Coles County, Illinois
Poverty and Food Insecurity, 2018

Poverty

Annual earned income falls below a standard threshold of minimum subsistence for an individual or for a family, depending on the number of adults and children. For these data, the federal poverty threshold for an individual is $12,060 and $24,900 for a family of four.

**Individuals**

- 21.0% percent of the total population

**Families with Children**

- 22.4% percent of all families with children

**Individuals 55 years and older**

- 9.5% percent of all individuals 55 years and older

**Poverty in Coles County: 2016-2018**

Poverty for individuals, overall, has decreased from 22.3% in 2016 to 21.0% in 2018.

For families with children, poverty has also nominally decreased to 22.4%, down from 23.8% in 2016 and below the 24.1% of such families in 2017.

The demographic with the highest increases in poverty are those 55 years of age and older. For individuals near retirement age and above, 9.5% are poor; for those 65 years of age and older, 6.7% are poor. These figures are higher than those from 2016 (8.3% and 6.1%, respectively) as well as 2017 (8.1% and 6.2%, respectively).

**Food Insecurity**

Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.

**Food Insecurity in Coles County: 2016-2018**

- **Individuals**: 39.1% percent of the total population
- **Families with Children**: 44.1% percent of all families with children
- **Individuals 55 years and older**: 25.9% percent of individuals 55 years and older

185% of Poverty:

The level of income above the Federal Poverty Line where families and individuals remain at-risk of nutritionally inadequate diets, hunger and food insecurity.

The risk of food insecurity for individuals, families with children, and those 65 years of age and older have nominally decreased over the past year. In 2019, food insecure individuals dropped 2 percentage points from 41.3% to 39.1%, food insecure families with children decreased 1.5 percentage points to 44.1% from 46.6%, and 22.9% of individuals age 65 and older are food insecure, down nearly 4 percentage points from 29.7% in 2017.

However, if individuals age 55 and older are considered, 2018 has the highest food insecurity rate at 25.9% compared to 25.8% in 2017 and 24.7% in 2016.

Coles County Poverty Data Project:

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Five Year Estimates