Texas Poverty Rate Fourteenth Highest in Nation

People in Poverty, States with Highest Rates (2016)

Mississippi	Louisiana	New Mexico	District of Columbia	Kentucky	Texas
21.0%	20.1%	19.1%	18.5%	18.2%	15.6%
(1st)	(2nd)	(3rd)	(4th)	(5th)	(14th)
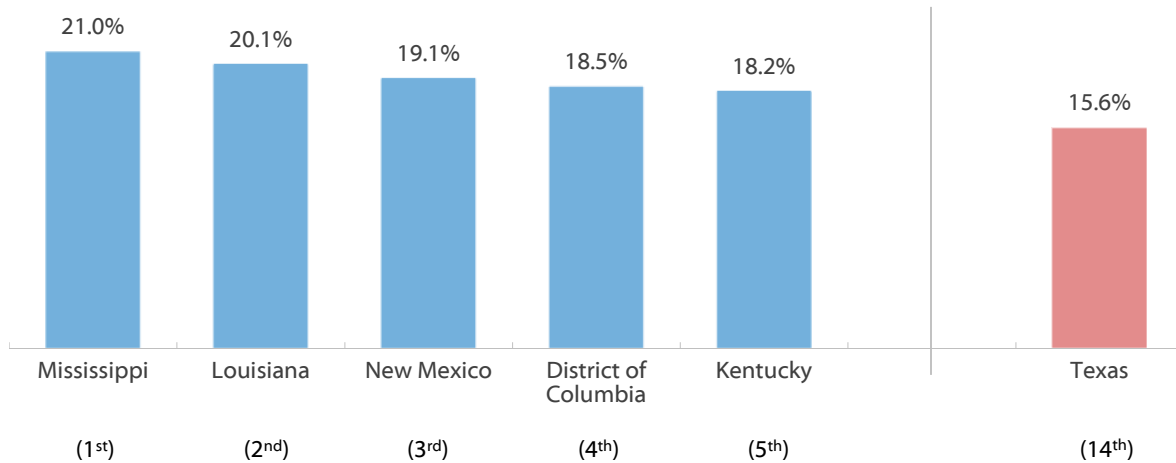
An average of 14 percent of people in the U.S. lived in poverty in 2016, up from 13.5 percent in 2015. Texas has the fourteenth highest poverty rate in the nation and a poverty rate higher than the national average. In 2016, 15.6 percent of Texans lived below the poverty line, down from 15.9 percent in 2015. In 2016, poverty was defined as having an income of $24,339 or less for a family of four with two children, or $12,486 or less for an individual under 65 years old.

People in Poverty, Largest States (2016)

	U.S.	California	Texas	New York	Florida	Illinois	Pennsylvania
2011	15.9%	16.6%	18.5%	16.1%	17.0%	14.9%	13.7%
2016	14.0%	14.4%	15.6%	14.8%	14.8%	13.0%	12.9%

■2011 ■2016
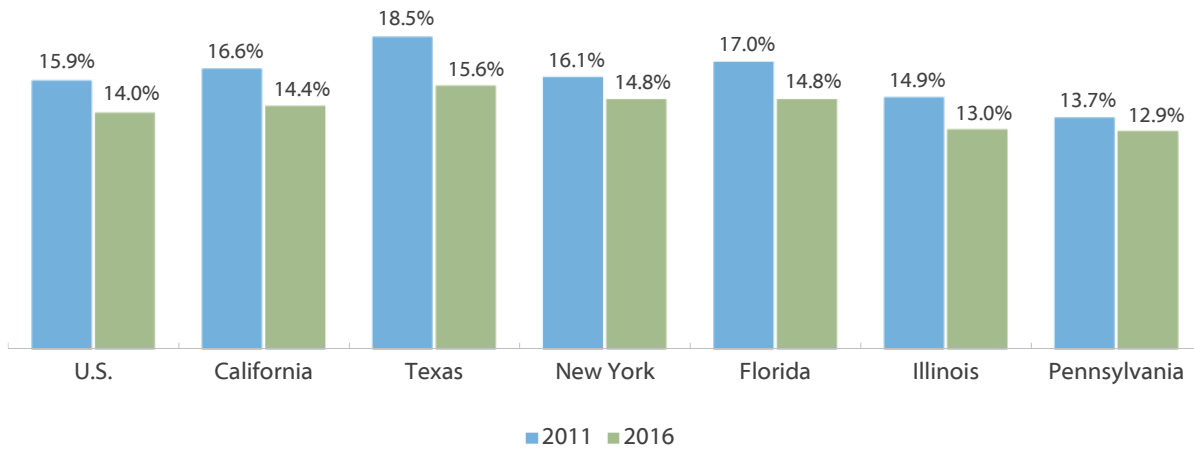
States shown in order by size of population

At 15.6 percent, Texas continues to have the highest poverty rate among the six largest states, followed by Florida and New York, at 14.8 percent. All of the six largest states and the nation overall saw a decrease in poverty rate between 2011 and 2016.

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