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Cities with the most poverty

Introduction For various reasons, certain areas in the country just aren't as well off as others. Often, it's due to riches-to-rags-style scenarios. For instance, a vibrant local economy kept afloat by a robust manufacturing base may see its fortunes tumble when most of those jobs go overseas. Other times, close proximity to an international border results in a surge of new residents, and there just aren't enough jobs to go around. Whatever the reasons may be, cities with high poverty rates often tend to have high unemployment and crime rates too. Not surprisingly, these phenomena often negatively impact housing values as well. To satisfy your curiosity, you can also check out the best cities for employment in America. AreaVibes' list of the top 10 cities with the highest poverty rates (with a population over 100,000) is based on the official U.S. federal definition of the poverty threshold. Also known as the federal poverty line or poverty rate, it refers to the minimum level of income required to support an individual or a family. For 2015, the federal poverty level for an individual is an annual salary of $11,770. For a family of four, it is $24,250. In 2012, the most recent year for which data is available, the national federal poverty rate in the U.S. was 15.1 percent. This means that 15.1 percent of all Americans live at or below the federal poverty threshold. The following cities are the top 10 worst cities in terms of the percentage of population that lives at or below this threshold. 1. Flint, MI © nesjumpman - flickr A city that once boasted more than 80,000 GM manufacturing jobs alone in 1978 saw that figure plummet to fewer than 8,000 by 2010. Not surprisingly, then, nearly 40 percent of Flint residents live at or below the federal poverty line, making it the poorest city in the United States. The median household income is just over $26,000, which is 45 percent lower than the Michigan average. The most recent unemployment rate was nearly 13 percent, so it doesn't look like things will be changing for the better any time soon. Learn more about Flint, MI poverty rates. 2. Detroit, MI © hz536n - flickr Like Flint, Detroit was once home to an abundance of high-paying manufacturing jobs. In the wake of a major upheaval in the auto industry, the city has seen a mass exodus, and more than 38 percent of its residents live at or below the federal poverty line. With more than 7,900 crimes per 100,000 residents, the crime rate is nearly double that of the state of Michigan. An abysmal unemployment rate of nearly 15 percent suggests that good times aren't on the horizon. Learn more about Detroit, MI poverty rates. 3. Athens, GA © univrsltransl8r - flickr This north-eastern Georgia city is the first on our list outside of Michigan, but its poverty rate is nearly as bad as those of Detroit and Flint. Confusingly, the unemployment rate here is just 4.4 percent. Why is the city's poverty rate so high, then? The answer lies in the fact that it's a college town. When the census is performed, all of those unemployed and under-employed students skew the figures. Learn more about Athens, GA poverty rates. 4. Gainesville, FL © csessums - flickr Located in north-central Florida, Gainesville is another college town with a surprisingly high poverty rate. Home to the University of Florida, the city is also home to a huge population of poor college students. Other than the abysmal poverty rate and a somewhat elevated crime rate, Gainesville has quite a lot going for it. The unemployment rate of 5 percent is well below the national average, and median housing values are only a tiny bit below the state average. The city boasts an overall livability score of 79. Learn more about Gainesville, FL poverty rates. 5. Brownsville, TX © publiccitizen - flickr This southern Texas city was long named the poorest in the nation. Today, it's ranked fifth on AreaVibes' list. Located on the Rio Grande just across from Mexico, part of the reason for the city's high poverty rate is the regular influx of foreigners from south of the border. The economy doesn't have enough jobs for so many people, so many end up living in poverty. In fact, the economy here is largely based on retail and fast food types of businesses, meaning that wages aren't very high. Indeed, the median household income of $31,605 is 38 percent lower than the state median. Learn more about Brownsville, TX poverty rates. 6. Cleveland, OH © 25165196@N08 - flickr Like Detroit and Flint, Cleveland is still trying to rise from the ashes of what used to be a strong manufacturing-based economy. Located in northeastern Ohio on the shores of Lake Erie, the city's crime rate is 131 percent higher than the state average. This undoubtedly has a lot to do with the high unemployment rate, which was 11.6 percent most recently and nearly double the state's 6.2-percent rate. Still, the city's cost of living is below the state average, and there have been signs of progress in the local economy too. Learn more about Cleveland, OH poverty rates. 7. Hartford, CT © sandcastlematt - flickr Following the Civil War, Hartford was the richest city in the U.S. The Industrial Revolution had a lot to do with that, but the once-busy factories shut their doors long ago. Today, Hartford is the poorest city not just in one of the richest states in the U.S. but in the entire country too. Its livability score of 68 belies other problems too, including a crime rate that's 132 percent higher than the state average and an unemployment rate approaching 12 percent. Learn more about Hartford, CT poverty rates. 8. Dayton, OH © vistavision - flickr Located in west-central Ohio, Dayton ranks eighth on our list of the top 10 cities with the highest poverty rates. Its current problems largely stem from a lack of high-paying jobs in the region, which is mostly because so many high-paying manufacturing jobs have evaporated. Indeed, the city's median household income of $28,595 is 40 percent lower than the state average. While the state has a reasonable unemployment rate of just over 6 percent, Dayton's exceeds 10 percent. Clearly, the city is in dire need of not just more jobs but of better-paying ones. Learn more about Dayton, OH poverty rates. 9. Syracuse, NY © russnelson - flickr Upstate New York was once a thriving industrial and manufacturing region. Its robust economy supported millions of people. Those days are long gone, though, and Syracuse has borne the brunt of the woes. However, its unemployment rate of 6.5 percent suggests that things could finally be on an upswing. Despite that, however, the median household income of $31,459 is 45 percent lower than the state average, suggesting that the new jobs don't pay very well. Unfortunately, crime continues to be an issue, with the crime rate currently more than 140 percent greater than the state average. Learn more about Syracuse, NY poverty rates. 10. Rochester, NY © 1sock - flickr Another Upstate New York city rounds out our list of the top 10 cities with the highest poverty rates in the country. Rochester's fortunes also plummeted along with the doomed manufacturing-based economy. While a few colleges and universities are located here, they don't really explain the dismal poverty rate. Rochester's crime rate is 160 percent higher than the state's, and the median household income is roughly half of the state's. The unemployment rate of 7.8 percent seems decent until you realize that the state's is currently at 5.6 percent. With any luck, the economy will start adding more higher-paying jobs, and more families will climb out of poverty. Learn more about the Rochester, NY poverty rates. For more information, check out the AreaVibes Best and Worst Places to Live list for real-time, up-to-date and interactive top 100 best and worst list of cities. The report is sortable, and it allows you to filter by population and by category as well as by state. Most recent posts Top 10 Dog Breeds For Renters2021-05-31Tips For First Time Renters2021-05-31Renting vs Buying2021-05-31Moving Checklist for Renters2021-05-31Rent Control Laws – Canada2021-05-31Renters Insurance In Canada2021-05-31 Popular posts Top 10 Best Cities In America2015-11-23Top 10 Cities With The Lowest Crime2015-11-27America Trivia Quiz For Kids2011-3-14Top 10 Cities With The Lowest Cost Of Living2015-12-02Top 10 Most Dangerous Cities2015-03-03Top 100 Best Places To Live2012-03-16Mortgage Payment Calculator2016-04-14Home Affordability Calculator2016-04-14Salary Calculator2016-05-26 A view of Main Street in Hillsville, Virginia. Brian Stansberry/Wikimedia Commons/CC BY 4.0 Income inequality is a growing problem in the United States. Perhaps more evident now than in any time in recent memory, conspicuous consumption is juxtaposed with abject poverty in cities and towns across the country. While the rich and poor often live side by side, in some American towns, serious financial hardship is a daily reality for most who live there.In every state, there are towns where the median household income falls well below the state and national median incomes. In over a dozen states, there are towns in which the typical household earns less than half the income that a typical household statewide earns.24/7 Wall St. reviewed the median annual household income in every American town to identify the poorest town in each state. Even in wealthy states like Maryland and New Jersey there are towns that rank among the poorest in the country. In Cordele, the typical household earns $23,294 a year. Michael Rivera/Wikimedia Commons/CC BY-SA 3.0 Town median household income: $23,294State median household income: $51,037Town poverty rate: 49.6%Town population: 11,015In Cordele, the poorest town in Georgia, the typical household earns $23,294 a year, or less than half the statewide median income of $51,037. With the lowest income in the state, Cordele also has the highest poverty rate. About half of the town's 11,015 residents live below the poverty line, well more than double the comparable 17.8% poverty rate across Georgia.As in many low-income regions, a relatively low proportion of adults in Cordele have a college degree. An estimated 11.5% of adults in the area have a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, 29.4% of adults in Georgia and 30.3% of American adults nationwide have a bachelor's degree. The Howard Hotel is a historic building in Brigham City, Utah. Ntsimp/Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain Town median household income: $47,675State median household income: $62,518Town poverty rate: 9.7%Town population: 18,586Utah is one of the wealthier states in the country. Of the state's 35 towns and cities with populations between 1,000 and 25,000, all but four have median annual household incomes higher than the national figure of $55,322. Of those, the median income in most is greater than $75,000. Brigham, one of the state's few low-income towns, the median income is below the national figure. However, with a median income of $47,675 a year, the city is wealthier than all but four towns on this list as well as wealthier than one-third of the towns and cities with between 1,000 and 25,000 residents. 12.7% of the Thermopolis population lives below the poverty line. charkes/Wikimedia Commons/CC BY-SA 3.0 Town median household income: $45,668State median household income: $59,143Town poverty rate: 12.7%Town population: 2,918Though it is the poorest town in Wyoming, Thermopolis is not as poor as many other towns on this list. The median annual household income in the area of $45,668 is about $10,000 less than the national median household. That income is more than double that of some of the poorest towns in other states, however. Additionally, just 12.7% of the town population lives below the poverty line, slightly higher than the 11.6% state poverty rate but well below the 15.1% US poverty rate.Detailed findings & methodologyFor every state except Alaska and Hawaii, the Department of Health and Human Services sets the official poverty income in every American town to identify the poorest town in each state. Currently, close to 50 million Americans live below that threshold. Poverty is the most extreme example of financial hardship, and as such, the official poverty rate fails to capture tens of millions of additional Americans who also struggle to make ends meet.In 45 of the 50 towns on this list, the poverty rate exceeds the poverty rate across the state as a whole. In over half of all towns on this list, more than one in every four residents live in poverty, well above the US poverty rate of 15.1%. In New Square, the poorest town in New York state, 70% of the population lives in poverty. Of any US town.Low-income Americans often struggle to afford even the most basic necessities. Partially as a result, the low income towns on this list often also have a high SNAP — formerly known as food stamps — recipiency rates. This rate measures the share of households that receive SNAP benefits. Only three towns on this list have a lower SNAP recipiency rate than their respective state as a whole. In more than a dozen towns on this list, more than one in every three households depend on government support to afford food.The low incomes in the towns on this list also often are reflected in property values. People live where they can afford housing, and in low income areas homes are often relatively inexpensive. New Square, New York, is the only town on this list with a higher median home value than the state as a whole.Both on an individual level and across broad populations, income is closely linked to educational attainment. Earning potential tends to increase with education — those with a bachelor's degree earn considerably more on average than those with just a high school diploma. Additionally, major companies that offer high-skilled, high-paying jobs are more likely to establish a presence in areas with a well-educated labor pool.Not surprisingly, educational attainment levels are relatively low in the towns on this list. In 46 of the 50 towns, the share of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher is lower than the corresponding share across the state as a whole. In 22 towns on this list, the share of adults with a four-year degree is less than half the college attainment rate nationwide of 30.3%.To determine the poorest town in each state, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed median household incomes in every town with a population between 1,000 and 25,000 in each state from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Our list includes Census-designated places, which are unincorporated regions that are treated as towns for statistical purposes. All social and economic figures are based on five-year estimates for the period of 2012-2016. To control for potential data errors that can arise in low population areas, we did not consider towns where the margin of error at 90% confidence was greater than 10% of the point estimate of both median household income and population. We considered the percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree, the share with a high school diploma, the towns' poverty rates, SNAP benefit recipiency rates, and median home value — all from the ACS. Regional price parity, or cost of living, by state is for the most recent available year from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Read the original article on 24/7 Wall St. Copyright 2018. More: Features 24/7 Wall St. Poverty US States