A Snapshot of Poverty in California

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Although Poverty Declined in 2015, Many People Are Still Not Sharing in California’s Recent Economic Gains

Percentage of Californians With Incomes Below the Official Federal Poverty Line

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Economic Hardship Is More Common Across All Age Groups Under a Better Measure of Poverty

Average Annual Percentage of Californians in Poverty, 2013-2015

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data
For Most Groups, Children Are More Likely to Live in Poverty Based on a Better Measure of Hardship

Average Annual Percentage of California Children in Poverty, 2013-2015

Note: Racial and ethnic groups are mutually exclusive. Asian, black, white, and “other” exclude children who also identify as Latino. “Other” includes Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and children who identify with more than one race.

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data
Public Supports Lift Many California Children Out of Poverty Each Year

Average Annual Number of Children Lifted Above the Poverty Line, 2009 to 2012

Note: This analysis is based on the US Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure after correcting for underreported public supports using US Department of Health and Human Services data and the Urban Institute TRIM model.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Poverty Rates Remain High in Many Parts of the State, Even in Places Where Job Gains Have Been Strong

Percentage-Point Difference in Official Federal Poverty Rate Between 2007 and 2015

More Than 8.0 Percentage Points Higher
4.1 to 8.0 Percentage Points Higher
Up to 4.0 Percentage Points Higher
No Statistically Significant Difference
No Data Available

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data
State of the State: Policies to Foster Economic Opportunity in California