# NOVEMBER 2017 2016 Oklahoma Poverty Profile

### 624,043 Oklahomans had incomes below the poverty level in 2016. What is the Federal Poverty Level? **2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines**

- The federal poverty level (FPL) was first established in 1965 at three times the cost of a basic food plan. The FPL is adjusted annually for inflation.
- Federal poverty rates consider only pre-tax income. They do not account for non-cash benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or after-tax income like the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- While the measure has its flaws, federal poverty rates are useful as an estimate of the number of Oklahomans who are struggling in the private economy. The FPL is also used to determine eligibility for various public programs and benefits like Medicaid and SNAP.

#### 3 \$20,160 4 \$24,300 5 \$28,440

Household size Poverty threshold

1

2

6

7

8

\$11,880

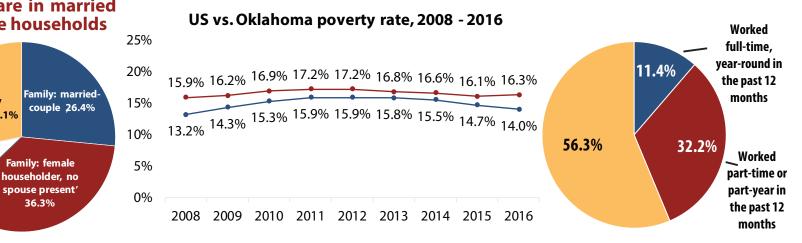
\$16,020

\$32,580

\$36,730

\$40,890

#### 2in5Oklahomansinpoverty have been employed in the past year



Data Source: OK Policy analysis of US Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS).

**Poverty in Oklahoma remains** 

above the national average

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.ORG • -1 in 3 Oklahomans in poverty are in singlemother households: 1 in 4 are in married couple households Non-family household, 28.1% Family: other

8.8%

36.3%

# 2016 Oklahoma Poverty Profile

Most Oklahomans living in poverty are white, even though white Oklahomans have a lower overall poverty rate compared to other groups.

**Black or** 

African American

12.1%

American

Two or more

races

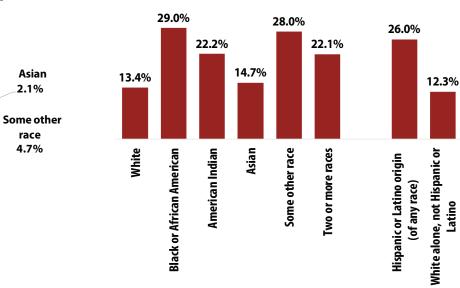
10.4%

Indian 10.5% Within racial and ethnic groups, poverty rates are highest among Oklahomans of color.

22.2%

Not white, not Hispanic or

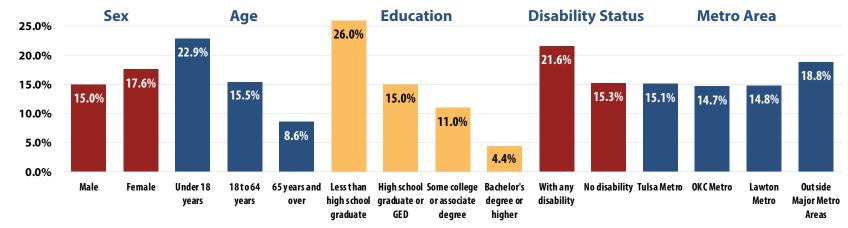
Latino



## **Poverty Rates By...**

White

60.1%



Data Source: OK Policy analysis of US Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS).

OK Policy is a non-profit organization that provides information, analysis and ideas on state policy issues.