

Poverty

The official number of poor in the United States in 2008 is about 39.1 million people¹.

Most Americans (58.5%) will spend at least one year below the poverty line at some point between ages 25 and 75².

The US Census declared that in 2010 15.1% of the general population lived in poverty³. The percentage of each race who lives in poverty is:

White	Black	Hispanic	Asian
9.9%	27.4%	26.6%	12.1%

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty definition by income in 2012.

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,170	\$13,970	\$12,860
2	\$15,130	\$18,920	\$17,410
3	\$19,090	\$23,870	\$21,960
4	\$23,050	\$28,820	\$26,510

Welfare⁴

The total number of Americans on welfare is 4,300,000 and the total number of Americans on food stamps is 46,700,000. Additionally, the total number of Americans on unemployment insurance is 5,600,000.

The percent of the US population on welfare is 4.1%.

Total government spending on welfare annually (not including food stamps or unemployment) is \$131.9 billion

The percent of welfare recipients who are:

White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
38.8%	39.8%	15.7%	2.5%	3.3%

Prison

The state and federal prison populations totaled 1,598,780 at year end 2011⁵.

Between 6.6% and 7.5% of all black males ages 25 to 39 were imprisoned in 2011, which were the highest imprisonment rates among the measured sex, race, origin and age groups¹. In 2011, blacks and Hispanics were imprisoned at higher rates than whites in all age groups for both male and female inmates¹.

Black youth made up 16% of the nation's overall juvenile population, but accounted for 45% of juvenile arrests.⁶ 70% of students involved in "in-school" arrests or referred to law enforcement are Latino or Black.³

68% of all males in state and federal prisons do not have a high school diploma⁷.

The U.S. spends almost \$70 billion annually on incarceration, probation and parole. This number lends itself to a 127% funding increase for incarceration between 1987-2007. Compare that to a 21% increase in funding for higher education in the time frame.³

1 <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/acsbr08-1.pdf>

2 Hacker, J. S. (2006). The great risk shift: The new insecurity and the decline of the American dream. New York: Oxford University Press (USA).

3 http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/income_wealth/cb11-157.html

4 US Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, CATO Institute, Date Verified: 10.15.2012

5 U.S. Department of Justice December, 2012 Bureau of Justice Statistics.

6 Howard N. Snyder, "Juvenile Arrests 2003," OJJDP JUVENILE JUSTICE BULLETIN (2005), p. 9.

7 SuspensionStories.com (http://b3cdn.net/advancement/54c290ce86e7ee7c70_3d0m6ue80.pdf)

Pennsylvania

Prison Costs

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections budget will grow to \$1.93 billion, up \$60.6 million, or 3.2%. Since 2010-2011, prison funding has increased by a total of \$91.6 million, or 9%.¹

The bulk of this increase is due to the rising cost of incarceration, which is proposed to increase from \$35,400 per inmate to \$37,300 in 2013-2014.¹

Welfare Costs

For every 1.65 employed persons in the private sector in Pennsylvania, 1 person receives welfare assistance.²

Pittsburgh Public Schools

The District's official 2012-13 membership included 26,643 students (Pre-K to 12) with 24,849 (K-12) attending 54 schools.⁸ The cost per pupil is \$21,072.27.²

The percentage of black 12th grade students in the district who maintain a GPA of at least 2.5 and 90% attendance is 26% in 2011-12, as opposed to 68% of white students in the same cohort.⁸

High School Dropout Rates³

3.74% of black high school students dropped out in Pennsylvania during 2011-12 as opposed to 1.17% of white students. Hispanic students drop out at rate of 4.04%.

School Year	Pennsylvania High School Graduation Rate	Pittsburgh Public High School Graduation Rate
2009-10	83%	69%
2010-11	83%	68%
2011-12	81%	68%

¹ Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center [2013-2014 report](#).

² 2010-2011 Annual Financial Report (AFR) Expenditure per ADM filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education

³ www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/dropouts/7396