Income, Earnings, and Poverty Data From the 2006 American Community Survey

Issued August 2007

ACS-08

American Community Survey Reports

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on income, earnings, and poverty based on the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS), with some comparisons to 2005 data. (A description of the ACS, which provides information on the country's economic well-being, is provided in the text box "What Is the American Community Survey?") This report uses the data collected in the ACS to produce estimates of detailed socioeconomic characteristics for the United States, states, and lower levels of geography.[1]

The 2006 ACS represents the second year of the survey's full implementation, and this report is the first to make comparisons over the 2005–2006 time period.[2] Additional historical trend data on state median household income and poverty from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) are available on the Internet.[3]

The ACS also included group quarters in the sample for the first time in 2006. This change in sample limits the appropriate comparisons for 2005 to 2006. (See the text box "How Does the Inclusion of Group Quarters Affect ACS Data?")

The U.S. Census Bureau also reports income, earnings, and poverty data based on the CPS ASEC. Following the standard specified by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau computes official national poverty rates using the CPS ASEC and reports that data in the publication *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006.*

The Census Bureau also produces annual estimates of median household income and poverty for states, as well as for counties and school districts, based on models using current surveys, administrative records, and personal income data published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The model-based estimates produce smaller variances than the CPS ASEC estimates but are released later due to lags in the availability of administrative records. Estimates for 2004 are available on the Internet at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/index.html>. Estimates for 2005 will be available in December 2007.

This report has three main sections: household income, earnings of men and women, and poverty. The income and poverty estimates in this report are based solely on

What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest survey in the United States, with an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico. It is conducted in every county throughout the nation (including every municipio in Puerto Rico). As part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program, the ACS has replaced the traditional decennial census long form. The ACS collects detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic information previously collected by the decennial census long form but provides up-to-date information every year rather than once per decade.

Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and higher. In 2008, the first set of multiyear period estimates will be released for data collected between 2005 and 2007. These 3-year period estimates will include geographic areas with populations of 20,000 and higher. In 2010, the first 5-year period estimates will be released for the smallest geographic areas—down to the tract and block group levels—based on data collected between 2005 and 2009.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2005 and 2006. For information on the ACS sample design and other ACS topics, visit <www.census.gov/acs/www>.

[1] The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, collected with the Puerto Rico Community Survey first introduced in 2005, are shown in Tables 2, 5, 6, 9, and 12 and Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9.

[2] From 2000 to 2004, the ACS was in the demonstration phase, which consisted of a sample of approximately 800,000 addresses per year and produced estimates for the United States, states, and essentially all places, counties, and metropolitan areas with at least 250,000 people.

[3] See <www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/histinctb.html>.

money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before deductions are made for items such as personal income taxes, social security, union dues, and Medicare. Money income does not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps; health benefits; subsidized housing; payments by employers for retirement programs, medical, and educational expenses; and goods produced and consumed on the farm.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household income includes the income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder. For comparisons of household income, this report focuses on the median—the point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one half having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. The median is based on the income distribution of all households, including those with no income.

The information on income was collected between January and December 2006. All income data were inflation-adjusted to reflect calendar year 2006 values and are referred to in this report as 2006 income. See the text box "How Is Income Collected and Measured in the ACS?" for more information on data collection and income adjustment.

How Does the Inclusion of Group Quarters Affect ACS Data?

The American Community Survey (ACS) included group quarters for the first time in 2006. This included people living in prisons, college dormitories, assisted-living homes, and other group living establishments, who were previously excluded from the survey. The inclusion of group quarters data affects the comparability of the ACS estimates from 2006 with those from previous years.

Household income data are minimally affected by the addition of group quarters. Conceptually, there should be no issues comparing income estimates for households in 2005 with income estimates for households in 2006 because the household population does not include people living in group quarters. However, some differences may exist because of two changes to the weighting process: one to accommodate the group quarters population and a second to ensure the number of householders is equal to the number of occupied housing units. The second change also reduces the difference between the number of married-couple households and the number of spouses. The effect each weighting change has on estimates cannot be separated out for discussion. Using the 2006 weighting methodology on 2005 data resulted in a 0.3 percent increase in national median household income. Since the household data are conceptually unchanged, comparisons from 2005 to 2006 are included in this report.

Person-level estimates, such as estimates for earnings and poverty, are affected by the inclusion of group quarters since the universes used to compute the earnings and poverty estimates are based on the total population, which includes both household and group quarters populations. The universe for the population with earnings is all people 16 years and older, regardless of whether they live in households or group quarters. The poverty population universe includes all of the household population and only part of the group quarters population (people in institutional group quarters, college dormitories, and military barracks are excluded from the poverty universe). For more information on the poverty universe, see "Source of the Estimates" on page 30. This means that the earnings of people and the poverty estimates from the 2006 ACS are not comparable with those estimates from earlier years.

For more information on comparability, see <www.census.gov/acs /www/>.

Median Household Income for the United States by Race and Hispanic Origin[4]

The discussion of race groups in the text of this report refers to people who indicated only one race among the six categories in the survey: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race.[5]

[4] This report uses the characteristics of the householder to describe the household. The householder is the person (or one of the people) in whose name the home is owned or rented and the person to whom the relationship of other household members is recorded. If a married couple owns the home jointly, either the husband or the wife may be listed as the householder. Since only one person in each household is designated as the householder, the number of householders is equal to the number of households.

[5] Because federal surveys, including the ACS, allow people to report one or more races, two ways of defining a group such as Asian are possible. The first includes those who reported Asian and no other race (Asian alone); the second includes everyone who reported Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race (Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races). The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

How Is Income Collected and Measured in the ACS?

The information on income and earnings presented in this report was collected between January and December 2006. People 15 years and older were asked about income for the previous 12-month period (the reference period), yielding a total time span covering 23 months. For example, data collected in January 2006 had a reference period from January 2005 to December 2005, while data collected in December 2006 had a reference period from December 2005 to November 2006.

All income was inflation-adjusted to reflect calendar year 2006 dollars. That is, the 12 different reference periods were adjusted to reflect a fixed reference period, in this case January 2006 through December 2006, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This adjustment took the sum of the 2006 CPI monthly indexes, divided by the sum of the CPI monthly indexes for the income reference period, and multiplied the result by the income.

Example: Consider a household surveyed in June of 2006 with a household income of $40,000. The sum of the CPI monthly indexes for 2006 was 2,419.1. The sum of the CPI monthly indexes for the reference period for a June 2006 interview was 2,379.5. Dividing 2,419.1 by 2,379.5 creates an adjustment factor of 1.0166. Multiplying the reported household income of $40,000 by this adjustment factor results in a 2006 inflation-adjusted household income of $40,664.

For more information on income in the ACS and how it differs from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), which also collects information on income, visit <www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/factsheet081904.html> or <www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/acs_cpspovcompreport.pdf>.

For a comparison of median household income data from the ACS and the CPS ASEC, visit <www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/newguidance.html>.

The ACS median household income in the United States for all households in 2006 was $48,451.[6] As shown in Table 1, Asian households had the highest median household income ($63,642) in 2006, followed by non-Hispanic White households ($52,375), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander households ($49,361), and Some Other Race[7] households ($38,372). Each of these race groups had a higher median household income than American Indian and Alaska Native households ($33,762). Black households ($32,372) had the lowest median household income among the race groups. Median household income for Hispanic households was ($38,747).[8,9]

Table 1.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Race and Hispanic origin	Median household income (dollars)	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
All households	**48,451**	**82**
White alone	51,429	69
White alone, not Hispanic	52,375	73
Black alone	32,372	155
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	33,762	659
Asian alone	63,642	652
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	49,361	2,389
Some Other Race alone	38,372	349
Two or More Races	42,213	443
Hispanic (any race)	38,747	205

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

[6] The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[7] "Some Other Race" was selected by respondents who did not identify with the five OMB race categories.

[8] The median household income of Hispanic households was not statistically different from the median household income of Some Other Race households.

[9] Because Hispanics may be any race, data for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups.

Table 2.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by State: 2005 and 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	2005 median household Income (dollars)		2006 median household income (dollars)		Change in median income (2006 less 2005)			
					Dollars		Percent	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
United States	**47,693**	**122**	**48,451**	**82**	***758**	**148**	***1.6**	**0.3**
Alabama	38,077	661	38,783	512	706	836	1.8	2.2
Alaska	58,039	1,710	59,393	1,442	1,354	2,237	2.3	3.8
Arizona	45,537	684	47,265	439	*1,728	813	*3.7	1.8
Arkansas	35,961	621	36,599	491	638	792	1.8	2.2
California	55,335	322	56,645	236	*1,310	399	*2.3	0.7
Colorado	52,275	660	52,015	491	–260	823	–0.5	1.6
Connecticut	62,974	873	63,422	824	448	1,201	0.7	1.9
Delaware	54,407	1,344	52,833	1,415	–1,574	1,952	–2.9	3.6
District of Columbia	48,610	2,074	51,847	1,221	*3,237	2,407	*6.4	4.8
Florida	43,857	299	45,495	247	*1,638	388	*3.7	0.9
Georgia	46,950	444	46,832	401	–118	598	–0.3	1.3
Hawaii	60,009	1,711	61,160	1,162	1,151	2,069	1.9	3.4
Idaho	42,649	918	42,865	877	216	1,270	0.5	3.0
Illinois	51,801	417	52,006	274	205	499	0.4	1.0
Indiana	45,355	485	45,394	421	39	642	0.1	1.4
Iowa	44,986	531	44,491	523	–495	746	–1.1	1.7
Kansas	44,345	574	45,478	506	*1,133	765	*2.5	1.7
Kentucky	38,570	490	39,372	535	*802	726	*2.1	1.9
Louisiana	37,740	680	39,337	603	*1,597	908	*4.1	2.4
Maine	44,139	943	43,439	773	–700	1,219	–1.6	2.8
Maryland	63,732	629	65,144	659	*1,412	911	*2.2	1.4
Massachusetts	59,186	745	59,963	623	777	972	1.3	1.6
Michigan	47,433	513	47,182	318	–251	604	–0.5	1.3
Minnesota	53,718	420	54,023	445	305	612	0.6	1.1
Mississippi	33,981	636	34,473	614	492	884	1.4	2.6
Missouri	43,310	456	42,841	449	–469	640	–1.1	1.5
Montana	40,340	864	40,627	705	287	1,115	0.7	2.8
Nebraska	45,184	792	45,474	579	290	981	0.6	2.2
Nevada	50,649	808	52,998	1,049	*2,349	1,325	*4.5	2.6
New Hampshire	58,757	1,124	59,683	1,238	926	1,672	1.6	2.8
New Jersey	63,757	552	64,470	658	713	859	1.1	1.3
New Mexico	38,847	701	40,629	714	*1,782	1,001	*4.5	2.5
New York	50,979	362	51,384	255	405	443	0.8	0.9
North Carolina	41,813	341	42,625	440	*812	557	*1.9	1.3
North Dakota	42,087	861	41,919	1,000	–168	1,319	–0.4	3.1
Ohio	44,767	310	44,532	352	–235	469	–0.5	1.1
Oklahoma	38,191	698	38,770	649	579	953	1.5	2.5
Oregon	44,272	521	46,230	503	*1,958	724	*4.3	1.6
Pennsylvania	45,878	393	46,259	290	381	488	0.8	1.1
Rhode Island	52,882	1,521	51,814	1,151	–1,068	1,908	–2.0	3.6
South Carolina	40,454	585	41,100	431	646	726	1.6	1.8
South Dakota	41,357	900	42,791	983	*1,434	1,333	*3.4	3.2
Tennessee	40,110	457	40,315	425	205	624	0.5	1.6
Texas	43,546	295	44,922	287	*1,376	412	*3.1	0.9
Utah	49,685	858	51,309	573	*1,624	1,032	*3.2	2.0
Vermont	47,472	1,381	47,665	1,270	193	1,876	0.4	3.9
Virginia	55,957	541	56,277	458	320	708	0.6	1.3
Washington	50,818	533	52,583	479	*1,765	717	*3.4	1.4
West Virginia	34,524	763	35,059	618	535	982	1.5	2.8
Wisconsin	48,695	453	48,772	440	77	631	0.2	1.3
Wyoming	47,513	1,745	47,423	1,479	–90	2,288	–0.2	4.8
Puerto Rico	17,794	343	17,621	385	–173	516	–1.0	2.9

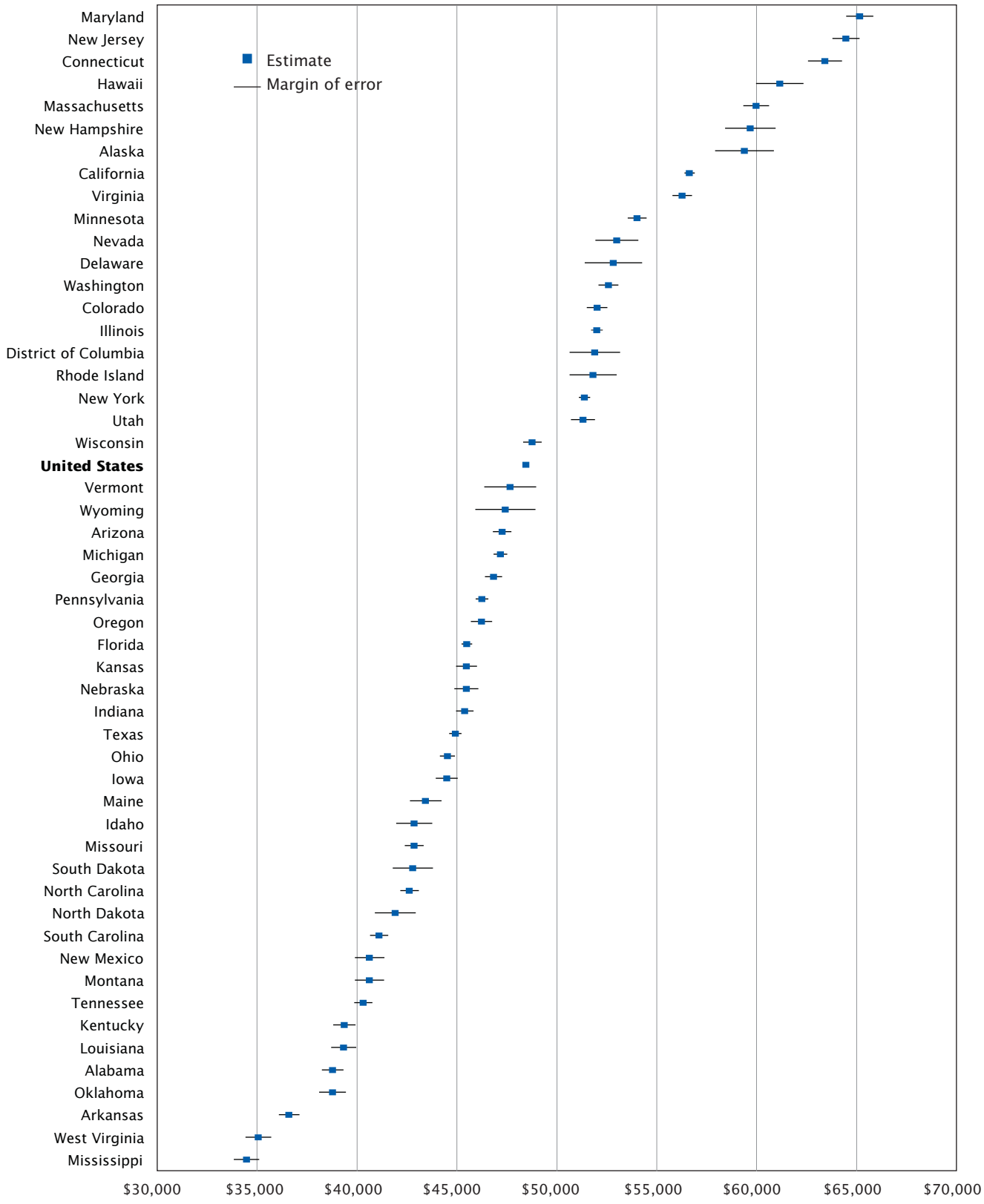
* Significant at a 90-percent confidence level.

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2006 American Community Surveys and Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Figure 1.

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months With Margins of Error by State: 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Median Household Income for States

Table 2 and Figure 1 show the real median household incomes of states for 2005 and 2006.[10] In 2006, household income estimates varied from state to state, ranging from a median of $65,144 for Maryland[11] to $34,473 for Mississippi.[12] Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut had median incomes above $60,000, while Mississippi, West Virginia, and Arkansas had median incomes below $37,500.[13]

For the United States, real median household income increased 1.6 percent between 2005 and 2006. Figure 2 shows that real median household incomes rose between 2005 and 2006 in 15 states and the District of Columbia, while no states experienced a statistical decline. Among the states that experienced increases, seven were in the West (Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington), six states and the District of Columbia were in the South (Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Texas), and two states were in the Midwest (Kansas and South Dakota).[14] No state in the Northeast experienced a statistically significant change in median household income from 2005 to 2006.

[10] All income values are adjusted to reflect 2006 dollars. "Real" refers to income after adjusting for inflation. The adjustment is based on percentage changes in prices between 2005 and 2006 and is computed by dividing the annual average Consumer Price Index Research Series (CPI-U-RS) for 2006 by the annual average for 2005. The CPI-U-RS values for 1947 to 2006 are available on the Internet at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/income06/cpiurs.html>. Inflation between 2005 and 2006 was 3.3 percent.

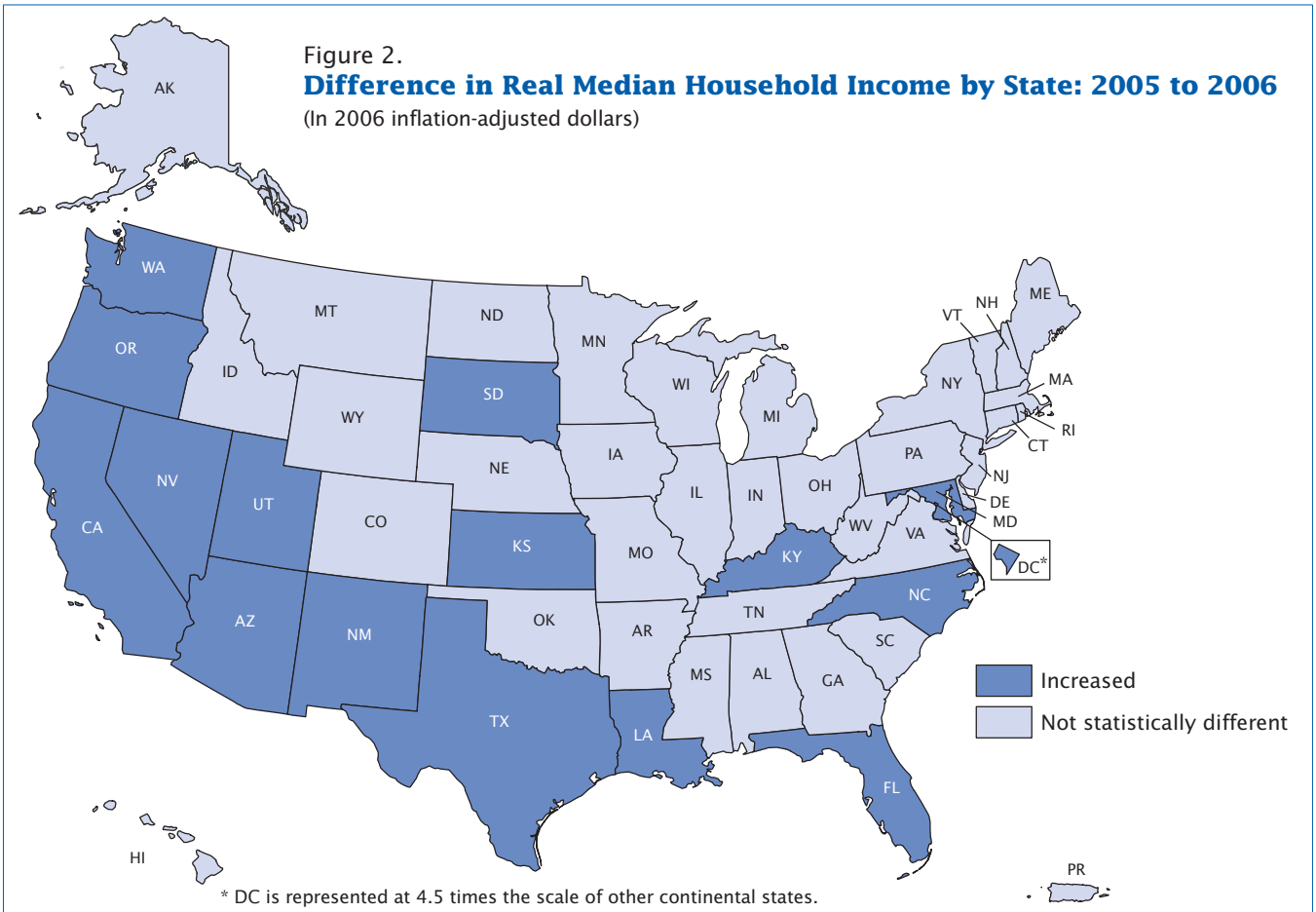
[11] The median household income for the state of Maryland was not statistically different from the median household income for New Jersey.

[12] The median household income for the state of Mississippi was not statistically different from the median household income for West Virginia.

[13] The median household income for Puerto Rico was $17,621 (Table 2).

[14] The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Figure 2.
Difference in Real Median Household Income by State: 2005 to 2006
(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)



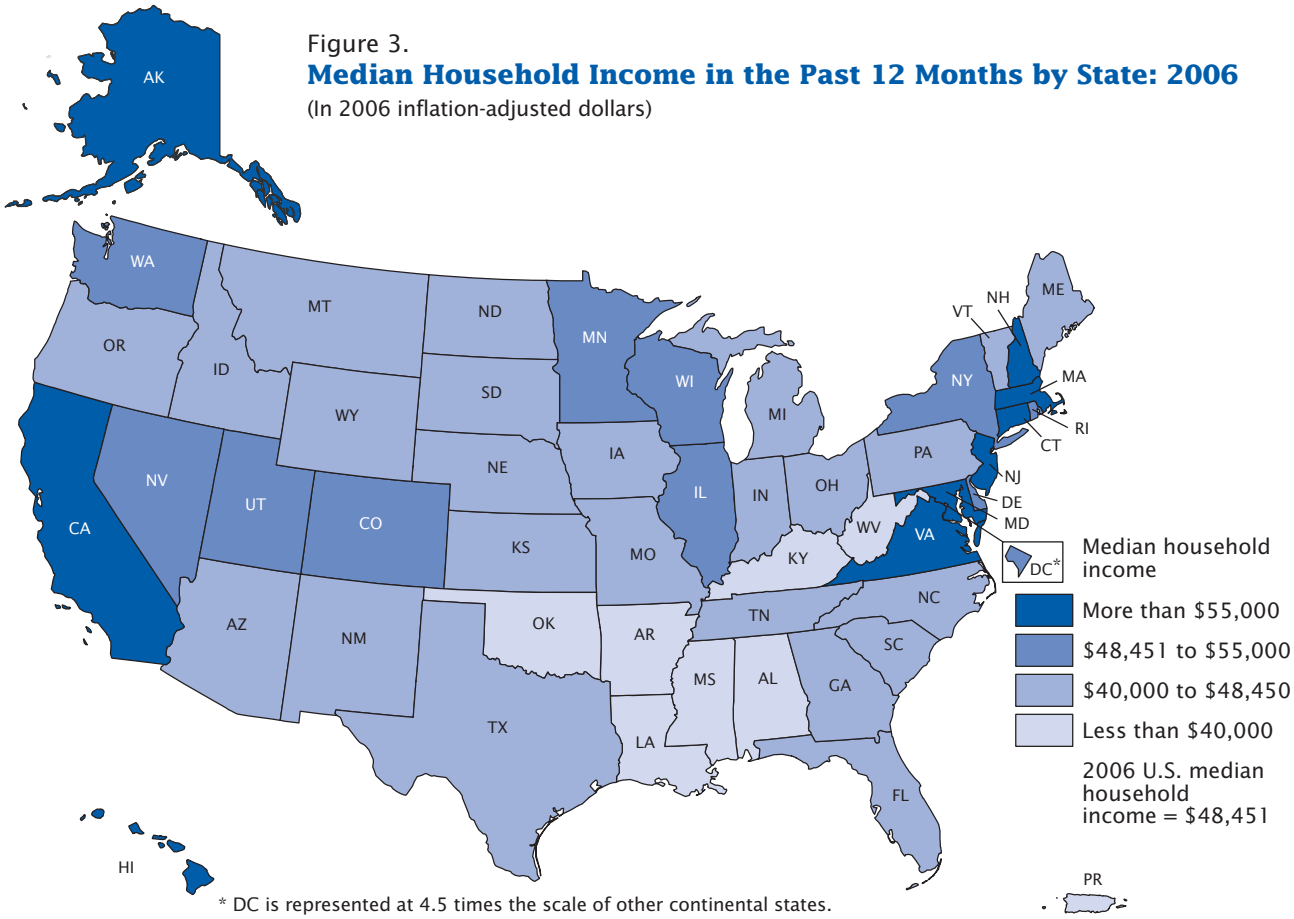
* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2006 American Community Surveys and Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Figure 3.

Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars)



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Figure 3 displays the relationships of state median household incomes to the median for the United States. Median incomes in 18 states and the District of Columbia were above the U.S median, while in 29 states, the median incomes were below it. Three states had median household incomes in 2006 that were not statistically different from the U.S. median.

The states in the Northeast tended to have median incomes above the U.S. median. Six of the nine Northeast states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island—had median household incomes above the U.S. median, while Maine and Pennsylvania were below the U.S. median. Vermont had a median household income that was not statistically different from the U.S. median.

Similarly, states in the West were likely to be above the U.S. median, with 7 of the 13 having household incomes above the median. They were Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah, and Washington. Those below the U.S. median in the West region were Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Oregon. Wyoming had a median household income that was not statistically different from the U.S. median.

The majority of states in the Midwest (9 out of 12) and the South (13 out of 17) had median incomes that were below the U.S. median. Illinois and Minnesota, in the Midwest, and Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, in the South, had incomes above the national median. Wisconsin, in the Midwest, had a median income that was not statistically different from the U.S. median.

Figure 3 also shows that incomes were generally higher on the East and West coasts than they were in the rest of the country. Thirteen out of the eighteen states with median household incomes higher than the United States median were coastal states. Of the five states bordering the Pacific Ocean—Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington—only Oregon had a median income that was lower than the U.S. median. Of the 14 states bordering the Atlantic Ocean, nine had medians above the U.S. median.

Median Household Income for Counties and Places

One of the strengths of the ACS is its ability to produce estimates for substate geography. Because smaller geographic areas differ from larger ones in many ways, this report divides counties and places into two groups—those with populations of 250,000 or more (larger areas) and those with populations from 65,000 to 249,999 (smaller areas).[15] Table 3 identifies some of the larger counties and places that have high and low median household incomes, while Table 4 does the same for smaller counties and places.[16]

Median Income in Larger Areas

For counties with 250,000 or more people, median household income estimates ranged from $100,318 for Fairfax County, VA, to $27,672 for Cameron County, TX, compared with the U.S. median of $48,451.[17] For places with 250,000 people or more, median household incomes ranged from $77,038 for Plano city, TX, to $26,535 for Cleveland city, OH.[18]

[15] Population size is based on the 2006 population estimates released as part of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

[16] Because of sampling error, the estimates for the high- and low-income counties and places shown in Tables 3 and 4 may not be statistically different from one another or from counties and places not shown.

[17] For the discussion of the ten highest and lowest counties and the release of county-level data, parishes in Louisiana and incorporated cities in several states are treated as county equivalents. The median household income for Fairfax County, VA, is not statistically different from the median household income for Loudoun County, VA. The median household income for Cameron County, TX, is not statistically different from the median household income for Hidalgo County, TX.

[18] The median household income for Plano city, TX, is not statistically different from the median household income for San Jose city, CA. The median household income for Cleveland city, OH, is not statistically different from the median household income for Miami city, FL, or Buffalo city, NY, nor is it statistically different from the median household income for Cameron County, TX.

Table 3.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months for Ten of the Highest and Lowest Income Counties and Places With 250,000 or More People: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	Ten of the highest median incomes (dollars)		Area	Ten of the lowest median incomes (dollars)	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)		Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
Counties[2]			**Counties[2]**		
Fairfax County, VA	100,318	1,974	Lubbock County, TX	37,863	2,390
Loudoun County, VA	99,371	3,199	Nueces County, TX	36,773	2,067
Howard County, MD	94,260	3,909	Baltimore city, MD	36,031	1,123
Douglas County, CO	92,125	3,048	Philadelphia County, PA	33,229	904
Somerset County, NJ	91,688	3,097	Caddo Parish, LA	32,509	1,406
Morris County, NJ	89,587	3,646	El Paso County, TX	32,111	1,087
Montgomery County, MD	87,624	2,459	Bronx County, NY	31,494	834
Nassau County, NY	85,994	2,028	St. Louis city, MO	30,936	1,687
Santa Clara County, CA	80,838	1,196	Hidalgo County, TX	28,660	1,459
Prince William County, VA	80,783	2,237	Cameron County, TX	27,672	1,251
Places[2]			**Places[2]**		
Plano city, TX	77,038	4,358	Philadelphia city, PA	33,229	904
San Jose city, CA	73,804	2,447	El Paso city, TX	33,103	1,341
San Francisco city, CA	65,497	2,833	Memphis city, TN	32,594	1,022
Anchorage municipality, AK	63,656	2,791	Pittsburgh city, PA	31,779	1,219
Virginia Beach city, VA	61,333	1,377	Cincinnati city, OH	31,103	1,037
San Diego city, CA	58,815	1,950	St. Louis city, MO	30,936	1,687
Seattle city, WA	58,311	2,840	Detroit city, MI	28,364	1,094
Anaheim city, CA	55,720	2,398	Buffalo city, NY	27,850	1,303
Honolulu CDP, HI	54,720	3,323	Miami city, FL	27,088	1,461
Santa Ana city, CA	54,050	2,938	Cleveland city, OH	26,535	1,120

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

[2] Population size is based on 2006 population estimates.

Note: Because of sampling variability, some of the estimates in this table may not be statistically different from one another or from estimates for other geographic areas not listed in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

All of the counties in Table 3 with high median household income estimates are found in states with incomes above the U.S. median. Eight of the ten counties in Table 3 with lower incomes are in states with median household incomes below the U.S. median. The two exceptions are Bronx County, NY, and Baltimore city, MD. Both Maryland and New York have counties (or county equivalents) on both the high and the low median household income lists. Median household income in the state of Maryland for larger counties ranged from $94,260 for Howard County, MD, to $36,031 for Baltimore city, MD, while in the state of New York, it ranged from $85,994 for Nassau County, NY, to $31,494 for Bronx County, NY.

Unlike counties, 1 of the 10 places with a high median income, Plano city, TX, is not in a state with a median household income above the U.S. median. Nine of the ten lower-income large places are in lower-income states. The exception is Buffalo city, NY, which is in a state with a median above the U.S. level. Texas has places on both the high and the low median household income lists. Median household incomes for larger places in Texas ranged from $77,038 for Plano city, TX, to $33,103 for El Paso city, TX.

Median Income in Smaller Areas

Table 4 lists smaller counties and places with both high and low median incomes. For counties with 65,000 to 249,999 people, median household incomes ranged from $93,297 for Hunterdon County, NJ, to $23,119 for St. Landry Parish, LA.[19] Median household incomes for places with 65,000 to 249,999 people ranged from $121,075 for Yorba Linda city, CA, to $21,850 for Youngstown city, OH.[20]

[19] The median household income for Hunterdon County, NJ, is not statistically different from the median household income for Arlington County, VA. The median household income for St. Landry Parish, LA, is not statistically different from the median household income for Apache County, AZ, or McKinley County, NM.

[20] The median household income for Youngstown city, OH, is not statistically different from the median household income for Muncie city, IN; Camden city, NJ; College Station city, TX; or Lawrence city, MA, nor is it statistically different from the median household income for St. Landry Parish, LA.

Table 4.
Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months for Ten of the Highest and Lowest Income Counties and Places With 65,000 to 249,999 People: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	Ten of the highest median incomes (dollars)		Area	Ten of the lowest median incomes (dollars)	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)		Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
Counties[2]			**Counties[2]**		
Hunterdon County, NJ	93,297	5,475	Putnam County, FL	30,771	3,940
Arlington County, VA	87,350	4,177	Clarke County, GA	30,574	2,174
Stafford County, VA	85,014	6,006	DeKalb County, AL	30,470	2,099
Calvert County, MD	84,891	4,937	Lauderdale County, MS	30,401	3,805
Forsyth County, GA	83,682	4,072	Scioto County, OH	29,821	3,227
Putnam County, NY	81,907	5,038	Orangeburg County, SC	29,700	3,657
Marin County, CA	81,761	3,713	McKinley County, NM	27,261	3,708
Williamson County, TN	81,449	2,684	Robeson County, NC	26,646	2,130
Alexandria city, VA	80,449	3,110	Apache County, AZ	26,502	3,050
Charles County, MD	80,179	4,277	St. Landry Parish, LA	23,119	2,636
Places[2]			**Places[2]**		
Yorba Linda city, CA	121,075	9,806	Rochester city, NY	27,407	2,008
Pleasanton city, CA	105,956	7,124	Tuscaloosa city, AL	27,358	3,389
Newport Beach city, CA	103,068	6,884	Canton city, OH	26,912	2,699
Flower Mound town, TX	101,452	7,934	Lawrence city, MA	26,780	4,868
Newton city, MA	101,001	6,540	College Station city, TX	26,713	4,634
Chino Hills city, CA	100,394	6,360	Syracuse city, NY	26,464	2,493
Highlands Ranch CDP, CO	97,627	4,906	Brownsville city, TX	26,017	2,485
Naperville city, IL	97,077	4,378	Camden city, NJ	25,961	5,348
Frisco city, TX	95,591	3,841	Muncie city, IN	25,859	3,611
Sugar Land city, TX	95,330	11,816	Youngstown city, OH	21,850	2,058

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

[2] Population size is based on 2006 population estimates.

Note: Because of sampling variability, some of the estimates in this table may not be statistically different from one another or from estimates for other geographic areas not listed in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Eight of the ten counties with high median household incomes are found in states with median incomes above the U.S. median. The exceptions are Forsyth County, GA, and Williamson County, TN. All of the ten counties with lower incomes in Table 4 are in states with incomes below the U.S. median. Georgia has counties on both the high and the low median household income lists. Median household income for smaller counties in Georgia ranged from $83,682 for Forsyth County, GA, to $30,574 for Clarke County, GA.[21]

Seven of the ten places with high median household incomes are in states with median incomes above the U.S. median, with the exceptions being Flower Mound town, TX; Frisco city, TX; and Sugar Land city, TX. At the place level, 6 of the 10 lower-income places are in lower-income states. The exceptions are Camden city, NJ; Lawrence city, MA; Rochester city, NY; and Syracuse city, NY, which are in states with medians above the U.S. level. In addition to having larger places on both the high and the low median household income lists, Texas had smaller places on both the high and the low lists. Median household incomes for smaller places in Texas ranged from $101,452 for Flower Mound town, TX, to $26,017 for Brownsville city, TX.[22]

[21] The median household income for Forsyth County, GA, is not statistically different from the median household income for Fayette County, GA. The median household income for Clarke County, GA, is not statistically different from the median household income for Dougherty County, GA.

[22] The median household income for Flower Mound town, TX, is not statistically different from the median household income for Frisco city, TX, or Sugar Land city, TX. The median household income for Brownsville city, TX, is not statistically different from the median household income for College Station city, TX; Waco city, TX; or Edinburg city, TX.

What Are Shares of Aggregate Household Income and a Gini Index?

Income inequality measures look at how income is being distributed across a population. Two of the most widely used measures of income inequality are the shares of aggregate household income by quintile and the Gini index. This report presents these two measures for the household population.

The share of aggregate income by quintile is the amount of aggregate income that households within each fifth of the income distribution receive as a percentage of overall aggregate income of all households. The Gini index is a summary measure of income inequality. It indicates how much the income distribution differs from a proportionate distribution (one where everyone would have the same income; for example, 20 percent of the population would hold 20 percent of the income, 40 percent of the population would hold 40 percent of the income, etc.). The Gini index varies from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates perfect equality (a proportional distribution of income), and 1 indicates perfect inequality (where one person has all the income and no one else has any).

For more information on income inequality measures, see Current Population Reports, P60-204, *The Changing Shape of the Nation's Income Distribution: 1947–1998.*

Income Inequality for the United States and States

This section focuses on two widely used measures of income inequality, the Gini index and shares of aggregate household income by quintile. These estimates were calculated for households using data from the ACS for the first time in 2006. The definitions of these measures and their calculation methods are discussed in the text box "What Are Shares of Aggregate Household Income and a Gini Index?" National estimates of these measures are also calculated using CPS ASEC data and are included in the publication *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006,* along with historical data.

The Gini index was .464 for the United States. As shown in Table 5, the Gini index varied from state to state, ranging from .537 for the District of Columbia to .410 for Utah.[23] Figure 4 displays the relationship of state Gini indexes to the Gini index for the United States. Six states and the District of Columbia showed more income inequality (a higher Gini index) than the nation, while 33 states showed less income inequality (a lower Gini index). Eleven states had Gini indexes that were not statistically different from the national estimate.

Also included in Table 5 are shares of aggregate income by quintile for the United States, states, and the District of Columbia. The shares of aggregate income held by the lowest quintile of households ranged from 4.5 percent for Utah and Wyoming to 1.9 percent for the District of Columbia. The shares of

[23] The Gini index for Utah is not statistically different from the Gini indexes for Wyoming, New Hampshire, Alaska, or Vermont.

Table 5.
Gini Coefficients and Shares of Income by Quintile in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006

(Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	Gini coefficients		Shares of income by quintile									
			Lowest quintile		Second quintile		Third quintile		Fourth quintile		Highest quintile	
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
United States	**0.464**	**0.0005**	**3.4**	**0.02**	**8.9**	**0.02**	**14.8**	**0.02**	**23.0**	**0.02**	**49.9**	**0.19**
Alabama	0.472	0.0050	3.1	0.23	8.4	0.21	14.7	0.20	23.5	0.25	50.3	0.51
Alaska	0.417	0.0115	4.1	0.26	10.1	0.36	16.2	0.41	23.9	0.50	45.7	1.06
Arizona	0.454	0.0050	3.7	0.17	9.3	0.15	14.9	0.20	22.8	0.22	49.3	0.47
Arkansas	0.460	0.0066	3.5	0.10	8.9	0.21	14.9	0.23	23.1	0.32	49.6	0.65
California	0.466	0.0024	3.4	0.02	8.8	0.22	14.7	0.10	23.0	0.14	50.1	0.26
Colorado	0.450	0.0048	3.6	0.07	9.3	0.15	15.1	0.21	23.3	0.23	48.6	0.47
Connecticut	0.480	0.0057	3.3	0.09	8.7	0.16	14.5	0.20	21.9	0.30	51.6	0.56
Delaware	0.434	0.0102	4.0	0.24	9.7	0.30	15.5	0.37	23.4	0.43	47.4	0.94
District of Columbia	0.537	0.0121	1.9	0.24	7.0	0.36	12.8	0.41	21.9	0.59	56.3	1.16
Florida	0.467	0.0030	3.6	0.04	8.9	0.20	14.6	0.22	22.4	0.12	50.5	0.26
Georgia	0.461	0.0039	3.3	0.10	9.0	0.19	15.0	0.18	23.3	0.25	49.5	0.37
Hawaii	0.438	0.0090	3.6	0.21	9.8	0.25	15.7	0.33	23.4	0.41	47.5	0.87
Idaho	0.421	0.0071	4.3	0.16	10.0	0.26	15.8	0.28	23.5	0.37	46.4	0.70
Illinois	0.462	0.0036	3.4	0.20	9.0	0.12	15.0	0.13	22.9	0.20	49.7	0.36
Indiana	0.432	0.0059	3.9	0.06	9.8	0.22	15.8	0.19	23.6	0.28	46.9	0.54
Iowa	0.424	0.0044	4.1	0.14	10.0	0.11	15.9	0.23	23.5	0.24	46.5	0.43
Kansas	0.441	0.0054	3.9	0.17	9.5	0.18	15.4	0.20	23.4	0.27	47.9	0.51
Kentucky	0.460	0.0056	3.3	0.07	8.7	0.17	15.1	0.21	23.7	0.30	49.2	0.54
Louisiana	0.475	0.0051	3.0	0.12	8.3	0.16	14.7	0.20	23.6	0.25	50.4	0.47
Maine	0.428	0.0079	4.0	0.22	9.6	0.23	15.9	0.25	23.9	0.36	46.6	0.72
Maryland	0.433	0.0044	3.9	0.04	9.8	0.16	15.6	0.20	23.4	0.23	47.3	0.41
Massachusetts	0.461	0.0042	3.1	0.06	8.9	0.16	15.3	0.18	23.5	0.24	49.1	0.41
Michigan	0.444	0.0033	3.6	0.02	9.4	0.15	15.5	0.21	23.6	0.15	48.0	0.34
Minnesota	0.430	0.0040	3.9	0.08	9.9	0.10	15.8	0.24	23.4	0.18	46.9	0.39
Mississippi	0.471	0.0068	3.2	0.17	8.3	0.20	14.6	0.26	23.8	0.30	50.1	0.64
Missouri	0.449	0.0053	3.7	0.15	9.3	0.23	15.2	0.17	23.2	0.22	48.7	0.49
Montana	0.426	0.0080	3.9	0.21	9.8	0.28	16.0	0.28	23.8	0.36	46.5	0.75
Nebraska	0.430	0.0069	4.0	0.19	9.7	0.20	15.8	0.27	23.6	0.28	46.9	0.63
Nevada	0.434	0.0083	4.0	0.16	9.9	0.24	15.7	0.30	22.9	0.34	47.5	0.78
New Hampshire	0.417	0.0083	4.1	0.16	10.1	0.28	16.3	0.29	23.7	0.37	45.7	0.81
New Jersey	0.458	0.0034	3.4	0.11	9.1	0.09	15.1	0.13	23.1	0.20	49.3	0.33
New Mexico	0.457	0.0091	3.4	0.14	8.9	0.29	15.0	0.31	23.5	0.39	49.2	0.82
New York	0.495	0.0031	2.9	0.04	8.1	0.15	14.1	0.13	22.4	0.21	52.6	0.30
North Carolina	0.458	0.0034	3.5	0.06	9.0	0.10	15.0	0.14	23.1	0.19	49.4	0.34
North Dakota	0.434	0.0117	3.8	0.23	9.6	0.31	15.9	0.40	23.7	0.49	47.0	1.11
Ohio	0.449	0.0039	3.5	0.21	9.3	0.18	15.3	0.16	23.5	0.18	48.4	0.35
Oklahoma	0.460	0.0063	3.5	0.20	9.0	0.20	14.8	0.23	23.0	0.30	49.6	0.59
Oregon	0.444	0.0052	3.8	0.22	9.5	0.23	15.4	0.21	23.2	0.27	48.2	0.50
Pennsylvania	0.455	0.0032	3.5	0.04	9.0	0.08	15.1	0.15	23.4	0.18	49.0	0.28
Rhode Island	0.442	0.0095	3.5	0.18	9.2	0.25	15.8	0.34	24.1	0.40	47.5	0.93
South Carolina	0.462	0.0062	3.4	0.06	8.9	0.23	14.9	0.25	23.1	0.31	49.6	0.60
South Dakota	0.439	0.0164	3.8	0.22	9.6	0.37	15.7	0.49	23.4	0.71	47.5	1.58
Tennessee	0.468	0.0042	3.3	0.15	8.8	0.17	14.8	0.21	23.0	0.20	50.2	0.40
Texas	0.474	0.0030	3.3	0.05	8.6	0.04	14.4	0.21	22.9	0.16	50.8	0.28
Utah	0.410	0.0067	4.5	0.18	10.5	0.21	16.1	0.21	23.3	0.27	45.6	0.59
Vermont	0.420	0.0090	4.2	0.21	9.9	0.30	16.0	0.37	23.8	0.40	46.1	0.84
Virginia	0.456	0.0040	3.6	0.19	9.2	0.10	14.9	0.18	22.9	0.24	49.4	0.36
Washington	0.443	0.0047	3.7	0.14	9.6	0.17	15.4	0.21	23.2	0.18	48.1	0.45
West Virginia	0.447	0.0072	3.7	0.14	9.0	0.20	15.1	0.27	24.0	0.31	48.2	0.63
Wisconsin	0.424	0.0047	4.1	0.05	10.0	0.13	16.0	0.18	23.6	0.23	46.3	0.42
Wyoming	0.413	0.0147	4.5	0.27	10.2	0.36	16.0	0.46	23.7	0.61	45.6	1.36
Puerto Rico	0.535	0.0055	1.8	0.18	6.8	0.23	13.0	0.22	22.7	0.30	55.7	0.57

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

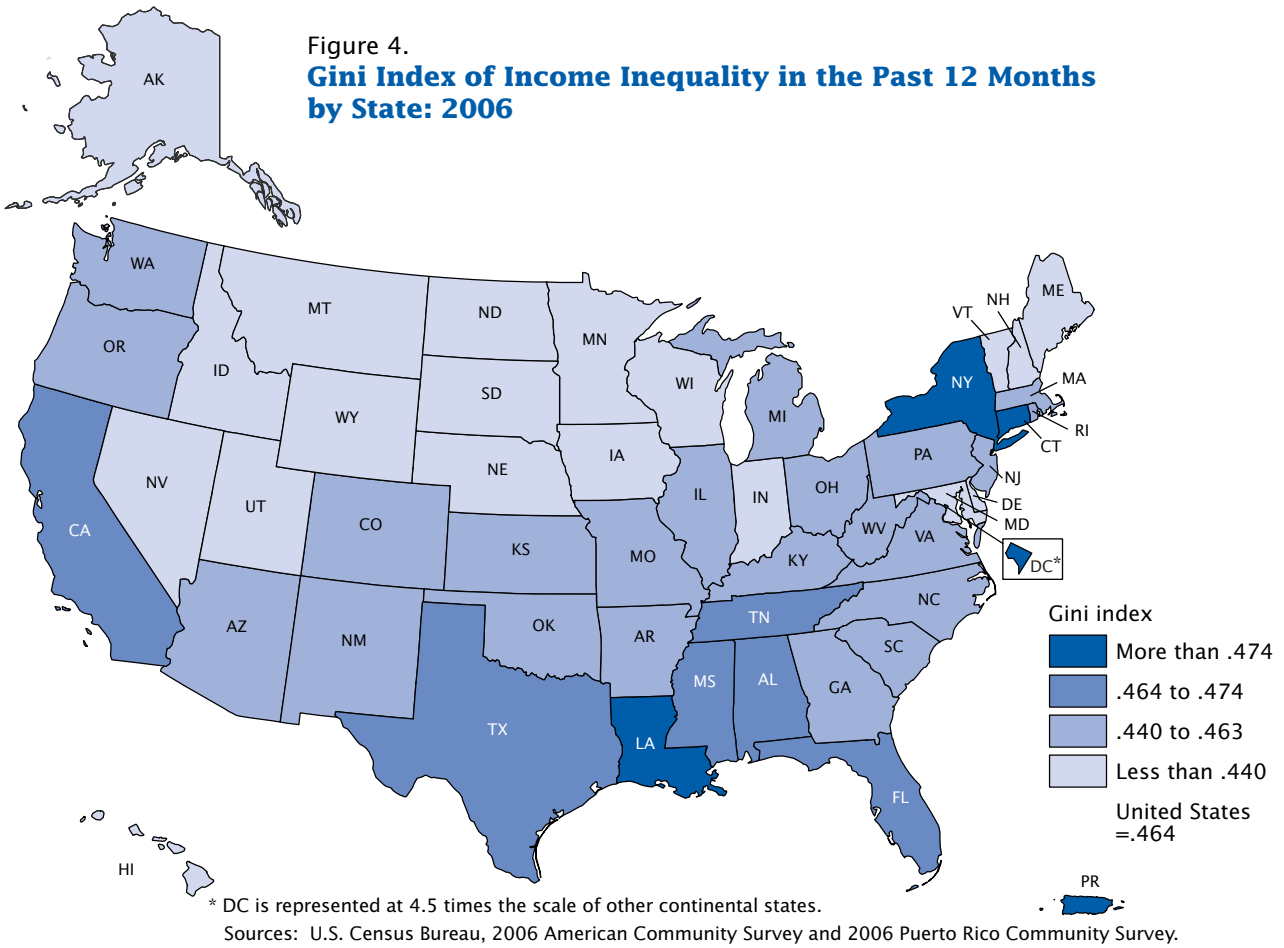
aggregate income held by the highest quintile of households ranged from 56.3 percent for the District of Columbia to 45.6 percent for both Utah and Wyoming.[24]

[24] The shares of aggregate income for the lowest quintile for Utah and Wyoming were not statistically different from one another or from the share of aggregate income for the lowest quintile for Idaho. The share of aggregate income for the lowest quintile for Wyoming was also not statistically different from the share of aggregate income for the lowest quintile for Vermont. The share of aggregate income for the highest quintile for Utah was not statistically different from the shares of aggregate income for the highest quintile for Wyoming, New Hampshire, Alaska, Vermont, Wisconsin, Idaho, and Montana. The share of aggregate income for the highest quintile for Wyoming was not statistically different from the shares of aggregate income for the highest quintile for the states listed above, as well as Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, Minnesota, Indiana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

EARNINGS OF MEN AND WOMEN

This section examines the earnings of men and women by geography, race and Hispanic origin, educational attainment, industry and occupation, and class of worker. Median earnings are calculated only for people 16 years and older with earnings. The tables and figures focus on various aspects of earnings. Table 6 presents earnings by state for full-time, year-round workers. Table 7 includes earnings by race and Hispanic origin for full-time, year-round workers; earnings by educational attainment for people 25 years and older (regardless of hours and weeks worked); and earnings by type of industry, occupation, and class of worker for full-time, year-round civilian workers. For most individuals, earnings are the largest component of their total income. The text box "What Are 'Earnings'?" describes this income category.

Figure 4.
Gini Index of Income Inequality in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Men's and Women's Earnings by State

Table 6 shows earnings data in 2006 for men and women by state and the District of Columbia. Some of the states that had high median household incomes, as shown in Table 2 and Figure 1, such as New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maryland, had median earnings for men that were above $50,000. No state had median earnings for women above $50,000, but in the District of Columbia, Connecticut, Maryland, and New Jersey, median earnings for women were above $40,000.[25]

The median earnings of men in the United States in 2006 were $42,210, and for women they were $32,649, or 77.3 percent of men's earnings. The District of Columbia had the highest ratio of women's to men's earnings (98.1 percent), and there was no statistically significant difference between women's median earnings and men's median earnings. In each of the 50 states, women's median earnings were less than men's median earnings.

Figure 5 displays the relationship between men's and women's earnings for all states and the District of Columbia. Every region (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West) had states in which women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings were relatively high (falling into the high est category in Figure 5), as well as states in which the percentage was relatively low (falling into the two lower categories). In the South, four states (Florida, Maryland, North Carolina, and Texas) and the District of Columbia had ratios statistically higher than the national ratio, as did four states in the West (Arizona, California, Colorado, and Hawaii). Two states in the Northeast (Connecticut and New York) and one state in the Midwest (South Dakota) had ratios higher than the national ratio. As a result, women's earnings were closer to men's earnings in more states in the South and the West than in the Northeast and the Midwest.

[25] The median earnings for men in Puerto Rico were $19,744, and the median earnings for women were $18,765.

What Are "Earnings"?

"Earnings" are the sum of wage and salary income and self-employment income. Earnings are often a large part of overall income. The 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) showed that 82 percent of aggregate household income came from earnings.

This report presents information on year-round, full-time workers 16 years and older, unless noted otherwise. "Year-round" means an individual worked 50 or more weeks in the past 12 months, including paid time off for sick leave or vacation (37 weeks or more for elementary or secondary school teachers). "Full-time" means that the individual usually worked 35 or more hours per week.

The text of the two 2006 ACS household questionnaire items used to determine earnings was:

41. INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

Mark (X) the "Yes" box for each type of income this person received, and give your best estimate of the TOTAL AMOUNT during the PAST 12 MONTHS. (NOTE: The "past 12 months" is the period from today's date one year ago through today.)

Mark (X) the "No" box to show types of income NOT received.

If net income was a loss, mark the "Loss" box to the right of the dollar amount.

For income received jointly, report the appropriate share for each person—or, if that's not possible, report the whole income for only one person and mark the "No" box for the other person.

a. Wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips from all jobs. *Report amount before deductions for taxes, bonds, dues, or other items.*

b. Self-employment income from own nonfarm businesses or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships. *Report NET income after business expenses.*

ACS questionnaires can be found at <www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/SQuest/SQuest1.htm>.

Table 6.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers 16 and Older by Sex and Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings by State: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/)*

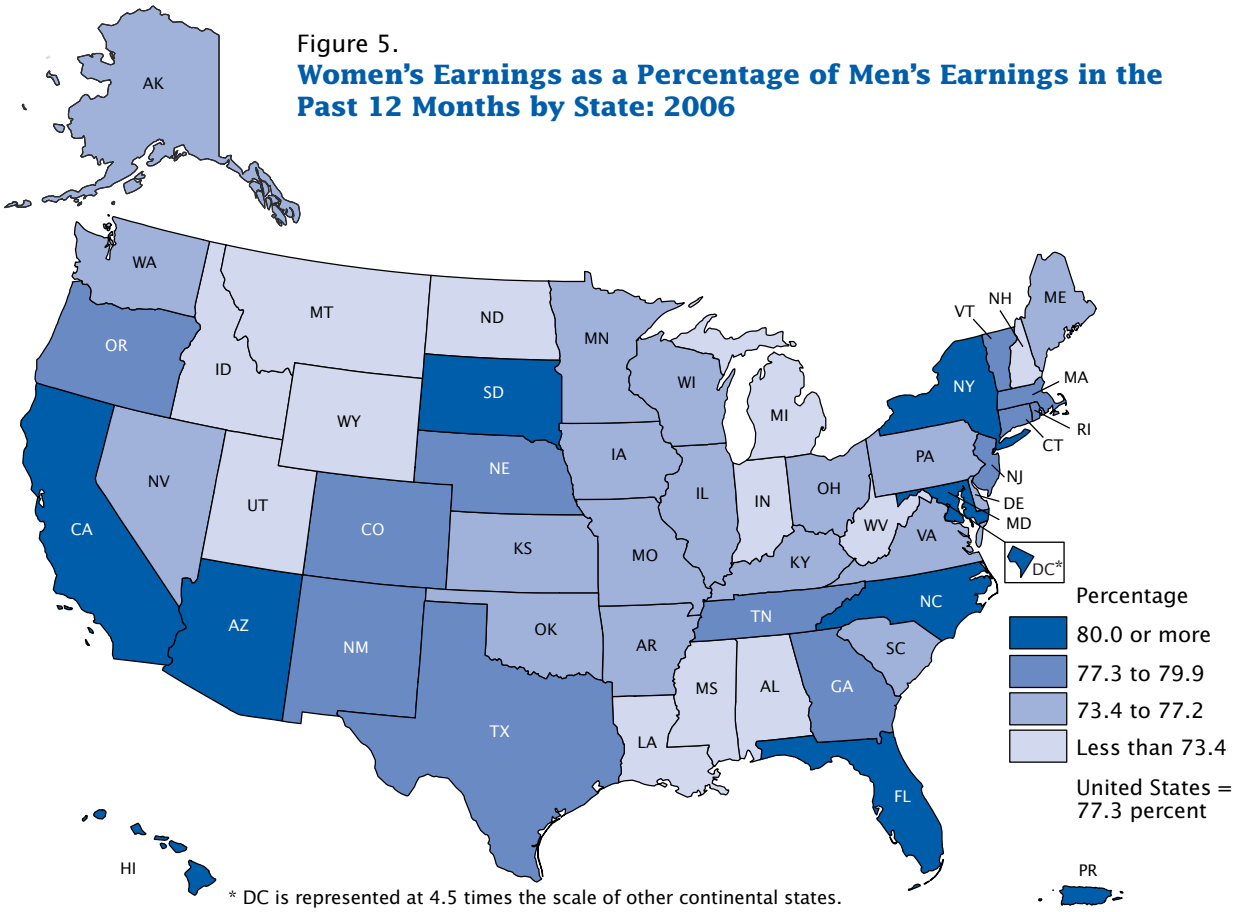
Area	Median earnings (dollars)				Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Men		Women			
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
United States	**42,210**	**51**	**32,649**	**93**	**77.3**	**0.2**
Alabama	39,528	1,024	27,893	538	70.6	2.3
Alaska	48,703	2,063	36,655	886	75.3	3.7
Arizona	40,056	526	32,468	388	81.1	1.4
Arkansas	35,144	632	26,277	391	74.8	1.7
California	44,905	375	37,019	182	82.4	0.8
Colorado	45,017	691	35,847	427	79.6	1.5
Connecticut	52,372	715	41,831	409	79.9	1.3
Delaware	46,043	798	35,506	799	77.1	2.2
District of Columbia	49,544	3,053	48,586	2,160	98.1	7.5
Florida	38,005	598	30,896	161	81.3	1.3
Georgia	40,646	258	31,637	259	77.8	0.8
Hawaii	41,821	458	33,780	1,204	80.8	3.0
Idaho	38,278	1,345	28,019	1,081	73.2	3.8
Illinois	46,526	399	35,092	254	75.4	0.8
Indiana	41,991	285	30,537	239	72.7	0.8
Iowa	39,753	690	29,824	451	75.0	1.7
Kansas	40,595	341	30,552	358	75.3	1.1
Kentucky	39,595	736	29,362	468	74.2	1.8
Louisiana	40,765	350	27,000	425	66.2	1.2
Maine	40,116	629	30,338	518	75.6	1.8
Maryland	51,316	331	41,761	344	81.4	0.9
Massachusetts	51,960	312	40,174	304	77.3	0.7
Michigan	47,329	427	33,748	389	71.3	1.0
Minnesota	46,349	354	35,611	296	76.8	0.9
Mississippi	35,617	583	25,849	469	72.6	1.8
Missouri	40,443	268	30,127	301	74.5	0.9
Montana	36,378	825	26,007	562	71.5	2.2
Nebraska	37,828	757	29,467	740	77.9	2.5
Nevada	41,717	452	31,915	343	76.5	1.2
New Hampshire	48,254	1,752	34,719	1,035	72.0	3.4
New Jersey	52,487	591	41,100	289	78.3	1.0
New Mexico	37,064	663	28,884	957	77.9	2.9
New York	45,833	293	36,769	201	80.2	0.7
North Carolina	37,545	560	30,600	222	81.5	1.4
North Dakota	38,179	1,540	26,583	595	69.6	3.2
Ohio	42,346	260	31,748	170	75.0	0.6
Oklahoma	36,655	547	27,626	475	75.4	1.7
Oregon	41,536	399	32,390	484	78.0	1.4
Pennsylvania	43,402	403	32,190	175	74.2	0.8
Rhode Island	45,544	1,143	35,510	761	78.0	2.6
South Carolina	37,194	451	28,696	489	77.2	1.6
South Dakota	34,937	892	28,158	819	80.6	3.1
Tennessee	37,589	709	29,300	494	77.9	2.0
Texas	38,797	532	30,954	166	79.8	1.2
Utah	41,475	431	29,623	786	71.4	2.0
Vermont	40,119	678	31,763	756	79.2	2.3
Virginia	47,063	444	36,062	390	76.6	1.1
Washington	48,331	631	36,158	382	74.8	1.3
West Virginia	37,622	1,400	25,758	611	68.5	3.0
Wisconsin	42,380	242	31,539	218	74.4	0.7
Wyoming	41,913	869	27,926	1,039	66.6	2.8
Puerto Rico	19,744	410	18,765	340	95.0	2.6

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Figure 5.

Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Median Earnings by Race and Hispanic Origin

As shown in Table 7, Asian men had higher median earnings ($50,159) in 2006 than men in any of the other single-race groups. Non-Hispanic White men were the second highest ($47,814), followed by Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander men ($34,641), Black men ($34,480), and American Indian and Alaska Native men ($32,684).[26] The lowest median earnings for men among the race groups were for those reported as Some Other Race ($27,156). The median earnings for Hispanic men were $27,490.

The pattern observed for women by race was similar to that of men. Asian women had the highest median earnings ($38,613), followed by non-Hispanic White women ($35,151), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women ($31,171), and Black women ($30,398).[27] They were followed by American Indian and Alaska Native women ($27,370). Women of Some Other Race had the lowest median earnings ($23,962) of any race group. Hispanic women had median earnings of $24,738.

For each of the race and Hispanic-origin groups shown in Table 7, men had higher earnings than women. The group with the lowest female-to-male ratio was non-Hispanic Whites, where women's earnings were 73.5 percent of men's earnings. The median earnings of women were at least 85 percent of men's earnings for the Some Other Race group, Hispanics, and Blacks.[28]

[26] The median earnings of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander men were not statistically different from those of Black men and those of American Indian and Alaska Native men.

[27] The median earnings for Black women and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women were not statistically different.

[28] The sampling error for the estimate of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings was high because this is a relatively small single-race group. There was no statistical difference in this estimate for Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders and the Some Other Race group, Hispanics, or Blacks.

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

Data on median earnings by educational attainment in Table 7 are for all individuals 25 years and older with earnings and are not limited to full-time, year-round workers.

A person's level of education is a predictor of earnings—the more education, the larger the earnings potential. Table 7 shows that this was true for both men and women in 2006. The median earnings of men who were not high school graduates were $22,151. This increased to $31,715 for male high school graduates and to $40,217 for men with some college or an associate's degree. Men who completed college and received a bachelor's degree earned a median of $55,446. The highest median earnings, $73,991, were for men with a graduate or professional degree.

Women who did not complete high school earned $13,255 in 2006, while graduating from high school increased women's earnings to $20,650. Attending but not completing college, or receiving an associate's degree, resulted in median earnings of $26,300, while women who completed a bachelor's degree had median earnings of

Table 7.
Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months of Workers by Sex and Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings by Selected Characteristics for the United States: 2006

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Selected characteristic	Median earnings (dollars)				Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Men		Women			
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
Race and Hispanic Origin						
Full-time, year-round workers 16 and older with earnings	42,210	51	32,649	93	77.4	0.2
White alone	45,727	71	34,133	103	74.7	0.2
White alone, not Hispanic	47,814	126	35,151	74	73.5	0.2
Black alone	34,480	327	30,398	122	88.2	0.9
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	32,684	1,220	27,370	669	83.7	3.5
Asian alone	50,159	336	38,613	685	77.0	1.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	34,641	1,986	31,171	906	90.0	5.5
Some Other Race alone	27,156	159	23,962	276	88.2	1.0
Two or More Races	38,600	855	32,005	385	82.9	2.0
Hispanic (any race)	27,490	203	24,738	203	90.0	0.8
Educational Attainment						
Population 25 years and older with earnings	39,041	111	26,322	44	67.4	0.2
Less than high school graduate	22,151	85	13,255	112	59.8	0.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	31,715	55	20,650	52	65.1	0.2
Some college or associate's degree	40,217	74	26,300	66	65.4	0.2
Bachelor's degree	55,446	198	36,875	94	66.5	0.3
Graduate or professional degree	73,991	590	49,164	294	66.4	0.6
Industry						
Full-time, year-round civilian workers 16 years and older with earnings	42,359	53	32,769	93	77.4	0.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	26,770	287	21,914	645	81.9	2.5
Mining	51,934	452	41,341	1,047	79.6	2.1
Construction	36,745	156	34,952	509	95.1	1.4
Manufacturing	44,351	292	31,611	113	71.3	0.5
Wholesale trade	43,969	608	35,072	360	79.8	1.4
Retail trade	34,872	266	25,082	107	71.9	0.6
Transportation and warehousing	44,879	377	36,856	294	82.1	1.0
Utilities	58,654	1,179	43,082	1,545	73.5	3.0
Information	57,284	559	41,952	310	73.2	0.9
Finance and insurance	67,233	637	37,390	173	55.6	0.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	41,976	300	36,908	318	87.9	1.0
Professional, scientific, and technical services	72,184	243	45,459	264	63.0	0.4
Management of companies and enterprises	72,383	4,633	45,432	1,778	62.8	4.5
Administrative and support and waste management services	31,058	218	28,230	477	90.9	1.7
Educational services	45,821	263	38,069	293	83.1	0.7
Health care and social assistance	48,062	520	32,122	89	66.8	0.7
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	35,033	575	28,908	590	82.5	2.3
Accommodation and food services	25,172	189	19,908	236	79.1	1.0
Other services (except public administration)	34,856	367	25,035	265	71.8	1.1
Public administration	52,095	175	40,602	190	77.9	0.4

See footnote at end of table.

Table 7.
Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months of Workers by Sex and Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings by Selected Characteristics for the United States: 2006—Con.

(In 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Selected characteristic	Median earnings (dollars)				Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings	
	Men		Women			
	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)	Estimate	Margin of error[1] (±)
Occupation						
Full-time, year-round civilian workers 16 years and older with earnings	42,359	53	32,769	93	77.4	0.2
Management occupations	69,669	648	50,953	173	73.1	0.7
Business and financial operations occupations	61,785	269	45,315	204	73.3	0.5
Computer and mathematical occupations	70,423	246	61,081	452	86.7	0.7
Architecture and engineering occupations	67,761	587	55,029	986	81.2	1.6
Life, physical, and social science occupations	61,534	505	50,458	556	82.0	1.0
Community and social services occupations	38,946	666	35,746	233	91.8	1.7
Legal occupations	104,430	1,423	51,435	468	49.3	0.8
Education, training, and library occupations	50,271	296	38,397	291	76.4	0.7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	48,060	904	40,786	329	84.9	1.7
Health care practitioner and technical occupations	71,927	609	48,884	388	68.0	0.7
Health care support occupations	27,978	874	24,135	190	86.3	2.8
Protective service occupations	45,436	385	35,904	556	79.0	1.3
Food preparation and serving related occupations	21,588	150	17,369	108	80.5	0.7
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	25,778	199	18,519	229	71.8	1.0
Personal care and service occupations	29,655	818	20,462	149	69.0	1.9
Sales and related occupations	46,650	242	30,213	127	64.8	0.4
Office and administrative support occupations	35,817	194	30,496	56	85.1	0.5
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	22,344	290	17,296	614	77.4	3.0
Construction and extraction occupations	34,561	317	30,349	733	87.8	2.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	40,549	138	37,145	864	91.6	2.2
Production occupations	35,490	148	23,940	181	67.5	0.6
Transportation and material moving occupations	33,575	319	24,145	362	71.9	1.3
Class of Worker						
Full-time, year-round civilian workers 16 years and older with earnings	42,359	53	32,769	93	77.4	0.2
Employee of private company workers	41,260	69	31,237	54	75.7	0.2
Self-employed in own incorporated business workers	60,526	244	40,419	427	66.8	0.7
Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers	44,263	544	36,630	160	82.8	1.1
Local government workers	46,326	208	37,348	180	80.6	0.5
State government workers	46,636	285	36,946	183	79.2	0.6
Federal government workers	55,349	387	48,155	405	87.0	1.0
Self-employed in own unincorporated business workers	37,194	255	23,445	533	63.0	1.6
Unpaid family workers	24,833	1,990	18,481	2,151	74.4	9.9

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

$36,875. As with men, women who received a graduate or professional degree earned the most, $49,164.

While both men and women showed increased earnings with increased levels of education, at each level of education, men earned more than women. The ratio of women's to men's earnings was lowest for those with less than a high school education, where women earned 59.8 percent of men. The ratio increased as educational level increased, up to the completion of college. For men and women with a high school education, women earned 65.1 percent of what men earned, while they earned 65.4 percent when both had some college or an associate's degree. The ratio increased further when both men and women had bachelor's degrees. At that educational level, women earned 66.5 percent of what men earned. Additional education beyond a bachelor's degree did not statistically change the earnings ratio. Women earned 66.4 percent of men's earnings when both had a graduate or professional degree.

Median Earnings by Industry and Occupation

Data on earnings by type of industry, occupation, and class of worker are limited to full-time, year-round civilian workers 16 years or older. Industry refers to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization; occupation describes the kind of work that person does on the job.

The industries for which data are collected in the ACS are commonly grouped into sectors. Table 7 shows that of the 20 major industry sectors, men earned the most in 2006 in the management of companies and enterprises sector ($72,383) and the professional, scientific, and technical services sector ($72,184).[29] Men in the accommodation and food services sector had the lowest median earnings ($25,172).

For women, no one sector had a statistically significant lead in median earnings for 2006. In the following sectors, women's median earnings were $40,000 or higher: professional, scientific, and technical services ($45,459); management of companies and enterprises ($45,432); utilities ($43,082); information ($41,952); mining ($41,341); and public administration ($40,602).[30] As with men, the sector with the lowest earnings for women was accommodation and food services ($19,908).

In each of the 20 industry sectors, men earned more than women. The sector where the ratio between women's and men's earnings was the lowest was finance and insurance, where women earned 55.6 percent of men, while the highest ratio was in the construction sector, where women earned 95.1 percent of men.

In the ACS, occupations are commonly categorized into 22 major groups. Men earned the most in legal occupations ($104,430) and the least in food preparation and serving related occupations ($21,588). Women who worked in computer and mathematical occupations had the highest median earnings ($61,081). The occupational groups with the lowest median earnings for women were farming, fishing, and forestry occupations ($17,296) and food preparation and serving related occupations ($17,369).[31]

For women and men in the same occupational group, men had higher median earnings than women. Community and social services occupations had one of the highest women-to-men earnings ratios, with a ratio of women's earnings to men's earnings higher than 90 percent.[32] In contrast, women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings were 70 percent or less for legal occupations, sales and related occupations, production occupations, health care practitioner and technical occupations, and personal care and service occupations. Legal occupations had the lowest ratio of women's earnings to men's earnings (49.3 percent).[33]

Median Earnings by Class of Worker

Class of worker analysis categorizes employees according to the type of ownership of the organization employing them. Men who were employed in their own incorporated business had the highest median earnings at $60,526. Men employed in their own unincorporated business had the lowest median earnings ($37,194).[34]

For women, those employed by the federal government had the highest median earnings at $48,155. Similar to men, those employed in their own unincorporated business had the lowest median earnings ($23,445).[34]

For each of the class of worker categories shown in Table 7, men had higher earnings than women. The ratio of women's to men's earnings was lowest for women and men employed in their own businesses, whether that business was unincorporated, where women earned 63.0 percent of what men earned, or incorporated, where they earned 66.8 percent of men. The ratio was highest for men and women employed by the federal government (87.0 percent), followed by private not-for-profit wage and salary workers (82.8 percent).[34]

[29] The median earnings for men in the management of companies and enterprises sector are not statistically different from the median earnings for men in the professional, scientific, and technical services sector.

[30] The median earnings of women in the professional, scientific, and technical services sector are not statistically different from the median earnings of women in the management of companies and enterprises sector. The median earnings of women in the management of companies and enterprises sector are also not statistically different from the median earnings of women in the utilities sector. The median earnings of women in the utilities sector are also not statistically different from the median earnings of women in the information and mining sectors. The median earnings of women in the information sector are also not statistically different from the median earnings of women in the mining sector. The median earnings of women in the mining sector are also not statistically different from the median earnings of women in the public administration sector.

[31] The difference in women's median earnings between farming, fishing, and forestry occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations was not statistically significant.

[32] Women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings for installation, maintenance, and repair occupations were not statistically different from community and social services occupations nor from 90 percent.

[33] Estimates for legal occupations were calculated from unpublished data. There is more parity between women's and men's earnings among occupation subgroups within the legal occupations category. For example, among lawyers, women's earnings were 76 percent of men's earnings.

[34] For both men and women, the lowest median earnings were for people working 15 hours or more unpaid in a family business. This group is not discussed in this report because the earnings data and the class of worker data in Table 7 likely refer to different work experiences. Earnings data reflect any earnings during the 12 months prior to the ACS interview. Class of worker data reflect the job held the week before the ACS interview.

POVERTY

This section discusses poverty status for the nation, states, counties, and places.[35] This report does not make year-to-year comparisons for people in the poverty universe because people in group quarters were included in the ACS for the first time in 2006. (See the text box "How Does the Inclusion of Group Quarters Affect ACS Data?") Hence, this section presents 2006 poverty status for people living in households and specified noninstitutional group quarters.[36] Because the ACS identifies families only in households (and the definition of "households" did not change between 2005 and 2006), this section also discusses poverty for families at the national and state levels, including year-to-year comparisons. The text box "How Is Poverty Calculated in the ACS?" explains the official definition of poverty.

[35] Poverty status for people in Puerto Rico was determined based on data from the 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

[36] The poverty universe is a subset of the total population covered by the ACS. Specifically, the universe excludes unrelated children under 15 years, people living in institutional group quarters, and those living in college dormitories or military barracks.

How Is Poverty Calculated in the ACS?

Poverty statistics presented in this report and other American Community Survey (ACS) products adhere to the standards specified by the Office of Management and Budget in Statistical Policy Directive 14. The Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. Further, poverty thresholds for people living alone or with nonrelatives (unrelated individuals) vary by age (under 65 years or 65 years and older). The poverty thresholds for two-person families also vary by the age of the householder. If a family's total income is less than the dollar value of the appropriate threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. Similarly, if an unrelated individual's total income is less than the appropriate threshold, then that individual is considered to be in poverty. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically. They are updated annually to allow for changes in the cost of living (inflation factor) using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

Since the ACS is a continuous survey, people respond throughout the year. Because the income items specify a period covering the previous 12 months, the appropriate poverty thresholds are determined by multiplying the base-year poverty thresholds (1982) by the average of the monthly inflation factors for the 12 months preceding the data collection.*

Example: Consider a family of three with one child under 18 years of age, interviewed in July 2006 and reporting a total family income of $14,000 for the previous 12 months (July 2005 to June 2006). The base year (1982) threshold for such a family is $7,765, while the average of the 12 inflation factors is 2.06168. Multiplying $7,765 by 2.06168 determines the appropriate poverty threshold for this family type, which is $16,009. Comparing the family's income of $14,000 with the poverty threshold shows that the family and all people in the family are considered to have been in poverty. The only difference for determining poverty status for unrelated individuals is that the person's individual total income is compared with the threshold. For further information on poverty data in the ACS, visit the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/acs /www/usedata/Subject_Definitions.pdf>.

For information on poverty estimates from the ACS and how they differ from those based on the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), which is the official source of poverty statistics for the United States, see "Guidance on Differences in Income and Poverty Estimates from Different Sources" at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/newguidance.html>. For a comparison of poverty rates and analysis of differences between the ACS and the CPS ASEC, see "A Comparison of the American Community Survey and the Current Population Survey" at <www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty /acs_cpspovcompreport.pdf>.

* In 1982, the Census Bureau adopted a new poverty threshold matrix (as described above) that included the following changes from the original matrix: it eliminated the distinction between farm and nonfarm families and removed the separate thresholds for families with a female householder, no husband present.

Table 8.
Number and Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Race and Hispanic origin	Number		Percentage	
	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)
United States	**38,757,253**	**222,238**	**13.3**	**0.1**
White alone	22,657,417	166,799	10.5	0.1
White alone, not Hispanic	17,890,083	138,143	9.3	0.1
Black alone	8,968,940	76,397	25.3	0.2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	606,730	19,149	26.6	0.8
Asian alone	1,381,226	37,045	10.7	0.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	66,773	7,441	16.1	1.7
Some Other Race alone	4,083,703	64,879	22.0	0.3
Two or More Races	992,464	26,674	16.8	0.4
Hispanic (any race)	9,293,416	89,610	21.5	0.2

[1] Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters except people living in college dormitories or military barracks. Unrelated individuals under 15 years old are also excluded from the poverty universe.
[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Poverty Status for the United States by Race and Hispanic Origin

According to the 2006 ACS data, about 13.3 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty threshold in the past 12 months (Table 8). Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest poverty rate of all the racial and ethnic groups presented in Table 8, at 9.3 percent. Among Asians, 10.7 percent had income below the poverty threshold. At 16.1 percent, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders had a poverty rate lower than Blacks (25.3 percent) and American Indians and Alaska Natives (26.6 percent). The poverty rate for people who identified themselves as Some Other Race was 22.0 percent. Hispanics (who may be any race) had a poverty rate of 21.5 percent.

Poverty Status for States

Table 9 shows the number and the percentage of people in poverty and the percentage of people by ratio of income-to-poverty in the past 12 months by state. The table shows differences among states in percentages of people with income below 50 percent, 100 percent, and 125 percent of the poverty level. The map in Figure 6 displays the variation in poverty rates by state, while Figure 7 shows a comparison of poverty rates by state.

Comparing poverty rates among the 50 states and the District of Columbia revealed variations ranging from a low of 7.8 percent to a high of 21.1 percent (Figure 7).[37] While not statistically different from New Hampshire (8.0 percent) and Connecticut (8.3 percent), the estimated poverty rate for Maryland (7.8 percent) was lower than that of all the other states. At the other end of the spectrum, Mississippi's poverty rate (21.1 percent) was not statistically different from that of the District of Columbia (19.6 percent) and was higher than the poverty rates for the other 49 states.[38]

[37] The poverty rate is the percentage of people with income below 100 percent of their poverty threshold.
[38] Of the 3.9 million people in Puerto Rico, about 45.4 percent had income below their poverty thresholds in the past 12 months (Table 9).

Table 9.

Number and Percentage of People in Poverty and Percentage of People by Ratio of Income-to-Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	All people for whom poverty status is determined[1]		People in poverty (income-to-poverty ratio less than 100 percent)				People with income-to-poverty ratio less than—			
							50 percent		125 percent	
	Number	Margin of error[2] (±)	Number	Margin of error[2] (±)	Percent-age	Margin of error[2] (±)	Percent-age	Margin of error[2] (±)	Percent-age	Margin of error[2] (±)
United States	**291,531,091**	**25,464**	**38,757,253**	**222,238**	**13.3**	**0.1**	**5.8**	**0.1**	**17.6**	**0.1**
Alabama	4,482,152	2,720	742,064	20,891	16.6	0.5	7.3	0.3	21.7	0.6
Alaska	651,997	1,058	70,919	7,094	10.9	1.1	4.5	0.6	14.2	1.2
Arizona	6,052,150	12,167	857,349	27,234	14.2	0.4	6.4	0.3	18.8	0.5
Arkansas	2,729,090	2,973	471,155	16,444	17.3	0.6	7.1	0.4	23.2	0.7
California	35,675,356	7,967	4,690,140	69,184	13.1	0.2	5.4	0.1	18.0	0.2
Colorado	4,653,251	2,663	556,153	17,838	12.0	0.4	5.5	0.3	15.8	0.5
Connecticut	3,393,432	2,120	280,108	12,632	8.3	0.4	3.7	0.3	10.9	0.4
Delaware	828,673	1,089	91,962	8,734	11.1	1.1	4.9	0.6	13.8	1.2
District of Columbia	551,161	908	108,100	7,848	19.6	1.4	10.5	1.2	23.0	1.3
Florida	17,686,295	6,001	2,226,587	41,963	12.6	0.2	5.2	0.2	17.1	0.3
Georgia	9,082,715	5,257	1,333,524	28,435	14.7	0.3	6.6	0.3	19.3	0.3
Hawaii	1,252,117	2,035	116,147	9,384	9.3	0.7	4.4	0.5	12.5	0.9
Idaho	1,431,508	2,111	180,177	8,124	12.6	0.6	4.7	0.4	17.6	0.7
Illinois	12,516,453	4,308	1,539,033	33,611	12.3	0.3	5.5	0.2	16.2	0.3
Indiana	6,125,557	3,393	777,712	24,218	12.7	0.4	5.8	0.3	16.6	0.5
Iowa	2,878,398	1,906	316,122	11,956	11.0	0.4	4.8	0.3	15.1	0.5
Kansas	2,679,951	1,806	330,976	12,307	12.4	0.5	5.0	0.3	16.7	0.5
Kentucky	4,087,474	2,992	693,479	19,675	17.0	0.5	6.9	0.4	22.0	0.5
Louisiana	4,165,324	2,394	793,223	23,967	19.0	0.6	8.3	0.4	24.2	0.7
Maine	1,285,599	1,319	165,956	9,369	12.9	0.7	4.8	0.4	16.8	0.8
Maryland	5,475,889	2,880	428,345	16,756	7.8	0.3	3.6	0.2	10.5	0.3
Massachusetts	6,235,586	2,474	620,188	19,066	9.9	0.3	4.5	0.2	13.1	0.3
Michigan	9,852,543	4,524	1,331,833	28,594	13.5	0.3	6.0	0.2	17.4	0.3
Minnesota	5,036,852	2,551	491,633	13,842	9.8	0.3	4.3	0.2	12.9	0.3
Mississippi	2,815,425	2,470	592,743	21,116	21.1	0.8	8.8	0.4	27.9	0.7
Missouri	5,674,490	3,452	769,584	23,237	13.6	0.4	5.9	0.3	18.3	0.5
Montana	921,449	1,204	125,655	7,460	13.6	0.8	5.9	0.5	18.4	1.0
Nebraska	1,715,413	1,577	197,037	9,781	11.5	0.6	5.0	0.4	15.9	0.6
Nevada	2,460,755	1,936	253,713	12,708	10.3	0.5	4.9	0.4	14.2	0.7
New Hampshire	1,276,753	1,706	102,404	7,079	8.0	0.6	3.6	0.4	10.5	0.6
New Jersey	8,540,402	3,957	741,873	24,336	8.7	0.3	3.9	0.2	11.6	0.3
New Mexico	1,912,288	2,059	353,694	13,260	18.5	0.7	7.6	0.6	24.3	0.8
New York	18,770,190	6,168	2,662,199	40,537	14.2	0.2	6.3	0.2	18.1	0.2
North Carolina	8,591,303	4,200	1,261,078	28,517	14.7	0.3	6.3	0.2	19.5	0.4
North Dakota	605,883	1,233	69,356	4,878	11.4	0.8	5.2	0.5	15.8	0.9
Ohio	11,156,019	4,411	1,486,363	36,291	13.3	0.3	6.1	0.2	17.2	0.3
Oklahoma	3,461,976	3,208	587,591	18,132	17.0	0.5	7.0	0.4	22.6	0.5
Oregon	3,626,910	2,739	480,613	17,873	13.3	0.5	5.5	0.3	17.7	0.6
Pennsylvania	12,015,358	4,038	1,448,228	27,368	12.1	0.2	5.3	0.2	15.9	0.3
Rhode Island	1,026,114	898	114,066	8,626	11.1	0.8	4.6	0.6	15.1	1.0
South Carolina	4,182,874	2,974	656,154	19,827	15.7	0.5	6.9	0.3	20.8	0.5
South Dakota	753,221	1,100	102,184	6,638	13.6	0.9	5.9	0.6	17.1	0.9
Tennessee	5,877,686	3,813	952,256	26,516	16.2	0.4	7.1	0.3	21.2	0.5
Texas	22,887,307	6,627	3,868,689	52,605	16.9	0.2	7.1	0.2	22.3	0.2
Utah	2,508,619	1,594	265,432	13,336	10.6	0.5	4.4	0.4	14.7	0.6
Vermont	603,568	570	62,281	4,414	10.3	0.7	4.0	0.6	13.9	0.8
Virginia	7,404,188	3,606	708,568	21,948	9.6	0.3	4.3	0.2	12.9	0.3
Washington	6,261,127	3,442	736,963	19,667	11.8	0.3	5.0	0.3	15.5	0.4
West Virginia	1,770,974	1,689	307,020	13,698	17.3	0.8	7.3	0.5	23.4	0.8
Wisconsin	5,401,346	2,490	591,850	18,703	11.0	0.3	4.6	0.2	14.6	0.4
Wyoming	499,930	1,064	46,774	4,882	9.4	1.0	3.7	0.6	14.0	1.2
Puerto Rico	3,865,264	3,468	1,753,410	30,614	45.4	0.8	25.4	0.8	53.9	0.8

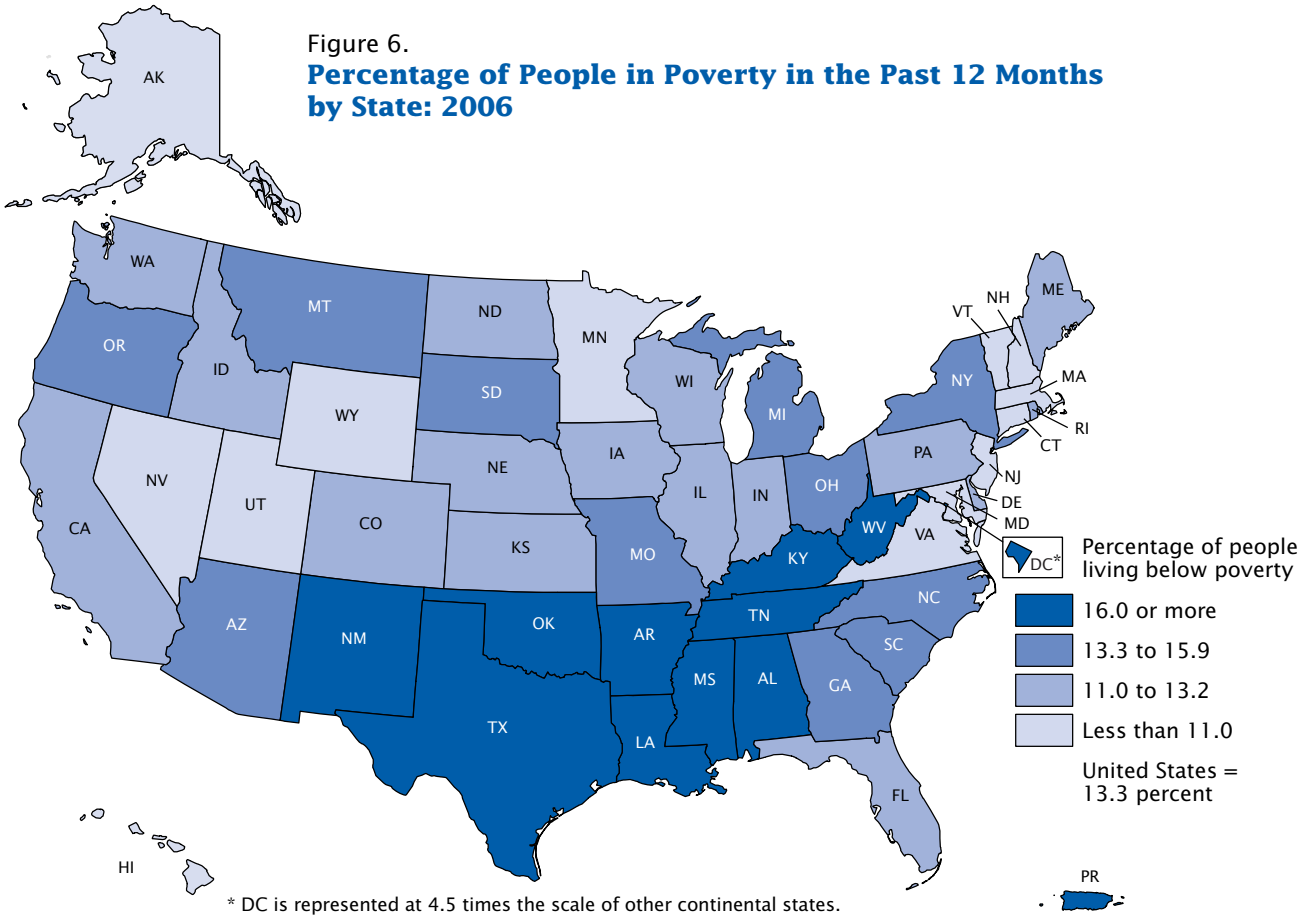
[1] Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters except people living in college dormitories or military barracks. Unrelated individuals under 15 years old are also excluded from the poverty universe.

[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Figure 6.
Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Depth of Poverty

The poverty rate provides a measure of the proportion of people with family or individual income that is below the established poverty thresholds. The income-to-poverty ratio provides a measure to gauge the depth of poverty and to calculate the size of the population that might be eligible for government-sponsored assistance programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, food stamps, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The income-to-poverty ratio is reported as a percentage, which compares a family's or individual's income relative to their poverty threshold. For example, a family or individual with an income-to-poverty ratio of 110 percent has income that is 10 percent above their poverty threshold.

As mentioned above, Table 9 provides state-level estimates for the proportions of people with an income-to-poverty ratio that is less than 50 percent, less than 100 percent, and less than 125 percent. For purposes of comparison, estimates for the nation are included in Table 9 and in both Figure 7 and Figure 8.[39]

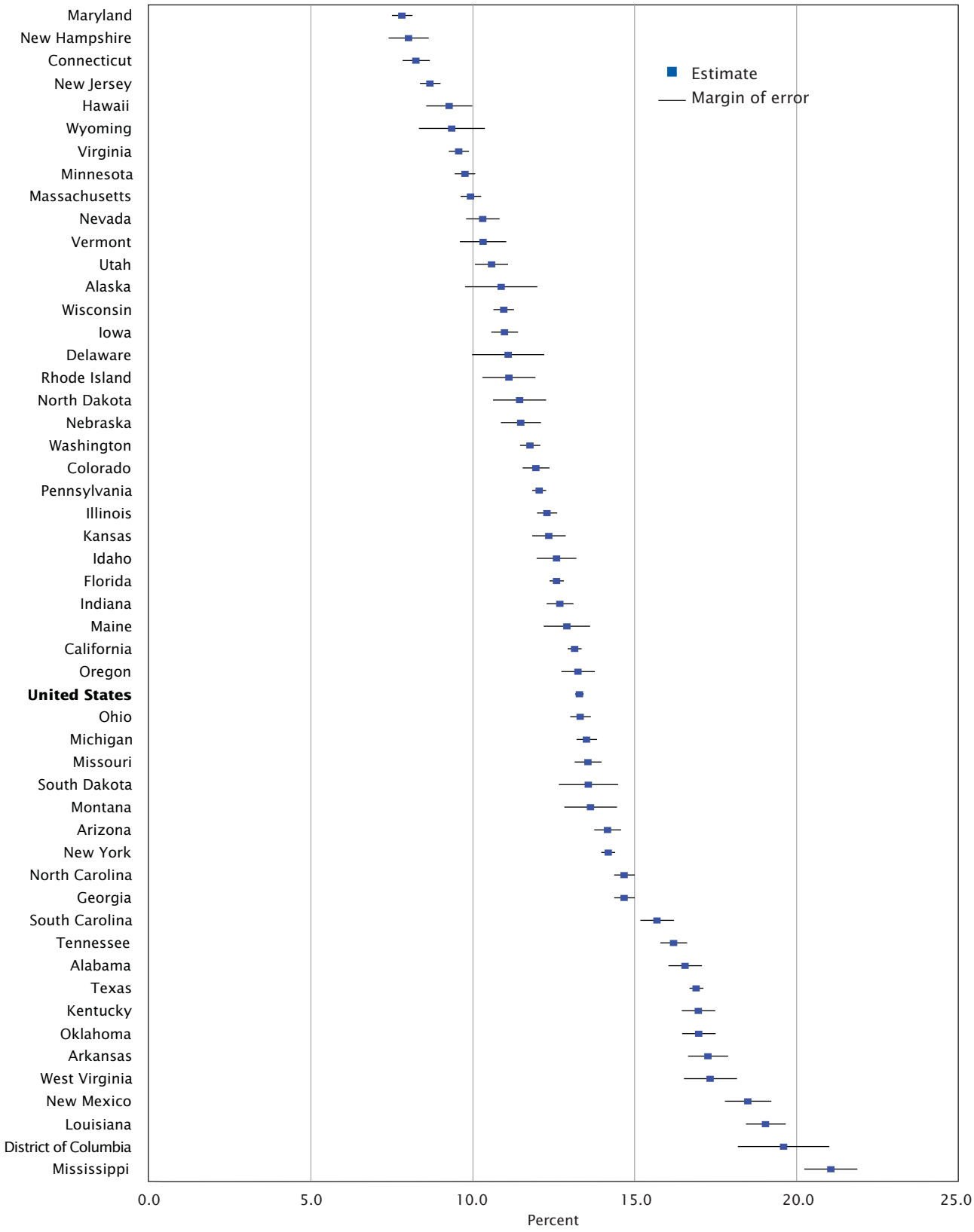
As measured in the ACS, about 17.6 percent of the U.S. population had income below 125 percent of the poverty threshold. This proportion can be divided into three groups based on their income-to-poverty ratios—5.8 percent of people were below 50 percent of the poverty threshold, 7.5 percent of people were at or above 50 percent and less than 100 percent, and 4.3 percent were at or above the threshold (100 percent) but less than 125 percent of the threshold (Table 9 and Figure 8).

At 3.6 percent, Maryland and New Hampshire were among the states with the lowest proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio under 50 percent. Other states with low percentages of people with income less than 50 percent of their thresholds included Wyoming (3.7 percent), Connecticut (3.7 percent), New Jersey (3.9 percent),

[39] The proportion of people who had income at or above the poverty level but lower than 125 percent of the income-to-poverty ratio is the difference between the proportion of people with an income-to-poverty ratio of under 125 percent and the proportion under 100 percent.

Figure 7.

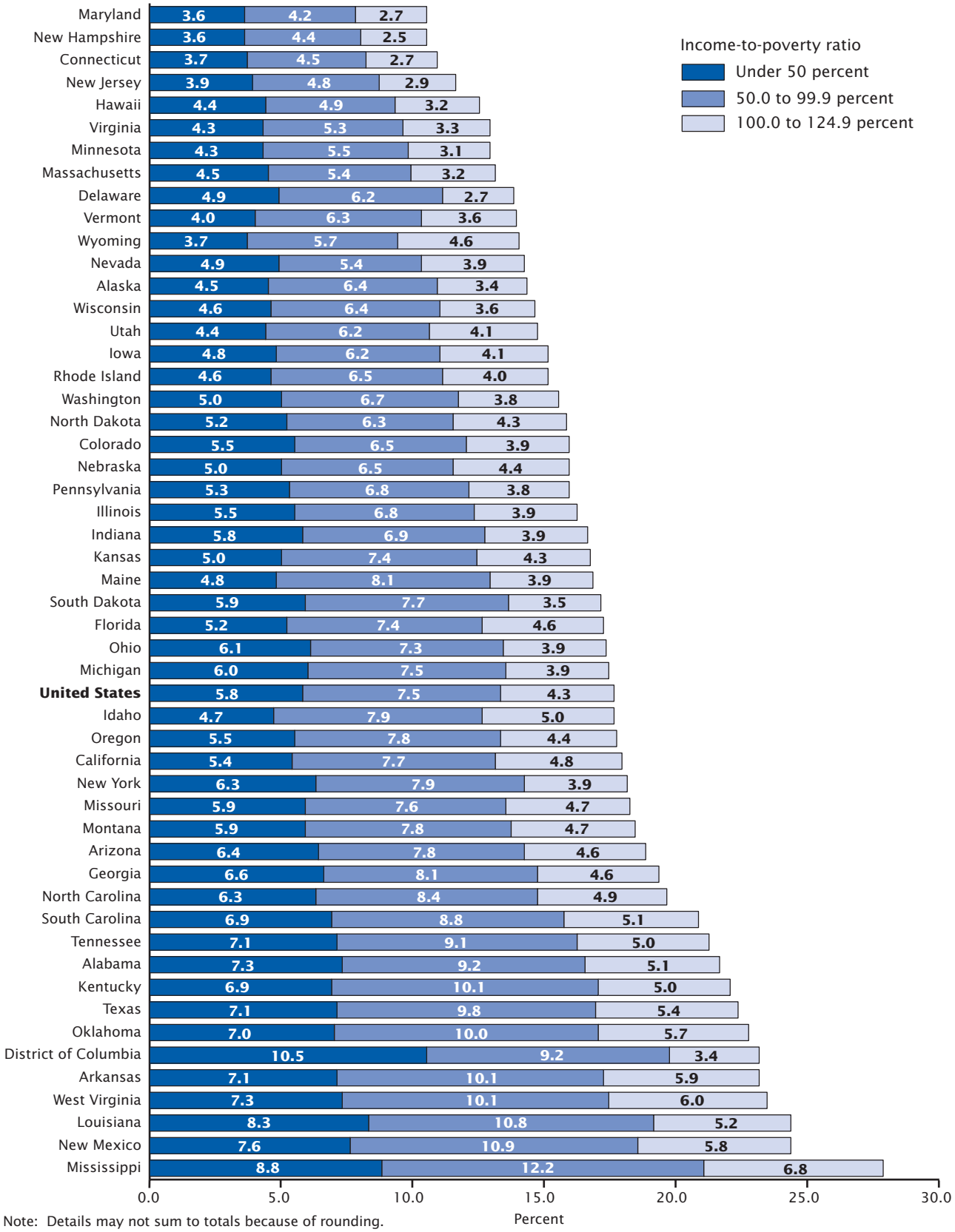
Percentage of People in Poverty in the Past 12 Months With Margins of Error by State: 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Figure 8.

Percentage of People by Income-to-Poverty Ratio in the Past 12 Months by State: 2006



Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

and Vermont (4.0 percent).[40] At the other end of the distribution, the District of Columbia had the highest proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios below 50 percent, at 10.5 percent.

About 17.6 percent of the population of the United States had an income-to-poverty ratio less than 125 percent, placing them in or near poverty. Maryland (10.5 percent), New Hampshire (10.5 percent), and Connecticut (10.9 percent) had the lowest proportion of people with income-to-poverty ratios less than 125 percent. Mississippi (27.9 percent) had the highest proportion of people living at or near the poverty level. Eleven states and the District of Columbia had at least 20 percent of their respective populations with income below 125 percent of the poverty thresholds.

Poverty Status for Counties and Places

This section discusses poverty rates for counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more. The report categorizes these counties and places into two groups based on their population size[41]—larger areas with populations of 250,000 or more and smaller areas with populations of 65,000 to less than 250,000. Data for these groups are presented in Tables 10 and 11.

Poverty in Larger Areas

Table 10 shows counties or county equivalents and places with populations of 250,000 or more. This table contains a list of the counties and places with ten of the highest and lowest poverty rates, together with their margins of error. In this table, the poverty rates for counties and places may not be statistically different from each other or from areas that are not shown.

Among the counties with populations of 250,000 or more, Hidalgo County, TX, (36.9 percent) and Cameron County, TX, (35.9 percent) had the highest proportion

[40] The percentages of people with income-to-poverty ratios under 50 percent for Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wyoming were not statistically different from each other.

[41] Population size is based on the 2006 population estimates released as part of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

Table 10.
Percentage in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for Ten of the Highest and Lowest Poverty-Rate Counties and Places With 250,000 or More People: 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	Ten of the highest rates		Area	Ten of the lowest rates	
	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)		Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)
Counties[3]			**Counties[3]**		
Hidalgo County, TX	36.9	2.1	Douglas County, CO	1.9	0.7
Cameron County, TX	35.9	2.6	Loudoun County, VA	2.9	0.9
Bronx County, NY	29.1	1.2	Morris County, NJ	3.9	0.8
El Paso County, TX	27.7	1.6	Hamilton County, IN	3.9	1.1
St. Louis city, MO	26.8	1.9	Waukesha County, WI	3.9	0.7
Philadelphia County, PA	25.1	1.1	Howard County, MD	4.2	1.0
Kings County, NY	22.6	0.8	Somerset County, NJ	4.4	1.2
Caddo Parish, LA	22.4	2.2	Ottawa County, MI	4.6	1.2
Nueces County, TX	22.1	2.0	Bucks County, PA	4.6	0.7
Tulare County, CA	21.6	2.2	Montgomery County, MD	4.6	0.6
Places[3]			**Places[3]**		
Detroit city, MI	32.5	1.8	Plano city, TX	5.1	1.3
Buffalo city, NY	29.9	2.6	Virginia Beach city, VA	7.2	1.1
Cincinnati city, OH	27.8	2.4	Colorado Springs city, CO	9.6	1.4
Cleveland city, OH	27.0	1.8	Anchorage municipality, AK	9.6	1.8
Miami city, FL	26.9	2.3	San Jose city, CA	10.3	0.8
St. Louis city, MO	26.8	1.9	Mesa city, AZ	11.0	1.7
El Paso city, TX	26.4	1.8	Las Vegas city, NV	11.2	1.4
Milwaukee city, WI	26.2	1.7	Honolulu CDP, HI	11.5	1.7
Philadelphia city, PA	25.1	1.1	San Francisco city, CA	12.1	1.1
Newark city, NJ	24.2	2.6	Anaheim city, CA	12.3	2.2

[1] Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters except people living in college dormitories or military barracks. Unrelated individuals under 15 years old are also excluded from the poverty universe.
[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.
[3] Population size is based on 2006 population estimates.

Note: Because of sampling variability, some of the estimates in this table may not be statistically different from one another or from estimates for other geographic areas not listed in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

of people with income below their poverty thresholds in the past 12 months.[42] Among these large counties, the proportion of people with income below the poverty threshold in the past 12 months was lower for Douglas County, CO, at 1.9 percent, than all but one other county in the same size category.[43] Other counties included in the list of the lowest poverty rates had poverty rates that were, in many cases, not statistically different from each other. For example, the poverty rate for Loudon County, VA, at 2.9 percent, was not statistically different from those of Morris County, NJ; Hamilton County, IN; and Waukesha County, WI, all at 3.9 percent. Table 10 also shows that Pennsylvania had one county on the highest list and one on the lowest list. The poverty rate for the large counties in Pennsylvania ranged from a low of 4.6 percent in Bucks County to a high of 25.1 percent in Philadelphia County.

Data for places show that Detroit city, MI, (32.5 percent) and Buffalo city, NY, (29.9 percent) had higher proportions of people in poverty in the past 12 months than other places with populations of 250,000 or more.[44] Among the large places, Plano city, TX, had the lowest percentage of people in poverty, at 5.1 percent, followed by Virginia Beach city, VA, at 7.2 percent. Poverty rates for Colorado Springs city, CO, and Anchorage municipality, AK, both at 9.6 percent, were not statistically different from those of San Jose city, CA; Mesa city, AZ; Las Vegas city, NV; and Honolulu CDP, HI. The poverty rates for large places in Texas ranged from a low of 5.1 percent in Plano city to a high of 26.4 percent in El Paso city.

[42] The poverty rates for Hidalgo County, TX, and Cameron County, TX, are not statistically different from each other.

[43] The poverty rates for Douglas County, CO, and Loudoun County, VA, are not statistically different from each other.

[44] The poverty rate for Detroit city, MI, is not statistically different from the rate for Buffalo city, NY. The poverty rate for Buffalo city is not statistically different from Cincinnati city, OH; Cleveland city, OH; Miami city, FL; and St. Louis city, MO.

Table 11.
Percentage in Poverty in the Past 12 Months for Ten of the Highest and Lowest Poverty-Rate Counties and Places With 65,000 to 249,999 People: 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

Area	Ten of the highest rates		Area	Ten of the lowest rates	
	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)		Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)
Counties[3]			**Counties[3]**		
McKinley County, NM	44.0	5.8	Hanover County, VA	2.6	1.1
Apache County, AZ	34.6	4.8	Ozaukee County, WI	2.7	1.2
Clarke County, GA	30.8	3.0	Calvert County, MD	2.8	1.2
Webb County, TX	29.9	3.8	Carroll County, MD	3.1	0.9
Robeson County, NC	29.5	4.2	Harford County, MD	3.3	1.0
St. Landry Parish, LA	29.2	4.5	Hunterdon County, NJ	3.5	1.1
Orangeburg County, SC	28.9	4.5	Rockwall County, TX	3.5	1.5
Brazos County, TX	28.3	2.7	Scott County, MN	3.7	1.2
Dougherty County, GA	27.9	3.6	Delaware County, OH	3.7	1.1
Tangipahoa Parish, LA	25.5	3.8	Fauquier County, VA	3.9	2.0
Places[3]			**Places[3]**		
Brownsville city, TX	40.6	4.0	Highlands Ranch CDP, CO	1.4	1.1
College Station city, TX	37.3	4.3	Allen city, TX	2.2	1.7
Camden city, NJ	35.6	4.8	Yorba Linda city, CA	2.7	1.9
Edinburg city, TX	35.4	6.7	Pleasanton city, CA	2.7	1.2
Bloomington city, IN	34.7	3.3	Newton city, MA	3.0	1.1
Flint city, MI	34.1	4.4	Flower Mound town, TX	3.1	2.1
Kalamazoo city, MI	33.4	5.1	Naperville city, IL	3.1	1.1
Florence-Graham CDP, CA	33.0	5.7	Chino Hills city, CA	3.2	2.0
Gary city, IN	32.8	4.8	Troy city, MI	3.2	1.3
Muncie city, IN	32.6	4.2	Danbury city, CT	3.5	1.2

[1] Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters except people living in college dormitories or military barracks. Unrelated individuals under 15 years old are also excluded from the poverty universe.

[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.

[3] Population size is based on 2006 population estimates.

Note: Because of sampling variability, some of the estimates in this table may not be statistically different from one another or from estimates for other geographic areas not listed in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Poverty in Smaller Areas

Table 11 presents data for ten of the highest and ten of the lowest poverty rates among counties and places with populations of 65,000 to less than 250,000. As noted with Table 10, the poverty rates for counties and places may not be statistically different from each other or from areas that are not shown.

Among counties of such sizes, McKinley County, NM, had the highest proportion of people in poverty (44.0 percent) in the past 12 months. The poverty rate for Apache County, AZ, (34.6 percent) was not statistically different from the rates of all but three other counties of comparable size presented in Table 11—Brazos County, TX; Daugherty County, GA; and Tangipahoa Parish, LA.[45]

Poverty rates for ten of the low-poverty, small counties were not statistically different from each other. For Texas, poverty rates for counties with populations of 65,000 to less than 250,000 ranged from 3.5 percent in Rockwall County to 29.9 percent in Webb County.[46]

Table 11 also presents data for places with populations of 65,000 to less than 250,000 people. Of the small places listed in Table 11, the poverty rate for Brownsville city, TX, (40.6 percent)—while not statistically different from the estimates for College Station city, TX, (37.3 percent); Camden city, NJ, (35.6 percent); and Edinburg city, TX, (35.4 percent)—was higher than that of all of the other smaller places. Similarly, among the smaller places with low poverty rates, Highlands Ranch CDP, CO, (1.4 percent) was not statistically different from all but three of the other places in Table 11.[47] Five of the twenty small places listed in Table 11 are located in Texas, where the poverty rate for small cities ranged from a low of 2.2 percent in Allen city to a high of 40.6 percent in Brownsville city.[48]

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[45] The poverty rate for Apache County, AZ, is not statistically different from Clarke County, GA; Webb County, TX; Robeson County, NC; St. Landry Parish, LA; and Orangeburg County, SC.

[46] The poverty rates for Webb County and Brazos County in Texas are not statistically different from each other.

[47] The poverty rate for Highlands Ranch CDP, CO, is not statistically different from the rates for Allen city, TX; Yorba Linda city, CA; Pleasanton city, CA; Chino Hills city, CA; Newton city, MA; and Flower Mound town, TX.

[48] The poverty rate for Brownsville city, TX, is not statistically different from the rates for College Station city, TX, and Edinburg city, TX, and the poverty rate for Allen city, TX, is not statistically different from the rates for Flower Mound town, TX; Frisco city, TX; and Round Rock city, TX.

Table 12.
Number and Percentage of Families in Poverty in the Past 12 Months by State: 2005 and 2006

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/acs/www/*)

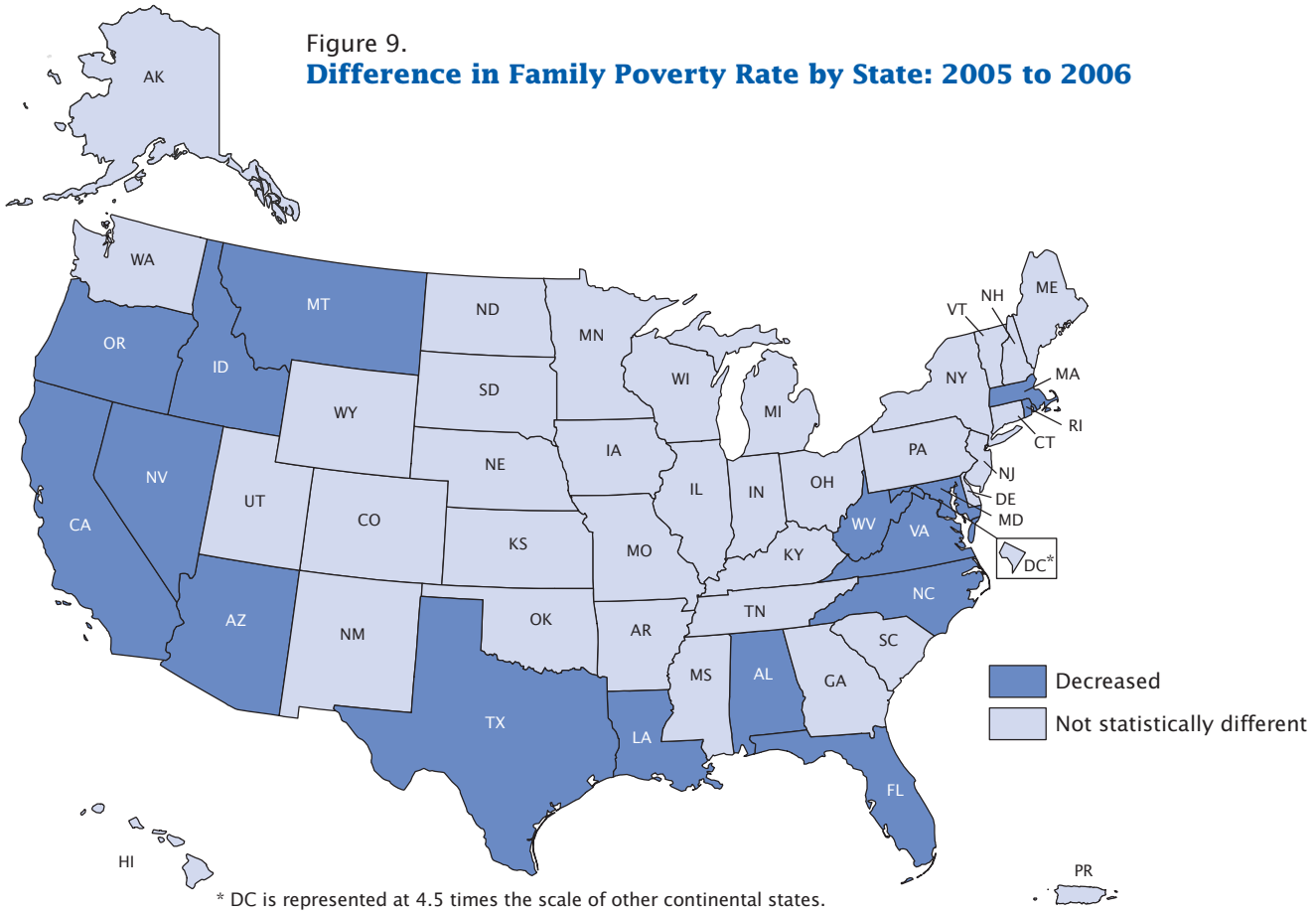
Area	Below poverty in 2005				Below poverty in 2006				Change in poverty (2006 less 2005)[3]			
	Number		Percent		Number		Percent		Number		Percent	
	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)	Estimate[1]	Margin of error[2] (±)
United States	**7,605,363**	**58,009**	**10.2**	**0.1**	**7,282,926**	**39,072**	**9.8**	**0.1**	***–322,437**	**69,941**	***–0.5**	**0.1**
Alabama	167,857	7,428	13.7	0.6	153,968	6,153	12.6	0.5	*–13,889	9,645	*–1.1	0.8
Alaska	12,968	1,614	8.3	1.1	12,892	1,711	8.2	1.0	–76	2,352	–0.1	1.5
Arizona	158,604	7,033	10.9	0.5	148,379	6,609	10.1	0.4	*–10,225	9,651	*–0.8	0.6
Arkansas	99,721	4,872	13.4	0.6	98,994	5,334	13.1	0.7	–727	7,224	–0.4	0.9
California	850,405	18,986	10.3	0.2	808,722	15,542	9.7	0.2	*–41,683	24,536	*–0.5	0.3
Colorado	96,785	5,459	8.3	0.5	100,852	5,718	8.4	0.5	4,067	7,905	0.1	0.7
Connecticut	55,456	4,425	6.2	0.5	52,378	3,369	5.9	0.4	–3,078	5,562	–0.4	0.6
Delaware	16,516	1,819	7.6	0.8	16,254	2,392	7.6	1.1	–262	3,005	–	1.3
District of Columbia	18,159	2,329	16.7	2.1	17,690	2,103	16.3	1.8	–469	3,138	–0.5	2.7
Florida	445,037	12,652	9.7	0.3	417,106	11,793	9.0	0.2	*–27,931	17,296	*–0.7	0.4
Georgia	264,016	8,018	11.6	0.4	254,447	8,999	11.1	0.4	–9,569	12,053	–0.5	0.5
Hawaii	23,445	2,356	7.7	0.8	21,376	2,564	7.1	0.8	–2,069	3,482	–0.6	1.1
Idaho	38,217	2,558	10.3	0.7	35,602	2,629	9.3	0.7	–2,615	3,668	*–1.0	1.0
Illinois	286,603	8,918	9.2	0.3	285,732	8,528	9.1	0.3	–871	12,339	–0.1	0.4
Indiana	148,206	6,405	9.0	0.4	148,710	6,770	9.0	0.4	504	9,320	–	0.6
Iowa	59,201	3,194	7.5	0.4	58,184	3,653	7.3	0.4	–1,017	4,853	–0.2	0.6
Kansas	60,394	3,607	8.4	0.5	62,329	3,366	8.6	0.5	1,935	4,934	0.2	0.7
Kentucky	149,521	6,042	13.4	0.5	144,528	5,686	13.1	0.5	–4,993	8,297	–0.3	0.7
Louisiana	183,193	7,669	16.1	0.7	154,976	6,335	14.4	0.6	*–28,217	9,947	*–1.7	0.9
Maine	32,066	2,632	9.0	0.7	31,261	2,882	8.7	0.8	–805	3,903	–0.3	1.1
Maryland	83,703	5,909	6.0	0.4	73,947	4,819	5.3	0.3	*–9,756	7,625	*–0.7	0.5
Massachusetts	118,636	5,965	7.6	0.4	109,375	5,804	7.0	0.4	*–9,261	8,323	*–0.6	0.5
Michigan	257,314	7,963	9.9	0.3	248,142	7,383	9.6	0.3	–9,172	10,859	–0.3	0.4
Minnesota	81,468	5,030	6.1	0.4	86,283	4,037	6.5	0.3	4,815	6,450	0.4	0.5
Mississippi	127,358	4,685	16.8	0.6	124,673	5,132	16.8	0.7	–2,685	6,949	–	0.9
Missouri	151,576	6,378	10.0	0.4	151,387	6,587	10.0	0.4	–189	9,169	–	0.6
Montana	24,840	2,391	10.5	1.0	20,646	2,154	8.6	0.8	*–4,194	3,218	*–1.9	1.3
Nebraska	37,281	2,490	8.2	0.5	36,189	2,775	7.8	0.6	–1,092	3,728	–0.4	0.8
Nevada	52,195	4,366	8.9	0.7	46,425	3,148	7.6	0.5	*–5,770	5,383	*–1.3	0.9
New Hampshire	17,776	2,243	5.3	0.7	16,538	2,072	4.9	0.6	–1,238	3,053	–0.3	0.9
New Jersey	147,341	7,664	6.8	0.3	140,564	6,933	6.4	0.3	–6,777	10,335	–0.3	0.4
New Mexico	69,023	3,773	14.3	0.8	65,785	3,955	13.8	0.8	–3,238	5,466	–0.5	1.1
New York	513,009	13,030	11.1	0.3	496,913	11,251	10.9	0.2	–16,096	17,215	–0.3	0.4
North Carolina	268,889	8,658	11.7	0.4	247,571	8,408	10.7	0.3	*–21,318	12,069	*–1.0	0.5
North Dakota	12,368	1,743	7.5	1.0	11,872	1,430	7.0	0.8	–496	2,255	–0.4	1.3
Ohio	296,649	9,274	9.9	0.3	290,458	9,500	9.8	0.3	–6,191	13,276	–0.1	0.4
Oklahoma	122,312	5,887	13.1	0.6	118,323	5,008	12.8	0.5	–3,989	7,729	–0.3	0.8
Oregon	91,400	4,290	10.1	0.5	85,627	5,541	9.2	0.6	–5,773	7,008	*–0.8	0.8
Pennsylvania	273,725	6,836	8.6	0.2	261,820	8,126	8.2	0.2	*–11,905	10,619	–0.3	0.3
Rhode Island	24,624	2,752	9.5	1.1	20,335	2,202	7.8	0.8	*–4,289	3,525	*–1.8	1.4
South Carolina	138,152	6,047	12.5	0.5	133,563	5,870	11.9	0.5	–4,589	8,427	–0.6	0.7
South Dakota	19,721	2,120	9.7	1.0	17,288	1,722	8.4	0.8	–2,433	2,731	–1.3	1.3
Tennessee	200,166	9,041	12.5	0.5	198,371	7,192	12.4	0.4	–1,795	11,553	–0.1	0.7
Texas	795,699	15,518	14.2	0.3	758,920	13,266	13.3	0.2	*–36,779	20,416	*–0.9	0.4
Utah	47,313	3,226	8.0	0.5	47,949	3,421	7.8	0.5	636	4,702	–0.2	0.7
Vermont	12,090	1,701	7.7	1.1	10,965	1,382	6.7	0.8	–1,125	2,191	–1.0	1.4
Virginia	142,638	5,627	7.4	0.3	131,718	6,055	6.8	0.3	*–10,920	8,266	*–0.6	0.4
Washington	132,984	6,161	8.4	0.4	127,775	5,616	8.0	0.3	–5,209	8,336	–0.4	0.5
West Virginia	69,897	4,634	14.0	0.9	63,781	3,822	12.7	0.8	*–6,116	6,007	*–1.3	1.2
Wisconsin	100,381	4,561	7.0	0.3	106,719	4,531	7.3	0.3	6,338	6,429	0.4	0.4
Wyoming	8,465	1,441	6.3	1.1	8,624	1,448	6.3	1.1	159	2,043	–	1.5
Puerto Rico	392,942	9,149	41.1	0.8	391,102	8,928	41.6	0.8	–1,840	12,783	0.6	1.1

* Significant at a 90-percent confidence level.
– Represents or rounds to zero.

[1] Poverty status is determined for individuals in housing units and noninstitutional group quarters except people living in college dormitories or military barracks. Unrelated individuals under 15 years old are also excluded from the poverty universe.
[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. The margin of error is the estimated 90-percent confidence interval.
[3] Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2006 American Community Surveys and Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Figure 9.
Difference in Family Poverty Rate by State: 2005 to 2006



* DC is represented at 4.5 times the scale of other continental states.
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2006 American Community Surveys and Puerto Rico Community Surveys.

Poverty Status of Families

Table 12 and Figure 9 show poverty rates for all families interviewed in 2005 and 2006 by state. In 2006, 9.8 percent of all families in the nation were in poverty in the past 12 months. During the same period, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the estimated poverty rate for all families varied from a low of 4.9 percent to a high of 16.8 percent. New Hampshire and Maryland had lower poverty rates for families than all the other states, at 4.9 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively.[49] On the other side of the distribution, Mississippi, at 16.8 percent, and the District of Columbia, at 16.3 percent, had higher poverty rates for families than all the other states.[50] The 2006 ACS data also showed that poverty rates for families in seven states (Arizona, 10.1 percent; California, 9.7 percent; Idaho, 9.3 percent; Michigan, 9.6 percent; Missouri, 10.0 percent; Ohio, 9.8 percent; and Oregon, 9.2 percent) were not statistically different from the national average of 9.8 percent.

According to Table 12, the poverty rate for the United States for all families declined from 10.2 percent in 2005 to 9.8 percent in 2006. In the same period, family poverty rates fell in 16 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia (Figure 9). No states experienced an increase in the family poverty rate.

[49] The poverty rates for families in New Hampshire and Maryland are not statistically different from each other, and the poverty rates for families in Maryland and Wyoming are not statistically different from each other.

[50] The poverty rates for families in Mississippi and the District of Columbia are not statistically different from each other, and the poverty rates for families in the District of Columbia and Louisiana are not statistically different from each other.

SOURCE OF THE ESTIMATES

The data in this report are from the 2005 and 2006 ACS and the 2005 and 2006 Puerto Rico Community Survey. The population covered in this report (the population universe) includes the population living in both households and group quarters. As described briefly in the introduction, the different units of analysis are used for income and poverty in the different sections of this report. The section on household income does not include the group quarters population. The section on earnings includes all people 16 years and older regardless of living quarters (including people in households and all types of group quarters). The poverty universe excludes unrelated individuals under 15 years of age, people living in institutional group quarters, and people living in college dormitories and military barracks. The 2006 ACS estimated that 8.1 million people, or 2.7 percent of the total population, in the 50 states and the District of Columbia lived in group quarters. Of this population, 4.1 million lived in places classified as institutions and 2.3 million lived in college dormitories. Among people in group quarters, 15.7 percent were part of the poverty universe.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Data from the ACS are based on a sample and are estimates of the actual figures that would have been obtained by interviewing the entire population using the same methodology. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless noted otherwise. This means the 90-percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. In this report, the 90-percent margins of error for the estimates are included in the tables in the columns labeled "Margin of error" and in Figures 1 and 7.

Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing they are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are keyed, coded, edited, and classified. Nonsampling errors in the ACS may affect the data in two ways. Errors that are introduced randomly increase the variability of the estimates. Systematic errors consistent in one direction introduce bias into the results. The Census Bureau protects against systematic errors by conducting extensive research and evaluation programs on sampling techniques, questionnaire design, and data collection and processing procedures.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over- or undercoverage, but biases may still be present, for example, when people who were missed differ from those interviewed in ways other than sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "2006 ACS Accuracy of the Data" document located at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2006.pdf>.

Measures of ACS quality—including sample size and number of interviews, response and nonresponse rates, coverage rates, and item allocation rates—are available at <www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/sse/index.htm>.