

Census report: Child poverty rate increases to 16.1% in 2020

September 14, 2021

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Article type: [News](#)

Topics: [Diversity, equity and inclusion](#)

About 5.6% of children were uninsured and 16.1% of children lived in poverty in 2020, according to new [reports](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2020 child poverty rate marks an increase from 14.4% in 2019. About 11.6 million children and adolescents under age 18 lived in poverty in 2020, an increase of 1.1 million from 2019.

Poverty is defined as having an annual income below \$26,200 for a family of four.

The uninsured rate rose 1.6 percentage points from 2018. Estimates on health insurance coverage were compared to 2018 and not 2019 due to data collection challenges as a result of the pandemic.

Hispanic youths had the highest rates of being uninsured at 9.5%, followed by Black children at 6%. White and Asian uninsurance rates were 3.8% and 2.8%, respectively.

Among children living in poverty, 9.3% did not have health insurance at any time in 2020, an increase of 1.6 percentage points since 2018.

The official poverty rate in 2020 across all ages was 11.4%, compared to 10.5% the year before. This is the first increase in poverty after five consecutive annual declines, according to the Census Bureau.

In 2020, the median household income declined by 2.9% to \$67,500.

Resources

- [AAP Poverty and Child Health website](#)
- [Child poverty section in the AAP's Transition Plan: Advancing Child Health in the Biden-Harris Administration](#)
- [National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report "A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty"](#)

