

Child poverty rates vary substantially by state and race/ethnicity. More than 20 percent of White children are poor in Kentucky, New Mexico, Texas and West Virginia. A White child is almost four times as likely to be poor in New Mexico as Maryland. In 12 states, more than 40 percent of Black children are poor. A Black child in Mississippi is more than twice as likely to be poor as one in New Jersey. Asian/Pacific Islander children are the least likely of any racial or ethnic group to live in poverty, but an Asian/Pacific Islander child in Wisconsin is almost three times as likely to be poor as one in Virginia.

Child Poverty, by Race/Ethnicity: 2007

	White		Black		Asian, Pacific Islander	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	107,784	15.1%	146,544	43.2%	1,279	12.5%
Alaska	7,390	7.0	—	—	702	10.1
Arizona	185,963	16.5	22,870	31.3	5,171	14.5
Arkansas	90,629	18.5	64,476	48.1	1,495	13.6
California	748,918	14.8	169,192	28.3	105,102	11.1
Colorado	126,748	13.8	15,708	28.0	4,210	14.0
Connecticut	42,725	7.2	20,710	22.1	3,395	11.9
Delaware	11,973	9.2	14,354	30.1	—	—
District of Columbia	574	2.3	23,687	31.3	—	—
Florida	328,512	12.2	255,884	31.1	10,750	11.4
Georgia	162,566	11.7	267,440	32.0	7,045	10.5
Hawaii	6,061	10.3	—	—	10,397	10.2
Idaho	52,002	14.5	—	—	687	15.4
Illinois	192,587	9.6	212,068	38.6	13,219	10.8
Indiana	174,420	13.9	58,345	35.7	2,964	14.6
Iowa	68,138	11.1	10,683	44.5	1,887	15.1
Kansas	63,942	11.6	16,322	33.4	1,521	10.6
Kentucky	176,202	21.0	42,661	46.7	1,894	19.9
Louisiana	82,192	13.7	183,922	45.7	2,327	16.8
Maine	35,080	14.1	—	—	—	—
Maryland	44,824	6.1	80,371	18.6	3,246	5.5
Massachusetts	97,054	8.9	29,579	27.6	8,871	13.1
Michigan	234,428	13.2	182,504	44.1	7,558	12.2
Minnesota	82,371	8.1	31,563	41.1	13,082	23.9
Mississippi	51,920	13.4	161,172	47.7	—	—
Missouri	154,673	14.0	72,046	36.6	2,657	13.4
Montana	27,206	15.0	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	41,065	11.1	11,376	52.5	—	—
Nevada	56,232	12.7	17,665	31.0	1,535	4.8
New Hampshire	22,554	8.4	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	92,898	7.1	75,750	23.3	10,346	6.9
New Mexico	72,254	23.8	1,905	15.3	—	—
New York	340,151	13.1	233,077	29.1	48,956	17.5
North Carolina	167,671	12.2	181,410	34.2	4,469	10.9
North Dakota	11,384	9.5	—	—	—	—
Ohio	286,326	13.4	170,392	44.3	2,880	7.4
Oklahoma	106,785	18.0	29,850	37.4	1,155	9.1
Oregon	102,251	15.2	6,796	38.5	3,863	12.3
Pennsylvania	235,275	11.1	131,784	36.4	9,560	13.8
Rhode Island	19,748	11.6	4,700	26.4	—	—
South Carolina	79,025	12.5	127,284	36.6	567	4.9
South Dakota	15,928	10.3	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	181,451	17.2	129,053	43.0	2,281	12.0
Texas	864,737	20.1	265,798	33.2	24,188	12.2
Utah	69,936	9.9	—	—	787	5.9
Vermont	14,033	11.6	—	—	—	—
Virginia	99,616	8.6	104,469	26.4	6,281	7.4
Washington	142,700	12.7	21,407	34.0	11,933	12.1
West Virginia	76,658	21.9	5,542	35.8	—	—
Wisconsin	102,910	9.8	52,265	45.8	6,890	19.3
Wyoming	12,279	11.4	—	—	—	—
United States	6,570,749	13.3	3,661,343	34.5	361,745	12.0

—Number of poor children in sample too small to calculate reliable counts or rates.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2007 American Community Survey, Table B17001, parts A through I. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

More than half of all Native American children in South Dakota are poor, where they are more than three times as likely to be poor as a Native American child in New York. More than 40 percent of Hispanic children in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island are poor. An Hispanic child in these states is more than three times as likely to be poor as one in Hawaii.

Child Poverty, by Race/Ethnicity: 2007 (continued)

	American Indian, Alaska Native		Two or more races		Hispanic	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Alabama	1,382	30.8%	7,785	27.8%	15,448	34.9%
Alaska	7,358	25.6	3,440	14.2	1,636	12.3
Arizona	35,127	39.6	10,841	13.3	197,081	28.6
Arkansas	1,769	36.4	7,761	34.9	21,701	38.4
California	14,918	25.6	72,629	12.1	1,064,013	23.6
Colorado	3,659	30.7	11,233	18.7	106,732	32.3
Connecticut	—	—	5,598	16.5	37,478	29.1
Delaware	—	—	—	—	6,284	30.5
District of Columbia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	2,996	26.6	26,177	19.0	204,963	21.1
Georgia	—	—	9,950	16.3	79,418	30.3
Hawaii	—	—	10,449	9.4	4,708	12.6
Idaho	2,249	33.8	3,149	20.9	18,010	30.0
Illinois	619	16.2	17,935	17.7	138,169	21.0
Indiana	—	—	14,801	26.8	33,354	29.3
Iowa	—	—	8,141	35.3	13,988	30.5
Kansas	1,267	22.5	6,417	18.1	29,075	32.2
Kentucky	—	—	8,175	29.8	12,396	39.1
Louisiana	2,044	41.5	11,625	42.7	7,536	20.1
Maine	—	—	2,973	28.1	831	16.4
Maryland	—	—	4,873	8.7	11,897	10.5
Massachusetts	—	—	11,178	20.6	68,563	40.4
Michigan	3,037	25.3	23,632	25.5	43,813	31.2
Minnesota	5,072	36.9	10,038	18.4	20,130	26.2
Mississippi	—	—	3,678	27.5	3,431	21.8
Missouri	1,479	37.3	10,965	22.1	18,181	28.3
Montana	9,251	46.6	2,196	19.8	1,998	20.2
Nebraska	1,826	52.6	5,165	26.1	14,345	28.3
Nevada	2,124	25.5	4,129	10.9	49,559	20.7
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—	2,048	19.1
New Jersey	—	—	8,306	12.6	82,993	20.8
New Mexico	19,275	36.9	6,340	25.3	81,880	31.2
New York	2,263	16.9	31,566	20.5	292,217	32.9
North Carolina	9,366	33.2	18,685	25.7	73,708	31.6
North Dakota	5,448	46.1	—	—	—	—
Ohio	1,493	32.3	26,490	25.9	29,969	30.5
Oklahoma	21,458	29.4	25,354	29.5	39,733	39.6
Oregon	8,669	39.6	11,723	21.1	46,518	31.4
Pennsylvania	720	19.0	27,618	32.1	79,143	40.0
Rhode Island	—	—	2,335	25.7	17,295	41.6
South Carolina	—	—	6,454	24.1	15,539	26.6
South Dakota	13,676	56.0	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	—	—	8,282	21.6	26,322	34.2
Texas	7,320	27.7	39,837	19.0	978,205	33.0
Utah	3,047	33.9	5,545	17.2	30,019	25.3
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	—	—	12,164	15.8	26,634	16.7
Washington	7,655	32.4	17,297	16.0	70,463	30.2
West Virginia	—	—	3,398	39.3	2,151	30.2
Wisconsin	5,695	43.4	9,738	22.6	22,022	22.4
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	2,542	20.7
United States	210,708	32.9	584,069	18.9	4,149,038	27.5

—Number of poor children in sample too small to calculate reliable counts or rates.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2007 American Community Survey, Table B17001, parts A through I. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

More than half of all poor White children live in nine states: Texas, California, New York, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Arizona.

Largest Number of Poor White Children: Top 10 States in 2007

	Number poor	Percent poor
Texas	864,737	20.1%
California	748,918	14.8
New York	340,151	13.1
Florida	328,512	12.2
Ohio	286,326	13.4
Pennsylvania	235,275	11.1
Michigan	234,428	13.2
Illinois	192,587	9.6
Arizona	185,963	16.5
Tennessee	181,451	17.2

More than half of all poor Black children live in nine states: Georgia, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina and Ohio.

Largest Number of Poor Black Children: Top 10 States in 2007

	Number poor	Percent poor
Georgia	267,440	32.0%
Texas	265,798	33.2
Florida	255,884	31.1
New York	233,077	29.1
Illinois	212,068	38.6
Louisiana	183,922	45.7
Michigan	182,504	44.1
North Carolina	181,410	34.2
Ohio	170,392	44.3
California	169,192	28.3

More than half of all poor Hispanic children live in only three states: California, Texas and New York.

Largest Number of Poor Hispanic Children: Top 10 States in 2007

	Number poor	Percent poor
California	1,064,013	23.6%
Texas	978,205	33.0
New York	292,217	32.9
Florida	204,963	21.1
Arizona	197,081	28.6
Illinois	138,169	21.0
Colorado	106,732	32.3
New Jersey	82,993	20.8
New Mexico	81,880	31.2
Georgia	79,418	30.3

More than half of all poor Asian and Pacific Islander children live in four states: California, New York, Texas and Illinois.

Largest Number of Poor Asian and Pacific Islander Children: Top 10 States in 2007

	Number poor	Percent poor
California	105,102	11.1%
New York	48,956	17.5
Texas	24,188	12.2
Illinois	13,219	10.8
Minnesota	13,082	23.9
Washington	11,933	12.1
Florida	10,750	11.4
Hawaii	10,397	10.2
New Jersey	10,346	6.9
Pennsylvania	9,560	13.8

More than half of all poor American Indian and Alaska Native children live in six states: Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, California, South Dakota and North Carolina.

Largest Number of Poor American Indian and Alaska Native Children: Top 10 States in 2007

	Number poor	Percent poor
Arizona	35,127	39.6%
Oklahoma	21,458	29.4
New Mexico	19,275	36.9
California	14,918	25.6
South Dakota	13,676	56.0
North Carolina	9,366	33.2
Montana	9,251	46.6
Oregon	8,669	39.6
Washington	7,655	32.4
Alaska	7,358	25.6