Poverty in Seattle: What the 2014 American Community Survey Data Tells Us

Gene Balk
The Seattle Times
Prepared for WCPCs 2015 Poverty Summit
University of Washington
October 29, 2015
14.4% of Seattle residents are below poverty level

- 47,203 women and 46,402 men

8.3% of families are below poverty level

- 11,415 families
New Poverty Data For 2014

16.5% of children under 18 are below poverty level
- 16,169 children

12.4% of seniors 65+ are below poverty level
- 9,806 seniors
Population below poverty level keeping pace with Seattle’s overall population increase
Poverty Rate in Seattle Lower Than Most Big Cities

50 Most Populous US Cities - Percent Below Poverty Level in 2014

- Detroit 41.3%
- Fresno 39.7%
- Milwaukee 37.8%
- Philadelphia 37.6%
- Dallas 32.9%
- Baltimore 29.4%
- Minneapolis 28.6%
- Boston 28.0%
- Houston 27.8%
- El Paso 27.7%
- Columbus 26.2%
- San Antonio 24.1%
- Nashville 23.4%
- Tulsa 21.6%
- Albuquerque 21.2%
- Louisville 19.8%
- Oklahoma City 19.6%
- Arlington 19.0%
- Washington 18.9%
- Charlotte 18.7%
- Wichita 18.0%
- San Diego 16.9%
- Mesa 16.3%
- Colorado Springs 15.7%
- San Jose 15.5%

Seattle: 14.4%
Highest concentrations of poverty in:

- University District
- Rainier Valley and Beacon Hill
- Central District and First Hill
- International District and Pioneer Square
- High Point (West Seattle)

Pockets of poverty found in many parts of Seattle
18-24 year olds are largest age group below poverty level in Seattle: 22,788 people

54% Increase between 2013 and 2014 in men age 25-34 below poverty

51% Increase between 2013 and 2014 in women age 35-44 below poverty
Poverty Rate Higher Among Foreign-Born

- Below Poverty
- 100%--149% of Poverty
- 150% or Above Poverty

Native-Born:
- Below Poverty: 65,410
- 100%--149% of Poverty: 62,749
- 150% or Above Poverty: 432,508

Foreign-Born:
- Below Poverty: 28,195
- 100%--149% of Poverty: 10,621
- 150% or Above Poverty: 79,437
RACE/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN of SEATTLE POPULATION BELOW POVERTY in 2014

- White: 40%
- Black: 17%
- Asian: 21%
- Other Race: 5%
- [CATEGORY NAME]: 1%

RACE/ETHNIC BREAKDOWN of SEATTLE TOTAL POPULATION in 2014

- White: 66%
- Black: 7%
- Asian: 14%
- Other Race: 1%
- [CATEGORY NAME]: 1%
Asians are now 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest group below poverty level in Seattle: 20,116 people.

30\% Increase between 2013 and 2014 in the number of Asians below poverty.

Number of Latinos below poverty declined by 23\% between 2013 and 2014.
Asian Poverty in Seattle in 2014

26.7% are college-age men and women

• 5,381 Asian men & women 18-24

53% increase among women 25-54 since 2013

• 5,005 Asian women age 25-54
Poverty Rate for Asians in Seattle Ranks Among Highest

25 US Cities with Largest Asian Populations - Percent Below Poverty Level in 2014
Two Charts Illustrating Income Inequality in Seattle

**Median Household Income By Race**

- Non-Hispanic White
- Asian
- Multi-Racial
- Latino
- Black
- Native American

**Shares of Aggregate Household Income by Quintile**

- Lowest: 51%
- Second: 24%
- Third: 15%
- Fourth: 8%
- Highest: 3%
Questions? Ideas for a Column? Please let me know!

Gene Balk

phone: 206-515-5052

email: gbalk@seattletimes.com

twitter: @genebalk