Amber Cason – Communications Coordinator
acason@heartlandalliance.org
O: 312.870.4960
C: 217.206.5664

HEARTLAND ALLIANCE
ENDING POVERTY

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POVERTY UPDATE FINDS MILLIONS OF ILLINOISANS LIVE IN OR NEAR POVERTY, WITH WOMEN DISPARATELY IMPACTED

CHICAGO – April 19, 2018 – Heartland Alliance's Illinois Poverty Update indicates that millions of people in Illinois are experiencing poverty or are on the cusp. Rooted in inequity, poverty prevents people from meeting basic needs, improving their quality of life, and creates barriers to opportunities including quality education, stable employment, affordable housing and safe neighborhoods.

The update sheds light on who is most likely to experience poverty in Illinois: Women, people of color, and children have the highest poverty rates.

"It's clear that discriminatory practices, policies, and social structures contribute to highly disparate poverty rates for women—especially when they are members of other historically oppressed groups, such as people of color, trans people, and people with disabilities," says Katie Buitrago, Director of Research at Heartland Alliance. "We must dismantle policies that perpetuate gender and race poverty disparities."

The poverty update also found that:

- **Almost one-third of Illinoisans are poor or low income.**

- **Women's poverty rates are over 20 percent higher than men's.**

- **Certain gender and racial groups are much more likely to experience poverty than others: black women experience poverty at a rate 3.5 times higher than white men, while black men's poverty rate is 3.2 times higher and Latina women's is 2.5 times higher than white men.**

- **Poverty remains higher than prerecession levels, which means that Illinois is doing worse than the national average at recovering from recession-era losses.**

- **Poverty continues to grow in the Chicago suburbs, as it has over the past few decades.**

"A strong anti-poverty strategy is threefold: ensures people can meet their basic needs, moves people out of poverty by expanding opportunities, and keeps people out of poverty through equitable policies. There are solutions being debated in the Illinois General Assembly this year that could make important inroads in reducing poverty in Illinois," according to Sam Tuttle, Heartland Alliance's Director of Policy.

In addition to the Illinois Poverty Update, Heartland Alliance also released state legislative district poverty fact sheets. These releases are the first of a series Heartland Alliance is publishing on poverty in Illinois this year. Local- and county-level data books will be published this summer, and an in-depth exploration of the forces that contribute to gender-based poverty inequity will be released in the fall. For more information, sign up for our mailing list.

The poverty update and legislative district fact sheets are available at https://www.heartlandalliance.org/research/. All data images are to be credited to The Social IMPACT Research Center. Contact IMPACT for assistance accessing and interpreting data.

Heartland Alliance, one of the world's leading anti-poverty organizations, works in communities in the U.S. and abroad to serve those who are experiencing homelessness, living in poverty, or seeking safety. It provides a comprehensive array of services in the areas of health, housing, jobs and justice—and leads state and national policy efforts, which target lasting change for individuals and society.

Heartland Alliance's Social IMPACT Research Center conducts research that helps leaders create change and advance real-world solutions to poverty. Follow IMPACT on twitter at twitter.com/impactheartland. For more info, visit www.heartlandalliance.org/research/

ILLINOIS POVERTY UPDATE

Millions of people in Illinois experience poverty or are living on the brink. That societal position keeps opportunities out of their reach and nearly guarantees worse outcomes in every quality of life domain—making ALL of us worse off.

- Almost **one-third of Illinoisans are poor or low income**.

- **Poverty remains higher than pre-recession levels**—which means that Illinois is doing worse than the national average at recovering from recession-era losses.

- **Poverty continues to grow in the Chicago suburbs**, as it has over the past few decades.

- **Children, women, and people of color** have the highest poverty rates.

- **Women's poverty rates** are over 20 percent higher than men's.

- **Certain gender and racial groups are much more likely to experience poverty than others**: black women experience poverty at a rate 3.5 times higher than white men, while black men's poverty rate is 3.2 times higher and Latina women's is 2.5 times higher than white men.

Discriminatory practices, policies, and social structures contribute to highly disparate poverty rates for women—especially when they are members of other historically oppressed groups, such as people of color, trans people, and people with disabilities. These persistent disparities by gender and race demand that we dismantle policies that perpetuate them.
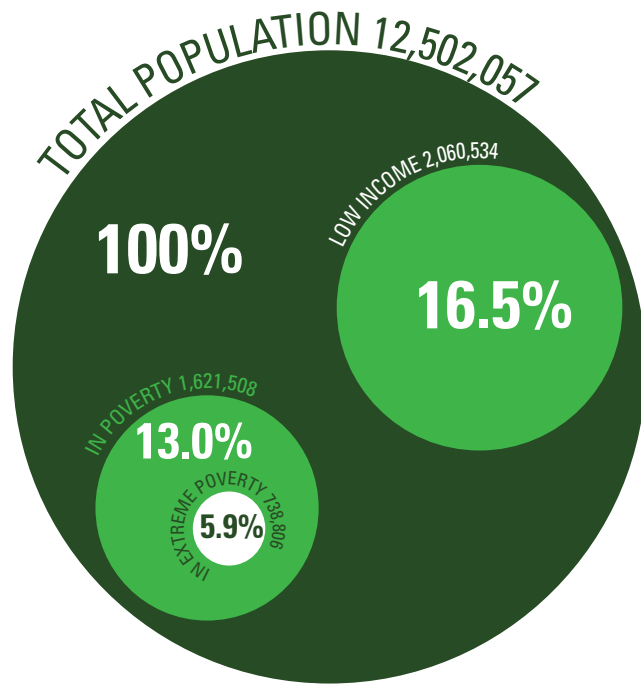
Watch for an in-depth exploration later this year of the forces that contribute to gender-based poverty disparities. Sign up for our mailing list.

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POVERTY IN ILLINOIS

Scale of Illinois poverty, 2016 [1]

TOTAL POPULATION 12,502,057

100%

LOW INCOME 2,060,534

16.5%

IN POVERTY 1,621,508

13.0%

IN EXTREME POVERTY 738,806

5.9%

Illinois Poverty Over Time [2]

14.7%

13.8%

11.9%

11.0%

13.0%

10.7%

10.2%

| 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2016 |
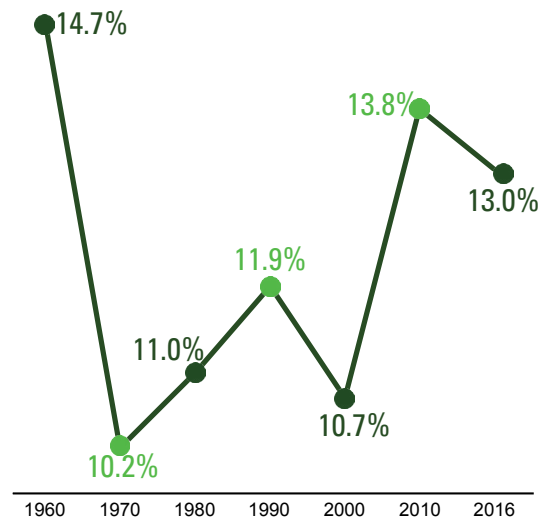
Federal Poverty Thresholds, 2016 [3]

Family Size	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
(1 person)	$6,243	$12,486	$24,972
(2 people)	$8,036	$16,072	$32,144
(3 people)	$9,387	$18,774	$37,548
(4 people)	$12,378	$24,755	$49,510

POPULATIONS IN POVERTY

Percent of Illinoisans in Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Gender, 2016 [4]

Legend: Black, White, Asian, Latino

Group	Children (0-17)	Working-Age Men (16-64)	Working-Age Women (16-64)	Senior Men (65+)	Senior Women (65+)
Black	37.7	21.9	26.0	14.4	18.8
White	9.7	7.9	10.1	5.5	8.4
Asian	10.1	11.5	11.6	12.6	16.2
Latino	24.1	10.9	17.2	12.4	18.5
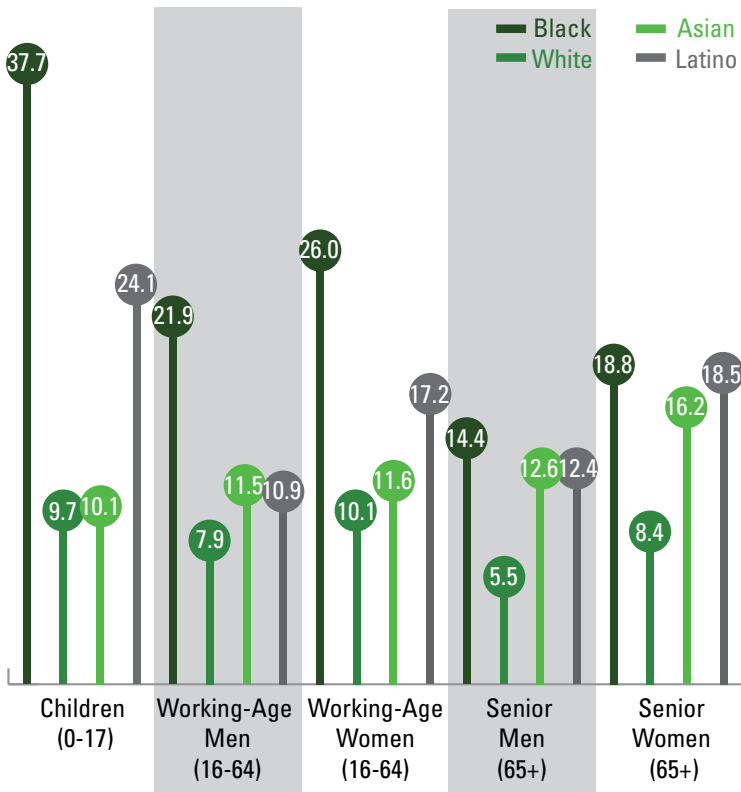
Illinois Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, and Age, 2016 [5]

Group	Number	Rate
Total	1,621,508	13.0%
Children	511,679	17.7%
Working Age	943,685	12.1%
Seniors	166,144	9.2%
White	677,086	8.8%
Black	458,785	26.5%
Latino	368,886	17.2%
Asian	77,595	11.6%

Percent of Illinoisans in Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, 2016 [6]

Legend: Overall, Black, White, Asian, Latino

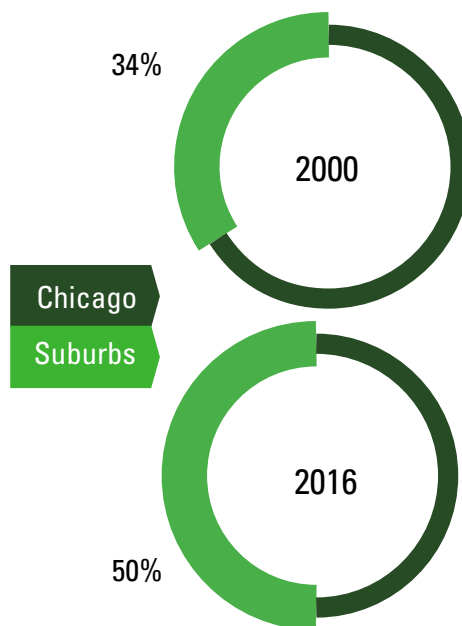| Group	Males	Females
Overall	11.6	14.2
Black	25.2	27.6
White	7.8	9.7
Asian	11.2	11.9
Latino	15.0	19.5
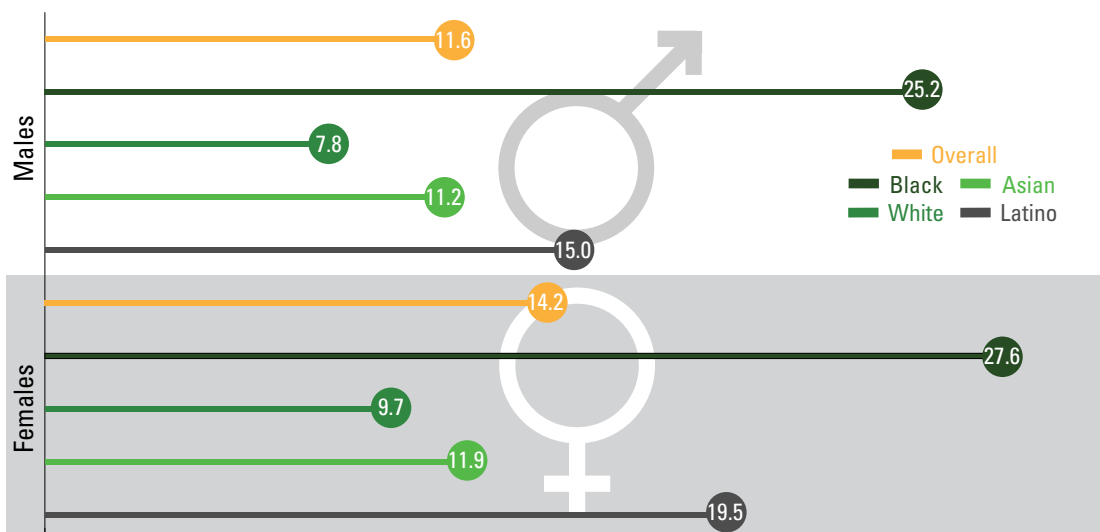
CHICAGO REGION

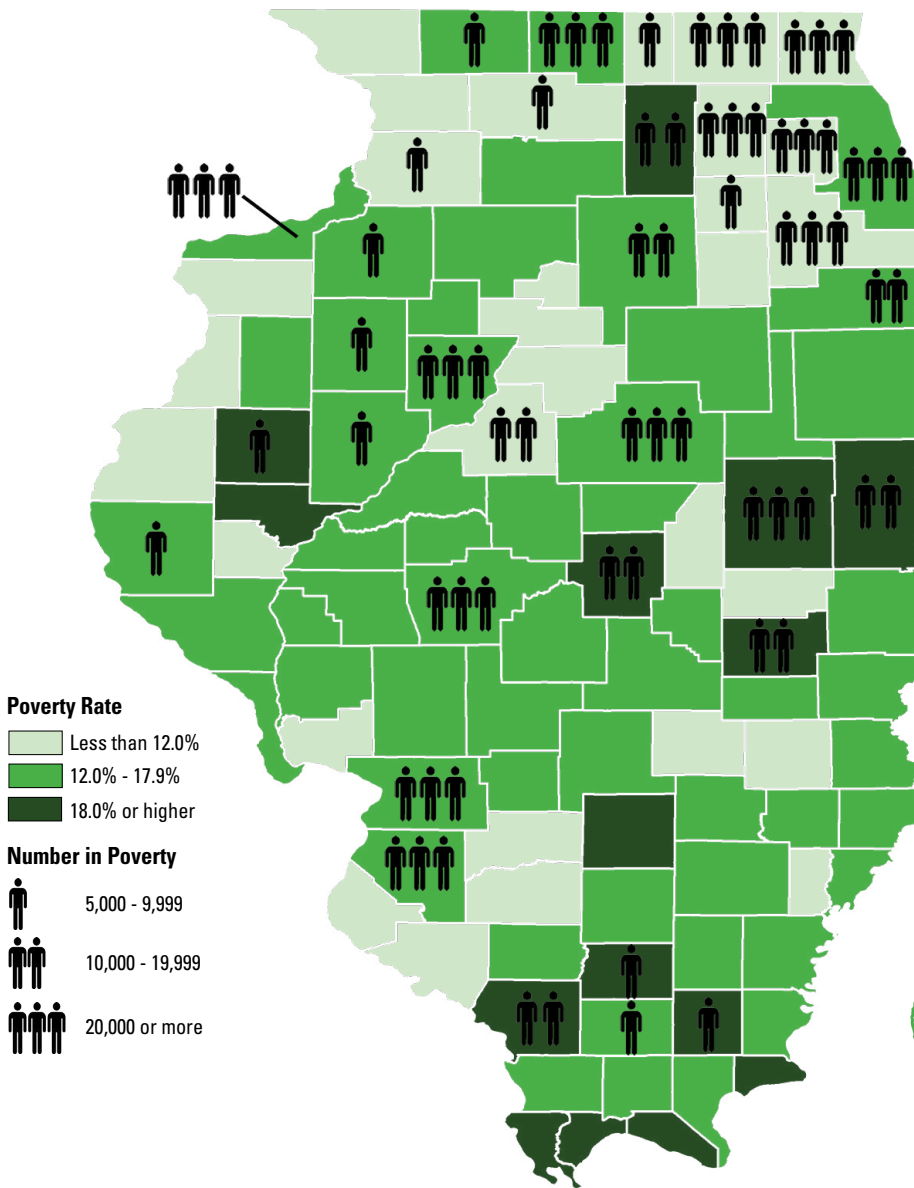**Chicago Region Poverty by County, 2016** [7]

Geography	Extreme Poverty (0-49% FPL)	Poverty (0-99% FPL)	Low Income (100-199% FPL)
6-County Region	455,048 5.5%	1,013,725 12.3%	1,313,841 16.0%
Chicago	226,763 8.6%	505,365 19.1%	538,384 20.3%
Suburban Cook County	120,934 4.9%	257,877 10.4%	393,914 16.0%
Cook County	347,697 6.8%	763,242 14.9%	932,298 18.2%
DuPage County	29,831 3.3%	63,806 7.0%	97,860 10.7%
Kane County	22,295 4.2%	56,729 10.8%	76,679 14.6%
Lake County	26,223 3.8%	58,653 8.5%	85,802 12.5%
McHenry County	9,610 3.2%	23,974 7.9%	35,953 11.8%
Will County	19,392 2.9%	47,321 7.0%	85,249 12.6%

Share of Region's Poor in Suburbs, 2000 and 2016 [8]

34%

2000

Chicago

Suburbs

2016

50%

2016 COUNTY MAP

Poverty Rate

- Less than 12.0%
- 12.0% - 17.9%
- 18.0% or higher

Number in Poverty

- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 19,999
- 20,000 or more

Jo Daviess | Stephenson | Winnebago | Boone | McHenry | Lake
Carroll | Ogle | DeKalb | Kane | DuPage | Cook
Whiteside | Lee | Kendall | Will
Rock Island | Henry | Bureau | LaSalle | Grundy | Kankakee
Mercer | Stark | Putnam | Marshall
Henderson | Warren | Knox | Peoria | Woodford | Livingston | Iroquois
Hancock | McDonough | Fulton | Tazewell | Mclean | Ford
Schuyler | Mason | Logan | Dewitt | Champaign | Vermilion
Adams | Brown | Cass | Menard | Sangamon | Piatt
Pike | Scott | Morgan | Christian | Macon | Douglas | Edgar
Calhoun | Greene | Macoupin | Montgomery | Shelby | Moultrie | Coles | Clark
Jersey | Bond | Fayette | Effingham | Cumberland | Jasper | Crawford
Madison | Clinton | Marion | Clay | Richland | Lawrence
St. Clair | Washington | Jefferson | Wayne | Edwards | Wabash
Monroe | Perry | Franklin | Hamilton | White
Randolph | Jackson | Williamson | Saline | Gallatin
Union | Johnson | Pope | Hardin
Alexander | Pulaski | Massac

CITATIONS

[1] Author's analysis of data from U. S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates program, 2016.
[2] Author's analysis of data from U.S. Census Bureau's 1960 Decennial Census, 1970 Decennial Census, 1980 Decennial Census, 1990 Decennial Census, 2000 Decennial Census, and American Community Survey 1-year estimates program, 2016.
[3] Author's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's Poverty Thresholds;
available here.
[4] Author's analysis of data from U. S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates program, 2016.
[5] *Ibid.*
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] *Ibid.*

The Social IMPACT Research Center (IMPACT), a Heartland Alliance program, conducts applied research in the form of evaluations, data services, and studies for decision makers in nonprofits, advocacy groups, foundations, governments, coalitions, and the media to help them inform and improve their work. Visit **www.socialimpactresearchcenter.org** to learn more.

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights—the leading anti-poverty organization in the Midwest—believes that all of us deserve the opportunity to improve our lives. Each year, we help ensure this opportunity for nearly one million people around the world who are homeless, living in poverty, or seeking safety. Visit **www.heartlandalliance.org** to learn more.

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