

Illinois and Chicago Region



POVERTY, INCOME, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Millions of people in Illinois experience poverty or are living on the brink. That societal position keeps opportunities out of reach and nearly guarantees worse outcomes in every quality of life domain—making ALL of us worse off.

The poverty rate for the United States was 12.3% in 2017. There were 39.7 million people in poverty nationwide. The poverty rate is not significantly different from the pre-recession level of 12.5% in 2007. In 2017, 1.6 million Illinoisans were in poverty — a rate of 12.6%. Additionally, 2.0 million Illinoisans are near poor and economically insecure with incomes between 100% and 199% of the federal poverty threshold.

The fact that poverty remained persistently high and income stagnant despite job growth points to the fact that Illinois clearly faces significant challenges related to job quality. While the nation's poverty rate has returned to pre-recession levels, Illinois's poverty rate remains stubbornly high. And historic gains to health insurance coverage are at risk, with Illinois one of 14 states that saw growth in the uninsured rate for the first time since ACA implementation.

Illinois

	2007		2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	1,496,248	11.9	1,621,508*	13.0*	1,569,753*	12.6
Extreme Poverty	667,578	5.3	738,806*	5.9*	724,307	5.8
Low Income/Near Poor	2,029,262	16.2	2,060,534	16.5	2,027,266	16.2
Related Child Poverty	511,142	16.3	501,827*	17.5*	477,202	16.8
No Health Insurance [†]	1,597,086	14.2	801,134*	7.4*	841,151	7.8*
Median Household Income [^]	\$64,970	--	\$62,102	--	\$62,992*	--
Med. earnings, full-time year round workers	--	--	--	--	\$50,560	--

Chicago

	2007		2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	550,580	20.5	505,365*	19.1*	495,511	18.6
Extreme Poverty	244,498	9.1	226,763*	8.6*	225,842	8.5
Low Income/Near Poor	554,636	20.6	538,384	20.3	535,679	20.1
Related Child Poverty	201,748	30.6	157,749*	28.0*	151,290	27.2
No Health Insurance [†]	526,082	21.6	252,058*	10.6*	257,434	10.9
Median Household Income [^]	\$54,624	--	\$53,006	--	\$55,295	--
Med. earnings, full-time year round workers	--	--	--	--	\$50,356	--

6-County Chicago Region

	2007		2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	936,259	11.3	1,013,725*	12.3*	959,140*	11.6*
Extreme Poverty	416,119	5.0	455,048*	5.5*	442,920	5.4
Low Income/Near Poor	1,277,860	15.4	1,313,841	16.0	1,298,395	15.7
Related Child Poverty	339,216	15.8	325,177*	17.0*	295,958*	15.6*
No Health Insurance†	1,151,068	15.4	601,046*	8.4*	624,177*	8.7*

Poverty by County (6-County Region)





	2007		2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Cook County	758,802	14.6	763,242*	14.9*	740,193	14.4
DuPage County	41,366	4.5	63,806	7.0	55,360	6.0
Kane County	37,750	7.6	56,729	10.8	48,407	9.2
Lake County	42,197	6.1	58,653	8.5	50,592	7.4
McHenry County	17,943	5.7	23,974	7.9	18,471	6.0*
Will County	38,201	5.8	47,321	7.0	46,117	6.8

Measuring Poverty

Official poverty data are based on the federal poverty thresholds, which are used to determine poverty status. The measure is not geographically specific and does not reflect what it takes for families to make ends meet.

Far more people struggle to make ends meet than the official poverty data suggest. The Living Wage Calculator shows that it takes a family of 3 (adult, young child, and child) \$62,781 to be economically secure in Illinois.

2017 FEDERAL POVERTY THRESHOLDS (WEIGHTED AVERAGE)

Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
	\$6,244	\$12,488	\$24,976
	\$7,939	\$15,877	\$31,754
	\$9,758	\$19,515	\$39,030
	\$12,547	\$25,094	\$50,188

* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant. † Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008—the first year they were collected—rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65. ^ 6-County region includes the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

National data come from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. All sub-national data are derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates program. The most recent American Community Survey estimates reflect 2016 income, poverty, and health insurance coverage, which are the most current data available for geographies with populations over 65,000. For more information on the American Community Survey, visit www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Statistical significance refers to the probability that the observed changes are "true" rather than the result of an error in sampling or estimation. Data included here are statistically significant at the 90th percentile.

The Living Wage Calculator was created by Dr. Amy K. Glasmeier at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Available at <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>