



Demographic data was analyzed to provide an objective understanding of the population experiencing poverty in Memphis to help inform why employment pathways are not working. Below is a summary across four relevant categories.



Youth, women, and Black/African Americans disproportionately experience poverty in Memphis

- 36 percent of high school teenagers and 34 percent of young adults are experiencing poverty
- 6 in 10 people experiencing poverty are women while 3 in 4 are Black/African American
- Two-thirds of people experiencing poverty are not living in households with children

Percent of age group experiencing poverty



Food insecurity and housing instability are highly prevalent in Memphis

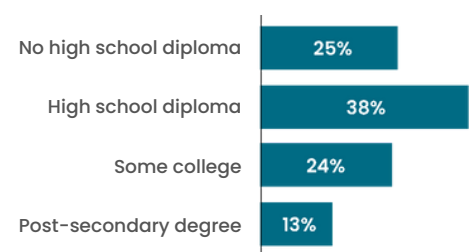
- Nearly 1 in 5 people in Greater Memphis are considered food insecure compared to only 1 in 9 across Tennessee
- Over 20 percent of renters in Memphis faced eviction each year between 2016-2019, with an average of more than 30,000 eviction filings per year



Education attainment alone is not an effective predictor of poverty

- The rate of Memphians experiencing poverty who have attended some college is the same as those who do not have a high school diploma (1 in 4)
- Nearly twice as many people with a high school diploma experience poverty in Memphis relative to the Tennessee average (30 percent vs. 17 percent)
- Nearly 1 in 5 Memphians who have earned an Associate's degree are still experiencing poverty

Highest education attainment for people experiencing poverty



Over 200,000 people in Memphis do not earn a living wage

- 1 in 3 Memphians do not earn a living-wage to sustain themselves or their families compared to only 1 in 5 across Tennessee
- 2 in 3 people experiencing poverty in Memphis are not employed compared to only 1 in 2 in Nashville
- Nearly 1 in 5 Memphians between the ages of 16-24 years old are disconnected (i.e., not working or in school), 1.5x the national rate