

Poverty in Spartanburg County

Measuring Poverty

- Poverty is set by the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is a number determined by the government based on the calculation that families spend one-third of their income on food. For example, the 2014 FPL for a family of 4 was \$24,250. These are the people who are reported as living in poverty by the US Census.
- Depending on the particular program, individuals may qualify for public assistance at multiples of poverty, such as 140%, 150%, or 200%.

Poverty Data

- The overall poverty rate for Spartanburg County (2014) is 18%. That's approximately 50,700 residents of the county living at 100% of FPL.
- Poverty rates in Spartanburg County are approximately the same as the state average, and lower than Cherokee and Union counties.
- Populations at most risk for poverty in Spartanburg County:
 - Children: Almost 28% of our children live in poverty.
 - Non-whites: 23% of African Americans live in poverty & 34% of Hispanics live in poverty, compared to 11% of whites.
 - Resident with lower education: 33% of residents who did not graduate from high school live in poverty; 17% of high school graduates live in poverty; only 11% of residents with some college or Associate's degrees; and 3% of residents with bachelor's degrees of higher live in poverty.
 - Unemployed: 38% of unemployed residents live below poverty, compared to 8% employed residents.
 - Households headed by single females: 31% are in poverty, compared to 8% married couple families.
 - Large families: 20% of families with 5 or 6 people in family and 56% of families with 7 or more people live in poverty, compared to 14% of families with 3 or 4 people living in poverty.

Deep Poverty

Deep poverty (or "severe" poverty) is defined as having income at 50% below the FPL. 45% of people in poverty in the US are in deep poverty.

In Spartanburg County, 9% of all residents (over 25,000 individuals) live in deep poverty. That's about \$12,000 per year or less for a family of 4.

Escaping Poverty

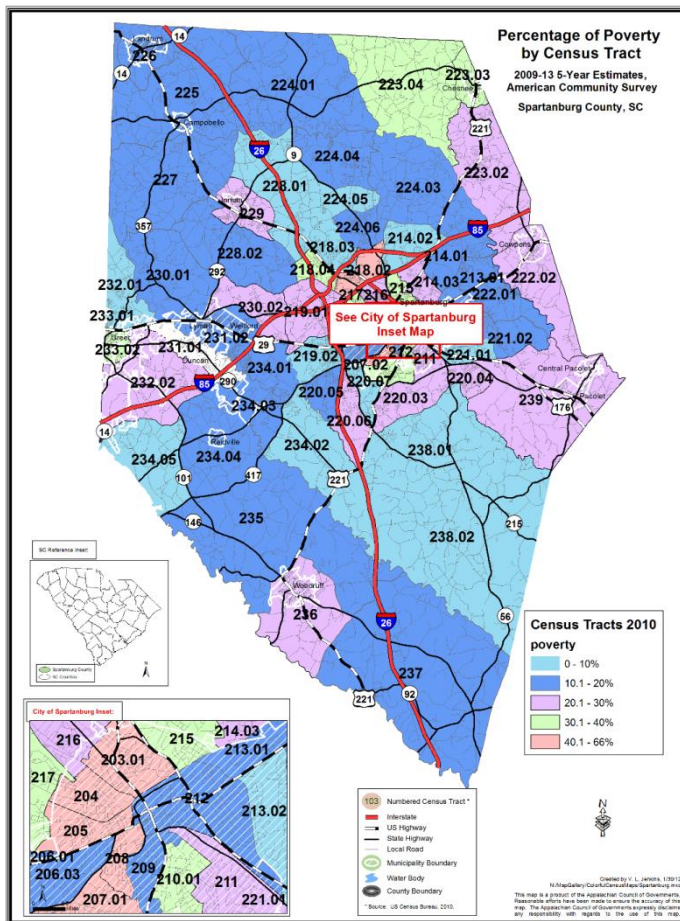
For Harvard's Equality of Opportunity Project, researchers used big data to capture earning records of families all across the country to determine upward mobility from place to place. The results showed wide variation among the nation's cities and counties. Some areas provide significantly more opportunity for children to move out of poverty, and other places offer children little escape. Where children are raised impacts significantly their chance of moving up economically. Neighborhoods matter.

The study showed that upward mobility is strongly correlated with five primary factors:

- Less segregation by race and income
- Lower levels of income inequality
- Better schools
- Lower crime rates
- And more two-parent households

If you go to the Equality of Opportunity website, you can find county level data. If you find Spartanburg County, the conclusion is that it is “pretty bad” for income mobility for children in poor families. Spartanburg County is “below average in helping poor children up the income ladder. It ranks better than about 22% of counties. It is relatively worse for poor girls than it is for poor boys. Although bad for poor children, it is above average for higher-income children.”

Of the 2,478 U.S. counties, Greenville (2,454), Richland (2,453), and Horry (2,467) counties ranked among the worst counties in the country for income mobility for poor children. Spartanburg County ranked at 1,931.



Concentrated Poverty

Concentrated poverty refers to the spatial density of poverty. The common definition of concentrated poverty is 40% or more of the population in a given geography living below the FPL.

The problem with concentrated poverty is that these areas have higher crime rates, underperforming schools, poor housing and health conditions, and limited access to services and job opportunities.

In Spartanburg County, there are 69 census tracts. Of these, there are 6 census tracts of concentrated poverty for individuals, 5 census tracts of concentrated poverty for families, and 17 census tracts of concentrated poverty for children. The majority of the tracts are located within the city limits.

****Data from the Quantitative Analysis of Poverty in Spartanburg, Cherokee & Union Counties. Full report can be found online at www.uwpiedmont.org.**

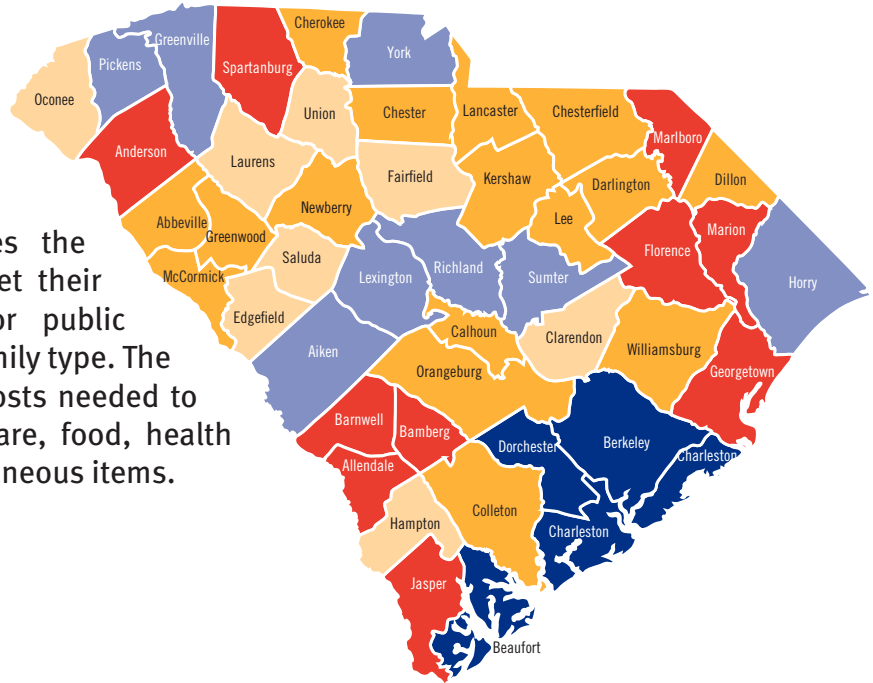


20 THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD 16 COUNTY SNAPSHOT

lowest highest

How Much Income Does Your Family Need?

The Self-Sufficiency Standard defines the income working families need to meet their basic necessities without private or public assistance in each county, based on family type. The Standard looks at the “bare bones” costs needed to meet basic needs for housing, childcare, food, health care, transportation, taxes and miscellaneous items.



SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SC

	Adult	Adult Preschooler	Adult Infant Preschooler	Adult Preschooler School-age	Adult School-age Teenager	Adult Infant Preschooler School-age	2 Adults Infant Preschooler	2 Adults Preschooler School-age
MONTHLY COSTS								
Housing	\$553	\$669	\$669	\$669	\$669	\$895	\$669	\$669
Child Care	\$0	\$567	\$1,195	\$867	\$300	\$1,495	\$1,195	\$867
Food	\$234	\$354	\$464	\$534	\$619	\$629	\$666	\$733
Transportation	\$261	\$268	\$268	\$268	\$268	\$268	\$509	\$509
Health Care	\$167	\$404	\$416	\$429	\$462	\$440	\$474	\$486
Miscellaneous	\$121	\$226	\$301	\$277	\$232	\$373	\$351	\$326
Taxes	\$209	\$341	\$568	\$394	\$242	\$743	\$540	\$398
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$111)	(\$24)	(\$148)	(\$301)	\$0	(\$7)	(\$118)
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$68)	(\$100)	(\$120)	(\$50)	(\$100)	(\$100)	(\$100)
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	(\$83)	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$167)	(\$250)	(\$167)	(\$167)
SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE								
Hourly	\$8.78	\$14.59	\$20.40	\$17.06	\$12.93	\$25.53	\$11.73 per adult	\$10.24 per adult
Monthly	\$1,545	\$2,568	\$3,591	\$3,003	\$2,275	\$4,493	\$4,130	\$3,604
Annual	\$18,535	\$30,810	\$43,092	\$36,038	\$27,299	\$53,916	\$49,559	\$43,248
Emergency Savings (Monthly Contribution)	\$33	\$102	\$123	\$157	\$95	\$174	\$59	\$109