

# Poverty and Well-Being Profiles

## Benton County, MS (2021)

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



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

EXTENSION

## Populations and Households in Poverty (2020)

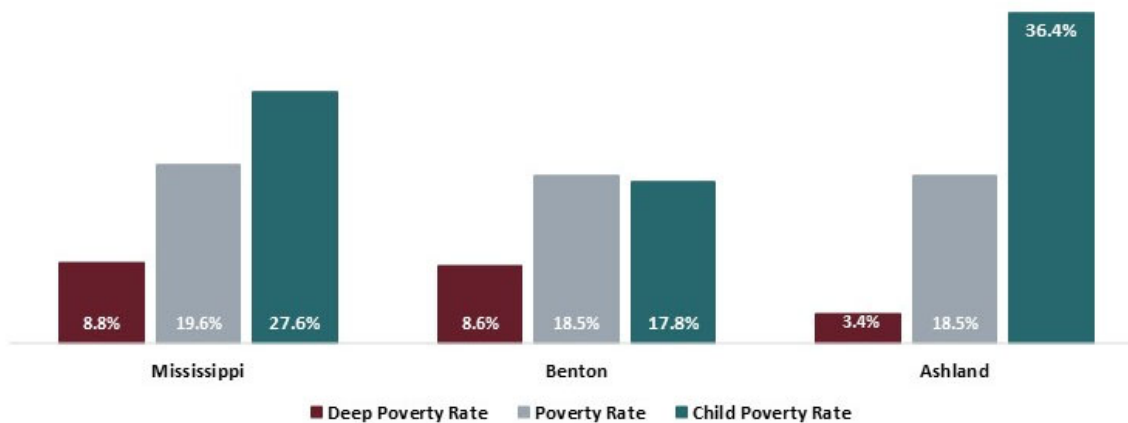
Category	Mississippi	Benton	Ashland *
Population**	2,883,074	8,199	416
Households (HH)	1,116,649	3,183	207
Population in Poverty	564,439	1,518	77
Child Poverty	27.6%	17.8%	36.4%
Young Adult Poverty	22.8%	28.6%	34.7%
Elder Poverty	12.8%	11.9%	13.4%

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: 2020 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau for 2020 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.

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

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

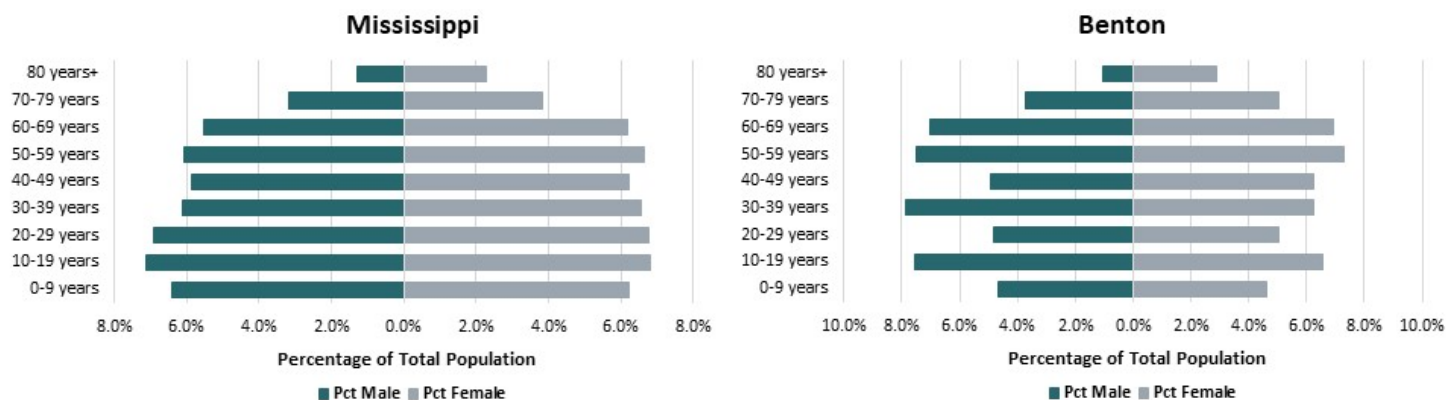
## Poverty Rate Measures (2020)



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015-2019 5-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 (2020)



Population Pyramid: Shows the age-gender distribution of the given population. Age groups are depicted on the y-axis and the percentage of the population on the x-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 2015-2019 5-year estimates, Table S0101.

For information regarding data and analysis contained in these profiles, please contact Alan Barefield at [alan.barefield@msstate.edu](mailto:alan.barefield@msstate.edu) or 662.325.7995.

## Asset Poverty (2019)

Category	Mississippi	Benton	Ashland
Asset Poverty	25.4%	36.6%	N/A
Liquid Asset Poverty	16.1%	13.0%	N/A
Zero Net Worth	5.3%	4.3%	N/A
Unbanked	54.6%	45.6%	N/A
Underbanked	15.8%	8.8%	N/A

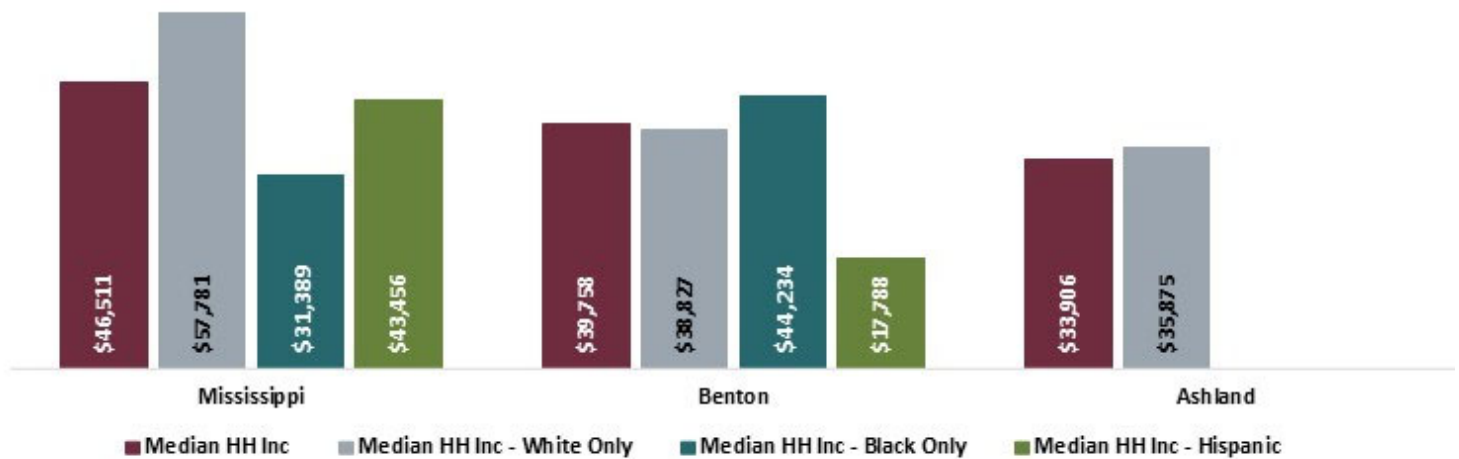
Source: Prosperity Now Scorecard — <https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/>

## Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity (2019)

	White Only	Black Only	Hispanic
Mississippi	58.3%	37.4%	3.1%
Benton	61.0%	33.8%	2.7%
Ashland	86.3%	11.8%	0.7%

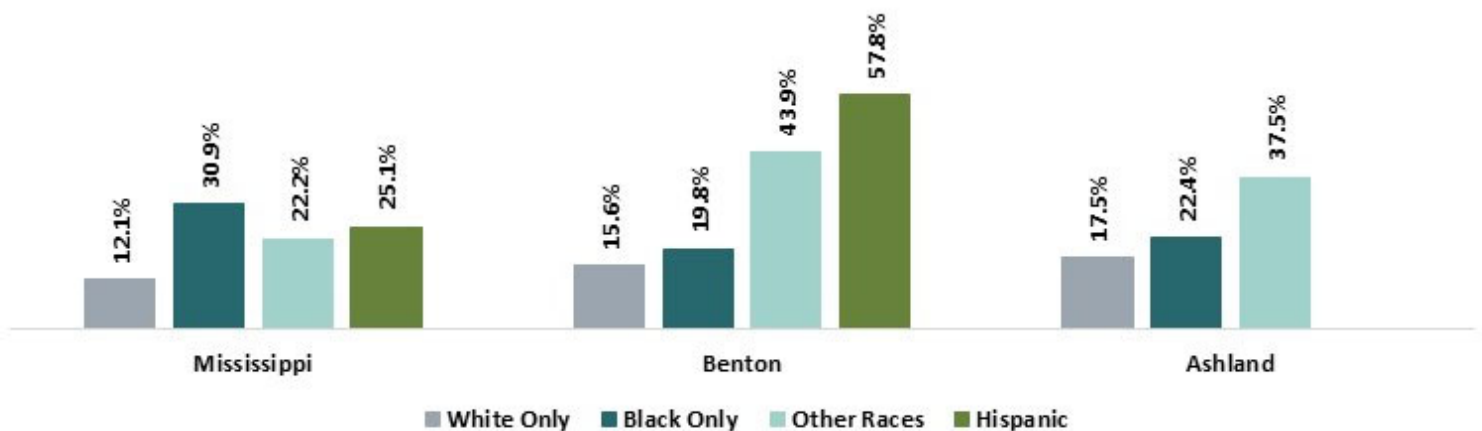
U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015-2019 estimates

## Median Household Income by Race and Ethnicity (2020)



Source: Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2016-2020 five-year estimates for median household income of the state/county/place. U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2016-2020 5-year estimates — Table B19013 series.

## Poverty Rate by Race and Ethnicity (2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015-2019 5-year estimates for poverty rate by race/ethnicity — Table S1701 series.

## Living Wage (2021)

### Related children under 18 years of age

		None	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
<b>1 Adult</b>	Living Wage	\$14.99	\$28.55	\$34.39	\$44.74
	Poverty Wage	\$6.19	\$8.38	\$10.56	\$12.74
<b>2 Adults</b>					
1 Working FT	Living Wage	\$24.27	\$29.46	\$34.39	\$38.10
	Poverty Wage	\$8.38	\$29.46	\$12.74	\$14.92
2 Working FT	Living Wage	\$12.13	\$16.00	\$19.97	\$22.85
	Poverty Wage	\$4.19	\$5.28	\$6.37	\$7.46

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. <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>

## Typical Expenses (2021)

Annual Expense	1 Adult 0 Children	1 Adult 1 Child	1 Adult 2 Children	1 Adult 3 Children	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	\$3,010	\$4,446	\$6,682	\$8,863	\$5,518	\$6,877	\$8,872	\$10,802
Child care	\$0	\$2,916	\$3,845	\$4,774	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$2,377	\$7,673	\$7,385	\$7,505	\$5,137	\$7,385	\$7,505	\$7,406
Housing	\$5,892	\$7,812	\$7,812	\$11,292	\$6,828	\$7,812	\$7,812	\$11,292
Transportation	\$4,322	\$8,425	\$10,689	\$11,645	\$8,425	\$10,689	\$11,645	\$12,206
Other	\$2,812	\$4,688	\$4,867	\$6,123	\$4,688	\$4,867	\$6,123	\$6,126
Required annual income after taxes	\$18,413	\$35,960	\$41,280	\$50,201	\$30,596	\$37,630	\$41,956	\$47,833
Annual taxes	\$3,377	\$6,721	\$7,729	\$9,386	\$5,674	\$7,038	\$7,858	\$8,937
Required annual income	\$21,790	\$42,681	\$49,009	\$59,587	\$36,270	\$44,668	\$49,814	\$56,770

## Typical Expenses (2021)

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	\$5,518	\$6,877	\$8,872	\$10,802
Child care	\$0	\$2,916	\$3,845	\$4,774
Medical	\$5,137	\$7,385	\$7,505	\$7,406
Housing	\$6,828	\$7,812	\$7,812	\$11,292
Transportation	\$8,425	\$10,689	\$11,645	\$12,206
Other	\$4,688	\$4,867	\$6,123	\$6,126
Required annual income after taxes	\$30,596	\$40,546	\$45,801	\$52,607
Annual taxes	\$5,674	\$7,590	\$8,586	\$9,842
Required annual income	\$36,270	\$48,136	\$54,388	\$62,449

# 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	Household incomes below 50% of the poverty threshold based on household size.	Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2016-2020 5-year estimates for median household income.
Poverty threshold	Income dollar amount to determine a household's poverty status. Thresholds 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 household.	
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 they owe to others).	
Zero net worth	Percentage of households that have zero or negative net worth.	
(Liquid) asset poverty	Percentage of households without sufficient liquid assets 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) 2019, 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	Percentage of households not having a checking, savings, or money market account.	National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Underbanked	Percentage of households having a checking or savings account, but also obtaining financial products and services outside of the banking system.	

## Publication P3267-6 (08-22)

Revised by **Alan Barefield**, Extension Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, **Adam R. Nathan**, Student Assistant, Department of Agricultural Economics, and **Malorie T. Jones**, 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 2022 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. GARY B. JACKSON, Director