



Poverty in the U.S.

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 statistics, there are currently about 39.7 million people living in poverty in the U.S.
 - That is about 900,000 fewer than in 2016 and 3.4 million fewer than in 2015
- The official poverty rate in 2017 was 12.3%
 - That is down by 0.4% from 2016
- Half of the jobs in the country now pay less than \$31,600 a year
 - One in nine U.S. workers are paid wages that can leave them below the poverty rate which is \$25,094 for a family of four
- Here in the U.S., nearly 40 million people are living in poverty ... that is nearly one out of every eight Americans
- 12.8 million American children are living in poverty, which is nearly 18% of American children
- 8.8% of Americans (28.5 million) are medically uninsured
 - That is the lowest number of uninsured Americans since Census began keeping track in 1988
- The state with the highest poverty rate is Mississippi with 22.3%
 - The two states with the next highest poverty rates are New Mexico at 20.9% and Louisiana at 19.7%

How the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps

One of the largest charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (www.svdpusa.org) is an international, nonprofit, Catholic lay organization of about 800,000 men and women who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 153 countries on five continents. With the U.S. headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., membership in the United States totals nearly 100,000 in 4,400 communities.

SVdP offers a variety of programs and services, including home visits, housing assistance, disaster relief, education and mentoring, food pantries, dining halls, clothing, assistance with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs. The Society also works to provide care for the sick, the incarcerated and the elderly. In 2017, SVdP provided more than \$3.4 billion in tangible and in-kind services to those in need, made more than 2.1 million personal visits/contacts (homes, hospitals, prisons and eldercare facilities) and helped more than 5.4 million people regardless of race, religion or national origin.

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