

Child Poverty Rates Using the Official* and the Supplemental Poverty Measures 2009-2021

A line chart shows that, in 2009, child poverty was measured at 20.7% by the official measure and 17% by the supplemental poverty measure (SPM). The SPM continues to be lower, and in 2021 falls steeply to 5.2%. Since 2019 the official measure has diverged from the SPM and in 2021 stands at 15.3%.

Notes: Adapted from:

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/09/record-drop-in-child-poverty.html>. Population as of March the following year. Official* includes unrelated individuals under 15. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) estimates for 2019 and beyond reflect the implementation of revised SPM methodology. The data for 2017 and beyond used an updated processing system. The data for 2013 and beyond use different questions about income. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.

Data source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010-2022](#) Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC). See [original figure](#) for recession and methodology information.

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