



# STUDENTS AGAINST POVERTY (SAP)

## 12 POINTS OF POVERTY (POP)



- WHAT IS POVERTY?** Poverty happens when someone lacks the income and/or resources necessary to maintain a good standard of living. That includes safe housing, medical care, food, clothing, clean water, and so on. The UN emphasizes that it's also "more than a lack of income." There are varying socioeconomic factors at play such as race, sexuality, ethnicity, gender, the ability to access services, and opportunities for decent work. Poverty drive social issues like poor education, child labor, forced labor, poor physical and mental health, substance abuse, violence, and more.
- One in four NYC residents lives in poverty**, impacting **2.02 million** people struggling for basic necessities. The city's poverty rate of **25%** is **nearly double the national average of 13%**. **Children are highly impacted**. The 2025 report found that **26%** of NYC children—or **420,000 kids**—live in poverty. This is the highest child poverty rate recorded in the study's history,
- The **top 10 counties** in NYS that have the greatest number of people living in poverty from highest to lowest are: **Kings, Bronx, Queens, New York, Erie, Monroe, Suffolk, Westchester, Nassau and Onondaga**. NYS minimum wage is \$17.00 an hour.
- NYS poverty rate is **13.7% or 2,656,674**, compared to the national average of 12.8%. The child poverty rate for NYS is **18.2%**. However, in **20 different counties** more than **20%** of children live in households below the federal poverty level. Over **731,672** children under 18, live in households earning below the federal poverty level, about \$27,750 for a family of four in 2022.
- Poverty up sharply**. The poverty rate jumped **seven percentage points** in just two years after pandemic-era aid expired. Child Poverty Goals: NYS is working to cut child poverty **by 50% by 2032** through initiatives like expanding the Child Tax Credit.
- Nationally 43.7 million or 20.9%** live in poverty; Child Poverty; 13.4% or 9.7 million, under 18 years of age; **Black Poverty; 18.4% or 8.4 million**; White poverty; 7.6% or 14.6 million; Asian American; 7.5% or 1.8 million; Hispanic or Latino; 15% or 10.3 million; Native American; 19.3% or 0.8 million.
- Global Statistics:** In 2025, an estimated **808 million** people, or about 1 in 10 people worldwide, are projected to be living in extreme poverty (less than US \$3 per day). Progress in poverty reduction has slowed due to recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and climate shocks, with extreme poverty increasingly concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Federal Poverty Level guidelines 2026**, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services show an increase over 2025, for a single-person household at approximately \$15,960, and for a family of four, around \$33,000. These figures determine eligibility for federal programs and increase with each additional household member. 1 Person: \$15,960; 2 People: \$21,640; 3 People: \$27,320 (calculated); 4 People: \$33,000; For each additional person (over 8): Add \$5,680. The U.S. **leads the world in Missing Children, of the 460,000** that are reported missing annually how many lived in poverty?
- Billionaire Growth:** Global billionaires increased in number and wealth in 2025, reaching 2,900 individuals controlling \$15.8 trillion, **largely due to tech, stock market**, and real estate booms.
- Generational Wealth:** Younger generations (Gen X/Millennials) will inherit **\$4.6 trillion** in real estate over the next decade, with many becoming 401(k) millionaires. One interesting bit of information is how Americans hold their assets, with the wealth of the bottom 90% of America is concentrated in real estate — typically, the family home — the upper class **holds investments**. As of Q1 2025, **the richest 1% of Americans held roughly 50% of all outstanding corporate stock and mutual fund shares**.
- According to the Census Bureau, as of 2023, the most recent year for which data is available, **the top 20%** of Americans earned **51.9%** of all income in the country. The top **5%** alone earned **23%** of all income. Meanwhile, the lowest 20% earned just 3.1% of aggregate income. According to data from the National Bureau of Economic Research, the net worth of **America's top 1%** – and especially, the **top 0.1%** – has exploded over the past 30 years, while the net worth of the **bottom 40%** actually turned negative.
- Recent Wall Street Journal reports highlight that the wealthiest Americans are accumulating record fortunes, with the top 19 households gaining \$1 trillion in wealth in 2024, **driven by soaring stock and asset valuations**. This "two-speed" economy shows the top 10% spending heavily while lower incomes struggle with high costs and stagnant wages.