

NYC Opportunity 2018 Poverty Report

www1.nyc.gov/site/opportunity/poverty-in-nyc/poverty-measure.page

What is the NYCgov Poverty Measure?

Measuring poverty involves setting a threshold (where is the poverty line?) and calculating income (how much of what?) The NYCgov poverty measure is a more realistic measure of poverty than the federal poverty measure.

The NYCgov threshold is based on national spending on necessities: food, shelter, clothing and utilities and is adjusted for the higher cost of housing in New York City. The threshold varies by family size.

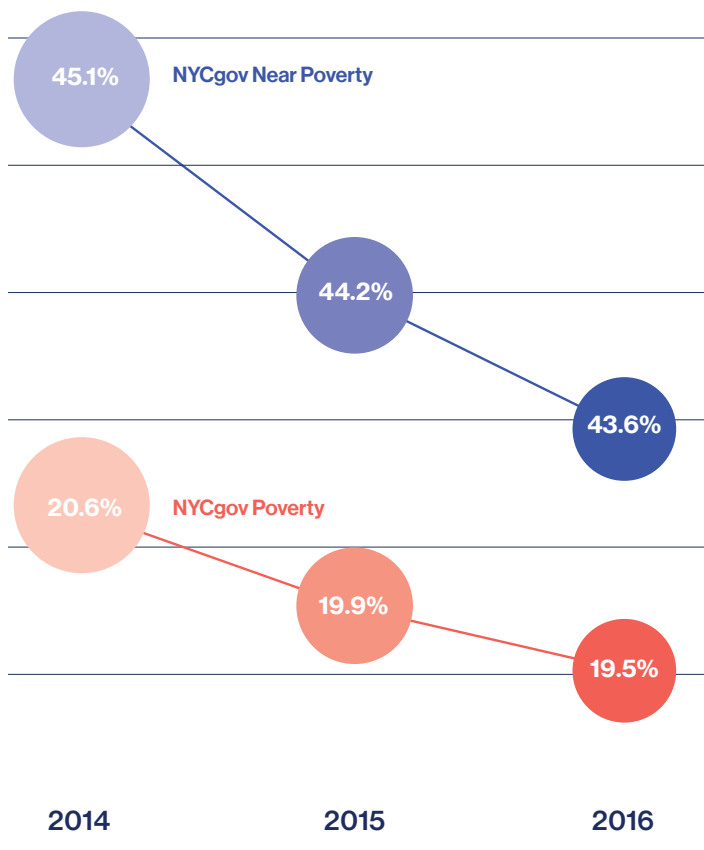
The NYCgov income measure includes multiple resources: after-tax earnings (including tax credits) and the value of cash and in-kind benefits (SNAP, housing vouchers, etc.). We subtract from this necessary expenses: medical spending plus commuting and childcare for workers to derive total income.

The **poverty rate** is the percent of the population whose NYCgov income is less than the NYCgov threshold. The **near poverty rate** shown here represents the percent of the population with income up to 150 percent of their threshold.

The federal poverty measure's threshold is based only on minimal food costs and is the same for the entire U.S. Income used in that measure is only pre-tax cash earnings.

The New York City Government Poverty Measure is released annually by the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity. The measure is a more realistic metric than the official poverty measure released by the federal government and one that provides a detailed description of the nature of poverty in New York City. This year's report contains data from 2005-2016, the most recent data available. Highlights of our findings are shown below.

NYCgov Poverty and Near Poverty Rates, 2014–2016



141,000

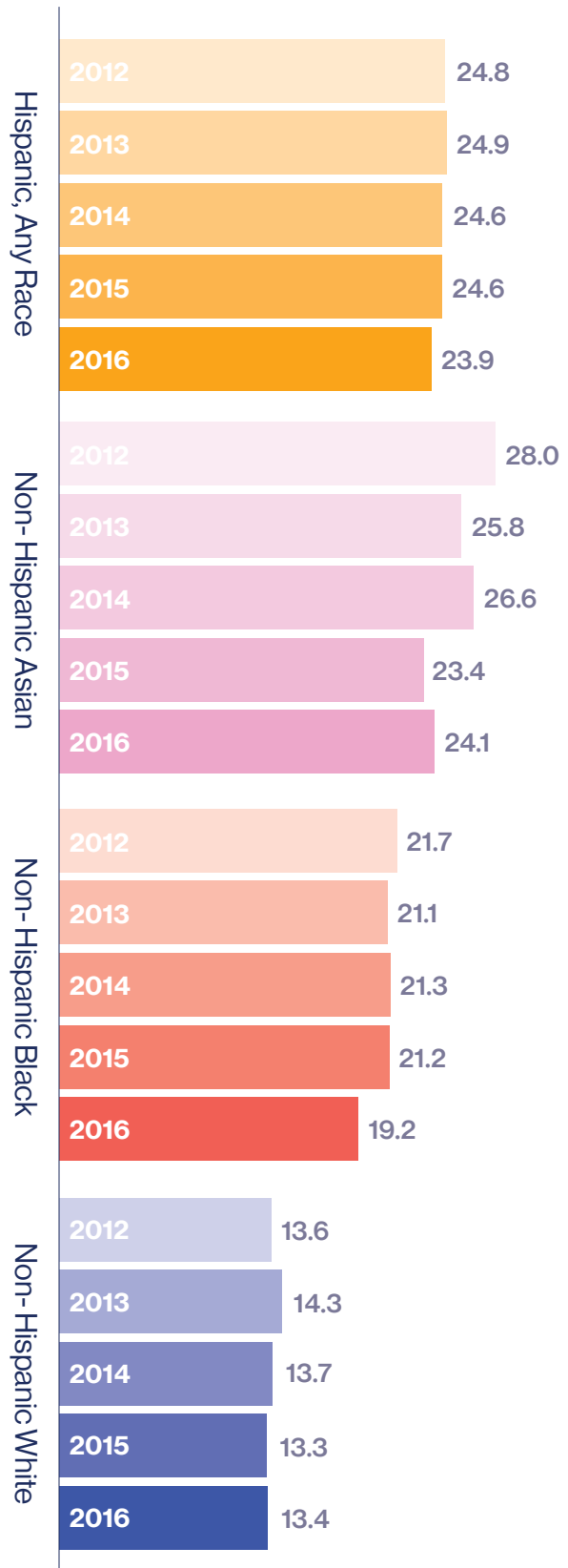
In 2016, there were 141,000 fewer people in poverty or near poverty than in 2013

We are making progress on our commitment to move 800,000 people out of poverty or near poverty by 2025

Poverty in NYC, 5-Year Trends

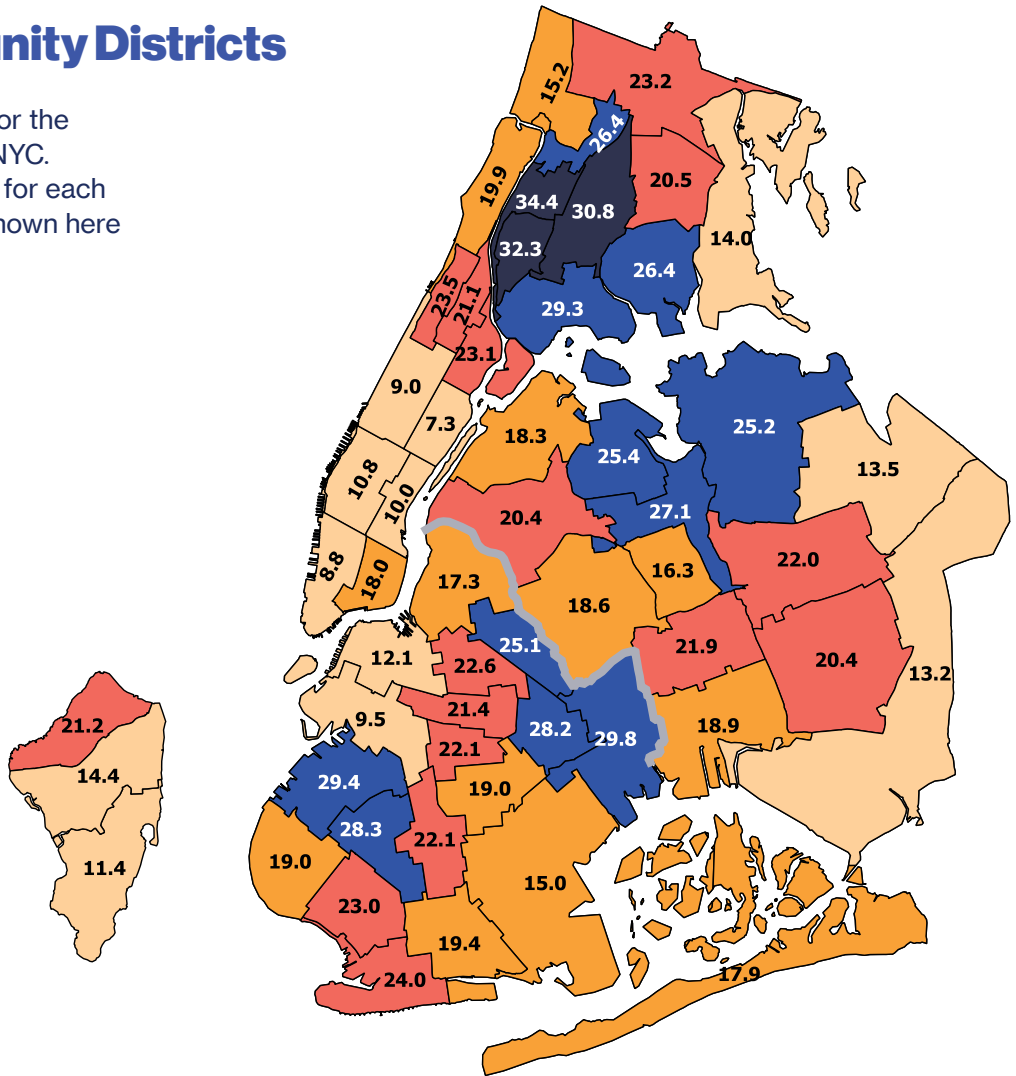
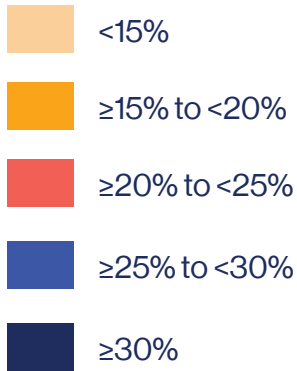
	2012	2016
Total New York City	20.7%	19.5%
Gender		
Males	19.8%	18.1%
Females	21.5%	20.7%
Age Group		
Under 18	24.5%	22.2%
18 through 64	19.5%	18.3%
65 and Older	20.3%	20.8%
Children (under 18), by Presence of Parent		
One Parent	36.4%	32.6%
Two Parents	18.1%	17.0%
Nativity/Citizenship		
Citizen by Birth	18.7%	17.6%
Naturalized Citizen	19.7%	19.1%
Not a Citizen	28.0%	26.5%
Educational Attainment (adults 18 to 64)		
Less than High School	32.8%	31.5%
High School Degree	23.5%	22.9%
Some College	16.5%	16.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	8.6%	8.0%
Work Experience (adults 18 to 64)		
Full-Time, Year-Round	7.8%	7.2%
Some Work	23.1%	23.3%
No Work	38.3%	37.4%

Poverty by Race and Ethnicity



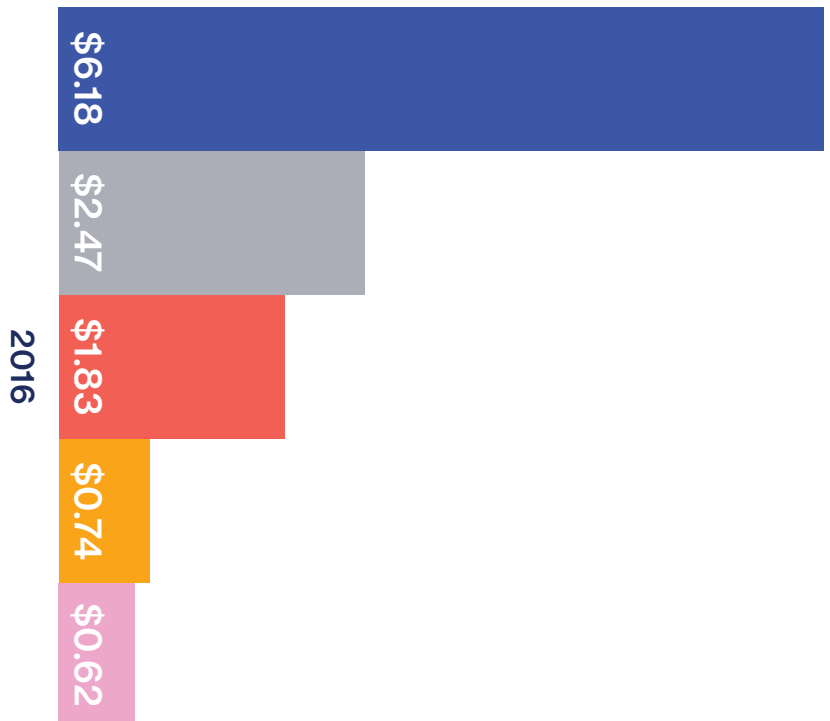
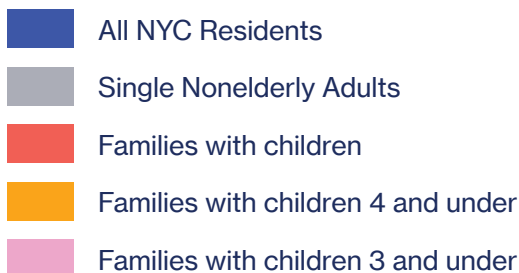
Poverty in Community Districts

The map displays poverty rates for the 55 community districts (CDs) in NYC. Because the annual data sample for each CD is relatively small, the rates shown here are five-year averages.



The Poverty Gap

The poverty gap is the difference between a family's resources and the poverty threshold. For example, the total gap for all New Yorkers in poverty is \$6.18 billion. Poverty gap totals are shown for several groups. The total poverty gap among single, nonelderly adults (\$2.47 billion) is greater than that for families with children (\$1.83 billion).

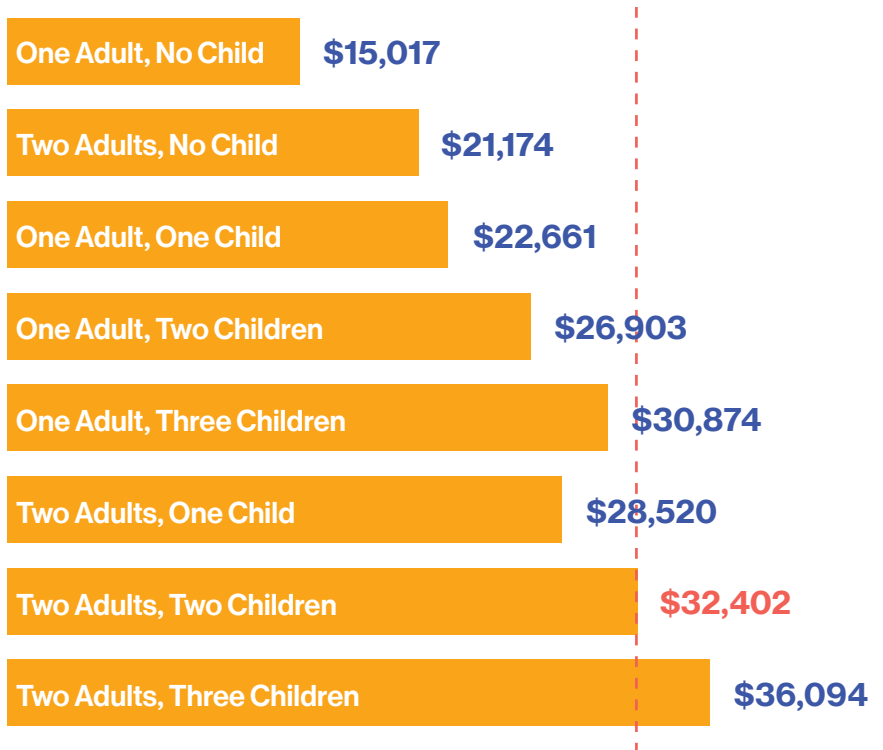


*All \$ amounts are in billions

Poverty Thresholds by Family Size

The NYCgov threshold represents a minimal standard of need for food, shelter, clothing and utilities and is adjusted for the higher cost of housing in New York City. The threshold varies by family size and is higher than the federal poverty threshold. If family resources (including earnings, public assistance and net taxes including tax credits) are lower than the poverty threshold, the family is classified as in poverty.

----- Reference Family Threshold in NYC (\$32,402)



Policy Affects Poverty

The NYCgov poverty measure allows us to measure the extent to which anti-poverty programs and work-related tax credits can lift people over the poverty threshold. We also measure how work-related and medical expenses can pull people into poverty.

Those items to the left and below the line on the graph lower the poverty rate by the percentage points indicated. Those to the right raise the poverty rate.

