

# **Set Up to Fail: Barriers to exiting poverty (with a few bright spots)**

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# Definitions & Key Concepts

## Relative

Merriam Webster's Definition

(a): the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions



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# Definitions & Key Concepts

## Resources vs. Needs

poor

*(adjective)*

when you have too  
much month at the  
end of your money.



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# Definitions & Key Concepts

## Central feature

Difficulty meeting basic  
human needs

# Definitions & Key Concepts

<b>2015 Poverty Guidelines</b>	
<b>Persons in family/household</b>	<b>Poverty guideline</b>
1	\$11,770
2	\$15,930
3	\$20,090
4	\$24,250
5	\$28,410
6	\$32,570
7	\$36,730
8	\$40,890



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# Definitions & Key Concepts

## Safety Net

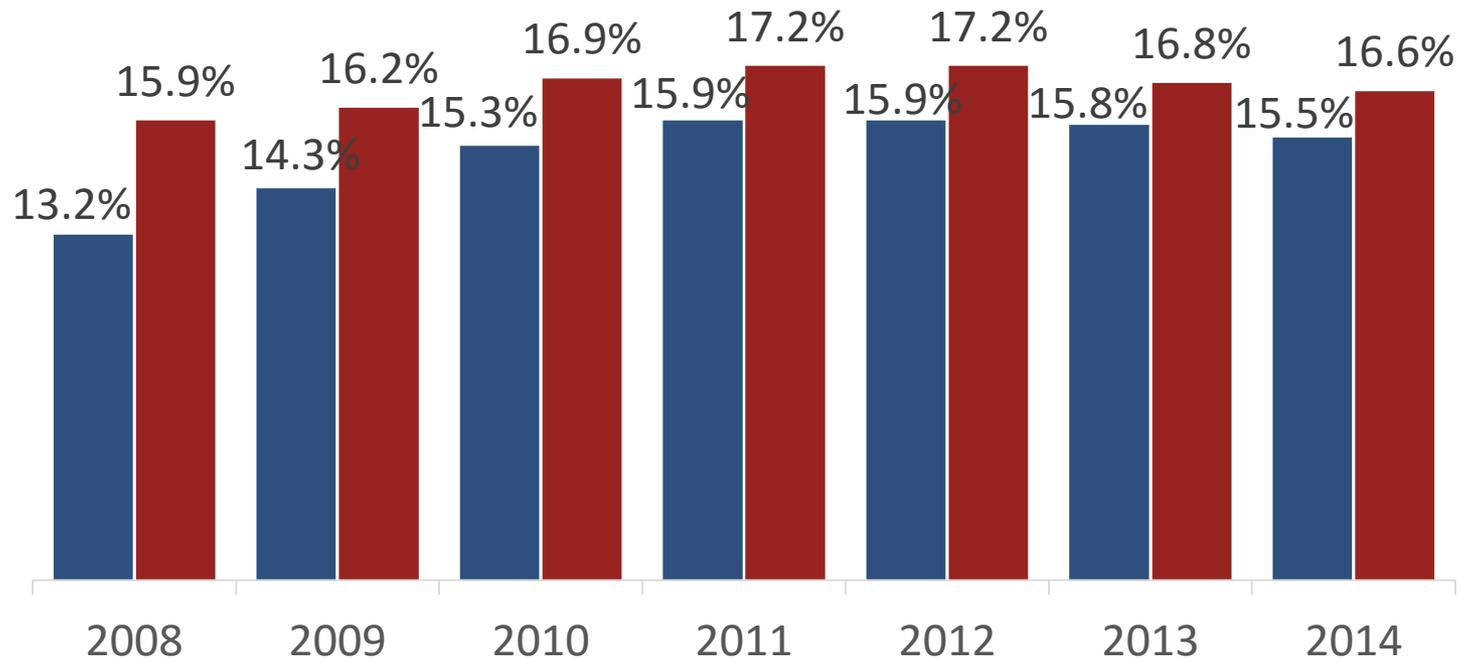
- [Theory vs. Reality](#)



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# State-level Data & Trends

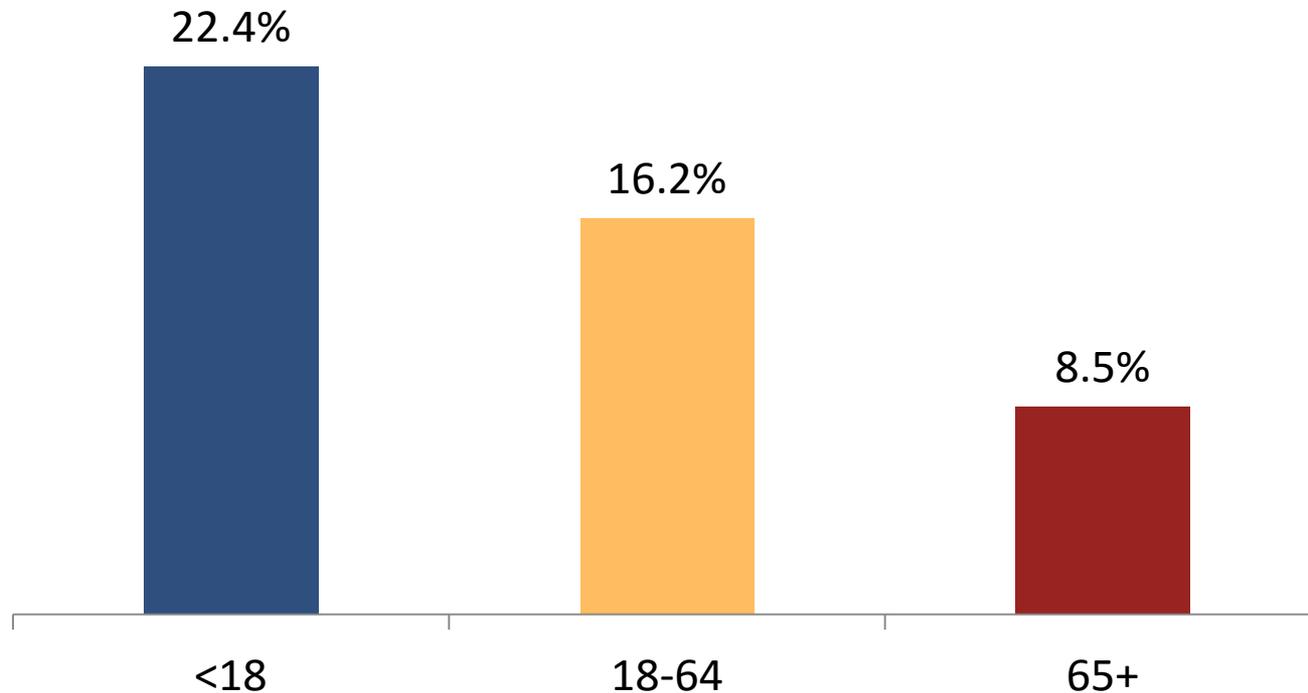
## Poverty Rate: US vs. Oklahoma, 2008-2014



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# State-level Data & Trends

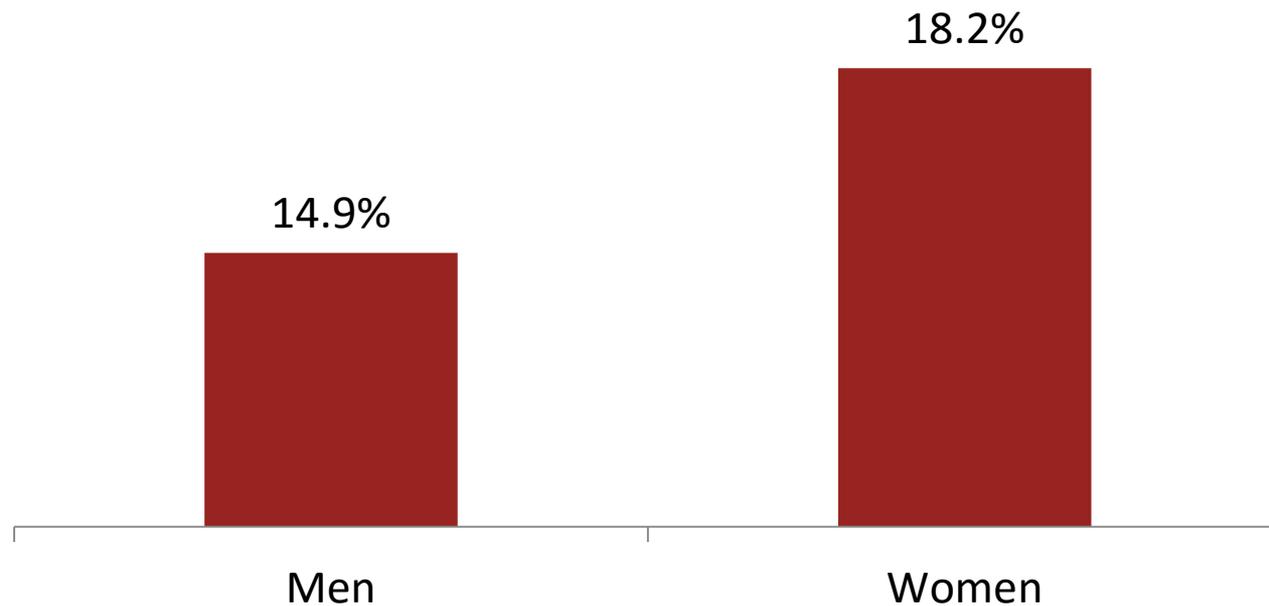
## Oklahoma Poverty Rate by Age, 2014



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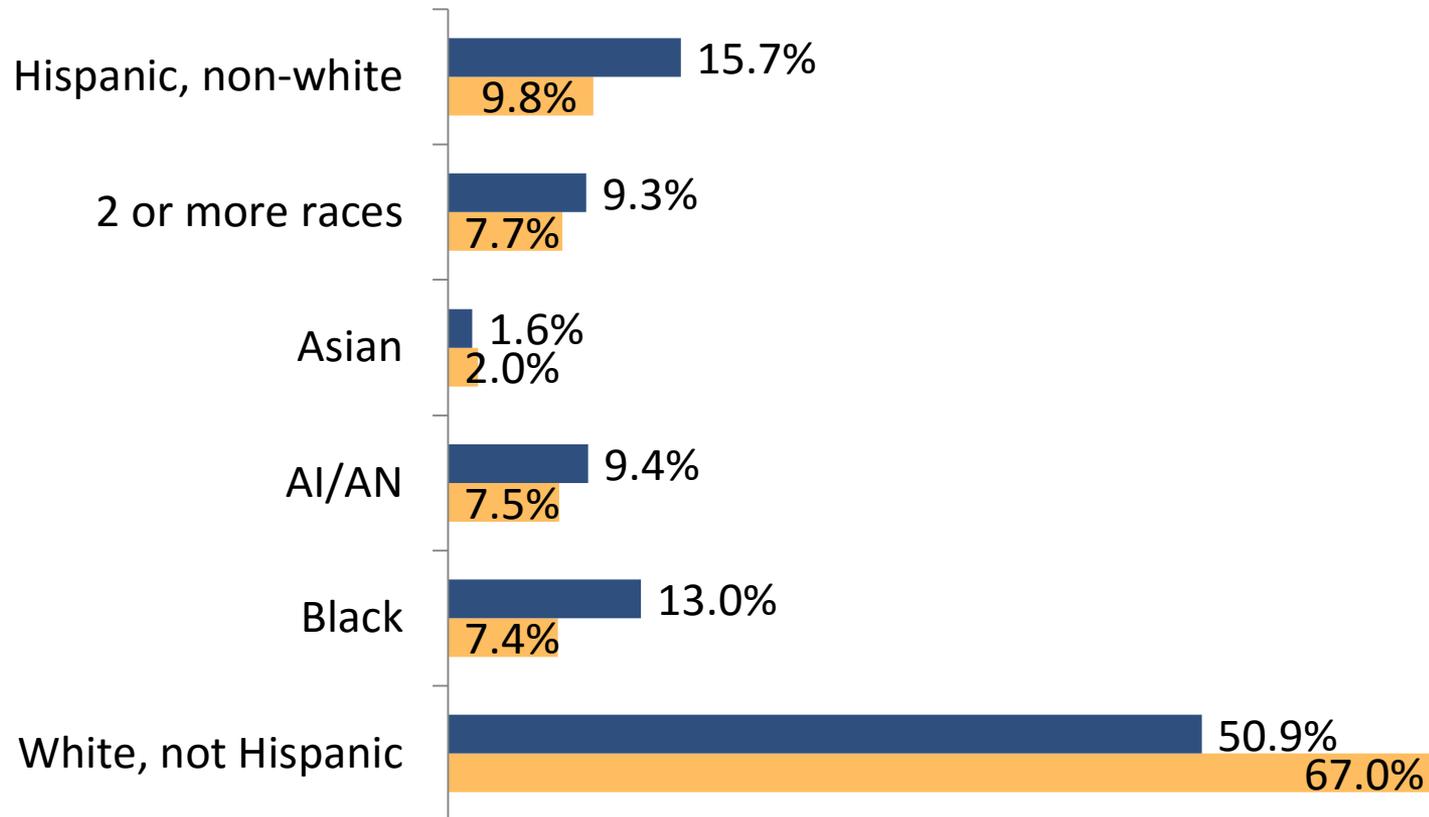
# State-level Data & Trends

Oklahoma adult poverty rate,  
by gender, 2014



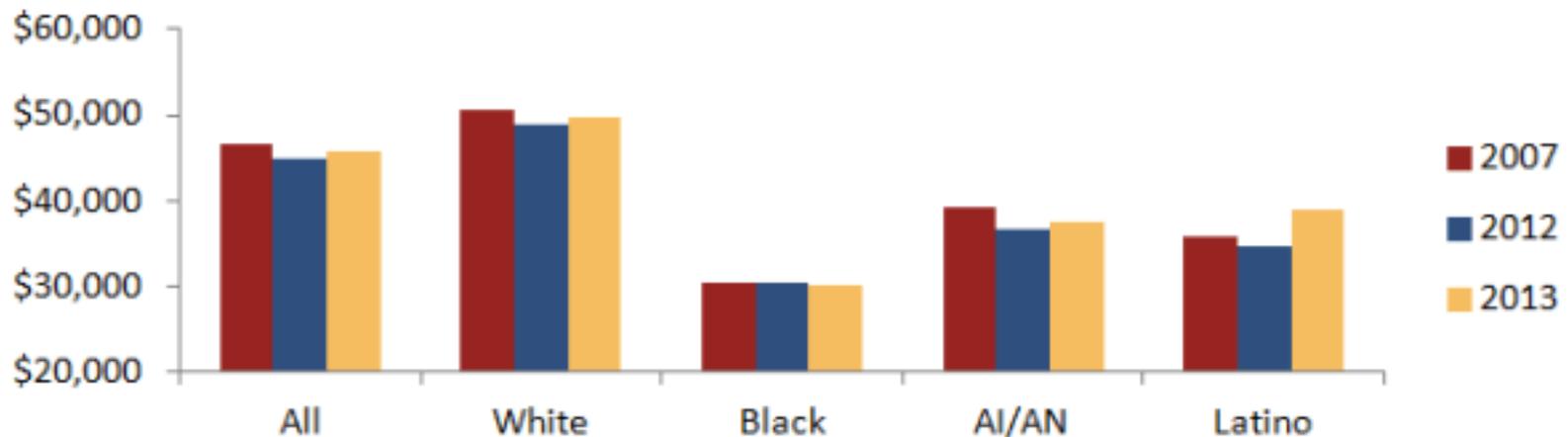
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# Percent in total state population vs. percent of those in poverty, 2014



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## Median Oklahoma incomes by race/ethnicity, adjusted for inflation



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# Causes & Consequences

## 1. Underemployment & Low-wage Work

- Nearly 1 in 3 jobs are in occupations where the median pay is below poverty
- 73% of Oklahoma families <200% of poverty work
- The state consistently tops the nation for the share of adult workers that are not fully employed
- People in eastern Oklahoma and people of color are unemployed at disproportionately higher rates

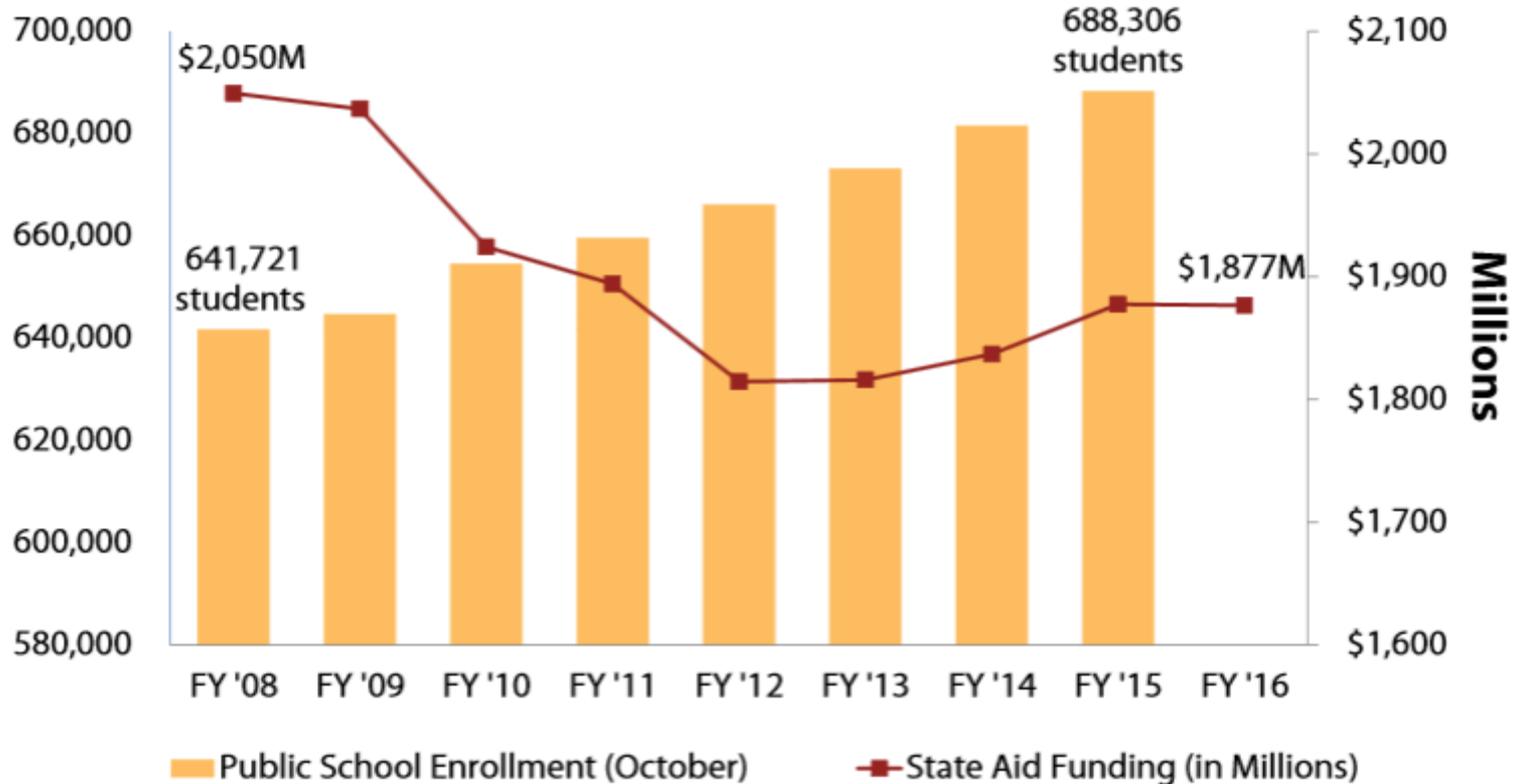


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# Causes & Consequences

## 2. Low Educational Attainment

Figure 4: Public School Enrollment and State Aid Funding



Note: State Funding excludes money allocated for textbooks

# Causes & Consequences

## 3. Mass Incarceration

- Incarceration takes a lifelong toll on an individual's earning capacity
- There are significant barriers to stable employment and financial stability for felons and ex-offenders
  - Employment, housing discrimination
  - Fee payments, drivers licenses



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# Causes & Consequences

## 4. Hunger and poor health

- 17 percent of Oklahoma households are food-insecure
- 66% RFBO households choose between food and medical care
- Over 500,000 residents are uninsured
- Malnutrition, poor health, or untreated illness stunt a worker's capacity to earn and drains their assets.



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# Causes & Consequences

## 5. Inequality

### Women

- The only state where the life expectancy for women declined during the past decade
- Nearly the lowest percentage of female state legislators

### People of color

- Have been unemployed at nearly twice the rate of whites since WWII
- Disproportionately impacted by criminal justice system



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# Causes & Consequences

## 5. Inequality: Moving up the ladder?

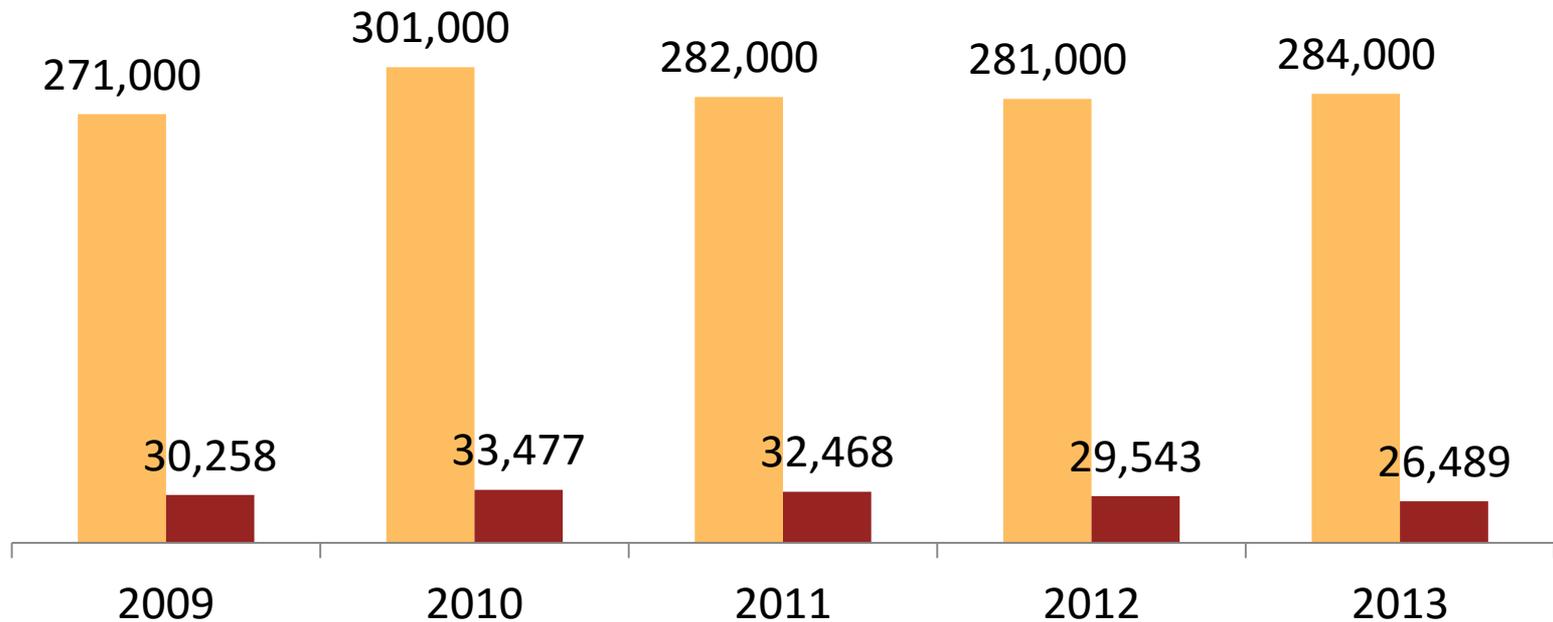
- Lowest absolute mobility in Oklahoma
- Lowest relative upward mobility
- Among the *highest* in terms of downward mobility
  - 33% of residents move down 10 or more percentiles of the earnings distribution during their working years



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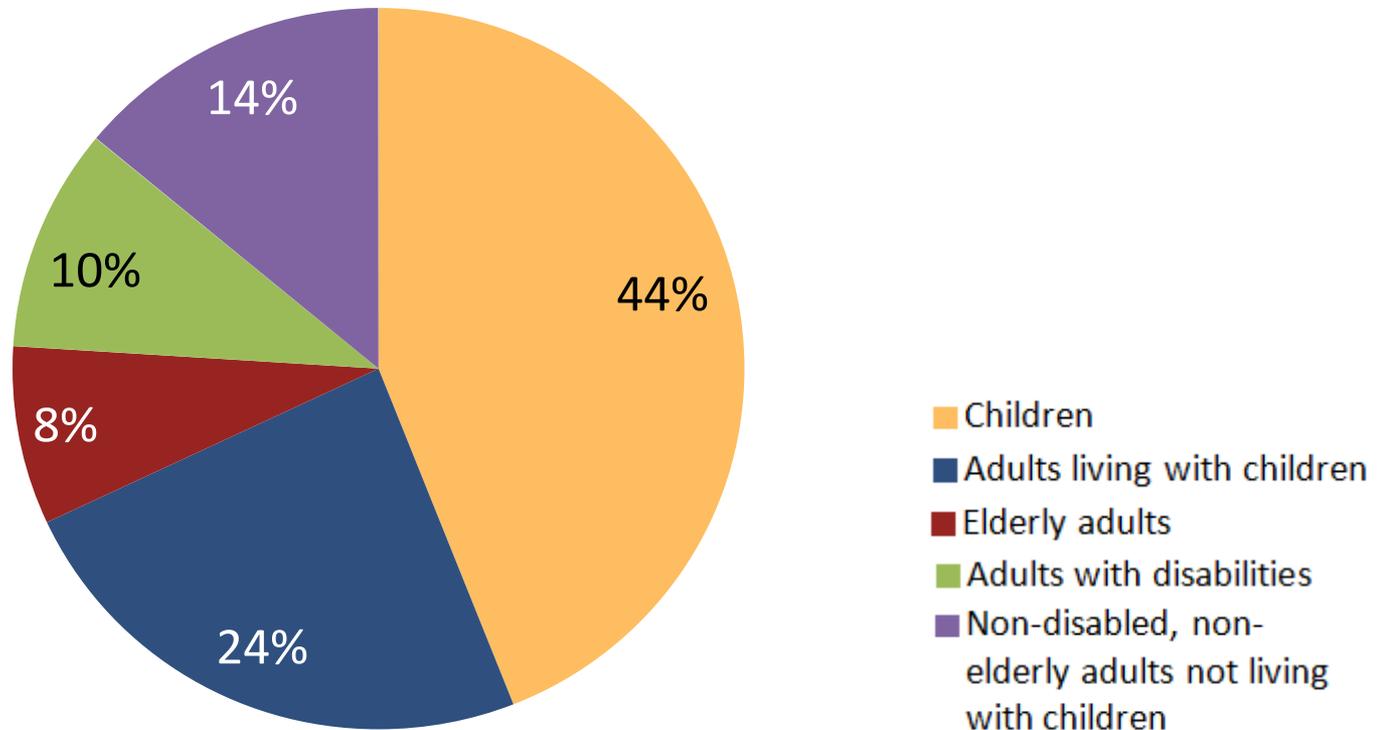
# TANF

- Children in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment
- Children receiving TANF



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# SNAP recipients per month, Oklahoma, 2013

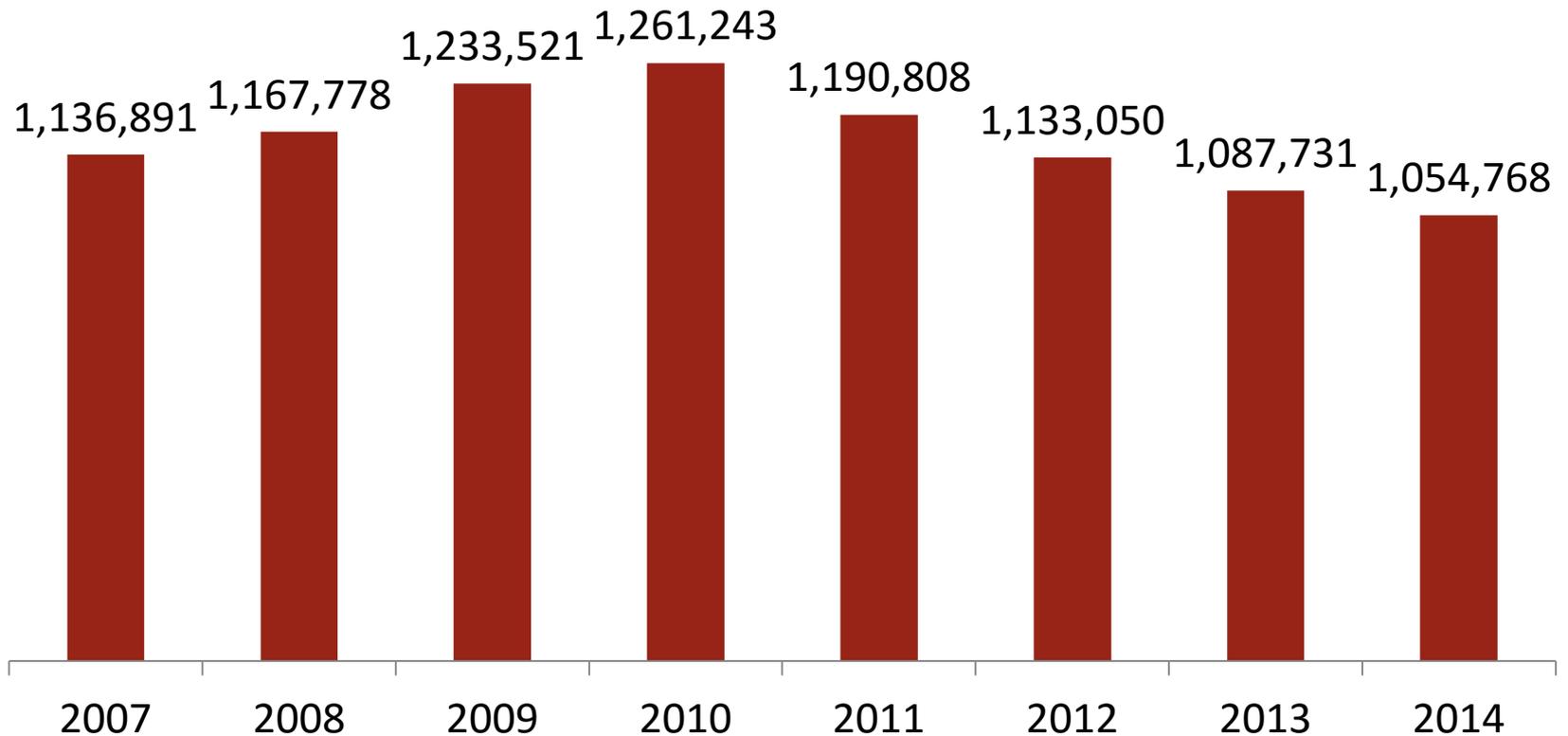


[A Place at the Table](#)



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# Cumulative WIC cases, Oklahoma, 2007-2014



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