

CENTER FOR
Poverty Research

UPDATE ON POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Connecting Research to Poverty

Since the Center for Poverty Research was established in 2011, we have played a central role in the larger poverty research community. Through attention to the translation of academic research into non-technical and accessible summaries, we aim to reach many groups across the nation who can use high quality, non-partisan, academic research to inform their work. These groups include:

- federal and state legislators
- journalists
- practitioners working in low-income communities
- students representing the next generation of poverty researchers

Please join our mailing list at poverty.ucdavis.edu/sign-e-news so that we may continue this important work and expand our reach even further.

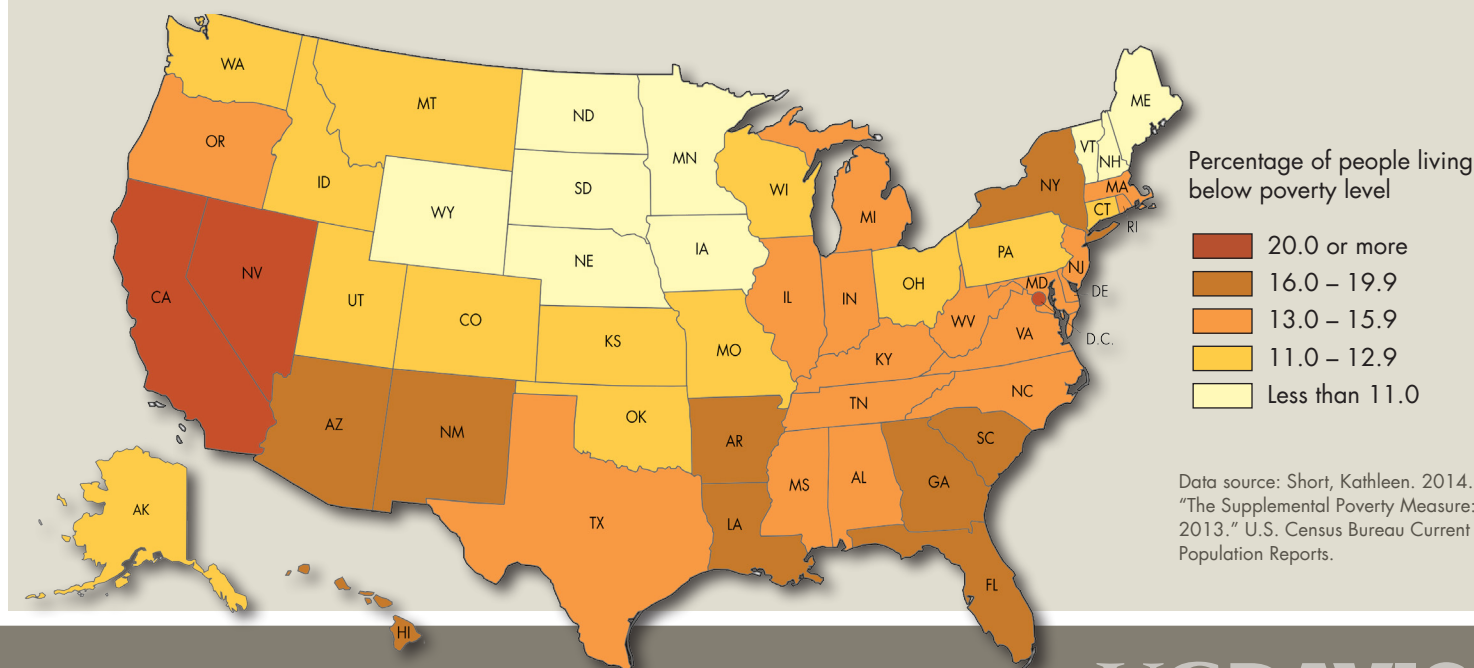
Recent Policy Briefs

Our policy briefs summarize recent studies on poverty and safety net programs and provide a background on important poverty issues. Some of our recent briefs include:

- "Poverty During Childhood and Adolescence May Predict Long-term Health" by Natalie Troxel, UC Davis; and Paul Hasting, UC Davis.
- "Low-Wage Work Uncertainty Often Traps Low-Wage Workers" by Victoria Smith, UC Davis; and Brian Halpin, UC Davis.
- "Deportees Will Risk Harsh Penalties to Return to Families in the US" by Erin R. Hamilton, UC Davis.
- "Reporting Domestic Violence Improves Long-term Achievement of Affected Children and Their Peers" by Scott E. Carrell, UC Davis; Mark H. Hoekstra, Texas A&M; and Elira Kuka, UC Davis.

Supplemental Measure Poverty Rates by State, 2011-2013 Average

The U.S. Census Bureau Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) defines poverty as the lack of economic resources to cover basic needs. SPM poverty thresholds are based on the costs of food, housing, clothing and utilities plus a small amount to allow for additional expenses. These thresholds are further adjusted for factors including family size and geographic differences in housing costs. Family resources with the SPM include receipt of benefits such as food stamps and tax credits, as well as deductions for expenses such as payroll taxes, medical costs and child care.





Recent Funded Projects

We fund research by top scholars both at UC Davis and across the country that expand knowledge and understanding about the causes and consequences of poverty in the U.S. Recent projects included:

- "Habit Formation and the Persistent Impact of WIC" by David Frisvold, University of Iowa
- "The Timing of SNAP Benefit Receipt and Children's Academic Achievement" by Anna Gassman-Pines, Duke University
- "The Organizational Context of Employment Scarring" by David S. Pedulla, University of Texas at Austin
- "Ethnic Philanthropy as a Non-Traditional Safety-Net: Do Elite Latinos Help to Alleviate Poverty in Latino Immigrant Communities?" by Jody Agius Vallejo, University of Southern California

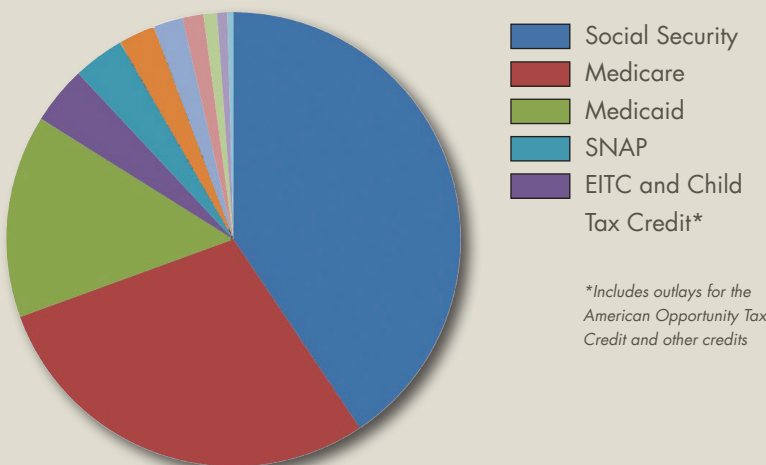
Innovative Programming

Our expanded programming helps build a broader understanding of U.S. poverty while offering the next generation working on poverty issues opportunities to share in our work. These programs include:

- Media that bring poverty research to the widest possible audience, including infographics, podcasts, feature articles and videos.
- UC Davis Undergraduate Public Policy Fellowship, which lets students take part in the center's research dissemination activities while developing projects that expand the center's reach.
- UC Davis SPREE, which hosts eight undergraduates from Howard University, Spelman and Morehouse Colleges to work with faculty and graduate students and participate in professional workshops.

Safety Net Spending, 2014

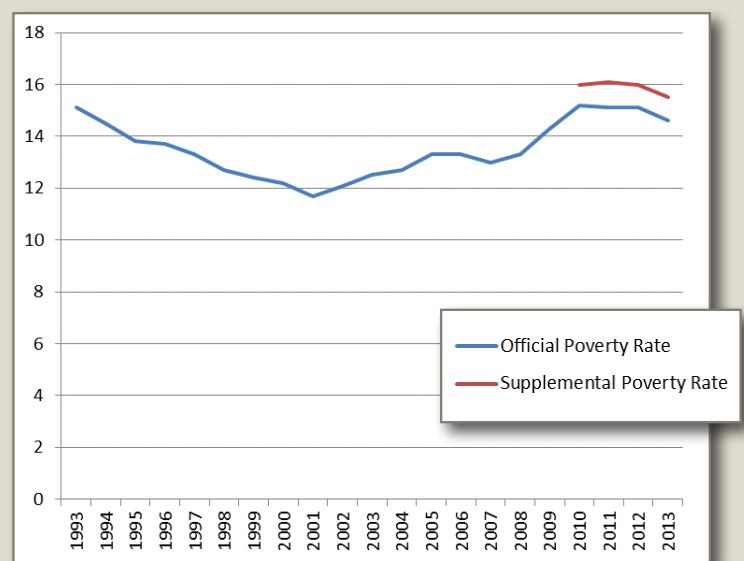
In 2014 these five safety net programs represent over \$2 trillion in domestic spending before offsetting receipts, which was 12 percent of GDP.



Sources: Congressional Budget Office. 2015. "Updated Budget Projections 2015 to 2025." U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2015. "Current-Dollar and 'Real' Gross Domestic Product."

U.S. Poverty Measures, 1993-2013

The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) began in 2010.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2014. "Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013."