Texas Poverty Rate Fourteenth Highest in Nation

People in Poverty, States with Highest Rates (2015)

Mississippi (1st)	New Mexico (2nd)	Louisiana (3rd)	Arkansas (4th)	Alabama (5th)	Texas (14th)
22.0%	20.4%	19.1%	19.1%	18.5%	15.9%
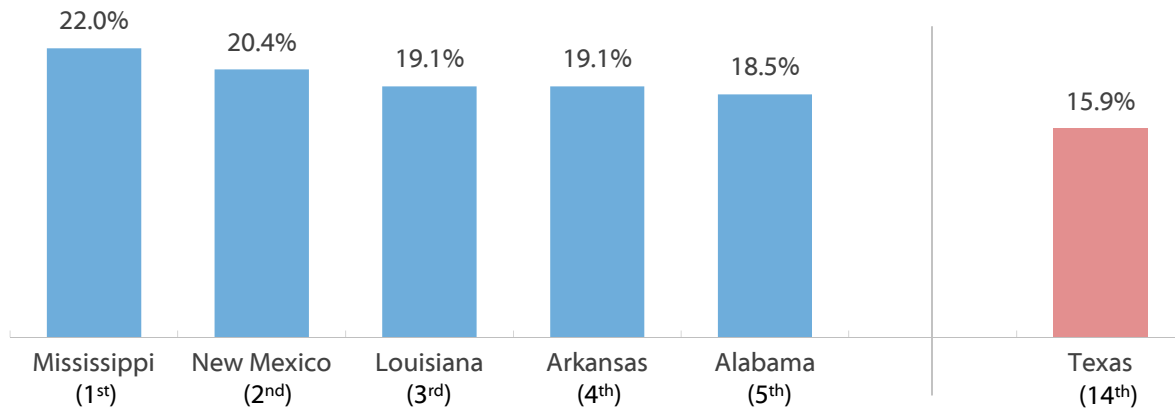
An average of 13.5 percent of people in the U.S. lived in poverty in 2015, down from 15.5 percent in 2014. Texas has the fourteenth highest poverty rate in the nation and a poverty rate higher than the national average. In 2015, 15.9 percent of Texans lived below the poverty line, down from 17.2 percent in 2014. In 2015, poverty was defined as having an income of $24,036 or less for a family of four with two children, or $12,331 or less for an individual under 65 years old.

People in Poverty, Largest States (2015)

	U.S.	California	Texas	New York	Florida	Illinois	Pennsylvania
2010	15.3%	15.8%	17.9%	14.9%	16.5%	13.8%	13.4%
2015	13.5%	15.3%	15.9%	15.4%	15.7%	13.6%	13.2%

■2010 ■2015
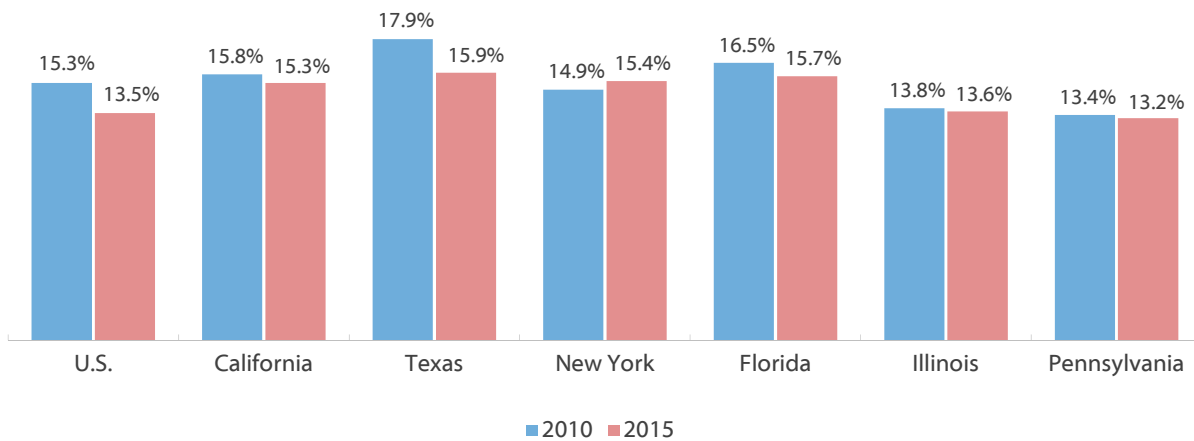
States shown in order by size of population

At 15.9 percent, Texas continues to have the highest poverty rate among the six largest states, followed by Florida, at 15.7 percent. All of the six largest states and the nation overall saw a decrease in poverty rate between 2010 and 2015 except for New York.