New York City Government Poverty Measure 2022: Comprehensive Brief

An Annual Report from the Office of the Mayor

The City of New York
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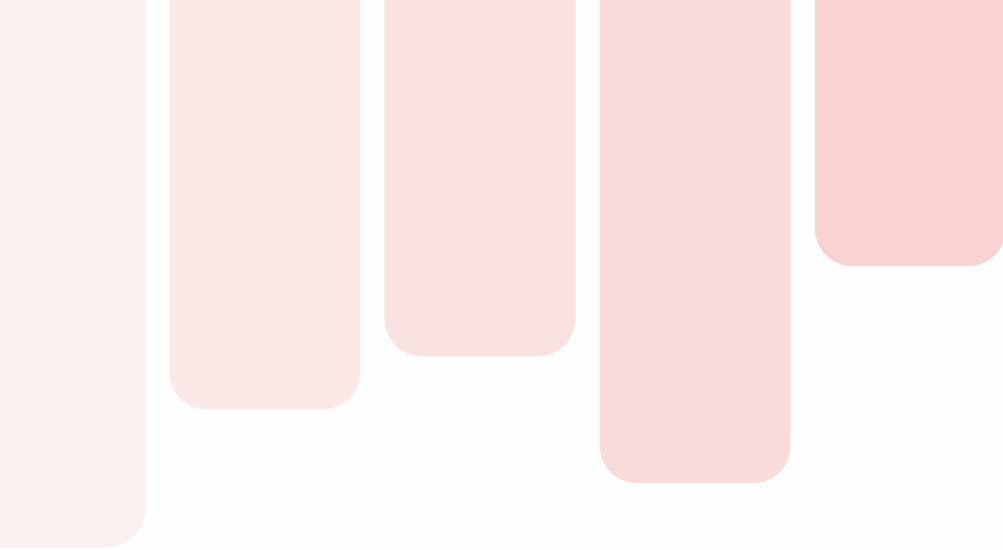**Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity**

Contents

Preface

Improving economic mobility and equity remains one of the City's top priorities. To accomplish this goal, City initiatives should target the right people based on effective, evidence-based practice. The foundation of these efforts is high-quality information on the economic needs of New Yorkers. This brief provides New York City Charter-mandated information on the state of poverty in the city that can be used for this purpose, as captured by the New York City Government (NYCgov) poverty measure.

The NYCgov poverty measure initiative began over a decade ago as a pioneering effort to address the shortcomings of the U.S. official poverty measure. Developed in 2008 with estimates extending back to 2005, the NYCgov poverty measure has been published annually. Unlike the official measure, the NYCgov measure reflects the unique economic realities of New York City, including the high cost of housing. It also takes into account the value of non-cash benefits like nutritional and housing assistance, and tax credits such as the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The NYCgov measure provides a more nuanced understanding of economic conditions and trends affecting low-income New Yorkers than the U.S. official poverty measure.

Using the NYCgov poverty measure, this brief examines poverty trends in 2022, two years into the Covid-19 pandemic and a year marked by both economic uncertainty and resilience. While job recovery in the city was strong in 2022, some sectors, including leisure and hospitality, showed a slower recovery. Rising prices for essentials like housing, food, and fuel put a strain on many low-income New Yorkers, eroding wage growth over the prior year. At the same time, key federal relief programs such as unemployment insurance, stimulus checks, and the

enhanced CTC either expired or were scaled back. Consequently, poverty increased significantly in 2022, surpassing the 2019 pre-pandemic level. This increase highlights the need for more of the type of robust anti-poverty policy measures that succeeded in driving down poverty rates in 2021.

This brief shows clear disparities in poverty, as captured in its demographic and geographic subpopulation analyses. It also illustrates the successes and challenges of anti-poverty policy by breaking down the impact by program area. Finally, the brief includes an overview of the City's policies and strategies aimed at addressing the economic challenges that many New Yorkers continue to face.

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This brief, related technical notes, and prior year reports are available at:
https://www.nyc.gov/site/opportunity/poverty-in-nyc/poverty-measure.page

Acknowledgments

About the
NYCgov Poverty Measure

The NYCgov poverty measure is an alternative poverty metric specifically designed to reflect the economic realities faced by New York City residents. Developed in 2008, it addresses the many weaknesses of the U.S. official poverty measure. The NYCgov measure sets poverty thresholds based on contemporary spending patterns on essentials such as food, clothing, shelter, utilities, telephone, and internet, and adjusts the threshold for the high cost of housing in New York City. It also includes an expanded definition of family resources that encompasses post-tax incomes and in-kind benefits while excluding necessary expenditures such as medical costs, work-related childcare costs, and commuting costs.

Similarly, the federal Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), introduced by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010 and released annually, also provides an alternative perspective on poverty for the nation and for states but precludes sub-state estimates. A more detailed description of the methodological differences among these three measures can be found in the 2021 NYCgov Poverty Measure report.[1]

The NYCgov poverty measure has garnered national recognition and serves as a vital instrument for assessing the efficacy of various anti-poverty initiatives. It is updated on an annual basis in compliance with the mandates outlined in the New York City Charter and provides City agencies with indispensable data to effectively address the needs of diverse communities.

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1   https://www.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/Poverty-2021.pdf

Introduction

This comprehensive brief presents poverty estimates using the NYCgov poverty measure for the calendar year 2022.[2] That year was a time of heightened economic challenges for many New Yorkers, particularly those with low incomes. High inflation, driven by supply chain disruptions related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, led to sharp increases in the cost of essentials such as food, housing, and fuel, straining family budgets. These challenges were exacerbated by stagnant wages, particularly in low-wage sectors, which failed to keep pace with rising costs. Additionally, the expiration or scaling back of key pandemic-era relief measures, such as enhanced unemployment insurance, stimulus checks, and the enhanced Child Tax Credit (CTC), removed critical financial supports that had temporarily alleviated poverty in 2021.

The estimates contained in this brief are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019–2022 American Community Survey (ACS). The brief compares the 2022 NYCgov poverty rate to the 2019 rate representing pre-pandemic conditions. It also compares the 2022 rate to the rate from 2021—a year marked by pandemic recovery efforts. Similar to the 2021 data presented in last year's report, data from 2020 is excluded from cross-year comparisons due to data quality issues that render the 2020 rate unsuitable as a meaningful point of comparison.[3]

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2   This document serves as the main analytical brief, distinct from the summary brief, which offers essential findings and data visualizations. The summary brief is available at: https://www.nyc.gov/site/opportunity/poverty-in-nyc/poverty-measure.page

3   For more information on data quality in 2020, see Chapter 3 of the 2020 NYCgov report at: https://www.nyc.gov/assets/opportunity/pdf/NYCgovPoverty2023_2020DATA_Digital_Final_v4.pdf

The key findings in this year's brief include:

- In 2022, poverty in New York City significantly increased for nearly all demographic groups and in every borough, surpassing 2019 pre-pandemic levels. The child poverty rate more than doubled, rising from 11.3 percent in 2021 to 24.2 percent in 2022.

- Increases were not limited to the number of New Yorkers living below the poverty line. Like the citywide poverty rate, the near poverty rate rose in 2022.

- Poverty remained disproportionately high among marginalized groups, including people of color, women, and immigrants.

- Significant rises in the NYCgov poverty rate can be attributed to two factors:
    1. A sharp increase in the NYCgov poverty threshold: The threshold for a family of four (two adults and two children) rose by 10 percent, from $40,288 in 2021 to $44,297 in 2022, reflecting the higher cost of living (see Table 1).
    2. The expiration of key Covid-era relief measures, particularly the enhanced CTC, reducing funds available to low-income households.

- The change in the poverty threshold is responsible for approximately two-thirds of the rise in poverty rates.

- Although the effectiveness of safety net programs diminished in 2022 with the expiration of many pandemic-era initiatives, these measures still played a vital role in reducing poverty. In 2022, they collectively lowered the citywide poverty rate by 27.9 percent and the child poverty rate by 37.3 percent, although these reductions were significantly smaller than the respective dramatic 52.7 percent and 71.1 percent reductions observed in 2021 (see Figure 9).

The next section delves deeper into the NYCgov poverty data through the lens of equity across geography, race/ethnicity, family composition, education, and work experience to explore persistent inequalities among marginalized groups and inform effective policy responses. It is followed by a section that further discusses the primary drivers of poverty in 2022, such as rising thresholds, uneven labor market recovery, and reduced pandemic-era aid. The next section details how various government income supports affect the poverty rate, followed by an analysis of the poverty gap and the degree of poverty. The final section describes many of the policy initiatives currently in place to address the problems of poverty and inequality in New York City.

Citywide Poverty and Near Poverty

In 2022, the citywide poverty rate climbed to 20.5 percent, significantly higher than the 2021 rate of 14.5 percent and the 2019 rate of 18.7 percent prior to the pandemic. The near poverty rate also increased, rising to 42.9 percent in 2022 from 36.6 percent and 41.6 percent in 2021 and 2019, respectively—the reflection of a troubling trend similar to the changes in the overall citywide poverty rate. (See Table 1.) This data suggests that a larger segment of the population was experiencing financial strain, extending beyond those living below the NYCgov poverty line. These rising rates highlight growing economic challenges for many New Yorkers in 2022.

Table 1. NYCgov poverty rates and threshold: 2019, 2021, and 2022

	Year		
	2019	**2021**	**2022**
NYCgov Poverty Rate	**18.7%**	**14.5%**	20.5%
NYCgov Near Poverty Rate*	**41.6%**	**36.6%**	42.9%
NYCgov Poverty Threshold	$36,817	$40,288	$44,297

Note: Numbers in **bold** indicate statistically significant differences from the 2022 rate.

* Near poverty is defined as the share of the population living under 150 percent of the New York City poverty threshold. It includes all people in poverty and those above the threshold but at risk of falling into poverty.

Historic trends in poverty

A historical overview of the City's poverty level can be observed by using two measures: the U.S. official poverty measure and the NYCgov poverty measure. With the exception of 2021, NYCgov poverty rates consistently exceeded U.S. official poverty rates from 2005 to 2022. The difference occurs because the NYCgov measure sets a higher threshold, one that accounts for the city's higher housing costs and essential expenses like taxes, childcare, commuting, and medical bills. The U.S. official poverty measure ignores such factors.

In 2021, however, the NYCgov poverty rate dramatically dropped below the U.S. official poverty rate. The change was largely due to Covid-era relief benefits, such as Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) and temporary expansions of key tax credits. These relief benefits and tax credits were accounted for in the NYCgov poverty rate but not in the U.S. official poverty rate, yielding a substantially lower NYCgov rate in 2021.

In 2022, the NYCgov poverty rate once again surpassed the U.S. official poverty rate. Between 2021 and 2022, the U.S. official poverty rate essentially remained unchanged. For the same period, the NYCgov poverty rate increased from 14.5 percent to 20.5 percent (6 percentage points) as prices of goods and services, including housing and energy, increased and key aid expired. In 2022, the gap between the U.S. official poverty rate and the NYCgov poverty rate significantly widened to reach 4.3 percentage points. Notably, the gap was the largest recorded since 2005. (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1. U.S. official and NYCgov poverty rates, 2005–2022

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Notes: U.S. official poverty rates are based on the NYCgov poverty universe and unit of analysis. Numbers in **bold** indicate a statistically significant change from the prior year. Poverty rates for the year 2020 have been excluded from the figure due to concerns related to data quality. Methodological enhancements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) threshold by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2019 caused a break in the NYCgov poverty data series. NYC Opportunity uses this SPM threshold, adjusted for the city's higher housing costs, to develop its poverty threshold. Post-2019 estimates are not fully comparable with previous years. The data series discontinuity is illustrated by the dashed red line.

Poverty by Select Characteristics

Figure 2 presents annual NYCgov poverty rates by different demographic characteristics for 2019, 2021, and 2022. The data indicates that poverty rates increased for nearly all demographic groups and every borough, surpassing pre-pandemic levels for many subpopulations. However, the increase in NYCgov poverty rates was particularly pronounced among certain demographic groups.

Expanded tax relief measures in 2021, including the enhanced CTC and the EIPs, substantially reduced child poverty from 21.8 percent in 2019 to 11.3 percent in 2021. The 2022 expiration of these temporary relief measures resulted in a sharp rebound in child poverty to 24.2 percent, more than doubling the 2021 rate and exceeding the pre-pandemic rate. These changes were much larger than the rate increases for adult or elderly populations, demonstrating the effectiveness of the targeted tax credits in reducing poverty, particularly among children. The poverty rate for nonelderly adults ages 18–64 climbed to 18.6 percent in 2022, a 1.9 percentage point increase from the 2019 rate of 16.7 percent. For elderly individuals ages 65 and older, the 2022 poverty rate was 23 percent, statistically no different from the 2019 rate of 23.1 percent and indicating a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Persistent gender disparities are also apparent in Figure 2, with women experiencing a 21.4 percent poverty rate in 2022 compared to 19.4 percent for men. Both groups saw statistically significant increases in 2022 compared to 2021 and pre-pandemic levels.

Racial and ethnic disparities in poverty rates remained significant in 2022. As Figure 2 shows, at 24.6 percent, Non-Hispanic Black residents faced the highest poverty rate—a notable increase from the 2021 rate of 17.7 percent and one that surpassed the 2019 rate of 20.7 percent. Hispanic individuals experienced a poverty rate of 23.4 percent in 2022, which statistically does not differ from the 2019 pre-pandemic rate. Similarly, Asian residents had a poverty rate of 21.9 percent in 2022, which statistically does not differ from the 2019 pre-pandemic rate. In 2022, at 14.7 percent, White residents continued to have the lowest poverty rate—yet its increase from 9.5 percent and 12 percent in 2021 and 2019, respectively, was statistically significant in both cases.

Figure 2. Poverty rate by select demographic characteristics and years

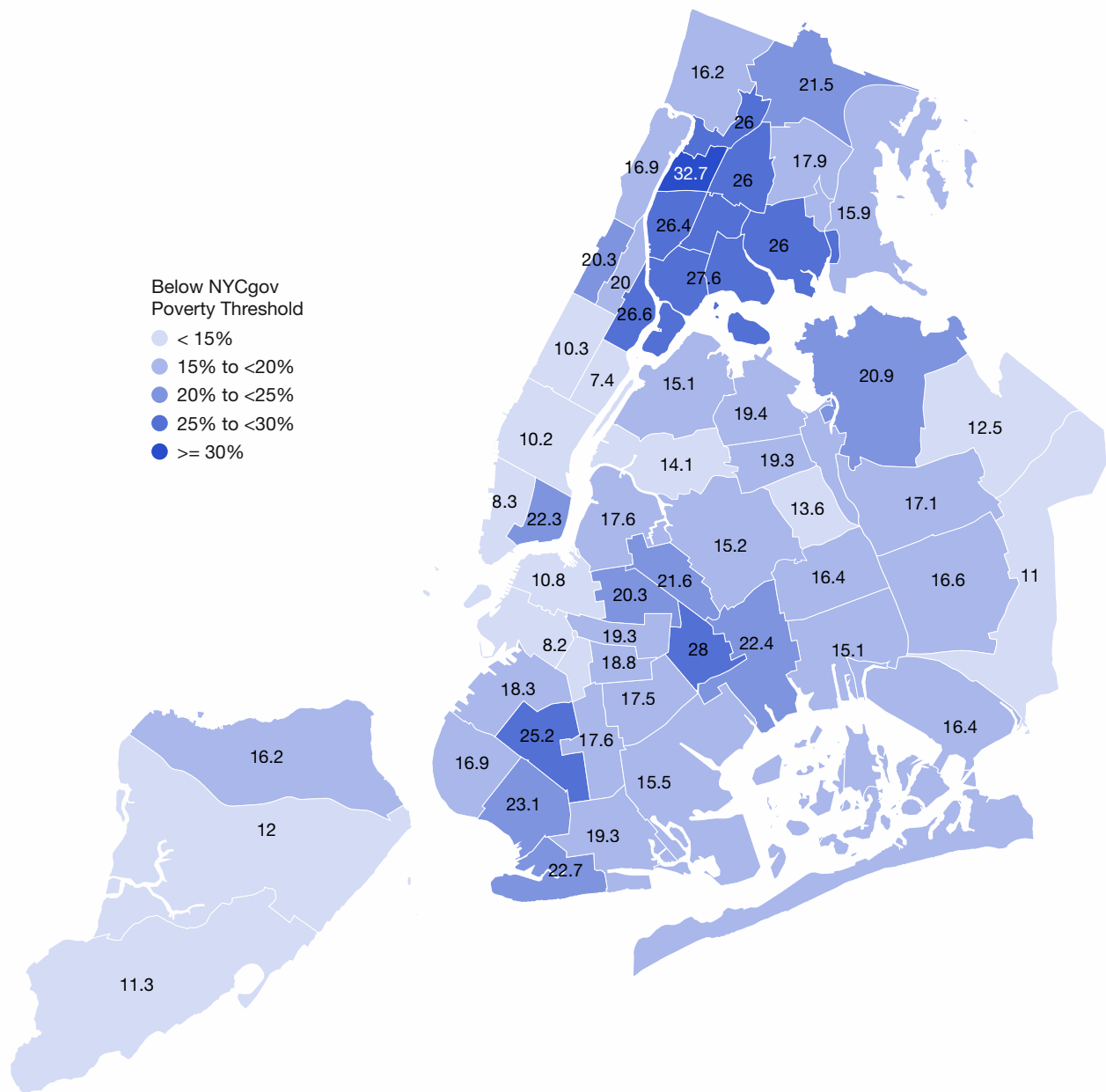| Category	NYCgov Poverty Rate			2019 ● 2021 ▲ 2022 ■	Percentage Point Change	
	2019	**2021**	**2022**		**2021–2022**	**2019–2022**
Citywide						
Poverty	18.7%	14.5%	20.5%		6.0*	1.7*
Gender						
Male	17.5%	13.5%	19.4%		5.9*	1.9*
Female	19.8%	15.3%	21.4%		6.1*	1.6*
Age Group						
Less than 18	21.8%	11.3%	24.2%		12.9*	2.3*
18–64	16.7%	14.6%	18.6%		4.0*	1.9*
65 and Over	23.1%	18.2%	23.0%		4.9*	-0.1
Ethnicity						
Non-Hispanic White	12.0%	9.5%	14.7%		5.2*	2.7*
Non-Hispanic Black	20.7%	17.7%	24.6%		6.9*	3.9*
Non-Hispanic Asian	21.7%	16.0%	21.9%		5.9*	0.3
Hispanic, Any Race	23.3%	16.9%	23.4%		6.5*	0.1
Educational Attainment						
Less than High School	29.0%	23.2%	31.5%		8.3*	2.5*
High School Diploma or Equivalent	21.8%	18.1%	25.3%		7.1*	3.5*
Some College	15.7%	16.5%	19.2%		2.7*	3.4*
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	7.2%	7.3%	8.4%		1.1*	1.3*
Work Status						
Full Time (FT)	6.4%	3.4%	6.6%		3.1*	0.2
Less than FT	21.8%	18.6%	25.7%		7.1*	3.8*
No Work	38.5%	31.0%	40.4%		9.4*	1.8
Citizenship						
Citizen by Birth	17.5%	13.0%	19.3%		6.4*	1.8*
Citizen, Naturalized	18.9%	14.5%	20.9%		6.5*	2.0*
Not a Citizen	23.5%	20.9%	24.6%		3.8*	1.1
Borough						
Bronx	27.0%	18.3%	26.4%		8.2*	-0.6
Brooklyn	20.1%	15.1%	23.0%		7.9*	2.9*
Manhattan	13.7%	13.1%	15.3%		2.2*	1.7*
Queens	16.9%	13.3%	18.5%		5.2*	1.6*
Staten Island	12.7%	10.1%	15.6%		5.5*	2.9*
				10% 20% 30% 40%		

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: Displayed table values are rounded to one decimal place for clarity. However, reported differences are calculated using unrounded values for accuracy, which may result in minor variation in displayed differences due to rounding.

* Indicates a statistically significant difference from 2022.

These disparities by ethnicity were even more pronounced when examining poverty rates across New York City's neighborhoods using the 2018–2022 ACS five-year file (see Figure 3 and Table 2). For example, Morris Heights and Mount Hope in the Bronx, predominantly Hispanic (69.6 percent) with a sizable Black population (25.6 percent), had the highest poverty rate at 32.7 percent (Table 2). High poverty rates were also observed in Brownsville and Ocean Hill in Brooklyn (28 percent), and Melrose, Mott Haven, Longwood, and Hunts Point in the Bronx (27.6 percent). In contrast, neighborhoods with predominantly Non-Hispanic White populations had the lowest rates, including the Upper East Side (7.4 percent) and Financial District/Greenwich Village in Manhattan (8.3 percent), followed by Park Slope and Carroll Gardens in Brooklyn (8.2 percent) (Figure 3). These variations underscore persistent racial and economic inequities present throughout the city.

Figure 3. Poverty rate by neighborhood, 2018–2022 (Citywide rate: 17.9 percent)

Below NYCgov
Poverty Threshold

- < 15%
- 15% to <20%
- 20% to <25%
- 25% to <30%
- >= 30%

16.2   21.5
26
16.9   32.7   17.9
26   15.9
26.4   26
20.3   20   27.6
26.6
10.3   20.9
7.4   15.1
10.2   19.4   12.5
14.1   19.3
8.3   13.6   17.1
22.3   17.6
10.8   15.2   16.4   16.6   11
20.3   21.6
8.2   19.3   28   22.4
18.8   15.1
18.3   17.5
16.9   25.2   17.6   16.4
23.1   15.5
16.2   19.3
12   22.7

11.3

Source: Five-year average of 2018–2022 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample files, as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Notes: Poverty rates reflect the five-year average over the 2018–2022 period. The 2018–2022 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file contains a mix of 2010-based and 2020-based Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) codes. The neighborhoods are constructed based on PUMA codes. Certain neighborhoods are combined to reconcile dual vintage PUMAs.

Table 2. Racial/ethnic composition of neighborhoods with highest and lowest poverty rates, 2018–2022

	Highest Poverty Neighborhoods				Lowest Poverty Neighborhoods		
	5-Year Average Poverty Rate	Race/Ethnicity	Share of Population		5-Year Average Poverty Rate	Race/Ethnicity	Share of Population
Morris Heights and Mount Hope	32.7%	Non-Hispanic Asian	1.1%	Upper East Side	7.4%	Non-Hispanic Asian	10.5%
		Non-Hispanic Black	25.6%			Non-Hispanic Black	2.8%
		Hispanic	69.6%			Hispanic	9.2%
		Non-Hispanic White	1.3%			Non-Hispanic White	74.2%
Brownsville and Ocean Hill	28.0%	Non-Hispanic Asian	1.6%	Park Slope and Carroll Gardens	8.2%	Non-Hispanic Asian	8.3%
		Non-Hispanic Black	67.1%			Non-Hispanic Black	7.3%
		Hispanic	23.3%			Hispanic	15.3%
		Non-Hispanic White	3.9%			Non-Hispanic White	63.1%
Melrose, Mott Haven, and Longwood; Hunts Point	27.6%	Non-Hispanic Asian	0.5%	Financial District; Greenwich Village	8.3%	Non-Hispanic Asian	15.8%
		Non-Hispanic Black	23.7%			Non-Hispanic Black	2.5%
		Hispanic	72.4%			Hispanic	8.5%
		Non-Hispanic White	1.8%			Non-Hispanic White	68.7%
East Harlem	26.6%	Non-Hispanic Asian	8.6%	Murray Hill; Gramercy; Stuyvesant Town	10.2%	Non-Hispanic Asian	16.3%
		Non-Hispanic Black	29.1%			Non-Hispanic Black	3.7%
		Hispanic	44.8%			Hispanic	12.8%
		Non-Hispanic White	13.3%			Non-Hispanic White	62.0%
Highbridge and Concourse	26.4%	Non-Hispanic Asian	1.3%	Upper West Side and West Side	10.3%	Non-Hispanic Asian	10.0%
		Non-Hispanic Black	31.2%			Non-Hispanic Black	4.5%
		Hispanic	61.7%			Hispanic	14.7%
		Non-Hispanic White	3.4%			Non-Hispanic White	66.6%

Source: Five-year average of 2018–2022 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample files as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: The 2018–2022 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file contains a mix of 2010-based and 2020-based Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) codes. The neighborhoods are constructed based on PUMA codes. Certain neighborhoods are combined to reconcile dual vintage PUMAs.

As Figure 2 illustrates, disparities in poverty experience are also present along the dimensions of nativity and citizenship status. Factors such as whether individuals are native-born U.S. citizens, naturalized citizens, or non-citizens significantly affect economic opportunities and access to resources, thereby influencing

poverty rates. In 2022, at 24.6 percent, non-citizens had the highest poverty rate—a 3.8 percentage point increase from 20.9 percent in 2021 and a 1.1 percentage point rise from the 2019 pre-pandemic rate of 23.5 percent. Between 2019 and 2022, naturalized citizens saw a 2 percentage point increase—from 18.9 percent in 2019 to 20.9 percent in 2022. In comparison, U.S.-born citizens had a poverty rate of 19.3 percent in 2022, up from 13 percent in 2021 and 17.5 percent in 2019, both statistically significant increases. These differences highlight the vulnerability of immigrant populations during and after the pandemic.

In 2022, poverty rates varied considerably by education level. Individuals without a high school diploma or equivalent had a poverty rate of 31.5 percent, exceeding both 2021 and pre-pandemic levels. High school graduates had a poverty rate of 25.3 percent, surpassing 2021 and 2019 rates of 18.1 percent and 21.8 percent, respectively. Those with some college education had a poverty rate of 19.2 percent, higher than both the 2021 and 2019 rates. At 8.4 percent, individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher had the lowest poverty rate, slightly exceeding 2021 and 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Employment status also significantly correlated with poverty outcomes. In 2022, individuals who did not work in the past 12 months faced the highest poverty rate: 40.4 percent—a substantial increase from 31 percent in 2021 and near the 2019 level of 38.5 percent. Part-time workers had a poverty rate of 25.7 percent, exceeding both 2021 and 2019 levels. Full-time workers had the lowest poverty rate; at 6.6 percent, higher than in 2021 but close to the pre-pandemic rate of 6.4 percent.

Geographically, poverty remained highest in the Bronx at 26.4 percent, slightly lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 27 percent but significantly higher than the 2021 rate of 18.3 percent. Brooklyn's poverty rate rose to 23 percent, exceeding 2021 and 2019 rates. Queens had a poverty rate of 18.5 percent, surpassing the 2019 rate of 16.9 percent and the 2021 rate of 13.3 percent. Staten Island and Manhattan had 2022 poverty rates of 15.6 percent and 15.3 percent, respectively, higher than 2021 and pre-pandemic levels.

In sum, poverty remained higher for marginalized subgroups in 2022, disproportionately impacting people of color, women, and immigrants. Persistent disparities underscore the urgent need for targeted anti-poverty policies to address these disparities and support those most affected by economic challenges.

Why Did the 2022 NYCgov Poverty Rate Increase So Much More than in Previous Years?

The citywide poverty rate rose in 2022 by the largest amount on record in data going back to 2005. The rise coincides with a sharp increase in the NYCgov poverty threshold and a pullback of Covid-era relief benefits. In 2022, the NYCgov poverty threshold for a reference family of two adults and two children rose to $44,297, a 10 percent increase from $40,288 in 2021 (see Table 3). This growth is substantially higher than the 3.5 to 5.1 percent annual increases from 2017 to 2021 (not shown) and far outpaces the 2022 inflation rate of 6.1 percent in the New York metropolitan area (see Table 3). Increased inflation and higher costs of living in the city contributed to the higher 2022 threshold, which exceeded the 2019 threshold by 20.3 percent (not shown).[4]

Table 3. Year-over-year changes in the NYCgov poverty threshold and New York metropolitan area inflation rates, 2019–2022

	Year				Percent Change		
	2019	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2019–2020**	**2020–2021**	**2021–2022**
NYCgov Poverty Threshold	$36,817	$38,337	$40,288	$44,297	4.1	5.1	10.0
New York Metropolitan Area's Annual Inflation Rate	-	1.8	3.2	6.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: The 2020 threshold value is included in this table because thresholds are constructed independently from ACS data and therefore are not subject to the data quality issues of 2020 ACS data. N/A: Inflation rates represent the year-over-year percentage change in the price index. Therefore, the year-over-year percentage point changes for inflation rates are not reported.
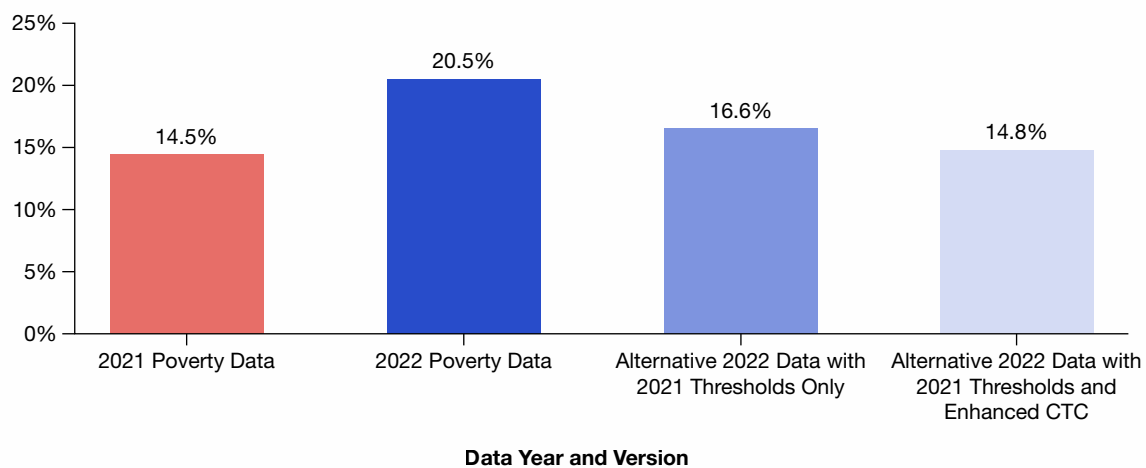
The second factor contributing to the rise in poverty in 2022 was the expiration of Covid-era relief benefits, particularly the enhanced CTC. In 2021, the enhanced CTC reduced poverty across the city by 2.5 percentage points (not shown). By contrast, the non-enhanced CTC that resumed in 2022 reduced poverty by just 1.6 percentage points (see "Role of Income Support" section below).

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4   A similar rise was observed in 2022 SPM thresholds for the nation, which serves as the basis of the NYCgov threshold. The 2022 SPM thresholds increased by 9.7 percent for renters and 10 percent for owners with a mortgage. The BLS analysis indicates that the primary factor behind the surge in the SPM threshold was the high inflation rate, which accounted for 7.2 percentage points of the threshold jump (see https://www.bls.gov/pir/journal/2021_2022_spm_analysis.pdf). But while inflation played the biggest role, other factors, such as updates to the underlying data to calculate national SPM thresholds and improvements to the in-kind benefit imputation codes, also contributed to the threshold increases.

To quantify the relative influences of these two factors on the poverty rate, an alternative NYCgov poverty measure was computed using the 2021 threshold and incorporating the enhanced CTC as part of family resources (see Figure 4). Under this alternative measure, the poverty rate would have been 16.6 percent in 2022, nearly 4 percentage points lower than the actual 2022 rate. Furthermore, if the enhanced CTC were to be included in resources, the alternative poverty rate would have dropped by an additional 1.8 percentage points to 14.8 percent.

Together, the increased threshold and expiration of pandemic relief benefits explain much of the rise in poverty, with the threshold increase alone accounting for two-thirds of the rise.

Figure 4. NYCgov poverty rate by data year and version

Data Year and Version

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: All poverty rates significantly differ except between 2021 and the alternative 2022 rate with 2021 thresholds and enhanced CTC.

Strong but Uneven Post-Pandemic Labor Market Recovery

The New York City labor market experienced a tremendous rebound from epic Covid-19-related collapse. In 2022, the employment-to-population ratio for adults ages 18–64 reached 73.4 percent, just 1.1 percentage points shy of the 2019 pre-pandemic level. Likewise, the unemployment rate fell from the 2021 peak of 11.8 percent to 6.2 percent but remained 1.2 percentage points above 2019

levels. Full-time work also rebounded from the 2021 post-pandemic rate of 47.1 percent to 53.8 percent in 2022. (See Table 4.)

Table 4. Labor market characteristics of New Yorkers ages 18–64: 2019, 2021, and 2022

	Year			Percentage Point Change	
	2019	**2021**	**2022**	**2019–2020**	**2021–2022**
Employment/Population Ratio	74.5%	67.7%	73.4%	5.7	-1.1
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	11.8%	6.2%	-5.6	1.2
Full-time Employed Workers	56.2%	47.1%	53.8%	6.7	-2.4

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: Annual changes are statistically significant.

Although the labor market improved for many demographic groups between 2021 and 2022, significant disparities remained, largely due to a long history of occupational segregation, persistent discrimination, and unequal bargaining power. Recovery was fundamentally stunted for Black and Hispanic adults of prime working age (24–54). This narrowed age range allows NYC Opportunity to examine workforce disparities while excluding both younger workers, who may be seeking further education, and older workers, who may be leaving the labor force. This restriction is particularly important given people's decisions to continue education or retire early in response to the contraction of the labor market during the height of the pandemic. Black and Hispanic employment-to-population ratios remained over 3 percentage points lower in 2022 than in 2019, a difference more than twice as high as that for Whites and Asians (see Table 5).

Table 5. Employment-to-population ratio for prime working age New Yorkers by ethnicity: 2019, 2021, and 2022
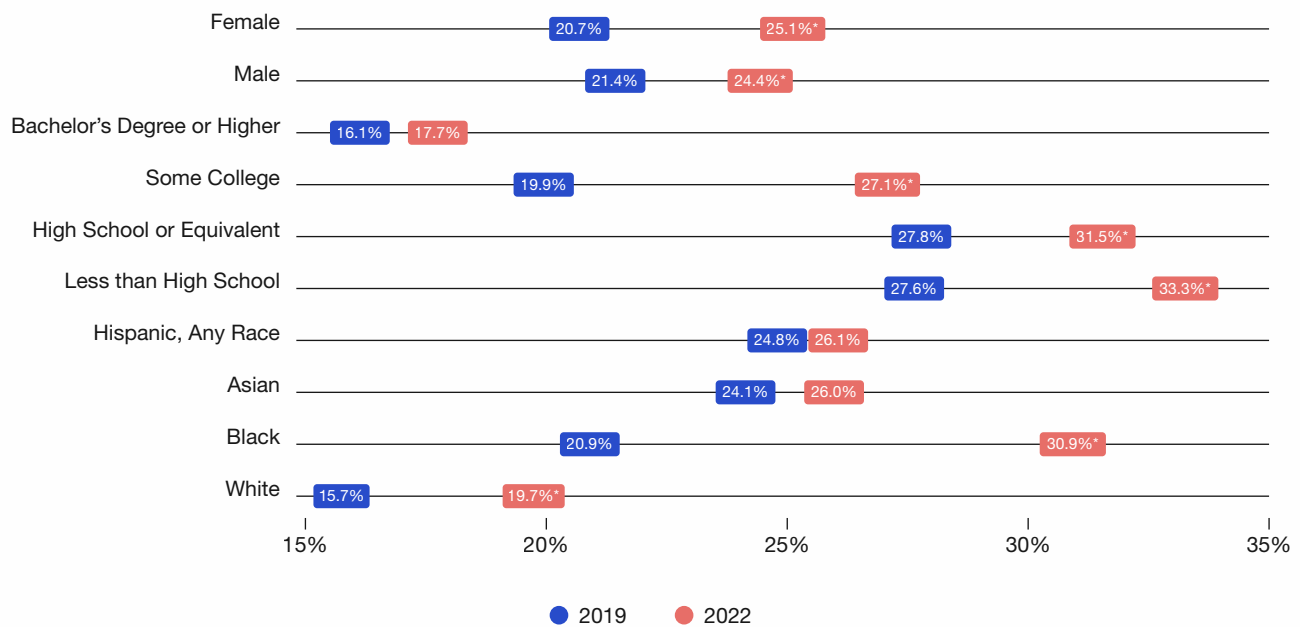
	Year			Percent Change		
	2019	**2021**	**2022**	**2019–2021**	**2021–2022**	**2019–2022**
Non-Hispanic White	86.1%	81.4%	84.9%	-5.5	4.3	-1.4
Non-Hispanic Black	76.5%	68.8%	74.1%	-10.1	7.7	-3.1
Asian	80.4%	73.5%	80.8%	-8.6	9.9	0.5
Hispanic	79.1%	69.5%	76.5%	-12.1	10.1	-3.3

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: Prime working age is defined as between the ages of 24 and 54.

A notable rise in part-time workers also occurred in 2022 relative to 2019, and these part-time workers were financially worse off. Part-time workers accounted for 15.5 percent of working-age adults in 2022, an increase of 2.6 percentage points from 2019 pre-pandemic levels (not shown). The pandemic worsened employment for groups across the city and exacerbated preexisting inequities, particularly for part-time workers of color and part-time workers with lower levels of educational attainment. For example, the poverty rate for White part-time workers rose to 19.7 percent in 2022, 4 percentage points higher than 2019. By contrast, the poverty rate for Black part-time workers rose to 30.9 percent, a jump of 10 percentage points from 2019. Additionally, significantly more part-time workers with some college education slipped into poverty in 2022. Women, who are more likely to work part-time due to childcare and other caretaking roles, were also more likely to be in poverty in 2022 than 2019. (See Figure 5.)

Figure 5. Poverty rates among part-time workers (ages 24–54), by select demographic characteristics

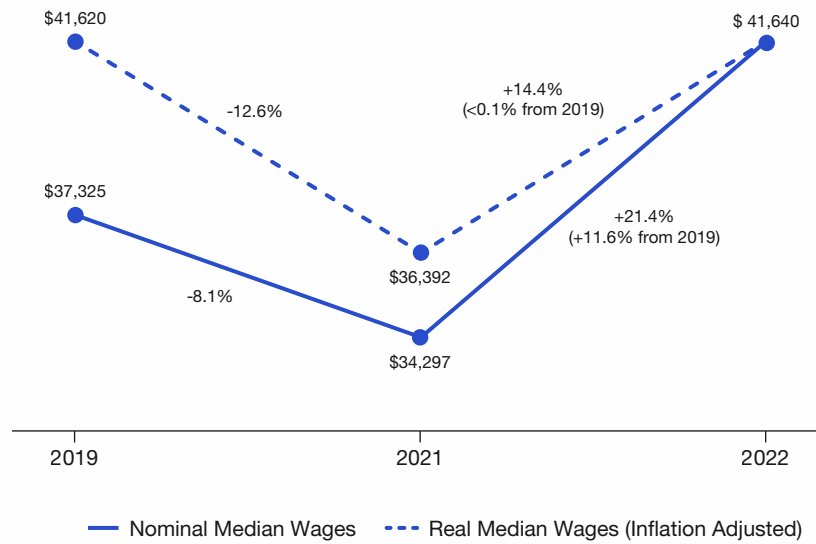|	2019	2022
Female	20.7%	25.1%*
Male	21.4%	24.4%*
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16.1%	17.7%
Some College	19.9%	27.1%*
High School or Equivalent	27.8%	31.5%*
Less than High School	27.6%	33.3%*
Hispanic, Any Race	24.8%	26.1%
Asian	24.1%	26.0%
Black	20.9%	30.9%*
White	15.7%	19.7%*

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

∗ Denotes a statistically significant difference between 2019 and 2022 at 90 percent confidence intervals.

Finally, inflation outpaced wage gains in 2022. Median wages for prime working-age adults improved against 2021 declines as workers returned to the labor force. Median wages in 2022 were $41,640, 21.4 percent higher than in 2021 and 11.6 percent higher than in 2019 (see Figure 6). However, adults reporting no wages still remained 6.8 percent higher than in 2019 (not shown). Further, inflation negated the gains in median wages between 2019 and 2022, resulting in a near-zero percent change (less than 0.1 percent) in inflation-adjusted median wages from 2019.

Figure 6. Median wages for prime working-age adults (24–54), by year

$41,620

-12.6%

+14.4%
(<0.1% from 2019)

$ 41,640

$37,325

$36,392

+21.4%
(+11.6% from 2019)

-8.1%

$34,297

2019   2021   2022

— Nominal Median Wages   --- Real Median Wages (Inflation Adjusted)
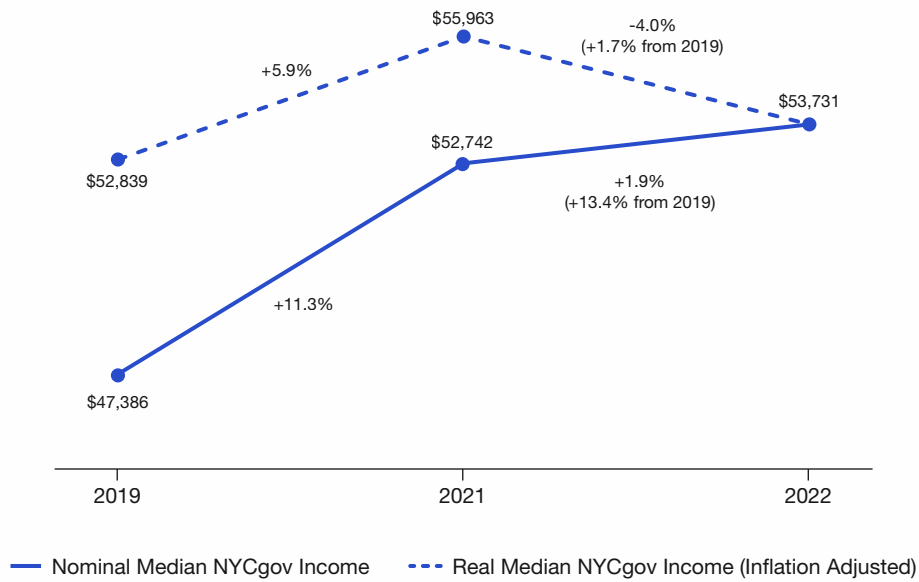
Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: Inflation adjustments based on all items for the New York metropolitan area. Median wage estimates include adults who reported $0 in wage earnings.

Dynamics of Family Resources as Captured by NYCgov Income

Strong labor market recovery did not translate into higher family income in 2022, as Figure 7 illustrates. The median value of the NYCgov resource measure rose by 1.9 percent, from $52,742 in 2021 to $53,731 in 2022. This nominal growth was inadequate to blunt the inflation shocks of 2022. Between 2021 and 2022, prices increased by 6.1 percent in the New York metropolitan area (see Table 3), driving down real growth in family resources to -4 percent (see Figure 7).

Figure 7. NYCgov median family income, by year

Nominal values: $47,386 (2019), $52,742 (2021), $53,731 (2022)
Real (Inflation Adjusted) values: $52,839 (2019), $55,963 (2021), $53,731 (2022)

+11.3% (nominal, 2019 to 2021)
+1.9% (+13.4% from 2019) (nominal, 2021 to 2022)
+5.9% (real, 2019 to 2021)
-4.0% (+1.7% from 2019) (real, 2021 to 2022)

— Nominal Median NYCgov Income   - - - Real Median NYCgov Income (Inflation Adjusted)

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.
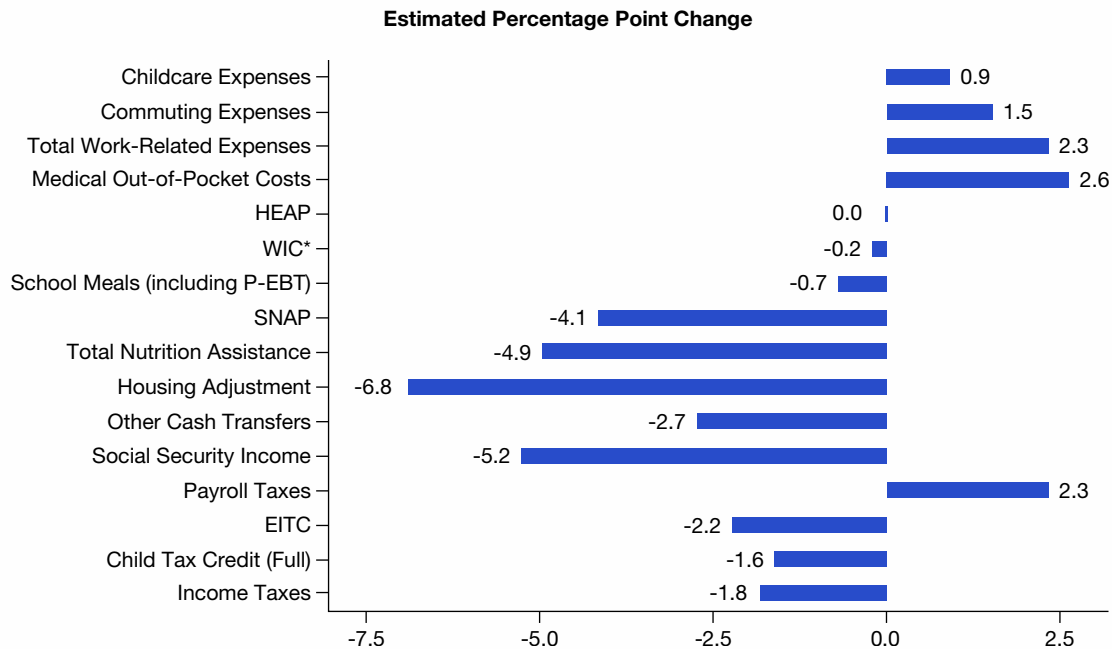Note: Inflation adjustments based on all items for the New York metropolitan area.

The disconnect between improvements in workforce statistics in 2022 and the financial instability of families highlights the importance of a comprehensive understanding of the broader economic landscape of low-income families, even as workers returned to the labor market. While employment opportunities expanded and conditions improved from the pandemic-induced contraction, many New Yorkers were left economically stranded by factors such as rising living costs, stagnant wages, and the erosion of benefits. As employment gains alone cannot ensure economic stability and equity for all, more effective strategies are required to address the quality and sustainability of the jobs created.

Role of Income Support

Figure 8 shows the comparative effects of NYCgov resource components on the reduction or growth of the poverty rate. Elements that lower the poverty rate are found to the left of zero and those that raise it are found to the right. Each bar shows the effect of the absence of a specific component on the poverty rate. In the absence of housing assistance, for example, which lowers the poverty rate by 6.8 percentage points, the 2022 poverty rate would be 6.8 percentage points

higher, or 27.3 percent. In the absence of medical out-of-pocket expenditure (MOOP), the poverty rate would be 2.6 percentage points lower, or 17.9 percent.

Figure 8. Marginal impact of select sources of income and expenses on the NYCgov poverty rate, 2022

Estimated Percentage Point Change

Category	Value
Childcare Expenses	0.9
Commuting Expenses	1.5
Total Work-Related Expenses	2.3
Medical Out-of-Pocket Costs	2.6
HEAP	0.0
WIC*	-0.2
School Meals (including P-EBT)	-0.7
SNAP	-4.1
Total Nutrition Assistance	-4.9
Housing Adjustment	-6.8
Other Cash Transfers	-2.7
Social Security Income	-5.2
Payroll Taxes	2.3
EITC	-2.2
Child Tax Credit (Full)	-1.6
Income Taxes	-1.8

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

∗ WIC refers to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Changes in policies, benefits eligibility, and economic context can alter how different resources and expenses impact poverty year to year. While some modifications have relatively minor effects on poverty, it is essential to assess the impact of any specific change within the broader financial context of a given year. For example, with the expiration of the enhanced CTC, the credit reverted to its usual form in 2022. As opposed to 2021 when the credit was larger, fully refundable, and available to families regardless of earnings, the 2022 credit was smaller, and both the refundable and non-refundable portions were contingent on families meeting a minimum income requirement. Consequently, the CTC only lowered poverty by 1.6 percentage points in 2022 as opposed to 2.5 percentage points in 2021 (not shown).
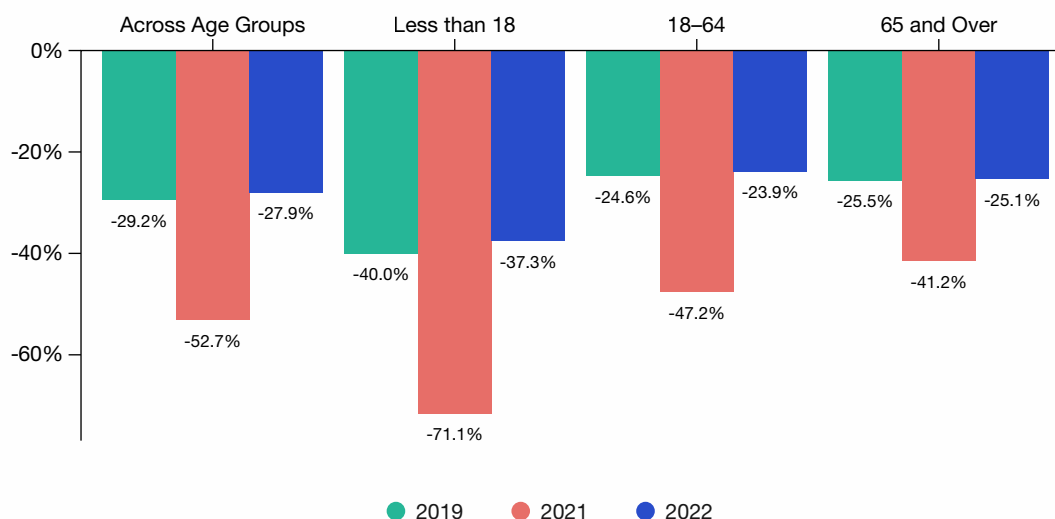
Similarly, the income tax component had a smaller impact on the 2022 poverty rate than in prior years. This component reflects the amount families pay on income earned, as well as the value of credits like the CTC and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Since many lower-income New Yorkers receive more in credits than they pay in taxes, the income tax component usually reduces the poverty level. In 2022, income taxes lowered poverty by 1.8 percentage points—a smaller than usual impact even compared to the pre-pandemic years without

credit enhancements. The lower impact, however, does not mean income tax credits did not help New Yorkers in poverty. Rather, living costs were so high in 2022 that income tax credits did not push as many families above the poverty line as in prior years.

Combined with tax credits,[5] social safety net programs maintained a vital role in mitigating poverty in 2022, achieving a citywide reduction in poverty of 27.9 percent. However, the combined effect of assistance and credits was less pronounced than in 2021, when pandemic-era relief programs led to a historic decrease in poverty of 52.7 percent. (See Figure 9.)

The effect of government assistance and tax credits is not evenly distributed across the population in poverty. Age and family structure are two of the most salient categories to correspond with differences in benefit outcomes. Figure 9 also shows how income enhancements lowered the poverty rate by age group. In 2021, benefits like the enhanced CTC were targeted toward families with children. This targeting amplified the outcome of a benefit system already structured to focus on relieving child poverty, reducing it by 71.1 percent. In contrast to the enhanced CTC, the third EIP was more broadly targeted and, unlike prior stimulus payments, included elderly dependents. As such, the 2021 combined benefits reduced both adult and elderly poverty by over 40 percent—substantially more than in 2019 but less than for child poverty.

Figure 9. Percent decline in poverty from government assistance and tax credits, by age group
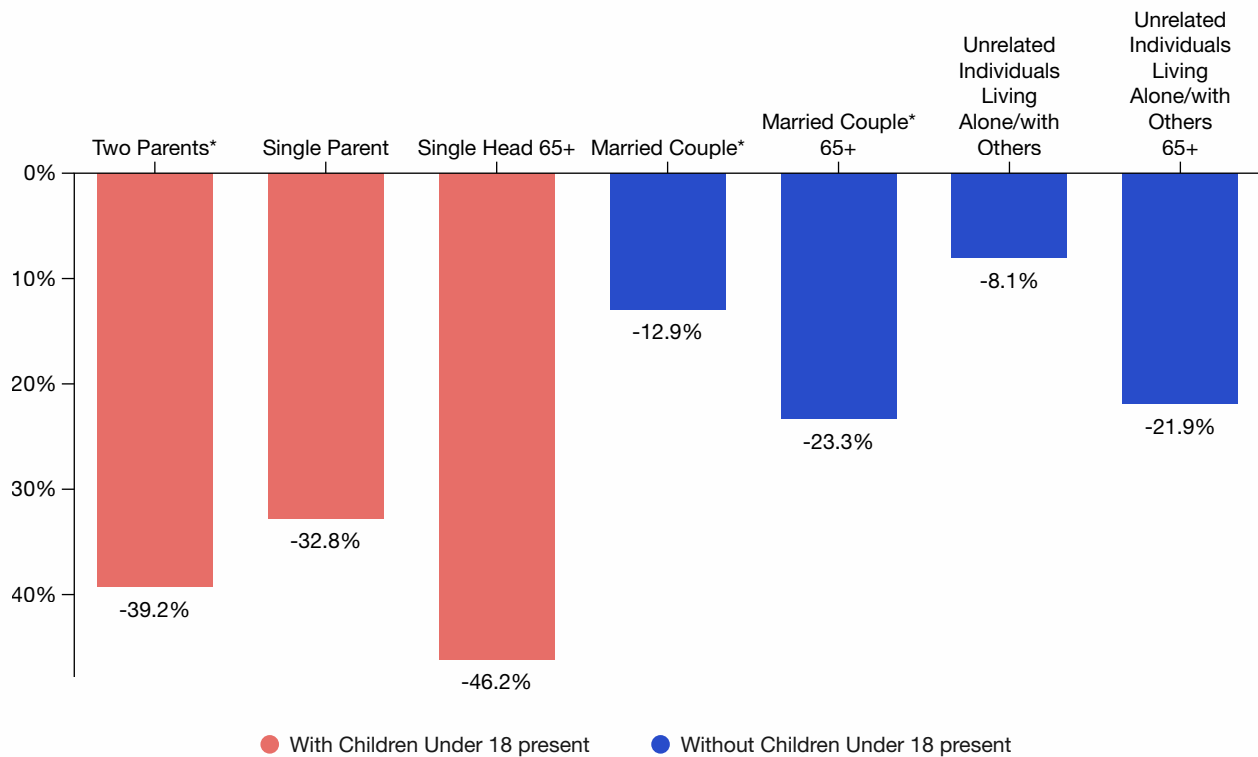

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

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5   In 2019, benefits included nutrition, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), other cash transfers, and tax credits. In 2021, benefits also included Covid-era relief efforts, such as the third stimulus payment and the enhanced CTC. In 2022, most pandemic relief efforts had expired, although the temporary expansion of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits remained in effect.

Figure 10 shows how the combined impact of government assistance programs differs by family type. In particular, families with children received assistance that comprised the largest offset to their poverty rate across the years. This targeting was intentional, as many programs were designed to give a greater share of benefits to families with children. Similar but less generous benefits were established for elderly New Yorkers. Childless working-age adults received minimal relief from benefit programs as their incomes mostly consist of earned income, scant tax credits, and minimal other benefits. Even the largest refundable tax credit, the EITC, had a disproportionately lower impact on single adults, married couples, and elderly filers without children. Although the one-time EITC expansion increased the percent decline in poverty for these groups in 2021, declines in 2022 generally returned to 2019 levels.

Figure 10. Percent decline in poverty from government assistance and tax credits by select family type, 2022
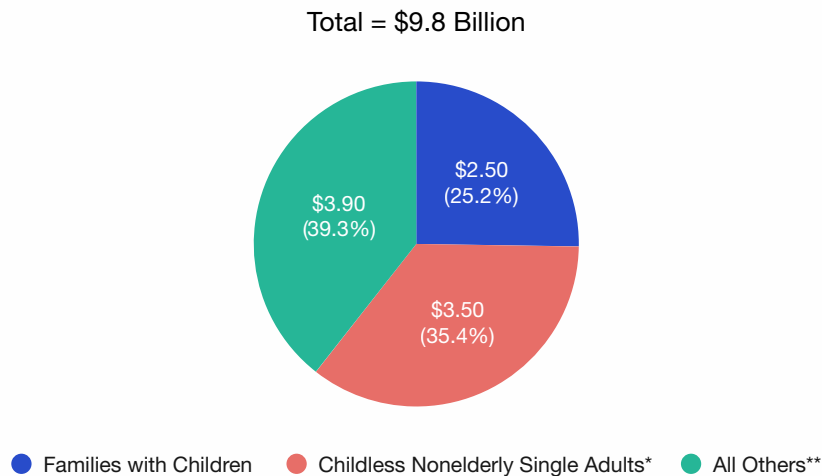

Legend: ● With Children Under 18 present   ● Without Children Under 18 present

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

∗ Unmarried partners included.

Poverty Gap

For those in poverty, the distance below the poverty threshold is known as the poverty gap. The poverty gap is the amount of resources individuals and families need to cross the threshold out of poverty. The amount can differ for each family. Figure 11 makes it clear that different families have different quantities of need in order to reach the poverty threshold. The poverty gap for New York City as a whole in 2022 was $9.8 billion, a sharp increase from $7.9 billion in 2019 (not shown). The poverty gap varies greatly by family status. In 2022, families with children had the smallest gap: $2.5 billion. That figure represented the total amount needed to end child poverty, if optimally distributed among families. Childless nonelderly single adults, the population with the least access to public benefits, needed $3.5 billion in support to be lifted out of poverty.

Figure 11. Poverty gap in dollars (billions), 2022

Total = $9.8 Billion

● Families with Children   ● Childless Nonelderly Single Adults*   ● All Others**

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

* Childless nonelderly single adults are those living alone or with unrelated individuals, excluding those who are living with unmarried partners.

** All others includes childless families and elderly single adults living alone or with unrelated others.

Degree of Poverty

While poverty rates are useful in understanding the distribution of poverty, they only mark differences between those with resources above or below the poverty threshold—a binary distinction around a line drawn in the sand. Yet not all poverty is alike. The distinction becomes clearer when measuring a family's distance from the poverty threshold. Some families live just below the threshold, with only a small gap in the resources necessary to cross that line. Other families live far below the threshold, with less than half the resources they need to escape poverty. All these families are classified as "poor," but the severity of poverty varies significantly. Families farther from the threshold face increased scarcity of essential resources, heightened stress, and a diminished chance of financial stability.

Table 6 shows population shares at select distances above and below the poverty threshold for 2019, 2021, and 2022. The green segment highlights those living in poverty, including the deeply poor. The blue segment represents families near poverty, with resources between 100 percent and 200 percent of the threshold. Many in the latter group remain economically fragile, and even minor disruptions can push them below the poverty line.

Table 6. Distribution of the population by degree of poverty

Degree of Poverty	Resource as Percent of Poverty Threshold	2019	2021	2022
Below Threshold (In Poverty)	Below 50%	5.2%	**4.5%**	**6.6%**
	50%–99%	13.6%	**9.9%**	**13.8%**
Above Threshold (Near Poverty)	100%–149%	22.8%	22.1%	22.5%
	150%–199%	15.2%	**18.7%**	**16.5%**
	>200%	43.2%	**44.7%**	**40.5%**

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.
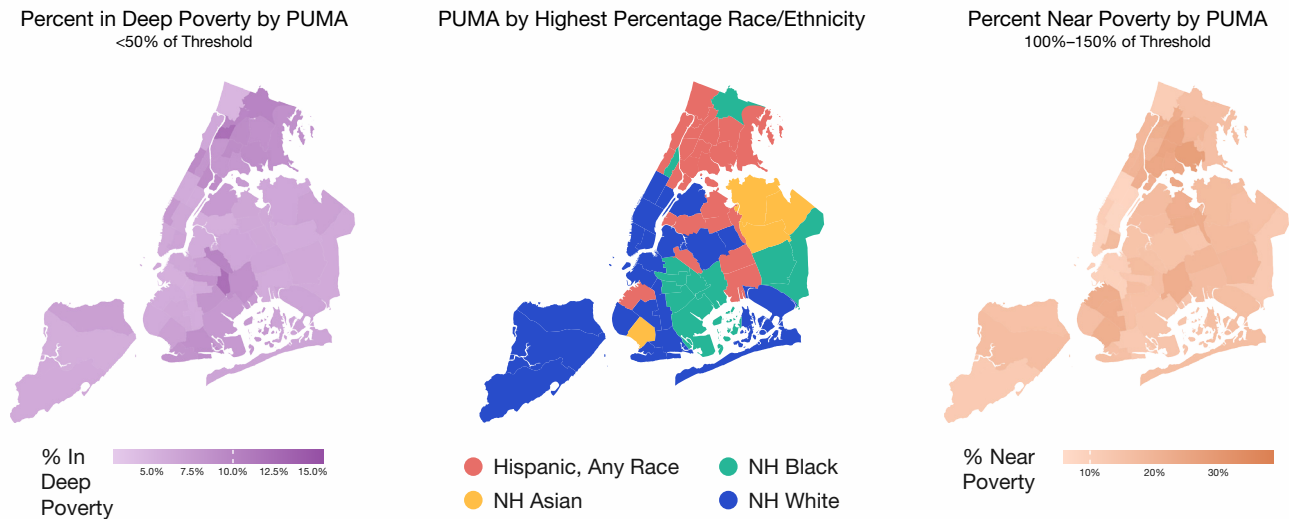
Note: Numbers in **bold** indicate a statistically significant change from the prior year.

Intersectionality in Depth of Poverty: Geography, Race/Ethnicity, Family Composition, Age, and Disability

The experience of poverty cannot be disentangled from other inequalities that shape society. Structural inequalities along the lines of gender, race/ethnicity, disability, and migration status are intrinsically connected to economic disadvantages. The intersection of such socioeconomic factors contributes to how people face multifaceted inequalities in everyday life, from health care, education, and affordable housing to gainful employment and advancement. This, in turn, manifests through the varying depths of poverty they experience.

Figure 12 presents a comparative analysis of three maps that illustrate (i) near poverty (family income between 100 percent and 150 percent of the NYCgov poverty threshold); (ii) predominant race/ethnicity; and (iii) deep poverty (family resources less than 50 percent of the poverty threshold) within Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs). The data indicates a notable correlation between geographical location and race/ethnicity and near and deep poverty rates. Specifically, PUMAs with a majority Hispanic population, including PUMAs in eastern Bronx, southwest Brooklyn, and west Queens significantly reflect the highest rates of individuals residing near the poverty threshold. In contrast, PUMAs with a majority Non-Hispanic Black population predominantly exhibit the highest rates of individuals living in deep poverty.

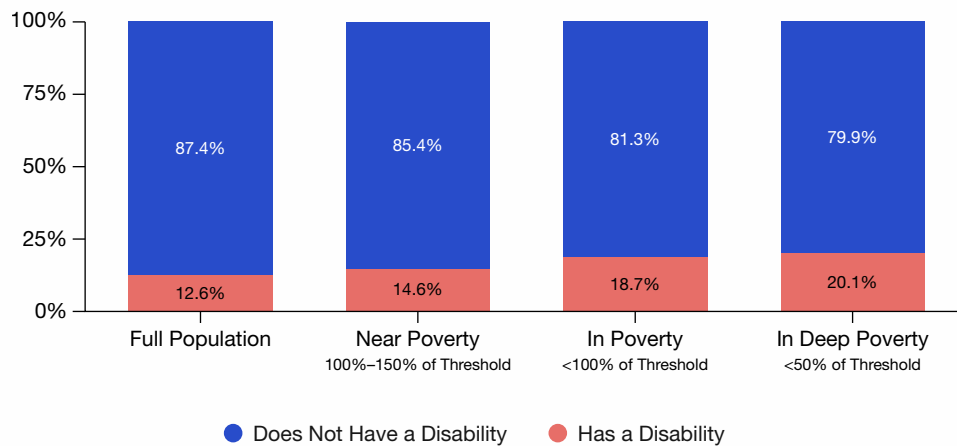**Figure 12. Poverty level and race/ethnicity by geographic area**

Percent in Deep Poverty by PUMA
<50% of Threshold

PUMA by Highest Percentage Race/Ethnicity

Percent Near Poverty by PUMA
100%–150% of Threshold

% In Deep Poverty   5.0% 7.5% 10.0% 12.5% 15.0%

● Hispanic, Any Race   ● NH Black
● NH Asian   ● NH White

% Near Poverty   10% 20% 30%

Source: American Community Survey 2022 Five-Year Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

The following section offers demographic profiles of the populations in near poverty and deep poverty, providing a further understanding of the manifestation of intersectionality. This information may inform effective policy responses targeting the most vulnerable and least financially secure New Yorkers. Figure 13 demonstrates that, as poverty deepens, individuals with disabilities constitute an increasingly significant portion of the population. For various reasons this is not surprising. Current economic, health care, and housing structures systematically disadvantage people with disabilities. People with disabilities have significantly lower employment rates than those without disabilities. Access to affordable and accessible housing is another major challenge for individuals with disabilities. Data from the 2023 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey[6] indicates that households with one or more individuals with disabilities are far more likely to be rent burdened than households without such individuals. People with disabilities who are unable to engage in employment and those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) face particular challenges, as the average housing costs in the city exceed the levels of federal assistance provided.

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6   See "2023 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey: Selected Initial Findings," available at:
     https://www.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdfs/about/2023%20NYCHVS%20Selected%20Initial%20Findings.pdf
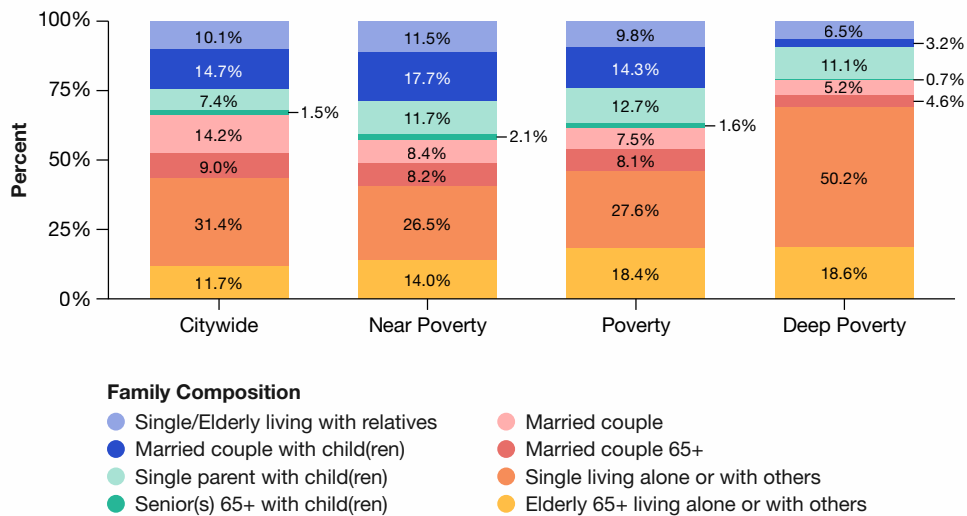
Figure 13. Poverty level by disability status

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Another striking pattern emerges in Figure 14. As depth of poverty increases, the proportion of individuals living alone or with unrelated others substantially increases. This demographic group constituted nearly two-thirds of the population experiencing deep poverty in 2022. A general understanding of this group remains notably less developed compared to others, which is a cause of concern.

Figure 14. Family composition by poverty level, 2022

Source: American Community Survey 2022 Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Note: Column percents may not sum to exactly 100 percent due to rounding.
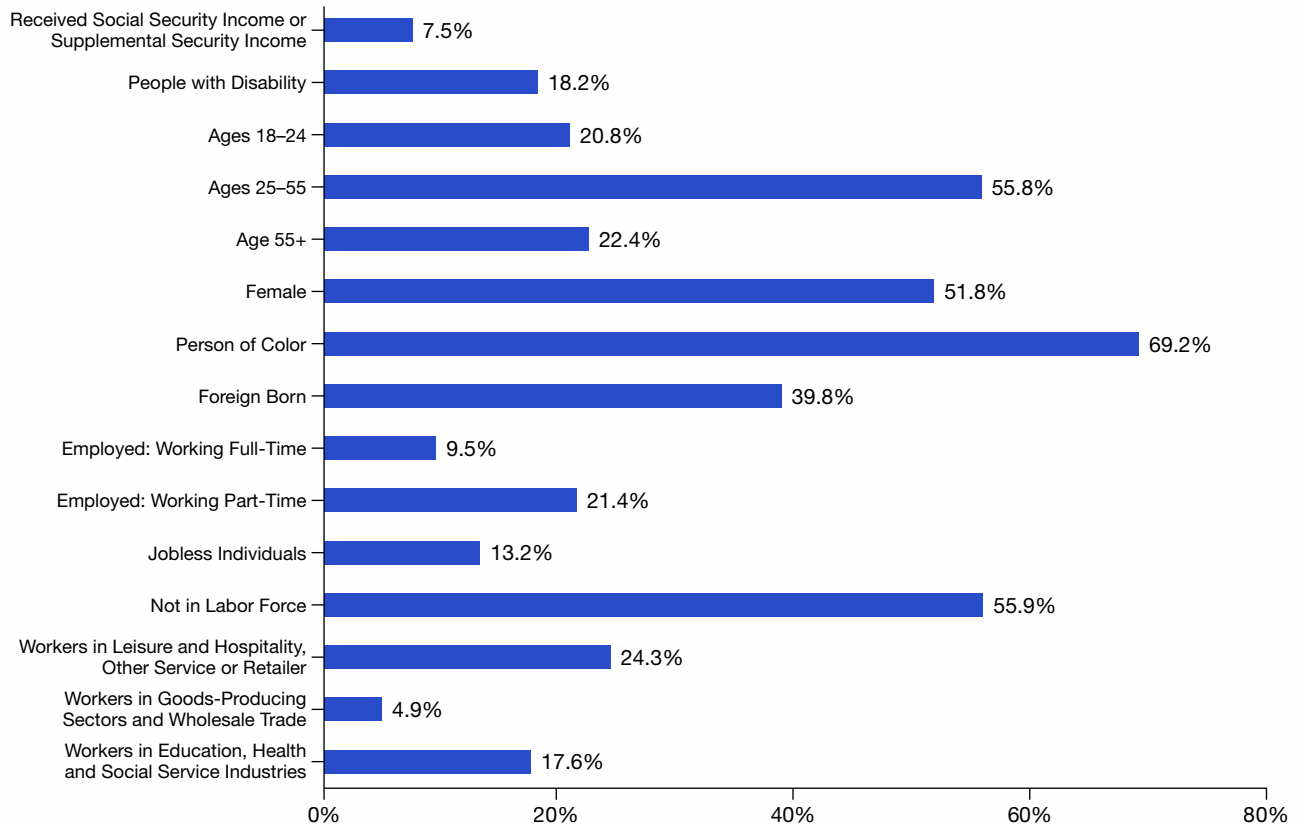
As previously discussed, single adults have less access to the government assistance programs and major refundable tax credits that more often target

families with children. Furthermore, current safety net programs are unresponsive to this population and overlook the realities of the low wage labor market.

Single adults in deep poverty have less access to stable jobs with predictable working hours, which makes meeting benefit employment requirements difficult if not impossible. Among these individuals, only 7.5 percent received Social Security benefits or SSI, 18.2 percent reported having a disability, and over half were working age (25 to 55 years old), indicating that most of this population could be classified as "able-bodied adults without dependents."[7] However, less than one-third of these adults were engaged in employment, either in full-time positions or part-time roles, while 13.2 percent were unemployed yet actively searching for jobs. Nearly half worked in low-wage sectors, including leisure and hospitality, retail and wholesale trade, and the health and social services industries. Notably, 55.9 percent of this population was not participating in the labor force at the time of the survey. Further, nearly 70 percent of the entirety of deeply poor nonelderly single adults discussed in Figure 15 were people of color and therefore had to contend with prejudice and a history of disenfranchisement from more stable employment and opportunities.

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7   The categorization of "able-bodied adults without dependents" is an administrative term referring to working-age adults without dependents and government-determined disabilities. The U.S. welfare system imposes strict work requirements on welfare recipients, reflecting a strong bias toward work. As a result, there is a notable gap in support for nonelderly, non-disabled single adults who struggle to meet the work requirement due to their own health issues, caregiving obligations, or precarious job situations.

Figure 15. Share of nonelderly single adults in deep poverty by select characteristics, 2018–2022

Characteristic	Value
Received Social Security Income or Supplemental Security Income	7.5%
People with Disability	18.2%
Ages 18–24	20.8%
Ages 25–55	55.8%
Age 55+	22.4%
Female	51.8%
Person of Color	69.2%
Foreign Born	39.8%
Employed: Working Full-Time	9.5%
Employed: Working Part-Time	21.4%
Jobless Individuals	13.2%
Not in Labor Force	55.9%
Workers in Leisure and Hospitality, Other Service or Retailer	24.3%
Workers in Goods-Producing Sectors and Wholesale Trade	4.9%
Workers in Education, Health and Social Service Industries	17.6%

Source: American Community Survey 2022 five-year Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.
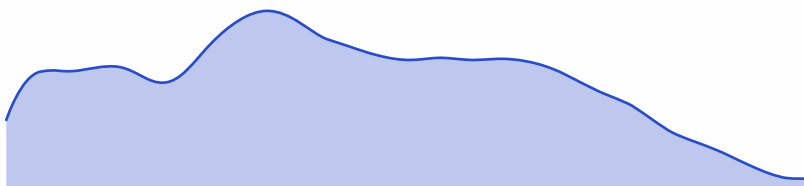
Note: To attain an adequate sample size, estimates reflect the five-year average from 2018–2022.

The panels in Figure 16 show the age distribution of individuals across different degrees of poverty. Panel A, representing the full population, displays a relatively balanced distribution that peaks around ages 25–30, followed by a gradual decline as age increases. In contrast, Panel B, depicting those near the poverty line, shifts toward younger ages. This is likely due to a concentration of young families with children in which parents are earlier in their earnings trajectory.
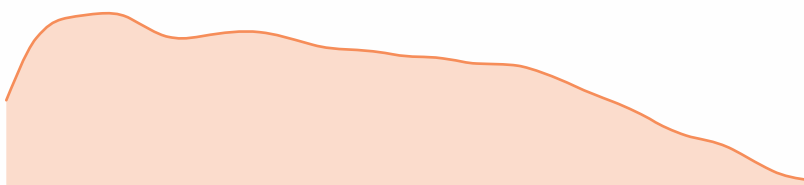
Panel C, the deep poverty group, shows a distinct bimodal distribution with peaks around age 25 and ages 60–65. The earlier peak is likely due to individuals starting their careers or continuing their education with limited financial resources and minimal access to benefits programs. The second peak (among those near retirement age) highlights a particularly vulnerable group facing age discrimination in the labor market, growing health issues, and limited access to age-restricted benefits like Social Security and Medicare. In contrast to the more uniform distribution in the full population, this bimodal pattern in deep poverty underscores the importance of age-specific strategies to effectively address poverty.

Figure 16. Age distribution across degrees of poverty

Panel A: Full Population

Panel B: Near Poverty
100%–150% of Threshold

Panel C: In Deep Poverty
<50% of Threshold

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Micro Sample as augmented by NYC Opportunity.

Policy Response

More than one in five New Yorkers, or 20.5 percent of city residents, lived in poverty in 2022—a higher percentage than in the prior year or in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic. This increase was not evenly distributed across all New Yorkers. Child poverty rose especially sharply, more than doubling since 2021 to 24.2 percent. Poverty rose for nearly all demographic groups as New Yorkers contended with stunted wages, higher costs of living, and the expiration of pandemic relief benefits like the Enhanced Child Tax Credit, stimulus checks, and enhanced unemployment insurance. Poverty remained disproportionately high among marginalized groups, with pronounced impacts on people of color, women, and immigrants. While the effectiveness of safety net programs waned in 2022 with the end of many pandemic-era initiatives, those benefits still played a crucial role in reducing poverty, lowering the citywide rate by 27.9 percent and the

child poverty rate by 37.3 percent. These results highlight the continued importance of such programs in a changing economic landscape.

This year's poverty brief provides strong support for an important principle: that increased government benefits are an effective way to fight poverty. The pandemic and the response of federal, state, and local governments functioned as a natural experiment in what happens when more money is directed to individuals and families in the lowest income groups. During the pandemic, we saw that well-designed, well-targeted government benefits programs can significantly reduce the number of people living in poverty and near poverty, with particularly large declines in children living in poverty. But we have also seen that their impact can be diminished by forces such as inflation. This year's brief highlights the need for adaptive strategies that consider changing economic conditions to ensure that our efforts to address poverty remain relevant and effective in the face of ongoing challenges.

The Adams administration has launched an array of initiatives proceeding from two core assumptions: that well-designed government interventions can make a significant impact in reducing poverty and that such initiatives must evolve and adapt to keep up with the current realities. One problem that has shown itself to be particularly persistent is the lack of affordable housing. In December 2024, the City adopted the Mayor's City of Yes plan, which calls for creating 80,000 new homes in the next 15 years.[8] As NYC Opportunity's Poverty Measure reports show every year, the lack of affordable housing is one of the main drivers of poverty in the city.

The difficulty of obtaining affordable childcare is another problem that currently looms large. In August 2024, Mayor Adams and the City Council announced a 10-point plan to make high-quality childcare more affordable and accessible for all New Yorkers.[9] Childcare benefits help low-income families in two important ways: first, they reduce the amount of money financially pressed families have to spend on childcare. Second, they help workers with young children work all of the hours they need to support their families.

There is always the need for a better infrastructure system to connect New Yorkers with the government benefits they qualify for. For this reason, benefits access is a critical part of any strategy for reducing poverty and increasing opportunity. The City has a number of important benefits access initiatives designed to help ensure that individuals and families are able to identify and apply for the help they are entitled to. Some of these initiatives are discussed below.

A centerpiece of the City's benefits access work is ACCESS NYC, a powerful online tool that NYC Opportunity owns and maintains. ACCESS NYC helps New Yorkers identify and apply for a wide array of federal, state, and local benefits.[10]

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8   https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/882-24/mayor-adams-governor-hochul-speaker-adams-celebrates-passage-most-pro-housing-proposal-in

9   https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/668-24/mayor-adams-city-council-historic-10-point-plan-make-high-quality-child-care-more#/0

10 https://access.nyc.gov/

In 2023, the Mayor announced the launch of NYCBenefits, a multiagency, cross-sector program to improve New Yorkers' access to federal, state, and local benefits.[11] As part of NYCBenefits, the City established the Benefits Coordinating Committee, which includes NYC Opportunity senior staff members.[12] The committee was formed to generate new ideas for improving benefits access. This multistakeholder effort is charged with helping to address the many challenges inherent in the system and exploring bolder ways to improve it.

Through the NYCBenefits platform, a set of publicly available tools owned and maintained by our office, City agencies and third-party organizations can integrate benefits screening into their existing workflows. For example, an agency may introduce an option for additional screening for residents and create a customized notification for other benefits the family would likely qualify for. In 2024, the City successfully integrated this screening tool for the first time, introducing thousands of New Yorkers to additional pathways of support.
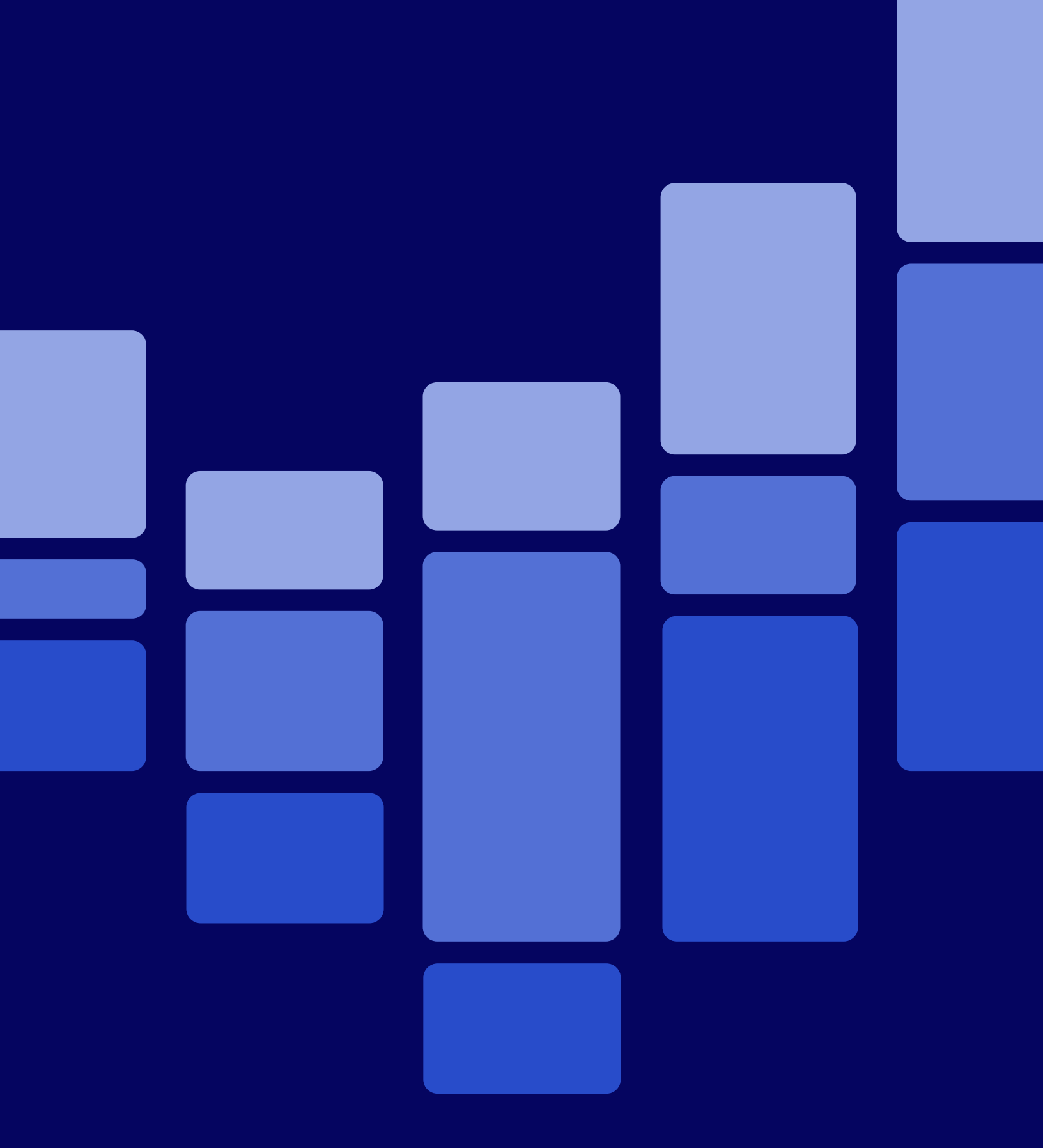
The need to connect New Yorkers to well-paying jobs and to train them for such work is another enduring challenge. The City has an array of programs designed to address these needs. One of its most important programs is Jobs NYC, an initiative that delivers job opportunities and trainings to the communities that most need them. The initiative uses community partnerships and hiring halls to identify employment opportunities it then brings directly to New Yorkers. Jobs NYC also includes the Jobs NYC online tool,[13] created and managed by our office, which helps New Yorkers to locate jobs in both the private sector and in government. The tool had 583,800 users between January 1 and December 1, 2024—a 207 percent increase over the previous year. In February 2025, the Mayor's Office announced an expansion of the Jobs NYC initiative, including additional funding.

Since the pandemic has receded, government programs designed to help victims of Covid-19 have largely come to an end. But the City's more general anti-poverty and equity programs remain in place and are constantly evolving. With this year's poverty brief, we have gathered compelling evidence that underscores the significant impact of programs designed to assist vulnerable New Yorkers. The findings illustrate how targeted support can effectively alleviate economic hardships, reinforcing our commitment to supporting these essential initiatives that empower communities and foster greater economic resilience.

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11 https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/partners/NYCBenefits.page
12 https://medium.com/nyc-opportunity/nycbenefits-coordinating-committee-improving-benefits-access-for-all-new-yorkers-866d176ec7c6
13 https://jobs.nyc.gov/

The City of New York

July 2025

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Mayor's Office for
Economic Opportunity