

Poverty

Durham County, NC



Poverty has been the number three Durham County health priority since 2018

Poverty is when a person lacks what they need to achieve a minimum standard of living.¹

The Federal Poverty Line was established to set a threshold to determine who is eligible to receive certain welfare benefits.²

For a family of 4:

Federal Poverty Line³

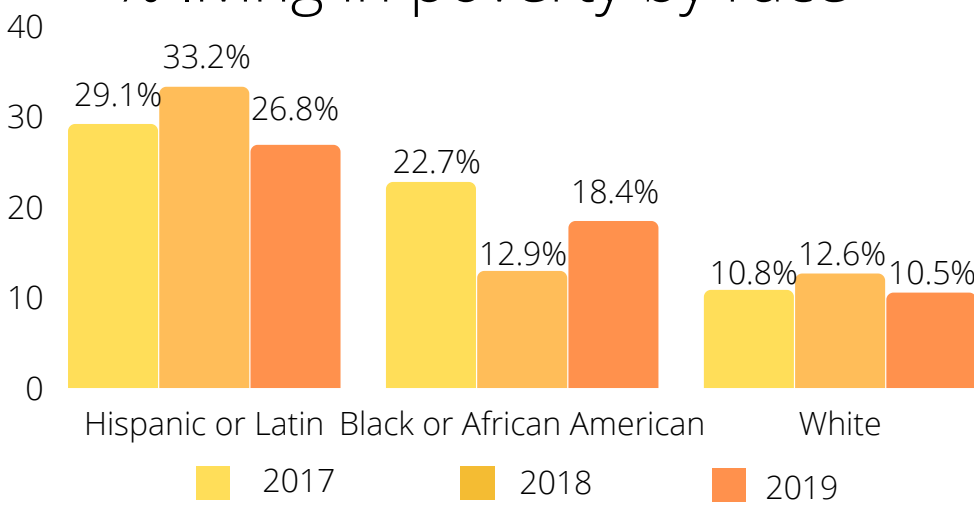
| | |
|------|----------|
| 2019 | \$25,750 |
| 2020 | \$26,200 |
| 2021 | \$26,500 |
| 2022 | \$26,750 |

If the FPL for a family of 4 accounted for the 7.5% inflation rate from 2021 to 2022:

2022 FPL = **\$28,487**

Poverty in Durham

% living in poverty by race⁴



14.1%

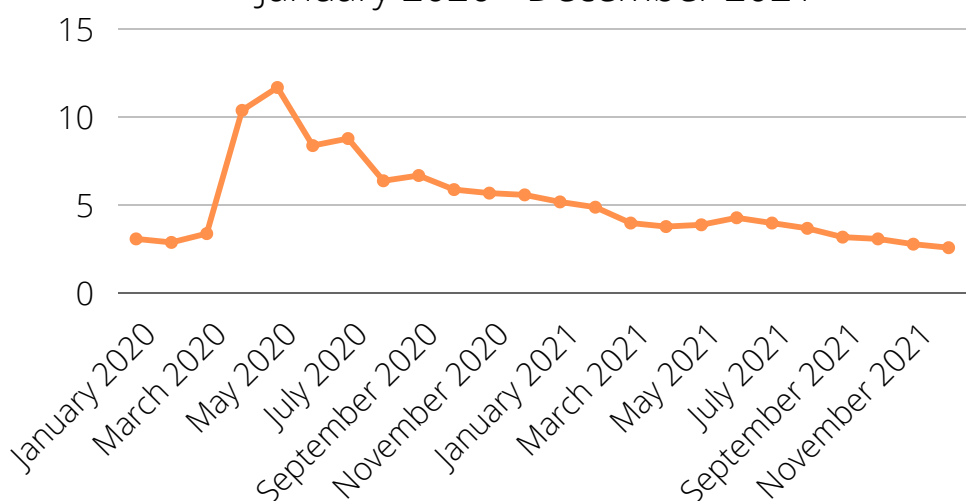
Durham County residents living in poverty⁴

In Durham, Black and brown people experience higher rates of poverty as a direct result of institutional and systemic racism.¹

Unemployment

Unemployment Rate

January 2020 - December 2021⁵



Finances and work were the top two causes of stress.¹

Unemployment peaked in May 2020 at 11.7% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Durham County's Unemployment Rate is currently lower than it was in January 2019.

Blacks or African Americans are more likely to hold essential jobs as opposed to jobs that can be worked remotely and no paid sick leave.⁶ Black or African American workers occupy 13% of US jobs and make up 19% of essential jobs that make less than \$16.54 an hour, the wage necessary to meet the basic needs of a family of four.⁷

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I believe it's important for kids to get a higher education so they can be in a better place in adulthood to afford housing.⁸



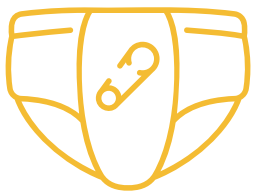
Community Insights⁸

- Not having enough money impacts your access to health care.
- Health care decisions are decided by how much money you have. Check out your options including Medicaid and clinics such as the Durham County Lincoln Community Health Center.
- To live quietly and safely, you have to pay \$1300-\$1800 a month. For many, that's impossible. Check out rental assistance programs such as the Durham Housing Authorities' Emergency Rental Assistance Program. More information here: <https://www.durhamhousingauthority.org/whats-new-view?id=66>

Recommendations¹



- Increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour
- Extend unemployment benefits
- Focus economic development on well-paying jobs



- Increase subsidized childcare
- Provide free childcare and onsite daycare options



- Increase Medicaid eligibility
- Provide quality and equitable healthcare regardless of money

Resources

End Poverty Durham

<http://endpovertydurham.org/>



<https://projectaccessdurham.org/>
919-213-4077



<https://lincolnhc.org/> 919-956-4000



<https://www.usa.gov/benefits> 1-844-USA-GOV1



<https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/social-services>
919-560-8000

Resources: **1** 2020 Durham County Community Health Assessment <https://healthydurham.org/health-data> **2** Investopedia [https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fpl.asp#:~:text=The%20federal%20poverty%20lev](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fpl.asp#:~:text=The%20federal%20poverty%20level%20(FPL)%2C%20also%20known%20as%20the,to%20receive%20certain%20welfare%20benefits.)
3 ASPE <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references>. **4** American Community Survey 2017, 2018, 2019. **5** Bureau of Labor Statistics <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LAUCN370630000000003>. **6** Economic Policy Institute. Black workers face two of the most lethal preexisting conditions for coronavirus - racism and economic inequality. 2020. <https://files.epi.org/pdf/193246.pdf>. **7** Brookings.edu Black essential workers' lives matter. They deserve real change, not just lip service. Black essential workers' lives matter. They deserve real change, not just lip service. (brookings.edu). **8** 2021 Community Health Assessment Listening Sessions



April 2022