

Areas With Concentrated Poverty: 1999

Issued July 2005

Census 2000 Special Reports

CENSR-16

By
Alemayehu Bishaw

This report discusses demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of census tracts using data collected in Census 2000, as categorized by the census tract's poverty rate.¹ Analyses of small geographic areas require data from the decennial census long form or, in the future, data from the American Community Survey.

For this report, census tracts were grouped into four categories based on their poverty rates and described as follows: Category I (0.0 percent to 12.3 percent), Category II (12.4 percent, the national poverty rate, to 19.9 percent), Category III (20.0 percent to 39.9 percent), and Category IV (40.0 percent or more).² In previous census publications, and also in this report, tracts with a poverty rate of 20 percent or more are referred to as "poverty areas." (See text box "How Poverty is Defined.")

Based on data collected from the Census 2000 long form, the poverty rate in the

United States for all people in 1999 was 12.4 percent.³ However, poverty rate estimates varied by region (from 10.2 percent in the Midwest to 13.9 percent in the South) and by state (from 6.5 percent in New Hampshire to over 19 percent in Louisiana, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia). Even larger variations were observed when comparing poverty rates among counties, places, and other sub-state areas. Further details are available in the Census 2000 Brief, *Poverty: 1999* [C2KBR-19].

In 1999, most people, 81.5 percent, lived in tracts with less than 20 percent in poverty (Categories I and II combined) (see Table 1). The percentage in this category increased from 1989 when 78.2 percent lived outside poverty areas.⁴ This increase is echoed at the other end of the distribution: 2.8 percent lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more in 1999 (Category IV), a reduction from the 1989 estimate of 4.6 percent.

Geographic Distribution

In 1999, about 62 percent of the country's population lived in tracts with poverty rates lower than the national

¹ This report discusses estimates for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Estimates for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Table 1 and are discussed only briefly. The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

² The categories used in this report are based on the ones used in the 1990 Census Statistical Brief, *Poverty Areas*. The 1990 brief used three categories, less than 20 percent, 20 percent to 40 percent, and 40 percent or more. This report, while adopting all three categories, further divides tracts with a less-than-20-percent poverty rate into two categories using the national poverty rate as the reference point.

³ The most recent official estimate of poverty in the United States, for 2003, was 12.5 percent, and the official estimate for 1999 was 11.8 percent. The official poverty, employment, and unemployment statistics for the country come from the Current Population Survey (CPS). Because the CPS asks more extensive questions about income than the census, respondents tend to report more completely. These higher reported incomes lead to lower official poverty rates. For more information go to <www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm>.

⁴ According to the 1990 census, the poverty rate in the United States for all people was 13.1 percent in 1989.

How Poverty is Defined

The current official poverty measure has two components—poverty thresholds (income cutoffs) and the definition of family income that is compared to these thresholds, as specified by the Office of Management and Budget. More specifically, 48 thresholds are arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from one person to nine or more) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to eight or more children present). Unrelated individuals and two-person families are differentiated by the age of the reference person (under 65 years old and 65 and older). These thresholds are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. The poverty thresholds are not adjusted for regional, state, or local variation in the cost of living.

To determine whether someone is in poverty, their total family income is compared with the poverty threshold appropriate for that person's family size and composition. If the total income of the family is less than the threshold, then the person and every member of the family is considered to be in poverty. Census 2000 was only able to identify families based on the relationship to the householder. If a person is not related to the householder; or the person is a householder who is not related to anyone in the household by birth, marriage, or adoption; or the person does not live in a household, then the person's own income is compared with his or her poverty threshold. The total number of people below the poverty level is the sum of people in families and the number of unrelated individuals with incomes below the poverty thresholds.

Census 2000 asked people about their income in the previous calendar year. Thus, poverty estimates in this report compare family income in 1999 to the

corresponding 1999 poverty thresholds. The dollar amount of these thresholds is listed in Table 2.

Poverty estimates based on Census 2000 differ from those based on the Current Population Survey's (CPS) Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) in several ways. First, the ASEC is able to identify families that are not related to the householder and treat them as separate units for determination of poverty status. Second, the ASEC asks more extensive questions than Census 2000 about various sources of income, helping respondents include more of their incomes from the previous calendar year. Third, ASEC data are collected by experienced interviewers who are trained about how to discuss and explain complex topics like income. In contrast, the Census 2000 long-form data were primarily collected with mail-back paper questionnaires.

The data on poverty status were derived from Census 2000 long-form questionnaire items 1 and 2 on the number of people in the household and each person's relationship to the householder, and items 31 and 32, which provide information on the amount of income people received from various sources.

The poverty rate used to classify tracts is based on calculations for people in the "poverty universe." The poverty universe, when using data from Census 2000, includes all U.S. residents except the institutionalized population, people in military group quarters and college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years of age. Subfamilies cannot be identified separately in Census 2000.

This report describes characteristics of all people living in the 65,004 census tracts with at least one household within its boundaries. These tracts comprised 99.95 percent of the total population of the United States counted during Census 2000.

rate of 12.4 percent (Category I), while 2.8 percent lived in Category IV tracts, with poverty rates of 40.0 percent or more (see Table 1).

Regionally, 87.8 percent of people residing in the Midwest lived in tracts with poverty rates under 20 percent. The proportions in the

Northeast, the West, and the South were 83.2 percent, 79.8 percent, and 77.8 percent, respectively. On the other hand, 3.4 percent of the

Table 1.
Distribution of People in Census Tracts by Poverty Levels: 1999

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

State	Number	Percent			
		Poverty levels of census tracts			
		Category I [0.00–12.39%]	Category II [12.40–19.99%]	Category III [20.00–39.99%]	Category IV [40.00% or more]
United States	281,283,909	62.4	19.1	15.6	2.8
Regions					
Northeast	53,554,708	69.2	14.0	13.4	3.4
Midwest	64,376,475	73.7	14.1	10.0	2.1
South	100,194,782	53.8	24.0	19.1	3.1
West	63,157,944	58.9	20.9	17.6	2.6
States					
Alabama	4,447,100	42.0	31.8	21.9	4.3
Alaska	626,932	78.9	12.9	8.2	0.0
Arizona	5,130,347	55.8	19.8	20.3	4.1
Arkansas	2,673,400	36.4	39.9	21.5	2.2
California	33,843,203	54.7	20.4	21.5	3.5
Colorado	4,292,018	73.1	17.0	9.3	0.6
Connecticut	3,404,544	82.4	7.1	9.2	1.3
Delaware	783,600	76.9	16.3	4.6	2.2
District of Columbia	572,059	29.3	28.7	30.4	11.5
Florida	15,981,054	61.9	21.4	14.4	2.3
Georgia	8,183,033	58.9	20.6	17.4	3.1
Hawaii	1,211,537	68.6	18.7	12.1	0.7
Idaho	1,293,953	58.8	34.5	5.8	0.8
Illinois	12,418,780	72.2	12.9	12.1	2.8
Indiana	6,073,668	76.2	13.8	8.3	1.6
Iowa	2,926,324	80.6	14.4	4.1	1.0
Kansas	2,688,418	72.9	17.4	8.5	1.2
Kentucky	4,041,769	45.4	24.3	27.9	2.3
Louisiana	4,468,919	33.2	25.1	34.1	7.6
Maine	1,274,923	63.5	28.9	7.1	0.4
Maryland	5,280,161	79.2	12.1	7.1	1.7
Massachusetts	6,346,106	76.2	11.1	11.3	1.4
Michigan	9,934,431	73.3	12.4	11.8	2.5
Minnesota	4,917,469	82.9	10.3	5.3	1.4
Mississippi	2,844,658	27.2	31.1	36.2	5.5
Missouri	5,593,356	62.7	22.0	13.5	1.8
Montana	902,195	49.4	29.7	18.9	2.1
Nebraska	1,711,024	74.3	17.6	7.4	0.7
Nevada	1,998,257	66.2	22.8	10.9	0.2
New Hampshire	1,235,786	90.5	7.5	1.1	0.8
New Jersey	8,414,333	79.4	10.1	8.8	1.7
New Mexico	1,819,046	33.2	29.8	32.5	4.5
New York	18,944,153	57.1	17.2	19.8	6.0
North Carolina	8,049,313	60.3	25.1	13.3	1.2
North Dakota	642,200	63.1	26.2	9.8	0.9
Ohio	11,352,286	71.2	14.8	11.5	2.4
Oklahoma	3,450,586	43.3	32.0	22.9	1.8
Oregon	3,421,399	61.2	28.2	9.8	0.8
Pennsylvania	12,277,717	71.6	14.4	11.0	3.0
Rhode Island	1,048,319	68.3	10.9	17.8	3.0
South Carolina	4,004,615	50.4	28.5	19.3	1.8
South Dakota	754,844	61.7	24.3	10.0	4.0
Tennessee	5,689,051	53.4	28.8	15.3	2.5
Texas	20,838,754	49.1	22.7	23.7	4.5
Utah	2,232,602	77.6	11.4	8.8	2.2
Vermont	608,827	78.1	17.5	3.8	0.6
Virginia	7,078,366	73.6	16.7	8.3	1.4
Washington	5,892,673	69.0	20.0	10.0	1.1
West Virginia	1,808,344	25.4	40.8	32.1	1.7
Wisconsin	5,363,675	83.0	8.3	6.4	2.3
Wyoming	493,782	67.6	24.6	7.1	0.7
Puerto Rico	3,806,566	1.4	4.3	21.7	72.6

Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Table 2.

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

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh99.html>.

population in the Northeast lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more, followed by 3.1 percent in the South, 2.6 percent in the West, and 2.1 percent in the Midwest.⁵

Of the total 51.9 million people who lived in poverty areas (with rates of 20 percent or more), 42.9 percent resided in the South, a region with 35.6 percent of the total population (see Figure 1).

In 13 states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin), three-

⁵ 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.

fourths or more of the population lived in census tracts with poverty rates lower than 12.4 percent (the national poverty rate) (see Table 1).

In 16 states and the District of Columbia, 20 percent or more of the population lived in poverty areas (see Figure 2). Louisiana, Mississippi, and the District of Columbia had the largest proportions of people living in these areas of any states (approximately 40 percent).

Given the geographic size and number of census tracts in the United States, it is not feasible to include a national tract-based map in this report. The District of Columbia is used as an example, since it has an economically diversified population residing in different sections of the city and is small enough in land area for the census tract boundaries to be distinguishable. Figure 3 presents a map of the District of Columbia that demonstrates how poverty rates vary by tract within a city. The map shows that poverty areas are concentrated around the central part of the city and the areas

in the southeastern section of the city near the Anacostia River.

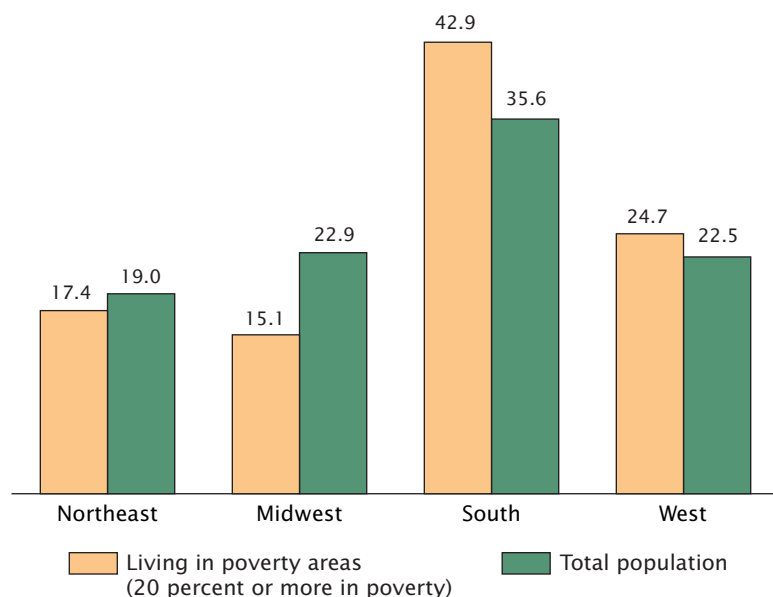
The same poverty thresholds used to determine poverty status in the 50 states and the District of Columbia were used to determine poverty status in Puerto Rico. Of the 3.8 million people who resided in Puerto Rico in 1999, 72.6 percent lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (see Table 1).

Age Composition

According to Census 2000, 25.6 percent of the population of the United States were children under 18 years of age, while 61.9 percent were adults between 18 and 64 and 12.4 percent were 65 or older (see Table 3). The proportion of children under 18 was larger (29.4 percent) in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (Category IV) than in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I), where it was 24.9 percent.

The proportion of people 65 or older was higher in tracts with lower poverty rates. In tracts in

Figure 1.
Percentage Distribution of People Living in Poverty Areas and the Total Population by Region: 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Categories I and II, 12.9 percent were people 65 or older, while the proportion in tracts in Category III and Category IV were 10.9 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Of the total 281 million people in the United States in 2000, 75.1 percent reported the single race of White, while 12.2 percent reported only Black (see Table 3).⁶ People who reported the single races of American Indian or Alaska

Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander composed 0.9 percent, 3.6 percent, and 0.1 percent, respectively, of the population. About 12.5 percent of respondents indicated they were Hispanic.⁷

More than 70 percent of non-Hispanic Whites lived in tracts with a poverty rate less than 12.4 percent (Category I), compared with 31.8 percent of Blacks, 36.2 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, 54.0 percent of

⁶ Census 2000 asked respondents to choose 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 or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race. 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.

⁷ Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 long-form data, the proportion reporting as Hispanic was 8.0 percent for single-race Whites, 1.9 percent for single-race Blacks, 14.6 percent for single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for single-race Asians, 9.5 percent for single-race Pacific Islanders, 97.1 percent for those reporting only "Some Other Race," and 31.1 percent for those reporting Two or More Races.

Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and 65.6 percent of Asians (see Figure 4). In 1999, of the nearly 8.0 million people who lived in Category IV tracts, 24.1 percent were non-Hispanic White, 39.9 percent were Black, and 28.9 percent were Hispanic (see Table 3).

Education

About one-fifth of the 209.1 million people who were 18 years or older in 1999 had less than a high school education, while 57.4 percent had completed high school or earned an associate's degree and 22.3 percent had graduated from college or had more education (see Table 3).

Of the 131.8 million people who lived in tracts with poverty rates less than 12.4 percent (Category I), 27.5 percent had graduated from college or had more education. The corresponding proportions for tracts in Categories II, III, and IV were 15.4 percent, 11.6 percent, and 8.6 percent, respectively.

In contrast, of the 5.6 million people who lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (Category IV), 37.9 percent had not completed a high school education, higher than the proportions for the tracts in Categories III, II, and I, whose proportions were 35.5 percent, 25.9 percent, and 14.3 percent, respectively.

Residential Mobility

To determine residential mobility status, data were collected for people 5 and older on whether they lived in the same home 5 years ago. Of these people, 54.1 percent had lived in the same home, while 45.9 percent had lived in a different home (including both domestic and international moves, as shown in Table 3).

People living in tracts with higher poverty rates were more likely to have lived in a different home 5 years earlier. Of the people who lived in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or higher (Category IV), 53.9 percent had lived in a different home 5 years earlier, while 48.9 percent, 47.1 percent, and 44.4 percent of those who lived in tracts in Categories III, II, and I, respectively, had changed residence.

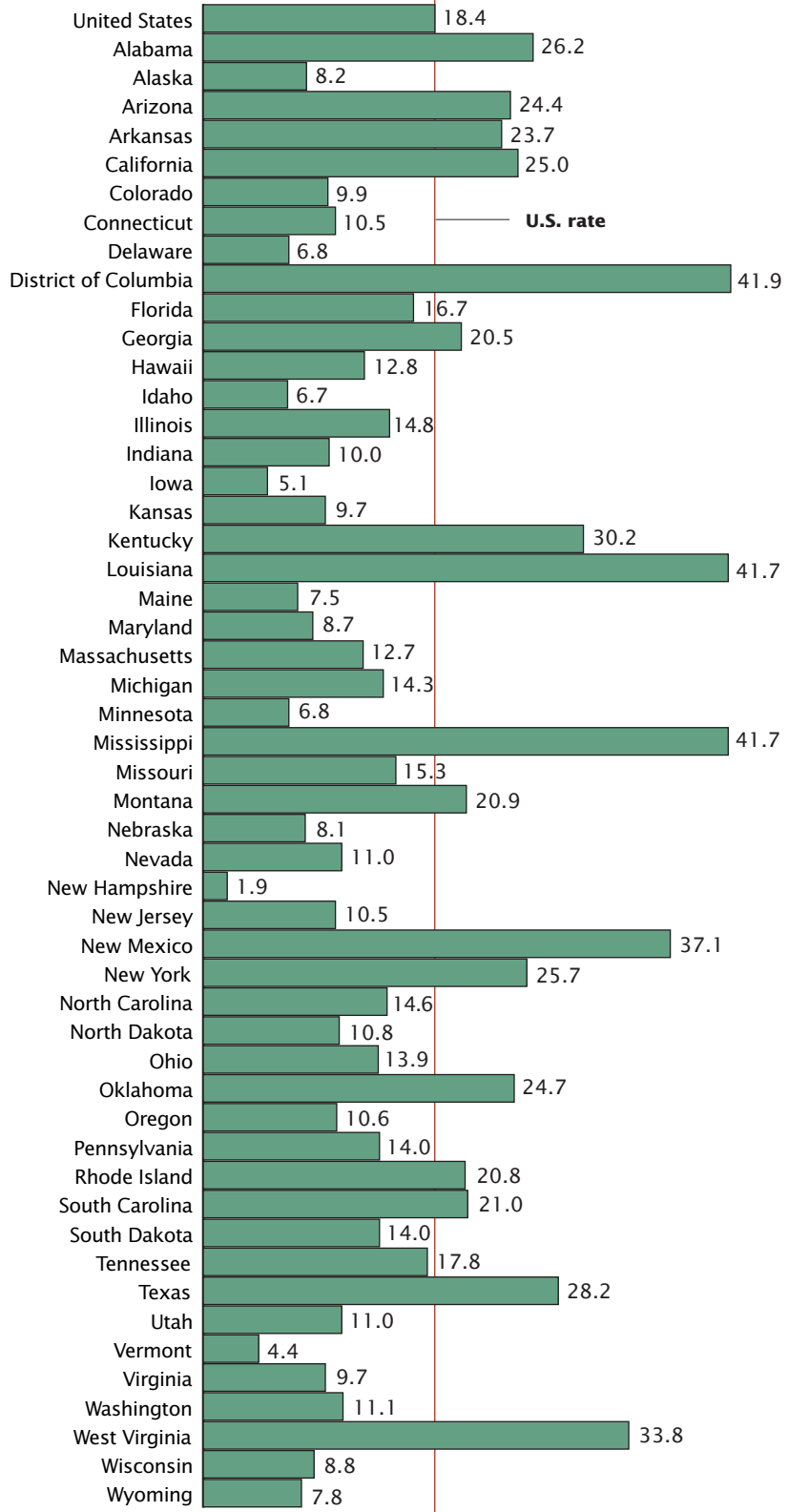
Marital Status

Of the 221.0 million people who were 15 years or older, 54.4 percent were currently married, while 27.1 percent had never been married (see Table 3). An additional 6.6 percent were widowed, while 9.8 percent were divorced and 2.2 percent were separated.

The distribution of people by marital status varied among tracts with different poverty rates. Of the 139.2 million people who lived in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I), 59.2 percent were currently married. In tracts with higher poverty rates, this proportion declined to 51.1 percent in Category II tracts and to 42.8 percent and 30.3 percent, respectively, in Category III and Category IV tracts.

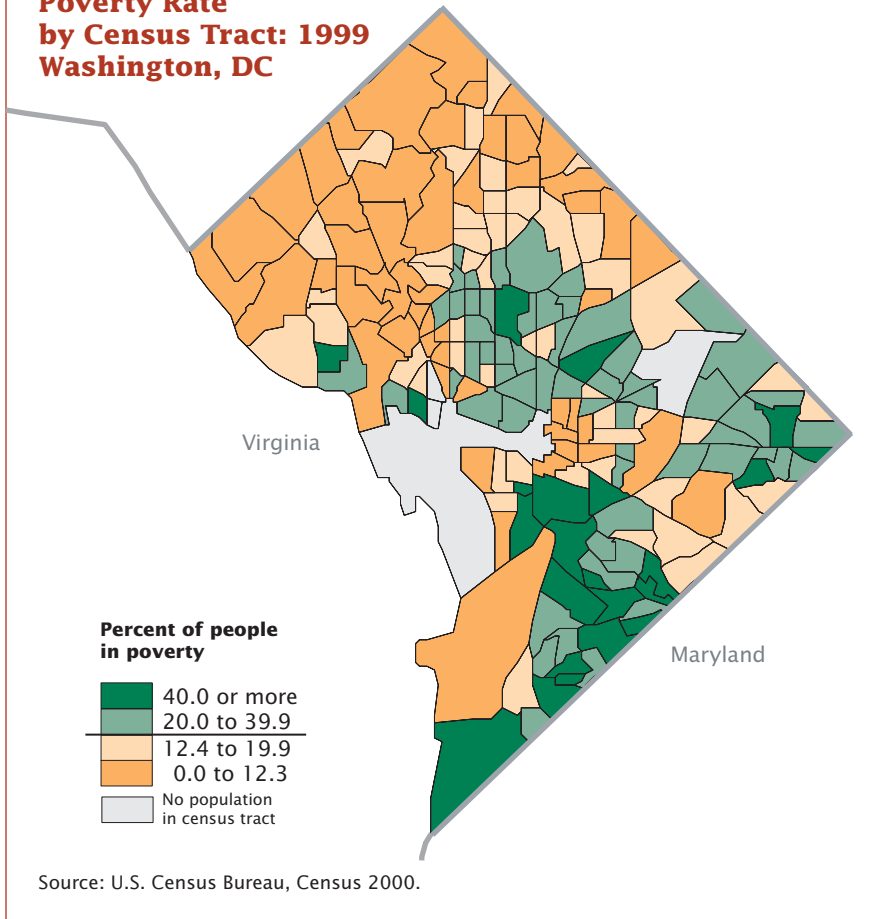
The pattern of people who were 15 or older and who had never married was the reverse. Of the people who resided in Category I tracts, 23.8 percent reported never being married, while that proportion was 28.1 percent, 35.5 percent, and 50.2 percent for people who lived in tracts in Categories II, III, and IV, respectively.

Figure 2.
Percentage of the Population Living in Poverty Areas by State: 1999



Note: In 1999, 94.3 percent of the people residing in Puerto Rico lived in poverty areas.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Figure 3.
**Poverty Rate
 by Census Tract: 1999
 Washington, DC**



Unemployment

Nationally, of the 137.6 million civilians 16 or older who were in the labor force, the unemployment rate was 5.8 percent (see Table 3). This proportion was lower in tracts with lower poverty rates and higher in tracts with higher poverty rates. The unemployment rate was 4.0 percent for people who lived in tracts with poverty rate of less than 12.4 percent (Category I), compared with 6.8 percent, 10.9 percent, and 18.6 percent in tracts in Categories II, III, and IV, respectively.

Family Size

About 74 percent of people in the United States who lived in family households lived in families with four or fewer people, while about 21 percent lived in families of five or six people, and about 5 percent in families of seven or more people (see Table 3).

The distribution of families of different sizes varied among tracts with different poverty rates. Of the 147.6 million people who lived in tracts with poverty rates of less

than 12.4 percent (Category I), 77.4 percent lived in families of four or fewer people. In tracts with higher poverty rates, this proportion was 73.7 percent, 65.9 percent, and 59.2 percent in Category II, Category III, and Category IV tracts, respectively.

About 3 percent of people in families residing in Category I tracts lived in large family households with seven or more people. This proportion increased to 5.9 percent, 9.8 percent, and 13.7 percent for families who lived in Categories II, III, and IV tracts, respectively.

Type of Family

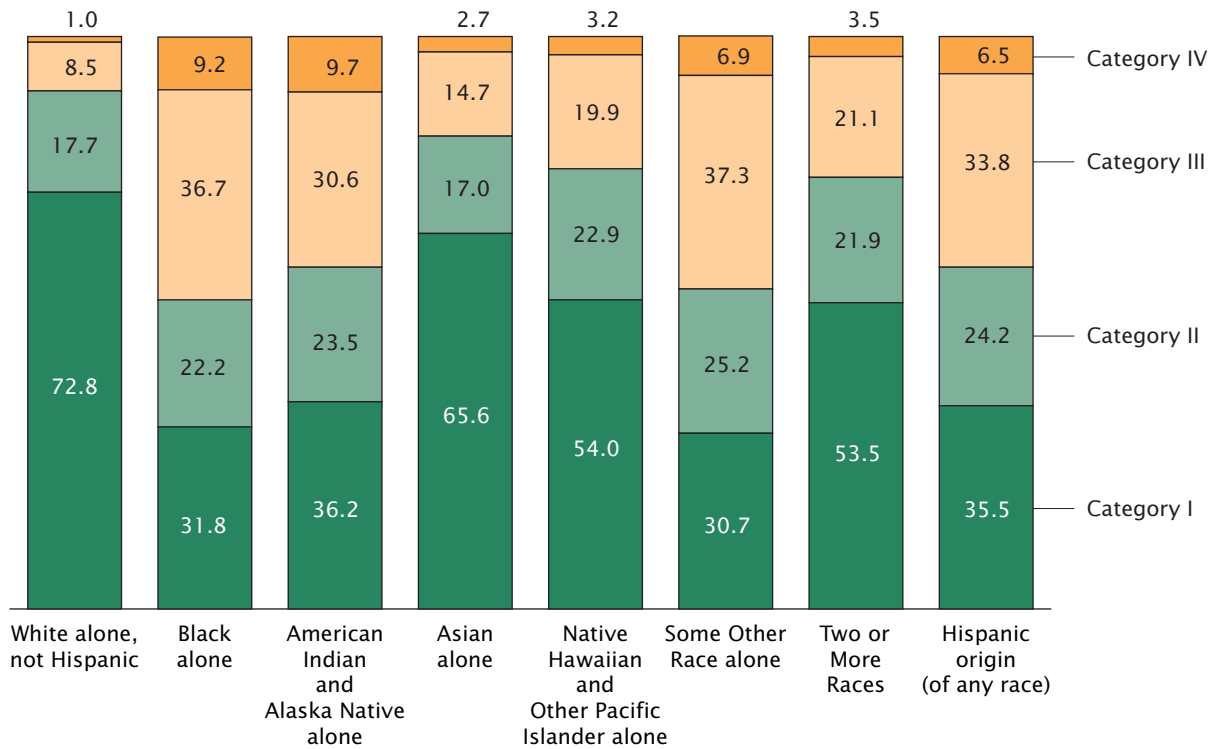
Of the 72.3 million families in the United States in 1999, 76.7 percent were families with married couples living together, while 17.3 percent were female-householder families with no husband present, and 6.0 percent were male-householder families with no wife present (see Table 3).⁸

The proportion of married-couple families was higher in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I) than in tracts with higher poverty rates (categories II, III, and IV). Among all families residing in Category I tracts, 82.4 percent were married couples. This proportion was 72.7 percent, 60.5 percent, and 43.8 percent in tracts in Categories II, III, and IV, respectively.

⁸ One-person households and households consisting only of unrelated individuals are not considered families.

Figure 4.
Distribution of People by Race and Ethnicity and by Poverty Level of Tracts: 1999

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

In contrast, the proportion of families with female householder with no husband present and families with male householder with no wife present was higher in Category IV tracts than in tracts in other categories. For families with female householders with no husband present, the proportions ranged from 12.7 percent in Category I tracts to 47.0 percent in Category IV tracts. For families with male householders and no wife present, the corresponding figures were 4.9 percent and 9.2 percent.

Family Income

Nationally, about 50 percent of families had annual incomes of \$50,000 or more in 1999, and 15.3 percent had incomes of \$100,000 or more, while 4.8 percent had incomes of \$9,999 or less (see Table 3).⁹ About 60 percent of

⁹ Nationwide, about 690,000 families, or about 1.0 percent of the total number of families, reported no income in 1999. Some of these families with no income were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts; were newly created families; or were families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or left the household.

families in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I) had incomes of \$50,000 or more, while 14.3 percent had that level in tracts with poverty rates of 40 percent or more (Category IV).

The proportions of families with annual incomes in 1999 below \$10,000 were 2.2 percent in Category I tracts, and 6.3 percent, 11.9 percent, and 24.2 percent in Categories II, III, and IV tracts, respectively.

Home Ownership

Of the 105.5 million occupied housing units reported in Census 2000, 66.2 percent were owned by residents, while 33.8 percent were rented (see Table 3). The proportion of homeowners was highest at 73.9 percent in tracts with poverty rates of less than 12.4 percent (Category I), followed by tracts in Categories II, III, and IV—60.6 percent, 46.8 percent, and 27.2 percent, respectively.

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 one out of every six housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-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: first, errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and second, 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 underreport 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 report have undergone statistical testing and all comparative statements 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 for one category may not be significantly different from estimates for 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 3.
Distribution of People, Families, and Households by Poverty Level of Census Tracts and Other Selected Characteristics: 1999

(Percent distribution within specific poverty category)

Characteristics	Number/percent*				
	Poverty levels of census tracts				All census tracts
	Category I [0.00–12.39%]	Category II [12.40–19.99%]	Category III [20.00–39.99%]	Category IV [40.00% or more]	
People					
United States	62.4%	19.1%	15.6%	2.8%	281,283,909
Region					
Total	175,600,466	53,822,590	43,908,593	7,952,260	281,283,909
Northeast	21.1	13.9	16.4	22.9	19.0
Midwest	27.0	16.9	14.7	17.3	22.9
South	30.7	44.7	43.6	38.7	35.6
West	21.2	24.5	25.3	21.0	22.5
Age					
Total	175,600,466	53,822,590	43,908,593	7,952,260	281,283,909
Under 18 years	24.9	25.3	28.2	29.4	25.6
18 to 64 years	62.2	61.8	60.9	62.6	61.9
65 years and older	12.9	12.9	10.9	8.0	12.4
Race and Hispanic Origin					
Total	175,600,466	53,822,590	43,908,593	7,952,260	281,283,909
White alone	84.4	71.2	49.5	36.9	75.1
White alone, not Hispanic	80.7	63.9	37.6	24.1	69.1
Black alone	6.2	14.2	28.7	39.9	12.2
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.5	1.1	1.7	3.0	0.9
Asian alone	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.6
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Some Other Race alone	2.7	7.2	13.1	13.3	5.5
Two or More Races	2.2	3.0	3.5	3.2	2.6
Hispanic origin (of any race)	7.1	15.8	27.1	28.9	12.5
Educational Attainment (18 years or older)					
Total	131,816,015	40,199,882	31,513,569	5,614,017	209,143,483
Less than high school, no diploma	14.3	25.9	35.5	37.9	20.3
High school graduate or associate degree	58.2	58.7	53.0	53.4	57.4
College graduate or more	27.5	15.4	11.6	8.6	22.3
Mobility Status (5 years or older)					
Total	164,340,131	50,141,407	40,465,246	7,290,403	262,237,187
Yes, same house	55.6	52.9	51.1	46.1	54.1
No (includes inside & outside US)	44.4	47.1	48.9	53.9	45.9
Marital Status (15 years or older)					
Total	139,174,271	42,430,210	33,443,864	5,962,633	221,010,978
Now Married	59.2	51.1	42.8	30.3	54.4
Widowed	6.3	7.3	7.4	6.5	6.6
Divorced	9.3	11.0	10.5	8.3	9.8
Separated	1.5	2.6	3.8	4.7	2.2
Never Married	23.8	28.1	35.5	50.2	27.1
Employment Status (Civilian labor force, 16 years or older)					
Total	90,808,050	25,406,548	18,507,110	2,925,882	137,647,590
Employed, at work or not at work	96.0	93.2	89.1	81.4	94.2
Unemployed	4.0	6.8	10.9	18.6	5.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3.
Distribution of People, Families, and Households by Poverty Level of Census Tracts and Other Selected Characteristics: 1999—Con.

(Percent distribution within specific poverty category)

Characteristics	Number/percent*				
	Poverty levels of census tracts				All census tracts
	Category I [0.00–12.39%]	Category II [12.40–19.99%]	Category III [20.00–39.99%]	Category IV [40.00% or more]	
Number of People in Family					
Total	147,640,757	43,503,959	35,128,005	5,602,213	231,874,934
Less than five	77.4	73.7	65.9	59.2	74.5
Five and six	19.5	20.4	24.3	27.0	20.6
Seven or more	3.1	5.9	9.8	13.7	4.9
Families					
Type of Families					
Total	47,211,034	13,500,152	10,049,268	1,501,326	72,261,780
Married couple	82.4	72.7	60.5	43.8	76.7
Male-householder with no wife present	4.9	7.2	8.9	9.2	6.0
Female-householder with no husband present	12.7	20.1	30.7	47.0	17.3
Family Income					
Total	47,211,034	13,500,152	10,049,268	1,501,326	72,261,780
No income	0.5	1.2	2.2	4.3	1.0
\$1 to \$9,999	2.2	6.3	11.9	24.2	4.8
\$10,000 to \$29,999	15.1	28.5	35.7	39.9	21.0
\$30,000 to \$49,999	22.0	27.4	24.4	17.3	23.2
\$50,000 to \$99,999	40.0	29.3	21.0	11.6	34.8
\$100,000 or more	20.2	7.3	4.8	2.7	15.3
Households					
Tenure					
Total	66,932,648	20,501,789	15,520,169	2,525,495	105,480,101
Own home	73.9	60.6	46.8	27.2	66.2
Rent	26.1	39.4	53.2	72.8	33.8

*The numbers and percentages in this table cover all people living in the nation's 65,004 census tracts with at least one household within its boundaries. These tracts comprised 99.95 percent of the total population of the United States counted during Census 2000. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 data used in this report are available from the American Factfinder on the Internet <factfinder.census.gov>. 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), or e-mail <webmaster@census.gov>.

For additional information on poverty, including reports and survey data, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site 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>.