

Poverty by Age Based on the California Poverty Measure, 2022-2023

Data presented in the following tables detail poverty and deep poverty for selected age categories in California based on the California Poverty Measure (CPM). The detailed age categories provide a more comprehensive view of how poverty differs among Californians at different life stages and how safety net programs impact poverty rates for these groups.

With this more granular age breakdown, we can see that seniors ages 67 and older and young adults ages 18-24 face higher-than-average poverty rates at 19.1% and 23.0%, respectively. Poverty rates among children are relatively consistent across age groups, with children 13-17 facing the highest rate at 16.7%. The data also show that young adults ages 18–24 face an elevated deep poverty rate of 7.6%, the highest among all groups. Deep poverty is defined as living below half the poverty threshold and represents a more severe level of economic hardship. This group is the least impacted by safety net supports when compared to other age groups.

The dataset used to construct these tables uses pooled 2022 and 2023 data, and estimates should be interpreted as the average across 2022 and 2023. For the latest single-year CPM estimates, see the 2023 [Poverty in California Factsheet](#).

About the California Poverty Measure

The California Poverty Measure (CPM) is a state-specific index of poverty, modeled on the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure, that improves upon traditional poverty measures. Unlike the official federal poverty measure, the CPM adjusts for geographic differences in housing costs, accounts for necessary expenditures like child care and out-of-pocket health costs, and includes tax credits, food assistance, and other non-cash benefits in the resources available to help families meet basic needs. The CPM is jointly produced by the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality and the Public Policy Institute of California. Find more CPM data and resources on the [Stanford CPI](#) and [PPIC](#) websites.

Table 1: Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure			Official Poverty Measure		
	Rate (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	Rate (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)
All	16.0	15.8	16.3	10.2	9.9	10.4
Children						
Ages 0-3	16.4	15.5	17.4	12.9	12.1	13.7
Ages 0-5	16.4	15.6	17.2	13.1	12.4	13.8
Ages 0-12	16.3	15.7	16.9	13.3	12.8	13.9
Ages 0-17	16.4	15.9	16.9	13.3	12.7	13.8
Ages 6-9	15.8	15.2	16.5	13.3	12.6	14.1
Ages 6-12	16.2	15.6	16.9	13.5	12.9	14.2
Ages 13-17	16.7	16.1	17.3	13.1	12.5	13.6
Adults						
Ages 18-64	15.2	14.9	15.5	8.9	8.7	9.1
Ages 18-24	23.0	22.3	23.6	12.8	12.3	13.3
Ages 25-64	14.0	13.7	14.2	8.3	8.1	8.5
Ages 55-64	14.8	14.3	15.2	9.0	8.7	9.3
Ages 55+	17.1	16.8	17.4	9.9	9.7	10.2
Ages 65+	18.9	18.4	19.3	10.7	10.3	11.0
Ages 67+	19.1	18.6	19.6	10.8	10.4	11.2

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

Notes: Lower and upper bounds define the range for a 99% confidence interval. Estimates based on a sample of less than 500 are suppressed. * sample size 500-999. All estimates are subject to uncertainty due to sampling variability. The uncertainty is greater for smaller sample sizes. Sample sizes available upon request.

Table 2: Number of Individuals in Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure		
	Number in Poverty	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
All	6,104,800	5,996,300	6,213,300
Children			
Ages 0-3	272,400	257,000	287,800
Ages 0-5	412,900	392,400	433,300
Ages 0-12	951,800	915,800	987,900
Ages 0-17	1,387,859	1,346,700	1,429,000
Ages 6-9	291,500	277,200	305,800
Ages 6-12	539,000	515,800	562,100
Ages 13-17	436,000	421,000	451,000
Adults			
Ages 18-64	3,575,600	3,506,100	3,645,100
Ages 18-24	743,900	721,100	766,700
Ages 25-64	2,831,700	2,774,400	2,888,900
Ages 55-64	678,400	658,300	698,500
Ages 55+	1,819,800	1,784,900	1,854,600
Ages 65+	1,141,400	1,114,100	1,168,600
Ages 67+	996,100	970,900	1,021,300

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

Notes: Lower and upper bounds define the range for a 99% confidence interval. Estimates based on a sample of less than 500 are suppressed. * sample size 500-999. All estimates are subject to uncertainty due to sampling variability. The uncertainty is greater for smaller sample sizes. Sample sizes available upon request.

Table 3: Safety Net Impact on Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure						Number of Individuals Lifted out of Poverty by Safety Net Programs
	Poverty Rate With Safety Net (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	Poverty Rate Without Safety Net (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	
All	16.0	15.8	16.3	27.6	27.3	27.9	4,385,700
Children							
Ages 0-3	16.4	15.5	17.4	30.2	29.1	31.3	227,700
Ages 0-5	16.4	15.6	17.2	30.4	29.5	31.3	352,000
Ages 0-12	16.3	15.7	16.9	31.1	30.5	31.7	864,600
Ages 0-17	16.4	15.9	16.9	31.0	30.4	31.5	1,230,800
Ages 6-9	15.8	15.2	16.5	31.2	30.4	32.1	284,100
Ages 6-12	16.2	15.6	16.9	31.6	31.0	32.3	512,600
Ages 13-17	16.7	16.1	17.3	30.7	30.0	31.5	366,200
Adults							
Ages 18-64	15.2	14.9	15.5	22.7	22.4	23.0	1,769,300
Ages 18-24	23.0	22.3	23.6	31.7	31.0	32.4	282,300
Ages 25-64	14.0	13.7	14.2	21.3	21.0	21.6	1,487,000
Ages 55-64	14.8	14.3	15.2	22.7	22.2	23.1	361,500
Ages 55+	17.1	16.8	17.4	33.5	33.2	33.8	1,747,200
Ages 65+	18.9	18.4	19.3	41.7	41.3	42.2	1,385,700
Ages 67+	19.1	18.6	19.6	43.3	42.8	43.7	1,264,700

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

Notes: Safety net includes Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), CalWORKs, General Assistance (GA), federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), federal Child Tax Credit, state CalEITC, state Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), federal housing subsidies, CalFresh, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Pandemic-EBT 4.0, and school meals.

Lower and upper bounds define the range for a 99% confidence interval. Estimates based on a sample of less than 500 are suppressed. * sample size 500-999. All estimates are subject to uncertainty due to sampling variability. The uncertainty is greater for smaller sample sizes. Sample sizes available upon request.

Table 4: Deep Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure			Official Poverty Measure		
	Rate (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	Rate (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)
All	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6
Children						
Ages 0-3	3.1*	2.6	3.5	5.3*	4.8	5.8
Ages 0-5	3.1	2.7	3.4	5.4	5.0	5.9
Ages 0-12	3.0	2.8	3.3	5.5	5.1	5.9
Ages 0-17	3.0	2.8	3.2	5.5	5.1	5.8
Ages 6-9	2.9*	2.5	3.2	5.5*	5.0	6.1
Ages 6-12	3.0	2.7	3.3	5.5	5.1	6.0
Ages 13-17	2.9	2.6	3.2	5.4	5.0	5.8
Adults						
Ages 18-64	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.4
Ages 18-24	7.6	7.2	8.1	6.0	5.6	6.4
Ages 25-64	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.1
Ages 55-64	4.9	4.6	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.7
Ages 55+	5.6	5.4	5.8	4.2	4.0	4.4
Ages 65+	6.1	5.8	6.4	4.1	3.8	4.3
Ages 67+	6.1	5.8	6.4	4.1	3.8	4.3

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

Notes: “Deep poverty” refers to having resources less than half of the CPM poverty line. Lower and upper bounds define the range for a 99% confidence interval. Estimates based on a sample of less than 500 are suppressed. * sample size 500-999. All estimates are subject to uncertainty due to sampling variability. The uncertainty is greater for smaller sample sizes. Sample sizes available upon request.

Table 5: Number of Individuals in Deep Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure		
	Number	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
All	1,686,500	1,633,600	1,739,300
Children			
Ages 0-3	50,500*	43,500	57,400
Ages 0-5	76,800	68,000	85,600
Ages 0-12	176,200	161,700	190,800
Ages 0-17	251,900	233,600	270,200
Ages 6-9	53,000*	46,800	59,200
Ages 6-12	99,400	89,600	109,200
Ages 13-17	75,700	68,300	83,000
Adults			
Ages 18-64	1,064,200	1,028,900	1,099,400
Ages 18-24	246,900	232,200	261,700
Ages 25-64	817,300	788,500	846,000
Ages 55-64	222,700	211,300	234,000
Ages 55+	593,100	572,200	613,900
Ages 65+	370,400	353,500	387,200
Ages 67+	321,000	305,100	336,956

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

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Table 6: Safety Net Impact on Deep Poverty in California by Selected Age Categories, 2022-2023

	California Poverty Measure						Number of Individuals Lifted out of Deep Poverty by Safety Net Programs
	Deep Poverty Rate With Safety Net (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	Deep Poverty Rate Without Safety Net (%)	Lower Bound (%)	Upper Bound (%)	
All	4.4	4.3	4.6	14.4	14.2	14.7	3,799,300
Children							
Ages 0-3	3.1*	2.6	3.5	13.2*	12.5	14.0	168,669*
Ages 0-5	3.1	2.7	3.4	13.4	12.7	14.0	259,600
Ages 0-12	3.0	2.8	3.3	13.6	13.1	14.2	620,200
Ages 0-17	3.0	2.8	3.2	13.6	13.1	14.0	896,700
Ages 6-9	2.9*	2.5	3.2	13.6*	12.9	14.3	197,600*
Ages 6-12	3.0	2.7	3.3	13.8	13.2	14.5	360,500
Ages 13-17	2.9	2.6	3.2	13.5	13.0	14.0	276,500
Adults							
Ages 18-64	4.5	4.4	4.7	10.7	10.5	10.9	1,455,500
Ages 18-24	7.6	7.2	8.1	14.6	14.1	15.1	227,100
Ages 25-64	4.0	3.9	4.2	10.1	9.9	10.3	1,228,500
Ages 55-64	4.9	4.6	5.1	12.4	12.1	12.8	348,400
Ages 55+	5.6	5.4	5.8	22.4	22.1	22.8	1,795,400
Ages 65+	6.1	5.8	6.4	30.0	29.6	30.5	1,447,100
Ages 67+	6.1	5.8	6.4	31.5	31.0	32.1	1,327,400

Source: Author calculations from pooled 2022-2023 CPM.

Notes: “Deep poverty” refers to having resources less than half of the CPM poverty line. Safety net includes Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), CalWORKs, General Assistance (GA), federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), federal Child Tax Credit, state CalEITC, state Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), federal housing subsidies, CalFresh, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Pandemic-EBT 4.0, and school meals.

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