

County Data Briefs

February 2026

Summary

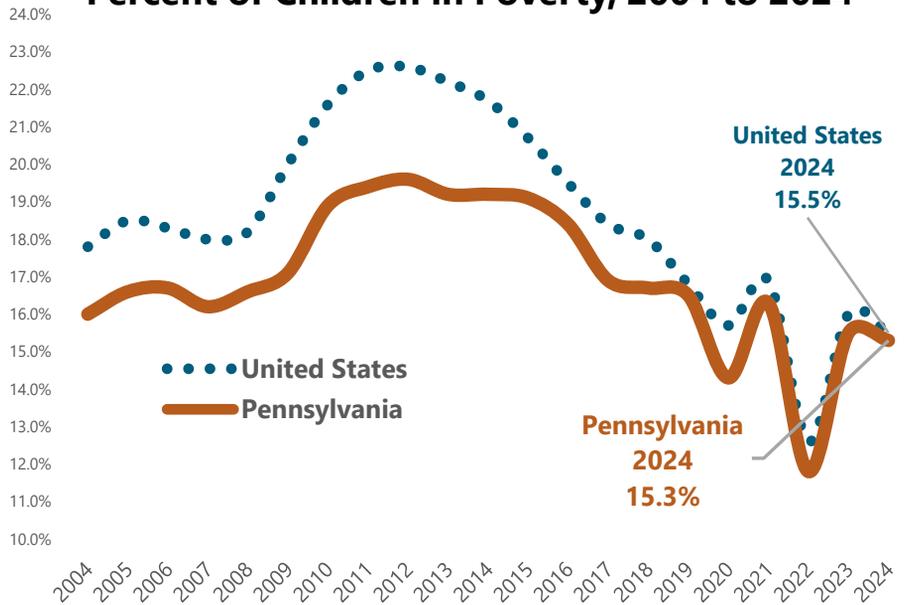
- In 2024, 15.3 percent of Pennsylvania children lived in poverty. The U.S. rate was 15.5 percent.
- From 2023 to 2024, the number of children in poverty decreased 2 percent in Pennsylvania and 3 percent in the United States.
- Despite the decrease, the percent of children in poverty remains above 20 percent in 14 Pennsylvania counties and in 524 counties across the U.S.
- Within Pennsylvania, the children's poverty rate was higher in rural counties (15.9 percent) than urban (15.1 percent).

Methodology

Data is Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIP), U.S. Census Bureau and the 2024, 1-year Average, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, U.S. Census Bureau. Children include all non-group quarter persons under 18 years old.

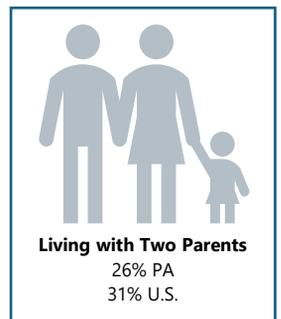
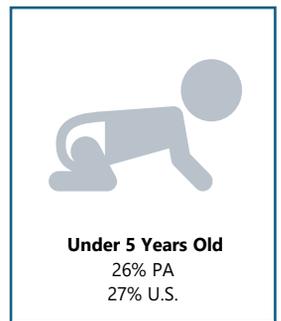
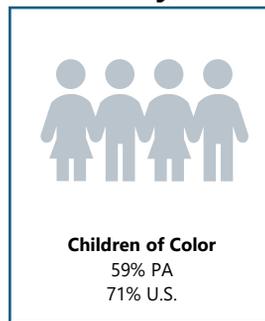
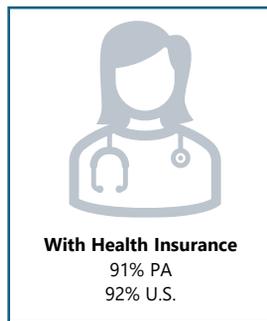
Children in Poverty Decreased, 2023 to 2024

Percent of Children in Poverty, 2004 to 2024

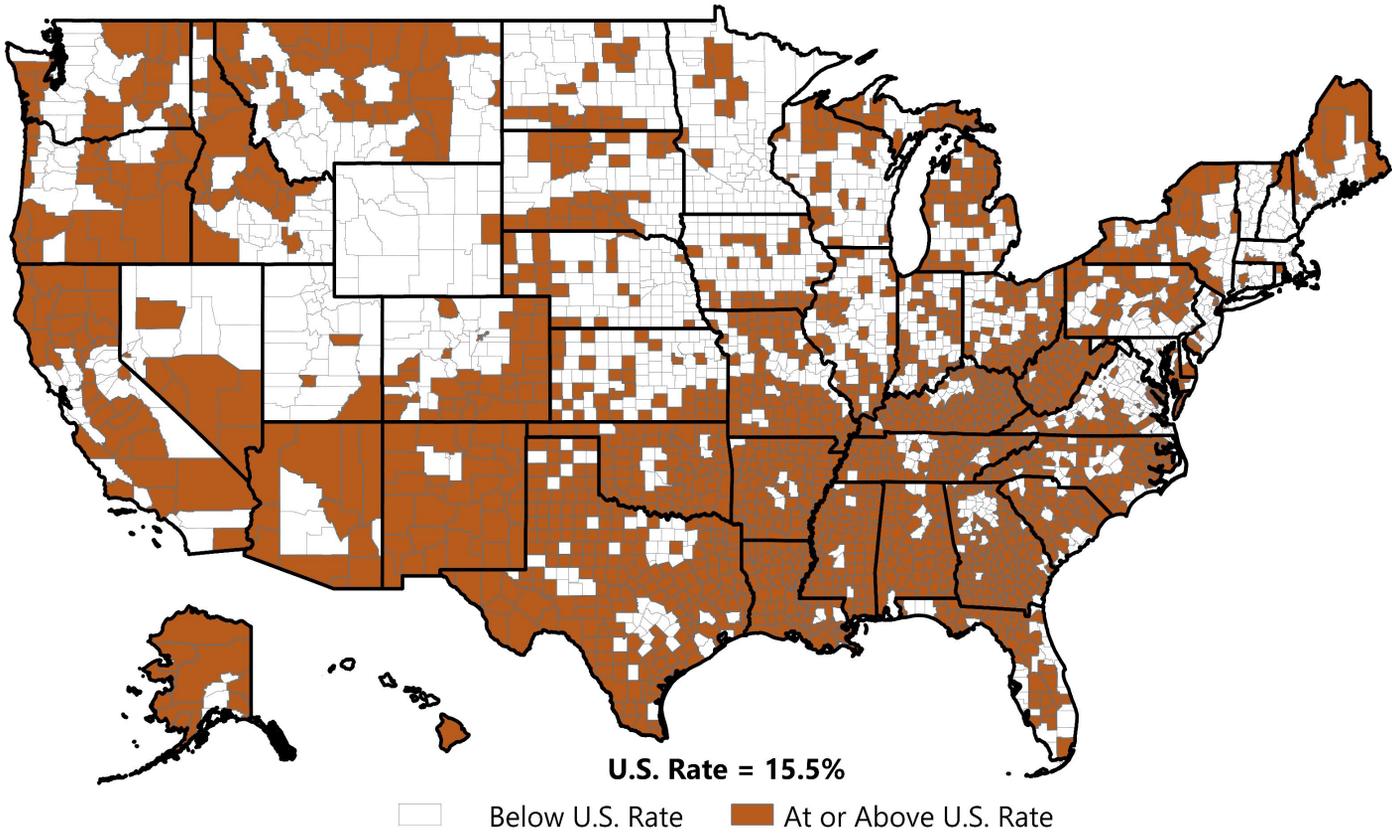


In 2024, it was estimated that more than 393,500 Pennsylvania children, or 15.3 percent of all children, lived in households below the poverty level. From 2023 to 2024, the number of children in poverty decreased 2 percent. Across the United States, the number of children in poverty decreased 3 percent. However, the decrease was even. Thirty-five percent of U.S. Counties had either an increase or no change in the number of children in poverty.

Characteristics of Pennsylvania and U.S. Children in Poverty, 2024



Percent of Children in Poverty, 2024



Counties with Increase / Decrease in Number of Children in Poverty, 2023 to 2024

