10	12	1	2	22	23	^c	^c
One-fourth up to one-half of income.....	19	23	2	2	26	28	4	1
One-half up to three-fourths of income.....	21	24	10	9	20	21	8	2
Three-fourths or more of income.....	43	36	71	31	24	23	48	9
	Black							
Total number (thousands).....	985	568	417	...	991	866	126	...
Total percent.....	100	100	100	42	100	100	100	13
No Social Security benefits.....	11	8	16	60	10	9	19	24
Some Social Security benefits.....	89	92	84	40	90	91	81	11
Less than one-fourth of income.....	6	11	^c	^c	24	28	^c	^c
One-fourth up to one-half of income.....	15	24	2	7	22	24	6	3
One-half up to three-fourths of income.....	15	17	12	33	20	19	23	15
Three-fourths or more of income.....	53	40	70	56	24	20	52	28

a. Payments under Social Security program any time in 2000 to any family member as reported in the March 2001 Current Population Survey.

b. Includes other races.

c. Less than 0.05 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Public use file of the March 2001 Income Supplement.

NOTES: Civilian noninstitutionalized population residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For a discussion of standard errors of estimated numbers and percentages, see Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60.

... = not applicable.

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Table 3.E8—Poverty guidelines for families of specified size, 1965–2002 (dollars)

Date of issuance ^a	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons	Increment ^b
December 1965	1,540	1,990	2,440	3,130	3,685	4,135	4,635	5,135	500
August 1967	1,600	2,000	2,500	3,200	3,800	4,200	4,700	5,300	500
September 1968	1,600	2,100	2,600	3,300	3,900	4,400	4,900	5,400	500
September 1969	1,800	2,400	3,000	3,600	4,200	4,800	5,400	6,000	600
December 1970	1,900	2,500	3,100	3,800	4,400	5,000	5,600	6,200	600
November 1971	2,000	2,600	3,300	4,000	4,700	5,300	5,900	6,500	600
October 1972	2,100	2,725	3,450	4,200	4,925	5,550	6,200	6,850	650
March 1973	2,200	2,900	3,600	4,300	5,000	5,700	6,400	7,100	700
May 1974	2,330	3,070	3,810	4,550	5,290	6,030	6,770	7,510	740
March 1975	2,590	3,410	4,230	5,050	5,870	6,690	7,510	8,330	820
April 1976	2,800	3,700	4,600	5,500	6,400	7,300	8,200	9,100	900
April 1977	2,970	3,930	4,890	5,850	6,810	7,770	8,730	9,690	960
April 1978	3,140	4,160	5,180	6,200	7,220	8,240	9,260	10,280	1,020
May 1979	3,400	4,500	5,600	6,700	7,800	8,900	10,000	11,100	1,100
April 1980	3,790	5,010	6,230	7,450	8,670	9,890	11,110	12,330	1,220
March 1981	4,310	5,690	7,070	8,450	9,830	11,210	12,590	13,970	1,380
April 1982	4,680	6,220	7,760	9,300	10,840	12,380	13,920	15,460	1,540
February 1983	4,860	6,540	8,220	9,900	11,580	13,260	14,940	16,620	1,680
February 1984	4,980	6,720	8,460	10,200	11,940	13,680	15,420	17,160	1,740
March 1985	5,250	7,050	8,850	10,650	12,450	14,250	16,050	17,850	1,800
February 1986	5,360	7,240	9,120	11,000	12,880	14,760	16,640	18,520	1,880
February 1987	5,500	7,400	9,300	11,200	13,100	15,000	16,900	18,800	1,900
February 1988	5,770	7,730	9,690	11,650	13,610	15,570	17,530	19,490	1,960
February 1989	5,980	8,020	10,060	12,100	14,140	16,180	18,220	20,260	2,040
February 1990	6,280	8,420	10,560	12,700	14,840	16,980	18,120	21,260	2,140
February 1991	6,620	8,880	11,140	13,400	15,660	17,920	20,180	22,440	2,260
February 1992	6,810	9,190	11,570	13,950	16,330	18,710	21,090	23,470	2,380
February 1993	6,970	9,430	11,890	14,350	16,810	19,270	21,730	24,190	2,460
February 1994	7,360	9,840	12,320	14,800	17,280	19,760	22,240	24,720	2,480
February 1995	7,470	10,030	12,590	15,150	17,710	20,270	22,830	25,390	2,560
March 1996	7,740	10,360	12,980	15,600	18,220	20,840	23,460	26,080	2,620
March 1997	7,890	10,610	13,330	16,050	18,770	21,490	24,210	26,960	2,720
February 1998	8,050	10,850	13,650	16,450	19,250	22,050	24,850	27,650	2,800
March 1999	8,240	11,060	13,880	16,700	19,520	22,340	25,160	27,980	2,820
February 2000	8,350	11,250	14,150	17,050	19,950	22,850	25,750	28,650	2,900
February 2001	8,590	11,610	14,630	17,650	20,670	23,690	26,710	29,730	3,020
February 2002	8,860	11,940	15,020	18,100	21,180	24,260	27,340	30,420	3,080

a. The guidelines are effective from the date of issuance (unless otherwise specified by a particular program using them).

b. Add this amount for each additional family member. Before 1973, increments between some of the smaller family sizes differed from the increment shown in the table. Beginning in 1973, the increment has been the same for all family sizes in each year's set of guidelines.

SOURCE: Department of Health and Human Services, *Federal Register*, vol. 67, no. 31, February 14, 2002, pp. 6931–6933.

NOTES: Except for Alaska and Hawaii. Guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii since 1980 are:

Year	Alaska		Hawaii	
	1 person	Increment	1 person	Increment
1980	4,760	1,520	4,370	1,400
1981	5,410	1,720	4,980	1,580
1982	5,870	1,920	5,390	1,770
1983	6,080	2,100	5,600	1,930
1984	6,240	2,170	5,730	2,000
1985	6,560	2,250	6,040	2,070
1986	6,700	2,350	6,170	2,160
1987	6,860	2,380	6,310	2,190
1988	7,210	2,450	6,650	2,250
1989	7,480	2,550	6,870	2,350
1990	7,840	2,680	7,230	2,460
1991	8,290	2,820	7,610	2,600
1992	8,500	2,980	7,830	2,740
1993	8,700	3,080	8,040	2,820
1994	9,200	3,100	8,470	2,850
1995	9,340	3,200	8,610	2,940
1996	9,660	3,280	8,910	3,010
1997	9,870	3,400	9,070	3,130
1998	10,070	3,500	9,260	3,220
1999	10,320	3,520	9,490	3,240
2000	10,430	3,630	9,590	3,340
2001	10,730	3,780	9,890	3,470
2002	11,080	3,850	10,200	3,540

Separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966–1970 period. The U.S. Census Bureau, producer of the primary version of the poverty measure (the poverty thresholds), does not produce separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii. Before 1983, the guidelines shown are for nonfarm families only.

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