The Virginia Poverty Measure: Using the ACS to create a state-level alternative poverty measure
Measuring poverty
Official Poverty Measure

1. 

2. 

3. 

Alternate Poverty Measure
1. Official Poverty Measure

Thresholds include only market income, set to 3 x food budget

2. Alternate Poverty Measure

Thresholds include benefits and necessary expenses; set to 33rd percentile

3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Poverty Measure</th>
<th>Alternate Poverty Measure</th>
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Why does Virginia need its own poverty measure?
SPM
Current Population Survey

VPM
American Community Survey
Current Population Survey

Questions on Income and Income Sources

American Community Survey

Questions on Income and Income Sources
Virginia Poverty Measure: Creating a State-Level Alternative Poverty Measure

1. Imputing to the ACS from the CPS using predicted means matching
Food Stamps

In the past 12 months, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps or a Food Stamp benefit card?

• How many people received food stamps?
• How many months did the household receive food stamps?
• What was the value of the food stamp benefit received?
Food Stamps

- Age
- Employment status
- Household income
- Presence of children
- Etc.
Virginia Poverty Measure: Creating a State-Level Alternative Poverty Measure

1. Imputing to the ACS from the CPS using predicted means matching
Virginia Poverty Measure: Creating a State-Level Alternative Poverty Measure

1. Imputing to the ACS from the CPS using predicted means matching

2. Controlling to State administrative totals
Income & Benefits

Income Only
Virginia Poverty Measure: Creating a State-Level Alternative Poverty Measure

1. Imputing to the ACS from the CPS using predicted means matching

2. Controlling headcount and total expenditures to State administrative totals
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poverty Rate</th>
<th>MOE (95%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Official Definitions</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPM Estimate</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Washington, DC Exurbs
VPM: 9.4%

Southwest
VPM: 16.3%
Washington, DC Exurbs
VPM: 9.4%
Official: 6.5%

Southwest
VPM: 16.3%
Official: 21.0%
Virginia Poverty Measure:

Using the ACS to create a state-level alternative poverty measure

1. The ACS is necessary, but not sufficient.

2. Together with other data, the ACS allows for a robust sub-state poverty measure.
The Virginia Poverty Measure

Using the ACS to refine the measurement of economic security

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www.coopercenter.org/demographics/vpm