



Illinois

September 22, 2014 (version 2)

In 2013, the official poverty rate for the nation was 14.5%. There were 45.3 million people in poverty nationwide. This is down from 15.0% in 2012, but still the poverty rate remains much higher than the pre-recession level of 12.5% in 2007. In fact, this is the first decrease in poverty nationally since 2006.

Illinois has not experienced the improvement reflected in the national poverty rate. New Illinois data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that no progress has been made in the fight against poverty since last year. In 2013, 1.85 million Illinoisans were in poverty — a rate of 14.7%. An additional 2.2 million Illinoisans are near poor and economically insecure with incomes between 100% and 199% of the federal poverty measure.

2013 is the fourth year of an economic recovery that began in 2009, which year after year has failed to reach the middle class and down. These figures offer a stark reminder that though the economy seemingly improves, absent meaningful policy improvements and solutions even the most robust economy cannot wipe out poverty.

Illinois

	2007		2012		2013	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	1,496,248	11.9	1,850,562*	14.7*	1,845,393	14.7
Extreme Poverty	667,578	5.3	820,554*	6.5*	855,537*	6.8*
Low Income	2,029,262	16.2	2,217,821*	17.6*	2,169,443	17.2
Related Child Poverty	511,142	16.3	614,493*	20.4*	605,355	20.4
No Health Insurance†	1,597,086	14.2	1,602,960	14.5	1,596,241	14.5
Median Household Income	\$60,936	--	\$55,938*	--	\$56,210	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant.

† Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008 — the first year they were collected — rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65.

Chicago

	2007		2012		2013	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	550,580	20.5	636,319*	23.9*	611,717*	23.0
Extreme Poverty	244,498	9.1	282,821*	10.6*	287,093	10.8
Low Income	554,636	20.6	573,258	21.5	555,653	20.9
Related Child Poverty	201,748	30.6	207,002	34.3*	198,074	33.8
No Health Insurance†	526,082	21.6	508,471	21.1	521,525	21.6
Median Household Income	\$51,124	--	\$45,871*	--	\$47,099	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant.

† Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008 — the first year they were collected — rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65.

6-County Region

	2007		2012		2013	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	936,259	11.3	1,194,554	14.5	1,172,156	14.2
Extreme Poverty	416,119	5.0	520,148*	6.3*	535,161	6.5
Low Income	1,277,860	15.4	1,420,591*	17.2	1,386,348	16.8
Related Child Poverty	339,216	15.8	411,653*	20.4*	396,061	20.0
No Health Insurance [†]	1,151,068	15.4	1,156,021	15.8*	1,168,707	16.0
Median Household Income ^{††}	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant.

[†] Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008 — the first year they were collected — rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65.

^{††} Estimates of median household income are not available for this geography.

Suburban 6-County Region (no Chicago)

	2007		2012		2013	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	385,679	6.9	558,235	10.0	560,439	10.0
Extreme Poverty	171,621	3.1	237,327*	4.3*	248,068	4.4
Low Income	723,224	12.9	847,333*	15.2	830,695	14.9
Related Child Poverty	137,468	9.2	204,651*	14.5*	197,987	14.2
No Health Insurance [†]	624,986	12.4	647,550	13.1	647,182	13.2
Median Household Income ^{††}	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant.

[†] Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008 — the first year they were collected — rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65.

^{††} Estimates of median household income are not available for this geography.

6-County region includes the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.





Measuring Poverty

Official poverty data are based on the federal poverty thresholds, which are used to determine poverty status. The measure is not geographically specific and does not reflect what it takes for families to make ends meet.

What does it really take to make ends meet?

Far more people struggle to make ends meet than the official poverty data suggest. The Illinois Basic Economic Security Tables™ (BEST™) show that it takes a family of 3 (adult, preschooler, school-age child) \$72,420 to be economically secure in Illinois.

2013 FEDERAL POVERTY THRESHOLDS

Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
	\$6,060	\$12,119	\$24,238
	\$7,800	\$15,600	\$31,200
	\$9,111	\$18,222	\$36,444
	\$12,014	\$24,028	\$48,056

All data are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates program. The American Community Survey released estimates on 2013 income, poverty, and health insurance coverage, which are the most current data available for geographies with populations over 65,000. For more information on the American Community Survey, visit www.census.gov/acs/www/. Statistical significance refers to the probability that the observed changes are "true" rather than the result of an error in sampling or estimation. Data included here are statistically significant at the 90th percentile. For more information on the Illinois Basic Economic Security Tables™, visit <http://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/illinois-cost-of-living/>.

The Social IMPACT Research Center (IMPACT) at Heartland Alliance works with nonprofits, foundations, and governments to measure and grow their social impact. We are experts on issues related to poverty, housing, homelessness, employment, human services, health and nutrition, education, and asset development. To learn more, visit www.socialimpactresearchcenter.org, follow us on Twitter @IMPACTHeartland or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/social.impact.research.