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### Poverty

#### The impact of hardship

On this page: Poverty by child's age, family, and neighborhood.

- Children in poverty can face insurmountable barriers to success. They are likelier to suffer abuse or neglect. Their school performance is hampered by the greater likelihood of learning disabilities, repeating grades, and dropping out. They are likelier to become teen parents and to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Younger children are especially vulnerable to poverty. They are likelier to die in infancy or early childhood, be hospitalized, go hungry, see conflicts in the home and violence in the neighborhood, and experience learning delays.
- Neighborhood concentration of poverty can expose children to crime, violence, and lead poisoning and other health hazards. Children may have less access to beneficial activities that offer recreation, learning, and socialization.

	—Clearfield County—		—Pennsylvania—	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Poverty (\$18,400 for a family of 4, 2003)</b>				
• Below 50% poverty				
Children under age 18	1,241	6.7%	198,369	6.9%
Children under age 6	440	8.1%	69,852	8.0%
• Below 100% poverty				
Adults ages 18 to 64	5,277	10.9%	718,277	10.0%
Children under age 18	3,470	18.7%	421,745	14.7%
Children ages 6 to 11	1,104	17.9%	151,426	15.1%
Children age 5	206	20.4%	25,021	16.1%
Children under age 5	941	21.2%	116,166	16.2%
• Below 200% poverty				
Children under age 18	8,810	47.4%	987,868	34.4%
Children under age 6	2,726	50.0%	321,710	37.0%
<b>Families and Children Below Poverty</b>				
• Related children under age 18 in married-couple families below poverty	1,604	11%	127,526	6.1%
• Related children under age 18 in single-mother families below poverty	1,542	53.9%	250,552	41.2%
• Related children under age 18 in single-father families below poverty	249	22.7%	30,001	19.0%
• Related children under age 5 in single-mother families below poverty	499	73.2%	71,433	50.6%
<b>Poverty Neighborhoods</b>				
• Children under age 18 living in neighborhoods where 20% or more of the population is below poverty	0	0.0%	448,161	15.3%

All data, U.S. Census of Population and Housing. Published by Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, early education, and well-being of the Commonwealth's children, 1-800-257-2030; [www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org). See [www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org) for research citations. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).