

# Illinois and Chicago Region



## POVERTY, INCOME, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The poverty rate for the United States was 12.7% in 2016. There were 40.6 million people in poverty nationwide. The poverty rate is not significantly different from the pre-recession level of 12.5% in 2007.

In 2016, 1.6 million Illinoisans were in poverty — a rate of 13.0%. Additionally, 2.1 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. And while the nation's poverty rate has returned to pre-recession levels, Illinois's rate remains stubbornly high. Furthermore, efforts to reduce poverty are severely hampered by damage from years of inadequate investment in human services and Illinois's state budget battle.

### Illinois

	2007		2015		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	1,496,248	11.9	1,703,258*	13.6*	1,621,508*	13.0*
Extreme Poverty	667,578	5.3	784,584*	6.2*	738,806*	5.9*
Low Income/Near Poor	2,029,262	16.2	2,095,725*	16.7*	2,060,534	16.5
Related Child Poverty	511,142	16.3	548,174*	18.9*	501,827*	17.5*
No Health Insurance†	1,597,086	14.2	885,459*	8.1*	801,134*	7.4*
Median Household Income^	\$61,871	–	\$60,903*	–	\$60,960	

### Chicago

	2007		2015		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	550,580	20.5	556,134*	20.9	505,365*	19.1*
Extreme Poverty	244,498	9.1	252,392*	9.5*	226,763*	8.6*
Low Income/Near Poor	554,636	20.6	556,736	20.9	538,384	20.3
Related Child Poverty	201,748	30.6	178,946*	31.2	157,749*	28.0*
No Health Insurance†	526,082	21.6	278,843*	11.7*	252,058*	10.6*
Median Household Income^	\$52,018	–	\$51,821*	–	\$53,006	–



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ENDING POVERTY

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*The Social IMPACT Research Center (IMPACT) at Heartland Alliance works with nonprofits, foundations, and governments to measure and grow their social impact. We are experts on issues related to poverty, housing, homelessness, employment, human services, health and nutrition, education, and asset development. To learn more, visit [www.socialimpactresearchcenter.org](http://www.socialimpactresearchcenter.org), follow us on Twitter @IMPACTHeartland or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/social.impact.research](https://www.facebook.com/social.impact.research).*

## 6-County Chicago Region

	2007		2015		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	936,259	11.3	1,098,665*	13.3	1,013,725*	12.3*
Extreme Poverty	416,119	5.0	493,866	6.0	455,048*	5.5*
Low Income/Near Poor	1,277,860	15.4	1,345,347	16.3	1,313,841	16.0
Related Child Poverty	339,216	15.8	364,717	18.8	325,177*	17.0*
No Health Insurance <sup>†</sup>	1,151,068	15.4	677,327*	9.3*	601,046*	8.4*
Median Household Income <sup>^</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Suburban 6-County Region (no Chicago)

	2007		2015		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poverty	385,679	6.9	542,531	9.7	508,360	9.1
Extreme Poverty	171,621	3.1	241,474	4.3	228,285	4.1
Low Income/Near Poor	723,224	12.9	788,611	14.1	775,457	13.9
Related Child Poverty	137,468	9.2	185,771	13.6	167,428	12.4
No Health Insurance <sup>†</sup>	624,986	12.4	398,484*	8.2*	348,988*	7.2*
Median Household Income <sup>^</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Poverty by County (6-County Region)





	2007		2015		2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Cook County	758,802	14.6	832,080*	16.1*	763,242*	14.9*
DuPage County	41,366	4.5	65,218	7.1	63,806	7.0
Kane County	37,750	7.6	58,220	11.1	56,729	10.8
Lake County	42,197	6.1	61,383	8.9	58,653	8.5
McHenry County	17,943	5.7	28,119*	9.2*	23,974	7.9
Will County	38,201	5.8	53,645	7.9	47,321	7.0

## 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) \$63,968 to be economically secure in Illinois.

### 2016 FEDERAL POVERTY THRESHOLDS

Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
	\$6,243	\$12,486	\$24,972
	\$8,036	\$16,072	\$32,144
	\$9,387	\$18,774	\$37,548
	\$12,378	\$24,755	\$49,510

\* Denotes change from prior year in table is statistically significant. <sup>†</sup> Health insurance coverage estimates reflect 2008—the first year they were collected—rather than 2007. Estimates are for the population under age 65. <sup>^</sup> Estimates of median household income are not available for this geography. 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/](http://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/>