

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).