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Agriculture

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Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

SUBJECT: 2013 State-Level Estimates of Infants and Pre-School-Age Children  
at or Below 185 Percent of Poverty

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TO: Debra Whitford  
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Attached are estimates of the number of infants and children (ages 1-4) in each State who were at or below 185 percent of poverty in 2013. The 2013 estimates are provided for use in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funding formula to determine States' fair shares of WIC food funds for fiscal year (FY) 2016. The 2013 estimates are recommended for use in FY 2016 funding allocations because they reflect the most recent data available. These estimates are the first set of estimates to be directly estimated from the American Community Survey (ACS), as per the decision memo from WIC (dated February 23, 2015).<sup>1</sup> Estimates for Puerto Rico were based on the 2013 Puerto Rico Community Survey. Estimates for the other territories were based on data from the 2010 Census. (Note: the estimates for the States presented in this memo were produced using direct estimates from the ACS. These estimates are not comparable to the more comprehensive WIC eligibles estimates produced by the Urban Institute under contract with FNS and published on the FNS website in January 2015.)

Nationwide, the estimated number of infants and children (ages 1-4) at or below 185 percent of poverty increased by 3.0 percent from 2012 to 2013. It is important to note that we do not know how much of this increase is real and how much is due to changing our estimation methodology from the historical "CPS shrinkage" methodology to a more accurate methodology that directly estimates the number of eligible infants and children from the ACS. The State-level estimates provided here are consistent with the national number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty. Because the 2013 data will be updating 2012 data for funding formula purposes, comparisons are shown between these two years, although the extent to which the two years are comparable is unclear, due to the change in estimation methodology.

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 (and prior) estimates were primarily developed using a "shrinkage" methodology similar to that used to develop estimates used in the funding formula since FY 1995.

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Attached is a brief summary of the estimates and the methodology used to develop them.  
We recommend releasing these materials to the States and other interested organizations on request.



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Attachments

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**2013 STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF  
INFANTS AND CHILDREN (AGES 1-4)  
AT OR BELOW 185 PERCENT OF POVERTY**

**Overview**

Prior to Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, estimates of the number of infants and children (ages 1-4) at or below 185 percent of poverty were available for Census years only. For the FY 1995-2015 funding allocations, annual estimates were developed using a statistical technique known as "shrinkage." The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) used this methodology to develop State-level estimates of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty for 1992-2012.

FNS is using a different methodology to develop the 2013 estimates for the State and Puerto Rico, as per the decision memo from WIC (dated February 23, 2015). The 2013 estimates are directly estimated from the ACS/PRCS, with an adjustment to account for the fact that WIC uses federal poverty guidelines to establish eligibility, rather than the poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau.

Since the territories are not included in the ACS, the estimates assume that the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands have the same share of the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty that they did in 2010. The 2013 estimates are the second year that these estimates are based on the 2010 Census.<sup>1</sup> As described in last year's memo, the 2010 Census decreased the estimated number of infants and children in the territories by between 30% and 40%, so the estimated number of WIC eligibles in the territories continues to be substantially lower than the 2011 estimates.

As the most current data, the 2013 estimates should be used for funding allocations for FY 2016.

**Results**

For 2013, the total number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands was estimated to be 9.2 million. Table 1 provides estimates of the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty in 2013 in each State and territory and the national totals. Also shown are the 2012 shrinkage estimates.

**Use of the Estimates in the Funding Formula**

State-level estimates of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty are used in the funding formula to determine each State's share of the national total of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty. This percentage share is used to determine a State's "fair share" of food funds. For example, for a State with 1 percent of the national total of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty, the fair share would be 1 percent of the total food funds.

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<sup>1</sup> For the island territories, the Census Bureau provided the number of infants and children at or below 185 percent of poverty.

Estimates of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women at or below 185 percent of poverty are not used in determining fair share for the allocation process. Women are estimated as a direct constant function of the number of infants at or below 185 percent of poverty. As a result, inclusion of estimates of women would have no significant impact on the percentage distribution of people at or below 185 percent of poverty among States. Therefore, for simplicity, estimates of pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women are not included in the calculation.

**TABLE 1**  
**STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN AT OR BELOW 185% OF POVERTY, 2012 AND 2013**

State	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013
	Infants	Children (ages 1-4)	Infants + Children (ages 1-4)	Infants	Children (ages 1-4)	Infants + Children (ages 1-4)
Alabama	27,163	111,513	138,676	26,747	132,660	159,407
Alaska	5,083	19,769	24,852	2,240	18,382	20,622
Arizona	38,340	159,131	197,471	46,549	178,506	225,055
Arkansas	21,163	85,091	106,254	20,683	81,657	102,340
California	235,100	956,127	1,191,227	214,174	948,249	1,162,423
Colorado	19,754	82,258	102,012	23,632	106,703	130,335
Connecticut	8,725	36,742	45,467	11,115	49,844	60,959
Delaware	4,822	19,217	24,039	5,079	17,211	22,290
District of Columbia	3,984	13,303	17,287	4,456	13,150	17,606
Florida	100,865	403,236	504,101	100,899	444,676	545,575
Georgia	64,546	264,173	328,719	65,638	281,514	347,152
Hawaii	8,422	32,811	41,233	6,880	27,287	34,167
Idaho	10,588	45,461	56,049	11,403	46,173	57,576
Illinois	61,671	253,086	314,757	57,055	266,205	323,260
Indiana	40,794	167,029	207,823	40,156	167,754	207,910
Iowa	12,875	52,878	65,753	14,625	59,000	73,625
Kansas	17,532	72,315	89,847	15,618	70,811	86,429
Kentucky	25,854	105,171	131,025	22,457	105,695	128,152
Louisiana	30,335	124,013	154,348	28,462	128,892	157,354
Maine	5,063	21,106	26,169	6,025	23,740	29,765
Maryland	22,159	89,343	111,502	22,459	100,522	122,981
Massachusetts	23,188	93,050	116,238	25,290	87,474	112,764
Michigan	43,458	178,668	222,126	57,828	213,637	271,465
Minnesota	18,335	75,048	93,383	18,365	94,265	112,630
Mississippi	21,557	89,054	110,611	20,995	96,528	117,523
Missouri	33,999	138,582	172,581	35,476	140,169	175,645
Montana	4,789	19,448	24,237	5,799	21,852	27,651
Nebraska	10,263	41,854	52,117	11,418	44,527	55,945
Nevada	19,842	83,133	102,975	14,483	71,198	85,681
New Hampshire	3,837	15,972	19,809	2,799	18,436	21,235
New Jersey	34,002	138,069	172,071	32,066	147,858	179,924
New Mexico	13,667	57,483	71,150	14,420	62,982	77,402
New York	115,635	451,196	566,831	90,875	403,424	494,299
North Carolina	56,298	234,025	290,323	52,781	258,696	311,477
North Dakota	3,219	12,202	15,421	3,101	13,970	17,071
Ohio	57,237	235,168	292,405	65,476	259,339	324,815
Oklahoma	26,418	107,512	133,930	26,700	120,069	146,769
Oregon	19,466	80,618	100,084	20,378	84,207	104,585
Pennsylvania	56,850	230,367	287,217	56,588	236,040	292,628
Rhode Island	5,167	20,945	26,112	6,403	18,256	24,659
South Carolina	28,707	118,630	147,337	28,461	131,324	159,785
South Dakota	5,240	21,005	26,245	5,778	16,076	21,854
Tennessee	39,543	160,269	199,812	43,515	170,956	214,471
Texas	192,930	791,430	984,360	176,730	781,462	958,192
Utah	18,551	76,868	95,419	18,660	83,192	101,852
Vermont	2,195	8,928	11,123	2,983	10,542	13,525
Virginia	30,127	120,212	150,339	33,058	148,752	181,810
Washington	33,839	137,047	170,886	35,291	140,719	176,010
West Virginia	8,424	33,897	42,321	10,015	42,781	52,796
Wisconsin	26,920	111,471	138,391	23,393	111,788	135,181
Wyoming	2,564	10,784	13,348	2,313	11,872	14,185
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,721,105</b>	<b>7,006,708</b>	<b>8,727,813</b>	<b>1,687,790</b>	<b>7,311,022</b>	<b>8,998,812</b>
Puerto Rico	29,455	140,160	169,615	29,924	133,615	163,539
Virgin Islands	866	3,183	4,049	849	3,322	4,170
Guam	1,553	6,076	7,628	1,522	6,340	7,862
American Samoa	1,159	4,046	5,205	1,136	4,222	5,358
CNMI	746	2,752	3,498	732	2,871	3,603
<b>Total- US + territories</b>	<b>1,754,883</b>	<b>7,162,925</b>	<b>8,917,808</b>	<b>1,721,954</b>	<b>7,461,392</b>	<b>9,183,345</b>