

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **LIVING IN POVERTY: SORTING THROUGH POLITICAL LIES**

By Steve Bakke  July 5, 2019



One outrageously misleading claim coming from democrat presidential wannabe Joe Biden caught my attention. He recently proclaimed: “We have.....almost half of the people in the United States living in poverty.” In fact, he’s using a measurement that includes almost half of those in the middle class, in addition to those actually living in poverty.

The number quoted is actually more than 200% of the official federal poverty level. It’s called the “supplemental poverty measure,” an unofficial measurement used to express relative wealth statistics. The purveyors of this statistic don’t deny that it includes more than just those in poverty.

In fact, less than 15 percent of U.S. residents fall under the official federal poverty level. Many of those are being lifted out of poverty by some government food and housing programs not adjusted for in the statistics.

Salvador Rizzo asked an interesting question recently in the Washington Post: “Is someone poor because they can’t afford basic necessities? Or because they can’t afford the same lifestyle as the average American, even though they provide for their household?”

Remember, on a relative basis, someone is always at the bottom, even in our affluent country. I wonder if Biden believes this inaccurate claim.