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## A DETAILED LOOK AT POVERTY IN CALIFORNIA

A new analysis from the California Budget and Policy Center provides a clearer understanding of recent poverty trends across the state. Comparing U.S. Census data for the years 2007 and 2015, the Center has shown there are significant differences in poverty rates among California's counties, and in many counties poverty has become more widespread.

According to the Center, after six years of recovery from the Great Recession, overall poverty rates in California counties ranged from 7.1 percent to 27.6 percent, while child poverty rates were as high as 38.5 percent in some areas. Eleven counties faced overall poverty rates above 20 percent, and more than one-third of counties indicated child poverty rates above 20 percent. Compared with prerecession levels in 2007, poverty was more widespread in 2015 in 30 out of the 40 counties for which data are available, with concentrations in the Central Valley and the Inland Empire.

The Official Poverty Measure is a metric applied to annual U.S. Census data that reports percentages of adults and children living beneath the federal poverty level. Thresholds for poverty status are determined and adjusted annually based on income, family size, and age of householder. In 2015, the official poverty line was about \$19,000 in annual income for a family of three.

The Center's full analysis is available [here](#).

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