

# Income

## Section Highlights

Median Household Annual Income ..... \$56,337

Cost of Living Compared to U.S. Average ..... 25% Higher

Residents Living in Poverty ..... 18%

Families Living in Poverty ..... 14%

Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals ..... 70%

## A Success Story

*The Launch Initiative Pilot Project (Launch) is working to change families' trajectory from dependency to prosperity. The project is a broad-based economic development plan led by local businesses participating in the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP), with funding from The James Irvine Foundation, Morgan Family and JPMorgan Chase Foundation. IEEP is collaborating with Loma Linda University School of Behavioral Health, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Centers and Goodwill Southern California to test Launch in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Launch's family-centric model aims to reduce poverty by assisting families through Life Coach mentoring and tailored vocational training opportunities. In fall 2017, Launch began deploying professional Life Coaches into the community to recruit hundreds of families that are experiencing unstable economic conditions to support their pathway to self-sufficiency.*

# Median Household Income Rebounds

Cost of living is low in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area compared to its Southern California neighbors, but it is 25% higher than the national average. As a result, real income growth is important to ensure residents have sufficient income to thrive in San Bernardino County and afford rising expenses. This indicator tracks the change in inflation-adjusted median household income for San Bernardino County compared to the state and nation.<sup>1</sup> For the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area, median household income is compared to cost of living. The cost of living index compares the prices of housing, consumer goods, and services in Riverside-San Bernardino relative to the national average.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

Median household income has rebounded in the last two years:

- In 2016, median household income in San Bernardino County was \$56,337, up 7% since the 10-year low in 2014, yet still 14% lower than 10-years ago, when adjusted for inflation.
- San Bernardino County's rebound lags the state and nation, which both reached a 10-year low in 2012 and have been outpacing inflation since then, with median income nearly attaining pre-recession income levels.
- Sluggish median income growth in San Bernardino County, combined with a cumulative inflation rate of 16% between 2007 and 2016, leads to less buying power for San Bernardino County residents than regions with faster growth.

The Riverside-San Bernardino metro area has the lowest cost of living in Southern California, but the highest among selected peer markets outside of California:

- With 100.0 being average, Riverside-San Bernardino measured 125.4 in 2016.
- When looking at income relative to cost of living in peer markets, Phoenix residents have the most advantageous ratio of income to cost of living. Los Angeles residents have the least favorable ratio, a high cost of living and low median household income.
- In Riverside-San Bernardino, higher than average cost of living but average median income translates to somewhat less discretionary income than areas where income and cost of living are more aligned.

**Median Income for Seniors and Families**

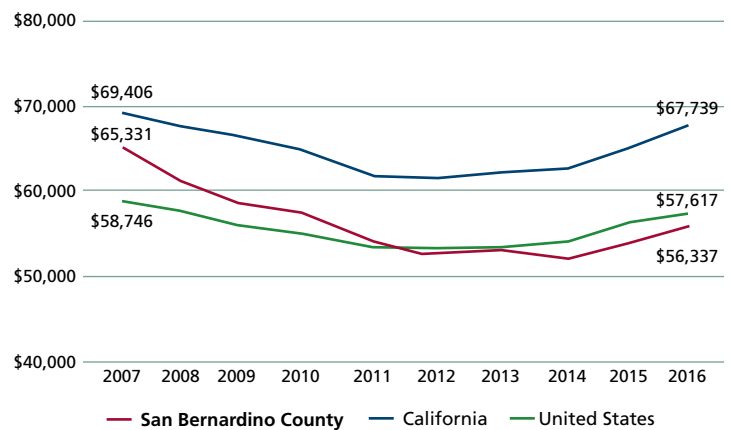
Compared to the countywide median household income of \$56,337, senior households have a substantially lower income (\$43,075). However, seniors are also more likely to have assets including owning their own home (76% vs. 53% of non-seniors) and own their home outright (46% vs. 20% of non-senior homeowners).

With a median annual income of \$53,452, families with children under 18 years of age have a slightly lower median income than all households countywide.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2013 (Tables S1903, B25007, and B25027)

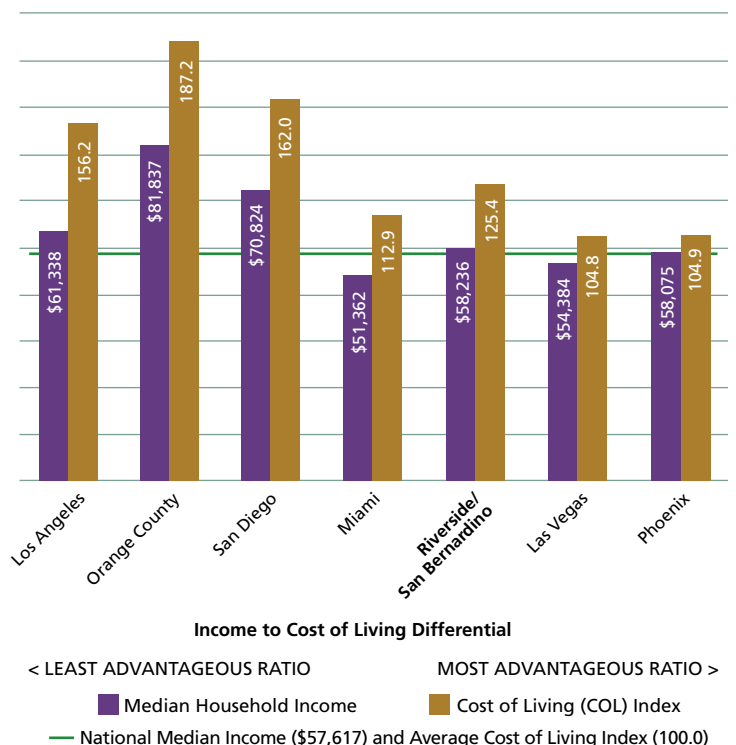
<sup>1</sup> All income data in this report are inflation-adjusted to 2016 dollars, such that \$1,000 earned in 2007, for example, has the same buying power as \$1,158 in 2016. "Real" refers to income adjusted for inflation.

**Median Household Income (Inflation Adjusted to 2016 Dollars)**  
San Bernardino County, California and United States, 2007-2016



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2016 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Table B19013; U.S. Inflation Calculator, based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index ([www.usinflationcalculator.com](http://www.usinflationcalculator.com))

**Median Household Income Compared to Cost of Living Index**  
Regional Comparison, 2016



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Table B19013; Sperling's Best Places, December 2016

# Income Support and Food Subsidy Caseloads Decline

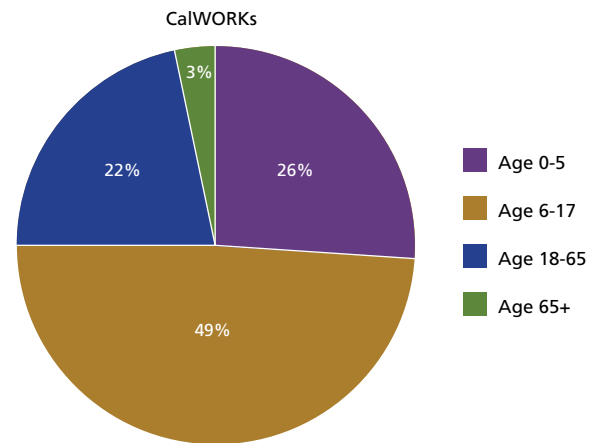
Public income support and food subsidies provide a critical safety net to those living in or at risk of poverty. These supports can work against the negative pressures of poverty, including the stress and strained family relationships that may result from the challenges of paying for basic needs. To assess the demand for these services, this indicator measures enrollment in two core public assistance programs, CalWORKs and CalFresh.

## How is San Bernardino County Doing?

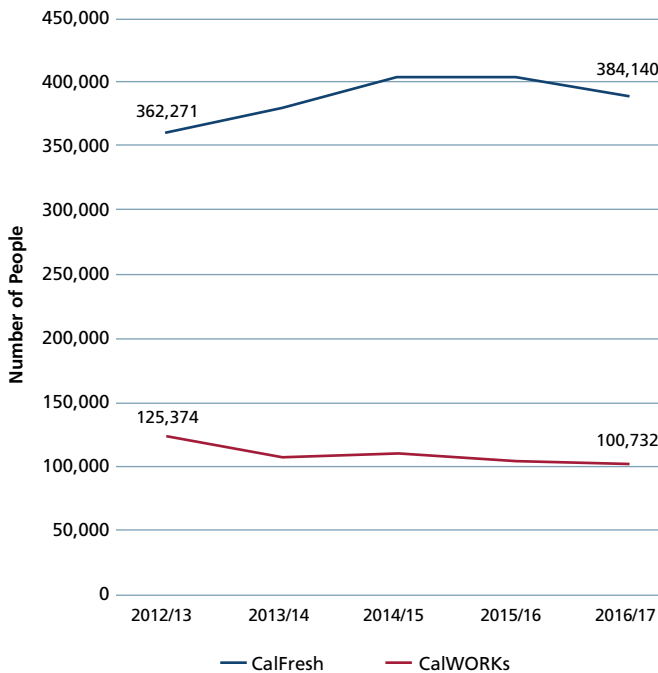
Enrollment in CalFresh fell and cash public assistance enrollment continued to decline:

- After double-digit percent growth in CalFresh benefits during the recession, the number of people receiving CalFresh benefits slowed in 2013 and, for the first time in over 10 years, fell between 2016 and 2017 by 5%.
- Meanwhile, CalWORKs enrollment fell 4% between 2016 and 2017, and is down 22% from the peak in 2011.
- San Bernardino County is home to 4.9% of California’s households; however, a disproportionate 8.2% of the 1.37 million California households receiving cash public assistance or CalFresh reside in San Bernardino County.<sup>1</sup>
- Three-quarters of CalWORKs recipients are children and just under half (47%) of CalFresh recipients are children.
- Veterans make up only 1% of CalFresh recipients and even fewer CalWORKs recipients.

Enrollment in CalWORKs and CalFresh by Age San Bernardino County, 2016/17

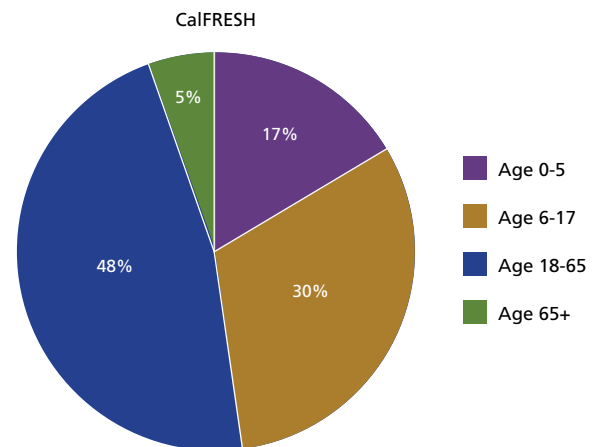


Enrollment in Major Public Assistance Programs San Bernardino County, 2013-2017



Note: CalFresh counts include those who receive CalWORKs and those who do not.

Source: San Bernardino County Human Services



**Program Descriptions**

**CalWORKs** provides cash benefits for the care of low-income children. **CalFresh** (formerly Food Stamps) provides low-income households with assistance for the purchase of food. Most programs require income and asset limitations, as well as citizenship or permanent legal resident status. Other eligibility factors may apply such as county or state residency, age, or time in the program (time-limits).

<sup>1</sup> 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B19058 (factfinder.census.gov)

## Single Mothers Face Highest Rate of Poverty

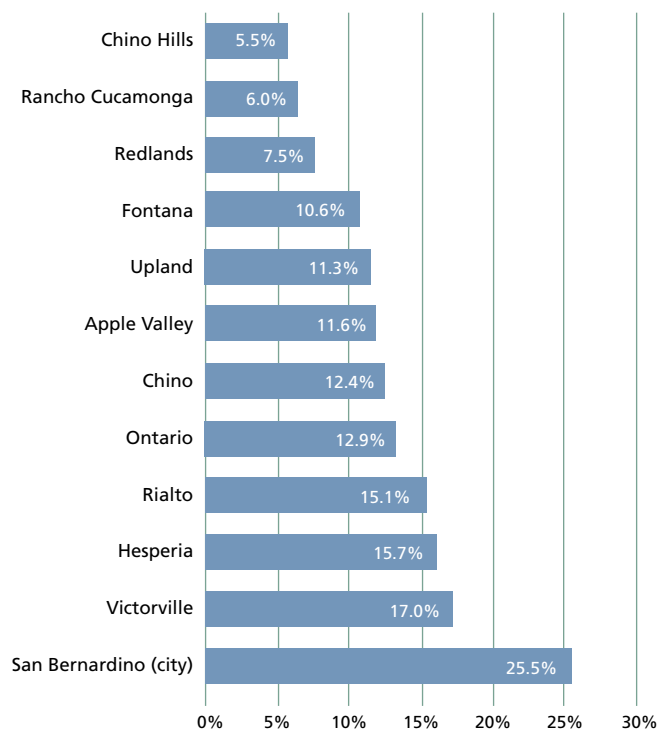
Poverty can have negative health impacts for both children and adults. Children growing up in impoverished households are at increased risk for lower cognitive abilities, lower school achievement, and poorer development. The poverty rate is an important tool to determine eligibility for health and human services and programs, including health and supplemental food programs, which can lessen the negative impacts of poverty. Tracking poverty can also assist with targeting interventions. This indicator provides detailed information about the percentage and makeup of San Bernardino County families that are living in poverty. A family is defined as a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage or adoption, residing in the same housing unit.

### How is San Bernardino County Doing?

While more families are living in poverty overall, there was a decrease from 2015 to 2016:

- The percentage of families living in poverty increased 4.3 percentage points in 10 years, from 9.6% of San Bernardino County residents living in poverty in 2007 to 13.9% in 2016.
- There was, however, a drop of more than one percentage point from 2015, when 15.3% of families in San Bernardino County were living in poverty.
- San Bernardino County's rate of family poverty is higher than the state and national averages and it is the highest among the counties compared, except for Miami-Dade (14.7%).
- The rate of poverty is significantly higher for San Bernardino County families whose head of household does not have a high school diploma, from 18.0% living in poverty in 2007 to 26.5% living in poverty in 2016.
- At 25.5%, the city of San Bernardino has the highest rate of families living in poverty in San Bernardino County, while Chino Hills has the lowest rate (5.5%).

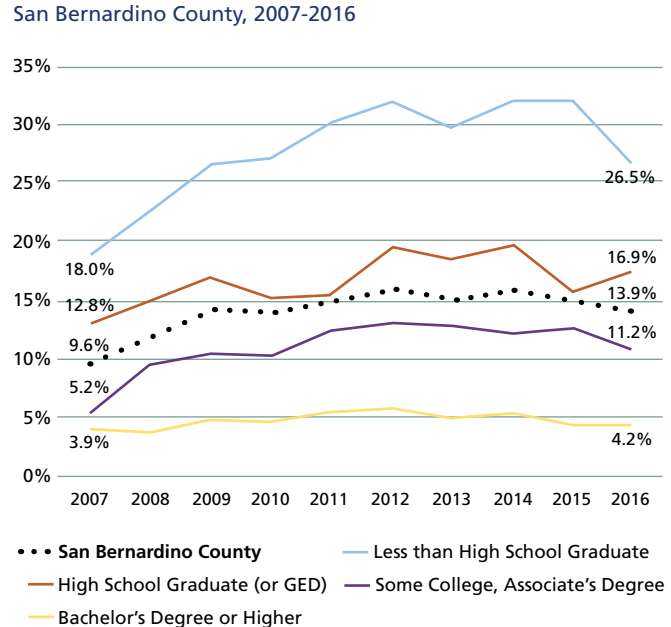
### Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by City San Bernardino County, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

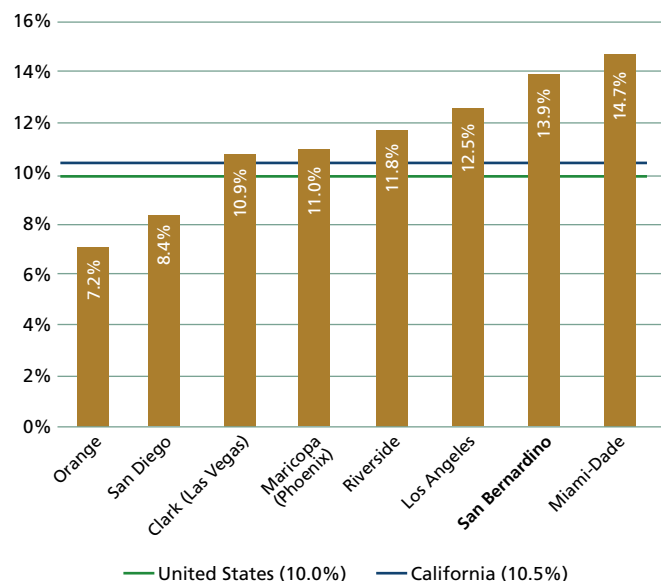
Note: because 1-year estimates are being used, only cities with populations of 65,000 or more are included.

### Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by Educational Attainment San Bernardino County, 2007-2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

### Percent of Families Living in Poverty County Comparison, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

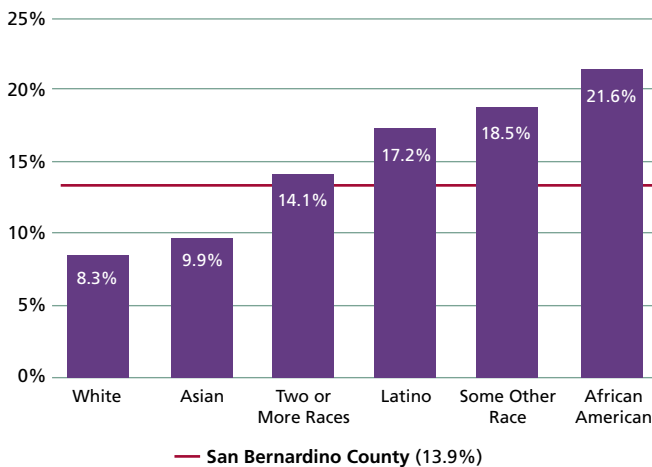
Families with younger children have a higher incidence of poverty:

- Female-headed households, where there is no husband living in the house, have the highest poverty rate at 31.5%. For those female-headed households with children under 18 years of age, the poverty rate increases considerably (44.0%).
- Married-couple families (with or without children) have a lower poverty rate (7.6%). For those married-couple families with children under 18 years of age, the rate increases to 11.0%.

Poverty rates vary by ethnicity:

- African American families have the highest rate of poverty (21.6%), while White and Asian families have the lowest rates (8.3% and 9.9%, respectively).
- For Latino families, 17.2% are living in poverty.

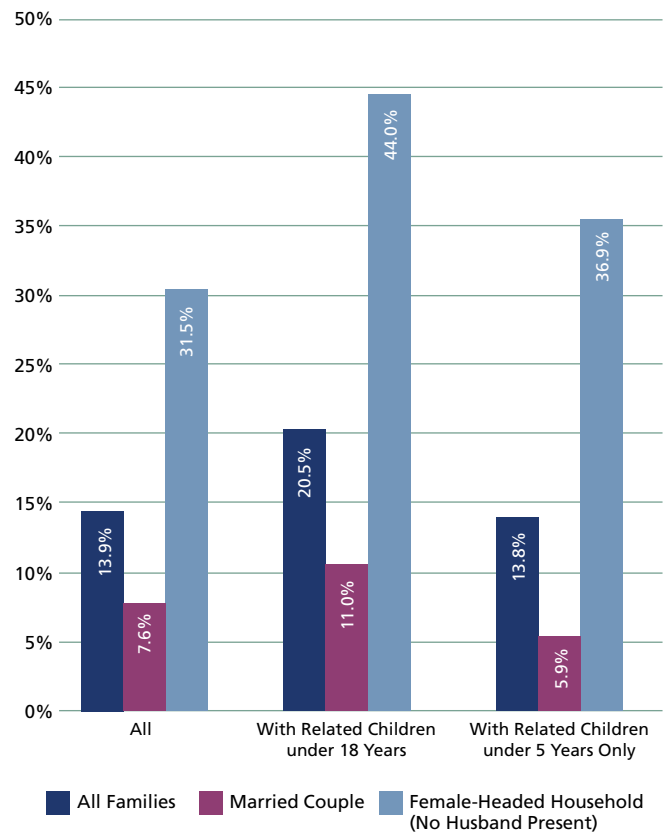
**Percent of Families Living in Poverty by Ethnicity**  
San Bernardino County, 2016



Note: Caucasian is non-Latino. Latino is of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

**Poverty Level by Family Structure and Ages of Children**  
San Bernardino, 2016



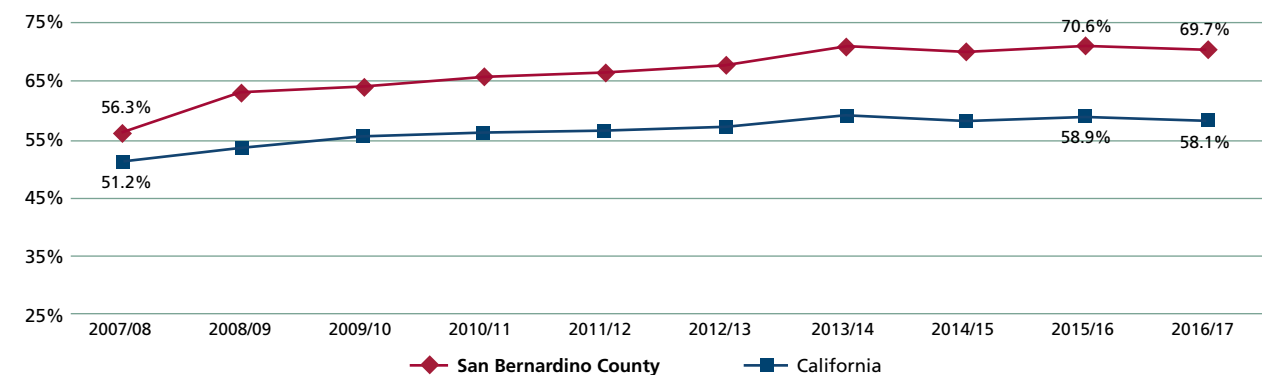
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

**Low-income Family Eligibility for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals**

A growing number of children are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals:

- In 2016/17, 69.7% of K-12 public school students lived in families with incomes low enough to qualify for free or reduced price school meals, down slightly from 70.6% in 2015/16.
- A child is eligible if his or her family's income is below 185% of the poverty level (e.g., \$45,510 for a family of four in 2017).

**Children Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals**  
San Bernardino County and California, 2008-2017



Source: California Department of Education, DataQuest (<http://data1.ede.ca.gov/dataquest/>)

## Poverty Rate Continues to Decrease

In addition to impacting an individual's health and educational attainment, poverty also affects their burden upon and contribution to the community. The poverty rate is an important tool to determine eligibility for health and human services and programs, including health insurance and supplemental food programs, which can lessen the negative impacts of poverty. Tracking poverty can also assist with targeting interventions. This indicator tracks the percentage of the population in San Bernardino County living in poverty by select demographics including age, gender and employment.

### How is San Bernardino County Doing?

After eight years of increasing poverty rates, there was a decrease in poverty for the past two years:

- The percentage of the population living in poverty increased almost six percentage points in 10 years, from 11.8% in 2007 to 17.7% in 2016.
- However, there was a decrease in poverty from 2015, when 19.0% of the population lived in poverty.
- San Bernardino County's rate of poverty is higher than state and national averages and is the highest among counties compared, except for Miami-Dade.

The long-term poverty trend indicates an increase in poverty across all age groups:

- In 2016, 26.0% of children in San Bernardino County were living in poverty, up from 16.2% in 2007.
- The percentage of adults living in poverty also grew during this same period, from 10.3% in 2007 to 18.4% in 2016.
- Poverty among seniors ages 65 and older increased as well, rising from 7.6% in 2007 to 9.9% in 2016.

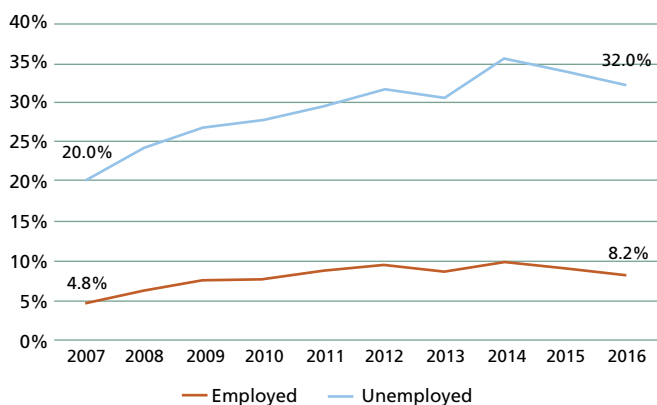
Women are more likely to live in poverty than men:

- In 2016, 18.8% of females in San Bernardino County were living in poverty.
- This is more than two percentage points higher than the proportion of the male population living in poverty (16.5%).

There is also a growing population of working poor:

- In 2016, 8.2% of the civilian labor force ages 16 and older who were employed were living in poverty. This is up 71% from 2007 when 4.8% of the employed population in the labor force was living in poverty.
- The poverty rate for the unemployed population in the labor force also increased, rising from 20.0% in 2007 to 32.0% in 2016.

### Percentage of Civilian Labor Force Ages 16 and Older Living in Poverty San Bernardino County, 2007-2016

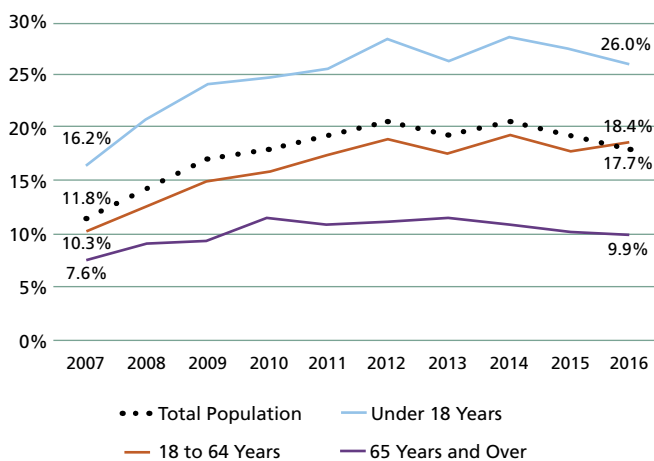


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

### 2016 Income Thresholds for Poverty Determination

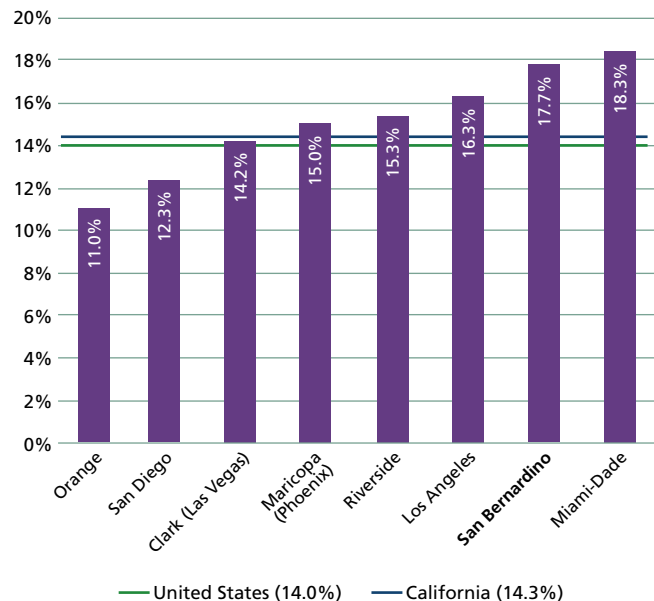
For an individual, the annual income to be considered in poverty is less than \$11,880. For two people with no children, the poverty threshold is an annual income of \$16,020.

### Percentage of Population Living in Poverty, by Age San Bernardino County, 2007-2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

### Percentage of Population Living in Poverty County Comparison, 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)