

Income

Section Highlights

Median Household Annual Income \$60,420

Cost of Living Compared to U.S. Average 28% Higher

Children Under 18 Living in Poverty 23%

Seniors 65+ Living in Poverty 12%

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals 72%

A Success Story

During the 2018 Poverty Awareness Month, the County of San Bernardino's department of Human Services launched #EmpowerSBC to promote awareness and education through social media. #EmpowerSBC postings and videos highlighted community collaborations, resources and services. Fifteen county departments, community-based organizations and residents came together to identify innovative solutions to create pathways out of intergenerational poverty. Campaign efforts support the Countywide Vision through meeting the safety, health and social service needs of residents. Ongoing efforts include multi-agency education and training and an innovative pilot project that brings those affected by poverty together to examine how poverty impacts communities. The Public Relations Society of America Inland Empire Chapter recognized #EmpowerSBC with social media and video awards.

Household Income Growth Surpasses Inflation

Cost of living is low in San Bernardino County compared to its Southern California neighbors, but it is 28% 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.¹ Median household income and cost of living are presented for San Bernardino County and compared to selected peer markets. The cost of living index compares the prices of housing, consumer goods, and services in San Bernardino County relative to the national average.

How is San Bernardino County Doing?

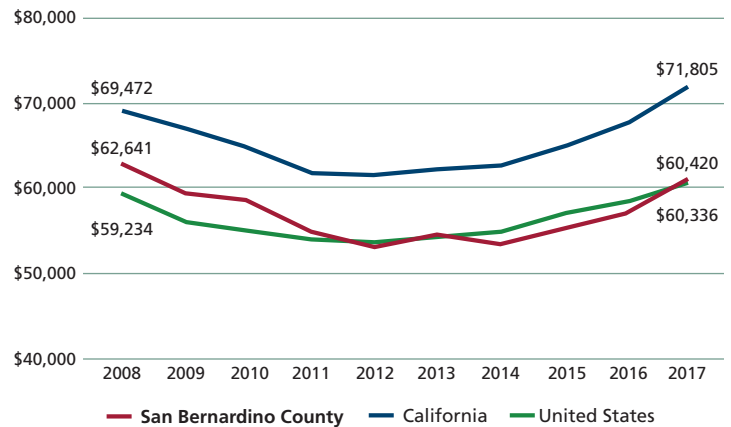
Real median household income rebounded in the last three years:

- In 2017, median household income in San Bernardino County was \$60,420, a 9% increase since the 10-year low in 2014.
- However, San Bernardino County's rebound lags the state and nation, which both surpassed 2008 median income levels in 2017; San Bernardino County has yet to reach that milestone.
- Sluggish median income growth in San Bernardino County over the past 10 years, combined with a cumulative inflation rate of 14% between 2008 and 2017, leads to less buying power for San Bernardino County residents than regions with faster growth.

San Bernardino County has the lowest cost of living in Southern California, but the highest among selected peer markets outside of California:

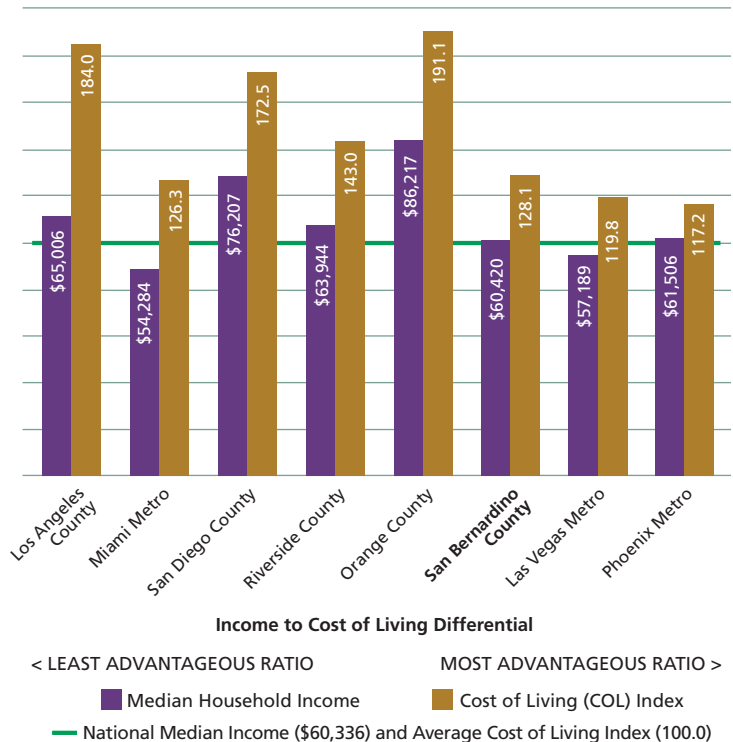
- With 100.0 being average, San Bernardino County measured 128.1 in 2018, or 28.1% more expensive than the national average.
- When looking at income relative to cost of living in peer markets, Phoenix residents have the most advantageous ratio of income to cost of living. Los Angeles residents have the least favorable ratio, a high cost of living and low median household income.
- San Bernardino County has one of the more favorable ratios of income to cost of living among the regions compared; however, higher than average cost of living and average median income translates to somewhat less discretionary income than areas where income and cost of living are more aligned.

Median Household Income (Inflation Adjusted to 2017 Dollars)
San Bernardino County, California and United States, 2008-2017



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)

Median Household Income Compared to Cost of Living Index
Regional Comparison, 2017 (Income) and 2018 (Cost of Living)



Median Income for Seniors and Families

Compared to the countywide median household income of \$60,420, senior households, where the householder is 65 years of age or older, have a substantially lower income (\$39,768). However, seniors are also more likely to have assets, including owning their own home rather than renting (75% vs. 55% of non-seniors) and owning their home outright, without a mortgage (51% vs. 20% of non-senior homeowners).

With a median annual income of \$60,370, families with children under 18 years of age have a similar median income as all households countywide.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2017 (Tables S1903, B25007, and B25027)

¹ All income data in this indicator are inflation-adjusted to 2017 dollars, such that \$1,000 earned in 2008, for example, has the same buying power as \$1,143 in 2017. "Real" refers to income adjusted for inflation.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, Table B19013; Sperling's Best Places, 2018

County's Income Inequality is Low Compared to Peers

Income inequality, or the gap between the rich and the poor, has been increasing in the United States since the 1980s and is higher than most industrialized countries. High income inequality is associated with poorer public health, reduced socioeconomic mobility, and reduced feelings of well-being among those at the low end of the income distribution.¹ This indicator measures the level of income inequality among households in San Bernardino County using the Gini Index.

How is San Bernardino County Doing?

There is less income inequality in San Bernardino County than the state and nation:

- In 2017, San Bernardino County's Gini Index score was 0.44 compared to 0.49 in California and 0.48 nationwide.
- Among all California counties, San Bernardino County has less income inequality than 48 of the state's 58 counties.
- In comparison to selected peer and neighboring counties, San Bernardino County has the least income inequality.
- Within San Bernardino County, Grand Terrace is the city with the lowest income inequality (0.38) and Loma Linda is the city with the greatest income inequality (0.50).

Gini Index Scale

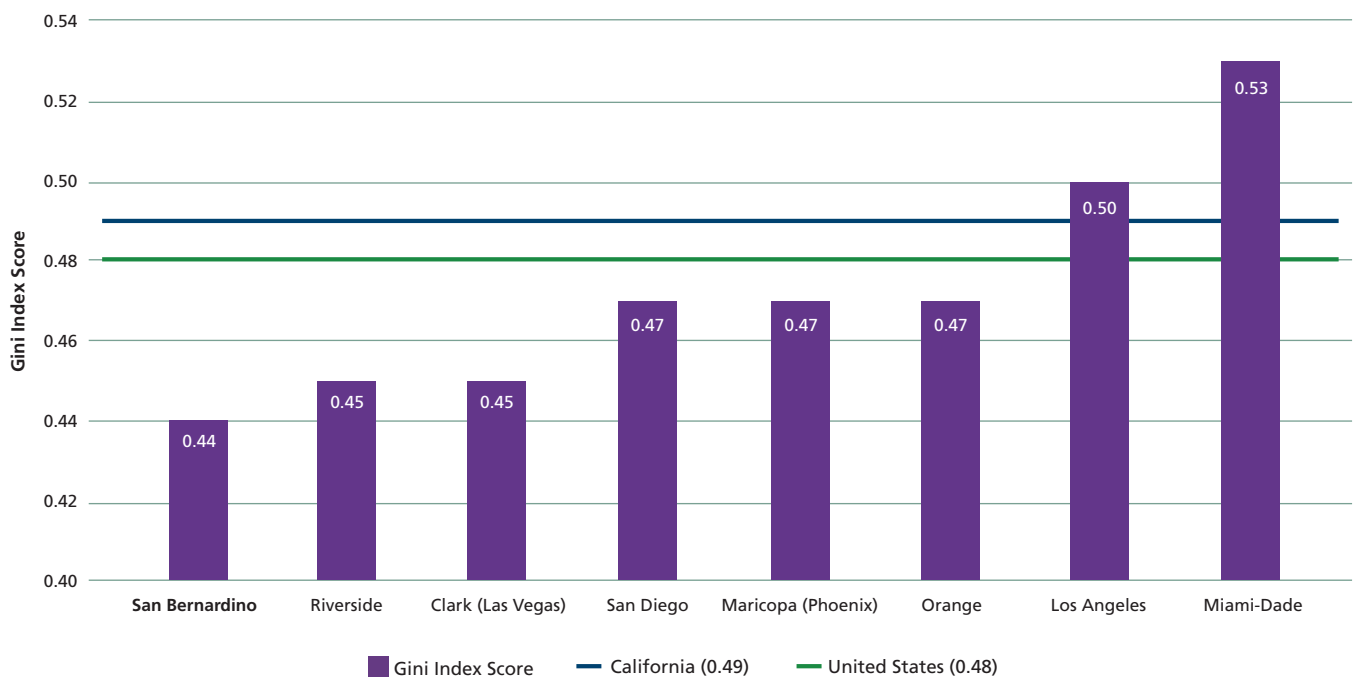
Gini Index results range between zero (0) and one (1). A value of zero indicates complete equality, where all households have equal income. A value of one indicates complete inequality, where only one household has any income.

Lowest and Highest Gini Index Scores Among Cities in San Bernardino County, 2017

Lowest Income Inequality		Highest Income Inequality	
City	Gini Index Score	City	Gini Index Score
Grand Terrace	0.38	Loma Linda	0.50
Montclair	0.39	Barstow	0.49
Chino Hills	0.39	Redlands	0.48
Fontana	0.39	Apple Valley	0.47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (Table B19083)

Gini Index of Income Inequality County Comparison, 2017

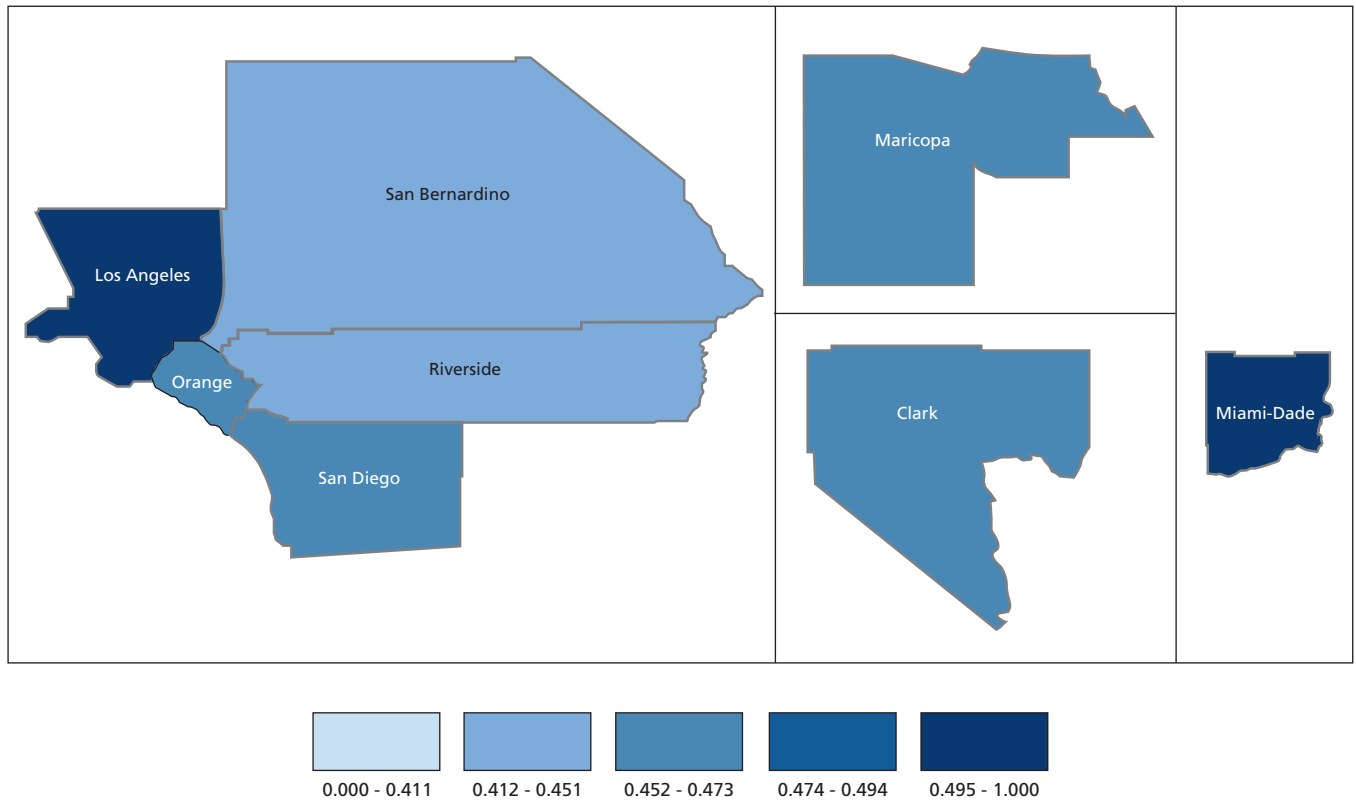


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (Table B19083)

¹Reeves R. (2018). Restoring middle-class incomes: redistribution won't do. Brookings Institute (www.brookings.com)
 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (<https://data.oecd.org/inequality/income-inequality.htm>)
 Pickett KE, Wilkinson, RG. (2015). Income inequality and health: A causal review. Social Science & Medicine. Vol.128
 Oishi S, Kushlev K, et. al. (2018). Progressive Taxation, Income Inequality, and Happiness. American Psychologist, Vol.73(2)
 Russell Sage Foundation. (2016). What we know about income inequality and social mobility in the United States (www.russellsage.org)

INCOME INEQUALITY

Gini Index of Income Inequality County Comparison, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (Table B19083)

Poverty Rate Decreases for All Age Groups Except Seniors

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?

Following a steady increase in poverty rates, the last three years have seen a decrease in poverty:

- The percentage of the population living in poverty decreased from 17.7% in 2016 to 16.2% in 2017.
- However, there has been an almost two percentage point increase over the past 10 years, when 14.6% 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 (16.6% living in poverty).

Despite recent decreases in the poverty rate, the poverty rate is higher than 10 years ago for all age groups:

- In 2017, 23.0% of children in San Bernardino County under age 18 were living in poverty, up from 20.6% in 2008.
- The percentage of adults living in poverty also grew during this same period, from 12.5% in 2008 to 13.9% in 2017.
- Poverty among seniors ages 65 and older increased as well, rising from 8.7% in 2008 to 12.0% in 2017.

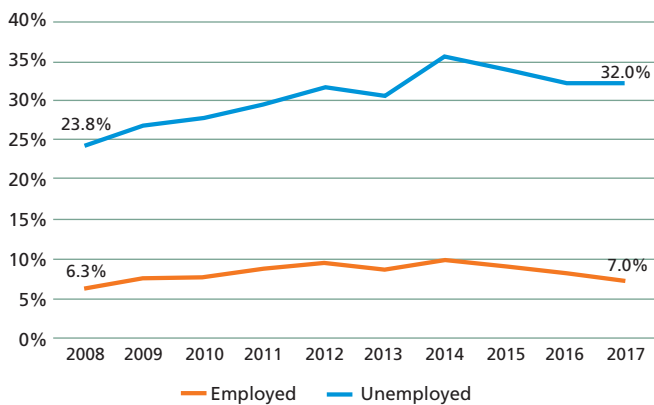
Women are more likely to live in poverty than men:

- In 2017, 17.4% 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 (14.8%).

There is also a growing population of working poor:

- In 2017, 7.0% of the civilian labor force ages 16 and older who were employed were living in poverty. This is up from 2008 when 6.3% 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 23.8% in 2008 to 32.0% in 2017.

Percentage of Civilian Labor Force Ages 16 and Older Living in Poverty San Bernardino County, 2008-2017

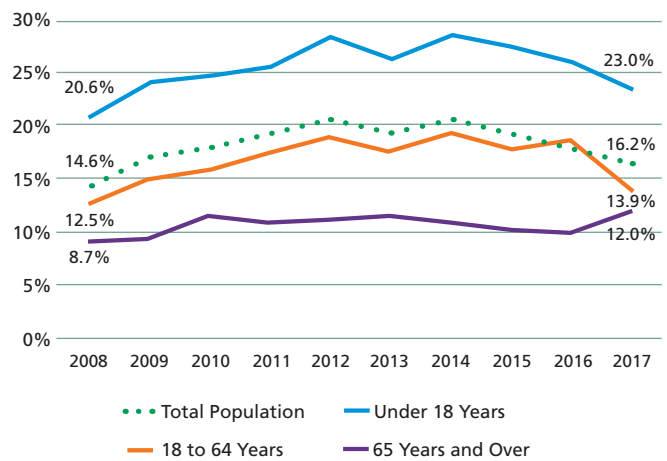


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

2017 Income Thresholds for Poverty Determination

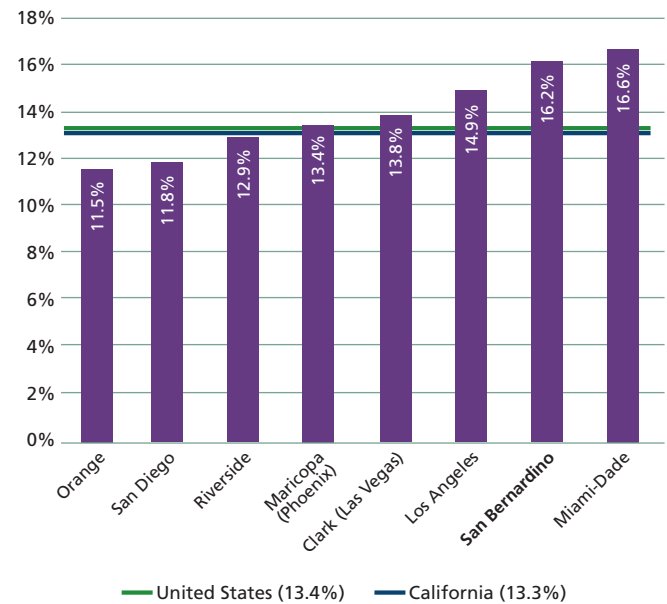
For an individual, the annual income to be considered in poverty is less than \$12,140. For two people with no children, the poverty threshold is an annual income of \$16,460.

Percentage of Population Living in Poverty, by Age San Bernardino County, 2008-2017



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

Percentage of Population Living in Poverty County Comparison, 2017



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

Family Poverty Declines for Third Consecutive Year

Poverty can have negative health impacts for both children and adults. For children, growing up in an impoverished household increases their risk for lower cognitive abilities, lower school achievement, and poorer development. Tracking poverty can assist with targeting interventions to mitigate these negative impacts. The poverty rate is also 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. 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?

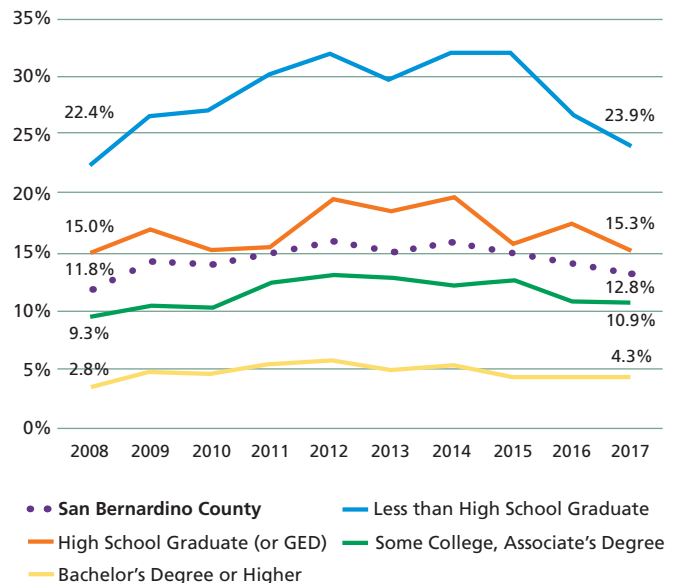
The rate of families living in poverty continues to decline:

- The percentage of families living in poverty declined from 13.9% in 2016 to 12.8% in 2017.
- 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 (13.8%).
- At 23.9% in 2017, families whose head of household does not have a high school diploma had the highest rate of poverty.
- Residents in the cities of San Bernardino and Apple Valley had the highest rate of families living in poverty (17.7% each), while Rancho Cucamonga had the lowest rate (5.3%).

Families with younger children have a higher incidence of poverty:

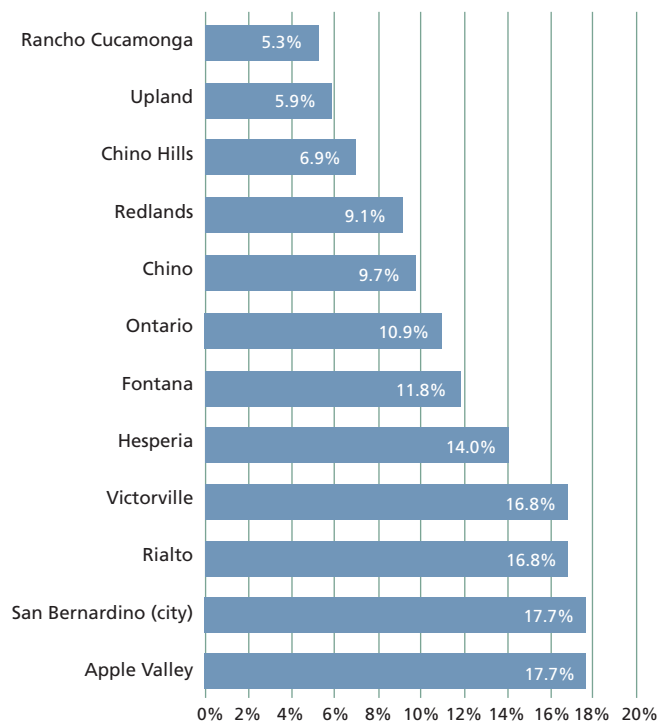
- Female-headed households, where there is no husband living in the house, have the highest poverty rate at 29.7%. For those female-headed households with children under 18 years of age, the poverty rate increases considerably (40.1%).
- Married-couple families (with or without children) have a lower poverty rate (7.1%). For those married-couple families with children under 18 years of age, the rate increases to 10.0%.

Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by Educational Attainment
San Bernardino County, 2008-2017



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

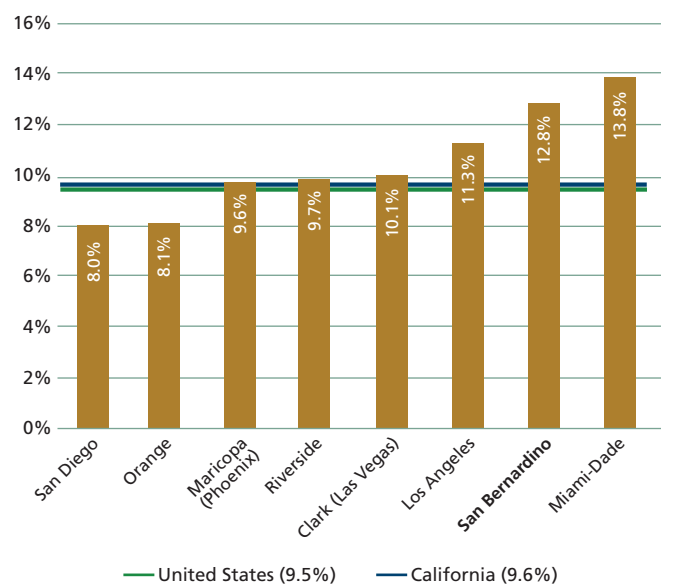
Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by City
San Bernardino County, 2017



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

Note: Due to data source, only cities with populations of 65,000 or more are included.

Percentage of Families Living in Poverty
County Comparison, 2017



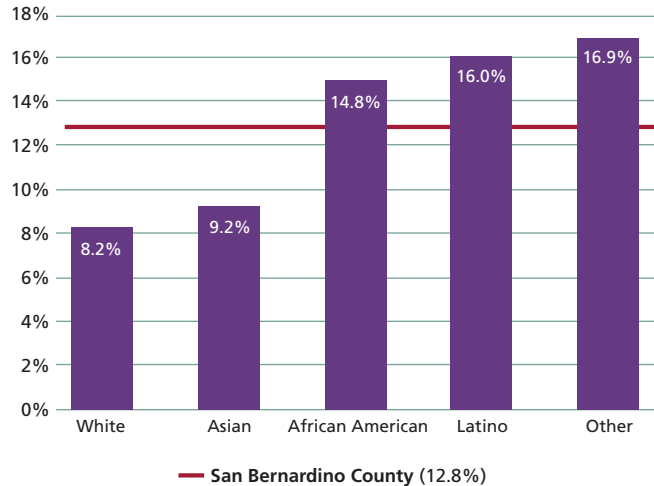
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

FAMILY POVERTY (Continued)

Poverty rates vary by ethnicity:

- Non-Hispanic families of some other race (i.e., American Indian and Alaska Native alone, some other race alone, or two or more races) have the highest rate of poverty (16.9%), while White families have the lowest rate (8.2%).
- For Latino families, 16.0% are living in poverty, compared to 14.8% of African American families and 9.2% of Asian families.

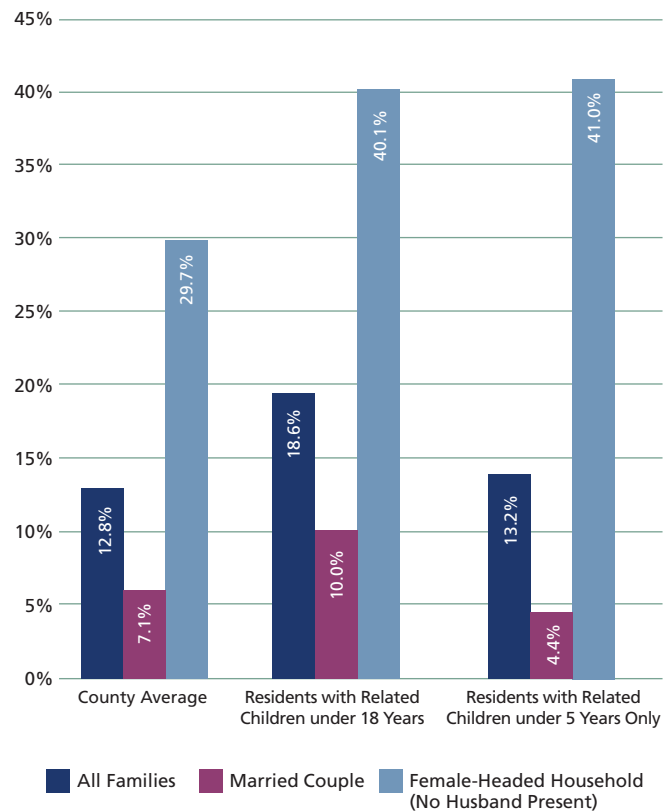
Percentage of Families Living in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity
San Bernardino County, 2017



Note: Percentages based on race/ethnicity of householder. Asian includes Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. White is non-Hispanic. Latino is of any race. Other includes American Indian and Alaska Native alone, some other race alone, or two or more races.

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 County, 2017



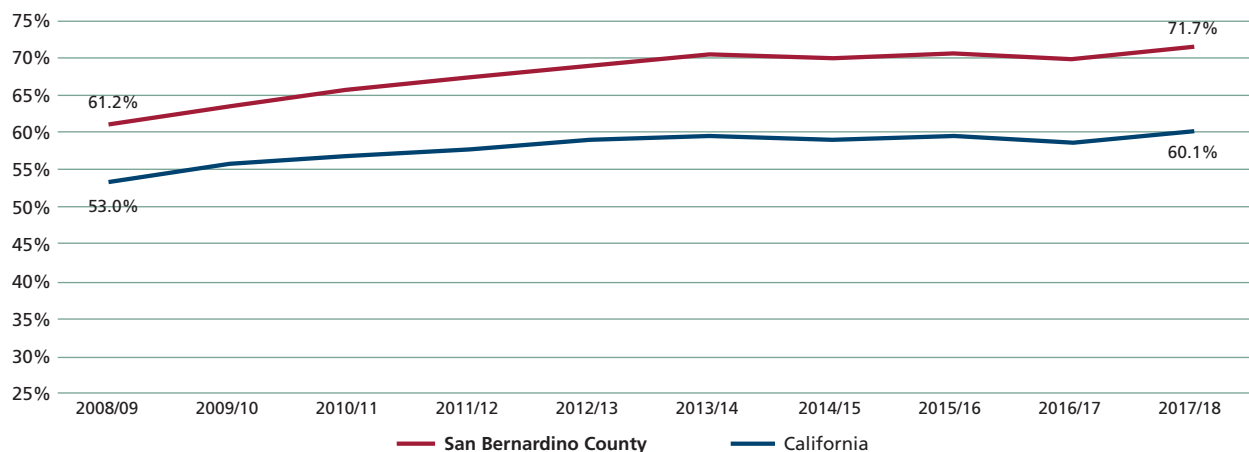
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)

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 2017/18, 71.7% of K-12 public school students lived in families with incomes low enough to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, up two percentage points from 69.7% in 2016/17.
- A child is eligible if his or her family's income is below 185% of the poverty level (i.e., \$46,435 for a family of four in 2018).

Children Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Meals
San Bernardino County and California, 2009-2018



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

Food Subsidy and Income Support Caseloads Decline

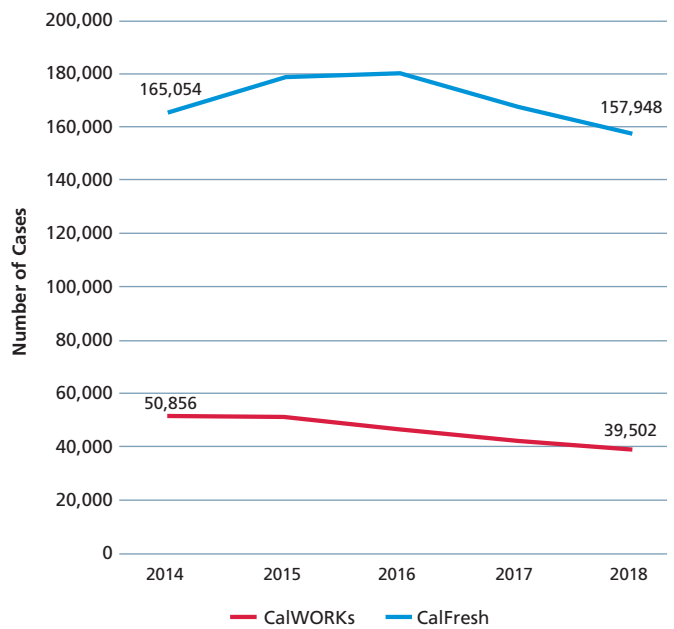
Public income support and food subsidies provide a critical safety net to those living in or at risk of poverty. These supports can work against the negative pressures of poverty, including the stress and strain on family relationships that can result from the challenges of paying for basic needs. To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

How is San Bernardino County Doing?

CalWORKs and CalFresh caseloads have been declining over time:

- After peaking in 2016, CalFresh caseloads fell for the second consecutive year in 2017/18 to 157,948, dropping 6% in a single year.
- Over the past five years, CalFresh caseloads dropped a total of 4%.
- CalWORKs caseloads have shown a steady decline each year, dropping 22% since 2014.
- While San Bernardino County is home to 4.8% of California's households, 7.7% of the 1.29 million California households receiving cash public assistance or CalFresh reside in San Bernardino County.¹
- More than three-quarters (78%) 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 of CalWORKs recipients.

CalWORKs and CalFresh Average Caseload
San Bernardino County, 2014-2018



Note: Annual caseloads are from September to October each year.
Source: San Bernardino County Human Services

San Bernardino County Ranks 4th for Access to CalFresh

The U.S. Department of Agriculture produces an annual report that shows the utilization of CalFresh through the Program Access Index (PAI). The county-level PAI is an indicator of how well counties reach individuals with CalFresh benefits. The PAI compares the number of individuals who participate in CalFresh and the number of individuals who qualify for CalFresh based on their income, but do not receive CalFresh.² Among California's 58 counties, San Bernardino ranks 4th for program access.

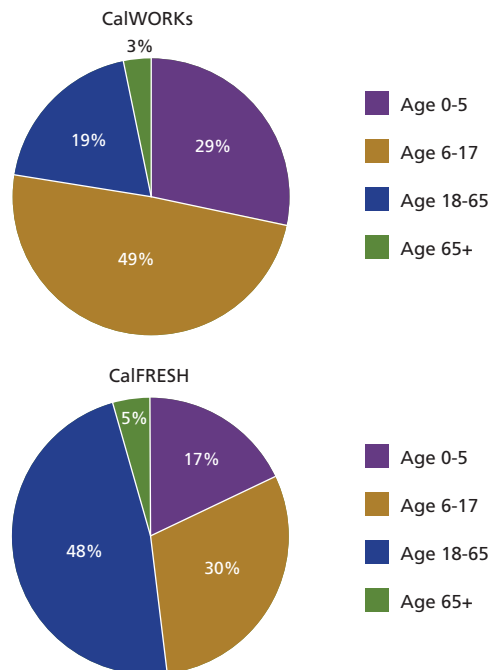
Source: United States Department of Agriculture, *The Program Access Index: Measuring CalFresh Utilization by County*

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).

Enrollment in CalWORKs and CalFresh by Age
San Bernardino County, 2017/18



¹ 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B19058 (factfinder.census.gov)

² To calculate the PAI, the U.S. Department of Agriculture uses a formula that excludes certain groups that receive other benefits. The formula is available at <https://cfpa.net/program-access-index-pai-2016/>.