

County Region

What are poverty levels?

This page describes the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size. If an individual or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty line."

Poverty, 2012*

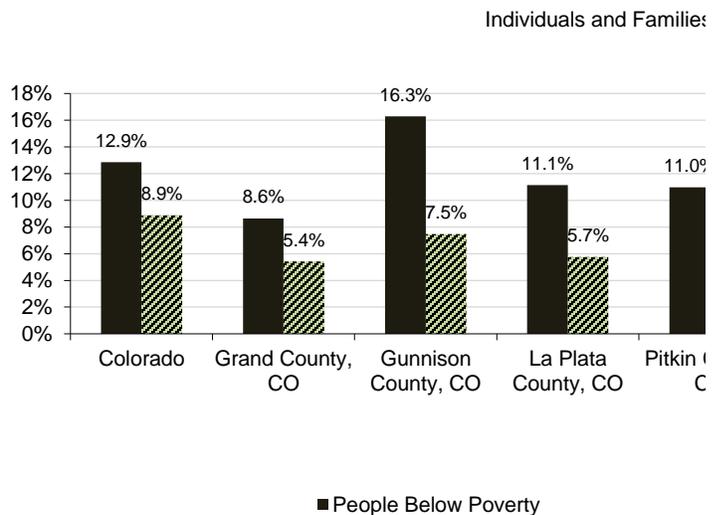
	Colorado	Grand County, CO	Gunnison County, CO	La Plata County, CO	Pitkin County, CO
People	4,927,283	14,525	14,275	49,422	16,965
Families	1,259,998	3,434	3,349	13,064	3,752
People Below Poverty	633,878	1,255	2,324	5,510	1,863
Families below poverty	111,746	186	250	751	230

Percent of Total

People Below Poverty	12.9%	8.6%	16.3%	11.1%	11.0%
Families below poverty	8.9%	5.4%	7.5%	5.7%	6.1%

* The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2008-2012 and are representative of average characteristics.

- In the 2008-2012 period, Gunnison County, CO had the highest estimated percent of individuals living below poverty (16.3%), and San Miguel County, CO had the lowest (7.3%).
- In the 2008-2012 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of families living below poverty (10.9%), and San Miguel County, CO had the lowest (4.7%).



Percent Below Poverty Level by Age & Family Type~, 2012*

	Colorado	Grand County, CO	Gunnison County, CO	La Plata County, CO	Pitkin County, CO
People	12.9%	8.6%	16.3%	11.1%	11.0%
Under 18 years	17.1%	10.7%	20.9%	10.9%	13.1%
65 years and older	8.1%	1.5%	11.0%	4.6%	13.4%
Families	8.9%	5.4%	7.5%	5.7%	6.1%
Families with related children < 18 years	14.0%	10.6%	14.9%	9.3%	10.5%
Married couple families	4.7%	3.5%	2.6%	3.0%	5.6%
with children < 18 years	7.1%	7.0%	4.8%	4.8%	9.0%
Female householder, no husband present	27.0%	23.6%	46.0%	20.3%	12.9%
with children < 18 years	34.8%	29.5%	56.2%	21.9%	28.4%

~Percent below poverty level by age and family type is calculated by dividing the number of people by demographic in poverty by the total number of people in that demographic.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2013. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Poverty, Coefficients of Variation

	Colorado	Grand County, CO	Gunnison County, CO	La Plata County, CO	Pitkin County, CO
People	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Families	0%	7%	5%	2%	6%
Individuals Below Poverty	1%	12%	12%	9%	14%
Families Below Poverty	1%	19%	30%	15%	34%

Percent of Total, Coefficients of Variation

Individuals Below Poverty	1%	11%	12%	9%	14%
Families Below Poverty	1%	19%	30%	15%	34%

Percent Below Poverty Level by Age and Family Type, Coefficients of Variation

	Colorado	Grand County, CO	Gunnison County, CO	La Plata County, CO	Pitkin County, CO
People	1%	11%	12%	9%	14%
Under 18 years	1%	19%	21%	13%	25%
65 years and older	2%	100%	31%	20%	29%
Families	1%	20%	31%	15%	34%
Families with related children < 18 years	1%	25%	33%	19%	42%
Married couple families	3%	24%	48%	21%	41%
with children < 18 years	3%	29%	57%	25%	56%
Female householder, no husband present	2%	46%	50%	25%	62%
with children < 18 years	2%	46%	51%	31%	65%

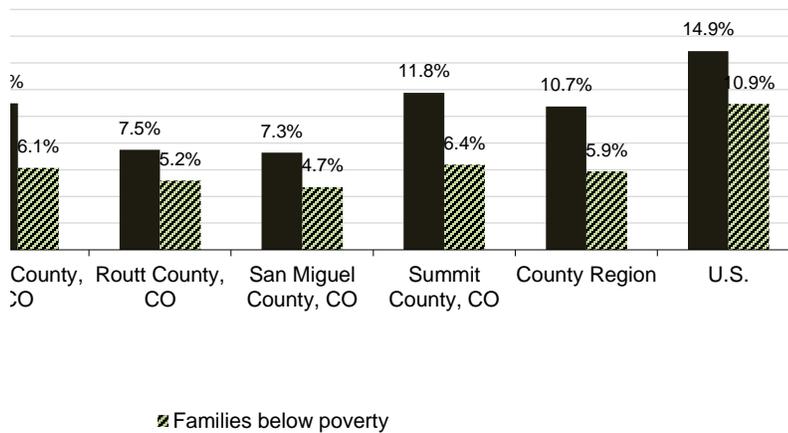
Income

by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family is below the poverty level."

Routt County, CO	San Miguel County, CO	Summit County, CO	County Region	U.S.
23,026	7,386	27,610	153,209	301,333,410
6,459	1,796	6,168	38,022	76,595,548
1,725	538	3,249	16,464	44,852,527
335	84	393	2,229	8,363,024
7.5%	7.3%	11.8%	10.7%	14.9%
5.2%	4.7%	6.4%	5.9%	10.9%

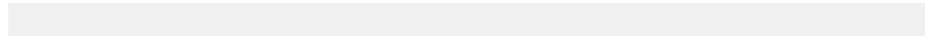
characteristics during this period.

Families Below Poverty, 2012*



Routt County, CO	San Miguel County, CO	Summit County, CO	County Region	U.S.
7.5%	7.3%	11.8%	10.7%	14.9%
6.0%	5.5%	13.3%	11.4%	20.8%
7.0%	7.5%	2.0%	6.1%	9.4%
5.2%	4.7%	6.4%	5.9%	10.9%
5.2%	4.8%	8.2%	9.0%	17.2%
2.7%	2.4%	3.5%	3.3%	5.4%
2.1%	2.0%	3.4%	4.6%	7.9%
27.0%	20.7%	24.0%	23.6%	30.1%
21.0%	20.0%	30.9%	27.3%	39.1%

total population of that demographic.



Routt County, CO	San Miguel County, CO	Summit County, CO	County Region	U.S.
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3%	6%	5%	2%	0%
15%	18%	12%	5%	0%
22%	29%	22%	9%	0%

15%	18%	12%	5%	0%
22%	29%	23%	9%	0%

Routt County, CO	San Miguel County, CO	Summit County, CO	County Region	U.S.
15%	18%	12%	5%	0%
27%	48%	21%	8%	0%
40%	41%	62%	13%	0%
22%	30%	23%	9%	0%
36%	49%	33%	12%	0%
27%	41%	28%	11%	0%
44%	58%	34%	16%	1%
40%	49%	49%	16%	0%
55%	58%	54%	19%	0%

Study Guide and Supplemental Information

What are poverty levels?

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of individuals and families living below the poverty line.

Family: A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Poverty: Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Why is it important?

Poverty is an important indicator of economic well-being. For public land managers, understanding the extent of poverty is important for several reasons. First, people with limited income may have different needs, values, and attitudes as they relate to public lands. Second, proposed activities on public lands may need to be analyzed in the context of whether people who are economically disadvantaged could experience disproportionately high and adverse effects.

Poverty rates are often reported in aggregate, which can hide important differences. The bottom table shows poverty for various types of individuals and families. This is important because aggregate poverty rates (for example, families below poverty) may hide some important information (for example, the poverty rate for single mothers with children).

Methods

Data accuracy is indicated as follows: **BLACK** indicates a coefficient of variation < 12%; **ORANGE** (preceded with one dot) indicates between 12 and 40%; and **RED BOLD** (preceded with two dots) indicates a coefficient of variation > 40%. If data have consistently low accuracy throughout a report, we suggest running another demographics report at a larger geographic scale.

Additional Resources

For more information on rural poverty, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Briefing Room, "Rural Income, Poverty, and Welfare: High Poverty Counties" available at: ers.usda.gov/topics/rural-economy-population/rural-poverty-well-being.aspx ⁽³⁵⁾.

The University of Michigan's National Poverty Center has a range of resources on poverty in the United States. See: www.npc.umich.edu/poverty ⁽³⁶⁾.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Environmental Protection Agency environmental justice resources are available at: epa.gov/compliance/ej ⁽⁴⁾.

Data Sources

U.S. Department of Commerce. 2013. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.



