New York behind rest of U.S. in reducing poverty, state comptroller says

Poverty fell in the last decade but millions of New Yorkers struggle to meet basic needs

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ALBANY – New York is falling behind the rest of the country when it comes to combating poverty.

A new report on poverty trends in the state over the last decade shows that while the statewide poverty rate has dropped, there remain millions of New Yorkers who can't meet their basic needs. The report from state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli’s office shows that the poverty rate in the rest of the country fell faster than it did in New York, and that poverty remains persistently high among some groups in the state.

The report also calls on state government to take a multi-agency approach to targeting high-needs populations and geographic areas, especially as the state continues to recover from the economic damage done by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Committing to an equitable recovery and targeting resources to those who most need them can facilitate improvements in the lives of millions of New Yorkers,” the report says.
DiNapoli’s office said the report is the first of several it has planned to examine poverty in the state. Future reports will focus on issues like food and housing insecurity.

New Yorkers in Need Poverty Trends by shughes080 on Scribd

The state has had a higher poverty rate than the national average since 2014. Last year, 13.9 percent of the state lived in poverty, compared to 12.8 of all Americans. And high rates of poverty extend throughout much of the state, with the two most impoverished counties in 2020 being Bronx in New York City, with 24.4 percent of its population in poverty, and the Southern Tier's Broome County at 18.4 percent. Only 12 of the state's 62 counties had poverty levels below 10 percent.

In the 11 counties around the Capital Region, the poverty rate last year ranged from 6.3 percent in Saratoga County, to 13.9 percent in Fulton County.

DiNapoli's report pointed out that there remains unequal rates of poverty depending on employment level, education, race, family status, disability and more.

For example, in the state's six largest cities, which includes Albany, while poverty rates for children and families have fallen over the last decade, those rates remain higher than overall poverty rates. In Albany, the poverty rate for families has fallen from around 22 percent in 2010 to approximately 12.8 percent last year.

And the poverty rate for families led by single women was nearly 23 percent in 2021, a five percent decline since 2010, but higher than that of 10.1 percent for all families and 5.6 percent for married couples.

Notably, Albany had the lowest poverty rate for married couples out of the state's six largest cities last year, at 1.2 percent.
The same held true for some minority groups. Black, native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander and American Indian New Yorkers had a poverty rate of about 20 percent, compared to 10 percent for their white counterparts last year.

DiNapoli's report also credited portions of the federal government’s response to the pandemic, specifically the stimulus checks and expanded Child Tax Credit for lifting millions of Americans out of poverty.

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