



# Child Poverty in Texas 2015

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau Official Poverty Measure

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Poverty data released by the U.S. Census Bureau reveal 14.5 million children in the United States lived in poverty in 2015. **Texas had the second largest number of poor children in the nation, after California.**

The data below are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's official poverty measure. An alternative Census measure, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), suggests that these figures substantially understate how many children face economic hardship in Texas.

## Child Poverty

- 1,637,308 Texas children lived in poverty in 2015.
- The child poverty rate in Texas was 23% in 2015.
- This represents a decline from 2014 when: 1,728,982 (24.6%) children lived in poverty.
- Poverty is defined nationally as an annual income below \$24,257 for a family of four, meaning less than \$2,021 a month, \$466 a week, or \$66 a day.

## Extreme Poverty

- 680,133 (9.6%) children in Texas lived in extreme poverty in 2015
- Extreme poverty is defined as an annual income of less than half the poverty level, or \$12,129 for a family of four, which amounts to less than \$1,011 a month, \$233 a week, or \$33 a day.

## Children of Color

Children of color continue to be disproportionately poor.

Race/Ethnicity	Number in Poverty, 2015	Percent in Poverty, 2015
Latino	1,105,551	31.5%
Black	259,306	30.3%
Asian	28,382	9.9%
2 or more races	54,074	16.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	9,460	27.2%
White	222,631	9.7%

## Young Children

The youngest children have the highest poverty rates, at the time of greatest brain development.

- 583,000 (25.0%) children under age six in Texas lived in poverty in 2015.
- 253,402 (10.9%) children under age six in Texas were living in extreme poverty in 2015.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates