

Adventist Health Priority Area Overview



Financial Stability

Financial stability enables families to access safe housing, healthy foods, and other necessities, to engage fully in their communities, and to plan for the future. However, too many families with young children in United States face persistent financial hardship impacting their health and well-being. Financial hardship and poverty can negatively affect the cognitive, behavioral, social, and emotional development of children and the mental health of parents. Interventions may include policies or programs that support employment and boost wages for parents to improve family economic stability.

IMPLICATIONS

Health: According to the American Psychological Association, poverty is linked with negative conditions such as substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition and food insecurity, inadequate child care, lack of access to health care, unsafe neighborhoods, and under resourced schools which adversely impact our nation’s children. Multiple aspects of employment, which is tied to financial stability—including job security, the work environment, financial compensation, and job demands—may affect health. Unemployment can also have negative health consequences. Those who are unemployed report feelings of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, demoralization, worry, and physical pain. Unemployed individuals tend to suffer more from stress-related illnesses such as high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, heart disease, and arthritis.

Cost: Low-income American adults have higher rates of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other chronic disorders than wealthier Americans. This can put burden on the healthcare system to care for these patients through



financial assistance and means-tested public programs. Additionally, a study from academic researchers found that 66.5 percent of all bankruptcies were tied to medical issues—either because of high costs for care or time out of work.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



HEALTH CENTERS



SCHOOL DISTRICTS



SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS/
COALITIONS FOCUSED ON ADDRESSING
POVERTY



FOOD BANKS

SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER



COUNSELING CENTER
ADMINISTRATOR



SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF OVERSEEING
FREE MEAL PROGRAMS



POVERTY COALITION LEADERSHIP

GLOSSARY OF COMMON TERMS:

Labor Force: Individuals who are either employed (i.e., those who are working for pay or profit) or unemployed (i.e., those who are jobless but are available to work and have actively looked for work in the past 4 weeks). People who are neither employed nor unemployed are not part of the labor force.

Socioeconomic Status: Socioeconomic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation.

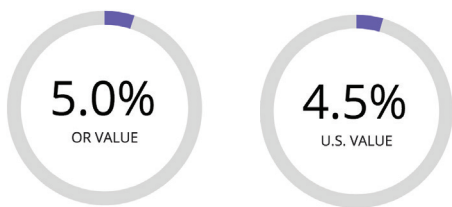
Underemployment: Situations where the social status and income of a job does not match an employee’s education, abilities, and skills.

Financial Assistance (Healthcare): Free and discounted inpatient and outpatient care to persons who meet the eligibility criteria of the organization’s financial assistance policies or maybe referred to as “Charity Care.”

Means-Tested Public Programs: Government health programs for low income persons that qualify on the basis of their “means” (income and/or assets) such as Medicaid.

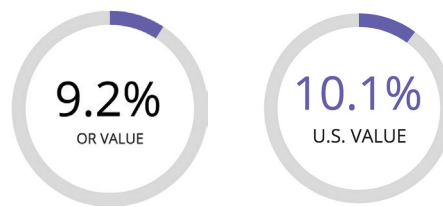
Unemployment Rate (Civilian Labor Force): 16+

POM: 2019 | Sources: American Community Survey



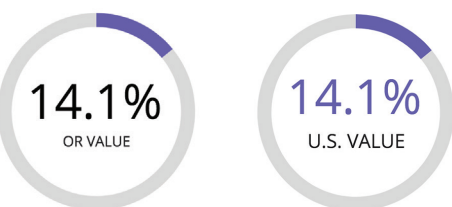
Families Living Below Poverty Level

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



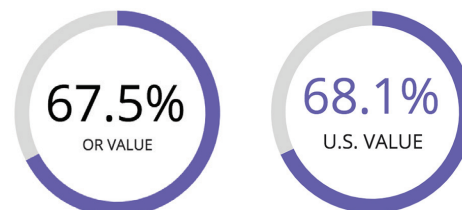
People Living Below Poverty Level

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



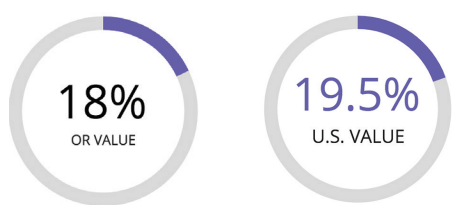
People Living 200% Above Poverty Level

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



Children Living Below Poverty Level

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



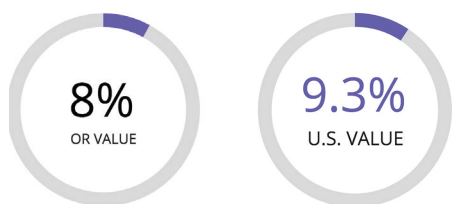
Per Capita Income

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level

POM: 2014-2018 | Sources: American Community Survey



Evidence Matters



Explore the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps “What Works for Health” tool to help find policies and programs that are a good fit for your communities health priorities: www.countyhealthrankings.org/take-action-to-improve-health/what-works-for-health

RESOURCES

Legal Services Corporation (LSC): LSC is an independent nonprofit established by Congress in 1974 to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans.

Office on Socioeconomic Status (SES): The Office on Socioeconomic Status is responsible for directing, overseeing, facilitating and promoting psychology’s contribution to the understanding of SES and the lives and well-being of the poor.

Poverty USA: A tool from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Their mission is: (1) To help low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, their families, and communities. (2) To provide education and promote understanding about poverty and its root causes.

US Census: The Bureau provides quality data about the United State’s people and economy