

Poverty and Opportunity in California

October 15, 2019

Tess Thorman

Supported with funding from the California Wellness Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation

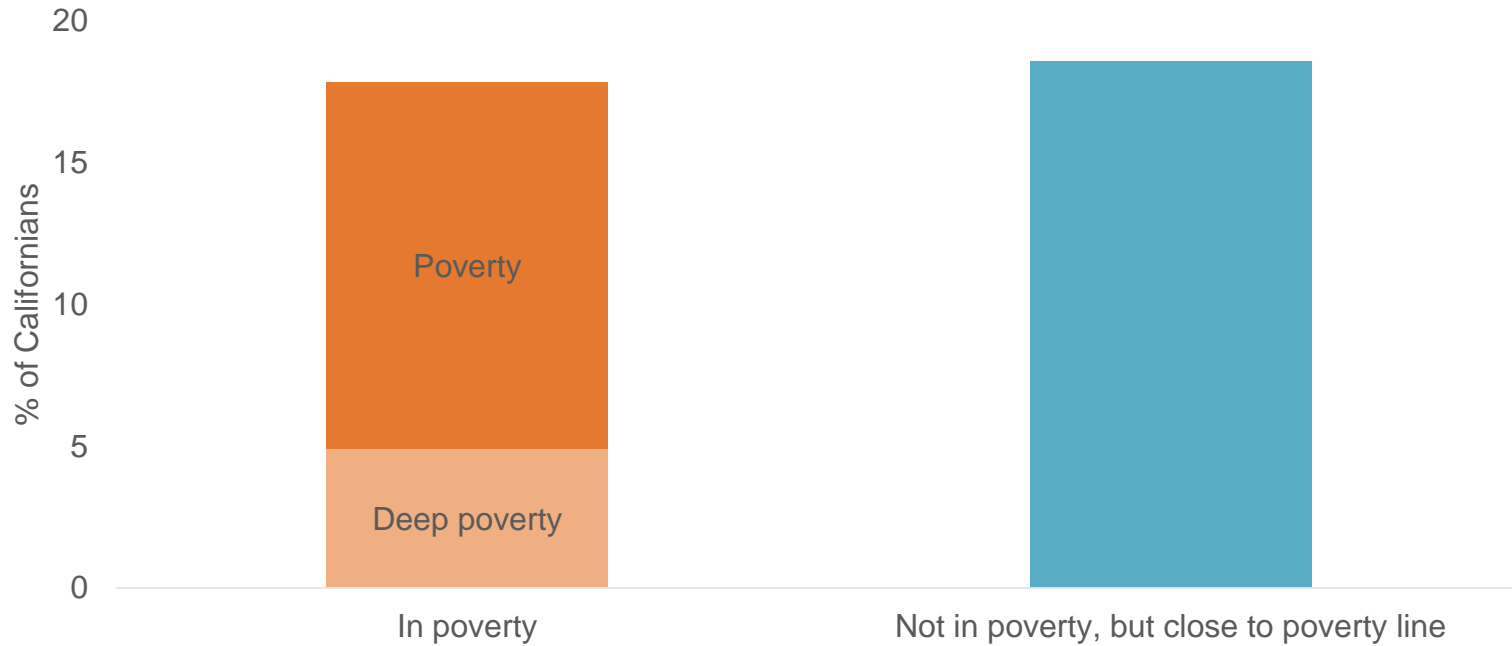


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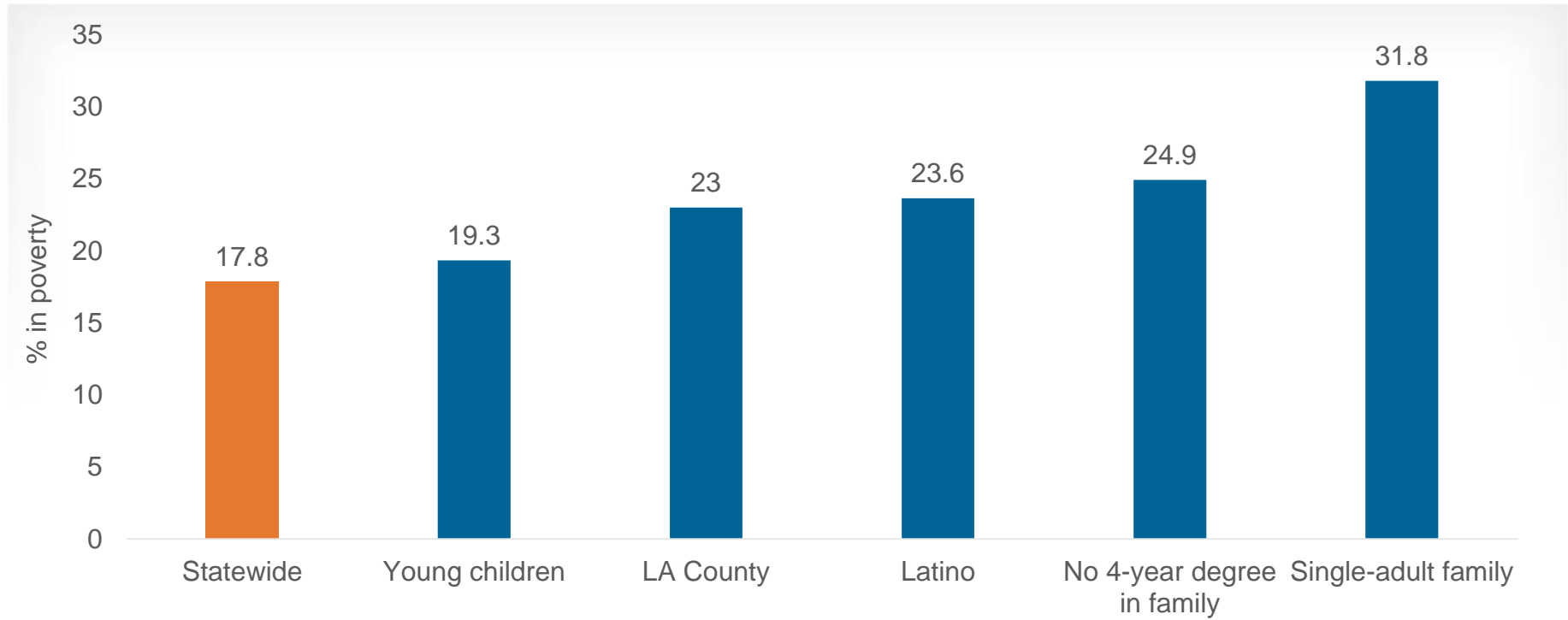
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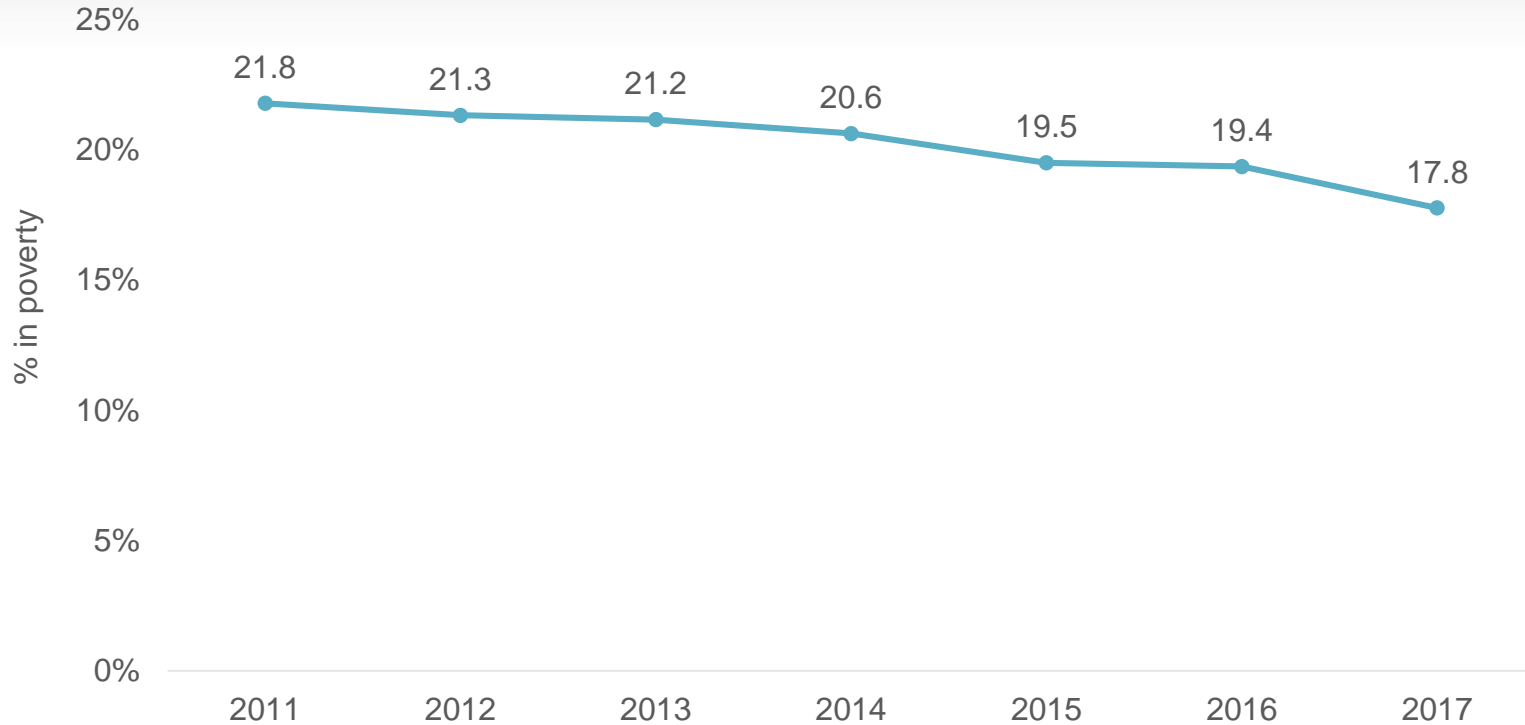
Poverty is high, and just as many Californians live just above the poverty line



Some Californians experience much higher poverty rates



Poverty rates are declining slowly

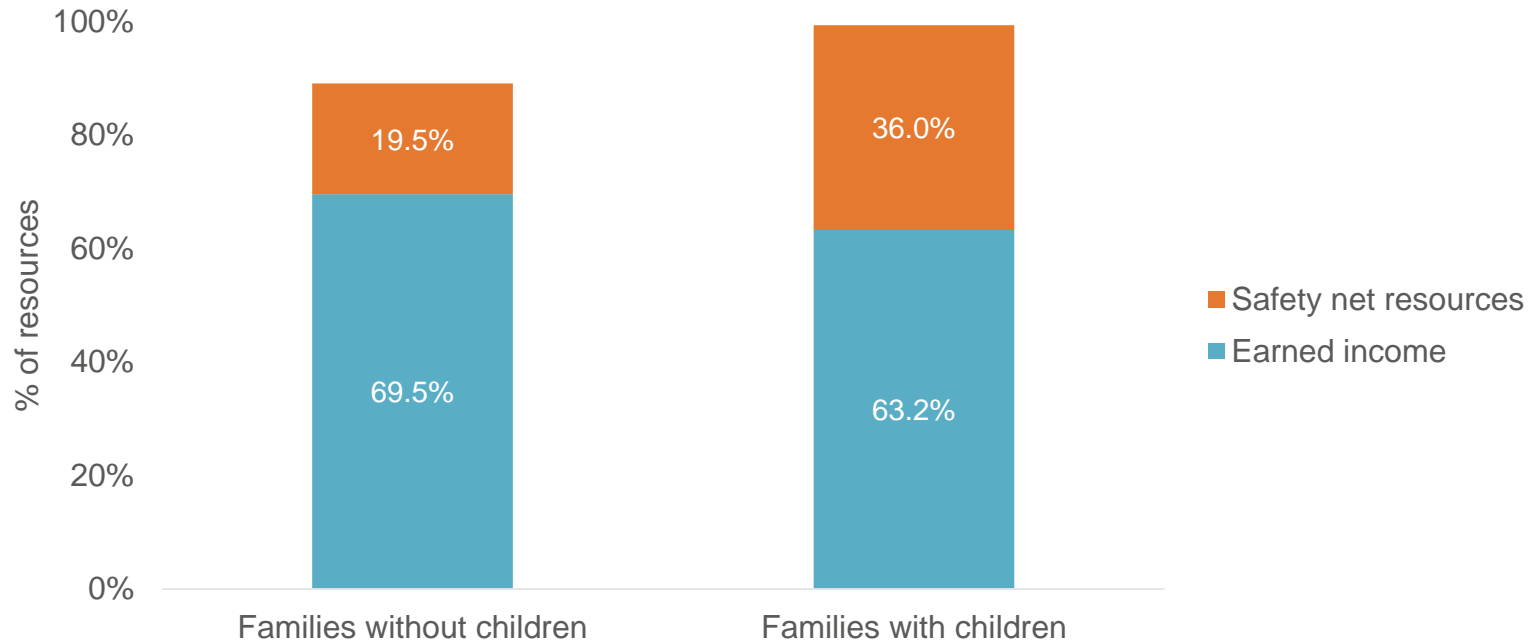


The California Poverty Measure provides insights into key dimensions of poverty

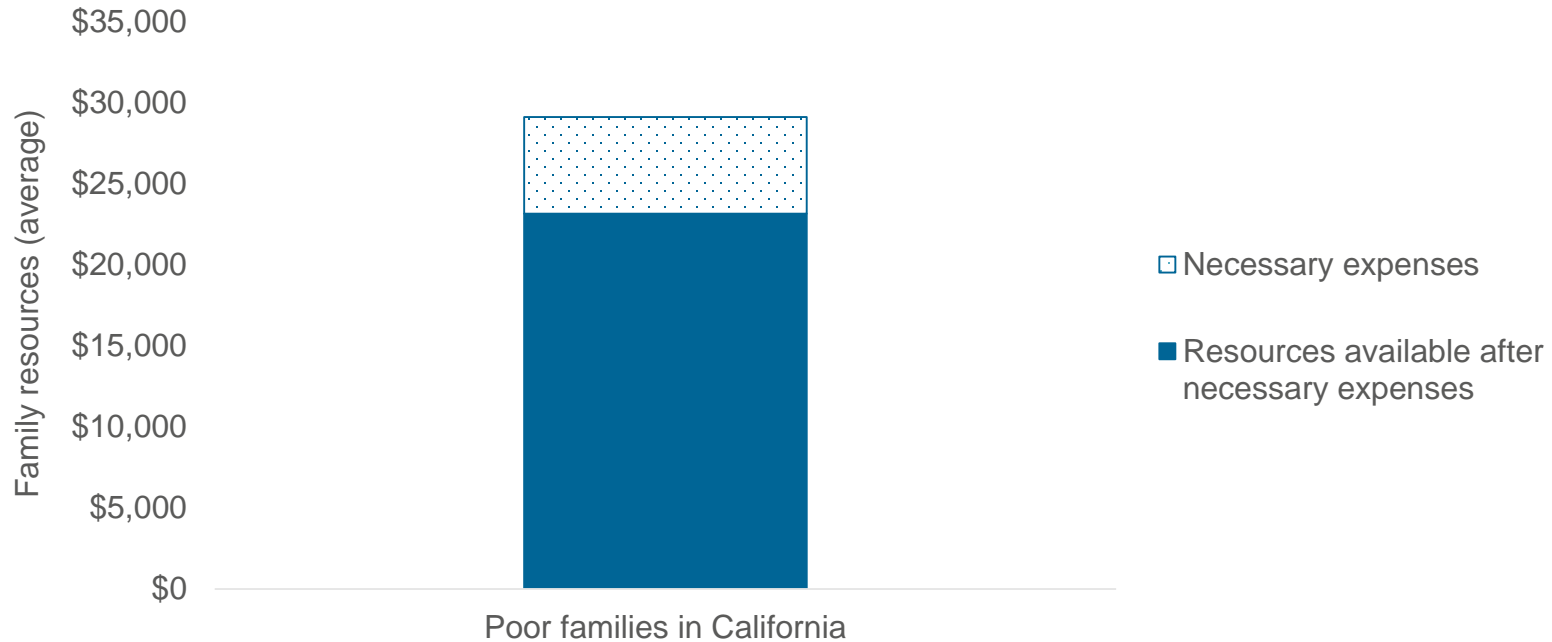
- Income from work
- Magnitude of key work and medical expenses
- Role of social safety net programs
- Cost of living



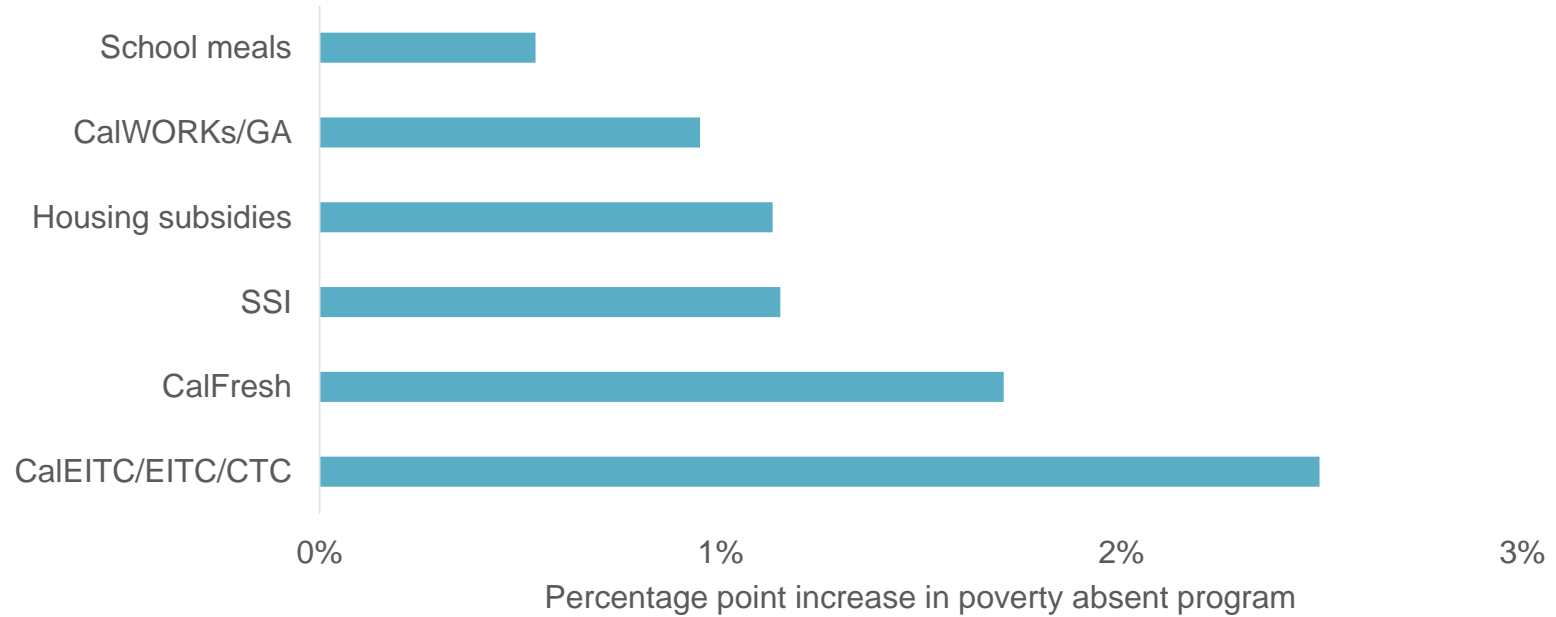
Earnings are the single largest source of resources for poor families



Out-of-pocket work and medical expenses cut deeply into the resources of poor families in California

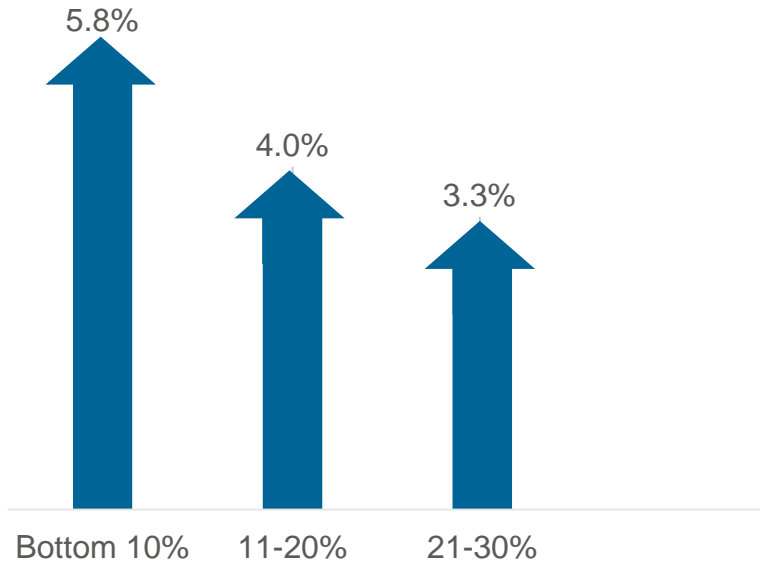


Poverty would be even higher without social safety net programs



While resources are growing, even for the lowest income families in California...

Resources of families in 2017

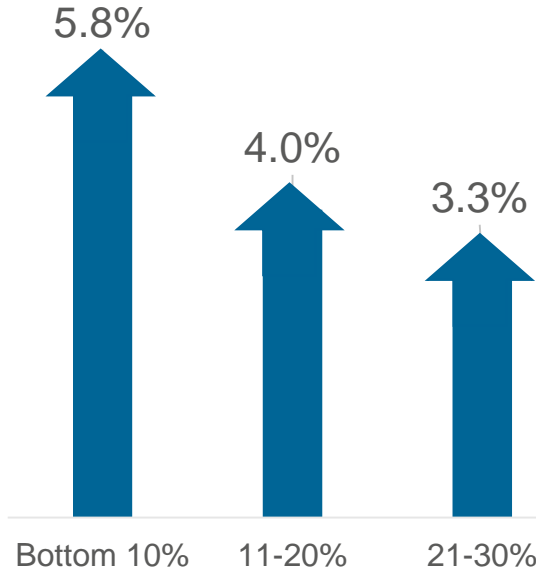


of California families

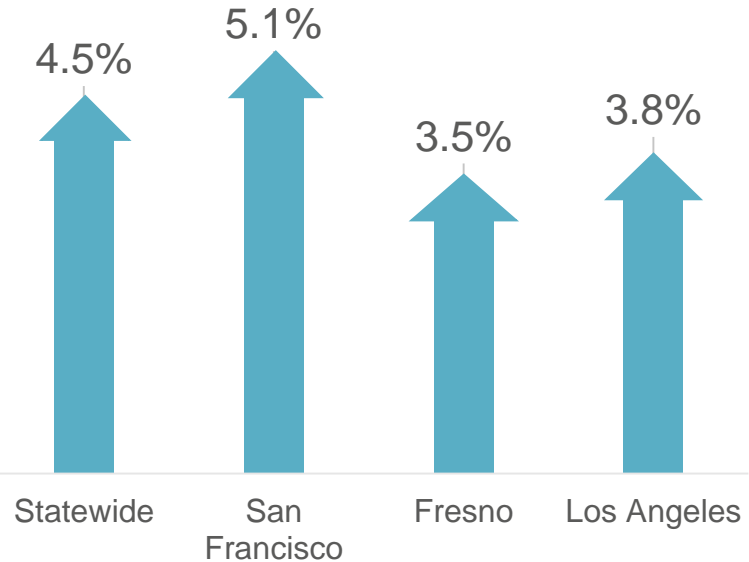


...the increasing cost of living neutralizes gains

Resources of families in 2017



Threshold for meeting basic needs in 2017



of California families



California's high poverty rate reflects opposing conditions

- Poor families rely on earnings, but expenses weigh heavily
- Safety net programs substantially reduce poverty, but the size of their impact varies across the state
- Increases in resources for those in poverty are being offset by increases in costs of living
- Given these realities, what can policy do to fight poverty, reduce disparities, and increase opportunity?



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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.

