



2018 POVERTY RATES

WASHINGTON REGION



Women Disproportionately Affected by Poverty

An analysis of the 2018 American Community Survey by The Women's Foundation finds that women continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty in the Washington Region,¹ and that among women, single women with children and women of color are more likely to live below the poverty threshold—\$20,780 for a family of three in 2018.

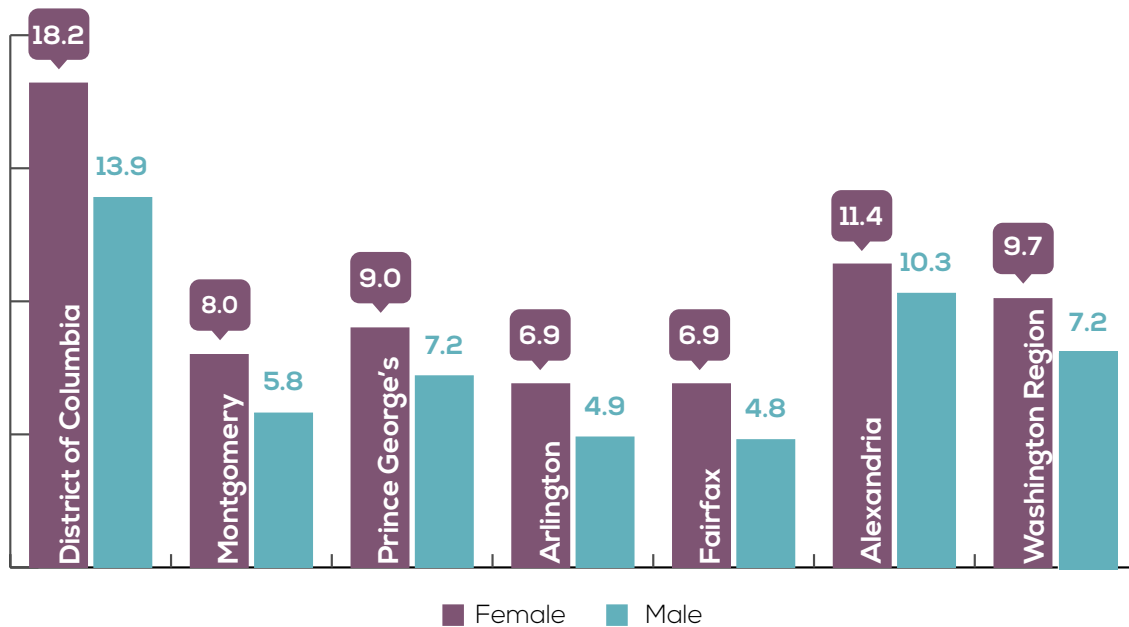


Fig 1. Poverty Rates by Sex and Jurisdiction in the Washington Region, 2018
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2018

Women's Poverty

Roughly 350,604 inhabitants of our region struggled with poverty during 2018. More than half (205,748) were women and girls. This figure translates to a poverty rate of 9.7 percent, practically unchanged from the previous year (9.9 percent). The poverty rate for men and boys stands at 7.2 percent.

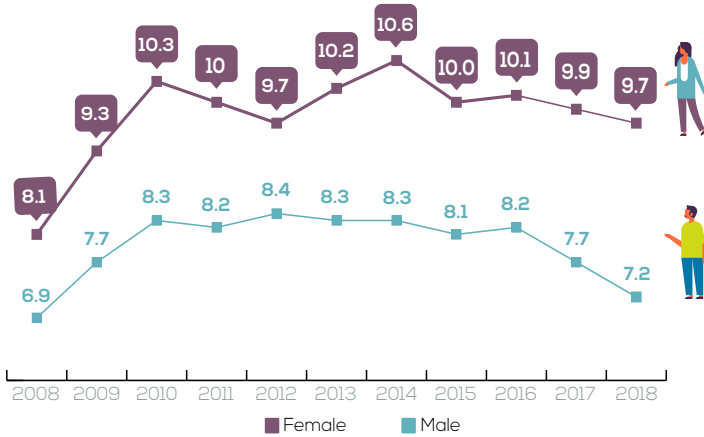


Fig 2. Poverty Rates in the Washington Region, 2008-2018
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2008-2018

Women Raising Families on Their Own

An estimated 42,792 families with children under 18 had incomes below the poverty level in 2018 in our region. Single parent families—especially female-headed households—are more likely to live in poverty.

Close to two out of three poor families in the region (64.3 percent) were headed by single women. Female-headed households with children reached a poverty rate of 25.1 percent while only 3.7 percent of married-couple families in a comparable group lived below the poverty line.

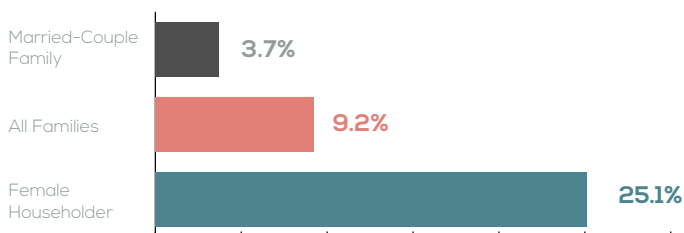


Fig 3. Poverty Rates for Families with Children under 18, 2018
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2018

Women's Poverty Across Racial and Ethnic Groups

Women of color experience disproportionate levels of poverty across racial and ethnic groups and have a greater probability of falling below the poverty threshold than men or their White female counterparts.

Women of color face particularly high rates of poverty in the Washington region; 14.7 percent of Black women and 14.6 percent of Latinas live below the poverty level, considerably higher than the 4.9 percent rate for White, non-Hispanic women.



14.7% Black
14.6% Latina
4.9% White

Fig 4. Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2018
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables

DEFINING POVERTY

A family of three was considered to live below the poverty line in 2018 if their total pre-tax annual income was \$20,780 or less. Living with an income of \$41,560 for a family of three—twice the poverty level income—was still insufficient to make ends meet in our region during 2018.

¹ Estimates for the Washington region include data from: Washington, DC; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Alexandria City, VA; and Fairfax County, VA.

This Fact Sheet was prepared by Claudia Williams, Program Officer at Washington Area Women's Foundation. To obtain more related data on the status of women and girls in the Washington region and details on the methodology to obtain such data please consult our issue briefs available at <https://thewomensfoundation.org/resources/>