

THE STATE OF THE POOR



The Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

This bookmark contains information about Fairfax County's low-income population. The data are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* (2018 data) and county resources.

Poverty in Fairfax County

In 2018, poverty for a family of four is defined as a family annual income of less than \$25,110 per year.

Of the 1,140,460 County Population*

67,258

(5.9% or 1 in 17)
people live in poverty.

5,476

(7.5% or 1 in 13)
children under age 5
live in poverty.

8,487

(5.5% or 1 in 18)
people over age 65 live
in poverty.

18,923

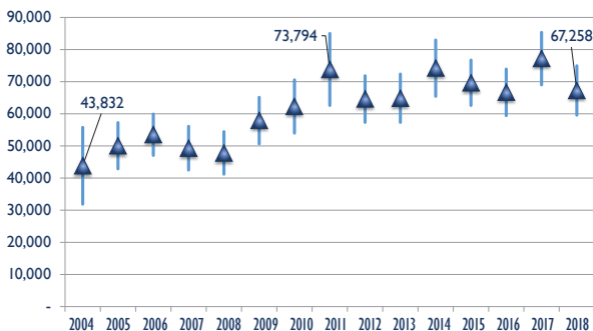
(7.1% or 1 in 14)
children under age 18
live in poverty.

176,921

(15.5% or 1 in 6)
county residents have
incomes under 200
percent of poverty.

*For whom poverty is determined.

Fairfax County Population Below Poverty 2004–2018 with Margin of Error



Economic Security

According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator¹ families working in low-wage jobs make insufficient income to live locally given the local cost of living.

In Fairfax County on average:

- A family of four with two children would need over \$79,000 to meet their expenses.

Employment

- The unemployment rate is 2.5% (Aug. 2019, down from 5.6% in Jan 2010).

Housing

- In 2017, the average monthly rent of a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,599, an increase of 33% since 2008.

Homelessness

- In 2018 there were 1,034 homeless people in Fairfax County; 32% of them were children under age 18.

Health

- An estimated 90,953 or 8.0%, of county residents were without health insurance in 2018.

Child Care

- The cost of full-time preschool child care in Fairfax County in 2018 ranged from \$13,500 to \$18,500 per year, \$17,000 to \$20,000 for an infant.

Food

- In the 2018-2019 school year, Fairfax County Public Schools reported that 55,428 students (or 29.8% of enrollment) were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

¹LivingWage.mit.edu



Fairfax County

Community Action Advisory Board

12011 Government Center Parkway, 5th Floor
Fairfax, VA 22035-1102
703-324-7500



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY SERVICES

Learn more: [FairfaxCounty.gov](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) Search: **CAAB**



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