



September 14, 2017

2016 Child Poverty Rate Sees Largest Decline Since Before Great Recession

Poverty Persists as Challenge for the United States

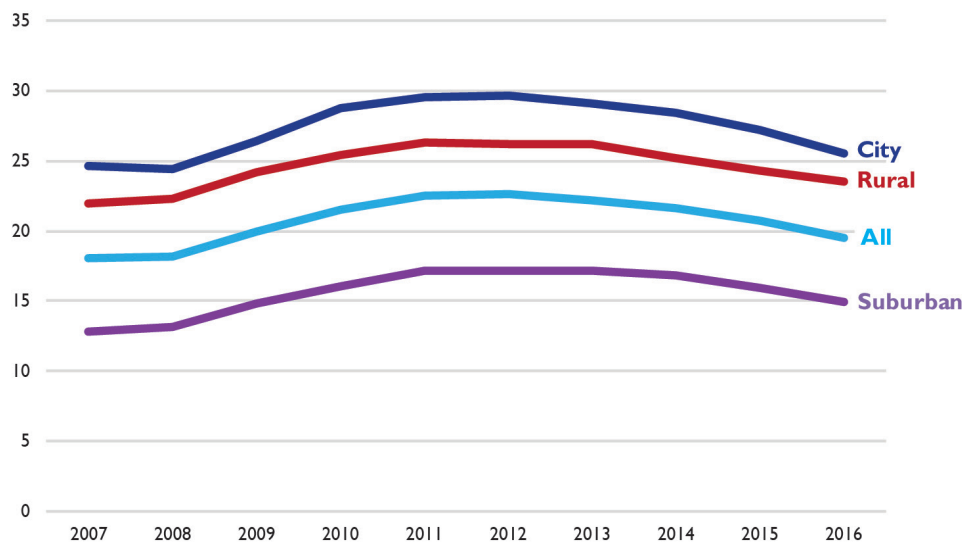
Marybeth J. Mattingly, Andrew Schaefer, and Jessica A. Carson

Child poverty declined by 1.2 percentage points between 2015 and 2016, according to analyses of the official poverty measure (OPM) in the latest American Community Survey. By 2016, child poverty across the nation was still 1.5 percentage points higher than before the Great Recession. Child poverty remained higher in cities and rural places than in the suburbs. Across the nation there is substantial variability both in the level of poverty and in improvement since the start of the Great Recession—25 states have child poverty rates higher than those in 2007 (see [what's happening in your state*](#)). Of course, the official poverty measure is only one indicator of economic challenge, and many families living above the poverty line still struggle to make ends meet.



The Great Recession officially lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, but it continues to influence U.S. economic trends.

PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY BY PLACE TYPE, 2007–2016



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This research was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and anonymous donors.

Note: * Available at <http://unh.me/DmFJ30f9Q1K>

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Source: 2007–2016 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau