The 2017 CPS ASEC Research File (hhpub17\_cleaned) provides income, poverty, and health insurance estimates based on 2014 to 2016 updated CPS ASEC questions as well as a redesigned processing system. This new system introduces demographic changes to account for same sex couples, revised procedures for editing income and health insurance data, and several new income and health insurance variables. Changes to the editing procedures encompass both changes to the resolution of logically inconsistent data and changes to the imputation methods.

In a comparative analysis with the Production File, the 2017 CPS ASEC Research File serves a pivotal role in validating accurate poverty levels. Leveraging key income variables integrated into the questionnaire, this file (hhpub17\_cleaned) provides a comprehensive understanding of poverty dynamics. Moreover, the identified improvements in the 2017 CPS ASEC Research File play a vital role in ensuring accurate assessments of those falling within the poverty threshold, thereby enhancing the overall reliability and relevance of the data for research and policy analysis.

The information gathered will aid in identifying individuals facing different levels of economic hardship, particularly those classified as extremely low-income, necessitating additional financial support to meet basic needs such as rent, food stamps, housing, and other government assistance programs. Moreover, the analysis will distinguish individuals at the poverty threshold who do not require financial aid, demonstrating self-sufficiency as property owners.

This multi-faceted examination aims to provide a nuanced understanding of poverty, encompassing both those in acute need of assistance and those managing to maintain a stable living situation despite being within the poverty bracket. By exploring these diverse circumstances, a comprehensive view of the varying degrees of poverty and financial resilience within the community can be established.

The original hpub17 file was acquired from the Census.Gov website, serving as the primary source for data. Within this dataset, records featuring zero dollars in the combined Earnings, Other Incomes, Other Types of Income, Food Stamps, and Energy Assistance columns were systematically removed to enhance the dataset's accuracy. This meticulous filtering process aimed to refine the information and ensure that the retained records provide a more comprehensive depiction of financial dynamics.

The Percentile column in the dataset is a pivotal indicator, delineating the poverty placement of each household. Ranging from 1 to 15 for the lowest percentiles and 16 to 20 for the top 5 percent, this column offers a nuanced perspective on the economic standing of each household within the dataset. Additionally, the Tenure Type column plays a crucial role by categorizing households into property owners and non-property owners, establishing a fundamental distinction in housing arrangements.

For those households categorized as non-property owners, further stratification occurs based on specific criteria. These criteria involve assessing whether the household qualifies as very low income, determined by the lower rent paid as indicated in the Lower Rent column, or if they reside in Public Housing Projects, as denoted by the Housing Project column. These considerations provide a granular understanding of the financial circumstances and living arrangements of non-property-owning households.

The resultant cleaned file, named hpub17\_cleaned, is a refined dataset comprising 39 columns and 1275 rows (the 1st 25 records from 51 states). This meticulous curation process ensures that the data is not only comprehensive but also well-suited for in-depth analyses, fostering a more accurate portrayal of socio-economic trends and disparities within the examined households. The target variable, the 'pctPopPercent' column, represents the percentage of total household income across all categories divided by the number of individuals within the household.

**Source Location**

<https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/demo/income-poverty/2017-cps-asec-research-file.html>

**2017 ASEC Data Dictionary**

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/datasets/income-poverty/time-series/data-extracts/2017/cps-asec-research-file/asec-2017-data-dictionary.pdf>

**2017 ASEC Research File Documentation**

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/datasets/income-poverty/time-series/data-extracts/2017/cps-asec-research-file/2017-asec-research-file-documentation.pdf>

**Income and Poverty Content**

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/datasets/income-poverty/time-series/data-extracts/2017/cps-asec-research-file/README-%20Income-and-Poverty-Content.pdf>