Poverty: 1999

Census 2000 Brief

Issued May 2003

C2KBR-19

By
Alemayehu Bishaw
and
John Iceland

At the close of the 20th century, 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, or 33.9 million people, reported 1999 family incomes that were below the poverty thresholds, down from 13.1 percent in 1989.[1] The incidence of poverty varied considerably across regions, states, counties, and cities, and some groups experienced higher rates of poverty than others.

This report, which exhibits data on the poverty population, is part of a series that presents population and housing data collected by Census 2000.[2] It describes population distributions for the United States, including characteristics of regions, states, counties, and places with populations of 100,000 or more. A description of how the Census Bureau measures poverty may be found on page 2 and the poverty thresholds used are in Table 1.

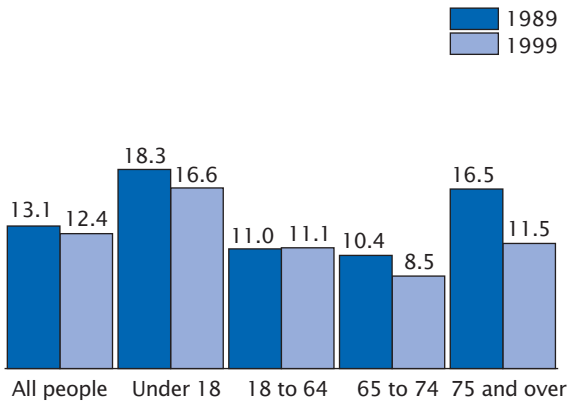
Declines in poverty between 1989 and 1999 were registered for most of the age groups shown in Figure 1 and Table 2. The poverty rate for children (those under 18) declined by 1.7 percentage points, from 18.3 percent in 1989 to 16.6 percent in 1999.

Despite declines, the child poverty rate in 1999 still surpassed rates for adult age groups. In 1999, for example, the poverty rate for people 18 to 64 was 11.1 percent, and the poverty rate for people 65 to 74 and those 75 and over were 8.5 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively. Notably, people 18 to 64 experienced an increase in poverty over the decade.

Figure 1.

Poverty Rates by Age: 1989 and 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

[1] The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

[2] The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 3 and Figure 3.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States Census 2000

How poverty is measured.

Poverty statistics presented in census publications use thresholds prescribed for federal agencies by Statistical Policy Directive 14, issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The original poverty measure was developed in the Social Security Administration during 1963-1964. It was adopted by the Council of Economic Advisors, and the OMB subsequently revised it slightly in 1969 and 1981.

The data on poverty status were derived in part from Census 2000 long form questionnaire items 31 and 32, which provide information on the amount of income people receive from various sources. Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, or college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old.

The current official poverty measure has two components—poverty thresholds (income levels) and the family income that is compared with these thresholds. The official definition uses 48 thresholds that take into account family size (from one person to nine or more) and the presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to eight or more children present). Furthermore, unrelated individuals and two-person families are differentiated by the age of the reference person (under 65 or 65 and over). The poverty thresholds are not adjusted for regional, state, or local variation in the cost of living. The dollar amounts of the poverty thresholds used in this report are shown in Table 1.

Family income then determines who is poor. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for the family's size and composition, the family and everyone in it are considered poor. If a person is not living with anyone related by birth, marriage, or adoption, the person's own income is compared with his or her poverty threshold as an "unrelated individual." For example, the 1999 poverty threshold for a 3-person family with one member under age 18 was $13,410. If the total family income for 1999 was greater than this threshold, then the family and all members of the family were considered to be above the poverty level.

The total number of people below the poverty level is the sum of the number of people in poor families and the number of unrelated individuals with incomes below the poverty threshold. Census 2000 asked people about their income in the previous calendar year. Poverty estimates in this report compare family income in 1999 with the corresponding 1999 poverty thresholds.

Table 1.
Poverty Thresholds (Annual Dollar Amounts) by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years Old: 1999

Size of family unit	Weighted average threshold	Related children under 18 years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual)	$8,501									
Under 65 years	8,667	8,667								
65 years and over	7,990	7,990								
Two people	10,869									
Householder under 65 years	11,214	11,156	11,483							
Householder 65 years and over	10,075	10,070	11,440							
Three people	13,290	13,032	13,410	13,423						
Four people	17,029	17,184	17,465	16,895	16,954					
Five people	20,127	20,723	21,024	20,380	19,882	19,578				
Six people	22,727	23,835	23,930	23,436	22,964	22,261	21,845			
Seven people	25,912	27,425	27,596	27,006	26,595	25,828	24,934	23,953		
Eight people	28,967	30,673	30,944	30,387	29,899	29,206	28,327	27,412	27,180	
Nine people or more	34,417	36,897	37,076	36,583	36,169	35,489	34,554	33,708	33,499	32,208

Note: The weighted average thresholds represent a summary of the poverty thresholds for a given family size. They are not used to compute official poverty statistics.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.

Table 2.
Poverty Rates by Age: 1989 and 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Characteristic	1989			1999			Percentage point change, 1999 less 1989
		Below poverty level			Below poverty level		
	Total*	Number	Percent	Total*	Number	Percent	
All people	241,977,859	31,742,864	13.1	273,882,232	33,899,812	12.4	–0.7
Under 18 years	62,605,519	11,428,916	18.3	70,925,261	11,746,858	16.6	–1.7
Under 5 years	17,978,025	3,617,099	20.1	18,726,688	3,412,025	18.2	–1.9
5 years	3,626,098	714,726	19.7	3,909,962	689,664	17.6	–2.1
6 to 11 years	21,187,263	3,870,105	18.3	24,587,815	4,148,573	16.9	–1.4
12 to 17 years	19,814,133	3,226,986	16.3	23,700,796	3,496,596	14.8	–1.5
18 to 64 years	149,809,693	16,533,363	11.0	169,610,423	18,865,180	11.1	0.1
65 to 74 years	17,932,656	1,857,468	10.4	18,253,226	1,550,969	8.5	–1.9
75 years and over	11,629,991	1,923,117	16.5	15,093,322	1,736,805	11.5	–5.0

* Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total population). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: 1990 census and Census 2000 Summary File 3.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF POVERTY

Poverty rates varied across regions and states.

Poverty rates varied considerably across regions (see Table 3).[3] The lowest poverty rate in 1999 was experienced in the Midwest region (10.2 percent), while the poverty rate was 11.4 percent in the Northeast and 13.0 percent in the West. Poverty rates in 1999 remained highest in the South (13.9 percent). Although 35.6 percent of the total population resided in the South, 40.0 percent of the population living in poverty resided there, according to Census 2000 (see Figure 2).

The variation across the 50 states and the District of Columbia was even more pronounced (Table 3). Among the 50 states, poverty rates in 1999 ranged from a low of 6.5 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 19.9 percent in Mississippi. The estimated poverty rate for District of Columbia (20.2 percent) is not statistically different from Mississippi.

The three states with the highest poverty rates in 1989 (Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico) all experienced significant declines in poverty over the 1990s, yet remained the three highest.

None of the three states with the lowest poverty rates in 1989 (New Hampshire, Connecticut, and New Jersey) experienced declines in poverty; two of them—Connecticut and New Jersey—experienced increases. Nevertheless, New Hampshire and Connecticut remained among the three states with the lowest poverty rates in 1999, along with Minnesota.

Clusters of low and high poverty counties were evident in 1999.

Figure 3 shows how poverty rates varied among U.S. counties in 1999. The lighter-shaded counties, such as those that predominate in the Midwest, along the coast in the Northeast, and in some mountain states, had lower-than-average poverty rates. In contrast, the darker-shaded counties in the South and Southwest had higher-than-average poverty rates. High-poverty counties were clustered in Appalachia (such as in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky), in the Mississippi delta area, along the border in Southwest Texas, and in some American Indian tribal areas in states close to the Canadian border and the Southwest.

Some places had lower poverty rates than others.

Tables 4 and 5 show the places with the lowest and highest poverty rates in 1999 among places with a

[3] The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Table 3.
State and Regional Poverty Rates: 1989 and 1999

(For information on confidentiality, protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

State	1989			1999			Percentage point change 1999 less 1989
		Below poverty level			Below poverty level		
	Total*	Number	Percent	Total*	Number	Percent	
United States	**241,977,859**	**31,742,864**	**13.1**	**273,882,232**	**33,899,812**	**12.4**	**–0.7**
Regions							
Northeast	49,352,506	5,214,372	10.6	52,039,565	5,919,007	11.4	0.8
Midwest	58,035,788	6,971,020	12.0	62,613,918	6,360,113	10.2	–1.9
South	83,106,946	13,065,294	15.7	97,437,335	13,569,265	13.9	–1.8
West	51,482,619	6,492,178	12.6	61,791,414	8,051,427	13.0	0.4
State							
Alabama	3,945,798	723,614	18.3	4,334,919	698,097	16.1	–2.2
Alaska	532,474	47,906	9.0	612,961	57,602	9.4	0.4
Arizona	3,584,399	564,362	15.7	5,021,238	698,669	13.9	–1.8
Arkansas	2,292,037	437,089	19.1	2,600,117	411,777	15.8	–3.2
California	29,003,219	3,627,585	12.5	33,100,044	4,706,130	14.2	1.7
Colorado	3,212,550	375,214	11.7	4,202,140	388,952	9.3	–2.4
Connecticut	3,188,125	217,347	6.8	3,300,416	259,514	7.9	1.0
Delaware	645,399	56,223	8.7	759,117	69,901	9.2	0.5
District of Columbia	570,826	96,278	16.9	541,657	109,500	20.2	3.3
Florida	12,641,486	1,604,186	12.7	15,605,367	1,952,629	12.5	–0.2
Georgia	6,299,654	923,085	14.7	7,959,649	1,033,793	13.0	–1.7
Hawaii	1,071,352	88,408	8.3	1,178,795	126,154	10.7	2.4
Idaho	985,553	130,588	13.3	1,263,205	148,732	11.8	–1.5
Illinois	11,143,856	1,326,731	11.9	12,095,961	1,291,958	10.7	–1.2
Indiana	5,372,388	573,632	10.7	5,894,295	559,484	9.5	–1.2
Iowa	2,676,958	307,420	11.5	2,824,435	258,008	9.1	–2.3
Kansas	2,391,824	274,623	11.5	2,605,429	257,829	9.9	–1.6
Kentucky	3,582,459	681,827	19.0	3,927,047	621,096	15.8	–3.2
Louisiana	4,101,071	967,002	23.6	4,334,094	851,113	19.6	–3.9
Maine	1,189,534	128,466	10.8	1,240,893	135,501	10.9	NS
Maryland	4,660,591	385,296	8.3	5,164,376	438,676	8.5	0.2
Massachusetts	5,812,415	519,339	8.9	6,138,444	573,421	9.3	0.4
Michigan	9,077,016	1,190,698	13.1	9,700,622	1,021,605	10.5	–2.6
Minnesota	4,259,456	435,331	10.2	4,794,144	380,476	7.9	–2.3
Mississippi	2,502,902	631,029	25.2	2,750,677	548,079	19.9	–5.3
Missouri	4,970,573	663,075	13.3	5,433,293	637,891	11.7	–1.6
Montana	776,793	124,853	16.1	878,789	128,355	14.6	–1.5
Nebraska	1,530,947	170,616	11.1	1,660,527	161,269	9.7	–1.4
Nevada	1,178,396	119,660	10.2	1,962,948	205,685	10.5	0.3
New Hampshire	1,075,703	69,104	6.4	1,199,322	78,530	6.5	NS
New Jersey	7,563,170	573,152	7.6	8,232,588	699,668	8.5	0.9
New Mexico	1,484,339	305,934	20.6	1,783,907	328,933	18.4	–2.2
New York	17,481,762	2,277,296	13.0	18,449,899	2,692,202	14.6	1.6
North Carolina	6,397,185	829,858	13.0	7,805,328	958,667	12.3	–0.7
North Dakota	613,969	88,276	14.4	619,197	73,457	11.9	–2.5
Ohio	10,574,315	1,325,768	12.5	11,046,987	1,170,698	10.6	–1.9
Oklahoma	3,051,515	509,854	16.7	3,336,224	491,235	14.7	–2.0
Oregon	2,775,907	344,867	12.4	3,347,667	388,740	11.6	–0.8
Pennsylvania	11,536,049	1,283,629	11.1	11,879,950	1,304,117	11.0	–0.1
Rhode Island	964,376	92,670	9.6	1,010,000	120,548	11.9	2.3
South Carolina	3,368,125	517,793	15.4	3,883,329	547,869	14.1	–1.3
South Dakota	670,383	106,305	15.9	727,425	95,900	13.2	–2.7
Tennessee	4,743,685	744,941	15.7	5,539,896	746,789	13.5	–2.2
Texas	16,580,286	3,000,515	18.1	20,287,300	3,117,609	15.4	–2.7
Utah	1,694,357	192,415	11.4	2,195,034	206,328	9.4	–2.0
Vermont	541,372	53,369	9.9	588,053	55,506	9.4	–0.4
Virginia	5,968,596	611,611	10.2	6,844,372	656,641	9.6	–0.7
Washington	4,741,003	517,933	10.9	5,765,201	612,370	10.6	–0.3
West Virginia	1,755,331	345,093	19.7	1,763,866	315,794	17.9	–1.8
Wisconsin	4,754,103	508,545	10.7	5,211,603	451,538	8.7	–2.0
Wyoming	442,277	52,453	11.9	479,485	54,777	11.4	–0.4
Puerto Rico	**3,494,544**	**2,057,377**	**58.9**	**3,769,782**	**1,818,687**	**48.2**	**–10.6**

* Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total populations). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

NS Not statistically different from zero at the 90-percent confidence level.

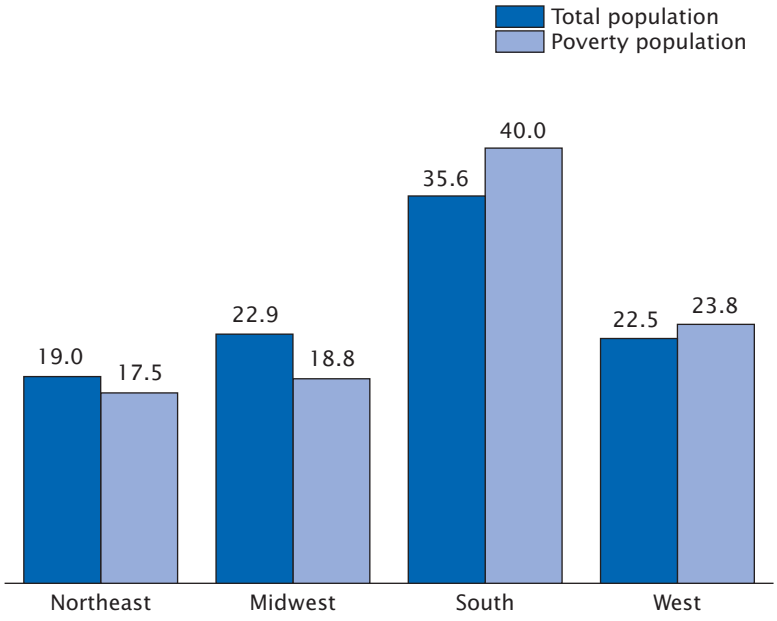
Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: 1990 census and Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Figure 2.

Distribution of People and Poverty by Region in Census 2000

(Percent in each region. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3.

population of 100,000 or more.[4] Naperville, Illinois, had the lowest poverty rate—2.2 percent—among these places (Table 4). Of the 10 places with the lowest poverty rates in Table 4, five were in the West (Gilbert, AZ; Westminister, CO; Thousand Oaks, CA; Arvada, CO; and Peoria, AZ), four were in the Midwest (Naperville, IL; Livonia, MI; Overland Park, KS; and Sterling Heights, MI), one was in the South (Plano, TX), and none were in the Northeast.

Brownsville, Texas, had the highest poverty rate at 36.0 percent. Five of the 10 places listed in Table 5 were in the South (Brownsville is accompanied by Laredo, TX; Miami, FL; Athens-Clarke, GA; and New Orleans, LA). Four were in the Northeast (Hartford, CT; Providence, RI; Newark, NJ; and Syracuse, NY), and only one in the West (San Bernardino, CA). None were in the Midwest.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE POVERTY POPULATION

Poverty rates varied by race and Hispanic origin.

Census 2000 asked respondents to report one or more races. With the exception of the Two or more races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.[5] The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.[6]

Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest poverty rate (8.1 percent) in 1999. The poverty rates for Asians (12.6 percent) and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders (17.7 percent) were somewhat higher (see Table 6). Poverty rates were higher still among Blacks or African Americans (24.9 percent) and American Indians and Alaska Natives (25.7 percent). Poverty rates for those who were of Some other race (24.4 percent) or Two or more races (18.2 percent) were also higher than the national average (12.4 percent).[7]

People who were Hispanic or Latino (who may be of any race) also had a high poverty rate (22.6 percent) compared with the national average.[8]

[4] Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including four city-county consolidations) and seven census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html.*

[5] For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or more races population, see reports from the Census 2000 Brief series (C2KBR/01), available on the Census 2000 Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.*

[6] This report draws heavily on Summary File 3, a Census 2000 product that can be accessed through *American FactFinder*, available from the Census Bureau's Web site, *www.census.gov.* Information on people who reported more than one race, such as "White and American Indian and Alaska Native" or "Asian and Black or African American," is forthcoming in Summary File 4, which will also be available through *American FactFinder* later in 2003.

[7] All the poverty rates for the race groups mentioned above differ statistically from each other except the poverty rates of Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders and people who reported Two or more races.

[8] Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion of Hispanics was 8.0 percent for Whites, 1.9 percent for Blacks, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting Some other race, and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or more races.

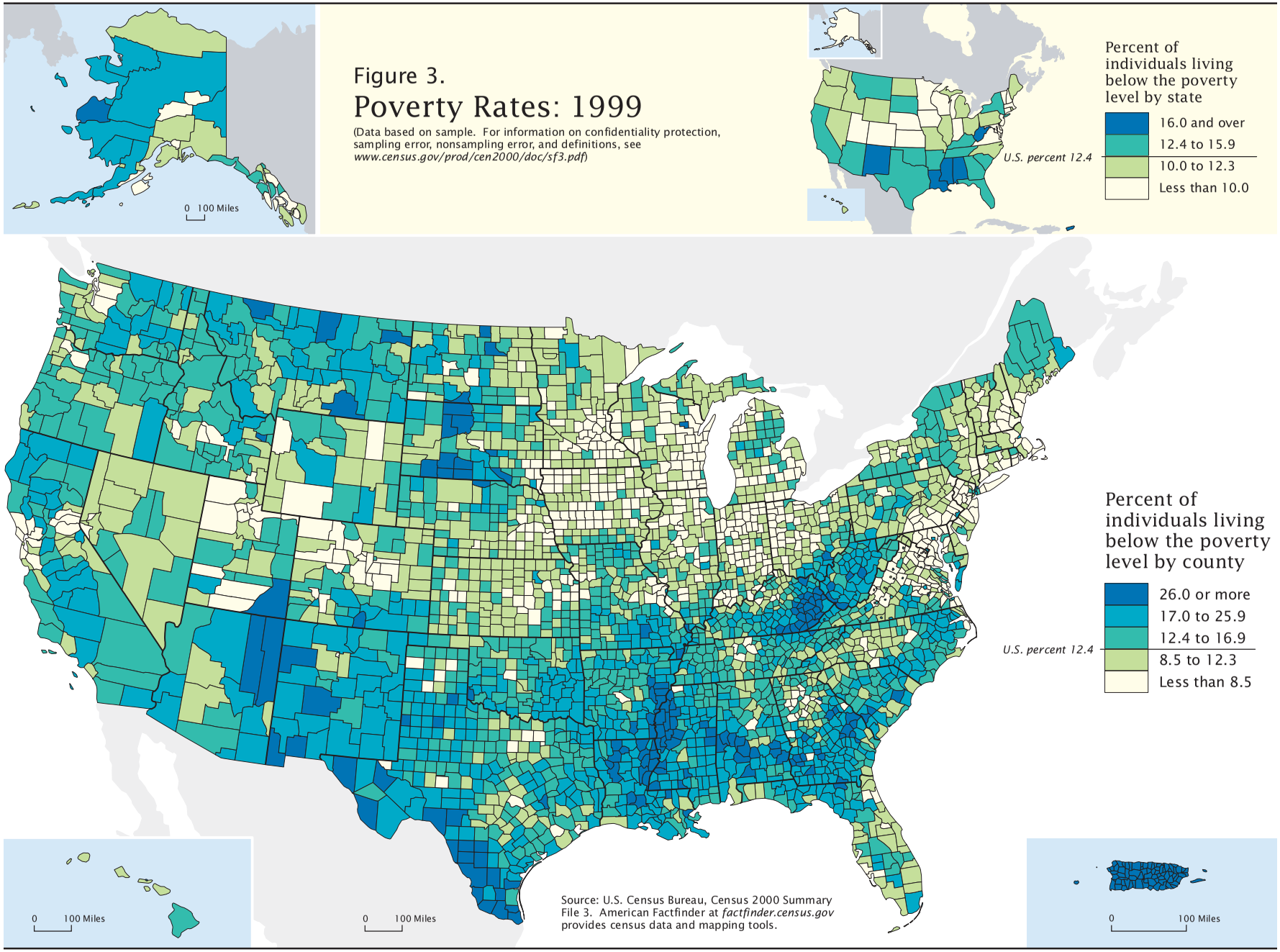


Figure 3.

Poverty Rates: 1999

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3. American Factfinder at *factfinder.census.gov* provides census data and mapping tools.

Table 4.
Places of 100,000 or More With the Lowest Poverty Rates: 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Places with 100,000 or more	Total*	Below poverty level		90-percent confidence interval	
		Number	Percent	Lower	Upper
Naperville city, IL	126,420	2,809	2.2	2.0	2.4
Livonia city, MI	99,202	3,136	3.2	3.0	3.4
Overland Park city, KS	147,185	4,730	3.2	2.9	3.5
Gilbert town, AZ	109,547	3,529	3.2	2.9	3.5
Plano city, TX	221,149	9,500	4.3	4.0	4.6
Westminster city, CO	100,436	4,726	4.7	4.3	5.1
Thousand Oaks city, CA	115,302	5,714	5.0	4.6	5.4
Arvada city, CO	101,860	5,307	5.2	4.8	5.6
Sterling Heights city, MI	123,568	6,480	5.2	4.9	5.5
Peoria city, AZ	107,094	5,627	5.3	4.9	5.7

*Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total population). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Table 5.
Places of 100,000 or More With the Highest Poverty Rates: 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

City and State	Total*	Below poverty level		90-percent confidence interval	
		Number	Percent	Lower	Upper
Brownsville city, TX	138,169	49,701	36.0	35.2	36.8
Hartford city, CT	116,756	35,741	30.6	29.9	31.3
Laredo city, TX	174,070	51,493	29.6	29.0	30.2
Providence city, RI	160,243	46,688	29.1	28.5	29.7
Miami city, FL	352,916	100,405	28.5	28.1	28.9
Newark city, NJ	261,451	74,263	28.4	27.9	28.9
Athens-Clarke County, GA	93,161	26,337	28.3	27.4	29.2
New Orleans city, LA	468,453	130,896	27.9	27.5	28.3
San Bernardino city, CA	180,100	49,691	27.6	27.0	28.2
Syracuse city, NY	137,234	37,485	27.3	26.6	28.0

*Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total population). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be significantly different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3.

Poverty rates varied by family type and number of children.

Between 1989 and 1999, the poverty rate for all families fell from 10.0 percent to 9.2 percent, but poverty rates varied by family type and the presence of children (see Table 7).

The poverty rate for all married-couple families in 1999 (4.9 percent) was lower than the rate for male householder families with no spouse present (13.6 percent) and female householder families with no spouse present (26.5 percent). Among the latter group, the poverty rate for families with related children under 18 was higher still, at 34.3 percent in 1999, although this figure represented a decline from 42.3 percent in 1989.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Uses of poverty statistics

The U.S. Census Bureau's statistics on poverty provide an important measure of the country's economic well-being and are sometimes used nonstatistically to assess the need or eligibility for various types of public assistance. Funds for food, health care, and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on data about elderly people with low incomes. Data about poor children are used to apportion Title I funds to counties and school districts. Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, income and poverty data are used to allocate funds for home energy aid among areas. Other statutory applications include the Head Start Act, the Child Welfare and Services Program, the Vocational and Applied Technology Act, and the Public Housing/Section 8 Certificate and Housing Voucher Allocation Programs.

Accuracy of the Estimates

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the

values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to under report their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in Summary File 3 Technical Documentation under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*.

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing, and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

Table 6.
Poverty of Individuals by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Characteristic	Total*	Below poverty level		90-percent confidence interval	
		Number	Percent	Lower	Upper
All people	273,882,232	33,899,812	12.4	12.4	12.4
Race					
White alone	206,259,768	18,847,674	9.1	9.1	9.1
Black or African American alone	32,714,224	8,146,146	24.9	24.9	24.9
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,367,505	607,734	25.7	25.6	25.8
Asian alone	9,979,963	1,257,237	12.6	12.5	12.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	364,909	64,558	17.7	17.4	18.0
Some other race alone	15,100,625	3,687,589	24.4	24.3	24.5
Two or more races	7,095,238	1,288,874	18.2	18.1	18.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	34,450,868	7,797,874	22.6	22.6	22.6
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	189,785,997	15,414,119	8.1	8.1	8.1

*Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total population). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3.

For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data are available from the *American Factfinder* on the Internet (*factfinder.census.gov*). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf*, or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html*. This series, which will be completed in 2003, presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing

Table 7.
Poverty Rates of Families by Family Type and Presence of Children: 1989 and 1999

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)*

Characteristic	1989			1999			Percentage point change, 1999 less 1989
		Below poverty level			Below poverty level		
	Total*	Number	Percent	Total*	Number	Percent	
All families	65,049,428	6,487,515	10.0	72,261,780	6,620,945	9.2	–0.8
Married-couple family	51,718,214	2,849,984	5.5	55,458,451	2,719,059	4.9	–0.6
With related children under 18 years	25,258,549	1,834,332	7.3	26,898,972	1,767,368	6.6	–0.7
Under 5 years only	5,578,878	377,041	6.8	5,276,884	329,946	6.3	–0.5
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	5,555,442	634,771	11.4	5,819,401	618,283	10.6	–0.8
5 to 17 years only	14,124,229	822,520	5.8	15,802,687	819,139	5.2	–0.6
No related children under 18 years	26,459,665	1,015,652	3.8	28,559,479	951,691	3.3	–0.5
Other family	13,331,214	3,637,531	27.3	16,803,329	3,901,886	23.2	–4.1
Male householder, no spouse present	2,949,560	407,330	13.8	4,302,568	585,970	13.6	–0.2
With related children under 18 years	1,494,956	291,572	19.5	2,526,727	448,039	17.7	–1.8
Under 5 years only	364,548	81,314	22.3	584,265	113,215	19.4	–2.9
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	218,849	67,882	31.0	375,284	99,326	26.5	–4.6
5 to 17 years only	911,559	142,376	15.6	1,567,178	235,498	15.0	–0.6
No related children under 18 years	1,454,604	115,758	8.0	1,775,841	137,931	7.8	–0.2
Female householder, no spouse present	10,381,654	3,230,201	31.1	12,500,761	3,315,916	26.5	–4.6
With related children under 18 years	6,783,155	2,866,941	42.3	8,575,028	2,940,459	34.3	–8.0
Under 5 years only	1,177,366	592,836	50.4	1,437,173	589,201	41.0	–9.4
Under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	1,354,965	859,782	63.5	1,583,239	812,292	51.3	–12.1
5 to 17 years only	4,250,824	1,414,323	33.3	5,554,616	1,538,966	27.7	–5.6
No related children under 18 years	3,598,499	363,260	10.1	3,925,733	375,457	9.6	–0.5

* Total refers to the number of people in the poverty universe (not the total population). For more details, see the text box on how poverty is measured.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: 1990 census and Census 2000 Summary File 3.

characteristics such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For additional information on poverty, including reports and survey data, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site on at *www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html*. To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail *webmaster@census.gov*.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Washington, DC 20233

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for Private Use $300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. Census Bureau
Permit No. G-58