

# Louisiana



POPULATION OF LOUISIANA IN 2013: **4,494,989**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN LOUISIANA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2013: **888,019**

In 2013, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.5 percent. That means that nearly one in seven people, or 45.3 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty line—\$23,834 per year for a family of four, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup> In Louisiana the poverty rate was 19.8 percent, ranking it 49 among states in the country. Each year we track the progress toward our goal of cutting poverty in half in 10 years by publishing our annual “Half in Ten” report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. It helps us better understand where our nation is improving the situation of America’s struggling families and where we need to do a better job looking beyond the federal poverty measure. The following is a summary of where Louisiana ranks among the other indicators in our 2014 report.

## Where Louisiana is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **8**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **15**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **22**

## Where Louisiana is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **51**

Rank in Poverty Rate: **49**

Rank in Income Inequality: **49**

## Cutting poverty in half

### 49 POVERTY RATE

19.8 percent of people in Louisiana had incomes below the poverty line—\$23,834 for a family of four—in 2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013, Table B17001.

### 48 CHILD POVERTY RATE

27.4 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Louisiana had incomes below the poverty line in 2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013, Table B17006.

### 49 INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Louisiana was 18.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2013.

Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table B19082.

## More good jobs

**42 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**  
72 percent of high school students in Louisiana graduated on time at the end of the 2011–12 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

**47 HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**  
31.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Louisiana had an associate's degree or higher from 2010 to 2012. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

**44 DISCONNECTED YOUTH**  
20 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Louisiana who were not in school or working in 2012. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012.*

**15 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
6.2 percent of all workers in Louisiana were unemployed in 2013. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2013.*

**51 GENDER WAGE GAP**  
Among full-time, year-round workers in Louisiana in 2013, women's median earnings were 66 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S0201.*

## Stengthening families

**8 CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**  
4 children in Louisiana lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2012. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

**45 TEEN BIRTH RATE**  
There were 43.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2012 in Louisiana. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

*Family economic security*

**32** **LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**  
29.2 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Louisiana did not have health insurance at any time in 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013, Table C27016.*

**43** **HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**  
16.5 percent of households in Louisiana were food insecure on average from 2011 to 2013, meaning that at some point during the year, they experienced difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of money or resources. *Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Household Food Security in the United States in 2013.*

**41** **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**  
19.7 percent of unemployed workers in Louisiana were helped by unemployment insurance in 2013. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Chartbook.*

**35** **AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**  
Louisiana had 60 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2013. Very low-income households are those with incomes at or below half of median income in the metropolitan or other area where they live. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 4 (1) (2014).*

**22** **SAVINGS AND ASSETS**  
23.6 percent of households in Louisiana were “asset poor” in 2011. This is the share of households whose total assets, including any home equity—minus their total liabilities—are less than three times the monthly federal poverty threshold. *Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, Assets & Opportunity Scorecard; Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2011.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2013 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2013 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.