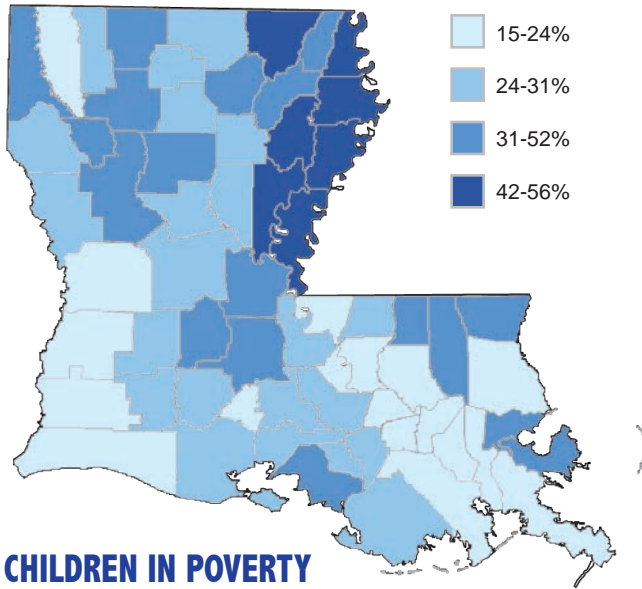


POVERTY AND INCOME



CHILDREN IN POVERTY
(PERCENT) — 2007

PEOPLE IN POVERTY

DEFINITION: Estimated number and percentage of people with incomes lower than the federal poverty threshold. In 2007, the federal poverty threshold for a family of four was \$20,650.

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch, Washington D.C. Final release date for 2007 estimates: December 2008

RATE CALCULATION: $100 * (\text{number of people in poverty} \div \text{total population in the poverty universe})$

CHILDREN (AGES 0-17) IN POVERTY

DEFINITION: Estimated number and percentage of children under age 18 whose family incomes are less than the federal poverty threshold.

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch, Washington D.C. Final release date for 2007 estimates: December 2008

RATE CALCULATION: $100 * (\text{estimated number of children ages 0-17 in poverty} \div \text{total number of children ages 0-17 in the poverty universe})$

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

DEFINITION: Estimated point at which one half of all households have higher incomes and one half of all households have lower incomes.

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch, Washington D.C. Final release date for 2007 estimates: December 2008

SIGNIFICANCE

A family's income has a major impact on a child's overall well-being. Children from low-income families are more likely than their higher-income peers to experience negative outcomes ranging from being born at a low birthweight to dropping out of school.¹ Research consistently shows that experiencing poverty during early childhood is closely correlated with poorer educational outcomes in later years. The National Center for Children in Poverty reports that at age 4, children who live in poverty are 18 months behind what is normal for their age group, and the gap remains unchanged at age 10.²

In addition to impacting a child's educational achievement, poverty is also associated with poor health outcomes for children. The 2007 National Survey of Children's Health found that parents in households with incomes below the poverty line were much more likely to report that their child was in fair or poor health than parents in higher-income households. Overall, 8.4% poor children were reported to be in fair or poor health, while the same was true for less than 2% of children in households with incomes above 200% of the FPL.³

Louisiana has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country, behind only Mississippi. In 2007, 27% of Louisiana children lived in families with income below the federal poverty line.⁴ Children are at a higher risk for being poor than adults, including both working-age adults and the elderly. In 2007, the child poverty rate in Louisiana was twice as large as the elderly poverty rate (13%) and significantly higher than the poverty rate for adults ages 18-64, which was 16%.⁵

Child poverty rates vary widely across Louisiana. East Carroll's child poverty rate (56%) is more than 3.7 times as large as St. Tammany's child poverty rate (15%). Only four Louisiana parishes—Ascension, Livingston, St. Charles, and St. Tammany—have child poverty rates that are below the national average of 18%.

RACIAL DISPARITIES

In Louisiana, African American children are 3.5 times as likely to live in poverty as white children. According to Census data, 46% of Louisiana's African American children lived in poverty, while the same was true for just 13% of white children in 2007.⁶

¹ Kristin Anderson Moore, Ph.D., Zakia Redd, M.P.P., Mary Burkhauser, M.A., Kassim Mbwana, M.P.P., and Ashleigh Collins, M.A., "Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences and Policy Options," *Child Trends*, April 2009, retrieved from www.childtrends.org on 6/1/2009.

² Lisa Klein & Jane Knitzer, "Promoting Effective Early Learning: What Every Policymaker and Educator Should Know," National Center for Children in Poverty, 2007, retrieved from www.nccp.org/ on 7/30/2009.

³ Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, "Children's Overall Health Status," 2007 National Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health, retrieved from www.nschdata.org on 7/30/2009.

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Children in poverty—2007," KIDS COUNT Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 7/30/2009.

⁵ U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months," 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, retrieved from <http://factfinder.census.gov> on 7/30/2009.

⁶ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Children in poverty by Race—2007," KIDS COUNT Data Center, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, retrieved from www.kidscount.org/datacenter on 7/30/2009.

POVERTY AND INCOME

2007	PEOPLE IN POVERTY		CHILDREN (AGES 0-17) IN POVERTY		MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
	No.	%	No.	%	\$
LOUISIANA	783,922	19	285,425	27	40,866
Acadia	13,801	24	4,803	29	33,098
Allen	4,592	22	1,484	26	34,958
Ascension	11,949	12	4,562	16	56,720
Assumption	4,976	22	1,707	31	39,643
Avoyelles	10,419	27	3,773	36	29,239
Beauregard	5,329	16	1,883	22	40,592
Bienville	3,691	26	1,259	36	29,728
Bossier	15,889	15	6,387	22	47,539
Caddo	56,372	23	22,667	36	35,547
Calcasieu	31,383	18	10,924	24	42,018
Caldwell	1,913	20	656	29	33,250
Cameron	1,040	14	329	22	40,460
Catahoula	2,977	30	1,083	45	30,003
Claiborne	4,242	29	1,321	39	31,393
Concordia	5,514	30	2,110	45	28,595
De Soto	5,160	20	1,947	30	35,058
East Baton Rouge	75,602	18	25,450	24	42,173
East Carroll	2,790	39	1,241	56	23,888
East Feliciana	4,186	23	1,292	28	35,960
Evangeline	9,012	26	3,352	35	28,629
Franklin	5,590	29	2,288	46	28,282
Grant	3,689	19	1,370	27	37,473
Iberia	14,839	20	5,684	28	39,268
Iberville	5,831	20	2,054	27	37,483
Jackson	2,631	18	932	27	35,137
Jefferson	61,203	15	22,895	23	47,366
Jefferson Davis	5,695	19	2,023	25	36,185
Lafayette	30,465	15	11,240	22	44,568
Lafourche	15,654	17	5,223	24	41,706
La Salle	2,402	18	811	26	36,307
Lincoln	9,008	24	2,436	28	31,767
Livingston	12,440	11	4,683	15	53,259
Madison	3,680	33	1,637	49	25,855
Morehouse	8,601	31	3,569	51	28,847
Natchitoches	10,737	29	3,531	37	30,227
Orleans	49,922	22	15,461	36	37,348
Ouachita	30,176	21	13,082	34	37,147
Plaquemines	3,423	16	1,218	22	44,896
Pointe Coupee	4,712	21	1,586	30	38,131
Rapides	24,894	20	9,115	28	36,938
Red River	2,060	23	840	35	29,651
Richland	4,694	24	1,857	36	29,394
Sabine	4,486	19	1,513	26	35,126
St. Bernard	3,702	19	1,330	40	33,093
St. Charles	5,582	11	2,087	15	54,998
St. Helena	2,305	22	837	33	32,113
St. James	3,610	17	1,222	22	44,195
St. John the Baptist	7,972	17	3,179	24	43,752
St. Landry	27,327	31	10,237	42	28,472
St. Martin	8,629	17	3,312	25	38,271
St. Mary	11,356	22	4,465	34	36,109
St. Tammany	25,127	11	8,594	15	58,891
Tangipahoa	25,576	23	9,655	32	34,132
Tensas	1,976	37	667	50	22,264
Terrebonne	18,916	18	6,934	25	44,235
Union	4,173	19	1,584	29	34,172
Vermilion	11,229	21	4,043	29	37,556
Vernon	7,262	17	3,431	24	41,605
Washington	11,006	26	4,050	36	30,160
Webster	8,183	21	2,726	29	34,207
West Baton Rouge	3,719	17	1,316	23	43,020
West Carroll	2,741	26	900	35	28,781
West Feliciana	2,239	23	479	20	47,714
Winn	3,623	26	1,100	33	32,371