

A Poverty Reduction Analysis of the American Family Act

H.R. 1560, 116th Congress

Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University

Table 1. Estimated reduction in child poverty by the American Family Act

	Poverty Rate: Current Law	Poverty Rate: Under AFA	Percentage point reduction	Percent change
All children < 18	13.6%	7.5%	6.1%	44.9%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	12.1%	7.6%	4.5%	37.0%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	23.7%	11.3%	12.4%	52.4%
<i>Hispanic</i>	21.7%	11.8%	9.9%	45.4%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	11.9%	7.3%	4.6%	38.7%
<i>Native American</i>	16.7%	6.4%	10.3%	61.5%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	7.0%	4.3%	2.7%	38.6%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent household</i>	24.9%	14.2%	10.7%	42.7%
<i>2-parent household</i>	7.9%	4.1%	3.8%	48.4%
<i>1-2 children</i>	12.0%	8.2%	3.8%	32.2%
<i>3 or more children</i>	16.7%	6.3%	10.4%	62.0%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	22.3%	12.1%	10.2%	45.4%
All children < 6	14.4%	7.7%	6.7%	46.5%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	13.0%	8.6%	4.4%	33.7%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	28.0%	14.9%	13.1%	46.8%
<i>Hispanic</i>	23.1%	12.8%	10.3%	44.6%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	13.9%	7.0%	6.9%	49.4%
<i>Native American</i>	20.4%	11.5%	8.9%	43.5%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	8.3%	4.9%	3.4%	40.7%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent family</i>	30.0%	16.9%	13.1%	43.6%
<i>2-parent family</i>	8.8%	4.9%	3.9%	44.2%
<i>1-2 children</i>	13.2%	8.8%	4.4%	33.1%
<i>3 or more children</i>	20.0%	8.4%	11.6%	57.8%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	22.9%	12.0%	10.9%	47.8%
All children < 3	15.7%	8.9%	6.8%	43.1%

Table 2. Estimated reduction in deep poverty* among children by the American Family Act

	<i>Poverty Rate: Current Law</i>	<i>Poverty Rate: Under AFA</i>	<i>Percentage point reduction</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
All children < 18	3.3%	1.7%	1.6%	48.7%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	3.6%	2.5%	1.1%	31.3%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	4.9%	2.2%	2.7%	53.9%
<i>Hispanic</i>	4.3%	2.1%	2.2%	52.0%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	4.4%	1.8%	2.6%	60.1%
<i>Native American</i>	3.8%	2.1%	1.7%	44.5%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	2.2%	1.2%	1.0%	43.4%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent family</i>	6.5%	3.3%	3.2%	49.9%
<i>2-parent family</i>	1.6%	0.9%	0.7%	46.0%
<i>1-2 children</i>	3.2%	2.0%	1.2%	36.4%
<i>3 or more children</i>	3.5%	1.1%	2.4%	69.5%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	4.8%	1.9%	2.9%	60.2%
All children < 6	3.4%	1.8%	1.6%	48.5%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	4.2%	2.9%	1.3%	30.1%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	8.2%	3.5%	4.7%	57.1%
<i>Hispanic</i>	5.5%	2.4%	3.1%	56.8%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	4.7%	1.7%	3.0%	63.4%
<i>Native American</i>	8.2%	3.6%	4.6%	56.7%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	2.6%	1.3%	1.3%	48.2%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent family</i>	9.1%	3.9%	5.2%	57.5%
<i>2-parent family</i>	2.1%	1.2%	0.9%	44.8%
<i>1-2 children</i>	3.9%	2.2%	1.7%	42.7%
<i>3 or more children</i>	5.3%	1.7%	3.6%	68.6%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	5.5%	2.5%	3.0%	55.2%
All children < 3	4.4%	2.1%	2.3%	52.0%

* A family is defined as living in deep poverty if their income is below 50% of the SPM poverty threshold

Table 3. Estimated reduction in the share of children living below 200% of the poverty threshold by the American Family Act

	Poverty Rate: Current Law	Poverty Rate: Under AFA	Percentage point reduction	Percent change
All children < 18	49.1%	44.3%	4.8%	9.7%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	42.0%	38.1%	3.9%	9.2%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	67.5%	63.8%	3.7%	5.5%
<i>Hispanic</i>	70.1%	64.9%	5.2%	7.5%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	43.3%	38.7%	4.6%	10.6%
<i>Native American</i>	62.5%	52.5%	10.0%	16.0%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	34.3%	29.5%	4.8%	14.0%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent household</i>	68.2%	64.7%	3.5%	5.3%
<i>2-parent household</i>	39.2%	33.8%	5.4%	13.6%
<i>1-2 children</i>	44.3%	41.0%	3.3%	7.5%
<i>3 or more children</i>	58.0%	50.5%	7.5%	12.8%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	60.8%	55.4%	5.4%	8.9%
All children < 6	51.4%	46.1%	5.3%	10.3%
Child's race and ethnicity				
<i>Asian American & Pacific Islander</i>	42.4%	39.4%	3.0%	7.1%
<i>Black, non-Hispanic</i>	72.2%	67.5%	4.7%	6.4%
<i>Hispanic</i>	70.3%	65.9%	4.4%	6.4%
<i>Multiracial & all other groups</i>	51.9%	47.5%	4.4%	8.5%
<i>Native American</i>	66.8%	56.1%	10.7%	16.0%
<i>White, non-Hispanic</i>	38.4%	33.8%	4.6%	12.2%
Family Characteristics				
<i>1-parent family</i>	75.0%	70.7%	4.3%	5.8%
<i>2-parent family</i>	42.1%	37.4%	4.7%	11.0%
<i>1-2 children</i>	47.1%	43.7%	3.4%	7.2%
<i>3 or more children</i>	63.1%	56.2%	6.9%	10.9%
<i>Child and/or parent with a disability</i>	60.5%	55.5%	5.0%	8.3%
All children < 3	52.3%	48.0%	4.3%	8.2%

Table 4. Estimated reduction in child poverty by the American Family Act by state

	Poverty Rate: Current Law	Poverty Rate: Under AFA	Percentage point reduction	Percent change
Alabama	16.8%	9.3%	7.5%	44.9%
Alaska	13.9%	10.5%	3.4%	24.2%
Arizona	14.0%	7.6%	6.4%	45.6%
Arkansas	12.9%	7.0%	5.9%	45.1%
California	20.1%	12.8%	7.3%	36.2%
Colorado	10.3%	6.0%	4.3%	41.7%
Connecticut	15.9%	10.9%	5.0%	31.4%
Delaware	10.8%	7.0%	3.8%	35.1%
District of Columbia	21.1%	12.7%	8.4%	39.8%
Florida	19.0%	11.8%	7.2%	37.9%
Georgia	16.7%	10.2%	6.5%	38.6%
Hawaii	15.1%	9.8%	5.3%	35.5%
Idaho	7.6%	3.2%	4.4%	58.3%
Illinois	13.8%	7.4%	6.4%	46.2%
Indiana	12.0%	6.0%	6.0%	49.6%
Iowa	7.2%	4.3%	2.9%	39.9%
Kansas	7.8%	4.7%	3.1%	39.3%
Kentucky	11.5%	7.0%	4.5%	39.7%
Louisiana	20.0%	9.9%	10.1%	50.4%
Maine	10.8%	5.9%	4.9%	45.0%
Maryland	11.4%	7.6%	3.8%	33.8%
Massachusetts	10.8%	6.5%	4.3%	40.0%
Michigan	10.6%	6.0%	4.6%	43.9%
Minnesota	6.8%	2.4%	4.4%	64.8%
Mississippi	16.6%	7.8%	8.8%	52.7%
Missouri	11.0%	6.2%	4.8%	43.4%
Montana	9.1%	5.4%	3.7%	40.9%
Nebraska	10.1%	4.7%	5.4%	53.7%
Nevada	12.9%	7.6%	5.3%	41.3%
New Hampshire	8.6%	5.4%	3.2%	37.4%
New Jersey	14.3%	9.6%	4.7%	32.8%
New Mexico	13.1%	6.5%	6.6%	50.1%
New York	15.0%	9.5%	5.5%	36.5%
North Carolina	14.6%	7.4%	7.2%	49.4%
North Dakota	11.0%	5.9%	5.1%	45.8%

Table 4. Estimated reduction in child poverty by the American Family Act by state

	<i>Poverty Rate: Current Law</i>	<i>Poverty Rate: Under AFA</i>	<i>Percentage point reduction</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
Ohio	11.4%	5.8%	5.6%	48.6%
Oklahoma	11.4%	5.9%	5.5%	48.1%
Oregon	12.5%	6.8%	5.7%	45.9%
Pennsylvania	13.7%	8.2%	5.5%	39.8%
Rhode Island	9.4%	6.2%	3.2%	33.7%
South Carolina	15.2%	8.3%	6.9%	45.4%
South Dakota	9.4%	4.7%	4.7%	50.4%
Tennessee	12.9%	7.1%	5.8%	45.2%
Texas	15.7%	8.7%	7.0%	44.7%
Utah	8.0%	4.9%	3.1%	38.6%
Vermont	10.0%	6.7%	3.3%	33.0%
Virginia	14.2%	9.5%	4.7%	33.3%
Washington	10.1%	6.1%	4.0%	40.3%
West Virginia	15.6%	8.1%	7.5%	48.0%
Wisconsin	7.9%	4.4%	3.5%	43.8%
Wyoming	9.7%	5.7%	4.0%	40.8%

Table 5. Estimated reduction in deep poverty* among children by the American Family Act by state

	<i>Deep Poverty Rate: Current Law</i>	<i>Deep Poverty Rate: Under AFA</i>	<i>Percentage point reduction</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
Alabama	6.7%	2.8%	3.9%	58.2%
Alaska	6.5%	4.2%	2.3%	35.4%
Arizona	3.7%	1.5%	2.2%	59.5%
Arkansas	4.5%	2.1%	2.4%	53.3%
California	4.9%	2.5%	2.4%	49.0%
Colorado	2.7%	1.4%	1.3%	48.1%
Connecticut	5.7%	2.9%	2.8%	49.1%
Delaware	3.3%	2.6%	0.7%	21.2%
District of Columbia	3.4%	2.5%	0.9%	26.5%
Florida	5.6%	2.9%	2.7%	48.2%
Georgia	5.6%	2.5%	3.1%	55.4%
Hawaii	3.3%	1.7%	1.6%	48.5%
Idaho	1.9%	1.1%	0.8%	42.1%
Illinois	3.8%	1.1%	2.7%	71.1%
Indiana	3.8%	1.2%	2.6%	68.4%
Iowa	2.6%	1.2%	1.4%	53.8%

Table 5. Estimated reduction in deep poverty* among children by the American Family Act by state

	<i>Deep Poverty Rate: Current Law</i>	<i>Deep Poverty Rate: Under AFA</i>	<i>Percentage point reduction</i>	<i>Percent change</i>
Kansas	3.0%	1.1%	1.9%	63.3%
Kentucky	3.9%	1.8%	2.1%	53.8%
Louisiana	6.2%	1.9%	4.3%	69.4%
Maine	3.5%	1.3%	2.2%	62.9%
Maryland	2.0%	1.2%	0.8%	40.0%
Massachusetts	2.3%	1.5%	0.8%	34.8%
Michigan	3.1%	1.9%	1.2%	38.7%
Minnesota	1.3%	0.5%	0.8%	61.5%
Mississippi	4.4%	2.6%	1.8%	40.9%
Missouri	3.8%	1.8%	2.0%	52.6%
Montana	3.8%	1.8%	2.0%	52.6%
Nebraska	2.3%	0.9%	1.4%	60.9%
Nevada	4.0%	2.3%	1.7%	42.5%
New Hampshire	2.4%	1.1%	1.3%	54.2%
New Jersey	3.5%	2.3%	1.2%	34.3%
New Mexico	2.9%	1.3%	1.6%	55.2%
New York	4.6%	2.6%	2.0%	43.5%
North Carolina	3.6%	1.9%	1.7%	47.2%
North Dakota	4.1%	2.3%	1.8%	43.9%
Ohio	2.8%	1.0%	1.8%	64.3%
Oklahoma	3.3%	1.6%	1.7%	51.5%
Oregon	4.3%	1.7%	2.6%	60.5%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	2.3%	2.4%	51.1%
Rhode Island	3.3%	1.1%	2.2%	66.7%
South Carolina	5.3%	3.5%	1.8%	34.0%
South Dakota	2.1%	0.9%	1.2%	57.1%
Tennessee	3.7%	1.5%	2.2%	59.5%
Texas	4.3%	2.3%	2.0%	46.5%
Utah	3.3%	1.8%	1.5%	45.5%
Vermont	4.3%	2.5%	1.8%	41.9%
Virginia	4.1%	2.3%	1.8%	43.9%
Washington	3.9%	2.0%	1.9%	48.7%
West Virginia	4.7%	1.4%	3.3%	70.2%
Wisconsin	1.8%	1.1%	0.7%	38.9%
Wyoming	3.4%	1.7%	1.7%	50.0%

* A family is defined as living in deep poverty if their income is below 50% of the SPM poverty threshold

Terms Defined

- 'Family' represents tax filing unit.
- 'Child' represents a tax dependent under the age of 18.
- 'Hispanic' represents anyone who is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- 'Supplemental Poverty Measure'(SPM) is the framework we use which accounts for cash and noncash government benefits, necessary expenses like taxes, health care, commuting, and child care, and adjusts for family size and local housing costs. For a two-parent, two-child family in an average cost city, the SPM income threshold is about \$28,000 per year. The SPM is reported along with the official poverty measure (OPM) by the U.S. Census Bureau.

We identify adults and children with disabilities as those who received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veterans Disability Compensation, have a work-limiting disability, or had any physical, mental, or emotional condition that makes it difficult or impossible to perform basic activities outside the home alone, as reported in CPS.

Source

Calculated by the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University using data from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (2017-2019). Data retrieved from IPUMS-CPS, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.

Note

Results for children under age 18 calculating using a single-year CPS-ASEC file (2019). Results for children under age 6 and under age 3 calculated using a three year CPS-ASEC file (2017-2019).

Suggested Citation

Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University. 2021. "A Poverty Reduction Analysis of the American Family Act." Poverty and Social Policy Fact Sheet. <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/2019/3/5/the-afa-and-child-poverty>

Acknowledgements

This fact sheet is made possible with the support of the The JPB Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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