

Child Poverty Rate and Ranking

Cities with Populations Greater than 500,000 (36 Cities) 2018	2018 Child Poverty Rank	2018 Child Poverty Rate
Detroit city, Michigan	1	47.3%
Memphis city, Tennessee	2	44.9%
Milwaukee city, Wisconsin	3	35.5%
Philadelphia city, Pennsylvania	4	34.6%
Fresno city, California	5	34.3%
Houston city, Texas	6	32.7%
Columbus city, Ohio	7	29.9%
El Paso city, Texas	8	29.8%
San Antonio city, Texas	9	29.5%
Nashville-Davidson metropolitan government (balance), Tennessee	10	27.9%

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Poverty evidenced by Ethnicity in the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee

	Overall			Non-Hispanic White			Non-Hispanic Black			Hispanic		
	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018	% Change
Memphis	24.6%	27.8%	13%	12.3%	11.8%	-4%	28.9%	33.8%	17%	33.3%	28.8%	-14%
Shelby County	18.8%	21.7%	15%	8.0%	8.6%	7%	25.4%	30.5%	20%	30.1%	24.0%	-20%

	Overall			Child			Over 65		
	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018	% Change	2017	2018	% Change
Memphis	24.6%	27.8%	13%	39.0%	44.9%	15%	14.2%	15.8%	11%
Shelby County	18.8%	21.7%	15%	30.2%	34.6%	15%	10.5%	12.1%	15%

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The City of Memphis as compared to the rest of the United States, the State of Tennessee, Shelby County and the Metropolitan Statistical Area.

2018 Poverty Rate	Overall	Under 18	18-64	Over 65	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Latino	Asian
United States	12.3%	17.5%	11.2%	9.2%	8.7%	21.0%	18.3%	10.0%
Tennessee	11.5%	16.0%	11.0%	7.5%	9.3%	18.6%	24.4%	7.7%
Shelby County	21.7%	34.6%	18.6%	12.1%	8.6%	30.5%	24.0%	N/A
Memphis city, Tennessee	27.8%	44.9%	23.4%	15.8%	11.8%	33.8%	28.8%	N/A
Memphis, TN-MS-AR Metro	18.8%	29.3%	16.2%	11.4%	8.9%	27.6%	23.5%	N/A

Poverty has a direct impact upon the need for housing and the economy. The Memphis Housing Authority manages 2965 units of Public Housing and that number includes its Annual Contributing Contract (ACC) units of Public Housing located in revitalize former Public Housing properties. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program has ____ vouchers.

The current pandemic crisis of COVID-19 impacts the housing situation even more and even though there is a moratorium on evictions, the private sector unless directly funded or directly funded by HUD has not made it easy for people to stay housed. In partnership with others, MHA is seeking ways to house the homeless and other vulnerable populations. To protect the residents, Memphis Housing Authority has limited contact by instituting a “Telework Policy”, specific days for public access and limited access to the high rises by using the guidelines associated with nursing homes. Email accounts have been established for Public Housing Choice Program. This will allow documents to be scanned to the Agency who will still have staff. The Central Office building will have limited contact with the public, but when there is a need for a face-to-face meeting with, “social distancing “will be observed. Security has been enhanced at all developments and each Property Manager, Assistant Property Manager and Social Service staffer is tasked with contacting residents during normal business hours on a daily and weekly schedule. The Resident Advisory Board was contacted and asked to assist with distributing information, providing ideas and informing Property Management and the Executive Office of needs evidenced. Appropriate numbers to call for emergencies or to address concerns have been distributed to all. While there has always been a need for affordable housing, COVID-19 has demonstrated that the safety net and the resources to house people in decent, safe and affordable was fragile at best or nonexistent. MHA will continue to seek ways to increase the supply of affordable housing using any means necessary and protect the safety and well-being of its residents and the community at large.

