



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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**SUBJECT:** 2014 State-Level Estimates of Infants and  
Pre-School-Age Children at or Below 185 Percent of Poverty

**TO:** Sarah Widor  
Director  
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Attached are estimates of the number of infants and children (ages 1-4) in each State who were at or below 185 percent of poverty in 2014. The 2014 estimates are provided for use in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding formula to determine States' fair shares of WIC food funds for fiscal year (FY) 2017. The 2014 estimates are recommended for use in FY 2017 funding allocations because they reflect the most recent data available. These estimates are the second set of estimates to be directly estimated from the American Community Survey (ACS), as per the decision memo from WIC (dated February 23, 2015).<sup>1</sup> Estimates for Puerto Rico were based on the 2014 Puerto Rico Community Survey. Estimates for the other territories were based on data from the 2010 Census. (Note: the estimates for the States presented in this memo were produced using direct estimates from the ACS. These estimates are not comparable to the more comprehensive WIC eligibles estimates produced by the Urban Institute under contract with FNS and published on the FNS website in December 2015.)

Nationwide, the estimated number of infants and children (ages 1-4) at or below 185 percent of poverty decreased by 2.0 percent from 2013 to 2014. It is important to note that we do not know how much of this increase is real and how much is due to sampling variation in the ACS. The State-level estimates provided here are consistent with the national number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty. Because the 2014 data will be updating 2013 data for funding formula purposes, comparisons are shown between these two years.

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 (and prior) estimates were primarily developed using a "shrinkage" methodology similar to that used to develop estimates used in the funding formula since FY 1995.

Attached is a brief summary of the estimates and the methodology used to develop them. We recommend releasing these materials to the States and other interested organizations on request.



Kelley Scanlon, Director  
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Attachments

cc: Dianne Kriviski  
Anne Bartholomew  
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## **2014 STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN (AGES 1-4) AT OR BELOW 185 PERCENT OF POVERTY**

### **Overview**

Prior to Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, estimates of the number of infants and children (ages 1-4) at or below 185 percent of poverty were available for Census years only. For the FY 1995-2015 funding allocations, annual estimates were developed using a statistical technique known as "shrinkage." The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) used this methodology to develop State-level estimates of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty for 1992-2012.

FNS has used a different methodology to develop the 2013 and 2014 estimates for the State and Puerto Rico, as per the decision memo from WIC (dated February 23, 2015). The 2014 estimates are directly estimated from the ACS/PRCS, with an adjustment to account for the fact that WIC uses federal poverty guidelines to establish eligibility, rather than the poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau.

Since the territories are not included in the ACS, the estimates assume that the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands have the same share of the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty that they did in 2010. The 2014 estimates are the third year that these estimates are based on the 2010 Census,<sup>1</sup> which decreased the estimated number of infants and children in the territories by between 30% and 40% as compared to the pre-2010 Census estimates, so the estimated number of WIC eligibles in the territories continues to be substantially lower than the 2011 estimates.

As the most current data, the 2014 estimates should be used for funding allocations for FY 2017.

### **Results**

For 2014, the total number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands was estimated to be 9.0 million. Table 1 provides estimates of the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty in 2014 in each State and territory and the national totals. Also shown are the 2013 direct ACS estimates.

### **Use of the Estimates in the Funding Formula**

State-level estimates of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty are used in the funding formula to determine each State's share of the national total of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty. This percentage share is used to determine a State's "fair share" of food funds. For example, for a State with 1 percent of the national

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<sup>1</sup> For the island territories, the Census Bureau provided the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty.

total of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty, the fair share would be 1 percent of the total food funds.

Estimates of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women at or below 185 percent of poverty are not used in determining fair share for the allocation process. Women are estimated as a direct constant function of the number of infants at or below 185 percent of poverty. As a result, inclusion of estimates of women would have no significant impact on the percentage distribution of people at or below 185 percent of poverty among States. Therefore, for simplicity, estimates of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women are not included in the calculation.

**TABLE 1**  
**STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN AT OR BELOW 185% OF POVERTY, 2013 AND 2014**

State	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014
	Infants	Children (ages 1-4)	Infants + Children (ages 1-4)	Infants	Children (ages 1-4)	Infants + Children (ages 1-4)
Alabama	26,747	132,660	159,407	31,687	118,534	150,221
Alaska	2,240	18,382	20,622	7,779	20,251	28,030
Arizona	46,549	178,506	225,055	43,731	177,784	221,515
Arkansas	20,683	81,657	102,340	19,846	87,888	107,734
California	214,174	948,249	1,162,423	197,752	923,954	1,121,706
Colorado	23,632	106,703	130,335	24,377	100,283	124,660
Connecticut	11,115	49,844	60,959	13,163	51,597	64,760
Delaware	5,079	17,211	22,290	4,472	16,910	21,382
District of Columbia	4,456	13,150	17,606	3,115	11,612	14,727
Florida	100,899	444,676	545,575	106,680	436,766	543,446
Georgia	65,638	281,514	347,152	63,061	271,038	334,099
Hawaii	6,880	27,287	34,167	7,477	27,113	34,590
Idaho	11,403	46,173	57,576	11,089	44,119	55,208
Illinois	57,055	266,205	323,260	59,441	256,057	315,498
Indiana	40,156	167,754	207,910	41,519	160,556	202,075
Iowa	14,625	59,000	73,625	13,856	53,615	67,471
Kansas	15,618	70,811	86,429	18,338	71,882	90,220
Kentucky	22,457	105,695	128,152	26,497	117,698	144,195
Louisiana	28,462	128,892	157,354	27,149	132,573	159,722
Maine	6,025	23,740	29,765	5,076	20,761	25,837
Maryland	22,459	100,522	122,981	18,478	93,645	112,123
Massachusetts	25,290	87,474	112,764	18,376	88,549	106,925
Michigan	57,828	213,637	271,465	55,189	205,066	260,255
Minnesota	18,365	94,265	112,630	22,915	92,921	115,836
Mississippi	20,995	96,528	117,523	19,497	87,949	107,446
Missouri	35,476	140,169	175,645	35,096	135,894	170,990
Montana	5,799	21,852	27,651	5,717	24,148	29,865
Nebraska	11,418	44,527	55,945	11,326	38,568	49,894
Nevada	14,483	71,198	85,681	19,948	69,086	89,034
New Hampshire	2,799	18,436	21,235	3,801	16,886	20,687
New Jersey	32,066	147,858	179,924	35,377	147,763	183,140
New Mexico	14,420	62,982	77,402	16,229	63,531	79,760
New York	90,875	403,424	494,299	96,264	407,351	503,615
North Carolina	52,781	258,696	311,477	56,911	250,563	307,474
North Dakota	3,101	13,970	17,071	2,836	17,894	20,730
Ohio	65,476	259,339	324,815	57,324	258,708	316,032
Oklahoma	26,700	120,069	146,769	21,894	102,660	124,554
Oregon	20,378	84,207	104,585	21,669	87,568	109,237
Pennsylvania	56,588	236,040	292,628	56,374	218,910	275,284
Rhode Island	6,403	18,256	24,659	4,403	19,133	23,536
South Carolina	28,461	131,324	159,785	25,592	123,988	149,580
South Dakota	5,778	16,076	21,854	5,065	23,509	28,574
Tennessee	43,515	170,956	214,471	40,559	168,371	208,930
Texas	176,730	781,462	958,192	178,981	773,617	952,598
Utah	18,660	83,192	101,852	19,578	77,777	97,355
Vermont	2,983	10,542	13,525	1,634	7,267	8,901
Virginia	33,058	148,752	181,810	32,328	135,213	167,541
Washington	35,291	140,719	176,010	34,961	140,650	175,611
West Virginia	10,015	42,781	52,796	10,016	42,138	52,154
Wisconsin	23,393	111,788	135,181	22,345	113,406	135,751
Wyoming	2,313	11,872	14,185	2,845	11,758	14,603
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,687,790</b>	<b>7,311,022</b>	<b>8,998,812</b>	<b>1,679,633</b>	<b>7,145,478</b>	<b>8,825,111</b>
Puerto Rico	29,924	133,615	163,539	33,291	118,390	151,681
Virgin Islands	849	3,322	4,170	845	3,246	4,091
Guam	1,522	6,340	7,862	1,515	6,196	7,711
American Samoa	1,136	4,222	5,358	1,131	4,126	5,257
CNMI	732	2,871	3,603	729	2,806	3,535
<b>Total- US + territories</b>	<b>1,721,954</b>	<b>7,461,392</b>	<b>9,183,345</b>	<b>1,717,143</b>	<b>7,280,243</b>	<b>8,997,386</b>