

SPECIAL RELEASE

Preliminary 2023 First Semester Official Poverty Statistics in Western Visayas

Date of Release: 10 January 2024
Reference No: 2024-SR03

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The First Semester 2023 Official Poverty Statistics in Western Visayas presents the poverty statistics for the first semester of 2023 in the region. It is based on the results of the 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) conducted by the PSA. The estimates were generated based on the methodology for the estimation of official poverty statistics using the income from the FIES.

Proportion of poor Filipinos in Western Visayas registered at 26.0 percent in the First Semester of 2023

The First Semester of 2023 poverty incidence among population in Western Visayas, or the proportion of poor Filipinos in the region whose per capita income is not sufficient to meet their basic food and non-food needs, was estimated at 26.0 percent. This translates to 2.1 million Filipinos in the region who live below the poverty threshold estimated at PhP 14,206.00, on average, for a family of five per month in the first semester in 2023.

Table 1. First Semester Poverty Threshold, Incidence and Magnitude of Poor: 2021 and 2023, Western Visayas^P

Statistics	Estimate		Coefficient of Variation	
	2021	2023 ^P	2021	2023 ^P
Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)				
Philippines (Phils.)	12,082	13,797		
Western Visayas (WV)	11,266	14,206		
Poverty Incidence (WV)				
Among Families	19.3	20.5	4.5	5.1
Among Population	25.3	26.0	4.2	4.8
Magnitude of Poor (WV)				
Among Families ('000)	374.36	414.07	4.9	5.8
Among Population ('000)	2,015.75	2,102.24	4.9	5.7

Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

^P - This is based on the preliminary results of the first semester in 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES)



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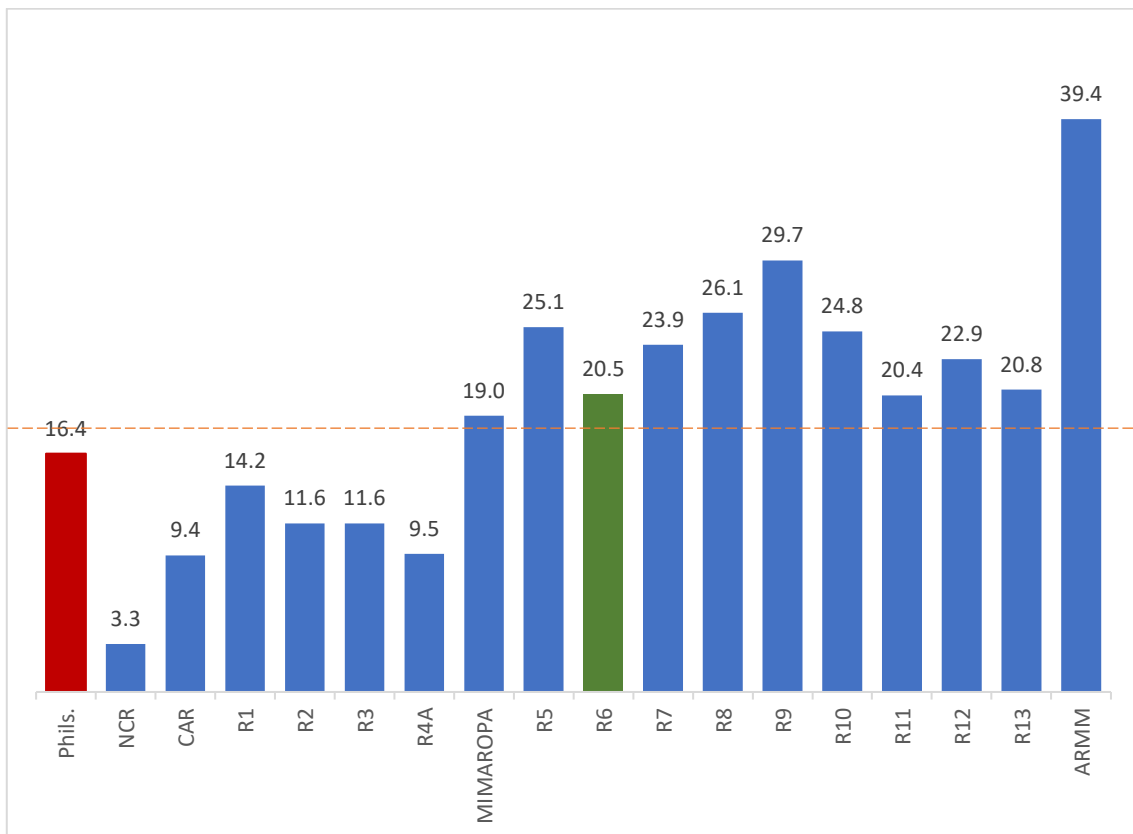
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Poverty incidence among families in Western Visayas was 20.5 percent, 9th lowest among regions in the first semester in 2023

The poverty incidence among families in the first semester in 2023 was 20.5 percent. This means that about one (1) in every five (5) families in the region are poor. In terms of magnitude, the number of Filipino families in the region who live below the poverty threshold is about 414 thousand.

The reported poverty incidence among families is 4.1 percentage point higher than the Philippine’s poverty incidence of 16.4 percent. Among all the 17 regions in the country, Western Visayas reported as 9th lowest in terms of poverty incidence among families and the lowest among the regions in the Visayas.

Figure 1. Poverty Incidence among Families by Region: 2023, Philippines



Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

P - This is based on the preliminary results of the first semester in 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES)



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Seven out of a hundred Filipinos in Western Visayas are food poor

The subsistence incidence among Filipinos in the region, or the proportion of population in the region whose income is not enough to meet even their basic food needs, was registered at 10.1 percent in the first semester in 2023. This translates to about 816 thousand Filipinos in the region whose incomes were less than the food threshold of PhP 10,005.00 or the monthly average amount needed to meet their basic food needs in the first semester in 2023. This estimate was 0.3 percentage point higher than its value of 9.8 in the first semester in 2021.

Among families, the 7.5 percent subsistence incidence recorded in the region in the first semester in 2023 is equivalent to about 151 thousand families that fall below the food threshold in the first semester in 2023. The number of food-poor Filipino families in the region increased from 133 thousand in the same semester in 2021.

Table 2. Food Thresholds, Incidence and Magnitude of Poor: 2021 and 2023, Western Visayas^P

Statistics	Estimate		Coefficient of Variation	
	2021	2023 ^P	2021	2023 ^P
Monthly Poverty Food Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)				
Philippines (Phils.)	8,393	9,550		
Western Visayas (WV)	7,879	10,005		
Subsistence Incidence (WV)				
Among Families	6.9	7.5	7.7	9.9
Among Population	9.8	10.1	7.6	9.3
Magnitude of Food Poor (WV)				
Among Families ('000)	133.32	150.59	7.9	10.7
Among Population ('000)	780.12	815.78	8.1	10.3

Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

^P - This is based on the preliminary results of the first semester in 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES)



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Income gap was recorded at 25.3 percent

The income gap was estimated at 25.3 percent in the first semester in 2023, that is, on average, a poor family with five members need an additional monthly income of about PhP 3,596.00 to move out of poverty in the first semester in 2023. This can serve as a useful reference especially in determining the necessary budget that can be transferred/added to the income of the poor and lift them out of poverty.

On the other hand, the poverty gap in first semester of 2023 was reported at 5.2 percent. The gap widened by 6.6 percent from the 4.9 percent of the first semester in 2021. Moreover, the severity of poverty in the region increased by 6.1 percent from the 1.8 percent of the first semester in 2021 to 1.9 percent in the same semester in 2023.

**Table 3. Income Gap, Poverty Gap, and Severity Poverty:
2021 and 2023, Western Visayas**

Statistics	Estimate (%)		(Inc/Dec)
	2021	2023 ^P	
Income Gap	25.3	25.3	-
Poverty Gap	4.9	5.2	6.6
Squared Poverty Gap (Severity of Poverty)	1.8	1.9	6.1

Source: Philippines Statistics Authority

^P - This is based on the preliminary results of the first semester in 2023 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES)



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TECHNICAL NOTES

REPUBLIC ACT 8425 OF 1997 – (SOCIAL REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACT)

Defines Poor as “Individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by NEDA and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing, and other essential amenities in life.” (Section 3 of RA 8425)

POVERTY THRESHOLD

Is the minimum income required for a family or individual to meet the basic food and non-food needs, also known as POVERTY LINE.

FOOD THRESHOLD

Is the minimum income required for a family or individual to meet the basic food needs, which satisfy the nutritional requirement for economically necessary and socially desirable physical activities.

POVERTY INCIDENCE

The proportion of families or individuals with per capita income less than the per capita POVERTY THRESHOLD to the total number of families or individuals.

SUBSISTENCE INCIDENCE

The proportion of families or individuals with per capita income less than the per capita FOOD THRESHOLD to the total number of families or individuals.

INCOME GAP

The average income shortfall, expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold of families/individuals with income below the poverty threshold.

POVERTY GAP

Refers to the income shortfall (expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold) of families with income below the poverty threshold, divided by the total number of families.

SEVERITY OF POVERTY

Is the total of the squared income shortfall (expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold) of families with income below the poverty threshold, divided by the total number of families. This is a poverty measure that is sensitive to income distribution among the poor.



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