



# State of the States Report 2015

Poverty and Opportunity in the States:  
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

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By Rachel West and Jackie Odum    February 2016

Center for American Progress



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# Introduction and summary

In 2014, more than one in seven Americans—46.7 million people—lived below the official federal poverty level of less than \$24,000 per year for a family of four.<sup>1</sup> While the U.S. economy has gradually improved in the aftermath of the recession, far too many families continue to struggle to make ends meet, much less get ahead.

Each year, the Center for American Progress releases its “State of the States” report, which evaluates progress toward cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by tracking 15 key indicators in each state. These indicators can help state policymakers better understand the areas in which states are improving the situation of struggling families, as well as the areas in which they must do more to promote families’ well-being. The report ranks states according to how successfully they are reducing poverty and inequality, improving the quality of jobs and education, promoting family stability and strength, and ensuring family economic security.

As this report underscores, *policy matters* when it comes to addressing poverty and improving economic opportunity. State policymakers have a host of tools at their disposal to bring about change that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of American families.

This year’s report highlights examples of commendable and innovative steps that states have recently taken to support and strengthen families. Even as national progress has been stalled by a gridlocked Congress, many states have forged ahead—raising wages for low-paid workers, creating family-friendly work environments through paid leave policies, reducing barriers to employment and public assistance for families involved in the justice system, and connecting youth to high-quality work opportunities through apprenticeships, to name just a few examples.

But while policy can vastly improve lives, policy decisions can also shut the doors of opportunity or reverse families' hard-earned gains altogether. In addition to commending states' strides to combat poverty and to promote opportunity, this report also shines a light on recent actions by policymakers that may hinder or harm already-struggling families in their states.

Developments in the states over the past year—the good, the bad, and the ugly—demonstrate how far-reaching and consequential state-level policymaking can be. By taking a hard look at where their state is succeeding and where it is falling short, advocates, lawmakers, and residents can prioritize future action that would dramatically reduce poverty and increase well-being in their backyard and beyond.

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## Endnotes

- 1 Carmen DeNavas-Walt and Bernadette D. Proctor, "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014" (Washington: Bureau of the Census, 2015), available at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>.

# Poverty

Share of people with incomes below the poverty line—\$23,834 for a family of four—in 2014

U.S. poverty rate:

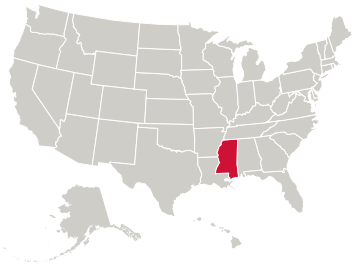
14.8%<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

In recent years, several states have begun taking significant steps to address poverty among a highly vulnerable population—formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. For example, since 1996, 18 states have fully lifted federally imposed bans on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP—formerly known as food stamps—for people with felony drug convictions.<sup>2</sup> Most states have taken steps to alleviate these restrictions for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program, and a total

of 14 states have eliminated the felony drug ban for TANF altogether.<sup>3</sup>

In particular, California recently made an important stride. In 2014, the state legislature passed a bill that fully eliminated the state's ban on both TANF and SNAP for people with felony drug convictions.<sup>4</sup> For Californians, this means that families involved in the justice system will finally have a fair shot at accessing adequate food and economic security as they seek to get back on their feet.



## *The bad and the ugly*

Mississippi, the nation's poorest state, exacerbated the plight of its poor families with a 2014 law requiring all TANF applicants to answer a questionnaire on substance abuse and to submit to a drug test if requested.<sup>5</sup> If applicants refuse to submit, the state can terminate TANF benefits. Although nearly 3 in 10 Mississippi children live in poverty, the state's income assistance is among the least adequate in the country,

providing families only \$1.83 per person each day—an amount that has declined more than 7 percent over the past two decades.<sup>6</sup> Yet rather than using TANF funds to alleviate poverty, Mississippi and six other states instead chose to spend large sums to stigmatize impoverished families and intrude on their privacy—while ignoring evidence that these costly tests yield very little benefit.<sup>7</sup>

## State rankings: Poverty rate

State	Poverty rank	Share living in poverty	State	Poverty rank	Share living in poverty
New Hampshire	1	9.2%	Nevada	27	15.2%
Maryland	2	10.1%	Indiana	28	15.2%
Connecticut	3	10.8%	Montana	29	15.4%
New Jersey	4	11.1%	Missouri	30	15.5%
Wyoming	5	11.2%	Ohio	31	15.8%
Alaska	6	11.2%	New York	32	15.9%
Hawaii	7	11.4%	Michigan	33	16.2%
Minnesota	8	11.5%	California	34	16.4%
North Dakota	9	11.5%	Florida	35	16.5%
Massachusetts	10	11.6%	Oregon	36	16.6%
Utah	11	11.7%	Oklahoma	37	16.6%
Virginia	12	11.8%	Texas	38	17.2%
Colorado	13	12.0%	North Carolina	39	17.2%
Vermont	14	12.2%	District of Columbia	40	17.7%
Iowa	15	12.2%	South Carolina	41	18.0%
Nebraska	16	12.4%	Arizona	42	18.2%
Delaware	17	12.5%	West Virginia	43	18.3%
Wisconsin	18	13.2%	Georgia	44	18.3%
Washington	19	13.2%	Tennessee	45	18.3%
Kansas	20	13.6%	Arkansas	46	18.9%
Pennsylvania	21	13.6%	Kentucky	47	19.1%
Maine	22	14.1%	Alabama	48	19.3%
South Dakota	23	14.2%	Louisiana	49	19.8%
Rhode Island	24	14.3%	New Mexico	50	21.3%
Illinois	25	14.4%	Mississippi	51	21.5%
Idaho	26	14.8%			

Source: Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table B17001.

## Endnotes

1 Carmen DeNavas-Walt and Bernadette D. Proctor, "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014" (Washington: Bureau of the Census, 2015), available at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>.

2 Rebecca Beitsch, "States Rethink Restrictions on Food Stamps, Welfare for Drug Felons," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, July 30, 2015, available at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2015/07/30/states-rethink-restrictions-on-food-stamps-welfare-for-drug-felons>.

3 Ibid.

4 Arthur Delaney, "States Undo Food Stamp Felon Bans," *The Huffington Post*, June 23, 2014, available at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/23/food-stamps\\_n\\_5515159.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/23/food-stamps_n_5515159.html).

5 Bryce Covert and Josh Israel, "What 7 States Discovered After Spending More Than \$1 Million Drug Testing Welfare Recipients," *ThinkProgress*, February 26, 2015, available at <http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2015/02/26/3624447/tanf-drug-testing-states/>.

6 Ife Floyd and Liz Schott, "TANF Cash Benefits Have Fallen by More Than 20 Percent in Most States and Continue to Erode" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2015), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-cash-benefits-have-fallen-by-more-than-20-percent-in-most-states>.

7 Covert and Israel, "What 7 States Discovered After Spending More Than \$1 Million Drug Testing Welfare Recipients."



# Child poverty

Share of children under age 18 in related families who had incomes below the poverty line—\$23,834 for a family of four—in 2014

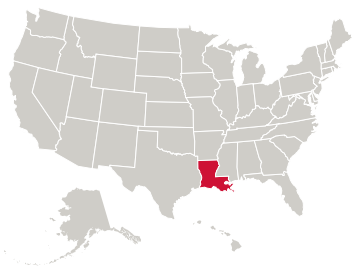
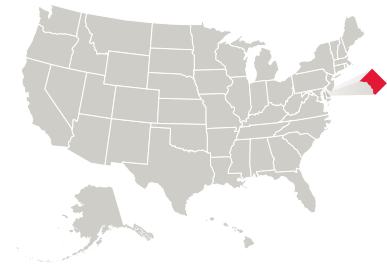
U.S. child poverty rate:

20.7%<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

In July 2014, the District of Columbia topped the charts in terms of state participation in the Summer Food Service Program, or SFSP. The SFSP provides funding to public and private nonprofit schools, local governments, National Youth Sports programs, and private nonprofit organizations to serve snacks and meals for low-income children. In D.C., nearly three in five eligible children benefit from summer nutrition programs, compared to

fewer than one in five eligible children nationwide.<sup>2</sup> Today, nearly 24 million children nationwide live in low-income working families.<sup>3</sup> Programs such as the SFSP support summer educational and recreational programs, which help keep children healthy and active during the summer months. At the same, the SFSP keeps families from falling deeper into poverty by alleviating some of the costs associated with child care and children's nutrition during the summer.



## *The bad and the ugly*

In Louisiana, the share of poor children assisted by the state's TANF program shrunk to an all-time low of 3.1 percent in 2014.<sup>4</sup> Louisiana spent just one-third of its TANF funds—the lowest share of any state—on cash assistance for needy families<sup>5</sup> and instead diverted program resources to other purposes.<sup>6</sup> Louisiana is just one of the 25 states where fewer than 20 percent of poor children receive TANF;<sup>7</sup> the program's shrinking reach coincides with a sharp rise in extreme poverty.<sup>8</sup> Two decades

after federal cash assistance for families was converted into the TANF block grant, Louisiana provides one of many examples showing that children have been the primary victims.<sup>9</sup> By allowing nearly 28 percent of its children to grow up in poverty, the state's policymakers ignore abundant evidence that poverty can inflict lasting harm on children's health, damage long-term educational and employment outcomes, and hamper brain development.<sup>10</sup>



## State rankings: Child poverty rate

State	Child poverty rank	Share living in poverty	State	Child poverty rank	Share living in poverty
Wyoming	1	12.1%	Illinois	27	19.9%
New Hampshire	2	12.5%	Missouri	28	20.7%
Maryland	3	12.7%	Oregon	29	21.1%
Utah	4	13.0%	Indiana	30	21.2%
North Dakota	5	14.3%	Nevada	31	21.7%
Hawaii	6	14.4%	Oklahoma	32	22.1%
Connecticut	7	14.4%	Michigan	33	22.2%
Minnesota	8	14.6%	New York	34	22.2%
Massachusetts	9	14.9%	California	35	22.4%
Iowa	10	14.9%	Ohio	36	22.5%
Colorado	11	15.1%	Florida	37	23.5%
Alaska	12	15.3%	North Carolina	38	24.0%
Vermont	13	15.3%	Texas	39	24.3%
Virginia	14	15.5%	West Virginia	40	24.3%
New Jersey	15	15.7%	Arizona	41	25.2%
Nebraska	16	15.8%	Kentucky	42	25.8%
Washington	17	17.0%	District of Columbia	43	25.9%
Kansas	18	17.4%	Tennessee	44	25.9%
Delaware	19	17.5%	Arkansas	45	26.0%
South Dakota	20	17.7%	Georgia	46	26.1%
Wisconsin	21	18.1%	South Carolina	47	26.7%
Montana	22	18.1%	Alabama	48	27.5%
Idaho	23	18.5%	Louisiana	49	27.6%
Maine	24	18.7%	Mississippi	50	29.0%
Pennsylvania	25	19.0%	New Mexico	51	29.1%
Rhode Island	26	19.5%			

Source: Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table B17006.

## Endnotes

- Carmen DeNavas-Walt and Bernadette D. Proctor, "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2014" (Washington: Bureau of the Census, 2015), available at <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-252.pdf>.
- Crystal FitzSimons and others, "Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report" (Washington: Food Research & Action Center, 2015), available at [http://frac.org/pdf/2015\\_summer\\_nutrition\\_report.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/2015_summer_nutrition_report.pdf).
- The Working Poor Families Project, "Home," available at <http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org> (last accessed February 2016).
- Authors' analysis of Ife Floyd, LaDonna Pavetti, and Liz Schott, "TANF Continues to Weaken as a Safety Net" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2015), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/tanf-continues-to-weaken-as-a-safety-net>.
- Liz Schott, LaDonna Pavetti, and Ife Floyd, "How States Use Federal and State Funds Under the TANF Block Grant" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2015), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/how-states-use-federal-and-state-funds-under-the-tanf-block-grant>.
- Rebecca Vallas and Melissa Boteach, "Top 5 Reasons Why TANF Is Not a Model for Other Income Assistance Programs" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/news/2015/04/29/112034/top-5-reasons-why-tanf-is-not-a-model-for-other-income-assistance-programs/>.
- Ibid.
- Families in extreme poverty have incomes below half of the poverty line. See Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Peter Edelman, and LaDonna Pavetti, "New Research Documents Growth in Extreme Poverty," *TalkPoverty.org*, September 3, 2015, available at <http://talkpoverty.org/2015/09/03/new-research-documents-growth-extreme-poverty-u-s/>.
- In 1996, welfare reform took away poor families' legal right to federal assistance in the form of welfare and food assistance and replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or AFDC, program with TANF. See Peter Edelman, "We Have Blown a Huge Hole in the Safety Net," *TalkPoverty.org*, May 22, 2014, available at <http://talkpoverty.org/2014/05/22/edelman/>.
- Greg J. Duncan and Katherine Magnuson, "The Long Reach of Early Childhood Poverty," *Pathways* (2011): 22–27.

# Income inequality

U.S. income inequality ratio:

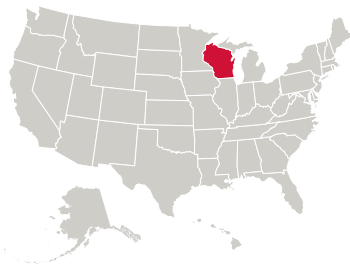
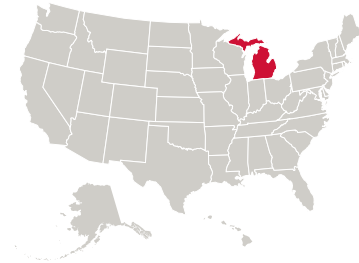
16.4<sup>1</sup>

The ratio of the share of income going to the top 20 percent of households and the share of income going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014

## *The good*

In 2014, Michigan's lowest-paid workers got a raise when the state passed a bill to increase its minimum wage from \$7.40 to \$9.25 per hour. Michigan joined 10 states that enacted similar legislation in 2014, as well as four states that approved minimum-wage increases through ballot measures.<sup>2</sup> As the federal wage floor remains stuck at \$7.25 per hour for the sixth year in a row, an increasing number of states and

localities are responding to the 75 percent of American voters<sup>3</sup> and 60 percent of business owners<sup>4</sup> who support a higher minimum wage. Research shows that past minimum-wage increases have raised earnings and reduced poverty among working families—while benefitting businesses by increasing productivity and reducing costly turnover—without negatively affecting employment.<sup>5</sup>



## *The bad and the ugly*

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's (R) repeated attacks on workers<sup>6</sup> were followed in 2015 by two actions that will drive down wages for working families.<sup>7</sup> In March, Wisconsin passed damaging so-called right-to-work legislation,<sup>8</sup> making it harder for unions to obtain better pay and working conditions for their workers.<sup>9</sup> And in July, legislators rolled back the state's prevailing wage law, ushering in lower wages for workers

on public projects.<sup>10</sup> Combined with Wisconsin's dismally low minimum wage—just \$7.25 per hour<sup>11</sup>—tearing down these labor protections will exacerbate income inequality in the state for years to come.<sup>12</sup> Wisconsin's attacks on workers set a dangerous precedent for other states—such as Illinois<sup>13</sup> and Michigan<sup>14</sup>—where similarly damaging legislation is being considered.

# State rankings: Income inequality

State	Income inequality rank	Inequality ratio
Alaska	1	11.3%
Utah	2	11.5%
Wyoming	3	11.6%
Nebraska	4	12.1%
New Hampshire	5	12.3%
Wisconsin	6	12.3%
Vermont	7	12.7%
Iowa	8	12.8%
Nevada	9	12.9%
South Dakota	10	13.0%
Indiana	11	13.1%
Hawaii	12	13.2%
Idaho	13	13.3%
Minnesota	14	13.6%
Montana	15	13.7%
Delaware	16	13.9%
Kansas	17	13.9%
West Virginia	18	13.9%
Maryland	19	14.0%
Colorado	20	14.1%
Washington	21	14.2%
Maine	22	14.2%
Michigan	23	14.6%
Oregon	24	14.6%
Arkansas	25	14.7%
North Dakota	26	14.7%

State	Income inequality rank	Inequality ratio
Oklahoma	27	14.7%
Missouri	28	14.8%
Ohio	29	15.1%
Pennsylvania	30	15.1%
South Carolina	31	15.3%
North Carolina	32	15.3%
Arizona	33	15.4%
Virginia	34	15.5%
Kentucky	35	15.8%
Florida	36	15.9%
Tennessee	37	16.0%
Texas	38	16.4%
Alabama	39	16.5%
Illinois	40	16.5%
Mississippi	41	16.5%
New Jersey	42	16.7%
Georgia	43	16.7%
New Mexico	44	17.4%
California	45	17.5%
Rhode Island	46	17.6%
Louisiana	47	18.3%
Massachusetts	48	18.5%
Connecticut	49	18.6%
New York	50	20.5%
District of Columbia	51	30.1%

Source: Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table B19082.

## Endnotes

- 1 Authors' analysis of Bureau of the Census, "Table B19082: Shares of Aggregate Household Income by Quintile: 2014," available at [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_1YR\\_B19082&prodType=table](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_1YR_B19082&prodType=table) (last accessed February 2016).
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- 4 John Arensmeyer, "Small businesses support boosting minimum wage," *The Hill*, July 31, 2015, available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/labor/249857-small-businesses-support-boosting-minimum-wage>.
- 5 Ross Eisenbrey, "Businesses Agree—It's Time to Raise the Minimum Wage," Economic Policy Institute, October 20, 2014, available at <http://www.epi.org/blog/businesses-agree-time-raise-minimum-wage/>.
- 6 Gov. Walker has been an outspoken opponent of collective bargaining, gaining notoriety after publicly taking on K-12 teachers unions in 2011. See Steven Greenhouse, "Wisconsin's Legacy for Unions," *The New York Times*, February 22, 2014, available at [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/23/business/wisconsin-legacy-for-unions.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/23/business/wisconsin-legacy-for-unions.html?_r=0). More recently, the governor turned his attention to Wisconsin's public universities, launching an attack on tenure protections. See Valerie Strauss, "Gov. Scott Walker savages Wisconsin public education in new budget," *The Washington Post*, July 13, 2015, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/07/13/gov-scott-walker-savages-wisconsin-public-education-in-new-budget/>.
- 7 Brendan Duke and Alex Rowell, "Wisconsin, Unions, and the Middle Class" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/report/2015/11/10/125252/wisconsin-unions-and-the-middle-class/>.
- 8 Jim Zarroli, "Targeting Unions: Right-To-Work Movement Bolstered By Wisconsin," NPR, March 11, 2015, available at <http://www.npr.org/2015/03/11/392373328/targeting-unions-right-to-work-movement-bolstered-by-wisconsin>.
- 9 Karla Walter and Jackie Odum, "Right-to-Work Takes Us in the Wrong Direction," Center for American Progress Action Fund, May 14, 2015, available at <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/labor/news/2015/05/14/113164/right-to-work-takes-us-in-the-wrong-direction/>.
- 10 Brendan O'Brien, "Wisconsin lawmakers pass state budget, partial repeal of prevailing wage law," Reuters, July 9, 2015, available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-budget-wisconsin-idUSKCN0PJ00Z20150709>.
- 11 U.S. Department of Labor, "Minimum Wage Laws in the States - January 1, 2016," available at <http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm#Wisconsin> (last accessed February 2016).
- 12 Research strongly links collective bargaining rights to higher wages, the growth of the middle class, and upward economic mobility. See Richard Freeman and others, "What Do Unions Do for the Middle Class?" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2016), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/report/2016/01/13/128366/what-do-unions-do-for-the-middle-class/>.
- 13 Walter and Odum, "Right-to-Work Takes Us in the Wrong Direction."
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U.S. high school graduation rate:

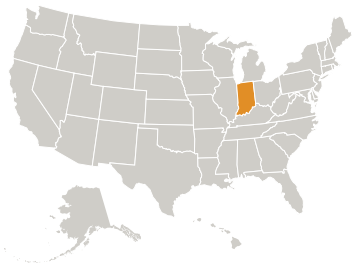
# High school graduation 81%<sup>1</sup>

Share of high school students who graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 school year

## *The good*

In an effort to reverse the damaging effects of recession-era budget cuts, California implemented a major state funding overhaul for the 2013-14 school year. The state's new weighted student funding formula, known as the Local Control Funding Formula, or LCFF, expands educational services to high-need students—those who are experiencing poverty, living in foster care, and/or English-language learners—by allocating more funds to schools with

greater numbers of students who fall into one of these categories. Moreover, the LCFF grants more autonomy in spending, allowing schools greater flexibility in designing programs that improve student performance. Programs similar to California's LCFF help create a learning environment that improves student performance by reducing inequities for students across the income spectrum.<sup>2</sup>



## *The bad and the ugly*

In a 2014 reversal that could jeopardize its students' access to high-quality education, Indiana dropped out of the Common Core State Standards Initiative,<sup>3</sup> the consistent set of achievement standards designed to raise the bar for American students.<sup>4</sup> Indiana's four-year college graduation rate is already nearly 20 percent below the national average.<sup>5</sup> Policymakers'

decision could leave Indiana students—particularly its lower-income students<sup>6</sup>—less prepared for college, shortchanging the state's future workforce of necessary skills to compete for high-quality, well-paying jobs. Similarly, Oklahoma and South Carolina—which score well below the national average across grade levels and subject areas—withdraw from the Common Core in 2014.<sup>7</sup>

## State rankings: High school graduation rate

State	High school graduation rank	Share of students who graduate	State	High school graduation rank	Share of students who graduate
Iowa	1	90%	Hawaii	27	82%
Nebraska	2	88%	Ohio	27	82%
New Jersey	2	88%	West Virginia	29	81%
North Dakota	2	88%	Alabama	30	80%
Texas	2	88%	California	30	80%
Wisconsin	2	88%	Delaware	30	80%
Indiana	7	87%	Minnesota	30	80%
New Hampshire	7	87%	Rhode Island	30	80%
Vermont	7	87%	South Carolina	35	78%
Connecticut	10	86%	Colorado	36	77%
Kansas	10	86%	Michigan	36	77%
Kentucky	10	86%	New York	36	77%
Maine	10	86%	Wyoming	36	77%
Missouri	10	86%	Florida	40	76%
Pennsylvania	10	86%	Mississippi	40	76%
Tennessee	10	86%	Washington	40	76%
Arkansas	17	85%	Arizona	43	75%
Maryland	17	85%	Louisiana	44	74%
Massachusetts	17	85%	Alaska	45	72%
Oklahoma	17	85%	Georgia	45	72%
Montana	21	84%	Nevada	47	71%
Virginia	21	84%	New Mexico	48	70%
Illinois	23	83%	Oregon	49	69%
North Carolina	23	83%	District of Columbia	50	62%
South Dakota	23	83%	Idaho	N/A	no data
Utah	23	83%			

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, "Common Core of Data," available at [https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR\\_2010-11\\_to\\_2012-13.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_2010-11_to_2012-13.asp) (last accessed September 2015).

## Endnotes

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4 The Common Core State Standards were developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. See Center for American Progress, "A Guide to the Common Core Standards," December 4, 2013, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education/news/2013/12/04/80426/a-guide-to-the-common-core-state-standards/>.

5 Center for American Progress, "Indiana Common Core: Achieving Student Advancement" (2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CCSS-IN.pdf>.

6 The Common Core would help close the achievement gap between affluent and poor students, which by some measures has grown 40 percent since the 1960s. See Center for American Progress, "A Guide to the Common Core Standards."

7 Ulrich Boser and Catherine Brown, "Lessons from State Performance on NAEP" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2016), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/23090515/NAEPandCommonCore.pdf>.

U.S. higher education attainment rate:

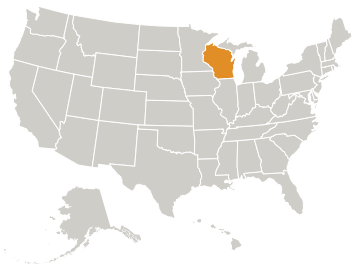
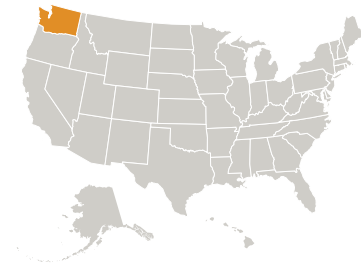
# Higher education attainment 42.3%<sup>1</sup>

Share of young adults ages 25 to 34 who had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013

## *The good*

During the Great Recession, public colleges and universities took a major financial hit as many state legislatures slashed higher-education budgets. The pain was passed down to students and their families in the form of higher tuition and fees, resulting in an out-of-pocket cost increase of 28 percent between 2008 and 2013.<sup>2</sup> While many states have been slow to reverse austerity, others have begun to walk back

tuition increases tied to recession-era budget cuts. In 2015, Washington state lawmakers acted to cut tuition 15 percent to 20 percent at the state's public four-year colleges and 5 percent at its public community colleges over the next two years.<sup>3</sup> By enabling prospective students to access affordable education and training, state lawmakers are increasing young Washingtonians' chances at securing better jobs and a brighter future.



## *The bad and the ugly*

In 2015, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (R) cut funding for the University of Wisconsin system by a colossal \$250 million, despite a 21 percent rise in tuition since 2008.<sup>4</sup> Adding insult to injury as he put college out of reach for many students, Gov. Walker approved exactly this same amount in taxpayer money to build a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team.<sup>5</sup> In all but two states, higher-education spending per student remains below

pre-recession levels, but Wisconsin was one of only eight states that continued to cut spending between 2013 and 2014.<sup>6</sup> A highly educated workforce is critical to future prosperity: College-educated full-time workers ages 25 to 32 earn about \$17,500 more per year—and pay more in taxes—than their high school-educated counterparts.<sup>7</sup> By shrinking investment in higher education, the state's policymakers are shortchanging all Wisconsinites.

## State rankings: Higher education attainment rate

State	Associate's degree or higher rank	Share with associate's degree or higher	State	Associate's degree or higher rank	Share with associate's degree or higher
District of Columbia	1	72.0%	Delaware	27	39.8%
Massachusetts	2	55.2%	Maine	28	39.6%
Minnesota	3	51.5%	California	29	39.3%
New York	4	50.8%	North Carolina	29	39.3%
North Dakota	5	49.8%	Michigan	31	39.0%
New Jersey	6	48.6%	Oregon	32	38.9%
Iowa	7	47.4%	Florida	33	37.8%
Connecticut	8	47.0%	Indiana	34	37.4%
Vermont	8	47.0%	Wyoming	35	37.3%
Illinois	10	46.5%	Georgia	36	36.5%
Virginia	10	46.5%	South Carolina	37	36.0%
Maryland	12	46.2%	Tennessee	38	35.1%
Colorado	13	45.8%	Arizona	39	34.9%
Nebraska	14	45.6%	Idaho	40	34.8%
Pennsylvania	15	45.3%	Kentucky	40	34.8%
New Hampshire	16	45.1%	Texas	42	34.4%
South Dakota	17	44.1%	Alabama	43	33.7%
Rhode Island	18	43.8%	Oklahoma	44	33.4%
Wisconsin	19	43.2%	Alaska	45	33.0%
Kansas	20	42.9%	West Virginia	46	32.5%
Washington	21	42.1%	Mississippi	47	32.1%
Hawaii	22	41.4%	Louisiana	48	31.4%
Utah	23	41.1%	New Mexico	49	31.2%
Missouri	24	40.6%	Arkansas	50	30.0%
Montana	25	40.3%	Nevada	51	29.5%
Ohio	26	40.0%			

Source: Analysis of data from the Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey: 2013 3-year estimate* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table B15001.

## Endnotes

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3 These tuition cuts were part of a nearly \$200 million increase in state funding to higher education. See Guo, "College will soon be a ton cheaper in Washington state."

4 Michael Mitchell, Vincent Palacios, and Michael Leachman, "States Are Still Funding Higher Education Below Pre-Recession Levels" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2014), available at <http://www.cbpp.org/research/states-are-still-funding-higher-education-below-pre-recession-levels>.

5 Steven Salzgberg, "Scott Walker Takes \$250 Million From U. Wisconsin, Gives \$250M To Billionaire Sports Team Owners," *Forbes*, August 14, 2015,

available at <http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevensalzgberg/2015/08/14/scott-walker-takes-250-million-from-u-wisconsin-gives-250m-to-billionaire-sports-team-owners/#585d40b95a09>.

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# Disconnected youth

Share of youth ages 18 to 24 who were not in school or working in 2013

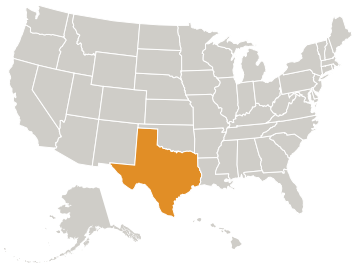
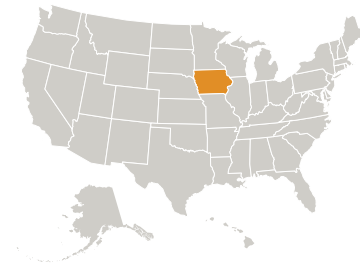
U.S. disconnected youth rate:

16%<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

In recent years, state policymakers have increasingly turned to apprenticeship programs to meet the mounting demand for skilled workers. Apprenticeship programs significantly improve employment outcomes for workers, increasing lifetime compensation by up to \$300,000.<sup>2</sup> In 2014, Iowa policymakers joined the growing group of states revolutionizing employee training in the United States by enacting the Apprenticeship and Job Training Act.<sup>3</sup>

The bill established a state fund with appropriations of \$3 million per year, which will be used to support registered apprenticeship programs across the state. Apprenticeship programs supported by this fund will attract new businesses to Iowa, offering an alternative education and career track for young Iowans and creating high-quality jobs that provide adequate wages and benefits—and a path to upward mobility.



## *The bad and the ugly*

In 2014, Texas lawmakers lashed out against unauthorized immigrant students, introducing bills to repeal their access to in-state tuition at public colleges and universities.<sup>4</sup> So-called tuition equity—offering unauthorized residents the same in-state tuition rates as other residents<sup>5</sup>—is critical to allow unauthorized immigrant youth to access to higher education because they disproportionately come from lower-income backgrounds.<sup>6</sup> Research shows that tuition equity increases both high school graduation<sup>7</sup> and college completion rates among unauthorized

students.<sup>8</sup> Ironically, Texas was the first of 20 states<sup>9</sup> to recognize the economic benefits of a better-educated population with bipartisan tuition equity legislation.<sup>10</sup> Since 2001, the Texas DREAM Act allowed unauthorized students to apply for in-state tuition and state-funded financial aid.<sup>11</sup> Dishearteningly, threats to unauthorized students' access to college education have emerged in Texas and multiple other states since Wisconsin rolled back its provisions for unauthorized students in 2011.<sup>12</sup>

## State rankings: Disconnected youth

State	Disconnected youth rank	Share of youth who are disconnected	State	Disconnected youth rank	Share of youth who are disconnected
North Dakota	1	8%	Indiana	23	15%
Iowa	2	9%	Montana	23	15%
Nebraska	2	9%	Ohio	23	15%
Massachusetts	4	10%	Washington	23	15%
Minnesota	4	10%	Wyoming	23	15%
Kansas	6	11%	Idaho	32	16%
New Hampshire	6	11%	Michigan	32	16%
Rhode Island	6	11%	North Carolina	32	16%
South Dakota	6	11%	District of Columbia	35	17%
Vermont	6	11%	Florida	35	17%
Colorado	11	12%	Kentucky	35	17%
Connecticut	11	12%	Oregon	35	17%
Maine	11	12%	South Carolina	35	17%
Wisconsin	11	12%	Texas	35	17%
Hawaii	15	13%	Oklahoma	41	18%
New Jersey	15	13%	Arkansas	42	19%
Maryland	17	14%	Georgia	42	19%
Missouri	17	14%	Tennessee	42	19%
New York	17	14%	Arizona	45	20%
Pennsylvania	17	14%	New Mexico	45	20%
Utah	17	14%	Alabama	47	21%
Virginia	17	14%	Mississippi	47	21%
Alaska	23	15%	West Virginia	47	21%
California	23	15%	Louisiana	50	22%
Delaware	23	15%	Nevada	50	22%
Illinois	23	15%			

Source: Kids Count Data Center, "Persons Age 18 to 24 Not Attending School, Not Working, and No Degree Beyond High School," available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5063-persons-age-18-to-24-not-attending-school-not-working-and-no-degree-beyond-high-school> (last accessed September 2015).

## Endnotes

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- Angela Hanks and Ethan Gurwitz, "How States Are Expanding Apprenticeship" (Washington: Center for American, 2016), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/labor/report/2016/02/09/130750/how-states-are-expanding-apprenticeship/>.
- Zenen Jaimes Pérez, "States Must Expand Higher-Education Opportunities for Undocumented Students" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/higher-education/news/2015/03/13/108672/states-must-expand-higher-education-opportunities-for-undocumented-students/>.
- Zenen Jaimes Pérez, "Removing Barriers to Higher Education for Undocumented Students" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2014/12/05/101366/removing-barriers-to-higher-education-for-undocumented-students/>.
- One study of California's unauthorized immigrant students found that nearly 9 in 10 came from low-income backgrounds, compared with fewer than 4 in 10 authorized students. In addition to other barriers they face, low incomes put unauthorized youth at greater risk for disconnection. See Veronica Terriquez and Caitlin Patler, "Aspiring Americans: Undocumented Youth Leaders in California" (Los Angeles: All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity, 2012), available at <http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/731/docs/AspiringAmericansEnglish.pdf>.
- Latino Policy Institute, "The Effects of In-State Tuition for Non-Citizens: A Systematic Review of the Evidence" (Providence, RI: Roger Williams University, 2011), available at <http://www.rwu.edu/sites/default/files/lpi-report.pdf>.
- Dylan Conger and Lindsey J. Turner, "The Impact of Tuition Increases on Undocumented College Students' Attainment," Working Paper 21135 (National Bureau for Economic Research, 2015), available at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w21135>.
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- Bobby Cervantes, "Senate panel approves 'Texas Dream Act' repeal," *Houston Chronicle*, April 7, 2015, available at <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/texas-take/article/Senate-panel-approves-Texas-Dream-Act-repeal-6183842.php>.
- DREAM is an acronym for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors. See Pérez, "Removing Barriers to Higher Education for Undocumented Students."
- Pérez, "States Must Expand Higher-Education Opportunities for Undocumented Students."

# Unemployment

Share of all workers who were unemployed in 2014

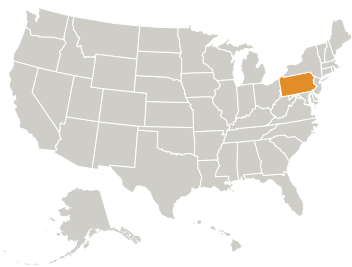
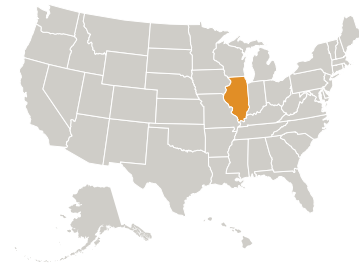
U.S. unemployment rate:

6.2%<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

As many as one in three Americans have a criminal record, and nearly half of American children have a parent with a record.<sup>2</sup> A criminal record often carries a lifetime of consequences for individuals and their families.<sup>3</sup> This includes meager employment opportunities: Some 60 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals remain unemployed one year after their release.<sup>4</sup> In 2014, Illinois lawmakers passed a simple yet critical reform to give individuals involved in the justice

system a fair shot at workforce re-entry. The state's ban-the-box policy prohibits employers from inquiring about criminal history on job applications and postpones a criminal background check until the candidate has been seriously considered for hire.<sup>5</sup> By banning the box, Illinois joins some 19 states and 100 municipalities<sup>6</sup> in a movement to remove the stigma of a criminal record, reduce unemployment, and improve economic outcomes for Illinois families.



## *The bad and the ugly*

Pennsylvania lawmakers continued their damaging crusade of fiscal austerity in 2014,<sup>7</sup> following the post-recession trend in conservative-dominated state legislatures.<sup>8</sup> As part of this effort, Pennsylvania slashed state and local employment more than any other state—shrinking the number of jobs by more than 3 percent in 2010 alone and landing the state nearly last in terms of job growth since 2011.<sup>9</sup> Such job cuts particularly hurt workers of color and women, who are

disproportionately employed in the public sector.<sup>10</sup> In addition to causing unemployment among public-sector workers, reduced public spending and increased joblessness hold back the state's recovery, perpetuating tough times for all Pennsylvanians. This compounds hardship in a state where working families are already hurting: Pennsylvania's lawmakers have stubbornly refused to raise the state's minimum wage above the sorely inadequate federal level of \$7.25 per hour.<sup>11</sup>

## State rankings: Unemployment rate

State	Unemployment rate rank	Share unemployed	State	Unemployment rate rank	Share unemployed
North Dakota	1	2.8%	Missouri	26	6.1%
Nebraska	2	3.3%	North Carolina	26	6.1%
South Dakota	3	3.4%	Washington	29	6.2%
Utah	4	3.8%	Florida	30	6.3%
Minnesota	5	4.1%	New York	30	6.3%
Vermont	5	4.1%	Louisiana	32	6.4%
New Hampshire	7	4.3%	South Carolina	32	6.4%
Wyoming	7	4.3%	Kentucky	34	6.5%
Hawaii	9	4.4%	New Mexico	34	6.5%
Iowa	9	4.4%	West Virginia	34	6.5%
Kansas	11	4.5%	Connecticut	37	6.6%
Oklahoma	11	4.5%	New Jersey	37	6.6%
Montana	13	4.7%	Tennessee	39	6.7%
Idaho	14	4.8%	Alabama	40	6.8%
Colorado	15	5.0%	Alaska	40	6.8%
Texas	16	5.1%	Arizona	42	6.9%
Virginia	17	5.2%	Oregon	42	6.9%
Wisconsin	18	5.5%	Illinois	44	7.1%
Delaware	19	5.7%	Georgia	45	7.2%
Maine	19	5.7%	Michigan	46	7.3%
Ohio	19	5.7%	California	47	7.5%
Maryland	22	5.8%	Rhode Island	48	7.7%
Massachusetts	22	5.8%	District of Columbia	49	7.8%
Pennsylvania	22	5.8%	Mississippi	49	7.8%
Indiana	25	6.0%	Nevada	49	7.8%
Arkansas	26	6.1%			

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics* (U.S. Department of Labor, 2014).

## Endnotes

- 1 Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Local Area Unemployment Statistics," available at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/lastrk14.htm> (last accessed January 2016).
- 2 Rebecca Vallas and others, "Removing Barriers to Opportunity for Parents with Criminal Records and Their Children" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/criminal-justice/report/2015/12/10/126902/removing-barriers-to-opportunity-for-parents-with-criminal-records-and-their-children/>.
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- 6 Michelle Natividad Rodriguez and Beth Avery, "Ban the Box: U.S. Cities, Counties, and States Adopt Fair Hiring Policies" (Washington: National Employment Law Project, 2016), available at <http://www.nelp.org/publication/ban-the-box-fair-chance-hiring-state-and-local-guide/>.
- 7 Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, "Once Upon a Time: An Analysis of the 2014-15 General Assembly Approved Budget" (2014), available at <http://pennbpcc.org/once-upon-time-analysis-2014-15-general-assembly-approved-budget>.
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- 9 Keystone Research Center, "Pennsylvania Job Growth Remains Weak: PA Ranks 42nd in Job Growth over Last 12 months, 49th Since 2011," *bctv.org*, June 17, 2014, available at [http://www.bctv.org/special\\_reports/economy/pennsylvania-job-growth-remains-weak-pa-ranks-nd-in-job/article\\_c3b8ab92-f637-11e3-b18d-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.bctv.org/special_reports/economy/pennsylvania-job-growth-remains-weak-pa-ranks-nd-in-job/article_c3b8ab92-f637-11e3-b18d-001a4bcf887a.html).
- 10 David Cooper, Mary Gable, and Algernon Austin, "The public-sector jobs crisis" (Washington: Economic Policy Institute, 2012), available at <http://www.epi.org/publication/bp339-public-sector-jobs-crisis/>.
- 11 Simon Arias, "Raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, October 29, 2015, available at <http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2015/10/29/Raise-Pennsylvania-s-minimum-wage/stories/201510250072>.

# Gender wage gap

Women's median earnings for every dollar of men's median earnings among full-time, year-round workers in 2014

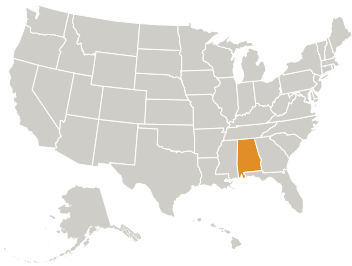
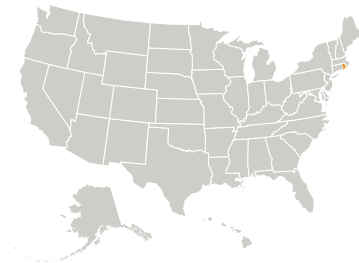
U.S. gender wage gap:

79.9 cents<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

Sixty percent of the nation's caregivers are women.<sup>2</sup> Caregiving responsibilities make women more likely to reduce working hours or exit the paid workforce<sup>3</sup>—factors that explain about 10 percent of the gender wage gap.<sup>4</sup> Access to sick leave when they or a loved one is injured or falls ill is therefore particularly important for women, yet the Family and Medical Leave Act only provides job security and unpaid time off for some workers. In 2014, Rhode

Island became the third state to fight for equal pay by implementing paid leave legislation, extending paid family and medical leave to more than three-quarters of its workers.<sup>5</sup> Studies show that access to paid leave raises women's labor force participation and wages 12 months after childbirth.<sup>6</sup> Rhode Island's workers—of all genders—can now attend to caregiving needs without fear of losing vital income or employment.



## *The bad and the ugly*

Although women make up less than half of the nation's workforce, they represent two-thirds of low-wage workers.<sup>7</sup> For this reason, policies that benefit low-paid workers—such as minimum-wage and paid leave laws—tend to have larger effects on women, shrinking the gender wage gap. In recent years, conservative-dominated state legislatures have prevented local governments from enacting such policies using a strategy called pre-emption.<sup>8</sup> Alabama, which has the nation's

sixth-largest gender wage gap, passed legislation in 2014 banning cities and counties from instituting their own paid sick leave policies. The following year, when Birmingham became the first Deep South city to pass a minimum-wage law, Alabama's state lawmakers tried—but failed—to pre-empt local minimum wages.<sup>9</sup> By battling local policies that benefit low-wage workers, states such as Alabama help perpetuate women's wage disadvantage.

## State rankings: Gender wage gap

State	Gender wage gap rank	Women's earnings compared to men's, in cents	State	Gender wage gap rank	Women's earnings compared to men's, in cents
District of Columbia	1	89.5	Maine	27	78.9
New York	2	86.8	Wisconsin	28	78.9
Hawaii	3	85.8	Nebraska	29	78.8
Maryland	4	85.4	Texas	30	78.8
Nevada	5	85.1	New Mexico	31	78.1
Florida	6	84.9	Arkansas	32	78.1
North Carolina	7	84.8	Ohio	33	77.8
California	8	84.1	Missouri	34	77.4
Arizona	9	84.0	Iowa	35	77.4
Vermont	10	83.8	Washington	36	77.1
Connecticut	11	82.6	Mississippi	37	77.0
Oregon	12	82.2	Kansas	38	77.0
Colorado	13	81.9	South Dakota	39	76.2
Massachusetts	14	81.9	New Hampshire	40	75.6
Georgia	15	81.7	Indiana	41	75.3
Rhode Island	16	81.7	Michigan	42	74.6
Tennessee	17	81.6	Montana	43	74.3
Minnesota	18	81.5	Oklahoma	44	73.5
Delaware	19	81.0	Idaho	45	72.8
Alaska	20	80.8	Alabama	46	72.6
New Jersey	21	80.4	North Dakota	47	71.3
South Carolina	22	80.3	West Virginia	48	70.0
Virginia	23	80.3	Wyoming	49	68.7
Kentucky	24	79.9	Utah	50	67.4
Illinois	25	79.2	Louisiana	51	65.3
Pennsylvania	26	79.2			

Source: Analysis of data from the Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table S0201.

## Endnotes

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# Children living apart from parents

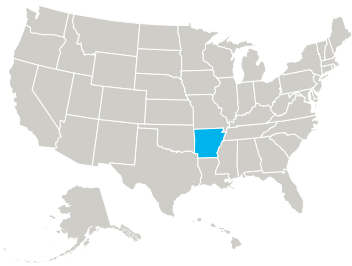
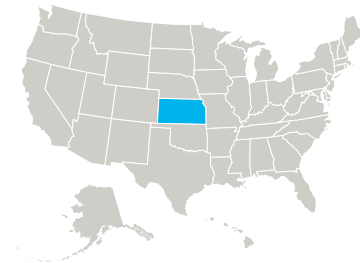
5<sup>1</sup>

Number of children who lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013

## *The good*

More than half of American children will live apart from one or both parents during a portion of their childhood,<sup>2</sup> often receiving child support from a noncustodial parent. In 2014, Kansas lawmakers turned child support debt to the advantage of children and parents alike by implementing the Child Support Savings Initiative, or CSSI. The innovative program allows parents who owe child support arrears to direct payments into a 529 college savings

account, reducing parents' debt by \$2 for every \$1 invested in the account.<sup>3</sup> Even a small amount of savings greatly increases a child's likelihood of attending college<sup>4</sup>—particularly for low-income children, as children living apart from a parent are disproportionately likely to be.<sup>5</sup> In addition to relieving the burden of debt for cash-strapped parents, the CSSI advances the goal that regardless of family structure, Kansas' children should have a fair shot at accessing higher education.



## *The bad and the ugly*

Among the more than 50 percent of American children who will live apart from a parent during childhood, there are 5.2 million children with a parent who is currently or formerly incarcerated.<sup>6</sup> During incarceration, parents typically have little ability to earn income, making it difficult for parents who contribute child support to meet their obligations.<sup>7</sup> Nonetheless, Arkansas—similar to at least 12 other states—treats incarceration as so-called voluntary unemployment.<sup>8</sup> Rather than

pausing child support orders during incarceration, the state allows arrears and interest to accumulate.<sup>9</sup> This causes many returning citizens to owe more than they can possibly pay upon release—a challenge that is compounded when many individuals involved in the justice system subsequently encounter barriers to employment.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, in Arkansas, poverty can send a parent straight back to jail: The maximum punishment for nonpayment of child support is 5 years to 20 years in prison.<sup>11</sup>



# State rankings: Children living apart from parents

State	Foster care rank	Kids in foster care
Virginia	1	2
Delaware	2	3
Georgia	2	3
Idaho	2	3
Maryland	2	3
New Hampshire	2	3
New Jersey	2	3
South Carolina	2	3
Utah	2	3
Alabama	10	4
Colorado	10	4
Connecticut	10	4
Florida	10	4
Hawaii	10	4
Louisiana	10	4
Minnesota	10	4
New Mexico	10	4
North Carolina	10	4
Texas	10	4
Arkansas	20	5
Illinois	20	5
Mississippi	20	5
New York	20	5
Ohio	20	5
Pennsylvania	20	5
Tennessee	20	5

State	Foster care rank	Kids in foster care
Wisconsin	20	5
California	28	6
Massachusetts	28	6
Michigan	28	6
South Dakota	28	6
Washington	28	6
Indiana	33	7
Kentucky	33	7
Maine	33	7
Nevada	33	7
North Dakota	33	7
Wyoming	33	7
Missouri	39	8
Rhode Island	39	8
Vermont	39	8
Arizona	42	9
District of Columbia	42	9
Iowa	42	9
Kansas	42	9
Nebraska	42	9
Oregon	42	9
Alaska	48	10
Montana	48	10
Oklahoma	50	11
West Virginia	50	11

Source: Kids Count Data Center, "Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care," available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6242-children-0-to-17-in-foster-care> (last accessed September 2015).

## Endnotes

- 1 Kids Count Data Center, "Children 0 to 17 in Foster Care," available at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6242-children-0-to-17-in-foster-care#detailed/1/any/false/36/any/12985,12986> (last accessed February 2016).
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# Teen birth rate

Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013

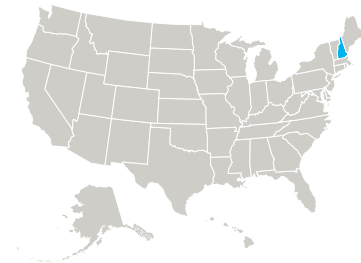
U.S. births per 1,000 teen women:

26.5<sup>1</sup>

## *The good*

Since the 1990s, many states have broadened eligibility requirements for coverage of family planning services under the Medicaid program. These services expand access to contraception and help families avoid unintended pregnancies. Drawing lessons from this successful expansion, Congress included a provision in the 2010 Affordable Care Act, or ACA, that grants states the option to extend Medicaid to cover additional “optional” populations and services.<sup>2</sup>

In 2014, New Hampshire became one of the 28 states that have now taken advantage of this ACA provision. The state expanded its income eligibility requirement to individuals living at or below 201 percent of the federal poverty line—about \$23,760 per year for a single person—giving a greater share of the state’s low-income teens and young adults access to contraception and family planning services.<sup>3</sup>



## *The bad and the ugly*

In 2014, Texas led a campaign against women’s reproductive rights. A law scheduled to take effect in 2014—currently being challenged in the Supreme Court—would force the closure of clinics that provide low-cost health services unless they comply with expensive, unnecessary restrictions.<sup>4</sup> The law represents an emerging strategy in states to undermine women’s right

to abortion.<sup>5</sup> If it takes effect, the overwhelming majority of abortion providers in the state will be forced to shut down.<sup>6</sup> Texas’ move creates particular hardship for low-income and young women, who can least afford high costs and long-distance travel to access critical health services, preventive care, and contraception.

## State rankings: Teen birth rate

State	Teen birth rate rank	Births per 1,000 teen women	State	Teen birth rate rank	Births per 1,000 teen women
Massachusetts	1	12.1	Idaho	27	25.7
New Hampshire	2	12.6	Ohio	28	27.2
Connecticut	3	12.9	Montana	29	27.9
Vermont	4	14.5	North Carolina	30	28.4
New Jersey	5	14.8	South Dakota	31	29.1
Minnesota	6	16.8	Kansas	32	29.6
Maine	7	17.4	Wyoming	32	29.6
New York	8	17.7	Missouri	34	30.0
Rhode Island	8	17.7	Alaska	35	30.3
Maryland	10	19.4	Indiana	35	30.3
Wisconsin	11	19.6	Nevada	35	30.3
Virginia	12	20.1	Georgia	38	30.5
Washington	13	20.5	South Carolina	39	31.6
Utah	14	20.6	District of Columbia	40	32.1
Pennsylvania	15	20.9	Arizona	41	33.1
Oregon	16	21.6	Alabama	42	34.3
Iowa	17	22.1	Tennessee	43	34.7
Colorado	18	23.4	Louisiana	44	39.2
California	19	23.6	Kentucky	45	39.5
Michigan	19	23.6	West Virginia	46	40.1
North Dakota	21	24.1	Texas	47	41.0
Florida	22	24.6	Mississippi	48	42.6
Illinois	22	24.6	Oklahoma	49	42.9
Delaware	24	24.7	New Mexico	50	43.3
Nebraska	25	24.9	Arkansas	51	43.5
Hawaii	26	25.1			

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "National Vital Statistics System," available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_01.pdf) (last accessed September 2015).

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# Health insurance coverage

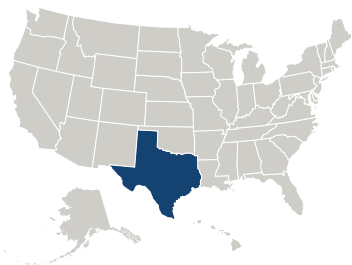
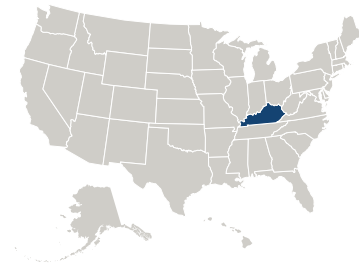
U.S. uninsured rate:  
**23.2%**<sup>1</sup>

Share of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line who did not have health insurance at any time in 2014

## *The good*

The Affordable Care Act has greatly improved access to health care across the United States, increasing the number of insured Americans by nearly 18 million since being enacted in 2010 and bringing the nation's uninsured rate to an historic low.<sup>2</sup> One ACA provision allows states to expand coverage to “optional” populations, as well as cover certain medical services not required by the minimum federal standards.<sup>3</sup> States that have expanded Medicaid under this provision have generally seen a more

significant decline—an average of 3.1 percentage points—in their uninsured rates.<sup>4</sup> In 2014, Kentucky joined the states that have opted into this special provision, extending Medicaid coverage to more low-income individuals and families. This move is a win-win for Kentucky: Lawmakers can expect a \$1 billion fiscal boon over the next seven years, and Kentucky's children and families will benefit from improved health and economic security.<sup>5</sup>



## *The bad and the ugly*

Texas had both the highest rate and greatest number of uninsured nonelderly residents in 2014.<sup>6</sup> The state is home to 20 of the 30 worst counties in terms of health insurance coverage<sup>7</sup> and is one of the nation's least healthy states, with the second-highest health insurance premiums in the country.<sup>8</sup> This is hardly surprising considering that in 2012, then-Gov. Rick Perry (R) declined to expand Medicaid under the ACA, denying insurance coverage to millions of low-

income Texans. Each year, Texas passes up \$10 billion in federal funding while its hospitals swallow \$5.5 billion to provide uncompensated care for the uninsured.<sup>9</sup> Along with the 18 other states that have refused to expand Medicaid<sup>10</sup>—including Florida, another high-population state with high rates of uninsurance—Texas continues to impose needless suffering and high costs on its low-income residents, its businesses, and its taxpayers' pocketbooks.

# State rankings: Lack of health insurance coverage

State	Uninsured rank	Share uninsured
District of Columbia	1	6.1%
Massachusetts	2	6.4%
Vermont	3	8.3%
Hawaii	4	11.8%
Rhode Island	5	13.0%
Connecticut	6	13.1%
West Virginia	7	13.2%
Minnesota	8	13.6%
Iowa	9	14.5%
Delaware	10	14.8%
Kentucky	11	14.9%
New York	12	15.2%
Ohio	13	16.6%
North Dakota	14	16.8%
Wisconsin	15	16.9%
Michigan	16	17.2%
Oregon	17	17.6%
Maryland	18	17.6%
Washington	19	18.6%
Maine	20	18.7%
Colorado	21	18.9%
Pennsylvania	22	19.3%
Illinois	23	19.8%
Arkansas	24	20.9%
California	25	22.2%
Tennessee	26	23.3%

State	Uninsured rank	Share uninsured
New Mexico	27	23.4%
South Dakota	28	23.5%
New Hampshire	29	24.1%
Nebraska	30	24.4%
Indiana	31	24.4%
Arizona	32	24.4%
Kansas	33	24.6%
Mississippi	34	25.0%
Idaho	35	25.0%
New Jersey	36	25.3%
Alabama	37	25.9%
Louisiana	38	26.2%
Missouri	39	26.3%
South Carolina	40	26.4%
Wyoming	41	26.5%
North Carolina	42	26.6%
Virginia	43	26.7%
Nevada	44	27.9%
Utah	45	27.9%
Montana	46	29.0%
Oklahoma	47	29.3%
Florida	48	30.6%
Alaska	49	31.0%
Georgia	50	31.5%
Texas	51	34.0%

Source: Analysis of data from the Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), Table C27016.

## Endnotes

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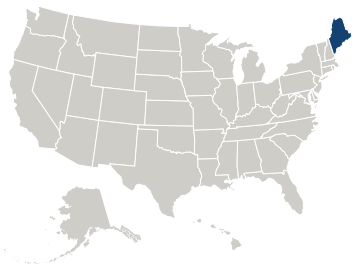
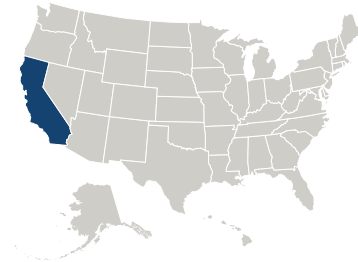
# Hunger and food insecurity 14%<sup>1</sup>

Average share of households that were food insecure from 2012 to 2014—meaning that they experienced difficulty providing enough food due to a lack of money or resources at some point

## *The good*

**T**he Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is a key component of the nation's social safety net and one of the few means-tested programs available to nearly all low-income households. In 2014, the program lifted 4.7 million Americans—including more than 2 million children—out of poverty.<sup>2</sup> Recognizing SNAP's effectiveness at relieving hunger and food insecurity—as well as its long-term positive effects on health, educational attainment, and employment<sup>3</sup>—multiple

states are expanding efforts to improve SNAP outreach and enrollment.<sup>4</sup> In recent years, California has set an example of how to improve eligible families' participation. In 2014, the state expanded its SNAP program, called CalFresh, by broadening categorical eligibility, removing the federally imposed lifetime ban for people with felony drug convictions, and linking CalFresh with energy assistance to allow participants to more readily access other benefits for which they are eligible.<sup>5</sup>



## *The bad and the ugly*

**M**aine Gov. Paul LePage (R) prematurely reinstated harsh eligibility restrictions for SNAP, which helped 46 million low-income Americans afford adequate food nationwide in 2014.<sup>6</sup> Since 1996, jobless nondisabled adults without minor children have only been eligible to receive SNAP for up to three months in any three-year period—regardless of how hard they are looking for work or the barriers they face.<sup>7</sup> Due to the economic devastation caused by the Great Recession, the federal

government—which funds SNAP—temporarily waived that restriction in high-unemployment areas. In 2014, recognizing that many low-income adults continue to face a difficult job market and tough economic conditions, it offered to continue that waiver for Maine and 36 other states.<sup>8</sup> However, Maine and eight other states have chosen to reject the waiver, compounding hardship and increasing food insecurity for thousands of low-income Americans.<sup>9</sup>

# State rankings: Hunger and food insecurity

State	Food insecurity rank	Share of households that are food-insecure	State	Food insecurity rank	Share of households that are food-insecure
North Dakota	1	8.4%	Nebraska	26	13.9%
Massachusetts	2	9.6%	South Carolina	26	13.9%
New Hampshire	3	10.0%	Wyoming	29	14.0%
Virginia	4	10.1%	Idaho	30	14.1%
Minnesota	5	10.4%	New York	31	14.4%
Pennsylvania	6	11.3%	Indiana	32	14.6%
Iowa	7	11.4%	Michigan	33	14.7%
Wisconsin	7	11.4%	Nevada	34	15.2%
Montana	9	11.5%	West Virginia	35	15.3%
Illinois	10	11.7%	Arizona	36	15.4%
New Jersey	10	11.7%	Georgia	37	15.7%
South Dakota	12	11.9%	Kansas	38	15.9%
Alaska	13	12.0%	Oregon	39	16.1%
Delaware	14	12.1%	Maine	40	16.2%
Hawaii	15	12.3%	Tennessee	41	16.3%
New Mexico	15	12.3%	Oklahoma	42	16.5%
Maryland	17	12.5%	North Carolina	43	16.7%
Vermont	18	12.6%	Alabama	44	16.8%
Rhode Island	19	12.7%	Missouri	44	16.8%
District of Columbia	20	13.2%	Ohio	46	16.9%
Utah	21	13.3%	Texas	47	17.2%
California	22	13.5%	Kentucky	48	17.5%
Colorado	23	13.6%	Louisiana	49	17.6%
Washington	24	13.7%	Arkansas	50	19.9%
Florida	25	13.8%	Mississippi	51	22.0%
Connecticut	26	13.9%			

Source: Alisha Coleman-Jensen and others, "Household Food Security in the United States in 2014" (Washington: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2015), available at [http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896836/err194\\_summary.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1896836/err194_summary.pdf).

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Unemployed U.S. workers  
receiving insurance:27.4%<sup>1</sup>

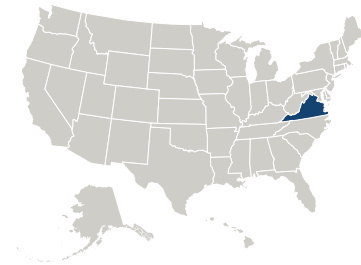
# Unemployment insurance coverage

Share of unemployed workers who were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014

## The good

The Great Recession ushered in significant economic hardship for many working families as unemployment rose and businesses laid workers off. One-third of states, however, offered employers an alternative to layoffs through work-sharing programs run under the unemployment insurance, or UI, system. Work sharing allows firms to reduce workers' hours when a downturn cuts demand for their products. Workers are able to retain their jobs, and part of the reduction in their wages is offset using

UI benefits, securing their incomes to support their families. At the same time, work sharing also benefits the economy by providing macroeconomic stabilization during economic downturns.<sup>2</sup> States' work-sharing programs have saved an estimated 501,000 jobs since 2008.<sup>3</sup> In 2014, Virginia became the 28th state to create a work-sharing program. Virginia's program will benefit its working families, businesses, and local economy alike—and dampen the pain of future recessions in the state.



## The bad and the ugly

In Florida, the share of unemployed workers receiving UI reached an all-time low of just 12 percent in 2015.<sup>4</sup> Florida's policymakers have stripped the state's workers of vital protections against layoffs by introducing a series of onerous new eligibility procedures<sup>5</sup> and cutting the UI benefit duration nearly in half from the conventional 26 weeks to just 14 weeks in 2015.<sup>6</sup> Eight other states,

including North Carolina, Georgia, and Kansas, have also deeply slashed weeks of UI benefits since the Great Recession.<sup>7</sup> State decisions to reduce the adequacy and duration of UI benefits leave a large share of workers—especially low-wage workers<sup>8</sup>—financially vulnerable in the event of job loss and will hamper UI's ability to respond to future recessions.<sup>9</sup>

# State rankings: Unemployment insurance coverage

State	Unemployment insurance coverage rank	Share of unemployed who receive insurance
Alaska	1	53.4%
Pennsylvania	2	45.5%
New Jersey	3	44.6%
Minnesota	4	44.5%
Massachusetts	5	42.9%
Vermont	6	42.2%
North Dakota	7	42.2%
Connecticut	8	39.8%
District of Columbia	9	39.7%
Wisconsin	10	38.4%
Montana	11	37.9%
Hawaii	12	36.0%
New York	13	34.1%
West Virginia	14	33.3%
Indiana	15	33.2%
California	16	32.5%
Wyoming	17	32.4%
Kansas	18	31.8%
Delaware	19	31.5%
Illinois	20	29.9%
Arkansas	21	29.9%
Oregon	22	29.7%
Maine	23	28.7%
Idaho	24	28.6%
Rhode Island	25	28.5%
Washington	26	28.4%

State	Unemployment insurance coverage rank	Share of unemployed who receive insurance
Nevada	27	28.4%
Maryland	28	26.9%
Colorado	29	26.7%
Nebraska	30	26.5%
New Mexico	31	24.4%
Michigan	32	24.4%
Utah	33	23.6%
Ohio	34	23.1%
Texas	35	22.8%
New Hampshire	36	22.5%
Kentucky	37	21.9%
Oklahoma	38	21.3%
Missouri	39	21.0%
Iowa	40	19.4%
Alabama	41	18.8%
North Carolina	42	18.8%
Virginia	43	18.6%
Mississippi	44	18.5%
Arizona	45	17.4%
Tennessee	46	16.4%
South Carolina	47	15.9%
Louisiana	48	14.7%
South Dakota	49	14.5%
Florida	50	14.4%
Georgia	51	14.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, "Unemployment Insurance Data Summary: 4th Quarter 2014," available at <http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data.asp> (last accessed February 2016).

## Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Labor, "Unemployment Insurance Data Summary: 4th Quarter 2014," available at <http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/content/data.asp> (last accessed February 2016).
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- 8 Low-wage workers are only one-third as likely to get UI as middle-income workers, even though they are twice as likely to lose a job through no fault of their own and are less likely to have savings. See Cynthia M. Fagnoni, "Unemployment Insurance: Receipt of Benefits Has Declined, with Continued Disparities for Low-Wage and Part-Time Workers," Testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, September 19, 2007, available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071243t.pdf>.
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# Affordable and available housing

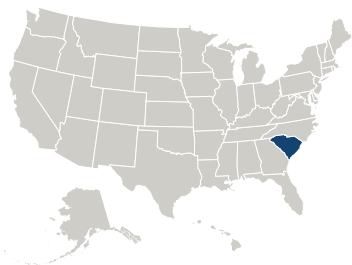
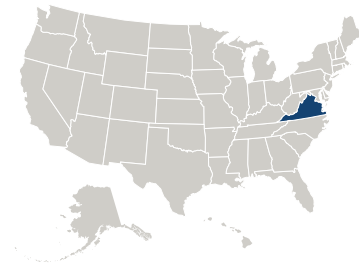
57<sup>2</sup>

Number of affordable and available units for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014<sup>1</sup>

## The good

Homelessness is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Today, more than 1 in 10 homeless adults is a U.S. military veteran.<sup>3</sup> While veteran homelessness has declined over the years, nearly 48,000 veterans still experience homelessness on any given night.<sup>4</sup> An additional 1.4 million veterans remain at risk of homelessness because of low income, lack of support networks, and inadequate housing conditions.<sup>5</sup> Virginia has become a leader in the effort to lift America's veterans out of poverty

and homelessness. In 2015, President Barack Obama announced that the state was the first in the country to end homelessness among veterans. In 2014, Virginia lawmakers invested nearly \$2 million to tackle homelessness and improve workforce training programs for veterans.<sup>6</sup> As a result, the state secured permanent housing for 1,400 veterans over the course of a year and now assists at-risk veterans in securing housing within 90 days of falling into homelessness.<sup>7</sup>



## The bad and the ugly

In multiple states, decades of government disinvestment and neglect have led to crumbling infrastructure and unsafe conditions in public housing. And even when these problems are addressed, public housing authorities often take action in ways that leave residents' lives in uncertainty and upheaval. In South Carolina, for example, the Columbia Housing Authority, or CHA, made initial

plans in 2012 to redevelop Columbia's distressed and oldest public housing complex.<sup>8</sup> Not only did the CHA fail to address this issue in a timely manner—beginning action only years after informing residents yet failing to improve conditions in the interim—but the new plan also requires permanently displacing all current residents.<sup>9</sup>

# State rankings: Affordable and available housing

State	Affordable housing gap rank	Affordable housing units	State	Affordable housing gap rank	Affordable housing units
Wyoming	1	103	Idaho	27	63
Iowa	2	87	Rhode Island	27	63
North Dakota	3	85	Illinois	29	62
West Virginia	4	83	Massachusetts	29	62
Montana	5	80	New Mexico	29	62
South Dakota	5	80	Maine	32	60
Alabama	7	78	Utah	32	60
Kansas	7	78	Louisiana	34	59
Ohio	7	78	New Hampshire	34	59
Kentucky	10	77	Texas	34	59
Oklahoma	10	77	Vermont	34	59
Nebraska	12	75	Colorado	38	57
Minnesota	13	74	Georgia	38	57
Missouri	13	74	Maryland	38	57
Wisconsin	13	74	Virginia	38	57
Arkansas	16	73	Washington	42	54
Indiana	17	71	Delaware	43	53
Alaska	18	69	New York	44	50
District of Columbia	18	69	Arizona	45	49
Pennsylvania	20	68	Oregon	46	42
Tennessee	20	68	Hawaii	47	41
North Carolina	22	66	Nevada	47	41
South Carolina	22	66	New Jersey	49	40
Connecticut	24	65	Florida	50	36
Michigan	25	64	California	51	30
Mississippi	25	64			

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, "The Affordable Rental Housing Gap Persists," *Housing Spotlight 5* (1) (2015), available at [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-Spotlight\\_Volume-5\\_Issue-1.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-Spotlight_Volume-5_Issue-1.pdf).

## Endnotes

- 1 Very low-income households are those with incomes at or below half of median income in the metropolitan or other area where they live.
- 2 National Low Income Housing Coalition, "Affordable Housing is Nowhere to be Found for Millions," *Housing Spotlight 5* (1) (2015), available at [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-Spotlight\\_Volume-5\\_Issue-1.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-Spotlight_Volume-5_Issue-1.pdf).
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- 6 Jenna Portnoy and Laura Vozzella, "McAuliffe announces milestone in ending veteran homelessness," *The Washington Post*, November 11, 2015, available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/mcauliffe-to-announce-milestone-in-ending-veteran-homelessness/2015/11/11/3c6fdf32-87fb-11e5-be8b-1ae2e4f50f76\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/mcauliffe-to-announce-milestone-in-ending-veteran-homelessness/2015/11/11/3c6fdf32-87fb-11e5-be8b-1ae2e4f50f76_story.html).
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- 9 Clif Leblanc, "Razing of Columbia's Gonzales Gardens complex get federal OK," *The State*, January 5, 2016, available at <http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article53132905.html>.

# Savings and assets

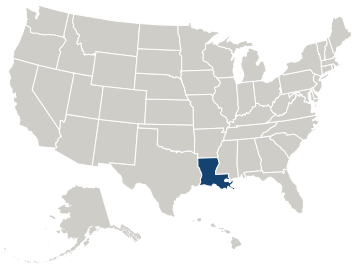
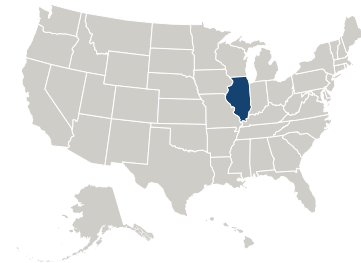
U.S. households using high-cost credit:

7%<sup>2</sup>Share of households that used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013<sup>1</sup>

## The good

Stagnant incomes and rising costs have squeezed families' pocketbooks in recent years, making saving for retirement a daunting task for most Americans.<sup>3</sup> The nation faces a looming retirement savings shortfall: Nearly one-third of nonretired Americans having no retirement savings or pensions, and the typical near-retired individual has only \$14,500 in retirement account assets.<sup>4</sup> In an effort to encourage retirement savings, Illinois became the first state

to implement a mandatory statewide retirement savings program under the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Act. Enacted in 2014, the provision requires private-sector employers to automatically enroll full-time workers into a direct deduction retirement savings program.<sup>5</sup> While still new, this innovative state-run program will likely prove a key tool to ensure that future generations of Illinois retirees can remain economically secure in their golden years.



## The bad and the ugly

Each year, about 12 million mostly low-income Americans take out one or more predatory loans—short-term, high-cost loans with interest rates often in the triple digits.<sup>6</sup> Payday lenders often take advantage of borrowers' financial vulnerability, ensnaring them in never-ending cycles of debt. The problem is particularly egregious in Louisiana: The state has far more payday lenders than McDonald's restaurants.<sup>7</sup>

Yet when advocates—including the state's faith community, which opposes excessive interest rates—pushed for legislation to reform lending practices in 2014, Louisiana's lawmakers quickly let themselves be won over by industry lobbying efforts. The reforms, which would have capped interest rates, as well as limited the number of loans an individual could take out to 10 per year, failed to pass.<sup>8</sup>

## State rankings: Savings and assets

State	High-cost credit rank	Share of households using high-cost credit	State	High-cost credit rank	Share of households using high-cost credit
Wisconsin	1	2.6%	Nebraska	27	6.9%
Connecticut	2	3.2%	Montana	28	7.7%
New Hampshire	3	3.5%	Colorado	29	7.8%
District of Columbia	4	3.8%	Louisiana	29	7.8%
New Jersey	4	3.8%	South Dakota	29	7.8%
Vermont	6	3.9%	West Virginia	29	7.8%
Maryland	7	4.0%	Maine	33	7.9%
Massachusetts	8	4.2%	Kansas	34	8.1%
Pennsylvania	9	4.4%	Georgia	35	8.3%
New York	10	4.5%	Idaho	36	8.5%
Utah	11	4.8%	Missouri	37	8.7%
Rhode Island	12	5.2%	Ohio	37	8.7%
California	13	5.3%	Nevada	39	8.8%
Illinois	13	5.3%	Kentucky	40	8.9%
Hawaii	15	5.4%	Tennessee	40	8.9%
Minnesota	16	5.5%	North Carolina	42	9.3%
Iowa	17	5.7%	Arizona	43	9.4%
Washington	17	5.7%	Wyoming	44	10.1%
Delaware	19	5.9%	New Mexico	45	10.3%
Michigan	19	5.9%	Arkansas	46	11.2%
Oregon	21	6.0%	Texas	47	11.4%
Alaska	22	6.3%	Alabama	48	11.9%
Florida	22	6.3%	South Carolina	49	12.7%
Virginia	24	6.5%	Oklahoma	50	13.1%
Indiana	25	6.6%	Mississippi	51	13.6%
North Dakota	26	6.8%			

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, "National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households 2013," available at <http://www.economicinclusion.gov/custom-data/index.html> (last accessed September 2015).

## Endnotes

- 1 This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent-to-own, and pawning.
- 2 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, "National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households" (2013), available at <https://www.economicinclusion.gov/custom-data/index.html>.
- 3 For more details on the financial squeeze faced by middle-class families that has hindered many families' ability to save for retirement, see Jennifer Erickson, ed., "The Middle-Class Squeeze: A Picture of Stagnant Incomes, Rising Costs, and What We Can Do to Strengthen America's Middle Class" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MiddleClassSqueezeReport.pdf>.
- 4 Keith Miller, David Madland, and Christian E. Weller, "The Reality of the Retirement Crisis" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/report/2015/01/26/105394/the-reality-of-the-retirement-crisis/>.
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- 7 Joe Valenti and Claire Markham, "Responsible Credit Is an Economic and Moral Issue" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2015), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/FaithResponsibleCredit-brief2.pdf>.
- 8 Ibid.

# Conclusion

State policymakers' actions and innovations in 2014 demonstrated that U.S. states truly are the laboratories of democracy. The good, the bad, and the ugly of these actions illustrate the important role that states and localities play in shaping the nation's future.

Amid congressional gridlock, many state policymakers have taken it upon themselves to reverse the economic devastation that followed the Great Recession. States such as California, Virginia, and Illinois took critical steps to strengthen economic security and opportunity for working families; while others—such as Texas and Wisconsin—enacted policies that put the American dream even further out of reach for their residents. Moving forward, state lawmakers must take a hard look at where their state is succeeding and where it is falling short. By drawing lessons about how policy matters to reduce poverty and improve economic opportunity, state policymakers can build a better future for generations to come.



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# Alabama

POPULATION OF ALABAMA IN 2014: **4,727,549**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ALABAMA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **910,175**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Alabama, the poverty rate was 19.3 percent, ranking it 48 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Alabama must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Alabama ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Alabama is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **7**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **30**

## Where Alabama is doing worst

Rank in Savings and Assets: **48**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **48**Rank in Poverty Rate: **48**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**48**

### POVERTY RATE

19.3 percent of people in Alabama had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**48**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

27.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Alabama had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**39**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Alabama was 16.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

30

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80 percent of high school students in Alabama graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

43

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

33.7 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Alabama had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

47

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

21 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Alabama who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

40

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.8 percent of all workers in Alabama were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

46

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Alabama in 2014, women's median earnings were 72.6 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Alabama lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

42

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 34.3 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Alabama. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

### 37 LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

25.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Alabama did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

### 44 HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.8 percent of households in Alabama were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

### 41 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

18.8 percent of unemployed workers in Alabama were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

### 7 AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Alabama had 78 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

### 48 SAVINGS AND ASSETS

11.9 percent of households in Alabama used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Alaska

POPULATION OF ALASKA IN 2014: 717,723

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ALASKA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 80,627

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Alaska, the poverty rate was 11.2 percent, ranking it 6 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Alaska must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Alaska ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Alaska is doing best

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **1**Rank in Income Inequality: **1**Rank in Poverty Rate: **6**

## Where Alaska is doing worst

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **49**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **48**Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **45**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**6**

### POVERTY RATE

11.2 percent of people in Alaska had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**12**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.3 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Alaska had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**1**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Alaska was 11.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

45

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

72 percent of high school students in Alaska graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

45

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

33 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Alaska had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Alaska who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

40

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.8 percent of all workers in Alaska were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

20

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Alaska in 2014, women's median earnings were 80.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

48

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

10 children in Alaska lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

35

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 30.3 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Alaska. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

49

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

31 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Alaska did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

13

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

12 percent of households in Alaska were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

1

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

53.4 percent of unemployed workers in Alaska were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

18

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Alaska had 69 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

22

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

6.3 percent of households in Alaska used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Arizona

POPULATION OF ARIZONA IN 2014: **6,573,369**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ARIZONA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **1,199,061**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Arizona, the poverty rate was 18.2 percent, ranking it 42 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Arizona must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Arizona ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Arizona is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **9**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **32**Rank in Income Inequality: **33**

## Where Arizona is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **45**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **45**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **45**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**42**

### POVERTY RATE

18.2 percent of people in Arizona had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**41**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

25.2 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Arizona had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**33**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Arizona was 15.4 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

43

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

75 percent of high school students in Arizona graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

39

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

34.9 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Arizona had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

45

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

20 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Arizona who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

42

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.9 percent of all workers in Arizona were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

9

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Arizona in 2014, women's median earnings were 84 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

42

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

9 children in Arizona lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

41

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 33.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Arizona. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

32

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

24.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Arizona did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

36

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

15.4 percent of households in Arizona were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

45

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

17.4 percent of unemployed workers in Arizona were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

45

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Arizona had 49 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

43

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

9.4 percent of households in Arizona used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Arkansas

POPULATION OF ARKANSAS IN 2014: **2,882,856**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ARKANSAS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **543,882**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Arkansas, the poverty rate was 18.9 percent, ranking it 46 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Arkansas must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Arkansas ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Arkansas is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **16**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **17**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **20**

## Where Arkansas is doing worst

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **51**Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **50**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **50**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**46**

### POVERTY RATE

18.9 percent of people in Arkansas had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**45**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

26 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Arkansas had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**25**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Arkansas was 14.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

17

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

85 percent of high school students in Arkansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

50

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

30 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Arkansas had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

42

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

19 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Arkansas who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

26

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.1 percent of all workers in Arkansas were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

32

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Arkansas in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.1 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

20

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

5 children in Arkansas lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

51

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 43.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Arkansas. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

24

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

20.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Arkansas did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

50

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

19.9 percent of households in Arkansas were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

21

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

29.9 percent of unemployed workers in Arkansas were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

16

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Arkansas had 73 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

46

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

11.2 percent of households in Arkansas used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# California



POPULATION OF CALIFORNIA IN 2014: **38,060,228**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **6,259,098**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In California, the poverty rate was 16.4 percent, ranking it 34 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which California must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where California ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where California is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **8**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **13**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **16**

## Where California is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **51**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **47**

Rank in Income Inequality: **45**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**34**

### POVERTY RATE

16.4 percent of people in California had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**35**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

22.4 percent of children under age 18 in related families in California had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**45**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in California was 17.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

30

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80 percent of high school students in California graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

29

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

39.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in California had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in California who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

47

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.5 percent of all workers in California were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

8

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in California in 2014, women's median earnings were 84.1 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

28

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

6 children in California lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

19

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 23.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in California. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

25

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

22.2 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in California did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

22

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.5 percent of households in California were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

16

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

32.5 percent of unemployed workers in California were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

51

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

California had 30 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

13

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

5.3 percent of households in California used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# Colorado



POPULATION OF COLORADO IN 2014: **5,237,149**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN COLORADO LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **630,786**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Colorado, the poverty rate was 12 percent, ranking it 13 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Colorado must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Colorado ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Colorado is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **11**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **11**

## Where Colorado is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **38**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **36**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **29**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**13**

### POVERTY RATE

12 percent of people in Colorado had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**11**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Colorado had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**20**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Colorado was 14.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

36

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

77 percent of high school students in Colorado graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

13

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

45.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Colorado had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

11

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

12 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Colorado who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

15

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5 percent of all workers in Colorado were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

13

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Colorado in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.9 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Colorado lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

18

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 23.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Colorado. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

21

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

18.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Colorado did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

23

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

13.6 percent of households in Colorado were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

29

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

26.7 percent of unemployed workers in Colorado were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

38

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Colorado had 57 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

29

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

7.8 percent of households in Colorado used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Connecticut

POPULATION OF CONNECTICUT IN 2014: 3,485,629

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CONNECTICUT LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 374,772

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Connecticut, the poverty rate was 10.8 percent, ranking it 3 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Connecticut must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Connecticut ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Connecticut is doing best

Rank in Savings and Assets: **2**Rank in Poverty Rate: **3**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **3**

## Where Connecticut is doing worst

Rank in Income Inequality: **49**Rank in Unemployment Rate: **37**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **26**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**3**

### POVERTY RATE

10.8 percent of people in Connecticut had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**7**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.4 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Connecticut had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**49**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Connecticut was 18.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

10

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

86 percent of high school students in Connecticut graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

8

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

47 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Connecticut had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

11

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

12 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Connecticut who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

37

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.6 percent of all workers in Connecticut were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

11

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Connecticut in 2014, women's median earnings were 82.6 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

10

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

4 children in Connecticut lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

3

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 12.9 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Connecticut. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

6

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

13.1 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Connecticut did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

26

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

13.9 percent of households in Connecticut were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

8

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

39.8 percent of unemployed workers in Connecticut were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

24

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Connecticut had 65 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

2

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

3.2 percent of households in Connecticut used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Delaware

POPULATION OF DELAWARE IN 2014: **909,611**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN DELAWARE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **113,508**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Delaware, the poverty rate was 12.5 percent, ranking it 17 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Delaware must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Delaware ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Delaware is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **10**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **14**

## Where Delaware is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **43**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **30**Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **27**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

### 17 POVERTY RATE

12.5 percent of people in Delaware had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

### 19 CHILD POVERTY RATE

17.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Delaware had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

### 16 INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Delaware was 13.9 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

30

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80 percent of high school students in Delaware graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

27

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

39.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Delaware had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Delaware who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

19

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.7 percent of all workers in Delaware were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

19

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Delaware in 2014, women's median earnings were 81 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

2

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

3 children in Delaware lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

24

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 24.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Delaware. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

10

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

14.8 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Delaware did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

14

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

12.1 percent of households in Delaware were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

19

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

31.5 percent of unemployed workers in Delaware were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

43

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Delaware had 53 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

19

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

5.9 percent of households in Delaware used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# District of Columbia



POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN 2014: **624,327**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **110,666**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In the District of Columbia, the poverty rate was 17.7 percent, ranking it 40 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which the District of Columbia must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where the District of Columbia ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where the District of Columbia is doing best

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **1**

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **1**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **1**

## Where the District of Columbia is doing worst

Rank in Income Inequality: **51**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **50**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **49**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**40**

### POVERTY RATE

17.7 percent of people in the District of Columbia had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**43**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

25.9 percent of children under age 18 in related families in the District of Columbia had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**51**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in the District of Columbia was 30.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

50

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

62 percent of high school students in the District of Columbia graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

1

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

72 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in the District of Columbia had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in the District of Columbia who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

49

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

7.8 percent of all workers in the District of Columbia were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

1

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in the District of Columbia in 2014, women's median earnings were 89.5 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

42

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

9 children in the District of Columbia lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

40

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 32.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in the District of Columbia. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

1

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

6.1 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in the District of Columbia did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

20

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.2 percent of households in the District of Columbia were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

9

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

39.7 percent of unemployed workers in the District of Columbia were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

18

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

the District of Columbia had 69 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

4

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

3.8 percent of households in the District of Columbia used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Florida



POPULATION OF FLORIDA IN 2014: **19,470,210**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FLORIDA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **3,211,615**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Florida, the poverty rate was 16.5 percent, ranking it 35 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Florida must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Florida ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Florida is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **6**

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **22**

## Where Florida is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **50**

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **50**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **48**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**35**

### POVERTY RATE

16.5 percent of people in Florida had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**37**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

23.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Florida had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**36**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Florida was 15.9 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

40

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

76 percent of high school students in Florida graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

33

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

37.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Florida had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Florida who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

30

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.3 percent of all workers in Florida were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

6

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Florida in 2014, women's median earnings were 84.9 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Florida lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

22

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 24.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Florida. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

48

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

30.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Florida did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

25

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.8 percent of households in Florida were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

50

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

14.4 percent of unemployed workers in Florida were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

50

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Florida had 36 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

22

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

6.3 percent of households in Florida used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Georgia

POPULATION OF GEORGIA IN 2014: 9,823,859

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN GEORGIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 1,797,969

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Georgia, the poverty rate was 18.3 percent, ranking it 44 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Georgia must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Georgia ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Georgia is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **15**Rank in Savings and Assets: **35**

## Where Georgia is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **51**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **50**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **46**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**44**

### POVERTY RATE

18.3 percent of people in Georgia had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**46**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

26.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Georgia had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**43**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Georgia was 16.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

45

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

72 percent of high school students in Georgia graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

36

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

36.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Georgia had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

42

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

19 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Georgia who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

45

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.2 percent of all workers in Georgia were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

15

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Georgia in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.7 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

2

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

3 children in Georgia lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

38

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 30.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Georgia. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

50

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

31.5 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Georgia did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

37

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

15.7 percent of households in Georgia were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

51

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

14.1 percent of unemployed workers in Georgia were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

38

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Georgia had 57 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

35

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

8.3 percent of households in Georgia used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Hawaii



POPULATION OF HAWAII IN 2014: **1,379,804**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HAWAII LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **156,729**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Hawaii, the poverty rate was 11.4 percent, ranking it 7 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Hawaii must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Hawaii ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Hawaii is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **3**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **4**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **6**

## Where Hawaii is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **47**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **27**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **26**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**7**

### POVERTY RATE

11.4 percent of people in Hawaii had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**6**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.4 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Hawaii had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**12**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Hawaii was 13.2 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

27

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

82 percent of high school students in Hawaii graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

22

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

41.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Hawaii had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B1S001.*

15

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

13 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Hawaii who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

9

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.4 percent of all workers in Hawaii were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

3

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Hawaii in 2014, women's median earnings were 85.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

10

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

4 children in Hawaii lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

26

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 25.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Hawaii. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

4

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

11.8 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Hawaii did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

15

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

12.3 percent of households in Hawaii were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

12

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

36 percent of unemployed workers in Hawaii were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

47

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Hawaii had 41 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

15

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

5.4 percent of households in Hawaii used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Idaho



POPULATION OF IDAHO IN 2014: **1,603,083**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN IDAHO LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **237,981**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Idaho, the poverty rate was 14.8 percent, ranking it 26 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Idaho must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Idaho ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Idaho is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**

Rank in Income Inequality: **13**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **14**

## Where Idaho is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **45**

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **40**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **36**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**26**

### POVERTY RATE

14.8 percent of people in Idaho had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**23**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

18.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Idaho had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**13**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Idaho was 13.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

N/A

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

N/A percent of high school students in Idaho graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

40

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

34.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Idaho had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

32

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

16 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Idaho who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

14

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.8 percent of all workers in Idaho were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

45

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Idaho in 2014, women's median earnings were 72.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

2

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

3 children in Idaho lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

27

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 25.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Idaho. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

**35**

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

25 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Idaho did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

**30**

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

14.1 percent of households in Idaho were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

**24**

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

28.6 percent of unemployed workers in Idaho were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

**27**

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Idaho had 63 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

**36**

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

8.5 percent of households in Idaho used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# Illinois



POPULATION OF ILLINOIS IN 2014: **12,571,848**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **1,804,535**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Illinois, the poverty rate was 14.4 percent, ranking it 25 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Illinois must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Illinois ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Illinois is doing best

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **10**

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **10**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **13**

## Where Illinois is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **44**

Rank in Income Inequality: **40**

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **29**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**25**

### POVERTY RATE

14.4 percent of people in Illinois had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**27**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

19.9 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Illinois had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**40**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Illinois was 16.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

23

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

83 percent of high school students in Illinois graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

10

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

46.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Illinois had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Illinois who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

44

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

7.1 percent of all workers in Illinois were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

25

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Illinois in 2014, women's median earnings were 79.2 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

20

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

5 children in Illinois lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

22

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 24.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Illinois. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

23

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

19.8 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Illinois did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

10

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

11.7 percent of households in Illinois were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

20

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

29.9 percent of unemployed workers in Illinois were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

29

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Illinois had 62 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

13

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

5.3 percent of households in Illinois used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Indiana

POPULATION OF INDIANA IN 2014: **6,391,460**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN INDIANA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **974,218**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Indiana, the poverty rate was 15.2 percent, ranking it 28 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Indiana must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Indiana ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Indiana is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **7**

Rank in Income Inequality: **11**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **15**

## Where Indiana is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **41**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **35**

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **34**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**28**

### POVERTY RATE

15.2 percent of people in Indiana had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**30**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

21.2 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Indiana had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**11**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Indiana was 13.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

7

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

87 percent of high school students in Indiana graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

34

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

37.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Indiana had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Indiana who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

25

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6 percent of all workers in Indiana were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

41

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Indiana in 2014, women's median earnings were 75.3 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

33

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

7 children in Indiana lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

35

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 30.3 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Indiana. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

**31**

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

24.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Indiana did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

**32**

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

14.6 percent of households in Indiana were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

**15**

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

33.2 percent of unemployed workers in Indiana were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

**17**

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Indiana had 71 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

**25**

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

6.6 percent of households in Indiana used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Iowa

POPULATION OF IOWA IN 2014: 3,004,857

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN IOWA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 367,816

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Iowa, the poverty rate was 12.2 percent, ranking it 15 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Iowa must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Iowa ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Iowa is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **1**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **2**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **2**

## Where Iowa is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **42**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **40**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **35**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**15**

### POVERTY RATE

12.2 percent of people in Iowa had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**10**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.9 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Iowa had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**8**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Iowa was 12.8 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

1

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

90 percent of high school students in Iowa graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

7

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

47.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Iowa had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

2

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

9 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Iowa who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

9

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.4 percent of all workers in Iowa were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

35

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Iowa in 2014, women's median earnings were 77.4 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

42

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

9 children in Iowa lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

17

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 22.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Iowa. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



9

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

14.5 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Iowa did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

7

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

11.4 percent of households in Iowa were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

40

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

19.4 percent of unemployed workers in Iowa were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

2

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Iowa had 87 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

17

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

5.7 percent of households in Iowa used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Kansas

POPULATION OF KANSAS IN 2014: **2,821,431**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN KANSAS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **382,712**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Kansas, the poverty rate was 13.6 percent, ranking it 20 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Kansas must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Kansas ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Kansas is doing best

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **6**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **7**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **10**

## Where Kansas is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **42**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **38**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **38**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**20**

### POVERTY RATE

13.6 percent of people in Kansas had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**18**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

17.4 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Kansas had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**17**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Kansas was 13.9 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

*Jobs and education*

10

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Kansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

20

**HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

42.9 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Kansas had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

6

**DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

11 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Kansas who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

11

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

4.5 percent of all workers in Kansas were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

38

**GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Kansas in 2014, women's median earnings were 77 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family stability and strength*

42

**CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

9 children in Kansas lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

32

**TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 29.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Kansas. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

33

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

24.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Kansas did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

38

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

15.9 percent of households in Kansas were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

18

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

31.8 percent of unemployed workers in Kansas were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

7

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Kansas had 78 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

34

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

8.1 percent of households in Kansas used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Kentucky



POPULATION OF KENTUCKY IN 2014: **4,275,359**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN KENTUCKY LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **817,542**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Kentucky, the poverty rate was 19.1 percent, ranking it 47 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Kentucky must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Kentucky ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Kentucky is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **10**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **10**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **11**

## Where Kentucky is doing worst

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **48**

Rank in Poverty Rate: **47**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **45**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

### 47 POVERTY RATE

19.1 percent of people in Kentucky had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

### 42 CHILD POVERTY RATE

25.8 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Kentucky had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

### 35 INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Kentucky was 15.8 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

10

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Kentucky graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

40

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

34.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Kentucky had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Kentucky who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

34

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.5 percent of all workers in Kentucky were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

24

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Kentucky in 2014, women's median earnings were 79.9 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

33

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

7 children in Kentucky lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

45

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 39.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Kentucky. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

11

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

14.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Kentucky did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

48

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

17.5 percent of households in Kentucky were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

37

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

21.9 percent of unemployed workers in Kentucky were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

10

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Kentucky had 77 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

40

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

8.9 percent of households in Kentucky used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Louisiana

POPULATION OF LOUISIANA IN 2014: **4,518,525**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN LOUISIANA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **896,524**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Louisiana, the poverty rate was 19.8 percent, ranking it 49 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Louisiana must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Louisiana ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Louisiana is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**Rank in Savings and Assets: **29**Rank in Unemployment Rate: **32**

## Where Louisiana is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **51**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **50**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **49**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**49**

### POVERTY RATE

19.8 percent of people in Louisiana had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**49**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

27.6 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Louisiana had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**47**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Louisiana was 18.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

44

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

74 percent of high school students in Louisiana graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

48

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

31.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Louisiana had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

50

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

22 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Louisiana who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

32

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.4 percent of all workers in Louisiana were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

51

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Louisiana in 2014, women's median earnings were 65.3 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Louisiana lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

44

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 39.2 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Louisiana. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

38

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

26.2 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 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

49

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

17.6 percent of households in Louisiana were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

48

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

14.7 percent of unemployed workers in Louisiana were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

34

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Louisiana had 59 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

29

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

7.8 percent of households in Louisiana used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Maine



POPULATION OF MAINE IN 2014: **1,294,009**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MAINE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **182,791**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Maine, the poverty rate was 14.1 percent, ranking it 22 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Maine must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Maine ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Maine is doing best

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **7**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **10**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **11**

## Where Maine is doing worst

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **40**

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **33**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **33**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**22**

### POVERTY RATE

14.1 percent of people in Maine had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**24**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

18.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Maine had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**22**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Maine was 14.2 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

10

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Maine graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

28

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

39.6 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Maine had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

11

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

12 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Maine who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

19

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.7 percent of all workers in Maine were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

27

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Maine in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.9 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

33

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

7 children in Maine lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

7

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 17.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Maine. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

20

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

18.7 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Maine did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

40

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

16.2 percent of households in Maine were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

23

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

28.7 percent of unemployed workers in Maine were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

32

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Maine had 60 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

33

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

7.9 percent of households in Maine used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Maryland



POPULATION OF MARYLAND IN 2014: **5,835,377**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MARYLAND LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **589,818**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Maryland, the poverty rate was 10.1 percent, ranking it 2 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Maryland must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Maryland ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Maryland is doing best

Rank in Poverty Rate: **2**

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **3**

## Where Maryland is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **38**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **28**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **22**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**2**

### POVERTY RATE

10.1 percent of people in Maryland had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**3**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

12.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Maryland had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**19**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Maryland was 14 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

17

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

85 percent of high school students in Maryland graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

12

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

46.2 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Maryland had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Maryland who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

22

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

5.8 percent of all workers in Maryland were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

4

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Maryland in 2014, women's median earnings were 85.4 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

2

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

3 children in Maryland lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

10

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 19.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Maryland. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

18

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

17.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Maryland did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

17

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

12.5 percent of households in Maryland were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

28

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

26.9 percent of unemployed workers in Maryland were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

38

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Maryland had 57 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

7

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

4 percent of households in Maryland used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# Massachusetts

POPULATION OF MASSACHUSETTS IN 2014: **6,509,672**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **757,235**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Massachusetts, the poverty rate was 11.6 percent, ranking it 10 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Massachusetts must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Massachusetts ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Massachusetts is doing best

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **1**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **2**Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **2**

## Where Massachusetts is doing worst

Rank in Income Inequality: **48**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **29**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **28**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**10**

### POVERTY RATE

11.6 percent of people in Massachusetts had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**9**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.9 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Massachusetts had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**48**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Massachusetts was 18.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

17

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

85 percent of high school students in Massachusetts graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.

2

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

55.2 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Massachusetts had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.

4

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

10 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Massachusetts who were not in school or working in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.

22

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

5.8 percent of all workers in Massachusetts were unemployed in 2014. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.

14

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Massachusetts in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.9 percent of men's median earnings. Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

28

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

6 children in Massachusetts lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

1

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 12.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Massachusetts. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

2

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

6.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Massachusetts did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

2

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

9.6 percent of households in Massachusetts were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

5

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

42.9 percent of unemployed workers in Massachusetts were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

29

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Massachusetts had 62 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

8

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

4.2 percent of households in Massachusetts used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Michigan

POPULATION OF MICHIGAN IN 2014: 9,686,787

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MICHIGAN LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 1,568,844

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Michigan, the poverty rate was 16.2 percent, ranking it 33 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Michigan must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Michigan ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Michigan is doing best

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **16**Rank in Savings and Assets: **19**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **19**

## Where Michigan is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **46**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **42**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **36**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**33**

### POVERTY RATE

16.2 percent of people in Michigan had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**33**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

22.2 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Michigan had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**23**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Michigan was 14.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

36

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

77 percent of high school students in Michigan graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

31

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

39 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Michigan had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

32

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

16 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Michigan who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

46

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.3 percent of all workers in Michigan were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

42

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Michigan in 2014, women's median earnings were 74.6 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

28

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

6 children in Michigan lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

19

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 23.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Michigan. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

**16** **LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

17.2 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Michigan did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

**33** **HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

14.7 percent of households in Michigan were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

**32** **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

24.4 percent of unemployed workers in Michigan were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

**25** **AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Michigan had 64 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

**19** **SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

5.9 percent of households in Michigan used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Minnesota

POPULATION OF MINNESOTA IN 2014: 5,332,552

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MINNESOTA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 611,354

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Minnesota, the poverty rate was 11.5 percent, ranking it 8 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Minnesota must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Minnesota ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Minnesota is doing best

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **3**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **4**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **4**

## Where Minnesota is doing worst

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **30**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **18**Rank in Savings and Assets: **16**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**8**

### POVERTY RATE

11.5 percent of people in Minnesota had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**8**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.6 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Minnesota had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**14**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Minnesota was 13.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

30

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80 percent of high school students in Minnesota graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

3

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

51.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Minnesota had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

4

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

10 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Minnesota who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

5

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

4.1 percent of all workers in Minnesota were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

18

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Minnesota in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.5 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Minnesota lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

6

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 16.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Minnesota. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

8

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

13.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Minnesota did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

5

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

10.4 percent of households in Minnesota were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

4

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

44.5 percent of unemployed workers in Minnesota were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

13

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Minnesota had 74 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

16

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

5.5 percent of households in Minnesota used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Mississippi

POPULATION OF MISSISSIPPI IN 2014: 2,895,470

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MISSISSIPPI LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 623,113

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Mississippi, the poverty rate was 21.5 percent, ranking it 51 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Mississippi must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Mississippi ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Mississippi is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: 20

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: 25

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: 34

## Where Mississippi is doing worst

Rank in Savings and Assets: 51

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: 51

Rank in Poverty Rate: 51

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

51

### POVERTY RATE

21.5 percent of people in Mississippi had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

50

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

29 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Mississippi had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

41

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Mississippi was 16.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

40

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

76 percent of high school students in Mississippi graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

47

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

32.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Mississippi had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

47

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

21 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Mississippi who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

49

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.8 percent of all workers in Mississippi were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

37

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Mississippi in 2014, women's median earnings were 77 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in Mississippi lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

48

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 42.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Mississippi. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

34

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

25 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Mississippi did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

51

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

22 percent of households in Mississippi were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

44

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

18.5 percent of unemployed workers in Mississippi were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

25

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Mississippi had 64 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

51

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

13.6 percent of households in Mississippi used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Missouri



POPULATION OF MISSOURI IN 2014: **5,878,658**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MISSOURI LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **908,628**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Missouri, the poverty rate was 15.5 percent, ranking it 30 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Missouri must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Missouri ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Missouri is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **10**

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **13**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **17**

## Where Missouri is doing worst

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **44**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **39**

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **39**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**30**

### POVERTY RATE

15.5 percent of people in Missouri had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**28**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

20.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Missouri had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**28**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Missouri was 14.8 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

10

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Missouri graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

24

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

40.6 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Missouri had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Missouri who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

26

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.1 percent of all workers in Missouri were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

34

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Missouri in 2014, women's median earnings were 77.4 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

39

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

8 children in Missouri lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

34

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 30 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Missouri. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

39

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

26.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Missouri did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

44

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.8 percent of households in Missouri were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

39

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

21 percent of unemployed workers in Missouri were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

13

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Missouri had 74 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

37

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

8.7 percent of households in Missouri used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Montana

POPULATION OF MONTANA IN 2014: 997,952

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN MONTANA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 153,954

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Montana, the poverty rate was 15.4 percent, ranking it 29 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Montana must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Montana ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Montana is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: 5

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: 9

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: 11

## Where Montana is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: 48

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: 46

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: 43

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

29

### POVERTY RATE

15.4 percent of people in Montana had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

22

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

18.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Montana had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

15

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Montana was 13.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

*Jobs and education*

21

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

84 percent of high school students in Montana graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

25

**HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

40.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Montana had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

**DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Montana who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

13

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

4.7 percent of all workers in Montana were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

43

**GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Montana in 2014, women's median earnings were 74.3 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family stability and strength*

48

**CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

10 children in Montana lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

29

**TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 27.9 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Montana. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

46

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

29 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Montana did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

9

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

11.5 percent of households in Montana were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

11

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

37.9 percent of unemployed workers in Montana were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

5

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Montana had 80 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

28

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

7.7 percent of households in Montana used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Nebraska



POPULATION OF NEBRASKA IN 2014: **1,828,121**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEBRASKA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **227,310**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Nebraska, the poverty rate was 12.4 percent, ranking it 16 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Nebraska must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Nebraska ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Nebraska is doing best

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **2**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **2**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **2**

## Where Nebraska is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **42**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **30**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **30**



For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**16**

### POVERTY RATE

12.4 percent of people in Nebraska had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**16**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.8 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Nebraska had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**4**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Nebraska was 12.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

2

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

88 percent of high school students in Nebraska graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

14

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

45.6 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Nebraska had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

2

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

9 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Nebraska who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

2

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

3.3 percent of all workers in Nebraska were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

29

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Nebraska in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

42

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

9 children in Nebraska lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

25

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 24.9 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Nebraska. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

30

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

24.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Nebraska did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

26

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.9 percent of households in Nebraska were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

30

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

26.5 percent of unemployed workers in Nebraska were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

12

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Nebraska had 75 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

27

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

6.9 percent of households in Nebraska used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Nevada



POPULATION OF NEVADA IN 2014: **2,800,768**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEVADA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **426,730**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Nevada, the poverty rate was 15.2 percent, ranking it 27 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Nevada must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Nevada ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Nevada is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **5**

Rank in Income Inequality: **9**

Rank in Poverty Rate: **27**

## Where Nevada is doing worst

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **51**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **50**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **49**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**27**

### POVERTY RATE

15.2 percent of people in Nevada had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**31**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

21.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Nevada had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**9**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Nevada was 12.9 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

47

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

71 percent of high school students in Nevada graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

51

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

29.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Nevada had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

50

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

22 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Nevada who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

49

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.8 percent of all workers in Nevada were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

5

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Nevada in 2014, women's median earnings were 85.1 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

33

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

7 children in Nevada lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

35

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 30.3 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Nevada. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

44

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

27.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Nevada did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

34

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

15.2 percent of households in Nevada were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

27

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

28.4 percent of unemployed workers in Nevada were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

47

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Nevada had 41 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

39

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

8.8 percent of households in Nevada used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# New Hampshire

POPULATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IN 2014: **1,287,504**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **117,983**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In New Hampshire, the poverty rate was 9.2 percent, ranking it 1 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which New Hampshire must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where New Hampshire ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where New Hampshire is doing best

Rank in Poverty Rate: **1**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **2**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**

## Where New Hampshire is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **40**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **36**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **34**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**1**

### POVERTY RATE

9.2 percent of people in New Hampshire had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**2**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

12.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in New Hampshire had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**5**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in New Hampshire was 12.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

7

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

87 percent of high school students in New Hampshire graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.

16

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

45.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in New Hampshire had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.

6

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

11 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in New Hampshire who were not in school or working in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.

7

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.3 percent of all workers in New Hampshire were unemployed in 2014. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.

40

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in New Hampshire in 2014, women's median earnings were 75.6 percent of men's median earnings. Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

2

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

3 children in New Hampshire lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

2

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 12.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in New Hampshire. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

29

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

24.1 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in New Hampshire did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

3

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

10 percent of households in New Hampshire were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

36

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

22.5 percent of unemployed workers in New Hampshire were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

34

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

New Hampshire had 59 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

3

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

3.5 percent of households in New Hampshire used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# New Jersey

POPULATION OF NEW JERSEY IN 2014: 8,762,159

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEW JERSEY LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 972,903

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In New Jersey, the poverty rate was 11.1 percent, ranking it 4 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which New Jersey must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where New Jersey ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where New Jersey is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **2**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **3**

## Where New Jersey is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **49**Rank in Income Inequality: **42**Rank in Unemployment Rate: **37**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**4**

### POVERTY RATE

11.1 percent of people in New Jersey had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**15**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in New Jersey had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**42**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in New Jersey was 16.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

2

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

88 percent of high school students in New Jersey graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

6

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

48.6 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in New Jersey had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

15

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

13 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in New Jersey who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

37

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.6 percent of all workers in New Jersey were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

21

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in New Jersey in 2014, women's median earnings were 80.4 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

2

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

3 children in New Jersey lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

5

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 14.8 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in New Jersey. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

36

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

25.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in New Jersey did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

10

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

11.7 percent of households in New Jersey were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

3

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

44.6 percent of unemployed workers in New Jersey were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

49

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

New Jersey had 40 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

4

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

3.8 percent of households in New Jersey used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# New Mexico

POPULATION OF NEW MEXICO IN 2014: **2,045,525**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEW MEXICO LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **436,153**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In New Mexico, the poverty rate was 21.3 percent, ranking it 50 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which New Mexico must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where New Mexico ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where New Mexico is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **15**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **27**

## Where New Mexico is doing worst

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **51**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **50**Rank in Poverty Rate: **50**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**50**

### POVERTY RATE

21.3 percent of people in New Mexico had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**51**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

29.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in New Mexico had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**44**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in New Mexico was 17.4 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

48

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

70 percent of high school students in New Mexico graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

49

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

31.2 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in New Mexico had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

45

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

20 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in New Mexico who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

34

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.5 percent of all workers in New Mexico were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

31

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in New Mexico in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.1 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in New Mexico lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

50

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 43.3 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in New Mexico. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

### 27 LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

23.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in New Mexico did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

### 15 HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

12.3 percent of households in New Mexico were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

### 31 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

24.4 percent of unemployed workers in New Mexico were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

### 29 AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

New Mexico had 62 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

### 45 SAVINGS AND ASSETS

10.3 percent of households in New Mexico used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# New York



POPULATION OF NEW YORK IN 2014: **19,228,524**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEW YORK LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **3,062,938**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In New York, the poverty rate was 15.9 percent, ranking it 32 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which New York must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where New York ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where New York is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **2**

Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **4**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **8**

## Where New York is doing worst

Rank in Income Inequality: **50**

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **44**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **36**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**32**

### POVERTY RATE

15.9 percent of people in New York had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**34**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

22.2 percent of children under age 18 in related families in New York had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**50**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in New York was 20.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

36

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

77 percent of high school students in New York graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

4

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

50.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in New York had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in New York who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

30

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.3 percent of all workers in New York were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

2

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in New York in 2014, women's median earnings were 86.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in New York lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

8

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 17.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in New York. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

12

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

15.2 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in New York did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

31

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

14.4 percent of households in New York were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

13

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

34.1 percent of unemployed workers in New York were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

44

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

New York had 50 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

10

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

4.5 percent of households in New York used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# North Carolina

POPULATION OF NORTH CAROLINA IN 2014: 9,691,794

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NORTH CAROLINA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 1,668,686

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In North Carolina, the poverty rate was 17.2 percent, ranking it 39 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which North Carolina must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where North Carolina ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where North Carolina is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **7**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **22**

## Where North Carolina is doing worst

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **43**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **42**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **42**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**39**

### POVERTY RATE

17.2 percent of people in North Carolina had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**38**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

24 percent of children under age 18 in related families in North Carolina had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**32**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in North Carolina was 15.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

23

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

83 percent of high school students in North Carolina graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

29

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

39.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in North Carolina had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

32

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

16 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in North Carolina who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

26

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.1 percent of all workers in North Carolina were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

7

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in North Carolina in 2014, women's median earnings were 84.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in North Carolina lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

30

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 28.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in North Carolina. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

42

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

26.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in North Carolina did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

43

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.7 percent of households in North Carolina were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

42

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

18.8 percent of unemployed workers in North Carolina were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

22

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

North Carolina had 66 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

42

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

9.3 percent of households in North Carolina used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# North Dakota

POPULATION OF NORTH DAKOTA IN 2014: 712,548

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NORTH DAKOTA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 82,264

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In North Dakota, the poverty rate was 11.5 percent, ranking it 9 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which North Dakota must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where North Dakota ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where North Dakota is doing best

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **1**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **1**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **1**

## Where North Dakota is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **47**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **33**Rank in Income Inequality: **26**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**9**

### POVERTY RATE

11.5 percent of people in North Dakota had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**5**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

14.3 percent of children under age 18 in related families in North Dakota had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**26**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in North Dakota was 14.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

2

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

88 percent of high school students in North Dakota graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.

5

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

49.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in North Dakota had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.

1

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

8 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in North Dakota who were not in school or working in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data

Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.

1

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

2.8 percent of all workers in North Dakota were unemployed in 2014. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unem-

ployment Statistics, 2014.

47

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in North Dakota in 2014, women's median earnings were 71.3 percent of men's median earnings. Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

33

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

7 children in North Dakota lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data

Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

21

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 24.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in North Dakota. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

14

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

16.8 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in North Dakota did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

1

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

8.4 percent of households in North Dakota were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

7

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

42.2 percent of unemployed workers in North Dakota were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

3

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

North Dakota had 85 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

26

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

6.8 percent of households in North Dakota used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Ohio

POPULATION OF OHIO IN 2014: **11,276,403**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN OHIO LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **1,785,780**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Ohio, the poverty rate was 15.8 percent, ranking it 31 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Ohio must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Ohio ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Ohio is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **7**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **13**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **19**

## Where Ohio is doing worst

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **46**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **37**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **36**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**31**

### POVERTY RATE

15.8 percent of people in Ohio had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**36**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

22.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Ohio had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**29**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Ohio was 15.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

27

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

82 percent of high school students in Ohio graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

26

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

40 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Ohio had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Ohio who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

19

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.7 percent of all workers in Ohio were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

33

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Ohio in 2014, women's median earnings were 77.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in Ohio lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

28

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 27.2 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Ohio. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

13

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

16.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Ohio did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

46

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.9 percent of households in Ohio were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

34

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

23.1 percent of unemployed workers in Ohio were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

7

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Ohio had 78 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

37

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

8.7 percent of households in Ohio used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Oklahoma



POPULATION OF OKLAHOMA IN 2014: **3,759,517**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **623,840**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Oklahoma, the poverty rate was 16.6 percent, ranking it 37 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Oklahoma must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Oklahoma ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Oklahoma is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **10**

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **11**

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **17**

## Where Oklahoma is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **50**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **50**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **49**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**37**

### POVERTY RATE

16.6 percent of people in Oklahoma had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**32**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

22.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Oklahoma had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**27**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Oklahoma was 14.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

17

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

85 percent of high school students in Oklahoma graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

44

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

33.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Oklahoma had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

41

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

18 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Oklahoma who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

11

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

4.5 percent of all workers in Oklahoma were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

44

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Oklahoma in 2014, women's median earnings were 73.5 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

50

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

11 children in Oklahoma lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

49

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 42.9 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Oklahoma. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

### 47 LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

29.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Oklahoma did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

### 42 HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.5 percent of households in Oklahoma were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

### 38 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

21.3 percent of unemployed workers in Oklahoma were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

### 10 AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Oklahoma had 77 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

### 50 SAVINGS AND ASSETS

13.1 percent of households in Oklahoma used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# Oregon

POPULATION OF OREGON IN 2014: 3,893,475

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN OREGON LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 644,450

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Oregon, the poverty rate was 16.6 percent, ranking it 36 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Oregon must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Oregon ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Oregon is doing best

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **12**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **16**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **17**

## Where Oregon is doing worst

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **49**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **46**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **42**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**36**

### POVERTY RATE

16.6 percent of people in Oregon had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**29**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

21.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Oregon had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**24**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Oregon was 14.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

49

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

69 percent of high school students in Oregon graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

32

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

38.9 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Oregon had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Oregon who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

42

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.9 percent of all workers in Oregon were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

12

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Oregon in 2014, women's median earnings were 82.2 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

42

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

9 children in Oregon lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

16

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 21.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Oregon. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

**17** **LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

17.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Oregon did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

**39** **HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

16.1 percent of households in Oregon were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

**22** **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

29.7 percent of unemployed workers in Oregon were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

**46** **AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Oregon had 42 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

**21** **SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

6 percent of households in Oregon used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Pennsylvania



POPULATION OF PENNSYLVANIA IN 2014: **12,371,337**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PENNSYLVANIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **1,682,212**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Pennsylvania, the poverty rate was 13.6 percent, ranking it 21 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Pennsylvania must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Pennsylvania ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Pennsylvania is doing best

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **2**

Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **6**

Rank in Savings and Assets: **9**

## Where Pennsylvania is doing worst

Rank in Income Inequality: **30**

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **26**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **25**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**21**

### POVERTY RATE

13.6 percent of people in Pennsylvania had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**25**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

19 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Pennsylvania had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**30**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Pennsylvania was 15.1 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

10

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Pennsylvania graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

15

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

45.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Pennsylvania had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

*Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Pennsylvania who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data*

*Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

22

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.8 percent of all workers in Pennsylvania were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

26

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Pennsylvania in 2014, women's median earnings were 79.2 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in Pennsylvania lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data*

*Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

15

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 20.9 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Pennsylvania. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

22

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

19.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Pennsylvania did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

6

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

11.3 percent of households in Pennsylvania were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

2

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

45.5 percent of unemployed workers in Pennsylvania were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

20

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Pennsylvania had 68 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

9

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

4.4 percent of households in Pennsylvania used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Rhode Island



POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND IN 2014: **1,015,655**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN RHODE ISLAND LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **145,596**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Rhode Island, the poverty rate was 14.3 percent, ranking it 24 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Rhode Island must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Rhode Island ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Rhode Island is doing best

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **5**

Rank in Disconnected Youth: **6**

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **8**

## Where Rhode Island is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **48**

Rank in Income Inequality: **46**

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **39**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**24**

### POVERTY RATE

14.3 percent of people in Rhode Island had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**26**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

19.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Rhode Island had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**46**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Rhode Island was 17.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

30

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

80 percent of high school students in Rhode Island graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

18

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

43.8 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Rhode Island had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

*Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

6

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

11 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Rhode Island who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data*

*Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

48

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

7.7 percent of all workers in Rhode Island were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

16

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Rhode Island in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.7 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

39

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

8 children in Rhode Island lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data*

*Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

8

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 17.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Rhode Island. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

5

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

13 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Rhode Island did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

19

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

12.7 percent of households in Rhode Island were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

25

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

28.5 percent of unemployed workers in Rhode Island were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

27

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Rhode Island had 63 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

12

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

5.2 percent of households in Rhode Island used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# South Carolina

POPULATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN 2014: 4,691,589

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 843,860

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In South Carolina, the poverty rate was 18 percent, ranking it 41 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which South Carolina must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where South Carolina ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where South Carolina is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **22**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **22**

## Where South Carolina is doing worst

Rank in Savings and Assets: **49**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **47**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **47**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**41**

### POVERTY RATE

18 percent of people in South Carolina had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**47**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

26.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in South Carolina had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**31**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in South Carolina was 15.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

35

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

78 percent of high school students in South Carolina graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

37

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

36 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in South Carolina had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

*Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in South Carolina who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count*

*Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

32

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.4 percent of all workers in South Carolina were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

22

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in South Carolina in 2014, women's median earnings were 80.3 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

2

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

3 children in South Carolina lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count*

*Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

39

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 31.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in South Carolina. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

40

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

26.4 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in South Carolina did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

26

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.9 percent of households in South Carolina were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

47

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

15.9 percent of unemployed workers in South Carolina were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

22

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

South Carolina had 66 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

49

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

12.7 percent of households in South Carolina used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# South Dakota

POPULATION OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN 2014: **824,373**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **116,843**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In South Dakota, the poverty rate was 14.2 percent, ranking it 23 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which South Dakota must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where South Dakota ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where South Dakota is doing best

Rank in Unemployment Rate: **3**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **5**Rank in Disconnected Youth: **6**

## Where South Dakota is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **49**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **39**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **31**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**23**

### POVERTY RATE

14.2 percent of people in South Dakota had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.*

**20**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

17.7 percent of children under age 18 in related families in South Dakota had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.*

**10**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in South Dakota was 13 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

23

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

83 percent of high school students in South Dakota graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

*Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

17

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

44.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in South Dakota had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

*Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

6

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

11 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in South Dakota who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count*

*Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

3

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

3.4 percent of all workers in South Dakota were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

39

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in South Dakota in 2014, women's median earnings were 76.2 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

28

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

6 children in South Dakota lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

31

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 29.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in South Dakota. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

28

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

23.5 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in South Dakota did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

12

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

11.9 percent of households in South Dakota were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

49

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

14.5 percent of unemployed workers in South Dakota were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

5

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

South Dakota had 80 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

29

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

7.8 percent of households in South Dakota used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Tennessee

POPULATION OF TENNESSEE IN 2014: **6,386,663**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN TENNESSEE LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **1,171,307**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Tennessee, the poverty rate was 18.3 percent, ranking it 45 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Tennessee must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Tennessee ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Tennessee is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **10**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **17**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **20**

## Where Tennessee is doing worst

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **46**Rank in Poverty Rate: **45**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **44**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**45**

### POVERTY RATE

18.3 percent of people in Tennessee had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**44**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

25.9 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Tennessee had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**37**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Tennessee was 16 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

10

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

86 percent of high school students in Tennessee graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

38

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

35.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Tennessee had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

42

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

19 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Tennessee who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

39

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.7 percent of all workers in Tennessee were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

17

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Tennessee in 2014, women's median earnings were 81.6 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in Tennessee lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

43

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 34.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Tennessee. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

26

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

23.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Tennessee did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

41

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

16.3 percent of households in Tennessee were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

46

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

16.4 percent of unemployed workers in Tennessee were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

20

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Tennessee had 68 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

40

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

8.9 percent of households in Tennessee used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Texas

POPULATION OF TEXAS IN 2014: 26,340,247

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN TEXAS LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 4,523,708

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Texas, the poverty rate was 17.2 percent, ranking it 38 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Texas must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Texas ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Texas is doing best

Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **2**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **10**Rank in Unemployment Rate: **16**

## Where Texas is doing worst

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **51**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **47**Rank in Savings and Assets: **47**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**38**

### POVERTY RATE

17.2 percent of people in Texas had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**39**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

24.3 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Texas had incomes below the poverty line in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**38**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Texas was 16.4 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

2

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

88 percent of high school students in Texas graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

42

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

34.4 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Texas had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

35

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

17 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Texas who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

16

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.1 percent of all workers in Texas were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

30

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Texas in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

10

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

4 children in Texas lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

47

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 41 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Texas. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

51

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

34 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Texas did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

47

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

17.2 percent of households in Texas were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

35

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

22.8 percent of unemployed workers in Texas were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

34

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Texas had 59 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

47

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

11.4 percent of households in Texas used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Utah



POPULATION OF UTAH IN 2014: **2,897,762**

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN UTAH LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **339,900**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Utah, the poverty rate was 11.7 percent, ranking it 11 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Utah must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Utah ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Utah is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **2**

Rank in Income Inequality: **2**

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **4**

## Where Utah is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **50**

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **45**

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **33**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**11**

### POVERTY RATE

11.7 percent of people in Utah had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**4**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

13 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Utah had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**2**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Utah was 11.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

23

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

83 percent of high school students in Utah graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

23

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

41.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Utah had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Utah who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

4

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

3.8 percent of all workers in Utah were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

50

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Utah in 2014, women's median earnings were 67.4 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

2

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

3 children in Utah lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

14

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 20.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Utah. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

45

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

27.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Utah did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

21

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.3 percent of households in Utah were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

33

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

23.6 percent of unemployed workers in Utah were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

32

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Utah had 60 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

11

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

4.8 percent of households in Utah used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.



# Vermont

POPULATION OF VERMONT IN 2014: **601,819**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN VERMONT LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **73,149**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Vermont, the poverty rate was 12.2 percent, ranking it 14 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Vermont must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Vermont ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Vermont is doing best

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **3**Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **4**Rank in Unemployment Rate: **5**

## Where Vermont is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **39**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **34**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **18**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**14**

### POVERTY RATE

12.2 percent of people in Vermont had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**13**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.3 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Vermont had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**7**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Vermont was 12.7 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

7

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

87 percent of high school students in Vermont graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

8

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

47 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Vermont had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

6

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

11 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Vermont who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

5

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.1 percent of all workers in Vermont were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

10

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Vermont in 2014, women's median earnings were 83.8 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

39

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

8 children in Vermont lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

4

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 14.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Vermont. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

3

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

8.3 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Vermont did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

18

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

12.6 percent of households in Vermont were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

6

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

42.2 percent of unemployed workers in Vermont were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

34

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Vermont had 59 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

6

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

3.9 percent of households in Vermont used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Virginia

POPULATION OF VIRGINIA IN 2014: **8,080,300**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN VIRGINIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **953,395**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Virginia, the poverty rate was 11.8 percent, ranking it 12 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Virginia must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Virginia ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Virginia is doing best

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **1**Rank in Hunger and Food Insecurity: **4**Rank in Higher Education Attainment Rate: **10**

## Where Virginia is doing worst

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **43**Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: **43**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **38**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**12**

### POVERTY RATE

11.8 percent of people in Virginia had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**14**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

15.5 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Virginia had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**34**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Virginia was 15.5 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

21

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

84 percent of high school students in Virginia graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

10

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

46.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Virginia had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

17

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

14 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Virginia who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

17

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.2 percent of all workers in Virginia were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

23

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Virginia in 2014, women's median earnings were 80.3 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

1

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

2 children in Virginia lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

12

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 20.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Virginia. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

43

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

26.7 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Virginia did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

4

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

10.1 percent of households in Virginia were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

43

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

18.6 percent of unemployed workers in Virginia were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

38

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

Virginia had 57 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

24

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

6.5 percent of households in Virginia used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Washington

POPULATION OF WASHINGTON IN 2014: **6,927,889**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: **913,619**

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Washington, the poverty rate was 13.2 percent, ranking it 19 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Washington must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Washington ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Washington is doing best

Rank in Teen Birth Rate: **13**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **17**Rank in Savings and Assets: **17**

## Where Washington is doing worst

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **42**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **40**Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **36**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

### 19 POVERTY RATE

13.2 percent of people in Washington had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

### 17 CHILD POVERTY RATE

17 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Washington had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

### 21 INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Washington was 14.2 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

40

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

76 percent of high school students in Washington graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

21

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

42.1 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Washington had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Washington who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

29

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

6.2 percent of all workers in Washington were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

36

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Washington in 2014, women's median earnings were 77.1 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

28

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

6 children in Washington lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

13

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 20.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Washington. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*



STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

19

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

18.6 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Washington did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

24

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

13.7 percent of households in Washington were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

26

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

28.4 percent of unemployed workers in Washington were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

42

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Washington had 54 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

17

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

5.7 percent of households in Washington used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# West Virginia

POPULATION OF WEST VIRGINIA IN 2014: 1,792,949

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WEST VIRGINIA LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 327,764

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In West Virginia, the poverty rate was 18.3 percent, ranking it 43 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which West Virginia must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where West Virginia ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where West Virginia is doing best

Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: 4

Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: 7

Rank in Unemployment Insurance Coverage: 14

## Where West Virginia is doing worst

Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: 50

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: 48

Rank in Disconnected Youth: 47

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

43

### POVERTY RATE

18.3 percent of people in West Virginia had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

40

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

24.3 percent of children under age 18 in related families in West Virginia had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

18

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in West Virginia was 13.9 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

29

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

81 percent of high school students in West Virginia graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.

46

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

32.5 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in West Virginia had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.

Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.

47

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

21 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in West Virginia who were not in school or working in 2013. Source: Kids Count

Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.

34

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.5 percent of all workers in West Virginia were unemployed in 2014. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.

48

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in West Virginia in 2014, women's median earnings were 70 percent of men's median earnings. Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

50

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

11 children in West Virginia lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

46

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 40.1 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in West Virginia. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.

STATE  
RANK

*Family economic security*

7

**LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

13.2 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in West Virginia did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

35

**HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY**

15.3 percent of households in West Virginia were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

14

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

33.3 percent of unemployed workers in West Virginia were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

4

**AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING**

West Virginia had 83 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

29

**SAVINGS AND ASSETS**

7.8 percent of households in West Virginia used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Wisconsin

POPULATION OF WISCONSIN IN 2014: 5,603,486

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WISCONSIN LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 738,270

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Wisconsin, the poverty rate was 13.2 percent, ranking it 18 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Wisconsin must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Wisconsin ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Wisconsin is doing best

Rank in Savings and Assets: **1**Rank in High School Graduation Rate: **2**Rank in Income Inequality: **6**

## Where Wisconsin is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **28**Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **21**Rank in Children Living Apart From Parents: **20**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**18**

### POVERTY RATE

13.2 percent of people in Wisconsin had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**21**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

18.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Wisconsin had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**6**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Wisconsin was 12.3 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.

STATE  
RANK

## *Jobs and education*

2

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**

88 percent of high school students in Wisconsin graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

19

### **HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE**

43.2 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Wisconsin had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

11

### **DISCONNECTED YOUTH**

12 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Wisconsin who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

18

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

5.5 percent of all workers in Wisconsin were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

28

### **GENDER WAGE GAP**

Among full-time, year-round workers in Wisconsin in 2014, women's median earnings were 78.9 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## *Family stability and strength*

20

### **CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS**

5 children in Wisconsin lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

11

### **TEEN BIRTH RATE**

There were 19.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Wisconsin. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

### 15 LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

16.9 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Wisconsin did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

### 7 HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

11.4 percent of households in Wisconsin were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

### 10 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

38.4 percent of unemployed workers in Wisconsin were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

### 13 AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Wisconsin had 74 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

### 1 SAVINGS AND ASSETS

2.6 percent of households in Wisconsin used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

# Wyoming

POPULATION OF WYOMING IN 2014: 570,149

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN WYOMING LIVING IN POVERTY IN 2014: 63,774

In 2014, the official poverty rate in the United States was 14.8 percent.<sup>1</sup> That means that more than one in seven people, or 46.7 million Americans, lived below the official federal poverty level—about \$24,000 per year for a family of four in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Wyoming, the poverty rate was 11.2 percent, ranking it 5 among states in the country. Each year, we track states' progress toward the goals of cutting poverty and increasing opportunity by publishing our annual "State of the States" report, which examines a broad range of indicators of economic security and opportunity. These indicators help us better understand the areas in which the situation is improving for America's struggling families—and those in which Wyoming must do more work to boost families' well-being. The following is a summary of where Wyoming ranks according to the indicators in our 2015 report.

## Where Wyoming is doing best

Rank in Child Poverty Rate: **1**Rank in Affordable and Available Housing: **1**Rank in Income Inequality: **3**

## Where Wyoming is doing worst

Rank in Gender Wage Gap: **49**Rank in Savings and Assets: **44**Rank in Health Insurance Coverage: **41**

For each indicator, states and the District of Columbia are ranked from 1 to 51, with 1 representing the state with the best ranking and 51 representing the state with the worst ranking.

STATE  
RANK

## Poverty and inequality

**5**

### POVERTY RATE

11.2 percent of people in Wyoming had incomes below the poverty line—about \$24,000 for a family of four—in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17001.

**1**

### CHILD POVERTY RATE

12.1 percent of children under age 18 in related families in Wyoming had incomes below the poverty line in 2014. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B17006.

**3**

### INCOME INEQUALITY

The share of income going to the top 20 percent of households in Wyoming was 11.6 times that going to the bottom 20 percent of households in 2014. Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table B19082.



STATE  
RANK

## Jobs and education

36

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

77 percent of high school students in Wyoming graduated on time at the end of the 2012–13 school year. *Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data.*

35

### HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RATE

37.3 percent of young adults ages 25 to 34 in Wyoming had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 3-year estimate, Table B15001.*

23

### DISCONNECTED YOUTH

15 percent of youth ages 18 to 24 in Wyoming who were not in school or working in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013.*

7

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

4.3 percent of all workers in Wyoming were unemployed in 2014. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2014.*

49

### GENDER WAGE GAP

Among full-time, year-round workers in Wyoming in 2014, women's median earnings were 68.7 percent of men's median earnings. *Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table S0201.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family stability and strength

33

### CHILDREN LIVING APART FROM PARENTS

7 children in Wyoming lived in foster care for every 1,000 children under age 18 in 2013. *Source: Kids Count Data Center, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.*

32

### TEEN BIRTH RATE

There were 29.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19 in 2013 in Wyoming. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System.*

STATE  
RANK

## Family economic security

41

### LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

26.5 percent of people under age 65 and below 138 percent of the poverty line in Wyoming did not have health insurance at any time in 2014. *Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014, Table C27016.*

29

### HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

14 percent of households in Wyoming were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, 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 2014.*

17

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

32.4 percent of unemployed workers in Wyoming were helped by unemployment insurance in 2014. *Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Data Summary Report, 2014.*

1

### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

Wyoming had 103 apartments or other units that were affordable and available for every 100 renter households with very low incomes in 2014. 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, 2013; National Low Income Housing Center, Housing Spotlight 5 (1) (2015).*

44

### SAVINGS AND ASSETS

10.1 percent of households in Wyoming used high-cost, high-risk forms of credit to make ends meet during 2013. This includes payday loans, automobile title loans, refund anticipation loans, rent to own, and pawning. *Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, 2013.*

1 National poverty data are from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey. State poverty data come from the 2014 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey.

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## Our Mission

The Center for American Progress is an independent, nonpartisan policy institute that is dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans, through bold, progressive ideas, as well as strong leadership and concerted action. Our aim is not just to change the conversation, but to change the country.

## Our Values

As progressives, we believe America should be a land of boundless opportunity, where people can climb the ladder of economic mobility. We believe we owe it to future generations to protect the planet and promote peace and shared global prosperity.

And we believe an effective government can earn the trust of the American people, champion the common good over narrow self-interest, and harness the strength of our diversity.

## Our Approach

We develop new policy ideas, challenge the media to cover the issues that truly matter, and shape the national debate. With policy teams in major issue areas, American Progress can think creatively at the cross-section of traditional boundaries to develop ideas for policymakers that lead to real change. By employing an extensive communications and outreach effort that we adapt to a rapidly changing media landscape, we move our ideas aggressively in the national policy debate.

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Center for American Progress

