



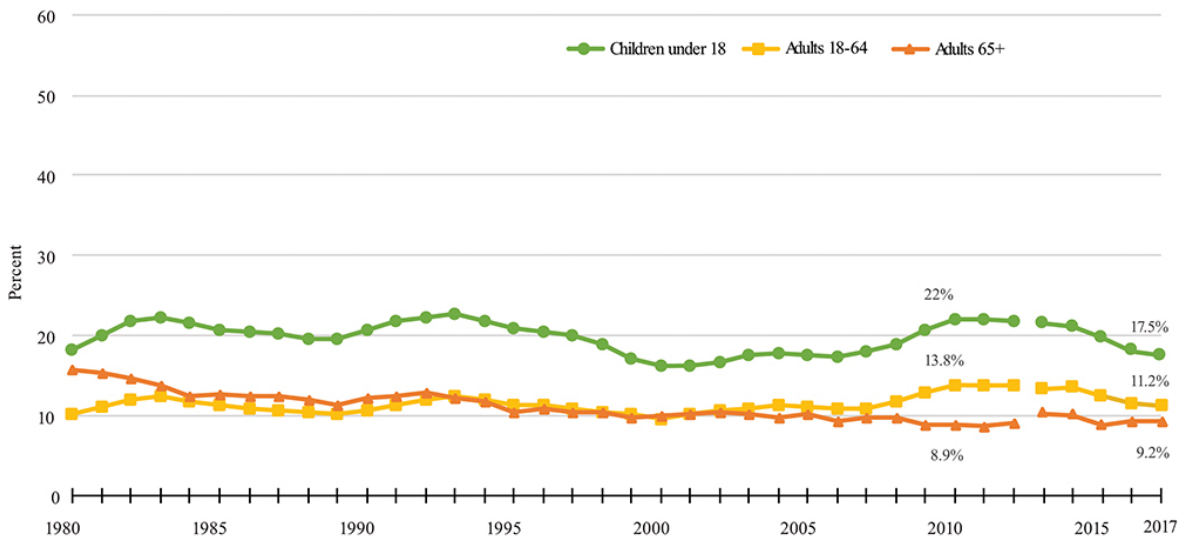
## News Articles, Research Update

### Child poverty rates improve but disparities persist

by from the AAP Department of Research

New data from the U.S. Census Bureau show that the recent trend toward lower poverty rates for children continues (<http://bit.ly/2NTJ8wS>).

The percent of children living in poverty peaked in the wake of the 2008 recession (see figure 1). In 2010, 22% of children under age 18 lived below the official poverty level. The child poverty rate has gradually declined since 2010 and in 2017 was 17.5%, according to the newest data released by the Census Bureau. In 2017, a family with two adults and two children was in poverty if its annual income was less than \$24,858.



\* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, current population survey. Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a redesign of the income questions.

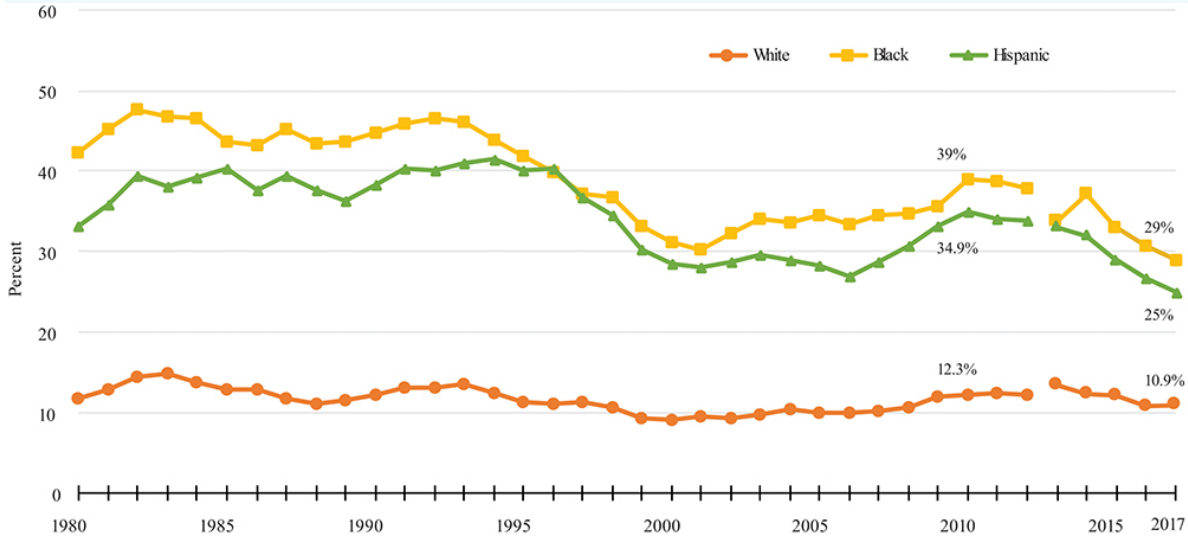
Poverty level in 2017: \$24,858 (family of 4 with 2 children)

However, child poverty rates have remained considerably higher over time than those for adults. In 2017, children represented 22.7% of the total population but 32.3% of the people in poverty. The 2017 poverty rates for adults ages 18-64 (11.2%) and adults ages 65 and over (9.2%) were considerably lower than the rate for children (17.5%).

While poverty rates for children have declined, substantial racial disparities are apparent over time (see figure 2). Poverty rates for black and Hispanic children have declined since the 2008 recession. However, rates remain higher than for white children. In 2017, 29% of black and 25% of Hispanic children lived in poverty compared with 10.9% of white children.



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Addressing poverty and disparities is a priority for the Academy. The 2016 AAP policy *Poverty and Child Health in the United States* (<http://bit.ly/23cUVCn>) calls for increased screening at pediatric visits for social risk factors and connecting families with community resources. It also encourages advocacy for various public interventions like early childhood programs, parental income assistance, food supplementation, housing subsidies and public health insurance.

## Resources

- [AAP Poverty and Child Health website](#)
- [AAP state advocacy on poverty](#)
- [Addressing Food Insecurity: A Toolkit for Pediatricians](#)
- [Additional AAP News Research Update columns](#)