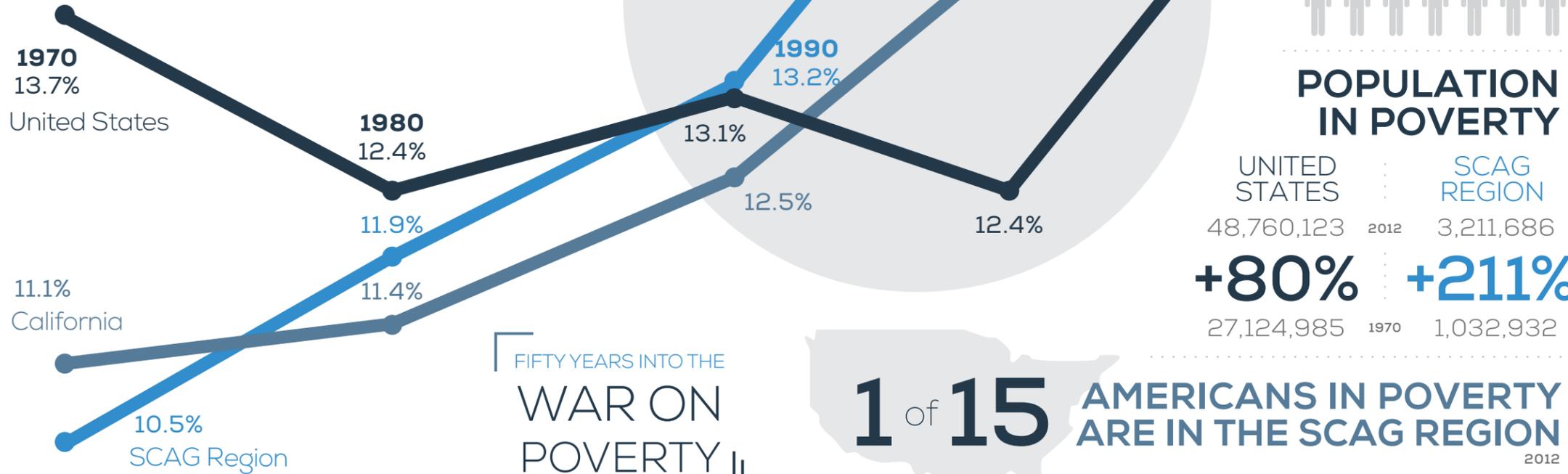


POVERTY IN FOCUS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S GROWING CRISIS

Compared to the state and nation, poverty in Southern California has risen significantly in the last two decades and is acutely concentrated in households of lower educated workers. From 1990-2012, the share of SCAG residents living below the federal poverty level increased from 13% to 18%. In 1970 both the state and SCAG region were significantly below the national average in terms of poverty. By 1990, poverty in the SCAG region has persistently exceeded both state and national poverty averages, and that gap is growing over time. Today, the region has 3.2 million residents in poverty, up 69% from 1.9 million in 1990, compared to population growth of only 26%. Worse, one in four of our children (25%) is now living in poverty, up from 19% in 1990.



FIFTY YEARS INTO THE
WAR ON
POVERTY

1 of 15 AMERICANS IN POVERTY
ARE IN THE SCAG REGION
2012



POPULATION IN POVERTY

UNITED STATES	SCAG REGION
48,760,123	3,211,686
+80%	+211%
27,124,985	1,032,932

In considering the underlying root causes of poverty, educational attainment is a highly correlated factor. Residents with lower levels of education are likely to find limited employment opportunities with mostly low (and stagnant) wage potential. Poverty rates for working residents without a high school diploma are about 26% in the SCAG region, 60% higher than for those with a high school diploma. The weak earning power for those at the lowest rungs of educational attainment represents a stark picture of the preponderance of the "working poor" in Southern California.

HAVE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR LESS

41.7%	2012	42.3%
UNITED STATES		SCAG REGION
78.7%	1970	70.4%

Unfortunately one clear trend is that education attainment has slipped in the SCAG region compared to national trends. For example, in 1970, 70.4% of adults in the SCAG region had a high school diploma or less, over 8 percentage points better than the national average (78.7%). By 2012, 42.3% of SCAG region adults had a high school diploma or less, trailing the national average (41.7%).

Similarly, 12.7% of SCAG region adults had a BA or higher, exceeding the national average (10.7%) in 1970. In 1990, SCAG's 21.9% average was still above the national average by 1.6 percentage points, but by 2012, the SCAG region (28.8%) had fallen below the national average (29.1%).

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

\$27,319	2012	\$25,668
UNITED STATES		SCAG REGION
\$3,119	1970	\$3,708

SCAG region per capita income trends have also stagnated compared to national averages. In 1990, annual SCAG per capita income was over \$1,700 above the national average, but by 2012 SCAG per capita income was \$1,650 below the national average.

Technological Innovations

Despite decades of technological advancements that have made life more comfortable and convenient, the poverty rate at the national, state, and regional levels has seen a drastic increase. While we have achieved much in the way of science and technology, more needs to be done now to ensure future generations have access to quality education and good job opportunities.

1969
Apollo 11
Moon Landing



1970s
Personal
Computer



1973
Mobile
Phone



1984
Personal Digital
Assistant (PDA)



1990
The World
Wide Web



1992
Smartphone



1997
Hybrid
Car



2003
Mapping of the
Human Genome



2009
Retinal
Implants

