

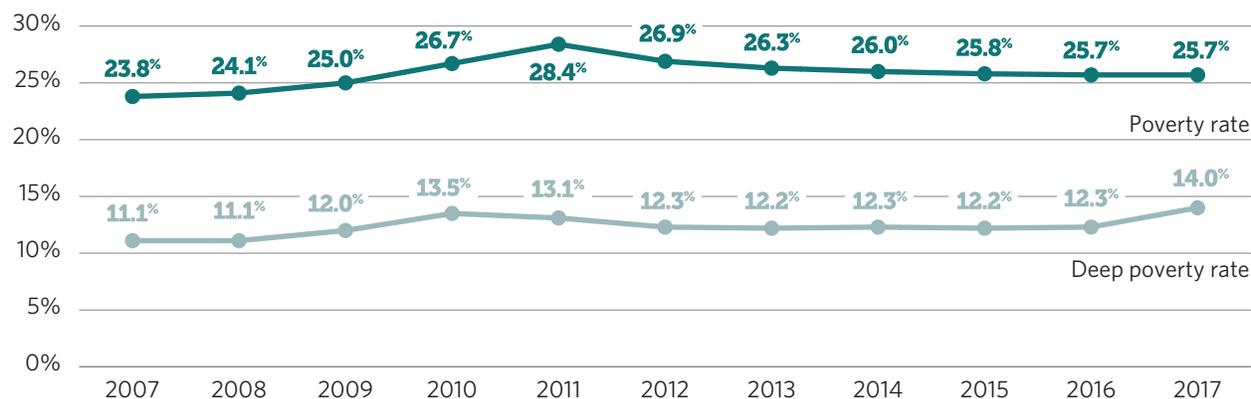
# The State of Philadelphians Living in Poverty, 2019

## Overview

Nearly 400,000 Philadelphia residents—roughly 26 percent of the city’s population—lived below the poverty line in 2017. And that percentage, which is among the highest for any American city, has not changed substantially in recent years, even as the national rate has fallen.

As highlighted in Pew’s 2018 report “[Philadelphia’s Poor: Experiences From Below the Poverty Line](#),” this is about more than money. It affects health outcomes, employment prospects, exposure to crime, and access to quality schools.

## Poverty and Deep Poverty in Philadelphia, 2007-17



Philadelphia's poverty rate, down from a high of 28.4 percent in 2011, has remained essentially unchanged over the past five years. And the city's deep poverty rate—measuring households with incomes no more than half of the federal poverty threshold—increased in 2017. A household of four was living in poverty in 2017 if its income was \$24,600 or less and in deep poverty at \$12,300 or less.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates, 2007-17, Table B17002 (Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months), <http://factfinder.census.gov>

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## Public Benefit Enrollment Trends in Philadelphia, 2007-17



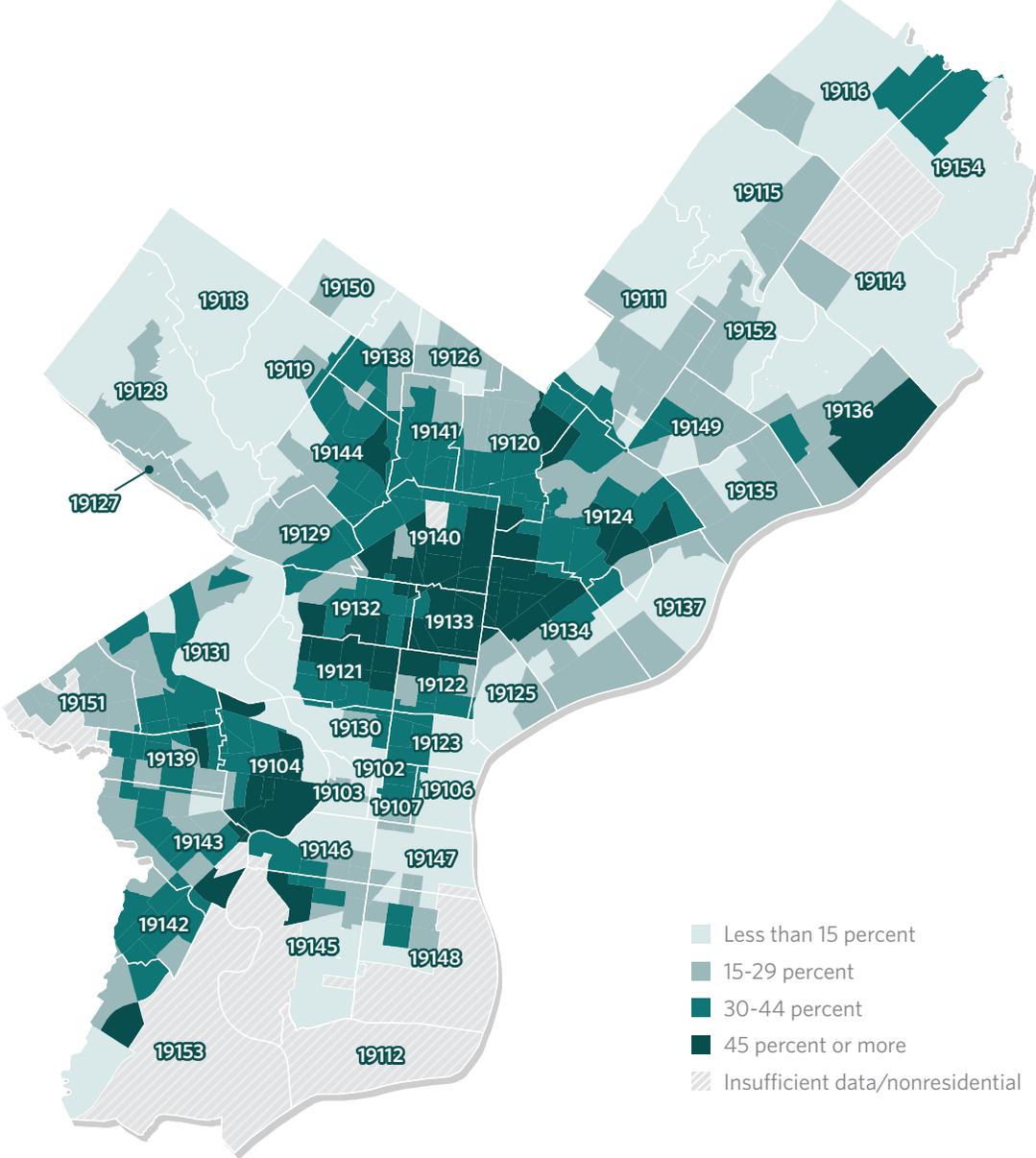
Philadelphians' enrollment in Medical Assistance, or Medicaid—the federal-state program that helps low-income individuals and families pay for health care—has grown dramatically after the 2015 expansion of eligibility in Pennsylvania under the Affordable Care Act. Supplemental Security Income benefits are available to disabled individuals or those 65 or older who have limited income and resources. Ninety-two percent of Philadelphians enrolled for Supplemental Security Income qualified for it because of a disability.

Notes: Enrollment data for Medical Assistance are from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (<http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us/ma-food-stamps-and-cash-stats.html>), and Supplemental Security Income data are from the Social Security Administration ([https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi\\_sc/2017/index.html](https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_sc/2017/index.html)). Numbers represent enrollment for the month of December for each calendar year.

Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; Social Security Administration

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# Percentage of Philadelphians Living Below the Federal Poverty Line



Poverty in Philadelphia is widespread, with the highest concentrations found primarily in parts of North and West Philadelphia. In some areas, including much of North Philadelphia, the poverty rate is over 45 percent; in most of the city's residential ZIP codes, it is over 20 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, five-year estimates, 2013-17, Table S1701 (Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months), <http://factfinder.census.gov>

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