CHILD POVERTY IN ARKANSAS

POLICY SOLUTIONS TO CHANGE LIVES,

BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES





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by Eleanor Wheeler, Senior Policy Analyst Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families December 2016

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

If we make public policy changes that invest in kids and their parents, we could become a regional and national leader in child economic well-being. Through no fault of their own, many parents in our state struggle to afford the basics and end up raising their children in poverty. If all hardworking parents are able to provide for their children, we all benefit from a stronger community.

Child poverty hurts our kids' ability to grow up healthy and successful, and Arkansas, like most other southern states, has high concentrations of poor families. While the causes of child poverty are debated and nuanced, there are several common-sense policy solutions that will improve the financial well-being of low-income children and families in our state.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD POVERTY

INCREASED CHILD HUNGER

When kids are hungry, they can't learn and are more likely to have behavioral problems and worse overall health outcomes. Kids who get enough to eat are more likely to succeed in school and in their careers years down the road. Arkansas kids are food insecure at a rate of 26 percent (or 185,000)³, which is higher than the national average.

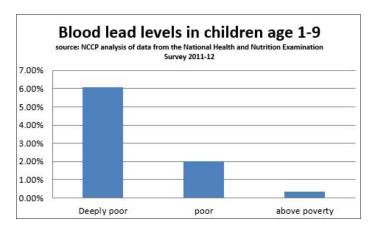
LACK OF STABLE HOUSING

Moving frequently and sometimes having to change schools because of financial situations can be stressful and harmful for young children. Low-income families are almost twice as likely⁴ to have moved recently and are about three times as likely⁵ to rent as opposed to owning their homes. Research shows that a lack of stable housing⁶ can be harmful to children's physical and mental health, their ability to succeed in school, and may increase their likelihood of juvenile delinquency.

POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES

Research shows that children who live in poverty have worse health outcomes. These kids are more likely to be obese⁷, a condition that is connected to both physical and psychological problems. Children living in poverty also experience levels of stress and depression two times as high⁸ as children who live above the poverty line.

Poor children are more likely to have higher levels of lead in their blood, too. Children living in deep poverty are shown to have particularly high exposure to lead, which is connected to a host of physical and mental health issues. Exposure can be due to unsafe housing.



Although our state struggles with child poverty and the resulting negative health outcomes, we have also been a regional leader in improving access to health care for children. ARKids First has led to more than 95 percent of Arkansas kids enrolling in health coverage, many for the first time. When the ARKids First program launched in 1997, about 22 percent of children in the state lacked access to coverage. By 2014, this figure was down to 5 percent. To get to 100 percent coverage for all kids, we need to adopt a federal policy that will allow us to extend coverage to all legally residing children with no extra cost to the state. Thirty-one other states have already adopted this policy, which would allow many Hispanic and Marshallese children living legally in Arkansas to benefit from a consistent source of coverage.

EDUCATION GAPS

Children in poverty have less access to quality early education and tend to go to lower quality schools. They also hear roughly 30 million¹⁰ fewer words than kids from wealthier families, which can contribute to lower vocabulary and reading skills. These factors put them at a disadvantage compared to their more affluent peers. It also makes it harder for them to read proficiently by third grade. If students aren't able to catch up to their peers' reading skills by third grade, they are four times¹¹ as likely to drop out before graduating from high school. Without a high school diploma, it is very difficult to find a career or become financially stable.

YOUNG CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

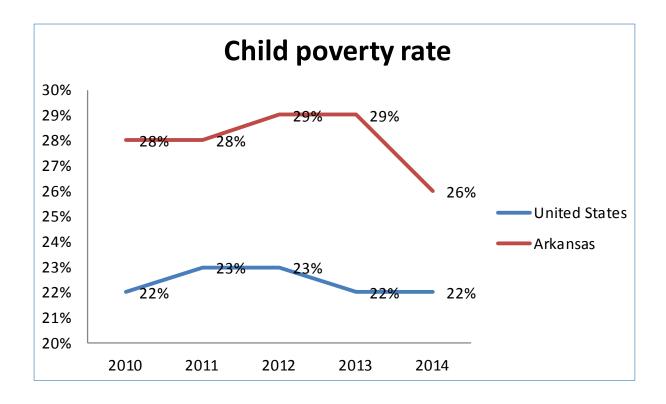
Young children are more likely to live in poverty and to experience harsher consequences of poverty. Young children who live in poverty for long periods of time or those who live in severe poverty are particularly vulnerable to negative outcomes. Very young children are impacted by poverty more because, as decades of research shows, the first eight years¹² of life are the most important for healthy brain development and success in school. Those outcomes include problems with emotional and behavioral development, health, and educational attainment.

CHILD POVERTY RATES IN ARKANSAS

Although we have a long way to go, we are already moving in the right direction. Fewer kids have parents who don't earn enough money to make ends meet. For the first time in six years, the number of Arkansas children living in poverty decreased. Over the course of a year, the number of children living in poverty dropped from 202,000 to 184,000. Despite this progress, our state remains among the five worst states for child economic well-being. A quarter of kids under 18 (26 percent) live in poverty in our state, which is well above the national average (22 percent). Those children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (\$23,550 a year for a family of four). Very young children, minority groups, and children living in rural areas of the state are particularly at risk for living in poverty.

HOW IS POVERTY MEASURED?

Poverty measurements are important for tracking family economic well-being and for determining eligibility for many financial support programs. Unfortunately, the way we measure poverty is outdated. Many families who cannot afford basic necessities like safe housing, food, child care, transportation, taxes, and health care are still not counted as technically poor. A family of four making under \$24,300 a year is considered to be living in poverty. However, even incomes above that level are often less than half¹⁷ of what it takes to provide the basic necessities for families in most parts of Arkansas.



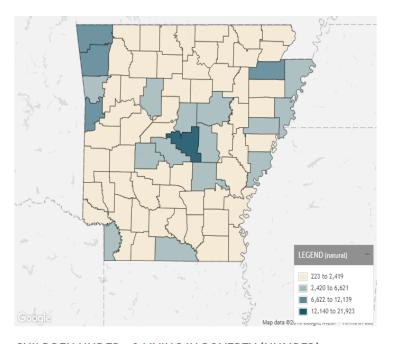
2016 Poverty Guidelines							
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline						
I	\$11,880						
2	\$16,020						
3	\$20,160						
4	\$24,300						
5	\$28,440						
6	\$32,580						
7	\$36,730						
8	\$40,890						
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add	\$4,160 for each additional person.						

Source: "2016 Poverty Guidelines" U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines

ARKANSAS TRENDS BY GEOGRAPHY

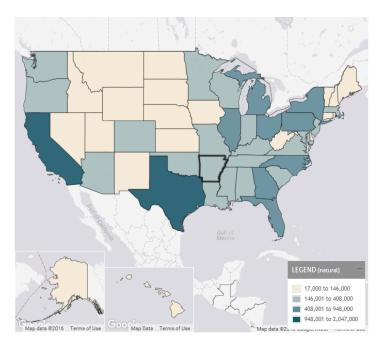
Where you grow up in Arkansas says a lot about your chances of living in poverty, having access to quality schools, and if your parents have a shot at a good job. High areas of poverty in Arkansas are in rural areas, especially along the eastern edge of our state, in the Mississippi River Delta. Low-poverty bright spots surround larger cities like Little Rock and Bentonville.

The geographic region also matters. Arkansas is among the 10 worst states for child poverty. Although we are improving, we have a long way to go. Like most southern states, Arkansas has a high concentration of child poverty. Last year Arkansas ranked 48th, with 202,000 children living in poverty; this year Arkansas saw a decline to 184,000 children in poverty, putting the state in 41st place.



CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING IN POVERTY (NUMBER) - 2014

Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

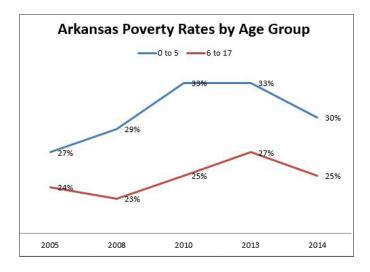


CHILDREN IN POVERTY (100 PERCENT POVERTY) (NUMBER) - 2014

National KIDS COUNT KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

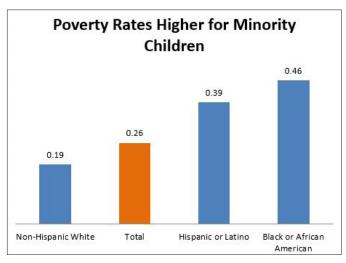
POVERTY RATES BY AGE

A quarter of kids under 18 (26 percent)¹⁸ live in poverty in our state. If you zoom in to look at children under 5, that figure jumps to almost a third (29 percent).¹⁹ Younger children are more likely to live in poverty because their parents are younger, too. As kids get older, their parents gain employment experience, and are more likely to move up the income ladder. Unfortunately, the damaging effects of child poverty are harsher for very young children. Early years are vulnerable times for brain development and healthy growth. Poverty rates declined from 2013 to 2014, but younger children are still in poverty at higher rates than older children.



CHILD POVERTY IN AR BY RACE/ETHNICITY

There are more total white children living in poverty in Arkansas, but minority groups face child poverty levels at much higher rates. Of the 184,000 Arkansas children²⁰ living in poverty, non-Hispanic white children make up the largest group (83,000 total). However, black and Hispanic children are twice as likely to live in poverty as white children.



The connections between poverty and race are difficult to untangle, however we do know that systemic biases begin to affect minority children's chances of success at a very young age. For example, disproportionate discipline practices faced by females of color is present even at the preschool level.²¹ Racial disparities in school discipline practices are present in what is known as the "school to prison pipeline"²² where students are punished in a way that harms their chances of academic success,²³ often for relatively minor offenses.

Students of color are three-and-a-half times²⁴ more likely than white students to be suspended for the same offenses. Being suspended or expelled causes many students to fall behind in school and increases their odds of committing crimes. This ultimately impacts Arkansas high school graduation rates,²⁵ which are lower for African-American students (68 percent) than for their white peers (76 percent).

It is important to address these systematic inequalities now, especially since people of color are projected to be a majority of the American working class by 2032.²⁶ From 2000-2010, population growth in Arkansas was driven by people of color. At just 3.5 percent,²⁷ white people had the smallest percent change in population over that time. African-American populations in Arkansas grew at about twice that rate (7.3 percent)²⁸ and Latino populations grew by an impressive 114 percent.²⁹ If the majority of our working class has been disproportionally left behind in school, we will face a troubled economy, increased income inequality, and a lower standard of living overall.

FAMILY ECONOMICS IMPACT CHILD POVERTY

Child poverty rates don't occur in a vacuum. They are, of course, tied to their parent's ability to find quality jobs in their communities. Over a third³⁰ of kids in Arkansas have parents who don't have steady work throughout the year. This can be because of a low number of jobs, a lack of career development opportunities, high incarceration rates, or even family structure. When job quality, work training and educational opportunities for adults go up, child poverty rates go down.

FINDING QUALITY WORK ISN'T EASY

Arkansas's unemployment rate dropped to an annual average of 5.2 percent³¹ in 2015 (in May 2016, it fell even more, to 3.8 percent³²). This is a welcome change, but many parents are still working at poverty-level wages.

People living in rural parts of the state face more barriers to employment and a weaker job market. Minority groups also have a harder time finding quality work in Arkansas. Black Arkansans have an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent,³³ which is more than two-and-a-half times higher than the rate for white Arkansans (3.7 percent).

It is common for parents living in poverty to have to settle for part-time work, even if they want to be employed full-time. Thirty-nine percent of children living in poverty in Arkansas have at least one parent who doesn't have full-time, year-round work. Piecing together a patchwork of seasonal and part-time jobs makes keeping family finances in order a challenge.

GAPS IN FINANCIAL SUPPORTS FOR PARENTS HURT KIDS

Changes to welfare in the late 1990s made it harder for families to get by when they couldn't find work, and caused the program to shrink from \$13 million to just \$3 million³⁴ two decades later. What we now know as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is much more restrictive. People are limited to five years on the program. Additional volunteer, training, and work requirements have also been implemented. At \$204 a month³⁵ for a single parent of two, Arkansas has one of the lowest cash benefits programs in the nation. Kids whose parents who have access to cash assistance³⁶ are more likely to graduate high school and less likely to commit minor crimes or use drugs.

Many Arkansas parents also struggle to afford adequate child care. We could do more to help them by filling the gaps

in subsidies. Maintaining adequate child care subsidies is essential for low-income working parents because child care can cost more than college tuition. The national average cost of child care is between \$3,900 and \$15,000 a year.³⁷

The main source of funding for subsidized child care comes from a federal grant (CCDBG or "Child Care and Development Block Grant"), which has decreased substantially from 2010 to 2015.³⁸ That means that many states are not paying child care providers a reasonable percentage of the market rate for their services. In 2001, Arkansas paid providers a rate of at least the 75th percentile of the market rate for child care. By 2015, we were paying providers over \$100 a month below that mark.³⁹ When those "reimbursement rates" to providers drop, it is harder for them to attract quality employees and provide healthy, enriching learning environments. It is no surprise, then, that the number of children receiving child care assistance has also been trending down (from 1.81 million children in 2001 to 1.41 million in 2014).⁴⁰

The Arkansas safety net has been under attack in recent years. In 2015, the Arkansas General Assembly voted to reduce total unemployment insurance benefits by \$50 million a year and lower the amount of time a worker can draw benefits from 25 to 20 weeks (Act 412).⁴¹ Due to another new bill, Arkansans who rely on TANF are now subject to unnecessary and unfair drug screenings,⁴² as of December 2015. In 2016, legislators also voted to add excessive restrictions on how TANF benefits are spent.



All of these measures harm honest Arkansans by reducing access to benefits or intimidating people out of applying for them in the first place. That harm to adults is echoed in the lives of their dependent children. And in 2015, the poorest 20 percent of taxpayers were the only group left out of state income tax cuts passed by the Arkansas legislature.

PARENT EDUCATION AND CHILD POVERTY

Half⁴³ of Arkansas children whose parents did not graduate high school live in poverty. Investments in higher education and good jobs are key to reducing the number of kids who live below the poverty line. Most jobs in Arkansas (70 percent)⁴⁴ require a no more than a high school diploma. Those types of jobs are very likely to pay low wages. In fact, eighty-seven percent⁴⁵ of jobs that require only a high school diploma pay less than family-supporting wages. As a result, many Arkansans who do not have any postsecondary credentials live in poverty even if they are able to find full-time work.

To turn this around, we need higher paying jobs and the educational support to train workers to fill those jobs. Because of investments in higher education, the number of Arkansans receiving postsecondary degrees has increased by 25.6 percent⁴⁶ since 2009. Arkansas lawmakers need to step up investments in education, from pre-K to college, to keep our workforce competitive.

Welfare reform does have a standout success story: Career Pathways. 47 This program is a state-funded workforce development initiative. It coordinates education with social services as well as workforce and economic development efforts. Career Pathways partners with higher education groups like community colleges to help students gain the skills needed for key Arkansas industries.

INCARCERATION RATES AND CHILD POVERTY

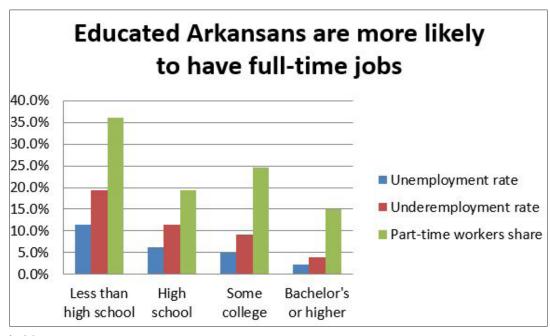
When a parent goes to prison, it can be devastating to family financial security. The negative impacts of parental incarceration also manifest in increased homelessness and hunger. As A father's incarceration lowers family income by an average of 22 percent. Dildren of incarcerated parents are more likely to live in neighborhoods that don't have good family supports like quality schools, safe and affordable housing, and good jobs. These challenges are not evenly spread across communities. African-American children are seven times as likely as white children to experience parent incarceration.

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and Arkansas leads the nation⁵¹ in prison population growth. Nine percent of kids in Arkansas, or 61,000⁵², experienced parent incarceration from 2011-2012. That is higher than the national average of 7 percent.⁵³

Prison population growth leaves a lot of families struggling to get by while a family member is incarcerated. Even after being released, many people find it hard to get back on their feet because job opportunities are limited for people with criminal records. Advocates of "fair chance hiring"⁵⁴ reforms want to make it easier for former convicts to find jobs and rebuild their lives. This means helping people expunge their criminal records, especially for smaller offenses, or removing criminal history questions from job applications.

FAMILY STRUCTURE AND CHILD POVERTY

Children in poor families in Arkansas are more than twice as likely⁵⁵ to live in a single-parent household. Single-parent households tend to have lower overall family incomes and can be at higher risk for financial



instability. This is no surprise. With one fewer adult to supplement income or help with child care, parenting can be a much greater challenge. The relationship between family structure and poverty is, however, complicated. Children with married parents are much more likely to have financially stable households, but this may be largely because wealthier people are more likely to get married in the first place.

About half (48 percent)⁵⁶ of Arkansas moms who are not married live in poverty. Married couples in Arkansas are far less likely to live in poverty (only 11 percent do).⁵⁷ Marriage rates among low-income populations might be more of a symptom than a cause of child poverty. Our national family structure breakdowns are not that much different from other modern countries who have far lower⁵⁸ child poverty rates.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Most people know instinctively what the research shows⁵⁹ — investing in kids now will pay big dividends down the road. More than 60 percent⁶⁰ of Americans want our new President and Congress to spend more money on the well-being of kids, including increased investments in child health, nutrition, and education for all children. To follow through on this public support, legislators need to implement key public policy changes at the State Capitol.

TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

One broad strategy for reducing child poverty is the two-generation approach, 61 which acknowledges that the future success of children depends on the more short-term success of their parents. This strategy combines child-focused and parent-focused efforts to create an all-inclusive family model. For one advocacy group in Utah, 62 the two-generation approach involves early childhood education for children with simultaneous employment training, social capital, and economic supports for parents. Health-related supports also span both generations.

Two-generation success often involves coordinating public programs that are already in place. ⁶³ Creating partnerships between existing early childhood supports like home-visiting programs and adult supports like community colleges or workforce training ⁶⁴ can create "pathways" out of poverty for whole families. All of the following recommendations can be folded into an overall two-generational, poverty-fighting strategy.

WORKING FAMILY TAX CREDITS

An Arkansas Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would supplement the wildly successful federal version which helps working families across the nation make ends meet with credits at tax time. The credits are usually spent on catching up on bills, furthering education, or providing essentials for kids. A state EITC would be a powerful new anti-poverty and tax fairness tool in Arkansas, a tool that has proven to be incredibly successful in other states. The federal version of the EITC is responsible for lifting 6.2 million people out of poverty every year, including 3.2 million children.66 When parents have access to EITCs, their kids succeed in a variety of categories. Increases in EITCs have been linked to 67 improved infant and maternal health, better test scores for elementary and middle-school students, a better chance at attending college, and higher salaries decades down the road. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is a similar federal program that expands the EITC. The credits are for up to \$1,000 per child, per year. 68 Together, the EITC and CTC have lifted 5 million children⁶⁹ out of poverty across the nation and 57,000 children⁷⁰ here in Arkansas. Expanding these programs will move more children and families permanently out of poverty.

PAID LEAVE

Families need paid leave programs to be financially and physically healthy. The cognitive and developmental benefits of paid maternity leave on babies are well documented, but paid leave is hard to come by (especially for low-income working families in Arkansas). Providing paid maternity leave for state employees would cost only about \$354,000 a year, a small fraction of the state budget. Establishing a credit to encouraged employers to provide paid leave in Arkansas would cost \$14 million. Together, these two measures would help working families avoid having to choose between their jobs and their families' health.

IMPROVED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS

Child poverty will not go away overnight. In the meantime, we need to make sure we are protecting all of our kids, including those who need us most. Children in the foster care system are frequently lower income, and we are not doing enough to provide adequate resources for them. The typical foster care caseworker in Arkansas has 29 foster care cases. The Child Welfare League of America recommends no more than 15 cases to keep children safe. Kids in Arkansas are also more likely to have multiple foster care placements⁷¹ than kids in other states. Being moved around in the foster care system can take an emotional toll.⁷² Arkansas needs to invest in recruiting and training⁷³ foster care families and increasing funding to reduce the caseload of social workers.

	Total children in poverty		White children in poverty		African-American children in poverty		Latino children in poverty		Children under age 5 in poverty	
	Number in poverty	% in poverty	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
State total	192,898	27.66%	89,797	19.9%	61,256	46.7%	30,933	39.8%	60,696	31.9%
County										
Arkansas	1,171	26.91%	409	15.3%	636	43.6%	182	76.8%	467	38.5%
Ashley	1,483	29.52%	508	16.6%	846	56.4%	102	24.2%	439	32.3%
Baxter	1,428	19.87%	1,279	19.3%	0	0.0%	91	38.6%	450	26.7%
Benton	10,430	16.50%	5,332	12.8%	99	13.0%	3,792	25.9%	3,370	19.4%
Boone	1,949	23.39%	1,753	22.7%	0	-	89	34.9%	665	31.7%
Bradley	1,266	48.65%	317	25.9%	643	84.7%	301	48.3%	370	50.3%
Calhoun	212	21.83%	122	18.3%	78	32.5%	3	9.7%	80	32.4%
Carroll	1,617	26.53%	861	20.1%	149	100.0%	560	36.6%	413	26.7%
Chicot	1,190	44.99%	51	6.8%	894	54.7%	240	94.9%	380	47.8%
Clark	1,489	33.44%	639	24.8%	558	43.6%	237	57.2%	465	38.7%
Clay	909	27.76%	798	26.0%	0	-	0	0.0%	240	32.5%
Cleburne	1,299	25.60%	1,122	23.9%	30	45.5%	147	67.4%	393	28.6%
Cleveland	562	27.24%	305	18.4%	221	71.1%	0	0.0%	56	13.0%
Columbia	2,004	38.43%	348	13.2%	1,460	63.4%	164	78.5%	525	38.5%
Conway	1,572	32.73%	884	24.0%	344	54.3%	250	76.9%	431	35.6%
Craighead	7,660	31.50%	3,450	20.9%	2,978	60.3%	827	46.9%	2,573	37.7%
Crawford	4,609	29.30%	3,227	25.6%	125	42.5%	704	45.6%	1,061	27.1%
Crittenden	5,568	39.65%	554	11.4%	4,688	56.7%	71	17.1%	1,689	43.6%
Cross	1,124	26.25%	554	19.1%	539	47.6%	0	0.0%	394	35.0%
Dallas	328	19.31%	94	13.5%	185	22.4%	70	57.9%	74	15.8%
Desha	1,493	46.57%	67	5.8%	1,274	70.7%	142	64.8%	418	46.4%
Drew	1,458	37.17%	384	16.4%	929	69.2%	69	42.1%	481	46.0%
Faulkner	4,551	16.39%	2,739	12.8%	1,080	29.3%	533	33.8%	1,791	22.8%

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	Number in poverty	% in poverty	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Franklin	1,016	24.23%	978	25.6%	8	100.0%	14	10.2%	254	24.6%
Fulton	820	34.64%	779	34.9%	2	100.0%	10	100.0%	241	45.4%
Garland	6,815	35.23%	4,009	28.3%	1,454	61.8%	876	50.1%	2,289	43.3%
Grant	663	15.87%	516	13.5%	75	56.0%	53	39.8%	174	16.3%
Greene	2,367	22.69%	2,155	22.2%	23	25.3%	173	37.6%	837	32.0%
Hempstead	2,655	45.60%	625	24.9%	1,024	53.8%	954	76.9%	885	53.9%
Hot Spring	1,445	20.14%	1,092	19.1%	220	23.8%	87	22.1%	316	17.3%
Howard	1,129	31.72%	425	21.6%	327	36.8%	335	53.9%	276	29.9%
Independence	2,931	34.30%	2,128	29.5%	179	86.1%	536	63.4%	924	41.0%
Izard	594	23.35%	543	23.4%	13	100.0%	20	27.4%	210	36.0%
Jackson	1,502	42.30%	947	37.7%	356	52.9%	87	50.3%	504	51.5%
Jefferson	6,419	37.30%	1,093	21.0%	5,204	46.6%	13	2.8%	1,896	42.3%
Johnson	2,056	33.18%	1,379	29.9%	10	29.4%	532	40.2%	847	46.6%
Lafayette	536	34.99%	88	10.9%	435	65.1%	0	0.0%	147	41.1%
Lawrence	1,314	35.03%	1,256	34.9%	0	0.0%	58	79.5%	385	41.4%
Lee	820	42.07%	99	16.4%	708	53.7%	13	44.8%	286	57.0%
Lincoln	960	37.17%	597	33.6%	322	49.5%	45	32.8%	290	44.5%
Little River	650	23.12%	447	24.2%	107	14.7%	82	59.0%	85	12.4%
Logan	1,215	24.39%	957	21.9%	93	100.0%	142	62.8%	465	35.6%
Lonoke	3,314	17.70%	2,436	15.5%	568	43.0%	189	19.1%	1,004	21.2%
Madison	1,097	29.88%	967	30.4%	0	0.0%	71	23.4%	267	29.1%
Marion	758	26.74%	677	26.1%	14	100.0%	67	53.2%	272	39.7%
Miller	3,120	29.82%	1,308	20.3%	1,591	48.4%	71	15.7%	1,062	34.5%
Mississippi	5,023	40.77%	2,015	33.0%	2,844	54.2%	157	23.0%	1,531	46.7%

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	Number in poverty	% in poverty	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Monroe	814	46.84%	162	22.6%	591	65.2%	74	88.1%	265	55.0%
Montgomery	504	27.81%	460	29.1%	0	0.0%	16	11.4%	157	35.4%
Nevada	1107	52.39%	462	39.0%	470	65.2%	181	95.8%	276	50.8%
Newton	408	24.98%	390	25.6%	0	-	0	0.0%	74	20.3%
Ouachita	1,959	33.42%	476	17.3%	1,295	49.4%	103	58.5%	689	40.2%
Perry	432	19.31%	383.00	18.8%	0	-	7	4.3%	63	10.8%
Phillips	2,843	50.19%	129	9.3%	2,583	64.7%	22	17.9%	897	56.6%
Pike	1039	38.83%	832	37.8%	10	28.6%	144	47.8%	379	54.9%
Poinsett	2,091	37.59%	1,443	31.0%	456	80.9%	121	71.6%	597	39.4%
Polk	1,944	40.41%	1,458	37.0%	0	0.0%	297	55.5%	573	46.4%
Pope	3,621	25.36%	2,264	20.3%	366	62.1%	931	50.4%	1,193	28.9%
Prairie	486	27.54%	357	25.4%	110	40.0%	7	14.3%	140	33.0%
Pulaski	23,098	23,098	4,305	11.3%	14,654	36.1%	3,320	40.3%	7,581	28.2%
Randolph	1,295	32.78%	1,132	30.7%	0	0.0%	96	88.9%	341	34.4%
Saline	2,712	43.06%	1,984	9.2%	1,966	50.8%	87	58.4%	826	45.6%
Scott	2961	11.18%	639	32.0%	247	14.1%	333	18.6%	793	11.7%
Searcy	837	31.81%	410	27.3%	0	-	108	30.0%	165	25.2%
Sebastian	529	31.49%	5,001	27.6%	0	-	70	65.4%	139	33.5%
Sevier	11,197	36.56%	566	26.4%	1,205	65.1%	3,726	55.4%	3,491	40.7%
Sharp	1,690	33.98%	922	29.5%	95	43.2%	1,000	41.6%	529	38.2%
St. Francis	1,036	30.02%	623	30.6%	24	80.0%	15	13.5%	332	42.2%
Stone	1114	43.08%	1,045	42.6%	0	-	36	43.9%	341	51.1%
Union	3,386	35.27%	985	19.4%	2,074	55.5%	274	46.4%	1,014	38.7%
Van Buren	1,518	44.90%	1,371	45.2%	86	86.9%	29	18.4%	414	54.8%

	Total children in poverty		White children in poverty		African-American children in poverty		Latino children in poverty		Children under age 5 in poverty	
	Number in poverty	% in poverty	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Washington	13,927	26.11%	5,092	16.3%	1,125	45.3%	5,429	38.9%	4,899	31.3%
White	3,738	20.51%	2,651	17.5%	302	29.4%	633	49.4%	1,215	24.8%
Woodruff	541	34.09%	229	23.0%	239	50.9%	16	76.2%	168	40.7%
Yell	1,480	26.64%	713	19.1%	25	48.1%	699	41.1%	473	31.7%

Note: These are estimated poverty status counts. Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/interactive/saipe.html?s_appName=saipe&map_yearSelector=2014&map_geoSelector=aa_c&menu=grid_proxy&s_measures=u18_snc&s_state=05&s_year=2014 http://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/14_5YR/B17001A/040000US05\0400000US05.05000

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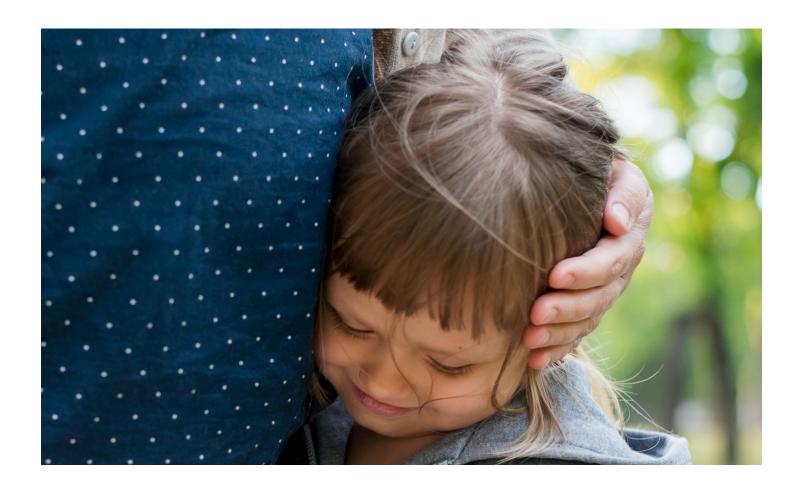
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