



# THE STATE OF POVERTY IN THE U.S.

June 2023

- The official poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6 percent, with 37.9 million living people in poverty in the United States.
- 10.3% of people 65 and over live in poverty.
- 16.1% of families with children under the age of 6 live in poverty.
- Official poverty rates decreased for people under the age of 18 and increased for people 65 years and older, but were not statistically different for 18- to 64-year-olds.
- In 2020, 19.6% of African Americans lived below the poverty line.
- In 2020, 20% of American Indians and Alaskan Natives lived below the poverty line.
- The median annual wage in 2021 in the U.S. was \$45,760, an increase of 9.08%.
- More people were insured in 2021 than 2020. In 2021, 8.3 percent of people, or 27.2 million, did not have health insurance at any point during the year, representing a decrease in the uninsured rate and number of uninsured from 2020 (8.6 percent or 28.3 million).
- In 2021, 5% of children under the age of 19 did not have health insurance.
- The two states with the highest poverty rates are Louisiana and Mississippi.

## How the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Helps

One of the largest charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international, nonprofit, Catholic lay organization of about 800,000 men and women who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 153 countries on five continents. Membership in the United States totals nearly 90,000 in more than 4,000 communities.

SVdP offers a variety of programs and services, including Home Visits, housing assistance, disaster relief, education and mentoring, food pantries, dining halls, clothing, assistance with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs. The Society also works to provide care for the sick, the incarcerated, and the elderly. No work of charity is foreign to the Society.

In 2021, SVdP provided more than \$1.5 billion in tangible and in-kind services to those in need, made more than 1.5 million personal visits/contacts (homes, hospitals, prisons, and eldercare facilities), and helped more than 4.2 million neighbors in need, regardless of their race, religion, or national origin.

Source: U.S Census Data. (n.d.). *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months 2020 ACS 1Y EST*. American Community Survey. Retrieved June 23, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/>

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