

# Poverty and Well-Being Profiles (2023)

*Benton County, MS*

*[extension.msstate.edu/economic-profiles](https://extension.msstate.edu/economic-profiles)*



**Prepared by**

**Alan Barefield, Ph.D.**

**Devon Mills, Ph.D.**

**Abigail G. Lucas**

**Department of Agricultural Economics**

**Mississippi State University**

*For information regarding data and analyses contained in these profiles, please contact Devon Mills at [d.mills@msstate.edu](mailto:d.mills@msstate.edu) or 662.325.2751.*

## Populations and Households in Poverty (2022)

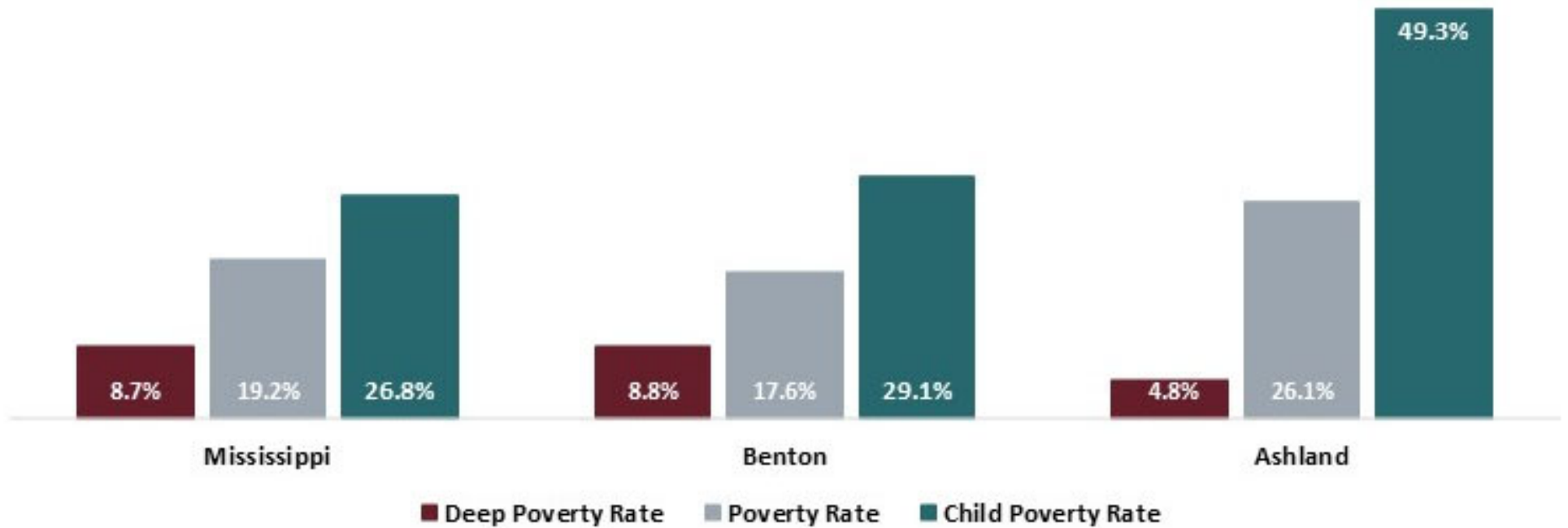
Category	Mississippi	Benton	Ashland *
Population**	2,858,819	7,536	564
Households (HH)	1,121,269	3,086	243
Population in Poverty	548,804	1,328	147
Child Poverty	26.8%	29.1%	49.3%
Young Adult Poverty	21.7%	27.6%	24.2%
Elder Poverty	13.4%	5.9%	11.8%

*\*Cities and towns listed in this profile are county seats.*

*\*\*Total population to determine poverty status — American Community Survey (ACS) Table S1701.*

Child is defined as a person under 18 years of age; young adult is defined as a person between 18 and 34 years of age; elder is aged 65 and over. Source: U.S Census Bureau ACS Estimates (2018-2022) for population of state, county, and county seat — Table S1701; Population in poverty for the state versus the United States or county/district and county seat — SAIPE, U.S Census Bureau.

## Poverty Rate Measures (2022)

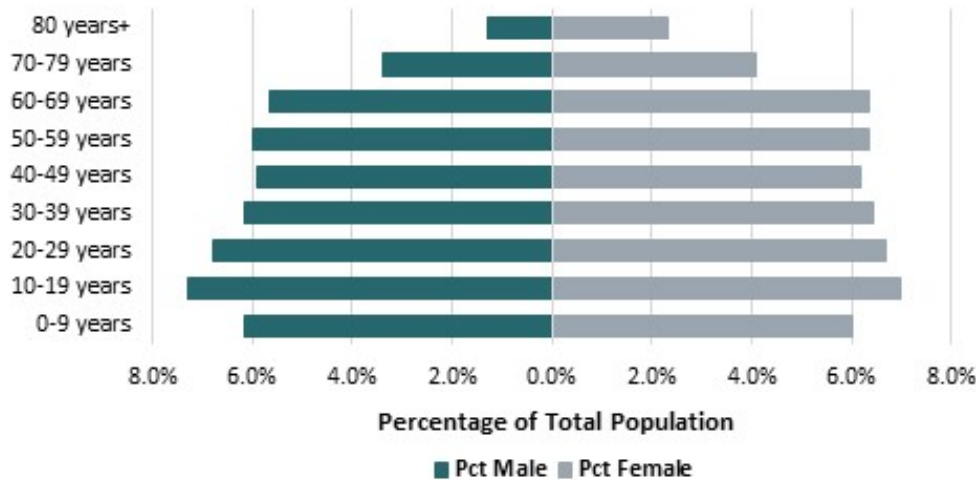


Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 --year estimates for poverty rates of the state versus the United States or county/district and county seat — Table S1701.

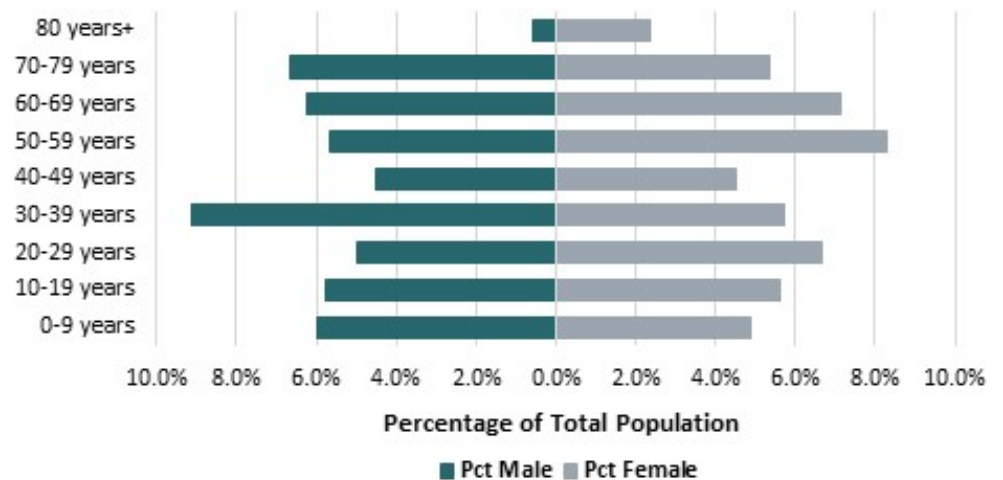
The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty.

# Population Pyramid (2022)

## Mississippi



## Benton



Population Pyramid: Shows the age-gender distribution of the given population. Age groups are depicted on the vertical axis and the percentage of the population on the horizontal axis. Gender is shown on the left/right sides. The population pyramid provides a picture of the composition of the population. Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 5-year estimates, Table S0101.

## Asset Poverty (2022)

Category	Mississippi	Benton	Ashland
Asset Poverty	28.0%	31.0%	N/A
Liquid Asset Poverty	45.0%	39.0%	N/A
Zero Net Worth	16.0%	10.0%	N/A
Unbanked	11.0%	9.0%	N/A
Underbanked	21.0%	17.0%	N/A

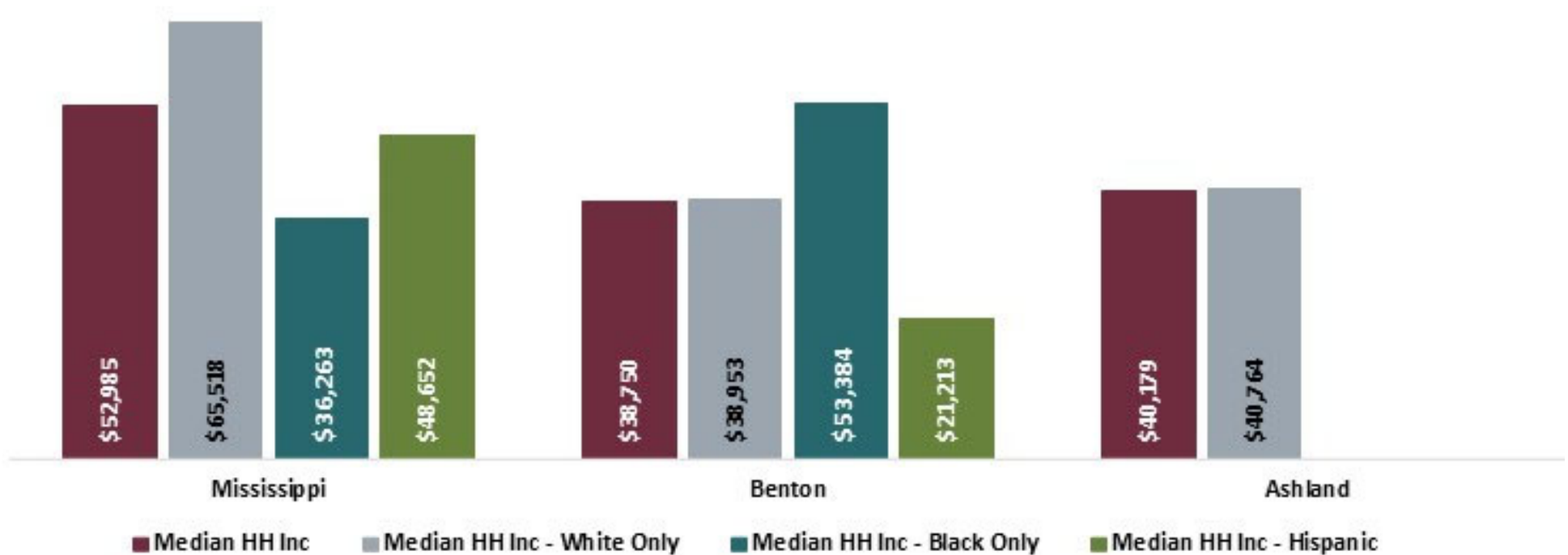
Source: Prosperity Now Scorecard — <https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/>

## Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity (2022)

	White Only	Black Only	Hispanic
Mississippi	57.3%	36.9%	3.2%
Benton	60.6%	33.5%	3.2%
Ashland	83.9%	11.5%	0.0%

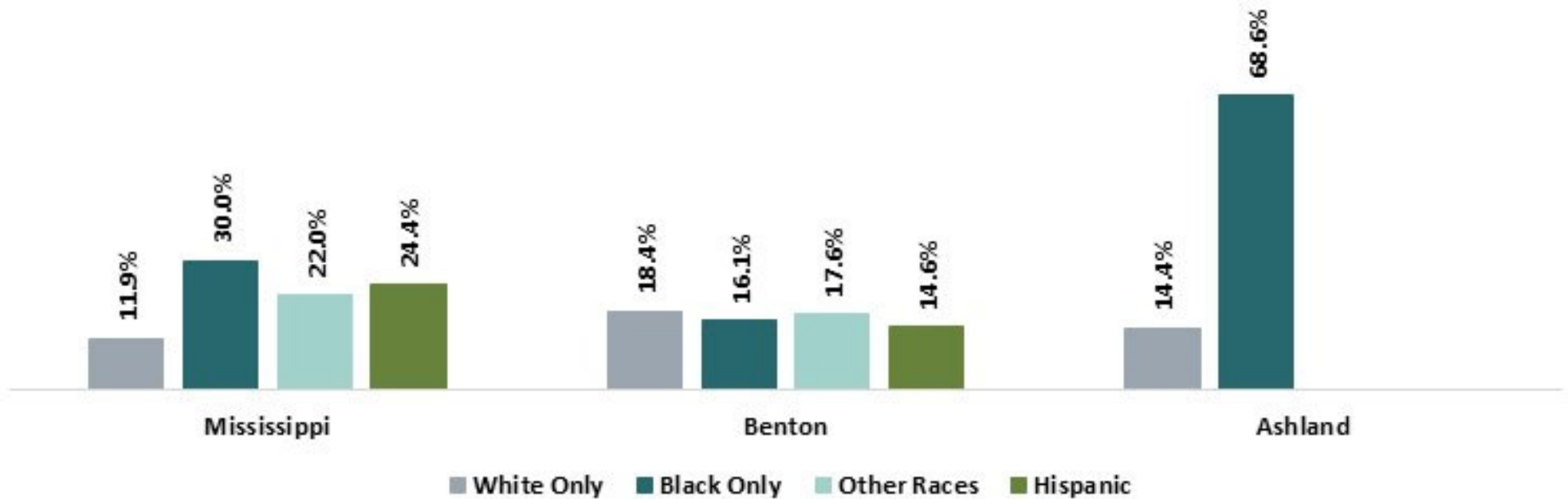
U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 estimates

## Median Household Income by Race and Ethnicity (2021)



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 5-year estimates for median household income of the state and county. U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 5-year estimates for median household income by race—Table B19013.

## Poverty Rate by Race and Ethnicity (2021)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2018-2022 5-year estimates for median household income by race—Table S1701.

## Living Wage (2023)

		Related children under 18 years of age			
		None	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
<b>1 Adult</b>	Living Wage	\$19.45	\$29.08	\$34.21	\$43.09
	Poverty Wage	\$7.24	\$9.83	\$12.41	\$15.00
<b>2 Adults</b>					
1 Working FT	Living Wage	\$26.64	\$31.77	\$34.21	\$38.09
	Poverty Wage	\$9.83	\$31.77	\$15.00	\$17.59
2 Working FT	Living Wage	\$12.41	\$16.65	\$19.77	\$21.60
	Poverty Wage	\$4.91	\$6.21	\$7.50	\$8.79

Note: The living wage is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family. The values are **per adult in a family**. The minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. Full-time is considered as 2,080 hours per year. Living Wage Calculator — <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>



## Typical Expenses (2023)

Annual Expense	1 Adult 0 Children	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children
Food	\$3,650	\$5,381	\$8,071	\$10,727
Child care	\$0	\$3,272	\$6,544	\$9,745
Medical	\$2,577	\$8,616	\$8,502	\$8,974
Housing	\$9,348	\$10,892	\$10,892	\$14,643
Transportation	\$11,435	\$13,234	\$16,670	\$19,181
Other	\$7,555	\$12,263	\$13,689	\$17,278
Required annual income after taxes	\$34,565	\$53,657	\$64,367	\$80,548
Annual taxes	\$5,896	\$6,827	\$6,784	\$9,075
Required annual income	\$40,461	\$60,484	\$71,152	\$89,622

## Typical Expenses (2023)

Annual Expense	2 Adults (1 wrkg FT) 0 Children	2 Adults (1 wrkg FT) 1 Child	2 Adults (1 wrkg FT) 2 Children	2 Adults (1 wrkg FT) 3 Children
Food	\$6,692	\$8,330	\$10,728	\$13,080
Child care	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$5,954	\$8,502	\$8,974	\$8,561
Housing	\$9,698	\$10,892	\$10,892	\$14,643
Transportation	\$13,234	\$16,670	\$19,181	\$19,159
Other	\$12,842	\$14,268	\$17,857	\$17,098
Required annual income after taxes	\$48,420	\$58,662	\$67,632	\$72,542
Annual taxes	\$6,986	\$7,428	\$7,556	\$6,684
Required annual income	\$55,405	\$66,090	\$75,188	\$79,225

## Typical Expenses (2023)

Annual Expense	2 Adults (2 wrkg FT) 0 Children	2 Adults (2 wrkg FT) 1 Child	2 Adults (2 wrkg FT) 2 Children	2 Adults (2 wrkg FT) 3 Children
Food	\$6,692	\$8,330	\$10,728	\$13,080
Child care	\$0	\$3,272	\$6,544	\$9,745
Medical	\$5,954	\$8,502	\$8,974	\$8,561
Housing	\$9,698	\$10,892	\$10,892	\$14,643
Transportation	\$13,234	\$16,670	\$19,181	\$19,159
Other	\$12,842	\$14,268	\$17,857	\$17,098
Required annual income after taxes	\$48,420	\$61,934	\$74,176	\$82,286
Annual taxes	\$6,688	\$7,336	\$7,671	\$7,588
Required annual income	\$55,107	\$69,270	\$81,847	\$89,874

# Definitions of Measures and Data Sources

Measure	Definition	Data Source
Poverty rate	Number of people with household income at or below 100% of the poverty threshold based on household size.	
Deep poverty	HH incomes below 50% of the poverty threshold based on HH size.	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2018-2022 5-year estimates for median household income.
Poverty threshold	Income dollar amount to determine a household's poverty status. Threshold vary according to the size of the household and the ages of its members.	
Household income	Income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the HH.	
Median household income	The point that divides the household income distribution into halves, one-half with income above the median and the other with income below the median.	
<b>Assets and Financial Security</b>		
Net worth	Assets minus liabilities (i.e., how much a person owns minus what is owed to others).	
Zero net worth	Percentage of households that have zero or negative net worth.	
(Liquid) asset poverty	Percentage of household without sufficient net worth (based on liquid asset) to subsist at the poverty level for 3 months under a financial crisis such as a job loss, medical emergency, or the need to fix a car.	Prosperity Now Scorecard, Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2023, U.S. Census Bureau.
Liquid asset	Includes cash on hand or an asset that can be readily converted to cash (e.g., bank account, other interest-earning account, equity in stocks and mutual funds, and retirement accounts).	
Unbanked	Percent of household not having a checking, savings, or money market account.	National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Underbanked	Percentage of household having a checking or savings account, but also obtaining financial products and services outside of the banking system.	

**Publication P3267-6 (05-24)**

Revised by **Alan Barefield**, Extension Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, **Devon Mills**, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, and **Abigail G. Lucas**, Student Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics. Originally developed by **Ayoung Kim**, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, and **Rebecca Smith**, Associate Extension Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics.

*Copyright 2024 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.*

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director

***For information regarding data and analysis contained in these profiles, please contact Devon Mills at [d.mills@msstate.edu](mailto:d.mills@msstate.edu) or 662.325.2751.***